

RAIL LINK

Edition 60

June 2009

Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 2nd June Volunteers meeting at Bedale Station – starts 7.15pm

Saturday 20th June – PTS Course at Bedale Station (see below)

Saturday 4th July – COSS Course at Leeming or Bedale Station (see below)

TRAINS IN JUNE

The pattern of scheduled train services in June is very straightforward. Trains run on all Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, with the Vintage bus service meeting all trains at Redmire for travel to Hawes and “the end of the route” at Garsdale.

GRAND CENTRAL RAILWAY SPONSORS VINTAGE BUS BETWEEN NORTHALLERTON AND LEEMING BAR, COMMUNITY RAIL WEEK-END -JUNE 6/7

A superb vintage bus will provide a FREE shuttle service between Northallerton and Leeming Bar stations on both days of this special week-end. The service is available to all who would like to use it - rail passengers as well as other members of the public, on a 'turn up and go' basis (no need to book in advance). This is most generously being sponsored by Grand Central Railway – whose though trains to and from London stop at Northallerton. The bus is a beautifully restored 1947 Leyland Tiger PS1, owned and operated since new by John Smith and Sons of Thirsk. A copy of the timetable is available on the website – can you print it out to display in your local shop, pub or workplace? (*Note, the first service each day starts at the Buck Inn, Northallerton, and the last service finishes there. For the rest of the week-end the bus runs between the two stations, connecting with all WR services and many on the main line. ANYONE can use it so please tell your contacts in York, Darlington, Teesside and elsewhere who can reach Northallerton by rail.*)

VINTAGE BUS STEWARDS NEEDED!

Would you like to ride in style as one of the stewards on the special Northallerton/Leeming Bar Vintage Bus on June 6 or 7? If so, please ring Ruth Annison on 01969 650349 as soon as possible.

WR TRAIN FARES DURING COMMUNITY RAIL WEEK-END

We all meet people who say “I keep meaning to go on the Wensleydale Railway” but still haven't done so. WR is therefore celebrating Community Rail week-end on June 6 and 7 with an incentive that may encourage them to do so. PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD! All over the country, local railways will be doing something special to encourage people to travel and explore the area round their railways. **With the credit crunch in mind**, Wensleydale Railway will only charge child fares for

adults on June 6 and 7 – and children up to age 15 will travel free on the train. It's a worthwhile offer to help people find out what is at the other end of the line: the swimming pool at Bedale; Bolton Castle; the regular Vintage bus from Redmire to Hawes and Garsdale – and lots more. Do you know anyone who would be interested in travelling that week-end? If 100 WRA members each encouraged one more family to travel on our railway that could easily put £1000 in the till (and buy 40 sleepers!). Please, please consider what YOU can do to help make Community Rail Week-end a success in attracting passengers.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Last year, the guided walks with lunch were very popular – for example, a Rotary Club from West Yorkshire bought 15 of their members and friends on one of the Yorkshire Pudding Walks and this year we already have a booking from a group of Northern Rail staff . Our next innovation is a **Guided Walk with Barbecue lunch on June 12 (booking essential)**. On **June 16** there will be an excursion to **Gayle Mill of TV 'Restoration' fame (booking essential)**. **Loco-hauled trains run over Midsummer Week-end, June 20/21**, with “**Amanda's Party**” (an evening wine-tasting and cheese event on the train!) on the Saturday, the longest day. Book and pay as soon as possible through the office to be sure of getting tickets – and please help to promote this event to ensure it is a success for our customers, HC wines and WR. Thank you Amanda for organising this event. **On Saturday July 4 – the Sixth Anniversary** of the re-opening of the Wensleydale Railway - there will be loco-hauled trains all day and a coach excursion from Redmire “**In Turner's Footsteps**” to visit places in Richmond and Swaledale where the artist JMW Turner sketched when he visited the Dales in 1816 . This should be an exceptionally interesting tour and lunch is included (booking essential). Please check the steam timetable for walks and events to the end of the year, including (another innovation) guided walks that use a local bus or the Vintage bus from Redmire to take walkers further up the dale before they start their walk. And, if you are a Senior Citizen, bring your bus pass!
Ruth Annison

UNIFORMS

Those requiring orders should contact:- Michael Mitton - Tel. 01609 748326 Email:- uniform@wensleydalerrailwayassocaition.com Post : Rose Cottage, Great Fencote, Northallerton DL7 0RX

Please note that, for those who placed an order recently, the goods can now be collected from the Office at Leeming Bar.

ROLLING STOCK

I need to begin with an urgent request for resource(s) to do important work in June. The green 110 trailer requires a significant amount of bodywork improvement. The skill of a plasterer who can work with body filler is required for repairs below the window line. We have a good supply of filler which does spread as smooth as butter. Please contact me or Paul Warren. Operations started the month with the 2 class 47 diesels successfully hauling 5 cream over red coaches on 4 round trips per day for the 3 day Bank Holiday Food and Drink Festival at Leyburn. The only disappointment was the unavailability of the 03 shunter to haul the last train of the weekend back to Leeming Bar. On the day before the event it was found to have a broken spring and has been out of action for the whole month. The service train ran as scheduled, but on the 8th the PLC's blue 101 power car developed an engine fault and was replaced by FSDG's green 117 power car. The fault has been diagnosed and the spares are on order. Both radiators were removed from the class 20. The leaking one found to be badly corroded and to be replaced. The other one is in good condition. The Coles crane, having successfully removed the radiators, was then sidelined with a faulty starter motor. A replacement is on order. Improvement work on mk2a coaches 5304 and the bar conversion 5364 continued. Work on the latter was helped when it was positioned at the platform. As it is in the public view Tim Williamson was straight into action and applied both undercoat and top coat in only 3 days! Minor improvements were carried out to the internal decor of the blue trailer 59509 and the green power car 51400.

Barry Wetherell

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The volunteer of the month is **Georgie Kew**. Georgie seems to be always there when we call for volunteers for special events or anything else and is willing to turn her hands to anything (almost!). Her main regular work is as a level crossing keeper and she has been stalwart in early rising to man the level crossings for the 6am MOD trains – not a very popular job! Congratulations to Georgie and all of our thanks for what she does for the WR.

Why not nominate someone for next month's volunteer of the month? Just send your "citation" to the Editor.

PTS COURSE

There will be a Personal Track Safety (PTS) course on Saturday 20th June at Bedale for new volunteers and re-tests. It will start at 09.30 should take around 3 ½ hours and will be followed by test and certification. The course is based upon Railtrack Personal Track Safety Handbook RT3170 Issue 6, If you require a copy call Leeming Bar office. These are free to Volunteers, however they cost the Railway £1 each (donations welcome)

COSS COURSE

There will be a Control of Site Safety course on Saturday 4th July at Leeming Bar/Bedale (depending on

numbers) for current COSS trained personnel requiring a re-certification. It will start at 09.30, will be followed by test and certification and will last all day.

Names for either course to Leeming Bar Office or JohnThompson pts@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com

John Thompson

250 CLUB

Winners for June draw: 1st Caroline Baxter £66, 2nd Brian Ledger £33, 3rd David Scruton £16, 4th Robert Carter £10

Peter Blakey

MONTHLY POSTERS

Each month Peter Williams, our web editor, produces an A4 sized colour poster of the next two months' activities, which is e-mailed to all Yorkshire and Humberside tourist information centres. Could YOU display the poster anywhere, or arrange for a shop or other local business to display it for us? Remember that our business depends upon attracting as many visitors as possible and everyone who sees the poster is a potential visitor. You can find a link to the poster on the home page of the Wensleydale Railway website, in one of the blue boxes in the right hand margin. Alternatively, click on this link if you are reading an online version of this newsletter:

<http://www.s161194075.websitehome.co.uk/wensleydale/wr327.pdf>

COMMUNITY RAIL WEEKEND

As Ruth has reported above, this will be on Saturday and Sunday June 6th and 7th. In addition to ticket concessions for the general public, there will be a special effort to attract new Members of the WRA and especially new Volunteers. On each morning, interested persons will be given an introduction to the railway, its history and plans and will travel as an accompanied group (free of charge) on the train from Leeming to Redmire and back. To do this, they must pre-register through the Office or

Email Volunteers@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com

Please try to advertise this event with anyone you think might be interested in joining us. There are still spaces available.

RELAY BACK ISSUES

Can you help raise funds for the Wensleydale Railway? We are looking for copies of specific Relay Back Issues to sell to raise funds for the Railway. The Issues in question are 1 - 9, 11, 12, 14 and 26. Email relaybackissues@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com or phone Paul Kenyon at 01748 824249.

Deadline for contributions for the next newsletter is 30th June. Send to:-Philip Smith Tel 01609 774733

Email

Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com

Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

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FROM GENERAL MANAGER

I have now had the pleasure of working as your General Manager for three weeks. I have spent this time primarily meeting people. There are clearly many challenges ahead but we will have a fantastic railway that expands year on year.

What impresses me most are the volunteers and staff we have. The WR is lucky to have such an enthusiastic and talented team. I know it has been difficult for you over the years; however we now have a GM and a management team that we are populating. The structure will soon be in place. Once this is achieved, we have a means of moving forward. We will have a manager of each function and a team working with them and things can get done more easily.

The directors have done an excellent job of setting up the railway; such a small team of people cannot be expected to run the railway day to day. They have given us this important vessel to do this, providing direction and clarity.

Your Help Required - New Structure - I need us to take WR forward together. I have heard that some of you have become disenchanted and have stopped volunteering. I appreciate why this is. Can I ask all of you in this category to have a rethink and give this new and exciting era a chance? I need your help; I cannot achieve it without you! Below I set out the new structure with management and team member roles.

Directors for the Board - These roles are strategic. If any of you possess the right skills or know of anyone who may be interested, can you let me know (or via the Office) and we can then look at this with Ian Sesnan.

Post	Headline skills
Finance Director	Understanding and experience of financial management in a senior managerial role
Engineering Director [Infrastructure]	Qualified Civil Engineer. Highly desirable to have experience in rail infrastructure [Urgently require applicants for this role]

Management and team member posts reporting to the GM - I urgently need volunteers to join my management team. If you possess the skills and or the enthusiasm to give some time to this, I would be very grateful:-

Managers

1. Infrastructure manager urgently required. Some experience in civil engineering required.
2. Safety Systems and audit [Especially if you have experience in applying the group standards applicable to running the railway, a safety background etc.
3. Contracts management

Team members required to help within the following teams - Experience and/ or enthusiasm are all that is required:-

1. Admin + Customer service:- [Filing office work]

2. Human Resources [admin, policy, training & development
3. Cleaning [especially on train]
4. Catering
5. Infrastructure:- This one is urgent if we are to get track to a higher spec. Require resource co-ordinators, patrollers, track gangers, working party team leaders
6. Mechanical and electrical team working on our rolling stock and motive power.
7. S&T/ Level crossings [technical skilled and/ or manual work]
8. Operations:- Crossing keepers, revenue protection, guards and drivers
9. Finance and admin:- Book keepers, insurance, IT systems, invoicing
10. Marketing:- Web site gurus, press & Media, Posters, leaflets, design.
11. Property & Estates:- Projects, maintenance, Encroachment, Foliage clearance,

If any of you can help please contact me (or via the Office). The critical areas are Marketing and Infrastructure. Much of the above can be done at home in many of the posts. This is not about replacing anyone; It's about getting more of you !

What are my priorities as GM - From personal observation and from listening to as many of you as I can, the priorities are:-

Marketing:- Build on success so far and market ourselves as part of the Wensleydale package - "The great day out" approach. Progress leaflet design and Web site, to reach more outlets and attract more business. Revise fares structure to attract more families.

Volunteers - Bring an enhanced spirit of value to volunteers. This will partly be achieved through the new structure and through clearly defined strategy, work plans and training and development

Communication - Enhance briefing and communications, create a medium for volunteers' ideas to be taken on board

Make Money - Aided by marketing we will fully cost and revenue project strategies, working with our partners in the dales

Strategy for the future - A three and five year plan that includes a costed vision, with an action plan to get there.

Culture - Creating a culture where people are valued and encouraged to develop. Where ideas flourish and personal behaviours are supportive. Where everybody feels welcome, part of a forward thinking and dynamic railway. Where people want to be and enjoy being.

I have met or set a date to meet many of the volunteers who will be part of the new structure. The few who haven't heard from me, I will be in touch. You are the lifeblood of the railway, I am taken aback by the dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm of you all. Be proud ! You are a terrific bunch. My job is to grow this railway and to grow us as a team. I know I can count on your support.

Kevin Powell