

RAIL LINK

Edition 72

June 2010

Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 12 June 9.30 to 1300 - PTS course for New Volunteers and those requiring re-certification
Book through office or email to

John.Thompson@isofthehealth.com

Tuesday 15 June 9.30am at Bedale Station – induction course for new volunteers

Tuesday 22 June – 7.15pm – Volunteers meeting at Bedale Station. All welcome.

COIN CHALLENGE - On Saturday and Sunday 26th and 27th June 2010 we will conduct our coin challenge, our attempt to collect and lay out 40 miles (70400 yards) of coins at Leeming Bar. This is to be a 36 hour fundraiser. Volunteers are required to help lay out coins and stay at Leeming Bar overnight to guard the coins ready for Sunday's activities. If you would like to help me then give me a call on 01325 251204 after 6pm please or email chairman@wensleydalerailwayassociation.com

This is an ideal chance to get some publicity for the railway so I would like everyone to help collect some 1p and 2p coins. Please ask your friends to come and support us.

Ken Monkman, Chairman WRA

OUT AND ABOUT IN SPRINGTIME.....

The group on the first WR guided walk in early May found 56 different spring flowers between Redmire and Leyburn, including early purple orchids - with even more flowers found on the same route 10 days later. The following day's guided walk on May 15 was another 'first' - a linear walk from Finghall to Constable Burton Hall, to see the spectacular display of tulips in the gardens and enjoy a leisurely exploration of the woodland around the house before walking back to the station.

.....And Days Out In Early Summer

The next guided walk will be on Tuesday June 29 (Redmire to Carperby, 5 miles) with a Barbecue Lunch and the opportunity to return to Redmire station on the vintage bus from either Aysgarth Falls or Carperby. A group of 12 Northern Rail staff have already booked for this event (the third time they have joined one of WR's guided walks) so if you want to meet some rail industry colleagues - some of whom are also WRA members - book now! Meanwhile the first of the new Lead

mining excursions by coach into Swaledale with an expert guide is on Sunday June 13. This has been arranged by Phil Smith and Mike Alexander, with a repeat on Thursday June 24. Going further afield, on Wednesday July 7, the coach excursion on from Redmire is to Sedbergh, to visit either the Book Town or the restored Farfield Mill (textiles). See the website or the 2010 Excursions and Guided Walks leaflet for details of days out based on scheduled WR train services - and please also support WR's teams of volunteer excursion couriers and walk leaders by promoting these events and encouraging others to book for them.

Sunday June 6 (day after the WRA AGM): Book NOW for a one-off and special day out, based on the 09.25 train from Leeming Bar and arranged through personal contacts. We shall visit a Wensleydale sheep farm in the upper dale for a springtime 'walkabout' with the farmer - there will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions about life on a traditional dales farm and to talk with an acknowledged expert - as well as seeing lambs close up!

Thank You to David Hartley, MD of Wensleydale Creamery, who opened the WRA's 3 day Anniversary exhibition in Redmire on May 22; to John Piper (first chairman of the WRA) and Mrs Mary Piper, who made a special visit to meet members on duty there and see the exhibition; to David Town, Tower Captain of All Saints, Northallerton and his team, who rang the bells in eight Wensleydale churches between Aysgarth and Northallerton on May 24 (09.30-19.00) to commemorate the Anniversary. And THANK YOU to Rod, Janet and Colin Morris for their exceptional effort in planning, organising, publicising and setting up such a successful exhibition - and to the WRA Board for their financial support.

Ruth Annison

250 CLUB - June prize winners - 1st £78 Steven Bunn, 2nd £39 Susan Sadler, 3rd £21 Peter Fowler, 4th £13 Don Ryder

Peter Blakey (Club Secretary)

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH – No nomination received this month. Why not nominate someone for next month's volunteer of the month? Just send your "citation" to the Editor

LEAD MINING EXCURSIONS - On Sunday 13th and Thursday 24th June, there are interesting excursions by WR train and coach to Wensleydale, Swaledale and Arkengarthdale to visit historic sites connected with the huge lead mining industry which existed from Roman times until the last century. The trip will be hosted by Frank Burns who has led groups on this subject for the National Park Authority for many years. If you could spread the word to make these excursions successful, I would be very grateful. Phone the office or me on 01609 774733 for more details.

Philip Smith

“ALESMAN” TRAIN - All active volunteers are invited to join the 'Alesman' train on Friday June 18th dept Leeming Bar @ 19.00hrs Bedale @19.09hrs, Finghall @ 19.27hrs or Leyburn @ 19.34 at the reduced ticket price of £10.00 (normal fare £16.00). The music will be provided by Wendy Arrowsmith a well known local performer and her husband. There will also be a very good buffet on board (included in ticket) along with real ale, wine and soft drinks. If you are able to join us please would you book your place through the office (08454 50 54 74) in the normal way so buffet numbers can be calculated. It will be a very good evening so hope you all can come.

Amanda Pearson

WRA 20th ANNIVERSARY - We hope that the many members who attended the WRA 20th Anniversary at Redmire Village Hall on 22nd - 24th May enjoyed the event. It was certainly an experience for us reading 54 Relay magazines although it gave us an opportunity to look back, remember the last 20 years, how we have dealt with the many issues and have moved the association forward to where it is today. For the people who were unable to attend, there will be another chance, to visit the event later in the year, date and venue to be confirmed. We would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by Wensleydale Creamery and Yorkshire Tea for providing the ingredients for the refreshments, and the people who provided information and photo's for the event. Finally would like to thank the volunteers from the Outside Event Team who came along, helped on the train, in the kitchen, greeted the public and answered questions over the three days of the event. WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU. Thank you

Janet and Rod Morris

BEDALE STATION BOOKINGS - Renovation work continues at Bedale, where Station House continues to welcome bookings for large or small groups to meet. Enquiries for bookings **0797 4412593**. The new ticket-office / shop nears completion and the downstairs large meeting hall (named after Bedale's last Station Master, the *Tom Plummer Room*) will soon have the luxury of wall-to-wall carpeting. Light refreshments are available in season at weekends for passengers and visitors. Improvements to the railway embankments, thanks to North Yorkshire Probation Service 'volunteers', are anticipated this summer. Bedale Station new (mobile) phone number is 0797 286118, for in-house railway business / emergency messages.

DIRECT WORKS TEAM - In recent times instead of working as a team in one location we have split all along the line from Scruton and Aysgarth. At Scruton we have started work on the signal box and the outdoor gents' as part of the wall was dangerously in a state of collapse. We have so far one volunteer from the village, and more are expected. Work on the water tank is trickling along slowly (sorry) but this will be ready for the summer steam period. The Dairy at Redmire has taken a back seat but work will recommence soon.

Aysgarth has seen much attention especially the old weighbridge office. After years of neglect (and chimney birds' nests) and the relatively harsh winter the roof needed urgent consideration. A new roof is well under way and it is hoped that it will finish soon. A model railway layout has been discovered at Aysgarth Station but a search for the owner is proving fruitless – if anyone knows who the owner is please contact Paul Markie on 01969 663811 or it will be disposed of after 15 June.

We hosted about 30 members of RAF Menwith Hill who came for the day on 26 May. They were divided into 3 groups and worked at: Aysgarth – scrub bashing, and a general tidy up of some buildings; Bedale – again scrub bashing both sides of the level crossing and the recreation of the garden on the bank opposite the station; and lastly a works train – the guys started back from Castle Hills felling trees and cutting back the invasive shrubs which fouled passing locos/rolling stock. 16 old sleepers (some from trackside) were collected and delivered to Scruton to support a bank behind the signal box. Altogether a very productive day from folk on a team-building day.

John Tong

Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

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UNIFORM - The long-delayed uniform order sent in March has finally arrived and items can now be collected from Leeming Bar station. The May order is expected within the next couple of weeks. Unfortunately, I am unable to contact individual members to advise them that uniform has arrived. The best course of action is to phone the office from time to time to enquire whether their order has come. We are at the mercy of the manufacturers regarding delivery, so

please don't shoot the messenger!

Michael Mitton

OPERATION / ENGINEERING - Our plans to run 2 class47 locomotives on Saturday 1st May came to an early end. "Prince William" took the 9-25 train to Redmire, followed by "Posiden" taking the 10-25. It was planned that the two trains would make history by passing each other at Constable Burton loop. Unfortunately "Posiden" pulling 4 DMU cars derailed in Bedale station. Thanks must go to everybody involved with the rerailing effort and track repairs. The class 47 was rerailed at approx 15-00 on Sunday 2nd May and was taken back to Leeming Bar by 20166 for inspection. Work continued to repair the track all day Monday 3rd May and the line was declared fit for traffic on Monday evening. Following the problem with the class 47 it was decided not to use heavy locomotives for the near future and a search has started for 1 or 2 light weight locomotives for use in the peak season.

During the month work has started to bring the 3 car class 110 DMU back into service with repairs to vandal damaged wiring, a broken final drive being dismantled and reassembled with some new parts and finally a replacement engine being installed after being overhauled by Alan Schofield, the owner of the 110. The Blue and cream centre car has had a faulty spring repaired and we hope to investigate a bogie problem in the very near future. This coach is required for the steam service in July. Work continues on the WRA Mk1 buffet coach with refurbishment of the interior near completion.

Tim Williamson

ROLLING STOCK GROUP - Work continued on the RMB, 1879. Inside, the west compartment was further improved by moving decent squabs from the other end to give a matching set. A wall panel adjacent to a seat was re-upholstered and another coat of mahogany stain applied to the bulkheads. In the servery area one access space was blanked off and painted cream, as was the

ceiling. Sanding down of window and seat frames continued in the larger, east compartment. Cleaning and freeing of the small sliding windows and repairs to 2 of the door window mechanisms was carried out. Outside the roof has now got 1 complete coat of hi-build black paint and about a third of the second coat. Work has started on the south side steps, underframe and bogies. Already we need to renew 1 step. The underframe looks quite good but the bogies are heavily rusted and needle gunning will be needed. Mark 2a coach 'Sarah' has had minor set and door frame repairs plus extensive work on the south roof, which has been completely sanded down and anti-corrosive primer applied. FSDG's 117 DMS, 51400, which has been out of service since October, has had battery, engine and starter motor problems sorted by the 'technophobes' - thanks chaps. Final job to get it operational is to send all 4 wheel sets for tyre turning.

MISSING! - MY small steps have now been missing for 3 weeks. They have a cream tubular frame and 2 wide black vinyl covered steps. They are needed for ceiling work in the RMB so please return them if you know where they are !

Barry Wetherell

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? You can find a link to the poster on the home page of the Wensleydale Railway website (www.wensleydalerailway.com) in one of the blue boxes in the right hand margin

MAGAZINES - You can help raise funds for the Wensleydale Railway by donating specific back issues of other railway's magazines. We are looking for Moors Line (NYMR) Nos 1-10, 12, 14 - 17 and Between the Lines (Weardale Rwy) Nos 1-9, 14, 19, 20, 22, 42 & 52.

Back Issues of Relay - are available for purchase at 50p each, 5 for £2, at Leyburn and Leeming Bar Stations. Contact me by phone on 01748 824249 or relaybackissues@wensleydalerailwayassociation.com

Paul Kenyon

Deadline for the next newsletter is 30th June.

Send to:- Philip Smith c/o Leeming Office or Newsletter@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com