



DATES FOR THE DIARY

April

12 Volunteer Recruitment Leyburn

May

3-5 Dales Festival of Food & Drink
16-18 Local Community Rail Weekend
17 Aysgarth Guided Walk
26 Finghall Barrel Push

June

20 Visit by William Hague MP
21 Hog Roast
27 Special Excursion to Castle Hills

July

4 5th Anniversary of re-opening
12 Two Railways Tour with S&C

August

30/31 1940s Wartime Weekend

NOTES FROM THE plc

Another season has begun – but with the difference this year that we have conducted Operation Spring Clean over the last few weeks – and it shows! Although some of the good work is inevitably 'behind the scenes' there is also evidence of real progress towards the upgrading of premises and rolling stock that was one of the key objectives. Warmest thanks to everyone who joined in or supported the work done.

There have also been induction courses for new volunteers (Welcome to you all), successes in training (Congratulations) and outreach work promoting the railway to tourism professionals at events such as the Tourist Information Exchange at Thirsk Auction Mart on March 5 (Thank you to those who represented the railway at this new – and slightly aromatic!- venue).

May I ask everyone to familiarise themselves with the list of Special Events in the timetable and help to make them known. We are ready to take bookings right up to and including Santa Specials!

However, one of the next tasks must be to strengthen the office team so that the phone is always answered quickly, instead of going onto the answerphone as can happen, even in office hours. The need for immediate income is very great – and we can all help by encouraging people to use the trains, shops and buffet facilities. Thank you for your active support in this vital matter.

Ruth Annison

WRA SOCIAL GROUP

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Ceilidh on 8th March, especially Carol who did the food, the gang who help set up and clear away and to those who donated raffle prizes. Also a great big thank you to Nigel and his band for yet another brilliant evening. As well as enjoying the evening we raised £206.00 so thank you to everyone who came and supported the event.

Events like this are a chance for everyone, in whatever capacity your help the railway, whether you are a volunteer or staff, to get together along with family and friends and enjoy themselves away from the pressures of running a railway.

We have now provisionally booked dates for the two bands who have offered their services to the WRA. The first is 27th September when The Jet Blacks, a 60's band will be playing. The second is on 8th November for a Folk Group; both events will be held at Londonderry Lodge in Londonderry village just outside Bedale, everyone is welcome. Both dates TBC.

Don't forget the Hog Roast on 21st June. We are also hoping to repeat the very popular Fish & Chip Special during the summer. And later in the year the Annual Dinner. Watch out for dates and get your places booked.

Many thanks Diane Sykes

For any event information contact Diane on 01677 426877/01748 822282 or email social@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com.

CASH FOR INK CARTRIDGES

David Haxby has opened an account with a firm which recycles empty printer ink cartridges. These can be dropped off in the box in the Signing On room at Leeming Bar. (No Laser or Epson cartridges). Full details of this project will be in the next Newsletter but can also be found on the Support and Fundraising Page of the WRA website.

REPORTS FROM GROUPS

ROLLING STOCK GROUP

More work on graffiti removal. The south side of our grey mess van was cleaned and partially repainted. The 101 motor (power) cars were brought into the yard so work could begin on their north sides. The west car, 50746, is now in blue undercoat and two-thirds on the cream has been cleaned and undercoated. The east car, 51210, has been cleaned and undercoating started. Weather permitting both should be undercoated before Easter. Internal work has included a small ceiling repair and painting in 51210 and further painting of door frames in the 117 trailer 59509.

A notable last train ran as the 14.50 from Leeming Bar on Sunday 9 March. The Brush type 4 no 47 703 hauled 4378 (Sarah), Cotswold Rail's FGW liveried 5700 and 5710 and our half brake 9417. Once a celebrity loco having carried 4 names - Saint Mungo, The Queen Mother, Lewis Carroll and Hermes, it was now anonymous, until Ops group hand painted its first and last names, one on each side for its last passenger train before being sold for recycling!

Barry Wetherell

OPS GROUP

Privately owned 47 715 "Poseidon" is well on the way to being passed operational on the railway. It has received attention to its' electrical cubicle, cabs, compressors and radiators. It has also successfully passed its train heat test and completed 60 miles of test running.

LEEMING BAR STATION SUPPORT GROUP (LBSSG)

Another busy month has seen the completion of the remodelling of the Buffet Car and the Shop, as well as the inside of the Toilet Block and the reproofing of most of the fencing. In addition, the bathroom and bedroom within the station are now ready for use. A start has been made on the exterior of the toilet block and repair of the picnic bench seats is well advanced. A number of new members have joined us in recent days and we particularly welcome: Paul Stephens, John Ozelton and Ian Kirton. Whilst we will now need a constant stream of willing Buffet and Shop staff, don't forget that there are always DIY- type jobs outstanding, so please join us any Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at Leeming Bar

FRIENDS OF LEYBURN STATION

The shop has been completely stripped out and redecorated. New storage units have been fitted and the shelving re-arranged so the whole shop can now be seen from the counter. Surplus shelving has been donated to the Leeming Bar shop, and new signage has been installed.

FRIENDS OF REDMIRE STATION

A new group formed to smarten up the western terminus of the line. We have further dug out the embankment east of the platform and assisted in positioning the Café coach. The platform edge has been repainted and the wall at the rear of the platform is now being landscaped. We are also constructing a ballast loading point outside the old dairy building to allow our JCB to load ballast trains. Anyone wishing to join our happy band should contact Team Leader Paul Warren on 07835 179794.

MINOR WORKS GROUP

Work has focussed on redecoration of the main hall, ground floor rooms and the toilets. Much of this has needed staging as the rooms are quite high.

An area of dry rot in the floor near the back door has been replaced. A 'Spring Clean' of the station and signal box area is planned

NEW VOLUNTEERS

There have been several new volunteers joining us in the past few weeks and a warm welcome is extended to them.

If any new volunteer (or anyone else for that matter) is wondering what they should be doing or where they can be of most help, please contact Phil Smith on 01609 774733 or by email induction@wensleydalerailwayassociation.com who will do his best to make sure that their talents are put to good use!

It would also be helpful if Team Leaders would contact Phil with any particular needs they have with regard to volunteers, so that he can ensure that new volunteers are guided in the most appropriate directions.