



Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (plus many others below!)

Friday 6th March – Induction Course 9.30am -12 at Leeming
Tuesday 10th March – Volunteers meeting at The Lodge,
Leeming Bar – starts 7.15pm
Wednesday 18th March – coffee morning at St Crux (York)

FROM RUTH

TIMETABLE: The printed timetable will soon be available for distribution; it has 12 panels of information (instead of 16 as last year). This is so that more copies can be included in the display boxes. Information about Special Events and Guided Walks will be on a separate leaflet. The Vintage Bus will connect with WR trains at Redmire on an extra day each week, namely Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday plus Bank Holiday Mondays. Please spread the word that (a) fares from April 1 are NOT INCREASED from last year and (b) travel on the Vintage Bus is FREE for those with a Senior Citizen Bus Pass, making travel up to Hawes and Garsdale a very good value day out!

TRAIN TIMES: The first service train each day will depart Leeming Bar for Redmire at 09.50 (i.e. a little earlier than last year).

EASTER WEEK-END PROGRAMME (Note: Vintage Bus onwards from Redmire on all four days):

Good Friday April 10: Extra train departs Leeming Bar 08:00 for all stations to Leyburn (only). This will connect with the free shuttle bus to Middleham for the Open Stables Morning which starts at 09.00. ALSO there will be a special WR Guided Walk to Coverham Abbey the same day, using the free shuttle bus to Middleham to allow the WR walkers to get further up Coverdale in the morning.

Easter Saturday April 11: Garsdale Station: Event to mark 20th Anniversary of the reprieve of the Settle-Carlisle line.

Easter Sunday April 12: Family Easter Egg Walk to Bolton Castle dep Redmire station 10.45. Families then free to visit the castle or otherwise spend time as they choose, making their own way back to Redmire for a return train.

Easter Monday April 13: No special WR event but Vintage Bus meets train at Redmire

Your help in publicising these events is very important in bringing more passengers - thank you.

LEYBURN TIC phone number for events info: 01748 828747 (yes, it is now a Richmond number - the TIC is in Leyburn but the phone is part of the district council system!)

Ruth Annison

FROM GENERAL MANAGER

Rail track: Infrastructure groups have continued their invaluable work on the track. They have replaced the decking at Ainderby gates crossing and are re-sleeping sections of the track. This work will continue during March on the Bedale curve.

Vegetation clearance: A contractor will start work on the section between Aiskew and Bedale within the next few days. We will be delivering letters to properties affected by the work during w/e 6th March, to advise them of our plans.

User/occupier worked crossing gates: A contractor will start work soon to replace all missing/ seriously damaged gates

between Leeming and Redmire. We will then write to all users reminding them of their legal responsibilities for using the gates safely. Volunteers are also going to repair/install fences in some areas.

Western Extension: The steering group is continuing to develop the project. Our next meeting is on 5th March at Redmire station. The objective is to assess the work that is required to improve the general appearance of the station as it is both the end of the present line and the 'jumping off' point for the first stage of development.

Special Events: A special weekend is being planned for the May Bank Holiday, coinciding with the Leyburn Food & Drink Festival. This will involve a diesel weekend and a special opening ceremony for the signal box at Leeming.

On 10th March the local Fire & Rescue Service will be carrying out rescue trials from a DMU in the sidings at Leeming. Local residents and businesses will be advised.

A Mark 2B coach, number 5447, has been sold to Guisborough Forest Walkway for installation at Pinchinthorpe. Their people will be on site on 9th March to paint over graffiti and it will be removed from site on 12th March

Working Workshop: A follow up workshop to that held on 31st January will be held at Crakehall on 7th March and all participants at the previous session are invited.

John Ozelton

VACANCY

A book-keeper is needed to keep the books (on computer) for the plc. You will need to be in regular touch with the Office at Leeming Bar, although much of the work could be done at home. If you are interested, contact the General Manager or Angus Maude (messages can be left for them in the Office).

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

There have been no nominations this month. Surely you know of someone deserving of this accolade! Just send in a brief paragraph to support your nomination.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We still need volunteers to help with our stand at The Model Railway Exhibition at York Racecourse on Sunday 12th April 2009 from 09.30 to 17.00 and at The Dales Food and Drink Event at Leyburn on Monday 4th of May 2009 from 09.30 to 17.00.

For people considering offering their services, let me tell you that it is great fun working to-gether as a team, at one of these outside events. There is time during the day to walk around the site and visit the other exhibits and the opportunity to represent and help with the progression of the Railway. Please contact us by telephone: 01733 331658

Rod and Janet Morris

WELCOME

A warm welcome to the following new volunteers who have recently completed their induction course:- Julian Guymer, Judith Clouston, Brian Black, David Gray, Clifford Thorpe and Christine Thorpe. We very much hope that you enjoy working with us.

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PTS TRAINING: Would anyone needing a PTS course contact the Leeming Bar office or John Thompson (email PTS@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com). PTS training is now based on Network Rail PTS Handbook issue 7 Jan 2009. However there is no requirement to refresh if your PTS is based on the older version as the majority of changes do not affect our railway.

HELMETS/HARD HATS: Hard hats have a maximum shelf/use life of 5 years from date of manufacture (stamped inside the hat). To bring our use of hard hats into line with new Network Rail safety policy, Blue Hard Hats are only to be used by inexperienced volunteers who have not yet passed a PTS course and personnel on a track side visitors pass. Standard Hard hat colours are: Green – First Aiders, Yellow – COSS Qualified, White – General use, Orange – Normally Chainsaw/plant operator, Blue – Inexperienced personnel. We do not expect all of you to run out and buy a new helmet. However please be aware of this Policy. If in doubt get a white one.

John Thompson

FUNDRAISING: Help required for St Crux (York) fundraising coffee morning and sale on Wednesday 18 March 09. Also, any cakes etc which can be provided would be greatly appreciated. If you can help or have items to donate please contact Brian Ledger (01904 701170) or leave items at the Office.

COLLECTION OF RAILWAY ARTIFACTS

Over the last fifteen years or so the WRA has acquired in excess of one hundred railway-related items that have either been donated or are on long term loan. All of the artefacts have value in an historical context and some have a significant financial value in the collectables market. The WRA has a responsibility to future generations to take care of the collection whilst making it available for display and research. Barry Wetherell has already contributed much in this area including setting up the computerised records, keeping track of where things are displayed and providing storage for many of the pieces. In early December 2008, a new secure store was identified and 80+ items were transferred from Barry's house. During the move all items were individually photographed with a digital camera which helps with security and enables the images to be shared with those who have a bona-fide interest. A new pro-forma designed to improve the process of recording a donation/loan or acquisition has been introduced. The new forms can be found in a dedicated folder at both Leeming Bar and Leyburn Stations. From now onwards all artefacts should only be received at either Leeming Bar or Leyburn. I would like to reassure everyone that even in the short term the collection's items will remain accessible and that we wish to encourage members to continue with appropriate restoration work. For more information or to arrange access to a stored item please contact me (01621 893674 or foas@wensleydaleraillwayassociation.com) or Barry Wetherell at Leeming Bar Station.

David Gibson

BEDALE STATION GROUP

The plc Board has approved our plan for using the station, which are to create a booking office and waiting room mainly for Railway passengers and to use the large "through" room as a meetings and events venue for the local community; also to house a café. The running costs are not small so the upstairs rooms must also generate revenue; how is not yet determined.

We are progressing the various safety aspects which are required by the building inspector. Members of the Minor Works Group have been back to complete some carpet-laying and decorating. We hope it will be possible to allow use of the building again during April, and to provide some basic passenger services on a "camping out" basis for at least some of the operating days. The permanent alterations will probably take most of the rest of the year to complete. We have been pleased to welcome some new faces to the Group, but more are welcome. We desperately need to raise fund and are holding a bric-a-brac sale in Unit 1 in the Craft Yard on 28 March (and possible also 29 – watch for publicity). If anyone is willing to help sponsor the much-needed door from the Waiting Room (formerly the "conservatory") onto the platform, please let us know

(bsg@wensleydaleraillwayassociation.com).

Peter Harbord

RELAY BACK ISSUES

RELAY BACK NUMBERS from edition No. 10 are available for sale, Half Price - Min 50p, from Leyburn Shop.

Alternatively contact Paul Kenyon on 01748 824249 or Email: relaybackissues@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com

250 CLUB: Winners for March draw: 1st Roger Church £66, 2nd Freda Pickard £33, 3rd Stephen Ruff £16, 4th Amanda Pearson £10

Peter Blakey

ROLLING STOCK

The green 110 trailer now has a grey undercoated south roof, which gives a significant improvement to its appearance. No work has been possible on the north side bodywork because of trackwork and MoD trains - the 4th in 6 weeks! The blue 117 trailer now has 6 tables fitted at locked-out doors and one of the doors has been re-opened to improve access for staff to the buffet counter. Cleaning is well underway and most of the internal window frames re-painted. Work has started on cleaning the inside of the west facing blue 101 motor/brake and 2 tables will be fitted in the only accessible position as the seating in this unit is mainly 'toast rack' style.

Barry Wetherell

THANKS: Congratulations to the person who ran the cable all the way from one of the lights in the bottom half of the signal box to the light switch. It was a nice neat job.

Andrew Ripley

DONATIONS REQUIRED

Books (particularly fiction paperbacks), CDs and DVDs are needed for FOLS to re-sell at Leyburn Station in aid of FOLS funds. Items MUST be in A1 condition - anything broken, creased, scratched, dirty or dog-eared WILL be rejected!

Suitable goods to sell on the FOLS eBay site <http://shop.ebay.co.uk/merchant/friendsofleyburnstation>

would also be very welcome. Items may be dropped off at Leyburn Station on Wednesday mornings (1030-1230) during winter close down, or on train running days after 1st April.

Or email Editor@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com to make other arrangements.

Sandra Ward

Deadline for contributions for the next newsletter is 31st March. Send to:-Philip Smith Tel 01609 774733

Email induction@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com