



Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 13 March – Quiz Night, Leyburn – see below

Wednesday 17 March – Open meeting for all volunteers associated with retail or catering. 1030am at Leeming Bar. (Contact Amanda at Office)

Thursday 25 March – Coffee Morning at Richmond – see below.

Sunday and Monday 4 and 5 April – Book Sale, Leyburn – see below

Saturday 17 April – 10am at Bedale Station – induction course for new volunteers

PTS courses for New Volunteers and those requiring re-certification 27 March and 24 April 2010. Book with John Thompson through office or email to pts@wensleydaleraailwayassociation.com

UPDATE

Kevin Powell our General Manager will be leaving us on March 5th to take up an exciting new post in the railway industry in London. Our railway is so different now and even though Kevin is leaving us in person his legacy will remain for us to continue and build upon. He is sorry to be leaving and happy to continue to help in some voluntary capacity. I know that many people felt that it was almost inevitable that someone who did well in this post would quickly be sought after elsewhere in the railway industry but it is a credit to everyone on our railway, as well as to Kevin, that this happened. There is now a challenge for the Management Team and the Board(s) to keep things going in the meantime and prepare for the new operating season. To ensure that we have close local leadership during this time Angus Maude, who is local, will swap to become the plc Chair and I will take his seat as Deputy Chair (as I am based over 200 miles away!).

We have also been able to make some new Board appointments. The following have been co-opted to the board: Alan Rose – Safety, and Janet Crampton – Community Engagement. Kevin Powell – Operations and Russell Lord – Infrastructure have also been invited to join as co-optees. We still hope to appointment a Finance Director shortly. The Board will be re-emphasising to everyone that safety has to remain top priority during this time of change, the need being to focus on ensuring that we don't lose sight of the need to maintain and develop our safe systems and practices during this interim period. We are always seeking extra volunteers to work on aspects of safety, whether practical, administrative or technical – so please come forward if you can help.

Kevin is happy to talk about his move and I, Angus, and the rest of the Board to discuss the interim and future arrangements. I also note with gratitude the support that

the Wensleydale Railway Association have given over the past year and assure colleagues that the future of our railway is very good. The Railway Council will shortly be publishing the 5 year strategy, we will soon be launching the share prospectus and have an improved operating timetable for the coming season continuing to introduce more quality loco hauled trains– this year should see many more of our long-standing needs addressed. However we must not be complacent and central to our growth is continuing and accelerating the improvement of our infrastructure. If you possibly can, I would ask that you consider making a special donation to the Wensleydale Railway Association's Track Appeal. This has already raised over £47,000 and has enabled us to both tackle some priority problems on the Leeming Bar- Redmire stretch and start on the Castle Hills (Northallerton) - Leeming Bar stretch this winter – with the excellent help of volunteers of course. To make a donation to this, please see the WRA website

Ian Sesnan

ELECTIONS TO THE WRA BOARD

This year elections will be conducted under the provisions of the revised Articles of Association. Any member intending to be nominated should note that nominations are now required 42 days before the AGM, which in practice means by the end of Friday 23rd April. If any member requires a copy of the revised Articles, I can supply this most conveniently by email, but for those who do not have access to the internet, I will supply a hard copy if you write to me.

David Haxby, Secretary

WELCOME

A warm welcome to Paul Baxter, Marwood and Maureen Graham, John Ingerson, Alan Usher, Martyn Whyte, Andrew and Heather Woodhouse who have joined us as volunteers and have completed their induction. We hope you will all be very happy working with us.

HELP FOR HEROES

The organisers of this event would like to thank all the volunteers and staff who made the event a huge success despite the weather. All the profits from ticket sales and donations are to be donated to Help for Heroes and The Royal British Legion. Members of the two charities travelled on the train and also helped our volunteers to raise money. With all the hard work we raised a total of £1500 which we will present to the charities on Saturday 27th March at the National Railway Museum as part of their heroes day.

Ken Monkman

EASTER EVENTS

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2

Early Bird train at 08.00! This is the first day of the new season's scheduled train services. There will be an Early Bird train departing Leeming Bar at 08.00, Bedale 08.09, Finghall 08.27 arriving Leyburn at 08.41 (returning direct to Leeming Bar as empty coaching stock). This Early Bird train service on Good Friday is provided for three categories of passenger: (a) Members of the public travelling up the dale for a day out in and around Leyburn (usual Friday market). These passengers should book their train tickets as usual i.e. on the day of the journey; (b) Passengers who have booked a combined ticket for the Early Bird train (return on any train) and Middleham Open Stables. Booking Combined Tickets in advance BY MARCH 30 will save each passenger £3. Those who don't book by then should buy separate tickets for the Early Bird train and for the Stables admission once they reach Middleham. It's a very good event, with free connecting coaches running between all the participating stables and Leyburn station. Note that if and when racing is allowed on Good Fridays, this event will cease so don't delay and miss your chance to enjoy it! (c) Passengers who have booked for WR's 8 mile guided walk from Middleham to Coverham Abbey and historic Coverham church to Redmire station for 15.50 train back to Leeming Bar.. We are asking people to book for this particular guided walk because the walkers will also use the free shuttle bus between Leyburn and Middleham so they can start the walk higher up the dale than is usually possible. Regret NO DOGS for these events.

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 4

Catch the 09.50 train from Leeming Bar to Redmire to join the one hour Family Easter Egg Hunt - right up to the gateway of Bolton Castle! Return on any train - but note the Castle has a programme of fun activities over the week-end, including Easter Sunday (admission charge applies). No need to book (unless you are bringing a group larger than a family, in which case advance notice would be much appreciated by the chocolate hens. (08454 50 54 74). Who can find the first primrose on this walk? HELPERS to lay the trail of chocolate eggs would be very welcome (09.00 start from Redmire station). Please let me know if you can come. *Ruth Annison* (01969 650349)

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This month's volunteer of the month is **Richard Brown**. He is a relatively new volunteer who has quickly become a qualified crossing keeper and, apart from other duties, during the Santa Special period did 10 days of crossing keeping in freezing weather. Richard is a pleasure to work with and is always keen and helpful. Congratulations and our thanks to Richard. Why not nominate someone for next month's volunteer of the month? Just send your "citation" to the Editor.

DIRECT WORKS TEAM

Work has continued on the Dairy at Redmire with the large ventilation hole in the roof being reslated plus a hole in the roof on the north side; over 100 slates were used. The water tower frame has been unbolted into 4 sections and those plus the large top frame await movement by rail to Leyburn, where the complete tower will be eventually erected. We await a train to move it. At the moment it is too cold to paint and plaster (no heating inside), but hopefully by Easter that can start. We are then entering the last furlong.

Since mid January, on most Wednesdays – snow permitting – DWT team members plus other members from different WR groups (a completely ad hoc organization) have been helping the Infrastructure Group by digging out sleepers from Ainderby LC towards Scruton. So far we have dug out 322 and we are 24 short of Ham Hall lane LC; then there are about 23 chains of concrete sleepers to the last 5 chains of wooden sleepers immediately in front of Scruton station to the LC. Infrastructure Group appear on Saturdays and then change old for new sleepers. The Wednesday group try to keep at least 50 ahead of the Infrastructure group.

Colin Brown has recently marked more sleepers up from Scruton gates to Bridge 12 which is just west of Swale Bridge, so the job continues. If any WR members from any group wish to help in this long task, whether for a few hours, just one day, or whatever, you would be welcome. We meet at Leeming Bar every Wednesday at 9 am; bring a spade and you will be even more welcome!

Over 2 consecutive days the end house at Crakehall station has seen a drainage ditch dug out and a field drain constructed to deal with the dampness inside the home.

John Tong

QUIZ NIGHT: LEYBURN RUGBY CLUB

FOLS have arranged a Quiz Night at Leyburn Rugby Club in aid of the Track Appeal on Saturday 13 March (7pm for 7.30pm start). Please join us for what promises to be a fun evening in a great cause; register your team (max 6 people, £2 per person) in advance with Jenny Blakeley on 01969 623624.

BUMPER SALE OF BOOKS

FOLS will be holding a mega sale of books in "Arthur's" tearbar (Leyburn Station) in aid of the WRA Track Appeal on **Easter Sunday and Monday 4/5 April 2010**. Please spread the word! As mentioned in the December "Rail Link", the display of books in the Leyburn shop has been significantly enlarged recently by a very generous donation of transport and military themed items (including aircraft, cars, ships). Don't forget to browse these during your next visit and to check out the pre-owned OO gauge model railway while stocks last (going fast!).

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FUND-RAISING

Maureen Stockbridge is organising a coffee morning and fund-raiser in Richmond; anyone who can contribute a few hours please phone her on 01748 822267

Help required for St Crux (York) fund-raising coffee mornings and sales on Tuesday 18 May and Tuesday 14 September. Please let Brian Ledger know if you can help at any time during the day – tel 01904 701170

250 CLUB

February winners -1st Mrs J.R. Atkinson £78; 2nd Lawrence Knighton £39; 3rd Michael Seed £21; 4th Richard Hemmings £13

Peter Blakey

EARLY-RISER WANTED!

A volunteer is needed to provide occasional relief for those who run the Northallerton Kiosk. Although fully staffed at present, sickness or holidays means that a further volunteer is needed to step in occasionally. This is for the early shift – starting at about 6.30am; full training will be given. (Finish times could be flexible). Please contact Audrey Heathcote on 01609 778851 or the Leeming Office.

WRA PHOTOGRAPHER

By the time you read this, I will have stepped down from my role as volunteer WRA website photographer and reporter and stop volunteering at WR due to other commitments.. I have really enjoyed my time and would like to say a big "thank you" to all the kind and helpful people I have met over the last couple of years. Best wishes for the future

Jonathon Kirby

VACANCY: "WENSLEYDALE LINEMAN"

Following Jonathon Kirby's decision to step down as WRA Website Photographer & Reporter, we urgently need to appoint a new "Wensleydale Lineman" to provide topical and regular news and pictures about the railway in an online journal format. Please submit expressions of interest to

Editor@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Jonathon for all the hard work and enthusiasm in his time as the "Lineman" and to wish him well for what I am sure will be a successful future. Our loss is someone else's gain!

Sandra Ward

ROLLING STOCK GROUP

In preparation for the 'Heroes' train, repairs were carried out to defective toilets and brake dust/dirt was removed from some external windows using Brillo pads (a refined version of wire wool). One small sliding window in Emma was freed so it would close properly. Unfortunately on the special train a door window in Rosie broke while the train was moving. This was due to a combination of the spring mechanism jamming in the

down position (which happens occasionally due to corrosion in the door frame) and the glass coming loose from the spring - this is unusual and probably as a result of trying hard to shut the window when it had lost its support. A replacement glass, laminated rather than the normal toughened type, has been fitted as a trial.

Work continued on the conversion of the Strathclyde. The east and one of the centre partitions were removed to increase the passenger area; air and heating ducts removed and a start made to blank the resulting holes in the floor; the opening between the guard's section and the passenger area was enlarged ready for fitting a double door; the outer doors on the south side of the guard's compartment were finally persuaded to shut and will be blanked off later! Improvements to the external and internal security of the MLV were carried out.

Barry Wetherell

NORTHALLERTON BRANCH

For the March Branch Meeting, Tom Clift of Grand Central Railway is coming to give a presentation entitled "The Country's Longest Community Railway". The Meeting is on Monday 15 March at the Northallerton Cricket Club at 7.30 and all are welcome.

Peter Blakey

BEDROOM FURNITURE!

After two years' dust-gathering, a single bed, little chest of drawers and mini-wardrobe will terminally depart Bedale Station 23rd March. Rescue claims to Richard Kingsbury 01677 424530 by 20th March please.

VOLUNTEERS TEAM

I have stepped down as Volunteer Coordinator and I am delighted that Dave Elliott has taken over. In fact, we have started a new team – Sue Scurlock will keep the address details, etc on the database and will organise the inductions; Dave, Joe Skimming and myself will take turns to run inductions and will mentor new volunteers through their first few months and I will continue to edit the newsletter (though if anyone is interested...?!). Please note the email addresses as follows:-

For General Volunteer issues -

Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com

For Induction issues –

Induction@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com

For Newsletter issues –

Newsletter@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com

There is a communications tray in the general office at Leeming Bar, in which papers for all of the Volunteers Team can be left.

This is a positive effort to try to improve the retention of volunteers, as too many new people are put off, for various reasons, from continuing after their early experiences on the WR

Philip Smith

Deadline for the next newsletter is 31st March

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