



Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 12th November – Coffee Morning, Richmond (see below)

Saturday 21st November – COSS course (see below)

Tuesday 24th November - Volunteers meeting (for all volunteers) – 7.15pm at Bedale Station

Friday 27th November - Social Christmas meal for all volunteers at Coore Arms, Scruton. Price and menu from Tubby at Leeming Bar Station.

Wednesday 2nd December – Extraordinary General Meeting of WRA (see below)

Saturday 5th December - PTS course (see below)

Saturday 5th December - Induction course at Leeming Bar Station 9.30-11.30am

FROM PLC CHAIRMAN

Winter reading

As the long winter nights descend on us it is a good time to think about catching up on some reading. Some railway safety books make remarkably good reading probably the best known one is "Red for Danger" by [L.T.C. Rolt](#). This might be a good thing to ask Santa for. If anyone has copies of such books to donate to the railway's shops then that would help in two ways. The development of railway safety is as much a part of heritage as any building or loco is and understanding why safety and operating rules have developed helps us to realise why they should never be broken. It is also a fascinating subject in its own right. There is also a fund of interesting and free reading available from the Rail Accident Investigation Branch web-site including some recent reports of great importance to how we work. One example is the report into the derailment on the Ffestiniog Railway on [Derailment of a passenger train on the Ffestiniog Railway on 3 May 2008](#); publication date: 02 07 09. Report number: 18/2009. If you don't have access to the internet leave a message for me at Leeming Bar and I will send you a copy.

Investing in our railway

This coming winter will see us raising income to invest in the railway. One of the major grants that we will be applying for requires us to match fund the grant so for every pound we raise they would give us a pound. This makes the winter season vitally important for generating income – please do all you can to bring in income over this period when we need it most. It is not often that we get the chance to double our money! We are hoping that we will be able to double any money received from the WRA track appeal too. I promised last time to list the key investments that we are hoping to make over the winter and next year. It includes; improvements at Bedale and Redmire; upgrades to sections of the whole line, passing loop(s); covered accommodation; increased marketing

for 3 years; investments in existing traction/rolling stock and improved business and safety systems. Of course this all depends on us raising the money. The busy summer has extended into a late season with some serious challenges to meet and I must thank you all for the extra efforts that are going on at present. The sight of the Class 20 hauling the rake of matching coaches in brilliant autumn sunshine with a fair number of half-term travellers has made it worthwhile I hope.

Ian Sesnan

HELP FOR SANTA!

It's that time of year again when we are all full of good cheer and merriment. I would like to ask you all to extend that feeling to our Santa Specials on Dec 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24. Come to help us; it really is fun. We will need a Santa, 3 helper elves (1 in the guards van), 2 wine and mince pie waiters/waitresses, 2 w & mp servers and 1 person to fill toy sacks every day. Santa train will run LB to Crakehall this year or LEY to Redmire (13 20 21 22) no normal service will run but a special may. Times possible are between 10.15 to 14.15 daily. The core time on each day will be 11.15 & 13.15 with more trains released as needed.

November 7 is the Firework express and we need helpers please to staff the bar and serve on the buffet (Mulled Wine & Parkin complimentary), timing leaving LB at 15.50 returning by 21.45. Again a fun night.

If you are able to help on any event please contact the office on

01677 425805 or Brian Ledger on 01904 701170.

Amanda Pearson

Retail Corner

Further stocks of WR's "Now and Then" Calendar 2010 are now available. Call into the retail outlets for special offer:

Buy WR 2010 Calendar and 5 WR Christmas Cards for combined price of £7.95!

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This month the award is to **Bradley**. During the 1940s weekend, he rode up and down the line allowing people to pat him and uses those big brown eyes to melt the money out of their pockets. At other times he allows his human friend Pauline to leave him at home whilst she does her share of volunteering. Bradley raises considerable sums of money for the railway. Thanks (and extra rations) to Bradley.

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

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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

WELCOME

A warm welcome to Richard Brown, Sarah Edwards, Peter Gill, Ian Merritt, Colin Pratt, Jack Pratt and Valerie Rackley who have joined us as volunteers and have completed their induction. We hope you will be very happy working with us.

PTS Course There will be a Personal Track Safety course on Saturday 5th December for new volunteers and re-tests. It starts at 09.30, will be followed by test and certification and should take around 3½ hours. The course is based upon Network Rail Personal Track Safety Handbook RT3170 Issue 6, If you require a copy call Leeming office. These are free to Volunteers; however they cost the Railway £1 each (donations welcome). Relevant pages: 3, 10-14, 23, 25-33, 38, 40-44, 47, 48, 51-53. We encourage all volunteers to undertake PTS training. Names to Leeming Bar Office or John Thompson on john@airborneit.co.uk

COSS Course There will be a Control of Site Safety course on Saturday 21st November at Bedale for both Current COSS trained personnel, requiring a re-certification, and anyone else requiring this qualification. It will start at 09.30 and will be followed by test and certification. It will last all day. Content is based on Rule Book modules T2 T7 and T12. Names to Leeming Bar office or John Thompson john@airborneit.co.uk

IDENTITY BADGES

As you have been informed, it is a new policy that all workers on the railway will have an "identity" badge. This is an HMRI requirement to show that the holder is a bona fide worker for Wensleydale Railway plc. Last month, everyone was sent a response form to be completed on-line or in writing. Obviously it is vital that identity badges are only given to current volunteers and it is essential that a reply is received from everyone; these replies will be used to update the database of volunteers and badges will only be issued to people on this list. If you have not yet responded, please do so urgently; if you do not have a response form, email Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com or contact the office.

If you have any queries about identity badges, contact Bob Whitehouse on

Training@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com

COFFEE MORNING

Richmond Town Hall on Thursday 12 November from 9.00am to 12.00 Noon. **NB Note date change.**

Cake and Tombola stalls along with a WRA stall selling new Christmas Cards and Calendar as well as WRA Memorabilia, Books and Toys etc. Help is needed, plus donations of raffle prizes, cakes, etc. Contact Maureen Stockbridge on 01748 822267 if you can help.

250 CLUB

Winners in October draw are:- 1st £60 Anthony Kemp, 2nd £30 David Wooton, 3rd £15 Peter Williams; 4th £10 Peter Guy.

Peter Blakey

THE JONAS CENTRE

Many people wonder about the Scandinavian chalets situated just before the road bridge at Redmire (and visible from the train). There are 12 of these, each housing 5-7 people, and a well equipped conference centre, all available for hire. There is also a CL caravan site and a small shop. The Centre is a registered charity; all are welcome and it is a great base for holidays in Wensleydale, with good access to the Wensleydale Railway! Tel 01969 624900 or on the web

www.jonascentre.org

Maureen Stockbridge

RELAY BACK NUMBERS (other than issues 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8) are available for sale, Half Price - Min £1, from Leyburn Shop.

Alternatively contact Paul Kenyon Tel: 01748 824249 or Email: pkenyon@dsl.pipex.com.

ROLLING STOCK GROUP

Work continued on repainting the east 110 power car, some green gloss on the north side and grey undercoat on the corridor end. Unfavourable weather led to a start being made on the inside of the west blue 101 power car. Seat and luggage rack repairs; cleaning of ceilings, walls and the aluminium condensate-draining troughs on the window frames.

Bill Angus finished re-covering the roof of the blue (RSG) van, thanks to sponsorship of new felt and adhesive by the WRA Board.

2 panels were rubbed down on Beth's south roof. A number of non rolling stock jobs were done. The office door lock failed and no-one could get in - we got in using specialist tools and knowledge, thus avoiding the need for a locksmith - a new lock was subsequently fitted; the fire exit door on the shop coach jammed shut and required planing; five new notice boards were fitted at the entrance to the car park; the paling fence at Aiskew crossing was repaired using new timber supplied by Tubby; preliminary examination of 2 of the crossing lighting poles was carried out; new bolts were fitted to turn-out 52B on the exit from the yard; improvement made to the train running information board

Barry Wetherell

OPERATIONS

The time table called for 4 day a week running for the first 3 weeks and every day for the last week. In the middle of the third week the green DMU set failed so, as the blue set was also out of action, the last 10 days saw 20166 (no ETH and needing 2 drivers for safe nose-first running) and 47703 (ETH and 1 driver) taking turns each hauling 4 mk 2a carriages. The Strathclyde was moved into the yard, not for painting but for wheelsets to be removed ready for fitting to the blue DMU set.

On Wednesday 21st the first MoD train for more than 6 months arrived, carrying Land Rovers. Unfortunately there were no linking plates for the vehicles to drive across the gaps between wagons. A chainsaw was borrowed and used to saw sleepers which enabled unloading. The train left Redmire some three and a half hours late, which meant that WR staff were on duty from 05.00 until 22.00 on the day.

Barry Wetherell

UPDATE FROM “WENSLEYDALE LINEMAN”

As many may now be aware the former “features” page on the WRA Website has now been re-branded as “Wensleydale Lineman”. Having taken up my new position I have been kept busy at various running days, special events and engineering works as well as sorting out images for various marketing purposes. It is good to see that there are plenty of newsworthy events ongoing at the line and I would love to hear from you if you know of an event that is coming up. Please contact me at Photographer@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com or 07840838858 if you have any news or forthcoming events to notify me of.

If you are unable to access copies of any of my reports and would like me to post out a copy to you then please get in touch. I have also been looking at the possibility of a “Day in the life of...” series. I would love to hear from any volunteers or staff who would be willing to allow me to follow them for a day and record the role they play in the railway’s operation. On train crew, crossing keepers and station staff would be especially interesting. Keep watching the WRA website for new reports which are being uploaded regularly.

The articles published to date cover:

Operation Dalesman 2009, All action at Leeming (arrival of 47540), 20166’s re-instatement to traffic and its history, The arrival of 25313 from Llangollen, The history of 25313 in BR service, Brian Redhead memorial and loco haulage 2009, Ballast tamper visit and engineering (Sept 09) and the evening ‘Jazz Train’ from October.

I am currently looking at writing the history of all other locos at the line starting with 47715 ‘Poseidon’ and moving on to 47703 ‘St Mungo’ and 20166. If anyone has any information of images of these locomotives I would love to hear from you.

If you wish to meet to discuss items or post images or information to me give me a call on 07840838858 or

email at

Photographer@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com

All contributions are appreciated tremendously and all information will be attributed to the owner.

Jonathon Kirby

WRA Extraordinary General Meeting

It would be helpful if volunteers could note the date of this meeting – Wednesday 2nd December at the Lodge, Leeming Bar at 7.15 p.m. – and make every effort to attend. The details of the meeting were sent out with Relay a few days ago, but with the postal strikes they may be slow to reach people. The purpose of the meeting is to complete the changes to the Articles of Association, which were initiated at the meeting which followed the AGM in June. Please read my letter, which is on the reverse of the Notice of the meeting.

It is important that we have a quorum at the meeting. A quorum is thirty members, present in person – i.e. proxy votes do not contribute. We cannot expect members to travel long distances for this kind of meeting, so we rely on local members attending. Whilst the length of a meeting is always difficult to forecast, I think it is unlikely to be longer than one hour. If you are unable to attend, please use your proxy vote.

David Haxby

WEBSITE “EXTRA”

An online “Donate” facility has been added to the WRA website. It is now possible to support the WR Link of Track Appeal from anywhere in the world - and all volunteers are encouraged to make this known to friends and family. Please see the website Support and Fundraising Page for details and wording, at www.wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com/Support

Sandra Ward

INFRASTRUCTURE

To help us get on top/catch up on the work required in keeping the track up to a compliant standard and improve the service by removing speed restrictions, we now have work parties 3 times per week. Saturday 09.00 to 17.00 alternating between Leeming Bar and Leyburn. Wednesdays 18.00 to 21.00 Leeming Bar. Friday nights 18.00 to late Leeming Bar. Start times are all “Meet Before” at the appropriate station; it is not cricket and rain does not stop play! To join one of our Parties come along and give it a try whenever you can make it; new members are always made to feel very welcome and a part of the team. For further details on starting contact John Thompson on 01748 812715 or see WRA website.

Deadline for the next newsletter is 30th November.

Send to:- Philip Smith Tel 01609 774733

Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com