



## Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PTS Course – 10<sup>th</sup> October – see below

Induction course Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at Leeming Bar Station 9.30-11.30am

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October - Volunteers meeting (for all volunteers) – 7.15pm at Bedale Station

28 Oct – Relay Packing – see below

COSS course – 21<sup>st</sup> November – see below

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November - Social Christmas lunch for all volunteers at Coore Arms, Scruton. Price and menu to be announced soon.

### FROM PLC CHAIRMAN

**Reading about safety** - I am conscious that there is a lot of interest in safety across the railway but people do struggle sometimes to put it all in context. The Office of Rail Regulation is the independent safety and economic regulator for Britain's railways and their web-site sets out very neatly the range of Health and Safety regulations. I would encourage you to spend some time browsing this. It is very interesting with free publications to download and various examples. A good starting point would be to seek out the "ROGS" (Railway and Other Guided System guidance). The web address is: <http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1> We have our own Safety Management System, please discuss any relevant points about the Wensleydale Railway with your manager in the first instance.

**Upgrading the railway's infrastructure** - Many thanks to everyone who put so much hard work in to the recent visit by the tamper. It is great to see so much progress and thanks to the WRA for paying for the ballast. From this winter, we will be strategically tackling the infrastructure. In the next few weeks we will be boosting the WRA track appeal as much as possible to enable more immediate works to be done. In the New Year the plc is planning a capital raising exercise on the basis of a 10 point plan to be announced at the plc's agm on October 10th. To give a flavour to colleagues, some of the proposed investments are (subject of course to raising the money!): 1) Upgrade Northallerton- Leeming to take regular passenger excursions and visiting locos. 2) Covered accommodation to improve work conditions, allow more visiting engines and improve maintenance facilities. 3) Investments in traction condition to allow high quality service with increased frequency. 4) Upgrade Leeming to Redmire line to enable enhanced service. 5) Improve systems for safety, welfare, revenue management, financial systems and security at Leeming. A condition of the investments is that they will upgrade WR to carry more traffic and earn more money which in turn can be reinvested in the railway. The full list of proposals will be in the next Volunteers newsletter.

**Still plenty of time to earn income this year** - The season is by no means over, we have many events; regular trains, Santa specials etc please do help with these events so that we can earn money during the tough winter months. One vital thing is to offer to help at Leeming Bar to ensure that the phones (which can get very busy) are never left unanswered. One unanswered call could be many sleepers worth of income lost.

*Ian Sesnan*

**40 DAYS..... There are still 40 trading days left until the season ends on Sunday January 2** - i.e. 20% of the year's operating dates, in which to earn income from train services before the long lean winter months ahead. Your help in distributing the remaining timetables before the October half term would be much appreciated. Also in removing any out-of-date posters or timetables. There are still a number of special events and walks to look forward to (and publicise). The Leeming office is taking bookings now for **Santa Specials** (inc. those from Leyburn/Redmire), with a discount of £1 per ticket for bookings made and paid for before October 31. **The Herriot Country Excursion** is on Friday October 9, visiting locations in Swaledale and Wensleydale associated with filming the TV series. This day out includes return train journey, escorted scenic coach tour with photo-stops and includes lunch en route (bookings to the office, £25 ppn). **The Bedale Bonfire train from Redmire** is on Saturday November 7 (changed date). If you know anyone up the dale, please give them a ring and encourage bookings. On Friday November 20 there will be a **Christmas Shopping trip to Carlisle** by train from Garsdale, giving four and a half hours in Carlisle and getting back to Leeming Bar at 8pm. It will be a long day out but the people who went to Carlisle on the summer excursion reported an excellent day. **Friday November 20 is also our first Great Walks Day**, with five different guided walks and five different Festive Lunches. In total we can accommodate 100 walkers (5 x 20) and more than 30 tickets have already sold! The cost is £20 each, including the Festive Lunch - and the pubs have provided some super lunch menus. Many thanks to Carol Moffat for all her work in helping to plan this new event. (The Nov 21 walk/festive lunch event sold out long ago so do book very soon if you would like to join the Friday event).

**Details next month** of the programme for guided walks every day between Boxing Day and New Year's Day (no need to book for these but do tell us in advance if you are planning to bring a largish party of family and friends on any of the walks during the Christmas holiday).

*Ruth Annison*

**HELP!!**

Is there someone who could give 2 to 3 hours in the Leeming office (as soon as possible) to send out a large number of emails in connection with the Santa Specials? Contact Amanda in the office – 08454 505474

**VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH**

This month the award is to **Geoff Robson**. Most people will recognise Geoff by his shorts and legs – and a shapelier pair of calves has probably never graced the line! Geoff is a stalwart of Friends of Leyburn Station, where he is variously handyman, gardener, recycling officer, Branch Minutes Secretary, painter and decorator....the list goes on! But it doesn't end there as he generously gives of his time to other areas of the railway when required: he was a real tower of strength during the recent steam event, turning out day after day to attend to 80105's watering needs. We'll never know how he manages to fit all this in with his other interests outside the railway, notably as "roadie" for Leyburn Band. But we do know that we'd be lost without him. Thanks for everything, Geoff!

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

**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 (Oct 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Leyburn, and 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Leeming Bar and so on). 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.

**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](http://www.wensleydalerailway.com)) in one of the blue boxes in the right hand margin

**WELCOME**

A warm welcome to Richard Ballam, Derrick Fielden, Roger Lees and Paul Markie who have joined us as volunteers and have completed their induction. We hope you will be very happy working with us.

**UNIFORM**

Uniform ordered during late July and August is now available for collection from Leeming Bar. During the course of this year, I have sent uniform orders to the suppliers on an irregular basis - generally once there were sufficient requests from volunteers to make such an order "worthwhile". This has meant that volunteers who requested uniform just after an order had been sent off have sometimes had to wait a long time to receive it. Therefore, in a bid to make uniform ordering less haphazard, I propose to send off future orders on set dates, i.e. during the first week of alternate months. Therefore, volunteers need to ensure that they let me have their orders **BY THE END OF OCTOBER, DECEMBER, FEBRUARY, APRIL, JUNE AND AUGUST** to ensure that the items are in their hands as soon as possible. Hopefully, if everybody keeps a note of these dates, long delays should be avoided in future. Once the suppliers have received an order, the goods are usually delivered within 3-4 weeks. The situation will be kept under review and your comments would be welcomed.

Email uniform @wensleydalerailwayassociation.com or tel 01609 748326

*Michael Mitton*

**PTS Course** There will be a Personal Track Safety course on Sat 10th Oct at Bedale 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 as I am away.

**COSS Course** There will be a Control of Site Safety course on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:john@airborneit.co.uk)

**IDENTITY BADGES**

As stated in the last newsletter, it is a new policy that all volunteers will have "identity" badges (i) to show Railway Inspectorate, or other authorised persons that qualifications are held and up-to-date; (ii) for display by volunteers when in contact with the public to provide a welcome to Wensleydale Railway. If you have not done so already, please ensure that you respond to the form which was sent by email or post to all volunteers.

It is expected that the badges will be distributed at the beginning of November.

## Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

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From Website Official Photographer and Reporter –  
use the following links:-

[photographer@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com](mailto:photographer@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com)

[My Latest Rail Pics Are Here](#)

[My Rail Pics](#) (July & September 2009)

[Archived Rail Photos From Pre-July 2009](#)

*Jonathon Kirby*

### LEEMING BAR SHOP/BUFFET

In an attempt to avoid gaps and double bookings, Brian Ledger is coordinating the roster for the above and also for on-train buffet manning. Please notify Brian of your availability on 01904 701170.

### 250 CLUB

Winners in the September draw are:-

1st £66 180 John Ellis; 2nd £33 9 David Sharpe; 3rd  
£16 31 A.W Lovett ; 4th £10 232 P.A. Ball

*Peter Blakey*

### RELAY PACKING

The next Relay Packing will take place on Wed 28 Oct at Crakehall Village Hall, set up at 18.30 and packing commences at 19.00. If you are thinking about providing an insert please let David Haxby or I know so that production can be co-ordinated. As usual tea & coffee will be provided but a volunteer to help on the night would be appreciated. Any queries please ring 01677 423046 - leave a message or e-mail [Angus@maudes.net](mailto:Angus@maudes.net)

*Angus Maude*

### 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, at [www.wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com/Support](http://www.wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com/Support)

*Sandra Ward*

### RELAY BACK ISSUES

We are looking for copies of Relay Back Issues to sell to raise funds for WR. These are 3,4,5,7,8 and 12. Email [relaybackissues@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com](mailto:relaybackissues@wensleydalerrailwayassociation.com) or phone Paul Kenyon at 01748 824249.

### ROLLING STOCK GROUP

Redmire station now has a new station nameboard. It is all wood and in the traditional LNER/BR style with raised 10 inch white letters on an 18 " black backboard. Holidays this month have reduced effort and on 1 week there was only 1 volunteer at work. Beth's north roof is now black so the 3 static coaches match. The east facing 110 power car (51842) has now got a green top coat on the south side; the north side has been filled, sanded down and grey undercoated. 2 tables have been fitted to the west facing 101 power car. These are in the only places where seats face each other. Sanding down on the

north side of the spare 101 Strathclyde is complete, but is out of reach on the north headshunt at present. A 'new' door window (dropglass) was fitted to the north west door of 'Sarah'. It is a lot harder than it sounds! As the service train used both green power cars, the oily/gritty deposits left on them by the steam loco took most of a day to clean off! 47703 has been parked on the run-round loop at Leeming station. To improve its image the hand painted 'ST. MUNGO' on the south side has been replaced by a realistic replica name plate in wood and vinyl and in the correct style and font - 'Saint Mungo'.

### OPERATIONS

It has been a busy month with lots of coming and going. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Heanor's brought Adrian Morgan's 47 540 from their yard near Birmingham, where it had been in storage after leaving Sinderby where it had stood for 6 years. The 'Dutch' livery is understandably delapidated. The same wagon collected steam loco 80105 and returned it to Bo'Ness. M.E.L.'s class 25 313 was brought from Llangollen on the 8th by Allely's. Built in 1966 it has only ever been in BR blue, which it will retain. Repairs needed include an overhaul of the turbo which will be done at Bo'Ness and installation of new cab floors which will take place at Leeming Bar. It is planned to have it ready for service at the beginning of the 2010 season. 20166 headed a works train to Scruton station on the 14th. The Coles crane unloaded the project container from the Lowmac and the return to Leeming Bar was led by the 03 shunter. Another first on 23rd saw the spare engine, recovered from the 101 Strathclyde power car, test run while laid down in the goods shed. It was impressively noisy. It will replace the faulty engine in the blue 101 east facing power car in October. The annual Brian Redhead memorial train ran on 26th. The 12.05 ex Leeming Bar, headed by class 47 715 'Poseidon', led 4 'custard/cochineal' mk2s and was tailed by 20 166. This set-up ran for the whole weekend but the 20 was replaced by 47 703 'Saint Mungo' on the Sunday. The GrantRail tamper was on the branch from Monday 28th to Thursday 1st October. It worked the Bedale curve on the first day and then went on to Redmire on Tuesday, while the service train ran as normal. The service train was cancelled on Wednesday which enabled the works train to go up to Leyburn and start handling 700 tes of ballast. Unfortunately the 20 started overcharging, thus overheating it's batteries so Poseidon was sent out to rescue the train. Full marks to the small infrastructure team who worked very hard on 3 very long days. The service train was not without problems, which included a small amount of graffiti early in the month, and it finished the month as a full green set, comprising the 110 west power car, the 110 trailer and the 117 east power car.

*Barry Wetherell*

**Deadline for the next newsletter is 31<sup>st</sup> October.**

**Send to:- Philip Smith Tel 01609 774733**

[Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com](mailto:Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com)