



### DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 6 September – Brian Redhead memorial train
- 8 September at 7.30pm - WRA Northallerton Branch Meeting at RAFA Club, High Street (North), Northallerton with Harry Foster : "The Day War Broke Out"
- 16 September – WRA Volunteers meeting (all welcome) 7.15pm at The Lodge, Leeming Bar
- 20/21 September – Diesel Locomotive Gala

(See also, Update report from Ruth)

### VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This is a new section of the newsletter. Each month we will identify a volunteer who has made an extraordinary contribution to the Wensleydale Railway. Of course, all active volunteers are important and, however much you do, your work is valued.

Our volunteer of the month for August (nominated by several people) is **Rob Williamson**. He has worked tirelessly, painting the steam stock until the early hours of the morning whilst doing his full time job as well. He has also been fireman on 80105 for the first two weeks without a day off. He has changed two springs on the steam loco and has been out on tree felling work as well. Without his assistance the steam carriages would not have been finished.

Congratulations and the thanks of all of us to Rob. Why not send in your nomination for September volunteer of the month?

### FUNDRAISING

Please remember that the raffle will be drawn on Saturday 4th October. If anyone has tickets, please return them with any money along with the counterfoils for tickets sold to Ken Monkman (or via the Leeming Office) by 28 September

So far this year we have collected £441.08 for the Coin Challenge. Remember every PENNY counts.

Easyfundraising has raised to date £482.83

For those who receive this newsletter by e mail, please remember that we can raise extra funds when we search the internet by using [wra.easysearch.org.uk](http://wra.easysearch.org.uk) If everyone who receives this email did one search per day we could raise about £1 to £2 per day.

**Ken Monkman**

### UPDATE

We ended August on a high note with the success of the 1940s week-end, **Operation Dalesman**. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who participated in any way to the organisation and running of this event. A special thank you to Mike Sheehan for taking responsibility for it overall and also to everyone behind the scenes whose regular hard work provides an operational railway and stations as 'the stage.' Much of the experience gained over the week-end can be applied to the running of WR's first Diesel Gala on September 20/21 and future large-scale events.

The first planning meeting for 2009 was held a month ago. If you have comments on the 2008 services and programme, or suggestions and ideas for 2009, **please do not hesitate to put them in writing before the end of this month**. A note in the special Suggestions Box via the Leeming Bar office is most helpful, with your name and phone number so we can provide some feedback to you.

September will be a busy month on the line, with trains every day (last steam service on Sunday Sept 7) and several excursions based on onward coach travel from Redmire up the dale. If you fancy a day out, consider booking a WR rail-based excursion for one of the following events: Hardraw Scar Brass Band Festival ((Sunday 14); Guided Walk with lunch at Aysgarth (Wed 17); Sheepdog event, Hawes, with Richard Fawcett, former winner, national Sheepdog Trials (Thurs 18).

Every Friday is Leyburn market day, with a Farmers Market on the fourth Saturday of each month (Sept 27 and Oct 25) and there will be WR Guided Walks every Tuesday in October. Meanwhile the vintage bus goes from Redmire station up to Hawes and Garsdale every Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday until Oct 28 (free with the senior citizens bus pass – please publicise!) **Ruth Annison**

### VOLUNTEERS MEETINGS

Why not come along and meet other volunteers? Have the chance to express your opinions (and hear others!) We have a meeting about every 6 weeks at The Lodge, Leeming Bar and the dates for the coming few months are 16 September, 28 October and 9 December.

### **URGENT – LAST MINUTE!**

Don't forget the Brian Redhead Memorial Steam Train on Saturday September 6, 10.35 service from Leeming Bar.

### **WICKHAM RESURRECTION**

Until late last year there were two operational Wickham inspection trolleys on the railway and plans were afoot to make use of them during Operation Springclean. Alas, all changed when both were badly damaged – so badly that most thought them beyond repair. However, we have in our midst a member well used to rescuing aged vintage cars, and he offered to do his best to revive the least damaged of the pair.

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August this machine re-entered service, resplendent in bright yellow and black paint, and was used to carry out a track inspection to Castle Hills that evening.

Thanks are due to Stan Chaplin and his helpers for the many hours spent straightening out and replacing badly mangled chassis and bodywork and for rescuing a valued item of railway history

**Mike Sheehan**

### **ROLLING STOCK GROUP.**

This was the month of the steam train and RSG and Operations group volunteers worked in harmony to prepare the stock and assist in the operation of the train.

Preparation included complete external repainting of three of the multiple unit carriages. Bernard Morris painted the 117 trailer and Rob Williamson and Paul Warren did two of the 110 units. The indifferent weather added time and frustration to the job.

Rather frustratingly, while all three cars were painted in Dark Brunswick green, they finished in two different shades. The 110s were to a British Standard spec. from one supplier, the 117 was to a British Rail spec from a different supplier!

In addition much internal painting, cleaning and fitting of safety notices took place inside (where the variable weather had no effect!).

Operating assistance was provided for signalling and watering (Bernard); repairs to the steam loco which broke a leaf spring two weeks in a row (Rob); assistance in martialling stock and locos - Poseidon was used as a 'Thunderbird' loco on the second spring failure (Paul).

The Grantrail Wickham trolley, with a replacement radiator fitted by Stan Chaplin,

was coaxed into life by Paul and ran down to Springwell Lane for track inspection.

**Barry Wetherell**

### **SPONSOR A LINK OF TRACK**

**Support the new track appeal and receive a certificate about YOUR piece of track.**

**Just £30 will provide one full link of track.**

The track appeal now stands at £3262. Please keep the donations coming – thanks to all who have subscribed so far.

### **COFFEE MORNING AT YORK**

9 September 2008 - York Coffee Morning and Bric-a-Brac Stall - WRA Fundraiser - at St Crux Hall, York.

If you can offer suitable bric-brac in advance or help on the day then please contact Brian Ledger on 01904 701170

### **REDMIRE "GARDEN"**

Those who have visited Redmire Station will have noticed the weed-strewn and stony bank adjacent to the new buffet car. Pauline Pengelly is organising a small group to undertake a gardening day to make a start on tidying this area. Up and back on the train, a fun day with picnic – some work in between! If you would like to be involved, please contact Pauline on 01845 525537

### **NEW VOLUNTEERS**

There have been several new volunteers joining us in the past few weeks and a warm welcome is extended to them. In particular, welcome to the following new volunteers who have recently completed their induction:-

Mary Lowe    Pat Small    John Armstrong  
Peter Whitehead    Richard Kingsbury

We hope that you enjoy volunteering with the WR.

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 me.

Any volunteer who currently receives this Newsletter in hard copy but who now has access to e-mail is asked to forward their email address to me. This helps reduce the number of copies sent out by post. Similarly if your e-mail has changed please let me know.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER**

**Deadline for contributions (welcome from anyone) for the next newsletter is 30th September. Send to:-**

**Philip Smith** Tel 01609 774733

**Email**

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