



Wensleydale Railway Association Volunteers Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Induction courses for new volunteers Tuesday 8th September and Saturday 3rd October at Leeming Bar Station 9.30-11am

Tuesday 15th September-Volunteers meeting (for all volunteers) – 7.15pm at Bedale Station

HELP REQUIRED!

AGM Notice Packing on 9 September – in Crakehall Village Hall At 19.00 – setting up from 18.30. Refreshments will be provided. This is not a mailsort, just straightforward packing etc. It would be extremely helpful if anyone was able to pop into Leeming between now and then to stick the labels onto the envelopes, which will save time on the night. If you are able to do this please contact the office at Leeming who will be able to give you envelopes and labels.

Relay Packing on Wed 28 October - Crakehall Village Hall at 19.00

If you have any queries re either of the above, please get in touch on 01677 423046 and leave a message or e-mail Angus@maudes.net

Help still needed at the Dales Harvest Festival Event at Hawes on Saturday 19th September 10.00 - 17.00 and Sunday 20th September 10.00 - 16.00. Even if you can only help for part of the day please telephone and offer your services to: Janet and Rod Morris - 07724121355 or 07591653316

FROM PLC CHAIRMAN

Thanks to everyone for what has been a good summer of passenger traffic on the railway and an awful lot of work for some of you keeping an intense service going for such a long period. It seems quite clear that we have potential for steady growth in our business but we need to re-double our efforts to attract and retain volunteers. Above all to ensure that volunteers can know what is expected of them, work hard and enjoy themselves.

There are still many days of revenue earning traffic ahead and it is these days that will determine whether the railway enters the new financial year with money to buy all the day to day items that we need or we remain impoverished. So please anyone who has any energy left let's try and maximise the rest of the year. We do have bigger plans for finance raising but it is most important to get our day to day business into financial balance and a lot of revenue can be earned over the next months.

There are some changes upcoming at Board level. Chris Leah our Safety Director has finally left the Board (after delaying his departure to help us establish the new structure). Ruth Annison ends her term on the Board on October 10th (our AGM date) after 9 years of service

since the plc started. So the marketing and external relations roles will be handled by me, the General Manager and Marketing Manager from October 10th. I am delighted to say that the Board has recruited two new members: Bob Whitehouse, who will be well known to many of you as Vice-Chair of the WRA and currently the plc's Personnel Manager, and Carl Les who will be known to some of you as a local businessman and Councillor. They are co-opted until the agm and then nominated for election there. The Board is still looking to recruit key posts such as Finance and Safety Director.

Ian Sesnan

FROM MARKETING DIRECTOR

See what others are saying about us! Leyburn and mid-Wensleydale Business Association's website has mentioned the Wensleydale Railway on a number of occasions this year. To enjoy reading this positive feedback, which warmly acknowledges the benefit of the re-opened railway to Leyburn, see <http://leyburnonline.co.uk/leyburnblog.html>

September Events - Sun Sept 13 Hardraw Scar Brass Band Contest; Sun Sept 20 Hawes Classic Bus Rally; Thurs Sept 24 Working Sheepdog Demo (all bookable). No need to book for following events unless bringing 11 or more people:- Sun Sept 19 - 6 mile guided walk; Sat Sept 26: Annual Brian Redhead Memorial Train (diesel loco-hauled); Fri/Sat/Sun Sept 25/26/27: WR's Diesel Gala

Other Events – Fri Oct 9 Herriot Country excursion; Great Walks Day Fri Nov 20 (details at Volunteers Meeting on 15 Sept) – booking essential - perhaps you belong to a walking group or other society that would be interested in this event? (£20 ppn incl return train, guided walk and Festive Lunch). Fri Nov 20 Christmas shopping in Carlisle (inc Settle Carlisle railway)

Chris Bulmer's Vintage Bus - this service has had a good deal of publicity this season (front cover of the Yorkshire Post magazine, BBC television and more). Just a reminder that it connects with all WR trains at Redmire until Nov 1 on Tues, Fri, Sat and Sun – and FREE travel for all those with a valid Senior Citizen bus pass!

Winter Break in the Dale? -short breaks at Aysgarth Holiday Cottage (sleeps four, no stairs): 3 nights for £160; extra nights £35 from end Oct. Please phone me for details (01969 650349).

Excursions Team - two more people have joined the excursions team (now 5); there are 20 walk leaders/back-ups. If **you** are interested in either of these opportunities for volunteering, please phone me.

Ruth Annison

VOLUNTEER(S) OF THE MONTH

The award is shared this month between two people! They are **Ron Healey** and **Mick Snowdon**. The nomination reads:- "Without doubt our line is taking on a total new look from the train because of the relentless task which is being vigorously pursued by Ron and Mick. Between them they have spent days and weeks (if not years) cutting back the overgrown areas of our 17 miles of useable track. Their task should not be underestimated; indeed I would liken it to tackling the Amazon forest! It is amazing just how much better our outlook of the surrounding countryside is becoming". Congratulations and our thanks to Ron and Mick. Why not nominate someone for next month's volunteer of the month? Just send your "citation" to the Editor.

NORTHALLERTON BRANCH of WRA

Following the closure of the Function Room at the RAFA Club, commencing on **Thursday 10th September 2009** monthly Branch Meetings are to be held at the Cricket Club, Farndale Avenue (just off Boroughbridge Road) Northallerton. There will be two changes:- Monthly Meetings will be held on the second Thursday for the months of September- May. For the period June – August there will be no Branch Meeting. All Branch Members are to become Associate Members of the Cricket Club. This is necessary so that we are covered for Insurance and the Licensing Laws. There is advantage being an Associate Member in that you may visit the Cricket Club whenever you wish. The cost of an Associate Membership is £6 which is being met by the Branch. Branch Members are being asked to pay a new attendance fee of £1-50; Non Associate Members are to pay £2 and must be signed in by an Associate Member. Directions: If on computer go into Google Maps UK and print DL7 8SN. This will give you the relevant street map of the area. Otherwise - from the High Street proceed along South Parade. Straight across at the roundabout. Across the level crossing and take the second turning on the left (Farndale Avenue)

Peter Blakey

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 Shellei Anderson, Marilyn Milner, Kevin Askham, Vic Middlebrough, Russ Williams, Garry Matthews and Tim Morgan who have joined us as volunteers and have completed their induction. We hope you will be very happy working with us.

IDENTITY BADGES

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. Please ensure that you respond to the form sent by email or post to all volunteers

COSS COURSE (Postponed) - the COSS course planned for the 26 September has been postponed; a new date will be notified soon.

Infrastructure Department - Currently the department has an increasing and urgent workload, and would appreciate any new members joining work parties at both Leeming Bar and Leyburn. We have a party every Saturday, Wednesday and occasional Fridays. We have the sleepers etc all we want is a few more hands to make lighter work. No experience needed, Full training in the art of track maintenance given. Contact me for details john@airborneit.co.uk or through the office.

John Thompson

THANKS TO FRIENDS FROM THE NORTH!

Clearance of a particularly overgrown section of Wensleydale Railway to the East of Constable Burton was undertaken in July this year by five Weardale Railway volunteers who were taking a break from their regular Sunday task of clearing vegetation from their line between Stanhope and Bishop Auckland. Two chainsaws were operated throughout the day by Kevin Hillary and Mike Wood, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Weardale Railway Trust, while Mike Smith, John Lewins and Peter Shields disposed of the debris, helped by Ron Healey, Bernard Morris and Jim Tomlinson. Jim also dealt with all of the paperwork on behalf of Wensleydale Railway, as well as being Controller of Site Safety. The day was successful in transforming a dark and gloomy stretch of track, where overgrowing trees had effectively formed a tunnel, by letting in light and air to give much improved visibility. On a warm, sunny day it was a pleasure to be able to take an occasional break from the hard work to watch *Poseidon* or *St Mungo* cruise by hauling the regular service trains when track possession was given up.

Many grateful thanks are due to our visitors from Weardale for their hard work and expertise. It is hoped that this will be the first of many exchanges between the two railways as we have a great deal to learn from each other.

Bernard Morris

AUGUST RSG REPORT

Work continued on the north side of Beth's roof with the application of green anti-corrosive primer. This makes it look rather odd - a green roof on a green body. Work continued on the green 110 DMCL no 51842. Rubbing down of the south side was finished as was the

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application of grey undercoat. About one third is now in dark green top coat. Rubbing down of the north side has begun and a vandalised broken window has been renewed. The owner, Allan Schofield, has been on site working on preparations for fitting a replacement 180 hp Rolls Royce engine which is being overhauled in the NW. Repairs to exhaust pipes and support brackets has begun. Minor door, window and seat defects were rectified on the service train cars 51210 and 50746. During the 3 day wash out of the steam loco 80105, Poseidon hauled 4 cream/red coaches on the service train. The change-over at Leeming Bar was done with Poseidon being disconnected from the train and parking in the south headshunt, while the 03 (BR Swindon) shunter hauled the train into the station. Poseidon then reconnected to the west end of the train. Preparatory work on the coaches involved repairs to sticking doors and windows and the fitting of girl's names, running numbers and WDTG data panels on the north side of 3 of the coaches. Further rubbing down was carried out on the north side of the spare 101 - Strathclyde. This is in preparation for the unit to replace Beth at the platform during the winter break. On Sunday 16 August the engine of class 20 no 20166 was started for the first time on site. A small oil leak was picked up by the radiator fan and blown over a fair area. When rectified and after repair to a faulty air-brake valve the loco ran under it's own power, on 21 August, a short distance up the south headshunt, engine ticking over smoothly.

Barry Wetherell

EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR WRplc

The email addresses for contacting the office, WRplc and persons in official positions have been replaced. In future, use admin@wensleydalerailway.com Would anyone who receives "official" emails please advise me on wrailit@onsitedigital.net and I will try to collate them for distribution. Would all volunteers please check their address books and ensure that out-of-date addresses for the office are removed.

Tim Walls

WESTERN EXTENSION 'DAY OUT'

Meeting for lunch at the Bolton Arms Redmire at 12 noon on Sunday 20th September, followed by a visit to Apedale Beck to survey the 'missing' bridge and to walk the trackbed to the proposed Castle Bolton Halt, followed by a visit to Aysgarth Station and a discussion of ideas to revitalise the Station prior to scheduled services to Aysgarth beginning c.2015. If you would like to attend please e-mail

peterjwhitehead@hotmail.co.uk by 10th September.

Peter Whitehead

STRATEGIC PROJECTS GROUP

The Wensleydale Railway Strategic Projects Group (SPG) is in need of specialist skills. Would you be interested in becoming a member? Are you one or more of the following? A lawyer with property and land

management experience; a surveyor; a video specialist who would be interested in stepping up to HD quality; a 'hungry' fundraising enthusiast with grant application skills; an experienced project manager. The SPG is a task group established by the plc to progress the Railway's medium term strategy for both geographical expansion (including the western extension to Aysgarth) and growth of capacity and quality to a much enhanced level and to raise funds for agreed plans. e-mail peterjwhitehead@hotmail.co.uk

Peter Whitehead

WRA WEBSITE

I have been appointed Wensleydale Railway Association Website Official Photographer and Reporter. It is hoped that having a dedicated volunteer in that position will provide interesting content to add to the website. I will happily attend events where possible if people can give me plenty of notice. If you want me to write the article for you it is not a problem but I don't mind you wording it your own way if you wish.

photographer@wensleydalerailwayassociation.com

Jonathon Kirby

WR "Now and Then" Calendar 2010

Now available in both shops at £6.95 (ideal Christmas Gift and great way to promote the railway!). New WR 2009 Christmas Cards also now on sale (45p each or 5 for £2, envelopes incl).

WRA Yahoo! Group

http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/wensleydale_railway_association - Membership has now soared to the giddy heights of 26! Granted, that's a 100% increase in a month but still less than 1% of the overall WRA membership and questions must obviously arise as to whether there is any real interest in a forum of this nature. Am I right to suspect there would there be more enthusiasm for a totally unmoderated, unexpurgated version?

Feedback please to the Group Moderator culintona@yahoo.co.uk Meanwhile, thanks to the faithful few - and one photographer in particular - who are doing their best to keep the group alive.

RELAY BACK ISSUES

RELAY BACK NUMBERS (other than issues 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8) are available for sale, Half Price - Min 50p, from Leyburn Shop.

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

Deadline for contributions for the next newsletter is 30th September.

Send to:- Philip Smith Tel 01609 774733

Email

Volunteers@WensleydaleRailwayAssociation.com