

7th August 2007

Dear All,

August 1 saw the start of daily steam services on the Wensleydale line for the first time in more than half a century. Many people have worked very hard to bring this about and I hope that you enjoyed being present on this momentous occasion or have heard and seen accounts of it since. The weekly Darlington and Stockton Times dated Friday 3rd August has a front cover picture of the train steaming through Wensleydale. with report inside, and it will be on sale until 9th August.

Television presenter Andy Kluz and an ITV camera crew travelled on the first train. There was a very good and scenic report on the regional evening news, BBC Radios York and Cleveland did live broadcasts on August 1, with more publicity the following day, including three very good pictures and a report in the Northern Echo.

WRA Patron Mike Harding and his wife and grandsons joined the train at Leyburn for the journey to Redmire and back. David Haxby represented the Association to escort Mike on the train journey, after various press interviews. As well as being a folk musician, Mike is well-known for his interest in walking in the Yorkshire Dales and has a longstanding reputation for his support for the Settle-Carlisle line.

A FEW PRACTICAL POINTS:

Timetables Many people have been active in distributing the printed timetables – thank you. Supplies will be re-stocked at Leeming Bar and Leyburn stations and at the kiosk at Northallerton station on August 8 and your help will be much appreciated. Please do not leave too many in any one place – in view of the short timespan covered, it is more important to leave them at as many places where people congregate as possible, so none are wasted. Please let Amanda or Tubby know where you are taking them so other people can go somewhere else.

‘Whiff of steam’ posters: There are still supplies at Leeming Bar. Until Sept 2 these will still help to bring passengers to the railway – if they are on display elsewhere! Pubs, fish and chip shops, workplaces, caravan sites etc are all good locations.

Passenger numbers: Some days are busier than others but, with two trains in service and the space at stations, WR can accommodate a lot of people at one time so help in promoting the chance to travel on a steam train (except Aug18/19/20) is invaluable. More volunteers are needed on some dates for Redmire and Leeming Bar and on trains (checking tickets, serving tea and coffee, cleaning) so, if you can help, please tell Amanda or leave a message on 08454 50 54 74. Thank you all for your support.

Ruth Annison