

WRA VOLUNTEERS MEETING: 27 MARCH 2007 WEBSITE REPORT BY ADRIAN LAZENBY

The 2nd Volunteers Meeting of 2007 was held at the Courtyard, Leeming Bar Lodge, and 34 volunteers attended. It was pleasing to see some new faces who were welcomed.

WR Marketing

David Copeland gave a talk on the background and format of the all-new Wensleydale Railway 2007 timetable. It started with a blank sheet of A3 paper, and over the ensuing weeks and months, took shape. More and more events came to light, necessitating a reduction in the font size: the aim was to have one brochure for the year, providing sufficient but readable information. The meeting agreed that it was a quality brochure. Constructive criticism was nonetheless invited and would be taken on-board for the 2008 version.

WR News

Ruth Annison announced that it was with regret that Phil Kirkland had tendered his resignation as Director of Engineering, WR plc, due to increased work commitments with Grant Rail. During his tenure, significant progress has been made in improvements to the railway infrastructure and this work will continue. Despite his resignation, Phil will remain an active volunteer.

Ruth added to David Copeland presentation, highlighting specific dates. Information will be available via the Wensleydale Railway websites.

Finally, Brian Ledger reported on his event held in York. Circumstances took their toll – snow on the day together with a Council road closure resulted in a reduced attendance. However, a significant amount £200 was raised, and a cheque was presented to Ken Monkman. Brian added that a lady was so sympathetic to the Wensleydale Railway in their fund raising efforts that she gave him a cheque for £50!! Well done Brian and a big thank you to the mystery lady.

Focus Groups

The Focus Group representatives gave their presentations.

Northallerton Branch

The Northallerton Branch (or Minor Works Group) has been skimming walls at Leyburn. The Group have contributed some 124 volunteer hours (which excludes travelling).

Peter Blakey reported that Colin Cooper was returning to better health and we all hope to see him again in the near future.

Infrastructure Group

The Infrastructure Group has been busy as always:

- a) Vegetation clearance
- b) Scruton Level Crossing has had 2 gates replaced
- c) Aiskew Level Crossing is scheduled for repairs
- d) Leyburn Station forecourt

There are plans to move a signal box from Dereham in Norfolk to Leeming Bar. Watch this space!

Operations

The Easter period requires additional staff due to the running of trains every day.

Catering

Carole Ramsey highlighted the requirement for additional persons to assist during the period when Virgin Trains training takes place at Leeming Bar. Up to 35 Virgin staff could be on site on these days.

Any other business

The next 2 meetings will take place on:

Tuesday 1st May 2007 starting at 1915 hrs

Tuesday 5th June 2007 starting at 1915 hrs

All meetings are at the same venue (Courtyard, Leeming Bar Lodge). Feel free to meet earlier in the bar for a pre-meeting beverage and social gathering.
