

THE YORK AREA GROUP
of the
NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS RAILWAY

Registered Charity No 1073653

NEWSLETTER No 29

January 2014

EDITORIAL

In early December, at New Bridge Engineers Yard, a large number of road vehicles have had to be dealt with, as regular deliveries of concrete sleepers and rail have arrived in readiness for the winter P-way works programme – which gets under way in January. The materials were loaded directly onto rail vehicles and taken out to site. The main projects are on Levisham Straight from Bridge 13 northwards towards Levisham Station. The other project is at Hunting Bridge where the Department for the Environment is constructing a flood relief pond alongside the Railway. This entails the removal of a section of track over and on either side of Hunting Bridge Crossing to enable deep piling to take place.

On completion of this work the track will go back as a renewal which will also include the section from last year's track renewal from New Bridge. Other recent work has included the first stages of the Grosmont re-signalling in which our 12 ton P-way crane played a major part in assisting with the lifting of signals etc onto the ex-Scarborough gantry.

GROUP PROJECTS

the Group's purchase, early in 2013, of a replacement tamper has been receiving attention under the leadership of John Liddell, together with a small group of volunteers, have returned the machine to working mechanical condition. The bodywork requires some attention and Nick Carter and the Scarborough Tuesday painting team are ready with paint brushes as soon as any repairs are completed. John has also put together a staff training programme and is also involved in the production of maintenance schedules for this and other items of P-way plant.

The provision of line side furniture is still ongoing with Nick Carter producing the last of the gradient and whistle boards and mile posts. The erection of the spectacular Goathland Summit, made by Nick Hutchinson is still to be dealt with as and when time and our crane is available. The Group have recently purchased a compressor and sound cabinet together with grit blasting equipment which is being installed in the York Area Group's shed at New Bridge. A proposal which is to be looked at is whether it is possible to fit an overhead crane in our shed and if 'yes', can we get one. This will greatly assist with wagon and plant repairs etc.

GROUP MEETINGS

The 2014 winter/spring season will include four meetings, the first three on the third Monday of each month January to March inc and the fourth, April, will be on the fourth Monday. The presentations are planned to be:

20th January - Poppleton Community Railway Nursery by Bob Brook.

17th February – Hudson's Legacy, the Story of The York and Beverley Railway by Trevor Buttle.

17th March – Building a one fifth full size "Sutherland" by Richard Gibbon.

28th April* - Pickering's railways, Past and present by Mark Sissons and Nick Beilby.

* Please note that the meeting on 28th April will be preceded by the York area Group's Annual General Meeting at 7pm prompt. Any committee nominations and any items for inclusion on the agenda must be sent to the group's Secretary Bryan Blundell at least by 7th April. Bryan's address is given at the end.

All meetings are held at the New Earswick Sports & Social Club off White Rose Avenue, post code YO32 4AG. The start time is 7.30pm apart from the April AGM meeting. The entrance contribution is still set at £2. This is to cover meeting expenses and as the previous practice of giving a reduced rate for Members does not comply with Charity Gift Aid rules, this sum covers all who attend.

There will be the usual raffle and sales stall as well as the licensed bar and the doors will be opened at 7pm. There is, however, a problem for Martyn Jones, our Sales Officer, with the earlier start time. He would welcome assistance from any member from Huntington or the surrounding area in setting up and manning the stall; Martyn's telephone number is given below.

RECYCLING

Over the years, money raised by the Group's recycling activities have provided the lion's share of Group funds. However, in recent years our tonnage has gradually dropped from a high of almost 140 tonnes in 1999 to around 40 tonnes this year. In consequence cash input has also been on the slide. Currently we are receiving £10 per tonne from the merchant, with the credits paid by councils adding another £43. Our collecting of aluminium foil brings in around £1,000 per year for two tonnes processed. 'Alu' cans are slightly on the increase due to Pickering Station Group collecting for us but still only produces around £150 per year. We are registered for collecting brass, copper, lead and aluminium so when you bring your waste paper to Poppleton store you can also drop off scrap metal (not steel or iron). Our opening hours at our Poppleton Depot are:
Monday 0900 until 1100
Wednesday 0900 until 1200

Other days can be arranged if necessary; please ask John Hasler.

Note – the Wednesday evening sessions have been abandoned due to material and staff shortages.

YORK AREA GROUP WEBSITE

Try our website: www.yorkareagroup.co.uk

GROUP ACTIVITIES and CONTACTS

Information regarding Group activities can be obtained via the website or by telephoning any of the following York telephone numbers (area code 01904 if required) on weekday evenings:

General matters and subscriptions	Bryan Blundell	764648
Policy and meetings	John Meredith	707207
Financial	Simon Cox	490521
Volunteering and recycling	John Hasler	416415
Sales	Martyn Jones	760505

For wagon restoration sessions	Nick Carter	01287-636311
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Issues jointly by:

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