

**THE YORK AREA GROUP**  
of the  
**NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS RAILWAY**

**Registered Charity No 1073653**

**NEWSLETTER No 30**

**August 2014**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** – If you are receiving this newsletter by post but have an Email address, please help us to save on printing and postage costs by asking to be added to the list for electronic distribution. If you can do this, let the Secretary, Bryan Blundell, know via the contact page on the YAG website at [www.yorkareagroup.co.uk](http://www.yorkareagroup.co.uk) . Thank you.

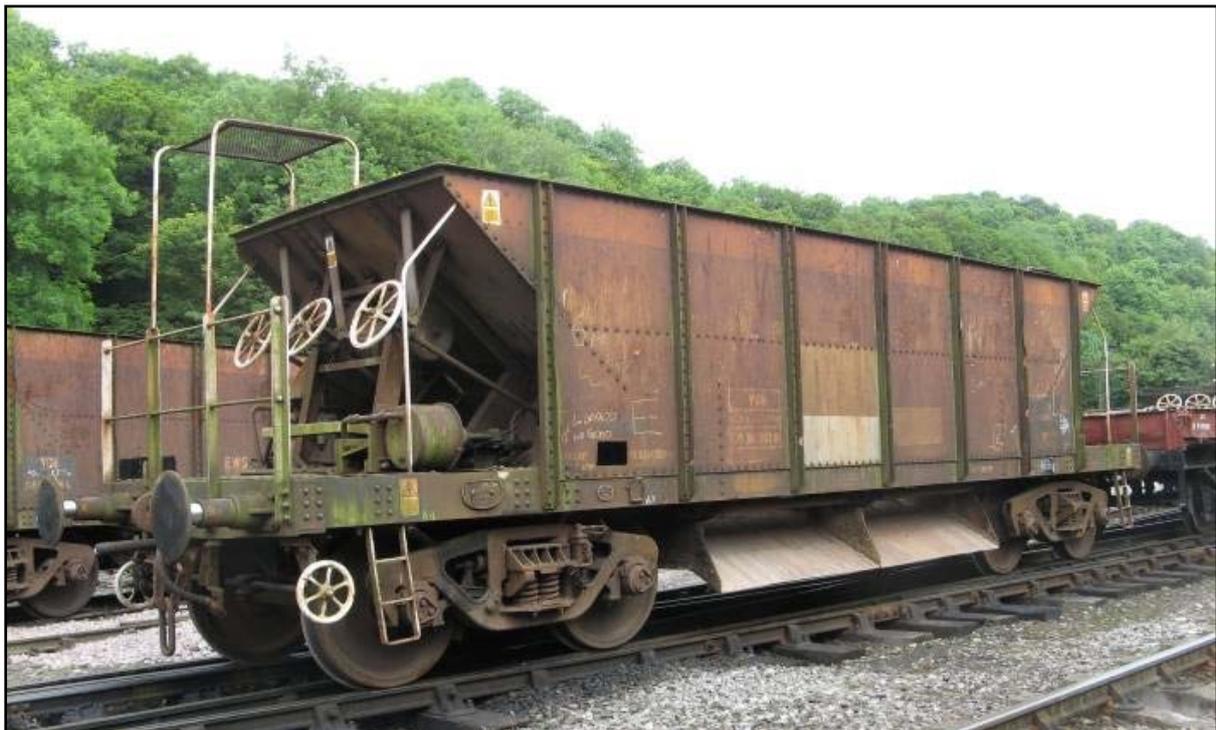
**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

The most important event for the Railway in 2014 will be the opening of the new platform and run-round at Whitby. After protracted delays, the opening is now expected to take place in early August, hopefully before you are reading this newsletter. The revised timetable will have five trains each day to Whitby instead of the previous three and they will be more conveniently timed for passengers, especially for journeys originating from Whitby.

Technical details and photos can be found on the NYMR web site at <http://www.nymr.co.uk> by looking under “Latest News” for the most recent “Civil Engineering Diary”.

**GROUP PROJECTS and FINANCE**

In order to improve our mechanised tamping process for stone ballast, the Group has purchased “Seacow” ballast wagon No DB 982667 which arrived in April making a total of five such wagons at Newbridge PWay depot, all similar to DB 982608 shown in the photo below.



The “Seacow” is a bogie vehicle with side and centre doors controlled by operators riding on the wagon, so enabling ballast to be tipped just where it is needed. It is an air braked version of the vacuum braked “Walrus” wagon and it has enabled one of our venerable fleet which emanated from the Southern Railway to be retired and scrapped in June along with another “Walrus” owned by NYMR themselves.

With reduced income in recent years, the Group is particularly grateful to Brian Houghton, who died last year, who has made a very generous bequest to Group funds.

### **GROUP MEETINGS – SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER 2014**

The opening meeting of the 2014/15 season will be on 15<sup>th</sup> September when John Addyman will present his talk “Coals from Newcastle”. With plentiful working coal along the coast and tidal rivers of Northumberland and Durham, a thriving sea trade developed to supply London and the Southeast. As the collieries progressed further inland there was a problem in getting the coal to the seagoing vessels. The topography virtually ruled out extending the canal system to the Northeast so alternative methods led to the development of horse drawn waggonways and roped worked inclines. This in turn gave rise to the introduction of a dense network of railways to take the coal down to staiths where it was tipped into ships’ holds. John Addyman will describe this activity in detail right up to the closure of the last routes in the 1980s. His talk will be accompanied by an exceptionally fine collection of period photographs.

The second meeting will also be of historical significance when, on 20<sup>th</sup> October, John Holroyd will speak about “Stationary Steam Engines”. Mill engines will predominate but winding, pumping and haulage engines will also feature, particularly the engines now preserved at Middleton Top on the Cromford & High Peak Railway. A great variety of beam and horizontal engines with from one to four cylinders will be described with the usual polished presentation we have come to expect from John Holroyd.

The Group’s meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November will be devoted to “The Royal Train”. Norman Hugill, the recently retired Operations Manager on NYMR, was closely involved with the Royal Train during his earlier career with British Railways. As might be expected, he has a host of stories to relate both in regard to the operation of this prestigious service and of his encounters with the ‘Royals’ and with other exalted passengers.

The final meeting of 2014 will be on 15<sup>th</sup> December when Dave Birtle will give his digital show “Trains of 2013”. Dave needs no introduction to our audience and I am sure that once again we will enjoy a varied collection of photographs from his travels across Britain and abroad delivered with his customary inimitable humour.

All meetings will be held at New Earswick Sports & Social Club off White Rose Avenue, post code YO32 4AG, starting at 1930. The requested contribution is £2 for members and visitors alike in order to comply with charity gift aid rules. There will be the usual raffle and sales stall as well as a licensed bar and the doors will be opened at 1900. If anyone living in the Huntington area can help with setting up the sales stall, please contact our sales officer, Martyn Jones, on York 760505.

## RECYCLING

As mentioned in Newsletter No 29, our waste paper collections are running at around 40 tonnes per year. So far this year we have managed to process the following amounts:

Waste paper, 20.12 tonnes; income = £200.80

Aluminium cans, 0.163 tonnes; income = £81.50

Aluminium foil, 1.14 tonnes; income = £541.50

Glass bottles, 0.56 tonnes (to 31<sup>st</sup> March); income = NIL

General scrap, 27.449 tonnes (mainly sale of Tommy Smith crane); income = £3027.80

Total recycling income (to date) = £3650.80 + Council credits of £888.98 = £4539.78

Currently we almost have another container full and hope to have another one before the end of year which should produce £200 plus a further £860 in credits.

We are particularly reliant on newspapers, cardboard, glossy magazines and brochures plus foil of all sorts and we also accept glass bottles. We are registered for scrap metal including brass, copper, lead and aluminium eg some drinks cans, but not steel or iron.

The normal opening times at our recycling centre in Poppleton are Mondays 0900 to 1100 and Wednesdays 0900 until 1200. If these times are inconvenient, please contact John Hasler on York 416415 to make alternative arrangements to drop off your recycling.

## YORK AREA GROUP WEBSITE

Try our website [www.yorkareagroup.co.uk](http://www.yorkareagroup.co.uk) to keep up to date with the work of the group and information about meetings, events and the rail vehicles we own as well as photographs in the 'Gallery' section.

## GROUP ACTIVITIES and CONTACTS

Information regarding Group activities can be obtained via the website above or by telephoning the relevant York number below (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
Newsletter	Bernie Waddington	768002
Wagon restoration sessions	Nick Carter	01287-636311

Newsletter issued jointly by:

John Meredith  
Chairman  
York Area Group  
8th August 2014

Bryan Blundell  
Secretary  
York Area Group