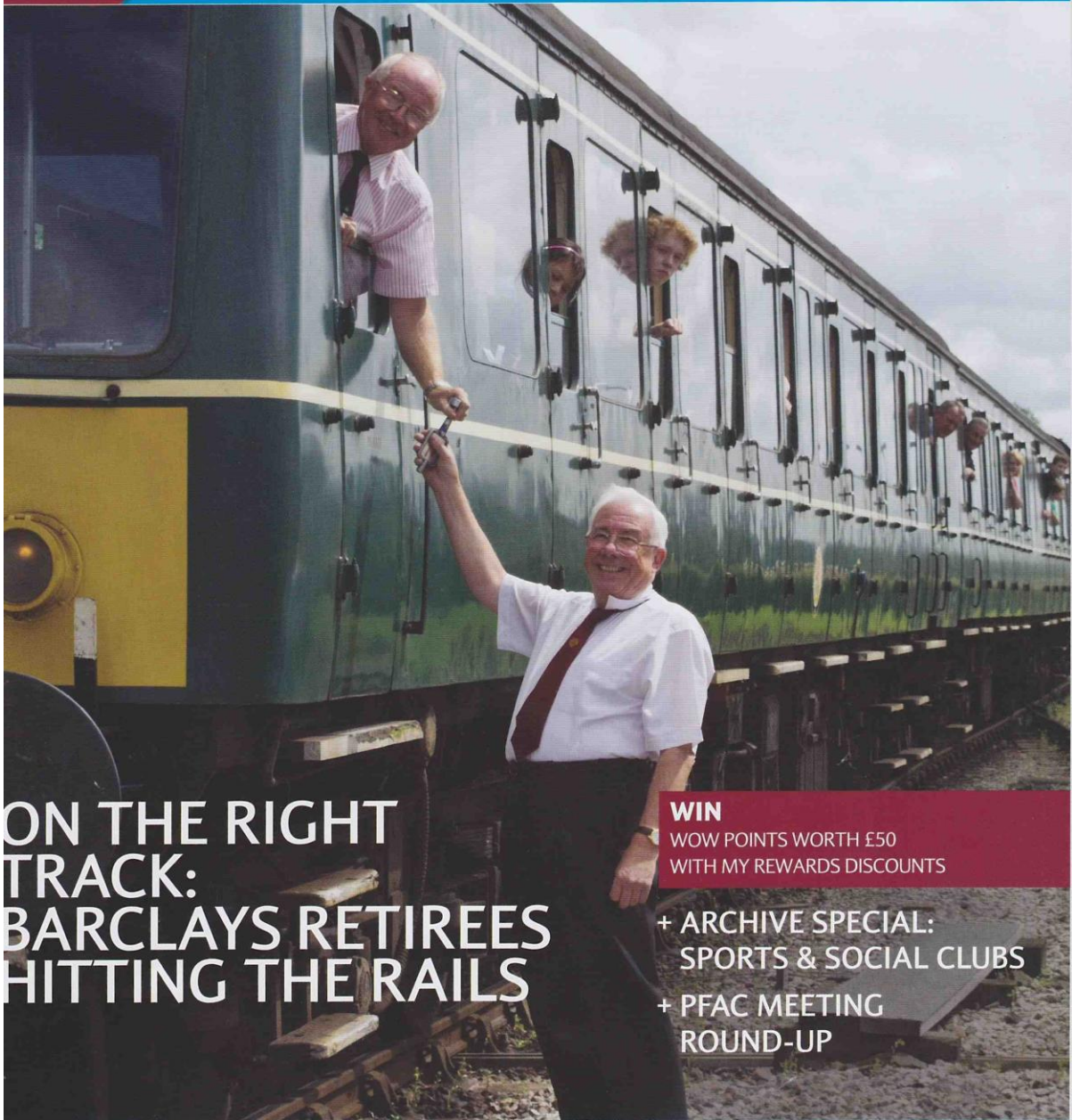


Issue 54 Winter 2012

connection

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ON THE RIGHT
TRACK:
BARCLAYS RETIREES
HITTING THE RAILS

WIN

WOW POINTS WORTH £50
WITH MY REWARDS DISCOUNTS

- + ARCHIVE SPECIAL:
SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUBS
- + PFAC MEETING
ROUND-UP

Keeping retired Barclays employees in touch

Both Peter and Alan volunteer with the West Somerset Railway (WSR), a scenic 20-mile rail route running from Bishops Lydeard, near Taunton, to Minehead.

Peter's role as a Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) driver and guard on WSR's steam locomotives is a big change after a Barclays career spanning more than three decades. He joined Barclays as a fresh-faced school leaver in 1961 and worked his way through the ranks before taking redundancy from his role as South West Personnel Manager in 1994, when the regional office closed.

As a rail enthusiast with the UK's longest heritage railway right on his doorstep, he decided to get involved with WSR.

Peter said: "I have always been interested in railways, particularly steam railways, and it was an obvious step to volunteer when I retired. I started working on line-side clearance and as a ticket inspector and guard, before training as a DMU driver."

Alan started his banking career in 1957 with the National Bank of Scotland, based in Edinburgh. After various bank mergers he was transferred to London in 1964 and worked for Barclays in Essex from 1969. He managed the Coggleshall Branch until it was absorbed by the Braintree Branch in 1991 and he retired later that year. Alan has licences for driving public service and heavy goods vehicles. After retiring from Barclays, he worked as a school bus driver

until relocating to Minehead and following his passion for heritage railways.

Alan said: "When my wife decided to give up work, we moved to Minehead and I volunteered with WSR. I have been interested in signalling since my first visit to a main line signal box at the age of 13. I was too old to start footplate training, so I spent some months on station duties before training as a signalman. For many years, I also volunteered as a driver for a fleet of vintage buses in the Taunton area, which were owned by a local bus enthusiast."

Different

Peter and Alan's working days are now very different from their full-time jobs with Barclays.

Peter said: "I usually volunteer two to three days a week and each day I drive 80 miles, making two round trips from Bishops Lydeard to Minehead. When I work as a guard, my prime responsibility is safety, as the steam train has up to eight carriages carrying over 400 passengers."

Alan is treasurer of Friends of Minehead Station (the Friends), a group which raises funds to restore the historic station and oversees ticket stocks for WSR. He volunteers with the Friends' maintenance gang on Monday mornings and as a signalman every Tuesday.

Alan said: "The signalman is the controller of the whole line and has to deal with any operational problems which may happen anywhere along the 20-mile route. I do an eight to nine hour shift, depending on the time of year and the timetable. I also spend a few hours a week on ticket control and fulfilling my role as treasurer."

Both Peter and Alan have also put their banking experience to good use. Peter believes that his many years as a trainer at Barclays have helped him contribute to training on the railway and he uses his customer service experience every day.

Alan said: "As soon as they learned I had been a banker I was immediately 'press ganged' into cashing up one day a week, which involved receiving takings from all the stations and depositing them in the night safe."

"I did this for 10 years and my banking experience came in useful, as it does with my work as treasurer for the Friends. I spent most of my banking career working with the public, so I am happy to deal with passengers face-to-face or by telephone."

Peter and Alan would encourage others to try something new in retirement.

Peter said: "Activity in retirement, especially when it involves learning a new skillset, is good for the mind and the body. You also get to meet new friends and new people. Don't wait, give it a go today!"