



Winter Working Parties

We are all aware that there is a lot to be done in the few short weeks until we launch the new season at the end of March. The purpose of this note is to tell you how you can help.

We have a major programme of track renewals, permanent way work, a locomotive fleet to prepare, and a range of ROGS procedures and standards work to enable our nineteenth century Railway to comply with twenty first century legislation and standards.

In these notes I concentrate on improving the offer to the people who come to visit and who work on our Railway. The list is endless, there really is something for everyone.

We will need people to help organise the activities so if you like to get things organised, I will be especially pleased to hear from you. mark.smith@wsrail.net

Thanks to some very generous support both financial and practical, we have a programme of coach painting under way. When our coaches emerge from the paint shops, they will need a thorough clean:

- windows internal and external,
- upholstery,
- table tops,
- floors,
- lighting fitments,
- cobwebbing
- lavatories

If you can help organise any of the above, please let me know mark.smith@wsrail.net

We justifiably take great pride in our stations, at this stage please get in touch with your stationmaster and offer some extra help so that they really sparkle by the end of March.

Other common user parts of the Railway are also in need of some TLC. I think of mess rooms, including the wash ups, signing on points

At Minehead in particular, the general office is looking rather tired and we could cheer everyone up by giving it a lick of paint.

There are tasks to be undertaken along the line, here are a few

Minehead Station FOMS will be grateful for extra assistance with re-paint and weeding.

Dunster Goods Shed This presents a real challenge as it involves working at height, obstructing the running line to Clean the Gutters and a major repaint so a project manager will be our first need

Dunster Station and Environs The stationmaster will need extra help to tidy up walk way and gates from station to Dunster Sea Lane Level Crossing.

Blue Anchor – Replace Historic Board that says Beware of Catch Points and re-fix. This one looks a bit specialist so contact me if you can help get it organised. mark.smith@wsrail.net

Washford- Clear under growth from both Bridges approaching Washford- (Old Cleeve and Accommodation Bridge) Painting Platform White Line

Williton- Site tidy up and re-painting of Swindon Shed Doors

The remaining tasks are perfect for people who enjoy being out of doors, more fun and productive than a gym membership. All need elements of careful pre-planning and some basic railway training so contact your usual team leader or the stationmaster or me first.

Stogumber- removal of old gardening Sheds/ greenhouse- Cutting back behind Platform to enable monitoring of slope. Painting Platform White Line

Crowcombe- undergrowth removal from both overbridges. Painting Platform White Line

Bishops Lydeard - Loco Shed tidy up, Filling Potholes in Car Park, assisting RAMs in Blackmore House

Norton Fitzwarren Triangle Site- Painting Platform White Line and Site tidy up of track work (excluding Luffmans' Site!)

P Way- Blue Anchor Relay- help on site- Wet Weather Gear required.

Engineering- Help with **9351**- Help with Carriages **4260** and **5002** currently in the workshop

Commercial- Help with Leaflet distribution around Somerset. This so needs a volunteer co-ordinator to ensure good coverage at known generators of passengers for our trains.

And finally

Scrap Trains. The first Scrap Train ran in the twentieth century and paid for the rewiring of parts of Minehead Shed, and subsequent trains provided much needed funds. Our need for cash and a tidier Railway has never been greater.

For this and all the other Winter volunteering opportunities please return to the websites for updates.

Mark Smith,

Director WSRplc, Member WSRA
