



WEARDALE RAILWAY

Bringing Rail Back to the Dale

Volunteer Recruitment Pack



www.weardale-railway.org.uk
www.wryt.org.uk



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Thank you for your enquiry about volunteering with the Weardale Railway.

The Weardale Railway is mainly run by volunteers whose contribution is essential to the running of the railway and its long term future.

You can be part of this by becoming a working member in one of our many departments. Generally you do not need specific experience as training will be provided in your chosen area.

We also have a thriving Youth Team for the younger members aged 10 to 17. Please see the website for full details www.wryt.org.uk

Volunteering for Weardale Railway is a great way to get involved with your local community, make new friends and learn new skills. Whatever your age, whether you're male or female, if you have a couple of hours to spare or can make a more regular commitment, we need your help. Our normal age range is from 10 – 70 (but there is no upper age limit).

So what can I do?

We always have regular and one-off projects that we need help with, so whether you are working, at home, studying or looking to develop your career or skills, volunteering with Weardale Railway is a fantastic way to spend your time.

We currently have vacancies in the following areas:

Booking Office

Sell the tickets, answer the enquiries and generally meet the public also working behind the scenes in the station office, answering telephone enquiries and taking bookings.

There are always vacancies at Stanhope station. A vital job!

Buffet Car Attendants

Our Buffet Car runs at various times throughout the year providing alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks, tea, coffee, sandwiches, confectionary etc. A chance to meet the public and ride the rails!

Café and Gift Shop Staff

The Gift Shop at Stanhope is always busy selling anything from postcards to books to children's railway toys whilst the Caf is very well patronised. A significant part of the railway's income comes from these areas.

Working in the caf will involve washing up and serving customers..

Depot

This area maintains and restores our coaches and locomotives.

For coach restoration skills in carpentry, metalworking, upholstery, plumbing, varnishing, painting, sign writing, trimming, wiring would all be of use but not essential as training is provided.

For locomotive maintenance, engineering experience is a distinct asset but painters and general helpers are every bit as much in demands as fitters, turners etc. Our permanent staff would welcome your support in this area. The work covers steam and diesel traction.

Gardening

If you have green fingers you would be welcome to join our team of gardeners looking after Stanhope and Wolsingham stations.

Guards

This role requires a period of training before being assessed to be a fully qualified Guard. The Guard, contrary to popular belief, is in charge of the train. The Driver thinks he is, but the Guard knows better!

Travelling Ticket Inspectors

Sell the tickets, answer the enquiries and generally meet the public. This role is very much the first point of contact for our customers when they travel with us. A good knowledge of the local area is essential.

Locomotive Drivers

Newcomers to the steam department will begin as Cleaners and progress to become Fireman and Drivers. To operate our diesels you will progress through being a Second Man and finally Driver.

Permanent Way

Out and about on the track itself. Fencing, ballasting, walking the line, checking the track, cutting back lineside growth, are all vital jobs. The work is fairly strenuous but can be tailored to suit your specific requirements.

Crossing Keeper

We currently have operated level crossings at Broadwood and Witton le Wear where the keeper operates the warning lights and barriers keeping trains and road traffic safe. An ideal role for those that like working outside.

Promotion and Marketing

If you can help in this area you would be especially welcome. The railway is busy in the peak holiday months but is always seeking ways to fill seats 'out of season'. We are also looking to increase our exposure to the corporate market and the travel trade.

Station Staff

Platform duties consist of overseeing the safe and punctual departure of trains, answering queries from the passengers, and generally ensuring their safety. Some assistance is always useful to assist wheelchair bound passengers on and off the train and to escort them safely across the railway. Helping to keep the station tidy and assisting with special events are also important parts of the Station staffs' duties.

Other Vacancies

Vacancies exist for handymen, painters, etc. to do the general upkeep necessary to keep our stations looking neat and tidy.

Youth Team

Young people aged 10 to 17 can join the Weardale Railway Youth Team, which offers members a training programme covering railway subjects, visits to other railways and from age 11, the opportunity to get involved in the day-to-day running of the railway under the supervision of experienced members of staff. Youth Team members ages 16 & 17 train to a higher level as an operational trainee in preparation for becoming an adult volunteer. Why not visit the website? www.wryt.org.uk

And the benefits...

Great company, a friendly working environment, free travel on the railway and a quarterly newsletter.

Interested?

Please don't let a perceived lack of skill deter you. Full on the job training is given as necessary. But the main thing is to come and enjoy yourself! In short, if you have the time and enthusiasm we can make use of you!

Potential volunteers must first become members of the Weardale Railway Trust for insurance purposes, a volunteer application form can then be submitted to the Volunteer Liaison Team. For your convenience these forms are attached. Further information can be obtained from the Volunteer Liaison Team by emailing weardale.railway@tiscali.co.uk

Volunteer Induction

Once we have received your volunteer application form you will be invited to Stanhope station for an induction session, these normally take place at weekends giving you the opportunity to meet other volunteers working on the railway.

At your induction session you will learn about the safety requirements of working on an operational railway and also about the domestic arrangements and facilities available.

Please note that adult volunteers are required to apply for a Criminal Records Bureau check. CRB forms will be issued and you will be required to submit these to us as part of the application process.

In addition to the documents required for the CRB checks, new volunteers must also provide a passport sized photograph for their photo identification card.



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Volunteer Application Form

Potential volunteers must become a member of the Weardale Railway Trust prior to submitting an application to become a volunteer.

Name:			
Date of Birth:		Age:	
Address:			
Postcode:			
Membership No:			
Telephone No:		Mobile No:	
Email:			

Please indicate below the areas that you are interested in volunteering in:-

Track Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depot	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crossing Keeper	<input type="checkbox"/>
Train Guard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Driver	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ticket Inspector	<input type="checkbox"/>
Café	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gift Shop	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ticket Office	<input type="checkbox"/>
Controller	<input type="checkbox"/>	Track Patrolling	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marketing & Promotion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Station Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gardening & Planting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Painting & Plumbing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Events	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administration	<input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Team	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability					
Any relevant previous experience					

Signature _____ Date _____

Youth Team - for young people under the age of 16 a parent or guardian should also sign the application.

Signature _____ Parent / Guardian Date _____

Please return to: Ruth Carroll, Volunteer Liaison Officer, Weardale Railway, Stanhope Station, Stanhope, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham. DL13 2YS.



Adult volunteer applications are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check.

Annual Membership of the Weardale Railway Trust Application Form

Please complete your details then return with your remittance to:

The Membership Secretary, Weardale Railway Trust Ltd, Stanhope Station, Stanhope, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham, DL13 2YS

Please make cheques payable to "The Weardale Railway Trust"

Title _____ Forename(s) _____ Surname _____

(Title _____ Forename(s) _____ Surname _____)
(*Second person if choosing Joint membership*)

Address _____ _____ _____	Membership class required: (Please indicate)
Town _____	Full (Individual) £18.00
County _____	Joint (additional person) £10.00
Post code _____	Concessionary £14.00 (Student, unemployed, retired)
Country (if not U.K.) _____	Junior (under 16) £10.00
Tel. No. _____	Life (under 60) £350.00
Email _____	Life (60 or over) £200.00
	Donation £_____ for the purpose of :

Note: If you are a UK taxpayer the taxman will add 25p to every pound of your membership and donation at no cost to you via the Gift Aid scheme.

I want the Weardale Railway Trust Ltd to treat the enclosed membership fee and any donation as Gift Aid donations.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please note that for your membership and donation to qualify for tax relief, the amount of income and/or capital gains tax you pay must at least equal the total amount of your Gift Aid.