



Second round success press release

Wensleydale Railway secures National Lottery support

Today, the Wensleydale Railway has received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £368,000 for an exciting heritage project, which will see the restoration of the Victorian station building, delivery of an education and community engagement programme and provision of heritage-themed activities at Leeming Bar Station, near Bedale.

The project focuses on restoring the station house to how it would have looked in the 1920's, telling the story of the Wensleydale Railway from its creation in 1848 to the present day. This has been made possible with funding raised by National Lottery players.

Supported through The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project will secure the Grade II listed building for future generations and reconnect the local community to their railway. A wide range of heritage-based activities will be delivered, where the public can discover and experience life at a busy country station in the inter-war period.

The Wensleydale Railway is a tourist and heritage line starting at the county town of Northallerton and running up to Redmire on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, passing through the Georgian market town of Bedale and the Dales market town of Leyburn, with constantly changing scenery, from the arable lands of the Vale of Mowbray in the east, to hills of the Yorkshire Dales in the west.

Leeming Bar Station dates from 1848, when the line was first built and features a classical portico entrance facing the old Great North Road. Passenger services ended in 1954 and freight shortly after, with motor transport providing a cheaper and more convenient alternative. Threatened with demolition in the 1960's, the station was designated as a Grade II listed building, which protected it from destruction. However, it then suffered from neglect and unsympathetic alterations until purchase by the Wensleydale Railway in 2002 when it was re-opened as the Railway's headquarters. Currently much of the building is out of use with no public access.

The ground floor of the restored building will include waiting rooms, a booking and parcels office and station master's quarters as they would have been in the 1920's. A range of heritage education programmes will be delivered to the public along with specialist programmes for schools and community groups.

Commenting on the award, Wensleydale Railway Association (Trust) Chairman Ken Monkman said: "We are thrilled to have received this support, thanks to National Lottery players and we are confident that the project will provide a fantastic resource for the Wensleydale Railway and the communities it serves as well as being a fitting gateway to the line and the Yorkshire Dales."



David Renwick, Head of the National Lottery Heritage Fund for Yorkshire and the Humber said: “This is a really exciting development for the history of steam travel in Yorkshire, and we are delighted to see Wensleydale Railway get its National Lottery funding. The restoration of Leeming Bar Station back to its 1920s heyday will be a valuable addition to the visitor offer in North Yorkshire – and we look forward to the immersive experience it promises.”

Notes to editors

About the Wensleydale Railway

The Wensleydale Railway is a heritage line operating over 22 miles, delivering a wide range of services and special events. The Railway has won several national awards for the quality of its restoration work and delivery of heritage education programmes. For more information visit <https://www.wensleydalerail.com>



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About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we **Inspire, lead** and **resource** the UK’s heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future. www.heritagefund.org.uk.

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Further information

For further information, images and interviews please contact Rebekah Jerram at Wensleydale Railway on 01677 425805.