

# Wheldale Newsletter

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Volume 1, Issue 4 , 17th June 2017

## **Wheldale Support Group— Our Holiday Tips**

**We hope that you enjoy your visit to our railway and perhaps you may like to contribute to our £200 000 rebuild fund for locomotive Wheldale and perhaps one day, return to be hauled by it.**

**In the meantime, we thought that it might enhance your visit, particularly if you are here for a holiday, if we gave you some information on what to do and where to go, in the local area, including some of our own favourites.**

**Taking our railway first, of course, there's a Wheldale exhibition in the Cabmens' shelter at Embsay Station. The bric-a-brac shop on Platform 1 is definitely worth a visit for all manner of things ranging from from glassware, books to magazines. It's a good place to stock up on your holiday reading. The main shop in the station building has a very good selection of specialist transport books and also items for the younger children. There's a small café next to the shop where you can take a break and have a drink and a slice of cake. If you plan your train times carefully, there is ample time to walk into Skipton (allow 30 minutes each way) and if you do this, you will avoid parking charges and the general traffic congestion. After 11 am in the holidays you will struggle to find a parking space. Once you have toured the shops, why not take a walk along the Springs Branch canal (access at the bridge opposite Stanforths Pie Shop). Walk under the walls of the castle to the old stone loading basin, cross the footbridge, turn right and walk up through the peaceful Skipton Woods. If you want a short boat trip, narrow boats depart from the canal basin next to Bizzie Lizzies chip shop, at the bottom end of town. After the boat trip, why not try their terrific fish and chips?**

**There's the Craven Museum (free entry) on the High Street where you can get away from the slow-moving crowds and of course there is Skipton Castle at the top of the High Street, which came under siege from the Parliamentarians during the English Civil war.**

**Bolton Abbey Station has several opportunities and don't forget that passengers at both of our sites enjoy free un-congested parking and that's a really useful saving to make. It also has a nice picnic area on Platform 1 which basks in full sunshine all day. There's a also a Wheldale sales table in the cafe, loaded up with bargains.**

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**From Bolton Abbey Station a footpath takes you to on Bolton Priory and the River Wharfe (allow 30 minutes each way). If you follow the path alongside the river there is a children's adventure trail and at the Cavendish Pavilion there is a very good café and restaurant. For the energetic, there's a further walk up the valley through the Devonshire Estate to the famous 'Strid', a narrow gorge which the River Wharfe rushes through. Keep your distance from the edge, though ! Take a copy of our walk leaflet with you and don't forget that you have to walk all the way back, there are no buses!**

**A holiday in the Dales would not be complete without a day out on the Settle-Carlisle railway, boarding at Skipton Railway Station. Alternatively, if it's a wet day you could take the direct train from Skipton down into Bradford and visit the National Media Museum and have a curry in one of the many very fine Indian restaurants that abound in the city. Or sit in Centenary Square in the sunshine, visit the nearby Impressions Gallery or browse the books in Waterstones, housed in the old Wool Exchange. You can have a really good day out in Bradford.**

**Nearby Bingley, also on the Airedale line is home to the famous Five-Rise Locks, a staircase of locks taking the Leeds and Liverpool Canal upwards in a single giant leap. It's a 10 minute walk from the station.**

**Saltaire, a bit further down the line is home to Salt's Mill, a huge 19th century textile mill that wove woll from the Alpaca, now home to Arts and Crafts and the David Hockney gallery. Don't miss a walk around the nearby 'model' village of Saltaire, built by the mill owner to house his workforce. It's the Northern equivalent of Bourneville but perhaps a bit more gritty.**

**Leeds is at the end of the line—save it up for a rainy day, visit the shops and indoor market and have lunch down on the Waterfront.**

**Have we finished yet—well no! If you want to go further afield, take a drive over Blubberhouses Moor to Knaresborough. It has a Norman castle (well, bits of one) and from its walls there is a fabulous view of the 3-arch railway viaduct over the River Nidd. Going to York? Avoid the traffic congestion and park down by the River; take the train into York, there is a frequent service and it takes about 30 minutes to York through pleasant countryside. We always have breakfast at the café opposite the library.. Knaresborough station is a little gem, complete with signals, signal box and tunnel. There's so much to do in York we would fill another six pages so we'll leave it up to you to explore although we recommend breakfast at Bailey's opposite the library.**

**Whoops, mustn't forget Harrogate. Drive in or get the train from Knaresborough, it's a 10 minute ride. Harrogate is the Knightsbridge of Yorkshire. Sit and have tea at Betty's Tea Rooms; take a walk around the Valley Gardens.; if you have time, pop in to the marvellous Carnegie Library and make sure that you call in at the compact little Mercer Art Gallery.**

**For a bitter experience, visit the Pump Room for a drink of the sulphuretted natural spring water. It's something of an acquired taste but in the Victorian Age, certain curative properties were attributed to it.**

**As you can see, there's lots to do in the area and these have been some of our personal favourites. If you want more ideas, ask the railway staff or take some leaflets from the displays. So, on behalf of our team, enjoy your stay in Yorkshire.**