



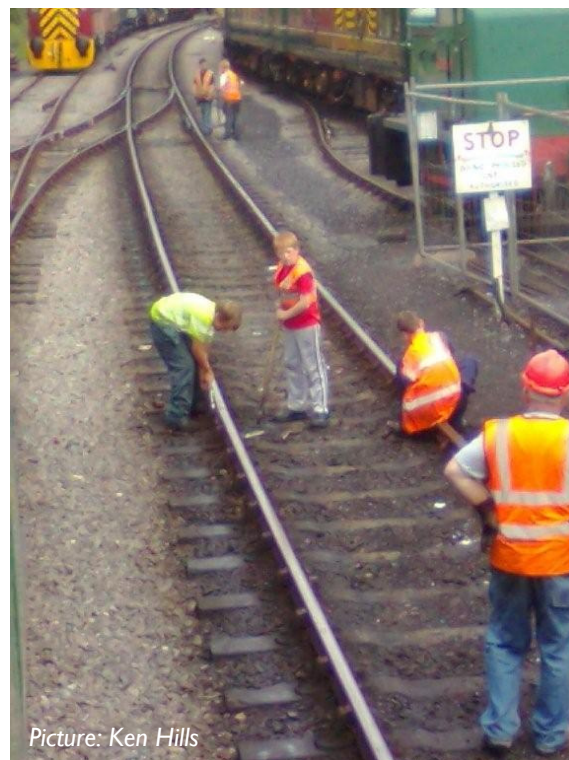
## YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

### Working Day Report – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2009

We started the day with a safety talk and a walk around the yard pointing out the dangers and tripping hazards of the yard. Once we had crossed the tracks we explained to our new member James what a catch point does. We then waited for 4015 Karel to pass which was doing a driver experience course B.

We then crossed back over the lines and helped Marcus get the tools out for greasing the fish plates, which evolves getting a huge spanner to loosen off the nuts we then got a smaller spanner to get the nuts loosened until we could unscrew them with our fingers. We then had the job of getting the fish plates off the rails and quite a few times we had to revert to brute force - the crowbar; my favourite tool.

Next we had to use a scraper to get of the old hard grease and cobwebs off, next we re-greased the fish plates and the track. If the track had dropped when the fishplates had been taken out then we had to use a jack to get the dropped piece back level with the other, then finally you put the fish plates back on and do up the nut's.



Picture: Ken Hills

Then we had a spot of lunch then back to work again on the fish plates. After an afternoons work we were rewarded by going up to Oldland Common on the GW brake van with 4015 Karel pulling us. Some of the young members had to go home but quite a few stayed eager to do more work which we got to do on a troublesome joint where the tracks were not the same height but the team soon sorted it out.

Now if any people who are thinking of joining the gang have read my report and your thinking it not going to be much fun because all they do is grease fishplates all the time - we do not, although it was great fun. We tend to coal up the engines, clean them out (very popular with some e.g. my brother), clean engines and also help shunt things around all great fun. Big thanks to John Lanchester, Marcus Cowley, Geoff Clark and finally to all of the Young Members.

By Andrew Gay  
Young Member

### Why not join us?

The Young Members Group always looks forward to welcoming new young members. If you are aged between 13 and 16 you can help at the Railway in many ways. Just contact us for more information. To volunteer you will need to have current Trust membership, either individual or family. All young members are fully supervised.

See [http://www.avonvalleyrailway.org/join/young\\_members.html](http://www.avonvalleyrailway.org/join/young_members.html) for more information.

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