



THE WEST LANCAS (NEWS) LETTER

Welcome to West Lancs Letter No.10!



We hoped that this edition of the newsletter would bring news of the start of our 2020 season, with pictures of visitors enjoying the Sunday running, in particular Friendly Engines Day and the Easter Egg Hunt. Sadly this was not to be, for reasons which do not need repeating. To comply with Government guidelines and keep everyone safe, the site is closed to both members and visitors.

As you can imagine, this is not only very disappointing but also very damaging to our cashflow. Whilst we have adequate reserves for the time being, we still have bills to meet and loans to pay back. And when we do reopen, funds will be needed to complete maintenance and overhaul of our stock, and to make progress with essential ground works, such as installation of our new toilet facilities.

So we have decided to launch a *Return to Steam Appeal*, which we hope will help to restore our finances and reduce the effect of an extended shutdown. We know that family and friends must come first, but if you are able to contribute, we will be very grateful.

Below are a number of ways you can help us. Go to our Return to Steam Appeal page on our website for the links to where you can contribute: westlancsrailway.org/return-to-steam.

1) Purchase a Return to Steam Advance Family ticket on-line

This is a discounted Family Ticket (2 adults + 2 children) for unlimited travel on the day of use on any of our published operating days, apart from Santa Specials.

The ticket price is £6, a saving of 33% from the standard family ticket. ALSO INCLUDED is entry into a Prize Draw for a chance to win EITHER a Drive-an-Engine Day for two people OR a family ticket on one of our Santa Specials in December. The winner chooses which prize they would like.

2) Make a donation

Make a donation towards keeping the Railway going during the emergency and allowing us to restart as soon as conditions allow. Donations will help improve our cash flow at a time where we have no operational income.

3) Join our Subscription Scheme

This is another way to help ensure we have enough funds to maintain and operate the Railway. Our monthly Members and Friends Subscription scheme allows you to make a regular contribution to our funds.

4) Become a Member of the Railway

As well as free rides, members receive our periodical Short Axle and other occasional publications, and can participate in a wide variety of activities on the Railway.

5) Book a Drive-an-Engine Experience

Become an engine driver for a day, and learn how to fire and operate one of our steam locos! You can combine this with hosting a birthday party or other celebration at the Railway. We have a brand-new party room ready and waiting to host your event!

6) Shop online with Amazon or Easyfunding

Use smile.amazon.co.uk or easyfunding.org.uk when ordering on-line shopping, selecting your charity as the West Lancashire Light Railway.

Any of these ways will make a real contribution to us getting the Railway operational again as soon as we can. Thank you!

Meanwhile, here are some photos taken by our intrepid Security Consultant, who just happens to live nearby and can take his daily exercise in the form of a stroll around the site.



And finally, some images of the Railway in happier times. With your help, they will return!



That's all for this issue. We hope our next edition will have some positive news about the re-opening of the Railway. In the meantime, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you again soon!