



# THE WEST LANCS (NEWS) LETTER

## Welcome to West Lancs Letter No.11!

At last we can report a little progress towards getting back to normal. We're still some way from being open to the public, but we have started to cautiously re-open for our volunteers to do some essential maintenance and preparation work.

We have looked carefully at how we can do this safely, maintaining social distancing during work activities and when taking breaks. We have devised a protocol for volunteers to follow, which is available on the Members' section of our website (see the link below).

<https://www.westlancsrailway.org/members>

The new party room has now been fitted out, thanks to Gary Kearsley, so we can use it as a secondary messroom, to make it easier to keep people separated. We are also limiting the numbers on a working day to ten, with Alan Frodsham co-ordinating the work roster. This way we can be confident that the risks are under control, and we can safely press on with getting the Railway ready to open. Hopefully this won't be too long!



Socially-distant lunchtime, but still able to chat!



It all starts here! A reminder to volunteers on what they need to do to maintain safe working.

It's a small price to pay not only to get some necessary work done, but also to allow our loyal band of members to come back to West Lancs, see some familiar faces and chat about all things Railway and non-Railway.



Clive puts a coat of primer on Sybil's bodywork...



...while Jackie and Sue team up to put a fresh coat of paint on the station shop.

More painting, this time it's the deputy chairman, with the black paint brush, on Montalban, in the engine shed.



Alan passes on some of his woodworking expertise to Gary.



Down the line, Barry puts a shovel to good use clearing the undergrowth.



Simon works on the Hudswell diesel loco in the workshop.



Andy (1) and Keith prepare the trench for some concrete in front of the new toilet block...



...while Andy (2) and Adrian mix the concrete, with some mechanical assistance.



Glenn and Alan colour-match Irish Mail's lining paint.

During the lockdown, Chairman Mike has been posting images on our Facebook page of our locomotives 'on tour' at other railways.



This fine shot is of Neil McMurdy driving Joffre at Statfold Barn in September 2012. This was not long after restoration of the loco was completed, and gave us the opportunity to 'bed in' the engine on a longer line.



Two from the editor's collection. Irish Mail at 'Stars and Steam' at Llangollen in 2009 and Montalban at the Welsh Highland Heritage Railway in 2010.

And finally, the carriage shed as you've never seen it before! A 1:19 scale model, also by the editor:



*That's all for this issue. Keep an eye on our website or Facebook page for news of the Railway re-opening. In the meantime, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you soon!*