

THE WEST LANCS LETTER



The Newsletter of the West Lancashire Light Railway



WELCOME to West Lincs Letter No.13 !

The BIG news is - we're restarting the Railway!

We will run passenger steam trains from Sunday 23rd August.

A lot of work has gone into designing a method of operation which keeps everyone safe whilst still providing an enjoyable day out for our visitors.

We can't wait to get going again, and hope very much you can come and share this special time with us!

And until the end of August you can still buy a Return to Steam Advance Family Ticket and receive a 33% discount!

Click [here](#) to buy.

NHS workers and other Keyworkers receive an additional discount, both on Advance tickets and on purchase-on-the-day tickets.

We will be running steam trains every Sunday and Bank Holiday, from August 23rd onwards.



This is the Official Mark of the 'We're Good to Go' scheme, run by VisitEngland in conjunction with other UK tourist authorities.


It shows that the West Lancashire Light Railway have met the Covid-19 safety standards prescribed by VisitEngland, and you can be confident in the safety of your visit.

These the main differences you will find when you visit us:

- to allow for additional cleaning, trains will run every 30-40 minutes,
- sanitiser points will be available for you to use,
- signs and temporary barriers will guide you from the car park to the station shop, which one 'family bubble' at a time can enter,
- face masks are to be worn in the shop. We can provide masks if required, or if you're just buying tickets, you can do this via a window hatch,
- a perspex screen will separate you from the shop staff. Please use contactless cards if you can, although cash can also be used. It would help if you only handle goods for sale if you intend to purchase,
- the lead member of each family bubble will be asked for their name and phone number, to aid virus tracking if later required. Your details will be securely stored only on paper, and destroyed after 21 days,
- on the platform, staff will call you on to the train, one family bubble per screened compartment,
- at the far end of the line, please remain seated while the engine runs around the train ready to take it back to Becconsall. Photos with the engine can still be arranged.

We understand this is a little different from the norm, and we appreciate your co-operation in keeping everyone safe and in maintaining social distancing.

Rest assured you will still receive the normal friendly welcome - we will be very glad to see you again!



We are very sad to say goodbye to our friend Ian Pearson, who passed away recently. Ian was usually to be found in the station shop, where his warm welcome and cheery manner were much appreciated by all who met him. To quote just one Facebook comment: 'RIP Ian, you brought so much joy to the people who visited the Railway'.

Work continues on maintaining and improving the Railway:



Our part-built access coach gets its first run out with our two existing coaches. Don't they look good together?



Spot the new one! Montalban has a brand new steam manifold, cast from wood patterns made by our own Alan Frodsham.



Chairman Mike explains the new procedures to the members, who are then rewarded with a trial ride on the access coach.



Montalban's boiler wrapper on the move to the shotblaster's, while Keith and Alan wrestle with the steam dome.



At one end of the platform the toilet screen gets its wood cladding, and at the other a troublesome tree root is excavated.



And finally, in August 2010 our Summer Gala was in full swing, with Irish Mail and Ultrillas getting ready to double-head a train at Delph. A decade later both locos are still giving good service!

