

THE WEST LANCS LETTER



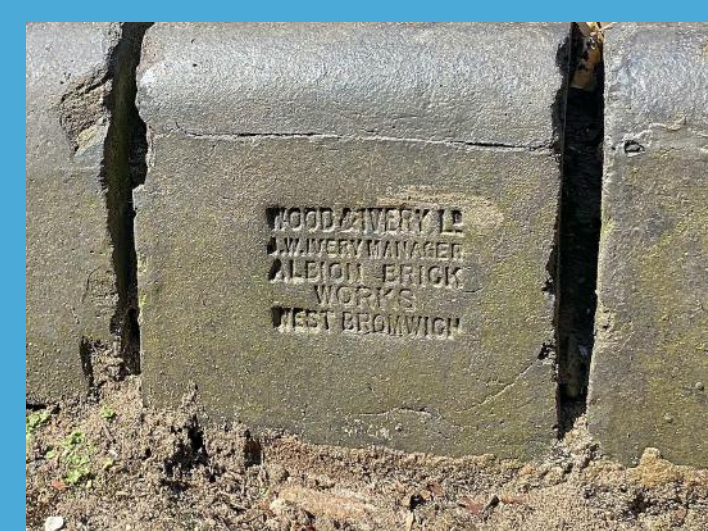
The Newsletter of the West Lancashire Light Railway



WELCOME to West Lancs Letter No.12!

In this issue, we report on the various activities at the Railway whilst preparing for restart, and give some tentative news about when that might be. This newsletter is the first in a new format - we hope you like it!

- We've been busy recently in three main areas:
- 1) upgrades to the platform and toilet infrastructure,
 - 2) building repairs and painting, and
 - 3) maintaining and restoring our steam locos and rolling stock.



Chairman Mike works on the platform extension by the new toilets, which will be screened and faced to match the station shop. Some of the existing paviers could be very old - John William Ivery was manager of the Albion brickworks in the 1880s.



Andy gets to grips with painting our historic platform lamp, while Simon repairs the gable on the shop roof.



The inspector says yes! Joffre, Irish Mail and Utrillas were steamed for their annual examination by the independent boiler inspector, who gave them all a clean bill of health.



Progress in the restoration of Sybil, our Quarry Bagnall loco. The new boiler is shotblasted, sanded (by husband and wife team Alan and Jackie) and painted.



Montalban's boiler is back! After major repairs at Johnson's of Banks, the boiler was shotblasted and painted ready for re-installation in the loco frames.



Paul goes underground to fit the couplings on our new access coach, while on the surface the next task is building the wood-slat seating.

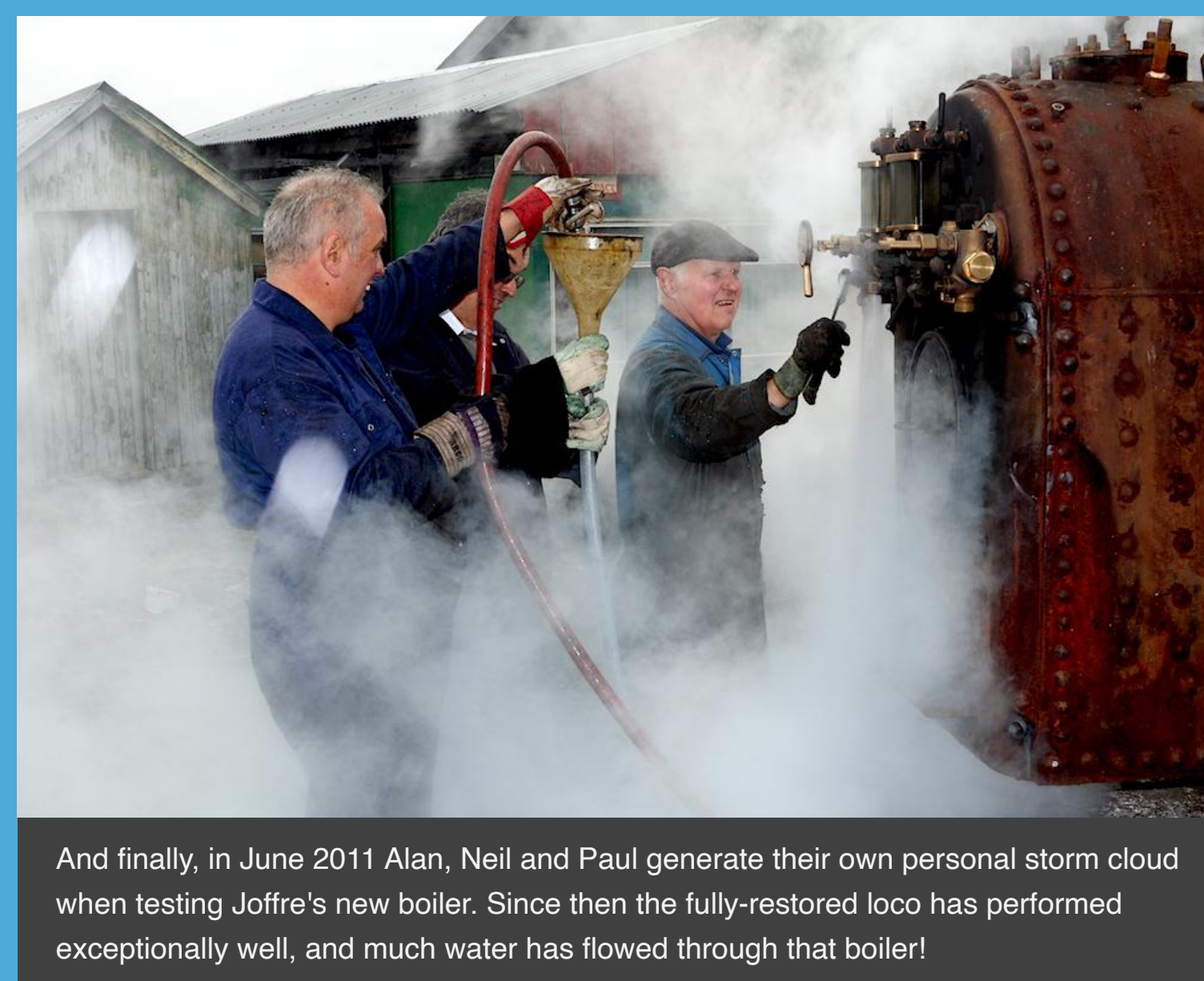


Meanwhile next door, Persimmon are preparing our replacement car park, and getting up to roof level with the new houses.

You will be aware that a growing number of UK businesses are re-opening as the Covid epidemic starts to decline. We are closely monitoring HM Government advice, taking guidance from the Heritage Railway Association and talking to individual heritage railways.

Our current estimate is that we may be in a position to re-open in the first half of August, depending on the implementation of a sufficient set of precautions, completion of some on-site engineering works, and a continuing decline in the infection risk.

It is our clear policy that the health and safety of our visitors and volunteers will not be compromised. When we are in a position to run passenger trains you can be confident that all necessary precautions are in place for a safe, enjoyable visit. Roll on that day!



And finally, in June 2011 Alan, Neil and Paul generate their own personal storm cloud when testing Joffre's new boiler. Since then the fully-restored loco has performed exceptionally well, and much water has flowed through that boiler!

