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NUMBER TWENTY-FIVE JANUARY 2022

# THE WEST LANCS LETTER

The Newsletter of the West Lancashire Light Railway

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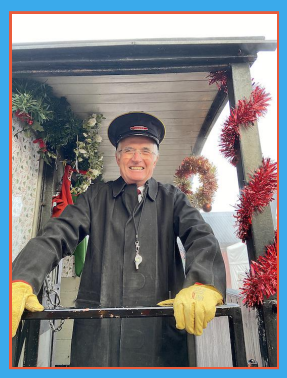
## WELCOME to West Lancs Letter No.25 !

The first West Lancs Letter of 2022 showcases our recent Santa Specials, in particular the volunteers who donate their time and talent to give our customers a great experience.

First off, some fine portraits taken from Becconsall platform by Anne Snape:



Safe in the knowledge that the train can't go without him, guard Simon takes a nap:

Driver David operates a water injector on *Irish Mail*, whilst in Santa's Sorting Office Postmistress Sue checks the stock of presents:

Platform Service Operator (First Class) Andrew wields a broom with some intent, making the coaches ready for the first passengers of the day:

Blockperson Clive practices his hand signals (or conducts the pipe organ, we're not sure which). Meanwhile PSO (FC) Tom distributes the goodie bags under the watchful eye of Driver Andy:

Boot inspection for our highly-visible car park attendants, well wrapped against the chill:

Anne the Snapper Elf in characteristic pose, and Fireman Glenn receiving some ad-hoc instruction from Permanent Way Supervisor David:

You can imagine Barry and Alan both thinking 'Well at least I don't look as daft as he does...':

Stanhope loco owner John reads the runes on the Staff, whilst Recycling Supervisor Alex gets down and dirty with the burger van's waste water tank.

Wouldn't you look grumpy if your trousers were on fire? Paul bears it stoically:

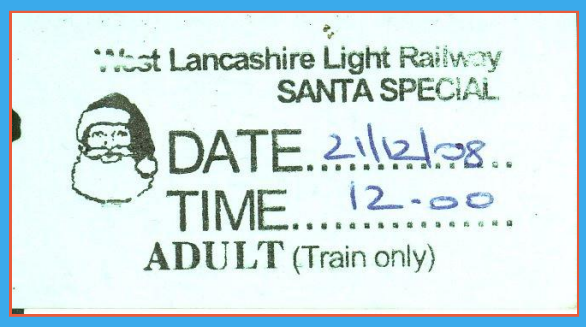
The sharp end. Father Christmas, using centuries-old magic to appear in a multitude of locations at almost the same time, asks the universal question '*Have you been good?*' :

And talking of magic, Paul the magician was back again to entertain and mystify our passengers:

Our local MP, Katherine Fletcher, paid us a return visit, to help keep our Naughty Elves in order. Not an easy task!

Another welcome visitor was Richard Mawdsley, who loomed out of the fog with his Aveling & Porter steam roller:

And from way back in prehistory when we didn't use mobiles for absolutely *everything*, a rare collector's item, a Santa Special ticket made of real cardboard:



And finally, was it worth all the effort? You be the judge:

*'We had such a fantastic time. The experience is special but it's the people that make it a great memory for us as a family'.*

*'Amazing time today, thank you so much to the lovely people who made my kids very happy and Christmassy'.*

More photos

We re-open for passenger steam trains on Sunday April 3rd, and look forward to welcoming visitors old and new.

In the meantime the Railway never sleeps - there is plenty to do to get ready for next season, and new volunteers are always welcome. Send us an email here or come and see us any Thursday or Sunday afternoon. No experience needed!

Santa videos

A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL AT THE WEST LANCASHIRE LIGHT RAILWAY!

TWENTY-FIVE WESTLANCSRAILWAY.ORG JANUARY 2022

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