

THE WEST LANCS LETTER



The Newsletter of the West Lancashire Light Railway



WELCOME to West Lincs Letter No.15!

After a short but busy season the Railway is now closed until 2021, apart from our Santa Specials, which are already fully booked. We had to reduce capacity this year to ensure Covid compliance - we're sorry if you missed out.

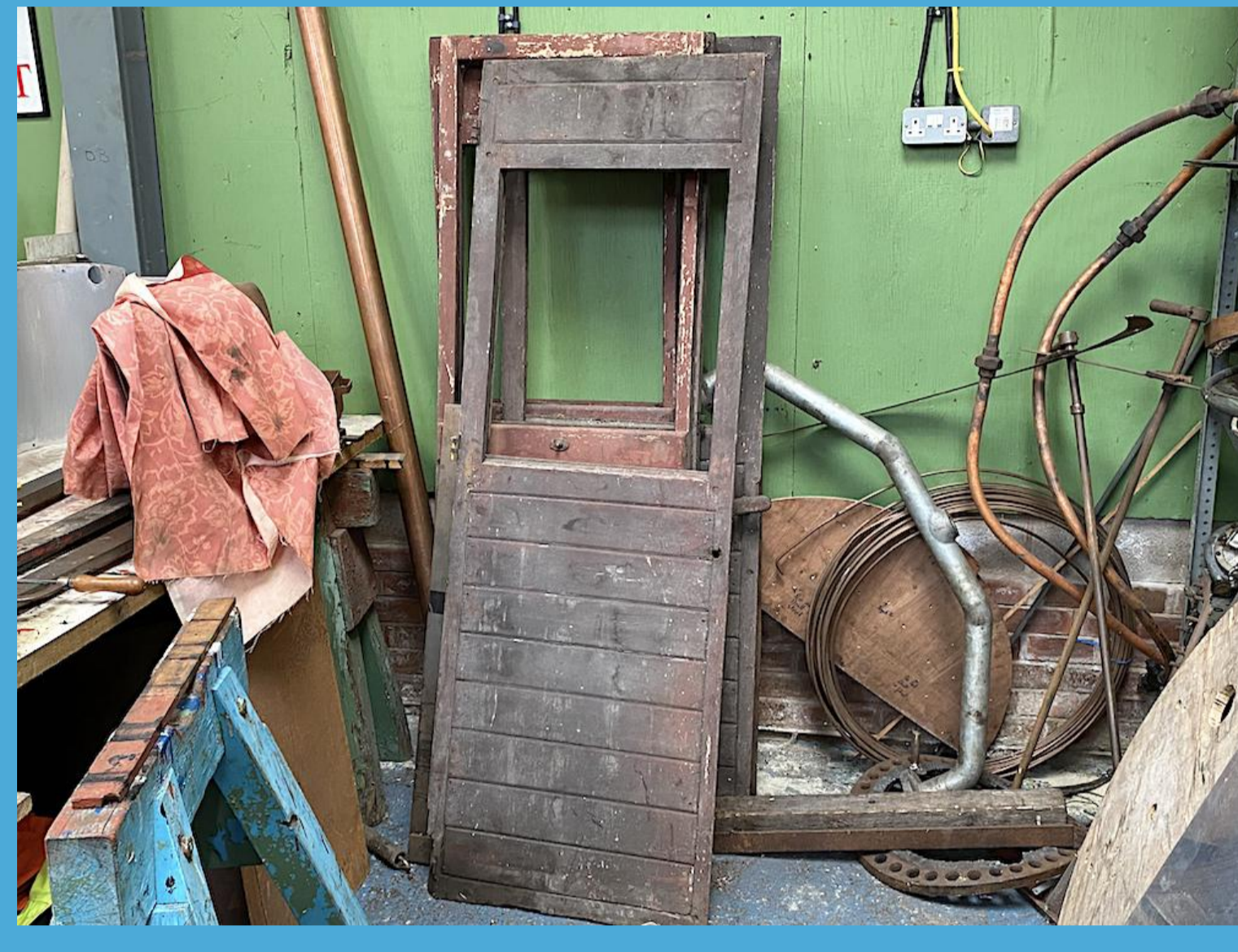
A highlight of our running days has been the number of visitors we have had, glad of an opportunity to bring the family to a safe location where they could enjoy a steam train ride in mostly excellent weather. Another has been our new cafe 'The Waiting Room' which has been an instant success and very well patronised, thanks to the hard work and creative skills of our members. It adds much to the ambience of the Railway.

And it is of course the membership, in particular the volunteers, who have made the difference, determined to put on a good service for our visitors and not let pandemic fears get the upper hand. Well done all!



More activity on the new access coach, as Glenn fits the frame for one of the fourteen clerestory windows. Below, nesting safely in the corner of the workshop are a set of historic coach doors, salvaged from the Padarn Railway. This was a 4ft-gauge railway built to carry slate the 7 miles from the Dinorwic Quarry in North Wales to the harbour at Port Dinorwic on the Menai Strait. From there the slate was exported all over the world.

The Llanberis Lake Railway now runs along part of the Padarn Railway trackbed. Their three Hunslet steam engines worked at Dinorwic, as did our own Hunslet *Irish Mail* and Bagnall *Sybil*. The Padarn doors, spotted on an auction site by a sharp-eyed West Lincs member, will be used as templates to make the new doors for the access coach. How the world turns!



As one Jeeves and Wooster character was wont to say, 'The future is ahead of us!' *Sybil* will certainly be a big part of our future as the loco moves from the restoration phase towards operation. But what else? Now that we own our land, we can start to think strategically about developing the Railway in the next few years. The Trustees will be doing just that, so if you have any ideas about how we can move forward with the site, the locos, the rolling stock or indeed the membership, please let us know. An email to Charles Brown at westlincsrlwysecretary@gmail.com will do nicely. Thank you!



Two awesome photos of *Sybil*'s new boiler, taken by Keith Nicholls. Who would think rivets and bolts could look so exotic?



Special delivery for our Santa Specials! All the way from the North Pole, so we are told. Despatched in good time by Ark Toys, which as every child knows is the secret cover name used by Santa's Elves.



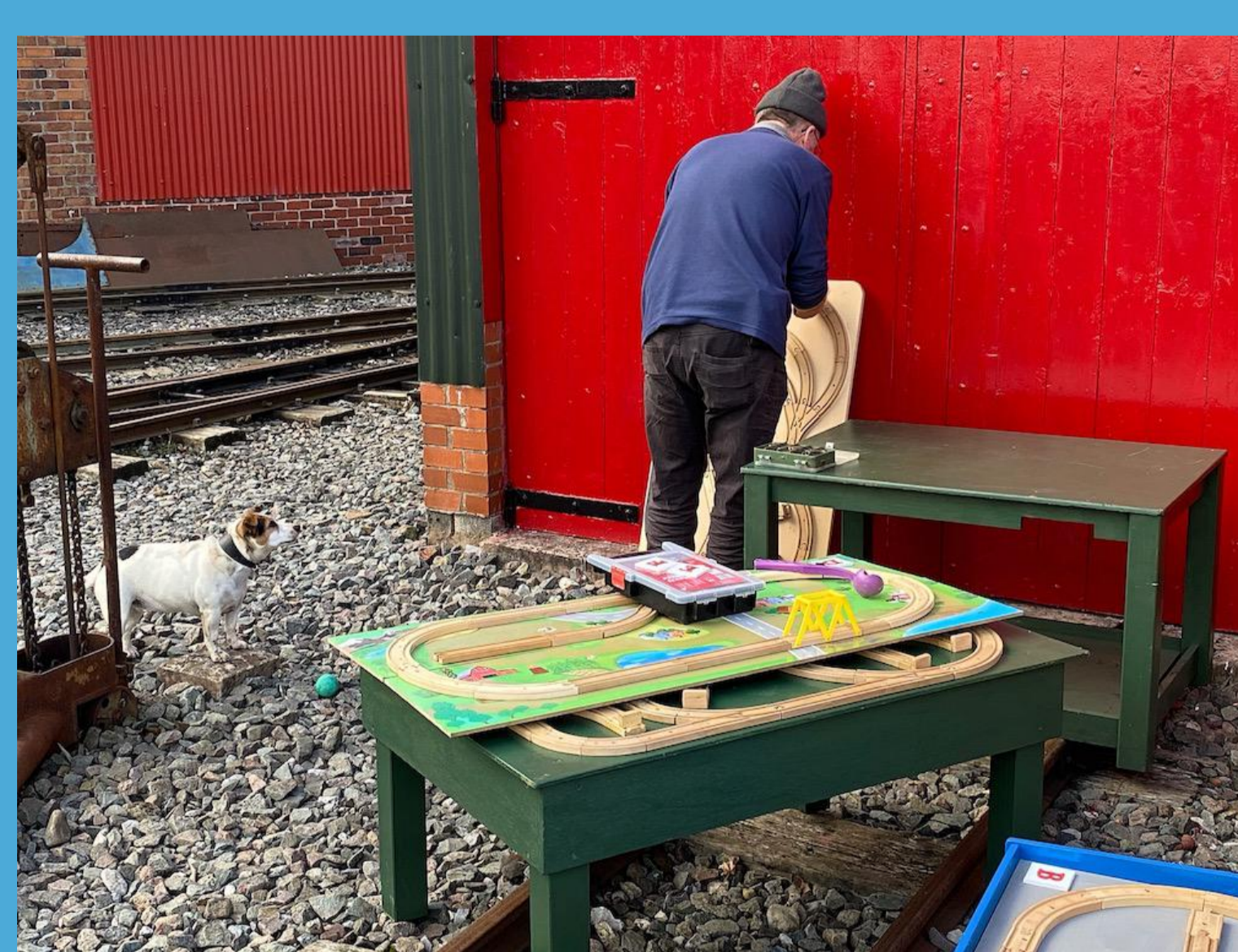
Talking of Santa Specials, a four-strong task force install new lighting in the coaches, in good time for Christmas running. Jake, one of our new members, gets stuck in with the wiring.



Meanwhile some real-estate is gently shunted down the line, to provide some temporary shelter for the Bearded One in-between Santa trains.



Modifications beyond Delph, as redundant track is removed and re-laid as tipper sidings.



John renovates the wooden train sets, with Tinker waiting patiently for her ball to be thrown.



And finally, some excellent news! We are to benefit from the Co-op Local Community Fund. When Co-op Members buy selected products and services in-store or online, we can receive a donation. This will go towards buying an interactive display screen for use with educational visits. You can help by becoming a Co-op member [here](#) and choosing us as your local cause.

And even more finally, a plea to all our members (and prospective members, it's never too late to join!). We are always busy at our Santa Specials, but this year even more so, as we need extra staff to ensure our Covid procedures operate as they should and our visitors are kept safe. So if you're not already on our roster email list and can spare even a short time to help out, that would be much appreciated - send us an email at westlincsrlwy@gmail.com. Thank you!

