

# THE WEST LANC'S LETTER



The Newsletter of the West Lancashire Light Railway



WELCOME to West Lancs Letter No. 19!

## And the good news is....we're opening again!

**Sunday May 23rd** is our re-opening day, when we welcome visitors back to the Railway for a ride on our steam trains, from 11.30 to 4.30.

And of course our cafe will be open, now with a full 5-star hygiene rating!



Naturally, we will be doing everything in a COVID-safe manner. All visitors will be asked to sign-in on arrival, and to wear face masks on the train, unless exempt. We ask everyone to practise social distancing and to make use of the hand sanitiser stations on site.

Trains will run every half-hour, to allow time for cleaning in-between. Each group of visitors will be assigned their own compartment - you can have as many rides as you like!

The shop will be open, with up to three visitors inside at any one time. Please wear a mask in the shop, and pay by card if you can, although cash will be accepted.

Our cafe will have tables in the open air and under a canopy - please wait to be served at your table.

**GRANT AWARD**

Some more good news!

We have been awarded a substantial grant towards our re-opening costs and improvement projects. A total of £18,900 has been allocated to us in the second round of the Government's Cultural Recovery Fund.

This will go towards access and trackwork improvements, fuel and locomotive supplies, Covid protection items, training for safety-critical staff, publicity, recovery of reserves and operational costs.

This grant is timely and very welcome, and will make a real difference to our ability to restart safely and efficiently, and to improve our facilities for visitors.



In the last few weeks we have been busy preparing for re-opening, with much cleaning, painting and refurbishing taking place.



A full squad tackle renovation of the compressor house, while round the back of the shed Anne works solo on artwork for our new Princess & Pirates Day.



To re-start safely not only the facilities need to be up to scratch, but the staff too. So we held a training day recently to refresh our skills and ensure everyone is up to speed with the latest Covid procedures.



Barry performs a test-sit on a prototype seat for the new access coach. The man knows no fear.



The coach topsides are also receiving attention, with a smart aluminium roof going on.



More progress with *Montalban's* refit, with the wheels re-installed and the boiler being lowered back onto the frames.



And finally a throwback to 2007, with Mike Gott braving the rain to pilot Ruston and Hornsby No.36 into Delph with a tipper train.



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