

# THE WEST LANCs LETTER



The Newsletter of the West Lancashire Light Railway



## WELCOME to West Lancs Letter No.18!

With 2021 well on, we are looking forward to re-starting passenger services for the new season. We can't be definite about a date yet, mid-April is a possible time, but keep an eye on our website and social media pages for updates.

Meanwhile, activity is gradually building up at the Railway, as lockdown starts to ease. A key milestone is to ensure our steam locomotives are fit for service, and Paul is seen here getting stuck in to sorting *Irish Mail's* internals. Notice the skilful balancing act, with the feet at no time in contact with the ground!



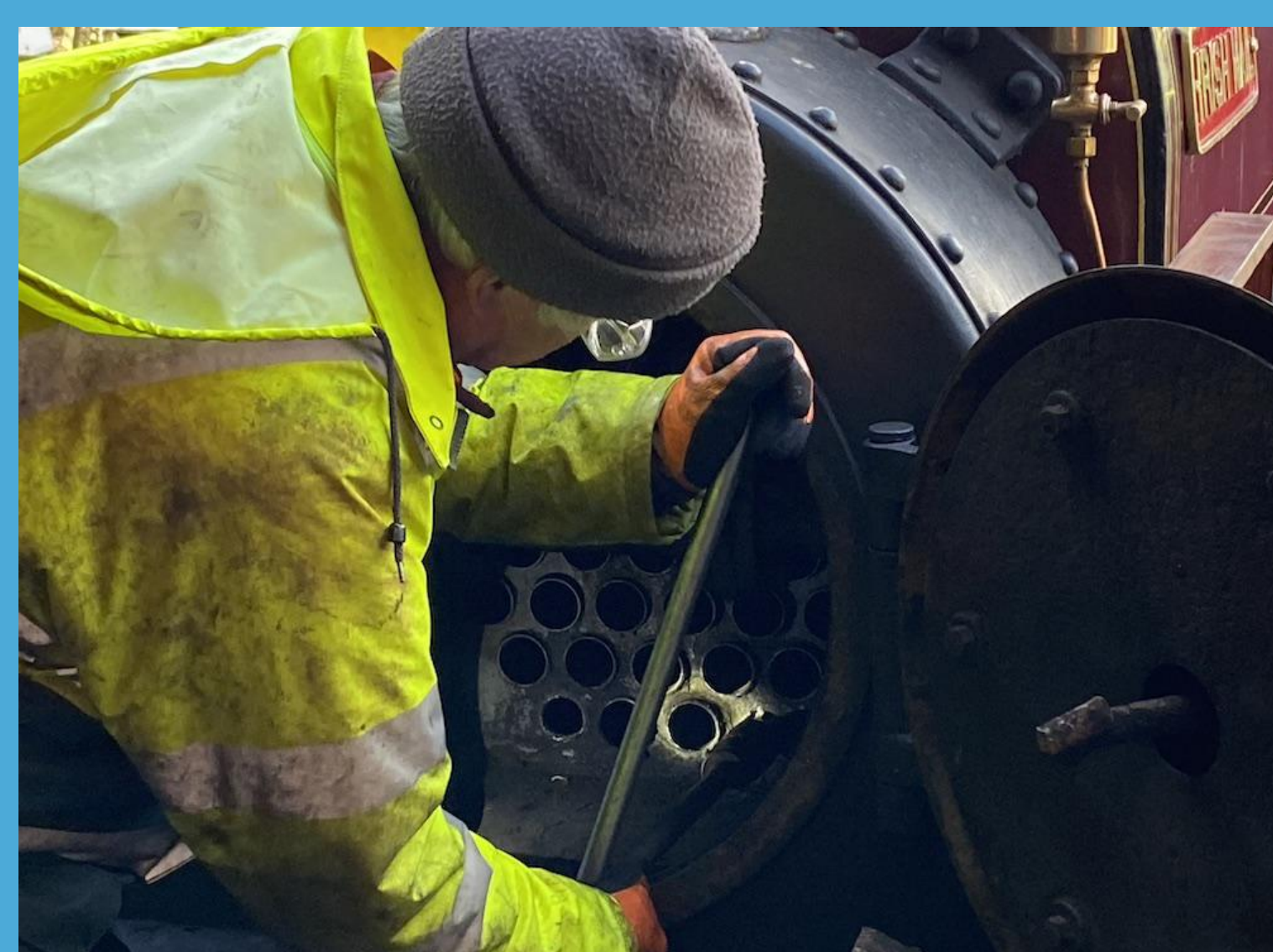
And it's not just us who has to be satisfied, the boiler inspector needs to approve the locos too. Here *Utrillas* and *Irish Mail* wait patiently for the inspector to finish his cuppa.



It's back to work on the new access coach, with Sue and Barry on painting duties. Progress has slowed in recent months due to Covid, but hopefully should pick up again now.



The chairman down a big hole, and making it bigger! This will be our new combined ash and inspection pit.



More work on *Irish Mail*, this time with Peter expanding a boiler tube.



A new plan for the triangle of land just before Delph station. Mike Iddon, a local horticulturist, gives some advice on layout and planting for a wetland/nature area. It will be accessible via a new footpath from Delph.



'How much is this costing?' The treasurer casts a quizzical eye over some running repairs to the carriage shed roof.



If the label hadn't given it away, we might have had a 'name this object' competition. It's the new fume extraction system for the welding shop.



And finally, a throwback to May 2007, when holidays were allowed and *Irish Mail* had a trip out to Maldegem in Belgium, for the annual steam festival. Neil Thompson and Mike Spall are the serious-looking loco crew.

