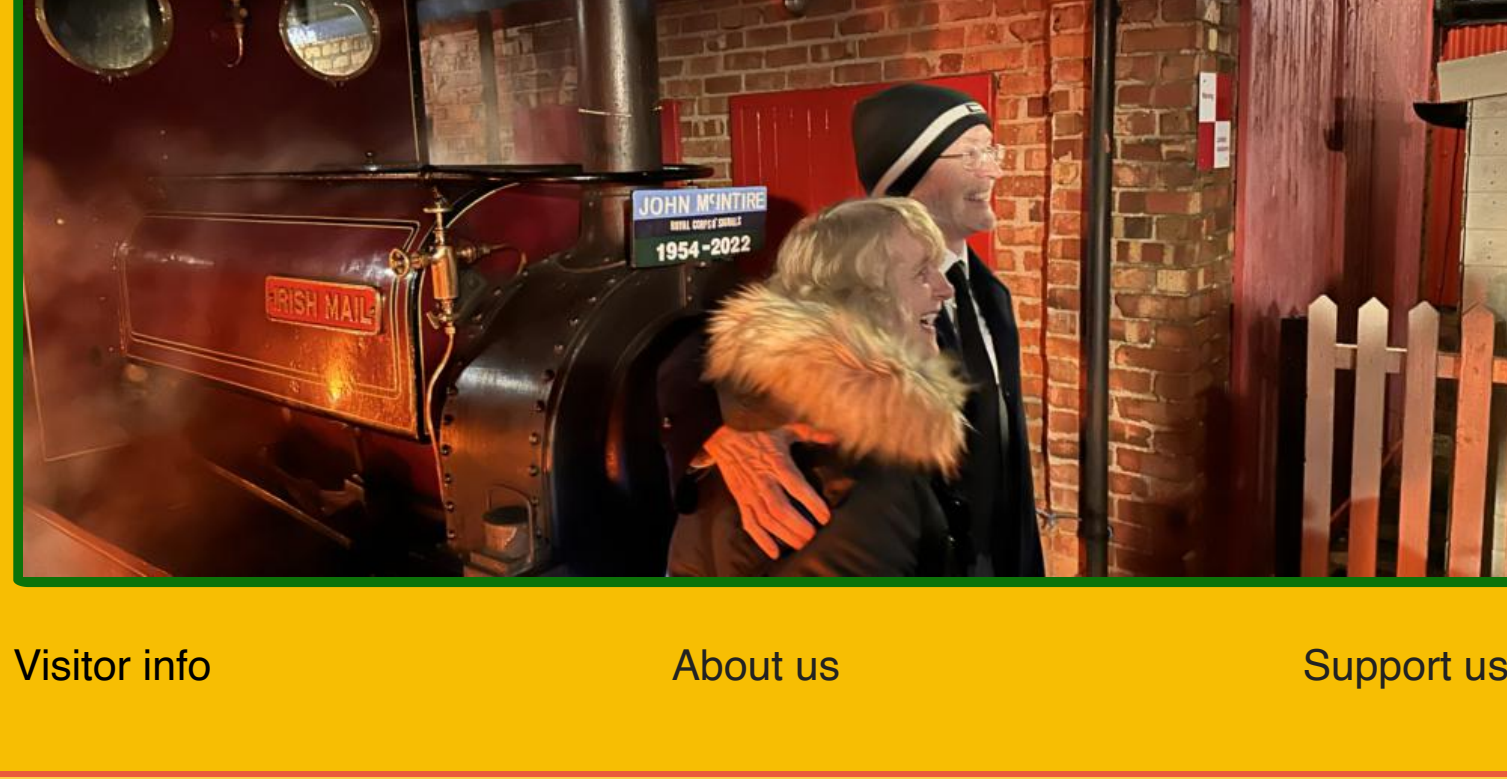




THE WEST LANCS LETTER

The Newsletter of the West Lancashire Light Railway



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WELCOME to West Lincs Letter No.33 !



We have to report the passing of John McIntyre, a long-standing volunteer at West Lincs. John turned his hand to many roles over the years, always with enthusiasm and humour. We have lost a great friend and supporter of the Railway - he will be remembered with much affection.



It's that time of year again, when Father Christmas comes to West Lincs, and five days of hectic activity sees hundreds of children and adults take a train ride to Toyland to meet the Bearded One. It's a lot of effort by many people, but well worth it to see the great time everyone had!



Andy is all set to go with heater and second breakfast, whilst in Santa's Sorting Office Barry and Sue prepare the sacks of presents. As you can see, Noah had the supply contract this year...



Is that the time already? John tries to work out how he can fit in lunch between the trainloads of excited children and their families. They just keep on coming...



Jorge has his hands full giving out the children's goody bags, while Mike seeks out a moment of quality time with his phone.



On one side, a calm, peaceful winter's afternoon. On the other, lots going on!



Time for a chat, and a little firebox upkeep, as the train crew wait for Santa to visit all the children on the train.



Keeping the show on the road. David tops up Irish Mail's steam oil, whilst Clive and Simon refill Montalban's water tanks.

[More Santa photos](#)



A new project for a new year. Work starts on restoring our Ruston 40HP diesel, after many years in storage. It was originally based at the North West Water Authority's Great Harwood works.

If you have any images of the loco, James Dagger would like to hear from you. He is keen to have more details of how it looked before it was dismantled. If you can assist, please contact James at the Railway, or the editor [here](#). Thank you!



With the Santa Specials finished, the marquee is dismantled for the close season, given a wash and packed away into the somewhat full Events Container. It came down easier than it went up, and with no video tutorial needed this time.



A cold winter's day, but the A-team are undaunted, trying the new gates for size. And no, the new houses aren't subsiding already, just a trick of the camera lens.



More concrete for the new ash pit. Paul and Mike give their wellies a good workout in-between rain showers, with Barry observing from a safe distance.



And finally, an offer you can't refuse! As Sybil's completion gets ever closer a rare opportunity has occurred to buy into the project and influence the way it develops. A Sybil shareholder wishes to sell up to five shares in the Sybil Locomotive Trust. If you would like to become a shareholder (or increase your holding) contact Martyn Smith at mj.smith@blueyonder.co.uk for more details. All information will be held in strict confidence.

Thank you for your support in 2022, and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2023!

We re-open on Sunday April 2nd. Until then we will be busy getting ready for the new season. If you would like to help, we would love to hear from you!

Contact Mike at chair@westlincsrailway.org for more information on volunteering.



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