

THE WEST LANCS LETTER



The Newsletter of the West Lancashire Light Railway

WELCOME to West Lincs Letter No.21!



UTRILLAS ON THE MOVE!

One of our two Orenstein & Koppel locomotives has recently left us for pastures new at the Lancashire Mining Museum, Astley Green. The museum features Lancashire's last remaining winding house and headgear, but until now lacked a steam locomotive to help tell the story of the colliery. Utrillas has served us well for over 30 years, and will no doubt continue to give good service at her new home.



July 11th saw our first ever Princess and Pirates Day, opened by Hesketh Bank's very own Rose Queen. Fancy dress was encouraged, with some beautiful princesses and not-quite-so-pretty pirates riding our trains, and in the latter case wielding water pistols in many failed attempts to hijack our passengers. A busy, fun day which will surely become a fixture in our events calendar!

Some more images are [here](#).



The events come thick and fast this time of year, with our two-day Summer Gala in early August. Despite us not being able to host visiting locomotives this year, our home fleet put on a good show, with lots of visitors enjoying our trains. An added attraction was live steam model trains in the marquee, along with model layouts by local 009 Society members.



A rather more personal event was our treasurer Martyn Smith's 70th birthday bash at the Railway. As you can see, our catering staff smartened themselves up especially for the occasion, and much cake and other goodies were eaten.



Our WW1 Kerr Stuart locomotive *Joffre* is also in the news, as her ten-year boiler certificate has just expired. The loco will be withdrawn from service for inspection and overhaul. Hopefully *Joffre* will be back soon!

More images of *Joffre's* last running day are [here](#).



Meanwhile our other O&K locomotive *Montalban* is well on the way towards a return to service. Here the side tanks and the dome are being fettled in the sunshine prior to re-fitting.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE RAILWAY!

We are looking for someone to help us get our message across to the media in Lancashire, Merseyside and further afield. This publicity officer role involves emailing short news items and photos to local newspapers and magazines, also to national railway publications.

The publicity officer attends meetings of our Publicity, Media and Commercial Group, currently on Zoom. Details of planned events, and reports of recent ones, are circulated to a number of contacts for use in their publications. The publicity officer also coordinates any feedback or queries received, and replies accordingly.

If you think you might like to try your hand at this important role, or would like more information on what it entails, please contact Mike Spall at westlancsrlychair@gmail.com. Thank you!



Two filming sessions in recent days, first local filmmaker Ian Bennett and his crew came to finish off the long-awaited sequel to *Buying Time*, soon to be released on DVD in our station shop. If you have not seen the original, it tells the story of how we raised over £250,000 to buy the land the Railway runs on, when the alternative might well have been closure. The new, extended version shows how we coped with lockdown, how we prepared for re-opening and the successful return of steam trains to Hesketh Bank.

Then Marc Goldring visited us to film a unique series of videos showing a locomotive's eye view of the Railway. The end results are [here](#) - well worth a look!



And finally, a shot of Utrillas working on a rather damp May afternoon in 2007.

And yet more finally, a reminder to members that the 2021 AGM will be held on Saturday 25th September at 2pm, in the All Saints Church Hall, Station Rd, Hesketh Bank.

Following approval of the revised Memorandum and Articles of Association at the July EGM, this meeting will include elections for all ten trustee positions.

More details, including how to vote by proxy, are in the members section of the Railway's website [here](#).

