

WEST LANCASHIRE LIGHT RAILWAY NEWS

No. 5 July 2010

edited by Phil Pacey

The Season so far

By the time you read this, the 2010 season will be more than half over, although we may still be looking forward to the Annual Gala Weekend (August 8th and 9th) as well as the Autumn Steam Gala (31st October). Visitor numbers are well down on 2009 – perhaps following national trends, and perhaps partly due to a shortage of leaflets (see below); certainly not because of bad weather or for want of trying in the publicity department.

The first *Diesel Freight Day* on 26th June did not attract very many visitors, in spite of national and local publicity. However, those that came thoroughly enjoyed it, as did those who took part. We have received very appreciative feedback, and a favourable report is to appear in *Narrow Gauge News*. Congratulations to all concerned, not least John Rowlands for organising the perpetual motion of locos and trains, and to Clive for ensuring that plenty of locos were in running order on the day. Locos seen in action included the 'Bread Bin', currently being restored. A rake of newly renovated flat wagons was also caught the eye.

Leaflets

If you have visited the Railway recently you cannot have failed to notice the huge new Booths supermarket in course of construction, almost overlooking Becconsall. Earlier in the year we made a successful approach to Booths, who have agreed to pay the printing costs (more than £600) of a new WLLR leaflet in exchange for an advertisement. Frustratingly, they have still not provided us with the text of their advertisement, and meantime our stocks of the present leaflet have dwindled. At this stage, rather than a 'Coming Soon' message which would quickly be out of date, they will wait until they can make a 'Now Open' announcement. At worst we can look forward to new leaflets to kick start next season.

Treasurer

Due to ill health, Peter Young has resigned as a WLLR Trustee and as Treasurer. A very able and thorough Treasurer for many years, Peter took on the job when our books were in a dreadful state and steadily and surely restored order. Our thoughts are with Peter and his family, and our best wishes go to Ian Clark, our new Treasurer.

New members and volunteers

It has been good to see several new faces among the volunteers on site recently. Your participation is much appreciated. Welcome to the following new members:

M & Mrs Norton of Southport
Mr N. Miller of Bamber Bridge
Mr E. Cryer of Southport
Mr A. Nyogeri of Preston
Miss E. Fairhurst of Telford
Mr & Mrs Kearsley of Chorley
Mr & Mrs Pearce of Maghull
Mr M. Jones of Southport

Bits & pieces

Montalban has been on an extended stay in Wales, at the Welsh Highland Heritage Railway at Porthmadog.

Our portable track sections, which last year enabled *Irish Mail* to operate at Llangollen, were borrowed by the Festiniog Railway recently so that they could operate two of their locos at an open weekend at Tyseley, Birmingham.

On 30th May we hosted a visit by a large group from 'Families United', a Warrington-based charity providing support to families with disabled children.

On site

At the time of going to press, the finishing touches were being applied to the new mess room. Thanks are due not least to Mike Trigg for his time and skills.

Meanwhile, hidden from view, Cameron has been preparing the ground for yet another temporary siding, which when built will provide useful additional space for some of the rolling stock which clutters up the yard.