



THE WEST LANCS (NEWS) LETTER

Welcome to West Lincs Letter No.6!



Hot on the heels of the news that we had completed purchase of our site, we held a very successful two-day gala in August.

Uncertainties with the site access meant we did not have any visiting steam engines, but we still put on a fine show. Our marquee was put to good use again, with entertainment in the afternoon and evening and a licensed bar!

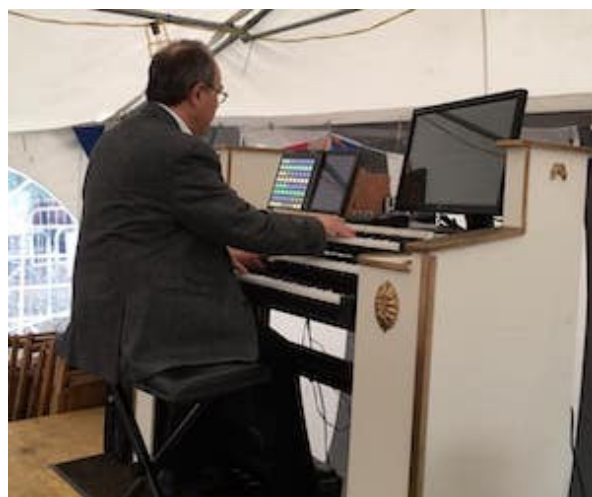


The trains were well populated, and with fairground attractions, Drive-a-Diesel and a miniature steam train ride, there was lots to see and do.



Did you know that our Honorary Secretary, Charles Brown, is an accomplished professional theatre organist?

Here he is playing for our afternoon visitors in the marquee.



And at how many railway galas do you see a Lancaster bomber?

Our Chairman obviously has friends in high places - it's not the first time we've enjoyed our very own flypast by this famous aircraft.

Montalban on the move

You may know that we have two similar Orenstein and Koppel locomotives, Montalban and Utrillas, both of which spent their working lives at a coal mine in Spain. They have been with us for 35 years! Montalban has been out of action for a while, but recently its owner Keith Nicholls has started the ball rolling to get the loco fit for service again.

After dismantling the main parts of the engine, the boiler has been moved to Johnsons of Banks for remedial work. The most recent examination by the boiler inspector showed some corrosion in several areas, requiring welding and patching.



This photo shows part of the lower section of the boiler cut out ready for the metal thickness to be measured in various places. From this a patch of the correct size will be made and welded in place.

The rear coupling is removed, as more sideways swing is needed for taking sharp curves with the variety of our rolling stock. One option is to swap it with the front coupling, as swing is less important on the front due to the shorter overhang beyond the wheels.





Keith knows every piece by name and exactly where it goes, apparently...

Once the repairs are completed, the boiler will be returned to Hesketh Bank and the loco reassembled. Keith knows better than to put a timescale on it, but hopefully it won't be too long!



Montalban framed in a new doorway in the engine shed. An insulated floor is also going in. The Tudor Tearooms will be used for birthday parties, school groups, etc. and Santa Specials. Somewhere warm and dry!



Meanwhile James and Barry install a point indicator board for loco crews approaching Becconsall station.



One working, two taking pictures! The access coach out in the September sun.

That's all for this issue - don't forget our Working Engines Gala on Sunday 6th October. Plenty of steam and diesel action, plus many other attractions!