



LYNTON & BARNSTAPLE RAILWAY.

NEWSLETTER

L&BR Newsletter No. 77 September 2022

The year so far....

In 2021 the railway was incredibly busy once the Covid restrictions were relaxed in the summer, what could we expect for 2022? There was a general feeling that 2021 would not be repeated. Well, visitor numbers are really good and revenue is better than we had hoped given how good 2021 was. Also 'Kids go free' appears to have been a big success and is attracting families to visit us.

The Tea Room is almost 100% complete and already in use as an eating place. Our contractor, Richard, has fitted the glass and the door to the link which completes the build. Now it is just down to equipping the servery. This hasn't been done before due to the 7-day a week workload on our catering team.

The Tea Room was officially opened by our MP Selaine Saxby on 16th July and it was another welcome visit from a keen and supportive MP. Shortly afterwards the Trust and CIC boards met in the cabin which was not only large enough but also nice and cool on a lovely, hot summer's day

The 16mm model railway layout is up and running and drawing good crowds. A very good addition to the facilities at Woody Bay.

You may have seen an advertisement for the post of engineer at the railway. This is to assist John and Tom with the vital task of maintaining and operating all the locos and rolling stock on the line. John is not going anywhere but needs another pair of hands to cope with this and all the other projects on the go.

We need help with the 7 ¼" railway so that we can open it on a regular basis. If this appeals to you please contact Stuart Nelhams or Malcolm Smith - young people very welcome.

L&B Blackmoor Company plc

It seems we are in the final straight after all this time! Draft contracts for the purchase of the Old Station House Inn are with our solicitors. The preconditions for the drawdown of the bank loan should all have been satisfied by the time you read this. The share offer is still open and as ever the more we can raise in share sales the less we need from the bank loan.

To register for the share offer just click the link on the web-site (front page, just below the video of the line) and complete the required questionnaire.

Killington Lane to Parracombe update

Section 73 planning delay

Following consideration of comments received during public consultation Exmoor National Park have commissioned an independent financial appraisal of the Phase 1a extension. The Trust has also been asked to provide some additional information. When complete, the new report and the additional information will be posted to the planning portal for further consultation. This means there may be a delay to ENP's consideration of the application.

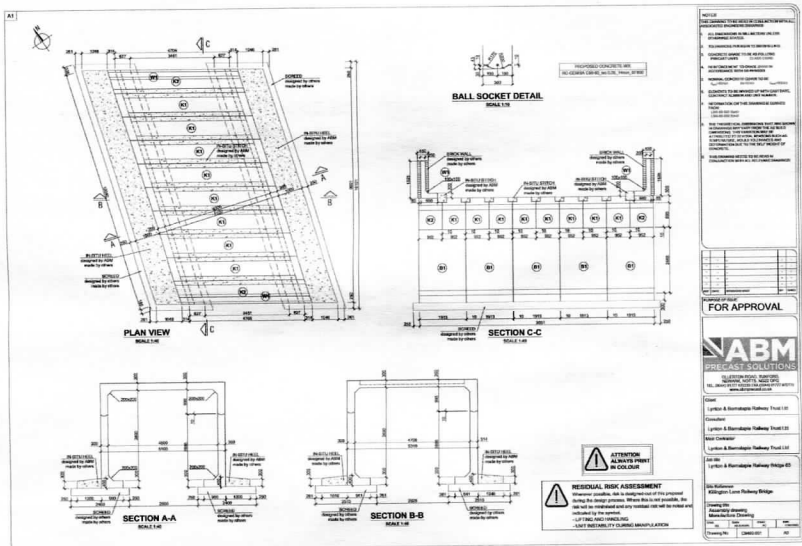
The committee date will be published as soon as it has been confirmed by ENP.

An objector has raised a legal challenge. Both ENP and the Trust are taking legal counsels' advice.

Preparations to start work early 2023

In parallel with the section 73 application, background work has been progressing steadily so that the project can be "shovel ready" to start early in 2023.

- Bridge 65 scheme design (AiP) is complete and signed off by Devon County Council.
- Design details for the precast concrete units for Bridge 65 have been prepared by ABM Precast Solutions. The details are being checked for compliance with the AiP and for final acceptance by Devon County Council.



- A Section 278 Agreement is being drafted by solicitors to enable Devon County Council to adopt bridge 65 after it has been constructed.
- Main contractor tenders have been procured for Stage 1 works.
- Preparation of details to discharge pre-commencement planning conditions is in progress.
- Steps are being taken to enable temporary traffic restriction orders (TTRO's) to be granted by Devon County Council to enable the works affecting the public highway to take place early in 2023.

Funding

Return to Parracombe Appeal

The funds committed to the reinstatement of the railway from Killington Lane to Parracombe Halt currently stands at £650,000, approximately 40% of the total funding required (£1.6 million). In only the three months since this appeal was launched, over £190,000 has been donated, including over £32,000 from Gift Aid. Thank you to all who have made a donation, of whatever amount.

The great majority of donations have come from members, but some from non-members. A number of donors have given more than once, and nearly 100 certificates of donation have been sent out to those who have sponsored a foot (£360), or more, of the extension.

You can donate to this appeal in several ways:

Bank Transfer online: Transfer to account number **00445050**, sort code **30-90-49**, account title **LYNTON & BARNSTAPLE RAILWAY TRUST**. Please use the reference "**Parracombe**".

Online by Paypal, Credit or Debit card: Go to www.lynton-rail.co.uk and click on **DONATION** in the header. Please use "**Parracombe**" as your payment reference in the "Specific Fund" box.

By Post: Send a cheque, made payable to "**Lynton & Barnstaple Railway Trust**" (with Parracombe written on the back) to the Trust Treasurer, Martin Swainson, Amberwood, The Vallance, Lynsted, Kent, ME9 0RP.

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

Geoff Hunt is progressing an HLF application which will partially fund finishing the design of Phase 2A of the L & B's reinstatement as well as the Transport & Works Act Order (TWAO). In addition, there has been very helpful co-operation from Devon County Council which has enabled costs associated with the necessary approvals of the scheme to be kept to a minimum.

L & B website

The L & B website is being redesigned to improve its functionality in areas such as online payments for shop sales and membership renewals, as well as adding the function of on-line ticket sales.

Paul Curson,
Chair of the Funding Group

CIC Shares

Another good way to support the railway is to purchase shares in the Community Interest Company. Receipts from share sales are committed to the development of the railway and are currently used in support of the planned extension of the railway.

Illustrated share certificates are issued to all shareholders with a shareholding of 100 or more shares, each with a nominal value of £1 (minimum purchase £100). Shares can be obtained by direct purchase or by subscription of £10 or more each month.

The benefits attached to share ownership are as follows:

100 – 199 shares:	2 free 'day rover' tickets per annum
200 – 499 shares:	4 free 'day rover' tickets per annum
500 – 999 shares:	8 free 'day rover' tickets per annum
1000 – 1999 shares:	Pass for unlimited free travel for 1 year for shareholder
2000 – 2999 shares:	As above for shareholder and one family guest
3000 plus shares:	As above for shareholder and up to three family guests

Free ticket entitlements are awarded against shareholdings at 31st December each year and can be claimed at Woody Bay Station from 1st February. Share application forms and direct debit mandate forms can be downloaded from the L&B website or forwarded by request to the Company Secretary, Brom Bromidge, 33 Cavie Road, Braunton, Devon EX33 1DX, or telephone Brom on 01271 814475

News from the Midweek Gangs

The numbers showing up for the Tuesday and Thursday gangs have not fully recovered since the worst of the Pandemic, but the work goes on. In the past six months most of the effort to construct a new tea room has been completed, mainly by contractors, but with volunteers taking on the decoration and a variety of minor tasks around the site. Much of the painting has been in the hands of Keith Jarratt, Julian and Lindsey Palmer and Pete Smith, but with others helping out along the way.

As I write, the link passage to the kitchen is nearing completion (by contractors) and painting (by our volunteers) and the servery can then be used to bring the tea room into its own.

The Thursday gang have, among other tasks, upgraded the fencing alongside the miniature railway and undertaken various jobs along the line, including improvements to drainage in the car park area.

On Tuesdays the work has varied between shifting firewood from the car park, and rearranging the contents of the old white marquee that contains the furniture salvaged from the old refreshment tent. Alongside the annual ritual of oiling fishplates and tackling rotten sleepers, the number of minor tasks tackled by both teams is too long to list, but the intention has been to create a much more efficient and effective operating environment, a safe location to attract and engage our passengers.

Earlier in the Spring each of the gangs had a hand in preparing the site for the new garden railway, close to the workshop. Members of both the Two Moors and Central Somerset groups of the 16mm Narrow Gauge Association have since constructed an attractive layout and aim to run it at least every Saturday in the season.

A recent challenge was to sort out the contents of the S&T van (i.e. the store belonging to the Signal and Telegraph Department). A good deal of the material in the van was unlikely to be used in the near future and has been relocated to a place of safety. The woodworm have been given notice to quit, and the scrap metal bin has attracted some new artefacts.

In the paintshop, work continues on Brake Coach 16. The paint and varnish had deteriorated badly in North Devon's climate and under Jim's guidance has been stripped right back before being carefully reinstated. Hundreds of hours have been spent already by the Paintshop Boys getting this coach back in order. If it's ready by the Autumn Gala, as hoped, the standard of work will present another shining example of what our railway's volunteers can achieve.

The midweek gangs would welcome new members, more or less whatever skills they bring. We are also particularly keen to find people with knowledge of S & T. A generous supply of cups of tea is offered to every active volunteer.

Tim Woods

Carriage & Wagon Workshop.

The current position of work at Friday Wood Farm, Colchester is as follows:-

Van 23

Parts in store, awaiting completion of the underframe and delivery from North Devon

Carriage No 9

Roof timbers denailed, and grooves machined up ready for painting.
Floorboards denailed and being machined.

Brass castings for grab handles, door treads and door buffers have now been completed and now need fettling.

Aluminium castings are on order for hat racks and oil lamp plugs.

Additional free timber is to be collected from Ipswich Baptist Church.

We are very grateful for various recent donations from Members to enable our work to continue at Colchester as the cost of timber and other items keeps rising.

The workshop is now operating normally and we will be contacting Members in the East Area, (eg; Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridge), to invite them to an individual visit to the workshops should they be interested in joining our restoration team, we are unable to hold any "Open Days" as we did in the past due to restrictions on large numbers of visitors by our Farm landlord.

We are also restarting social events please contact the East Group Chairman Steve Arthurs or me, contact numbers are in the Magazine.

Charles Summers.

Chelfham Station Summer 2022 update

We had a steady stream of visitors throughout the summer months on the usual Wednesday and Sunday opening days. A contrasting mix of Trust members, L and B and other railway enthusiasts, also encouragingly some groups of local residents, many discovering the railway even for the first time. Their generous donations and sales purchases continue to help our funds for current and future materials purchases.

With all the recent restoration over the past year largely completed, the small gang of regular volunteers have prioritised general site maintenance recently. For example the renewal of a rotted out entrance gate post. This digging out and installation job was actually completed during the August heatwave but working in the shade of the trees before it got too hot!

Our colourful displays of flowers and shrubs have stood up well and have been well received by all visitors adding to the picturesque ambience at Chelfham.

Whilst we await some legal progress in advance of resiting the wooden shed and container, work has recommenced on refurbishment of the stored signalling equipment. Several levers from a surplus (non SR) frame have been freed up and painted prior to their reuse somewhere, perhaps for sale to another heritage railway.

Chelfham Station is Open Saturday and Sunday over the Gala weekend. Trackbed walks, Bookshop and refreshments as usual. Parking is limited but more possible along the lane under the viaduct.

Nigel Thompson

Somerset & Bristol Area Support Group (SABA)

Coins and Notes

I recently collected a large amount of coins and banknotes from Woody Bay. I have contacted those members that left their details with their donation, but to those that donated items anonymously I am extremely grateful.

However, as always, **we still need more!**

We still require:

- The old (large) 50p, 10p and 5p, together with ½ pence coins.
- Old £1 coins together with any old £1, £5 and £10 notes
- Euros & Cents; US, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Dollars / cents coins and notes
- Pre-decimal coins (pre 1971)
- Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey coins and notes.
- In fact any coins and notes from around the world.

Please contact me (details below)

L & B Magazine Back Issues

As members will know, the Support Group maintains a stock of back numbers of the award winning Magazine. The early years Association Newsletters (numbered 1 to 14) are available in a combined volume for £19.50 (including UK postage to members). At the time of writing this there are only 2 left.

Issues 15 to 21 plus 33 and 34 have now been re-printed and are available for £2 each + postage. An up to date list of the other issues is available - contact me (details below).

We continue to receive donated items which are being added to our e-bay account (**LynBarn-SABA**) – these donations are also greatly appreciated.

Finally, we are still looking for a local member who would be willing to take over as the Group's Sales Officer from the end of the year. The job is not too onerous so if you are interested please contact me.

The contact details for the Group are landb-bristol@hotmail.co.uk
phone Bristol (0117) 949 2272

or write to 16 Williams Close, Longwell Green, South Gloucestershire, BS30 9BS.

Mark Bladwell

Hon Chairman - SABA

September Gala – 24th & 25th September

This year we have a visit from 'Lyd' from the FR and everything else will be in action. Not one to miss! Help will be required with all sorts of duties – contact Malcolm Smith and for Car Parking it's Ann Belsey. We will be having our car park at Killington Lane this time so no park & ride at Blackmoor.

September Gala: There will be the regular Parish Communion service at Lynton at 11am on the 25th, conducted by Tim Woods. All are welcome to attend.

The L&B at the Exeter Garden Rail Show

A team of L&B volunteers will once again have a stand at the Exeter Garden Rail Show on Saturday 29th October.

The show is an annual event held in the (well-scrubbed) Matford Centre, Matford Park Road, Exeter, (although cancelled in 2020 and 2021) and showcases 16mm and G scale models that are usually to be found running around people's gardens. The L&B is invariably well represented amongst the modelling fraternity, with lots of L&B rolling stock and buildings, both on show and for sale, being exhibited by many of the other exhibitors, so it is natural that the L&B itself should have a presence.

It is a chance to display to a particularly interested demographic all the wonderful plans of both the L&B Trust and Exmoor Associates. Please contact Anne Belsey for further information.

Remembrance Sunday: Our usual act of remembrance is planned for Sunday November 14th at 10.50 at Woody Bay. Please note that we still need a bugler - or a competent trumpeter would be a worthy substitute! Details from Tim Woods, 01643 818665

Volunteers' Carol Service: Booked for Thursday December 15th at Parracombe parish church (NOT Churchtown church, which is no longer in regular use) at 3pm. There is limited parking at the church, so please travel together if at all possible, and do not in any event park in the road. Details from Tim Woods, 01643 818665

In addition, Roger Martin reports that the organ at Parracombe is shot to bits - it has only 4 stops and should be a lovely little instrument, but it needs help. He is approaching the churchwarden with a view to encouraging an appeal, and we are suggesting a collection box at WB station in the autumn - hopefully by the Gala. This is work in progress at present, but could help raise our profile a tiny bit in the village.

Tail Lamp

An interesting mix of positive news and more to look forward to. Thanks to all who are working hard and long on the planning, operation and maintenance of this unique railway. And thanks for your support both physical and monetary – we need more (much more!)