



LYNTON & BARNSTAPLE RAILWAY.

# NEWSLETTER

*L&BR Newsletter No. 78 November 2022*

## **2022 – Nearly done!**

Despite dire predictions, this year has been satisfyingly successful. We have had more visitors than last year; they have stayed longer and spent a little more than we budgeted for (certainly in the Tea Room). The main season has ended of course but Christmas and New Year are still to come.

Now we are planning 2023 and – of course – intend to improve on this year's results.

## **L&B Blackmoor Company plc**

It had been hoped that we could announce exchange in this issue of the Newsletter but - as ever – things move slowly. However, when this does come to pass an announcement will be made! Meanwhile the share offer remains open.

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.

## **L&B website**

The L&B website has been 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. The new site is almost ready to go live and it is looking very good in the test version. Enhanced functionality including more news from the L&B is just one aspect of this upgrade.

Not long to wait now with the website going live in December.

## **Section 73 Planning update and preparations to commencing work**

The additional information requested by Exmoor National Park to supplement the Environmental statement is nearing completion and will be submitted for public consultation very soon. This covers additional statements on ecological surveys, mitigation assessment arising from stage development and noise mitigation proposals where the track passes behind Fairview.

The Trust will withdraw its proposal to include a turntable and a modified layout at Parracombe Halt. This overcomes a legal planning technicality and addresses many of the

consultees' concerns. The Halt will be developed in accordance with the plans approved in March 2018. The line will divide into two after passing under Churchtown Bridge and the two tracks will stop at the current site boundary, ready for extending onward as soon as that is possible. An extract from the approved plan is shown below. The crossing (item 3) is a relic from the affordable housing application that was refused in 2018 and hence will not be built and the second platform will not be built at this stage.



The legal challenge raised by one of the objectors has been firmly rebutted by the Trust's Legal Counsel, whose concluding comment is reproduced below:

*"For the reasons set out above, I consider that ENPA does have the ability to determine the s.73 Applications. It can, and therefore must, proceed to do so, applying its own planning judgment to the issue that I have addressed at paras 59-62 above."*

Exmoor National Park is now considering taking the application to committee.

A date is yet to be confirmed, but we are hopeful this will be early February 2023.

On the basis that the s73 will be approved the Trust is taking steps to enable construction to commence before the four current planning approvals expire on 7th March 2023.

The aim is to achieve a material start on the railway, the engine shed development, the railway carpark, and Exmoor National Park's visitors' site.

Pre-commencement planning conditions are being addressed: 14 conditions have already been approved, 13 are submitted and awaiting approval by ENP and a further 17 are in preparation and will be submitted to ENP within the next few weeks.

An application for a Temporary Traffic Restriction Order is currently being made to Devon Highways to allow work to be undertaken on the public highway at Killington Lane. The engineering designs for the precast concrete components of Bridge 65 are complete and approved. An order to manufacture will be placed immediately after planning approval is confirmed. A civil engineering contractor has been selected following competitive tender and a letter of intent has been issued. The contractor is now working with the Trust on planning and programming and the works contract will be awarded after planning approval is received.

**John Barton**

**20/11/2022**

## **News from the Midweek Gangs – November 2022**

It's all gone quiet at Woody Bay, apart from the sound of Jonathan with a leaf blower rearranging the multi-coloured heaps along and around the platforms, and the happy muttering of the gentlemen with brooms attempting to lift piles of the wet and wispy into waiting wheelbarrows. Our Concrete Bin Wall has been replaced as custodian of the bins by an attractive area of lightweight paling among the trees, at the hands of the Thursday lads. We're all taking bets on how long it can survive storm force winds whistling through it.

The tea room is now complete and up and running and other than sweeping leaves round it and re-ordering the platform trolleys nearby, the gangs have been able to turn their attention to Environmental Enhancement. This has been the principal activity for most of us on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the last couple of months, other than for Keith Mk.I who kept finding things outdoors to paint, aided and abetted by Dave Evans. The two of them have now retreated into the depths of the white marquee where they seem to be safe enough, though we're not sure what they're actually doing.

Members of the Tuesday Gang have been working towards Competency in the construction of Bug Hotels. The first one is likely to be known as Travelog, or possibly Pest Western. It's a stunning venue. Woodworm have been coming from miles around to help create that special atmosphere; it should even have its own Cockroach Bar. We're hoping to give it its own webpage.

Tracks around the woodland are being upgraded, though thankfully Stuart has not yet asked us to paint white lines down the middle. A tree has been felled and the fellers found some help from Anne to cart logs away, some of them used to mark the woodland tracks and some to enhance the car park. (We want to multiply the numbers of visitors we get, and now it's easier because we can do that by logs.)

Since the epic signalling demonstration offered at the Gala, Malcolm K has been conspiring with Keith Mk.2 and a couple of others to make the best of our tablet instruments. These comprise the kit we need to introduce a proper block signalling system one day. This group has not only been fighting woodworm but also attempting to get to grips with the curious collection of equipment squirrelled away in at least three different locations. The Working Weekends are to be invited to assist with all this.

Meanwhile in the Paintshop there is continuing progress with Coach 16, following its being exposed to the open air for the Gala Weekend in late September. The final coats of varnish were being applied in late October and it now remains to complete the work valiantly started months ago by some of the Tuesday Gang in applying horrible gunge (technical term) to the chassis. It's a pity those Tuesday chaps won't be there the week the job needs completing.

There's plenty to do and always room for extra volunteers. Just as we never know what the weather's going to be (as it never seems to be the same as either Barnstaple or Minehead) we also have no idea what Stuart is likely to ask for next. This makes life interesting, and we're always keen to share that experience.

**Tim Woods**

**November 14th 2022**

## **Carriage & Wagon Workshop Progress**

### **Van 23**

Parts in store, awaiting completion and delivery of underframe.

### **Carriage No 9**

Roof timbers ready for use and now being painted.

Floorboards ready for use and being varnished.

Brass castings for grab handles, door treads and door buffers have now been completed and are being fettled and drilled.

Aluminium castings for hat racks and oil lamp plugs now received and being worked on.

Additional free timber collected from an Ipswich church thanks to Malcolm. This joinery-quality timber was recovered from two churches in Ipswich. It has proved to be of very good quality and has provided approximately 75% of the woodwork for Coach No9. A very 'green' coach indeed!

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.

We also already have in stock the entire set of door handles, locks, hinges, door straps and some of the decals.

The workshop is now operating normally and any East Area member who wishes to visit to find out if he or she can help should contact either me, Steve Arthurs (Our Group Chairman) or David Ely (the workshop supervisor) for a time and day to turn up. The East area is: Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridge but we have also had members help us from Surrey and Dorset!

The Area Group is also organising a Christmas Dinner; please contact the East Group Chairman Steve Arthurs or me - contact numbers are in the Magazine.

**Charles Summers**

### **If you go down to the woods today.....**

...you may be surprised to see some changes. The woodland at Woody Bay, which has a path through it for our visitors to enjoy, is being sympathetically improved based upon the advice given earlier in the year at the time of a visit by conservation officers from Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT). The aim is to make changes which will improve the biodiversity and habitats that the wood provides, and also to become educational to our visitors of all ages.

Our volunteers have enthusiastically started to implement the management suggested. Excess bramble and bracken have been removed to open out the woodland floor, also exposing some saplings which had been overwhelmed by the growth.

Renovation of the path through the wood has been started with new steps inserted and the path edged with lengths of cut wood, a lot of this using dead ash which had to be removed from elsewhere on the station site. The paths are being resurfaced where necessary, using scalplings instead of loco ash which is toxic.

A "Bug hotel" has been constructed, and a second is planned. New habitat is also to be provided by the establishment of a small, shallow pond in the south-west corner.

Some signage will be provided at the wood's entrance to explain the management of the wood and what can be seen on the walk through it.

Thanks are due to our General Manager, Stuart Nelhams, for overseeing the work, to Lindsey and Julian Palmer for work on hedgehog shelters, Anne Belsey for nesting box repairs and members of the Tuesday and Thursday gangs for their labour inputs.

Further enhancement of the station site is planned soon with appropriate native hedging plants and trees provided by DWT for use around part of the overflow car park perimeter.

**Paul Curson, Environment & Conservation Trustee**

### **Woody Bay Garden Railway in the News**

The Garden Railway has made it to the just-published 16mm Narrow Gauge Association Magazine "16mm Today" - issue no.185 (November 2022), and comprises the leading article on pages 12-17. Written by Pete Chandler, one of the prime movers of the Two Moors Group, Stuart is featured, wielding the Golden Shears to cut the ribbon and open the line. Details of the group are available on [www.twomoorsgroup.org](http://www.twomoorsgroup.org)

## **Dates for the Diary**

### **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 notes that the organ at Parracombe is shot to bits - it has only four 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.

### **Working Weekends**

27th – 29th January 2023 and 24th – 26th March 2023

### **Christmas Ideas?**

**Available from the on-line shop at Woody Bay**

***TAGvideo Production GALA DAYS: Volume 16 DVD.***

***Total Running Time 116 Minutes Approx.***

### ***Autumn Steam Festival***

LYD LYN & AXE filmed from various locations at WOODY BAY.

Official Opening of the Woody Bay Garden Railway by Stuart Nelhams.

Traction Engines. Miniature Railway. Musical Entertainment with Helen Pearson.

Trackside Scenes of LYN LYD & AXE. Trackside Scenes at KILLINGTON LANE.

Visit to the Marquee. LYD LYN & AXE filmed from a low perspective at Woody Bay.

### ***May Spring Gala***

LYN AXE & FAITH at WOODY BAY. KILLINGTON LANE AXE & LYN Trackside.

LYN Departing and Arriving. Tracking LYN from the Headshunt Killington Lane

Traction Engine. 7 1/4 Railway. Ted & Claire Lawrence fundraising for the 762 club.

Sunday afternoon at Woody Bay with LYN AXE & FAITH. Visit to the Marquee.

**After 16 years of production price is still only £10.00**

# Lynton & Barnstaple Railway Annual General Meetings Saturday 14 May 2022 at Lynton Town Hall, Devon

## Trust Annual General Meeting

### 1. Introduction

100 members and the Trust's accountant James Hellyer were welcomed at 7.30pm by Trustee Charles Summers, who acted as chairman of the meeting since Trust Chairman Peter Miles was himself standing for re-election.

### 2. Report and Accounts

A member asked why AGM costs had risen last year; James Hellyer explained that it was because the 2021 AGM had had to be rerun.

Brom Bromidge drew attention to the substantial growth of the Trust's assets in recent years and to Martin Swainson's success in recovering Gift Aid, which drew a round of applause.

The Report of the Directors and the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2021 were then adopted by 523 votes to 1.

### 3. Appointment of Reporting Accountant

The appointment of a suitably qualified Reporting Accountant for the year 2022 at a fee to be agreed by the Directors was approved by 515 votes to 2.

### 4. Re-election of Trustees

There being four candidates for three vacancies and the gap between the third and fourth candidates in the first count being very small, it was proposed from the floor and agreed that the votes be recounted. When that produced a result almost identical to the original count, it was agreed to ask a qualified lawyer (and life member of the Trust) to recount the votes again the following day. The results of the second (and final) recount were as follows:

Votes cast	602
Peter Miles	442
Pete Snashall	404
Martin Swainson	442
Mike Whiteaker	398

Peter Miles, Pete Snashall and Martin Swainson were therefore duly re-elected as Trustees. Mike Whiteaker did not attend the AGM; Martin Swainson apologised for his absence due to illness.

While the votes were being counted John Barton gave a presentation on the progress of the Section 73 application to the Exmoor National Park Authority to amend the conditions of the planning approval already granted for the extension of the Railway.

*The meeting closed at 8.30pm.*

# CIC Annual General Meeting

## 1. Introduction

The meeting was opened at 8.30pm by the Chairman Peter Miles who welcomed 100 members and the CIC's accountant James Hellyer.

## 2. Report and Accounts

There being no questions, the Report of the Directors and the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2021 were adopted by 584 votes to 2.

## 3. Appointment of Reporting Accountant

The appointment of a suitably qualified Reporting Accountant for the year 2022 at a fee to be agreed by the Directors was approved by 584 votes to 2.

## 4. Re-election of Anne Belsey as a Director

Anne Belsey was re-elected a Director by 508 votes to 24.

## 5. Re-election of Tony Nicholson as a Director

Tony Nicholson was re-elected a Director by 500 votes to 61.

## 6. Re-election of Keith Vingoe as a Director

Keith Vingoe was re-elected a Director by 480 votes to 93.

While the votes were being counted Charles Summers successfully auctioned two replica L&B locomotive nameplates.

*The meeting closed at 9.30pm.*

**Next year's AGMs will be held in Lynton Town Hall on Saturday 13 May 2023.**

## Winter Prize Draw

It's that time of year again and the Winter Prize Draw tickets along with return form & envelope are enclosed. This is a popular and effective fund raiser – and you may even win a prize! All profits go to a Trust project. All contributions gratefully appreciated.

Please note that if you have asked that you are not included in the Prize Draw circulation (yes, some people do) we have tried to omit your name from the distribution. Please accept our apologies in advance if you still receive the tickets!

## Tail Lamp

At the September Gala the local bus service was seen to have 'Lynton & Lynmouth to Barnstaple Junction – Rail Replacement Service' as a banner sign along the side. How very appropriate! And still in service last week.

Is the Southern still paying?