



The Railway has had a busy year so far, especially in the main summer months of July, August and early September. Some days have looked more like a Gala Day. All the staff both full-time and volunteer have been working hard and done a great job.

As September moves on it will still be busy but this time with fewer children.

In August we used the last of our Welsh steam coal. A bit of a sad day really and the end of hundreds of years of coal production in the Welsh valleys. We have moved on to Heritage Smokeless Steam Coal by CPL. It works and is a good substitute.

Have you been watching the L&B website? Under 'News' we have a series of videos called 'Steam on the Moor' which cover various aspects of running our heritage railway. They are well put together by Giles Perkins and star Stuart Nelhams. Recommended!

A word from the Treasurer

Dear Members,

Recently at Woody Bay, the Trust received two cheques: both for reasonable and generous amounts. It is unclear who these supportive donors are. Please contact me so that I can acknowledge your contributions to the railway

Kind Regards,
Martin Swainson
Treasurer

Railway extension Killington Lane to Cricketfield Lane

The wide-ranging contents of our planning application for this extension were finally completed and the Application submitted in early September. We now

wait for the application to be validated and then go through the processes leading to a Planning Committee in - hopefully – the latter part of the year.

Proposal for Woody Bay carriage shelter

As outlined last time, the Planning Application to build a carriage shelter at Woody Bay has been submitted and is going through the process. We hope this will be dealt with soon as it is essential that we provide protection for our precious carriages. More on the website.

Sir George Newnes – restoration completed

Sir George Newnes (formerly Charles Wytock) made good progress through the final stages of its restoration and entered service in August. Some teething problems have been dealt with and this impressively large loco is now available to share the load with Lyn.

More can be seen on the website.

Barnstaple Town Signal Box

Progress has been very good on the signal box. The various parts held at Woody Bay have now been moved to a dedicated workshop which should mean better working conditions with more room.

With some money in the fund, it could be very positive news and keep the small group motivated. Donations are arriving and are very much appreciated!

Carriage & Wagon Workshop

Workshop lighting

Following a review of our electrical usage we have now fitted all LED-type lamps instead of the originals (these we must leave in place as they belong to the farm). The cost of the new lamps, paid from East Group funds, should be recovered in lower running costs within 3 months.

Van 23

Work will be restarting on the underframe and bogies with a hoped-for delivery date to Colchester sometime near Christmas. The parts of carriage No 9 will be stored away to enable Van 23 to be worked on as there is a lot less room at

Fridaywood farm than our previous workshops; only one large item can be worked on at a time.

Carriage No 9

Floorboards, roof boards, sliding bulkheads, internal tongued and grooved boarding and seats are almost complete (we leave the last coat of paint/varnish until they are installed). Ends are being worked on together with corner posts.

Most metal fittings are ready for use.

The Iroko timber for the sides and doors is being sourced from our friendly gate firm next door at a fraction of the cost from our previous supplier. (Total should be about £5,000 instead of £20,000.)

Charles Summers B.E.M.

Lynton & Barnstaple Railway Annual General Meetings Saturday 11 May 2024 at Lynton Town Hall, Devon

Trust Annual General Meeting

1. Introduction

Chairman Peter Miles welcomed 120 members and the Trust's accountant James Hellyer. He reported the very sad death the previous day of the CIC Managing Director Dave Blencowe and called a minute's silence. He then thanked Ian Cowling, who was standing down as a Trustee, for his immense contribution to the Railway over many years.

2. Report and Accounts

Chris Chivers asked about the transfer of funds by the Trust and James Hellyer explained what the Trust had done. Peter James asked about the general funds. The Report of the Directors and the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023 were then adopted by 657 votes to 69 with 46 abstentions.

3. Appointment of Reporting Accountant

The appointment of a suitably qualified Reporting Accountant for the year 2024 at a fee to be agreed by the Directors was approved by 690 votes to 36 with 46 abstentions.

4. Election of Trustees

The results of the election of Trustees were announced after the CIC AGM and were as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Ric Auger | 520 |
| Simon Baggott | 359 |
| Jose Kimber | 300 |
| Giles Perkins | 684 |
| Rob Prosser | 700 |
| Charles Summers | 438 |

Ric Auger, Giles Perkins, Rob Prosser and Charles Summers were therefore duly elected as Trustees and Directors of The Lynton & Barnstaple Railway Trust.

Philip Williams asked about the recent EGM and the absence from the agenda of a motion of no confidence in the Chairman, who read out the response of the Trust's legal adviser. Philip Williams also alleged incorrectly that the Trust is subject to investigation by the Charity Commission.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Note: Lynton Town Hall has been booked for the next AGM at 7.30pm on 17 May 2025.

CIC Annual General Meeting

1. Introduction

The meeting was opened at 8.15pm by the Chairman Peter Miles who welcomed 120 members and the CIC's accountant James Hellyer.

2. Report and Accounts

Jenny Driver asked about CIC donations to the Trust and James Hellyer explained what is involved.

Michael Bishop asked why the Trust accounts had been audited but the CIC accounts had not;

James Hellyer explained that the Trust's assets exceeded the threshold for auditing, but the CIC's assets did not. The Report of the Directors and the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023 were then adopted by 722 votes to 21.

3. Appointment of Reporting Accountant

The appointment of a suitably qualified Reporting Accountant for the year 2024 at a fee to be agreed by the Directors was approved by 723 votes to 12.

4. Re-election of Henry Bromidge as a Director

Henry Bromidge was re-elected a Director by 615 votes to 125.

5. Election of Jonathan Griffiths as a Director

Jonathan Griffiths was elected a Director by 715 votes to 22.

6. Re-election of Michael Grimoldby as a Director

Michael Grimoldby was re-elected a Director by 687 votes to 44.

7. Re-election of Peter Miles as a Director

Peter Miles was re-elected a Director by 499 votes to 235.

Charles Summers held a collection for the Heritage Carriages and raised £350 plus Gift Aid.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

John Barton then outlined the current situation on the proposed planning application to extend the line from Killington Lane to Cricket Field Lane while the Trust votes were being counted.

And finally

You said, you wanted to see the railway extended. We've submitted a planning application for the extension to Cricket Field Lane.

You said, we needed to take better care of the carriages. We've submitted a planning application for a carriage shelter.

You said, you'd like a museum. We've started the process to get the necessary approvals in place and we will be installing a small exhibition in the Woody Bay tearoom as a precursor to something much bigger.

You said, you'd like more regular information about the railway. We've started the 'Steam on the Moor' video series on YouTube and published more news articles on the website.

You said, where are funds going to come from? We've restarted the funding sub-group and are formulating our strategy.

You said, what is our strategy? We've started developing an integrated strategy covering all our activities to help guide our operations and developments.

The Members' Forum will be held this year in Lynton Town Hall on Saturday 9 November, doors open at 11am. Join us then to find out more and tell us what you think.