

Update on activity at the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway - April 2021

General Status

We can confirm that the railway will open to train passengers on Wednesday 14th April. All the required Covid-19 protocol will be fully in place to ensure it continues to be a safe place to visit. The station restaurant (take-away and outdoors only) may open slightly earlier - so keep an eye out on the website and social media for final confirmation. March has been very busy for the operational staff and contractors preparing for re-opening. Coaches have had their annual maintenance. Toilet facilities have been freshened up with new paint and significant work has taken place on the Permanent Way. You will find more detail later in this newsletter. Lineside weed killing and a general tidy-up of the site - particularly around the car park - remain to be done before opening. On 31st March the Class 20 20214 was used on driver training and re-familiarisation. As part of the exercise the opportunity was taken to return two fitted ballast hopper wagons to their siding at Lakeside.



Behind the masks are Dean Bridger and Steve Maher on 20214 driver training. (Behind the camera is instructor Graham Magee).

The 14 Month boiler insurance steam tests for Bagnall 0-6-0 'Princess' and the two Barclays 0-4-0 'David' plus 0-6-0 1245 successfully took place during the week of 29th March. They are pictured here being prepared for test.



The shunting required to get everything in the right place at the same time for steam test, clearing of Permanent Way trains plus preparing a driver familiarisation loco led to the unusual situation of coincidentally having all our diesel powered fleet lined up together as can be seen in the photo below.



From left to right are classes 03 D2117, 110 DMU, 03 D2072, 20 20214 and 11 7120

Locomotive Status

BR Fairburn 4MT 42073 - Operational
Bagnall 'Princess' - Operational
Bagnall 'Victor' - Operational
Barclay 'David' - Operational
Barclay 1245 - Operational
BR Class 20 20214 - Operational
BR Class 110 DMU - Operational
BR Class 03 D2117 - Operational
BR Class 03 D2072 - Operational
LMS Class 11 7120 - Operational

Ivatt 2MT 46441

Work on the Ivatt boiler at Carnforth has now resumed outside of normal working hours. In his spare time Chris Beet is also making progress on other components. Painting of the tender (other than the main tank sides that will be done by a professional painter) has continued through March.

Fairburn 4MT 42085

In March the John Fowler Engineering team took the 42085 chassis out of the main shed and moved it to where the loco lift will take place. They have done much of the final preparation for removal of the wheelsets. We still anticipate that the separation of the driving wheels, front pony truck and rear bogie will take place before we open for this season. The following photo shows the chassis having just been wheeled out from the main shed.



The plan for a volunteer working party to paint the 42085 boiler at Carnforth remains on the cards once the lockdown covid restrictions have eased to allow us on site.

Hunslet Austerity 'Repulse' remained in the bottom shed workshop throughout March for maintenance on it's motion. Focus from the John Fowler Engineering team on Permanent Way and preparation of the operational engines for the season has meant reduced progress on this loco. We anticipate getting back to this later in April.

Carriage and Wagon

Refurbishment of the two Mk1 TSO coaches in the carriage shop continues. During March the attention was on completing the internal panelling and external paintwork of M4255 following the removal of the toilet compartment. The brakes have also been checked over and leak tested prior to fitting the floor in the end vestibule. The target is to get this coach finished in April and swapped over in the carriage shed with M3962

During March all the service train Mk1 coaches have had their bogies removed and then refitted after inspection and relubrication of centre pivots and side bearers. Picture shows a bogie removed for this task.





All the service train coach axleboxes have been inspected, drained and refilled with oil ready for the season.

Pictured is Gary Palferman carrying out this task.

Permanent Way

Whilst the track to Lakeside was closed to rail traffic, The Permanent Way team completed the track improvements at Haverthwaite during mid March to allow test trains to start running through to Lakeside. Pictured below are the new Haverthwaite No.10 point cross-over (left) and newly ballasted area following the re-sleepering and replacement of track at the loco stabling point (right).



Replacement of sleepers and stock rails in the vicinity of No.10 point has also led to temporary removal and some refurbishment work on the point interlocking mechanism (pictured left). Dean Bridger and Gary Palferman discuss their next task.

Some rail replacement towards Lakeside remains to be completed before service trains commence later this month.

Volunteering opportunities in 2021:

Volunteers are welcome back on site from April 12th. We must continue to follow Covid-19 government guidelines for social distancing, wearing of masks and regular hand cleaning. The site is now well set up for this.

We hope to see 'Rachel' test started this spring following the refurbishment led by Roger Benbow. This still needs a significant shunting operation to extricate it from number 3 road in the main shed.

As previously stated, with the lead of John Fowler Engineering on the difficult stuff, 42085 will provide a great deal of work in the overhaul of the pony truck and the bogie in the bottom shed workshop and also the wheel-free frames in the main shed. We will have a plan list ready for your return! There will also be tasks suitable for volunteers as we push to get 46441 re-assembled and back in steam as soon as we can.

We welcome you to join our Tuesday or Wednesday gangs (or indeed any day) to work on the locomotive overhauls. We can certainly make a big difference to the visual standard and the pace of work that is done. Just get in touch and we can provide more detail! You would be most welcome. We can all find it really rewarding. We shall endeavour to ensure that you are directed towards (and supported on) the appropriate tasks. For anyone wishing to get involved, the 14th April is a great initial date to fix in your diary to come to Haverthwaite and this now coincides with our first day of service trains in 2021.

If your preference is to volunteer on some of the wide range of other tasks you will see taking place at our railway, then again, please get in touch.