

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

General Status

The business pick up after the 17 May has continued to grow throughout June. Current passenger levels are similar to the August period last year. Given the on-line booking constraints on flexibility for customers plus the social distancing requirements, these levels continue to be encouraging but are still way short of 2019. Like many hospitality businesses we are having difficulty recruiting sufficient seasonal staff for the tea room. The covid-19 delta variant case growth is impacting the availability of some of our existing staff as they need to care for their self-isolating children due to cases in schools. We are keeping our fingers crossed that this will not effect our small team of locomotive crews. As before, the potential for relaxed social distancing from the 19 July will be critical to the success of our summer and thus our confidence in getting through the lean winter period.

The June service trains have mainly been run using Bagnall 'Victor' but Fairburn 42073 has now joined the active service fleet and is also expected to be seen running some days in July and August.

The demands of operating and maintaining the service operation have slowed activity somewhat on the other overhaul projects.

Something to watch out for: A television crew for Channel 4 were at the railway for a few days in June filming for a future episode of a 'Scenic Railways' series.

Volunteer Thomas Rotherham has passed his exams as locomotive driver, receiving his certificate on the 17 June. He is our second newly qualified driver this year. Congratulations to Tom!

Pictured right: Seen from the footplate of Bagnall 'Princess', Fairburn 42073 rolls into Haverthwaite Station on 18 June - crewed by Mike Gale and Tom Rotherham.



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

Fairburn 4MT 42085

Volunteer work on 42085 frames, wheels and components continues:



Les Vickers is seen here working on sand box fabrication repairs (left) and the almost finished job is seen (right)



Meanwhile Fred Jones has been as industrious as ever in cleaning and priming the driving wheels.

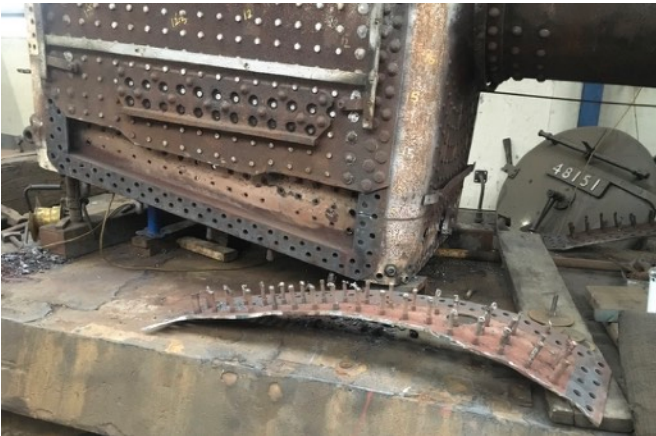


Progress at the end of June is seen here with rear axle primed (left) and centre plus front axle cleaned (right).



Ivatt 2MT 46441

Chris Beet and John McKay have continued their work on the boiler with the drilling of the throat plate stays and removal of patch screws. Both sides of the firebox wrapper plate lower section have been removed. Photo below left shows the right hand side completed with Chris and John looking appropriately pleased with their achievement (photo below right).



Chris and team have overhauled the whistle valve linkage and refurbished the cylinder end cover studs. They have also tapped out the stud holes on the manifold and fitted new studs (photo below)



Hunslet Austerity 'Repulse'

Steady progress is being made on the motion overhaul. The John Fowler & Co. engineering team is progressing well with the white-metalling of the locomotive's eccentrics at Old Hall Farm.

Carriage and Wagon

Focus continues on Mk 1 TSO M3962. The corridor end strip down revealed typical Mk 1 corrosion damage. The crash pillars have been repaired and a new floor end stiffening plate fitted.



Picture (above left) shows Alan Hardaker using a needle gun to remove scale from the buffer beam. Picture (above right) taken 3 weeks later shows the new and repaired structural elements as welded into place by Martin Gregory.

Volunteering opportunities this summer.

Volunteers are welcome on site, however, at least until 19 July we must continue to follow Covid-19 government guidelines for social distancing including wearing of masks indoors and regular hand cleaning. We are still unable to operate with more than two crew on a footplate but all being well we hope to welcome new trainees from 19 July.

The overhauls of Ivatt 46441 and Fairburn 42085 give us plenty opportunity for a variety of locomotive restoration tasks.

We welcome you to join our midweek gangs (or indeed any day of the week) to work on the rolling stock 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! We can all find it really rewarding. We shall endeavour to ensure that you are directed towards (and supported on) the appropriate tasks. If your preference is to volunteer on some of the wider range of tasks that you will see taking place at our railway including locomotive crew, then again, please get in touch.