

Update on activity at the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway - January 2024

General Status

Happy New Year to all newsletter followers, friends, volunteers, contractors and staff of the L&HR!



Photo (above): The Tinsel Train staff (and Father Christmas) on the final weekend of the 2023 service.

As 2023 closes we can reflect on a pretty good year - and certainly one that more than justifies the 'cautiously optimistic' view we had when the season started. Thanks, of course, go to all those that make it happen; the board of directors (particularly the executive directors - Mike and Karen Maher), the staff, our contractors (particularly Alex Sharphouse and his John Fowler & Co. team), all the volunteers at Haverthwaite - and those who have supported us doing work from other sites.

The Tinsel trains were not without their challenges. On Saturday Dec 2nd it started to snow heavily. Although a Christmas winter wonderland was created (photo right), so were the travel problems. On the following morning there was 15cm of snow lying on the Haverthwaite car park and many roads were impassable. With the police advising people not to travel in the Lake District area we had no option



but to cancel the Sunday trains. This is the first time we can remember (for several decades) that we have failed to run an advertised day's service.

Barclay 'David' (seen arriving at Lakeside in the photo - right) hauled the trains on the first two weekends but then needed its firebox 'brick arch' replacing and so Barclay No. 1245 took charge of the final weekend services.



Through December (weather permitting) the building work continued on the Haverthwaite Station chimney stacks as can be seen in the photo (left).

Locomotive Status

Bagnall 'Victor'	- Operational
Barclay 1245 'Carron Iron Works No. 14'	- Operational
Barclay 'David'	- 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
Simplex Tram 'Rachel'	- Operational
BR Fairburn 4MT 42073	- Awaiting overhaul

Locomotives under overhaul:

Ivatt 2MT 46441

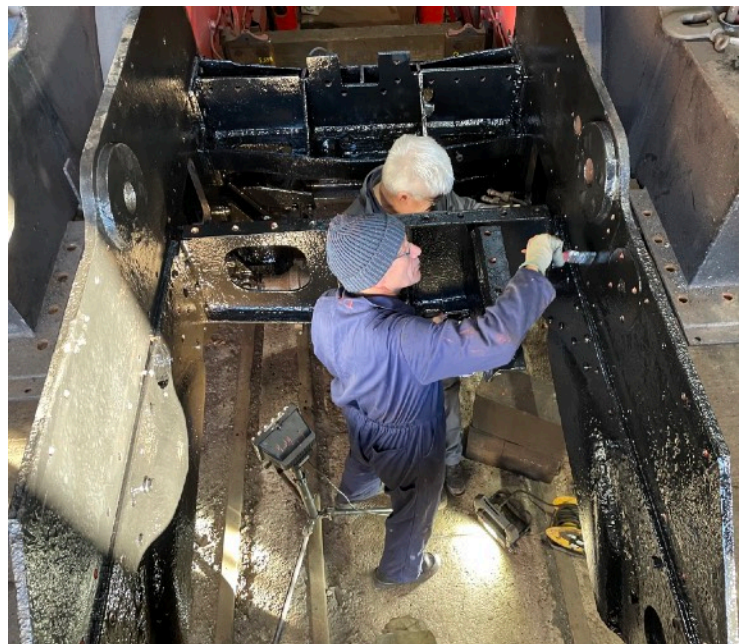
The Ivatt mogul is not planned to run before March this year when it should be finally commissioned for service. In the meantime minor tasks continue as they did last month. In the photo (right) Graham Magee is seen applying another coat of heat resistant primer to the smokebox.



BR Fairburn 4MT 42085

The rivet blanks are on order for assembly of the new rear horizontal stretcher (photo below). The Wednesday crew volunteers have worked well to complete the surface preparation and painting of the frames and vertical stretchers that would ultimately be less accessible beneath the new fabrication.

In the photo (right) Dave Hutchinson and Mark Brown can be seen applying a top coat, to finish off the task.



Only the painting of the brake cross shaft (seen below in primer) remains to be completed in this area



Hunslet Austerity 'Repulse' and Bagnall 'Princess'

The motion work on Princess and boiler work on Repulse have continued as outlined in last month's newsletter. A fuller update will be provided in the February newsletter.

Volunteering opportunities at the L&HR in 2024.

New and returning volunteers are always welcome. Locomotive, carriage or wagon overhauls and S&T repair/replacement continue to give us plenty opportunity for a variety of restoration tasks.

We welcome you to join our midweek gangs (or indeed any day of the week) to work on maintaining and improving our railway, including 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. It is a friendly place and we 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 (or via this newsletter), including gardening, permanent way maintenance or locomotive crew/train operations, then again, please get in touch either by e-mail to info@lakesiderailway.co.uk or phone 015395 31594 Option 1

This and the previous monthly newsletters may be found at:
<https://www.lakesiderailway.co.uk/newsletters/>

Reflections on 2023.

For a photographic miscellany of L&HR scenes around the railway and in particular our people at work over the last year, please continue to the following pages.

Photos courtesy of: Steve Maher, Graham Magee, John McKay, Chris Beet, Cliff Kilshaw and Ali Palferman

Reflections on 2023.

The dramatic contrast of the change in seasons as seen from the L&HR line side can rarely have been more beautifully illustrated than the two pictures below. These were taken by Cliff Kilshaw near Lakeside on November 16th and December 2nd - only two weeks apart!



