



The Lynton & Barnstaple Railway

Thames Valley Support Group

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Dear Member ,

June has nearly passed and our immediate engagements at Exhibitions are on hold until September , when we are at Banbury on Sunday , 25th .

Our last meeting at Ardington on June 11th was enjoyable as usual , although there were only 11 of us , with several apologies from holidaymakers . Trevor Garnham gave us a whistle-stop tour up the Welsh Highland line on the Lyd charter day out with the promise of a full-length DVD on its way . Our Chairman , Peter Miles , had sent me a briefing paper to update us on the current status with highlights as follows :-

1. The Vintage weekend , a sort of low-key gala , was a great success and although there were no full-size visiting locos , there were 6 or 7 seven and a quarter inch gauge locos which were very popular .
2. The unveiling of the Invensys award for the quality of the signalling and ground frame at Woody Bay was a highlight , as was the installation of a plaque in memory of Jack Baker who owned Woody Bay station for 30 years , preserved it and enabled the L&B to buy it in 1995 . Overall the event made £2500 profit plus £625 on the auction and raffle as well as a donation from the Baker family .
3. Overhaul of the 2nd Hunslet diesel and the building of the new Guards van are well underway , as is the maintenance of the existing coaches .
4. Work on the rebuilding of the Railway continues (Exmoor Enterprise) and the 'All Aboard' appeal is off to a good start – but we are told what a difference it would make if we all set up monthly standing orders of even £5 or £10 , so that the fund swells to cover all the necessary permissions and surveys necessary over the immediate months ahead . Negotiations on three more pieces of trackbed are well advanced .

I was amazed to hear that at the AGM I was given the Volunteer of the Year award - but its really for the Group efforts in marketing the L&B and raising funds for it , so thank you all! Our next Group Meeting at Ardington is on SATURDAY , OCTOBER 29th , so please book it in your diary . Before then , I'm off to Moorlands with my new wife , Gail , in the first week of July ! Enjoy the Summer !

Chris Ward

Leader , Thames Valley Support Group

“Perchance it is not dead but sleepeth “