



THE WEST LANCS LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST LANCASHIRE LIGHT RAILWAY

ISSUE 54 APRIL 2026



Welcome to West Lancs Letter No.54!

Training Day - the essential precursor to the season's passenger services.



Safety officer David takes staff through the operational procedures & precautions.



Peter takes advantage of a sales opportunity.



Our youngest member Bobby explains the workings of a diesel engine to his parents.



Many hands make coaches work!



Jack models the correct way of closing the access coach door.



Bob refreshes his drive-a-diesel competency.

The first running day of 2026! Despite some initial rain, visitors turned out for an early train ride behind *Sybil*, and the Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancashire did us the honour of cutting the ribbon.



Photo: Alan Frodsham

Our new multi-purpose building *Y Caban* is finally underway! Contractors B & G Sears are excavating the foundations and installing drainage, ready for the concrete base pad to be poured after the Easter holiday.



With the excavation finished, the headshunt is relaid, with a new buffer replacing the concrete block.

The Grand Easter Egg Hunt - our first special event of the season!



Despite Storm Dave, we had an excellent turnout of visitors for our Grand Easter Egg Hunt, with both *Sybil* and *Montalban* in steam.



Not one but two Easter bunnies!



Our regular Meccano experts Mark and John showed off their latest creations.



The new Brio tables had a good workout from our younger visitors.



Montalban has her tubes cleaned after the Easter weekend's work.



Recently we said goodbye to *Cheetah*, returning to the Leeds Industrial Museum at Armley Mills, as a prime exhibit in a static display.

Photo: Mike Spall



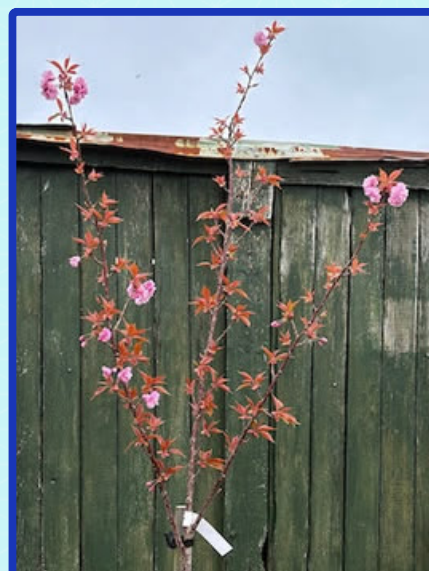
Why have one classic car when you can have two? Terry blames his wife for doubling their 1960's car ownership.



Good progress on the Squeal Shed, to house the equipment for watering dry rails on the curve near Delph.



The shop has had a revamp for the new season, with the emphasis on own-brand items.



Spring has officially sprung...



Coal - but not as we know it. The demise of Welsh steam coal means we have to get creative with alternatives, currently a manufactured smokeless fuel.



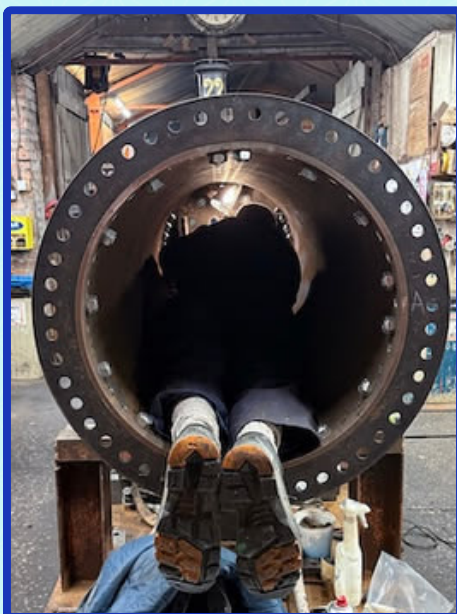
Alan gives the burger van a thorough clean ready for the new season.



The marquee goes up for what turned out to be a windy Easter.



The boiler inspector comes to call... but there's always time for a chat about all things steam.



Hide-and-seek is a popular game in the engineering workshop...



More work on Irish Mail's frames, requiring a faceful of protective gear.

And finally...



Funding for our new building *Y Caban* currently has a shortfall of around £40,000. If you can help us to realise this important new development , the most significant for some years, we would be very grateful!

To donate, scan the image below with your smartphone. Alternatively visit mygivinghub.com and enter 1121149 in the search box, or use bank transfer to account 55749968, sort code 30-96-85. Thank you!



The image on the front page shows *Sybil* in steam for the Railway's Training Day.
Photo: Mike Spall (from the water tank)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Download our 2026 leaflet [here](#)

Friendly Engines Day - Sunday 26th April



Come and meet our friendly engines!

A special day for families, with two engines in steam and heritage diesels.

Teddy Bears Day - Sunday 17th May



Plenty of surprises down in the woods today! One loco in steam plus our Hudswell-Clarke mines diesel, and lots of teddy bears!

Children bring a bear and travel free!

Bagnall Bank Holiday - Sat 23rd/Sun 24th/Mon 25th May



Ride a Bagnall at West Lancs, Apedale and Amerton! Special combined tickets valid at all three locations.

Ordinary tickets for each Railway also available.



With the 2026 season underway we need more volunteers to run our trains and help to maintain and improve our facilities.

If you would like know more, visit our website [here](#) or contact Mike Spall at chair@westlancsrailway.org.



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