



THE WEST LANCS LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST LANCASHIRE LIGHT RAILWAY

ISSUE 55 JUNE 2026



Welcome to West Lancs Letter No.55!

Teddy Bears' Day, always a favourite with families:



Enough to frighten the horses,
if we had any in the car park.



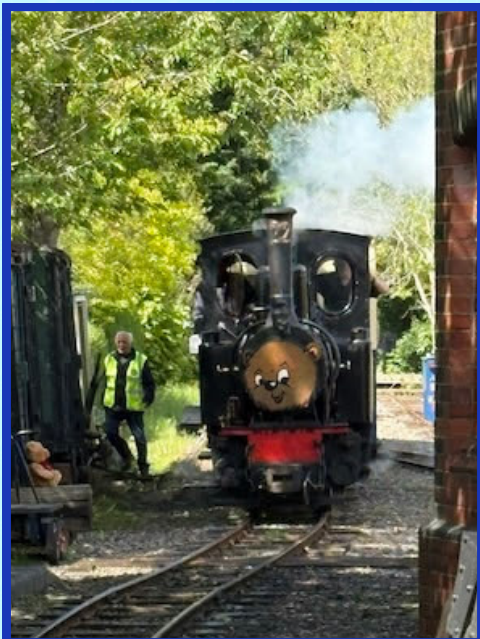
The stare has a hypnotic quality, you
can't look away.



The bears prepare the ambush...



The intercept is made, let battle commence!



Fortunately all passengers and crew
returned safely, shaken but not stirred.



The aftermath our visitors don't see,
the Drying of the Damp Teddies.

The late-May Bank Holiday saw a new concept, a celebration of Bagnall locos across three heritage railways:



Isabel from the Amerton Railway



Woto from the Apedale Valley Light Railway



Sybil from the West Lancashire Light Railway

The idea was for each Railway to run their Bagnall loco at its home base over the three days of the Bank Holiday. As well as normal tickets, a special discount ticket was available for those visiting all three Railways.



A couple from Stirling were among those who rode behind all three Bagnalls.



A bonus item at West Lancs was this diorama of *Sybil* working a coal train at Dinorwic Quarry.

Drive-an-Engine events feature regularly at West Lincs, but it's very rare for overseas visitors to participate:



Ana-Cosmina, Stefan and Gergely visited us from Zurich, with no experience of steam trains.



With expert tuition from driver Gary, Ana-Cosmina gets to grips with *Montalban's* controls.



Full participation is the order of the day, with driving, firing and guarding all skills to learn and try out.



The traditional fish and chips lunch was a highlight of the experience!



Man and machine, both well satisfied with the day, with some very positive feedback from our guests.



Liam looking every inch the cool dude after gaining his Level 2 Food Hygiene certificate.



Peter brings his family for a visit, and some early-years railway training.



Marie (far left) shows admirable discernment by choosing the Railway for her birthday party.



Apparently it was the roundabout that clinched the deal.



Photos of the catering volunteers at rest have a rarity value all their own...



Maertens Tours, of Dresden, are regular visitors, this time coming to us after riding the trains and trams of the Isle of Man.



A welcome guest on a working Thursday is Richard Mawdsley with his steam-powered road roller.



Coincidentally we recently had a visit from the Road Roller Association, as part of their AGM weekend.



A ready-made transport system moves the reinforcing bars for *Y Caban*.



Delivered and sorted, ready for the construction crew.



Cooperation is the name of the game, whether it's bringing in a new woodworking machine...



...or disposing of an old one in a nearly-full skip.



Machinist Stuart makes a new handbrake shaft for *Irish Mail*, whilst new volunteer Kevin paints one of our Hudson skips from Pilkington Glass.

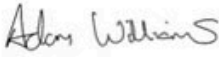


Another skip gets the restoration treatment, using the crane to lift the hopper clear.



The infrastructure also gets an upgrade, with a new platform sign at Delph.

And finally...

TRADE MARKS REGISTRY		REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE
Trade Marks Act 1994 of		Great Britain and Northern Ireland
I certify that the mark shown below has been registered under No. UK00004334173 effective as of the date 02/02/2026 and has been entered in the register on 01/05/2026		
Signed this day at my direction		
		
Adam Williams REGISTRAR		
Representation of Mark		
		
The mark has been registered in respect of: Class 39: Railway transport; Railway passenger transport; Railway transport services; Passenger train transport; Transport of passengers by rail; Transport by		
Intellectual Property Office is an operating name of the Patent Office		

Our logo is now an official Trade Mark!

The image on the front page shows *Sybil* and driver Mike running round the train at Delph.

Additional photos by Glenn Clarkson, Alan Frodsham, Mike Spall and Trish Whitehead.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Download our 2026 leaflet [here](#)

Strawberries & Steam - Sunday 14th June



Celebrating our fantastic Hesketh Bank fresh strawberries!

With cake stall, prosecco, wine & ale bar, model railways and entertainment.

Two engines in steam.

Princesses & Pirates Day - Sunday 12th July



A magical day full of surprises for princesses & pirates - children in costume travel free!

Treasure hunts, fairy tales and magic, model railways.

Two engines in steam.

Summer gala- Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd August



Two West Lancs engines and a guest loco in service.

Real Ale bar, entertainment, model railways.



With the 2026 season in progress 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.



Construction of our new multi-purpose building *Y Caban* is underway. We need to raise around £40,000 to complete this important new development. To donate, scan the image with your phone, visit mygivinghub.com & enter 1121149 in the search box, or use bank transfer to account 55749968, sort code 30-96-85. Thank you!



The West Lancs Letter is published six times a year to over 1,000 subscribers by The West Lancashire Light Railway Trust, Station Rd, Hesketh Bank PR4 6SP, UK.
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