



The West Lancs Letter

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
WEST LANCASHIRE LIGHT RAILWAY



ISSUE 37 JUNE 2023

Beware, the bears are coming!

The first of two special events in quick succession, our Teddy Bears Day featured all our usual attractions plus our mischievous bears



Passengers on the train were ambushed by bears holding a tea party and looking for additional comestibles to make up for the long winter months of hibernation.

Fortunately our train crew know that a sharp blast on the whistle and vigorous waving of signal flags keeps them in check.

Bears and canines are not known for their peaceful co-existence, but both species were on their best behaviour at Delph. No doubt bribes of cake and biscuits were involved.



Strawberries and Steam

Our second event featured entertainment by the excellent South Ribble Concert Band. They have visited us several times in recent years, and are always well received.



The strawberry cream teas were in high demand - here Keith tries to keep up with the orders.



Photobombing is a favourite occupation of Mr Strawbs (or Mrs Strawbs, depending on who is in residence at the time).

Sybil is nearly there...

As you can see, Sybil now has a topcoat of maroon(ish) paint, and very shiny she looks too.



Of course no paint job on a loco is complete without lining out.

But if you thought it was all done freehand, we have to confess some new-fangled masking tape was pressed into service.

Proof of a job well done, the official seal of approval for the boiler. Note the UKCA mark (the post-Brexit equivalent to CE marking).





Spring becomes summer!

Alan gets busy with the plant boxes, replacing the died-back plants with summer bedding.

Drive-through comes to Hesketh Bank!

Possibly a world first for the village, with Andy and Simon collecting refreshment on the go from an anonymous hand in the burger van. You have a nice day sir...



More action with the access coach

If it's made of metal, Cameron can make it. Here he assembles carefully-made parts for the access coach's brake gear.

Who's a growing boy then?

Jorge wins the biggest-lunch contest by a distance, and is rightfully disdainful of the competing entries.



Then and now

A recently-unearthed picture of our Hudswell-Clarke mines locomotive, in pre-restored condition. The loco originally worked underground, but latterly became a surface engine, which explains how it came to be preserved.



How it looks now, with mechanicals and bodywork fully restored. Running boards have been added, and a full-size cab. A Really Useful Engine, capable of pulling our passenger trains with ease.

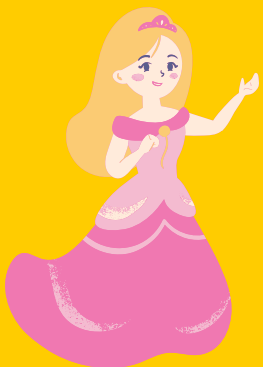




Don't miss our next
Special Event!

Princess & Pirates
Day

Sunday July 9th





And finally...

Jonathan, our of our youngest supporters, carefully records the movements of loco No.2 *Tawd* running the drive-a-diesel attraction during the Strawberries & Steam event. James is at the controls, a little shy of his new-found fame.

Jonathan has his own Youtube channel - you can find it [here](#).

The image on the front page is of Keith Nicholls, chairman of the Sybil Locomotive Trust, lining-out the nearly-complete locomotive.



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With the Railway now open for the new season, we need more volunteers to help run our services and to maintain and improve our facilities.

If you would like to help, please contact Mike Spall at:

chair@westlancsrailway.org

The West Lancs Letter is published by the West Lancashire Light Railway Trust, a UK registered charity. Our contact address is: Station Rd, Hesketh Bank PR4 6SP.

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If you would like to join our growing band of members, you can do so online [here](#).