



THE WEST LANCS LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST LANCASHIRE LIGHT RAILWAY

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Welcome to West Lincs Letter No.49!



TEDDY BEARS R US!



The crowds were out on a sunny Teddy Bears Day, with lots of visitors coming to ride the trains and meet our bears.



Some bears really enjoy interacting with our visitors.....other bears are a bit shy.



Who's a friendly bear then? No doubt hoping for some treats to come his way.



Inbetween passenger runs, Sybil Bear doubles as a work platform for some opportunistic tree pruning.



Some happy visitors enjoying the train ride.



The live steam model railway and the meccano display attracted much interest.



Behind the scenes maintenance work continues. Andy and Paul wash out *Irish Mail's* smokebox, part of its 10-year overhaul.



Twice the work in half the time! Four hands are better than two when repainting the information boards.



A rare sight at West Lincs - staff actually posing for a photo!



The plant stall makes a welcome return, with quality flowers at bargain prices.



What are they planning - a coup d'etat? Answers next time!

SYBIL GOES TO BEAMISH!



Photo: Mike Spall

In late May/early June Beamish Museum held a Festival of Transport, and invited *Sybil* to take part. The loco departed on a wagon shared with the Ffestiniog Railway's *Velinheli*, an Alice-class Hunslet from Dinorwic Quarry, like our own *Irish Mail*.



Photos:
Martyn Smith



Loco and crew both benefit from a change of scenery and a different track layout. Simon and Ann make the most of the weather piloting *Sybil*.

Domestic harmony on a footplate!
Father and son Spall take *Sybil* for an afternoon run.



Beamish engine *Glyder* joins *Sybil* and *Velinheli* for a final group photo.

Photo: Simon Moore



Simon gets to drive *Coffee Pot No. 1*, built in 1871 on Teeside and now at Beamish.



If visitors keep coming back, we must be doing something right!
A German rail tour company paid their annual visit recently.



The new coach seats are coming on well,
with Jeff putting his joinery skills to good use.



Liam lends a hand with the paint brush.



Alan lines up the slats for the next seat.



Along with many others, we marked the
80th anniversary of VE Day on May 8th.

STRAWBERRIES & STEAM AT THE RAILWAY!



Hesketh Bank strawberries all ready for the event, with the option of prosecco or craft beers from Southport Brewery.



Mr Strawbs made friends with our visitors.



Every train was well loaded, with our new access coach providing extra capacity.



The South Ribble Concert Band entertained an attentive audience.



If you're too young to drive a train, a trolley makes a good alternative.



I could do that! Keith gives a young visitor a master-class in guarding.



A steady hand on the regulator as *Sybil* pulls the train out of Becconsall station.



Driver Simon waves to his many fans while running-round the train at Delph.



Montalban was busy too, with driver Andy and blockman Alan exchanging the token before entering Becconsall.



And after so much activity Mr Strawbs and Barry take a well-deserved rest.

The image on the front page shows Simon doing some running repairs to *Sybil*'s driver-side sight glass, before the start of Strawberries & Steam.

DON'T MISS IT!

Princesses and Pirates is on Sunday July 13th!



BUY OUR ADVANCE ANYDAY TICKET!



Advance tickets have no expiry date - use whenever you like!

Click **here** for our advance standard day tickets
and **here** for our advance special event tickets.

They are not valid for Halloween or Santa Specials.

With the 2025 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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