



THE WEST LANCS LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST LANCASHIRE LIGHT RAILWAY

ISSUE 48 APRIL 2025



Welcome to West Lancs Letter No.48!

With Opening Day getting close, final preparations are underway:



The new marquee for the tea-room looks very smart.



Montalban's smoke-box gets a good clean-out.



Andy and Rick fettle the point on the run-round loop at Beconsall.

Meanwhile a dozen volunteers attend a first-aid training course, held locally at the Hesketh Bank Community Centre.



OPENING DAY!

March 23rd was the first day of our 2025 Season, marked by a visit by the Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Julian Finch.



The new access coach provides a panoramic view for our visitors. Perhaps we should rename it as our Observation Car?



MOTHER'S DAY WITH FRIENDLY ENGINES



A special treat - chocolates for all Mums visiting the Railway!



Sybil and Montalban were both kept busy pulling trains full of our visitors.



And it's not only steam engines, our electric loco gets in on the act, with its own special Friendly Face.



Many of our younger visitors enjoyed the Brio wooden railway tables.



Adorning the Beconsall platform on Friendly Engines Day were these works of art by John Simm.

Dare we try to put names to faces?



The work never stops to maintain and improve our Railway!

An upgrade to the semi-open coach includes improved seating. Here Alan uses a special nail-removing tool prior to cutting out the new seat slats.



Alan and Barry then get busy cutting the slats to size.



Andy and Bob review the new system for identifying the track sleepers.



The shop's needs are not forgotten, with construction of new display shelving for the railway books on sale.

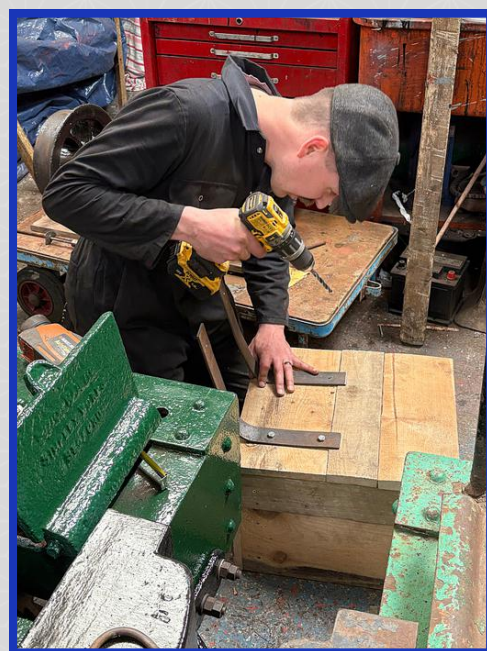


The access coach gets a few finishing touches - don't the seat tops look smart? Very comfortable on the back as well. Made by Liverpool Coach Trimmers, the design is Thameslink Moquette.

Barry checks the bookstall is fully-stocked ready for our visitors.



This is one of our Motor Rail diesel locos, having a cosmetic restoration ready for service as a 'gate guard' at the entrance to the Railway.



Simon builds a seat for the Motor Rail loco.

DON'T MISS IT!

Our Easter Egg Hunt is on Sunday April 20th!



**West Lancashire Light Railway
Hesketh Bank ~ PR4 6SP**



EASTER STEAM EGG HUNT Sunday 20th April 2025

- Come and join us and the Easter Rabbit for a fun family Steam Easter Egg Hunt. Fun for all the family.
- Frequent steam train rides to find the missing Easter Eggs from 11.30 to 4.30pm.
- All travelling Children receive a FREE Cadburys Easter Egg.
- Easter Tearoom open with Firemens Shovel hot food available.
- Two heritage steam locomotives in steam*.
- Childrens Fairground
- Meccano display.
- We are Wheelchair friendly.
- Adults £5, Child £4.
- Pay on the day or advanced on-line tickets.

* All subject to availability.

www.westlancsrailway.org

We are also running steam trains on Good Friday and Easter Monday!

And finally, it's official: Three small railways are better together!



Apedale Valley Light Railway



Amerton Railway



West Lancashire Light Railway

Apedale, Amerton and West Lancs are 2'0" gauge railways with a lot in common. All are entirely volunteer managed and operated, all rely heavily on steam traction, and all are underpinned by charitable organisations. Recognising the similarities in the organisations, the three have decided to forge closer ties. A memorandum of understanding has been agreed between the three. This will foster closer working, and the sharing of good practice and knowledge between the three organisations.

For the full press release, click [here](#).

The image on the front page shows Gordon deep inside the vital parts of *Irish Mail*, deburring the ends of the new boiler tubes.

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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