THE WEST LANCS LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST LANCASHIRE LIGHT RAILWAY

ISSUE 57 OCTOBER 2026



Welcome to West Lancs Letter No.57!

September's highlight was the Working Engines Gala, when our fleet of diesel, petrol and electric locos came out to play:



'...and no bumping, boring or speeding.' Simon tells it as it is, or at least how it should be.



Let the Games begin!



Al-fresco dining in warm September weather.



A welcome visitor to the Gala, long-time member and volunteer Mike Trigg.



Man and machine!



A bonus for our visitors, two locos in steam.

Due to planning issues we are not able to hold our Halloween event this year. However that didn't affect our Pumpkin Day, which saw lots of children helping their parents to pick a favourite pumpkin.







Mr Pumpkin can evoke fear or indifference, probably it's the suit...



How heavy is a pumpkin that takes eight people to move it?



It's a busy day for the loco crew, Charlie snatches a brief moment of rest.



Another Carpark Classic, a 1961 VW split-screen campervan.

A new event for the Railway, the International Feldbahntreffen, the annual meeting of the Frankfurt Feldbahn Museum, held in conjunction with the Apedale, Amerton and Statfold Barn Railways.













The visitors were given a tour of the Railway and invited to try out some of our diesel locomotives. Lunch was provided, the model railway was operated and the pop-up shop offered our range of WLLR clothing.



Service with a smile, and Howard is only pretending to walk on a sleeper...



Jack discovers a little-known benefit of being a guard - you qualify by right as a pot-washer.



Richard makes it clear just where he wants the new sleeper to go.



Andy applies the finishing touches with the aid of a ballast packer.



Tawd as you've not seen it before -no engine!



Some essential maintenance and back in place before you know it.



irish Mail's wheels get a shiny makeover.



The infrastructure gets an upgrade, a new walkway for the workshop.



It takes four to tango... synchronised stepping is essential for a well-erected gazebo.



Lend your phone in good faith, and he takes a photo of you! And it's not just your editor, Ted (in the maroon jacket) is likewise shocked at the betrayal.



Keith explains the magic of radio control to a young visitor.



Sometimes restoration means a bit of tough love. Gordon wields the gas-axe on a well-rusted bogie wagon.



And not to be outdone, Simon shows you how.



Barry works on the doors for the new shop, due to go where the kitchen is now.



An electrician's work is never done - Alan updates our lighting and power systems.



Y Caban is coming on nicely!



With model railways finished for the season, time for a re-vamp.

And finally...

You know Christmas is on its way when:



1) we try to solve the marquee jigsaw puzzle again, and



2) booking for our Santa Specials opens (click **here** for tickets!)

The image on the front page shows visiting locos *Cegin* and *Marchlyn* being prepared for their return to the Statfold Barn Railway.

Additional images: Alan Frodsham and Carol Lea.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Download our 2026 leaflet here

Children in Need Day - Sunday 1st November



Come and meet Pudsey Bear at West Lancs!

All fare income donated to the BBC Children in Need appeal.

Cafe takings donated to Queenscourt Hospice.

One engine in steam

Santa Specials - Saturday 12th & 19th December, Sundays 6th, 13th & 20th December

It's that special time of year at the West Lancashire Light Railway!

Meet Santa on the train - children receive a present and adults a seasonal hot drink and a mince pie.

Two engines in steam.





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, or visit mygivinghub.com & enter 1121149 in the search box, or use bank transfer to account 55749968, sort code 30-96-85. Thank you!

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Why not join us? Become a member **here**.

Visit our Partners: the Amerton Railway and the Apedale Valley Light Railway

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