



THE WEST LANCS LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST LANCASHIRE LIGHT RAILWAY

ISSUE 50 AUGUST 2025



Welcome to our 50th edition!

A PIRATE INVASION!



You would think after last year's abject failures the local pirates would have given up trying to disrupt our Princesses event. But no, they keep coming back to try again.



Fortunately the Hesketh Bank Rose Queen and her retinue led by example, keeping calm and enjoying the Railway's many attractions.



Paul 'The Magic Pirate' Sylvester entertained with some very mysterious magic.



The model railway also suffered an invasion of pirate people.



And as always, the tearoom was well patronised all afternoon.

THE SUMMER GALA - OUR EVENT OF THE YEAR!



The summer gala is always our big attraction, this year with no less than three visiting engines, making five in steam each day! Here *Diana* from Amerton Railway leads the line-up.



Just some of the many visitors to the Gala.



Jennie (from Amerton Railway) and Peter Pan (from the Leighton Buzzard Light Railway) looking pretty much identical at Becconsall station.



Another visitor was Del-boy and Rodney's highly distinctive three-wheeler.



Mike and Charlie prepare *Jennie* for the weekend's festivities.



The driver's (and fireman's) eye view. The 'we want one' thought rapidly gained ground during the gala.



A new attraction for this event - travel in the brake van! Being attached to a train of wagons meant a somewhat bumpy ride...



Our friends from the Merseyside Transport Trust offered rides in their historic buses.



Group photo time - but where did the pirate come from?



Back for a welcome return visit was Pauline Hazelwood, with her collection of True Engine Stories and a model railway.



A newcomer to West Lancs was John Sutton, a seller of railway books and a garden railway enthusiast.



The Galliard Folk Dancers entertained the crowds with a fine show of dancing.



And after all the hard work, an opportunity to relax on the Saturday evening with an al fresco meal at the Railway.





One man and his loco - 1
Fireman Clive meditates on the emptiness of his tea mug.



One man and his loco - 2
Driver Simon relishes an opportunity for second breakfast.



Double-heading means the footplate of *Sybil* makes a good vantage point for a photo of *Diana*, during our Welsh Quarry Engine Day. The visiting driver is Jack Evans and the fireman our own Jack Fletcher.



Progress with the model railway shed.



Two weeks after the Gala and photographers are still turning up for shots of our visiting engines. Or perhaps just practising for the photo-call event in October?



The perfect spot for a picnic, with added trains!



Barry continues the long job of renewing the coach seating.



Alan demonstrates the ancient art of bandsaw blade folding, known only to a select few in the patternmaking trade.



Arthur and Andy get busy laying a cableway for the planned solar panel installation.



Paul beds in the rails for the new ash pit, now nearing completion.

DON'T MISS IT - 1!

The Working Engines Gala is on
Sunday September 21st!



The image on the front page shows John the Shipwright building the good ship *Rio Brio*. Regrettably the cannons are only for show, so far...

DON'T MISS IT - 2!

Back for a second year!

**THE WEST LANCASHIRE LIGHT RAILWAY
HESKETH BANK PR4 6SP**

PHOTOGRAPHERS' CALL

SATURDAY 18th OCTOBER 2025 9.30 to 5.30



**An opportunity to photograph our steam,
diesel and electric locos, lineside and
on shed, with a wide variety of stock.**

Free refreshments and pie & peas/soup lunch.
(vegetarian options on request)

Tickets £50 - limited availability
Buy online at westlancsrailway.org

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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