THE WEST LANCS LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST LANCASHIRE LIGHT RAILWAY

ISSUE 56 AUGUST 2026



Welcome to West Lancs Letter No.56!

We have just had the big event of the summer, our two-day Steam Gala:





Our two guest engines were Andrew Barclay *Cegin* and Avonside *Marchlyn*, both on loan from the Statfold Barn Railway.



With the engines prepared, the coaches start to fill up.



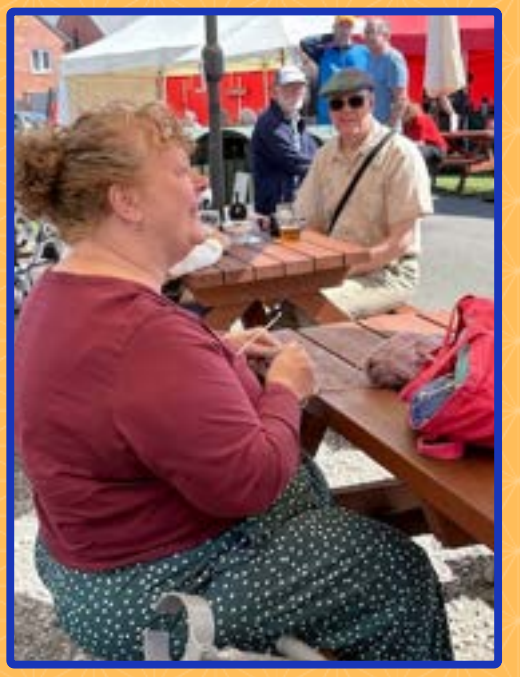
...but there's always time for a pie.



Double-headed trains added to the interest.



Two rival salesmen square up - books or beer, take your choice!





There's nothing like a steam gala to bring out the champion knitters...



Richard Mawdsley brought his steam roller, and parked up close behind was a very stylish 1949 Ford V8 Pilot.



The Gillard Folk Dancers attracted some audience participation, complete with knees.



Stylish headgear can brighten up even the least glamorous job.



The traditional end-of-day line-up, with *Montalban*, *Marchlyn*, *Cegin* and *Sybil* all basking in the evening sun.



Steam galas take a lot of preparation, including laying temporary track to allow unloading of our two visiting engines.



And the scaffolding around *Y Caban* meant boarding over part of the track to give a bit more circulation space.



Talking of our new building, the walls are shooting up!



Elsewhere restoration work on our wagon fleet continues.



Spied in our car park recently, a 1961 Vauxhall Victor, looking very spruce.



We welcome all forms of transport to the Railway, but which would you choose, Harley or Triumph?





A fine way to remember a colleague. Martin Frodsham was one of our early volunteers, and made a big contribution to the development of the Railway. His family visited us recently to inaugurate a seat they have donated in his memory.



Barry builds a new trolley for the road signs...



...and is rewarded with the privilege of pulling it up to the roundabout.



Inbetween passenger duties one of the coaches has its paintwork touched up...



...while a line of diesel locos gets a wash and brush-up.



Not to be outdone by Liam in the last newsletter, Simon shows how to look cool in West Lancs clothing.



When all else fails, read the diagram! Bob investigates the lack of beep from the BEV's horn.



Irish Mail's overhaul continues with a new coat of paint for the frames.



So what is Gary doing in the steam shed?



A clue: our solar panels, working well this hot summer to reduce the fuel bill.



Answer: making a cover for the solar 'gubbins', to use the correct term.



If you haven't had your fill of gardening at home, we are happy to provide more opportunities!



Is it meant to waggle like that? Simon casts a critical eye over *Sybil's* running gear.



The shed tour is part of our stated aim to educate the public, and you never know who might stay to volunteer...



Not part of a guard's published duties, but if it helps a family get their photo Jack is always ready to oblige.



What better way to celebrate your 95th birthday than a visit to West Lancs!



Preparing a layout to go on tour, to the Corris model railway exhibition.

And finally...



Help us to keep Paul working!

We need a few more cobbles or setts to finish off around the new inspection pit. If you have any to spare, Paul would be very glad to hear from you. His number is 07984 931 040. Thank you!

The image on the front page shows ex-Penrhyn Quarry engine *Marchlyn* preparing to depart with a passenger train.

Additional images: Glenn Clarkson, Alan Frodsham & Mike Spall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Download our 2026 leaflet here

Working Engines Gala - Sunday 20th September



Goods trains running inbetween steam passenger services.

Industrial engines on display.

Drive-a-diesel.

Pumpkin Day - Sunday 11th October



Choose your own pumpkin - one free with every child's ticket.

Catering van and model railways.

Two engines in steam.

Halloween - Saturday 31st October



Spooky trains from 5pm - booking from 1st October.

Scary fun for all the family!

YOU HAVE BEEN EXPECTED...



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, 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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