



THE WEST LANCS LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST LANCASHIRE LIGHT RAILWAY



ISSUE 42 APRIL 2024

Welcome to West Lancs Letter No.42!

GETTING READY FOR THE NEW SEASON:



...and it's off to work we go! The Track Team depart Becconsall with sleepers, ballast and tools, not forgetting the generator van to power the packing hammers.



The track near the station also gets some attention, packing ballast under a replacement sleeper.



In the carriage shed the catering van gets a new extraction system.

PREPARING THE ENGINES...

It's important that our steam locos are in good fettle ready for passenger train duties. And it's not just us who have to be happy with their condition - the boiler inspector comes to call! So *Sybil*, *Irish Mail* and *Montalban* are test-steamed outside the sheds at Becconsall, to ensure all is as it should be.



A REFRESH ON TRAINING DAY

Training Day is an opportunity for everyone to meet up after the winter break, get up-to-date with new procedures and revise our knowledge of operating the Railway, in all its facets. And there's time for a look back at some video of how it was 20 years ago.



THE FIRST DAY OF THE SEASON!

The day after the training event we ran trains for real, with a good number of visitors for our first open day of the season. The weather was typical early Spring, a mixture of sun and showers - hopefully more of the former as the year progresses!



EASTER SUNDAY - A RECORD TURNOUT OF VISITORS!

Easter Sunday's sunshine brought large numbers of visitors to the Railway, to hunt for Easter eggs, enjoy a double-engined steam train ride, and meet our bunny-rabbits and a very tall cockerel:



THE PERILS OF LUBRICATION

Workshop manager Dave finds the turntable a bit stiff, so applies the grease gun, to dramatic effect:



With the turntable firmly locked, diesel maintenance can continue.



Whilst inside the workshop restoration of the Hesketh Bank station seat nears completion. Your editor is well-disguised against unauthorised photography.

GETTING THE ACCESS COACH ON HER WHEELS



Another milestone for the access coach - the braked bogie is ready for fitting. Paul does some final adjustments...

Joseph wheels away the temporary bogie, a relic from the old Southport Pier train!



Mike slides the new bogie into place, with help from Alan on the hoist controls.

Finally Paul guides the pivot pin into position, using only modest persuasion and a bit of jiggling.





And finally...

A look back to the way we were nearly three decades ago! A video has been unearthed that gives an in-depth view of the Railway's Industrial Day in October 1996.

Watch it [here](#).

The image on the front page shows Barry modelling the chicken suit on Easter Sunday. A 5.8 for style?

BUY OUR ADVANCE ANYDAY TICKET!



Advance tickets have no expiry date - use whenever you like!
Click [here](#) to buy standard day tickets and [here](#) for special events
(not valid for Halloween and Santa Specials).

With the railway now open for the 2024 season, we need more volunteers to help run our services and to maintain and improve our facilities.

If you would like to help, contact Mike Spall at chair@westlancsrailway.org.



Published every two months by the West Lancashire Light Railway Trust,
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