



THE WEST LANCS (NEWS) LETTER

Welcome to West Lincs Letter No.7!



October 6th was our Working Engines gala, with three engines in steam and numerous diesels, including our very latest restoration project, the Hudswell Clarke mines loco, in passenger service for the first time.

As you can see, the chairman is not afraid to try out the latest in environmentally-friendly electric vehicles.



And at the end of October we had our Halloween evening, preceded this time with a Pumpkins Event, where families having a ride during the day could choose free pumpkins to take away.

Rob and Laura spent many hours making this handsome Straw Bale Spider, using their very own home-grown straw!



As darkness fell, trains full of pretending-to-be-not-at-all-scared passengers set off for a frightening ride, with all sorts of surprises in the gloom of the woods.



This being a family newsletter, we cannot report exactly what went on, but to judge by the howls, screams and blood-curdling cries, there was quite a lot of it. And that was just the chairman...



'Buying Time - a 2019 space odyssey' now available!

A previous newsletter described the work Ian Bennet and his team from Oldman Films has been doing to shoot a film about the Railway. It's now finished, edited into a 30-minute DVD and available to buy at the shop and on the website. The price is £5 (£4 to members) and the proceeds go towards the Railway's preservation activities. We made a donation in respect of the film to the Salvation Army's work with children.

Initial feedback has been very positive - the film is professionally done and provides a fascinating record of the Railway's progress from its early days to where we are now with the site our own.

Some cameo appliances by volunteers and a storyline about a lost Teddy bear add to the interest. Well worth a look!



A big hole has appeared in the Engine Shed! Not a sinkhole caused by recent deluges but an excavation for a new buffer stop, just beyond the new party room. The stop will be removable, sliding up and down in a sleeve concreted into the hole. That way the doorway access can be kept clear.



And for the concrete, you need a mixer! Fortunately there is a ready means of transport to hand, to get it from one end of Becconsall to the other. Officially the wagon's a train, even though hand-propelled.

As mentioned in the August newsletter, we recently had a visit from our safety regulator, the ORR. Not one but two inspectors spent most of a (non-operating) day at the Railway, talking to key staff, walking around the site and reviewing our documentation. They followed up with a letter asking us to produce an action plan, with proposed completion dates.



In addition the inspectors raised some guarding and fume extraction issues in the workshop, also the need to carry out noise and hand-arm vibration assessments.

The plan we have submitted in response describes the improvements in hand, for example the revisions to the safety management system, the risk assessments and the Rule Book, also the implementation of our new competency management system.

They also indicated they intended to revisit in due course to see the Railway in operation - watch this space!



And finally, we're getting a new carriage shed!

Before you get too excited, and the treasurer starts wondering which bank has been robbed for the money, it's actually a 1:19 scale model.

It will go on display at the Railway and at local events, to help with publicity.



Follow the build blog on our website here: <https://www.westlancsrailway.org/carriage-shed>

That's all for this issue. Have you booked your Santa tickets yet? Don't delay - trains are filling up fast and we are very likely to sell out!