

# WEST LANCASHIRE LIGHT RAILWAY NEWS

No. 4 December 2009

edited by Phil Pacey

## The 2009 Season

During the period from the beginning of January to the end of October (and the end of our season), ticket sales increased from £6,094.50 in 2008, to £7,323.50 in 2009, an improvement of nearly 20%. Although other heritage railways have also reported increased ticket sales in 2009, ours is a tremendous achievement which is not simply the result of a wider trend but is due to hard work on the part of everyone who has played a part in publicising the railway in this time of recession. Keep up the good work! Shop sales showed a more modest increase. Unfortunately, the recession has made itself felt in significant reductions in income from 'Drive and Engine' events and private hire – clearly fewer people have felt able to afford these more expensive products. Of course, 'Drive an Engine' events can bring other benefits, when participants, to whom we give a year's complimentary membership, choose to continue in membership and even to join us as volunteers. Overall, income is down compared to last year, and the debit side of the account is up (including the money lost to theft), so we will be hoping for good results from the Santa Specials and there will be no room for complacency as we enter 2010.

## The 2010 Season

For 2010 we are introducing a new event, especially for enthusiasts, and filling the rather long gap between the established events in May and August. 'Diesel Freight Day' will take place on a **Saturday**. There will be no steam and no passenger trains. Visitors will be charged to enter the site, where there will be diesel action, freight trains, and workshop tours. Photography will be encouraged, and photographers will be required to wear (their own) high-vis jackets.

Special events have been scheduled as follows:

Sunday 28th March	Friendly Engines Day
Sunday 9th May	Teddy Bears' Outing
Saturday 26th June	Diesel Freight Day
Saturday 7th & 8th August	Gala Weekend
Sunday 3rd October	Autumn Steam Gala
Sunday 14th November	BBC Children in Need
12th, 18th & 19th December	Santa Specials

In addition, the Preston Radio Club will be on site on 26th September.

## **New members**

Welcome to the following new members:

Mr Barry Hope from Thornton Clevelys  
Mr & Mrs R. Jones from Hesketh Bank  
Mr N. Kemp & Miss J. Stopforth from Hesketh Bank  
Mr Habron from Huddersfield  
Mr A. G. Campbell from Mawdesley  
Mr & Mrs Marchant from Burnley  
Mr C. Wristbridge from Lytham St Anne's  
Mr R. Hall from Blackpool

We are delighted that you have joined us. An even warmer welcome awaits if you would like to come along to help, on Thursday evenings or Sundays.

## **Volunteers wanted**

There will be two ***Saturday*** workdays, devoted to maintenance of the track and of rolling stock, on 16th and 30th January. Please help if you can. In addition to whatever is achieved on these two days, there is much work to be done on the track, some of it needing to be completed before the season starts on 28th March. A list is posted in the mess room.

In response to observation of when visitors have been arriving and departing, it has been decided to operate between 11.30 am and 4.30 pm from the beginning of next season. Apologies to engine crews for the earlier start.

Our Traffic Manager, Alan Frodsham, has been concerned that people have not always been available to help with setting up and clearing up, at the beginning and the end of event days. It may be that these tasks should be rostered, like those of the engine crew and shop staff. Meantime please can everyone be aware of what needs to be done and don't just leave it for someone else.

## **On site**

Although the new portakabin is in place and some work has been done on installing service, it will not be brought into use until planning permission has been granted.

The big Hudswell Clarke diesel loco will hopefully be brought into the workshop soon (if it's not there already) so that work on it can proceed. If you'd like to help please tell Clive.

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