



# THE WEST LANCS (NEWS) LETTER

Welcome to the fourth West Lincs Letter!



The level of public support for the Railway continues to be remarkably strong, with a very successful Strawberries and Steam event in late June.

Star attraction was the South Ribble Concert Band, who gave an excellent performance in the marquee. Outside a steady stream of visitors enjoyed strawberries and cream, not to mention drinks from the adjacent bar, in-between rides on the train and traditional games and amusements on our brand-new lawn.





The Teddy Bears Picnic on May 19th was extremely popular, with many visitors basking in the spring sunshine and playing hide-and-seek with our bears in the woods.



This is what the Railway is all about - lots of people enjoying themselves in a friendly, relaxed steam-filled environment. In the background Irish Mail, complete with Teddy disguise, kept watch over the scene.



**Would you buy a second-hand teddy from this person?  
Gordon feeds the inner man before donning his outer bear.**



## West Lancs goes to the movies!

To be exact, the movies have come to us, in the form of Ian Bennett, a well-respected professional film maker from Southport. Now retired, he keeps busy by making films for other people free of charge, with just a modest contribution for consumables and a donation to charity. He approached us recently with just such an offer, which we gratefully accepted.

The plan is for a feature film (about 25 minutes long) for sale on a DVD, plus a Youtube trailer. There will also be a short excerpt on a loop for showing on visits to external events with the display boards. A professional presenter will be used for the narrated sequences.



Ian moved quickly to sketch out a basis for a story and draft a script. Several West Lancs members were asked if they would take part in short cameo appearances, describing what they do and what attracts them to the Railway.



To give the film additional interest, it will feature a cartoon bear, taking part in the Teddy Bears' Picnic event. This was filmed in real time during a very busy day, using a young boy and his grandparents to act the part of a visiting family.

More scenes will be shot over the coming weeks, culminating in the Summer Gala in August. Look out for the DVD sales notice!





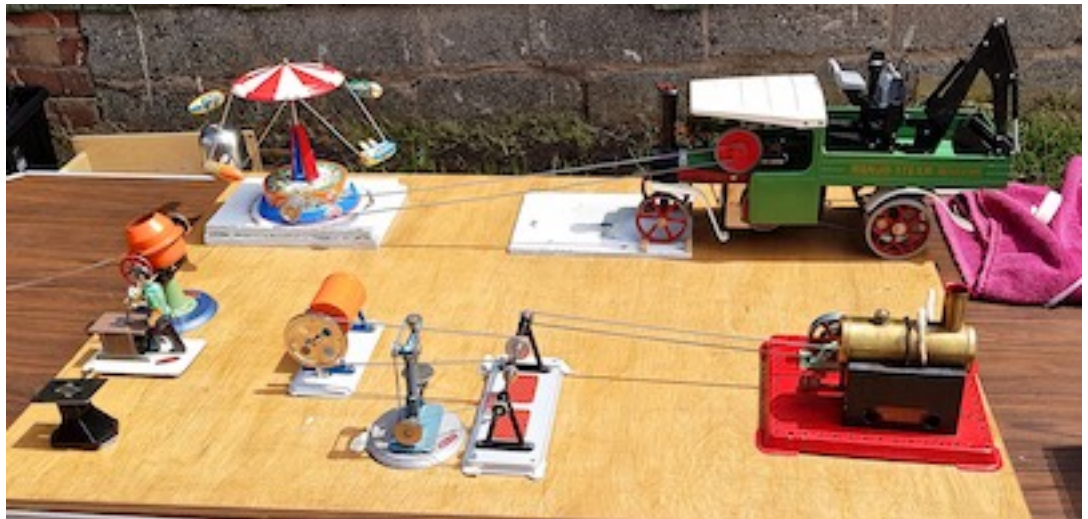
### Digging for victory!

A big hole has appeared behind the turntable, courtesy of Laura's mini excavator.

The plan is to create a good-sized ash pit, for easier disposal of the contents of loco fireboxes at the end of the day. It will also facilitate inspection of engine undersides, as an alternative to the workshop pit.

Something new to entertain visitors - a selection of working steam models.

Every grandad has at least one in the loft!



And finally, we had a visit from a group of Scouts recently. Here Paul instructs them in the mysteries of the rubber hammer.

*That's all for this issue - don't forget our Gala weekend on 10th & 11th August - it's the one event you can't miss!*