



WESTERN LOCOMOTIVE ASSOCIATION LTD

News from the Chair – for e-Newsletter October 2023

Well, it finally happened - the most amazing hydraulic event of all time on the SVR! As you may have seen on social media, it started off on Tuesday, 26 September, with an evening photo-shoot at Kidderminster, where D1013, D1048 and D1062 were lined up outside the north end of TMD whilst D1015, the Warships and Hymeks were lined up around the turntable at the south end. And what an unprecedented, spectacular sight it was, especially with special lighting and various engines running adding to the atmosphere! A further nighttime photo-shoot is due to take place on Friday, 6th October but this time with all four Westerns lined up outside the Carriage Shed, (so far as I'm aware!).

During the Gala week, a charter train was run throughout the day on the Wednesday, with D1062 starting later on in the day, followed further running during the Gala itself from Thursday to Sunday. Needless to say, D1062 performed faultlessly, and it was a real pleasure to drive, especially as the brake system had been "fine-tuned" by Robin Jones, making the brakes the best they've ever been in my opinion! It was great to know that so many people appreciated their trips behind D1062 which is a credit to the Association and to the relatively small team of people who look after her – very well done!

Of course, it wasn't just about D1062 as the WLA played a key role in assisting with the move for D1048 which had just been freshly painted with some of our Working Members giving a helping hand at the Midland Railway Centre at Butterley, and then assisting with the move by road to Kidderminster. Quite an astonishing sight, seeing D1048 on a low loader towering over the traffic following behind! The appearance of D1048 was really very much appreciated by so many enthusiasts who hadn't seen D1048 since the 1970's so this was a major contribution all round, not just for the locomotive but for the SVR and WLA who made this happen. What happens to the future of D1048 remains to be seen but it's likely that it'll remain on the SVR for the time being at least...!

And then of course, we had D1013 freshly painted and looking immaculate as any Western could in all her glory! I cannot come to terms with all the compliments received and bestowed upon this locomotive, and all I would say is that for the effort made for the repaint - it really was worth it!

But it wasn't just about locomotives, the WLA organised a fine display of name and numberplates at Highley Engine Shed for the SVR, and a special thanks to Paul Finch and Peter Bamber who did all the hard work. And then there's more – the WLA Sales Stand made a huge all-time record in takings with an incredible £7.8k! This is truly another exceptional year and I suspect that it'll be difficult to repeat with what we've just achieved, for quite some time to come.

So, a huge thanks to everyone who made it all happen – to the organisers of the event itself, to those Working Members who gave up their time to help out and to all those who supported us with purchasing items or supporting the event in whatever way possible, as it really was worth it!

Thank you!

Roger Smith
Chairman