

WELSHPOOL & LLANFAIR RAILWAY AUTUMN TRIPLE

WEDNESDAY 7TH, THURSDAY 8TH AND FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2026

* Three days, featuring a different locomotive on each day

* 822 *The Earl* and Great Western Railway goods train

* 1877 *Chevalier* with mixed train

* 699.01 with Austrian coaching stock



I am delighted to offer three days of narrow gauge steam action at the scenic Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway in October.

In March, we had a reasonable day with 1877 though the sun did not arrive until later in the day, which means there are many locations we did not get in sun that I feel it would be nice to attempt again. Last October, we ran with 822 and the Great Western goods train, again not in full sun. We also had a day with 699.01 and while this produced many excellent cameos it did not take place in ideal weather conditions.

There is no way I can guarantee full sun and glorious blue skies, but I can guarantee we will make every effort to be at the right locations at the right times to give ourselves the best possible chance of obtaining the excellent photographs which the line is well capable of producing.

All three locos are expected to be available, as 822 *The Earl* is returning from maintenance in time to run the peak season services. Rolling stock for each day is designed to give us the best-looking combinations that we can muster with complete accuracy on days one and three and some artistic license on day two.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Railway dates back to the early years of the Twentieth Century when the only means for taking goods traffic to the Cambrian main line at Welshpool was by using horse and cart. Similarly, this was the only way of bringing supplies in to the communities living in the Banwy Valley. Work began in 1901 to build a link from Llanfair Caereinion to the standard gauge main line, and the first passenger train ran in April 1903. The line was worked by the Cambrian Railway and was constructed to a



gauge of two foot, six inches as this was a much cheaper alternative to standard gauge. At this time, the route ran through the town of Welshpool as far as the (still operational) main line station though this section of line was closed in the early 1960s when the local council decided to extend a car park prior to the building of a new town bypass. The line was not hugely successful financially and struggled throughout its existence, though the two periods of war in 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 saw a rise in traffic. The Cambrian was merged into the Great Western Railway in 1923, which also ran a competing bus service;

passenger trains ceased in 1931 though goods traffic would continue to run into British Railways Western Region days. The route was Nationalised on 1st January 1948 and ran up until eventual closure of the line by British Railways in November 1956. Fortunately, that was not the end of the story as preservation efforts gained momentum in the late 1950s and the line was leased to WLLR Preservation Company Limited in 1962. Over subsequent years, volunteers have gradually re-opened the line to the extent that we know and love today, now running into a terminus at Raven Square on the outskirts of Welshpool, as the

town section closed in 1963 having been used for stock transfers in early preservation days, and following running of the re-opening train.

Since the late 1960s, the Railway has become known not only for its stunning recreations of the original branch line trains, but also for its collection of international locos and carriages and our charters aim to cater for enthusiasts who like both genres - and even a few who like both! Locomotives and rolling stock change over time

and not all opportunities available now will be around forever, so I feel we need to make the most of what we have while we may.

OUR CHARTERS

The starting point for these charters on each day will be Llanfair Caereinion Station where there is plenty of free parking. Catering will be available on all days and the Railway cafe will be open in the morning to provide hot drinks, and so that food can be ordered for lunchtime.

We are aiming for relaxed and enjoyable days, plus some great photographic opportunities to which the line lends itself, passing as it does through pleasant, rolling Welsh countryside.

This is a great line to visit and we hope many of you will wish to join us in Wales for these charters. We are extremely grateful for all the support that you give to these events which is greatly appreciated; the WLLR always puts on an excellent show for us.



WELSHPOOL & LLANFAIR LIGHT RAILWAY AUTUMN TRIPLE

Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th & Friday 9th October 2026

Please reserve me one place on this event
Wednesday 7th October 2026 with 822 @ £85.00
Thursday 8th October 2026 with 1877 @ £85.00
Friday 9th October 2026 with 699.01 @ £85.00
All Three Days @ £250.00

Name Address
..... Postal Code
Email Telephone

I enclose a cheque made payable to *D J Williams* and dated 1st September 2026
For those who no longer use personal cheques, BACS and PayPal are also available.
Please enquire for details

Please return to...
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Photo courtesy Andrew Simmonds

