

MAID MARIAN LOCOMOTIVE FUND

PROGRESS REPORT

MAY 2026

2026 AGM:

This is a reminder that this year's AGM will be held on Saturday 4 July 2026 at Llanuwchllyn Station starting at the usual time of 1400 hours. After a change in arrangements, last year's AGM was eventually held in the Far Caravan, which comfortably held the 15 subscribers who attended the Meeting. This made it easier for organising seating as there was sufficient inside the caravan without the need to move chairs around the site or to take up a corner of the Heritage Centre.

FUND-RAISING OPPORTUNITIES:

Arrangements have been made for the Fund's stall to be present at the following occasions in 2026:

<u>Occasions:</u>	<u>Dates:</u>	<u>Locations:</u>
A. May Bank Holiday	Saturday 23 / Monday 25 May	Llanuwchllyn Station
B. 2025 AGM	Saturday 4 July 2026	Llanuwchllyn Station
C. August Steam Gala	Saturday 29 / 31 August 2026	Llanuwchllyn Station
D. Model Railway Show	Saturday 19 / Sunday 21 Sept.	Ysgol y Berwyn, Bala

Your Fundraising Officer and your Secretary will both be in attendance and would welcome anyone else who would like to help out on the stall on these occasions. Assistance in moving furniture would also be appreciated on the evening of Friday 18 September 2026 at Ysgol y Berwyn to unload the stall prior to the actual opening of the Show on Saturday. We hope to have a range of attractive items on the stall and will give further details of any changes in the stock.

2026 CALENDAR:

As reported in the October 2025 Progress Report, the 2026 calendar was offered to subscribers for the bargain price of £10 including the cost of postage. The production problems meant that it had not been available for sale on the Fund's stall and that all transactions were via the postal service; nevertheless, the entire print run of 50 was sold, though in previous years the print run had been for 80. The profit margin was rather small and it would appear that any future calendars will be more expensive in order to cover the cost of having a relatively small print run coupled with only limited opportunities for the stall to operate.

A CALL FOR ASSISTANCE:

The Fund is having to consider alternative arrangements for the production of the 2027 Calendar as the current organiser, who has overseen the production of the

Fund's calendars since 2014, is no longer able to provide the printing and design of the content of the calendar. The Fund is most grateful to this individual who, although not a subscriber, has donated his time and expertise over the years and has only charged the Fund for the cost of the materials and despatch. He is Robin Willis, who may be known to many subscribers through his long involvement with the Penrhyn Quarry Railway and his production of the accompanying journal Y Llechen. Robin had produced PDF file for the 2026 calendar but the printing was achieved by using the same commercial printing firm that provides the Bala Lake Railway Society's own calendar. The overall effect was that much of the lay-out of the calendar could be maintained and the calendar was recognisably similar to previous editions. Robin has used Microsoft Publisher and the files for past calendars are available; however Microsoft has indicated that this program will no longer be supported. If you have the necessary technology and skills to prepare the necessary PDF file of photographs and texts for the calendar (13 images with accompanying texts) in the current house style, the Honorary Secretary at hughjones@aol.com would be pleased to hear from you and would be happy to liaise with you about ways in which the house style could be replicated. The actual printing of the calendar will thus be carried out commercially, so the main requirement is for the preparation of a PDF file to be sent to the printer, preferably before the beginning of the summer season. If there is no offer from a subscriber to take over the responsibility for producing the appropriate file, it will be too expensive for the Fund to seek to pay the commercial rate for a firm to produce the necessary PDF file of pages for a calendar from photographs and text. If this happens, the Fund will reluctantly abandon a well-supported fund-raising activity which has a fan-base of customers who are not necessarily subscribers. The latter group of supporters includes visitors to the stall as well as those who have been attracted by the enthusiastic comments about previous calendars by the editor of Narrow Gauge World in his reviews of Christmas cards and calendars!

NEWS OF THE LOCO:

So far this year, *Maid Marian* has been running without problems apart from an odd leaking tube; it is expected that this issue will be fully addressed next winter when the loco will be undergoing its 10-year overhaul and boiler inspection. Also on the list for the winter will be the replacement of the existing smoke box with a new stainless steel one, which has already been purchased. In conjunction with the Railway two smoke boxes were purchased (one for the Fund and one for the Railway) as there would be a reduction in price for each at the time of purchase; a new smoke box door will be fitted at the same time. It is likely that new brake blocks will be needed as well as new tyres, for which a quote will be obtained from the Ffestiniog Railway. Because of the likely work on other locos and stock, it is possible that *Maid Marian* may not be available for the beginning of the season.

Hugh Jones
Honorary Secretary