

## EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY

Listing for issue to: Regional and national media

### EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY IS NOW OFFICIALLY 'A HOME FOR WELLS'

- East Lancashire Railway purchases steam engine, "City of Wells"
- Eighteen month fundraising campaign raises more than £320,000 to secure the beloved locomotive



The East Lancashire Railway (ELR) has officially completed its purchase of the Bulleid Light Pacific No. 34092 "City of Wells" steam engine following an eighteen month public fundraising campaign.

Built in 1949 at Brighton Works, the Ex-Southern Region steam engine originally arrived at the heritage railway in July 2015 from the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, where it had been rescued from Barry scrapyard in 1971, and quickly became a popular addition.

Since its relocation to the ELR the engine, fondly known as 'Wells', has become a firm favourite, hosting everything from snowy Santa Specials and haunted Halloween services to Steam Galas and luxury diners.

The locomotive was first offered for sale in 2017 by its owners in 2017, an agreement was reached for the ELR to purchase No. 34092. Fundraising began in earnest under the banner of 'A Home for Wells'.

ELR chairman, Mike Kelly, said: "Thanks to overwhelmingly generous donations from the public, which contributed over £320,000, we have now purchased this fabulous locomotive, which is a big hit with enthusiasts and visitors to the ELR. A million thanks to everyone who put their hands in their pockets!

"Over 2,500 donations were received ranging from a few pence to other significant sums and our grateful and special thanks also go to Alex Choremi, a long standing supporter of the ELR, who visits from Switzerland, and who donated a huge six figure sum to our appeal. I was pleased to present Alex with a plaque to record his contribution. This is another great example of wonderful community spirit that stretches far beyond our Lancashire backyard and we are over the moon to keep 'Wells' in our fleet for good."

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