

Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway

Newsletter No. 26

Website: www.rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk

October 2013



Rhyl Miniature Railway Teddy Bear's Picnic 2013

This year's biggest railway event was a Teddy Bear's Picnic which took place on May 25th to 27th. On Saturday there was a competition to name the bear, the winners are shown above. The correct bear's name was Marley.

On Sunday families were invited to picnic by the side of Marine Lake. On Monday there was a teddy treasure hunt. The event was favoured by good weather and was well attended.

In the RMR museum Councillor Win Mullen James displayed part of her collection of teddy bears. There were opportunities for children to draw their favourite teddies. The fairground attractions which attended last year's Jubilee Celebration returned again this year.



New 'Gateway Feature' and Museum Improvements



The entrance to 'Central Station' has now been enhanced by this now railway-style timber canopy and bench. Volunteers have made improvements to the pathway in the foreground, whilst above the bench are a new information panel and notice board. This will make the approach to the station more welcoming and informative, both when the railway is open, and when it is closed, as above.

The cost of the 'Gateway' project and museum improvements have been 75% funded by CyMAL, Welsh Assembly Government, via a museum innovation and development grant.

The new canopy required planning permission, which was finally granted following a letter to the County Council advising them of what materials a timber canopy would be constructed from. The canopy was designed, built and installed by Pen y Bryn Joinery from Denbigh.



The Famous Trains interactive is a new feature in the RMR's museum. Four trains are displayed including two from the RMR. Underneath the swinging discs can be found the reasons why they are famous. Visitors can vote for which train they think is the most famous by pressing a button, each press advances the digital counter by one.

This interactive originated from a brainstorm session and is not a clone of anything seen in another museum. It was installed in the museum in time for the August bank holiday and by the end of September the vote buttons had all reached several thousand.

The fourth part of the CyMAL project consisted of writing and printing a new museum quiz. All of these improvements were recommended by the railway's access plan produced last year.

We have also installed in the museum two pneumatic whistles for which children can pull the cord and hear the whistle sound.

Cagney No 44 at the Perrygrove Railway

Cagney no 44 attended the Gala Weekend of the Perrygrove Railway in the Forest of Dean on 21st/22nd September.



The locomotive spent both days on one end of a shuttle train between Perrygrove and the halfway station at Rookwood. It worked opposite a privately owned 0-4-0

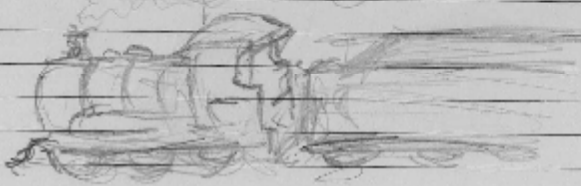
loco named *Sooty* which is based on a Baldwin prototype. Although the train had only two cars both engines had to work hard on this steeply graded line.



Another attendee at this gala was Bob Tebb's 4-4-4 petrol locomotive *Blaakovesley*, built by Bassett Lowke in 1909. This was the first time since the Blakesley Hall Railway during the 1930s that *Blaakovesley* and a Cagney locomotive had been seen together.

Customer Comment Cards from 2013

WHAT A LOVELY TRAIN RIDE
AROUND THE LAKE.
WE HAD A GREAT TIME.



The Walker Family.

We are back again!!!! The
trains never loose their interest
The teddy bear weekend
has been fantastic - off
to do the treasure hunt.

our kids love it
here
We come on the train
every time we come
to our caravan.

My Husband loves it too!

Vicki

Good ride
for £2

From 4 Pensioners

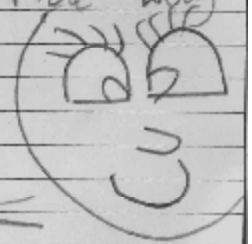
Great ride! And the staff are really
nice

Dylan Kane



It wasn't the train ride ^{was}
good but cold.

Stacy



ĎAKUJEME.

VELMI PĚKNĚ.

HONKY
FROM SLOVAKIA

fit guard with long
blonde hair yum! :)

I thought it was amazing
! I loved the view of the
water and the hills.
It was a great day
out!

By Eden
Deering

We loved the train ride. Not usually
a fan of museums but was very pleased
when I saw how happy the boys were.

Magical Mystery Weekend



Attendees at Magical Mystery Weekend, on 10th and 11th August, enjoyed a wizard time. David Fall from Coastal Entertainments provided free childrens' magic shows on both days.



Other RMR News

Santa Specials 2013

Santa Special trains will operate on Sunday 15th, Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd December 2013. It will shortly be possible to make bookings at www.rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk.

The 2013 season and looking ahead

To date, the railway has carried 16,800 passengers during 2013, a similar number to 2012. The main summer season was particularly busy, due in part to the warm weather. During this period passenger numbers were up by 40% over 2012, and there had also been substantial increases in summer 2012 and summer 2011. We are looking forward to 2014 when the new pedestrian bridge over Foryd Harbour, near to us, will be open.

The Trustees have decided to increase the adult train fare from £2.00 in 2013 to £2.50 in 2014, the child fare will remain at £1.50.

Engineering work 2013-2014

At the time of writing work is under way in the railway workshop to arrest corrosion in the metal plating of the tender of *Joan*. The tender of *Railway Queen* has also received attention and has started to be re-assembled. We will no doubt also be working on the railway track and on a host of smaller maintenance tasks.

Volunteer work days

There will be work days at the railway on 13 October, 10 November, 7/8 December, 12 January, 9 February, 9 March. On these days there will be organised work available for all willing volunteers.

Trust changes

On 11th September Pat Kelly resigned as a Trustee of Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust, and has told us that he will no longer be a volunteer at Rhyl Miniature Railway. Pat had been prominent in operating the railway for the last four years, and had also played a leading role in a number of workshop projects including the restoration of *Michael*. He will be missed and we wish him well for the future.



RHYL STEAM PRESERVATION TRUST

Registered Charity No 1103953

Trustees: Les Hughes (Chairman), Carol Hughes, Louise Webster, Lucille Green, Cllr Joan Butterfield JP, Jack Butterfield, Simon Townsend (Secretary), Justin Bell. Enquiries about railway operations should be addressed to the Trust Secretary, 10 Cilnant, Mold CH7 1GG, Tel 01352 759109.

Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway

Our group has been formed to support the Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust in its aims to preserve and operate the railway.

Membership costs £7.50 per annum and runs to 31st May each year, including newsletters due in April and September.

President of the Friends is Rev Alan Cliff, whilst its Chairman is Simon Townsend

For Subscriptions and Enquiries: Secretary of the Friends is Dave Bell, of 22 River Street, Rhyl LL18 1PT, Tel 01745 339477.

Friends' Newsletter

Editor: Simon Townsend

Photographs in this issue by Justin Bell, Bob Tebb, and Simon Townsend