

# Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway

Newsletter No. 30

Website: [www.rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk](http://www.rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk)

October 2015



## Rhyl Miniature Railway awarded 83% in Visitor Quality Assessment

A 'mystery shopper' quality assessment of the railway took place on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015. The independent assessor from Visit Wales awarded the railway a score of 83%. He commented that the stronger aspects of the visitor experience were the train ride round the lake and the helpfulness and enthusiasm of the staff.

Les Hughes, Chairman of Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust, said 'The Trustees were very pleased to hear about the railway's quality assessment results, which are above average, and match with our reviews on TripAdvisor. The Trustees are very grateful to our volunteers and staff, who helped to provide a high quality of service to our visitors during 2015.'

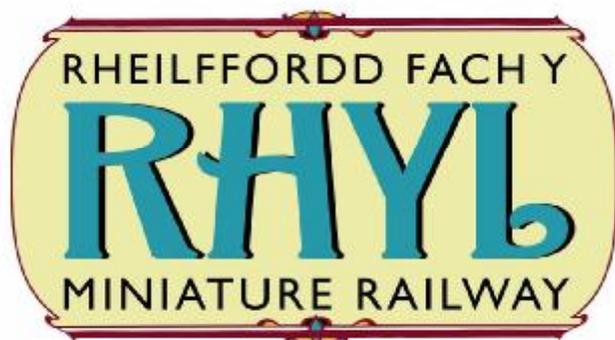
'Since Easter 2015 the railway has carried over 16,500 passengers, which we consider is creditable bearing in mind the variable weather this summer.'



## RMR Special Events 2015 and 2016

Railway volunteers Pete and Liz Wright organised a Teddy Bear's Picnic event which took place on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Lots of children brought their teddies along to enjoy free rides on the railway, and on the second day trains ran close to full capacity.

We plan to repeat this teddy bear event on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Next year's Whitsun event (28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016) we hope will have a Pirates theme and will be run at Marine Lake in conjunction with Coastal Entertainments and Aqua Adventures.



# SANTA SPECIALS



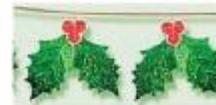
SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup>, SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup>, MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup>  
AND TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2015

AT MARINE LAKE, RHYLL

**STEAM TRAIN DEPARTURES**

**AT 10AM, 11AM, 12AM**

**1.30PM, 2.30PM, 3.30PM**



**CHILDREN £10 EACH**

**Every child will meet Santa in his  
grotto, and receive a special present.**

**One Adult free per child, includes  
train ride and seasonal refreshments.**

**Additional adults £3.00 each.**



**To book, visit [www.rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk](http://www.rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk),  
or ring Santa's Hotline 01745 360584**

# Comment Cards from 2015

Very good but very cold.



2005 By  
Mara Age 11

Eden loved Thomas  
and played with the  
signals



The train ride was great

Gwen Schofield loves  
it here, he has learning  
difficulties and it helps  
him chill out and relax

it broke  
down

18/8/15

A great little place  
for our Thomas fan. He  
loved riding the miniature  
railway. Great value for  
money, and great friendly  
staff. Keep up the good  
work!!

Steph, Shayah, Kane + Leah

Such a great day we  
caught 4 crabs,  
and laughed when my  
nan fell in the lake!

We loved it! We went on  
the pedalo and had a  
walk about were going  
having a drink + something  
to eat. Thanks for a  
Jamie lovely day  
Jay-Jay

Today was great,  
love the magic show and  
fair was great thanks  
for a great day

SINCE

XXX

Thank you, great museum, handson  
lovely cup of tea, friendly  
staff. Great train ride too.  
excellent! on and clean  
toilets and hot water

Dislike you fair

Excellent



really good. You can  
have a go yourself

## Locomotive Restoration, *Prince Edward of Wales*

This little engine is now the focus of attention with a view to its completion next summer. Construction of the new boiler in Oxfordshire is advancing well.



During the summer we dismantled the locomotive chassis and extracted the locomotive wheelsets. Due to their antiquity (over 100 years old) we have asked the engineering works of the Ffestiniog Railway to assist us and hope that the wheels will return to us before Christmas.



*Loco wheels grit blasted for examination at the FR.*



*New injectors now to hand for Prince Edward of Wales*

Mechanically the locomotive is already in very good order. New running plates and splashers have been fitted and work has started on the new paintwork in 'near Caledonian Blue'.



There remains much to do, and we are collecting the other parts which will be required to finish the project. At the moment the tender for PEOw is dismantled with a view to re-making the body to match the original design as closely as possible.

### *Railway Queen*

In October we delivered the old boiler to Terry Statham's works in Derbyshire, where the regulator will be extracted for re-use. Here there were all manner of locomotive and traction engine boilers under construction, including ours with already the barrel formed and various other plates prepared.

## Other RMR News

**Winter workdays 2015/2016:** We will be present at the RMR undertaking works of various kinds during the first weekend (at least) of every month between now and Easter 2016.

**Clara holidays:** Our diesel locomotive *Clara* departed on 22<sup>nd</sup> September for Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway, where it has played the part of Thomas the Tank Engine during their events on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> October. At some point in the future we expect that locomotives from CCLR may visit us.



LOTTERY FUNDED  
ARIENNIR GAN Y LOTERI



heritage  
treffadaeth



AMGUEDDFA  
ACHREDEDIG

ACCREDITED  
MUSEUM

## **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 £8.00 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 Simon Townsend and Justin Bell