

# Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway

Newsletter No. 31

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

June 2016



## Pirates Weekend Brings Record Crowds to Marine Lake

**PIRATES WEEKEND**

BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND  
28TH-30TH MAY 2016

STEAM TRAINS  
FAIRGROUND ATTRACTIONS  
CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT'S  
FREE MAGIC SHOW  
BEST DRESSED PIRATE  
COMPETITION TOO!  
(FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.)

BATTLE OF THE WHITE SWAN  
ON THE LAKE EACH DAY AT 14.30

Aqua-adventures  
FAMILY BOAT HIRE  
AVAILABLE FROM  
12.00PM  
EACH DAY!

RHYL  
MINIATURE RAILWAY

THE MARINE LAKE, RHYL, LL18 1AQ

THE FUN STARTS  
10.30AM  
EACH DAY!

On 28th – 30th May 'Pirates Weekend' - our main event of the year - brought bumper crowds to Marine Lake. Over 700 passengers rode on the train each day, and there was a good attendance of pirates both amongst the visitors and the train volunteers.

Gary Sausage performed childrens' magic shows supported on Saturday by Carrots the Clown and on Sunday by Danni Mac. There were some good entries each day in the Best Dressed Pirate competition. Many enjoyed the fairground rides provided by showman Lorenzo Crick.

On Sunday boat hire specialists Aqua Adventures had their busiest day ever. In the week before the event they had built Marine Lake's own pirate boat, which performed on Saturday in a mock Pirate battle. Very convincing it looked too. Some of the other pirates practiced unlawfulness using water pistols, but once or twice they got their just desserts in exchange, although thus far none have been beheaded.

Over the next year we will have to think of more dastardly deeds that the pirates can get up to over the Whitsun holiday in 2017!



*Captain Hook was resident at the railway over the weekend.*



*Gary Sausage entertained parties of children with magic shows and balloon modelling*



*New at Marine Lake for this season are the swan pedalos hired out by Aqua Adventures. Black Pearl, Marine Lake's own pirate ship, was built by Aqua Adventures in the week before the event.*



*Some of the pirates walking round looked a little familiar.*



## Locomotive Restoration, *Prince Edward of Wales*

Since the last newsletter work has continued towards getting this locomotive back in steam, so that we can revisit 1911 when it was first at the RMR.

New tyres were fitted to all the locomotive wheels just before Christmas at the Ffestiniog Railway, Boston Lodge works. In Witney, Oxfordshire, the new boiler passed its hydraulic test on 16<sup>th</sup> December. The smokebox was then made and fitted after which the boiler was tried in steam without any problems (7<sup>th</sup> January).



Whilst this was going on our workshop team was working on the tender, fitting the water tank and pipework. New valves were fitted to the cylinder drain taps and a linkage made to connect their operation to the loco cab.

The boiler was delivered to Rhyl on 17<sup>th</sup> January and is seen below with its builders, Jim and Helen Shackell.



There was then a lull whilst we finished work on the tender, and carried out other maintenance at the RMR.

On 28<sup>th</sup> March, Easter Monday, we set the new boiler on the chassis of *Prince Edward of Wales*.

On 9<sup>th</sup> April the steam pipework was mostly in place (at right).



The new nameplates have been generously donated by a Friends member. The whistle was sponsored by James Lock & Co.



Matters were sufficiently complete for the locomotive to be tried in steam on 17<sup>th</sup> April.



June 10<sup>th</sup> was the date of this year's RMR boiler inspections, when *Prince Edward of Wales* passed a hydraulic test and also its steam test.



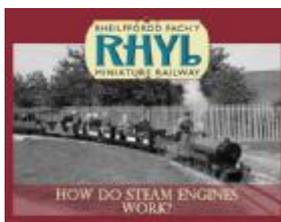
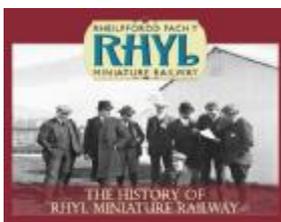
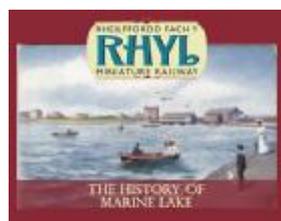
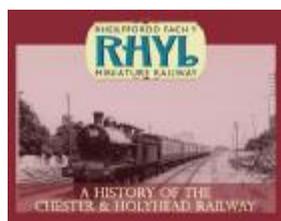
Now we have to fit the cladding cab, and brake fittings, after which the locomotive will be able to enter passenger service.

## RMR Partnership Learning Project

Last December Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust was successful in obtaining funding from Welsh Government through the Museums, Archives and Libraries Division; and the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales, for a project to strengthen links between the local community and Rhyl Miniature Railway. There was a particular focus on local schools and how to encourage structured visits to the RMR.

Most of the project work was carried out for us by heritage consultant Peter Alexander, and resulted in an action plan to take forward the various issues that were raised.

Allied to the main work we have made improvements to the railway's website, making our story more accessible, and providing a series of child-friendly interactive quizzes. Carly Rogers, our webmaster, has spent many hours preparing all this, and the links from new learning home page on our website now offer much to be explored.



We have started our own blog, so that users of the new learning area can leave feedback and make their own input to the site. We hope that, in time, this facility will make a popular addition to the paper Friends' newsletter and to our presence on Facebook.

## Santa Trains 2015

The Santa season over 4 days 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 made much greater use of online bookings and publicity via social media. In consequence the numbers carried almost doubled by comparison with our previous Christmas trains in 2013. Our Santa team had to make several last minute forays to buy and wrap up additional presents. We are looking forward to doing it all again on 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

## Other RMR News

**Teddy Bears Picnic:** Our summer event will take place during the main season on 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> August. There will be half price train rides for children bringing teddies with them, and a variety of competitions and other attractions. We have been asked to include Aqua Adventures within the scope of the event, and are presently considering what exciting maritime activities the teddies can embark upon.

**Rhyl's Royal Weekend:** On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June the RMR participated in this event, organised by Rhyl Town Council. We decked the train and station with Union Jack flags as part of HM The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.

The event was the first in a series planned by the Town Council.

**Clara holidays:** Our diesel locomotive departed again for Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway to play its part as Thomas the Tank Engine at their event on 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> March. In October 2016 it is due to make the trip over the Pennines for a third time.



## 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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