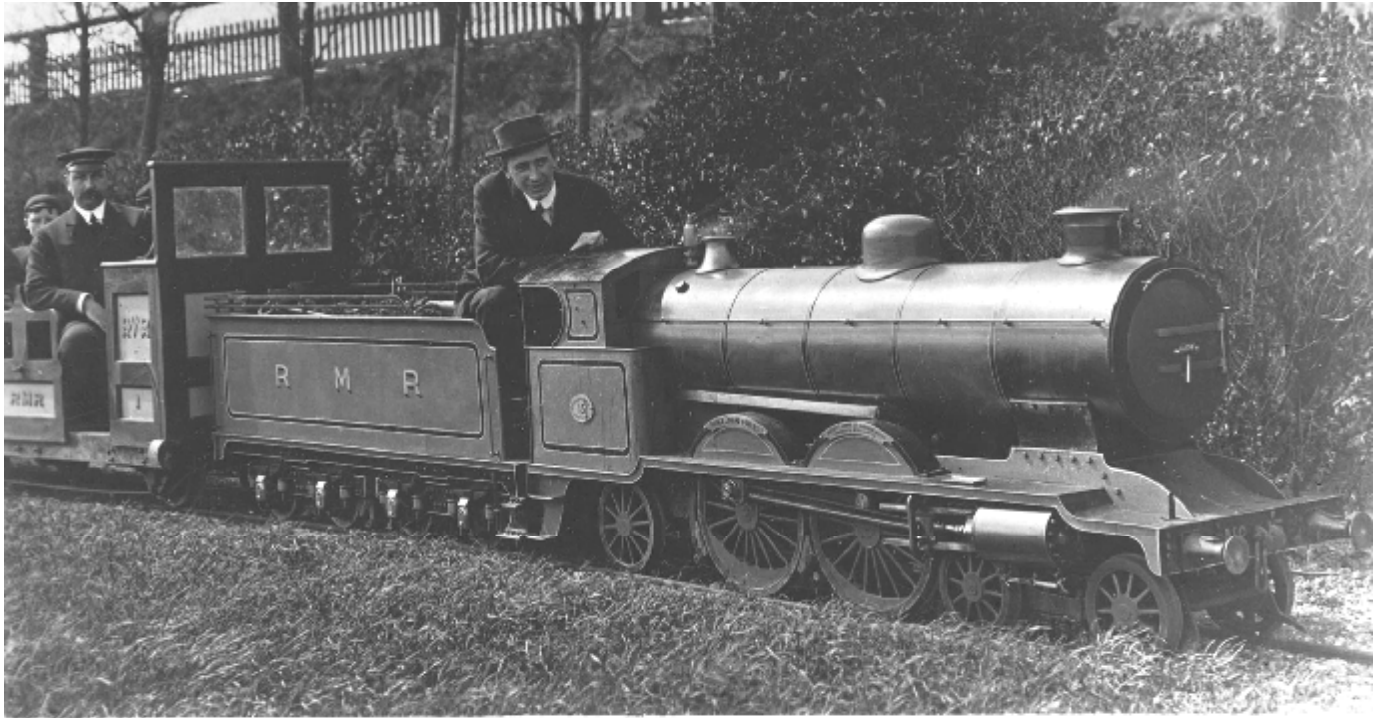


Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway

Newsletter No. 32

Website: www.rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk

October 2016



**Locomotive, "Prince Edward of Wales," Rhyl Miniature Railway.
BASSETT-LOWKE LTD., Builders, London & Northampton.**

Prince Edward of Wales re-enters service at RMR

On Saturday 30th July we were able to run *Prince Edward of Wales* in passenger service at the RMR, for the first time since 1920. It hauled trains during our special event the following weekend, and then after some more attention in the workshop it re-appeared for several more days at the end of August and during September. This is the railway's original locomotive from 1911, seen above with W J Bassett-Lowke at the helm.

Since purchase two years ago it has been fitted with a new boiler and a new tender, and in this rebuilt form it now runs well, suitable for hauling trains of three bogie carriages, as it did in earlier times. Over this coming winter more of the finishing touches will be added with a view getting as close as we can to its original finish in 'near Caledonian blue' livery.



Teddy Bear's Picnic 2016



This year's teddy event was blessed with fine weather and good publicity, and brought record crowds to Marine Lake. The railway carried a thousand adults over the two days as well as countless children who were riding free carrying their teddies with them.

There were teddies all around the miniature train station, and also some on the Marine Lake island, where they could be spotted by hirers of boats from Aqua Adventures.

Councillor Win Mullen-James, who brought the Steiff Teddy Bear's Picnic Collection, said:

'The weekend was a great success with record attendances. Children were delighted with all the activities, including Hunt the Teddy Pictures, Colouring



competition, Hook a Duck, Tombola (for Mums and Dads as well!). Thomas was a great attraction in the museum, as were picnics around the lakeside and, of course, ultimately a trip on a steam train on Britain's oldest miniature railway, carefully maintained by dedicated volunteers.'

'I can't wait for next year's picnic!'

Peter Wright, organiser of the event for Rhyl Miniature Railway, said:

'It was a lovely weekend in the sunshine. A lot of children brought their teddies for a ride on the train - they made so many new friends. Many had their faces painted and ate lovely cakes.'

'See you again next year!'





Teddy Bear's Picnic: Competitions
From the Archives



Teddy Bear's Picnic: Boat rides and funfair rides
Clara holidays, again



Through the wonders of the internet two new archive photos have recently come to light. The top one shows *Billie* on the Dreamland Miniature Railway at Margate. The station has two tracks – according to Friends member Peter Wilson the second track was laid in 1923. *Billie* is as new, similar to our locomotives in that era, and the coaches are the original rake of 4 wheelers which RMR had opened with in 1911. Only a few parts of these early Bassett Lowke coaches now remain. The bottom one shows our locomotive *Railway Queen* at Belle Vue in Manchester, and again this photo looks to be an early one after that railway opened in 1928.



This time the lads at Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway sent a monster sized crane wagon to collect *Clara* on 23rd September. It played the part of Thomas during their 'Days out with Thomas' event on 1st/2nd and 8th/9th October. We are looking forward to a return visit by *Sutton Belle* or *Sutton Flyer* but it seems as if we may have some years still to wait until either locomotive is working again.



Santa Trains 2016

RHEILFFORDD FACH Y
RHYL
MINIATURE RAILWAY

**SANTA
SPECIALS**

SATURDAY 17th, SUNDAY 18th, MONDAY 19th
AND TUESDAY 20th DECEMBER 2016
AT MARINE LAKE, RHYL

STEAM TRAIN DEPARTURES
AT 10AM, 11AM, 12AM,
1.30PM, 2.30PM, 3.30PM

CHILDREN £11 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 £5.00 each.

To book, visit www.rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk,
or ring Santa's Hotline 01745 360584

At the time of writing, internet bookings for RMR's 2016 Santa season are going well, with some trains at the most popular times already being fully booked.

From the Workshop



New enclosed carriages: At the time of writing, the main engineering project is the construction of two new enclosed carriages. These will supplement the RMR tramcar in providing cover for our passengers in the event of wet or windy weather. They are being built on existing underframes and bogies; it is planned that they will enter service in December. In the longer term one of the pair will be fitted out to luxury standard and will be fitted with brakes.

Watch out in the next newsletter for what names these carriages will carry!

Railway Queen: In December 2013 the Trustees ordered a new boiler for this locomotive from TRS Boilermakers, similar to their boiler now carried by *Michael*. We are expecting to take delivery of this during the next few months.

At the moment it is uncertain when work will resume on the chassis of *Railway Queen*, as the workshop team is fully committed to other projects for this winter.

Eileen Wormald

We were sorry to hear of the death on 17th August of 'Friends' member Eileen Wormald. She was the last surviving daughter of Albert Barnes, who was manager of Rhyll Amusements and was largely responsible for its prosperity, including building RMR's locomotives. Eileen was present at the opening of Central Station in 2007, and returned to the railway in July 2012. Eileen was an important link with the past of RMR and was able to place the railway in its context of her father's other achievements. She was an enthusiastic supporter of the Trust.



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 Rhyll Miniature Railway

Our group has been formed to support the Rhyll 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, Rhyll LL18 1PT, Tel 01745 339477.

Friends' Newsletter

Editor: Simon Townsend

Photographs in this issue from James Waterfield Collection (cover, top), by Simon Townsend and Justin Bell