

Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway

Newsletter No. 33

Website: www.rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk

June 2017



RMR Pirates Weekend brings crowds to Marine Lake

Marine Lake, Rhyl, LL18 1AQ
BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND
27th - 29th May from 10.30am

PIRATE WEEKEND

RHYL MINIATURE RAILWAY

MEET **CAPTAIN HOOK** and his fiendish friends

Best Dressed **pirate Competition**
2pm each day

FREE childrens' entertainment,
magic shows, music, dancers,
face painting, dressing up,
funfair rides, steam trains,
water pistols, & lots more fun!



Pirates Weekend again proved its popularity, attracting 1,450 passengers over three days. Childrens' entertainment was provided by Gary Sausage and Carrots the Clown. Lorenzo Crick funfairs supplied the amusement rides. In the absence of input from the lake water users this year, we made our own rail-borne pirate ship!



Pirates Weekend 2017



Santa Trains 2016

2016 was the railway's most successful Christmas season so far. A record 577 children visited Santa to receive their individual present.

One interesting fact is that we also beat our distance record as one child how came to see Santa was from Russia. On the busiest day we ran second trains in each time slot until the last train, and even Santa didn't have a lunch break.



Easter Egg Hunt

We tried a new event in our calendar, with the Easter Egg Hunt, on 16th-17th April. There was a competition to find the eggs hidden around the station, then add the letters together to find a mystery word. Two hundred children were all winners of eggy prizes.

Trains on both days were operated by *Joan* and *Prince Edward of Wales* / Cagney double headed.

From the Archives

A feature of winter 2016-2017 has been the construction of large new retail units, and parking, on the Cei Marina development opposite to us. At the time of writing the new roads are almost finished, and we have read that several of the new tenants are about to receive keys to their units, for their internal fit-outs to begin.

This seems an appropriate time to look back to what went on at Marine Lake and Ocean Beach in their heyday, as shown by their ads in the 1953 Rhyl tourist brochure below. The Alhambra café, able to accommodate 1,100 visitors at a single sitting, is indicative of the annual popularity of the site then.

RHYL

The High Spot of your holiday

Marine Lake Pleasure Beach

ADMISSION FREE

WITH FREE PARKING FOR CARS AND COACHES

- Figure 8 Coaster
- Ghost Train
- Motor Speedboat Thrills
- Giant Merry-Go-Round
- Leaping Lens
- Hall of Mirrors
- Speedway Cars
- Krazy Kot Haunted House
- Fun on the Farm—with real ponies

YOU SHOW 'EM THE WAY

HURRAY! I'VE WON THE PRIZE

COME ON LUV—YOU'RE NOT TRYING

RIGHT ABOUT SQUARE

COVER—IT'S DARK NITE

OH-OH—BAD LUCK JILL

WHOOA—SHE BUMPS

WHOOPE A DAI-YUM

LET'S HAVE A GO ON THESE

OH—YOU DO LOOK FUNNY UP THERE

GO ON—DON'T BE FRIGHT

GO ON—HAVE ANOTHER TRY BILL

LET 'EM ROBBIN'

RHYL AMUSEMENTS LTD. TEL. RHYL 104

A WONDERFUL DAY OUTING CENTRE!

Luncheon and tea at the

Alhambra CAFE

ON THE SEA FRONT RHYL

Plus 33 1/3% reduced rates

FOR ALL ALHAMBRA PARTIES AT THE

Marine Lake Pleasure Beach

It's the popular rendezvous for all day outings to Rhyl! The largest café on the North Wales coast, the Alhambra has seating for up to 1,100 for luncheons and teas. The Alhambra offers you good food, well cooked, quickly served; party catering is a speciality and keen terms are quoted. Large free coach park. Further, all Alhambra parties receive special concession vouchers for Marine Lake Pleasure Beach — see facing page.

Entrance is FREE and all parties dining at Alhambra Cafe receive concession vouchers enabling them to enjoy everything less than normal prices at the amusements of the Giant Fun Fair, from the Figure 8 Coaster to the Miniature Railway! So make it Alhambra Cafe and Marine Lake Pleasure Beach for your Day Outing this year!

RHYL AMUSEMENTS LTD 105 MARINE LAKE RHYL. PHONE 104

—Write for Specimen Menus and prices to

RMR Workshop News

Prince Edward of Wales: Over the winter finishing touches were added to the new locomotive. The valve gear and some parts of the motion were sent away to have bearings re-machined. With this done the loco now runs quietly as it should do.

This time we had enough hours to pay attention to the finishing touches; the handrails, worksplates and top coat paintwork.

Postcards of this locomotive at the RMR in the 1910s show it hauling three bogie carriages. In its restored form we are finding it easy to manage, and ideal for that sort of a load.



New enclosed carriages: The new carriages entered service in December as planned.



Winter maintenance and inspections have been carried out to the other railway equipment, including fitting new ventilation grilles to *Clara* and a new mechanical lubricator and steam pipe to *Cagney*.

Carriage and wagon: With the onset of the closure period in January we identified some rotten timbers in coaches 6 and 7 of the 'blue set'. This led to eight seats and one of the decks being identified for replacement. A lot of volunteer hours were absorbed by this project – the station platform was covered with sawdust several times over. These two carriages re-entered service with their new seats at the end of May.

Railway Queen: The new boiler for this locomotive was delivered to RMR on 11th June. It is expected that this locomotive will be the focus of engineering work at the railway over the next 12 months.



LOTTERY FUNDED
ARIENNIR GAN Y LOTERI



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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 Liz Wright, of 6 Bryn Ithel, Abergele LL22 8QB.

Friends' Newsletter

Editor: Simon Townsend

Photographs in this issue by Simon Townsend and Justin Bell