

Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway

Newsletter No. 37

Website: www.rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk

June 2019



Driving wheel pattern



Pony truck patterns



Coupling rod pattern



Blastpipe



Safety valve



Crosshead



Tender horn guide

Historic Patterns and Drawings acquired by Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust

During March the Trust acquired the surviving patterns and drawings of the six Barnes locomotives built in Rhyl. These historic items will now be held permanently in the Trust's collection along with locomotives *Joan*, *Railway Queen* and *Michael*.

The wooden patterns were used to make metal castings from which the locomotives were built at The Albion Works in Rhyl. Two of the largest surviving patterns were used to make the locomotives' driving wheels. Other items include the chimney and chimney cap, the smokebox door and various items from the pony truck. The drawings include some made by Henry Greenly at various dates during 1920. There are also some made by Rhyl Amusements' engineers over time, up to the 1960s. In 1993 these drawings and patterns were acquired by Michael List-Brain at the same time as he purchased locomotive 104 *Billie*

Following the sale of *Billie* last year it seemed the right time for these items to return to Rhyl.

The patterns are now stored in racks upstairs at RMR Central Station.

The engineering drawings are currently at Gwynedd Archives Service in Caernarfon where we hope that one of the conservators there will be able to stabilise their condition.



Valve bridles and tender brake shoe



Santa Trains 2018

More children than ever visited Rhyl Miniature Railway to see Father Christmas during December 2018. Train services were hauled by *Michael* assisted on the second weekend by *Prince Edward of Wales*.



We were encouraged to find that we had been awarded first place in the charity shop category of Rhyl Town Council's Christmas Window competition for 2018.



Pirate Weekend 2019

Pirate Weekend on 25th to 27th May, this year featured additional pirates and acts provided by Garden Den Character Hire.



Easter Egg Hunt 2019

Our Easter event for 2019, on 21st and 22nd April, was blessed with good weather, and was well attended.



Museum Accreditation Renewed



In July 2018 we were invited to submit a museum accreditation return. This involved us in producing a new forward plan, and reiterating our commitment to national museum standards in organisation health, collection care, and users and their experience. We were pleased when in November full accreditation was awarded for another three years.



The railway was also pleased a few weeks ago to be awarded a new Certificate of Excellence by Tripadvisor.

Jack Butterfield

We were sorry to hear of the death in January of one of our Trustees, Jack Butterfield. His good Yorkshire humour at meetings of the Trustees will be much missed. We are sure that members of the Friends would join us in offering our condolences to Joan.

Marine Lake in 1924



RMR Engineering Works



Trackwork: During the November 2018 to February 2019 closed season the RMR team put in a big effort and re-laid all the track from Central Station to the car park crossing with new sleepers and spikes. We also did a few lengths by the river bank, where we will be continuing during winter 2019 – 2020.



Railway Queen: Over the winter work continued on this locomotive. The loco trailing wheel was re-tyred. New valves were fitted made by Jim and Helen Shackell, and a new mechanical lubricator was supplied by Preston Services, sponsored by Alan Cliff. Not surprisingly, *Railway Queen* now has the sharpest 'chuff' of any of our steam locomotives.

Railway Queen re-entered passenger service just in time for Pirate Weekend. Following some trouble with the injectors the loco is now settling down, and should be in regular service during the RMR 2019 peak season.



Joan: The boiler from this loco, made in 1997, is now in Oxfordshire, where its potential for further use is to be assessed. The firebox inner plate is going to be removed, a complex job involving taking the tubes out and then drilling out all of the firebox stays.

Cei Marina

Doing good trade on the Marina Quay development opposite to us is Greggs, where personalities from the RMR are often seen.



Next door to Greggs is now Batch, a new ice cream parlour that also sells waffles and crepes. Construction of a new Aldi store on the north west corner of the site has made good progress, and it looks like not being long before this store opens for business.



RHYL STEAM PRESERVATION TRUST Registered Charity No 1103953

Trustees: Les Hughes (Chairman), Carol Hughes, Louise Webster, Lucille Green, Cllr Joan Butterfield JP, 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

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Friends' Newsletter

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Photographs in this issue by Justin Bell and Simon Townsend