# Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway

Newsletter No. 42

Website: www.rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk

October 2021



#### Rhyl Miniature Railway 2021 season

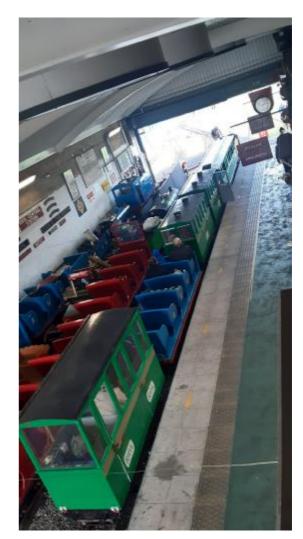
The railway has been very busy this season. During the summer the caravan parks along the North Wales coast became full, and many families chose to visit Marine Lake where they could ride on the train and go crabbing. The one way system which we use at Central Station remained in operation all year, with the shop area being fenced off from the platform. Compartments on the train were cleaned between every trip.



The cover picture shows the workhorse of the railway during 2021, *Clara.* It has been running around with a six coach train, fortunately it is powerful enough to handle any load on our railway.



The steam days were shared between *Railway Queen* and *Joan*, with *Prince Edward of Wales* (below) putting in an appearance over the August Bank Holiday weekend, when we ran two trains.

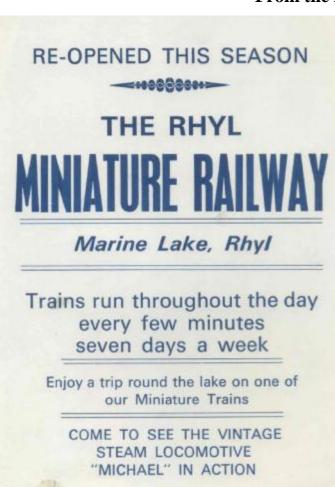




At the end of the season *Joan* ran coupled to the tender from *Midnael*, whilst its own tender was in the workshop being repainted and lined. *Midnael* is currently off site in the Midlands at Denver Light Railway, where its boiler is to be re-tubed.



From the Archives: 1978







Friends' member Philip Lloyd has recently given us a large collection of slides and ephemera from the railway's history during the period 1978 - 1988. Seen above is driver Bill Roberts with *Midhael*, looking very much as it had done when the railway closed in 1969. Seen below right is Councillor Peter Williams, who was prominent amongst those from Rhyl Town Council who supported the Council's purchase of *Billy*.



THE crowds have dwindles and must of the but-do stands have closed. Like ment fundar owners no a muse ment control. Michael is to take a resident

After his first season a pulling thousands of vistors around thys's Marin Lake since coming out of an eight-treat retiremen steam train Michael is to spend the winter to Ordove Built 55 wars ago, it it to undergo a complete refl and service believ veturning to Uhyl again for the

Mr Bill Roberts, 74, o Sestamic Road, Rhyl. ha driven and cared for the engine during the pas We r

#### Other RMR News

Santa Trains 2021: Trains are to run this year on nine days, 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> December, and then every day 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> December. At the time of writing many of these trains are already full and it seems likely that all the others will sell out as Christmas approaches. Lets hope that all the trains operate and none of them have to be cancelled like in 2020.

Winter Work Programme 2021/2022: Justin is doing his best with a few other volunteers to keep up with the maintenance required at the railway. Attention is planned to worn valve gear on *Joan* and *Railway Queen*. Some track maintenance will also be required. There will be working parties at the railway every Sunday from 10am until 4pm until Christmas, and then again from January. There are also a great number of Christmas presents that need to be wrapped.

#### **RMR Friends and Neighbours**

Cagney at Thorpe Light Railway: Cagney has spent the main season out-stationed at Thorpe Light Railway, near Barnard Castle. The shorter track there suits it well and the friendly group of volunteers have looked after it successfully before.

This year Thorpe Light Railway has celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its first opening.





We wish a fair wind to the Trustees of Llangollen Railway Trust who have taken over operation of their railway following the Llangollen Railway Plc falling into administration.

At the RMR our drivers' medicals are organised by Llangollen Railway and we look forward to continued co-operation with them. The Vintage Trains Charitable Trust have recently taken custody of the 15in gauge Sutton Collection, including 4-4-2 locomotives Sutton Belle, Sutton Flyer and Railcar no 4. We hope that this will bring about better fortune for the collection looking into the future. We heard last year from the Hungarian Railway Historical Park in Budapest, Hungary, where their 'Little Giant' locomotive Hungaria is being restored for future use on their site.



We look forward to cultural exchanges with them once their locomotive is in working order.





### RHYL STEAM PRESERVATION TRUST Registered Charity No 1103953

Trustees: Les Hughes (Chairman), Carol Hughes, Louise Webster, Lucille Green, Simon Townsend (Secretary), Justin Bell. Enquiries about railway operations should be addressed to the Trust Secretary,

10 Cilnant, Mold CH7 1GG, Tel 07940 261910.

## 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.

Chairman of the Friends is Simon Townsend For Subscriptions and Enquiries: Secretary of the Friends is Liz Wright, of 6 Bryn Ithel, Abergele LL22 8QB.

Friends' Newsletter
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Photographs in this issue by Justin Bell