

Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway

Newsletter No. 46

Website: www.rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk

October 2023



Billie formally re-named at RMR's Biggest Ever Gala on 23/24 September

Billie successfully ran steam trials in the week commencing 26th June, during the period before daily passenger running commenced. It entered passenger service on 27th August after a gap of forty years.

On 23rd/24th September the railway held the Everything Goes Gala, with *Joan, Railway Queen*,

Billie and *Michael* all working, supported by *Prince Edward of Wales*, *Cagney* and *Clara*. This was much the biggest railway Gala that RMR has ever held.

Billie was formally re-named on 23rd September by Councillor Ms Jacque McAlpine, the Mayor of Rhyl.



Trains at the Everything Goes Gala



Billie spent most of the weekend double heading with Joan.



On Saturday Prince Edward of Wales and Cagney were also operating. In fact Prince Edward had been working on Sept 17th, whilst the Cagney had received repairs the previous week. However during the Gala Prince Edward suffered from a broken part inside its valve chest. This led to both of the small locos being withdrawn, and they were replaced by diesel loco Clara.



Michael ran together with Railway Queen. Railway Queen had only re-entered service on 18th September following a very difficult repair to its regulator inside the boiler.



Billy spent the weekend out of its normal spot in the RMR museum, so that it could be seen together with the other four locos built by Albert Barnes.



Beyond the railway over the Gala weekend there was Punch and Judy, there were fairground rides, a playbus and charity stalls. We are grateful to Rhyl BID for helping to sponsor this part of the event.



Members of Rhyl Model railway Club operated their layouts in the RMR museum room.

At the end of both days Joan, Railway Queen, Billie and Michael all combined to haul a double length train, seen opposite.



Other RMR News



Billie in steam on 28th June, with restorer Justin Bell and Trust Chairman Les Hughes.



As the newsletter was being sent out we had started raising the roofs on our coaches 10 and 11 to match the other enclosed stock.

And Finally... A big THANK YOU!

To all our staff, volunteers and supporters who made possible the Everything Goes Gala. To see more of the event try searching for it on youtube.

Congratulations to Ryan Boyd and Gary Dixon who passed out as steam drivers just before the event.

Thank you to Aaron Ellis and Peter van Zeller who came in from other railways to help us, and to Austin Moss. Thank you to **David Colley** who used our original drawing to make a new pattern and casting for Railway Queen's regulator. David also made the new dome cover and nameplates for *Billie* which finish it off to such a high standard.



The 2023 season was at times a bit quiet during July but picked up in August. Features of the main season were the plastic crocodile and gorilla which were based at RMR during the main season as part of Rhyll BID's Safari Trail.

The last of Welsh coal: We started the year burning synthetic coals which were a mixed blessing. Then we got 2 tons of Polish steam coal which was not bad, followed by a supply of the very last Welsh steam coal from Ffos y Fran mine near Merthyr Tydfil. As our locos are clearly happiest with this British product we bought 8 tons for the 2024 season and are very grateful to the team at DCC Rhyll Harbour for storing it for us.



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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 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.

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

Editor: **Simon Townsend**

Photographs in this issue by John Myers, Justin Bell, Ian Pilkington.