

# Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway

Newsletter No. 50

Website: [www.rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk](http://www.rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk)

October 2025



## 25 Years of the Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway – Newsletter No 50

It seems remarkable to think that Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust, and Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway have both been in action for 25 years.

Some highlights during that time:

- the Trust's building Central Station opened in 2007
- Entry into service of further steam locomotives: *Michael*, 2011; *Prince Edward of Wales*, 2016; *Railway Queen*, 2018; *Billie*, 2023.
- Expansion of our fleet of carriages to include more historic vehicles and also a fully enclosed set.
- Employment of a full time manager to maintain the railway and co-ordinate other staff and volunteer activities.

We look forward to the challenges that the next 25 years will bring.

### Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway

Newsletter No. 1

September 2001

Record crowds help to celebrate the railway's Ninetieth Birthday



Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2001 was a special day in the railway's history, being the exact ninetieth anniversary of its opening. We organised a special event, in conjunction with Rhyl Water Ski Club, Rhyl Sea Cadets, and other Marine Lake users. Our own four engines all made appearances, while steam locomotives *Jobe* (from Oxfordshire) and *Eggle* (from the Cheshire Coast Light Railway) visited us especially for the event.

*Jobe* and our own *Jobe*, seen above, were both built in Rhyl by Albert Barnes & Co, and worked together on our railway for over forty years up to 1965, but this was the first time that they had been reunited since then. It was also the first time ever that the railway had seen so many locomotives working, albeit those of different kinds. A massive team effort by all the volunteers and visiting crews was rewarded by bright sunshine, and over 850 passengers rode on the mass just that day.

#### Successful first season for new Trust

The 2001 season has been the first for Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust as operators of the railway. The Trust Chairman is Les Hughes and its Secretary is Simon Townsend. Other Trustees are Counsellor Joan Butterfield JP, Carol Hughes and Justin Bell.

During the season the railway has operated on 45 days and has carried 5,500 passengers. This is over double the number from the 2000 season.

We hope that improved publicity should bring us more visitors still in 2002.



Photos on this page by N.H. Spibury

RHEILFFORDD FACH Y  
**RHYL**  
 MINIATURE RAILWAY





THE  
**MARINE LAKE  
 FAMILY FUNDAYS**





**FUNFAIR RIDES**      **FUN FOR ALL!**  
**CHARITY STALLS**      **COMPETITIONS**  
**FOOD**

20th, 21st and 22nd AUGUST 2025  
 FROM 10.30 AT RHYL MARINE LAKE



## New Level Crossing Lights at RMR

This project began in Autumn 2024, after a busy summer season. It was apparent that a few motorists drove into the Marine Lake car park without awareness of the railway crossing. Also some parked on the lake approach road and blocked off visibility between cars and the train.

One of our volunteers, Kevin, said that he could provide circuit boards being the brains of a system to activate battery powered traffic lights. So we purchased from China some traffic lights and made a prototype plywood light module.



RMR therefore made its own contribution to direct trade with China, at a time when some international figures (Donald Trump) were very disparaging about such trade taking place!

We attended the Ffestiniog Railway so as to copy the signage and positioning of their lights.



We proposed an installation scheme to our landlords Denbighshire County Council, which they approved early this year.

Our two new light modules are made from aluminium, and in order to avoid vandalism we have put them out each morning before the first public train, and taken them each night.

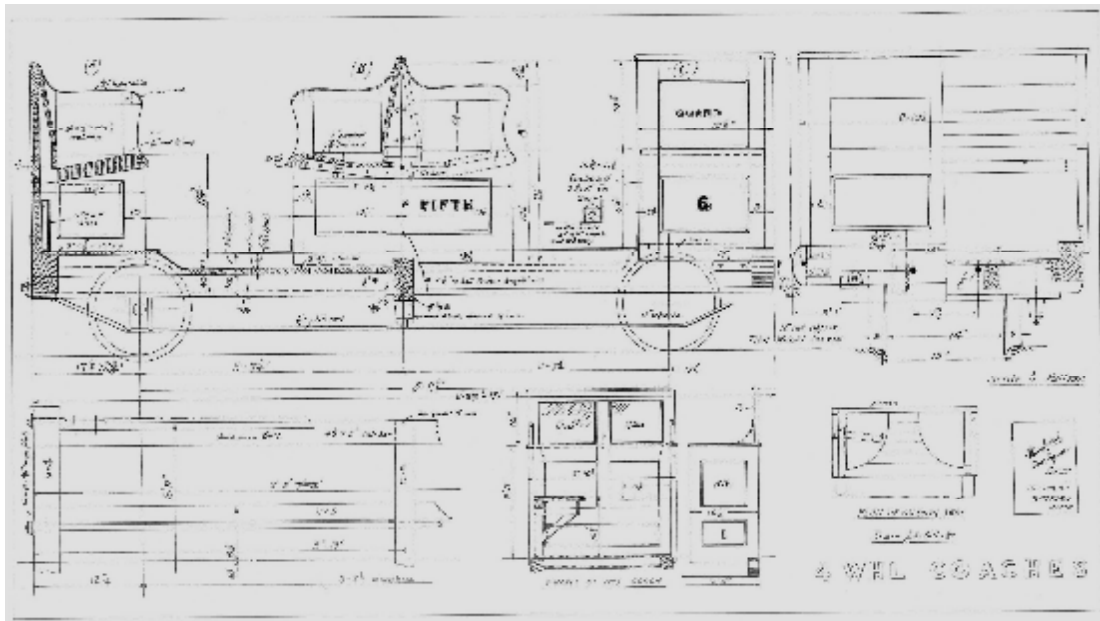
The lights are actuated by the train guard using a sender unit similar to the remote control box for a TV.

Justin also placed bollards along the lake access road to prevent people parking in places which obstruct visibility. We have heard that the Council has started procedures to mark the access road with double yellow lines. We hope that yellow lines will be in place next year.

We have mostly finished making a third light box, which we intend to be able to mount for motorists leaving the site.



## Other RMR News



**New / Old Bassett Lowke Carriages:** We have been wondering what we could do with the carriage parts that we purchased in 2022. The timber frames and cast parts seem sure to date from the opening of the RMR in 1911. However the timber is all very degraded, and the wheelsets that came with the carriages seem to us to be not original and do not comply with our profile standards.

We have now mounted the first wooden frame on the far wall of Central Station, where it will be followed by the other historic components labelled as being from RMR's original coaches.

We have 'borrowed' from these artefacts the cast parts and axleboxes to make two replica four wheeled carriages. The new Iroko frames of these vehicles arrived last month, and wheelsets to match with them are on order. More news in the next newsletter.

**New Addition to RMR stock:** Mini Thomas has recently joined us, so that Thomas fans not impressed by our Bachmann G scale version can get a greater dose. Mini Thomas was made by



R G Mitchell Amusement Rides in Skegness, and has come to us from Pontins in Prestayn (now closed) via Les Hughes.

**Winter Works 2025 / 2026:** We have before us a full programme of works, including a 10 year overhaul of *Prince Edward of Wales*. In the middle of this we are also expecting another busy Christmas season.

**The 2025 season:** will be remembered for its hot weather and shortage of rain. This helped us, because it drove visitors to Marine Lake, to buy also crabbing gear, ice cream and bottled water. Therefore the season brought a very satisfactory outcome.



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ARIENNIR GAN Y LOTERI



ACCREDITED  
MUSEUM

## **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 £10.00 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 G J Hoyland, 'Llys-y-Fron', 4 Ffordd Tan'r Allt, Abergele, Sir Conwy. LL22 7DQ.

**Friends' Newsletter**

**Editor: Simon Townsend**

Photographs in this issue by Justin Bell,  
Simon Townsend.