

Ymddiriedolaeth Amgueddfa Rheilffyrdd Bach Cul

The Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Trust

Registered Office: Wharf Station, Tywyn, Gwynedd, LL36 9EY

Accredited Museum 1433 Amgueddfa Achrededig

Registered Charity 1040128 Elusen Gofrestredig

Web: www.ngrm.org.uk Email: curator@ngrm.org.uk

Annual Report and Accounts for Year Ending 31st January 2018

Trustees appointed by the Tallylyn Railway Preservation Society:

C Keith Theobald - Chairman

Ian Evans – Minutes Secretary

Donald H Newing BSc, CEng, MIRSE

Brian Owen, AMA

Malcolm Phillips

Co-opted Trustees:

Peter Kazer

John D Olsen PhD, MRSB, CIBiol

Secretary: Andrew Nock

Treasurer: Roger Whitehouse

Education Adviser: Position vacant

Legal Adviser: Charles EE Fleming

Language Consultants:

Beryl Griffiths, Renaud Olgiati, Gerhard Urban,

Roelof van de Molen, Sheldon Penn, Denise McCanna

Museum Mentor: Anthony J Coulls BA, MSocSc

Website: www.ngrm.org.uk

Email: curator@ngrm.org.uk

Introduction and Statement of Purpose

This is the Annual Report of The Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Trust ("The Trust") for 1st February 2017 to 31st January 2018.

The Trust's principal object is the collection, conservation and display of narrow gauge railway relics and material for the education of the public in an enjoyable way, in accordance with the Trust Deed dated 11th July 1994.

Its aim is to record and interpret the history of narrow gauge railways in the British Isles and beyond. While a number of passenger-carrying railways have been preserved and continue to operate, primarily now to serve the tourist market, many other passenger-carrying lines, as well as numerous industrial and military ones, ceased to exist in the mid 20th century. Thanks to the pioneering enthusiasts and collectors of those times, our collection enables us to tell the story of these railways, most of which never achieved the widespread following enjoyed by their main line neighbours.



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]

through the Heritage Lottery Fund

Cefnogwyd gan

Y Loteri Genedlaethol

trwy Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri

The Collection

The main collection consists of items relating to narrow gauge railways of the British Isles, and to the Talyllyn Railway in particular.

The pace of accessions has slackened significantly in the last couple of years, reflecting the increasing pressure on storage and display space. Nevertheless the Trustees continue to review selectively items offered for sale at auction, and make a reasonable bid for any item which they consider would enhance the collection. Items are also offered to the Museum from time to time, with any accession decision being taken by the Trustees. Among items added to the collection during the year were:

MAIN COLLECTION

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------|--|
| TYWRM:VR014 | timetable poster | Vale or Rheidol Railway timetable poster 13th June to 17th September; year not shown. |
| TYWRM:TR282 | advertising poster | Talyllyn Railway advertising poster based on the Eric Bottomley print. |
| TYWRM:SGB005 | drawing | GA drawing of Scottish Gas Board locomotive |
| TYWRM:BP003 | drawing | GA drawing of locomotive "Dot" together with letter from Beyer Peacock. |
| TYWRM:TR283 | goblet | Commemorative goblet in Bristol blue glass celebrating the TRPS 50th Anniversary 1950-2000. |
| TYWRM:TR285 | works plate | Original works plate from Talyllyn Railway locomotive No.1 |
| TYWRM:CDR035 | rule book | County Donegal Railways Joint Committee Rule and Regulations book dated 1908 |
| TYWRM:CDR036 | ticket | County Donegal Railways caution ticket for drivers entering section under warning conditions |
| TYWRM:CDR037 | ticket | Donegal Railway paper ticket Dunkineely to Dublin return 27.1.1896 |
| TYWRM:GW006 | handbill | Double sided GWR handbill advertising the Festiniog Railway and the Snowdon Mountain Railway |
| TYWRM:MIS048 | wagon | Slate rubbish wagon |
| TYWRM:RER006 | timetable | Ravenglas & Eskdale Railway timetable for 1949 |
| TYWRM:AB001 | works plate | Andrew Barclay works plate No.1679 of 1920. A 4ft 3in gauge locomotive named "WOULDHAM" used on at least two cement works lines in Kent. |
| TYWRM:DQ118 | pattern | wooden foundry pattern : Padarn Railway side rod bearing (one of 9 patterns accessioned during the year) |
| TYWRM:GCP001 | timetable | Giant's Causeway and Portrush Timetable for July 1944 |
| TYWRM:IOM096 | nameplate | Isle of Man Railway replica nameplate for locomotive no.8 FENELLA sold for fund raising by the IOM Railway Society. |
| TYWRM:IOM098 | picture | Framed picture by Richard Hendry of Isle of Man Railway |

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|--|
| TYWRM:LLS012 | document | locomotive no.8 FENELLA Londonderry & Lough Swilly Railway Company cheque dated 22.4.1914 to Messrs Hudswell Clarke & Co Ltd. |
| TYWRM:TR302 | leaflet | Talyllyn Railway Welsh language leaflet with a history of the railway. |
| TYWRM:TR304 | booklet | Talyllyn Railway Air Brake Instructions dated 1998. |
| TYWRM:TR305 | works plate | Works plate carried by locomotive No.2 for several years; rebuilt by Gibbons Bros Ltd 1962-3 |
| TYWRM:WHR034 | waybill | Welsh Highland Railway waybill for conductor's ticket sales |

SUPPORT COLLECTION

| | | |
|--------------|--------|---|
| TYWRM:SUP236 | map | OS 6in maps of Corris, Upper Corris and Ratgoed. OS 6in Maps with annotations for Kerry Tramway. |
| TYWRM:SUP237 | map | OS 6in maps covering the Talyllyn Railway and quarries - 1901 series. 1:25000 print out of Tywyn dated 2000 |
| TYWRM:SUP238 | book | The Lowca Legacy by Anthony Coulls |
| TYWRM:SUP239 | model | Model of a proposed station building for Nant Gwernol built from a drawing by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis |
| TYWRM:SUP240 | plaque | Slate plaque commemorating Edward Thomas as a deacon of the former Bethany English Presbyterian Church, Tywyn |
| TYWRM:SUP242 | book | The Campbeltown & Machrihanish Light Railway by Nigel Macmillan (proof copy) |
| TYWRM:SUP243 | book | Talyllyn & Corris Steam Locomotives Volume 2 by Martin Fuller |

AWDRY COLLECTION

This is a separate collection of items recalling the life and works of the well-known children's author the late Rev Wilbert Awdry, an active member of the Talyllyn Railway Preservation Society. It is displayed in a reconstruction of his study within the museum. The Awdry family have continued to be very generous in their assistance. The following accession was made to this collection:

| | | |
|--------------|----------|---|
| TYWRM:AWD511 | document | Letters and notice about the memorial service for the Revd WV Awdry |
|--------------|----------|---|

The locomotive "Jubilee 1897", on long-term loan from Welsh Slate, and displayed in the Museum until autumn 2016, had been moved to the Penrhyn Quarry Railway (PQR), whose management planned to restore it to working order. In summer 2017 an unforeseen dispute between the PQR and its landlord necessitated the urgent removal of "Jubilee

1897”, and with Welsh Slate’s agreement the Trustees moved it to secure storage at the Vale of Rheidol Railway (VoR) in Aberystwyth They are deeply grateful to the VoR for their timely and invaluable cooperation, and at the time of writing this report discussions between Welsh Slate, VoR and the Trustees were ongoing, with a view to securing a long-term future for the locomotive to its owner’s satisfaction.

Museum Opening and Visitor Numbers

In accordance with the Trust’s policy, the museum was open on all days when the Talylyn Railway was operating a public train service, and also on selected Museum open weekends in March, November and December, when trains were not operating.

The numbers of visitors during this and previous years were as follows:

| | 2017-18 | 2016-17 | 2015-16 | 2014-15 | 2013-14 | 2012-13 |
|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Adults | 12,374 | 12,563 | 13,458 | 11,943 | 12,721 | 11,903 |
| Children | 4,383 | 4,024 | 4,426 | 3,824 | 4,006 | 3,974 |
| Total | 16,757 | 16,587 | 17,884 | 15,767 | 16,727 | 15,877 |

Visitor numbers peaked in 2015-16 because of the Talylyn Railway’s 150th anniversary celebrations, and have since stabilised at a more normal, but still satisfactory level.

Projects

At the start of the year completion of the physical changes to the Museum made possible by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant was in sight; with the two new locomotives moved in, the Museum’s volunteers set to work on the many smaller but vitally important components of the project. A glass balustrade was erected around the front of the ramp enclosing 'William Finlay' (WF), and non-slip rubber flooring was applied. To make WF more interesting to visitors, including those in wheelchairs who cannot climb aboard, user-activated recordings of steam engine sounds were installed, as were a video monitor displaying views from the cab, mounted at a suitable level for wheelchair users, and a flickering artificial fire in the firebox. LED lighting was installed inside WF’s frames to highlight its Fletcher’s Patent valve gear (with other locomotives and rolling stock items being similarly treated). To aid interpretation two large “William Finlay at work” banners, and another showing the inside of an active firebox, have been provided, as has a dual language version of Christopher Vine’s 'How does a steam engine work?' interpretive panel at a height suitable for children.

The other new loco, Baguley No. 774, was not forgotten; a photographic forest panorama was provided, illustrating its original working environment, while to give visitors an appreciation of its technical features the engine covers were removed from both sides (with a viewing mirror hung behind), and LED lighting installed to illuminate features such as the gearbox, forward/reverse selector box and engine bay.

In association with the physical changes, new museum leaflets in Welsh and English have been produced.

Last year’s report noted the sudden resignation at the end of the year of the Trust’s Education Adviser. The Trustees’ endeavours to appoint a successor have so far been unsuccessful, and consequently it has not yet been possible to start the schools’ STEM workshops envisaged in the application for the HLF grant.

The final cost of the HLF-funded work turned out below the original estimate, and at the end of the year the Trustees were expecting to return a sum in the region of £2500 to the HLF¹.

WF has proved exceedingly popular with children, fully justifying the hard work and expenditure. In the light of experience, and to promote safety, plans were made as the year closed for some changes to partitions on the ground floor to give museum attendants a better view of the locomotive, enabling them to monitor visitors' conduct more readily and effectively.

Also during the year, a data projector and screen were installed in the Slater Room, enhancing its usefulness as an educational facility. It was funded by the Welsh Government through its Museums, Archives and Libraries Division (MALD); and the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales, whose generosity the Trustees gratefully acknowledge.

Special Events

On 30th June the Museum celebrated the substantial completion of the changes that were the subject of the HLF grant with a gathering of more than 50 invited guests, including past and present supporters of the Museum and the Talylyn Railway. Special guests included local Westminster MP Liz Saville-Roberts (leader of the Plaid Cymru group in the House of Commons and member of the all-party parliamentary group on heritage railways), County Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones, Tywyn Mayor Alun Wyn Evans, and the Development Officer for the Welsh Museums Federation, John Marjoram. Andrew Charman, editor of "Narrow Gauge World", performed the opening ceremony. The special guests spoke in warm support of the Museum, and the event generated favourable coverage in the news media.

The Museum's historic wagons have been used for special train workings and photo charters throughout the year.

In October the Museum participated in the "Museums at Night" event.

During the year, temporary exhibitions were mounted, featuring the 60th Anniversary of the Narrow Gauge Railway Museum, the 60th anniversary of the Talylyn Railway Letter Service, and Talylyn Railway carriages and their builders.

People

The Museum is governed, managed, manned, and supported entirely by volunteers. The big changes described earlier would have been impossible without the skills and dedication of volunteers. The Trustees thank everyone who has contributed time and effort during the year.

The Museum's volunteer attendants continued to provide the front-line contact with visitors; without them the Museum could not function, and many thanks are due to them for their loyalty, and all the hours they put in during the year. They have also been the mainstay of the working parties at Tywyn. While the number of attendants remains stable, more volunteers for this important role would be very welcome, not least to enable extensions to museum opening hours on the Talylyn Railway's busiest days.

Valuable help has also been given by staff and volunteers of the Talylyn Railway.

¹ Subsequently confirmed as £1301.

The continuing vacancy of the Education Adviser post has already been noted, and illustrates the difficulties faced by the Trustees in finding volunteers with specialist skills, particularly in a sparsely-populated part of the country remote from major population centres.

Working Parties

The Museum working parties have continued meeting weekly on Thursday mornings, usually with between 6 and 10 people attending. News of their activities is regularly reported on the Museum's 'Facebook' page, conveying the spirit of camaraderie, and illustrating the social as well as the functional benefits of volunteering.

In readiness for the start of public opening in March 2017, the extensive ground floor alterations associated with the HLF project were completed, allowing public enjoyment of WF and Baguley 774 as described earlier. With the closure of the museum in the late autumn the working parties began modifying the high wall inside the main entrance as it was blocking the view from the attendants' station on the stairs of the new access ramp around William Finlay.

The working parties have also continued work on restoring the Museum's wagons:

- Wagon No 101, a splay-side metal body goods wagon is now passed for use in photo charter trains;
- Wagon No 164, woodwork completed, now awaiting brake repairs in the workshop;
- Wagon No 134, dismantled and now awaiting new wooden frame.

Working parties have also continued at North Ings Farm Museum.

Friends of The Museum

The Friends of The Museum group has continued to operate, providing valuable help in funding museum operations, for which the Trustees are very grateful. The Object Sponsorship scheme has been revived, with a fresh round of sponsorships being invited, emphasising the additional benefits available to sponsors.

Web Site

The current website, inaugurated in March 2015, continues to be updated to provide further information about the collection and an ongoing record of museum news items. The Welsh language content of the site has been considerably improved and expanded.

Finance

The Trustees continue to operate a policy of free admission. Donations from visitors through the collecting boxes in the Museum amounted to £1,694.47; donations to the 'William Finlay' fund were £4,092.83, and other donations, legacies and sponsorship realised £3,184.72. Friends' membership donations raised £539.00. The Trustees have continued their policy of working within the Trust's means, and the General account surplus at the end of the year was £2,252.04 (similar to the previous year). A statement of the Annual Accounts is attached.

External relations

During the year the Trustees became aware of moves to establish a new museum in Tywyn devoted to the area's history. They maintain a watching brief, willing to provide friendly advice, but will proceed cautiously in relation to any requests for more concrete support.

Gwynedd County Council is bidding for UNESCO World Heritage Site designation for the Welsh slate industry, with Meirionydd and specifically the former Bryn Eglwys quarry and the Talylyn Railway within the bid's scope; the Museum, with its historic Talylyn wagons and many other exhibits associated with the slate industry, stands ready to contribute strongly to the bid. It has started working closely with the Talylyn Railway with a view to recreating the unique facilities at Tywyn Wharf for transshipping Bryn Eglwys slate from narrow-gauge to standard-gauge railway wagons for onward transport.

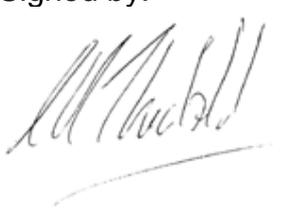
Looking Forward

The Trustees value the Museum's status as an accredited museum; it gives the Museum useful credibility with influential organisations such as national and local government, and grant-awarding bodies, while providing a salutary spur to the maintenance of high standards in areas like collections management and care. At the end of the period covered by this report the closing date for submitting the Museum's application for re-accreditation was six weeks away, and the submission was at an advanced stage of readiness². In preparing their submission, and the associated update of the Forward Plan, the Trustees paid particular attention to the importance of trustee and officer succession planning to secure the Museum's future, and the need to develop its user base. This continues the process of realising the Museum's sustainability strategy, initiated in 2013.

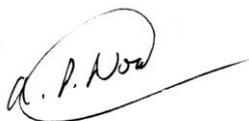
The programme of temporary exhibitions will continue in 2018, with one featuring the centenary of the Talylyn Railway's locomotive no 6 'Douglas' and the history of the Royal Air Force in the Tywyn area (reflecting no 6's origin as a RAF locomotive).

Approved by the Trustees at their meeting on 25th May 2018

Signed by:



C K Theobald, Chairman



A P Nock, Secretary

² The re-accreditation submission was eventually made on time.

Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Trust

Accounts for Financial Year ending 31/1/18

2016-17

| <u>Fund Type</u> <u>Fund Name</u> | unrestricted General | designated Insurance Reserve | designated William Finlay Fund | restricted HLF Grant Fund | . |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| RECEIPTS | | | | | |
| Donations in Museum | 1,694.47 | | | | 1,855.10 |
| Other Donations | 3,184.72 | | 4,092.83 | | 13,933.24 |
| Friends Subscriptions | 539.00 | | | | 823.00 |
| Legacies | - | | | | - |
| Grants | 1,463.90 | | | 17,080.00 | 21,350.00 |
| Gift Aid Tax Reclaim | - | | | | 3,981.71 |
| Sales | - | | | | - |
| Fees | - | | | | - |
| Miscellaneous | 50.00 | | | | 49.20 |
| Bank Interest | <u>14.50</u> | <u>515.90</u> | | | <u>473.15</u> |
| Total Receipts | <u>6,946.59</u> | <u>515.90</u> | <u>4,092.83</u> | <u>17,080.00</u> | <u>42,465.40</u> |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | |
| Collection | | | | | |
| Acquisitions | 125.91 | | 15,000.00 | | - |
| Repair & Maint | 229.89 | | (18.96) | 15,607.09 | 28,272.17 |
| Presentation | 2,045.75 | | | 16,131.74 | 2,330.40 |
| Subscriptions | 256.10 | | | | 248.60 |
| Grants | - | | | | - |
| Miscellaneous | <u>2,036.90</u> | | | | <u>1,196.75</u> |
| Total Payments | <u>4,694.55</u> | | <u>14,981.04</u> | <u>31,738.83</u> | <u>32,047.92</u> |
| Net Receipts | 2,252.04 | 515.90 | (10,888.21) | (14,658.83) | 10,417.48 |
| Balances 1.2.17 | 56,096.12 | 39,793.49 | (22,895.67) | 17,580.63 | |
| Balances 1.2.18 | 58,348.16 | 40,309.39 | (33,783.88) | 2,921.80 | |

R.M. Whitehouse
10 April 2018

Agreed by the Trustees at their meeting on 25 May 2018.

Signed by:



CK Theobald - Chairman



Trustee