

**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

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## **Annual Report and Accounts for Year Ending 31st January 2019**

Trustees appointed by the Talylyn Railway Preservation Society:

C Keith Theobald - Chairman

Ian Evans – Minutes Secretary

Donald H Newing BSc, CEng, MIRSE

Brian Owen, AMA (resigned July 2018)

Malcolm Phillips

Co-opted Trustees:

Peter Kazer (resigned July 2018)

John D Olsen PhD, MRSB, CIBiol

Wendy Pink (appointed October 2018)

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](http://www.ngrm.org.uk)

Email: [curator@ngrm.org.uk](mailto:curator@ngrm.org.uk)

### **Introduction and Statement of Purpose**

This is the Annual Report of The Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Trust (“The Trust”) for 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019. 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.



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 Talylyn Railway in particular.

The pace of accessions has slackened significantly in the last few 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. Additions to the collection during the year were:

### MAIN COLLECTION

TYWRM:TR306	advertising poster	Talylyn Railway Preservation Society poster "Can a railway have a heart of gold"
TYWRM:TR307	advertising poster	Talylyn Railway "Sir Handel invites you to join him at Tywyn in 1983"
TYWRM:TR308	advertising poster	Talylyn Railway "Come and ride behind Sir Handel" dated 1982
TYWRM:TR309	advertising poster	Talylyn Railway information poster undated c1960s
TYWRM:TR310	advertising poster	Talylyn Railway information poster undated c1970
TYWRM:TR311	advertising poster	Talylyn Railway poster, artist image dated 1980
TYWRM:TR312	advertising poster	Talylyn Railway Preservation Society poster "Share our railway adventure"
TYWRM:TR313	advertising poster	Talylyn Railway Preservation Society poster blank
TYWRM:TR314	timetable poster	Talylyn Railway timetable poster for 1971
TYWRM:TR315	leaflet	Tri-fold A5 leaflet 'All about the Talylyn Railway' containing facts about the railway c1973
TYWRM:TR316	badge	Lapel badges of locomotive no.1 and locomotive no.3
TYWRM: MIS049	leaflet	Great Little Trains of Wales timetable and information leaflet 1990
TYWRM:TR317	timetable	Talylyn Railway card pocket timetable for 1963
TYWRM:TR318	timetable	Talylyn Railway card pocket timetable for 1974
TYWRM:TR319	booklet	Talylyn Railway fares booklet for 2004
TYWRM:TR320	booklet	Talylyn Railway fares booklet for 2005
TYWRM:TR321	booklet	Talylyn Railway working timetable booklet for 2004
TYWRM:TR322	booklet	Talylyn Railway working timetable booklet for 2005
TYWRM:TR323	leaflet	Talylyn Railway Conditions of Issue of Tickets leaflet September 1976
TYWRM:TR324	leaflet	Talylyn Railway leaflet advertising an Evening Out from Borth and Aberystwyth 1982

TYWRM:TR325	leaflet	Talylyn Railway leaflet commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Coronation in 2013
TYWRM:TR326	leaflet	Talylyn Railway leaflet commemorating the 60th anniversary of the last train pre-preservation
TYWRM:TR327	leaflet	Talylyn Railway and TR Preservation Society information and membership leaflet with 1965 sticker attached
TYWRM:TR328	booklet	Talylyn Railway Preservation Society rules with staple added AGM amendment dated 1955
TYWRM:TR329	booklet	Talylyn Railway Preservation Society Constitution and Rules dated October 1966
TYWRM:CL005	report	Cavan & Leitrim Railway Co. Directors report and accounts 1916
TYWRM:CV010	report	Clogher Valley Railway Co. Directors report and accounts 1916
TYWRM:GT002	certificate	The Gorsedda Junction and Portmadoc Railways Company share certificate dated 1875
TYWRM:TR330	certificate	Talylyn Holdings Ltd loan certificate 0100 dated 1st March 1980. Loan was to purchase a Volunteer Hostel for the TR.
TYWRM:TR331	leaflet	Talylyn Railway Preservation Society membership leaflet c1952
TYWRM:TR332	leaflet	Talylyn Railway Preservation Society membership leaflet c1953
TYWRM:CDR038	leaflet	County Donegal Railway Excursion Arrangements leaflet for summer 1938 with timetable and fares and map of the system.
TYWRM:FR055	crockery	Commemorative plate marking the completion of the Festiniog Railway Llyn Ystradau Deviation Project 1978
TYWRM:TR333	railway letter	Talylyn Railway first day cover for the 100th anniversary of locomotive No.6 21.02.2018
TYWRM:TR334	plaque	Talylyn Railway plaque in memory of Hugh Jones carried on locomotive No.6 for many years

#### SUPPORT COLLECTION

TYWRM:SUP246	book	Narrow Gauge Railways in Mid-Wales by J.I.C.Boyd
TYWRM:SUP247	book	Colonel Stephens - A Celebration
TYWRM:SUP248	booklet	A Trainspotter's Guide to the War Department Light Railways by Huw Sheppard. Includes project notes.
TYWRM:SUP249	nameplate	Aluminium nameplate cast from the original "Dolgoch" pattern
TYWRM:SUP250	headboard	RAF Wings headboard carried by Talylyn locomotive No.6 during the RAF centenary year 2018
TYWRM:SUP251.1	drawing	Plans of Dorking Greystone locomotive "Townsend

		Hook" and wagons drawn to a scale of 1in to 1ft.
TYWRM:SUP251.2	drawing	Plans of Cambeltown and Machrihanish coach and wagons drawn to a scale of 7mm to 1ft.
TYWRM:SUP251.3	drawing	Plan of Leek and Manifold locomotive drawn to a scale of 7mm to 1ft.

## 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 Talylyn 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:AWD512	model	Bachmann model of Skarloey (HO9 scale)
TYWRM:AWD513	model	Bachmann model of Rheneas (HO9 scale)

Last year the Trustees reported that the locomotive "Jubilee 1897", on long-term loan from Welsh Slate, and displayed in the Museum until autumn 2016, had been moved from the Penrhyn Quarry Railway (PQR) to secure storage at the Vale of Rheidol Railway (VoR) in Aberystwyth. Notwithstanding the Trustees' best efforts, over the past year little progress has been made in settling the locomotive's long-term future to its owner's satisfaction, partly because of the diversion of management priorities within Welsh Slate following its acquisition by the Breeden Group.

The Trustees remain mindful of their responsibilities towards items on loan to other collections, and provided a new interpretation panel for the locomotive "Nutt", displayed at the Leighton Buzzard Railway.

## Accreditation

The Museum has been an Accredited Museum since completion of the new Museum building in 2005, and on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018 the Trustees were delighted to receive confirmation from the Welsh Government that this status had been renewed, following scrutiny of the Museum's application submitted in March 2018. Accreditation, having confirmed that the Museum is run to high standards, provides the spur to maintaining those standards, and gives the Museum the credibility it needs with public authorities and other grant-awarding bodies. The Trustees are grateful to all whose hard work contributed to this outcome.

## 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 when trains were not operating.

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

	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14
Adults	13,653	12,374	12,563	13,458	11,943	12,721
Children	4,555	4,383	4,024	4,426	3,824	4,006
Total	18,208	16,757	16,587	17,884	15,767	16,727

It is gratifying that visitor numbers exceeded the previous peak in 2015-16, the year of the Talylyn Railway's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

## **Projects**

After the major changes to the ground floor displays completed in winter 2017, attention turned to the first floor. In autumn 2018 the Trust was successful in seeking a grant of £1511 from the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales to fund the acquisition of a map drawer unit and two A3 flip display units, enabling it to store correctly and display the many paper relics from narrow-gauge railways around the British Isles which it had previously been impossible to put on public view. The new equipment was installed in February 2019, with the opportunity being taken to make other changes and additions to the first-floor displays.

In the light of experience, in particular the attendants' restricted view of the area around William Finlay, part of the internal wall to the right of the main entrance has been replaced with a large glazed panel. Although originally motivated by security and safety concerns, the change has rendered the Museum entrance much more open and welcoming.

## **Special Events**

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.

Temporary exhibitions allow the Museum to focus on matters of topical interest and help keep the collection fresh for repeat visitors, and two were mounted during the year. The first attracted an unusual degree of community interest by working with the local Royal Air Force Association to show the history of the RAF's involvement with the Tywyn area during and after the Second World War, complementing displays celebrating the centenary of TR locomotive no. 6, originally built for the newly-formed RAF, and the history of the Andrew Barclay company, builders of No. 6. A further exhibition marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Col HF Stephens, legendary manager of many light railways in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, whose portfolio included several narrow-gauge lines, including the Festiniog and Welsh Highland railways.

## **People**

The Museum is governed, managed, manned, and supported entirely by volunteers. The big changes of recent years and the continuing upkeep and development of the Museum would be impossible without their skills and dedication. 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. The number of attendants has declined slightly over the last year and 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.

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.

During the year, two Trustees resigned: Brian Owen (on ill-health grounds), and Peter Kazer. The Trustees are very grateful to these gentlemen for their contribution to the Museum's success. While this report was being prepared the Trustees learned with intense sadness of Mr Owen's death; his passing marks the "end of an era", since as Museum Project Coordinator in 2005 he designed and supervised the very successful fit-out of the new Museum, which remains as his permanent memorial. The Trustees extend their sympathy to Gill, Mr Owen's widow, and the rest of the family.

Mrs Wendy Pink was appointed Trustee in October 2018. Shortly after closure of the period covered by this report, Don Newing also resigned as Trustee after serving for, remarkably, almost 23 years; he continues as the Trust's archivist.

As the reporting year closed Anthony Coulls, Museum Mentor, gave the Trustees notice of his intention to resign. His knowledge of the conservation of historic railway artefacts, and the specialised advice he has therefore been able to give the Museum, will be difficult to replace, and the Trustees are exploring options for successor arrangements.

## **Working Parties**

The Museum working parties have continued meeting weekly on Thursday mornings, usually with between 6 and 10 people attending, with news of their activities regularly reported on the Museum's 'Facebook' page.

Activity is split between routine maintenance and cleaning, and the extensive physical work needed to effect display and layout changes. The recent changes described earlier were all undertaken by the working parties, apart from the ground-floor glazing which was installed professionally.

The working parties have also continued work on conserving the Museum's historic wagons. Recently three wagons have been worked on:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Wagon 136 | Stripped down, and new frame provided because original was beyond safe re-use. Completion depends on volunteer availability.  |
| Wagon 146 | Examination following strip-down showed frames in good condition, as were the axle-boxes and many other metal components, which have been cleaned and painted. Frame timbers remain to be sanded and painted. |
| Wagon 164 | Awaiting attention to the brake-lever to allow re-fitting   |

Working parties have also continued at North Ings Farm Museum.

## **Friends of The Museum**

The Friends of The Museum group has continued, providing valuable help in funding museum operations, for which the Trustees are very grateful. Three Friends' Newsletters were published during the year, to keep Friends up to date with Museum developments and foster a continuing sense of identity.

## **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 £1,990.24; donations to the 'William Finlay' fund were £630.06, and other donations, legacies and sponsorship realised £2,148.83. Friends' membership donations raised £1,213.00. 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 £1,176.57 (previous year's result: £2,252.04). A statement of the Annual Accounts is attached.

## **Data protection**

To ensure compliance with current legislation (the General Data Protection Regulations [GDPR]) the Trustees adopted a new data handling policy for application from May 2018.

## **External relations**

In October 2018, in a decision potentially momentous for the part of Wales where the Museum is situated, the government announced that the Welsh slate landscape should be the UK's nomination in 2019 for UNESCO World Heritage Site designation. Meirionydd and specifically the former Bryn Eglwys quarry and the Talyllyn Railway are within the nomination's scope, and the Museum, with its historic Talyllyn wagons and many other exhibits associated with the slate industry, cares for some significant components of the heritage being nominated. If successful, the landscape would be the fourth world heritage site in Wales, joining the Blaenavon industrial landscape, the 13th-century castles and town walls built in Gwynedd by King Edward I, and the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

Also in October, two trustees represented the Museum at a Welsh Museums Advocacy Day at the Senedd in Cardiff, presenting the Museum's achievements and challenges to a range of influential people including Welsh Ministers and Assembly members

## **Looking Forward**

The Trustees are acutely conscious of the sustainability challenges facing the Museum, and will be convening specially during 2019 to review progress since the last strategic review in 2013 and to consider plans for the future. Among the matters which need decision and action are management structure, Trustee and officer succession, volunteer availability, and the possibility of incorporated status for the Trust (as recommended in the accreditation review in 2018).

The programme of temporary exhibitions will continue in 2019, with one entitled "Steam Evolution", occasioned by 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the removal of the Giesl oblong ejector (preserved in the Museum) from Talyllyn Railway loco no. 4 and featuring later 20<sup>th</sup>-century developments in steam locomotive technology.

Approved by the Trustees at their meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C K Theobald', with a horizontal line underneath.

C K Theobald, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. P. Nock', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

A P Nock, Secretary



Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Trust

Accounts for Financial Year ending 31/1/19

2017-18

<u>Fund Type</u> <u>Fund Name</u>	unrestricted General	designated Insurance Reserve	designated William Finlay Fund	restricted HLF Grant Fund	all
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
Donations in Museum	1,990.24				1,694.47
Other Donations	2,148.83		630.06		7,277.55
Friends Subscriptions	1,213.00				539.00
Legacies	-				-
Grants	1,391.58			(1,301.00)	18,543.90
Gift Aid Tax Reclaim	-				-
Sales	-				-
Fees	-				-
Miscellaneous	336.20				50.00
Bank Interest	13.76	524.02			530.40
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u>7,093.61</u>	<u>524.02</u>	<u>630.06</u>	<u>(1,301.00)</u>	<u>28,635.32</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Collection					
Acquisitions	106.44				15,125.91
Repair & Maint	773.84				15,818.02
Presentation	2,306.70		1,053.42	1,370.80	18,177.49
Subscriptions	273.00				256.10
Grants	500.00				-
Miscellaneous	1,620.86			250.80	2,036.90
<b>Total Payments</b>	<u>5,580.84</u>		<u>1,053.42</u>	<u>1,620.80</u>	<u>51,414.42</u>
<b>Net Receipts</b>	1,176.57	524.02	(423.36)	(2,921.80)	(22,779.10)
Balances 1.2.18	58,348.16	40,309.39	(33,783.88)	2,921.80	
Fund Transfer	(34,207.24)		34,207.24		
Balances 1.2.19	25,653.69	40,833.41	0.00	0.00	

R.M. Whitehouse  
9 April 2019

Agreed by the Trustees at their meeting on 25th May 2019

Signed by:



CK Theobald - Chairman



Trustee

*Independently overruled*

*SD Powell AC13*

*1/5/2019*