

Ymddiriedolaeth Amgueddfa Rheilffyrdd Bach Cul

The Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Trust

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

Accredited Museum RD1433 Amgueddfa Achrddedig

Registered Charity 1040128 Elusen Gofrestredig

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



Annual Report and Accounts for Year Ending 31st January 2016

Trustees appointed by the Talyllyn 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
1 vacancy at year end

Secretary: Andrew Nock

Treasurer: Roger Whitehouse

Education Adviser: Rebecca Cottrell

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 the period from February 1, 2015 to January 31, 2016.

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 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 satisfy 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.

The Collection

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

During the year a number of items have been added to the collections and the archives, the most significant being the 0-4-0 tank locomotive "William Finlay", built in 1880 by Fletcher Jennings of Whitehaven, works number 173L of 1880, to the unusual gauge of 3ft 2^{1/4} ins for the Dorking Greystone Lime Company.

It brings to The Trust's collection an aspect of narrow-gauge railways not currently represented, limestone quarrying. Moreover, there are two specific affinities with Tywyn; the Talyllyn Railway's two original steam locomotives (still in regular use) were also built by Fletcher Jennings (with the result that 3 of the 8 surviving locomotives by this builder will now be together in one place), and much of the track from the Dorking quarries came to the Talyllyn for re-use in the 1950s, with some of it still in use today.

This acquisition allows a wider review of the museum's locomotive display, with the long-term release of "Jubilee 1897" to the Penrhyn Quarry Railway, the use of the Dundee Gasworks engine as a roving ambassador, and the display of the Baguley diesel 774 as an example of internal combustion locomotives (currently unrepresented in the museum's public display).

The acquisition cost of £35,000.00 was initially paid from Museum funds and a loan from the Talyllyn Railway Preservation Society. Mechanical and painting work to restore the locomotive for display in non-operable condition is estimated to cost £23,000. The Trust has launched a fund-raising appeal, and is also applying for grants.

Among other larger items are:

- Talyllyn Railway wagon No.6 underframe
- Talyllyn Railway wagon No.7 underframe
- Talyllyn Railway wagon No.8. Open end door wagon.
- Talyllyn Railway wagon No.9 underframe
- Talyllyn Railway wagon No.13. Open end door wagon.
- Talyllyn Railway wagon No.14. Open end door body only.
- Talyllyn Railway wagon No.15, ex Corris No.16. Open end door wagon with brakes.
- Talyllyn Railway incline wagon body
- Enamel sign warning that the Craig Ddu Slate Quarries Co takes no responsibility for injuries to persons using the quarries or quarry inclines.
- Wooden plaque with a section of rail from the Southwold Railway
- Talyllyn Railway Preservation Society Car Badge
- Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway Preservation Society Car Badge
- Talyllyn Railway locomotive headboard "Dolgoch & Abergynolwyn Only" and "Dolgoch & Wharf Only"
- Painting by Jonathan Clay of Talyllyn Railway Locomotive No.2 at Dolgoch

Typical amongst the smaller paper items added, either by purchase or donation.

- Festiniog Railway three part paper Through Ticket
- Groudle Glen Railway Free Pass
- 79 Isle of Man Railway tickets
- 5 Isle of Man Railway weekly tickets
- 4 Isle of Man Railway weekly tickets
- 3 Isle of Man Railway tickets - 2 Day Tours and a Commercial Travel Voucher
- 208 Isle of Man Railway tickets
- 11 Narrow Gauge Railway Museum tickets
- 8 Snowdon Mountain Railway tickets
- Talyllyn Railway Centenary First Day Cover
- Talyllyn Railway Centenary rubber stamp 1865 – 1965
- Midland Red & Talyllyn Railway excursion leaflet 1963
- Four historical series postcards issued by the Talyllyn Railway, TH121, TH122, TH123, and TH124
- Talyllyn Railway timetable handbill for 1965
- Talyllyn Railway Centenary Celebrations 1965 - Programme of Events
- Talyllyn Railway Centenary Thanksgiving Service 4th July 1965
- First Day Cover for the opening of the Nant Gwernol Extension Opened 22nd May 1976
- Talyllyn Railway Extension Special Leaflet for London to Tywyn train in conjunction with opening
- Talyllyn Railway Extension Special letter for London to Tywyn train in conjunction with opening
- Talyllyn Railway Extension Special ticket for London to Tywyn train in conjunction with opening
- Ceremonial Opening Booklet for Talyllyn Railway Extension May 22nd 1976

The following books have been added to our collection

- Rails to Glyn Ceiriog by John Milner and Beryl Williams - The history of the Glyn Valley Tramway Part 2 1904 – 1937
- Steam from Lowca: A History of the Rise and Fall of Locomotive Building at Lowca Foundry 1840 - 1921 by Ian Kyle
- Southwold Railway Centenary booklet marking 100 years since the opening of the railway issued on 24th September 1979
- Talyllyn & Corris Steam Locomotives Volume 1 by Martin Fuller
- Narrow Gauge Branch Lines: Douglas - Laxey - Ramsey by Tom Heavyside
- On the Narrow Gauge by P.B Whitehouse 1964

All of these items will add to our body of knowledge about narrow gauge railways, and the Talyllyn in particular, and will help us to tell their story to our visitors.

A separate collection is of items recalling the life and works of the late Rev Wilbert Awdry, the well-known children's author who was an active member of the Talyllyn Railway

Preservation Society. This is displayed in a reconstruction of his study within the museum. The Awdry family have continued to be very generous in their assistance.

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:

| | 2015-16 | 2014-15 | 2013-14 | 2012-13 | 2011-12 | 2010-11 |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Adults | 13,458 | 11,943 | 12,721 | 11,903 | 14,684 | 14,186 |
| Children | 4,426 | 3,824 | 4,006 | 3,974 | 4,805 | 4,525 |
| Total | 17,884 | 15,767 | 16,727 | 15,877 | 19,489 | 18,711 |

The increase in visitor numbers can be partially attributed to the various 150th anniversary celebrations.

Special Events

In 2015 the Talylyn Railway held a number of special events celebrating the 150th anniversary of Royal Assent to its Act of Parliament. In support, and to provide a specifically historical dimension, the Museum organised demonstrations of the weighbridge in operation, and its historic wagons were used on several special trains, featuring in the railway press.

A new departure in 2015 was activity days for children, held in the Museum's Slater Room, introducing them to the elements of engineering and railways in an enjoyable way. They were well supported, giving satisfaction to children and parents alike, and will be continued. Some of the output from these activity days was subsequently displayed in the Museum as a temporary exhibition.

The Museum also held several other temporary exhibitions during the year:

- Railway Legislation
- 10th anniversary of the opening of the current Museum building
- Penmaenmawr & Welsh Granite Quarry
- William Finlay appeal

The Penmaenmawr & Welsh Granite Quarry exhibition featured photographs owned by the West Sussex Record Office, and used with their permission; this followed the Museum's help to the Record Office in identifying the photographs, which had been discovered as part of a much larger collection which had been donated to the Office.

People

The museum is governed, managed, manned, and supported entirely by volunteers. Many thanks are due to all who have contributed their time and effort during the year.

Our volunteer museum attendants continued to provide our front line contact with our visitors, and many thanks are due to them for all the hours they put in during the year. The attendants 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 Talyllyn Railway's busiest days.

Valuable assistance has also been given by staff and volunteers of the Talyllyn Railway.

Working Parties

Working parties have continued to be held on Thursday mornings of the weeks when the railway is closed to the public, with a consistent level of participation being maintained during the year. During the winter period, work was undertaken.

Working parties have also continued at North Ings Farm Museum.

Projects

Work continued throughout the year on the museum's historic wagon fleet, most significantly the restoration of the Talyllyn Railway's incline wagon, with its body inclined from horizontal in relation to the frame to allow carriage of goods on the railway's inclines to Abergynolwyn village and the quarries. Three new wagon frames have been built by a member in the Netherlands, and delivered to Tywyn; one was used for the incline wagon, and the others will be used for subsequent wagon restorations.

Two additional audio-visual display screens have been provided in the museum, one with the aid of a grant from the Welsh Government through the Welsh Museums Federation, and one by a private donation. This has enabled us to increase the amount of visual display material in the museum to provide more information to our visitors.

Two officers of the Narrow Gauge Railway Society are recreating the Talyllyn Railway's first locomotive No 5, and have made substantial progress over the last year. The original, built by David Curwen of Devizes, was delivered to the railway in 1952 but proved unsuccessful. The chassis remained in service on the railway as a wagon underframe, and this forms the basis for the recreation. On completion, the locomotive will be kept at Tywyn.

Friends of The Museum

The Friends of The Museum group has continued to operate, and has continued to help fund museum operation, for which we are very grateful.

Web Site

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

Finance

The museum continues to operate a policy of free admission. Donations from visitors through the collecting boxes in the museum amounted to £1,896.47 and other donations, legacies and sponsorship £1,964.72. Friends' membership donations raised £1,960.00. The trustees have continued their policy of working within the Trust's means, and a surplus of £289.13 was achieved over the year. A statement of the Annual Accounts is attached.

Looking Forward

The trustees realise that the governance and management of the museum need to be improved in order to ensure its long term sustainability. An initial draft strategy was produced following an inception workshop held in 2013, and has been further developed following feedback from our accreditation review; the work is ongoing. In this connection, the Trustees continue to search actively for another to join their number, preferably a person with strong local connections.

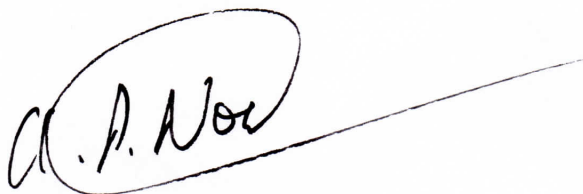
The programme of temporary exhibitions will continue in 2016, featuring *inter alia* the 40th anniversary of the Talylyn Railway's Nant Gwernol extension, and The Museum's diamond jubilee.

Approved by the Trustees at their meeting on 27 May 2016

Signed by:



C K Theobald, Chairman



A P Nock, Secretary

Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Trust

Accounts for Financial Year ending 31/1/16

2014-15

| <u>Fund Type</u> | unrestricted | designated | designated |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Fund Name</u> | General | Insurance Reserve | William Finlay Fund |

RECEIPTS

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Donations in Museum | 1,896.47 | | | 1,823.26 |
| Other Donations | 1,964.72 | | 8,588.79 | 3,426.72 |
| Friends Subscriptions | 1,960.00 | | | 963.00 |
| Legacies | - | | | - |
| Grants | 2,300.17 | | | 860.30 |
| Gift Aid Tax Reclaim | 995.17 | | | - |
| Sales | - | | | 40.00 |
| Fees | - | | | - |
| Miscellaneous | 100.31 | | | 30.00 |
| Bank Interest | <u>251.01</u> | <u>390.87</u> | <u>8,588.79</u> | <u>726.99</u> |
| Total Receipts | <u>9,467.85</u> | <u>390.87</u> | <u>8,588.79</u> | <u>7,870.27</u> |

EXPENDITURE

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|--|------------------|-----------------|
| Collection | | | | |
| Acquisitions | - | | 20,000.00 | 48.00 |
| Repair & Maintenance | 336.99 | | 1,802.41 | 1,487.54 |
| Presentation | 7,330.02 | | | 2,134.43 |
| Subscriptions | 200.40 | | | 205.30 |
| Grants | - | | | 1,000.00 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>1,311.31</u> | | | <u>2,093.88</u> |
| Total Payments | <u>9,178.72</u> | | <u>21,802.41</u> | <u>6,969.25</u> |

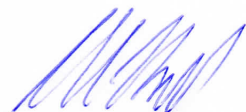
| | | | | |
|--------------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|
| Net Receipts | 289.13 | 390.87 | (13,213.62) | 901.02 |
|--------------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Balances 1.2.15 | 53,604.23 | 39,085.98 | 0.00 |
| Loan from Talylllyn Railway PS | - | | (15,000.00) |
| Balances 1.2.16 | 53,893.36 | 39,476.85 | (13,213.62) |

R.M. Whitehouse
14 February 2016

Agreed by the Trustees at their meeting on 27 May 2016

Signed by:



CK Theobald - Chairman

Trustee