

**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 2017**

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

Malcolm Phillips

Co-opted Trustees:

Peter Kazer

John D Olsen PhD, MRSB, CIBiol

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](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 the period from February 1, 2016 to January 31, 2017.

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 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.



Supported by

**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>

through the Heritage Lottery Fund

Cefnogwyd gan

**Y Loteri Genedlaethol**

trwy Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri



## The Collection

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

Following last year's major acquisition (the 0-4-0 tank locomotive "William Finlay" [WF]), and with concentration on plans for re-ordering the Museum, the pace of accessions has slackened significantly. The Museum continues to review selectively items offered for sale at auction, and makes a reasonable bid for any item which it considers would enhance the collection. Among items added to the collection were:

### MAIN COLLECTION

TYWRM:SR015	document	Southwold Railway Receipt Form 192x
TYWRM:TR148.2	book	TR Official Guide Book 1955
TYWRM:TR269	postcard	Set of five historic photographic postcards of the TR in the early 1950s
TYWRM:TR270	leaflet	Midland Red & TR excursion leaflet 1959
TYWRM:TR271	postcard	Set of six postcards of the TR by Dalkeith Publishing
TYWRM:TR272	postcard	Postcard of TR locomotive Dolgoch at Abergynolwyn
TYWRM:SIG017	bell	Bell with tapper
TYWRM:TR273	chimney	Chimney from Talyllyn Railway locomotive No.2 Dolgoch
TYWRM:TR274	rod	Locomotive coupling and connecting rods from Talyllyn Railway locomotive No.1 Talyllyn
TYWRM:TR275	board	Nameboard for Towyn Pendre Station, minus letters.
TYWRM:TR276	book	Talyllyn Railway Guide Book c1956
TYWRM:TR277	timetable	Talyllyn Railway pocket timetable for 1970
TYWRM:CAM002	timetable	Cambrian Railways timetable for 1904 including timetables for narrow gauge railways
TYWRM:TR281	relay	Talyllyn Railway Mark 2 Remote Operator for key



token machines. These allowed a token to be withdrawn without a person present at the other end of the token section.

TYWRM:BR002.4	tablet	12 metal tablets with names removed for use with Tyers No.6 instruments
TYWRM:TR278	book	Talyllyn Railway Extension by Christopher White
TYWRM:TR280	book	Talyllyn Railway Handbook c1990
TYWRM:TR241.2	book	Talyllyn Railway Official Guide Book c1954 signed by Alan Garraway. Includes A.G.W.G membership cards for 1951, 1952 and 1954
TYWRM:TR279	book	Quarry Tracks, Village Ways. A descriptive history of Bryneglwys Quarry and Abergynolwyn Village.

#### SUPPORT COLLECTION

TYWRM:SUP234	book	The Tal-y-llyn Railway by Lewis Cozens
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#### AWDRY COLLECTION

There is 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. The following accessions were made to this collection:

TYWRM:AWD508	recording	Digital copy of the Chiltern Records LP record with two stories read by the Rev.W. Awdry
TYWRM:AWD509	document	Digital copy of documents held in the Awdry Study: Sodor History
TYWRM:AWD510	cross	Wooden cross stamped "Bethlehem" on the reverse,



acquired during a visit to the Holy Land.

The two previously-displayed large items in the main collection, "Jubilee 1897" and the Dundee Gasworks loco, are now on long-term loan, respectively at Penrhyn Quarry Railway (with a view to restoration to working condition) and Beamish Museum.

### **Museum Opening and Visitor Numbers**

In accordance with the Trust's policy, the museum was open on all days when the Talyllyn 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:

	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
Adults	12,563	13,458	11,943	12,721	11,903	14,684
Children	4,024	4,426	3,824	4,006	3,974	4,805
Total	16,587	17,884	15,767	16,727	15,877	19,489

Visitor numbers peaked in 2015-16 because of the Talyllyn Railway's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, and returned this year to a more normal, but still satisfactory level.

### **Projects**

One major project has occupied the Museum during the year, the changes to major exhibits. In November, as soon as Talyllyn Railway public operations had ceased for the winter season, the locomotives "Jubilee 1897" and Dundee Gasworks 721 were moved out of the Museum, their places being taken by "William Finlay" and Baguley 774, a pioneering internal-combustion locomotive which had been in the Trust's ownership for some time but stored off-site for lack of display space. These moves were followed by the replacement of the hinged entrance door and glazed wooden wall panel at the Museum platform entrance by a vertical rising door, which can readily be raised in good weather to give a better view of "William Finlay"; while the entrance door is hinged on the opposite side from previously, meaning that it opens against the prevailing weather, helping to maintain more stable humidity inside. As the financial year ended, work was in progress to construct ramps to afford ready access for less able persons to the footplate of "William Finlay", the Museum's designated "access loco". New interpretation displays are being provided, particularly around Baguley 774 to illustrate the important but previously little-known role narrow gauge railways had played in Welsh forestry. Other new interpretation displays will provide elementary explanations of steam technology, linked with the other principal element of the project, an enhanced education programme as part of the national STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) initiative.

The project was made possible by a grant of £42,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, awarded in November 2016.

On a smaller scale, the Museum's Tyler single-line token instruments have been made operational, enabling practical demonstration of their use.

### **Special Events**

The Talyllyn Railway continued its sesquicentennial programme of special events into 2016, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its locomotive no 2 "Dolgoch", which like "William Finlay" was built by Fletcher Jennings (FJ). Celebrations culminated in "The Grand Finale" in July,



when all the surviving FJ locomotives in the UK were brought together at Tywyn Wharf – the Talyllyn Railway's two resident FJ locos nos 1 and 2, locomotive "Townsend Hook", "sister" locomotive to "William Finlay", and the standard-gauge "Captain Baxter" normally resident on the Bluebell Railway. Temporary standard-gauge track was laid at Wharf station, and "Captain Baxter" was in steam, providing cab rides to raise money for the WF purchase appeal. This fund was also boosted by the simultaneous launch of "The Lowca Legacy", a monograph by Museum Mentor Anthony Coulls on the Fletcher Jennings company and its surviving products.

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

To coincide with "The Grand Finale" the Museum mounted temporary exhibitions about the Fletcher Jennings company, and about Talyllyn Railway locomotive no 2. In the early part of the year we had an exhibition marking 10 years of the new museum.

### **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.

The vacancy for a trustee was filled by the co-option in July of Dr John Olsen, a regular Museum volunteer now living in Tywyn. With most Museum trustees and officers living at a distance, he provides valuable local continuity and oversight.

Dr Olsen also took over the position of Working Party Organiser, following Winston McCanna's retirement after many years sterling service for which the Trustees are deeply grateful.

The Trust's Education Advisor, Rebecca Cottrell, resigned at the end of the year. The Trustees wish her well for the future, and are grateful for her many innovations, executed with enthusiasm and flair, including the children's educational activities organised during school holidays, and the planning of the educational elements of the HLF grant application. At the time of writing, the search for a successor continues.

### **Working Parties**

Working parties have continued to be held on Thursday mornings, with a consistent level of participation being maintained during the year. In the winter months, work has been concentrated on supporting the major changes to the museum displays by modifying existing internal partitions, building the new access ramps for William Finlay, re-arranging three wall mounted displays of signs and nameplates and mounting a 40 inch display monitor from an overhead beam. Work on historic wagon restoration has also been continuing with refurbishment of wagon number 164.

Working parties have also continued at North Ings Farm Museum.



## Friends of The Museum

The Friends of The Museum group has continued to operate, and has continued to provide valuable help funding museum operations, for which we are very grateful.

## Web Site

A new web site was inaugurated in March 2015, and continues to be updated to provide further information about 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 £1,855.10; donations to the 'William Finlay' fund were £12,438.47, and other donations, legacies and sponsorship realised £1,494.77. Friends' membership donations raised £823.00. The trustees have continued their policy of working within the Trust's means, and a General account surplus of £2,202.76 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. Many of the ideas and recommendations have already been implemented.

The Trustees are preparing for the Museum's re-accreditation, due in 2017-2018.

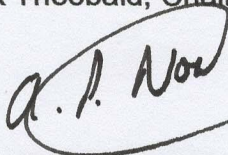
The programme of temporary exhibitions will continue in 2017, featuring *inter alia* the Museum's diamond jubilee; the diamond jubilee of the Talyllyn Railway's railway letter service and a profile of the builders of the Talyllyn Railway's original 1860s carriages.

Approved by the Trustees at their meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Signed by:



C K Theobald, Chairman



A P Nock, Secretary



# Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Trust

Accounts for Financial Year ending 31/1/17

2015-16

<u>Fund Type</u> <u>Fund Name</u>	unrestricted General	designated Insurance Reserve	designated William Finlay Fund	restricted HLF Grant Fund
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Donations in Museum	1,855.10			1,896.47
Other Donations	1,494.77		12,438.47	10,553.51
Friends Subscriptions	823.00			1,960.00
Legacies	-			-
Grants	-			21,350.00
Gift Aid Tax Reclaim	996.98		2,984.73	995.17
Sales	-			-
Fees	-			-
Miscellaneous	49.20			100.31
Bank Interest	<u>156.51</u>	<u>316.64</u>	<u>.</u>	<u>641.88</u>
Total Receipts	<u>5,375.56</u>	<u>316.64</u>	<u>15,423.20</u>	<u>21,350.00</u>
				<u>18,447.51</u>

## **EXPENDITURE**

Collection				
Acquisitions	-			20,000.00
Repair & Maint	1,072.75		25,105.25	2,094.17
Presentation	655.20			1,675.20
Subscriptions	248.60			200.40
Grants	-			-
Miscellaneous	<u>1,196.75</u>		<u>.</u>	<u>1,311.31</u>
Total Payments	<u>3,172.80</u>		<u>25,105.25</u>	<u>3,769.37</u>
				<u>30,981.13</u>
Net Receipts	2,202.76	316.64	(9,682.05)	17,580.63
				(12,533.62)

Balances 1.2.16	53,893.36	39,476.85	(13,213.62)	0.00
Balances 1.2.17	56,096.12	39,793.49	(22,895.67)	17,580.63
Loan from Talylyn Railway PS		-		(15,000.00)

R.M. Whitehouse  
22 May 2017

Agreed by the Trustees at their meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Signed by:



C K Theobald, Chairman



Trustee