

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 2020

Trustees appointed by the Tallylyn Railway Preservation Society:

C Keith Theobald - Chairman

Ian Evans – Minutes Secretary

Donald H Newing BSc, CEng, MIRSE (retired February 2019)

John D Olsen PhD, MRSB, CIBiol

Malcolm Phillips

Wendy Pink

Co-opted Trustees:

Diane K Drummond PhD FHEA (appointed May 2019)

C Russell Hatt CEng MICE (appointed September 2019)

Secretary: Andrew Nock

Treasurer: Roger Whitehouse (retired January 2020)

Stephen Powell (appointed January 2020)

Education Adviser: Position vacant

Legal Adviser: Charles EE Fleming

Museum Mentor: Anthony J Coulls BA, MSocSc (resigned October 2019)

Robert Gwynne BA, PGCE, DipM, AMA (appointed October 2019)

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 2019 to 31st January 2020. 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, the collection makes it possible 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 Talylyn Railway in particular.

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. Most recent accessions have been small, mostly paper, items, reflecting the reality of new material availability, and the pressures on the Museum's space. Some of the additions to the collection during the year were:

MAIN COLLECTION

TYWRM:IOM099	handbill	Manx Electric Railway handbill advertising the Summit of Snaefell. Dating from the 1908 - 1936 period
TYWRM:IOM101	timetable	Isle of Man Railway timetable poster for May 1932
TYWRM:LAB001	print	Print of the Listowel and Ballybunion locomotive No.1 reproduced from an engraving dated 1888
TYWRM:TR335	timetable	Talylyn Railway timetable poster for July 3rd 1939
TYWRM:TR336	timetable	Talylyn Railway Special Train notice with details of the Whit Monday service with hand annotation in black and red ink. Dated 1940s
TYWRM:TR341	plan	Brown Marshall plan of Talylyn Railway No.5 Brake Van dated 1866 - 1in to 1ft scale
TYWRM:TR342	plan	Talylyn Railway gradient profile dated 1959
TYWRM:TR343	document	Talylyn Light Railway Order 1972 made to allow the building of the Nant Gwernol Extension.
TYWRM:CDR026 .2	advertising poster	County Donegal Railway Joint Committee poster advising of the withdrawal of railway services between Strabane and Killybegs; Strabane and Letterkenny; and Donegal and Ballyshannon after 31 December 1959
TYWRM:TR350	timetable	Talylyn Railway timetable poster for 1952
TYWRM:TR352	leaflet	Order of Service making 60th Anniversary of the Talylyn Railway Preservation Society 16 July 2011
TYWRM:TR353	tea towel	Talylyn Railway souvenir tea towel with Lowca engine printed by Laura Ashley in the 1950s. This dates to the start of the Laura Ashley firm with the towels hand-printed in her garage.
TYWRM:DG006	spring	Salter safety valve spring unit from the original boiler of "William Finlay"
TYWRM:TR357	booklet	Talylyn Railway Preservation Society Constitution and Rules dated October 1973
TYWRM:MIS051	ticket	10 Manx Northern tickets and 2 Snowdon Mountain tickets
TYWRM:VR017	gauge	Vale of Rheidol Railway Wheel Profile Gauge (loan item)

SUPPORT COLLECTION

TYWRM:SUP253	book	Industrial Narrow Gauge Album by Andrew Neale
TYWRM:SUP254	book	The Lynton and Barnstaple Railway 1895 - 1935 by L.T. Catchpole
TYWRM:SUP257	book	Light Railways - their rise and decline by W.J.K. Davies
TYWRM:SUP265	book	Talyllyn Railway Locomotives and Rolling Stock by J.Bate D.Mitchell & N.Adams
TYWRM:SUP266	book	Forty Years of the Talyllyn Railway by Christopher White
TYWRM:SUP267	book	Industrial Narrow Gauge Railways by Ian Dean
TYWRM:SUP269	booklet	Order of Service for the Funeral of Brian Richard Owen 6 April 2019. Brian was the new museum project manager.
TYWRM:SUP272	book	Slate and Slatemen of Llechwedd by Ivor Wynne Jones

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:AWD51 book Talyllyn Tracksiders - The First 20 Years
4

The Trust's responsibility for locomotive "Jubilee 1897", on long-term loan from Welsh Slate (and its predecessors) for many years, was amicably terminated during the year with signature of a loan agreement between Welsh Slate and the Vale of Rheidol Railway (VoR) in Aberystwyth.

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 when trains were not operating.

The number of visitors during the year was consistent with trends over recent years:

	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
Adults	12,758	13,653	12,374	12,563	13,458	11,943
Children	3,913	4,555	4,383	4,024	4,426	3,824
Total	16,671	18,208	16,757	16,587	17,884	15,767

Projects

During the year the extensive archive of the renowned railway photographer Henry (HC) Casserley came on the market, following the death of his son. It was a unique collection of images of British and Irish railways from the 1920s to the 1960s, including many narrow-gauge subjects. At auction in September, the Trust bid successfully for around 500 photos

for its collection, showing not only the Talylynn Railway, but other narrow-gauge lines as well. The photographs have been digitised, and the Trustees are seeking advice from specialists within the transport museum sector on how best to make the collection widely accessible.

The Trustees have started an Oral History project, to record personal experience and memories of British narrow gauge, including the Talylynn Railway and other Welsh slate railways. This follows a suggestion from the new Mentor (see 'People' paragraph), and will draw on experience from the National Railway Museum's extensive work in this field. The Trust has joined the Oral History Society which will provide advice and training on methods and data storage, and next steps are to acquire suitable recording and digital storage equipment, to train interviewers, and identify suitable people as subjects. To develop this project, the Trustees have secured a £1000 grant from Gwynedd Council, who in connection with the bid to secure World Heritage Site status for the Slate Landscape of North West Wales have secured funding (through the Heritage Fund Great Place Scheme and Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig [Rural Development Programme]) to contribute towards cultural activities in the slate communities of Gwynedd.

The Trustees are working with the Talylynn Railway in its planning of new covered accommodation at Wharf station for the storage and public display of historic rolling stock, both passenger and freight. This offers a potential solution to the Trustees' long-standing concern about the absence of suitable accommodation for the wagons where they can be worked on, and viewed by the public.

Special Events

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

The Museum maintained its practice of mounting Temporary exhibitions, which allow it to focus on matters of topical interest and keep the collection fresh for repeat visitors. The 2019 exhibition, "Steam Evolution – an ongoing saga", marked the 50th anniversary of the removal of the Giesl ejector from TR loco no. 4 with a display illustrating the development of railway steam traction technology in the later 20th century.

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 Talylynn Railway's busiest days.

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

Early in the reporting year Don Newing resigned as Trustee after serving for, remarkably, almost 23 years, and the Trustees record their gratitude for his expert and supportive contribution to the Museum; he continues as the Trust's archivist. Two new Trustees were welcomed in 2019, Dr Di Drummond and Mr Russell Hatt.

At the start of the reporting year, Anthony Coulls, Museum Mentor, had very recently given the Trustees notice of his intention to resign, subject to appointment of a successor. In October, the Trustees were delighted to accept the offer from Bob Gwynne, Associate Curator at the York Railway Museum, to take over as Mentor. His professional background gives the Museum continuity in the provision of specialised advice on museum development and the conservation of historic railway artefacts. The Trustees record their gratitude to Mr Coulls for his expert and pragmatic advice, freely given over a number of years. They are also exploring the possibility of appointing a second mentor, with closer links to the Welsh museum sector specifically, and Welsh society more generally.

At the close of the year, the Trust's Treasurer Roger Whitehouse retired after serving for 15 years. The Trustees are grateful for his willing and diligent service.

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, cleaning, and painting, and more extensive physical work to refresh and develop the Museum with display and layout changes. The changes and improvements included:

- Eastwell Ironstone Company signal post re-painted
- Display stand for the Car Gwylt slate quarry incline rider, including newly-fabricated incline section complete with rails;
- Wooden engine nameplate casting templates cleaned, and best examples mounted on two new display boards flanking the mesh panel display of brass nameplates;
- New display board for Dinorwic Quarry enamel signs behind 'Rough Pup' locomotive;
- Cambrian Railways cast iron sign mounted on a post in front of the Oakeley coal wagon;
- Various display cabinets moved and re-ordered, with one now focussed on Talyllyn Railway people.

Work also continued on the historic wagon fleet:

- Ongoing rust removal from metal parts of wagon no. 146 (the covered wagon) and sanding and priming the body timbers;
- Wagon no. 101 (Talyllyn Railway slate wagon) – paintwork on deck stripped-back to metal, re-primed, and two gloss coats and one topcoat of black bituminous paint applied. All timbers sanded, treated with wood preservative, primed grey, and two topcoats of grey applied;
- Slate waste tipper wagon - rust removed, and cleaned areas painted gloss black.

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.

Website

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. It receives around 800 visits per month.

Finance

The Trustees continue to operate a policy of free admission. Donations from visitors through the collecting boxes in the Museum amounted to £2,053.02; other donations and legacies realised £1157.54, and grant income of £1,511.00 was received. Friends' membership donations raised £1,722.75. The Trustees have continued their policy of working within the Trust's means, and the General fund surplus at the end of the year was £579.95 . A statement of the Annual Accounts is attached.

External relations

In January, the UK Government nominated the Welsh Slate Landscape to UNESCO for World Heritage status. If the application is successful, the Landscape will become the UK's 33rd UNESCO World Heritage Site and the 4th in Wales, following the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd.

The Talyllyn Railway would be an important focus of the southern part of the Landscape, in particular the narrow-gauge to standard-gauge rail transshipment facilities at Tywyn Wharf, where the Museum is located. The Trustees continue to work closely with the Railway in developing its heritage presentation.

Looking Forward

The Trustees remained acutely conscious of the sustainability challenges facing the Museum, and convened specially in the summer at the Leighton Buzzard Railway to review progress since the last strategic review in 2013 and to consider plans for the future. In this review, the Trustees were greatly helped with participation by external specialists from the Welsh Government, the UK Department for Transport (as part of its programme encouraging officials to help charities), the voluntary museum sector, and the Talyllyn Railway. As a consequence of the review, the Trustees accepted the offer from the Welsh Government to fund participation in the Association of Independent Museums (AIM) "Prospering Boards" programme; the inception meeting with AIM's adviser took place in December, and work is ongoing, principally in the areas of incorporation, purpose, trustee appointment and succession, and forward planning.

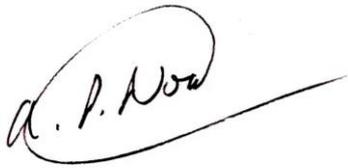
While this report was being written, the implications of the Covid19 pandemic were becoming increasingly stark. Although the Museum was open during the February half-term week, it did not re-open at the start of the main season, and along with its landlord, the Talyllyn Railway, remains closed until conditions improve.

Approved by the Trustees at their meeting on 29th May 2020

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C K Theobald', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a faint horizontal line.

C K Theobald, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. P. Nock', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a faint horizontal line.

A P Nock, Secretary

Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Trust

Accounts for Financial Year ending 31/1/2020

<u>Fund type</u> <u>Fund name</u>	Unrestricted General	Designated Insurance Reserve	2018-19 all
			£ Sterling
RECEIPTS			
Donations in Museum	2,053.02		1,990.24
Other donations	1,078.22		2,778.89
Friends' Subscriptions	1,722.75		1,213.00
Legacies	79.32		-
Grants	1,511.00		90.58
Gift Aid Tax Reclaim	-		-
Sales	-		-
Fees	-		-
Miscellaneous	-		336.20
Bank Interest	34.80	533.55	537.78
Total Receipts	<u>6,479.11</u>	<u>533.55</u>	<u>6,946.69</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Collection			
Acquisitions	2,901.79		106.44
Repair & Maint	43.57		773.84
Presentation	742.46		4,730.92
Subscriptions	279.80		273.00
Grants	-		500
Miscellaneous	<u>1,931.54</u>		<u>1,870.86</u>
Total payments	<u>5,899.16</u>		<u>8,255.06</u>
 Net Receipts	 579.95	533.55	 (1,308.37)
Balances 1.2.19	25,653.69	40,833.41	
Balances 1.2.20	26,233.64	41,366.96	

R.M. Whitehouse

12 February 2020

Agreed by the Trustees at their meeting on 29th May 2020

Signed by:



C K Theobald – Chairman



C R Hatt - Trustee

Independently overruled
Ed Powell 31/3/2020