

# Trustees' annual report and accounts

1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023



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## Administrative information

The Trust is a charitable unincorporated association registered as a charity in England & Wales, number 1040128. It is governed by its Trust Deed dated 11<sup>th</sup> July 1994 with its principal object being:

"the collection, conservation and display of narrow-gauge railway relics and material for the education of the public in an enjoyable way".

**Accredited Museum No 1433**

**Registered office:** Wharf Station Tywyn Gwynedd LL36 9EY

## Personnel

<b>Trustees appointed by the Talylllyn Railway Preservation Society</b>	Ian Evans	Minutes secretary
	John D Olsen PhD, MRSB, CIBiol	
	Malcolm Phillips	Collections manager
	Wendy Pink	
	C Keith Theobald	Chairman
<b>Co-opted trustees</b>	Diane K Drummond PhD FHEA	
	Frank Nolan	
<b>Officers</b>	Charles Fleming	Legal adviser
	Robert Gwynne BA, PGCE, DipM, AMA (resigned August 2022)	Museum mentor
	Victoria Harrison MA BSc (appointed 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2022)	
	Andrew Nock	Secretary
	Stephen Powell	Treasurer

Unless otherwise shown, all personnel served throughout the reporting year.

The Trustees met 7 times during the reporting year. When possible trustees met in person in Tywyn, with the option of remote participation by 'Teams' being retained for trustees living at a distance, and following the positive experience of this meeting mode during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Bank:** CAF Bank Ltd  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
West Malling Kent  
ME19 4JQ

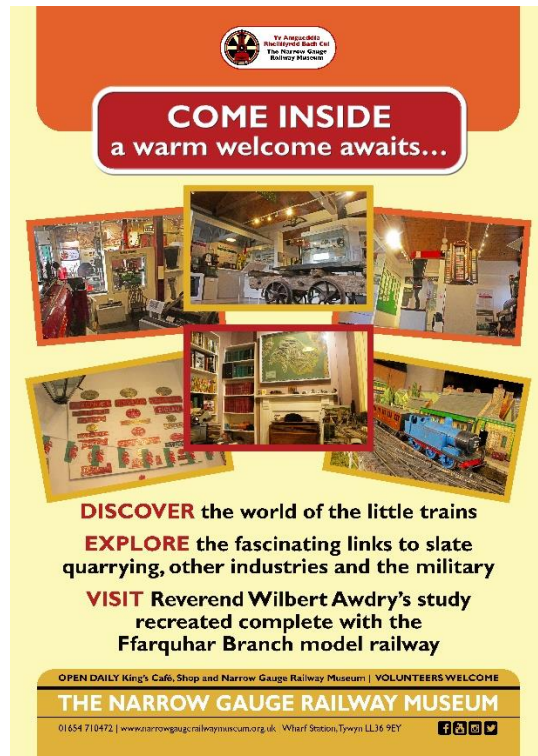
## The Narrow Gauge Railway Museum ("the Museum")



**DEWCH I MEWN**  
mae croeso cynnes yn aros amdanoch...

**DARGANFYDDWCH** fyd y trenau bach  
**ARCHWILIWCH** y cysylltiadau hynod ddiddorol  
â'r chwareli llechi, diwydiannau eraill a'r fyddin  
**EWCH I WELD** ag astudiaeth y Parchedig  
Wilbert Awdry wedi'i hail-greu ynghyd â  
rheilffordd fodel Cangen Ffarquhar

Caffi'r Brenin, Shop at Amgueddfa Rheilffyrdd Bach Cul | AR AGOR BOB DYDD | CROESO I WIRFODOLWYR  
YR AMGUEDDFA RHEILFFYRDD BACH CUL  
01654 710472 | www.narrowgauge.railwaymuseum.org.uk | Gorsaf Rheilffordd y Llan, Tywyn LL36 9EY



**COME INSIDE**  
a warm welcome awaits...

**DISCOVER** the world of the little trains  
**EXPLORE** the fascinating links to slate  
quarrying, other industries and the military  
**VISIT** Reverend Wilbert Awdry's study  
recreated complete with the  
Ffarquhar Branch model railway

OPEN DAILY King's Café, Shop and Narrow Gauge Railway Museum | VOLUNTEERS WELCOME  
THE NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY MUSEUM  
01654 710472 | www.narrowgauge.railwaymuseum.org.uk | Wharf Station, Tywyn LL36 9EY

The Trust's 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 still 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. The pioneering enthusiasts and collectors of those times laid the basis of the collection while it was still possible, so that today the story of these railways can be told, most of which never achieved the widespread following enjoyed by the main lines, but were in their own way important contributors to economic and social history.

The Trust's main activity is managing the Museum to ensure its current operation and secure its long-term sustainability.

The Museum occupies a purpose-made building, opened in 2005 as part of the major re-development of the Talyllyn Railway's Wharf station in Tywyn. Its location alongside a working narrow-gauge railway gives the Museum's story a living context, and adds a significant attraction to the pleasure and interest of a journey on the Railway. Elsewhere on the Wharf site the Museum also has use of the historic Gunpowder Store and new building featuring the original Talyllyn Railway weighbridge.

### 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 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. Accessions now tend to be small items, reflecting the reality of new material availability, and the pressures on the Museum's space.

During the reporting year, 35 objects were added to the **Main Collection**. Amongst these were some historic railway timetables and other publicity material, a large model of a Talyllyn Railway wagon, and several items from the Vale of Rheidol Railway in Aberystwyth. Examples of the items added are:

TYWRM:CDR039	timetable	County Donegal Railways Working Timetable 29th June 1958
TYWRM:CR034	booklet	Corris Railway guide book dated 1898 with details of excursions by rail and road
TYWRM:TR376	book	Talyllyn Railway Engineman's Guide 1952
TYWRM:TR381	document	Abergynolwyn Slate Quarries Co. order receipt form for 190x
TYWRM:VR021	armorial device	Vale of Rheidol Railway Coat of Arms
TYWRM:VR022	leaflet	Midland Red Leaflet advertising day road and rail tours to Aberystwyth and Devil's Bridge from the Midlands 1965
TYWRM:VR023	timetable	Vale of Rheidol timetable for May 1949
TYWRM:MOD010	model	5in gauge model of Talyllyn Railway wagon 117 built by Viv Thorpe
TYWRM:VR024	sign	BR period enamel station sign from Glanrafon Station on the Vale of Rheidol Railway.

176 items were added to the **Support Collection**, mostly reference books for the Museum library.

18 items were added to the **Awdry Collection**, including:

TYWRM:AWD527	leaflet	Order of Thanksgiving Service for Rev. Awdry held at St. Mary Magdalene Rodborough 26th March 1997
TYWRM:AWD528	book	The Railway Series Companion by Robin Webb
TYWRM:AWD536	book	Y Tri Injian Tren - Welsh 1st Edition of The Three Railway Engines
TYWRM:AWD538	book	The Rev. W. Awdry's Railway Stories. Six volumes in one (1-6)
TYWRM:AWD539	jigsaw	'Thomas the Tank Engine' - 120 piece jigsaw by Michael Stanfield from 1984

Some items in the collection – mainly wagons – are displayed outdoors on the Wharf site. Some large items – locomotives and a wagon – which cannot be accommodated at Tywyn for lack of space are on loan to appropriate institutions elsewhere in the UK.

## Risk management

The Trustees maintain, apply and review policies relating to:

- Emergencies
- Safeguarding
- Health and safety
- Environment
- Data protection
- Managing conflicts of interest and conflicts of loyalty

The Trustees maintain a Designated Insurance Reserve fund as cover against loss or damage to items in the Collection.

The Trustees also earmark a proportion of the Trust's cash balance (held in a high-interest account, £62,443.18 at the end of the reporting year) as a hedge against higher running costs. The Trust occupies its premises on very beneficial terms from its landlord the Talyllyn Railway, and could face substantially higher costs if changing circumstances caused the Railway to alter its terms.

## Review of the year

2022-2023 was the first year since 2019-2020 when the Museum was able to operate at any time without Covid restrictions.

The Museum was open to the public on 258 days, including every day when the Talyllyn Railway operated a public train service. Visitor numbers at 17827 exceeded not only the previous year when the Museum did not open until May, but more significantly were higher in both absolute and proportional terms than in 2019-2020, the last 'normal' year before the Covid pandemic. Comparative numbers for the last four years are:

Year	Days open	Adult visitors	Child visitors	Total visitors	Visitors per day
2022	258	13523	4304	17827	69
2021	194	10501	2975	13476	69
2020	84	1248	204	1452	17
2019	253	12758	3913	16671	66

The Museum could not have been open on so many days without generous help from the Talyllyn Railway Company in making its employees available for Museum attendant duties, with volunteer availability a continuing problem.

## UNESCO designation

The Talyllyn Railway is part of the Slate Landscape of NW Wales awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 2021, and the Museum has as intended played its part with interpretative support. During summer 2022 the Museum's historic wagons were



positioned on the Wharf edge siding at the north end readily visible from the Museum's first-floor balcony, enabling Museum attendants to explain to visitors how the Wharf served as transhipment point for freight between the narrow-gauge Talyllyn Railway and the standard-gauge Cambrian Coast line – the means by which slates from Bryneglwys Quarry reached the outside world.

During the year the Museum was host to two displays linked with World Heritage status, the Llechi Cymru artwork, created by pupils of secondary schools in Gwynedd under the guidance of the artist Catrin Williams to celebrate the designation:



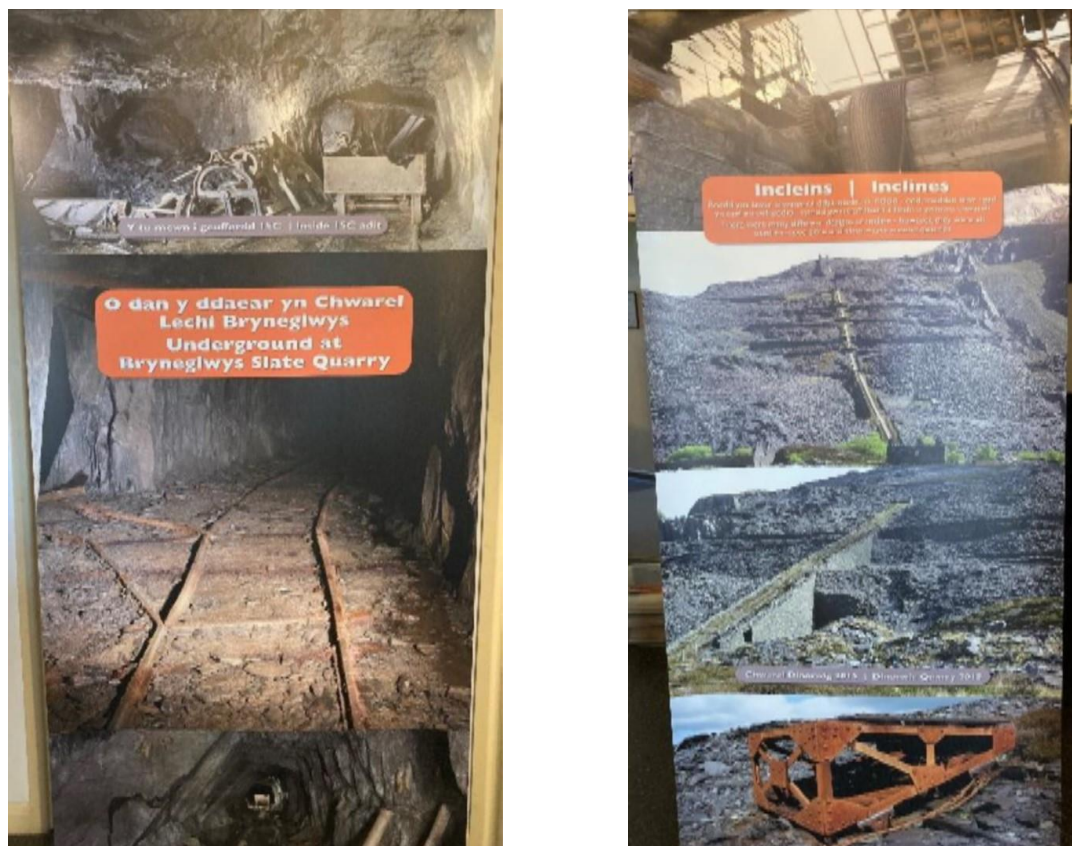
*The Llechi Cymru artwork display around the Museum's stairwell*

and the Carwyn Rhys Jones Quarrymen Project [multi-media](#) exhibition with its large and striking monochrome portraits:



*Some of the Carwyn Jones Quarrymen portraits*

Additionally, new pull-up displays depicting quarry underground workings and inclines have been installed adjacent to the preserved slate-slab wagon the slab wagon to provide interpretative context:



Display panels showing underground slate quarry workings, and wagon inclines

### *Railway-themed temporary exhibitions*

To enhance its interpretation and provide fresh interest for repeat visitors the Museum regularly mounts temporary exhibitions, often to celebrate a significant anniversary or to focus on a special area of interest. The two exhibitions in the reporting year featured firstly Bord na Mona's narrow-gauge operations in Ireland (about to come to an end) and TR locomotive no 7 'Tom Rolt' (derived from a Bord na Mona steam locomotive), and secondly heritage railways' reliance on coal, a matter of significant interest and concern in the light of the general phasing-out of coal in pursuit of the country's carbon reduction commitments.

### *Special occasions*

On 25<sup>th</sup> February the Museum was able to hold a children's event – "Meet the locomotives, make a locomotive" – with grant support from the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales under the Welsh festival Half-term scheme. The 13 children attending along with adults were introduced to four of the Museum's locomotive exhibits and then constructed card models of Talyllyn Railway locomotives powered by a cotton-reel motor, part of the primary STEM curriculum





*'Meet the locomotives, make a locomotive' - STEM event in February 2022*

A unique feature of the Museum is its Awdry Collection featuring the life and work of Wilbert Awdry, celebrated writer for children and creator of the Railway Series of books (Thomas the Tank Engine), and an early volunteer on the Talyllyn Railway (which formed the basis for some of his stories). The Museum supported the Talyllyn Railway's second and very popular "Awdry Extravaganza" weekend, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> July, during which it welcomed 881 adults and 225 children.

On 30<sup>th</sup> September the Museum welcomed members of the Borth Walking for Wellbeing group for a day's outing organised by the Cambrian Railway Lines. The group enjoyed a tour of the Museum and then a trip on the Talyllyn Railway.



*Borth Walking for Wellbeing Group visits the Museum*

## Governance

The 2018 accreditation review had advised the Trustees to pursue incorporated status for the Museum Trust, and in response to the Charity Commission's refusal in September 2021 to register the Trust as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) the Trustees worked

throughout the year on clarifying and codifying the relationship between the Trust and the entities responsible for the Talylyn Railway (the Preservation Society, the railway Company, and Talylyn Holdings), with a Memorandum of Understanding being agreed between the Society, Company and Trust as the year closed.

### *People*

Without people, and notwithstanding its excellent building and extensive collection, the Museum would be nothing. The Trust employs no staff, and volunteers receive no financial benefit. In addition to the seven Trustees, the Museum was served by around 20 regular volunteers during the year, putting in an estimated 2750 hours, and the Trustees acknowledge this commitment with the deepest gratitude. The Trustees themselves were 'hands-on' in the fullest sense of the term, putting in an estimated 3500 hours.

Significant behind-the-scenes work included:

- Archiving activities, such as sorting, scanning images and documents, and travelling to collect material;
- Preparation and setting-up of audio-visual displays and temporary exhibitions.

Museum working parties, which generally meet on Thursday mornings, outside during the summer and indoors in the winter, do work vital to maintain the Museum and its exhibits, and enhance the displays. When weather permits they work on historic wagon repair and maintenance. They carry out a range of tasks such as:

- fitting new zinc-sheeting roof to wagon no 146 (covered van), re-assembling the bodywork and restoring it to running condition;



*Wagon 146 resplendent after restoration*

- continuing restoration of wagon no 36, the three-slat 1-ton slate wagon, including preparation of the new frame and side slats to enable test assembly of the slats on the frame, and marking-up the new floor plate and drilling the mounting holes ready for the plate to be sent away for galvanizing;
- measuring and photographing the Aberllefenni incline counter-balance wagon to enable the preparation of a CAD drawing as the blueprint for restoration;
- assembling a plywood framework around the stairwell to mount the Carwyn Jones Quarrymen exhibition portraits.

Most Trustees and Museum officers served throughout the reporting year. Bob Gwynne, Museum Mentor, had indicated the wish to relinquish his responsibilities because of other demands on his time, and the Trustees put on record their thanks for his expert, friendly and prompt advice freely given over several years. They were delighted when Ms Victoria Harrison, Heritage Officer at Crewe Town Council and with extensive experience in the museums sector, agreed in August to take up the post, and already she has made a significant and positive contribution to the Museum's life.

In addition to its local volunteers the Museum values its supporters far and wide, and runs a formal Friends of the Museum scheme to encourage such interest; Friends (37 in 2022) pay an annual subscription yielding more than £1000 in income and are kept fully up to date with events at the Museum through 3 or 4 newsletters every year.

The Trustees were saddened by the deaths during the year of Noel Williams and Alan Chetwynd, both of them loyal supporters of the Museum and volunteer attendants.

### **The future**

The Museum's Accredited Museum status was to have been reviewed during the reporting year, but administrative pressures within the Welsh Government caused by the pandemic delayed this, with the next review now planned for 2025. The Trustees continue to maintain and review their policies in order to maintain good governance and Museum management practice.

Volunteer availability remains the most pressing concern facing the Trustees in ensuring the Museum's sustainability. There are early signs that efforts to recruit new volunteer attendants are succeeding.

## Financial Report

Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Trust		Registered charity 1040128				
Accounts for year ended 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2023						
Fund Type	Unrestricted	Designated		All		Previous year
Fund Name	General	Insurance reserve				
RECEIPTS						
Donations in Museum	£ 3,632.22			£ 3,632.22		£ 2,592.53
Other Donations	£ 4,278.06			£ 4,278.06		£ 6,238.30
Friends Subscriptions	£ 1,163.00			£ 1,163.00		£ 1,112.00
Legacies	£ -			£ -		£ 1,000.00
Grants	£ 140.83			£ 140.83		£ 40,909.78
Gift Aid Tax Reclaim	£ -			£ -		£ -
Sales	£ 1,000.00			£ 1,000.00		£ 120.00
Fees	£ -			£ -		£ -
Miscellaneous	£ -			£ -		£ -
Bank Interest	£ 232.15	£ 294.95		£ 527.10		£ 3.89
Total Receipts	£ 10,446.26	£ 294.95		£ 10,741.21		£ 52,164.75
EXPENDITURE						
Collection						
Acquisition	£ -			£ -		£ 3,927.28
Repair & Maintenance	£ 1,414.72			£ 1,414.72		£ 5,685.84
Presentation	£ 1,234.71			£ 1,234.71		£ 1,007.93
Subscriptions	£ 363.00			£ 363.00		£ 389.20
Grants	£ -			£ -		£ -
Staffing costs	£ -			£ -		£ 26,439.83
Covid precautions	£ -			£ -		£ -
Miscellaneous	£ 246.50			£ 246.50		£ 13,900.13
Total Payments	£ 3,258.93	£ -		£ 3,258.93		£ 51,350.21
Net Receipts	£ 7,187.33	£ -		£ 7,187.33		£ 814.54
Balances b/f 01/02/22	£ 65,116.93	£ 42,135.93		£ 107,252.29		£ 67,700.60
Balances c/f 01/02/23	£ 72,303.69	£ 42,430.88		£ 114,734.57		£ 106,437.75

Fund Balances as at 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2023					
General				Insurance Reserve	£42,430.88
<b>Represented by</b>					
NWB A/C gross			£0.00		
CAF Cash A/C 31/01/23 <i>less unrepresented cheques etc.</i>			£9,860.51		
	£0.00	£0.00			
<i>plus unstatemented credits</i>					
	£0.00	£0.00			
CAF Cash A/C net			£0.00		
CAF Gold A/C 31/01/23 <i>plus unstatemented credits</i>		£62,443.18			
	£0.00	£62,443.18			
CAF Gold A/C net			<u>£62,443.18</u>		
			£72,303.69	1-year Bond	£42,430.88

## Financial commentary



Financial performance in the reporting year much more closely resembled that of a 'normal' year, in contrast to the recent Covid-dominated years, with public grant support ceasing. As noted, the Talylllyn Railway Company provided attendant cover in the Museum at its expense when there was a volunteer shortfall, and therefore there was no staffing cost to report.

The Museum's two main sources of regular income – donations in the Museum and Friends' subscriptions – both showed a substantial increase over the previous year, +£1091 (+ 29%) in aggregate.



## Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees at their meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Signed	Signatory	Date
	CK Theobald Chairman of Trustees	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2023
	JD Olsen Trustee	21-6-2023

# Appendix

## Independent examiner's report



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

**The Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Trust**

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

Charity no  
(if any)

1040128

Set out on pages

Not applicable

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/01/2023.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Independent  
examiner's statement

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

Name:

Nigel Ronald Roscoe

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

Address:

35 Kenilworth Road

Cheadle Heath

Stockport, SK3 0QL

## Independent examiner's report (continued)

Section B	Disclosure
<p>Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.</p>	<p>Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>