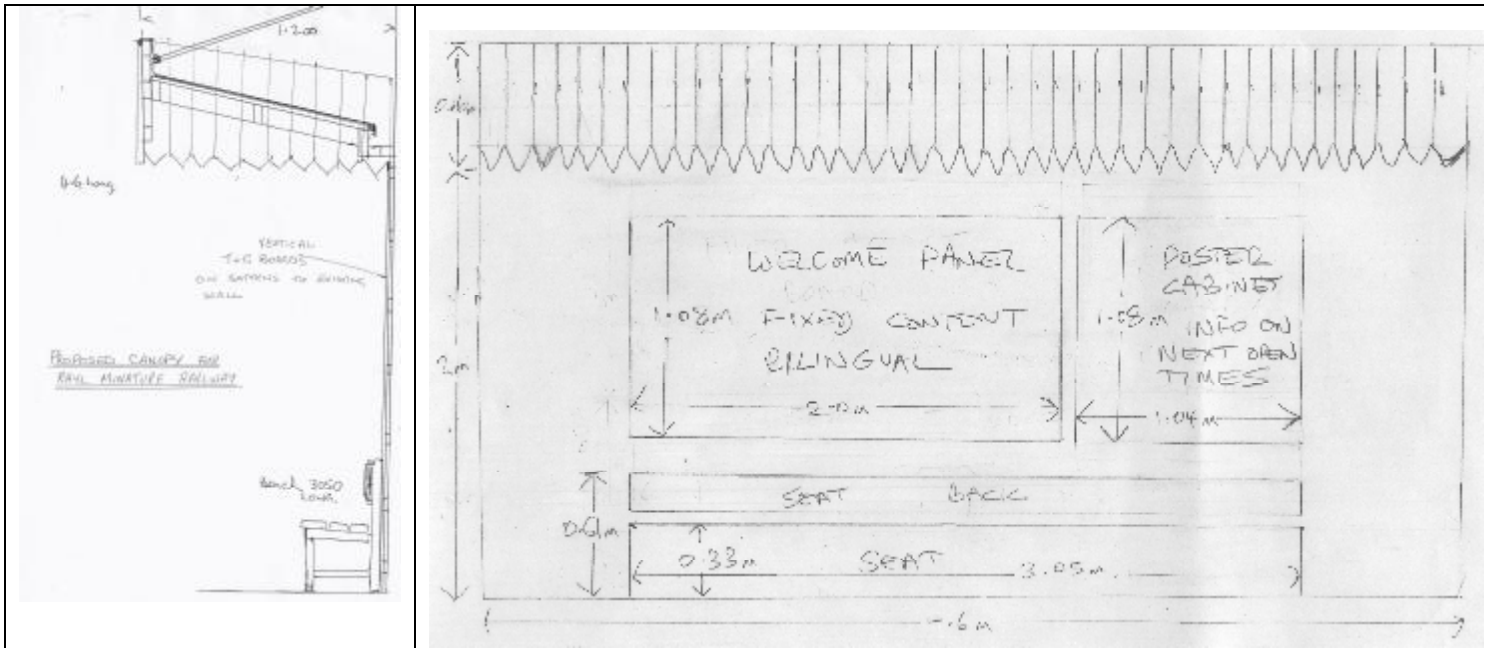


Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway

Newsletter No. 25

Website: www.rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk

April 2013



New 'Gateway Feature' at RMR attracts grant support

Volunteers at Rhyl Miniature Railway are celebrating winning a grant of £7,000 from Welsh Assembly Government. Most of the money will be spent on a new 'gateway feature' at the railway, consisting of a traditional style canopy, notice board and seat. This will improve the appearance of the station building and also provide information to visitors when the railway is closed. It will be fitted to the front wall of 'Central Station' facing the childrens' play area.

The grant will also pay for a new child-friendly interactive in the railway's museum. It will pay for the museum quiz to be re-designed and for improvements to the pathway in front of the station building. All four parts of the project are expected to be completed during the next three months.

The money is an Innovation and Development Grant awarded by CyMAL, the museum arm of Welsh

Assembly Government. It has been awarded to improve access for all visitors to Rhyl Miniature Railway, which is an accredited museum.

Cllr Joan Butterfield, Trustee of Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust, said:

'This great news will bring about further improvements to visitor facilities at the steam train, where passengers carried have already risen by 70% over the last two years.'

'When the harbour developments open this summer we are hoping that still more visitors from there will find their way to Marine Lake and vice versa.'

'The Trustees of the Train Trust are very grateful to Welsh Assembly Government for continuing to support our development, in line with the aims of the Museums Strategy for Wales.'

Proposed design for the new 'Famous Trains Interactive' in the RMR's museum





TEDDY BEARS PICNIC AT MARINE LAKE

SPONSORED BY RHYL MINIATURE RAILWAY

May 25th 26th 27th 2013

SATURDAY 25TH

NAME THE BEAR

SUNDAY 26TH

TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

MONDAY 27TH

TEDDY TREASURE HUNT

ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE FROM CENTRAL STATION

FREE RIDE ON THE TRAIN
FOR EVERY CHILD BRINGING
A TEDDY BEAR WHEN
ACCOMPANIED BY A FARE
PAYING ADULT



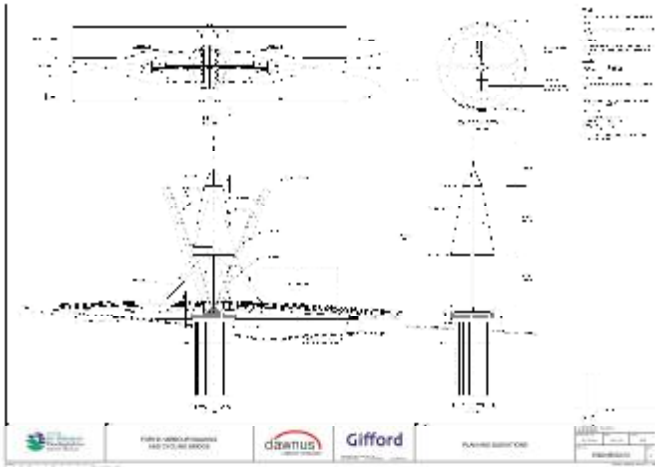
-- LOTS OF PRIZES --

ALL PICNIC SITES WILL BE ALLOCATED

New Landmark Bridge at Foryd Harbour to Open This Summer

What is happening at the Rhyl Harbour?

- A Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge
- Public Square and Quayside Building
- New Quay Walls



Where will the project be?

The bridge will span the River Clwyd at the Rhyl Harbour from West Parade, Rhyl, to a newly created public square, quayside building and quay wall on the Kimmel Bay side of the river. The map below shows the project locations.



Will the project be signposted to and from Marine Lake?

Council officers have promised that there will be a proper scheme of signage and way-finding once the new bridge has opened. This seems only sensible considering all the visitor improvements made at Marine Lake over the past few years, and the fact that these harbour developments are only a short walk away.

How will the project benefit the area?

The project aims to attract visitors and contribute to the local economy as well as being a great resource for residents. The new slipway will be available for trailer boat and leisure craft launches, and will allow boats to be taken out of the water more easily for storage in the adjacent secure boat yard. There will be two units available for businesses at the Harbour building; one is specifically set out as a café, and the other for a relevant harbour business or meeting room until a business opportunity comes forward.

The pedestrian and cycle bridge

The bridge will link existing buildings and proposed developments either side of the Rhyl Harbour and will be a landmark structure, providing a truly iconic and distinctive attraction to bring tourists to this part of Rhyl. The bridge will close the gap in the national cycle route 5 and provide a safer, quicker and easier passage for pedestrians and cyclists.

Naming the bridge

A competition is being held for pupils from nearby schools to come up with a name for the bridge, and the winner will receive a £150 voucher for the Better Bikes shop in Rhyl. The schools taking part in the competition are Emmanuel CP, Bryn Hedydd CP, Mair RC, Christchurch CP, Ysgol Llywelyn, Dewi Sant, Tîr Morfa, Babanod y Foryd and Maes Owen.

The Public Square and Quay Walls

The new Public Square and harbour walls will ensure that a working harbour can continue to operate for years to come, helping to maintain a tourist offer with angling charter boats and sailing opportunities at the forefront. There will be an extension to the existing quay wall that will provide an area of public amenity and a Public Square that will create a hub for the harbour and surrounding sand dunes and beach areas. The square will also provide a focal point for harbour life and offer activities and events to complement the natural surroundings and promote a vibrant, active and successful harbour.

The Quayside Building

The Quayside building will provide facilities such as a cafe, meeting room, toilets and management office for the Harbour Estate.

Harbour management and the management of all Harbour and Maritime functions will be located within the new office. There will be a 5 day week staff presence through out the year with 7 day cover in the main summer months, ensuring that whatever your requirement, staff will be on hand to assist. The harbour and maritime staff will be the point of call for all harbour, boating and foreshore activities. The maritime staff will also be responsible for the operation of the new pedestrian and cycle bridge, and will provide a manned operation at the relevant opening times.

When will the project be complete?

The new pedestrian and cycle bridge will be finished and ready to use in the Summer of 2013 and the Public Square, Harbour Building and Quay Wall will be opened in 2014.

What funding was used?

£10.3 million of funding has been secured from the Welsh Government including the European Regional Development Fund, the Big Lottery Fund through Sustrans and Denbighshire County Council.

Other RMR News

Santa Specials 2012



The 2012 season of Santa Special trains was successful, it saw a similar number of passengers to 2011. All the children received individual presents from Santa in his grotto.

Engineering work 2012-2013

During last winter a lot of hours were spent on carriage maintenance; every bogie has been cleaned and inspected. The RMR air-brake system has been fitted to the blue set of coaches, with new air control panels on *Michael* and *Clara*.

Cagney no 44 has been fitted with new piston rings, and there have been further sturdy improvements beneath the bonnet of *Clara*. A lot of track sleepers have been renewed. Practically every curve on the line has now had its sleepers replaced during the last few years.

New Old Safety Valves for *Michael*

Next time you see our locomotive *Michael* in steam, have a look on top of the boiler at the safety valves. Since the loco was restored two years ago it has been running with substitute modern valves, but by the time this newsletter appears its original bronze valves will have been restored to use.



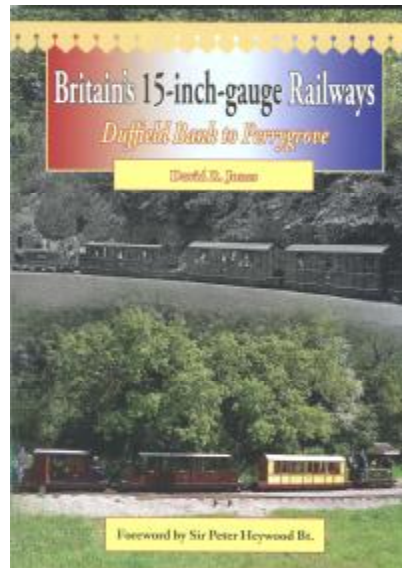
Restoration of these valves has been a complex project, which started with a drawing made by Jim Shackell of Evesham Vale Light Railway. Components were then machined by W Parrott and Sons in Wrexham, and the project was completed

by BBI Engineering Ltd in Derbyshire.

In fact only the bronze housings, which you see, are original, from Henry Greenly's day. Inside the valves have been re-designed with new bases, springs and seats, so they should now give many more years of service.

New Book on Fifteen Inch Gauge Railways

Now in stock at the RMR shop is a new book Britain's 15-inch-gauge Railways, Duffield Bank to Perrygrove, by David R Jones.



Chapters in the book cover history of the 15in gauge, to 1945, then 1945 to 2011. Locomotives, carriages and wagons, and track, stations and signalling, are all dealt with in detail. There is then an extended section on current lines to visit. This softback book has 192 pages all in

full colour, for which the price at £20 seems very reasonable. Recommended.



RHYL STEAM PRESERVATION TRUST

Registered Charity No 1103953

Trustees: Les Hughes (Chairman), Carol Hughes, Louise Webster, Lucille Green, Cllr Joan Butterfield JP, Cllr Jack Butterfield, Simon Townsend (Secretary), Justin Bell, Pat Kelly. Enquiries about railway operations should be addressed to the Trust Secretary, 10 Cilnant, Mold CH7 1GG, Tel 01352 759109.

Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway

Our group has been formed to support the Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust in its aims to preserve and operate the railway.

Membership costs £7.50 per annum and runs to 31st May each year, including newsletters due in April and September.

President of the Friends is Rev Alan Cliff, whilst its Chairman is Simon Townsend

For Subscriptions and Enquiries: Secretary of the Friends is Dave Bell, of 22 River Street, Rhyl LL18 1PT, Tel 01745 339477.

Friends' Newsletter

Editor: Simon Townsend

Photographs in this issue by John Myers