

Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway

Newsletter No. 12

March 2007



Building Completion – At Last!

On Track for Grand Opening on Saturday 26th May

On Friday 2nd March 2007 our new building 'Central Station' was handed over from builders Wynne Construction into the ownership of Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust.

Before the ink was dry, the railway's volunteers were at work laying tracks inside the building, in preparation for the official opening of the project on Saturday 26th May.

Seen above inside the building on Monday 5th March are, from left to right, Paul Smith (Denbighshire County Council Rhyl Going Forward Officer), Chris Wynne (Builder), with Trustees Les Hughes, Simon Townsend, and Joan Butterfield.

Picture by Philip Micheu

NEW STATION BUILDING AND MUSEUM FOR RHYL MINIATURE RAILWAY

Client: Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust

Architect: Denbighshire Design & Development

Building Contractor: Wynne Construction

Project supported by:



Gyda chymorth
Cronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri
Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund



CYNGOR TREF Y
RHYL
TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN CLERK: Gareth Nickels



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Uywodaeth Cynullad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Britain's Oldest Miniature Railway

The new 'Central Station' building will provide a permanent headquarters for Britain's oldest miniature railway (first opened in 1911), at Rhyl Marine Lake. On Saturday 3rd March RMR's locomotives and coaches were moved into their new £700,000 home for the first time. The new building includes a ticket office, toilets and museum, which will transform the railway's visitor facilities. It also includes a workshop in which traditional skills will enable the railway to be maintained in good order for many years to come.

Trust Chairman Les Hughes said 'It is fantastic to see our trains moved from their leaky old shed into this brilliant new building. I look forward to steam still being raised here in another ninety years time.'

Trustee Cllr Joan Butterfield added 'I am delighted to see this new facility handed over to our Trust. Once opened in May it is going to be a fantastic asset for the town of Rhyl. Together with other local developments such as the Drift Park and the Ocean Plaza scheme this is obviously going to help revitalise our end of the town.'

Gala Opening Plans

Plans are now being made for the official opening of the project on Saturday 26th May. The railway will be staging a three day gala event running from the 26th to Monday 28th May. It is planned to have five engines in steam at the RMR - for the first time ever in the railway's long history.

The visiting locomotives (subject to availability) will be *John* from Evesham Vale Light Railway, *Sutton Belle* from Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway, and *Red Dragon* from the Windmill Farm Railway. The Trust is also negotiating with Rhyl Town Council for the loan of their locomotive *Billy*. This is expected to be placed on static display in the new museum, to be called the 'Albert Barnes Room'.

Additional Funding Secured

The Trust is grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for making available to us an additional grant of £67,000 in addition to their original grant of £484,500. We have also received a further £5,000 from the Communities First Trust Fund. This funding has enabled us to complete the construction phase of 'Central Station', albeit some months later and at a higher cost than was first envisaged, due to unforeseen circumstances.

Rhyl Railway Photos wanted

We are seeking good quality photographs of the main line railway in Rhyl forty or more years ago, for display in our museum. If you can help please contact Rev Alan Cliff, 38 Clifton Park Road, Rhyl LL18 4AW.



The interior of the building nearing completion on 5th February.



The track-laying gang on 4th March included visiting volunteers from the Sherwood Forest Railway in Nottinghamshire. Thanks to their help most of the new tracks are already nearly finished.

RHYL STEAM PRESERVATION TRUST

Registered Charity No 1103953

Trustees: Les Hughes (Chairman), Carol Hughes, Louise Webster, Lucille Green, Cllr Joan Butterfield JP, Simon Townsend (Secretary), Justin Bell.
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