

Friends of Rhyl Miniature Railway

Newsletter No. 17

Website: www.rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk

April 2009



RMR runs Christmas trains for Rhyl Adventure Playground Association

On Saturday 13th December we opened specially to run a festive season train for children and parents from Rhyl Adventure Playground Association. This was the first time that the railway has operated in December, a trial in preparation for a longer season of Santa trains in 2009. The event was organised by Trustees Les Hughes, Jack and Joan Butterfield, and Simon Townsend, seen above. After a train ride the group looked around the museum, and then departed to Rhyl Sports & Social club to receive their presents from Santa, and enjoy a lunch of jelly and ice cream.



 Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund

Re-tyring of *Joan*

The major engineering job of winter 2008 – 2009 was to fit new steel tyres to the wheels of *Joan*. The old tyres were too thin and two had worn loose on the wheel centres.

The job started by jacking up the locomotive in the RMR workshop; opportunity was taken to clean up the boiler backhead fittings.



The driving wheelsets were then taken to Arthur Jones's workshop where the wheels were pressed off the axles. Eight forged steel tyres were purchased and delivered to Ken Price at Acme Precision Engineering near Wrexham, where they were machined to size.



The old tyres were cut off the wheel centres, then the new tyres were heated up using a special burner, and the wheel casting dropped into them. Once this was done the final profiles could be machined.



The pony and trailing wheels of *Joan* were also dealt with, these being the first to be tried out at the RMR. These tyres were machined from solid discs of EN9 steel.



On 14th February the driving wheelsets returned to Rhyl, ready to be assembled with new springs which we had also purchased.



We had agreed to run a special train for Councillors from Rhyl Town Council on 11th March, so commenced steam trials on 1st March.



Following boiler inspections and adjustments to springing, *Joan* was ready to haul public trains again on Good Friday, 10th April.

'Little Giant' Gala 2009

The RMR's Gala Weekend in 2009 will be held on 23rd to 25th May, again coinciding with the start of 'Rhyl Week'.

The visiting locomotives this year will be *Synolda* from the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway, and *Red Dragon* from the Windmill Farm Railway. *Red Dragon*, an RMR locomotive in earlier times, will be celebrating its centenary during the event. This year we are hopeful that the free bus from the event to Rhyl Events Arena will run on all three days.

Other RMR News

Locomotive *Michael*

On 2nd March we took the old boiler to Terry Statham, our boilermaker, for use as a pattern.



We have been looking at the design of the new boiler, in particular at the footprint of the firebox in the chassis, below.



We hope to take delivery of the boiler in the Autumn, with the aim of restoring *Michael* to service next May. In the meantime we will be removing the loco's wheels which need to be re-tired similarly to those of *Joan*.

Museum Developments

The Trust has been making progress with its plans to attain museum accreditation, and hopes to achieve all the required standards by the end of 2009. We recently obtained a grant of £2,600 from CyMAL, Welsh Assembly Government's museum authority, for consultancy to assist us with this target.

Volunteers' day, 9th April

This day resulted in a pleasing number of new faces appearing amongst the volunteer group.

Cagney No 44: The little engine has had two bearings replaced and one of the lubricators repaired – this last was a fiddly job which has absorbed a lot of skilled time. Cagney has also passed its boiler inspection, though it is likely to require re-tubing after the 2010 season.

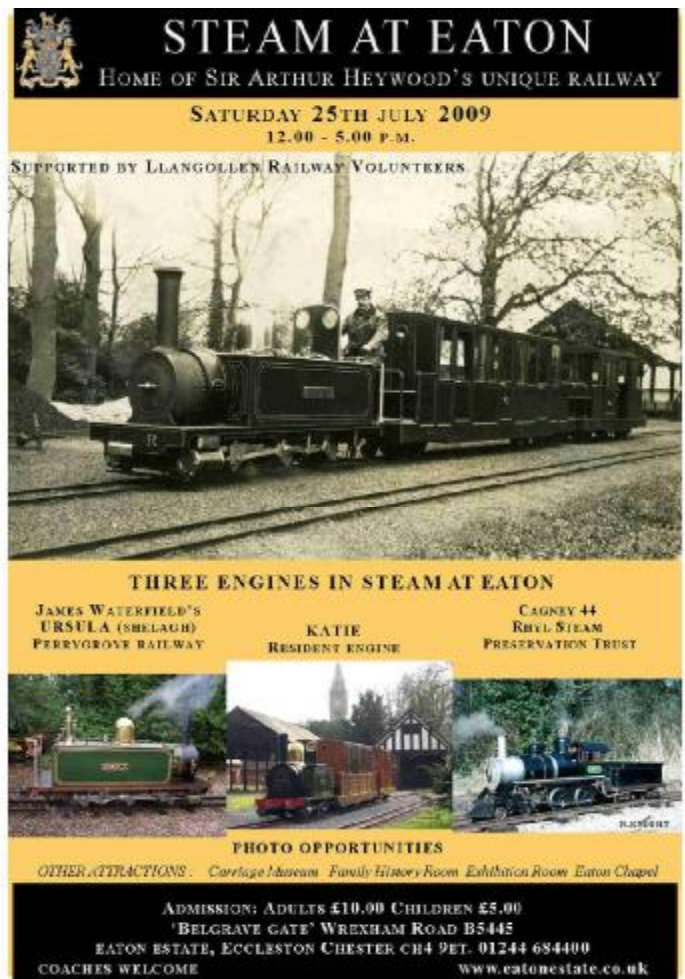
Tramcar: Our tramcar has been fitted with a new state-of-the-art electronic speed controller.

Little Coaches: The bogies of these coaches, often seen behind the Cagney, have received new wheels and axles made by Acme Engineering.

Track: Many sleepers have been replaced along the straight next to network rail. A corroded rail was replaced and efforts have been made to ease a couple of the curves in the track.

Central Station: The green floor has been re-painted inside the building. Hanging baskets have been added along the back of the platform. Our LNWR sack truck has been restored and is now displayed with some old suitcases.

Steam at Eaton: The Cagney has been invited to run at the Eaton Railway, near Chester, at their 'Steam' event on Saturday 23rd July.



STEAM AT EATON
HOME OF SIR ARTHUR HEYWOOD'S UNIQUE RAILWAY
SATURDAY 25TH JULY 2009
12.00 - 5.00 P.M.
SUPPORTED BY LLANGOLLEN RAILWAY VOLUNTEERS

THREE ENGINES IN STEAM AT EATON

JAMES WATERFIELD'S URSULA (SHELAGH) PERRYGROVE RAILWAY	KATIE RESIDENT ENGINE	CAGNEY 44 RHYL STEAM PRESERVATION TRUST
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PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

OTHER ATTRACTIONS: Carriage Museum Family History Room Exhibition Room Eaton Chapel

ADMISSION: ADULTS £10.00 CHILDREN £5.00
'BELGRAVE GATE' WREXHAM ROAD B5445
EATON ESTATE, ECCLESTON CHESTER CH4 9ET. 01244 684400
COACHES WELCOME www.eatonestate.co.uk



The latest sales item in the RMR shop is this fridge magnet, width 11cm, price £2.00 + postage. We also still have supplies of guide books at £2.50, and DVDs at £10, also plus postage.

Marine Lake Developments

During December the Marine Lake Users Forum, which the railway participates in, became independently constituted so that it can now seek funding in its own right. The first product of this group is likely to be an updated strategy plan for the area. It is hoped that this will lead on towards an environmental trail, to interpret the unique wildlife and species of the lake, in a way accessible for ordinary visitors such as train passengers.

During April the old green train shed was demolished and all of its contents removed. A great improvement!



There has been no progress with the Ocean Beach development, opposite to us, since the last newsletter, and we hear mixed rumours concerning when construction work may resume.

The Class Ten Project

By Justin Bell

A milestone reached in April was to set the locomotive's tender onto its own bogies and wheels. Except for the axleboxes, all these parts have been made from new. Now that it has made its first trip around the lake, my next job is to make the axle box covers and oil pads. Then I need to figure out how to do the brake rigging. This should keep me quiet until next winter, working on it when I have time.



RHYLL STEAM PRESERVATION TRUST

Registered Charity No 1103953

Trustees: Les Hughes (Chairman), Carol Hughes, Louise Webster, Lucille Green, Cllr Joan Butterfield JP, Jack Butterfield, 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 Rhyll Miniature Railway

Our group has been formed to support the Rhyll 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, Rhyll LL18 1PT, Tel 01745 339477.

Friends' Newsletter
Editor: Simon Townsend