

North Wales Model Engineering Society

West Shore, Llandudno, LL30 2PQ



NEWSLETTER. – September 2023

With the Summer now gone, quite a few of us will be spending more time in the workshop hoping to complete their current project ready for Spring.

Our public running season is rapidly coming to an end, most of the ever-present members that give their time to help club funds deserve more than a pat on the back, can I on behalf of our committee thank you all very much.

As regards the actual operation, we had some brilliant days, fantastic weather, so we were all ready for a bumper day only to be very disappointed. Other days we questioned if it was worth turning up and feared for the worse only to have a bumper pay day. Very strange! Our takings will be down on last year's most definitely.

My last newsletter, I mentioned that we had four members interested in 7.25-inch gauge and was this the way forward?

My good friend Bill Winter replied almost instantly with a definite "NO" far too big and heavy to handle !! He has a model of Talylyn Railway No.12 - "St Cadfan" which can be re-gauged between 5 and 7.25, it's still awaiting lining and plates.

The locos were originally from Royal Naval Armament Depot, TRECWN near Haverfordwest and were 2ft 6ins. gauge, but have been re-gauged to 2ft. 3ins. for the Talylyn Railway. They are very narrow locomotives and Bill has taken a bit of engineering licence with the scale to get the machinery inside and so it came out larger and would accommodate the 7.25 inch. Bill's winter project will be a 45mm coal fired loco. Bill has a similar battery powered 5-inch gauge model of Talylyn No.8 - MERSEYSIDER.

Interestingly I had a look on the internet regarding RNAD Trecwn. I knew Tony Graham had visited this site to get some track for the ill-fated Penrhyn Quarry Railway. The Trecwn railway system featured quite a few miles of underground caverns. It is said the underground track was made from copper to limit the risk of sparks in close proximity of explosives. Tony couldn't confirm this, all the track his working party saw was the standard steel material Surely pure copper wouldn't be used, some kind of Bronze might have been more suitable.



I did reply to Bill's article asking if he could give us a lecture on how to keep workshops clean and tidy, which he declined !





A photo of one of the Talylyn locos. Not too sure if it's No. 8 or 12.

Thanks for a very interesting article, Bill.

DYSON VAC CLEANERS!

Are any of you thinking I'm starting to lose my marbles? Most people acknowledge the engineering and design of these vacuum cleaners is second to none (when new). The battery does lose its performance quite prematurely having paid quite a hefty price when new. Replacement batteries are not cheap either.

My son in law is quite a keen DIY enthusiast and must have De Walt tools. Nothing else will do.

Whilst we were in South Wales on babysitting duties a few weeks ago I noticed a parcel on his desk, the contents I thought might interest our members.

The parcel was an adapter plate to fit in place of the faulty battery at the base of the "trigger handle". This in turn accepts one of his De Walt batteries and away you go. To change the battery for this adaptor took about quarter of an hour. Anyone interested just search De Walt modification for Dyson Model? Vac. I'm not sure if there is a modification for MAKITA and others.



DAVID JONES' PANSY LOCOMOTIVE.

I gave David's father in-law (The late Colin Barter) a mention last month about his exquisite workmanship constructing that superb STUART stationary engine.

Any member that has seen David's Pansy will have been very impressed by this very attractive locomotive. (again, built by his late father-in-law)



Unusually, a small piece of equipment located in the cab draws a great deal of interest and attention, and quite honestly this could be mistaken for a hydrostatic lubricator sight glass. On closer inspection it's on the return water pipe from the axle pump to the water tank. On a large tank locomotive, it would be quite difficult to lean over the locomotive whilst in motion to check if you have water coming out of the witness pipe located in the water tank. This method clearly shows that water is being pumped by the red and white ball spinning. A much safer option.

I'm not sure what material the ball has been made of as this item has not been stripped down. A plastic, or aluminium bead painted red and white possibly.

Most model steam locomotives have a bypass valve located away from the loco's back head, in this case the valve is located directly under the sight glass, so I imagine it would be a lot easier to balance the water flow.

Have any of our members seen this type of design before? Please contact me with details if you have.



RHVL MINIATURE RAILWAY.

A few weeks ago, I paid a visit to one of the oldest miniature railways in Britain. I've always had fond memories of this railway even though these days their station is a modern building housing a museum, storage area, in fact everything under one roof. It's a shame we haven't been able to establish a decent clubhouse ourselves, hopefully we might secure a new lease on our land in Llandudno very soon, this could help us to enhance our facilities.

The duty locomotive was JOAN, one of the original Barnes Atlantics constructed by Albert Barnes at the Atlas Works in Rhyl. In the photo is CLARA an internal combustion 0-4-2 tank loco and a Lister 0-4-0 maintenance trolley.

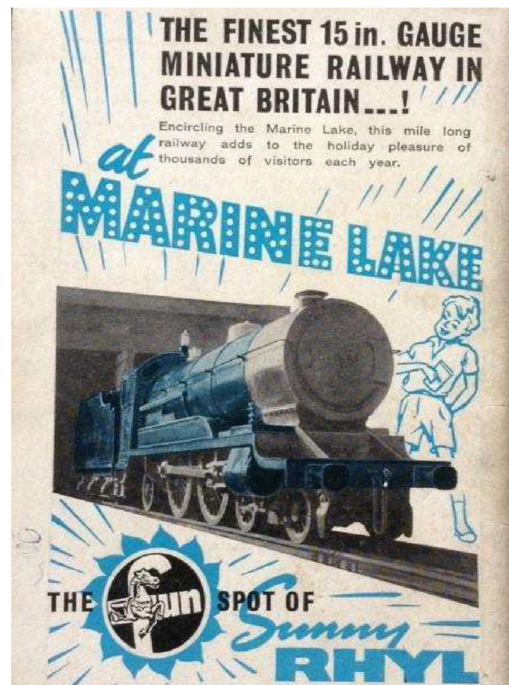
Another loco on show was the recently acquired BILLIE (another original Barnes Atlantic). You could say this was being re-commissioned ready for service, the green and yellow paintwork needing attention from its Dreamland Miniature Railway days in Margate, Kent up until 1980. It also ran at Dudley Zoo in the midlands for the 1982-83 season. With two headlamps and smoke deflectors, I wonder if these will be re-instated when returned to service.



Rather confusing the railway has a Billie and a Billy. Billy is owned by the council and is on display at the railway museum located in the station complex. For a long time, it was in a glass cabinet located on the platform at Rhyl station.



Having had mixed fortunes with our public running at West Shore, the engine driver told me they had a brilliant season at Rhyl. Could it be because of what Crosville buses used to advertise? -" Visit Sunny Rhyl".



GARDEN RAILWAYS.

At our recent AGM, we were told Geoff Powell has decided to sell all of his garden railway equipment. I don't know if he has any equipment still for sale. Please contact Geoff if you have any requirements.

A few quotes from Tony Graham's book called ¹¹Things they shouldn't have printed.

TELEGRAPH. - BBC2 at 9pm. ¹¹Tribes, predators and me", a program where Gordon Buchanan learns to hunt crocodiles with his bare hands. LAST IN THE SERIES!!

DARLINGTON AND STOCKTON TIMES. Councilor Coates said graves in the present churchyard were so close together that some people were beginning to complain.

DAILY MAIL. FREE INSIDE. How to beat hair loss, the definitive pull-out guide.

TELEGRAPH. Kate watched on protectively, occasionally wiping some dribble from his chin as William chatted to some of the other parents.

WINTER LECTURES.

The first Winter Lecture will be held at the Community Centre, Craig y Don on the 5th October 2023 @ 19:00.

Most of us will have done Basic First Aid training during our working lives but as we get older, procedures could well have changed.

The chance to be reminded about CPR, De Fibrillators, and other emergency procedures should make this evening very interesting and useful to you, your friends and neighbours and most importantly your family.

I can't wait to be inundated with all your comments regarding this Newsletter.

Harold.