

North Wales Model Engineering Society



Newsletter - November 2023

Brian Williams

Another sad moment in our society's history. To read Tony Graham's email announcing Brian's passing meant I had lost another good friend only a few weeks after Owen Francis.

Brian was our society's longest serving member, having joined either in the late sixties or early seventies. He remembered having meetings in a little café in Old Colwyn. Affectionally known as Brian Wheelchair to all his friends, following a motorcycle accident when he was in his early twenties. He would spend all his spare time in his workshop until he started experimenting with a computer. Things changed quite drastically then.

His knowledge of everything connected with railways was unbelievable, especially The London and North Western Railway. Brian will be sadly missed, and our condolences go to his wife Jackie and his close family.

Brigadier D.J.R. Richards

Regarded by many as the founder member of our model engineering society, nobody had researched this gentleman's history until David Davies asked himself, who is the Brigadier, the chap our club loco was named after?

The Brig, as he was affectionally known to our society's members, had served his country in two World Wars, survived these, then became a model engineer churning out model locomotives, military guns etc. His history is so unbelievable I'm not going to start describing what he got up to, but I hope you all take the time to read about this remarkable gentleman.

https://www.britishmilitaryhistory.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/124/2020/10/RICHARDS-Brigadier-Darcy-John-Rigby-V3_3.pdf

Lartigue Mono Railway

Bill Winter sent me a rather interesting account of a railway he encountered during his travels in Ireland. He came across the Lartigue Mono railway in Listowel, Co. Kerry. The current loco and stock are reproductions built by Alan Keef. The loco is in fact diesel powered using a hydraulic transmission.



Keef's having worked up drawings from original photographs found of the original Hunslet drawings at the Hunslet archive. Unfortunately, Bill wasn't allowed to drive the locomotive but as you can see, he wasn't allowed onto the footplate. (Am I correct in thinking that Gloddfa Ganol in Ffestiniog had one of these monorail locos in working condition amongst their other NG locos, eventually ending up somewhere near Welshpool. Harold.)

Bill was wondering if a 5" scale model of this railway along with a crazy golf course would be an added attraction at West Shore Llandudno.



An excellent article once again Bill. Thanks.

7 ¼ inch Gauge Matters.

Having asked the question if the future of our society was 7 ¼ inch in my newsletter a couple of issues ago. Our friend John from the North of Anglesey sent me a lovely email regarding his railway system near LLanfachaeth.

On Anglesey we have a private/non commercial 1,100m of 7.25" track, 2 tunnels, 3 stations inc a 2 platform underground station, 2 signal boxes, 24 points a 'K' crossing & a Scissors crossing; currently we can run 11 trains simultaneously

Home Motive Power is ... Steam, Petrol/hydraulic, Electric & for the fit ones - a muscle powered hand-crank, we also get an assortment of visiting engines. We are 4 miles from the A55 juc3, so easy to get too.

Anyone with an interest in 7.25" is welcome to visit, bring an engine or just chat. We could also organize a club visit (come & play with a big one !!!)

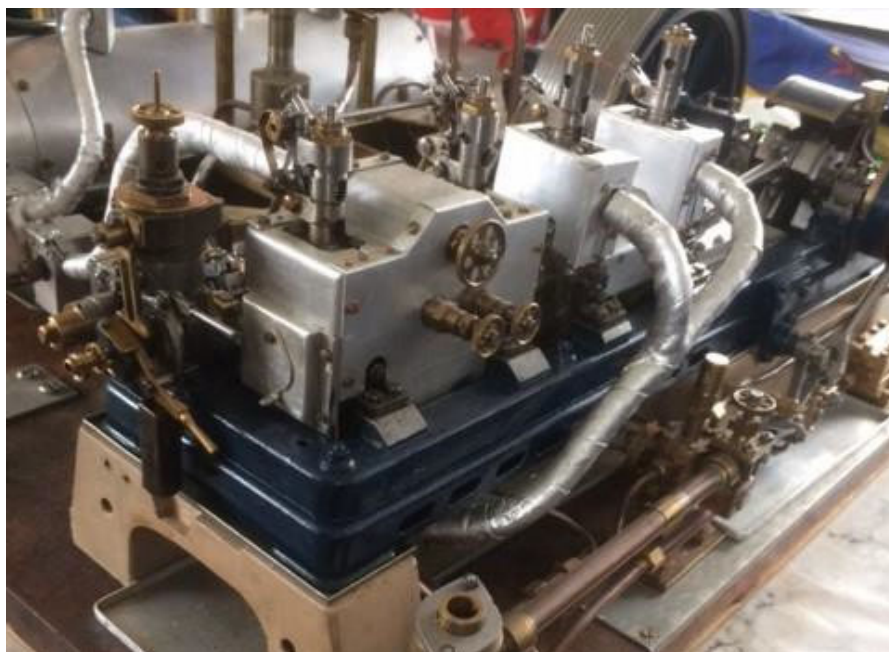
John & Jan - please contact via this site or e-mail janlewis.johndavies@yahoo.co.uk

Thanks for this invitation to attend what sounds like a fantastic railway. We've discussed this amongst members attending West Shore and everyone thought it would be a great idea to have a society event at your place.

Once winter is over and the warm weather is back, if we arrange a date between ourselves, I'll make sure the event gets the exposure to make it a very successful day. Harold.

Colin Barter.

Committee member David Jones is at it again. This time he turned up at West Shore last Wednesday with a model steam plant including a beautiful compound steam engine constructed by his late father-in-law to his own design. Again, all members present were so impressed by this gentleman's workmanship. Magnificent is the only word I can use to describe this model.



Congratulations.

I'm so glad to report that when members are at our track at West Shore, we're in safe hands (If Colin is in attendance.)



At a recent presentation at St. Asaph Cathedral, Colin was awarded a medal for 55 years' service to St. John Ambulance. I'm sure every member of our society congratulates you on reaching this milestone and hope your skills won't be required whilst in attendance with us.

Evening Lecture 7th November 2023.

This month's lecture will be given by Colin and his colleague on everything to do with saving lives. CPR, De Fibrillator operation or anything to do with saving lives. Procedures are changing all the time so we will be told about the very latest procedures. Your expertise following this lecture could save another member, a neighbour, or even one of your family.

Chris & Rosie Woolston.

We recently had a visit to West Shore with Chris and Rosie, both members of Melton Mowbray MES. Both are very experienced members; they have various models but their unmodified 7 1/4" gauge loco is a real beauty and was recently featured in Model Engineer. Rosie can be seen at the controls more than Chris. He prefers to be the camera operator.

When not using their models, both love to visit various tracks (miniatures, Narrow Gauge and ME Societies) all over Britain filming and showing their work on YouTube under the name of WOOLTMAN. I've watched quite a few of their products and they are very entertaining. When they visited us, they filmed the members being driven around the track with Rosie in charge of the Class 37.

They complimented us on their presentation as being one of the friendliest societies they had ever visited. They then went up the Orme on the tram, then went along to Rhyl to visit the Rhyl MR gala. You can watch it all on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYabT30oK7Y>

Public Running.

Our season is now over so we have various projects to complete over the winter months. All members will be welcomed with open arms to assist with these projects. All I can do is thank every member that helped with the public running days. Without this revenue, it would be impossible to keep our track and equipment maintained to our usual standard.

Thanks once again to John and Bill for their contributions.

Regards
HAROLD.