

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2025

At the moment outdoor activities have been kept to a minimum due to adverse weather conditions.

The large blue and white signs have been removed from their posts and stored over the winter period in the signal box to avoid the ravages of West Shore's weather.

Frank, Colin and Mike Robertshaw have been maintaining our Class 37. As I mentioned before, due to the weather, the locomotive's chassis has been brought up to the clubhouse and is on a temporary workbench there.



Our engine shed seems to be in a mess due to boxes etc. Anyone wanting to work on a locomotive would find it very difficult. No one seems to know who belongs to these boxes.

Santa visited West Shore. The photo shows Idris driving our Santa Special. Although rather chilly, the weather was lovely with not a cloud in the sky.



DEGANWY MODEL RAILWAY SHOW.

Again, we had a great day out at Craig y Don Community Centre. To create more interest on our stand, we displayed different models from last year. Mike Brown turned up with a few stationary engines, one model I'd never heard of. "A Flame Gulper", the other "Mill Engine" was another beautiful engine.

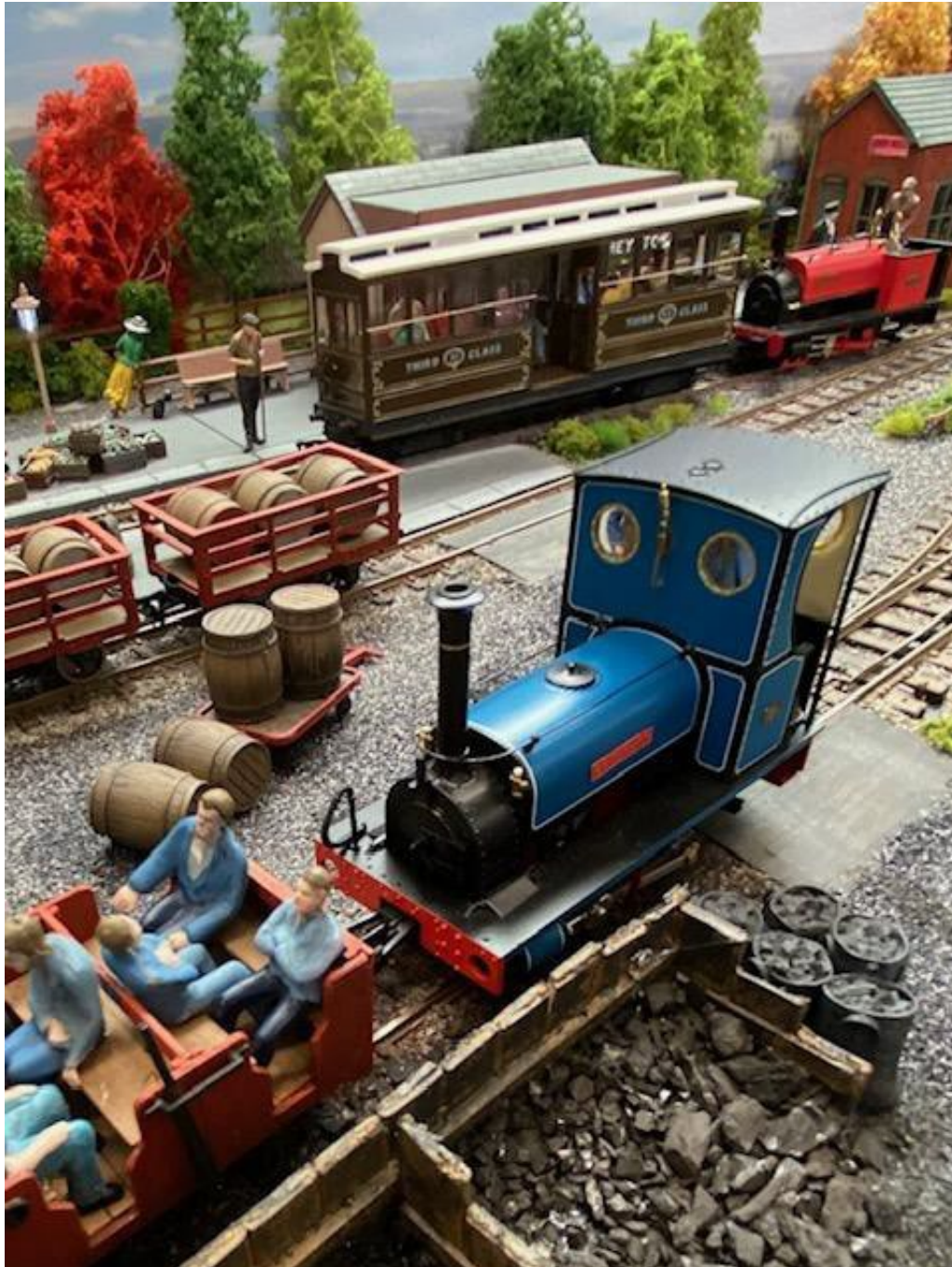


Jim Payne enjoying himself. This larger "0" gauge layout had a coaling tower and ash plant as part of the shed area.



Finally, when I read Tony Graham's Penrhyn Quarry Railway quarterly magazine, this last photo reminds me of their AGM, they normally finish up on the Bala Lake Railway. When they go for a ride along the lakeside, they use one of the Ex-Penrhyn wagons. At the exhibition the wagon on the layout was the wagon "D".

Finally, a big thanks to the ladies that kept us all fed and watered.



ANOTHER OF MARTIN'S ADVENTURES.

Visit to Beamish

This year Carys and I decided that we would visit the North of England Museum of Beamish. We had visited Ironbridge and The Black Country Museum, so Beamish was the only one left to visit. We set a Day for our visit and made our way there from the hotel that we were staying in. We arrive early so that we could make the most of the day. After paying for tickets, we caught one of the trams to the 1950's/60's area where they had built some new houses, shops and cinema. We visited a couple of council style houses that brought back memories of my childhood. My family moved into a new council estate in 1959.



The inside was exactly as I remember our home at the time. The attention to detail was very good. There was a street of shops and a cinema opposite including a record shop with listening booth for listening before you buy.

The cinema was nice to visit, bringing back memories of visits to the Empire and Hippodrome cinemas in Holyhead.



From here we caught a bust to the Victorian area, an area that was used in many TV programs and here we visited a motor garage that sold pushbikes as well as cars and had a well appointed machine shop for repairs.





Trams and buses are running around the site all day, and you just jump onto one when you want to move to another area.

There is a lot to see on the site and one day there is not enough time. I did pop down to the station, but nothing was running on this day



In the Co-op store Carys and I had a demonstration of the system of shop assistant sending money to the Cashier using a manually operated wooden ball and gravity equipment.

At the coal mine loco shed I did find a Penrhyn Hunslet Edward Sholto but could not find the Penrhyn Barclay Glyder that I also Knew was there.

I can thoroughly recommend a visit to Beamish as there is something there for everyone.

Thanks Martin, for a very interesting article on Beamish.

DECEMBER'S EVENING LECTURE.

Due to family commitments I had to spend the week looking after my grandchildren and it turns out I missed an extravaganza of an evening.

The much-travelled Phil Thomas gave a brilliant lecture on American Railroads. I've heard from various members that the Mega Trains over the pond makes our freight operations over here look as if they're 30 years behind intime. Thanks for keeping us entertained Phil.

Later, in the evening, the food arrived. My thanks go to everyone who contributed to the food. No names mentioned as I don't want to offend anybody.

Although I said I wouldn't name any person, the other main talking point was a certain cake. I'm sure it tasted as well as it looked, and this time I must thank Lorraine (Brian's wife) for creating such a masterpiece.



The committee has decided to change the venue for next month's talk.

It will be held at our clubhouse on a normal Wednesday meeting at 10:00. I'm reliably informed that the first one is on Wednesday the 7th JANUARY 2026.

I've been persuaded to entertain you, and my talk will be on "Abnormal Loads on our Highways". Having been involved in the transportation of rather large transformers, I hope I'll be able to show what's involved in the preparation and the actual movement of this type of equipment.

AMADEAL'S LATEST LATHE OFFER.

I must confess I've never used a lathe for screw cutting. Any threads I've ever required have been cut using taps and dies.

In the October edition of ME&W, the latest offering by tool supplier Amadeal was AMAB210E. A lathe fitted with an electronic lead screw.

This caused quite a bit of discussion at the clubhouse. At £1925:00p it's reasonably priced. If a member was thinking of purchasing a new lathe today, would he go for this model?

The distance between centres is 400mm. Maximum dia.

Swing above the lathe bed: 210mm. Spindle bore 38mm.

Taper of spindle bore: MT5.

Conclusion (In ME&W). All in all the machine performed well straight out of the crate with only a minor adjustment required and should be up to the job of model engineering, and other such hobbies.

The ELS (electronic lead screw) is a very impressive feature that will simplify screw cutting for any beginner, particularly those who have little or no prior knowledge of lathe use.

Is the ELS more things to go wrong with your machine? Is a second hand Myford or Boxford a better buy knowing what prices are being asked for these machines today?

Have you any views?

RAILWAY 200 MOBILE EXHIBITION TRAIN.

I don't know how many of our members paid a visit to this train whilst it was parked up at Llandudno. Paul Gennoe certainly went and was quite impressed.

My 92 year old neighbour made enquiries and was told you were only allowed 17 minutes on each coach. He never went! I mentioned this to Paul; he was never told about this.

The train comprised of five coaches, each one individually named:

INSPIRATION. (Not open to the public.)

PAST.

PRESENT.

FUTURE.

TOGETHER (Not open to the public).

Motive power was by two Class66 locomotives top and tailing the coaches. 66710 and 66719.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Your annual subs. are due at the end of the year. For those who have not yet renewed, this is a gentle reminder.

Having talked about what has happened in the past month, all I've got to say now is on behalf of our committee. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Kind Regards,

Harold Jones