



## NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2026

**First of all can I wish you all a Happy New Year. (Blwyddyn Newydd Dda).**

### **WEST SHORE ISSUES.**

**Class 37 Refurbishment** - Colin, Mike, and Frank have been refurbishing our locomotive. Additionally, a remote “On /Off” switch has been fitted. This is a safety feature so if we have a novice driver (not having passed his competency test) who was driving the loco under the supervision of a competent driver, the competent driver will have the ultimate control in the event of an emergency.

Yesterday, Wednesday (14<sup>th</sup> January) was crunch day. Our team wanted to prove if the refurbishment had been successful along with the safety feature. All members present had no doubts. The locomotive chassis worked perfectly.

The bodywork is in the capable hands of Martin. Following a lengthy discussion, it was decided the colour should be the Colas Rail livery. A very bright orange and yellow colour scheme. We all can't wait to see it.



**Frank testing the loco, Colin making sure the track was clear.**

## A NEW ATTRACTION IN THE FORM OF A POND.

Kevin, our neighbour and proprietor of the cafe has experienced some severe flooding to the lower rooms and toilets at the cafe. I'm not sure if the construction of a dyke adjacent to his cafe and our double gate has been his idea or our friendly council. All I know is that it has certainly kept the water out of the cafe property and out of ours.

The photo shows Colin having a good look at this new attraction. I wouldn't like to drive my car through the middle of the pond, but for any members needing to access our track I would imagine driving around past the big rocks on the southern side would be alright.



## OUR MONTHLY WINTER TALKS.

Our January talk was held at our clubhouse on a Wednesday morning for the first time. We had an excellent turnout as I gave a talk on the movement of rather large electrical transformers at various sites.

The beauty of talking to your friends, if they have any questions, no one minds the individual asking the question. Some members have asked if it's possible to start slightly later for members living further away to attend.

I've had a word with the committee, so we've all agreed to start the talk at 10:30. From 10:00 'til 10:30 for all members in attendance, we can consume a few cuppas or in Welsh- "panads" and do a lot of talking!! February's talk will be given by Martin on the manufacture of wind turbine towers. We are looking for someone to give a talk for the March meeting. Have we got any members out there that can keep us entertained giving a chat on any subject relevant to engineering.

## **SIGNALLING SYSTEM.**

Our signaling system has been out of use for quite a few years due to no one knowing how to overcome the gremlins. Gary has found a redundant computer at the CTS factory in Rhyl. Both he and Frank have assessed the suitability of this equipment with everything looking good.

All the present light signals can be used from the previous system. As we have a large selection of Hornby track at West shore from various donations, we intend to prove the operation of the new system on 00-gauge track before the final installation.

## **CLAYTON EQUIPMENT (RAILWAY ENGINEERS).**

It was sad to read that an old established firm of railway engineers had gone into liquidation. Originally formed in 1931 to manufacture spare parts for products made by Clayton wagons. They constructed the British Thompson Houston (BTH) Type 1 (Type 15) and their own Type 1 (Class 17).

In later years they had diversified to battery powered locos, with some being tried on the Snowdon Mountain Railway, for some reason these didn't last very long.

Other battery locos have been supplied to industrial sites, proving very successful.

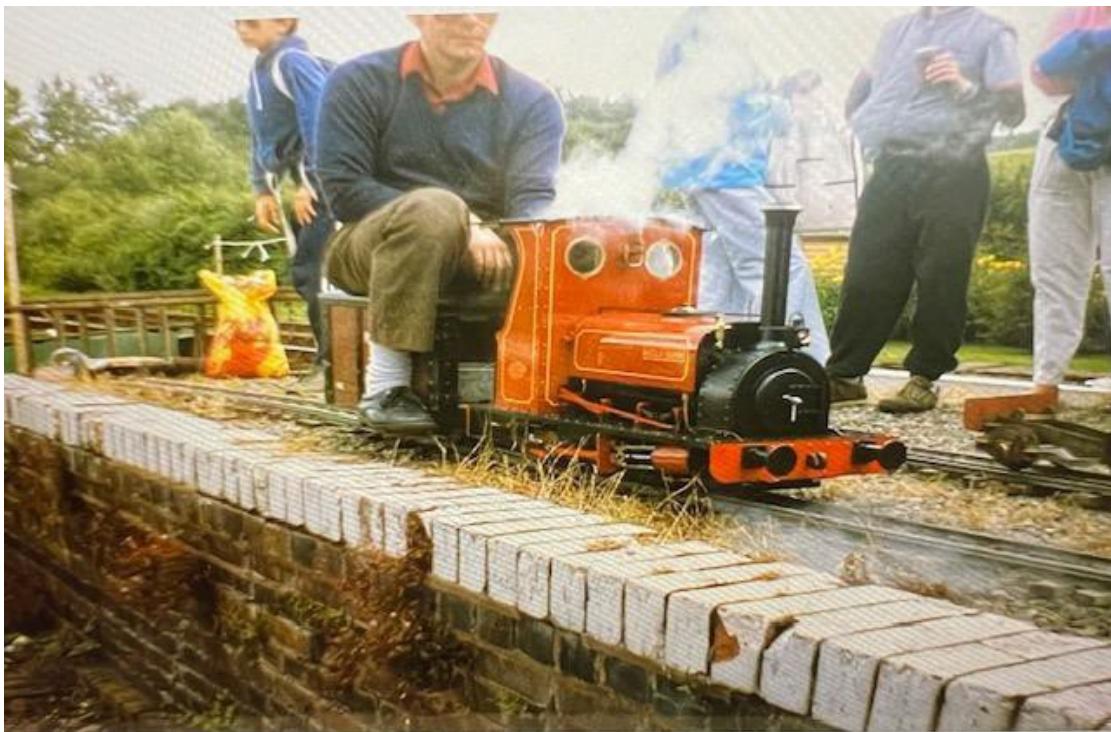
For you trainspotters out there - Is our other battery loco a model of a Clayton loco?

## **HOLY WAR'S VISIT TO THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY.**



The real Holy War making a visit for the Rail 200 celebrations. It was running on a short length of track at the engine house.

This reminded me of a visit I made with my 5 inch gauge Holy War in the late 80's. I used to meet a chap called Keith Tennant at the Bala Lake Railway's "Model Engineer's Weekend" who had a model railway shop and was also station master at Hampton Loade. He asked me to bring Holy War there if he arranged a short length of track to be laid. This was laid on the goods dock so my model was the first Holy War to visit the SVR.



This is a photo taken of myself driving Holy War at the SVR taken by my young daughter. Obviously more interested in the steam locomotive than her good-looking father.

(Thank you for that article, both Brian and Martin) Harold.

Last week end I went to Norway taking advantage of a return flight for £173 for the wife and me. Fantastic weather but very cold. This country would have ground to a halt but over there, life goes on. Many of the natives were seen to be skating on the lakes. Someone drills a hole in the ice, determines the thickness, then announces on Facebook or its equivalent whether it's safe or not. I've never seen so many people on the ice at once. They even had barbecues in the form of fire pits suspended on tripods on the ice.

On the Monday as we were flying back to Britain, our Grand daughters' were having their first planned lesson in school, then the whole school was going on the ice. From infants up to the age of sixteen, they were allowed to go skating with no parents present.

Perfectly safe, no one was injured and definitely no Health and Safety involvement.

This weekend, I missed the visit of Trevor Butterworth to West Shore. Having left school at the age of fifteen, I attended a pre-apprentice course at Bangor Technical College. Here, we were treated almost like adults, my first lecturer was a rather young lecturer, not much older than the students. His name, Mr. Butterworth. Happy memories, and thanks for everything once again.

Finally, can I wish our Secretary, - Tony and Trevor our best wishes for a speedy recovery, and before I forget, our good friend Frank and his darling wife Barbara are off on a holiday of a lifetime down to the southern hemisphere. I'm sure we wish them a fantastic time, and we can't wait to hear what they got up to during our next winter talks starting this Autumn. Have a lovely time.

Kind Regards,

*Harold Jones*