



JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER.

OUR GALA DAY.

Can I thank everyone who attended and helped make our Gala Day a resounding success.

My special thanks go to the ladies, Tina, Barbara, and Lorraine who kept us all fed and watered. Not just on the day but the time to prepare the wonderful food beforehand. It was a great effort and very much appreciated by us all.

Diolch yn fawr.

Having decided that the Gala Day was on the Saturday of a Bank Holiday weekend, it was decided to carry out public running on the Sunday and Monday. Sunday started off very slowly, by midday the members were ready to go home due to hardly any passengers, then all of a sudden, our fortunes changed. The members present were rushed off their feet, the few that were there did a great job, again many thanks for your valiant effort.

The photo below shows our member Idris Barker at the controls of his Class 73 locomotive in the attractive Brighton Belle livery.

I'm quite amazed at the size of the batteries on this locomotive being much smaller than on our Class 17 and 37. The traction motors are also physically smaller, but as regards performance, you can't tell any difference.

For anyone interested, this is a Maxitrak product.



Monday again was a good day. At the end of the day, it was time to keep the gazebos. Quite a physical task at the end of a long day.

Our society depends on public running to keep our finances healthy. Having had so many disappointing days at West Shore this year, our treasurer was definitely smiling at the end of this weekend.

WEST SHORE ISSUES.

Life goes on at the track; Peter and Jim maintaining the site immaculate. Having prepared the wildflower garden and planted the seeds, the seeds seem to be sowing and germinating. Last year's poppies have self-germinated and look fantastic giving the place some added colour.

Martin has been boiler testing. Last Wednesday it was Jim's LNWR compound locomotive and Archie's Stroudley Terrier's turn to be inspected. Jim's loco had a few issues, then Archie also had an issue with his emergency hand pump. The ram had been manufactured of the same material as the main pump casting and had seized over the winter period.

As the ram had no packing or "O" rings, the tolerance was tight. Having managed to separate the components it was time to do some remedial work as the ram had a few imperfections.

It was decided to use the lathe that we had acquired. Not having used it previously, the lathe wouldn't operate, and the problem would need investigating.

On Saturday morning, armed with an Avometer, a few of us were determined to find the problem. One of the interlocks was found to be the culprit, so we now have an operational Warco lathe.

A few components will need a bit of de rusting, (nothing serious) otherwise we have a useful tool that can be used on site.

THE BRIGADIER

Brian Kerens sent me an interesting article found in an old copy of ME. Regarded as one of the founder members of our society, I always knew this gentleman was a very highly decorated person in military life. This article certainly displays this.

He was always known as the Brig to society members, I'm talking about Brigadier Richards (the very brave person with a rather posh name).

I never realised he had a connection with Sheffield; I knew there was one with West Felton, Shropshire. He could have been born there.

We still have his locomotive, an LBSC Speedy called "The Brigadier" at West Shore, and it's still in working order.

Two of our late members, Brian Williams and Owen Francis, Tony and I spent quite a few days in scorching weather in Penrhosgarnedd rebuilding the loco from a boxful of parts. The photo shows our good friend Owen Francis.

The late Brigadier Richards

As announced in our last issue, Brigadier D'Arcy John Rigby Richards, of Cwypm Mill, Llanddulas, and more recently of Sheffield, has died, aged 80. Brig. Richards was commissioned in the Royal Artillery in 1910 and served in the Royal Artillery Garrison, Malta, until 1915, when he was transferred to the Western Front. He was promoted Captain in 1916 and Major in 1917. He was awarded the D.S.O. and the M.C. and also mentioned in despatches. He was severely wounded, the effects of which remained with him all his life.

He served with distinction in the Second World War, being appointed Brigadier to take an anti-aircraft brigade to Norway; later he took command of two A.A. brigades in the South of England. In 1943, he was in command of A.A. units covering 600 miles of the North African coast; later he helped to train American A.A. personnel, for which he was awarded the American Legion of Merit. He also took part in the Italian campaign.

On retirement in 1945, he continued his pursuit of his main hobby, model engineering, and many readers will remember his demonstrations of boiler brazing at M.E. exhibitions. After moving to Llanddulas, he took up the secretaryship of the then declining North Wales Model Engineering Society, and with P. J. Harrison, made it the thriving concern it is today.



I think we should all bow our heads in memory of the Brigadier.
Diolch yn fawr Brian.
Another article taken from a 1950's ME slightly contradicts this.

Calling North Wales

● BRIGADIER D. J. R. RICHARDS, Cwyp Hill, Llanddulas, North Wales, is anxious to form a model engineering society in that area, to cover Abergele, Old Colwyn, Colwyn Bay and Rhos-on-Sea. There does not appear to be such a club in the district, and Brigadier Richards seems to regard this as strange, in view of the very strong showing that our hobby can put up in South Wales. Any reader interested in the scheme for North Wales is invited to get into touch with Brigadier Richards at the address given above.

RETURN OF BLUEBIRD TO CONISTON.

Having mentioned a Land Speed Record Holder in my newsletter last month, I must mention Bluebird returning to Lake Coniston recently. I'll never forget the fateful day when Donald Campbell lost his life trying to improve on the World Water Speed Record. To see and hear this craft return must have been fantastic.

TYDDYN WAEN, LLANFACHRAETH 7 ¼" GAUGE BBQ. AND OPEN DAY.

I

I do my best to support any member holding a charity event. John and Jan at LLanfachraeth hold an annual charity open day.

Our bring a dish (*with food on it !*) BBQ & open day in aid of **the Air Ambulance is Sat July 25th . Mid-day to midnight**

Transports of delight will include - 5 or 6 steam engines, maybe 8 electric & petrol & probably a traction engine.

Address = Tyddyn Waen, Llanfachraeth, LL65 4NH.

(**Warning** - Postcode in some satnavs may put you in a muddy field 1/2 mile away.)

Map ref = SH 31281 84473

Not many of our members own a 7 ¼" locomotive, never mind a track. Martin and I had the privilege to go there to conduct a boiler test on Kate, John's Forney type locomotive. After the visit we fully understood why it wasn't practical to conduct the test at West Shore.

Hoping you have a very successful event. Harold.

GILLING 5" GAUGE STANDARD GAUGE WEEKEND.

Richard Stoddart recently spent a lovely weekend in Yorkshire.

Playing trains, working to a timetable, very similar to the "real thing" only in 5" gauge. Saturday was very wet, but this did not interrupt the train timetable, Sunday was very different.

The first photo shows Richard in charge of a goods train. Not just a few wagons but a proper scale goods train.

Well worth watching on YouTube. - Gilling Main Line 2026.



The second could have been taken at any engine shed during the 1960's. I'm sorry to disappoint you, this was during the weekend at Gilling; the loco on the right belongs to Richard. I can't wait to see his Rebuilt Merchant Navy there. (Soon?)



HOPE HOUSE / TY GOBAITH CHARITY DAY.

Although this event is a couple of months away, Frank is busy liaising with staff at the hospice and is also busy producing advertisements in English and Welsh. As this is very important to us as a society, our aim is to give this event maximum exposure.

Please put this date in your calendar now: **15th AUGUST 2026.**

I keep preaching to you all about turning up with your models to show the world what model engineering is all about. Hopefully our display might tempt a few of the visitors to join our society.

It's not just about raising money for a good cause; it's also a social event.



fundraising for
hope house tŷ gobaith
children's hospices



The North Wales Model Engineering Society

**will be holding a Fund Raising day on Saturday 15th August
2026 at our West Shore Track.**

The track will open at 11am and close at 4pm.

**Come along and view some of our member's
models and take a Train Ride for a donation to**

tŷ gobaith

**codi arian ar gyfer
hosbisau plant**

hope house tŷ gobaith

Frank, your hard work is very much appreciated. Not just that you're quite artistic.

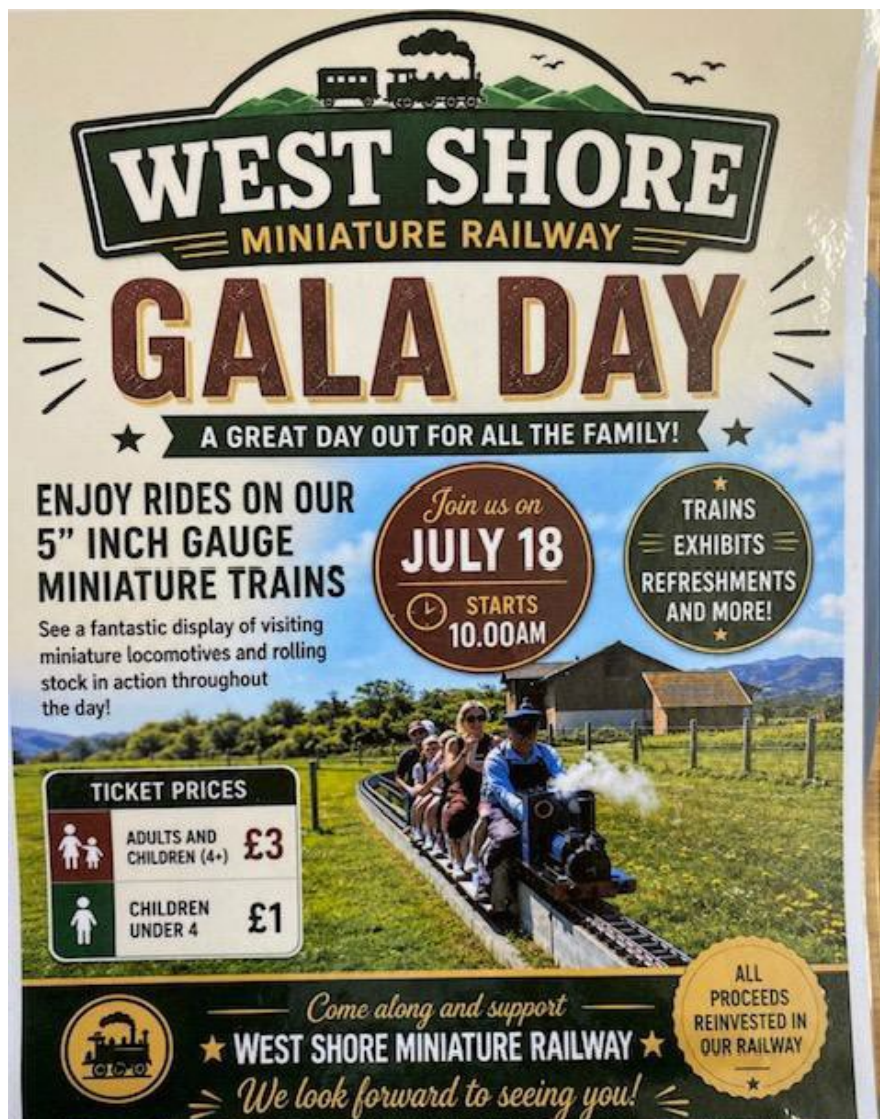
FAKE BANK NOTES.

Whilst I was listening to Breakfast TV yesterday, they said the number of fake notes (especially £10 and £20) was on the increase. One way to identify the fakes is to hold the note and by moving both hands the hologram adjacent to the vertical ribbon should change from the word POUNDS to either TEN or TWENTY. If it doesn't, it's fake.

This is very important because the bank is not responsible, and they will not reimburse the victim.

I'm not sure if there are £5 note fakes in circulation. I hope this information is useful as I wouldn't like any of our membership to fall foul of these scammers.

OUR SECOND GALA DAY.



WEST SHORE
MINIATURE RAILWAY

GALA DAY

★ A GREAT DAY OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY! ★

**ENJOY RIDES ON OUR
5" INCH GAUGE
MINIATURE TRAINS**

See a fantastic display of visiting
miniature locomotives and rolling
stock in action throughout
the day!

Join us on
JULY 18
STARTS
10.00AM

★ TRAINS
★ EXHIBITS
★ REFRESHMENTS
★ AND MORE! ★

TICKET PRICES	
ADULTS AND CHILDREN (4+)	£3
CHILDREN UNDER 4	£1

ALL PROCEEDS
REINVESTED IN
OUR RAILWAY

Come along and support
★ **WEST SHORE MINIATURE RAILWAY** ★
We look forward to seeing you!

This is another chance of making an extra few pounds for our society. We desperately need this extra cash.

Having had a practice with our first Gala Day, we're hoping this will be even better. An added incentive to turn up with your models this year is we are celebrating our 75th anniversary.

As you can see, Brian has produced a fantastic bit of artwork to promote this event. By distributing these at strategic points such as supermarkets, local notice boards etc. we're hoping it will help highlight not just the event, but our society as well. Again, we hope this will bring in new members.

TWO DATES TO PUT IN YOUR CALENDAR.

18th July 2026 - SOCIETY GALA DAY.

15th August 2026 - HOPE HOUSE CHARITY DAY.

Kind Regards,

Harold Jones