

# Inside Motion

April 2017

News and information for staff, volunteers and supporters of the Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railways



## Shades of Cilgwyn...

**Lilla** has received a new coat of paint at Boston Lodge.

Gone is the Penrhyn Quarry livery that the loco has carried for many years—She now sports a fetching shade of green, harking back to her days at Cilgwyn Quarry in the Nantlle Valley.

Lilla was of course built by the Hunslet Engine Company (works number 554) in 1891, and delivered to Cilgwyn where she worked until 1928.

At that time she was sold to Penrhyn Quarry where she spent most of her working life.

Glenn Williams and his expert team have completed the work to their usual high standard as you would expect, however the repaint is only temporary.

It is expected that Lilla will revert to the more familiar Penrhyn livery sometime later this year, so if you want to photograph her in green you'll have to move fast!



This newsletter is distributed to those who request it by email and is also accessible from the main website at [www.festrail.co.uk](http://www.festrail.co.uk) along with previous issues. Diary and event information is also available online.

To be added to the email distribution list, please fill in the form at <http://tinyurl.com/pmjl6ue>

All contributions, details of group meetings etc to [insidemotion@ffwhr.com](mailto:insidemotion@ffwhr.com)

# Mega-bashing...



84 volunteers were present on Megabash on 1st & 2nd April. 55 of them were based in Minffordd Yard where the objective was to tidy up and make the yard safe for visitors during the forthcoming Quirks & Curiosities weekend.

There was a massive pile of discarded timber to remove, much of which became kindling for the locomotives at Boston Lodge. Unwanted metal was gathered up and sent for scrap and broken plastic pallets collected which will be recycled into new plastic sleepers. Other valuable materials were brought together for storage.

There were lengths of wire fence to erect alongside the sunken road, while barrier fences and rail ends needed painting white. The area of ground around the new tracks and pointwork into the Waggon Tracks shed was made level.

The electricians pulled a new cable into the Maenofferen Shed to put the lights back on and installed a temporary supply to the Good Shed.

A small PW gang constructed a short platform beside the mineral line which will allow visitors to board the two tourist cars and travel down the yard. The adjacent "Bobby's box" was repainted.

The new mess room in the workshop building was successfully used to provide drinks for everyone. The area to the rear of the building had been landscaped and grass seed was scattered so that it will blend in with the field.

At the hostel, grass and moss was dug out from the paths while weeds and dead leaves were removed from the area. It now looks really smart.

The long garden at Minffordd Station was spruced up and 10 builders' bags of wood chip spread across the soil to keep the weeds under control.

At the Gweithdy, the sign writers completed a range of new signs. The workshop there is also used for refurbishing the platform benches of which there are at least 40 currently in use. After the timbers are sanded down they receive 10 coats of varnish so it's quite a big job!

As always we are grateful to the operating volunteers who work to provide our train to TyB on the Saturday evening and to the catering staff there for the excellent meal. It's great to meet everyone there after work. We look forward to meeting them all again for Gigabash 14th & 15th October.

*Howard Wilson*

# EU approval unlocks major funding boost for Caernarfon...



Economy Secretary, Ken Skates, has visited Caernarfon to announce that the Caernarfon Town and Waterfront Regeneration initiative has taken another step forward after receiving the green light for £2.5 million EU tourism funds which will unlock a £14 million investment programme.

The developments at Caernarfon are part of the Welsh Government's wider EU funded Tourism Attractor Destination programme which aims to create 11 must see destinations across Wales.

The project is designed to further enhance the town's status as an iconic destination which will celebrate the area's exceptional cultural and historical strengths.

The Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railway terminus in the town will be transformed as part of the project. With over 100,000 visitors per annum it's a key gateway to Caernarfon, and the project will ensure a much improved visitor experience and provide opportunities to link the station with the heart of the town.

A second part of the project will enhance the offer at Galeri and broaden the range of facilities - including wet weather options - which Caernarfon has to offer the increasing numbers of visitors to the town. The proposed work involves extending Galeri to include cinema facilities, offices and creative work space.

Work will also be undertaken to ensure linkages between three key sites within the town are improved so that visitors can flow to and from the Castle, Railway Terminus and Island Site with greater ease.

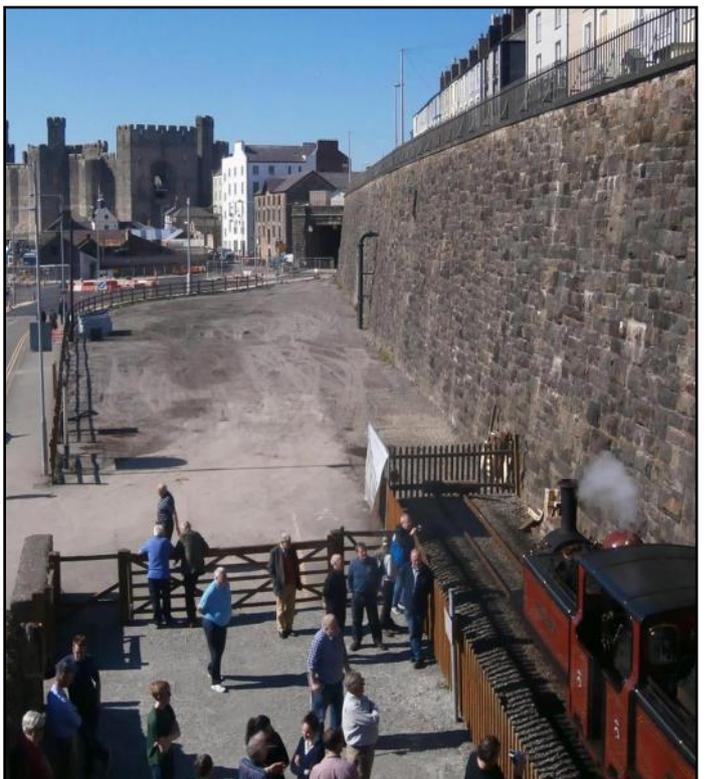
This funding approval will unlock a £14 million regeneration programme of investment which includes private sector funding as well as public sector funding from the Welsh Government and Arts Council Wales.

The wider project also includes work to redevelop the island site adjacent to the Castle into a mixed use development incorporating business premises, visitor attractions and creative workshops and spaces, the project will be led by Gwynedd County Council.

A further programme led by Cadw will also be submitted for approval which will aim to restore and convert key historic assets at the entrance of Caernarfon Castle, The Kings Gate, including significant enhancement to facilities for visitors to re-enforce and build on its status as a World renowned attraction.

Economy Secretary, Ken Skates, said:

"I'm delighted to announce that this funding has been made available to enable Caernarfon to become the iconic destination it deserves to be while drawing on its rich heritage and cultural assets. Our aim through the Tourism Attractor Destination programme is to focus efforts and investment on key projects in each region so we have a real impact on Wales' profile in this globally competitive market."



# National Lottery support secured!

The F&WHR has received a grant of £464,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) under its Skills for the Future programme for the Heritage Trainees project. The project aims to share the rich vein of railway heritage skills with a wider community.

The project aims to introduce a diverse new audience to a heritage organisation of national importance. This will culminate in twenty people being offered year-long traineeships to develop their heritage skills, gain a greater understanding of the broader heritage scene and act as messengers for heritage within communities not normally associated with strong heritage links. The program is expected to commence in the spring of 2018 and the first ten trainees to be in post by the autumn.

The National Lottery is investing £10.1m in 18 projects across the UK to help train a new and more diverse generation of heritage craftspeople, digital specialists and entrepreneurs.

Sir Peter Luff, Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), said:

*"There is no quick fix to this problem. The heritage sector has been slow in widening the profile of its work force and as a consequence is on a long-term learning curve."*

*"We wanted to build on the legacy of our existing targeted skills funding – £47m to date – and make a further financial commitment of just over £10m. Why? Because we know the Skills for the Future programme can drive successful and lasting change. It's simple yet highly effective: trainees paired with experts gain access to knowledge plus practical, paid, on-the-job experience."*

This funding is part of a wider commitment made by HLF in the Government's Culture White Paper. It will address specific skills shortages to ensure our buildings, landscapes, species, industrial heritage and museum and archive collections are sustained for the future, as well as developing important public engagement skills.

Tracey Crouch,  
Heritage Minister, said:

*"Investing in new heritage talent will ensure we build a more sustainable sector, protect our treasured history and continue to attract visitors from across the globe."*

*"I'm delighted to see money raised by National Lottery players being used to train and develop people's skills and deliver on our promise in the Culture White Paper."*



Paul Lewin, Director and General Manager said:

*"Our railway thrives because of the tremendous range of skills that our team has built up over many decades. We are very pleased that we have the opportunity to share those skills with others for the benefit of the wider heritage sector in Wales. We are also looking forward to the positive impacts on our own organisation that opening our doors to the wider community will bring"*

# North Wales Festival of Gardens



2017 is the second year of this unique festival, which brings together some of the finest gardens within one of the most beautiful regions of the British Isles. The festival runs from May 27th - June 11th.

Many of the gardens thrive because of their location, benefitting from the warmth and moisture of the Gulf Stream. Frosts are uncommon and drought rare which makes it a great area to grow plants collected from all over the world.

There will be events and activities throughout the sixteen day period and a 'Friends of the Festival' card gives you discounts at many of the gardens. For information on the festival and how you can become a Festival Friend, visit their website at [www.gardensnorthwales.co.uk](http://www.gardensnorthwales.co.uk).

We are delighted to be a part of this festival as we are very proud of our floral displays and gardens that bring so much pleasure to our passengers and the volunteers who tend them. We will be working with local country house and garden at Plas Tan y Bwlch throughout the event, including the festival launch.

We are delighted to welcome regular chair of the popular Radio 4 show Gardeners' Question Time and former BBC weatherman, Peter Gibbs, to North Wales to open the 2017 festival. Come and join Peter for a convivial evening hosted by the Ffestiniog Railway and Plas Tan y Bwlch. Tickets include train travel from Porthmadog, coach transfer, a buffet supper, talks and a guided walk around Plas Tan y Bwlch's Victorian gardens.

Tickets for this train can be booked online via the [F&WHR website](#).



# Fairlie Locomotives of North Wales...

**We know all about those don't we?...**

However it's fair to say that this detailed history of the type, written by David Payling and recently published by the F&WHR, will fill in a lot of blanks for even the most ardent fans.

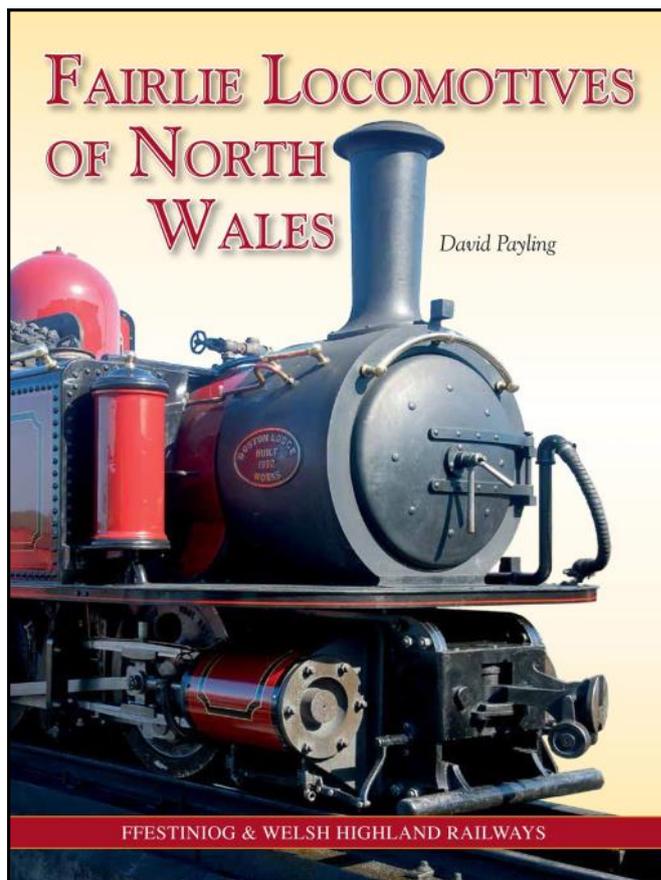
This book describes the history and career in service of each of the eight Fairlies, single and double, built for service on the Ffestiniog and the North Wales Narrow Gauge Railways in Victorian and Edwardian days. It continues with the three built at Boston Lodge during the present era and gives preliminary details of a fourth, James Spooner, to be built in the coming four years.

The, perhaps surprising, fact that a Fairlie was in service on Anglesey three years before the appearance of the Ffestiniog's Little Wonder in 1869 is explained, as is the proposed use of this type of engine on the Penrhyn Quarry Railway. The sensation caused by the demonstration of Little Wonder's capabilities to an audience of international observers is described in a special chapter. Another describes the dramatic rise of the railway's carriage of slate to explain the Ffestiniog's need for these powerful engines.

The book has benefitted from the contributions of many experts on aspects of these engines. One is a chapter on the engineering of the Fairlies in the 60 years since 1954. Another is an account of a day on the footplate on one of the Ffestiniog's Fairlies, highlighting the driving technique to secure the best performance from these powerful articulated engines.

With railway modellers in mind there are fold-out seven millimetre scale drawings of each locomotive. Additional drawings detail the changes introduced during their service.

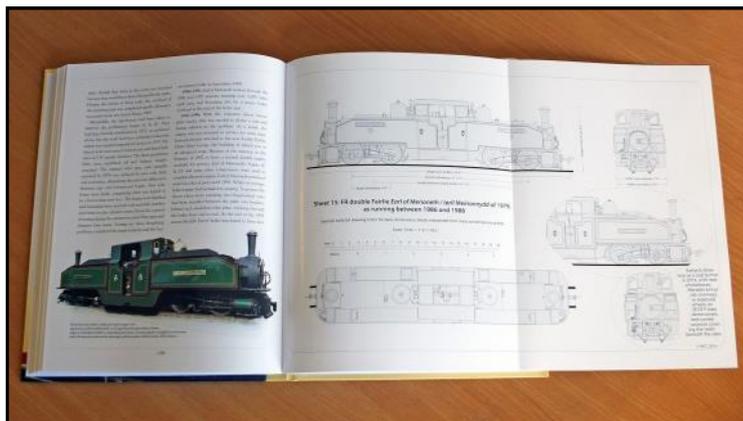
The search for information has led the author to archives and libraries throughout the country. Profusely illustrated, the book draws on photographs from



archive collections and from friends and colleagues to show the locomotives in action more recently in North Wales.

The author is a life-long volunteer on the Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railways, part of the team at Boston Lodge working to assemble the drawings and information to assist the maintenance and development of these locomotives.

The book is published by The Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways, Harbour Station, Porthmadog, LL49 9NF, Tel: 01766 516034, Web: [www.festshop.co.uk](http://www.festshop.co.uk), 326 pp, 310+ colour and b/w illustrations, hardback, 282mm x 215mm, ISBN 978 0 901848 14 7, £39.95 plus £4.95 p&p.



# New website for...



In 2016, the Great Little Trains of Wales secured a £67,000 grant from the UK Government Department for Transport's Heritage and Community Rail Tourism Innovation Competition. The initiative is to encourage visitors to explore Wales by public transport, enjoying the efficiency of main lines but also enjoying the unique experience of Welsh steam trains.

The grant enabled the group to publish a guidebook called "Big Train meets Little Train", of which nearly 10,000 copies have already been distributed, and to develop the "Service with spirit" customer service training programme for their staff and volunteers. The new website is the next step to promote the project.

## Why a new website?

The Great Little Trains of Wales group has its own website on which you can find a lot of information about each of the 12 railways involved. However, we were keen to have a dedicated website for the Big Train Little Train project promoting the guidebook itself but also taking the project to another level. The new website was built by Owen Fletcher, a freelance Designer and the company Good Journey.

## What will it add to the project?

First, every train page will not only provide information about the railway itself but will also promote the area. The visitors will find other interesting places to visit, nice places to eat or stay and will learn more about local legends, itineraries for walkers and hidden gems.

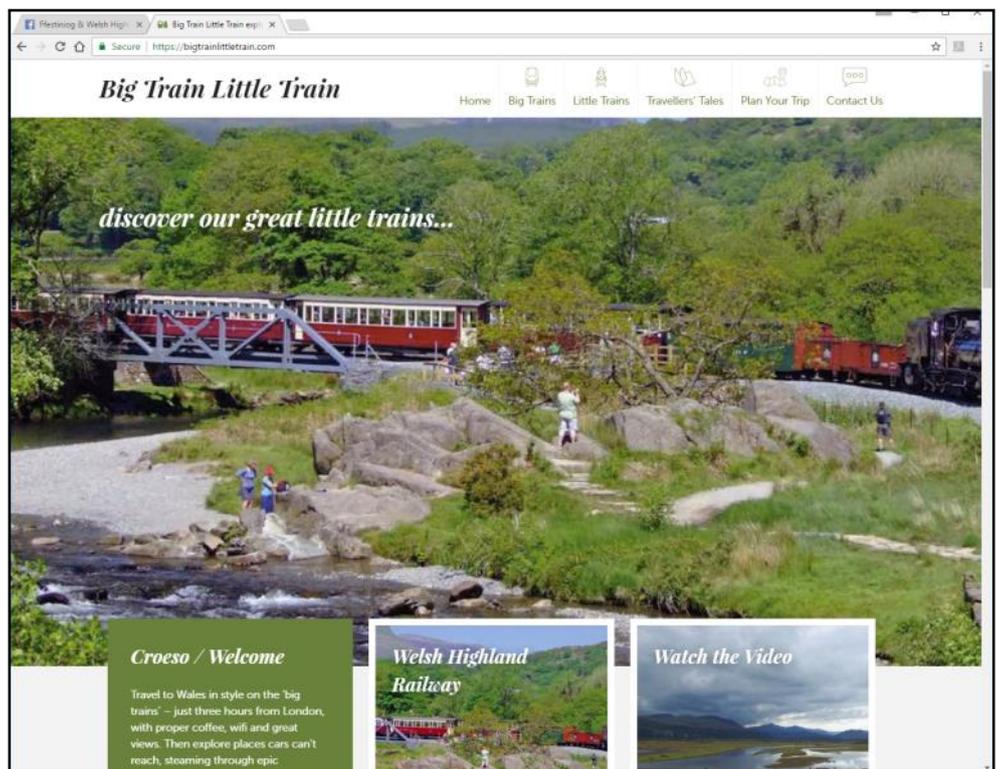
Then, there will be a "plan your trip" feature on the website menu, which will give the visitors all the information and tips they need to plan their travel easily. Need to use a journey planner? Any question about accessibility or fares? Looking for a discount card? Every useful answer will be on this page.

Finally, a later update of the website will include a feature where visitors will be able to share their own experience on the railways by clicking "travellers' tales", writing their story and adding their own photos. In the meantime, they can enjoy the four tales, already on the website, from writers who contributed to the first edition of the guide. This feature is a friendly way to promote the Welsh railways and the area but also a great opportunity to improve our understanding of the visitors' point of view as their experience is at the centre of our concerns.

Charles Spencer, Chairman of Great Little of Wales, said:

*"We are thrilled to launch this exciting new website. We hope it will inspire more visitors to take to the tracks as they explore the railways and other attractions of Wales"*

You can see the new website at [www.bigtrainlittletrain.com](https://www.bigtrainlittletrain.com)



# David Woodhouse

We were sad to receive the news that David Woodhouse MBE passed away after a short illness on the 11th April.

David started his railway career as a volunteer on the Talylyn Railway in the 1950's, rising to General Manager, a position he held for many years.

His career spanned over 60 years; with the Talylyn, The Heritage Railway Association, GLTW and also in Tourism.

He received many awards including the Railway Magazine Annual award for services to Railway Preservation in 2015, a gold medal from the Wales Tourist Board for services to Tourism in Wales and, most prestigious, an MBE from Her Majesty the Queen.

I remember working closely with David when he was promoting group travel on behalf of the HRA in the early 2000's. With the help of friends at Didcot, The Isle of Wight Steam Railway and North Norfolk, to name but a few, we created some fantastic display stands at

the British Travel Trade Fair and created a buzz that took the HRA away from the traditional small stand and 'tweed jacket' period.

David knew we needed to do more to stand out in the crowd and I think we did him proud. I represented the FR and GLTW at his funeral last week, alongside current Talylyn GM, Tracey Parkinson, and many others from the heritage railway and tourism movements.

His wisdom and support will certainly be missed.

*Clare Britton*



*David Woodhouse presenting the Heritage Railway Association Interpretation Award to Pauline Holloway and Paul Lewin in March 2005*

# Welsh Pony Progress

Some hard work by the lads at Boston Lodge has resulted in Welsh Pony's frames and wheelsets being united for the first time during the rebuild process...



## See old and new together for the last time...

The rebuilt Welsh Pony will be on display at Boston Lodge during Quirks & Curiosities weekend, where you will be able to see the old and new components side by side for the last time prior to the life-expired items being put away into store.

These photos of the two sets of frames allow some interesting comparisons to be made!



# In Brief...

## Palmerston in Liverpool

Palmerston is to visit Liverpool Albert Dock for their "Steam on the Dock 2017" event, which takes place on Saturday May 6th and Sunday May 7th.

"Steam on the Dock" celebrates the industrial heritage of Albert Dock and the city's historic working docklands. The UK's only inner-city steam rally will feature steam-powered boats, a cavalcade of steam traction engines, traditional brewer's dray and shire horses, and a variety of classic steam narrowboats.

Palmerston's stay will in fact be an extended one – The locomotive will be in steam on Hartley Quay outside the Maritime Museum every day from Saturday May 6th until Sunday May 14th, giving free passenger rides along a length of track in two heritage carriages.

Staff and volunteers from the F&WHR will man the operation every day, but of course we're always looking for more help. If you can assist in any way, please get in touch with Chris Parry (cparry@ffwhr.com).—We're always on the lookout for people who can engage with the public, talk to them about the railway, and persuade them to visit us!

## No Pay = No Stay!

Hostel Warden Ben Rosen politely reminds volunteers that the hostel does not offer credit facilities. All users need to ensure that they pay for their visits whilst there!

## Volunteer accommodation at Dinas

The Society's board has today moved a step closer to providing volunteer accommodation at Dinas as we (the Society) have become as from today the owners of Station View, Dinas. This property is the bungalow at the entrance to Dinas station, formerly the home of the late Mrs Peggy McGinn.

Our intention is to initially let the property so that we can have time to get all the arrangements in place to allow volunteers to use the property when volunteering on the railway as well as earning some income whilst we do this. The plan is to have it available as volunteer accommodation sometime next year.

The purchase of property has enabled us to achieve one of the prime objectives in our business plan.

Hopefully we can provide more information in the next issue of The Snowdon Ranger magazine.

*Dafydd Thomas*

## Waggon Tracks Shed Working Parties

Waggon Tracks Shed Working Party dates to the end of the year are:

**27th-29th of May (Late May Bank Holiday)**

**8th & 9th of July**

**26th-28th of August (Bank Holiday)**

**23rd & 24th of September**

**25th & 26th of November**

**28th-31st of December**

The team are always looking for more volunteer assistance. If you're interested, please contact Will High on [williamchigh@gmail.com](mailto:williamchigh@gmail.com) or 07812 922172.

# From the archives...

In today's world, which is dominated by myriad forms of digital communication, we would do well to remember how press releases were done in 1955— By Royal Mail of course!

## THE FESTINIOG RAILWAY,

Portmadoc - Caernarvonshire,

Telephone: Field-End 8501.

Public Relations & Publicity Dept.,  
129, Cannonbury Avenue, Pinner, Mx.

### FOR PRESS INFORMATION-

#### Revival of an abandoned Narrow Gauge Railway by a group of enthusiasts,

A part of the Festiniog Railway will be reopened to the public on Saturday, 19th May 1956. This Railway, one of the most interesting and historic in the Narrow Gauge field, had been derelict since 1946 until acquired by a group of railway enthusiasts two years ago and, although nine years of neglect have taken their toll of coaches, permanent way, locomotives, stations and signalling, volunteers from all walks of life have worked to such good effect that 2¼ miles of the 13½ miles of this once prosperous little line will again see steam power and newly painted 'vintage' coaches. Members of the Festiniog Railway Society Limited, the supporting Society, include company directors, bus operators, past and present employees of British Railways, and a number of the goodly citizens of North Wales who have shown admiration for the way and the spirit in which this revival has been carried out.

The first train, a Press Special, will depart at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, 19th May 1956 (subject to the Chief Inspecting Officer of Railways' approval of the track) and will consist of "Prince", the 93 year old veteran steam locomotive, (probably the oldest in passenger service in the world today) and 'vintage' coaches whose ages vary from 70 to 83 years.

This Railway offered scenic beauties which were, and still are, inaccessible by road; Snowdonia is but a few miles away and the lofty peak of Snowdon itself can be glimpsed from many places along the line. It is the aim of this band of enthusiasts, some 500 strong, to re-open the whole of the Railway from Portmadoc to Blaenau Ffestiniog.

The Press is cordially invited to the opening of the line, to be followed by a luncheon at which local dignitaries, both Urban and County, will be present. The ways and works of the line will be open for inspection on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 17th, 18th and 19th May, and the Operators will be pleased to give every assistance to the Press,

If the weather is favourable a light aircraft will be available for a limited number of Press representatives to view the line from the air.

There is ample hotel accommodation within easy reach of Portmadoc, and the following are suggested:

Royal Sportsman,	'Phone:	Portmadoc 2015.
Commercial,	"	Portmadoc 2098.
Oakeley Arms, Maentwrog.	"	Penrhyndeudraeth 213.
Grapes,	"	Penrhyndeudraeth 208.
Portmeirion,	"	Penrhyndeudraeth 228.

PLEASE ADVISE THIS OFFICE IF YOU WILL BE SENDING A REPRESENTATIVE.

# Coming down the track...

- April 28th- May 1st : 2017 Quirks & Curiosities II
- May 6th - 14th : Palmerston at Albert Dock Liverpool
- May 19th—21st : Cwrw ar y Cledrau / Rail Ale
- May 27th : North Wales Festival of Gardens launch
- June 10th : The "Snowdonian Limited"
- August 11th & 12th : Palmerston at Shrewsbury Flower Show
- August 20th : Classic Car Show & Family Day
- August 24th : Rock 'n' Roll @ Tan y Bwlch
- September 15th—17th : Welsh Highland Railway Super Power



Merddin Emrys departs Boston Lodge Halt during the 2016 Victorian Weekend