

# Inside Motion

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



## Princess off on tour again

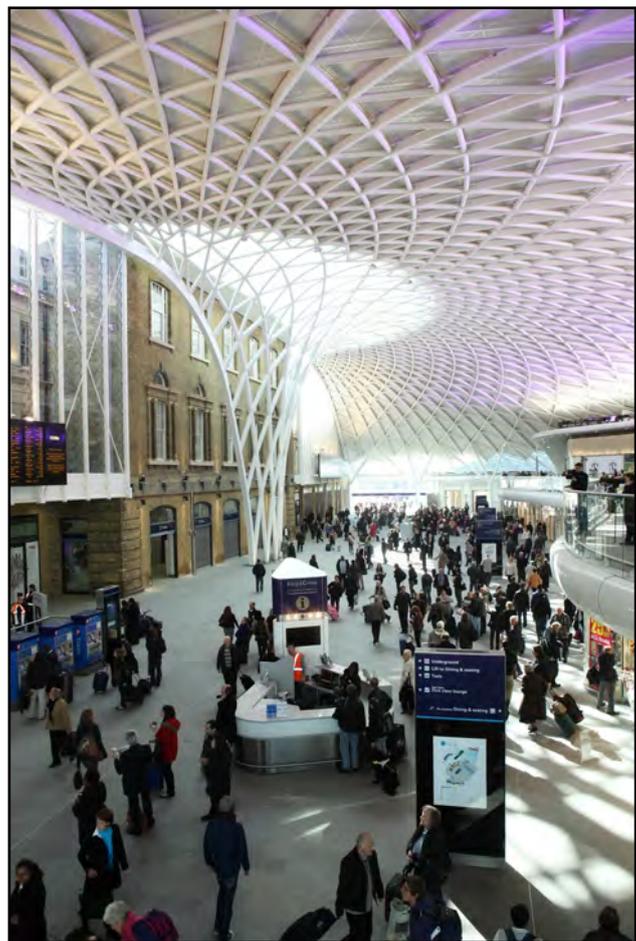
Following its highly successful visit to Paddington in 2013 to mark the 150th anniversary of steam on the Ffestiniog Railway, (above) veteran loco *Princess* is travelling back to her home town for only the second time since 1863.

From February 12th to the 21st, *Princess* will have pride of place on the Western Concourse of King's Cross station, alongside the base of the column supporting the new overall roof (right).

The loco, built at George England's works in New Cross in 1863, will be accompanied by two of the F&WHR's fleet of four-wheeled carriages, numbers 1 and 12, to give people a glimpse of what train travel looked like 150 years ago.

Her previous trip to London saw hundreds of thousands of people admire the loco while talking to volunteers and staff about the loco and the railway and we handed out copious amounts of promotional material.

Later in the year, visiting Quarry Hunslet *Velinheli*, from the Launceston Steam Railway, will promote the F&WHR at both the Shrewsbury and Southport Flower Shows, again with carriages 1 and 12 in tow, before arriving back on the F&WHR in time for the Welsh Highland Railway's Super Power gala in September.



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.

Feel free to print this document in order that people without web access can read it.

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

# Crossings upgraded



**As part of the** Winter Works Programme, two important FR level crossings are in the process of receiving a considerable amount of TLC.

At Blaenau Ffestiniog, Glan y Pwll crossing has received new wig wags and signage and a major effort by the S&T team has seen the signalling equipment allowing access to Glan y Pwll shed and yard completely refurbished.

At the other end of the line, Quarry Lane Crossing, better known as Lotties Crossing, is being relaid as the tarmac of Quarry Lane is in dire need of attention as can be seen in the pictures to the right. The tarmac in the two-foot had distorted to the point where it was being struck by locomotive ash pans.

The rails are also life-expired and a road closure in early January will enable these to be replaced.

A few panels above the crossing will also be replaced with new rail, connecting up with the new track laid last winter by Network Rail apprentices.

The PW gang is pictured right on January 6th removing a track panel below the crossing in preparation for the work.



# Points of order *Iain Wilkinson*

**All we wanted for Christmas was...** point levers!

Sadly Santa didn't get our letter, so perhaps you can help. Work is currently under way to lay the track and pointwork for access to the Waggon Tracks shed. Original chaired track, much of it recycled from Harbour Station, is being used.

Efforts have already been made to give the (rather large) Waggon Tracks shed some semblance of an old style and it is hoped that the track work will live up to this aspiration too.

However, a search around the railway has yet to locate original FR point levers similar to or matching the type shown here. Does anyone know the location of such items? Does anyone have one adorning their garden and is now keen to return it to its original home and use? Please get in touch if you can help David High's Christmas dreams come true. Thanks!

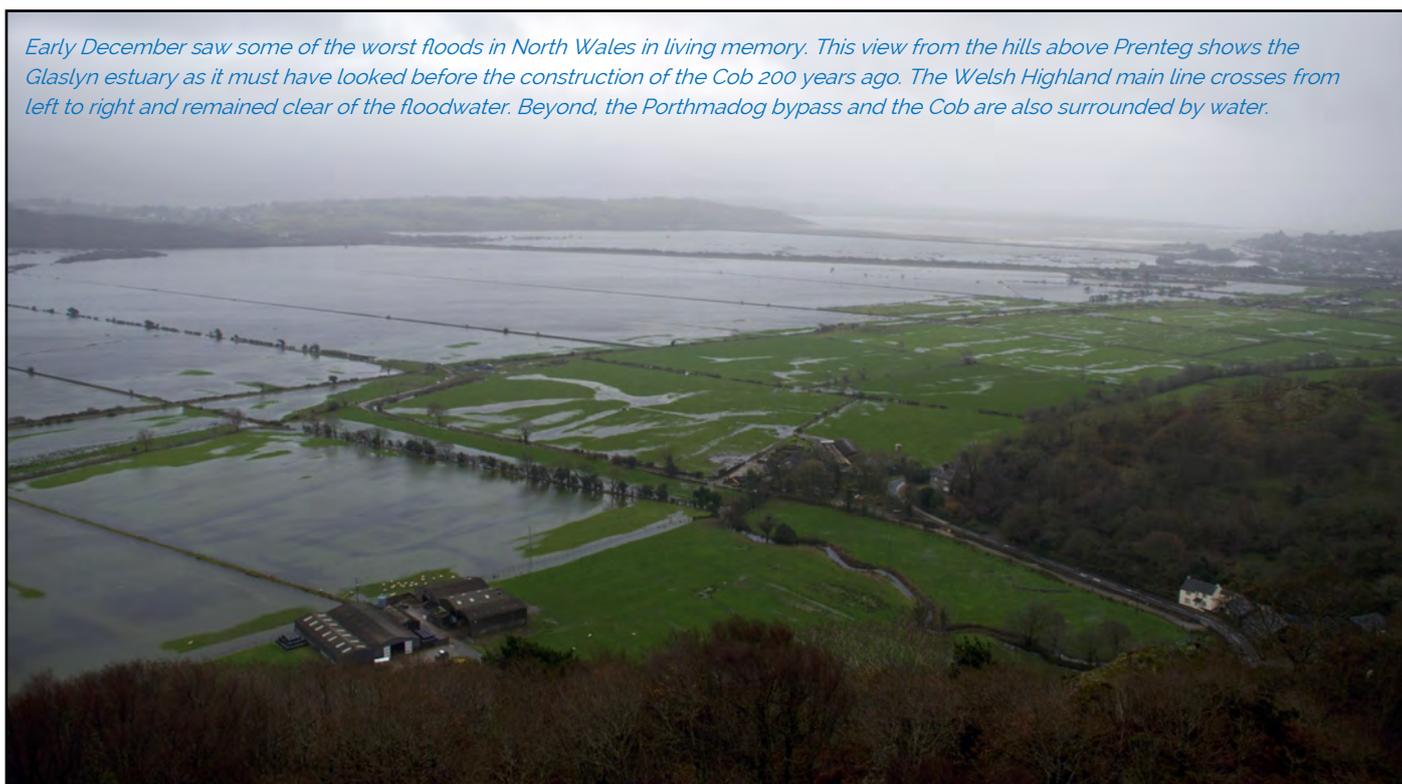


# FRS Groups Liaison Meeting *John Fenner*

**The 2016 FRS Volunteers & Groups Liaison Meeting** will take place at Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 2SG at 10.45am, Saturday 6th February 2016.

The cost this year is £12 per person (includes lunch and refreshments). To register to attend please e-mail: [secretary@ffestiniograilway.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ffestiniograilway.org.uk) Payment by cheque to Ffestiniog Railway Society and sent for the attention of the Society Secretary at Harbour Station or by donation on the Society website marking the donation as "Grappenhall 2016".

*Early December saw some of the worst floods in North Wales in living memory. This view from the hills above Prenteg shows the Glaslyn estuary as it must have looked before the construction of the Cob 200 years ago. The Welsh Highland main line crosses from left to right and remained clear of the floodwater. Beyond, the Porthmadog bypass and the Cob are also surrounded by water.*



# A taste of India for the Snowdonian



**April 16th sees** this year's annual Snowdonian special, sees special guest appearances from Adrian Shooter's Beeches Light Railway in the shape of Darjeeling Himalaya loco 19 and the luxury Carrabassett parlor car. The carriage will remain at the F&WHR during the spring and will be available for private hire.

The special will run from Porthmadog - Blaenau Ffestiniog - Porthmadog - Caernarfon - Porthmadog, departing at 0830 and returning at 1800. Locomotives will include *Prince*, *Linda*, *Blanche*, *Palmerston* and *DHR No 19*.

The ten-car train will include new Pullman Observation Saloon 150 plus other new and recent builds to be confirmed. The Carrabassett Parlor Car will also be part of the train and we hope to arrange a run-past at Beddgelert with No.19.

Only Third Class seats are available at £180.00 each inclusive of Buffet Lunch at the Royal Goat Hotel, Beddgelert. On board early morning and mid-afternoon food to be confirmed. For more details visit [www.festrail.co.uk/appeal/snowdonian.html](http://www.festrail.co.uk/appeal/snowdonian.html)



# Santa Specials beat the rain



Although the promise of a White Christmas proved to be false, despite hints in early December that it might be on the cards, Santa Specials on both railways proved as popular as ever despite the unseasonal rain.

Work on the track renewal at Penrhyn was finished on schedule, allowing FR trains to run to Tan y Bwlch, while the ever-popular WHR trains from Caernarfon to Waunfawr again pulled in the crowds.



Top: Families on the WHR spot a celebrity visitor. Above: Start them young. Right: Sion Corn poses for the cameras at Waunfawr. Bottom right: Earl of Merioneth waits at Tan y Bwlch for the return to Port.

# Penrhyn relaying complete



**The Rest of the World Gang** was involved in the Penrhyn relaying in both our November and December working weeks.

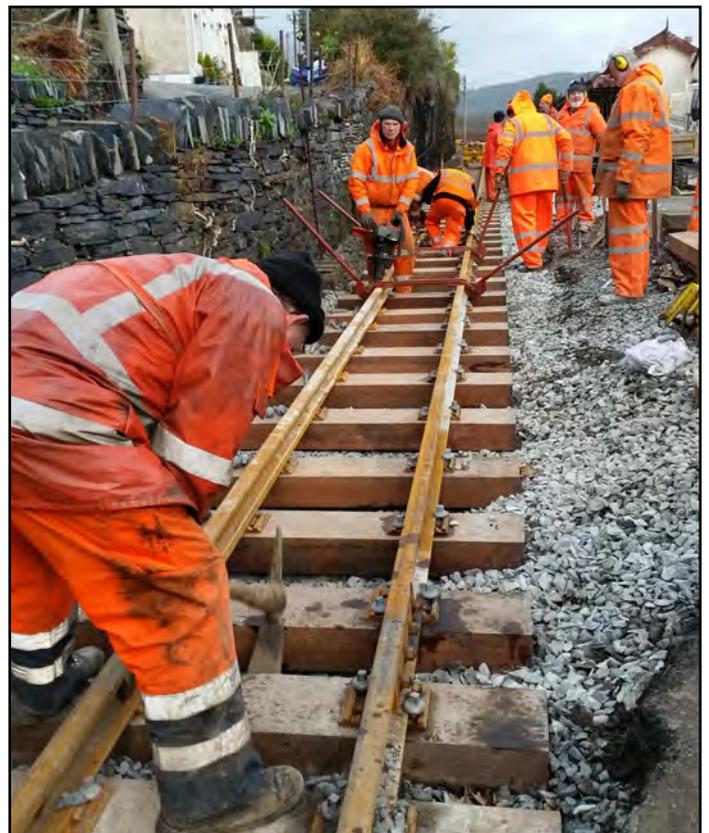
Our initial involvement in November was preparatory: jim-crowing rails for the sharper, left-hand curve immediately up from the station, (required to improve the sight line to the road-crossing); bringing tools and track-fittings to site from Minffordd yard; digging out by hand, spent ballast around pipes and cable ducts that could be damaged by the machine; and cutting back the black-top on the road crossing to expose the joint.

Come our visit in December, three weeks later and things were looking a bit different: new ballast, hardwood sleepers and rail laid from Penrhyn Road Crossing to just short of Fron Goch Foot Crossing, (some seven panels, or 126m), with a similar number left for us to lay before the end of the week, between Fron Goch and Bakehouse crossings.

Four of us arrived a couple of days early to help the full-timers and to get the feel of the site before the team arrived en masse on Saturday 5th.

Imperial College presented a dozen or so students at the weekend, given the dubious pleasure of jacking and shovel-packing the new track already laid, in the most appalling weather, with smiles and not so much as a whisper of complaint.

The work was hard, slow and methodical, but just after lunch on Wednesday we had our "Promontory Point experience", when the new track was connected up at Bakehouse and, with perfect timing, the first of many ballast trains formed the first working over it. *Phil Nock*



# Volunteering in 2016 *Paul Bradshaw*

**First thank you to all of you** who joined us in 2015. The FR and WHR depend enormously on volunteers to keep the Permanent Way in a safe and workmanlike condition. The P-Way department's employed staff cannot do it all unaided.

2016 will see us back in action. In January 2016 we will be relaying the main line at Cae Bryn Siriol (on the Caernarfon side of Waunfawr) to its new alignment. The formation here is being moved to ease an awkward curve. The jobs for February and March depend on progress on other projects, some on the FR and others on the Welsh Highland. The Winter Programme includes work on various sites on the FR including Minffordd, Boston Lodge and Penrhyn. It's very much a case of "watch this space".

Planning what we can do is helped if we know who plans to join us and when. Whether you have worked with us before or you would like to work with us for the first time, you will be very welcome. So please let Paul Bradshaw (email: [pbradshaw@ffwhr.com](mailto:pbradshaw@ffwhr.com)) know as far in advance as possible when you intend to come to help us. Contact Phil Nock [pnock@ffwhr.com](mailto:pnock@ffwhr.com) or Paul Bradshaw if you need more information.

The following are the revised 2016 ROWG dates for your diary:

January	wk	16-22
February	wk	22-28
March	wk	12-18
#April	lw	9/10
May	wk	7-13
#June	lw	18/19
July	week	16-22
#August	lw	13/14
September	week	10-16
!November	week	5-11
!December	week	3-9



week = Saturday to Friday (except February which is Monday to Sunday) # = Dates for April, June and August are subject to confirmation  
! = Dates for November and December 2016 are provisional pending preparation of the Winter Major Works Programme.

## Job vacancies

### Spooner's Manager

The post holder will be responsible for the provision of Spooner's catering services complying with Health and Safety and other related legislation, which ensures a quality of service which meets and exceeds customer expectations and which maximise profit to the company. The role requires a minimum of five years' experience in the food/catering industry, education to a good level of GCSE with qualifications in Food Hygiene and Alcohol Retail, proven business ability and proven leadership and interpersonal skills. Starting salary will be in the region of £21,000, subject to review after six months.

### Spooner's Assistant Manager

The post holder will be responsible for assisting the Spooner's Manager in the provision of catering services complying with Health and Safety and other related legislation and to assist the Manager in ensuring a quality of service that meets and exceeds customer expectations. The Assistant Manager will deputise for the Manager in their absence. Starting salary will be in the region of £17,000, subject to review after six months.

Full details of the above posts can be found at [www.festrail.co.uk/jobs.htm](http://www.festrail.co.uk/jobs.htm) or by contacting Jo Vincent on 01766 516073 or [jvincent@ffwhr.com](mailto:jvincent@ffwhr.com). The closing date for applications for both roles is 31st January.

## Coming down the track...

- February 6, Group Liaison Meeting, Grappenhall
- February 12-21, Princess at King's Cross
- 26 – 28 March Family events around the railways
- 16 April The Snowdonian 80 mile round trip
- 30 April-2 May FRS Members' Weekend
- 30 April Launch of new FR train
- May 6-8, *Moelwyn* at Froissy, France
- May 6-8 Liverpool, launch of *Daniel Adamson*
- 20 - 22 May WHR Cwrw ar y Cledrau/Rail Ale
- 25 July – 29 Aug Summer of Fun
- 28 July, 4, 11, 18, 25 Aug FR Jazz Trains
- 21 Aug Classic Car & Family Day at Dinas
- 9-11 Sept WHR Super Power
- 18 Sept Ras y Cob
- 24 Sept Trailfest
- 7-9 Oct FR Victorian Weekend.
- 27, 28, 29 Oct FR Halloween trains
- 27 Oct WHR Halloween Train
- 10, 11, 17, 18, 22, 23 Dec WHR Santa trains
- 10, 11, 17, 18, 22 Dec FR Santa Trains

*The thin winter sun prepares to set at Beddgelert.*

*Please note that from this edition, the cover date of this newsletter has changed to the month in which it appears.*

*You haven't missed the December 2015 edition, this is it.*

