

June 2016

Inside Motion

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

150 sister Pullman gets green light

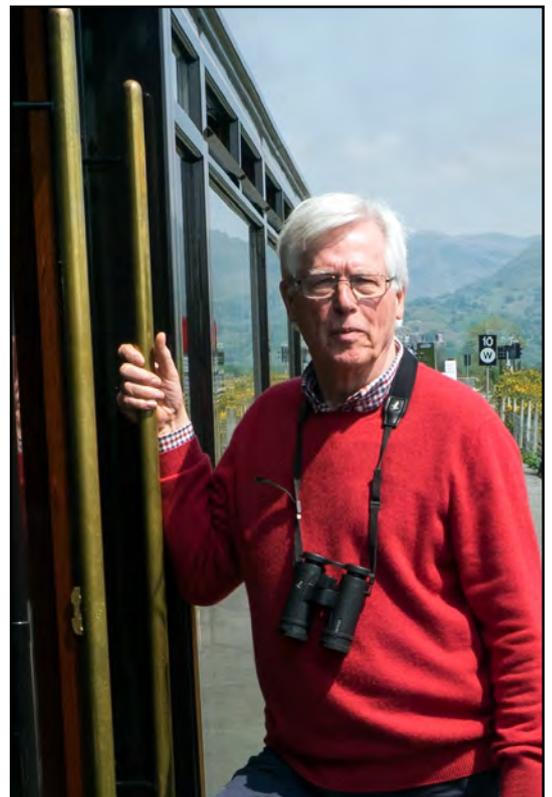
The **FRCo Board** has signed off the construction of a second FR Pullman observation carriage based on the design of Car 150, launched last month.

The basic design for 152 will closely follow the striking lines of its sister, but will use a different combination of exotic hardwoods from sustainable forests to give it an ambiance subtly-different from that of 150. Construction is scheduled to start this winter.

In the meantime, 150 and the new carriages of the FR 'B' Set have entered regular service and have also been used on specials including a filming train for BBC1's *Countryfile*, transporting presenter John Craven (right) and his film crew from the Pont Croesor Osprey Centre to the nest site.

Lyd was in charge of the special and is pictured above emerging from the Goat Tunnel on the way to run round its train at Beddgelert before returning to collect the BBC crew. The segment was aired on May 29th as part of the show's Snowdonia Special which was watched by 4.6 million viewers.

The new 'B' Set has also made its first journey over the whole 40 mile network, on a PTG Tours special headed by *Linda* and *Earl of Merioneth* on the WHR and *Prince* and *Palmerston* on the FR.



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All contributions, details of group meetings etc to insidemotion@ffwhr.com

As seen on TV



It's been a busy month for filming, with crews from the BBC and Channel 4 visiting the railway. First up was BBC Wales weatherman Derek Brockway filming for a new series of *Weatherman Walking*, to be broadcast in early 2017, followed by Channel 4 shooting a four part series fronted by Penelope Keith celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday.

Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service features one episode from each of the four countries in the UK and the Welsh episode concentrates on Prince Charles. We laid on a re-enactment of the train Prince Charles drove at the official opening to Rhyd Ddu in 2003 and Penny took the controls of *Prince* for the trip from Snowdon Ranger to Rhyd Ddu.

Not only did the train use the original stock, we even managed to recreate the original crew in the shape of Tony Williams and Jon Whalley. The Welsh episode of the show is pencilled in for transmission on Sunday 26th June at 2000.

The BBC returned a few days later to film a segment with John Craven for *Countryfile* (see front page) and BBC Worldwide travelled to Caernarvon and back to produce a video for its travel website which should be online in the next week or so.

BBC 1 spent three days filming for an episode of the new series of *Who Do You Think You Are?* Featuring Greg Davies. The six foot eight comedian was a tight fit on the footplate of 138, but was delighted to discover that he could stand up inside the Welsh Highland carriage that transported him to Nantmor to research his ancestors. This show is scheduled for broadcast in September.



Chancellor visits F&WHR

Chancellor of the exchequer George Osborne paid a visit to North Wales on Monday June 13th which included a tour of Boston Lodge and a trip to Porthmadog in observation car 150.

The chancellor is pictured trying his hand at signwriting with carriage builder Glenn Williams, watched by Paul Lewin and Tony Williams.



Osborne was promoting voting to stay in the European Union in the June 23rd referendum and said that Wales has a bright future inside a reformed EU, with opportunities to build on the economic recovery and rising levels of employment, with over 24,100 jobs expected to be created in Wales if we remain in the EU.

He claimed that Wales is particularly vulnerable with some of its biggest industries including tourism, manufacturing and agriculture relying on the EU for trade. Current figures show that 130,000 people are employed in the tourism industry in Wales and EU tourists to Wales spent £206 million in 2014, over half of all international visitor spend.

"Every credible independent voice agrees that if the UK votes to leave the EU there would be a profound economic shock that would threaten jobs, livelihoods and living standards here in Wales.

"It is simply not a price worth paying," he added. "I urge everyone to vote to remain in the EU on June 23."

The return of 143



After almost 20 months in the workshops at Dinas, Garratt 143 returned to service in May. Here the loco is seen heading its first service train across Britannia Bridge.

Beer Festival 'best yet'



The sun shone and the beer flowed at our twelfth annual Cwrw ar y Cledrau event last month. Starting out as a tiny 25 barrel festival with a couple of bands to entertain, this event has grown into one of the big social occasions on the local calendar. This year we offered a selection of 110 different ales and 40 ciders. There were five different catering offers and of course, the chilli chocolate stand, back by popular demand. Live music throughout Friday and Saturday plus an ad hoc group of musicians completed the package.

It has become a family festival during the daytime with whole families picnicking and enjoying the sunshine. Even the evenings had a nicer feel with a huge marquee backing onto the goods shed and providing a vast amount of seating as well as the performing stage.

Income from the festival itself was in excess of £60k with extra again on the trains themselves. That is an increase of around 15% on last year.

Success has incurred increased costs as we have had to apply for a full premises license for Dinas due to large numbers attending. This has meant a lot of extra work for the team, but we now have an excellent CCTV system and a good base for future events. It also means we can offer a bar at other events throughout the year.

What we need next year is more helpers! Both during the weekend itself and also before and after as a lot of preparation and clearing up is involved. It is hard work but good fun and you get a free glass and a drink for your trouble. See you next year. Cheers!

Clare Britton



Art for art's sake

TV artist Matthew Palmer visited Harbour Station for two days earlier this month with participants on his 2016 Watercolour Holiday to Wales. When not appearing on television, Matthew organises a series of painting workshops and holidays across the UK.



Network Rail boss says thankyou



Network Rail Chief Executive Mark Carne was a guest on the *Snowdonian* earlier this year and took the time to write telling us how much he'd enjoyed his visit.

Thanks Mark.

Snowdonian Limited



The popularity of the *Snowdonian* 80 mile round trip over the complete Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland system earlier in the year proved such a success that the organisers arranged a second outing for those unable to get a seat.

The *Snowdonian Limited* ran on June 11th and had a special attraction - it would be the first-ever non-stop run between Porthmadog and Caernarfon using steam traction. Garratt 143, fresh from overhaul, was selected for the run and while Boston Lodge was confident the loco could do the trip using just its internal water

capacity, the WHR water tanker was attached 'just-in-case'. As it happened, the engineers' predictions were proved right and 143 arrived at Caernarfon after the non-stop run with water to spare.

"We could have gone on to Bangor, no problem," commented driver Tony Williams.

As a bonus, the train then ran non-stop between Caernarfon and Rhyd Ddu and Rhyd Ddu- Pen Cob where the locos were swapped for the FR leg of the run - *Velinheji*, *Prince* and *Linda*.





*Previous page
143 powers through
Bontnewydd;
The headboard.*

*This page
143 at Caernarfon; The
train prepares to leave
Porthmadog for
Caernarfon; Driver Tony
Williams; The
Snowdonian Limited at
Dinas, where passengers
were treated to a hog
roast lunch.*





On-train catering Manager John Ditchburn with an immaculate carriage 14, fresh from the paint shop.



Velinheli, Prince and Linda at Penrhyn Crossing



At Dinas



Loop crew fuel up at Tan y Bwlch



Approaching Rhyd Ddu



Linda (above) and Velinheli (below) at Tan y Bwlch



F&WHR on tour *Iain Wilkinson*



Moelwyn and Mary Ann travelled to Le P'tit train de la Haute Somme in Northern France for a special event to commemorate the centenary of the railway as part of World War One and also marking 45 years since the railway was taken into preservation.

Moelwyn is an original American 50HP Baldwin tractor loco from the period and of the type built for war service with the American and French armies. *Mary Ann* is a 40HP Simplex loco of the type supplied to the British War Department in large numbers. Also at the event was the *Busta*, the FR's World War 1 speeder, originally a transport vehicle for American officers which also served, somewhat notoriously, on the early preserved Ffestiniog Railway.

All three were acquired by the Festiniog Railway in the 1920s and have seen many modifications over the years. In the last few months, a dedicated volunteer group made an effort to restore them, as much as practical, to their wartime appearance. The locos operated alongside other World War 1 stock and locos before returning to the UK for the Moseley Railway Trust's Tracks to the Trenches event. In June and July they will be participating in events at Beamish Open Air Museum.



May Day Bank Holiday



Over the May Bank Holiday, Porthmadog Harbour Station was a hive of activity, with no fewer than four locos giving footplate rides, including *Velinhei* which is visiting for the summer, alongside pupils from Ysgol Eifion Wyn raising funds for their school.

Points of View

Dan Evans

Regular readers of the FR magazine may well have noticed references to a new form of point slide chair lubricant in the S&T report. Following a successful trial at Minffordd, we have started changing over all of the mainline points over to a Teflon based lubricant.

For many years the S&T have used a light machine oil to lubricate the points. This has many disadvantages. It is messy and requires a lot of manual handling. It also doesn't stick to the points particularly well and cannot be applied in the rain, as oil is lighter than water. The oil also bonds with contaminants, such as sand, cylinder oil and leaves, so they stick to the point fittings and the sleepers.

The new lubricant is Teflon based and can be applied from a backpack. It is applied in the form of a three-part liquid, containing a carrier, a cleaning agent and the Teflon particles. When the Teflon is applied, it bonds to the rail at a microscopic level. It is heavier than water, so can be applied in the rain, and is very good at resisting contamination. Oil, sand and leaves can be brushed or wiped off. It is almost invisible, as it is a dry lubricant, the metal changes to a darker colour and appears to have a varnished finish. The Teflon doesn't need to be applied as regularly as the machine oil, reducing the amount of time S&T staff and volunteers spend lubricating points.

In order to apply the Teflon, you have to clean off all the old lubricant and any dirt and grease. In most cases, we think this can be achieved through a combination of heavy-duty cleaner, scrapers and a reasonable amount of elbow grease. It is going to take a while to do them all, so we are prioritising points based on frequency of use and how contaminated they are.

The most recent points to be converted were the South Yard Crossover at Dinas, which gives access to the loco shed. These have always required a lot more cleaning than the other points in the railway. The trap point is at the point where the gradient changes. In damp weather it can be impossible to haul a Garratt out of the shed without sanding through the points, although shed staff try their best to avoid doing this. Getting the old oil and muck off the points required a great deal of elbow grease. Fortunately, the works helpfully allowed us to borrow their steam jet wash for the afternoon, which helped loosen the dirt. As you can see from the photo, the results are rather striking.

The other points we have converted are those at Minffordd and Pont Croesor.

If you would like to help the S&T oiling gang, please contact Dan Evans (devans@ffwhr.com). Working parties are led by Graham Cole & Mike Belshaw, and it is fun day out visiting many different locations across the railway.



Coming down the track...

- 25 July – 29 Aug Summer of Fun
- 28 July, 4, 11, 18, 25 Aug, FR Jazz Trains
- 12-13 August, Shewsbury Flower Show
- 18-21 August, Southport Flower Show
- 21 Aug Classic Car & Family Day at Dinas
- 9-11 Sept WHR Super Power
- 18 Sept Ras y Cob
- 24 Sept Trallifest
- 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
- 26 April - 1 May 2017 Quirks & Curiosities II

Llyn Cwellyn seen from a Welsh Highland train on Bank Holiday Monday