

Inside Motion

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



All the fun of the fair

This month's Victorian Weekend proved a great success with trains very well loaded and many shops and restaurants in Porthmadog joining in with staff dressing in Victorian costume and visitors also dressed up for the occasion.

Pupils from Ysgol Eifion Wyn in full Victorian dress kicked off proceedings by singing songs specially -written for the occasion. The Victorian gallopers at Harbour Station proved to be a great hit, with many locals visiting on several occasions over the three days.

On the rails, the star of the show was replica 'sentry box' brake van No. 3, built by volunteers under the leadership of Boston Lodge carriage builder Glenn Williams. The original van dated from the start of passenger services on the FR and enabled an authentic 1865 train to be run behind original steam loco Palmerston.

No drawings of the van exist and it was recreated from two old photographs showing it in use in the 1860s. It was especially good to see passengers in full Victorian dress riding in the modern carriages of the Welsh Highland service trains to Caernarfon where they handed out leaflets promoting the event.

Trade in Spooner's was brisk, with takings nearly equalling the all-time record set at the vintage weekend two years ago.

The event will be run again next year and we hope to add more fairground attractions, expanding the event around Porthmadog Harbour. We are delighted to announce that we have already retained the services of Charles Dickens Esq who will be reading extracts from his works at a number of venues around the railway.



This monthly newsletter is distributed to those who request it by email and is also accessible from the main website at www.festrail.co.uk along with previous issues. Diary and event information is available on the online site. Feel free to print this document in order that people without web access can read it. Contributions, details of group meetings etc to athomas@ffwhr.com

Victorian Weekend thanks *Tricia Doyle*

Rome may not have been built in a day – but the 19th Century was built in a weekend.

And what a weekend!



Our Victorian event is definitely one of the most popular, and understandably so – the effort people make to get dressed-up and the place 'costumed' is fabulous – and seeing 'Victorians' walking around Harbour Station with the magnificent Cob Estuary in the background – well, it's like watching some BBC period drama. OK, Nearly!



So, firstly I want to congratulate and thank everyone for a job well-done - it really is a lot of work to pull it off so well each year and I want to acknowledge that effort.

Diolch.

The event organisation was the also the closest I have worked with businesses in the town, and the response was great – in fact the 'Victorian on stilts' you saw (or at least must have tried hard if you did miss!) was hired by *Big Rock*.

Other shops decorated windows, staff dressed-up and it was really great and encouraging to see community spirit wrapped around an event of ours. (How great was Ysgol Eifion Wyn, by the way!!)

But this wasn't a fluke.

Leading up to this event, we really pushed the community aspect by writing and hand-delivering bilingual letters to every business on the High Street, highlighting what we would be doing, when, how they could contract us, and how we could work together.

And the number of people who rang me whilst still delivering them, was staggering.

Simply - people want to get involved.

And not only this, if you make the effort to reach out then you get fresh ideas, new views and all of a sudden you have people (pardon the pun) on board.

So, as Inside Motion goes to press –at the tap of Andrew's button - I want to confirm that bilingual 'thank you' letters have been sent around Porthmadog acknowledging peoples' effort, with my contact details included, so the town can again get involved in 2015.

I really feel we can get the community involved more in what we do. And I say: strike whilst the iron is hot!

..Oh, and can we have the gallopers again please!



From The Carriage Works *Norman Bond*

During the recent Victorian Weekend, the Sentry Box Brake van was formally launched into service by Company Chairman, Dr John Prideaux. The previous weekend, a test train was taken to Blaenau Ffestiniog which carried some of the volunteer builders and supporters of the project. We send a big thank you to all who helped whether it was by effort or by donations. Without both, the project could not have been achieved.

Another volunteer project approaching completion is a new electrical storage van which should be handed over very soon.

The tram lower deck has had all repairs done and is now coming together. The inside has had many panels refitted and the outside is currently being painted. The background to this page shows one of the transfers and lining which use genuine gold leaf.

Having cleared out a number of projects over the last month or so, what's next?

The major funded project is new Observation Car 150. The underframe/body frame is currently progressing in the erecting shop. A prototype seat has been built, which when finally designed will be fitted where the bulky Pullman seats are in other Observation Cars.

When Carriage Works staff are not required building 150, a fill in job will be to start construction of the body of another FR style carriage the same as Carriage 119. Timber is already in stock to make a start.

The major volunteer project in hand is bogie Ashbury 21. The underframe is in the Carriage Works and construction of the timber body has commenced.

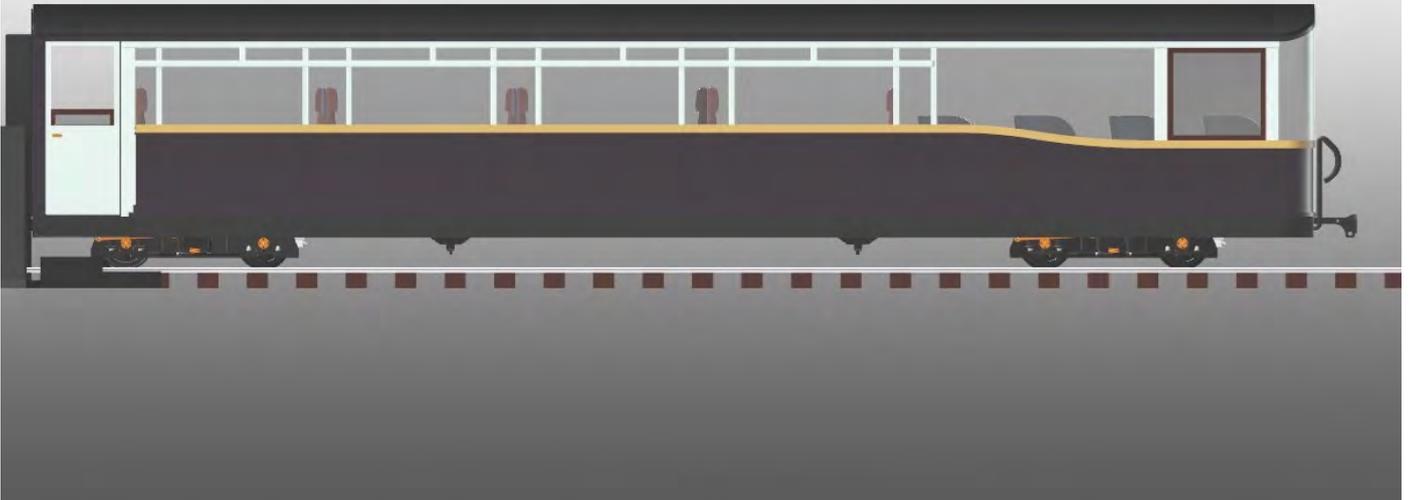
Top end Obs 123 is in the works for some maintenance and a repaint. This allows a flying start to what again will be a busy winter maintenance period which will include engine(s) as well as carriages.

Welsh Pony strip down continues

More progress has been made with the restoration of Large England *Welsh Pony*. The boiler has been removed and work to strip the motion and to separate the cylinders from the frames and drop the axles. The newly-repaired saddle tank has been filled with water to check for leaks.



New flagship FR Pullman car takes shape



New Ffestiniog Pullman observation carriage 150 is taking shape at Boston Lodge Works.

Car 150 - numbered to mark the 150th anniversary of FR passenger services - joins super saloon 119 as one of the first of a new generation of FR carriages aimed at providing an enhanced passenger experience with standards of quality and accommodation equal to or even exceeding the comfort levels offered by the modern Welsh Highland stock.

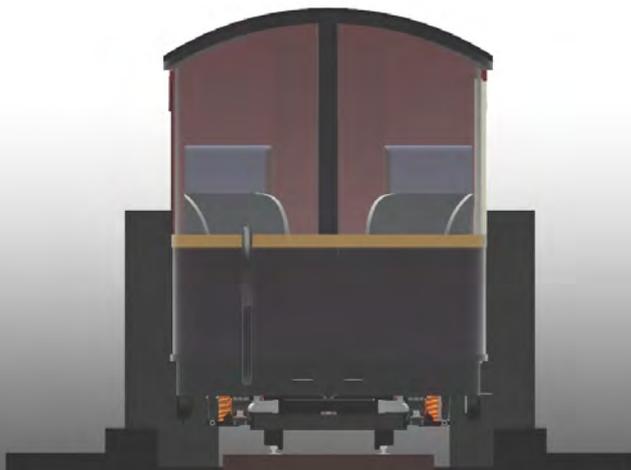
150 will be a Pullman observation car, inspired by the WHR's *Glaslyn* concept, but with a striking new design including stylish new seating, again designed and built by Boston Lodge craftsmen. A key part of the design brief for the seats was to maximise visibility.

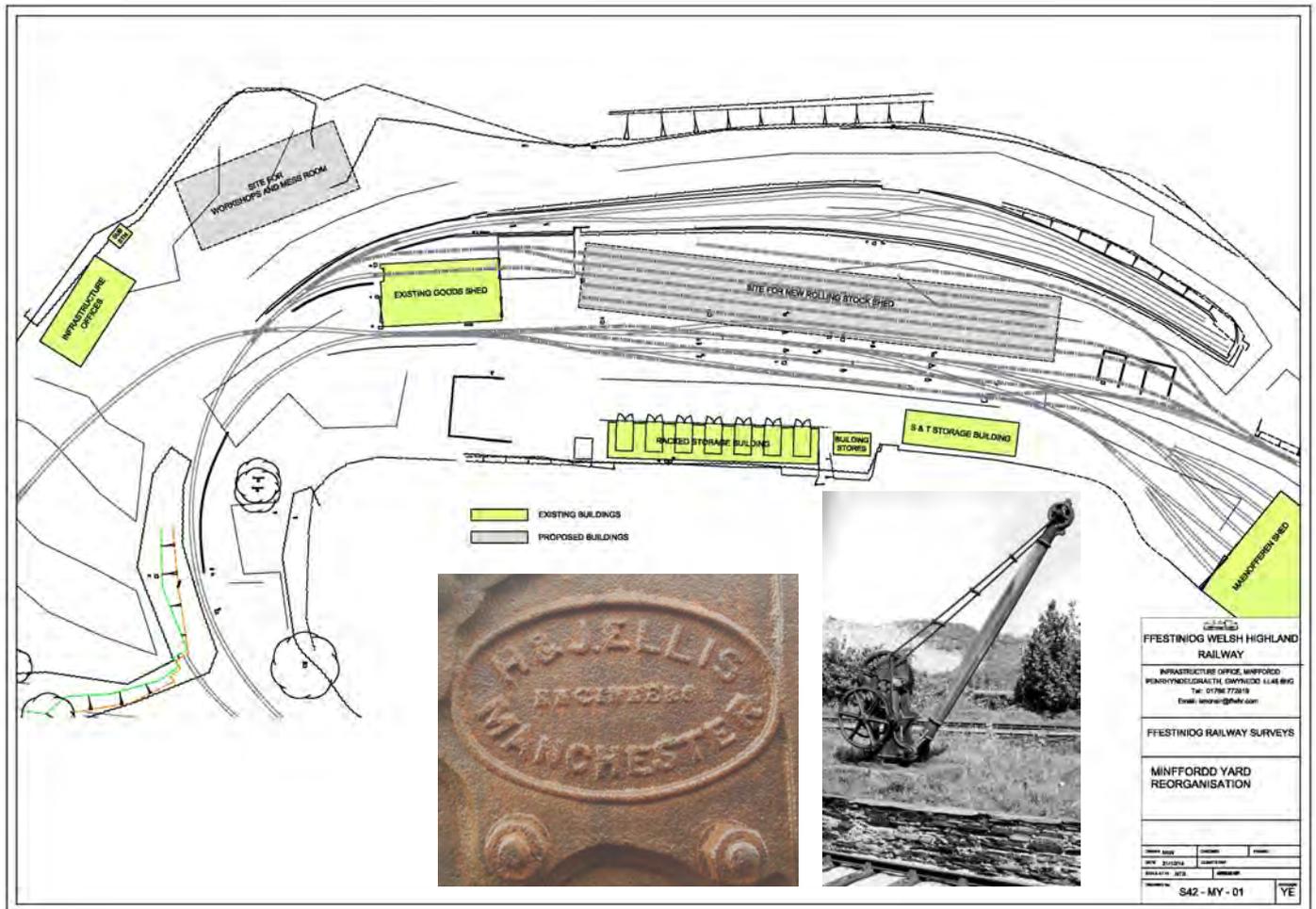
To complete the luxury ambience, the interior roof will be lined with birds-eye maple to provide a light and airy look.

The new flagship carriage is due for completion in early 2015 and will spend the first months of its service as a roving ambassador for the railway on a UK-wide tour promoting 150 years of passenger services on the Ffestiniog Railway.

A new service car, 125, is also in the pipeline to run with the Pullman, with the aim of completely revamping the FR 'B' Set.

The new carriage's final colour scheme has yet to be finalised.





Minffordd Yard Historic Crane *Ian Hartill*

During this year considerable efforts have been going on in Minffordd yard to tidy up, remove redundant materials and make space for some of the many new developments.

One of the major long term objectives for Minffordd yard is the Waggon Tracks Project, led by Sam Miller and Iain Wilkinson. This project plans to erect a new shed 84 m by 11m, which will hold the railway's ever growing fleet of historic non-passenger rolling stock, as shown on the plan.

Before work can progress with the new shed, the historic goods transfer crane in the yard must be moved. This crane, along with a similar one in Boston Lodge yard, has been in place since around 1872, but unfortunately it currently sits foul of the planned new shed wall.

Just moving the crane would be easy, but that isn't the F&WHR way.

It has been suggested that it would make a very unusual and attractive heritage feature if it could be restored - not just cosmetically but back to working order!

To do this we are looking for a number of individuals, or maybe an existing group who are prepared to take on this mini-project.

A couple of potential new locations have already been identified for the crane, where it could be positioned above a railway wagon ready to lift something. The crane unit rotates on the 'king' post and the main gears still rotate.

What is required?

The boom is wooden and will need replacing, along with some of the boom bracing castings, a new main lifting cable and a hook. Plus a lot of cleaning and painting.

If you don't fancy restoring the crane we are still looking for a lot more help with moving equipment and other artefacts from various locations around the yard into the new Big Tin Shed.

If any individual or group is interested in tackling this very different part of the railway's heritage, or even in helping tidy the yard, please get in touch with either Ian Hartill (ihartill@fwhr.com) or James Hamlin (jhamlin@fwhr.com)

FR Directory update *Howard Wilson*

The latest issue of the Ffestiniog Railway Magazine contains a notice (page 68g) about the updating of the directory. This is the master list of all officials and employees within the organisation, including the Trust, the Heritage Company, the Holdings Company and Travel, the Company and their employees and the two Societies along with their area groups.

The directory provides their contact details and is a speedy method of identifying who is who and who does what. To that end, a photograph (passport style) can be included if felt to be appropriate. The document is not published on-line due to the inclusion of personal data.

There is a desire that the Project or Functional Groups within the Societies are reviewed and updated, as over time, some of them have evolved or even faded away. A contact name and details to enable new volunteers to easily become involved is probably all that is needed.

If you wish to make changes to your entry or add a photograph, or if the future of your volunteer group would benefit from being included, then please contact FRS Registrar Martin Cowgill at registrar@ffestiniograilway.org.uk

Keep Blaenau Tidy *Clare Britton*

Arriva Trains Wales is working with Keep Britain Tidy and are holding a competition for the tidiest unstaffed and staffed station.

Our station adopters at Blaenau Ffestiniog go to the station every day to clear away litter and care for the flower tubs and every Sunday they all meet up to give it further attention. Arriva Trains have provided two huge new flower tubs which will be planted up by the kids from Ysgol Maenofferen and another mural is being done by the children to go on the front of our building following the success of the ones on back welcoming Conwy Valley passengers.

It is slow work but our station is starting to look more like something we can be proud of and the best thing about it is the lack of litter. So please click on the link below and vote for Blaenau station. Our station adopters are a small group working quietly behind the scenes to keep both sides of the station tidy and make it a pleasant place to be. It would be great if they could get to the finals of this competition.

www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/KeepWalesTidy

Idris Lamonby

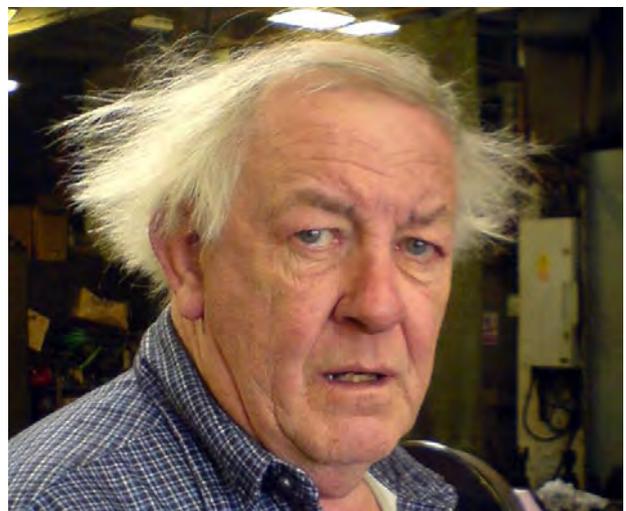
Idris Lamonby, long-time member of the Black Hand Gang, died during the last week of October

Apart from his involvement with tracklaying on the Welsh Highland, starting from the beginning of Phase 1, Idris was also a stalwart of the WHR Santa Trains.



Steve Coulson

Steve 'Stefco' Coulson died at Ysbyty Alltwnen on October 23rd. He had been suffering from cancer. Steve was a very capable engineer and responsible for the design and building of the Stefcomatic tamper, the creation of carriage 122 and the rebuilding of the Funkey diesel that became the *Vale of Ffestiniog*. He was also part owner and restorer of *Britomart*.



Diamond Jubilee Appeal

The Diamond Jubilee Appeal currently stands at £517,178, reports treasurer Michael Wilkinson.

Minffordd Winter Works *Dafydd Thomas*

Volunteers and staff who have had enough of Christmas are more than welcome to join us on Friday 2nd January to start dismantling the S & T infrastructure associated with Minffordd Crossover, there is a lot of it. If there are sufficient people they can also start to dismantle the track – bullhead in the Down platform and remove switch blades from turnouts.

The work will carry on during Saturday & Sunday 3 & 4 January with the Jasper Group and the Dee & Mersey Gang providing the manpower.

On Monday 5th January, whatever remains of the turnouts will be cut up into easily liftable chunks for the Hiab crane, to take them away to salvage the chairs (which are the only really reusable bits). These turnouts are ex-Penrhyn Quarry and are about 90 years old with 60% of the railhead worn away, so we will not reuse them anywhere on the running lines. They are of no use for the Waggon Tracks scheme as they are 1:12 radius (1:6 is what is needed) and therefore far too long.

A contractor will be ready to swing into action as soon as the site is clear, digging out old ballast (hopefully on Monday lunchtime) and the job should be completed by the end of Tuesday or Wednesday morning. On Wednesday and Thursday 7th & 8th , new ballast goes in, levelled

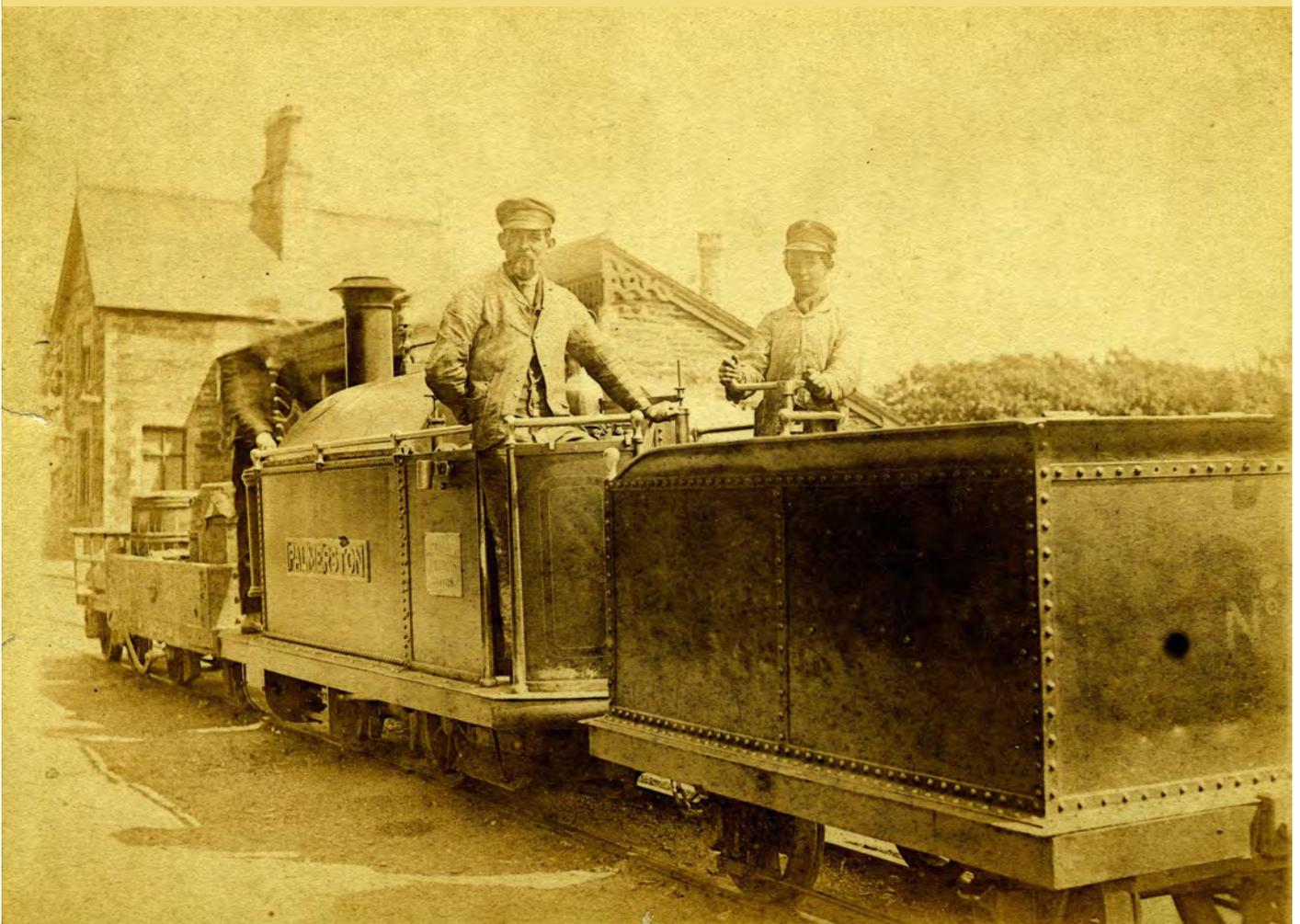
and consolidated. On Friday 9th, the haulage contractor brings in and lifts new turnouts into position. Over the Weekend 10th & 11th, the White Rose Gang are in to dismantle the main line working back towards the yard crossing, materials being loaded onto wagons on the mineral line.

On Monday 12th, the Network Rail apprentices arrive on site to begin laying the S30 rails in the Down platform, followed by aligning and levelling the turnouts of the crossover. Meanwhile P Way staff will complete the dismantling of the main running line if WRG have not been able to do all of it and bring in new S30 rail, sleepers and fittings on the mineral line; the contractor excavates old ballast from mainline. Contractor then brings in new ballast for trackbed of running line.

This pattern will continue with the Network Rail apprentices until as much of the mainline is redone (ideally with all the bullhead replaced).

Progress and the number of volunteers available at weekends will dictate if we get the Mineral line done. P Way staff will need to concentrate on getting the new catch point in the mineral line installed in association with redoing the yard entrance crossing.

If you'd like to help, drop me a line at dthomas@fwhr.com





Tesni Jones *Tony Williams*

Welcome to fireman Tesni Jones who has joined the full-time staff at Boston Lodge as Roster Clerk and started work at the end of October.

All matters regarding the Locomotive and Crew roster should be addressed to her.

Tesni can be contacted by either e-mail to tjones@ffwhr.com or by sending e-mails to 'LocoRoster' or by telephoning either Boston Lodge or her work mobile 07919 414880.

In due course she will take over other responsibilities.



RAILWAY FILMS – CARTOONS – SILENT COMEDIES – ORGAN

FRIENDS HOUSE (newly refurbished)

173 EUSTON ROAD, LONDON NW1 (opposite Euston Station)

MONDAY 1st DECEMBER 2014 AT 7 pm

(Doors open 6.30pm)

COMPERE – Rob Foxon ORGANIST – Len Rawle

Featuring:

Big Steam American Railroading (Norfolk & Western – 1948)

1930s British Steam Archive

World War I Narrow Gauge Field Railways

Introduction to SR Merchant Navy Class Locomotive - 1945

The Operation of Britain's Railways during WW II

British Railways in the 1950s – as you like to remember them!

Feature Film extract

Plus full supporting programme of cartoon and comedy films with Organ Accompaniment.

Seats £11.00 (£14.00 at the door)

Tickets from :- R. Patenall (Dept. RB), 10 Greta House, 60 Hardy Road, Blackheath, London, SE3 7PA

Tickets will be dispatched and cheques banked when the refurbishment of the Hall is complete - expected to be last week in October. Bookings received with an e-mail address will be acknowledged. (e-mail enquiries to Steampipes@patenall.eu)

All profits go to the funds of the Ffestiniog, Talyllyn and Welshpool & Llanfair Societies

Please forward _____ tickets at £11.00 and _____ tickets at £5.50 (under 16) each for Steampipes on Monday 1st December 2014. I enclose a cheque made payable to TALLYLLYN RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

Please send my tickets in the enclosed stamped, addressed envelope
Bookings must be received by 24th November 2014 if tickets are to be sent by post

Please send an e-ticket for me to print to e-mail address.....

Name

Address

.....

..... Post Code.....

I heard about Steampipes fromRB

A PHOTOCOPY OF THIS FORM OR A LETTER IS ACCEPTABLE FOR BOOKING SEATS.

**Cymdeithas Rheilffordd Eryri – Welsh Highland Railway Society.
The Dinas Volunteer Accommodation Project - Potential use survey.**

We would be grateful, if you are a potential user of proposed volunteer accommodation at Dinas, if you would please complete and return this short questionnaire. This will help us with formulating the business case for the facility and assist with gauging the size of that accommodation.

Please tick the appropriate box.

1. If accommodation facilities were to be provided at Dinas on the WHR would you make use of it? YES NO .
2. How many nights would you stay at the facility on each visit to the railway?
One night Two nights Three or more nights A week Other

If you have ticked Other please specify

3. How often would you make use of the hostel in a year?
Twice Three times Four times Six times Every month

More If you tick this box please specify

4. How much would you be prepared to pay per night?
£8 £10 £12

5. The facility will be based on two bed units, if you required single occupancy would you be prepared to pay a little extra, such as £12 or £14 instead of £8 or £10 per night?

6. If you have any thoughts or suggestions about the proposed facility we would be glad to receive them, please insert below:

.....
.....
.....

Name:

Address:

.....

..... Post Code:

Email address:

Please either email (an electronic copy is available on the Society's website) your response to tycroes@btinternet.com or post hard copies to:
Accommodation survey, Tŷ Croes, Crymlyn, Abergwyngregyn. Llanfairfechan. LL33 0LU.



Palmerston showing off at the Victorian Weekend