

# Inside Motion

January 2018

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



## Work progresses inside Moelwyn Tunnel

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)

# Moelwyn Tunnel re-laying progress....

**At the time of writing**, the head of steel has reached the halfway point in the tunnel. This has been tremendous achievement by all those involved in both Infrastructure and Boston Lodge to get us this far. Too many to mention by name but you know who you are so big thanks and let's keep going.

The excavator has finally emerged into daylight at Tunnel South having spent four weeks digging its way from Tunnel North. In the process it has loaded roughly 300 tonnes wagons of spent ballast, which has been shipped to Boston Lodge for use as fill. Roughly 200 tonnes of new ballast made the journey in reverse and was spread to make the new track bed.



# What else has been achieved?...

**The builders have been fairly busy** this winter as well. The Septic tank at Tan-y-Bwlch, which has served the railway well over the years, had failed with fluids leeching out of the walls of the tank.

The Ffestiniog Railway Society have very generously provided funding for a new environmentally friendly sewage treatment plant. By late yesterday the old tank had ceased to exist and the new plant will arrive on site today.

The new tank will be installed and commissioned by the start of the daily service. In association with this, work is also being undertaken to improve the inbound water supply to Tan-y-Bwlch with a new supply pipe about to be installed.



On the WHR the token interlocked starting signals are the main focus of Infrastructure activity.

These photos show the extensive ground work required at Pont Croesor due to the soft ground.

The right line departure foundation for the starting signal is complete and the home signal foundation nears completion, both at the Porthmadog end.

Next we will start at the Beddgelert end.



# Tan y Bwlch Footbridge Refurbishment

In November last year, a small group of volunteers started to refurbish the steel footbridge at Tan-y-Bwlch station. We replaced some corroded steel pieces and de rusted and repainted underneath the bridge, despite a few days of poor weather. Although it ended up looking unfinished, it was satisfying knowing we had eliminated some problems, as well as repainted part of it, and one lady volunteer drilled her first ever hole in steel!



We are now looking forward to doing the work that the public will see, painting the "outside" steelwork and replacing mesh and handrails with stainless steel, to both smarten up the bridge and to reduce future maintenance.

All the funding is available (thanks to FRSoc) to enable us to have fixed scaffolding erected to give us safe and secure access for the whole job.

All we need now are volunteers.

The plan is to start on Monday 16th April, after the end of the school Easter holidays and work over the next three weeks, either weekdays or weekends, depending on volunteers.

Whether you are a regular volunteer, or someone who would like to give volunteering on the FR a go, most people enjoy working at TyB station, working outside in the glorious environment at Tanybwllch, with the occasional train to give a "railway fix".

If you would like to join us, working at this glorious station and ending up with a smart looking footbridge, I would be very pleased to hear from you. We will have a mix of physical work removing rust early in the period, and easy work painting after the first few days, and I would be happy to explain more if you are interested.

Alan Norton

[anorton@fwhr.com](mailto:anorton@fwhr.com)

# Inter-Rail Pass (Heritage Railway Association)

The Heritage Rail Association InterRail Pass scheme is open to directors, managers, paid staff and current volunteers working on a railway which participates in the Inter-Rail Pass scheme. For £30 you receive a 2 person Pass allowing you and another person to travel at free or reduced rates on railways participating in the scheme subject to travel restrictions set by each railway. The passes generally cannot be used on Santa specials, some gala days and other special occasions. A list of participating railways and the restrictions is provided with the pass.

The 2018/2019 pass is now available. It will be valid from 1st March 2018 to 28th February 2019.

PLEASE NOTE THE COST OF THE PASS IS £30.

If you would like to purchase a 2018/2019 pass please send a cheque for £30 per pass, made payable to 'Heritage Railway Association', together with a stamped addressed envelope, to Joanna Vincent, Ffestiniog Railway, Harbour Station, Porthmadog, Gwynedd, LL49 9NF.

If you prefer to pay by cash or credit card please email me at [jvincent@ffwhr.com](mailto:jvincent@ffwhr.com) giving a contact telephone number to arrange payment.

In order to receive your pass by the start date please ensure your request reaches me by Friday 9th February. Requests will be submitted to HRA in batches and passes may take up to 3 weeks to be processed and sent out.

Joanna Vincent, Commercial Department

## Cob Crwn and Cob Cleanup

Representatives from Glaslyn Wildlife are organising litter-picking sessions in an effort to rid The Cob and Cob Crwn of discarded paper and plastics.

If you would you like to help clean up Porthmadog's shore, meet by the ruined mill on Snowdon Street on Saturday February 24th at gam,

Bags, litter pick sticks and gloves will be provided.

## Roger Goss

Sadly I have to advise that Roger Goss passed away during the evening of 24th January following a period of ill health.

Festipedia records that -

Roger was "the Railway's only ex-B.R. steam loco fitter in 1969. He learnt his trade at the Atlas Works of Peckett & Sons in Bristol (which closed in January 1962) and was later at B.R. Bristol loco depots.

He joined the FR staff in 1963. He shared a caravan in the top yard of Boston Lodge with Bob Harris. With Bob Harris, Anthony Massau and two volunteers (one was Tom Baskcomb) he co-owned Britomart. Roger and Bob spent a lot of their off duty hours working on Britomart.

Roger left the staff at Easter 1971 to join the Llanberis Lake Railway. In the later 1970s he was a turner of wagon wheels at Chester Wagon Works of BR".

Roger had lived in Alicante, Spain for the last ten years.

Howard Wilson

FR Society

# Staff News

**A number of staff changes** have taken place over recent weeks:

At Boston Lodge Norman Bond has retired from his position as Carriage Works Supervisor. Norman had been a long standing volunteer at Boston Lodge before joining the paid staff as part of the HLF project. He has overseen considerable change in the Carriage Works, not least the production of many new carriages for the F&WHR. He will continue his association with the Carriage Works as the volunteer leader of Team X. We are pleased to announce that Glenn Williams will be taking on the role of Carriage Works Supervisor.

Ged Perks has also retired from his job as Electrical Equipment Maintenance Fitter. Ged has been with the Company for 29 years in a variety of maintenance roles. We will be looking to fill the vacancy left by his departure over the coming months.

John Ditchburn will not be returning this season as On Train Services Manager. John joined us as a Buffet Steward 7 years ago before taking on the role of Spooner's Manager at a time of change within the Catering Department. He then moved back to the Buffet Cars as On Train Services Manager and has been a popular leader of the team. The role of On Train Services Manager is now being advertised..

We would like take this opportunity to thank Norman, Ged and John for the hard work they have done for the Company over the years and would like to wish them all the best for this new phase of their lives.

From 1st April this year Colin Burtt will be moving to a new part-time role supporting both the Finance Department and other projects within the Railway's administration. We are therefore pleased to announce that Julie Evans has been appointed to the role of Finance Manager from this date. This leaves us with a vacancy for a Finance Administrator (see below).

## Vacancy : Finance Assistant

The Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways are a major tourist attraction in North Wales set in the heart of Snowdonia National Park.

We are currently recruiting for a Finance Assistant to join our team, based in Porthmadog.

Duties will include payroll, purchase ledger, BACS payments and reconciliations. Knowledge of Sage Accounting & Payroll programs, and Excel & Word are essential for this role. The successful candidate will also be expected to provide relief cover for our busy cash office and should have experience of working in a cash handling environment.

Knowledge of the railways, and their business is desirable, and the ability to speak Welsh would be an advantage.

This is a permanent position from 1st April 2018, 40 hours per week. Usual hours will be Monday to Friday however some weekend working may be required.

Starting salary £18,000 with potential to rise to £19,500 on successful completion of a probationary period.

For more information or an application form please contact Jo Vincent on 01766 516073 or by email to [jvincent@fwhr.com](mailto:jvincent@fwhr.com). We will also accept applications by C.V. with a covering letter.

**Closing Date for applications: Friday 23rd February 2018.**

# Vacancy : On-Train Services Manager

The Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways are a major tourist attraction in North Wales set in the heart of Snowdonia National Park. Our On Train Services team serve refreshments to passengers on board our trains on the Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways.

We are currently recruiting for an On Train Services Manager, based in Porthmadog, to run the On Train Services Team.

The successful candidate will be responsible for managing both paid staff and volunteers within the department, with particular responsibility for recruiting and developing On Train Services volunteers.

Key duties:

- Recruit, train and manage On Train Services staff and volunteers
- Roster staff across the two railways
- Lead by example by stewarding trains as required
- Ensure the department complies with Health & Safety, Environmental Health and other related legislation
- Ensure a quality of service which meets and exceeds customer expectations
- Manage stock ordering, storage and supply
- Manage the departmental budget

Candidates must have experience of working in the Hospitality or Catering industry and proven experience of management / leadership. Candidates must have excellent communication and interpersonal skills and should have relevant qualifications in food safety. Knowledge of the railways, and their business is desirable, and the ability to speak Welsh would be an advantage.

This is a permanent position from March 2018. Hours will be annualised, approx. 40 hours per week March to October and reduced hours from November to February.

Starting salary £20,000 per annum pro-rata.

For more information or an application form please contact Jo Vincent on 01766 516073 or by email to [jvincent@ffwhr.com](mailto:jvincent@ffwhr.com). We will also accept applications by C.V. with a covering letter.

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## 'Join the F&WHR Volunteers' Weekend 2018

After the success of our event last year we are holding a two-day "Give It a Try" weekend on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd April when we will take you behind the scenes, show you what you can do and to answer all of your questions. There will be something that appeals to everyone and if you are not sure, we will let you have a go.

Boston Lodge Workshops will be open to show you how you can become involved in working with our historic locos or building new carriages. In Minffordd, we will show how you can join our Infrastructure department working on the track, with signalling, maintaining our heritage buildings, gardening and much more. We will then whisk you away on a train to show you our operating and on train services staff in action.

You will discover our volunteers' hostel, the great social life, the constant stream of new projects and the fun and satisfaction of making a real contribution to Britain's most historic and innovative railways.

To find out more about this event, email [joinin@ffwhr.com](mailto:joinin@ffwhr.com).

To book, please complete the [online booking form](#).

Please note, this is a one day event repeated on the Sunday. Please choose which day you would prefer to join us. A sandwich lunch will be provided.

# Celebrating our Heritage at King's Cross



Velinheli and Hugh Napier, together with the Ashbury carriage will be rolled into King's Cross Station at 0100 on Saturday February 10th, and will be on display in the ticket hall until Sunday February 18th.

For the duration of the visit, our staff and volunteers will be on hand to talk to the public and answer questions. There will also be the opportunity to win a short break in North Wales, staying at Portmeirion and including visits to Zip World and first class tickets on the Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railways.