

Trustees' annual report and accounts

1st February 2021 – 31st January 2022



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Administrative information

The Trust is a charitable unincorporated association registered as a charity in England & Wales, number 1040128. It is governed by its Trust Deed dated 11th July 1994 with its principal object being:

"the collection, conservation and display of narrow-gauge railway relics and material for the education of the public in an enjoyable way".

Accredited Museum No 1433

Registered office: Wharf Station Tywyn Gwynedd LL36 9EY

Personnel

Trustees appointed by the Talyllyn Railway Preservation Society	Ian Evans	Minutes secretary
	John D Olsen PhD, MRSB, CIBiol	
	Malcolm Phillips	Collections manager
	Wendy Pink	
	C Keith Theobald	Chairman
Co-opted trustees	Diane K Drummond PhD FHEA	
	C Russell Hatt CEng MICE (resigned 8 th December 2021)	
	Frank Nolan (appointed 8 th December 2021)	
Officers	Charles Fleming	Legal adviser
	Robert Gwynne BA, PGCE, DipM, AMA	Museum mentor
	Andrew Nock	Secretary
	Stephen Powell	Treasurer

Unless otherwise shown, all personnel served throughout the reporting year.

The Trustees met 10 times during the reporting year. In order to comply with official guidance regarding Covid-19 security, and recognising consequent difficulty for some in travelling to Tywyn, all meetings were held remotely by audio-video conference. At all their meetings the Trustees kept in mind their duty to provide public benefit.

Bank: CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling Kent
ME19 4JQ

The Narrow Gauge Railway Museum ("the Museum")

The Trust's aim is to record and interpret the history of narrow-gauge railways in the British Isles and beyond. While a number of passenger-carrying railways have been preserved and still operate, primarily now to serve the tourist market, many other passenger-carrying lines, as well as numerous industrial and military ones, ceased to exist in the mid-20th century. The pioneering enthusiasts and collectors of those times laid the

basis of the collection while it was still possible, so that today the story of these railways can be told, most of which never achieved the widespread following enjoyed by the main lines, but were in their own way important contributors to economic and social history.

The Trust's main activity is managing the Museum to ensure its current operation and secure its long-term sustainability.

The Museum occupies a purpose-made building, opened in 2005 as part of the major re-development of the Talyllyn Railway's Wharf station in Tywyn. Its location alongside a working narrow-gauge railway gives the Museum's story a living context, and adds a significant attraction to the pleasure and interest of a journey on the Railway. Elsewhere on the Wharf site the Museum also has use of the historic Gunpowder Store and new building featuring the original Talyllyn Railway weighbridge.

The Collection

The main collection consists of items relating to narrow gauge railways of the British Isles, and to the Talyllyn Railway in particular.

The Trustees continue to review selectively items offered for sale at auction, and make a reasonable bid for any item which they consider would enhance the collection. Items are also offered to the Museum from time to time, with any accession decision being taken by the Trustees. Accessions now tend to be small items, reflecting the reality of new material availability, and the pressures on the Museum's space.

During the reporting year, 33 objects were added to the **Main Collection**. Amongst these were two rare locomotive works plates, and three large models, two being of Talyllyn Railway rolling stock and the third a model of the old Corris Station. Examples of the items added are:

TYWRM:FMR004	book	Fairbourne Miniature Railway guide book
TYWRM:FR061	plan	Track plan of the Festiniog Railway drawn by J.C.Gillham dated February 1957 showing the lines in place at the time.
TYWRM:FR065	book	Festiniog Railway Gravity Trains
TYWRM:IOM105	document	Isle of Man Railway Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet 31 December 1944
TYWRM:MOD007	model	7¼ in gauge model of a slate wagon
TYWRM:MOD008	model	7mm scale model of Corris Railway Station c1930
TYWRM:MOD009	model	7¼ in gauge model of Talyllyn Railway van 146 built by Viv Thorpe
TYWRM:SDR003	works plate	Works plate from Baldwin locomotive 44522
TYWRM:TR364	timetable poster	Talyllyn Railway timetable poster for 1970

TYWRM:TR365	book	Talyllyn Railway Guide Book for 1965
TYWRM:TR370	timetable	Talyllyn Railway Timetable; undated; possibly 1940s
TYWRM:TSQ001	nameplate	Cast iron nameplate MARGARET found at Talysarn Slate Quarry. Margaret was the daughter of owner John Robinson.
TYWRM:VER001	booklet	Volks Electric Railway and how it is worked
TYWRM:WHR035	works plate	Works plate from Baldwin locomotive 45172 WHR No.590
TYWRM:WHR036	button	North Wales Narrow Gauge Railway uniform button

89 items were added to the **Support Collection**, mostly reference books for the Museum library.

10 items were added to the **Awdry Collection**, most coming from the Rev W.V. (Wilbert) Awdry's family. In particular, the Trustees were delighted to receive the clerical cloak worn by Wilbert, which used to hang on the back of his study door at Stroud.

TYWRM:AWD515	record	Chiltern Records recording of Edward's Day Out and Edward and Gordon read by the Rev W.V. Awdry.
TYWRM:AWD516	cloak	Clerical cloak worn by Rev W.V. Awdry

Some items in the collection – mainly wagons – are displayed outdoors on the Wharf site. Some large items – locomotives and a wagon – which cannot be accommodated at Tywyn for lack of space are on loan to appropriate institutions elsewhere in the UK.

Risk management

The Trustees maintain, apply and review policies relating to:

- Emergencies
- Safeguarding
- Health and safety
- Environment
- Data protection
- Managing conflicts of interest and conflicts of loyalty

The Trustees maintain a Designated Insurance Reserve fund as cover against loss or damage to items in the Collection.

The Trustees also earmark a proportion of the Trust's cash balance (held in a high-interest account, £42k at the end of the reporting year) as a hedge against higher running costs. The Trust occupies its premises on very beneficial terms from its landlord the Talyllyn

Railway, and could face substantially higher costs if changing circumstances caused the Railway to alter its terms.

Review of the year

The Covid-19 pandemic

At the start of the reporting period the Museum had been closed to the public since 5th December the previous year in compliance with Welsh Government restrictions. Changes in official regulations allowed the Trustees to re-open the Museum on 17th May, and the Museum continued to open for the rest of the reporting period on days when the Talyllyn Railway operated a public train service; in practice, this meant that opening was daily throughout the summer and until the end of October, on weekends in November when the Railway decided exceptionally to open because of the significant number of tourists visiting the area at a conventionally quite time, and on certain days around Christmas and New Year. Initially only restricted numbers of visitors were allowed in the Museum at one time to maintain social-distancing, with these restrictions being gradually relaxed.

The Museum requires an Attendant to be present whenever it is open to the public, and until the pandemic all attendants had been volunteers; most of them because of age were in Covid at-risk categories and were therefore unable or reluctant to resume duty when the Museum re-opened. In the previous reporting period the Museum had employed two temporary Museum Assistants to provide attendant cover; from 1st April 2021 the Talyllyn Railway Company took responsibility for the postholders, continuing to make them available for Museum duties to supplement those volunteer attendants who decided to resume duties, and consequently it has proved possible to staff the Museum in order to open whenever needed.

Visitor numbers, total 13476, substantially exceeded the previous year's, reflecting the relaxing of Covid restrictions and the strength of tourism in Wales. The total in the most recent 'normal' year (2019) was 16671.

Year	Days open	Adult visitors	Child visitors	Total visitors
2021	194	10501	2975	13476
2020	84	1248	204	1452

UNESCO designation

On 28th July UNESCO announced that it had recognised World Heritage status for the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales, the culmination of many years of hard work by the NW Wales community. The designation included the Talyllyn Railway, along with Abergynolwyn village, and Bryneglwys Quarry, whose slates the Talyllyn Railway carried to Tywyn. There, the Wharf station where the Museum is now located was equipped from the outset with a purpose-built facility for transshipping slate from narrow to standard-gauge wagons, enabling the onward movement of Bryneglwys slate within Britain and across the world.

The announcement was a great encouragement to the Trustees, who are intent on ensuring that the Museum fulfills its potential to support public understanding of the vital part narrow-gauge railways played in Wales's slate industry, taking advantage of its situation alongside a working slate railway with its original locomotives and rolling stock, and its many exhibits from the slate quarry railways.

Funds and fundraising

In the previous year the Trust had received £52620 in public grants to support its operations during the pandemic, and in the reporting year it received £40,910, including £23,000 from the Welsh Government's Cultural Recovery Fund.

The Trustees cannot reasonably expect such public support in the future, but running costs have risen and the Trustees therefore must actively promote other sources of funds. Previously, cash donations from visitors had provided a steady income, but because many visitors no longer carry cash the Trustees have set up cashless payments options; online, via SMS text, and in the Museum by card reader. For the longer term they are working with a consultant as part of the 'Prospering Boards' programme run by AIM (Association of Independent Museums) to identify other new sources and approaches to fundraising.

Temporary exhibitions

To enhance its interpretation and provide fresh interest for repeat visitors the Museum regularly mounts temporary exhibitions, often to celebrate a significant anniversary or to focus on a special area of interest. Low visitor numbers meant that the 2020 exhibition – 'narrow-gauge railways in literature' – had a much smaller audience than it merited, and so it has been placed in its entirety on the Museum's website to enable more people to enjoy it, the first time this has been done.

The 2021 temporary exhibitions marked two centenaries; of the Abermule single-line collision on the Cambrian Railways, and the construction of Tallylyn Railway (and previously Corris Railway) locomotive no 4, along with the history of Kerr, Stuart & Co the locomotive's builder.

Other developments

Over the year the Trustees have continued to work on two important projects, following the setback caused by the pandemic:

- The oral history project, to record personal memories of narrow-gauge railways and the slate industry;
- Digitising and cataloguing the Museum's extensive photographic collection.

The Museum has lately been offered substantial collections of books and artefacts as bequests from former supporters, creating a significant workload identifying items for the Museum collection, and sensitively disposing of other items to good advantage.

Governance

Following a recommendation in the 2018 accreditation review the Trustees continued to pursue incorporated status for the Museum Trust. Their application in September to the Charity Commission for CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) registration was declined, and the Trustees expect to re-apply in the current year.

People

Most Trustees and Museum officers served throughout the reporting year. By mutual agreement Mr Russell Hatt resigned amicably in December to create a vacancy for Mr Frank Nolan, who lives locally to Tywyn and is able to devote considerable time to the Museum. Dr Drummond also moved to Tywyn, meaning that the Museum now benefits in terms of oversight and activity from having 4 trustees living close by. His colleagues thank Mr Hatt for his service and continuing support.

As noted earlier, some volunteer attendants felt able to take up duty again after the pandemic; the Trustees thank them, as well as putting on record their gratitude to those who served loyally over the years but no longer feel able to do so.

Museum working parties, which generally meet on Thursday mornings, outside during the summer and indoors in the winter, and do work vital to maintain the Museum, were able to re-start on 6th May.

To the Trustees' regret the deaths took place during the reporting period of three gentlemen who had each made uniquely significant contributions to the Museum's life and work, and are much missed:

Alan Holmes	Former trustee and secretary
Winston McCanna	Former trustee; working party organiser 2005 to 2016
Don Newing	Former trustee, secretary and archivist

The Trustees gratefully acknowledge their service and commitment, and express sympathy to their families in their loss.

The passing of former supporters underlines the importance of adequate personnel succession planning, and for some time the Trustees have been keen to find opportunities for children and young people to become involved with the Museum. During the October half term week, Talyllyn Tracksiders¹ did some work to support the Museum and enhance the Wharf Station area in support of the UNESCO world heritage status, replacing the modular track under the Museum's 2ft gauge wagons using heritage/original TR rails and chairs.

The future

The Museum's Accredited Museum status was to have been reviewed in the coming year, but administrative pressures within the Welsh Government following the pandemic have delayed this by a year or more. The Trustees continue to maintain and review their policies in order to maintain good governance practice and be in a fit state when the review eventually takes place.

The Trustees must also take all possible steps to secure the Museum's financial sustainability.

¹ 'Tracksiders' exists to provide opportunities for families with children to work together on the TR during the May and October half terms.

More broadly, the Trustees look forward to a period of 'normality' again, with activities unconstrained by pandemic restrictions, and to welcoming many visitors to enjoy all that the Museum has to offer.

Financial Report

Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Trust		Registered charity 1040128			
Accounts for year ended 31 st January 2022					
Fund Type	Unrestricted	Designated	All		Previous year
Fund Name	General	Insurance reserve			
RECEIPTS					
Donations in Museum	£2,592.53		£2,592.53		£495.00
Other Donations	£6,238.30		£6,238.30		£4,734.74
Friends Subscriptions	£1,112.00		£1,112.00		£887.00
Legacies	£1,000.00		£1,000.00		£0.00
Grants	£40,909.78		£40,909.78		£52,620.00
Gift Aid Tax Reclaim	£0.00		£0.00		£3,698.69
Sales	£120.00		£120.00		£0.00
Fees	£0.00		£0.00		£0.00
Miscellaneous	£0.00		£0.00		£0.00
Bank Interest	£3.89	£188.25	£192.14		£601.70
Total Receipts	£51,976.50	£188.25	£52,164.75		£63,037.13
EXPENDITURE					
Collection					
Acquisition	£3,927.28		£3,927.28		£78.68
Repair & Maintenance	£5,685.84		£5,685.84		£0.00
Presentation	£1,007.93		£1,007.93		£1,164.73
Subscriptions	£389.20		£389.20		£277.80
Grants	£0.00		£0.00		£0.00
Staffing costs	£26,439.83		£26,439.83		£10,783.14
Covid precautions	£0.00		£0.00		£11,540.40
Miscellaneous	£13,900.13		£13,900.13		£455.23
Total Payments	£51,350.21	£0.00	£51,350.21		£24,299.98
Net Receipts	£626.29	£188.25	£814.54		£38,737.15
Balances b/f 01/02/21	£64,490.07	£41,947.68	£106,437.75		£67,700.60
Balances c/f 01/02/22	£65,116.93	£42,135.93	£107,252.29		£106,437.75

Fund balances at 31/01/2022						
Fund Balances						
General					Insurance Reserve	£ 42,135.93
Represented by						
NWB A/C gross			£ 436.20			
CAF Cash A/C 31/01/20			£ 23,444.86			
less unrepresented cheques etc.	£ -	£ -				
plus unstatemented credits	£ -	£ -				
	£ -	£ -				
CAF Cash A/C net			£ -			
CAF Gold A/C 31/01/22		£ 41,235.30				
plus unstatemented credits						
	£ -	£ 41,235.30				
CAF Gold A/C net			£ 41,235.30			
			£ 65,116.36		1-year Bond	£ 42,135.93


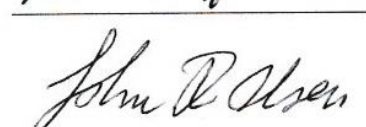
Financial commentary

Total expenditure at £51k was more than double that of the previous year, and even higher than in the most recent 'normal' year, 2019, when it was £6k. This is largely explained by higher running costs, in particular staffing, with the Trust reimbursing the Tallylyn Railway for Museum attendant cover by its employees until the end of September. Because such costs are now met by the Railway, future running costs will be below this peak, but the Trustees must plan for the probable absence of significant revenue grant funding in the future, further underlining the importance of developing other funding sources.

Approval


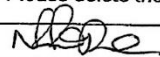
This report was approved by the Trustees at their meeting on 17th May 2022.

Signed:

	C K Theobald	Chairman of Trustees
	CHARLES KEITH THEOBALD	
	DR JOHN D. OLSEN	Trustee

Appendix

Independent examiner's report

	CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Independent examiner's report on the accounts	
Report to the trustees/ members of	THE NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY MUSEUM TRUST.		
On accounts for the year ended	31 ST JANUARY 2022	Charity no (if any)	1040128
Set out on pages			
Responsibilities and basis of report	<p>I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended</p> <p>As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").</p> <p>I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.</p>		
Independent examiner's statement	<p>The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]. Delete [] if not applicable.</p> <p>I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination. <p>I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p>		
	* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.		
	Signed: 	Date: 16 TH MAY 2022	
	Name: NIGEL RONALD ROSCOE		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):			

IER

1

Oct 2018

Address: 35 KENIL WORTH ROAD
CHADLE HEATH
STOCKPORT SK3 0PL

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern
(see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and
guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details
of any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose.

N/A