



Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway



Steam & Diesel Gala 2026

Friday 4 – Sunday 6 September

Llanfair Caereinion Station
Welshpool Station

Free Programme



Steam into the Season



**with Christmas Events
at the W&LLR**



Contents

Welcome to the Steam & Diesel Gala 2026	4
General Information	5
<i>Gala Opening Times</i>	5
<i>Refreshments</i>	5
<i>Parking</i>	6
<i>Buses</i>	6
<i>First Aid</i>	6
<i>Toilets</i>	6
<i>Just Visiting?</i>	6
Tickets and Fares	7
Main Attractions for 2026	8
Garden Railway Show – Saturday 5th	9
Llanfair Connections	10
Friends of the Sierra Leone National Railway Museum	12
Cloverlands – Motoring in Miniature	14
Site Maps	16
<i>Llanfair Caereinion</i>	16
<i>Welshpool</i>	17
Timetables	18
<i>Buses</i>	18
Llanfair Station – Leisure Centre	18
Welshpool – Llanfair – Welshpool	18
Welshpool Town Service	19
<i>Trains</i>	20
What's On at Llanfair and Welshpool?	21
Charles Beyer 1813–1876	23
Vintage Fairground	25
Mid Wales Classic Vehicle Club	27
W&LLR Young Members Group	28
Model Railway Exhibition	29

Published by the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway, The Station, Pool Road,
Llanfair Caereinion, Powys SY21 0SF and printed by Mid Wales Sign & Print Limited,
Welshpool, Powys SY21 7BE

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information given in this book, but we
do not accept liability for any errors.

All locomotives and exhibits are subject to availability and change.

Welcome to the Steam & Diesel Gala 2026



Dear All,

Welcome to our annual Steam and Diesel Gala at Llanfair Caereinion and Raven Square in Welshpool.

Due to the dry weather, we will operate the best train service possible and use steam locomotives as often as conditions allow. Rail timetables are available on our website and printed copies will be provided on the day.

Bus services are also available to help you plan your visit.

We have expanded our existing attractions and added several new ones, making this year's gala even bigger than the last. The Garden Railway Show is located at the Leisure Centre in Llanfair and there is a bus linking the show to the railway station.

The real ale bar in the yard at Llanfair Caereinion Station will be open every day.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has helped organise this year's gala, and to you for joining us and supporting the railway once again.

Please enjoy your day.

Robert Robinson MBE
Gala Organiser

General Information

Gala Opening Times

Friday	9:00 AM–11:00 PM
Saturday	8:00 AM–11:00 PM
Sunday	8:30 AM–6:00 PM

Refreshments

Llanfair Station Tea Room

The Tea Room serves hot and cold food and drink at the following times:

Friday, Saturday and Sunday 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Llanfair Station Bar — ‘The Earl’



As well as selling real ales from **Monty's** and **Purple Moose** breweries, we are selling cider, perry and gin. For those who don't want alcoholic drinks, we also sell soft drinks. Opening times:

Friday and Saturday	11:00 AM–11:00 PM
Sunday	11:00 AM–7:00 PM or whenever stock runs out

Llanfair Station Burger Van and Barbecue

Saturday only	Burger Van	7:00–9:00 PM
Saturday and Sunday	Barbecue	9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Welshpool Station

Hot and cold drinks, ice-cream and confectionery are available from the station building. The burger van serves a variety of hot food and drinks.

Saturday and Sunday only	Burger Van	10:00 AM–4:00 PM
Friday, Saturday and Sunday	Station Shop	10:00 AM–5:00 PM

Parking

Parking is £5 on-site at Llanfair and Welshpool stations (limited spaces) on Saturday and Sunday, or free at the Leisure Centre, Llanfair Caereinion SY21 0HW, with a free, accessible bus link to Llanfair Station on Saturday only.

Accessible parking is available at both Llanfair and Welshpool stations, as well as at Llanfair Leisure Centre.

Buses

Buses from Llanfair Caereinion Station leave by the station entrance. Buses from Welshpool Raven Square start in the main car park near the signal box. For bus timetables see page 18 onwards.

First Aid

First Aid facilities and personnel, provided by **Confidence2Care**, are present at Welshpool Raven Square and Llanfair Caereinion stations. We hope very much that you won't need their services, but if you do, please ask any member of staff.

Toilets

There are toilets at both Welshpool and Llanfair stations, however please bear in mind that there are no toilet facilities on our trains.

Just Visiting?

Site entrance at both Welshpool and Llanfair Caereinion (except for the Garden Railway Show) is free, but donations are always very welcome.

Tickets and Fares

Members' and discount tickets are not available at this event.

Gala Tickets	Adult	Child (3–15)	Dog/Cycle
Day Rover tickets <i>(includes Garden Railway Show entry)</i>			
Saturday	£35	£5	£5
Friday or Sunday	£30	£5	£5

Infants under 3 years of age are carried free.

Garden Railway Show	Adult	Child (5–15)	Under 5
Show-only tickets	£6	£4	Free

Parking	Per vehicle
At Llanfair or Welshpool Stations <i>(limited space)</i>	£5*
At Llanfair Leisure Centre	Free

**Parking at Llanfair or Welshpool Station is free on Friday*



Photo: Pete Wright

Main Attractions for 2026

- Gala opened by our President, William Hague, at 10:00 AM on Friday followed by the Charles Beyer Commemorative Train at 10:15.
- Guest loco *Premier* from the Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway
- Guest loco Manning Wardle No. 1877, built in 1915
- Evening photo shoot on Friday at Welshpool from 7:00–8:00 PM, featuring *Monarch*, *Conqueror*, *Premier* and No. 1877
- Other locos on display include *Nutty*, *Joan*, *Conqueror*, *Monarch* and ex-Sierra Leone Railway Hunslet No. 85 at Welshpool Raven Square
- Road steam vehicles in the yard at Llanfair Caereinion. See list on page 21.
- Ride in *The Wasp*. Tickets available on the day only.
- Unique photo opportunities including night photography at Llanfair Caereinion Saturday from 7:00 PM
- Llanfair Connections museum and Cloverlands Model Car Museum
- Classic buses and bus services (timetables on pages 18–19) included in Gala Rover tickets
- Accessible bus from Welshpool main line station on Saturday (timetable, page 19)
- Garden Railway Show at Llanfair Leisure Centre on Saturday
- Classic cars at Welshpool Raven Square
- Extensive range of model railways at Welshpool Raven Square
- Secondhand book sale
- Sierra Leone Railway display at Llanfair Caereinion
- Workshop tours at Llanfair Caereinion
- Specialist ice creams at Welshpool Raven Square
- Tea room and hot food at Llanfair Caereinion, with hot food and snacks at Welshpool Raven Square
- Licenced bar with real ales and cider at *The Earl* in Llanfair Caereinion station
- Miniature 7" gauge railway
- Vintage Fairground at Llanfair Caereinion
- Other trade stands

Garden Railway Show — Saturday 5th

Last year's show was the first organized by the W&LLR, and was so well received that the railway are going to continue with the show that has been running since 1978. A different selection of layouts to last year will be there to entertain you alongside about 30 trade stands laden with delights. Entry to the show is £6 for adults, £4 for under 16s and under 5s are free. A Saturday Gala Day Rover Ticket will again include entry to the show.



Photo: Julian Smith

What are Garden Railways? We are not talking about the ride-on variety, but the trains are substantially bigger than the OO gauge you typically find in homes. At this event we mainly show models based on narrow gauge railways such as the Welshpool & Llanfair. Some of the models are powered by electricity, but most are powered by steam. The fuel for the steam locos can be methylated spirit, gas or coal.

If you haven't seen steam in this scale before, you're in for a treat. Refreshments are available and there is a shuttle bus service between Llanfair Station and the show.

Julian Smith

Llanfair Connections

Llanfair Connections is our museum and visitor centre situated on the main car park at Llanfair Caereinion station, recently upgraded with an impressive new entrance lobby.

Here we tell the story of the railway from its inception, its life as a small rural railway serving the local communities through to the preservation of the line during the 1960's. We have display panels explaining the main events and even some vintage film of trains passing through the long gone 'Town Section' in Welshpool which was lost to road improvement schemes in the late 60's.



Photo: Dave Plume

The centre also explores our connections to other railways around the world. Having a 2' 6" (762 mm) gauge makes the W&LLR pretty unusual in the UK and the early volunteers had to search all over the world to find compatible rolling stock. You can see the details of links to Sierra Leone, Austria, Hungary, Antigua and Taiwan along with a display showing the differing gauges in Wales.

Another attraction contained within the museum is a collection of miniature railway layouts, a 16mm ex-garden layout affectionately known as the *Bigglesbahn* in memory of its builder – an ex-BOAC pilot and former member – and a special 9mm scale model of the Welshpool and Llanfair which has recently been donated to the W&LLR. Whilst work is still to be completed you will be able to see the progress made and see some of the wonderful model buildings during your visit

to this year's Gala. We also have two other layouts both 4mm scale one inspired by *Under Milk Wood* and a static layout based on a 1920's town scene.



Photo: W&LLR Collection

In addition to all the museum displays you will find a load of activities for children from a dressing up corner, building bricks, Brio train layouts, colouring-in sheets, play workshop, games and model cars to keep everyone in the family entertained. We have also added some new display information panels for our younger visitors under a 'Did you know?' family friendly theme.

We look forward to meeting you at this years Gala — *mae yna croeso cynnes i chi gyd.*

Dave Plume



Friends of the Sierra Leone National Railway Museum



Photo: Helen Ashby

No. 85 at Kew Bridge in 2017

The Friends of the Sierra Leone National Railway Museum (FoSLNRM) will be displaying the 'pop-up museum' on the concourse outside the Tea Room at Llanfair Caereinion, telling the history of the Sierra Leone Railway, highlighting the story of the Sierra Leone National Railway Museum and celebrating the fifty year connection between the W&LLR and the Sierra Leone Railway, which begin when the SLR closed in 1975.

The pop-up museum incorporates photographic displays about the SLR and the museum, a selection of 16mm scale locomotives and rolling stock from the SLR carefully researched and constructed by W&LLR Life Member and FoSLNRM trustee William Bickers-Jones as well as a small selection of images and artefacts relating to the railway. A souvenir stall stocks books about the Sierra Leone Railway, a selection of items hand-crafted in Sierra Leone and by members of the Friends, and other interesting items. All proceeds are channelled by the Friends directly to the museum to support the development of the museum and its education programme.

The Friends of the Sierra Leone National Railway was formed in 2014 to support the continuing development of the museum, which opened to the public in March 2005. and three years later they partnered with the W&LLR to deliver the Grand Tour, bringing locomotive No.85 back to Llanfair Caereinion at the end of a seven year loan of the locomotive to the National Railway Museum for display at Locomotion in Shildon, via a number of venues throughout the UK.



Photo: Helen Ashby

Steve Clews at the Sierra Leone NRM

In March 2020, W&LLR Chairman Steve Clews joined trustees of the Friends and other VIPs at the Sierra Leone National Railway Museum for its fifteenth anniversary celebrations and signed a formal twinning agreement between the museum and the railway. This was renewed five years later at the 20th anniversary celebrations by Anne-Marie Wright.

Do come along and say hello, and find out more about this fascinating story.

Helen Ashby

Cloverlands — Motoring in Miniature

Inside the railway's Llanfair Connections visitor centre in Llanfair Caereinion you will find Cloverlands, a remarkable museum which started with one woman's passion for all things motoring.

At the age of 10 Gillian Rogers was bought two Dinky Toys by her father, which led to her collecting more than 2000 model cars gathered over her lifetime — early examples of Dinky, Corgi and Matchbox, but also obscure and rare models from long-forgotten makers, including from Wales.

From 2015 Gillian's collection went on public display in Montgomery — several visitors donated their models and the number soon expanded past 6000, outgrowing their home. So in 2022 the W&LLR welcomed Cloverlands to Llanfair Caereinion.



Photo: Andrew Charman

Today Gillian's collection forms the core of the largest public display of model cars in Wales, more than 10 000 and still growing. And this is not just a toy museum; the majority of the displays are of adult collectors models, road cars, race cars, commercial vehicles and much more, from the earliest days of motoring to the latest electric vehicles. There are three very big cars too, one built by Gillian as a tribute to her pet dog.

Motorsport fans will find much to fascinate, including our Wall of Formula One project to collect one example of every F1 car that has ever raced, a major display of Le Mans cars and of course many rally cars – well we are in Wales...

Cloverlands is a growing project – we have already gained a second room with a third coming soon and some very special displays planned for it. And we will also be completely retheming the centre of the museum with new displays – the story of motoring decade by decade, the rise and fall of the British diecast car, and much more.



Photo: Andrew Charman

How quickly all this happens will depend on resources, monetary and human! We are a small team with limited funds – if you have a passion for cars, full-size or miniature and would like to join us, please speak to one of the team on duty.

Cloverlands is normally open at weekends between Easter and the end of October – we also open on some weekdays and can open by special request particularly for group visits. For the latest information check the website or Facebook page or contact us.

Andrew Charman

Web: www.cloverlands.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cloverlandsmuseum

Email: contact@cloverlands.org





Timetables

Buses

Bus travel is included in Gala Day Rover tickets.

- **Saturday only** – Accessible low-floor bus between Welshpool Raven Square and Welshpool main line station between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM.
- **Saturday and Sunday** – Regular bus service between Welshpool Raven Square and Llanfair Caereinion (no wheelchair access). Some buses will travel onwards to the main line station

Llanfair Station – Leisure Centre

Saturday – A free shuttle bus runs between Llanfair Station and Llanfair Leisure Centre for the Garden Railway Show and the free car park every few minutes till 4:00 PM.

Saturday 5 September

Llanfair Station – Leisure Centre Service		
Llanfair Station	dep.	Every 10 minutes 10:00–16:00
Leisure Centre	arr.	
Leisure Centre	dep.	Every 10 minutes 10:00–16:00
Llanfair Station	arr.	

Welshpool – Llanfair – Welshpool

Friday 4 September

No Welshpool – Llanfair – Welshpool Service on Friday 4 September

Saturday 5 September

Welshpool – Llanfair – Welshpool

WLP–LLA–WLP		Open-top Bus						
WLP Raven Square	dep.	10:05	11:05	12:05	14:05	15:05	16:05	17:05
LLA Station	arr.	10:25	11:25	12:25	14:25	15:25	16:25	17:25
LLA Station	dep.	10:30	11:30	12:30	14:30	15:30	16:30	17:30
WLP Raven Square	arr.	10:50	11:50	12:50	14:50	15:50	16:50	17:50
WLP Main Line Station	arr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	18:00

Train Times

Sunday 6 September Welshpool – Llanfair – Welshpool

WLP-LLA-WLP		Open-top Bus						
WLP Main Line Station	dep.	—	11:00	12:00	—	—	—	—
WLP Bus Station	dep.	—	11:01	12:01	—	—	—	—
WLP Raven Square	dep.	09:45	11:05	12:05	13:05	15:35	16:35	17:35
LLA Station	arr.	10:05	11:25	12:25	13:25	15:55	16:55	17:55
LLA Station	dep.	10:30	11:30	12:30	13:30	16:00	17:00	18:00
WLP Raven Square	dep.	10:55	11:55	12:55	13:50	16:25	17:25	18:25
WLP Library, Brook St.	dep.	10:56	11:56	—	—	16:26s	17:26s	18:26s
WLP Main Line Station	arr.	11:00	12:00	—	—	16:28r	17:30s	18:30s

's' = set-down only; 'r' = by request only

Welshpool Town Service

The Town Service runs between Welshpool main line station and Raven Square on Saturday. This service uses a low-floor bus for accessibility.

Friday 4 and Sunday 6 September No Welshpool Town Service on Friday or Sunday

Saturday 5 September

Welshpool Town Service								
Main Line Station	dep.	10:05	10:25	11:05	11:25	12:05	12:25	13:05
Bus Station	dep.	10:06	10:26	11:06	11:26	12:06	12:26	13:06
Raven Square	arr.	10:12	10:32	11:12	11:32	12:12	12:32	13:12
Raven Square	dep.	10:15	10:35	11:15	11:35	12:15	12:35	13:15
Library, Brook St.	dep.	10:16	10:36	11:16	11:36	12:16	12:36	13:16
Main Line Station	arr.	10:23	10:43	11:23	11:43	12:23	12:43	13:23

Welshpool Town Service								
Main Line Station	dep.	13:25	—	15:05	15:25	16:05	16:25	—
Bus Station	dep.	13:26	—	15:06	15:26	16:06	16:26	—
Raven Square	arr.	13:32	—	15:12	15:32	16:12	16:32	—
Raven Square	dep.	—	14:35	15:15	15:35	16:15	16:35	—
Library, Brook St.	dep.	—	14:36s	15:16s	15:36s	16:16s	16:36s	—
Main Line Station	arr.	—	14:43	15:23	15:43	16:23	16:43	—

's' = set-down only

Trains

Charles Beyer Special Train — Friday 10:00 AM

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of Charles Beyer, one of the founders of the company who built our two original locos, *The Earl* and *Countess*, we are opening this year's Gala with a special train. The event begins at 10:00, the train departing at 10:15.

Timetables

The recent hot and dry weather has meant that we have had to reassess the risks involved in running steam locomotives in tinder-dry countryside.

We must consider not only our crews' safety and welfare in the heat, but also the risk to the surrounding countryside, our neighbours and their livelihoods. This means that we run diesel-hauled instead of steam-hauled services when circumstances dictate.

You will find the latest timetables by scanning the QR code below, or picking up a paper copy from either Llanfair Caereinion or Welshpool Raven Square station.



W&LLR Gala 2026 Timetable

What's On at Llanfair and Welshpool?

Llanfair Caereinion

- **Steam on the Road**

Road steam and other vintage and heritage road vehicles plus miniature engines.

- Fowler R-type 1901 traction engine *Alice*
- Davey Paxman 10 NHP 1908 'colonial' traction engine *Annie*
- Aveling and Porter 'AB' type 1930 road roller *Rhoda*
- 1959 Fordson Power Major tractor *Donald*
- 1960 Fordson Power Major tractor *Doris*
- 1943 Fordson 'N' tractor
- Small fairground organ
- Various miniature traction engines
- 1 or 2 stationary engines

- **Workshop Tours**

Take part in a guided tour of the workshops on Saturday and Sunday. Meet by *The Earl* bar at 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM or 2:00 PM on Saturday, and 11:00 AM or 12:00 PM on Sunday.

- **Llanfair Connections**

Our museum telling the history of the line.

- **Llanfair Garden Railway Show**

16mm and G Scale garden railway show at Llanfair Caereinion Leisure Centre. Saturday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Leisure Centre. Bus links from Llanfair Caereinion Station.

Entry is included in the Gala Rover ticket, otherwise £6 (Adult) or £4 (child 5-15). Under 5s free.

- **Cloverlands Model Car Museum**

Cloverlands has over 10 000 exhibits (access via Llanfair Connections).

- **Sierra Leone Railway Stand**

A stand showcasing the Sierra Leone National Railway Museum's railway assets and history.

- **Outdoor Miniature Railway**

A miniature railway will be offering rides at the car park side of our Llanfair workshop

- **Gifts, Books, Food and Drink**

Gift shop with local produce, railway items plus toy trains. Huge selection of new, bargain and secondhand railway and transport books. Tearoom and hot food catering.

- **Bar and Food**

The bar is open late and there will be background music in the yard area (11:00 AM till late on Friday and Saturday, and 11:00 AM–7:00 PM or until stocks run out on Sunday).

- **Night Photography**

There will be a chance to take photographs of our engines in line at Llanfair Caereinion during the evening on Saturday from 7:00 PM.

Welshpool Raven Square

- **Model Railway Exhibition**

Model railway exhibition in the Display Shed.

- **Classic Cars**

An array of classic cars from the Mid Wales Classic Vehicle Club on Saturday and Sunday.

- **Locomotive and Rolling Stock Display**

Out of service locomotives and rolling stock in the bay platform including *Monarch*, *Joan*, *Conqueror*, SLR Hunslet No. 85, and newly-acquired ex-Zillertalbahn observation car, the 'Glaswagen'.

- **Photo Shoot**

Come along and photograph *Monarch*, *Conqueror*, *Premier* and No. 1877, reunited for the first time in many years. Friday, 7:00–8:00 PM.

- **Food and Drink**

Hot food on site along with snacks, hot and cold drinks.

- **Station Shop**

Shop with gifts and secondhand books.

- **Artisan Ice Cream – Scoopalicious**

Traditional ice cream tricycle with a selection of tempting flavours on offer.

Charles Beyer 1813–1876



Charles Beyer

*Portrait by Carl Friedrich Schmid, c. 1870
Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester*

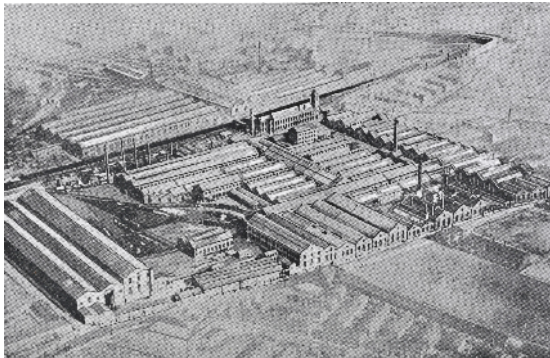
2026 is the 150th anniversary of the death of Charles Frederick Beyer, co-founder of Beyer, Peacock & Co. who built the W&LLR's locomotives 'The Earl' and 'The Countess' in Gorton, Manchester. Despite humble beginnings and suffering discrimination in Victorian society he became the leading locomotive engineer of his time, and the wealthiest. The shape and appearance of nineteenth century British steam locomotives owed more to Beyer than to any other designer.

Beyer was born in Plauen, Saxony into a poor family of hand loom weavers. He managed to obtain a technical education through friendships and scholarships, and arrived penniless in Manchester in 1834. He joined Sharp, Roberts & Co. and quickly worked his way up to Chief Engineer in 1843. By 1849, Beyer had introduced many steam locomotive innovations that had become standard practices such as plate frames, regulator valves within domes and provisions in boiler design for expansion. He also later taught the industry that locomotive stability at speed was a dynamic rather than static issue ending years of squat designs maintaining low centres of gravity and restrictive boiler dimensions.

Beyer faced discrimination as a German immigrant being paid less than English colleagues and being barred from joining the Institution of Civil Engineers until he became a British citizen in 1852. Beyer meanwhile co-founded the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, with its first meeting held in his Manchester home in

1846. This continues today as the leading professional institution for mechanical engineers with 110 000 members in 140 countries.

Beyer joined Richard Peacock to create their own locomotive manufacturer in 1854. Peacock (Unitarian, radical Whig) and Beyer (Church of England, Tory) were very different people, but they recognised each other's strengths selling thousands of locomotives worldwide. Peacock was more comfortable talking to people and accordingly was the works manager and salesman. Beyer, a more technical person who was passionate about the latest innovations, managed the drawing office. The company gained recognition as a prominent locomotive manufacturer, distinguished for its engineering precision, quality craftsmanship, aesthetic appeal, and durability. This success resulted in significant wealth for the partners and the business continued successfully long after their deaths until 1966.



Gorton Foundry

Beyer Peacock Catalogue, J. Houghton coll.

Beyer was selected as one of five historical figures for celebration in the 2026 LGBT+ History Month, after a collection of romantic letters between Beyer and the Swedish engineer Gustav Stieler from 1855 to 1870 was recently discovered by the Swedish Railway Museum. A philanthropic and religious man, he founded three parish churches and associated schools in Manchester; one of these formed Ardwick Association Football Club that is today's Manchester City Football Club. He also remains the single largest donor to the University of Manchester where he created scholarships as a pathway by which a child from a poor background, such as Beyer's, could graduate with a university degree in engineering. He is buried in the graveyard of Llantysilio Church, near Llangollen within the grounds of his former 700 acre Llantysilio Hall estate.

Jennifer Houghton

Vintage Fairground

The vintage fairground amusements that you see here today are historic in their own right. The children's hand turned roundabouts go back to the very early days of mechanical riding machines. The history of our little machine is not very well documented, but we know that it originated in the early 1930s.

We know little of its early history, but in the mid 20th century it was acquired by G V (Jumbo) Read of Cricklade, Wiltshire, and was travelled widely by him and his family throughout Southwest England and South Wales. At some point in the early 1980s it was rebuilt into more or less the form you see it today.

Following Jumbo's passing, it was acquired from his family by Henry Farr Jnr of Swindon, Wiltshire, and restored and redecorated. The decoration was inspired by Henry's family's Dodgem ride, which was decorated in a similar scheme in the 1930s, as appropriate for the age of the machine.

It was acquired by Nantwich Traditional Amusements in 2021, and has travelled widely since, including visits back to events in its native Wiltshire.



Photo: Craig Bennett

The ride seats ten children, and the ride operator needs a good strong arm to turn the ride when it is full.

The fairground organ was built originally as a café organ, in the form of a self-playing accordion with drums. It too spent most of its life in the South West, being

owned by Len and Gill Cullimore of Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire. By this time it had been rebuilt as a fairground organ with pipework and was heavily rebuilt by master organ builder and restorer Anthony Cragg of Nottingham in 1993. Following Len's death it was sold, and went through a number of hands, and was the subject of further work, not all of it positive.

It was acquired by ourselves from South Yorkshire in February 2020, and over the last six years has gradually been overhauled and repaired, the aim being to ensure it is restored to the condition in which it left Anthony Cragg's works in 1993.

The organ is operated by perforated cardboard music, using 48 holes, which can be seen winding its way through the keyframe through the end door. There is a vast library of music with the organ, which is always being added to, which spans the lifespan of the organ. Organs of this size and scale were very popular on the fairground because of their ability to play a very wide range of music, at a reasonable volume, but remain physically small. They were used in rides such as chair-o-planes and steam yachts.

The children's striker is a modern reproduction of a Victorian game, and is a junior version of the well known 'try your strength' machine. We added this to our collection in 2024, and it proves very popular.

All attractions subject to availability.

Craig Bennett



Mid Wales Classic Vehicle Club

Ever since its inception in 2005, the Mid Wales Classic Vehicle Club has maintained close links with the railway – indeed, what is now considered to be the very first meeting took place at Raven Square station!

The club provides displays of classic vehicles at Raven Square for special events, such as the Vintage Weekends and the Beer Festival etc. These displays always attract lots of interest from visitors, who appreciate them as an added bonus to their day.

The MWCVC has the reputation of being a particularly friendly club, especially as members are always pleased to interact with visitors. So don't be afraid to ask questions!



Photo: Tony Jones

The vehicles on show are not necessarily old, immaculate or glamorous – the criteria for membership being they are rare or unusual. It is interesting to note that once-common cars from the sixties, seventies, eighties and even nineties, are now popular with visitors, because relatively young people can relate to them! For example Ford Cortinas and Sierras, Morris Marinas, Triumph Heralds etc.

2026 is the third year the MWCVC has been responsible for car parking at the annual Gala weekend, thus freeing up railway staff for other duties. We are pleased to take on the task.

Please come and have a look at the displays, chat with the owners and feel free to take photographs.

Dennis Duggan

W&LLR Young Members Group



The Young Members Group is a brilliant way to get involved in the railway and still socialise with people your own age.

We do our best to run as many social events in the year as we can, with plans to continue to expand this as time goes on. One of our main social events is the Pre-Gala BBQ, held usually on the Thursday before the annual steam gala. It brings together current and previous young members for a valuable opportunity to share knowledge and stories, and to meet new people in all areas and departments of the railway.

We are also working to overhaul the RNAD Brake Van – known as the ‘Veggie Van’, which was originally started as a project pre-COVID and has been revived during the last few years. It’s an amazing opportunity to gain skills in the workshop in painting, sanding, using power tools, and many other areas.

If you would like to contact me to find out what opportunities there are, or how you can get involved, please feel free to reach out to me on either of the following emails:

daisy.shennan@wllr.org
ymg@wllr.org

Daisy Shennan



Photos: Daisy Shennan

Model Railway Exhibition

Welshpool Raven Square Display Sheds

We have a good selection of mainly narrow gauge layouts in our Display Shed at Welshpool. Admission is free and the exhibition is open on Friday from 12:00–5:00 PM, and on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 AM–5:00 PM.



Photo: Pete Wright

Layouts include:

- **Sylva Springs and New Florence Mine** 7mm Narrow Gauge and 4mm Narrow Gauge by Peter and Toby Hollins.
- **Y Gerddi** Garden Railway in Gn15 by Martin Rich.
- **Garreg Wen** OO9 by Matthew Kean.
- **The Yard** OO9 Mark Holland's latest layout.
- **The Grand Duchy of Mittenberg** HOe by Blair Hobson.
- **FALSCHZÄHNE** HOe by John Haskell.
- **Little Knittington** (Indeterminate scale narrow gauge). A completely knitted creation by Liz Sanders.
- **Avyn y Llyn** OO9 Andrew Bailey. Still going strong for over 30 years!

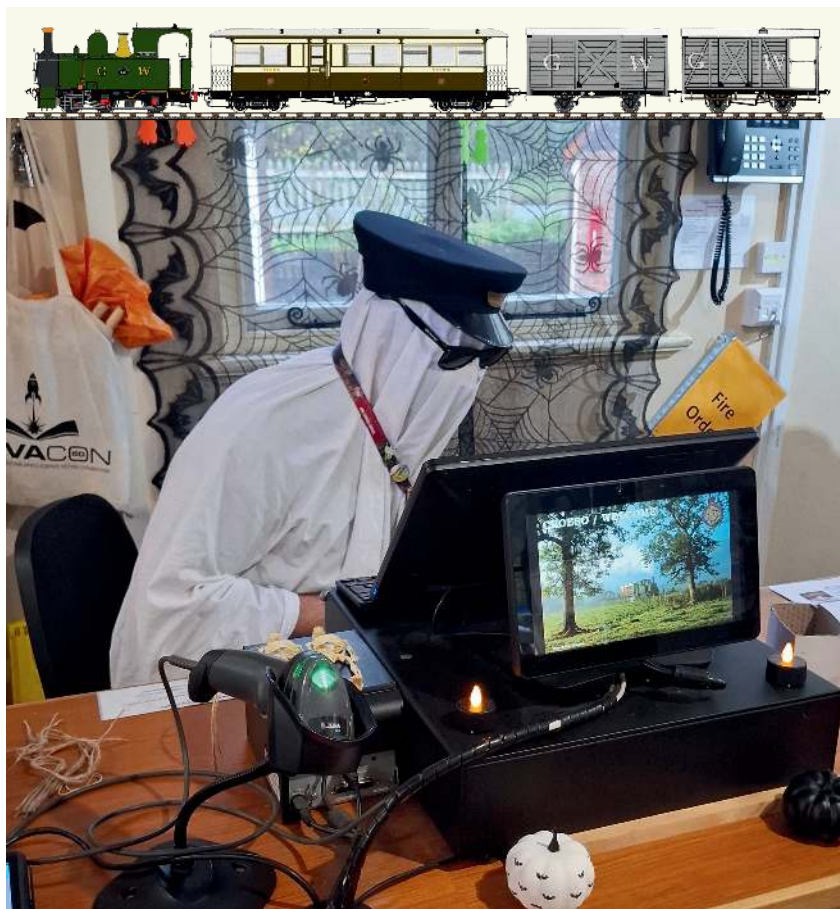
- **Hergest** OO9 Peter Cullen.
- **Devils Bridge** OO9 Andy Cundick.
- **Museum of Transport** OO and OO9 by Robin Brogden.
- **Midham** OO9 by James Webber. This will be its first public outing from one of our local junior modellers.
- West Midlands OO9 Society.

Trade stands include:

- John Sutton
- Lynton & Barnstable Sales Stand
- Tractex
- Railwayana
- Colin Boyle (W&L 3D printed models)



Photo: Pete Wright



**Halloween Half
Term**

**26 - 30
October**





Photo: Steve Sedgwick

We look forward to welcoming you back to our wonderful railway



To find out more about volunteering at the W&LLR, follow the QR code above or email volunteerliaison@wllr.org.uk

See our website for a full list of events, including October photo charters.

Tel: [01938 810 441](tel:01938810441); Email: info@wllr.org.uk Web: www.wllr.org.uk

Copyright © 2026 by the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway Preservation Co. Limited and contributors. All rights reserved.