

'HUNSLET 125' BIRTHDAY BASH

Friday 22nd June - Sunday 24th June 2018



Welcome to the Narrow Gauge Event of the Year

A Great Little Gathering to wish 'Happy Birthday' to our popular Penrhyn Ladies - LINDA and BLANCHE

On all three days of the 'HUNSLET 125' event, the Ffestiniog Railway's historic slate transhipment yard at Minffordd will be a hive of activity, hosting more than ten visiting two-foot gauge Hunslet locomotives and from where they will also venture out onto the 'main-line'..! The yard will be open to the public from 09:30-17:00 each day - and into the evening on Friday - and will be served by a Hunslet-hauled shuttle from Minffordd station, providing a link between the many connecting trains and a special Routemaster Bus service running from Porthmadog.

Within the yard, Quarry Hunslet locomotives will be variously engaged in shunting slate waggons around the complicated trackwork of this steeply graded site, and a dedicated track will be provided to give visitors the opportunity to drive one of these historic machines.

The yard will also boast two miniature railways to transport visitors through this fascinating location, which is normally 'off limits' to the regular visitor. There will also be a display of model and miniature Hunslet locos in the recently restored Goods Shed. In addition, a recreation of the 'Yard Arms' bar will be set up, and a number of food outlets will also be in attendance to cater for the those wishing to linger and enjoy the ambience and attractions...

Out on the 'main-line', Fridays' timetable will start with a **BLANCHE**-hauled 'Breakfast Special' to Tan-y-Bwlch - including a parallel run with **LINDA** on a slate train into Minffordd Station. **LINDA** then follows her sister up to Tan-y-Bwlch and on arrival releases her slate waggons to run back to Minffordd as a traditional FR Gravity train. The two **PENRHYN LADIES** then provide the ultimate passenger choice (or dilemma) and depart in opposite directions - so take your pick..!

Later **PRINCE** will pilot **LINDA** on a '1960s FR' train to Blaenau Ffestiniog, as the first of the regular shuttle trains to Minffordd commence - these will be handled by a variety of Hunslet locos over the weekend. Visiting locomotives will also venture out along the Welsh Highland Railway with freight trains...

The tempo increases as the day progresses and in amongst our iconic **Double-Fairlie** locos hauling the regular trains to Blaenau, **Taliesin** and **Prince** will haul Vintage FR sets. WHR specials to Hafod-y-Llyn and Beddgelert will depart Porthmadog.

Shortly before 14:00 the 'Birthday Girls', **LINDA** and **BLANCHE**, will recall their original duties and perform another parallel run into Minffordd hauling slate trains, before posing for pictures in the station. Later they double-head a trip up the Ffestiniog and demonstrate their mastery of this world-famous line, which has been their stamping ground for more than fifty-five years now. On Friday evening there will be a rare opportunity to travel on visiting Hunslet-hauled specials to Tan-y-Bwlch, in addition to the chance to enjoy 'a pint and a pizza' in Minffordd Yard...

Saturday starts with an early FR departure to connect with the Conwy Valley train at Blaenau Ffestiniog for those travelling in from the North Wales Coast by train. Then it's time for one of the very special trains of the weekend, the 'LADIES DAY OUT' to Caernarfon..! Those who remember them as 'Queens of the Hill' in recent years will be familiar with the spectacular sight and sound as LINDA and BLANCHE haul a special train over the full Welsh Highland Railway to Caernarfon and return. The long I in 40 gradients are no obstacle to these fine machines, 125 years young..! After a short rest in Porthmadog they will then embark on a round-trip along the Ffestiniog in similar style.

An intensive FR service resumes in parallel, with shuttles to Minffordd and Tan-y-Bwlch running between the full-line trains. Visiting Quarry Hunslets will haul slate from Minffordd Yard up Gwyndy Bank in the morning, before releasing the waggons to return by gravity. Visiting locos will also run freight trains on the lower reaches of the Welsh Highland and a passenger train heads to Beddgelert in the late afternoon sun (fingers crossed!)

On Sunday, **LINDA** and **BLANCHE** will delight their many fans with no less than three trips up the Ffestiniog - ensuring that everyone who wants to ride behind these much loved sister engines can do so. While the intensive FR service of regular service trains, event shuttles, vintage trains (plus slate, freight and WHR specials) with a wide variety of motive power will provide a unique spectacle for all to enjoy...

Finally, while there are too many 'highlights' to list individually, we're sure this overview will give a good idea of the delights you can expect - we look forward to welcoming you here..!

TICKET CHOICES AND SOUVENIR GUIDE

THREE-DAY EVENT ROVER **

Valid on Fri 22nd, Sat 23rd and Sunday 24th June 2018 for travel on all public Ffestiniog Railway trains - plus 'Hunslet 125' passenger trains which run onto the Welsh Highland Railway (Please Note: supplementary ticket required for the 'Ladies to Caernarfon' special)

ONE-DAY EVENT ROVER **

Available for Fri 22nd, Sat 23rd and Sun 24th June 2018. Valid for travel on all public Ffestiniog Railway trains on date specified - including any Welsh Highland Rly. 'Hunslet 125' service (Please Note: supplementary ticket required for the 'Ladies to Caernarfon' special)

'HUNSLET 125' SOUVENIR GUIDE

Your vital 'one-stop' guide to the weekend's proceedings, complete with full details of all Ffestiniog Railway trains - as well as daily loco diagrams and train graphs, loco rosters, stock formations and annotated working timetables; together with additional information on visiting locomotives, events and activities taking place around the railway.

'LADIES TO CAERNARFON'

Supplementary ticket for a Third Class return journey on the 08:15 Port-Caernarfon service on Sat 23rd June double-headed by Penrhyn Ladies, 'Linda' & 'Blanche'.

** MINFFORDD YARD

Three-Day and One-Day Event Rovers include entry to Minffordd Yard on the date(s) shown on the ticket.

NB: BOSTON LODGE WORKS AND YARD are NOT OPEN to the public during the event.

TICKETING RESTRICTIONS - FRS and CRhE/WHRS MEMBERS - FRIDAY 22nd to SUNDAY 24th JUNE INCLUSIVE

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PLEASE COMPLETE IN FULL BEFORE POSTING - THANK YOU..!

Privilege Tickets - FRS • WHRS • TRPS • National Rail Staff • 'Y Cerdyn' holders Please circle as applicable and write Card / Membership number(s) below

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L. Children: All under 3yr olds travel FREE and do not need a ticket. One Child 3-15yrs old travels FREE with each Adult. Additional children travel at half-fare. Note exceptions for Privilege fares.