

Saturday 15 April 2023

RAILWAY 67

We left the Holiday Inn after breakfast and drove the few miles to Gladstone's Library at Hawarden. I left Julie to do some work and drove on to the **Talyllyn Railway** at Abergynolwyn. It was a long, but beautiful drive - past Bala and up beside Tal-y-Byn Lake. I arrived at Abergynolwyn with about 10 minutes to spare before the 1210 departure down to Tywyn Wharf. The station master had not issued a Gold Ticket pass before, so he phoned Tywyn while I grabbed a tea. £25 saved.

It was a beautiful ride down the valley, before we arrived at Tywyn at 1257. I went and had an explore of the museum which has been fully refurbished since we were last here. They have Wilbert Awdry's study upstairs, so I paid homage to the great man. Then I had a very nice lunch.

Back up the line at 1400. This time I had my camera ready to capture Tynllwyn Hen halt. I explained why on facebook:

Saturday 15 April was a stunning day. Julie decided to work at [Gladstone's Library](#), I went for an explore. A beautiful drive to west Wales for a ride on the [Talyllyn Railway](#).

I first came here in 1979. A level Geology field work meant we were staying a few miles north of the line. Mr Scoble, our teacher, knew me well - he was my form teacher when I went up to the Cambridge Grammar School for Boys in 1973. I remember him saying to everyone "We'll drop Peter off at Towyn station (which was how we spelt it in those days), and he can make his own way back to base."

I managed a ride up the line on the last train of the day, up to the terminus, then back. The nearest station to our base was a halt called Tynllwyn Hen, where a footpath crossed the line. These halts had been well used in the days when the farmers' wives would travel down to Tywyn on market day, but had fallen into disrepair. "Can you drop me off at Tynllwyn Hen halt?" said this school boy with a posh accent (and no idea how to pronounce the Welsh). "Yes, if I can remember where it is" was the reply from the driver. We found it!

Today the halts have disappeared off the route map, but I was glad to see a sign is in place as we rattled past at 15 mph. I gave it a wave, and settled back for the ride to Abergynolwyn, where my car was waiting.

Another refreshment break at Abergynolwyn (apologies for the spelling mistake) then up to Nant Gwernol (arrive 1522, depart 1532) and back, arriving at 1538. A really gorgeous ride. I treated myself to first class travel on the way back - worth it for the extra £5.

Back over the hills, it was about a 2 hour drive, then a sleep, an excellent dinner, and a bit of work. The Boss worked later than me.











