

Tuesday 20 June

RAILWAY 78

### Welsh Highland Heritage Railway

We drove to Porthmadog and parked at the Harbour station to book a ticket to Caernarvon on the Welsh Highland for Thursday. It cost about £30 million to rebuild the 25 mile line, and now we only have one through train a day - fully booked by coach parties. I struggle to understand the reasoning, though the locos are stunning. I'll have to have another holiday.



We walked through the town and Julie ended up in Siop Eifiomydd, 154 Stryd Fawr. She chatted to Linda and Margaret, and spent a lot of money.



I pointed out where the WH(H)R was, over the level crossing and turn right, and walked up myself. I arrived at 1308 and found they had a train at 1315. It is a very short line, about 4 minutes long, as far as Pen-y-Mount, where the line terminates next to the other Welsh Highland line. There is a long history of hatred between the two, but there is a connection between them. They have a Gala this weekend but, by Thursday evening, there are still no details on their website. This line advertises itself as a short ride, ideal for the children, and it was fun. We stopped at Gelert's Farm on the way back and explored the heritage centre. The staff were friendly, there was lots on display, there was a fridge magnet loco, and later we found a member of staff with a blow-up crocodile as the kids enjoy it! Our loco was "Glaslyn", built by Rustons in Lincoln in 1952. Lovely collection of rolling stock.



Back at the station we had lunch. Julie talked "Dr Who" with the young lad doing the cooking, and I raided the second hand bookshop. I also listened to the shop lady very patiently explain that the long rides are from the other station - she obviously has to do that a lot. A good day, even with such a little line.



