

June 13th

Well plenty of time to get ready for brecky. If I were interested in the castle I could have wandered, but the ratty drew me back. I turned up, bought my ticket and ran into the driver of the diesel from last night. He had arranged the cab ride with him on the first train of the day, on the diesel. Suited me fine.

So got into the front cab and did what I were told ! The guy got talking and we had a great trip out. The loco was full hrydraulic drive with airbrakes. Safeworking was by radio. A good riding loco too.



Rode with the guard back to Ravensglass. I thanked the crew and went off to buy at the shop. The driver came in and showed me a postcard of his fav loco that he took, the loco we rode !!! I imagine it is "his" loco ! So armed with stuff it was time to leave. In the morning I did check the route and there wa sno alternitive so back the way I came the day before.





I drove. Another great day - overcast, raining.. The trip went well. When I got to Fairbourne I drove along the line as a road goes most of the way. I had arrived too late for the trains so thought to see the line. But I caught the return trip so stopped to snap it. I then went back to near the station now to find the night time lodging, Brackenhurst House. The GPS took me close but could ID the road, as the road was next to a steep slope with houses way above. I went to the general store and asked for directions. Yes I had the right place, and to go up the 'driveway' Which I did, stepp NARROW and I still didn't see the house. SO I went down and had to let a car on it's way up past, so I asked the driver, who told me the place was his neighbour, so easy to find, once I went back down to come back up !!!

It is a true B&B, the lady greeted me and helped park me. Showed me to my room and suggested some eating places in 'town'. The room is a great room, the highest standard I had or would see. The views are fantastic of Fairbourne and Bathmouth beyond. One can see the mainline , the bridge too.

I reccomend **Brackenhurst House** very highly

So I decided to check the timetable, as a train went past. Perhaps I could film it across the bridge if I knew when it was comming. Then a evil thought cam into my mind. 12 minutes to go, why not ride the train to Porthmadog and return, the timetable allowed it.... No, stupid idea. So I grabbed my camera shot out to the car opened closed it behind me, drove to the station, and waited for the train. Now I had thus made a choice of no teas, as the local shops would be closed by the time I got back. Oh well, this was a suddent train trip !!!



And the train duly arrived, a 2 car railmotor, sprinter-ish but more cosy and comfortable. So I had a train trip to Porthmadog ! Once there I realised I had 90 minutes before the next return service, there's a pub close by, tea time ! Had a nice omelette and chos pud - making a good meal. Then a wait for the train, which arrived - it was the same train as the conductor/guard was the same lady so recognised me. By now, about 8.30 the sky was getting darker gradually, and about 50 minutes later we pulled into Fairbourne. Thanked the guard and jumped into the car to return to my lodging.



Since the first miniature train is about 11 I can do some posting, and laundry work before, which I need to do. Then another long drive south to Seaton for the night is planned. Funnig being in a town I were in about 40 years ago!!!

