

The Railway Letter Service

Contact Information



In 1891 many railway companies in Great Britain entered into an agreement with the General Post Office to convey letters between railway stations throughout Britain for a small extra charge. This provided a very fast and direct service for urgent mail.

A normal postage stamp would be placed on the letter together with a stamp for the fee payable to the receiving railway company.

The Talyllyn Railway was included in this agreement and in the early part of the 20th century did convey post between Tywyn and Abergynolwyn, but did not operate a railway letter service until May 23rd 1957, seven years after the Talyllyn became the first preserved railway in the world.

The original 1891 agreements ended when the railway companies concerned closed or passed into the hands of British Railways, but the Talyllyn Railway, having never closed or been nationalised, uniquely continued to hold its status and continues to do so to this present day.

You can still use the service to send a special souvenir of your visit to the Talyllyn to friends, family, or yourself.



Please contact us for further information about the Railway Letter Service including our Standing Order Service for collectors:

Email: rls@talyllyn.co.uk

Post: The Postmaster, Talyllyn Railway Letter Service, Wharf Station, Tywyn LL36 9EY

Web: www.talyllyn.co.uk/experiences/railway-letter-service



Above sheet issued in 1996, very few remaining.

Railway Letter Service



...a unique souvenir of your trip

01654 710472

enquiries@talyllyn.co.uk | www.talyllyn.co.uk
Gorsaf Wharf Station, Tywyn LL36 9EY

How to use the service...

Send a unique souvenir of your trip on the Talyllyn Railway to a family member or friend and make their day!

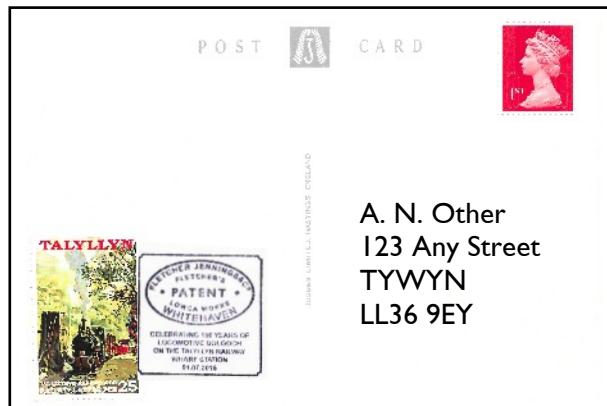
The Talyllyn Railway Letter Service operates from Tywyn Wharf and Abergynolwyn Stations for letters and postcards.

Talyllyn Railway Letter Stamps, in a variety of attractive designs are available at the Railway Shop at Wharf Station. The stamps can be bought singly or in full sheets, usually of 10 stamps. Pre-stamped postcards are also available.

Items for posting can be handed in at the Booking Offices at Wharf and Abergynolwyn or to the Guard of any passenger train or you can post it yourself in the red post box in the Guard's Van of each passenger train.

New designs, First Day and Commemorative Covers are usually produced for major Talyllyn Railway events and anniversaries.

Join our Mail Order Service and receive new stamps and covers when they are produced - please contact us for further information.



Preparation of Cards and Covers

Each Guard's Van carries a small red post box which carries the letters and postcards that are handed in to Station Masters at manned stations, or the Train Guards.



The post box is taken to the Railway's Traffic Office where the Talyllyn Railway stamp is cancelled and the item is then taken and posted in the Victorian-style Royal Mail collection box at the top of Wharf station drive.



In order to comply with Royal Mail regulations for railway letters the following rules have to be followed when preparing covers or cards:

- The name and full postal address must be written in the **lower right-hand quarter** of the card or envelope.
- Postage stamp(s) to the value of First Class postal rate must be affixed to the **top right-hand corner**.
- Talyllyn Railway Letter Stamps to the appropriate value must be affixed to the **lower left-hand corner**.
- When writing a message on a postcard be careful to leave space to the right of the Railway Letter Stamp for the railway postmark cancellation.

'Willy the Post'

In 1870, twenty-one years before the Railway Letter Service was introduced, the Talyllyn Railway entered into an agreement with the General Post Office for the first Talyllyn train of the day to carry the mail bags for Abergynolwyn and surrounding district from Towyn to Abergynolwyn.

Here, 'Willy The Post' was waiting to take them down to the village to be sorted into rounds and at the end of the day Willy would be waiting for the last down train to take the outgoing mail to Towyn to be transferred to the main line railway.

In the picture below Willy can be seen at Abergynolwyn Station (second from right).

