

Newsletter of the Bala & Ffestiniog Railway Heritage Trust



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Shane Barry



Welcome to our seventh newsletter
This is the first newsletter since

we gained carried out our big push at Llan Ffestiniog Station. This is first time that the Trust has carried out significant expenditure in its goals towards restoring the line.

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Further details of the weekend can be found in the following pages. We have also laid out dates (and provisional dates) for future weekends in this newsletter to enable people to plan to join us.

Happy reading.

Shane Barry
Interim Chairman (2019 - 2020)



Working Party Weekend

Report

On the weekend of 31st July and 1st August the Trust carried out its latest working party weekend on the site of the former station at Llan Ffestiniog. This was the first such working party where diggers and equipment were used to ease the work.



The diggers and dumpers were utilised to complete an extensive amount of works over the course of the weekend.

The initial phase of the works was to improve the access to the site in the form of clearing the access drive way to the site and then improving access to specific other areas of the site. This has now improved our ability to move around the site onto the platforms, the cattle docks and between all such areas.

These works have helped to define future works on the site and a working plan has been put in place for the next few working party weekends to progressively improve the site with the long term aim still remaining to rebuild the old station buildings as they were before they were knocked down. All the forthcoming work is aimed towards that.

The plan for the next weekend is to carry out a materials management exercise on the site with a view of supporting future works on the site.

The works have revealed the original brick on the cattle docks which will have a future working party weekend lift these to restore the level of the bricks to prevent a trip hazard for the future.



Pictures from the weekend



The Future

Future Working Party Weekends

The latest working party weekend has made a significant difference to the site and we aim to build on this work for the next few working party weekends.

The plans put in place previously are being reworked to take advantage of the significant progress made at the beginning of this month.

There will be some weekends where tools will be required and others where not so many will be required, details can be found below!

September 25th & 26th	Materials Management Complete clearance work near gate and bottom of site.
November 20th & 21st	Clearance of station buildings site - hand tools only Diseased tree felling Mapping of station area
January 29th & 30th	Approach road wall Approach road edging
February 26th & 27th	Cattle dock approach clearance Grass seed planting

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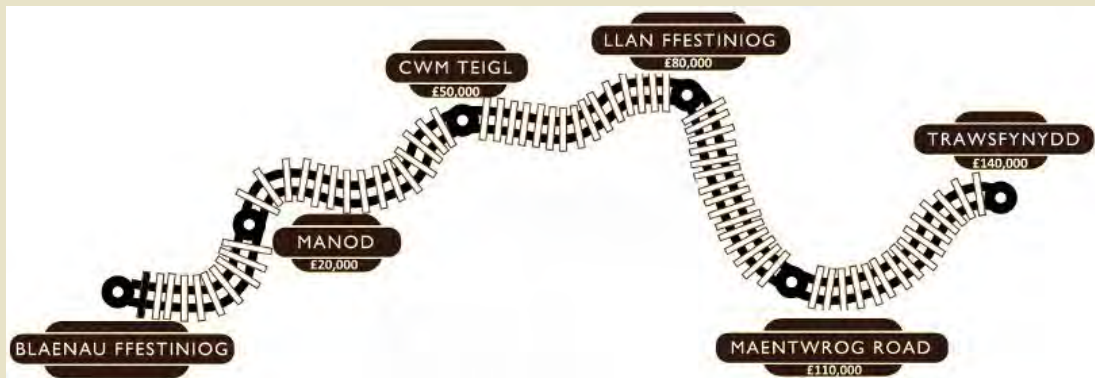
Funding of works

The money trail

The last few weekends have been extremely successful in moving the project forward however they did come at a cost with nearly £1,000 being spent at our most recent push. This does mean that we need to be vigilant on costs and income. We have sufficient funds to cover our costs for the next few months but we do need to plan ahead for future works for which the costs will rise over time.

There will come a time where we have to spend money on adding electrical and mains water connections to the site to enable the camping coaches to be brought on site. The camping coach (a Mk 3 Sleeper) itself can cost up to £10,000 and even more depending on condition but it has the potential to earn the Trust a regular income every year to improve the funding.

The Timber for a Tenner fund is designed to provide a contribution to the costs we need to continue these basic works, we ask that you contribute as little or as much as you can to these funds to enable us to complete the works.



Gift Aid

Please remember that as a registered small charity with HMRC we are entitled to claim gift aid on donations made by tax payers. This is an extremely valuable scheme to the Trust and can result in your £20 membership fee being worth £25 to the Trust which adds up very quickly over multiple members.

The forms can be found online or you can email the treasurer who will send you a copy of the forms.

AGM 2021

The date for our AGM in 2021 has been set for the weekend of 11th April to enable members to plan a weekend in the area and hopefully join us on the working party weekend at Llan Ffestiniog scheduled for the same weekend. The AGM will be held at the newly reopened The Queens Hotel in Blaenau Ffestiniog.



There is a huge amount of other activities to partake in the region including downhill mountain biking (<http://www.anturstiniog.com/>), Llechwedd Slate Caverns (<https://llechwedd.co.uk/>), Zipworld Slate Caverns (<https://www.zipworld.co.uk/location/slate-caverns>), the Ffestiniog Railway (<https://www.festrail.co.uk/>) to name some.

Make it a family affair and come and stay in the region and have a wonderful trip to remember with the family.

A full listing of AGM agenda and votes will be made available by the middle of February.

Please note family will be welcome to attend but only fully paid up members will be entitled to vote at the AGM (or by proxy vote for those unable to attend).

We are recruiting!

Website Translator

We have a need for an individual who can assist us with the translation of our website from English to Welsh to help ensure our website is bi-lingal and accessible to all. This is a post which would be suitable for an individual to work from home.

This is a volunteer unpaid position.

Membership Secretary

We have a need for an individual who would be interested in managing our membership system and assisting members with any queries they have with their membership, ensuring receipt of gift aid forms and recording receipt of cheques (including banking). In time the role will also involve issuing of members ID cards either through direct printing or liaising with an ID card printer to print the cards on our behalf.

This is a volunteer unpaid position.

Surveyor

We have a need for an individual who can assist us with the survey of the lands as and when we gain access to them with a view to accurately recording the land and providing relevant advise to the trust.

This is a volunteer unpaid position.

Architect

We have a need for an individual who can help the Trust to produce architectural drawings and plans for its building works moving forward with the initial works being concentrated at Llan Ffestiniog. The plans would need to be suitable for use by the local planning authorities.

This is a volunteer unpaid position.

Construction

We have a need for an individual or individuals who have experience in building conservation and construction to advise and assist on building works to be carried out within the Trusts remit.

This is a volunteer unpaid position.