

Ysgol Maenofferen

The sun shone and there were plenty of smiles when the children from Ysgol Maenofferen visited Blaenau Ffestiniog station today. The kids from year 3 have been working hard and having lots of fun working with Arriva Trains Wales' School Liaison Officer, Phil Caldwell, on a rail safety awareness project. The class have made trips on both Conwy Valley line and the Ffestiniog Railway and have also done some wonderful artwork which has been erected on the Ffestiniog Railway's station building to welcome Conwy Valley trains to the town. The murals are certainly bang up to date, even featuring people enjoying the newly opened Zip World at nearby Llechwedd Slate Caverns.

The murals were unveiled by Lord Dafydd Ellis Thomas at an early morning ceremony but something was missing – Trains! So the whole school came back in time to welcome the lunchtime arrivals from Porthmadog and Llandudno. Passengers were rewarded with some enthusiastic singing, flag waving and music from the school band. Newly appointed Mayor, Rhian Williams, and Chair of the Chamber of Commerce, Clare Britton joined in the festivities.

Ysgol Maenofferen join the Blaenau Ffestiniog Station Adoption group to look after 'their' station. The station adoption group were formed last year and their achievements are clear to see – cheerful flowers and a litter free station. A plaque recognising their work was also presented by Lord Ellis Thomas.

Both stations are looking much brighter with fresh paintwork on the Arriva platform and some new benches on the Ffestiniog platform to match those in the town car park. The money for these benches has been raised in memory of former booking office stalwart, Roy Woods, who passed away last year. Roy was a staunch supporter of the town and frequently complained about the lack of facilities, especially benches. Now we can say with certainty we have a station he could be proud of!

Clare Britton
17th July 2014