

## **Chamber of Commerce and Tourism – Newsletter (18/04/2013).**

Welcome to the first newsletter from the new Blaenau Ffestiniog Chamber of Commerce and Tourism team. We have quite a change in the chamber at a time when there is also great change in Blaenau. What we all hope is that there are exciting times ahead and that business will start to pick up. We would like to introduce you to our team:

**Chair:** Clare Britton, Commercial Manager, Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railways.

It is my mother's fault I am here! She was a volunteer on the railway from the early '70's and when I was old enough I came with her. My first paid job was on the buffet cars in the school holidays. I went to Bangor University then stayed in the area, working for 8 years in Tremadog before returning to the railway in 1991. I have been in my present job for 11 years and have seen a lot of changes and met a lot of people. I have been a member of the Chamber for many years and I have now joined Blaenau Bendedig. I hope my other connections such as being a Board member of North Wales Tourism and on the Conwy Valley Rail Initiative will help in our quest to put Blaenau on the map as a tourist destination.

**Secretary:** Zoe Pritchard, Parti4.

I currently co-run Parti4, a balloon, party, cards and gift shop on the Blaenau Ffestiniog high street with my Mam Ann. However, my full time occupation is working for Annog cyf which specialize in business support and European Grant schemes. I am currently the Town Councillor for the Diffwys and Maenofferen Ward, and I also sit on the Ysgol y Moelwyn School governing board. Born and bred here in Ffestiniog, I feel passionately about promoting Blaenau to its full potential, not forgetting its hidden gems, strong community culture, language and future opportunities and developments here.

**Treasurer:** Iris Fosbury, Eifion Stores.

Chris and I have run Eifion Stores (Traditional Hardware shop) for five years. We have just finished a complete shop refit with new lights, shelving, redecoration and a C.C.T.V. system.

Although we moved up from Sussex, my late Father was from Deganwy; my Sister and Mother now live in Llandudno.

Our family: our Son Kevin lives near Merthyr Tydfil with his partner and their baby; our daughter Amy lives in Sussex with her Fiancée.

I am also involved with St. David's Church and The Allotment Society.

**Membership:** Sue Roberts, Sue's Books & DeNiros

I moved to Blaenau in 1983 since then I have had 2 businesses.

Kevin and I have had the cafe for 12 years and opened the book shop 18 mths ago. I have 3 daughters and 6 grandchildren

## **Marketing Officer and Website Co-Ordinator:** Alister Haveron, Dolawel

Along with my wife Pat we run Dolawel Guesthouse and as a side line I run Snowdonia Outdoor Activities as a Member of the Association of Mountaineering Instructor. I was an electrical and mechanical engineer for over 35 years, with most of that time being in management. Pat is originally from Llanllechid and I am from the Glens of Antrim, in N Ireland, and we have been living here in Rhiw for nearly 10 years. I have been awarded the Member of British Empire Medal, and the British Empire Medal, for voluntary service to Mountain Rescue. I am extremely enthusiastic in promoting Blaenau as an area for visitors, encouraging and assisting them to make the most of the many excellent tourist attractions we have when they are here.

### **Events:**

There are quite a few events coming up in the town that you may wish to benefit from

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April.** Proclamation Ceremony for the 2014 Eisteddfod yr Urdd. A procession will leave Ysgol y Moelwyn, pass Eurospar and go over the railway bridge and along Church Street to Diffwys Square where the service will be held at 11:00. There is entertainment planned for much of the day with a stage in the car park and S4C in action. Car parking has been requested at Llechwedd for 400 cars with shuttle buses running into town. **Don't Miss Out – Stay Open!**

**Also** – “On the Slate” in the Literature Lounge – 49 High Street (The Old Co-op). A full 2 days programme including acoustic sessions on the Friday night (26<sup>th</sup>) and on the Saturday (27<sup>th</sup>) stories for kids, beat boxing, poetry, Literary walking tour around Blaenau and much more. A predominantly Welsh medium event to promote Welsh Literature.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May.** Llechwedd May Fair and Steam 150 Ffestiniog Railway. Stalls and Victorian entertainment at Llechwedd 1000 – 1230. Then people will be encouraged to come to town for a ceremonial handing over of the slates at the station with a slate train pulled by Prince, one of the original steam locomotives on the line. After that there will be singing and theatre in the new shelter above the car park and there are guided walks around the town by Huw Jenkins. Passengers from Porthmadog are being encouraged to stay in town for a while so please let them know you are open.

**3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> May.** Ffestiniog Railway Steam 150 event. Extra trains and footplate rides on Blaenau platform.

**Saturdays 11<sup>th</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> June.** Blaenau Bendigedig TableTop sales 10am – 1pm in the church hall to raise money for fireworks and Noson Goleuo.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June.** Blaenau Bendedig Fun in the Park. Stalls, family fun and a tug of war!

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** - Tanygrisiau Carnival 23rd June. Get in touch to book a stall. £5 a table for community groups and £20 for businesses. Plenty of entertainment including the fantastic Morris Dancers and much much more.

**Other news:**

To try and encourage more tourists we have hosted a familiarisation visit from members of the Llandudno Hospitality Association who really enjoyed their visit to the town. They were very impressed and are already sending people who stay with them. Clare also met with the Betws y Coed Tourism Association recently who are also keen to visit the town as a group.

Alister is working hard with Delwedd to get the website up to date and to get all members entered on. He has been experiencing a few problems so please do bear with us. Meanwhile if you have a good news story, an event or a great photo that could go on the site, please let him know. His email is on the contact page of the site.

Coleg Llandrillo would like you to know that the Dyfodol training scheme had been extended until July 2014. It is a cheap way of accessing a wide variety of courses and is open to even self-employed people as well as businesses. Christine from the college is hoping to attend the next meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

Next meeting is 1900 on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April in the Council Chamber. All members welcome.

[www.blaenauffestiniog.org](http://www.blaenauffestiniog.org)  
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