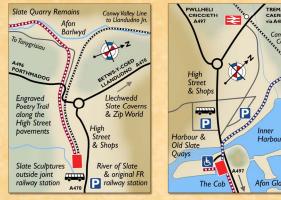


PORTHMADOG

#### **BLAENAU FFESTINIOG**



### BY ROAD:

See maps above for details of the main roads into the area and the position of the nearest car parks to our principal stations.

In Blaenau Ffestiniog, please use the main town car parks adjacent to - and across the road from - the Central Station and the Gwesty 'Ty Gorsaf' Hotel. In Porthmadog, please use the main town car park which is just 200 yards from Harbour Station - follow signs from the main road. A small number of disabled parking spaces and a handy 'drop-off' point are available at Harbour Station.

	BLAENAU FFESTINIOG	Central 'Pay & Display' Car Park	LL41 3ES
'SAT-NAV' INFO	MINFFORDD	Limited Parking	LL48 6HF
	PORTHMADOG	Drop-off point and Disabled Parking	LL49 9NF
	PORTHMADOG	Main Town 'Pay & Display' Car Park	LL49 9PG

### **BY TRAIN:**

Via the North Wales Coast - Use trains on the Chester - Holyhead mainline, then change at Llandudno Junction for a train along the Conwy Valley branch line to our joint station in the centre of Blaenau Ffestiniog.

Through Mid Wales - Use trains, via Shrewsbury / Machynlleth, for the Cambrian Coast line. Alight at either Minffordd (2mins walk) or Porthmadog (15mins walk).

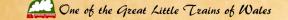
# • Through tickets are available from mainline stations •

# BY BUS:

Porthmadog is well served by bus and coach services which stop in the main street near the station. Blaenau Ffestiniog station is also on several bus routes.

Why not leave your car behind and use the area's excellent public transport? There are many combined Rail/Bus tickets, some of which give discounts on the Ffestiniog Railway. For further information on local bus and train services in Wales contact Traveline Cymru on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.traveline-cymru.info or the Bws Gwynedd website on www.gwynedd.gov.uk/bwsgwynedd.

For further information on coach services - contact National Express by phone on 08717 818 178 or visit their website www.nationalexpress.com.



Gweithredir Rheilffordd Ffestiniog gan -The Ffestiniog Railway is operated by -

# FFESTINIOG & WELSH HIGHLAND RAILWAYS

Gorsaf yr Harbwr • Harbour Station Porthmadog, Gwynedd LL49 9NF

01766 516024 enquiries@ffwhr.com

# Steaming through the Vale of Ffestiniog, bound for Porthmadog ...

**SCENIC TRIPS BY STEAM** 

# RHEILFFORDD FFESTINIOG RAILWAY

A magical combination of spectacular landscape and historic railway

Website: www.festrail.co.uk

> Facebook: facebook.com/festrail

Twitter: twitter.com/@festrail

Original photograph by Graham Bond

Cymru Wales



NOG R

BOOK

ONLINE

Summer 2016

# Train times and information



# CROESOI REILFFORDD FFESTINIOG WELCOME TO THE FFESTINIOG RAILWAY

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- 4 The Ffestiniog Railway - History on the Move ..!
- 5 Frequently Asked Questions
- 6 Places to stop and explore awhile ...
- 8-9 Calendar and Train Times

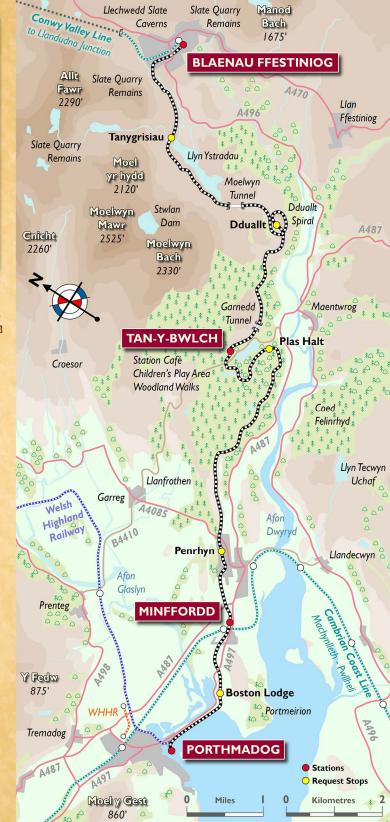
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ONLINE

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2



# Slates to the Sea...

The two-foot gauge Ffestiniog Railway opened in 1836 to carry slate from the quarries at Blaenau Ffestiniog to the newly built port of Porthmadog, where it was loaded onto ships and transported all over the world. Long trains of heavy slate wagons rolled downhill by gravity, with horses pulling the empty wagons back to the quarry. In 1863 steam engines replaced the horses.

# 150 years of craftsmanship...

The Ffestiniog Railway began carrying passengers early in 1865 using tiny four-wheeled carriages to convey its first intrepid travellers. Victorian tourists soon followed and beautiful ornate bogie carriages were built to satisfy this new market. As the slate industry declined, visitors became the mainstay of the line and nowadays travel in a fleet of modern comfortable carriages, built in our own workshops by local craftsmen. May this year will see the introduction of a new train, which will include our iconic flagship First Class Observation carriage, No.150...

# History on the move...

Everywhere you look around the railway, history is on show. Two of our original steam locomotives, '*Prince*' and '*Palmerston*' - now over 150 years old - are still in steam and, on special occasions, we bring out some of the beautifully restored Victorian carriages for you to travel in. Look out for the unforgettable *Double Fairlie* locomotives - 'push me, pull you' steam engines with a chimney at each end. The old Goods Shed at Harbour Station has been transformed into *Spooner's* - our popular café/bar - and now sports historical drawings, signs and photos for you to peruse as you drink your pint of local ale or a mug of freshly brewed coffee...

# And then, of course, there's the view ...!

Our trains take you on a scenic 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> mile journey from the coast through the beautiful Snowdonia National Park, climbing over 700 feet up into the mountains. There are views out to sea and over to the mountains as the train crosses the Cob embankment, before turning inland and starting to climb. Pastures give way to trees as you steam through the Vale of Ffestiniog passing ancient woodlands, streams and waterfalls before reaching the rows of quaint cottages and dramatic slate tips of Blaenau Ffestiniog the 'Town that roofed the World'... "Around 1¼ hours from one end of the line to the other. You can travel back on the same train or - if you have time to spare - you can leave the train at one of our stations, do some exploring and travel back on a later train..."

# What times do the trains run..?

"Look at the calendar on the centre pages. Trains run on the dates shown - how many depends on the time of year. Pick a date you want to travel on, then match the background colour of that date to the timetable of the same colour on the right of the page..."

# How much does a train ride cost..?

"We have a wide range of fares depending upon the journey you want to make. Our most popular fares are shown in this leaflet just turn to the page after the timetables. Our Booking Office staff will be happy to give you more information about our fares and the full range of tickets available such as shorter journeys, one-way trips, Three-Day Rover tickets - and more..."

# Are there any toilets on the trains..?

"All of our corridor-connected coaches have access to an on-train toilet if required - please ask our staff for directions..."

# Can we bring our dog with us..?

"Yes, for a standard fare of £3 - but not in the First Class sections of the train..." Note: Guide / Assistance Dogs travel free, without restriction.



# Places to stop and explore awhile ...

Whether at the start, the finish or in the middle of your journey, there's always somewhere worth exploring.





**Porthmadog** is rich in maritime history and was once a great seaport. It thrives today as a busy tourist centre and a hub for the local community. Our station is located beside the picturesque harbour - filled with pleasure craft nowadays rather than the three-masted schooners of old. The former slate wharves are a popular area to walk round, catch crabs from - or as a place in which to simply relax and watch the world go by. The Maritime Museum can also be found by the harbour and is a fascinating place to visit. A short stroll away, the bustling High Street with its wide choice of shops, pavement cafés, restaurants and pubs is also worth exploring.



Blaenau Ffestiniog - known as 'The Town that Roofed the World' - is the inland terminus of the Ffestiniog Railway. Nestling in a natural amphitheatre, surrounded on all sides

Nestling in a natural amphitheatre, surrounded on all sides by steep sided mountains and dramatic remains of the slate quarrying industry, the town has a unique and compelling beauty. The centrally located station is shared with trains that run along the scenic Conwy Valley line - to and from Betws-y-Coed, Llandudno and the North Wales Coast... Don't miss the opportunity to have a look around the town and discover its impressive slate sculptures, poetry band trail and selection of privately run shops, cafés and pubs.





Useful links:

visitwales.com/explore/north-wales

# Take time out - or be energetic ...

Make the most of your day - visit a local attraction, walk in the mountains or relax over afternoon tea in a secluded wooded valley.



Tan-y-Bwlch Café and Walks Nestling in a small wooded valley in the heart of the National Park, Tan-y-Bwlch station is a great place to break your journey and get out into the fresh air.

Our licensed café - open during the daily train service - offers a tempting selection of freshly made

hot snacks and light refreshments. Relax inside or eat 'al fresco' on the outdoor terrace. Younger children can be kept amused in the play area beside the café while you enjoy a cuppa. During school holidays there are often family-focused activities taking place here, such as children's entertainment, so please check locally for details.

The café is also available for parties, weddings and other functions by prior request - please phone **01766 516024** for details.

A gateway from the station car park lets you directly into the Coed Llyn Mair Nature Reserve, through which a nature trail leads down to the grassy meadow beside the sparkling Llyn Mair (*Mary's Lake*).



A network of paths winds through the surrounding woods - some of which are un-surfaced, with rustic steps to negotiate, but you don't have to go far to appreciate this special woodland.

The more energetic can carry on along some of the many paths that lead up into the mountains - or

follow the railway through the beautiful Vale of Ffestiniog. There are many wayside halts you can walk to and then continue your journey.

For those who are really energetic... Blaenau Ffestiniog is becoming as well-known for extreme sports as it is for slate quarrying - with zip wires and underground trampolines, downhill biking and kayaking among the many activities now available. Llechwedd Slate Caverns combine history and adventure to make a great day out for the whole family. The Antur Stiniog information centre, just across the road from Blaenau Ffestiniog station is a good place to find out what is going on in the town - or visit **www.blaenauffestiniog.org**.



visitsnowdonia.info • gonorthwales.co.uk

# Match the colour from the calendar grid to the same colour timetable

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Winter services from 1st November were still under consideration at the time of printing. Updated timetables will be issued later in the year in print and on our website.

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Times shown in **RED** indicate where trains pass each other at stations. Passengers can transfer from one train to another by crossing the platform providing the option of a shorter or longer journey, as applicable.

Porthmadog	1005	1335		1005	1125	1335	1545
Minffordd	1015	1345		1015	1135	1345	1555
Tan-y-Bwlch	1045	1410		1045	1205	1410	1630
Blaenau Ff.	1120	1445		1120	1245	1445	1700
Blaenau Ff.	1135	1505		1135	1340	1505	1720
Tan-y-Bwlch	1205	1535		1205	1410	1535	1750
Minffordd	1230	1555		1230	1435	1555	1815
Porthmadog	1245	1610		1245	1450	1610	1830

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

MAY BANK HOLIDAY EVENT 30 April, I, 2 May VICTORIAN WEEKEND 7, 8, 9 October HALLOWEEN TRAINS 27, 28, 29 October SANTA TRAINS 10, 11, 17, 18, 22 December Please see our website for further information on train services during special events.

							» (*)	
Porthmadog	1005	1035	1125	1335	1430	1545	yellow e.g. 1*	1805
Minffordd	1015	1045	1135	1345	1435	1555	ы х о	1815
Tan-y-Bwlch	1045	1110	1205	1410	1505	1630	not run on asterisk (	1845
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Tan-y-Bwlch	1205	1250	1410	1555	1630	1750	1805 train marked w	2010
Minffordd	1230	1310	1435	1625	1655	1815	The 18 dates m	2035
Porthmadog	1245	1330	1450	1640	1710	1830	ti pp	2050

On all the dates shown with a grey background, our train services will be running on the Welsh Highland Railway only. Please refer to the WHR timetable leaflets and posters for further information.

## TRAINS ALSO CALL AT THE FOLLOWING STOPS BY REQUEST:

Please tell the Guard where you are travelling to before getting on the train or give a clear signal to the engine driver as the train approaches you.

REQUEST STOP	TRAINS TO BLAENAU FF.	TRAINS TO PORTHMADOG
Boston Lodge	Approx. 5 minutes after Porthmadog	Approx. 5 minutes after Minffordd
Penrhyn	Approx. 5 minutes after Minffordd	Approx. 15 minutes after Tan-y-Bwlch
Plas Halt	Approx. 15 minutes after Minffordd	Approx. 5 minutes after Tan-y-Bwlch
Dduallt	Approx. 10 minutes after Tan-y-Bwlch	Approx. 15 minutes after Blaenau Ff.
Tanygrisiau	Approx. 20 minutes after Tan-y-Bwlch	Approx. 5 minutes after Blaenau Ff.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Steam locomotives are used throughout the year and the smoke from these engines adds to the heritage ambience of this historic railway. Please take care when close to the locomotives, especially when trains are leaving the stations.

The Ffestiniog Railway Company will not be held liable for any soiling of, or damage to, clothing or any other property.

Every effort will be made to maintain the services shown. However, the Company reserves the right to cancel, alter or suspend any train without notice and accepts no liability for any loss, inconvenience or delay thereby caused.

Т 18





8

# First or Third Class..?

Our modern Third Class carriages are something we are justly proud of - as you can see below - with large windows, comfortable seats, an 'at your seat' buffet service and access to the on-train toilets. The majority of our passengers travel in one of these carriages, though you may also find one of our heritage carriages added to the train on busy days...



Specific seat reservations are not available in Third Class, but tickets may be purchased in advance for the train of your choice. You can book online at www.festrail.co.uk - or you can phone our Booking Office on 01766 516024. A booking fee of 50p per person applies for posted tickets.

The Ffestiniog boasts a range of First Class carriages with mid-height 'tub' chairs and side tables in the observation area and tall wing-back chairs at tables in the saloon section. Several of our beautifully restored Victorian carriages have First Class compartments for a touch of luxurious elegance...





Travelling in one of our luxurious First Class carriages or compartments is available for an additional charge - the supplement for travel in a single direction is **£7** per person...

First Class seats may be booked and reserved (subject to availability) right up to departure time at either Porthmadog or Blaenau Ffestiniog Booking Office. However, as these carriages are very popular, **advanced booking** is strongly advised to obtain seats on the train of your choice. Please phone our friendly Booking Office staff on **01766 516024** so they can help to organise your day. Extra options are also available to enhance special occasions. **Please note that online booking for First Class seats is not currently available due to the bespoke nature of our carriages.** 

Please note that, on our trains from Blaenau Ffestiniog to Porthmadog, the Observation carriage will be at the front of the train - and therefore directly behind the engine..!

# Ticket to Ride..!

A one-way trip on the Ffestiniog Railway takes just over an hour with a return trip taking about 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours. You can make more of your visit by stopping at one of the stations on the way to explore the area (see pages 6&7). A 'Day Ticket' gives you the chance to hop on and off trains as much as you like. Shorter journeys are available to our halfway station at Tan-y-Bwlch - around 35 minutes each way.

# Prisiau Poblogaidd Popular Fares

Ticket	Adult	Concession (see note)
The choice is yours - travel all the way and back again or ride trains as much as you like on the date of issue!	£22.80	£20.60
'HALF-WAY RETURN'		
Travel to or from Tan-y-Bwlch only Porthmadog - T-y-B:	£14.70	£13.30
Blaenau Ff T-y-B:	£12.60	£11.40
'SUNSET SPECIAL' Only available on the 18:05 departure from Porthmadog. Valid for one round-trip to Blaenau Ffestiniog.	£19.40	£17.50

**CONCESSION:** Over-65s, Registered Disabled and Full-Time Students

Separate fares available to/from intermediate stations and for one-way journeys

Please arrive at the Booking Office no later than 30 minutes before departure time. Fares correct at time of going to press

#### 'SNOWDONIA SINGLE' - a day on the rails...

£34.00 £30.00

This one-way ticket may be used in either direction between Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog to travel over the whole length of the Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railways. When used in conjunction with one of several other rail or rail and bus rovers, this can give a splendid day out using the picturesque Conwy Valley branch line and the Arriva M5 bus service for a scenic circular tour of Snowdonia. Visit our website for more information on planning your trip.

# Plant

Child fares apply to under-16s. ALL under three year-olds travel FREE. One Child (3-15 years old) travels FREE per Adult. Additional children travel for approximately half-fare.

# Archebion Grwpiau

Group Bookings

Children

Reduced fares for parties of 20 or more - phone 01766 516024 for details.

# Cŵn a Beiciau

# Dogs and Bicycles

Accessibility

Flat fare of **£3.00** per dog or bicycle - Guide/Assistance dogs travel free. Dogs are not permitted in First Class areas, except for Guide/Assistance dogs. There is limited space for bicycles on board our trains. Please check with the Booking Office before travelling - **01766 516024** - to confirm availability.

# Hygyrchedd

We have several accessible carriages with extra-wide doors, so we can accommodate a standard size and weight wheelchair on most of our trains. A portable ramp provides access to these carriages. Steps are also available.

Our major stations have ramped access routes and specially adapted toilets.

Please phone us in advance of your visit, so we can give you detailed advice and reserve you a space on the train.

Our Access Statement is available from our website or Booking Offices.

10

# Special Events and Family Fun..!

### **Easter Extras**

# 26 - 28 March

Come and enjoy a footplate ride around Harbour Station in Porthmadog or stop off at Tan-y-Bwlch with woodland walks, play area as well as creative activities beside the café.

#### 'The Snowdonian'

16 April

This annual fundraising event is your golden opportunity to travel the full length of both railways behind a variety of locomotives - and to learn about plans for the future. For more details and booking, visit **www.phase5.org.uk** NB: this cannot be booked through our Booking Offices.





## May Day Weekend

# 30 April - 2 May

This weekend will see extra trains and the public launch of our latest carriages built at Boston Lodge - including our flagship Observation Carriage No.150... plus activities, stalls and footplate rides at Blaenau Ffestiniog on Saturday and Sunday. Tours of Plas Tan y Bwlch Gardens. Boston Lodge Works will be open on Monday. There'll also be a visiting locomotive - Darjeeling Himalaya Railway 0-4-0ST No.19..!

### Spring Bank Holiday

### 29 May - 2 June

On 29 May our little engines are taking part in some 'Wacky Races' at Harbour Station..! Which will have the smartest crew..? Get to the end of the course..? Run out of steam..? A little like "It's a Knockout" - but with steam locomotives..! Come along and watch the fun. During the next few days, there'll also be fun-filled activities to entertain the family.

## An evening with the 'Del Sharrons'

#### 21 July

Put your sneakers on and get set to rock 'n' roll as this 1950s style group join us again by popular demand. Enjoy live music and a tasty barbeque at Tan-y-Bwlch station. Note that this is a partly outdoor event, so please come suitably dressed...

# Summer of Fun

# 25 July - 31 August

Footplate rides, children's entertainers, Food on the Move trains and lots more during the main summer holiday period. Something extra every day to add to your family's enjoyment of a visit to the Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railways.

## Jazz in the Park

12

#### 28 July and 4, 11, 18, 25 August

Join our popular band of talented musicians, 'Dr Jazz', who are returning for another season of fun evenings filled with foot-tapping jazz and tasty barbeque at Tan-y-Bwlch station. You can even enjoy a dance under a star filled, moonlit sky..! This is a partly outdoor event, so please dress accordingly.

## Ras y Cob

The Ffestiniog Railway shares the Cob - a mile long embankment with the road into Porthmadog. Now here's your chance to race over during a day of fun-runs for all ages and abilities. Trains take the runners to the other side for the start of each race, while stalls and music in town add to the day. **www.ras-y-cob.co.uk** 

# Trailffest

24 September

A cross-country half-marathon run beside the line from Tanygrisiau to Porthmadog. A train follows closely, so that family and friends can offer support and cheer on the competitors. **www.trailffest.co.uk** 

## **Victorian Weekend**

7 - 9 October

The Ffestiniog Railway is often described as 'history on the move'. We have been running passenger trains since Victorian times and many of our older vehicles have been lovingly preserved - so what better way to show them off than to have a weekend dedicated to that wonderful era..? From its earliest days, the railway transported slate from the guarries to the sea in long trains of wagons - powered simply by gravity, like a 131/2 mile roller-coaster... This weekend will see us run one of the longest gravity trains in living memory, with a haunting hunting horn replacing the steam whistle, adding to the sights and sounds of another age. However, it's important to remember that this event isn't just about trains, or even just the railway. Porthmadog is a Victorian town, built to serve the slate industry - just like the railway - so this event stretches out into the community with decorated shops, stalls and fairground rides and many costumed characters. Come along, take part, explore the town and ride the trains, dress up or simply soak up the nostalgia...





### Halloween Trains \*

Dare you take the ghostly train to the little station in the big, dark woods..? Don your ghoulish costumes and join our witches and spooks for an evening of fiendish fun and tasty treats. Take a train ride on the Halloween special to Tan-y-Bwlch for a hot supper and an evening of crazy capers, competitions and sc-sc-scary surprises..!

# Victorian Santa Trains \*

# 10, 11, 17, 18, 22 December

27, 28, 29 October

Join us for a traditional Victorian-style family Christmas - complete with Santa handing out presents to all the children during a train ride from Porthmadog to Tan-y-Bwlch and return, Carol Singers on the platform, and not forgetting sherry and mince pies for the adults.

\* Advance booking is required for these trains.



Remember to 'Like' and 'Follow' us on **Facebook** for the latest information about all our events and what's going on around the railway. We'd love to see your pictures as well - so why not 'Share' them with us at **facebook.com/festrail** 

# 18 September



# **GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS**

We have souvenir shops at Porthmadog, Tan-y-Bwlch and Blaenau Ffestiniog stations. A wide range of railway related items and gifts are available to suit all ages and interests.

Many of the items in our shops are produced exclusively for the Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railways.

Our shops are open on every day that the trains are running. You can phone us on **01766 516034** if you would like to check if we have a particular item in stock.

You can also shop 'online' - from anywhere in the world - by visiting our web shop at **www.festshop.co.uk** 



# **GROUP TRAVEL** and **SPECIAL FUNCTIONS**

Pre-booked groups of twenty or more are welcome on the Ffestiniog Railway, but it is advisable to book well in advance for this popular service. Most groups do a one-way trip and there are a number of different journey options.

Make your visit to the railway special with one of our group catering packages. You can get a copy of our Group Travel brochure from our website or by phoning - **01766 516024**.

We also offer bespoke wedding day, private charter trains and corporate services - please phone us on **01766 516024**. We will ensure a unique occasion - tailor-made to suit you.!

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# SPOONER'S CAFÉ-BAR & GRILL HARBOUR STATION, PORTHMADOG

If you're looking for a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, Spooner's Café Bar & Grill is the perfect place for a quick snack, a delicious meal or somewhere to relax with friends over a pint at the end of the day.

Spooner's is open daily (except for Christmas Day) with food served from **09:00** till **21:00** - making it ideal for breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea or evening meals. A takeaway service is also available if required. *Please note: our kitchen is not open every evening during winter months.* 

Whenever possible we use fresh local produce, including delicious steaks from Welsh Black Cattle from a farm just a few miles away.

Spooner's new outdoor terrace is the perfect place to while away sunny days with food and a refreshing drink while the trains pass by.

Our CAMRA award-winning bar is open from **11:00** till **23:00** every day (**22:30** Sundays) and offers eight real-ales on tap, so an eclectic selection of national and local brews is always guaranteed. A wide range of wines and spirits, including speciality gins, is also available.

Spooner's Café-Bar & Grill is a great venue for groups and parties - enquiries and bookings can be made by phone on **01766 516032**.

# **ON-TRAIN REFRESHMENTS**

During your journey with us, enjoy our on-train refreshment service provided at your seat by our friendly stewards...

All you need to do is sit back and enjoy the scenery, as our buffet stewards come to you. Make your selection from a wide range of hot and cold drinks, beer, wines and spirits, plus a variety of snacks and the steward will bring it to your table.

We also cater for pre-booked groups<sup>†</sup>, allowing you and your party to enjoy a taste of yesteryear's luxury train travel complete with morning coffee and cakes, lunches or afternoon tea - served with style by our stewards at your seat.

<sup>†</sup> Please phone our main Booking Office - **01766 516024** - for more information and to discuss your Group Catering requirements.



# **COME AND JOIN US**

Our volunteers come from all walks of life, and all around the globe. They help us by doing many important jobs that keep the railway running efficiently and its stations looking their best for our visitors. They can work either as individuals or as part of a team project. Many, but not all, are also members of the railway's supporting group - the Ffestiniog Railway Society.

If you would like to find out about working on the railway - using a skill you already have, or one that we can teach you - then please get in touch with Tricia Doyle, who is our Volunteer Coordinator.

You can contact Tricia by phone on **01766 516035** or, alternatively, you can send an email to her at **tdoyle@ffwhr.com** 



# SUPPORT THE RAILWAY

If you would like to become more involved, learn about what goes on behind the scenes - or even help raise funds for vital projects then why not become a member of the Ffestiniog Railway Society.

Not only will you be helping the Society support the operation and maintenance of the oldest independent railway in the world, but you also receive an illustrated quarterly magazine and travel privileges on the FR, the Welsh Highland Railway and the Talyllyn Railway.

You can find further information about the Society, its local groups and many activities - as well as join 'online' - by visiting the Society's own website at www.ffestiniograilway.org.uk