



We hope everyone comes to the railway because they enjoy the work, but the fun doesn't stop at the end of the working day. The FR has a great social life - something for everyone.

Many people enjoy meeting up in Spooners or one of the other pubs in Porthmadog for dinner or a drink in the evenings. Parties (usually involving a special train) are a regular feature, especially at the Easter and August bank holiday weekends, and for the less active, the parks and gardens department often runs special evening trains which are less boisterous and timed to suit those with family.

Of course the social life doesn't have to end at the end of your visit. Groups of friends from the FR often meet up in other parts of the country and friendships made on the FR often lead into other hobbies and interests which have nothing to do with railways.

Minffordd Hostel is available to volunteers on the Ffestiniog Railway.
For more information on how you can volunteer on the railway, see our
Discover Volunteering pages on the website.

www.ffestiniogvolunteer.org.uk www.ffestiniograilway.co.uk

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Ffestiniog Railway Society Ltd

A company limited by guarantee no. 542449

Registered Charity no. 1064178



MINFFORDD HOSTEL



A GUIDE FOR YOUR FIRST VISIT
*(AND A REMINDER FOR
YOUR RETURN VISITS)*



Hostel Warden : Ben Rosen

telephone : 01766 771280

mobile : 07767 493193

email : warden@ffestiniograilway.org.uk

Booking Secretary : Marje Buxton

**Director with responsibility for
Hostel :** Alan Pye

Address and postcode : LL48 6

Grid reference SH598379

Nearest National Rail Stations :

Minfford, Penrhyndeudraeth and Porthmadog

Bus Services : Porthmadog is served by
National Express buses. Local bus numbers
run past the hostel on the main road

Hostel accommodation policies

Residents of railway provided accommodation are expected to help keep the building clean and tidy, especially making sure the kitchen area is kept in a suitable condition.

In addition to this general common sense requirement, two specific policies exist relating to under-16s and under-18s respectively. These policies are reproduced here.

Conditions of residence for those under 16 years of age

Persons under the age of 16 may not reside in Society controlled accommodation without being accompanied by an adult family member, or by a mature adult willing to accept responsibility for them on a day-to-day basis. The adult must be acceptable to the Hostel Warden, and must not be the Hostel Warden, or any of his deputies.

Alcohol policy

Anyone under the age of 18 found to be under the influence of, or in the possession of, alcoholic drink or illegal drugs in Society or Company controlled accommodation will be banned from residing in Society and Company controlled accommodation for a period of three months, and for a period of twelve months for any subsequent offence. The ban is automatic and non-negotiable. Anyone aged 18 or over, knowingly supplying alcoholic drink or illegal drugs to anyone under 18 will be subject to the same ban.

module during an evening or a day off. Please try to leave the module as you would expect to find it!

On departure, please leave your room in a clean and tidy state. When you arrived, you will have found only food belonging to other residents. We thank you for removing any of your food from the kitchen, especially the fridge. By all means, any leftovers you do not wish to take home with you can be left with the Warden for distribution to other residents - please do not just leave food to go off in the fridge! Please place dirty kitchen towels and tea towels in the box in the laundry room, replacing them with clean ones from the cupboards there. Please empty the bin in your module into the container outside, replacing the bin liner with a new one from the laundry room. On your way out, do not forget to sign out in the register. If you borrowed a gate key from the Warden, please return it before leaving or put it through the gate letterbox (but don't forget to get your car through the gate first).

If you find you have left anything behind, you can contact the Warden on 01766 771280 and ask for it to be kept safe until your next visit.

We hope you have enjoyed your time on the Railway. Thank you for using Minffordd Hostel and we look forward to welcoming you on your return soon.

Welcome

Welcome to Minffordd Hostel, where you are staying for the time you are volunteering. We do hope you enjoy your stay and that your time at the Hostel enhances your visit to the railway.

We have designed this leaflet to help you navigate your way around the Hostel to make it as homely as possible for you. We welcome any constructive suggestions you have for future improvement - after all, the Ffestiniog Railway Society and Ffestiniog Railway Company both appreciate the time, skills and effort you are giving to maintain this Heritage Railway.

Our Hostel can accommodate up to 40 volunteers at any one time and, during the summer, the occupancy rate reaches over 99%. To make this work, we expect you to participate actively in its running so that we may keep your Hostel fees at a low figure.

When you make your booking, you agree to abide by the Hostel Accommodation Policy as stated on the website and as stated in handouts in each module and in the entrance foyer.

Arrival

You will find the hostel situated adjacent to both Ffestiniog Railway and National Rail stations at Minffordd. For those who arrive by National Express coaches at Porthmadog, you will need to take , Porthmadog is also served by National Express coaches. Don't hesitate to contact our own Ffestiniog Travel on 01766 516010 when you will be able to book any travel tickets through them.

If you are arriving by car, there is a car park provided within the hostel grounds. The gate to access Minffordd Yard and Hostel is locked with a standard railway padlock - if you do not have a key please park on the approach to the gate, making sure you do not block the roadway, and ask at the Hostel for someone to unlock the gate for you. Residents can obtain a key for



it most suits you, we do expect you to be considerate to other users. Think about the high summer period - some of your colleagues may have very early starts in the mornings. We do thank you to bear this in mind and keep noise to a low level late at night (11.00pm onwards). Similarly, if you are one of those getting up early, your other residents would not like to be woken up at dawn! If you have visitors at Hostel please note they will be asked to leave building at 11.00pm.

We know that breakages occur from time to time and things do not work. Please let the Warden know as soon as possible.

Food shops

Unfortunately, Minffordd does not have any shops but it is just a short journey to the Spar shop in Penrhyndeudraeth, which also has a good butchers and paper shop close by. Further afield in Porthmadog, the Tesco store is on Tremadoc Road while both Aldi and Netto are on Penamser Road leading to Criccieth.

Leaving the Hostel

We are sure that, when you arrived, your Module will have been clean and tidy. However, to allow us to charge the low amount for your stay, we insist that you clean your own module. The central communal areas are cleaned regularly by the Warden or Duty Warden, but the cleanliness of the individual modules is the responsibility of those using the facilities. Please wash up promptly and keep the shower rooms clean and tidy. It is usual practice to clean and Hoover your room on departure and to help clean the remainder of the

and separate shower room.

Past the door to Module 2 on the first floor, you will find satellite television, video and dvd player in the common room which also has a kitchen facility. Taking the stairs above the common room, you will find a combined library and meeting room.



If you have any problems or questions about booking in, please contact the Duty Warden. His name and contact details will be placed on the notice-board close to the room allocation list.

Using the Hostel

We welcome you to come and go from the hostel as you wish. By all means, use any of the facilities provided so it becomes almost home from home. However, whilst you use the hostel as

the gate from the Warden. If there is no-one in the Hostel and rather than block the approach to the gate, we would suggest that you find someone in the yard from whom to borrow a key. For access for fire engines, we do not allow parking on the drive leading down to the hostel but we appreciate your sensible parking. By all means, use the field if necessary.

Booking in to the Hostel

On arrival, please enter the building by the main entrance, facing the railway line. Immediately on entering the lobby, you will see a notice-board on your right where we will post changes of room allocations which have been necessary since you booked. Should you wish to change your room, you can only do this after consultation with the Warden. Please sign the register not only for the Warden's record but also for cases of emergencies.

The Modules

You will find five Modules in the Hostel. Module 1 is on the left in the lobby and Module 3 is down the couple of stairs, through the door on the right and at the end of the corridor. The door for Module 2 is on the floor above directly above Module 1. By taking the short flight of stairs ahead, the door for Module 6 is immediately in front of you. Finally, Module 4 is through the door to the right of Module 6 and at the end of the corridor.

When you booked, we gave you a numerical code with you use on the electronic keypad. Please contact the Warden should

you have mislaid this. We change these codes change every 6 months.



As to food, whether you are expert chefs or just culinary starters, the kitchen facilities include a cooker, fridges, freezers, microwave, kettle and toaster, as well as an array of pots, pans and utensils. Whilst you might be the only one in your module now, others will be booked in soon and we do ask that you wash and put away your dishes as you go along. Under the worktop, there are plastic boxes to hold

your own non-perishable food and other items. The fire detection system in the kitchen means that, whenever you do any cooking, you must switch on the extractor fan. Should the alarm be set off as a result of not using the extractor fan, a fine of £10 will be imposed to go towards the cost of resetting electrical equipment affected.

The bedrooms, corridor and all of the public areas of the Hostel are covered by smoke detectors but it is against the law

to smoke anywhere in the Hostel.

Do, please, keep the bathrooms clean - we provide cleaning materials and, if you need more, you will find them in the laundry room. In the middle of the cupboard in the laundry room is the key for the toilet paper container hanging from a hook, together with more paper.



Other Facilities

For those who stay longer than a few days, you will be pleased to know we have a laundry on the ground floor, through the first door on the right from the entrance. By all means, do use the washing machines and tumble dryers for which we ask a small charge to cover the running costs. If you would like a really smart appearance, take advantage of the iron and ironing board there too. In the laundry room, there is a further toilet