

“To accomplish great things we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe” Anatole France.



TUNNEL VISION.

Newsletter .

issue 1

Jan. 2015

Taking our first steps.

How many times have you heard the expression, ‘ Walk before you can run? Well from a personal point of view I have heard it a thousand times. But how true it is now for the Rhondda Tunnel Society. Because if you run before you can walk, YOU FALL.

Getting the balance right.

From a handful of people to a membership tally of 630 members within 4 months, and still growing. However, we cannot determine how the membership will pan out as there will be divides in what sort of member each individual will be.

Keyboard members. (Soft core)

The majority of our membership at present consists of what we would call, keyboard members. They are members who contribute through Computers/Laptops and IPad etc.,

Dormant members. (Medium core)

A dormant member is that of a member who wants to attend, and wants to contribute but is prevented due to work commitments, distance or



All in favour !

Food for thought.

If you have a positive attitude and constantly strive to give your best effort, eventually you will overcome your immediate problems and find you are ready for

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You need cash to make cash.

‘We need a Web site for fundraising’.

It needs to be a realistic fee that everyone is happy with and are willing to pay. Whilst setting this fee, we mlt has been four months or so since we had our first meeting in the R.A.F.A club Treorchy and we are moving forward steadily. Our first challenge has hit us head on, so we need to tackle it and come out the other side dusting ourselves off ready to face the next challenge. The issue we talk of is membership fees.

For us to move forward we need funds. The funds are necessary for us to set up our Website to allow members to pay their annual fee. Without this Website there is no way people can donate funds into our Societyust take into consideration all walks of life, that is working class, non working class and retired etc. It has to be right , it has to be fair and it has to be workable. Then everything will settle down and things will begin to run smoothly.

Your views are important to us.

It is vitally important that you ‘air your views’. It is pointless turning up at a meeting, crossing your arms and sitting back. If you have something to say then please don’t be hesitant, it might be something that we have overlooked or not even thought of.

We all want the same thing.

When we were formed back in September we set out our goals and took the bull by the horns and got on with the job. Within the first 3 days we reached our first goal, a great achievement in anyone's eyes. The next goal is going to take us years. We need your support, we need your vision, we need your help and we need to be singing from the

Sponsorship

Idea?

I was thinking about the Tunnel the other day and wondering in what way we could get sponsors if we did get the Tunnel open. How about this. Throughout the Tunnel there are arches on both sides. There must be hundreds. These could be used to raise funds in a unique way. Each arch could be sponsored by different companies/ businesses throughout Tunnel. That would be a significant amount of revenue to-

The Rhondda Tunnel.



The Rhondda Tunnel Society's HQ.

Nestling in the little hamlet of Blaencwm is the wonderful watering hole of many a weary traveller. This quaint little pub has been a corner stone of Blaencwm for over a hundred years. It has seen the changes of the village from the freezing winters of 1965 to the floods of 1979.

In it's prime, miners from the nearby Glenrhondda (The Hook and Eye Colliery and Tydraw would call in and treat themselves to a well earned tankard of the pubs finest ale.

With the scars of mining far behind, Blaencwm is now a beautiful lush green village with wonderful walks, with tranquil flowing rivers, to the Waterfalls of Penpych. Still to this very day you can be served with the finest of ales and a lovely home cooked Roast.

So if you find yourself



The Hendrewen Hotel.

Sitting next to the Hendrewen is a lovely tended garden. There used to be houses here, but why they are not there now is a complete mystery to me.

I remember them when I was a young boy attending Blaencwm School but I cannot for the life of me recall why they disappeared.

Do you know why? Let me know in an Email, and perhaps it will all come flooding back to me.

The Rhondda Tunnel Society.Com

To promote our Society the right way, we now need to go ahead with our Website. This is not only to promote our aims but also help potential members join in a matter of seconds and with greater ease. The Website will be of a very high standard with an insight of attracting Investors and Sponsors alike. Although the setting up of the Website will be a costly affair, we hope the cost will be dwarfed by its advantages. Although the heading of this article is 'The Rhondda Tunnel Society.Com' we don't know if the name is available, so it may alter slightly if the name has already been taken. On the Website we will be able to promote our fund raising by selling our wares on line rather than just rely on shops and members. There will be Paypal facilities, photos, historical facts relating to everything regarding the Tunnel and the Railway that ran

plans we have for this iconic masterpiece of engineering.

'THE RHONDDA TUNNEL'. Everything you need to know about The Rhondda Tunnel Society will be available at a touch of a button.

In the space of four months, we have found the Tunnel Stone, taken it for Artificial Restoration keeping the original Stone preserved, formed the Society, opened it's own bank account, formed a separate fund raising committee, produced Calendars at such short notice and have had quite an amazing array of Media coverage which any Society would envy. We have our Facebook account and 'Twitter' account and we are being followed by people like The first minister Carwyn Jones, BBC Radio wales Stephen Fairclough, Alun Jones ITV (Coast and Country) and a few M.E.P's

he is slowly opening his eyes. Since our Society was put together I have met some wonderful, interesting and intriguing people. People with Vision, people with resolve and enthusiasm. As your Chairman I can't ask you for any more. What I do ask of you is that you tell a friend of us, and tell them to tell a friend. We need as many members as we can muster. The day I saw the Tunnel Cutting being covered, I cried, I cried my eyes out. I said out loud, "one day, I'll open you". Now, with all you and your visions, I feel it, I smell it, I can almost touch it. And it's all down to you, yes you. When you have a moment, just sit quietly in your favourite chair, and think of the first bucket of earth being dug out of the Blaencwm/Blaengwynfi cuttings. If a smile don't come over your face then you are not a true believer. I'll leave you with this thought:-

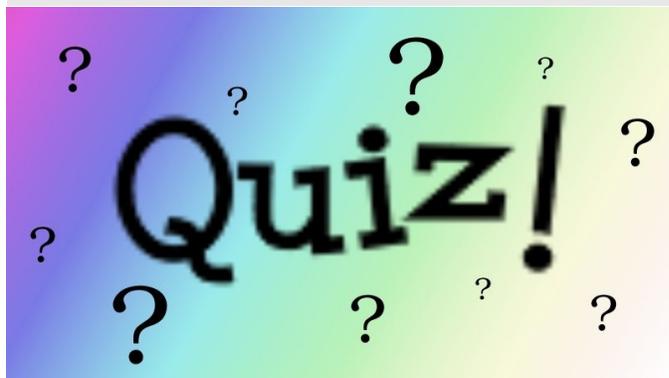
The road is long
With many a winding turns
That leads us to who knows
where
Who knows where.

Fund Raising



A Committee of Fund Raisers were appointed in November, Buggug, Lesley and Jimmy. As Christmas was approaching fast and the end of the year, we didn't expect much from them. Well, here we are a few weeks later and WOW, what a wonderful result and start to the new year with their first venture, 'THE RHONDDA TUNNEL SOCIETY 2015 CALENDAR. If this is what to go by whilst being rushed, then I can't wait to see next years when they will have a lot more time to prepare. To all the members who sold them/bought them, THANK YOU. Thank you for all your efforts, To the Fund raising Committee, I doff my hat to you all.

Our thanks also to Jonathan Davies of Caxton press and all his staff for such a great job at such short notice. Not forgetting all the Sponsors that advertised in the Calendar. We



There may be a Quiz held after our meeting on the 13th January at the Hendrewen Hotel Blaencwm. It all depends on how we get through the business on the night Your Quiz Master will be Mr. James Mackey. All money made will be going into the Societies funds. I hope you make 10 million !



Blaengwynfi Climbs on board.



Here it is, 2015. With the coming of the new year comes the exciting news, Blaengwnfi prepares its self for a public meeting to form our counter part. The meeting will be held at the Tunnel Hotel on the 6th January 2015 at 6pm.

It is exciting to know that all our recent efforts has prompted the interest of the People of Blaengwnfi and we, The Rhondda Tunnel Society look forward to the meeting.

With The People of Blaengwnfi stepping up to the plate we can now form a strong bond between us which makes us very strong indeed.

It's hard to believe that maybe sometime in the future I'll be able to get my wife to pedal me through the Tunnel to Blaengwnfi !!!

I hope the meeting goes well and I am looking forward to the results.

SUSTRANS REQUEST A MEETING

In December S4C requested a welsh report on our plans for The Rhondda Tunnel. In the report Mrs Leanne Giles a Welsh Teacher from Ynyswen Welsh School told reporters of our plans to re-open the Tunnel and how it would be used etc. Unbeknown to us we didn't know that they had been in touch with SUSTRANS. When interviewed, Sustrans spokes person was not that enthusiastic about our idea saying they would rather fund more small projects than putting all their funds into one project.

Then, two weeks after the interview, I had an email asking me to arrange a meeting with them to discuss our project face to face rather than a telephone call.

The Tunnel Stone.

The Stone Plate for the front of the tunnel stone is ready for pick up in the Forest of dean. More good news, it is only going to cost £80 plus V.A.T. We also are going to pick up the fuel cost for picking it up. The Stone is scheduled to be completed by the end of January or early February 2015. There will be some sort of ceremony with the possibility of the Mayor, Media, R.C.T and of course as many as you people (Members of The Rhondda Tunnel Society) and our partners from the other

I had a visit from a gentleman by the name of Mr. Terry Mizen, a councillor from Maesteg. He brought me a document for reading on the Caerau and Cymer Tunnel. It's a feasibility report on the Tunnel as a part of a Cycling and walking route.

It makes very interesting reading. Mr David Newton, a member of our Society lives in Hertfordshire has requested a copy for studying, as it could have great interests regarding our Tunnel. The gentleman in question has qualifications in Tunnels and deep excavations. He will read it and come back with his findings as soon as he can. In the meantime, If you would like a copy, please come and see me and I'll arrange a copy for you.

YOUR GROUP NEEDS YOU.



Fancy being the editor?

You are one step away from becoming the editor of The Rhondda Tunnel Society's newsletter. You don't have to do it alone, get a friend to help, or become joint editors. Email me or have a chat on

Contact Us

If you have any queries, you can

contact me on

01443 777200.

Or Email

Steveavj@hotmail.co.uk

The Rhondda Tunnel Society.

Bulletin

In a the meeting held on the 4th November 2014. By a majority vote, the membership fee was set at £10 per annum (Pro rata)

Since the last meeting was held things have gathered speed and now we are looking at ITV covering our progress on a regular basis. The Program in question is ITV's Coast and Country, This was brought up at our last meeting, that is, putting ourselves on the box. That's exactly what we have done. This is the best way to move forward by reaching out to the general public via Television.

An inspection of the Tunnel is at present on the table of the Highways Agency and Historic Railways Estate. Mr. Lee Holland was contacted by Mr. Alun Jones of ITV asking whether or not his Film Crew could attend the decent. This was promptly refused by the estate. Mr. Alun Jones of ITV is now seeking whether it will be possible to attach small Cameras to the helmets of the personnel who will enter the Tunnel. He is waiting with baited breath for the