

# NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the November 2021 CRTG newsletter. It has been a busy Autumn so far here at CRTG: Julie Masters has now taken over as Chair; we have almost completed our consultation with Resources for Change, regarding the future direction of CRTG, the results of which we look forward to sharing with you shortly.

This year has seen Clwydian Range Tourism Group celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Originally set up to support local tourism businesses during the foot and mouth outbreak, we could never have foreseen that 19 years later we would be supporting our members during a major pandemic!

When the world closed down, CRTG kept busy!! The last 18 months has seen CRTG provide our members and the wider tourism community with Covid-19 updates, - whether it be for funding information, timelines for re-opening, or training support. We organised 4 forums (kindly supported by Flintshire County Council) on topics such as sustainable tourism and Offa's Dyke Path National Trail 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

We have worked closely with Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB to promote our beautiful area on social media, our public facing Facebook page has over 1200 followers, both from the UK and abroad. We support the local policy to promote hidden gems to try and direct some of the traffic away from key honey spots.

During the pandemic, CRTG has conducted three surveys on how Covid-19 has impacted on tourism businesses in North East Wales. We have given a voice to smaller businesses, defending eligibility for funding, supporting marketing - to promote North East Wales, sharing survey findings with local county councils, local MP's and Senedd members, and have helped influence policy.

CRTG have a reputation for managing high profile projects such as Mythfest, and most recently Stay Eat Do. CRTG are keen to continue the good practice of the Stay Eat Do project, particularly by holding more networking and training events.

Our latest consultation will indicate a way forward, in a very different world than we were 20 years ago, but with a real need to support the small businesses in a world where it is easy to get lost in the noise of bigger players. We hope that many of you will travel this road with us!

## **Stay Eat Do/CRTG Networking Event at Beaufort Park**

Join us on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at the Beaufort Park Hotel, from 1030, to meet other tourism businesses, and hear an update from the Beaufort Park Hotel. We are looking forward to meeting members and supporters face to face, to reflect on the year and to network with like- minded businesses. Current social distancing regulations will be followed.

To book your place follow the link, or email Julie [juliestayeatdo@gmail.com](mailto:juliestayeatdo@gmail.com) to let her know you will be attending.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/clwydian-range-tourism-groupstay-eat-do-networking-event-tickets-208616616917>

**NHS COVID Passes will now be needed in cinemas, theatres and concert halls from Monday 15 November.**

For more information:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKWALES/bulletins/2fb9357>

### Visit Wales



Visit Wales are promoting Wales as an Autumn/Winter destination, and you can find some of their promotional materials online, which you can use for your own advertising.

<https://www.visitwales.com/>

<https://assets.wales.com/assets> (you will need to register prior to accessing the assets bank)

### **\*\*\*LET US KNOW YOUR OPINIONS ON WALES ESTABLISHING A STATUTORY REGISTRATION OR LICENCING SCHEME FOR HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION OPERATORS IN WALES\*\*\***

Julie Masters would be very interested in hearing your opinion and any questions you wish to raise, regarding the proposed scheme.

If you get in touch by Monday 15/11/21, she will then compile a report in order to give a collective voice from Clwydian Range Tourism Group.

Julie's email address is: [julie.stayeatdo@gmail.com](mailto:julie.stayeatdo@gmail.com)

Establishing a statutory registration or licensing scheme for holiday accommodation operators in Wales

Strategic Research & Insight (SRI), an independent Cardiff-based research agency has been commissioned by Welsh Government to interview stakeholders to explore establishing a statutory registration or licensing scheme for holiday accommodation operators in Wales.

SRI will be speaking to stakeholders in Welsh Government, local authorities and trade associations in Wales, as well as researching best practice in other countries, to consider:

Whether developing a registration scheme or licensing scheme would be appropriate in Wales

The options for how a scheme would be operated and delivered at national and/or local level

Resources required for each of the best options

How a scheme would support wider areas of Welsh Government policy such as housing and taxation

Whether a scheme should merge or align with the existing Visit Wales grading scheme or follow the Rent Smart Wales model

There are significant potential benefits of the scheme, including a level playing field for professional and amateur accommodation operators, and a much better oversight of the sector to inform decision-making in tourism, housing, environmental health and taxation. We also recognise there are wider views and considerations that need to be explored.

As it will not be possible for SRI to speak to all tourism businesses as part of this work, please feed any comments you have through your representative body (Clwydian Range Tourism Group); these will help form the decision on whether a scheme is implemented, and if so, how.

You can also email [anthony@strategic-research.co.uk](mailto:anthony@strategic-research.co.uk) with your comments.

## ACCESS TO FUNDED COURSES AT COLEG CAMBRIA



You may be able to access a Personal Learning Account to study at Coleg Cambria. See the links below to view courses available through the college. Many of these are specific to hospitality and catering.

If you would like to find out more, including your eligibility to a Personal learning account, please contact Lesley Innes, Employer Engagement Officer, on [lesley.innes@cambria.ac.uk](mailto:lesley.innes@cambria.ac.uk) or telephone 01978 287819.

<https://www.cambria.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021-PLA-Course-List-ENG-Aug-Jan.pdf>

<https://www.cambria.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SEE-Course-List-ENG-Oct-2020.pdf>

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON LOCAL TAXES FOR SECOND HOMES AND SELF-CATERING ACCOMMODATION

The Welsh Government are consulting on the discretionary powers which allow local authorities to levy a higher rate of council tax on:

- second homes
- long-term empty properties.

They are also asking for views and evidence on the criteria used to define a property as self-catering accommodation for local tax purposes.

Click on the link to submit your views online:

<https://gov.wales/local-taxes-second-homes-and-self-catering-accommodation>

**Finally, don't forget to keep sharing your stories, news, photographs and events on our social media:**



Public facing page: Visit Clwydian Range

Members Group: Clwydian Range Tourism Group



Visit Clwydian Range

@visittherange



#Visit Clwydian Range