

Porthaethwy – Mynedfa Ynys Môn
Menai Bridge – Gateway to Anglesey

NEWSLETTER

Cymdeithas Ddinesig Bro Porthaethwy

Menai Bridge and District Civic Society

CYLCHLYTHYR

Dates for your

diary: More details on page

3. Lectures start at 7.30pm and are held in the Community Centre, Water Street, Menai Bridge, apart from those marked with ** that are afternoon meetings starting at 2.30 p.m., the Garden Party and our Annual Dinner.

Sept 17th SATURDAY, GARDEN PARTY AT PLAS CADNANT 2.00 — 5.00 P.M. Tickets £5 in advance or £7 on the day. Menai Bridge Town Band, Flower Arranging, Plant Stalls by Florabundance, Portraiture Sketches

September 23rd Friday 4pm Conducted tour of the new **Marine Science** building. Meet at entrance off Askew Street, Menai Bridge for approx 1 hour tour **Later at 7.30pm the Society starts its autumn lecture series** in the lounge of the Community Centre in Water Street. Speaker is **Michael Davies** on his time as Mayor of the town.

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Evans, Auctioneers & Valuers

****Nov. 25th** Dr. Gavin Gatehouse

the story of the **Anafon Community Hydro**, Abergwyngregyn

****Dec. 9th** Liz Bird - 'The Emma

(1809-1864): The biography of a

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****Jan. 27th** Susan Booth Conservation

& Development Officer for

Diocese of Bangor, with 74

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an area from Holyhead to Llanidloes

Feb. 24th ANNUAL DINNER -

guest speaker Dr. Shaun Russell,

Director **Treboroth Botanic Garden**

March 31st Mike Blackburn - **Industrial families of North Wales** -

Summers, Darbyshires, Wynns, Platts,

Pennants, Asheton-Smith and Oak-

leys

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CIVIC TRUST
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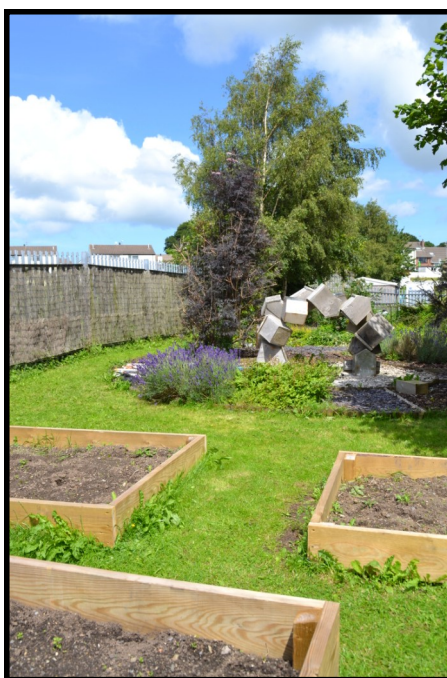
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YSGOL Y BORTH REMEMBERS ABERFAN



Menai Bridge and District Civic Society sponsored the renewal of the Aberfan Memorial Garden at Ysgol y Borth. Mr Gareth Jones, Deputy Head of Ysgol y Borth shows the garden to Mr Anthony Tavernor, owner of Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens and President of the Society, accompanied by the children of the School Council and members of the Society.

Photos N Kneale



144 people died in the Aberfan disaster: 116 of them were school children. About half of the children at Pantglas Junior School, and five of their teachers, were killed.

"What happened at Aberfan on 21 October 1966 left an indelible mark on the valleys of south Wales. Even today, the name Aberfan evokes sadness and contemplation. The shock was felt beyond South Wales too. The television coverage allowed a collective witnessing of the disaster and turned it into a national tragedy." This is part of the introduction to [Aberfan: Government and Disasters](#) (Cardiff: Welsh Academic Press, 2000) by Iain McLean & Martin Johnes — still worth reading today. Thirty or so years on from 1984 the raw emotion of that time has dimmed and we face daily 'news of tragedy' in the media, but the name Aberfan still resonates with many and the need to remember the loss and its reasons remain. 'Aberfan' is now a subject on the school curriculum and the Civic Society is marking the anniversary by sponsoring the renewal of part of the gardens at Ysgol y Borth, by the pupils, and providing a commemorative plaque.

It seems hard to believe that it is now nearly 50 years since the Aberfan Disaster. On Friday, October 21, 1966 a waste tip slid down a mountainside into the mining village of Aberfan, near Merthyr Tydfil in South Wales. It first destroyed a farm cottage in its path, killing all the occupants. At Pantglas Junior School, just below, the children had just returned to their classes after singing *All Things Bright and Beautiful* at their assembly.

CIVIC TRUST and NATIONAL NEWS



Welsh Government Consultations

There are currently an overwhelming number of consultations, they include :

I Cadw have released the following consultations (**all close 3rd October**): <http://gov.wales/consultations/cultureandsport/proposals-for-secondary-legislation-to-support-the-historic-environment-wales-act-2016/?lang=en>

A. Regs under the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016
B. Procedures to claim for compensation associated with temporary stop notices

C. Simplification of scheduled monument consent

D. A requirement to include heritage impact statements as part of the application process for scheduled monument consent. Also includes the following best-practice guidance documents:

E. Managing Change to Listed Buildings in Wales, Managing Change in World Heritage Sites in Wales, Managing Conservation Areas in Wales, Managing Lists of Historic Assets of Special Local Interest in Wales, Setting of Historic Assets in Wales.

2 The Planning Division is consulting on TAN 24 The Historic Environment <http://gov.wales/consultations/planning/proposed-technical-advice-note-24-the-historic-environment/?lang=en>

3 Consultation on Planning Law in Wales. The Law Commission is running a public consultation on Planning Law in Wales having published a Scoping Paper on 30 June. The emphasis is on **simplification and consolidation of planning legislation in Wales** and includes proposals to amalgamate the listed building and conservation area consent regimes with planning permission.

The reform elements comprise, amongst others: the restatement of existing law so that as far as reasonably practicable it is contained within a consolidated piece of legislation, adjustments to produce a satisfactory consolidated text – removing ambiguities, etc but not introducing any substantial change of policy.

Comments are invited until **30 September 2016**.

To sign up to the mailing list, or with any other queries please email Planning_wales@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk

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Civic Trust Cymru will respond to relevant consultations as Civic Trust Cymru, and/or as part of the Wales Heritage Group.

(Extract from *Civic Trust Cymru Bulletin*— full version available by e-mail and/or at Society Meetings.)

Liz Moyle

RECENT PROGRAMME NOTES, SUMMER OUTINGS AND EVENTS

We're having a busy summer of outings and meetings, joining with our neighbouring Society in Caernarfon, Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Aberfan, viewing our National Park Headquarters at Plas Tan y Bwlch and **preparing for our Garden Party to be held on Saturday 17th September at Plas Cadnant**.

On June 21st, we visited **Boston Lodge Works on Ffestiniog Railway**. The Lodge overlooks the Estuary in Porthmadog and in the distance Snowdonia. A fascinating tour of the works by Julie Stirling (Works Administrator) where engines, carriages are both refurbished and built from new. The works itself is a listed building and some of the engines date back to the 19C. Real Thomas the Tank country, but one engine is called Linda! (Linda, named after Linda Blanche Douglas-Pennant – the daughter of the owner of the Penrhyn Quarry at Bethesda).



Photos Liz Moyle



And then on to Plas Tan y Bwlch, the Snowdonia National Park Environmental Studies Centre and former home of the Oakley Family. Great lunch and guided tour of the Gardens— still recovering from severe storm damage two years ago— and view of the Hedd Wynn Exhibition. (continued on page 4)

FUTURE EVENTS

Lectures held monthly at 7.30pm in the lounge of the War Memorial Community Centre, Water Street, Menai Bridge on Friday, apart from those marked with ** that are afternoon meetings starting at 2.30 p.m., the Garden Party and our Annual Dinner. If any member would like help with transport to get to meetings please let Jane know. We will try and put you in touch with someone who can give you a lift.

Sept 17th SATURDAY, GARDEN PARTY AT PLAS CADNANT 2.00 — 5.00 P.M. Tickets £5 in advance or £7 on the day. Menai Bridge Town Band, Flower Arranging by Florabundance, Portrait Sketches and much more. Tickets from John Hughes Menai Bridge, Awen Menai or Plas Cadnant.

September 23rd Friday 4pm Conducted tour of the new Marine Science building. Meet at entrance off Askew Street, Menai Bridge for approx 1 hour tour with Prof. C. Jago. Names to J. Cherrett, 01248 713440 asap.

Later at 7.30pm the Society starts its autumn lecture series in the lounge of the Community Centre in Water Street. Speaker is Michael Davies on his time as Mayor of the town.

**** 5th October Wednesday 2pm** Visit to **St. Gwenllwyfo Church, Llys Dulas.** The church has superb 15th Century stained glass windows and panels which originated in Flanders. They were given to the church by the Neave family whose ancestral home was nearby. Conducted tour and light refreshments. Own transport needed, but car sharing possible. Names to J. Cherrett 01248 713440 asap.

Oct. 21st Ann Jones from **Morgan Evans, Auctioneers & Valuers** - its history.

****Nov. 25th** Dr. Gavin Gatehouse - Building our own hydro - the story of the **Anafon Community Hydro** at Abergwyngregyn

****Dec. 9th** Liz Bird - 'The Emma'(1809-1864): The biography of a merchant ship and whaler'

****Jan. 27th** Susan Booth Conservation & Development Officer for Diocese of Bangor. with 74 churches on Anglesey, 189 in total in an area from Holyhead to Llanidloes

Feb. 24th ANNUAL DINNER - guest speaker Dr.

Shaun Russell, Director Treborth Botanic Garden.

March 31st Mike Blackburn - Industrial families of North Wales - Summers, Darbyshires, Wynns, Platts, Pen-nants, Asheton-Smith and Oakeleys

April 28th AGM (speaker to be arranged)

Jane Cherrett

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

22nd April 2016

Our President, Anthony Tavernor, welcomed members to the meeting and reports on activities and accounts for the previous year were received and accepted. Officers and Committee were willing to stand and were elected with the addition of a new member, Glyn Davies (photographer and keen campaigner). Jane Cherrett was thanked for the excellent Programme of Events she arranges as were Lola, Renata and Liz for their work as Treasurers/Chair.

Liz mentioned that the year had been marked by a great increase in 'consultation work', planning applications e.g. The Library, route of Pylons, Zorb Centre and that the Society was glad of the networking/provision of information and feedback by other societies and groups in the area., notably CPRW, the Wildlife Trust and the Friends of the Coastal Footpath.

The business of the meeting was to have been followed by a talk from Claire Rolland of the Pumpkin Bakery, Menai Bridge but unfortunately she was unable to attend. She very kindly provided freshly made Bakewell Tarts and Chocolate Cookies, greatly enjoyed. Since the Meeting the Bakery has closed. We wish Claire well for the future and hope that the empty shops in our High Street will soon be filled. Loss of the Castle Bakery was a shock too. Our President kindly agree to give us an update on the restoration work at Plas Cadnant and we are grateful to him and Norman Kneale, for his photographs, for helping out so admirably.

ZORB CENTRE At the time of writing (start of September) the Zorb Planning Application remains unresolved. While the Officers of the Council have recommended it be granted the Council Planning Committee have yet to formally consider it in full, the delay being

caused by the need to include new access plans for the A5 Trunk Road and submit these to the Welsh Government for approval first. These are subject to a **further amended Planning Application dated 2nd September 2016, (ref. 39C561/FR/TR) with 'representations' to be made by 23rd September 2016 to the Planning Dept., Isle of Anglesey County Council, Council Offices, Llangefni, LL77 7TW i.e. if you commented on the original Application you may wish to comment further?**

At a time when Planning Regulations are being 'simplified' (also see page 1) e.g. Area necessary before consultation and Environmental Impact Assessment are necessary is being increased from 0.5 hectares to 5 hectares, and more decisions are to be made directly by Officers (it being deemed that 'front loading' of applications will have sorted out any planning issues beforehand) it is deeply disappointing to see such confusion e.g. The Zorb Centre Application is the result of 18 months support. If this process is confused what is the cause and does it arise elsewhere? Have staff cutbacks and indeed cutbacks in Councillor numbers, been too severe? Due to the structure of the various Departments, contributing to consideration of conservation issues, are Councillors provided with the full information they need in an easily accessible manner? Unllais Cymru/One Voice Wales locally, (the 'Voice of Community and Town Councils in Wales) raises concerns about this. In their letter of objection of 19th April they comment, "The process, to date, has strengthened concerns about the lack of independence of the body that looks after the assets of the AONB, which has officers who are answerable to Senior Officers of the Council. (translation)". I understand similar concerns were raised when the Application for the Pylons was considered. If the organisation representing Town and Community Councillors don't believe in the processes what are they doing about it?

Anthony Tavernor Esq.
Llywydd/ President

Liz Moyle
Cadeirydd/Chair

Maureen Parry-Williams
Ysgrifennydd/Secretary

Jane Cherrett
Ysgifennydd Cymdeithasol/
Social Secretary

Renata Hufton
Trysorydd/Treasurer

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Deputy Treasurer/Trysorydd
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Newsletter Editor/Golygydd
Cylchlythyr

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Booking activities for events
and outings -
Jane Cherrett
Tel 01248 713440

County Councillors :
Alun Mummery, Meirion Jones
and Jim Evans

Town Council :
Canolfan Tysilio, Menai Bridge

See our Website at
www.menaibridge
civicsociety.org.uk

SUMMER OUTINGS AND EVENTS (continued from page 3)

LLANFAGLAN CHURCH

Our outing on July 20th was totally different. We visited to Llanfaglan Church, near Caernarfon, looked after by Friend of Friendless Churches. The conducted tour by Mr. Ifor Williams (Caernarfon Civic Soc) was excellent. The Church, which is Grade I listed is remote, in a field overlooking the Straits, away from any other build-



Photos Liz Moyle

ings. Ifor reminded us that the easiest way to get there in years past was by boat - and people did from as far away as North Anglesey.

There are three ancient stones in the more recent fabric of the building; one having a Romano-British inscription, and two with Celtic crosses carved on them. They date from between the 5th-10th century.

Embedded into the wall near the porch are two grave-slabs bearing large incised Celtic crosses. On the third there is a Romano-British inscription recalling **LOVER NUS FILI** or **LAVER NUS FILI** - 'here lies Lovernus'. The church is dedicated to St Baglan the son of Dingad. He lived sometime in the

6th-7th century and was an abbot of Bardsey Island. The Church was very popular and one of our members, Frank Humphreys Jones, can remember attending Services and sitting in the family 'box pew'. The pews and pulpit have remained mostly unchanged.

See friendsoffriendless-churches.org.uk/llanfaglan/

2017 MARKS 50 YEARS OF CONSERVATION AREAS

Civic Trust Cymru and Menai Bridge and District Civic Society intends to celebrate this event as the Civic Trust (IUK) and its founder Duncan Sandys were instrumental in the formation of Conservation Areas in the UK. If you want to get involved or have suggestions for how to celebrate this event please get in touch with any Committee member.

Duncan Sandys, later Baron Duncon-Sandys, seemed to have had a wide variety of interests, and business associations but he was interested in 'historic architecture' and formed the Civic Trust in 1956 and was its President; the Royal Institution of

British Architects made him an honorary Fellow in 1968, and the Royal Town Planning Institute made him an honorary member.

As Minister of Housing from 1954, he introduced the Clean Air Act and in 1955 introduced the Green Belts.

JOHN TRIPP It is with great sadness we record the death of John Tripp. John died on 22nd June 2016,; he was 86. We send our condolences to his family. John was a long time supporter of the Society, CPRW and the North Wales Wildlife Trust. A fervent campaigner for conservation, and scourge of poor Planning; we will miss his contributions.