

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 (unless otherwise stated) and are held in the Community Centre, Water Street, Menai Bridge.

***22nd January 2016**
2.30 p.m. start James Grant - Royal National Lifeboat Institution at local and national level.

26th February
ANNUAL DINNER.
Guest speaker Michael Tree - Welsh Country Houses: A Personal Odyssey

18th March. Bob Morris - The Crystal Palace Exhibition and its links to two Welshmen, the poet Talhaiarn and Owen Jones, 'the apostle of colour'.

22nd April.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - speaker to be arranged

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CIVIC TRUST
YMDIRIEDOLAETH
DDINESIG CYMRU

Spring/Gwanwyn 2016

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PLAS CADNANT - the restoration begins!

On Boxing Day night the central part of the Walled Garden and Valley Gardens were devastated by a flood. Water, from a sudden downpour collected in the natural valley/basin above the Plas. As the ground was already saturated it surged down the valley, scouring the car park and gravel paths. It swept into the garden-wall below the pond which eventually gave way and a 2/3 foot high wall of water continued straight down into the River Cadnant. Luckily no one was hurt and the Information Centre, Café and Cottages were not damaged. The rain gauge in the Gardens showed that over 2 inches of rain fell that night.

Members of the Society have been in regular touch with our President, Anthony Tavernor, to see how best we could help him in this emergency. Anthony has asked that we pass on the following message, "Thank you for your very kind thoughts and concerns after the horrendous flood. We have been overwhelmed by people's messages of support. We have already commenced clearing of the debris that has been washed into the lower valley. We certainly wish to restore the garden to how it was before and plan to open again to the public for this season."

"We plan to open again to the public for this season."



Above 'Eye catcher' bench caught on tree - stopping it being swept into the lower valley.
Above Left Six foot high, 2 feet wide wall demolished. Lawn, yew trees undamaged.



Left Society members in the damaged garden area in July 2014, during a guided tour.

How can you help? Become a season ticket holder and tell others and watch it grow again! Follow progress at www.plascadnantgardens.co.uk

31/07/2014

Continued on page 4.

CIVIC TRUST and NATIONAL NEWS



The latest issue of 'Bulletin', the magazine of the Civic Societies in Wales, came out during November and provides a valuable insight into what is happening across the nation and what might affect it in the future.

Anna Lermom, on behalf of the Societies and Wales Heritage Group attended, and gave support, at a meeting in London on 9th November, to the UK taking part in the European Cultural Heritage year in 2018. A decision is awaited.

Details are also included of the **People's Collection Wales** - a website dedicated to discovering the story of Wales and its people. "A dynamic and bilingual experience, full of fascinating photographs, documents, stories and videos detailing the history and heritage of Wales - and it's free to use". It is funded by the Welsh Government and led by a federated partnership consisting of three national heritage bodies - the National Museum

of Wales, the National Library of Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical monuments of Wales. You can search the collection online and contribute your own material if you wish.

See www.peoplescollection.wales - some stunning aerial photos of Menai Bridge, the town and Bridge - but little else. There is one photo though, of a 'Peace Day Meeting' on 19th July 1919 - seems to be down on Church Island,

before the War Memorial was built.

Cadw held a consultation meeting in Beaumaris on 14th December, as part of its review of the Management Plan for the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward, at which we were represented. Amongst other things we looked at was 'What site-specific issues, opportunities or threats can stakeholders identify that may affect this World Heritage Site?' Good to be consulted but when I hear, 'stakeholders', I immediately think someone wants us to volunteer. We'll see. Anyway, we identified flooding as a threat. Not that surprising as the moat had nearly flooded the weekend before; we didn't think of landslides though. We extend our sympathies to Society members and indeed all in Beaumaris and Menai Bridge who were affected.

Liz Moyle

RECENT PROGRAMME NOTES

19th September GARDEN PARTY - see Page 4 for brief details of that sunny day.

25th September. Peter Simpson - The Life & Times of the

Photos N Kneale



7th Marquess of Anglesey. A delightful talk by someone who knew him well and revered his company, wit, and sheer sense of fun.

30th October. Dr. Mike Roberts - Undersea Anglesey, How and Why is the School of Ocean Sciences mapping large areas of sea bed around Wales?



in how we view our seabed. Practical value but also poignant views of WWI shipwrecks - not seen for the past 100 years.

Forget Starwars! Members, who were lucky enough to see this demonstration of advanced underwater mapping, know they've seen the start of a revolution

27th November. Sgt. Dewi Evans - Rural Crime in North Wales.



A good informal chat about the work of The rural Crime Team. Dewi grew up in rural Dyffryn Ogwen. After finishing school he completed a BSc in Marine and Freshwater Biology at Aberystwyth University and an MA in Countryside Management at Bangor University. He has previously worked for the Countryside Council for Wales in a variety of roles including being a warden at Coedydd Aber National Nature Reserve. He has almost six years' service with the North Wales Police dealing with everything from sheep rustling to tractor theft. **OWL - Online Watch**

Scheme. If you're out and about in the countryside you can help too. Report anything suspicious and get the latest news through OWL - a computerised WATCH scheme. For details see <http://www.north-wales.police.uk/advice-and-support/safer-business/rural-crime.aspx>

11th December. David Price - The Bishop of Bangor's Palaces on the Menai Straits. David knows his Palaces! Below one of the first in Bangor—now the Town Hall/Police Station opposite the Library. Strange how many Bishops of Bangor lived in Menai Bridge. A sell out crowd—we nearly ran out of chairs.



FUTURE EVENTS

Lectures held monthly at 7.30pm in the lounge of the War Memorial Community Centre, Water Street on Friday evenings usually, but note January Meeting starts at 2.30p.m

22nd January 2016 2.30 p.m. start James Grant - Royal National Lifeboat Institution at local and national level.

26th February ANNUAL DINNER at the VICTORIA HOTEL, MENAI BRIDGE

Guests assemble at 5.30pm, buffet served from 6pm, speaker 7.45pm approximately. Cost £20

Guest speaker Michael Tree -

Michael Tree is a retired conservation officer and policy advisor for the Crown Estate in London. In the 1960's it was apparent that so many Welsh historic houses were falling into disrepair and decay. Crippling death duties and the change in people's life opportunities after the war were the cause of this sad state of affairs. He purchased the Georgian mansion Hendre in Llanrwst, a building in serious trouble and over a period

of 8 or so years brought it back from the brink. It is Grade II listed. In 2014, he received the Georgian Group Architecture Award for his restoration of a Georgian Country House. He is co-author of 'The Forgotten Houses of Wales'.

The Civic Society is delighted to welcome Michael Tree as speaker at our Annual Dinner and to hear his account of 'Welsh Country Houses: A Personal Odyssey'

Please see separate booking form. Form and cheques to be returned to Miss Lola Prytherch, 16 New Street, Menai Bridge, Anglesey, LL59 5HN., **BY 12th February 2014 at the latest.**

18th March. Bob Morris - The Crystal Palace Exhibition and its links to two Welshmen, the poet Talhaiarn and Owen Jones, 'the Apostle of colour'.

22nd April. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - speaker to be arranged

Jane Cherrett

CONSULTATIONS.

POWER LINES Members of the Committee attended the consultation at the War Memorial Community Centre in force and expressed their concern that the undersea route for the Power Lines was not even put forward as a proposal for discussion by the representatives from the National Grid. The fact that the National Grid is a plc and its profits (per share) exceed the average of FTSE 100 companies really does rankle! It is heartening that all Community Councils and the County Council objected to overland Power Lines as well. The proposed lines would be in addition to, not instead of, existing lines. A proposal to bury the lines to go under the Straits would mean the building of One acre 'substations' on either side of the Straits and extra power lines across the mountains - which is why we have objected to the proposals and asked for all power lines to be at sea.

LIBRARY. Consultation about the Library Service on Anglesey, including Menai Bridge has finished. The Society expressed the view that lack of investment and continuing support for our Library is counterproductive. Menai Bridge has volunteers across a wide spectrum of activities but the Library Service needs the continuity of professional librarians. Digital communication has a role to play, and we are only just exploring its potential, but once the physical presence of a local library is removed something dies within that community. Libraries have played a pivotal role in the education, provision of information, and growth of our communities for over a hundred years; they are a mark of a community's investment in and belief and pride in its own future.

Peter Baker It is with great sadness that we have learned of the death of Peter Baker. He died suddenly while on holiday in Tenerife. He will be greatly missed. We send our condolences to Jean and family.

PLANNING.

MARKET HALL The Market Hall in the Centre of Menai Bridge has been allowed to degenerate until it has become a danger, eyesore and embarrassment to the Town. We understand that ambitious plans are underway to re-develop the site; good. It would be even better if the people of Menai Bridge, or at least the Town Council, were party to the discussions. Please not another supermarket! Look at the effect on the centre of Llangefni - a shadow of itself, a once proud market town now with many empty or charity shops. We need access to local produce, local suppliers and to encourage local small businesses - which is exactly what **the Fish Market Project** is about. Môn Mam Cymru.

ZORB BALLS. Zorb Balls are 3 metre high plastic balls. You climb in them and roll down hills in them for fun. Sometimes you can add water to the balls so it's rather like being in a washing machine, so I'm told. This is called an 'extreme sport'! Hmm! I'm sure some people would enjoy this adrenaline rush. Extreme it may be but I think it is stretching it rather to call it a sport. A planning application has been submitted to set up a Zorb Centre in the fields alongside the Straits, between Menai Bridge and Llanfair PG, near the Coastal Footpath and Birdwatching Hide; near land donated and now conserved by the National Trust. Although using sustainable materials, changing this cherished landscape from farming to commercial use seems shortsighted. The Society has lodged an objection. What do you think? Tell us, tell the Planning Department!

MEMORIES - We are grateful to all those who have contributed to the 'Memories' Section of our Newsletter and Website. This issue we focus on **Rowland Williams and Sons**. Further information will appear in our **new Website** at menaibridgecivicsociety.wordpress.com. This site is under construction so some bits may not work fully yet. We welcome feedback and suggestions for improvement, but would be grateful for your patience.

Anthony Tavernor Esq.
Llywydd/ President

Liz Moyle
Cadeirydd/Chair

Maureen Parry-Williams
Ysgrifennydd/Secretary

Jane Cherrett
Ysgifennydd Cymdeithasol/
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County Councillors :
Alun Mummery, Meirion Jones
and **Jim Evans**

Town Council :
Canolfan Tysilio, Menai Bridge

For all correspondence please
contact the Secretary,
Mrs Maureen Parry-Williams,

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

GARDEN PARTY.

Summer (remember summer?) seems such a long time ago and a world away from cold, gales and indeed floods. Let's remember then, our Garden Party on 19th September, held at Plas Cadnant — thanks to their generosity. It was one of the nicest Autumn days you could imagine, the Band played, Medwyn and Gwenda Williams sold leeks, we had flower arrangers, artists, punch and Rhun ap Iorwerth AM opened the proceedings. About 200 people attended helping us raise £1300 for the Society and local activities. Many thanks to all who helped make it such a success.



Gardening advice from Joanna Davidson, Philip Brown and Briony Davies.

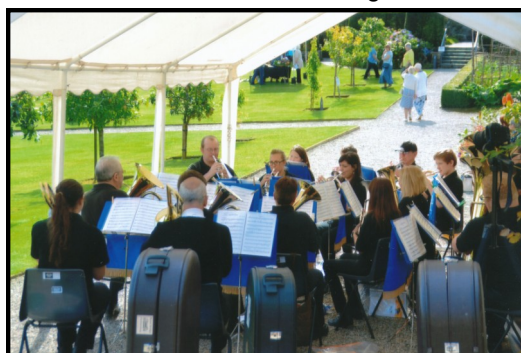


Medwyn and Gwenda Williams helped with advice and fundraising



Flower Arranging demonstration by Florabundance, in the Information Centre

Menai Bridge Town Band



Portrait sketches by Val Hopkins



Photos N Kneale

Plas Cadnant restoration continued. Congratulations to all at Plas Cadnant for the quick and firm resolve shown in starting to clear up the flood damage and to restore the middle part of these wonderful gardens. Remember you have many friends in Menai Bridge, the UK, and further afield, who are all rooting for you and willing to help - as you think best. We look forward to keeping you updated as work progresses.