



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 April 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Speaker Claire Rolland from the Pumpkin Bakery
25th May 2016 Wednesday 2.p.m. At the Church Lanwenllwyfo, Llysduas. To view 16C Flemish stained glass windows.

21st June 2016 Tuesday Day visit to Boston Lodge works and Tanybwllch for lunch, gardens and Hedd Wyn Exhibition
20th July 2016 Wednesday Visit to Llanfaglan Church—Friends of Friendless Church

23rd September 2016 7.30 p.m. Michael Davies - the Ups and Downs of Mayoral Duties, also Website update — Snapshots of Menai Bridge

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CIVIC TRUST
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Summer/Haf 2016

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YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

Believe it or not this isn't your Committee! How can you tell? We've got better hats! Well the photo is actually of the fancy dress competition at the 1951 Carnival - but if I started the paragraph with an appeal for people to help out on the Committee, or at special events, you wouldn't have read this far would you? Well I wouldn't anyway. Actually we don't like having Committee Meetings, we would far rather be out doing things, enjoying meeting people, visiting the countryside and places of interest; helping to protect what we enjoy comes as a sort of necessary by-product. So if you too enjoy the Town, the Library, walking along the Belgian Promenade and through Coed Cynol, shopping in the independent shops on the High Street, etc. what are going to do to help?

Do you have experience of organising, writing protest letters, can see better ways of doing things (but don't like to say), know your way round a computer, hate computers, good with numbers, hate numbers but love books, good at Welsh translation - then let's hear from you! Help at the Garden Party or at regular events; join in—fancy dress is optional. Sense of the ridiculous is preferred. How do you put your toe in the water, without having your arm twisted, so to speak? Phone Jane, Maureen, Iola, or Norman for a chat or come along to the AGM on the 22nd April and see what we've been up to. Recently the number of 'consultations' and planning applications we've responded to



Thanks to Mrs R J Williams for kind permission to reproduce this photograph.

seems to have increased dramatically and they're all important issues - the Library Service, provision of parking, Official sites for Travellers and not least the Zorb Application (is this just the forerunner for many more development plans on Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty?), the Council itself - how does it cope with continuously reduced budgets, loss of senior staff, reduced number of Councillors and yes the fact that Menai Bridge doesn't have its own County Councillor. 2017 will see County and local elections, possibly a move to amalgamate local Councils e.g. one 'local' Council to cover Aethwy—the area covered by the three County Councillors at present and the start to devolve services out to local Councils - all in the name of austerity. The consultation meeting in Llangefni, about National Grid Power Lines, got so heated; decisions are being taken further and further away from the people they affect. Will we see the same anger about local democracy?

Garden Festival to launch at Plas Cadnant. Restoration of Hidden Gardens well under way. See report at page 4.

CIVIC TRUST and NATIONAL NEWS



Manifesto for Heritage, National Assembly elections 2016.

The Wales Heritage Group, the voice of the independent heritage movement in Wales, has produced a 'Manifesto for Heritage' for the National Assembly Election. Your Society is affiliated to the Wales Heritage Group through Civic Trust Cymru. Together with the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, the Georgian Group, Friends of Friendless Churches, Council for British Archaeology, Welsh Historic Gardens Trust and many more societies, we form a considerable pressure group. The full text of the manifesto can be found at http://civictrustcymru.org.uk/?page_id=35.

If you're looking at candidate handouts or even attending political meetings this Spring why don't you ask the candidates where they stand on the subject of our National Heritage, both built and natural?

"The Wales Heritage Group urges all political parties to:

1. Value our unique heritage assets and the expertise of those who look after them.
2. Implement the Historic Environment (Wales) Act to make sure that the past works for the future.
3. Ensure continued support and resourcing for preservation and enhancement of heritage asset.

Involve everyone - landowners, heritage bodies, residents and visitors in maximising the benefits of our heritage."

"Over 30,000 FTE jobs, £1.8 billion in output, and almost £840 million GVA is contributed to Wales by the historic

environment sector. At least 20% of total tourism expenditure is attributable to the historic environment. Studies show that heritage is an asset which contributes to all aspects of sustainable development principles, enhancing the environment and quality of life", said Interim Director of Civic Trust Cymru, Anna Lermont.

Mike Heyworth, Director of the Council for British Archaeology, recommends "that political parties adopt the Manifesto and highlight the four key objectives in their policy documents".

We are of course just as concerned in conserving our natural heritage and will join with the Anglesey Branch of CPRW in asking candidates their views on heritage/conservation, shortly. This is all stirring stuff but does it, will it make any difference to what happens on the ground, literally. Take for example the **Zorb Planning Application**, where the scheme was supported by the Officers of the Council but a decision was deferred as no one realised in time the application referred to development on a Trunk Road. The Applicants have been working with the Council for the past year on this project, which is worrying, if they didn't realise.

The summary of the application, presented to the Council Planning Committee makes no mention of the historical interest in the site and states that supporting development within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a 'finely balanced decision'. Not to the 150+ people objecting it's not! The Society has objected in the strongest possible terms to the Application for this site and to the possible development of a restaurant there as well. Other planning matters are continued on page 4.

Liz Moyle

RECENT PROGRAMME NOTES

22nd January 2016 Royal National Lifeboat Institution at local and national level. James Grant was unable to be present but his place was ably taken by John Williams, formerly of Menai Bridge. The professionalism of the service the RNLI provides, in a variety of very demanding circumstances, really came to the fore, but I wonder how they categorised the family they rescued from their campervan as it floated down the Straits? They had parked overnight on the slipway at Porth y Wrach and the tide came in! Both 'sailors' and 'boat' were rescued and returned to shore without injury. The crew and boat from Beaumaris went to help out in Cumbria during the recent floods.

26th February Annual Dinner at the Victoria Hotel. Guest speaker Michael Tree - enthralled with his



Michael Tree, at our Annual Dinner, with Committee Member Bridget Geoghegan

talk about **Forgotten Welsh Country Houses** - those rescued, including his own in Llanrwst. His book, in collaboration with Mark Baker, 'Forgotten Welsh Houses', is both informative and challenging.

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



Photo N Kneale

I didn't know that two Welshmen were at the centre of design, building and innovation for the building of the Crystal Palace. Talhaiarn, John Jones, both a poet and an architect and Owen Jones an architect and 'interior decorator'. Both are still remembered today, Owen Jones through his book the 'Grammar of Ornament', a design sourcebook that is still in print 150 years later and John Jones for his well loved lyrics to popular melodies, *Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn* (Watching the Wheat), and *Mae Robin yn Swil* (Robin is shy).

FUTURE EVENTS

Lectures held monthly at 7.30pm in the lounge of the War Memorial Community Centre, Water Street, Menai Bridge on Friday evenings usually.

22nd April, Friday. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The business of the meeting is followed by a talk from **Claire Rolland of the Pumpkin Bakery**, Menai Bridge - about the Bakery itself and 'Bread Matters', covering a few basics of good bread, the differences in flours and some 'goodies' to go with our tea/coffee.

Please see the separate notice enclosed or attached. Would you like to help out on the Committee or special events? No specialist knowledge needed, but a lively interest in our Town would be an advantage. See the nomination form enclosed. Please get in touch with Jane (713440), Maureen (440668) or Liz (712324) initially or indeed any Committee Member, for more information.

25th May, Wednesday, 2pm at the Church, Llanwenllwyfo, Llysduelas, Cost £3/person
Visit to Llanwenllwyfo Church, Llysduelas, to see the restored 16th Century Flemish glass windows. Conducted tour led by Mrs. Avril Lloyd, followed by refreshments provided by church members. The church of 'St. Gwen of the Elms' was gifted the Flemish glass by the Neave family who lived in Llysduelas mansion. In 2001, the glass was sent to Canterbury to be restored by a team of conservators and was re-installed in 2002. The windows are one of the hidden treasures of Anglesey. Take A5025 and after sign City Dulas on left and Dulas Boats on right, past the 1st cross roads, take the next right turn (brown tourist sign to church) signed Dulas 2 miles. After 1 mile bear right, (left goes to Pensarn), then right again at the sign for the Church. The Church

June 21st, Tuesday, Day Visit to Boston Lodge Works on Ffestiniog Railway, and Plas Tan y Bwlch. Total cost £20.50/person. Own transport required, but try to fill each car with passengers.

10.30 am Arrive at Boston Lodge for conducted tour by Julie Stirland (Works Administrator).

Park in layby just below Boston Lodge, but if full, drive a little further on where a road goes off to the left to park. Then walk back along the road to the Old Toll House, cross over and walk up steps to Ms Stirland's Office.

After the visit drive on to Plas Tan y Bwlch and use visitor car parks.

12.45pm Hot buffet Lunch at Plas Tan y Bwlch, followed by tour of some of the rooms and a conducted tour of the gardens by Mr. Tony Russell. View the Hedd Wyn Exhibition in the Stable Block.

July 20th, Wednesday, 2pm Visit to Friend of Friendless Church of Llanfaglan, nr. Caernarfon. Free conducted tour by Mr. Ifor Williams (Caernarfon Civic Soc). Then onto Fron Goch for tea. No set menu, just suit yourselves. Take A487 out of Caernarfon and turn right onto Pant Road and then immediately right onto Coed Helen Lane leading to Coed Helen Road and on to Aber Foreshore Road (follow the road along the coast, past the Golf Club for about 1.5 miles). Park on road & then walk footpath, across one field to church surrounded by its churchyard wall. Sensible footgear required.

17th September, Saturday. 2.00 p.m. Garden Party at Plas Cadnant - details to be confirmed.

23rd September, Friday 7.30 p.m. The Ups and Downs of Mayoral Duties, Michael Davies, also Website update — a Snapshot of the Society and Menai Bridge.

Please see separate booking form. Form and cheques to be returned to Miss Iola Prytherch, 16 New Street, Menai Bridge, Anglesey, LL59 5HN.

Jane Cherrett

Outings and Events - ICE, ICE?

The places we visit in our programme are accessible to reasonably fit people and most places will provide their own guide and their own insurance cover. We do have our own Public Liability Insurance. What does reasonably fit mean? There may be some steps and uneven ground, as for instance if you visit Penrhyn Castle and the Grounds. But the person responsible for your enjoyment and safety on an outing is yourself (excluding any transport we may arrange of course). Don't try and do too much and if you have any underlying health problems or need to take medication regularly please make sure you bring it with you, and either your companion or the walk/event leader knows what to do if you have a problem or need help. Whenever possible please carry with you a contact name and phone number should the need arise - many people store this information on their mobile phone under the name **ICE** - In Case of Emergency.

Being a sensible Civic Society we are usually never very far from where you can get a cup of tea but carrying a small bottle of water may be of use in warm weather. The Society is not required to have trained first aiders so should anyone be taken seriously ill or have an accident then the organiser will call the emergency services, regardless of whether there is a member present with a current first aid qualification. This all sounds a bit formal but we have to make sure we meet the requirements of our insurers and of good common sense for Health and Safety.

Some events/outings are made up of different sections e.g. visit to Plas Tany Bwlch. You are very welcome to come along to the part you think you would enjoy most e.g. Lunch and the House, but not the Garden. Please discuss with Jane Cherrett if you are unsure; we would like to make our programme as accessible to as many people as possible as possible and are always happy to receive suggestions for outings/lecturers.

An Interview with Anthony Tavernor, March 17th, 2016. by Maureen Parry-Williams.

Anthony Tavernor Esq.
Llywydd/ President

Liz Moyle
Cadeirydd/Chair

Maureen Parry-Williams
Ysgrifennydd/Secretary

Jane Cherrett
Ysgifennydd Cymdeithasol/
Social Secretary

Renata Hufton
Trysorydd/Treasurer

Iola Prytherch
Deputy Treasurer/Trysorydd
Cynorthwyol

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Booking activities for events
and outings -
Jane Cherrett
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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



The damage caused to the Hidden Gardens by the Boxing Day storm has been widely reported by ourselves, and in the national and international media. I think it really affected people seeing a beautiful garden landscape ruined with some areas scoured to bedrock by the force of the flood. Now after intensive effort the Gardens are to re-open, partially. We have kept in touch with Anthony over the months and Maureen Parry-Williams recently met with Anthony to discuss the great restoration progress being made.

Anthony said, "I was so heartened by the number of people who contacted me to express their shock at the damage to the Gardens and to offer their sympathy and good wishes. I could not reply to them all but am very grateful for their concern, amazing goodwill and support.

Insurance will cover the cost of restoring the major damage to the 15 foot high, 200 year old garden wall, and hard landscaping but not everything that needs to be done.

worked hard to enable the Gardens to open officially to the Public for Easter. We have been able to decide on certain improvement work to paths but also had to postpone other intended developments, such as a new building for machinery. With restoration work well in hand I am delighted to be able to give my full support to the **North Wales Festival of Gardens** - a major new gardens festival – the region's first ever. There will be



more than 100 events across the North Wales counties, lasting for nine days; indeed I'm proud to be able to host the opening ceremony on 28th May".

Tony Russell who makes regular appearances on BBC's Gardeners' Question Time will be co-ordinating the festival and Roy Lancaster, CBE, VMH will officially open the festival on Saturday 28th May (admission by ticket only).

Photos N Kneale

MARIAN JONES It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Marian Jones. Marian was a founder member of the Society and will be greatly missed. She attended meetings and outings regularly and was a great source of information, common sense and fun. We send our condolences to Aled and Rhiannon and families.