

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.

Thurs. Jan 25th **2.30pm
Telford's Holyhead Road: a brief history. Bob Daimond

Friday Feb 16th
**ANNUAL LUNCH. Exploring Menai Bridge's Scouting History WWI to WW2. Dr. Stephen Mudge, Scout Leader. At Plas Cadnant.

Thurs. March 22nd 7.30pm Chamber Music of Wales - International aspirations in rural Wales. Peryn Clement Evans, Artistic Director & Principal Clarinettist of Ensemble Cymru.

Thurs. April 26th 7.30pm AGM followed by 'In search of Rex Whistler.' Peter Simpson.

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Spring/Gwanwyn 2018

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'FISHERMAN'S COTTAGE'



properties were 'improved' in the 1960/70s and now we have the difficulties caused by 'infilling' (see page 2). Since the sale we have met the new owners and wish them well in their quest to find a solution to maintaining/restoring this iconic property while at the same time meeting their needs.

Delving into the details of the 'Sales Pack', provided by the auctioneers, was time consuming and raised more questions than we could answer before the auction took place. One interesting fact that came up in the 'searches' was the prevalence of radon gas in some of the lower, 'old part' of Menai Bridge. The easiest map showing this is at <http://www.ukradon.org/information/ukmaps>. Anglesey County Council also has a very good leaflet you can download at <http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/planning-and-waste/environmental-health/pollution/radon-gas/>

You may have noticed the publicity surrounding the sale, at auction in October 2017, that the Fisherman's Cottage in Beach Road, generated. Members of your Committee and some members living close by did view the property beforehand but reluctantly came to the decision that unless we had a definite use for the Cottage and could generate income from it, it was not a project we could invest in i.e. fundraising to buy what is effectively a shed, albeit a Grade 2 listed shed, was beyond our means. Examples of this type of cottage are increasingly rare. Many



The Memorial Plaque in-

Photos N Kneale

'ABERFAN' GARDEN - FURTHER WORK AT YSGOL Y BORTH.

Last year was the 50th anniversary of the tragedy at Aberfan. The Civic Society marked this by helping the local primary school with the restoration of their garden plot. The results look impressive. We have continued our association with the school by providing a further grant for the purchase of plants shrubs to help them complete the project.



'What annoys you?' article in the last Newsletter, did seem to strike a chord with members, 'you know'. Thanks to those who got in touch. Still irritated at the intrusive sound track on some documentaries, especially wildlife features; there must a way to get rid what you could call 'plucky penguin' music. Has it always been that noticeable? I had a look at the BBC iPlayer Archive Section to see what it was like years ago and got completely side tracked. (continued on page 3)

CIVIC TRUSTS and NATIONAL NEWS

Bangor's iconic poplar trees, near the ASDA roundabout in the city centre, have been spared the axe yet again.

Gwynedd Council Planning Committee today, 18th December 2017 voted unanimously against a proposal to fell the protected trees and replace them with a drive-in Starbucks coffee shop. Councillors expressed grave concern over traffic levels, road safety, lack of parking, loss of green space and the destruction of mature trees.

Bangor Civic Society Secretary Don Mathew, who spoke at the hearing, said "Common sense has prevailed. This was an unsustainable application in completely the wrong place. We contacted Starbucks direct, to urge them to move to the High Street or, even better, the new Parc Bryn Cegin. For Gwynedd Council to have given this the go-ahead would have meant them flouting many of their own policies."

Don Mathew continued "I am very disappointed in the site's owners, Deiniol Developments, an off-shoot of the Watkin Jones group. As a local firm they should have known this application was a non-starter and it has wasted large amounts of everyone's time.

Gwynedd planners may not get many thanks but their work was meticulous on this occasion. Thanks also go to Hywel Williams MP and Councillor Steve Collings, who led the opposition, and to the dozens of Bangor citizens who made their feelings public. This has been a victory for people power."

We are happy to print the short report above about the **Poplar Trees** in Bangor. Congratulations to Bangor Civic Society, Town and County Councillors and interested residents for highlighting the issues.

These issues are ones we have in Menai Bridge too but they are not quite as 'in your face', yet. Mature trees are cut down, buildings squeezed into tiny plots, roads unsuitable for the additional volume of residential and visitor traffic generated (I include here new estate developments). We are a 'Conservation Area' that by its very nature is attractive to live and work in but we risk losing it. We will now map locations that have been changed and track the cumulative effect - and no I haven't heard what is happening to the derelict Chapel Site! The next stage, I think, is to ask the County Council to make a compulsory purchase order.

Liz Moyle

RECENT PROGRAMME NOTES

Sept 16th SATURDAY, GARDEN PARTY AT PLAS CADNANT See full report on page 4.

Thurs. Sept. 28th Cors Ddyga - creating a wetland.



Malltraeth Marsh, Bitterns, reeds & eels. Ian Hawkins, RSPB. Beautiful, quiet Reserve on our doorstep. Positive action to re-create habitat makes this a prime location for the rare Bittern (aderyn y bwn/ bwmp y gors

Thurs. Oct. 26th 7pm Griffith Evans, visionary Victorian, vet and adventurer. Dr. Gavin Gatehouse presented an enthralling picture of this pioneer of veterinary science.

Dr Griffith Evans (1835-1935) was born in Towyn, Merioneth and later lived at Bryncinallt, Bangor. One of the most distinguished veterinary surgeons in the country. He was for 20 years on the staff of the UCNW as lecturer in Veterinary Hygiene. In 1919 he was made Honorary D.Sc. of the University of Wales and in 1931 he received the freedom of the city of Bangor. A man of immense talent and perseverance who's exploits ranged from Army service in India (identifying anthrax causes) to meeting Abraham Lincoln during the American Civil War. He deserves to be recognised for his contribution to veterinary science and I hope that the biography Dr Gatehouse is writing will help rectify this.

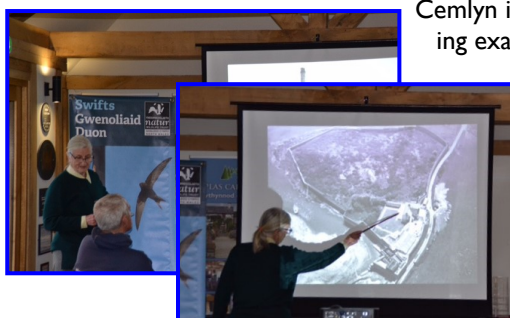
Friday Nov. 24th The Development of Menai Science Park (SPARC). We were delighted to welcome Mr Ieuan Wyn Jones, Director of the Menai Science Park

in Gaerwen who gave us an update on progress of this, the first Science Park in Wales, built at a cost of £21 million. Part of Bangor University it will provide both scientific and general facilities to encourage and support local scientific business and entrepreneurs. Although not due for completion until 'Spring 2018' it is already half booked. The Civic Society looks forward to visiting SPARC later in the year. You'll have your chance to see what you think of the architecture close up.



Photos N Kneale

Friday Dec. 8th Cemlyn Nature Reserve: the early years. Dr. Jane Rees.



Cemlyn is an outstanding example of the work of the North Wales Wildlife Trust that has over the past 50 years sought

to protect and enhance the habitat and success of the nesting Artic, Little and Sandwich Terns from interference from floods, predators and unthinking visitors. The original Reserve was established by Captain Hewitt in the 1930s with finance from the family brewing business in Cheshire. (Continued on page 3.) Much work was done

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, but note January and February Meetings start at 2.30p.m

****Thurs. Jan 25th 2.30pm Telford's Holyhead**

Road: a brief history. Bob Daimond
The Piers and Piermasters of Menai Bridge by Julie Stone. This new booklet, published by Menai Bridge Community Heritage Trust at the Telford Centre will be available on at the talk or of course available now from the Telford Centre (phone 01248 715046 to check opening times).

Annoys continued from page 1

Many delights, including: 'Face to Face' - John Freeman interviewing Martin Luther King, 1961, Zoo Quest from Madagascar 1961 by you know who, 'Buried Treasure, King Solomon's Mines, the stone ruins of Great Zimbabwe' 1958 Sir Mortimer Wheeler. Starts with Sir Mortimer, pipe firmly clenched between his teeth, baggy shorts and knee socks, shooing away two

RECENT PROGRAMME NOTES (continued)

Friday Dec. 8th continued.

in the 1970s including raising a substantial amount of money to rebuild the Weir and help protect the nesting sites from high spring tides. Cemlyn is one of the few nesting sites in Wales for Terns and the site is of national significance.

We also learned from Dr. Ben Stammers, more about the Wildlife Trusts efforts to make Menai Bridge a 'Swift Town'.

"Swifts are amazing birds. One of the fastest-moving creatures on the planet, they stay airborne for their first 2 years, and can potentially clock up 4 million miles in a lifetime! Unfortunately they are also declining – the Welsh population having decreased by 60% in the last 20yrs. A major factor behind this is loss of traditional nesting sites in buildings. Menai Bridge has a significant swift population, and their evocative cries herald summer over its streets – but here, as elsewhere, they are vulnerable to displacement if buildings are renovated and cavities filled in. There are currently pairs nesting along Cadnant Terrace and Askew Street, and suspected breeding at Fron Heulog. To try and help swifts, North Wales Wildlife Trust had 4 special nest boxes installed on the Ocean Sciences building Craig Mair, and in 2017 we saw the first occupied nest here. This spring (2017) we installed 4 more on the Scout Hut.



****Friday Feb 16th ANNUAL LUNCH**

Dr. Stephen Mudge, Explorer Scout Leader
 Exploring Menai Bridge's Scouting History WWI to WW2
 A full Buffet Lunch at Plas Cadnant - see details and booking form. Lunch at 12.30 and talk to begin at 2.30 p.m. prompt.

Thurs. March 22nd 7.30pm Chamber Music of Wales - International aspirations in rural Wales. Peryn Clement Evans, Artistic Director & Principal Clarinettist of Ensemble Cymru.

Thurs. April 26th 7.30pm AGM followed by 'In search of Rex Whistler.' Peter Simpson.

(NB 7.30 timings again to allow time to set up the meeting room)

Jane Cherrett

very large hippos!

A larger than life character, he served in both World Wars awarded the MC; was Director of Archaeology, National Museum of Wales 1919 - 1926, during which time he oversaw excavation at the Roman forts of Segontium, Y Gaer, and Isca Augusta, Caerleon; credited with popularising archaeology on the TV.

Well worth a look as long as having to log on the BBC

The Scout Group, under the enthusiastic leadership of Jo Quinney, have agreed to become Menai Bridge's Swift Champions.

I have a vision of Menai Bridge as a showcase Swift Town, with local residents helping to protect these wonderful, charismatic birds, and the whole community proud of its status as a swift stronghold. I hope to work with local schools and community groups to raise awareness of swifts and their fragility, but also of their tremendous potential to inspire and fascinate the people they live amongst." We would agree and over the next few months will work out how best we, as a Civic Society, can support this initiative. If you are interested in finding out more please contact Ben Stammers on 01248 351541 or anyone on our Committee.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our meeting on 8th December was held at Plas Cadnant and was preceded by an excellent 3 course lunch, well 4 courses if you add in the extra mince pies, short bread and cakes. About 40 members attended the lunch and were joined later by other members to listen to the afternoon talk. Altogether a great afternoon enlivened by trying to get home before the snow began in earnest!



GARDEN PARTY 2017

A great afternoon, with many thanks to Prof. J. Hughes, for opening the event, and the many contributors who helped make it a success.

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

Liz Moyle
Newsletter Editor/Golygydd
Cylchlythyr

Norman Kneale
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and **Jim Evans**

Town Council :
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See our Website at
[www.menaibridge](http://www.menaibridgecivicsociety.org.uk)
[civicsociety.org.uk](http://www.menaibridgecivicsociety.org.uk)



Thanks to :-
Anglesey Red Squirrels
Anglesey Bee Keepers
Anglesey Girl Guides
Florabundance
Gwenda Williams
Gwynedd Wood Turners
Historic Gardens Trust
Jane Bunce
Menai Bridge Band
Norman Kneale
Plas Cadnant
Society Volunteers
Telford Centre

Photos N Kneale