

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.

2019 lectures

Jan 24th Thursday
2.30pm University of Wales Bangor, Estates Director, Mr. Derwyn Owen.

Feb. 21st Thursday
2.30pm The Confucius Institute in Bangor. Dr. David Joyner, Institute Director at Bangor University

March 8th Annual Lunch at Plas Cadnant followed by a talk from Mr Michael McGeever on his time in Fiji

April 25th Thursday
7.30pm AGM followed by a talk from Vanessa Field on 'Grace Vincent: a Victorian woman from Anglesey'.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| A Nation's Tribute | 1 |
| Special AGM | 2 |
| Programme Notes | 2 |
| Future Events | 3 |
| Nesta Dickenson Maynard Alford | 3 |
| Garden Party Report | 4 |
| Contacts | 4 |



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Spring/Gwanwyn 2019

Page/Tudalen 1

A NATION'S TRIBUTE.

On the evening of the 11th November 2018 the Town took part in 'A Nation's Tribute', the National Event marking the day 100 years ago that the guns fell silent at the end of World War One. Many townspeople gathered by Cei Bont, Beach Road, on what was a truly dark and stormy night, to watch the 'Beacon of Light' be lit and hear a short service and readings by the Scouts, Council and Church members. The 'Last Post' was quite eerie reaching out into the darkness. The Town Band, that always adds so much to Town occasions,



On parade in Dale Street. National School behind them, Mona Products factory to their right (now a car park and Llys Menai). Photo from M Parry-Williams



Photos N Kneale, L Moyle

also played a selection of WWI tunes. 'It's a long way to Tipperary' evokes much more than nostalgia. The celebratory peal of bells, ringing out for peace, from St Mary's Church was inaudible in Cei Bont (seen below) as the storm and the wind were so noisy.



Anthony Tavernor, Andrew Hancock, Jane Cherrett busy planting bulbs in the small park on the Beaumaris Road.

The Civic Society has contributed to the commemorations by planting 1000 native daffodils and 1000 crocus in the Town and will continue with this next year. We'll see which areas do best for planting before doing more. Roadside verges are a possibility but the County Council (responsible for the roads) prefers all native species which adds considerably to the cost.

CIVIC TRUSTS and NATIONAL NEWS

At the Special General Meeting on 25th October 2018 25 members present, in accordance with our Rules unanimously agreed that the Society become a Company Limited by Guarantee and adopt the new Constitution. Our full title is given at the bottom of page 4 and printed copies of the Constitution are available at meetings, or can be viewed on our Website. Our Website itself is being updated to reflect the change and give more information about our current programme of activities. The website itself is a valuable archive with records going back to 2006 and we will now look at how we can publish these, or a selection anyway. Nominations to serve on the Management Committee, or Board, as we should now call it are welcome. Your Board may have a maximum of 12 'directors' and other members as deemed practical through co-option.

The Existing Board is as follows: President Anthony Tavernor, Chair Liz Moyle, Treasurer Renata Hufton, Assistant Treasurer Iola Prytherch, Secretary Maureen Parry-Williams, Social Secretary Jane Cherrett, Minutes Secretary Bridget Geoghegan, Photographer Norman Kneale, Committee: Eleanor Dyson, Marian Hirst, John Perkins.

The 'new' Society will of course maintain its working links with other local groups, including Welsh Council for Voluntary Action, CADW Planning and Conservation Sub Group (King Edward I's Castles), Friends of the Earth, Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales, Friends of the Earth, other local Civic Societies and Groups. (See page 4 - help is needed with a history and characterisation project in Beaumaris).

Liz Moyle

RECENT PROGRAMME NOTES

Sept 15th Garden Party - see the report on page 4.

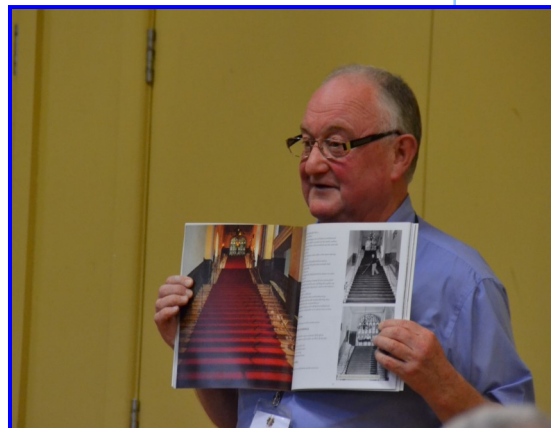
September 27th 'Holyhead Port – Past Present and Future'. Thirty plus members enjoyed an excellent de-

tailed report by Mr. Kevin Riley, Harbour Master. though of course without the tragic loss of life. Interesting to note that reports of the Royal Charter tragedy took some weeks to appear in the press outside the area; we are so used to instant reporting these days.

December 13th Gwrych Castle, Abergele - past history and current renovation. Dr Baker having been taken ill his place was most ably taken by volunteer guide Lewis Knight whose long term service and enthusiasm was evident - a gifted raconteur.



This meeting took place in the Scout/ Guide Hall due to urgent repairs to the floor



in the War Memorial Community Centre. Facilities at the Centre are now complete and much improved. Wendy, caretaker for the Centre has now moved on to different things. She was a great help in organising meetings and we appreciate all the help she gave us.

October 25th The Special General Meeting to consider and vote on Limited Company status for the Society. Please see the report above.

Zip World – 'The Company going down hill fast'. Mr. Sean Taylor, was unable to attend which was a shame we would have liked to have heard from him.

November 22nd 2.30pm The story of the **sailing ship 'Norman Court'.** Mr Peter Day gave an enthralling talk

about the Wreck of the Royal Charter, his computer had sunk the 'Norman Court'! At extreme low tide parts of the Royal Charter are still visible not far from where the Hindlea sunk some 100 years later.

Photos N Kneale



What is it?

If you look carefully at the picture on the right, apart from a stone wall, I hope that you can see a pintle i.e. thingy that holds the hinge of a gate. This is at the bottom of Cambria Road near where Cambria and Beach Road split. Said to be all that's left of a toll gate for approaches to the Bridge. Does anyone have further information?



FUTURE EVENTS

Lectures held monthly at 7.30pm in the lounge of the War Memorial Community Centre, Water Street, Menai Bridge on Thursday evenings usually, but note January, February and March Meetings start at 2.30 p.m. (the latter after our Annual Dinner)

The Society reserves the right to make reasonably necessary alterations to arrangements, if for example the Speaker is ill or the Centre is not available. Where possible we will notify members by e-mail and offer an alternative venue and speaker. If you don't already receive our 'Latest News' e-mails, and would like to, please let Jane Cherrett have your e-mail address.

January 24th 2019 2.30pm University of Wales Bangor, Estates Director, Mr. Derwyn Owen. Founded in 1884, now with about 11,000 students and an immense portfolio of properties, including listed

buildings — learn more about their management and development.

February 21st 2.30pm The Confucius Institute in Bangor. Dr. David Joyner, former Institute Director at Bangor University. The Institute is a multi-disciplinary centre that aims to provide the people of north Wales with the opportunity to experience and learn more about Chinese culture and language. An insight into Chinese history and current joint projects.

March 8th, Friday. Annual Lunch at Plas Cadnant, followed by a talk from Mr Michael McGeever, formerly of the Colonial Administrative Service (Fiji) and the European Foreign Service. Please see enclosed booking form.

April 25th 7.30pm AGM followed by a talk from Vanessa Field on 'Grace Vincent: a Victorian woman from Anglesey'.

Jane Cherrett

Ask Father Christmas, by e-mail?

I was shocked to learn this Christmas that Father Christmas, Sion Corn etc. receives e-mail requests for presents. What has happened to the painstakingly hand written notes left with the mince pies and carrots? Just as I was beginning to harrumph about what's the world coming to it struck me that I don't write much either! I wrote a shopping list, I don't think anyone else could read - in a hurry my letters 'r', 'u' and 'n' tend to merge into a long squiggle; 'signed' a receipt for a parcel, on the delivery man's 'tablet' - may as well just put an X. Schools in this country still teach cursive writing, others such as those in Finland don't at all, emphasizing key board skills; Scotland emphasizes the need to write independently, without insisting on handwritten text.

Perhaps I have been paying more attention to such things as recently the Society received a 'History of Menai Bridge' written by Nesta Dickenson in the 1920s, and recently found when someone was clearing out a house. Miss Dickenson was a keen church/chapel goer and is not reluctant to express her dismay at the decline in standards in the town e.g. the New Hall, a former church being used as a cinema (it is now a film studio). Over 50 pages long, with scarcely a mistake, the formal style records her for the town and notes everyday life e.g. stopping to have a chat when fetching

water from the pump in the Square (where the NatWest Bank is, or was) before a secure piped supply was available - about 1880.

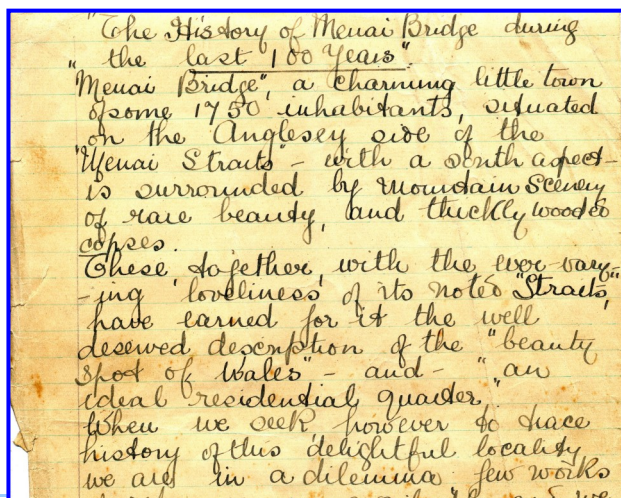
Miss Dickenson also mentions the entertainment in the Pier Pavilion, build in 1902 and demolished in 1960 or was it earlier? The Pavilion was for many years the centre for entertainment being used for the Carnival talent competitions, the Carnival Dance (for grown-ups) and the 'Menai Middies' (girls marching troupe) practised their routines there. Local dances, with live music, were popular with the Bands being semi professional.

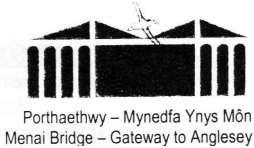


One such Band was run by Maynard Alford, highly respected, not only for his musical talents but for his service to the community; he eventually became Mayor of Menai Bridge. The stage name he used was 'Lawrence Crawford and his Band'. Mr Alford is fourth from the left, on the far right is John? Jones (needs confirmation); does anyone recognise the other Band members? The photo looks as if it was taken in the 1930s probably in the Pavilion? Thanks to Eleanor Dyson for providing this photo.

Who can remember Mrs Randall and the 'Fol de Rols'?

Liz Moyle





Anthony Tavernor Esq.
Llywydd/ President

Liz Moyle
Cadeirydd/Chair

Maureen Parry-Williams
Ysgrifennydd/Secretary

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**Ysgifennydd Cymdeithasol/
Social Secretary**

Renata Hufton
Trysorydd/Treasurer

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

GARDEN PARTY 2018

A great afternoon, with many thanks to
The Right Reverend Andy John, Bishop of
Bangor for opening the event, Margaret,
and Barbara for the Collectables stall - a new
venture that did really well, and the many
contributors who helped make it a success.



Thanks to :-

Anglesey Red Squirrels, Callaghan Creative, Florabundance, Friends of Church Island
Gwynedd Wood Turners, Historic Gardens Trust, Jane Bunce, Wildlife Artist,
Llandegfan Primary School, Menai Bridge Town Band, Margaret and Jean's Collectables,
North Wales Saxophone Choir, North Wales Wildlife Trust, Patrick Davies,
Phillip Brown, Plas Cadnant Staff, Ysgol Gynradd Llandegfan, all the Society Volunteers,

HELP NEEDED WITH BEAUMARIS HISTORY AND CHARACTERISATION PROJECT.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust are undertaking two related projects as part of the revised World Heritage Site Management Plan for Beaumaris. This will fulfil policies 2B and 4B in the plan. The first policy is to 'identify and map archaeologically sensitive areas' within the town. The second policy is to 'complete a historic character study for the town'.

The Trust has organised a meeting to take place in the Iorwerth Rowlands Centre in Beaumaris on Friday 15th February at 2.00pm, and would welcome the presence of members of the society to help identify areas of personal interest, and to seek further information which may not be readily available from official documents. A short talk will be given outlining the project, followed by workshop sessions. Tea and coffee will be provided. Please book to attend the event by contacting Dan Amor at the Trust. Dan.amor@heneb.co.uk, Telephone 01248 366960.

Menai Bridge and District Civic Society Cymdeithas Ddinesig Bro Porthaethwy

A Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England and Wales,
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