

NEWSLETTER

Cymdeithas Ddinesig Bro Porthaethwy

Menai Bridge and District Civic Society

CYLCHLYTHYR

Dates for your ZOOM meeting diary:
Internet links to be issued closer to the day.

Tuesday, Jan 18 at 2.30 p.m. 'The Greasy Pole & The Fanatics.' - a slide to Indignity. Speaker : Dr. Gareth Huws Holyhead. **A meeting by Zoom only.**

Tuesday Feb 15 at 2.30 p.m. Mildred Elsi El-dridge, artist, mural painter & book illustrator & wife of RS Thomas. Speaker: Susan Fogarty (organiser RST & MEE Society Festival, Aberdaron 2021). Talk 2. This continues and expands on the very popular lecture given last year.

Tuesday, March 15 at 2.30 p.m. 18th & 19th Century women tourists in Wales. Speaker : Mr. Michael Freeman, MBE, ex curator Ceredigion Museum, Aberystwyth

April to be confirmed

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Spring/Gwanwyn 2022

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INFORMATION FROM MANY SOURCES

Menai Bridge is changing. Some of our loved and prominent buildings will change over the next few months e.g. the Victoria Hotel - purchased by a brewery and being updated — we hope they keep the excellent staff on; the Presbyterian Church— possible offices, Capel Mawr— offices and flats. All are listed buildings so I hope their unique character is respected. The Moreia Chapel - who knows? Work to reduce it in height was due to start before Christmas. At the time of writing still nothing. If this work is carried out, then what? What will replace it? (see page 2).

Some buildings remain remarkably unchanged physically but their purpose and function in the town has disappeared. The 'Rownd a Rownd' film set was previously Tom Jones' Garage, Anglesey Mobility was previously Edwards Newsagents (remember when they delivered newspapers), part of Waitrose/ Anglesey Arms was the Anglesey Arms Garage (previously hired out horse and carriages too). Grosvenor Garage— still going strong, thank goodness. We're still looking for information about the Menai Bridge Electric Light Company though run by Mr John(?) Parry had premises on the High Street but no further information—unless you know more?

People whose family have lived in the town for generations can provide a valuable insight into town life over the years. We are grateful to Cllr Selwyn Williams for providing some of the invoices to his family's business at Glyn Derw in Wood Street. (built in 1904 for Rowland Williams who was a wheelwright, builder and funeral undertaker) This too may be changed as part of the Moreia Chapel redevelopment - when it happens! Opposite the new flats (well new in 1970s) is a restaurant (now for sale); this was formerly the Fire Station and Council Offices. The volunteer firemen had large bells in their houses to notify them of a 'call'. There was one in Glyn Derw. Behind the old Fire Station there was an WW2 Air Raid Siren (where were the Air Raid Shelters?) I don't think Menai Bridge was ever bombed although Bangor was. We'll be adding more of Selwyn's information to our Website. Could you contribute as well?



Progress!? See page 2

Planning Regulations—the Moreia Chapel.

Menai Bridge Town Council has been making repeated calls for action to be taken about the Moreia Site. Their plea in the Liverpool daily Post in **2015** is reported to have said, 'Calls have been made for Anglesey Council to take action over an 'eyesore' derelict chapel. Menai Bridge Town Council has said the former Baptist Chapel on Dale Street is 'a blot on the landscape' and is in desperate need of redevelopment. Concerns have also been raised that in its current condition, the building is a public safety issue. A spokesman for the town council, which has discussed the issue recently, said: "Land for development of any kind is in very short supply in Menai Bridge. There is a shortage of affordable

housing and a long waiting list for social housing. " "We also have commercial interests looking for opportunities to develop the trade and retail offering in the town, and the issue of parking is a well-known concern for residents and visitors alike. "For now though, what happens on the site for the future is not the pressing issue. Anything other than the existing eyesore would be an improvement. "We are now calling on the county council to do everything in its power to get this mess sorted out as quickly as possible for the benefit of our town and residents." That was in 2015.

How much longer will it take to resolve the problem?

Liz Moyle

RECENT PROGRAMME NOTES AND SUMMER EVENTS

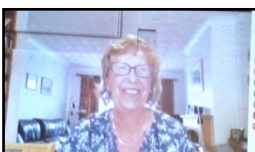


24th September 2021 What goes up must come down – illustrated talk by the Rev. Hugh Jones followed our AGM (see the report on page 3). The fascinating talk covered his 35 year professional career as an airline pilot, Training Captain and Examiner having flown 37 different types of aircraft and training pilots in Canada, Australia, Libya, Cuban and of course the UK. The picture was taken on the day of his final professional flight.

Tuesday, October 19th Developments and new beginnings down by the river Seiont by the Castle. Mrs Pat Jones, Project Co-ordinator for Cei Llechi



Photos: Norman Kneale, Liz Moyle

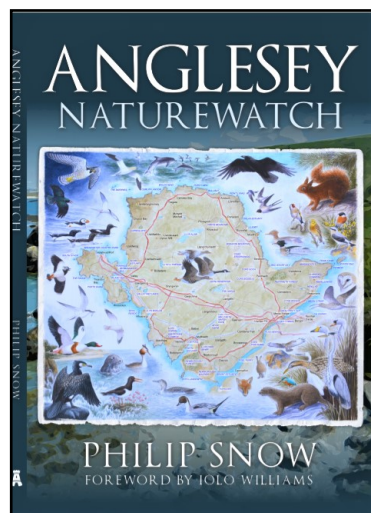


Harbour Trust, Caernarfon took us through the intense work involved on the Project. We welcome such an innovative development and look forward to its completion over the coming months.

Tuesday November 16th The Challenges and Opportunities of Bangor by Mr Iwan Williams, Director Bangor City Council. With the longest High Street and shop closures, ravages of recent fires, Bangor's renewal is ongoing. The 125th anniversary celebrations on the refurbished Pier, in May are a welcome development and

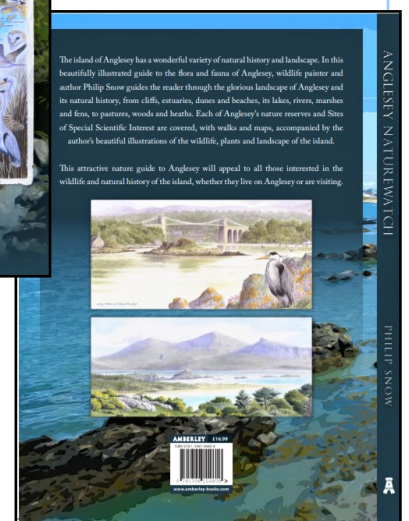


together with The Friends of Bangor Pier and a variety of events they have literally lit up Bangor. Best wishes to Iwan as he moves on to another job building on his knowledge of Bangor and its community.



14th December 2.30pm 'Anglesey Naturewatch'.

Illustrated talk by Philip Snow, BA. What a delight to hear Philip Snow's lecture about Anglesey's wildlife. The



depth of his knowledge of the changes that have occurred to Anglesey wildlife over the past thirty years is profound. If you were unable to attend the talk (or even if you did!) you might like

to listen to and view the short eighteen minute Youtube video, prepared by Philip, about his artwork for the Book. We are grateful to him for providing this free for members. See the link below:

<http://tinyurl.com/4c54a3fb>

FUTURE EVENTS

Over the past few months our Meetings have been a mixture of Zoom, as well as 'face-to-face'. We had hoped that by the Spring meetings would have reverted to just 'face-to-face', but the new variant and re-introduction of some regulations means otherwise. Meetings, where we have to sit 2 metres apart, make them impracticable.

Our January Meeting will be by Zoom only, after that we will review what we do, in line with Government advice.

Zoom means we could have lecturers from anywhere in Wales or indeed the world! The combination of Zoom and 'face-to-face' does involve extra expense. We need to be sure that there is a demand for such meetings and that it is safe to do so! What do you want? Use our Website to let us know or the telephone numbers later in this article/ newsletter to let us know.

(We are obliged by law (Regulation 16 of the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 5) (Wales) Regulations 2020) to complete a risk assessment and take 'reasonable measures to minimise the risk of exposure to coronavirus on the premises, and to minimise the risk of spread of coronavirus by those who have been on the premises'. Should we be able to re-start 'face-to-face meetings' we may need to ask those wishing to attend to confirm they have no Covid symptoms, and have completed a recent Lateral Flow Test —with negative results. We wouldn't consider re-opening meetings unless we were sure we had done all that is reasonable to be safe.



Photo: N Kneale

NOTES ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

For the second year running the AGM, on the 24th September 2021 was held as a Zoom Meeting (due to Covid regulations). Twenty three members attended, 10 gave their apologies and a further three voted by proxy. It was noted that despite Covid Jane Cherrett managed to provide us with a full programme of interesting Meetings by Zoom. We do miss meeting people though and will return to more social events as soon as practicable.

The Director's Report, including the Accounts, already circulated, was received. It was noted that there was a typographical error and the correct total charity funds are £6923.66. We are fortunate to have this reserve in these difficult times, especially as subscriptions are more difficult to collect and basic expenses remain much the same. Copies of the documents are available on our Website.

This year there are some major changes to the composition of the Committee/Board.

Details of meetings will be sent out by email during the week before a meeting. If you don't have email

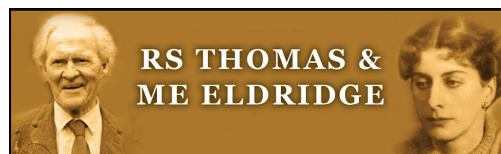
you may telephone Jane Cherrett on 07812186119 or Liz Moyle on 01248 712324 for the latest information.

The quality of sound in the Community Centre is much improved following additional advice on the technical side of setting up the loudspeakers

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Photo:
RST &
MEE
Society
website



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Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century women tourists in Wales. Speaker : Mr. Michael Freeman. MBE, ex curator Ceredigion Museum, Aberystwyth.

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Jane Cherrett

Request for Information

Photo taken approx. 1900 on the Beaumaris Road? Do you know where it is?



Gill Clarke was elected to the Board as Treasurer, with Margaret Reynolds also assisting. The co-option of Bridget Geoghegan and Selwyn Williams earlier in the year was also confirmed. We welcome our new members and wish them well.

The rest of the Committee was elected en bloc with the exception of Iola Prytherch, Renate Hufton and Norman Kneale who are standing down from the Board. These three members have been at the centre of the Society for many years and they were thanked for their service to the Society. They have kindly agreed to offer their continued support and their experience will be invaluable to us.

It was noted that our Vice Presidents Medwyn and Gwenda Williams were still in London. They were awarded their 13th Gold Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show and the Society sends them our congratulations.

COMMITTEE

Anthony Tavernor Esq.*
Llywydd/ President

Liz Moyle*
Cadeirydd/Chair
Golygydd Cylchlythyr/
Newsletter Editor

Maureen Parry-Williams *
Ysgrifennydd/Secretary

Jane Cherrett *
Ysgifennydd Cymdeithasol/
Social Secretary

Gill Clarke*
Trysorydd/Treasurer

Norman Kneale
Photos/Ffotograffau
Marian Hirst*
Bridget Geoghegan*
Rosemary Daimond
Selwyn Williams*

John Hughes
John Perkins
Margaret Reynolds

Hon. Vice Presidents:
Medwyn and Gwenda
Williams

*Directors of the Limited
Company

CONTACT LIST

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

County Councillors :
Alun Mummery, Meirion Jones,
Robin Williams

Town Council :
Canolfan Coed Cynol,
Menai Bridge

For all correspondence please
contact the Secretary,
Mrs Maureen Parry-Williams,
Tyn y Coed, Newborough,
LL61 6PY

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

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION



Main Street, Beaumaris

The Davies Family - albums showing Menai Bridge and nearby.

A member of the Society has very kindly brought to our attention two photo albums dating from 1897 and 1906, believed to show members of the Davies Family of Treborth and their friends. The photos are a unique record of the times. Some of the photos have deteriorated and to

preserve them we advised that they be professionally maintained and kept in the specialist facilities at the County Archives in Llangefni. Here they can be stored in a temperature and moisture controlled atmosphere. We are lucky enough to have been able to copy the albums, which are no longer subject to copyright. While some photos are labelled others are not. Can you help identify where they were taken and who might be in them?

Samples of the photos are given below. We hope to give everyone chance to view the photos i.e. the copies and help us further. In due course we would like to make the photos available locally. (Photo below - is this on the Beaumaris Road?)



Benjamin Ramaekers, from Belgium, is trying to trace where his grandmother was a refugee in North Wales in WWI. The family Wilbers-Hendrixx stayed in Red Wharf Bay and Bangor. The picture aside, showing Grandma bottom right in about 1917, in presumably a religious/school setting. Exactly where this is and if it is still standing is uncertain. Do you have any clues where Belgian refugees stayed and where they went to school?

