

NEWSLETTER

Cymdeithas Ddinesig Bro Porthaethwy

Menai Bridge and District Civic Society

CYLCHLYTHYR

Haf/Summer 2022

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Dates for your meeting diary, any Internet links to be issued closer to the day.

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

12th April 2.30 War Memorial Community Centre and Bowling Green

17th May 2.30 Llandegfan Parish Hall

21st June 11.00a.m.
Oriol Cae Llechi, Caernarfon and Fron Goch

10th September 2—5 p.m. Garden Party at Plas Cadnant

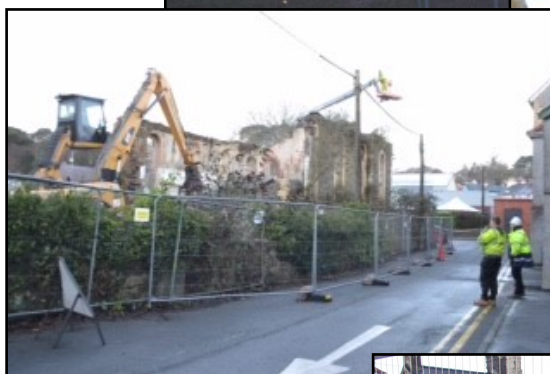
20th September 7.00 p.m. Annual General Meeting. War Memorial Community Centre

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Photos: Norman Kneale and Robert Golder



NOW YOU SEE IT.

On the 12th January 2022 the Moreia Chapel was finally demolished but to the first floor level. It was sad to watch - with a gentle push the building just collapsed.

In the space of a morning it was gone. Well not gone really as much of the rubble fell into the basement area and the remainder was spread out over some of the site.



NOW YOU DON'T!



WHAT NEXT?

Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 still applies to this site. i.e. it is a derelict site within a Conservation Area, on a main road, in a public area, it affects the AMENITY of the area and its residents.

So what's next? We understand that no plans have been submitted as yet for the development of the site— it remains an idea that the County Council and the site owner, R.L.Davies Ltd are looking

at. They've been looking at this, trying to find a solution to meet the needs of the Town, the Council, the Owner and the Developer for about the past 15 years. How about the needs of the Townspeople during that time and in the future?

See link below to our Website to view the sad end of this once proud building.

menaibridgecivicsociety.org.uk/2022/01/18/

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIETY

This financial year we are coming up to the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Civic Society in Menai Bridge and District. Our original constitution dates back to February 1973. The Society was in existence informally before that being closely linked to the Civic Trust for Wales, the umbrella organisation for Societies, formed in December 1964. The Trust for Wales unfortunately went into administration several years back when its grant aid was severely reduced. Civic Societies however still flourish and manage to work together. We hope that we still hold dear the original principles of the Welsh Trust set out in their Constitution:

To promote and encourage in Wales:

- The encouragement of high quality in architecture building and town and country planning
- The preservation of buildings of artistic distinction or historical interest
- The protection of the beauties of the countryside
- The elimination and prevention of ugliness whether from bad design or neglect
- Knowledge of the above
- A sense of Civic Pride amongst members of the public generally (including corporate bodies) or any section of the public.

The original Trustees included (locally) The Reverend Doctor Albert Edward Jones (Cynan), Sydney Colwyn Ffoulkes, The Right Honourable Sir Frederick Elwyn Jones, Sir Michael Duff, Shirley Paget the Marchioness of Anglesey.

Menai Bridge and District Civic Society was fortunate that both the Marquis and the Marchioness of Anglesey took an active interest in the area., they were never just 'names'. Lady Anglesey became President and regularly attended meetings.

The Society has had its ups and downs, being revived and reformed in 1996 with the help of Jane Power, Ann Morgan, John Cowell, Jean Baker, Graham Roy, Brian MacCarthy, Myfi Williams, Violet Blunt. Kevin Wood, Alison Wood, Selwyn Williams, Mary Lloyd Hughes. Beryl Cains, Marian Hirst, Renate Hufton, Iola Prytherch. and many others.

Since then we have:

- Campaigned for the formation of the Conservation Area in Menai Bridge
- It encouraged the formation of the Heritage Trust
- Campaigned against the building of a vast shopping complex at Ty Mawr
- Fought to retain access to the waterfront from developers
- Campaign for public consultation regarding development of the Moreia Chapel site.
- Opposed the Zoom Ball site by the Straits
- Opposed planning applications at variance with our Conservation Area.
- Increased bilingual publications and Website

The fight for the principles continues.

Liz Moyle

RECENT PROGRAMME NOTES

Tuesday, Jan 18 at 2.30 p.m. 'The Greasy Pole & The Fanatics.' - a slide to Indignity.

Speaker : Dr. Gareth Huws, Holyhead. A gifted speaker Dr Huws took us back to the start of the Yacht races and festivals in Holyhead. In 1878 as well as boat races and rowing races there were running competitions, including a 'three legged race'. One competition however - climbing a greasy pole to win a leg of lamb tied to the top, was viewed by many as ridiculing those in need. Posters in favour of the event were soon pasted over with 'anti' messages. Makes you view many of our TV 'games show programmes' with more of a jaundiced eye.

Tuesday Feb 15 Mildred Elsi Eldridge, artist, mural painter & book illustrator & wife of RS Thomas.

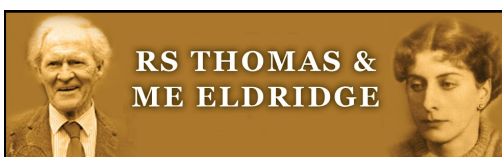


Photo:
RST &
MEE
Society
website

Speaker: Susan Fogarty (organiser RST & MEE Society) Excellent PowerPoint presentation of the life and earlier work of RS Thomas, from the viewpoint of his first wife, Elsi Eldridge. A moving tribute to them both.

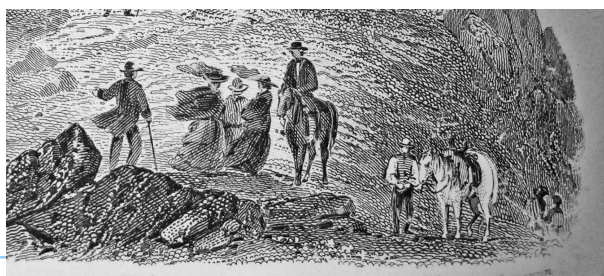
We were taken on a virtual tour of her work, 'The Dance of Life' which hangs in Wrexham University's Creative Industries Building. The panels are well worth a look. If you can't get to Wrexham then view online at :

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=y2a2cta2wjk>

The panels were originally in the Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, but had to be re located due to building work.

Tuesday, March 15

Speaker : Mr. Michael Freeman. MBE, ex curator Ceredigion Museums, Aberystwyth. **Scientists, Surveyors and Licencees. A brief history of the summit of Yr Wyddfa / Snowdon.** Superb photos, both old and new, and detailed research painted a vivid picture of the treks up Snowdon and life in the hotels or 'town' there over the years. Mr Freeman's website at <https://sublimewales.wordpress.com/> is well worth studying (detail below)



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 changing regulations for 'advice' still posed problems.

Our Spring/Summer Meetings would have included meeting outdoors and 'trips' anyway; what we have done is extended this somewhat. We will review what we do, in line with Government advice in time for the Autumn and Winter meetings ahead.

Whether it is by regulation or advice Covid is still out there. We owe it to our speakers, people helping at meetings and yourselves to be careful.

For 'face-to-face meetings' we will ask those attending to confirm they have no Covid symptoms, and preferably have completed a recent Lateral Flow Test—with negative results. Seating arrangements will depend on the venue.

Details of meetings are given in this Newsletter and reminders will be sent out by email the week before. If you don't have email you may telephone Jane Cherrett on 07812186119 or Liz Moyle on 01248 712324 for the latest information.

For meetings in May and June please phone Liz or Jane if you would like a lift.

April 12th, Tuesday, 2.30 p.m. The War Memorial Community Centre is 100 years old this year. Meet for tea and bara brith and to hear about its history and other major buildings and then a guided walk, with Cllr S Williams, down towards the Bowling Green, to the newly refurbished Pavilion.

May 17th, Tuesday, 2.30 p.m. Meet at Llandegfan Parish Hall (Grade 2 listed Arts and Crafts) for a guided visit to the Hall and tea, then afterwards to the St Tegfan's Church (Grade 2 listed, original site dating to 1254) - courtesy of the Please phone by 10th May if you need a lift.

RS Thomas & ME Eldridge Poetry & Art Festival 2022. Festival Time & Tide 16-19 June. Various times. Full details of the Programme, Presenters and Booking are on their website: <https://rsthomaspoetry.co.uk/>

PLANNING

The Society is seriously concerned that applications for demolition/building within the Conservation Area (next to the Strait and in Dale Street) were not referred to the Planning Committee initially. The proposed buildings, on Beach Road and Dale Street, are totally out of keeping with the area. The proposals deserve the full scrutiny of the Conservation Officer and the Planning Committee (which our County Councillors have called for). Have a look at Applications FPL/2022/12 and FPL/2021/325 and see what you think. The Council's website with planning details is easily found at www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Residents/Planning-building-control-and-conservation/Planning/View-planning-and-building-control-applications.aspx

June 21st Tuesday, 11.00a.m. Visit to the new Oriel and shops at Cei Llechi - the Old Harbour Master's Office, Slate Quay, Caernarfon. Introduction and tour by the Director.

12.30 p.m. Lunch at the Galeri

2.00 p.m. View the Galeri's buildings in the old part of Caernarfon. The Galeri is a Trust actively engaged in the reservation and development of the Old Town.



Please phone by 14th June if you need a lift and plan to have lunch with us. No need to order beforehand but it would be useful to know numbers attending.

**Gorffennaf 15ed – 17ed / July 15th-17th
Cyfeillion Ynys Tysilio/Friends of Church Island.
Gwyl Tysilio Festival.**

Details to follow

AUGUST— THERE ARE NO Civic Society Meetings in August.

SEPTEMBER 10TH GARDEN PARTY

AT PLAS CADNANT from 2.00p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

After a gap of two years we are delighted to be able to hold our Garden Party once more. Many thanks to Anthony Tavernor for his hospitality. The Garden Party is the start of our **50th Birthday Celebrations**. This is advance notice; full details to follow.

SEPTEMBER 20TH 7.00 p.m.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at the War Memorial Community Centre. This is a formal advance notice; details of the speaker will follow in the next Newsletter.

SOCIETY SECRETARY. Maureen Parry-Williams has retired. She served as Chair and Secretary for many years, steering the Society through some difficult times. We are grateful for all her hard work and pleased that she will still continue to contribute, her especial interests being Planning issues and family history. We welcome our new Secretary Bridget Geoghegan who has already completed much detailed work into local history and the effects of WWI and WW2 on the local communities.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Askew Street - do you have any information about the Askew Family? Which one of the Askews was the street named after? Relations in Canada would love to have more details.

COMMITTEE

Anthony Tavernor Esq.*
Llywydd/ President

Liz Moyle*
Cadeirydd/Chair
Golygydd Cylchlythyr/
Newsletter Editor
Ysgrifennydd/Secretary
Bridget Geoghegan*

Jane Cherrett *
Ysgrifennydd Cymdeithasol/
Social Secretary
Gill Clarke*
Trysorydd/Treasurer
Marian Hirst*
Selwyn Williams*
Alison Wood*
Kevin Wood*

Norman Kneale
Photos/Ffotograffau
Rosemary Daimond
Renate Hufton
Maureen Parry-Williams
Iola Prytherch
John Hughes
John Perkins
Margaret Reynolds

Hon. Vice Presidents:
Medwyn and Gwenda Williams

CONTACT LIST

Newsletter contributions -
Liz Moyle 01248 712324
Bridget Geoghegan
Booking activities for events
and outings -
Jane Cherrett
Tel 01248 713440

County Councillors :
Alun Mummery, Meirion Jones,
Robin Williams

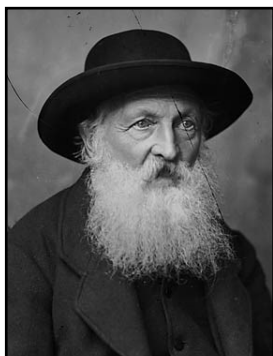
Town Council :
Canolfan Coed Cynrol,
Menai Bridge

For all correspondence please
contact the Secretary,
Bridget Geoghegan,
c/o Menai Bridge and District
Civic Society, Bron Graig, Hill
Street, Menai Bridge,
LL59 5AD

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

MENAI BRIDGE FAMILIES

In our last Newsletter we mentioned briefly how some families have lived in the town for generations and have a proud history of hard work and serving the community. Indeed earlier Newsletters have featured their exploits. In Autumn 2019 we featured some of the Water Mills in Menai Bridge especially those nearest to the sea by the Cadnant river. **John Morgan**, son of Harri and his wife Grasi, who established the Mill and a Calvinist Methodist Sunday School in



about 1810. John and indeed the whole family were keen musicians. He is recorded as walking to Llandegfan Chapel each Sunday, carrying his cello on his back, to accompany the singing. Self taught, he was a keen reader and

wrote regularly to the local papers on matters of concern. He established a Sunday School for men at the CM Chapel in Menai Bridge. The Mill grew with weaving

sheds, a smithy and small shops being added - really the start of Menai Bridge.

His brother Tom took over the Garth Ferry linking Beaumaris and Bangor.

John Morgan became the first Chairman of the 'Improvement Commissioners' (forerunner to the Urban District Council) in Menai Bridge in 1879 and served on the Bangor Board of Guardians who looked after the workhouses. Well respected he also took part in the disestablishment activities of his day. He died in 1901. The business of the mill was carried on by his sons until after WWI.

Alun Morgan Jones, his great grandson carried on the family tradition being active in local politics. A great organiser, his untimely

The **Davies Family's** impact on Menai Bridge cannot be underestimated. From humble beginnings they built a shipping, export, wholesale goods empire as well as funding and developing the Methodist Churches and Chapels in Menai Bridge, much of North Wales and missionary work in Khasia, north east India. Treborth Hall, Ceris and Ijlll are reminders of their presence.

In a different way the **Williams family** of Glyn Derw contributed to the building of Menai Bridge. Roland Williams managed to persuade the Marquis of Anglesey's Land Agent to rent him some land in Wood Street. There he built the house known as Glyn Derw (red bricked house opposite the Bus Station) and also a massive workshop and sheds for storing timber. (near the Moreia Chapel and now demolished).

The house was built in 1904 and the business of Rowland Williams & Sons, Wheel Wrights & Builders, Funeral Undertaker's carried on their trade until 1982. Rowland Williams, employed 11 joiners, builders in their workshop and yard in Wood Street, he built the two large houses overlooking the Menai Bridge Pier next to the Mostyn Hotel, he also worked on the early extension building and renovating the town's Banks. He also carried much work for

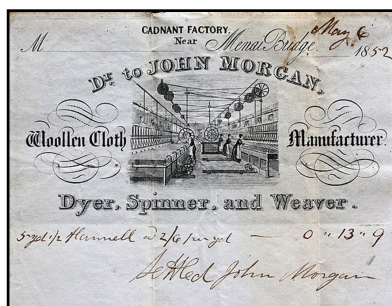
the Marquis of Anglesey, repairing and renovating all their horse carriages and wagons, etc.

As a skilled carpenter and builder, he made all kinds of small carts, such as dog carts, builders carts, wheel barrows, etc selling many throughout Menai Bridge and Anglesey. His own builder's carts could be seen through the town being pushed by his men or his sons to various locations for work to be carried out.

One son served as 'Rates Officer for the UDC and later members of the family were active in organising and playing in Menai Bridge Tigers Football team, organising 'charabanc' trips, and playing an active role in the War Memorial Community Centre.

And what about the Essex Fishermen, the **Leavetts, Rices** who moved to Menai Bridge in the 1850s?

There is much more we could include but space is limited here. What we will do is create a section on our Website for Family Histories. Who do you want to include?



A M Jones (3rd left) at the opening of the Tennis Courts 1950s, now a block of Flats.