

NEWSLETTER

Cymdeithas Ddinesig Bro Porthaethwy

Menai Bridge and District Civic Society

CYLCHLYTHYR

Ionawr/Winter 2023

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Dates for your meeting diary, any Internet links to be issued closer to the day. Meetings are mainly in the War Memorial Community Centre, Water Street, Menai Bridge and start at 7.00 p.m. February and May Meetings will be in Capel Mawr School Room.

Thursday 12th January 2023 Migldi Magldi Môn - a short history of Welsh Clog Dancing and demonstration

Thursday 9th February 2023 7.00 p.m. An Open Public Meeting entitled, 'Our Conservation Area - is it fit for purpose?'

Thursday 9th March 2023 7.00 p.m. Mr Gareth Roberts — Mapping Local History.

Thursday 20th April 2023 Prof G. Ffowc Roberts. Bangor giants: Sir John Morris-Jones and Mr X

Thursday 11th May 2023 Prof Gareth Wyn Jones. Climate Change. This illustrated talk is in Welsh with translation facilities available.

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MENAI BRIDGE IS SUSPENDED



It has been widely reported in the Press/Media today (30th December 2022) that a spokesperson for UK Highways A55 Ltd said: "The Menai Suspension Bridge closed in October 2022 due to an issue in the structural integrity of the bridge that posed a risk to public safety. This issue was inherent in the bridge's suspension system and completely unrelated to the ongoing maintenance of the bridge. The existing maintenance programme is developed by expert engineers and agreed by the Welsh Government." I visited the Bridge today and very quickly saw not only defective paintwork but that metal

safety railings are completely rusted through (see below). If this is the result of a maintenance programme developed by expert engineers I would suggest that the programme requires revision! The Bridge is supposed to be open again to weight restricted traffic by the end of January 2023, weather permitting. What about ongoing maintenance? One without the other or at least a declared plan is nonsense. We have long campaigned for the condition of the Bridge to be improved. It shouldn't still be an issue twenty years later! See the record below from the Parliamentary Record of the Select Committee on Welsh Affairs.



AN ITEM OF INTEREST FROM PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE!

"Select Committee on Welsh Affairs

Appendices to the Minutes of Evidence. APPENDIX 35 Memorandum submitted by the Menai Bridge and District Civic Society

MENAI SUSPENSION BRIDGE The above Society has recently been in correspondence with the Assembly and CADW regarding the condition of the Menai Suspension Bridge. We are also in correspondence with Mr Albert Owen MP who is also campaigning for an improvement in the condition of the Bridge. At a recent meeting we were informed by the Federation of Small Businesses that they have been in contact with the Welsh Affairs Select Committee about the Bridge, and the Society's Committee were very concerned to hear that now the A55 has been completed

the Bridge has been de-classified and that this will affect the way that it is prioritised.

The Bridge is looking very tired and neglected. The stone work is stained, the iron work is rusting and rotting and until just recently the glass blocks on the walkways around the arches were in poor condition—there is some work being done on these at the present time. As an extremely important Grade I Listed Building it surely deserves more attention—even the simple act of weeding is not carried out as often as it should be giving the Bridge as I say a very neglected air. It is an important tourist attraction, but more than that when the Britannia Bridge is closed due to high winds it is the only alternative crossing and needs to be maintained in order to cope with the demands that are made upon it. **2 May 2002**"

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIETY

Our celebrations and review of our Society continues, notably with a **Public Meeting** to be held on Thursday 9th February 2023. The Meeting is entitled, 'Our Conservation Area — is it fit for purpose?' The Conservation Area Appraisal was prepared by and adopted by the County Council on the 29th September 2012 and the document "will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications". What effect has it had? Are the boundaries still relevant? Are the special features in the town, which make it 'special', adequately protected. You may view the Appraisal document at <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Residents/Planning-building-control-and-conservation/Built-and-natural-environment/Conservation-areas/Conservation-Area-Character-Appraisal.aspx>

RECENT PROGRAMME NOTES

Saturday, 10th SEPTEMBER 2022, Garden Party at Plas Cadnant. The Party was cancelled out of respect, due to the death of the Queen Elizabeth II. We are grateful to all who offered their support and look forward to holding a Spring/Summer Garden Party in 2023.

Thursday 22nd SEPTEMBER

Notes on the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Chair welcomed all to the well attended meeting, the first face-to-face meeting since the start of Covid. The meeting was preceded by tea and cake at 6.30 p.m.



in celebration of our 50th Anniversary. Information on of the year's activities had been circulated beforehand together with the Accounts. Further details were added by the Chair, Treasurer and Social Secretary. In brief our finances remain sound, we held a varied, popular programme of lectures and visits throughout the year. Our Board/Committee was re-elected with the welcome addition of Maralyn Pryke-Davies. A copy of the Accounts and Directors' Report is included on our Website together with back copies of Newsletters. (Please note that the Newsletter Section of the Website is being upgraded at present). The Report and Newsletters have full details of your Board/Committee and who to contact. Following the Meeting **Dr Frances Llewelyn Lynch** gave a lecture on

'Bangor's housing, 1850 to Margaret Thatcher. A marvellous, informative, illustrative talk delivered with great enthusiasm and enjoyed by all.



'Bangor's housing, 1850 to Margaret Thatcher. A marvellous, informative, illustrative talk delivered with great enthusiasm and enjoyed by all.

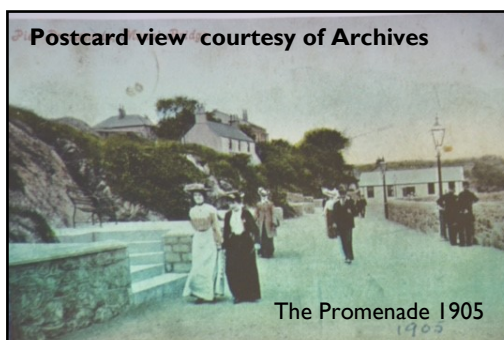
We last held a very well attended Public Meeting on the 15th October 2010 when development in the Town and conservation matters were discussed by the Menai Bridge Partnership (now defunct), County Councillors, the Society and members of the public. Have we made a difference? We'd like to think so.

It's obvious to state that the Town has changed, nothing remains the same for long, unless it's dead, or possibly the derelict Moreia Chapel Site? We as a society have changed perhaps in ways we could never have imagined. Who ever thought of Covid or AirBnb and its impact on holidays and housing? Who would have thought that the Suspension Bridge would be forced to close for safety reasons. That not only seems outrageous but is outrageous. Come to the meeting and have your say.

Liz Moyle

Thursday 13th October Kelly Parry, MA, Senior Archivist Anglesey County Council - 'Re-introducing the Archives.'

A delightful talk about the Archives and its increasing 'outreach' work and some



unique photos of the Town. The Society hopes to work more closely with the Archives Section of the Council and plans are underway to see how best we can do this.

Thursday 10th November 2022, Stewart Hayter, 'Copper Mountain—the Microsoft of Yesteryear'.

Exciting 'drone' photography and video of Mynydd Parys, the old workings and state of the present underground mine. Information about Thomas Williams, Twm Chwarae Teg, a major force behind the Industrial Revolution in the UK, from Llansadwrn/Llanidan!



Thursday 8th December, Cadi Iolen, Curator Llanberis Slate Museum, 'Five decades of collecting—pwm degawd o gasglu'.

Hard to believe now that the water wheel that powered the Slate works in Llanberis was going to be demolished and sold for scrap. Now proudly part of the National Museum of Wales with free access. A worthy tribute to the generations of quarrymen throughout the country and locally who helped to 'roof the world'.

Photo courtesy of Llanberis Slate Museum



FUTURE EVENTS

Welcome to the Winter and Spring Programme of the Civic Society. Meetings will mostly be held in the War Memorial Community Centre, Water Street, Menai Bridge to start at 7.00 p.m. on a THURSDAY. Coffee and biscuits will be available from 6.30 p.m.

Please note that the meetings in February and May will take place in the Capel Mawr Sunday School Building, Chapel Street, Menai Bridge. The room available there is quieter, larger and has a public address system installed.

Reminders will be sent out by email the week before a meeting. If you don't have email you may telephone Jane Cherrett on 07812186119 or Liz Moyle on 01248 460163 for the latest information.

Why have we continued with meetings in the evening instead of the afternoon? So far this year, evening meetings have been well attended, even when it's been really cold weather—we've nearly run out of chairs several times. If you do feel strongly about this please do let us know. If we have extreme weather, snow, plague of frogs, etc. and need to cancel a meeting we will let you know by email or phone as above.

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Thursday 9th March 2023 7.00 p.m. Mr Gareth Roberts — Mapping Local History

Thursday 20th April 2023 Prof G. Ffowc Roberts. Bangor Giants: Sir John Morris-Jones and Mr X.

May 2023 Prof. Emeritus Gareth Wyn Jones. Climate Change. Date to be confirmed. This illustrated talk is in Welsh with translation facilities available.

This meeting is in the Capel Mawr School Room

[Jane Cherrett](#)

COFFEE MORNING 50th ANNIVERSARY

As the Garden Party was cancelled we decided to continue our celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Civic Society with a Coffee Morning for the Town on 3rd December 2022. The War Memorial Community Centre used to host a coffee morning most Saturdays in years gone by but no more - I wonder why?

We are grateful to the Threnody Choir and the Training Band of Menai Bridge Town Band for joining in. Their contributions were most welcome. Many thanks too to all who donated to the 'Collectables Stall', Bottle Stall and indeed to all who donated and/or volunteered. Since the 22nd September, which was one of the loveliest days of the summer, and when we didn't have the Garden Party, the atmosphere in the country has deepened the concern about inflation, fuel bills, food prices,

We decided that it would be appropriate to donate our profits from the Coffee Morning to the Anglesey Food Bank and other local charitable groups. We have given £300 to the Food Bank and £75 to the Band and Choir. We hope that the Garden Party will return next year i.e. 2023, this time probably in the summer.



Menai Bridge Training Band.
Threnody Choir below.



Collectables, bottle stall in action.



Did we mention its our 50th Anniversary?



Newsletter Photos: N. Kneale, L. Moyle

YNYS FAELOG — WHO KNOWS THE HISTORY OF THIS ISLAND?

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
John Hughes
Maureen Parry-Williams
John Perkins
Iola Prytherch
Maralyn Pryke-Davies
Margaret Reynolds

Hon. Vice Presidents:
Medwyn and Gwenda Williams

CONTACT LIST

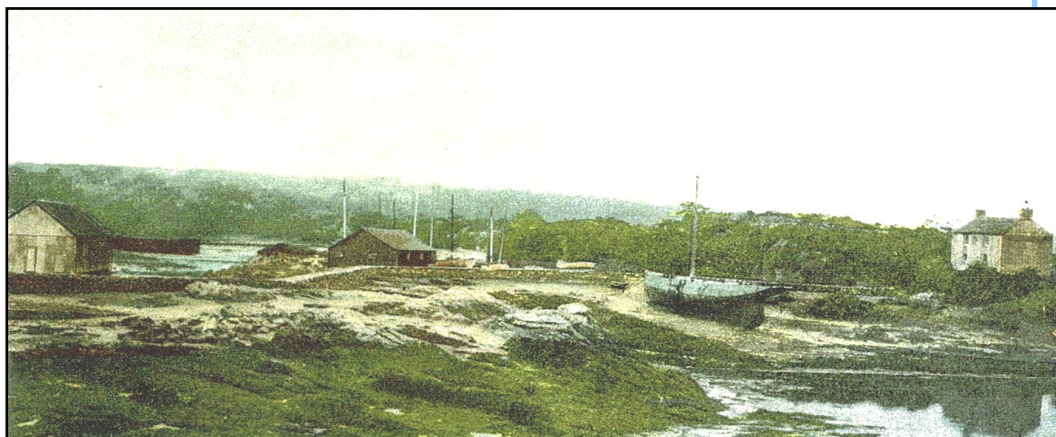
Newsletter contributions -
Liz Moyle 01248 460163
Bridget Geoghegan
Booking activities for events
and outings -
Jane Cherrett
Tel 01248 713440

County Councillors :
Dyfed W. 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.menai-bridge
civicsociety.org.uk



Who knows about the history of Ynys Faelog? Is the island connected to the 6th century Saint Maelog? Who lived here and when? We know the island once belong to the University, also possibly used as a holiday home by the Ferranti family in the 1920s - arriving by seaplane! Was it used as a naval base in WWI and WW2? The picture above, probably dating from the turn of the century, gives us some clues. The boatshed in the middle of the picture is still there - just! A boat building and repair workshop once run by the Owen family. Who ran the sawmill,

providing wood for the ships one pre-sumes? This is the building on the left; long since demolished. Some fabulous racing yachts were built on the Strait including between 1937 and 1952. Were any built here? Seventeen 'Menai Straits One Design' boats were built by Leavett and Morris of Gallows Point (yes the same Leavett family from Essex, mentioned in the last Newsletter). Who built the walkway, still well used by locals and visitors alike? Who ran the 'bathing' beach - just below the house to the right?

Cynghrair Aethwy Alliance.

In order to move the Alliance forward Medrwn Môn is calling a meeting in Menai Bridge on the 18th January 2023 to view how the priorities identified (by online survey) will be carried forward. In order the priorities are:

1. The environment- including making more use of outdoor spaces, dog fouling, and creating a sense of community spirit
 2. Young people – including intergenerational projects, youth clubs and sports activities
 3. Access and use of village halls and community buildings. Transport- including community transport and public transport, speeding and traffic.
- The survey may be viewed at : <https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=166480063064>

The survey is now closed but if you have any issues you, or a Group you know, in Aethwy Ward, may wish to bring forward then please let us know. The Meeting is open for representatives of other groups to attend. The Civic Society will attend the Meeting and let you know of progress.



Excellent new publication by Bridget Geoghegan, remembering the men of the Bangor Railway families who died in WWI. Available from the Post Office, Menai Bridge.