

# NEWSLETTER

## Cymdeithas Ddinesig Bro Porthaethwy

## Menai Bridge and District Civic Society

# CYLCHLYTHYR

Hydref/Autumn 2024

Page/Tudalen 1

**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 April and May meeting begin at 7.00 p.m.**

**12th September Thursday 7.00 p.m. AGM followed by a talk by Robert Mullock Hughes. The Clio - the story of a Ship and her People**

**10th October Thursday 7.00 p.m. The Samaritans a talk by Meic Griffith**

**14th November 7.00 p.m. 'MonSar' - Lowlands Search and Rescue Team— illustrated talk by Jon Mozzman**

**12th December 7.00 p.m. Christmas Cheer from the 'Rhosyr Collective', a four piece string band incorporating guitar, ukelele, banjolele, baritone ukulele - songs, stories poetry and much more.**

**9th January 2025 7 p.m. 'The Wonderful World of the Honeybee', an illustrated talk by Jenny Shaw**

### Inside this Issue

Garden Party	1
National and Civic News	2
Recent Programme Notes	2
Future programme	3
The Pier Project	3
Eisteddfod Llandegfan	3
Battle of Anglesey Sound	4
Contacts	4

## MUSIC AND MORE AT PLAS CADNANT GARDEN PARTY, 22nd JUNE 2024

Mr. Tudur Owen came to open the Garden Party this year and brought the good weather with him. Many thanks for his help and thoughtful words about the event and the location. He was welcomed to the afternoon by our Vice President Mr Medwyn Williams who acted as MC for the afternoon. This year we started a little earlier with an informal music session by the North Wales Clarinet Choir in the Courtyard.



After the official opening at 2.00 p.m. the ever popular Menai Bridge Senior Band continued the musical theme. They were followed by Côr Hogia'r Ddwylan and the North Wales Saxophone Choir. And throughout the afternoon demonstrations by Migldi Magldi Môn. The Courtyard also had displays of work by the Society itself, highlighting our Pier Garden Project (see page 3). It was an afternoon



for relaxing in the sun, enjoying the Gardens and music, unless of course you were one of the many volunteers who helped put on the show. The money raised goes to help the Civic Society and local charitable organisations. This year we have also made a sizeable donation to the Hospice in Holyhead. Visiting Plas Cadnant does seem like stepping into another world of quiet beauty where adults and children are encouraged to walk on the lawns, and the child in us takes great delight in doing so. How do they cut those yew trees/



hedges so precisely? It wasn't that quiet many years ago as the name Plas Cadnant suggests; cad meaning battle and nant meaning stream. *Continued on Page 4.*



## NATIONAL AND CIVIC TRUST NEWS

**Draft Delivery Agreement** - what's it all about? The first stage in a long process to deliver a new Local Development Plan to guide development by reference to the All Wales Plan (extends to 2040) and the Regional Strategic Plan for North Wales stemming from it; which has yet to be seen.

The final plan is to be presented to the Planning Inspectorate by April 2028. This seems a long way off but we note that the 'Delivery Plan' will issue a 'call out' for sites in December 2024 'for at least 6 weeks'. This means that developers have a short period of time from December to nominate sites they would like to develop. Similarly we hope it also means that those who wish to protect sites from development have the same period of time in which to list them.

The whole process is to be judged in light of the Planning Policy for Wales, the Well Being of Future Generations Act, Community Engagement, Sustainability Appraisal and

Engagement, Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment. So nothing complicated then!

Just what weight will be given to Conservation Area Status - most of old Menai Bridge is a Conservation Area - and to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Local Nature Reserves, remains to be seen. Do we think that common sense will prevail and no one would actually want to develop in areas that sustain, for example, the tourist industry, or good farming land or do we look at what has gone before? Remember, it's not many years since the Council supported (quoting national guidelines) a Zorb site development in fields sloping down to the Strait, overlooking Ynys Tysilio, because it supported a small number of new jobs. It took months and many objections from outraged local people and visitors to the area to halt the nonsense. Let's not go there again. What do you think? (Thanks to those who've already submitted comments). **Liz Moyle**

## RECENT PROGRAMME NOTES

### 11th April 2024 Simon Fraser Cains, Menai Bridge Back and Beyond. Growing up in 50s Menai Bridge

The talk by Simon Fraser Cains on Menai Bridge, Back and Beyond on 11th April 2024 – well you just had to be there! Professional actor Simon brought Menai Bridge and its characters, and his childhood in the town, to life. Think of 'Under Milk Wood' meets 'Rownd a Rownd' and that will give you a flavour of an uproarious evening of fond recollections and local history. More please!

### 16th May Thursday the Dutch Navy refugees in Holyhead from 1940 – 1946 Graham Van Weert.

The Holyhead Dutch Commemorative Memorial overlooks the Outer Harbour where the Dutch Naval ships were stationed and also the cafe, now the Maritime Museum, where the crews would meet to socialise and talk of home. Fascinating talk and detail about the contribution of the Dutch Navy. At the end of WW2 foreign personnel were



forced to return to their original nation. This also included the Holyhead born wives and children of Dutch sailors who were

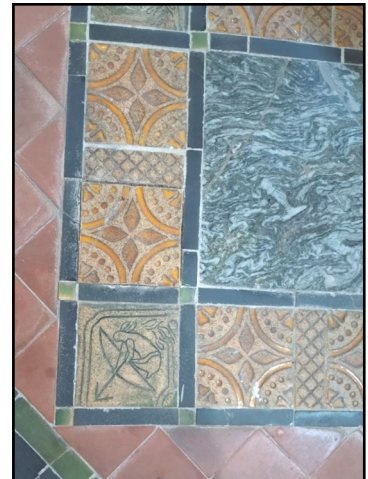
regarded as aliens, much to their consternation. The splits caused in families caused immense concern. Very interesting Dutch TV programme that Mr Van Weert helped to produce.

**22nd June Saturday GARDEN PARTY at Plas Cadnant—from 2.00—5.00 p.m. - see full report on page 1 and 4**

**11th July Thursday 2.30 p.m. tour of Bangor Cathedral with Organist Martin Brown.** Society members and guests had an excellent guided tour of the Cathedral together with history of its development.

### Cathedral visit continued.

It is dedicated to the Celtic Saint Deiniol, who founded a church there in the 6th century; the community was a leading centre of Celtic Christianity. Nothing of this remains but some of the building from the 12th and 13th century does including the floor tiles (see aside). It has been much changed; the building as seen today is the result of extensive work carried out under the supervision of George Gilbert Scott, starting in 1868. His work includes the Midland Grand Hotel at St Pancras Station,



Tiles showing the meek, or not so meek fighting back— rabbit with a bow and arrow out hunting..



'Green man' - detail from the end carving on the Choir stalls

the Albert Memorial, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office amongst many others.

It is the resting place of Gruffydd ap Cynan, King of Gwynedd (d. 1137) and his son Owain Gwynedd, (d. 1203) King of Gwynedd. Originally by the high altar next to his father Gruffydd ap Cynan, but moved

beneath the wall of the Lady chapel /south crossing.

Well worth another visit— if only to picture Cromwell's troops and their horses quartered in what is now the nave.

**August - no meeting**

## FUTURE EVENTS

Lectures are held in the Lounge of the War Memorial Community Centre, Water Street, Menai Bridge usually on the second Thursday of the month but please note this May where it is the 3rd Thursday and the June Meeting which is on a

### Saturday

Meetings April and May meetings will start at 7.00 p.m., with refreshments available from 6.45 p.m.

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 the Secretary know (see page 4 for details).

**12th September Thursday 7.00 p.m. AGM followed by a talk by Robert Mullock Hughes. The Clio - the story of a Ship and her People**

**10th October Thursday 7.00 p.m. The Samaritans a talk by Meic Griffith**

**14th November 7.00 p.m. 'MonSar' - Lowlands Search and Rescue Team— illustrated talk by Jon Mozzman.**

**12th December 7.00 p.m. Christmas Cheer from the 'Rhosyr Collective', a four piece string band incorporating guitar, ukelele, banjolele, baritone ukulele - songs, stories poetry and much more.**

**9th January 2025 7.p.m. 'The Wonderful World of the Honeybee', an illustrated talk by Jenny Shaw**

**Maralyn Pryke—Davies**

**Panad a Sgwrs** The Civic Society is working with the Menai Bridge War Memorial Community Centre to provide a warm and friendly meeting place once a week during the Autumn and Winter, probably on Thursday. Come and practise your Welsh or just come and have a panad and a piece of bara brith. **Are you interested** either to help out or to come along (and sample the bara brith). Please contact Maralyn or Alison on zxczzz



### Eisteddfod Llandegfan

On the 6th July 2024 Eisteddfod Llandegfan celebrated it's 100th Birthday. The Civic Society was pleased to support the event by sponsoring a Composition Competition for young people. Thanks to Sian Davies for her report below.

'Derbyniwyd pedwar darn o gerddoriaeth ar gyfer unrhyw offeryn/llais rhwng 2 - 5 munud o hyd. Daethant mewn ffeil a danfonwyd ymlaen yn syth at y beirniad Gwennant Pyrs oherwydd byddant yn cael eu chwalu'n otomatig ymhen amser penodol - felly d'oedd dim modd gwranddo ar y gerddoriaeth oherwydd nad oedd copi caled ar gael - dyma'r oes ddigidol?

Roedd y pedwar darn o safon uchel ac aeth y wobwr gyntaf am ddarn dan yr enw "Y Clown" i Cai Tomos Roberts o Rhoscefnhir a'r ail i Lleucu-Haf Thomas o Blaenporth, Aberteifi am ddarn dan yr enw "Twts". Yn ddiddorol, 'roedd y ddau gyfansoddiad arall hefyd gan Lleucu-haf Thomas - merch ifanc dalentog mae'n amlwg!

'There were four compositions submitted for any instrument/voice lasting from 2 - 5 minutes. These were sent in files which were then sent straight away via email to Gwennant Pyrs for adjudicating as they would be automatically erased after a specific time - no hard copies so we were unable to hear the pieces at the Eisteddfod - that's the Technological Age!!

All four pieces were of a very high standard with the first prize going to Cai Tomos Roberts from Rhoscefnhir for a piece titled "Y Clown" and the second prize going to Lleucu-Haf Thomas of Blaenporth Aberteifi for a piece titled "Twts". Interestingly, the other two compositions were also by Lleucu-Haf Thomas - obviously a talented young lady!

## The Pier Garden Project



This project, by the Civic Society, is to transform the area of garden ground between Fordd Cynan and the Promenade in Menai Bridge from its current sad, tired, underused and inaccessible state, to people with disabilities to a modern, environmentally friendly, accessible to all, climate change and culturally aware and fully bilingualy-signed space. We will create new accessible pathways and planting areas incorporating a fitness trail which will eventually run all the way from this new garden along all the publicly accessible paths of the Town's waterfront to Church Island. The garden will celebrate the famous Welsh poet Cynan and his works in display installations throughout the garden. **Kevin Wood**

### Eileen Parry Powell

We are saddened to report the death of one of our founder members, Eileen, on the 26th July 2024. Eileen was born in St George's Road (Ffordd Cynan) in 1927 and later moved to Lon Ganol. A lively, positive person of great determination and charm— a tremendous combination. She will be greatly missed.



## COMMITTEE

**Anthony Tavernor Esq.\***  
Llywydd/ President

**Liz Moyle\***

**Cadeirydd/Chair**  
**Golygydd Cylchlythyr/**  
**Newsletter Editor**  
**Bridget Geoghegan\***  
**Ysgrifennydd/Secretary**  
**Maralyn Pryke-Davies\***  
**Ysgifennydd Cymdeithasol/**  
**Social Secretary**  
**Gill Clarke\***  
**Trysorydd/Treasurer**  
**Jane Cherrett \***  
**Marian Hirst\***  
**Selwyn Williams\***  
**Alison Wood\***  
**Kevin Wood\***

**Norman Kneale**  
**Photos/Ffotograffau**  
**Rosemary Daimond**  
**John Hughes**  
**Maureen Parry-Williams**

**Hon. Vice Presidents:**  
**Medwyn and Gwenda**  
**Williams**

**\*Directors of the Limited**  
**Company**

## CONTACT LIST

**Newsletter contributions -**  
**Liz Moyle Tel. 01248 460163**  
**Bridget Geoghegan**  
**Booking activities for events**  
**and outings -**  
**Maralyn Pryke-Davies**  
**Tel. 01407 720418**

**County Councillors :**  
**Dyfed W. Jones, Robin**  
**Williams, Sonia Williams**

**Town Council :**  
**Canolfan Coed Cynol,**  
**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**

## Continued from Page 1. MUSIC AND MORE AT A SUNNY PLAS CADNANT GARDEN PARTY. **Plas Cadnant name.**

Does this name Cadnant relate to the Earl of Chester, Hugh Lupus, who landed his forces at the mouth of the Afon Cadnant in 1096. or later in 1098? Who knows?

The **Battle of Anglesey Sound** was fought in June or July 1098 on the Menai Strait ("Anglesey Sound"), separating the island of Anglesey from mainland Wales. The battle was fought between Magnus Barefoot, King of Norway, and the Anglo-Norman earls Hugh of Montgomery and Hugh d'Avranches, and took place as part of Magnus Barefoot's expedition into the Irish Sea, which sought to assert Norwegian rule over the Kingdom of the Isles.

Only a few days after the Normans had captured Anglesey from the Welsh, Magnus Barefoot appeared with some ships off the coast. Fighting soon began with arrows shot between the Norwegian ships and Norman forces on the shore, but as Hugh of Montgomery was hit with an arrow and killed, the Normans retreated back to England. The defeat of the Normans allowed for the return of the exiled Gruffudd ap Cynan, King of Gwynedd, who thereby regained control of his former lands. (Gruffudd ap Cynan (c. 1055–1137) was King of Gwynedd from 1081 until his death in 1137 - see page 2, Bangor Cathedral.

By 1188 a medieval settlement called Cadnant had been established. And they say Menai Bridge is a new town!

**With thanks** to Wildlife Artwork and sketches by Jane Bunce, Lettering, painted and carved by Martin Wenham, Gwenda Williams, Plant Sales, Gwynedd Woodturners, Gwynedd Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, Lockyer Jewellery, the Red Squirrel Trust, Menai Heritage, Quoits, Collectable Stall, Menai Bridge War Memorial Community Centre, Beaumaris Leisure Centre, the Volunteers, all the staff of the Hidden Gardens. Thanks to Pete Gray for the photographs.

