

# NEWSLETTER

## Cymdeithas Ddinesig Bro Porthaethwy

## Menai Bridge and District Civic Society

# CYLCHLYTHYR

Ionawr/Winter 2025

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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**  
**Jan, Feb, March meetings begin at 2.00 p.m.**  
**April and May meeting begin at 7.00 p.m.**

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

**13th February 2025 2.00 p.m. North Wales Seal Rescue** (waiting confirmation)

**13th March 2025 2.00 p.m. Menai Bridge Raft Race** - Geoff Heney

**10th April 2025 - details in next Newsletter.**

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## The Pier Garden Project - work begins replanting Gardens.

If you've been for a Christmas/Boxing Day walk down by the Pier in Menai Bridge you'll have seen that the 'gardens' have changed. The Pier Project is underway with clearance of some of the laurel bushes, thickets of brambles and rubbish. Many thanks to our members, who live nearby and

to other local residents for their input and for keeping an eye on the area. And indeed to Civic Soc .

Committee Members Kevin and Alison Wood for initiating the project. Planting with palm trees has begun and in the

Spring additional planting of ground cover will begin. The Civic Society is undertaking this work with the support of funding from Aethwy Alliance, this grant aid has been key to starting the Project but the renovation of benches and installation of new ones is costly and we'll be looking for further funds. Huge thanks go also to the staff and pupils at David Hughes School for their highly creative design ideas which we are aiming to incorporate. Note. The promenade, below the Gardens, was opened in 1904 by David Lloyd George, then MP for Caernarvon Boroughs.

### Swan Success.

A little further on from the Pier, along Fordd Cynan towards Beaumaris, you'll come across the walkway over to Ynys Faelog. The Island is private property but the walkway isn't. Please ignore the gate, labelled 'Permitted Access'.

The Society has registered this as a Public Footpath and awaits the consideration of the application by the County Council. The walkway, used by generations of Menai Bridge residents and visitors is open up to a larger green metal gate— not that this would bother the recent visitors shown above. The Mute Swan family successfully raised 5 young this year and can be seen from time to time on the outskirts of the town. With a wingspan of 2 metres and protective of his brood I decided to view from the roadway this time!

What looks like sloppy mud, in the background of the picture, is just that. However, many years ago it was a boat building and repair yard. The old tin shed is all that remains of Oliver's Boatyard and the recent gales have damaged that too.



**Top - County Council Contractors removing some of the laurel. Side - planting by Anthony Tavernor, President, MB & Dist.**

**Civic Society. Below, post card - elegant times past.**



## NATIONAL AND CIVIC TRUST NEWS

### Call Out for Candidate Sites

In our last Newsletter I mentioned that the 'Call Out' for Candidate Sites was due to start in December 2024 for a period of 6 weeks. What's happening in Anglesey? From 31st March 2023 Anglesey and Gwynedd Council went their different ways and now each Council will produce a Local Development Plan, instead of the Joint Local Development Plan. Gwynedd County Council's process is well advanced with submissions (for candidate sites) to be completed by 15th January 2025. It would be useful to know what date is proposed for Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn. Thank you to Cllr. Robin Williams for arranging to have this raised in the Planning Committee in January 2025. What was proposed in the past Local Development Plan, as 'Candidate Sites'? Are these sites carried forward or does potential protection for sites have to be applied for again?

In Menai Bridge for example we had proposed, amongst others:

- Land adjacent to Tyddyn Isaf - protection
- Land at Silver Gates (by telephone exchange) - housing

- Land at Four Crosses - mixed development
- Land off Mount Street - housing
- road down Dew Street to provide one-way system
- Green Wedge between Menai Bridge and Llanfair PG
- Cae Waun - wildlife area

For some of these we know that development has taken place. Other major sites in Menai Bridge haven't appeared in Candidate Site lists at all. The derelict Moreia Chapel site in the centre of town, is one such. This site could have such a positive affect on the Town if developed sympathetically and quite the reverse if it is not. We are lucky in Menai Bridge to have a (nearly) full High Street of independent shops and cafes, many cafes. Would a national/multi national shop or store close down independent retailers? Do you want more green spaces, multi storey flats, low cost housing, another petrol station? What would benefit the Town most? What do we need? Look at page 4 to see what the Welsh Assembly Government says we lack.

**Liz Moyle**

## RECENT PROGRAMME NOTES

**12th September AGM** - see separate notes, page 3. Unfortunately Robert Mullock Hughes was unable to get to the meeting and we hope to hear his talk about the Clio later in the year. We are grateful to **Anne Arkle from Jaspersparkle** who kindly came to talk about her hobby that has now become virtually a full time job. Anne converts silver spoons into rings, inspired by the 17th century tradition when those not well off transformed silver spoons into wedding rings.



**10th October The Samaritans**, a talk by Meic Griffith



There are around six hundred Samaritans volunteers across Wales working in nine Welsh branches. Volunteers

respond to calls for help every day of the week via telephone, e-mail, text and in person at branches or at events across Wales. Meic gave a thought provoking, sobering and inspiring talk about the work of this dedicated group of people. We are indebted to them for their very necessary support of our community.

**14th November 'MonSar' - Lowlands Search and Rescue Team— illustrated talk by Jon Mozzman.** Since becoming operational in the summer of 2018, the Team has been involved with searching and rescuing a number of people in the communities of Anglesey, often late into the night. The Team's volunteers work alongside the existing professional and volunteer search and rescue agencies on the Island and mainland. Thick fog at the start of the meeting was a reminder of how when we come across the unexpected we need such resources.



**12th December 7.00 p.m. Christmas Cheer from "Dreamweaver"**. "Dreamweaver", Anglesey based musical five piece collective incorporated some of their own songs, poetry and storytelling with a variety of songs of varied musical genre from across the decades. Guitar, various ukuleles including Baritone, Tenor, Concert and percussive accompaniment provided a lively evening of entertainment that we all joined in. Mince pies too!

**Right. Social Secretary Maralyn, welcoming members and visitors.**



If you've been to the **MBWM Community Centre** recently I hope that you've noticed the improvements. The Foyer has been repainted, the Lounge brightened up and new storage trolleys for tables give a much more professional, 'looked after' feel. This is just the start, we hear! Well done to the new Management Committee for the Centre. Their regular **Monday Morning Coffee 'drop-in' session**, is open to all and provides a warm welcome, 'cuppa' and chat between 10.00 and 12.00. **Panad a Sgwrs** as well.

**Newsletter photos:** L Moyle, M Pryke-Davies, Anne Arkle, Post Card - Anglesey Archives, S Fraser.



## 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.

Please note that meetings in January, February and March will take place in the afternoon beginning at 2.00 p.m. Refreshments available from 1.45 p.m.

Meetings April and May meetings will start again in the evenings at 7.00 p.m., with refreshments available from 6.45 p.m. i.e. once the clocks go forward and the evenings are lighter.

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).

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING April 2023 - April 2024, notes of the meeting held on the 12th September 2024 in the War Memorial Community Centre Menai Bridge.

Liz thanked the Committee for another successful year. Jane has arranged the programme of talks for several years. She was thanked for her conscientious work throughout her time as Social Secretary. It was confirmed that Jane would remain on the Committee as her input is much valued. In October of this year the work was taken on by Marilyn Pryke-Davies. The Society is very grateful to Maralyn for organising speakers for our meetings and her enthusiasm for the task. Our Society membership stands at approximately 100. Suggestions would be welcome for submission of sites in the area for preservation. Eileen Powell, a founder member and enthusiastic supporter of the Society, died recently. A collection was made at the funeral service and the money was shared between the Civic Society and RNLI. This much appreciated donation will purchase a tree for the Pier Project in memory of Eileen who was brought up on Ffordd Cynan.

The accounts are managed by Gill Clarke. Full details of the accounts are given in the Annual Report. A grant of £6,705 has been received for work on part of the Pier gardens. Jane recorded thanks to Gill for her diligent work. This year we have had a bilingual talk by Professor Gareth Wyn Jones in Capel Mawr. Talks were also given by Nigel Beidas and Professor Gareth Ffowc Roberts. Arranged visits had increased as had attendance at our very successful Garden Party, the use of the beautiful surroundings of Plas Cadnant being given generously by our President. Officers and Committee were re-elected en-bloc as they were willing to stand again. Seconded by Audrey. Anthony thanked the Committee for their work with a huge thanks to Liz for producing the excellent Newsletters. b) Maralyn was proposed to be Vice Chair, proposed by Selwyn with all in favour. Maralyn appreciated the nomination and will consider if this is possible with her other commitments. Medwyn and Gwenda were thanked for their support and generosity.

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10th April 2025 - details in next Newsletter  
Maralyn Pryke - Davies

**Committee of the Society.** The Society is fortunate to have an active Committee, with representatives from the Town Council, but we could always do with more people interested in the wellbeing and future of the Town. You may have a specific interest and just want to concentrate on that or raise a specific issue e.g. the Strait, Town Gardens, local history. You would be most welcome, our structure has scope for Trustees and Committee Members. Non Committee Members are also welcome to attend by prior arrangement.

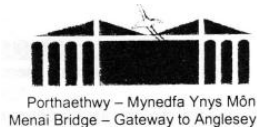
### MENAI BRIDGE SUSPENSION.



**Before/after repairs - two sides of the same column, December 2024.** Good to see work progressing. Will the pedestrian walkways be renewed? Will it be finished in time for the 200th Anniversary in 2026? Embarrassing if it's not. Rhun ap Iorwerth commented recently, "But we're also told that traffic management will be more restrictive than originally planned during the latter stages of the work, with lights in place 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This will add significantly to the disruption for local people. "It's vital that Welsh Government now move quickly on proposals to make the Britannia Bridge as resilient as possible, especially over next year's summer months. I will continue to hold both them and the contractors to account and ensure this work is completed safely, but in as short a time as possible."

Suspension and Britannia Bridge?

**IOLA PRYTHERCH** We are sad to report the death of Iola on the 17th October 2024, in her ninetieth year. A stalwart supporter of Capel Mawr and the Civic Society's Assistant Treasurer for many years. Born and brought up in Menai Bridge, a kindly lady, a well loved primary school teacher, with a deep knowledge of the town. She will be missed.



## COMMITTEE

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

**Liz Moyle\***

**Cadeirydd/Chair**  
**Golygydd Cylchlythyr/**  
**Newsletter Editor**  
**Bridget Geoghegan\***  
**Ysgrifennydd/Secretary**  
**Maralyn Pryke-Davies\***  
**Ysgrifennydd 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.menaibridge**  
**civicsociety.org.uk**

## Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019

The official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales

### Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

- snappy title isn't it! **WIMD** for short isn't much better but it's something we ought to be more familiar with. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation is the Welsh Government's official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. It is designed to identify those small areas where there are the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation.

The last index was published in 2019. The Welsh Government is currently planning for an updated index to be published in late 2025. The individual indicators underlying WIMD are the building blocks for the whole index and, following a review of available data. The Govt. proposes to update most indicators and potentially add some new indicators for WIMD 2025.

Deprivation is the lack of access to opportunities and resources which we might expect in our society. WIMD is currently made up of eight separate domains (or types) of deprivation, each compiled from a range of different indicators. An area is multiply deprived if, for more than one of these domains, the area has a concentration of people experiencing that type of deprivation, covering:

income, employment, health, education, access to services, community safety, physical environment, housing.

Each type or domain is measured for each of the Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Wales (about 1900).

**I can feel your eyes glazing over now but stay with it!** If I said, for instance that Cadnant and Tysilio electoral wards in Menai Bridge are LSOAs. Cadnant is the what you might call the old part of the town. In 2019 the report said, amongst much else that Cadnant was ranked as

one the most deprived areas in Anglesey and the Country (within 0-10%) with regard to Community Safety. i.e. ranked 87th out of 1909 areas in the whole of Wales (see the chart below)

Community Safety being measured by reference to Police Recorded criminal damage, Violent Crime, anti-social behaviour, theft, burglary and fire incidents. For Housing, Cadnant ranked in the 10-20% most deprived areas nationally (this includes lack of adequate housing due to the physical condition of housing conditions, housing arrangements or availability. For other categories it is ranked much higher. You can visit the site at the link below and look at Tysilio Ward and elsewhere in Wales.

<https://wimd.gov.wales/lsoa/W01000011?lang=en#>

Seems very strange! Is it? How bad is bad? Have things improved since 2019? Does it matter? Yes, if policies and resources are defined by it.

Do you believe in statistics anyway? Quoting from the Royal Statistical Society's own website, "**There are lies, damned lies and statistics, the saying goes.** Whatever the issue, whether it's Brexit, football or health tips, numbers can be plucked to suit each side of the argument. But while it's easy to lie with figures, it is even easier to lie without them.

With statistics, once somebody puts a number in front of you, you can pick holes in it and really analyse whether it stands up or falls apart."

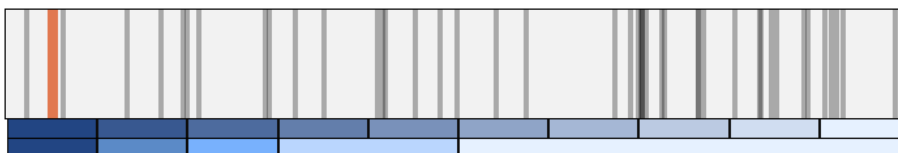
See their entertaining website and Christmas quiz at

[rss.org.uk/news-publication/news-publications/2024/general-news/rss-christmas-quiz-2024-questions-and-puzzles-to-p/](https://rss.org.uk/news-publication/news-publications/2024/general-news/rss-christmas-quiz-2024-questions-and-puzzles-to-p/)

Although they do leave you with the thought that data collection is one thing, its interpretation something else.!

### Community Safety

Ranked **87** out of 1909 LSOAs in Wales, which places it among the **10% most deprived**.



Ranked **2** out of 44 LSOAs in the Isle of Anglesey Local Authority.