

Porthaethwy – Mynedfa Ynys Môn
Menai Bridge – Gateway to Anglesey

Dates for your meeting diary.
Meetings are mainly in the
**War Memorial Community
Centre, Water Street, Menai
April to October meetings
begin at 7.00 p.m.**

**10th April, Thursday, 7.00
p.m.** Rev. Neville Naidoo -
Chaplin UWB - My Life growing
up in South Africa

**8th May, Thursday 7.00
p.m.** Dr Sylvia Pinches - The
Almshouses of Penrynnydd,
their history and future.

**12th June, Thursday 7.00
p.m.** Graham Van Weert - Menai
Bridge and How the Britannia
Bridge caught fire.

**Saturday, 2.00 p.m. Garden
Party at Plas Cadnant- full
details to follow.**

**10th July, Thursday 7.00
p.m.** Gareth Roberts - History
of Bangor and Bangor Pier.

**14th August, Thursday, 2.00
p.m.** An afternoon visit to
the **Prichard Jones Institute,
Newborough** - Tea & Tour - with
Morwenna. Booking is required.
Contact Maralyn (see overleaf).

**11th September, Thursday
7.00 p.m. Annual General
Meeting** followed by a talk from
Gwynn Pritchard entitled, 'Wicker
or Wood!'

**9th October, Thursday, 7.00
p.m.** 'Anglesey to Mesopotamia—a Nurse's Journey' A talk
by Angharad Bowen-Holmes.

**13th November, 2.00
p.m.** Beth Whitney - War Me-
morials of Anglesey.

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7.00 p.m. Christmas Cheer** with
the Dreamweavers

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NEWSLETTER

Cymdeithas Ddinesig Bro Porthaethwy

Menai Bridge and District Civic Society

CYLC HLYTHYR

Ebrill/Spring 2025

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Thursday 8 May 2025 will mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day.

80 years ago millions of people across Wales, the United Kingdom and the world, celebrated the end of the Second World War in Europe. This was a momentous milestone towards the final conclusion of fighting—which finally finished on 15th August 1945 in the Far East with VJ Day (Victory Over Japan).

The Civic Society marked the 75th celebrations with the issue of special 'Memories' publications.* Links to these are given below.

Many contributed to those 'Memories' but memories don't come to order they crop up uncalled for, triggered by sights, sounds or perhaps items found when you clear out the attic. One Society member found an old box at the back of a wardrobe - it contained her gas mask from when she was in primary school in Menai Bridge. Strange I'd never thought of them being issued round here and I find it really unsettling. When you delve a little deeper, though, you see how the whole community was affected from building Motor Torpedo Boats, servicing Catalina aircraft in Beaumaris, building Lancaster Bomber parts in Llanberis, playing host to 600 evacuees* and the Dutch Navy (in Holyhead), setting up a Land Army Camp (where the Telephone Exchange is now), an Army Camp on Ynys Faelog, RAF bases in Bodorgan, Rhosneigr and Holyhead, setting up the BBC in Bangor, Home Guards on the Bridges to protect them and their vital water supplies and yes to tiny tots learning how to put on a gasmask.

So little of the physical change remains but Anglesey County Council planned to restore a special 'pill box' in Trearddur Bay—it was disguised as a garden folly, protection from invasion from the Irish Sea was also deemed important.

*In Menai Bridge (325 children, 35 teachers and helpers, 200 mothers and young children, and 40 expectant mothers were expected. 360 to arrive on the first day of war and the remainder on the second. The Council asked the Ministry of Health to withdraw the expectant mothers, as there was no hospital accommodation in Menai Bridge and to reduce the number of mothers and young children to 100 as there were no nursing facilities. The total was thus reduced to 460 - from H Anthony's 'Menai Bridge and its Council', page 44. Do you have any memories of the evacuees coming or indeed any other contributions to add to the record of these times?

* *These can be seen at

<https://menaidistrictcivicsociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/18-memories-april-2020-ve-dayver8.pdf> for VE Day and for VJ Day see

<https://menaidistrictcivicsociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/19-memories-mckie->



The Menai Straits provided excellent water for flying boat operations. For three years there were flying boats stretching from the Gazelle down to Fryars Bay."

NATIONAL AND CIVIC SOCIETY NEWS - long title of Bill.

'A Bill to make provision about infrastructure; to make provision about town and country planning; to make provision for a scheme, administered by Natural England, for a nature restoration levy payable by developers; to make provision about development corporations; to make provision about the compulsory purchase of land; to make provision about environmental outcomes reports; and for connected purposes.' A Bill being introduced in the UK Government must begin with 'A Bill to to...' and then lists its purposes, sometimes at great length, as above. The Planning and Infrastructure Bill does apply to Wales as well reflecting changes in the Planning Act 2008 where applications for development consent orders on nationally significant infrastructure projects i.e. UK wide must include a consultation report (amongst other things) that

sets out requirements to ensure that that has been carried out robustly. "However, clause 4 weakens those requirements, and under the changes, the report will need only to **summarise** relevant responses and outline any changes made as a result. Summarising is a dangerous game, and I do not believe that summaries have any place in decisions of national significance. I am particularly concerned about the impact that that measure could have on Welsh language considerations, environmental concerns and the voice of local people. " This extract is taken from Llinos Medi's speech to the UK Parliament on the 25th March 2025 about the new Bill. Whatever political persuasion you may have, do you want your views summarised or do you feel quite capable of expressing them yourself.

Liz Moyle

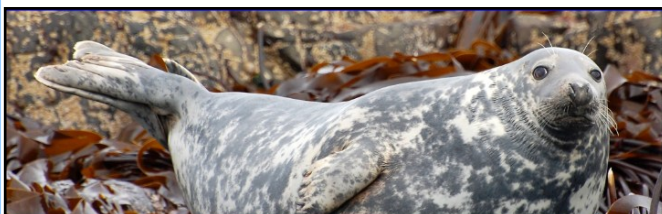
RECENT PROGRAMME NOTES

9th January 2025 2.00p.m. 'The Wonderful World of the Honeybee', an illustrated talk by Jenny Shaw. Some incredible photography and information about a life



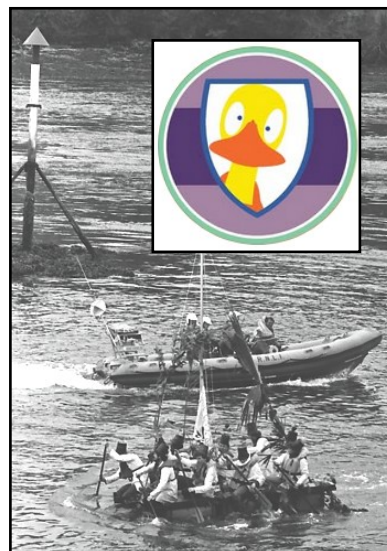
time of interest in these wonderful insects. See the website at [Anglesey Beekeepers.com/nuisance-bees](http://AngleseyBeekeepers.com/nuisance-bees) for more information and if you're in need of advice.

13th February 2025 2.00p.m. North Wales Seal Rescue Organisation



Wonderful photography again and details of the protection work carried out. Don't they look cute—but they are large and can be aggressive. Don't approach or let your children or pets approach or disturb them, especially young seals. Regular seal visitors can be identified by their markings. If you see a seal, or any other marine animal, that may be abandoned, malnourished, sick, injured, trapped, entangled or in some other danger, please call the BDMLR Rescue Hotline for 24 hour assistance on: [BDMLR Emergency Hotline: 01825 765546](tel:01825765546). Alternatively you can also call the RSPCA hotlines [0300 1234 999](tel:03001234999) (England & Wales)

13th March 2025 2.00 p.m. Talk about the Great Menai Strait Raft Race - Geoff Heney has been involved with the Raft Run since it began in 1984 and is now its Chairman. His overview of the development of the



'Run' reflected the sheer enthusiasm and challenge of the paddlers, the safety teams and the fund raisers.

STOP Press News from the Great Strait Raft Run 2025.

It is with great regret that the Menai Bridge Great Strait Raft Run committee have taken the decision to postpone the 2025 Menai Strait raft run for this year. As you can imagine it takes a huge

amount of time and effort throughout the year and on the day to run the event and we rely heavily on local people and business to support the event. Unfortunately, reduced entries and a significant reduction in our advertising and sponsorship revenue not only makes it hard to run the event but also has a detrimental effect on our main purpose, the ability to raise money for our local worthy causes, and this has led us to take this regrettable decision. The good news however is that next year will see the Bicentenary of the Telford Suspension bridge and it is our promise to the people of Menai Bridge that we will be back, bigger and better for 2026! The Great Strait Raft Run is an important event in the local calendar, so we won't be going away! Look out for us at various events throughout 2025 as we drum up support for next year. So once again a huge thanks to all of you who have supported us over the years, we look forward to seeing you again in 2026 when we will be back with the Greatest Raft Race in North Wales, a local event supporting local causes!

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 April, May, etc. 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. Meetings from November until March will be in the afternoon.

Special Events, such as the Garden Party and Afternoon Tea at the Pritchard Jones Institute begin at 2.00 p.m.

We will usually send you a reminder about the date of meetings together with more information about the Speaker and Subject.

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).

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Maralyn Pryke - Davies

Bowling Green Shelter restored.

Congratulations to Menai Bridge Town Council for their farsighted action in restoring/rebuilding the well loved shelter on the Bowling Green - and improving access as well as increased planting in the Garden. The shelter may look like something built in the 1920s but was in fact was built in the 1950s with most of the money for it being raised by public donations. The style/design was popular along the North Wales Coast but now this is one of the few survivors. It provides shelter for those wanting to look out over the Pier and towards Llandudno and also on the other side those wanting to view matches on the improved Bowling Green. The slipway at Porth y Wrach



served the REME during WW2 and their huts, where the seating area is now, were not removed until the 1950s (anyone got photos?) Who remembers what the Promenade and the Waterfront looked like in the 1950/60s,



Porth y Wrach today with modern 'speed boat'



or the Pier Pavilion with its Carnival 'Talent Contest' and Carnival Dance. See the bottom of page 4 for a view from the seaward side. Indeed who remembers the Pier in its heyday. **Above**—Pier and Promenade shortly after its opening by, then local MP, David Lloyd George., in 1904.

Below — awaiting the arrival of the St Tudno (1950s)



COMMITTEE

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Menai Bridge

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Solar Farms, photovoltaic power stations, solar parks, solar fields, large-scale solar (LSS) or solar power plants?

What's in a name? Does Solar Farm conjure up the same image as Solar Power Plant? No? At what size would you say it becomes essential to describe an 'installation as a 'Power Station' rather than a 'Farm'. How about 3,700 acres near Llyn Alaw potentially developing 370MW. 'Lightsource bp' are interested in such a Power Station. Whether you are pro Solar energy, wind energy, sea or nuclear energy, such a large scale development merits out attention. View information at lightsourcebp.com/uk/

Plaid has shared their concerns about the impact that building two solar farms in the north of Ynys Môn could have on the island's vital industries and natural landscapes.

CPRE in Hertfordshire has some interesting information about Solar energy.

See their research paper at:

cpreherts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2021/10/The-Problem-with-Solar-Farms.pdf

One interesting quote, "Protecting the global environment is not an excuse to trash the local environment". Consultation about Maen Hir, mostly targeted at the north of the Island has been completed. We look forward to seeing what their actual Planning Application will look like.

PIER GARDENS COMPETITION PRIZEWINNERS

Presentation 17th Jan 2025



Sophie, Lily and Lowri pictured at the presentation at Ysgol Gyfun David Hughes

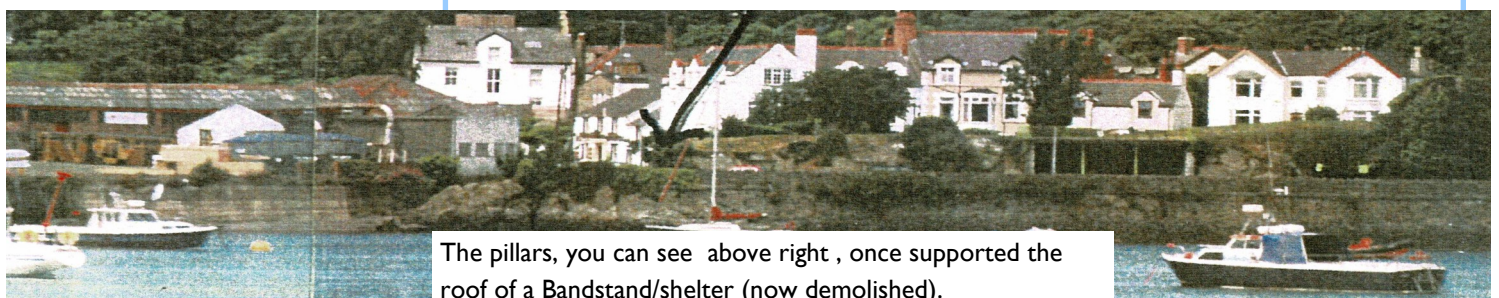
Many congratulations to Sophie, Lily and Lowri, from Ysgol Gyfun David Hughes, who were winners in our School Competition for a design to improve the Pier Garden and provide information for the many local people and visitors who use the area. Alison, Kevin and Liz, on behalf of the Menai Bridge and District Civic Society were also pleased to present £200 to the School in recognition of their support and enthusiasm for the Project.

Below: Clearing and planting in the Pier Garden is continuing. hardy Palms will be underplanted with ground cover and some cleared areas reseeded with grass.

THE PIER GARDEN - work continues replanting the Garden.



See our Website at
[www.menaibridge](http://www.menaibridgecivicsociety.org.uk)
[civicsociety.org.uk](http://www.menaibridgecivicsociety.org.uk)



The pillars, you can see above right, once supported the roof of a Bandstand/shelter (now demolished).