



Porthaethwy – Mynedfa Ynys Môn  
Menai Bridge – Gateway to Anglesey

# NEWSLETTER

## Cymdeithas Ddinesig Bro Porthaethwy

### Menai Bridge and District Civic Society

### CYLC HLYTHYR

**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 Sept and Oct meetings begin at 7.00 p.m., Nov-Jan 2.00 p.m.**

**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 Memorials of Anglesey.

**11th December, Thursday, 7.00 p.m.** Christmas Cheer with the Dreamweavers

**8th January 2026 Thursday, 2.00 p.m.** Visit to the Oriel Llangefni and look behind the scenes. Booking required.

**12th February 2026 Thursday 2.00 p.m.** Anglesey Windmills talk by Warren Kovach

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#### MUSIC AND MORE AT PLAS CADNANT GARDEN PARTY, 28TH JUNE 2025



#### For a full report see our Website.

A wonderful afternoon at Plas Cadnant full of fun, music and fundraising for the Civic Society and other local charitable organisations. **With thanks** to Wildlife Artwork and sketches by Jane Bunce, Lettering, painted and carved by Martin Wenham, Gwenda and Medwyn Williams, Plant Sales, Gwynedd Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, Migldi Magldi Mon, the Red Squirrel Trust, Quoits, Collectable Stall, Beaumaris Leisure Centre, Menai Bridge Band, Conwy Cakes, Clarinet and Saxophone Choirs, the Volunteers, all the staff of the Hidden Gardens, Pete Gray, Patrick Davies, The Dreamweavers, Rev. Wynne Roberts.

## NATIONAL AND CIVIC TRUST NEWS Information Technology Safety Measures

**What action has the Government taken?** The Online Safety Act 2023 (the Act) protects children and adults online. It puts a range of new duties on social media companies and search services, giving them legal duties to protect their users from illegal content and content harmful to children. As of 17 March 2025, platforms have a legal duty to protect their users from illegal content online. Ofcom are actively enforcing these duties and have opened several enforcement programmes to monitor compliance. As of 25 July 2025, platforms have a legal duty to protect children online.

Good there is improved protection from illegal content but does that include the use of information about you by Web tracking, location tracking, cross-device tracking, browser finger printing etc., etc. i.e. the sale and exploitation of your personal data. No? How do you navigate that? Pay extra for non trackable access, get professional advice? Sites on the Internet are full of advice, such as,

‘To protect your online information, use strong, unique passwords with a password manager and enable multi-factor authentication (MFA). Keep your software and devices updated and use reputable antivirus software don’t overshare on social media.....

But would you be better looking at the Government Website as well — The National Cyber Security Centre <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/top-tips-for-staying-secure-online>

Time was if you wanted to discuss your finances you went to see a Bank Manager, you paid bills in cash or wrote a cheque (remember those?); if you wanted information you looked it up in a Cyclopaedia or went to the Library. Professional librarians are governed by professional membership of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP). A CILIP member is “part of a professional community, dedicated to changing lives through quality information, services and expertise.” Menai Bridge Library is one of the most used on Anglesey, long may it continue.

**Liz Moyle**

## RECENT PROGRAMME NOTES



**10th April, Thursday, Rev. Neville Naidoo - Chaplain UWB - My Life growing up in South Africa** - beset with apartheid - the work of the Rev Trevor Huddleston and the Rev Desmond Tutu was in inspiration. Neville is an Anglican, part of the Chaplaincy Team at the University.

**8th May, Thursday Dr**

**Sylvia Pinches - The Almshouses of Penmynydd,**

their history and future. We are lucky to have an Archivist with such a deep knowledge and interest in our local history (including the David Hughes School). Plans to convert the Almshouses into housing for locals would set an excellent example for other redundant church premises.

**12th June, Thursday**

**Graham Van Weert - Menai Bridge and How the Britannia Bridge caught fire.** Ex-fireman Graham, explained how the design of the bridge was compromised by



the addition of wooden cladding, joining the two tunnels together and thus aiding the spread of the fire. (have a look at the Conwy railway Bridge, tunnel if you're passing) present too.



Good to have our own Norman Kneale What memories for him!

**Saturday, 2.00 p.m. Garden Party at Plas Cadnant - more details are given elsewhere in the Newsletter and will follow on our Website**

**10th July, Red Squirrels of North Wales.** We are grateful to Dr Craig Shuttleworth who stepped in at short notice to bring us up to date with the plight of Red Squirrels on Anglesey and how they could be protected more effectively from 'Squirrel Pox'. See their Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/groups/143610382316300/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/groups/143610382316300/?locale=en_GB)

**14th August, Thursday, 2.00 p.m.** An afternoon visit to the **Prichard Jones Institute, Newborough - Tea & Tour** Many thanks to Morwenna for such an informative tour of the Institute and a wonderful tea as well. This Grade 2\* listed building is worth a visit if only to see the Art Nouveau stained glass floral partitions and the unique book loan system of the Library and plenty of brochures booklets of local information over the years. The Hall upstairs has a view over the Estuary—large enough and attractive enough for wedding parties too.



**Photo left: our President, Anthony Tavernor, at the reception desk.**



**Photo right: booking system behind the stove (that has an underground flue!)** Continued on page 4.

Photos—thanks to Pritchard Jones Institute, their Facebook reports..

## 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 the start of Meeting will change to the afternoons in the Winter, following the 'change to the clocks'. This year the clocks go back on the 26th October 2025 and go forward again on the 26th March 2026. Whatever the start time refreshments will be available 15 minutes beforehand. 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).

## JOHN COWELL . Died 28th

**May 2025, aged 93 years.** What people quite often say when someone of a good age dies is, they had a 'good innings'. John did have a 'good innings' in many ways and he would have understood the reference to cricket, as a proud and accomplished cricketer, capped for Wales. He also excelled at football and golf (scoring 3 'holes in one'). John retired as head of Business Studies in 'Bangor Tech' in 1987 and his keen interest in local history and the 'goings on' in



**John Cowell Photo taken at the Garden Party in 2024**

condolences to his many friends and family. We'll miss him.

the town found its expression in a wonderful series of history booklets the last of which was published by the Civic Society - a Short History of the Post Office in Menai Bridge. John was modest person and real gentleman. We mourn his passing but celebrate his achievements and send our

**NAMES CHANGE.** Trying to trace where your relatives lived in times past isn't easy. The Society does get asked for assistance about this in Menai Bridge. Has your house name or street changed? Let us know so we can map how the town grew. For example, 8 -11 Beach Road was originally 1-4 Foundry Terrace; the Foundry predated the building of the Bridge.

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

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

**13th November, Thursday 2.00 p.m. Beth Whitney - War Memorials of Anglesey.**

**11th December , Thursday, 2.00 p.m. Christmas Cheer** with the Dreamweavers

**8th January 2026 Thursday, 2.00 p.m. Visit to the Oriel Llangefni** and look behind the scenes. Booking required please via Maralyn. Who would like a lift to Llangefni, who would like coffee/tea and cake afterwards in Caffi Bach y Bocs?

**12th February 2026 Thursday 2.00 p.m. Windmills of Anglesey**—illustrated talk by Warren Kovach **Maralyn Pryke—Davies**

## THE PIER GARDEN PROJECT

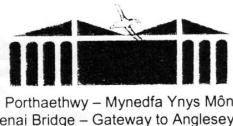


**Garden—August 2025 and below, before planting this year.**

Work in the Pier Garden is progressing well. Many thanks and congratulations to Anthony Tavernor for all the planting work he's carried out. And to local neighbours for their help with watering new planting in what has been such a dry summer.

We hope to renovate the benches in the top part of the Garden as well as install a picnic bench and one designed by a pupil at David Hughes School. We will select one to place a plaque on it in memory of John Cowell. If anyone would like to contribute e.g. volunteer gardener, check and remove litter, donate funds, buy a specific item then please contact the Society on 01248 460163 initially.





Porthaethwy – Mynedfa Ynys Môn  
Menai Bridge – Gateway to Anglesey

## 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/Fotograffau**

**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 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.menabridgecivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.menabridgecivicsociety.org.uk)**

## PRITCHARD-JONES INSTITUTE

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**Maralyn and Marian helping to 'unveil' the afternoon tea.**

Much fuller information is given about the Institute on Facebook and in a BBC report to be found at [bbc-north-west-wales-anglesey-prichard-jones-institute.pdf](http://bbc-north-west-wales-anglesey-prichard-jones-institute.pdf)

For the purposes of this short article I will look further at the **book loan system**. You had to apply to join the Library, part of the Community Centre opened in 1905. When approved you could then borrow books.

Each book was given a unique reference number which was entered on a small pad of paper (smaller on a match box) with the reference number pasted on the end. When you took out a book your name was written on the paper pad (in minute handwriting), which was reversed to show blue colouring in the storage rack. You couldn't take the book away but were then allowed to take it to the reading room. Reference books were expensive. Newspapers, local magazines, information about national and international politics were available. Children were not allowed in the Newborough Library initially.



Sir John Pritchard-Jones, as he became in 1910, was a friend of David Lloyd George and they frequently travelled down to London together; Sir John to the 'department store' Dickins and Jones, and Lloyd George to Parliament. He played a prominent

role in movements advocating for the promotion of workers' welfare, as well

as supporting profit-sharing schemes for his employees. Additionally, he served as the Treasurer of the Welsh National Museum and was a member of the Council of the North Wales University College at Bangor. He generously contributed to the college and became Vice-President of the College Council in 1909. In recognition of his contributions, the University of Wales bestowed an honorary doctorate. The 'PJ Hall is named after him.

Sir John would have known the Davies Family from Menai Bridge, shipowners, merchants and also proponents of access to education and information for all through the Institute in Menai Bridge (now the War Memorial Community Centre of course). When I say for all, I wonder how many women it included in those days? The membership records still exist for Newborough; it would be interesting to find out. The Davies Family as business people, however, did have a more thrifty reputation when it came to wages for those they employed.

Sadly the Library in Newborough closed in 2022. The phrase, 'Would have turned in his grave', comes to mind!

### **Whose Information?**

Does lack of library access matter? Don't we all have computers or mobile phones these days? The answer is, 'Yes', to both. It's hard to distinguish where the lines can be drawn, if at all, between communication/learning/business and sales today.

Our use of computers is analysed; poured over by the use of logarithms, Web tracking, location tracking, cross-device tracking, browser finger printing etc., etc. We're given access to programs and data but it's not free, it comes at a price and that price is information about you/us/ the users. Where we live, what we eat, what we wear, where we go on holiday, how we pay our bills..... In addition of course to your phone number, email address, location and the type of devices you use.. "This data can be exploited by advertisers and (hopefully not nefarious) others."

How much do you mind as long as it's free? Also see page 2 for details of action you can take to enhance your safety online.