

**Cymdeithas Ddinesig Porthaethwy / Menai Bridge & District Civic Society.
CYLCHLYTHYR Y GWANWYN 2009 SPRING NEWSLETTER..**

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARY.- Maureen Parry-Williams.

I would like to remind you all that our Annual General Meeting will be held on **Friday, April 24th** - in the Memorial Institute, Menai Bridge at 7.30.

Among the items on the Agenda will be an assessment of our performance and a consideration of our future role. We also have Bridget Geohegan, one of our members, talking about "Adventures in Family History."

Our present Chairman, Jack Harrison, will be able to return to full 'duty' at the end of this month, if he is re-elected. He has continued to keep in close contact with me over the past few months.

One of the main problems is that we have a limited number of members who can take an active part. We have quite a large committee but only a few of us actually manage to contribute to the function of the Society and support the organised events. We would be delighted if you feel you have the time and energy to help us take forward some of our other professed ambitions.

As you know, Jane arranges talks in the autumn and winter, outings in the summer months and we are disappointed if these are not supported. She will be pleased to hear from you if you have your own suggestions for future subjects or venues.

We appreciated the fact that so many of you managed to attend our Annual Dinner and hope you enjoyed yourselves. The Committee will be discussing whether this should be held at a different time of the year so that those of you who find it difficult to turn out in the dark evenings, could attend.

Also, we will be proposing other venues that we might explore.

PLANNING PROBLEMS.

TY MAWR.

In the Winter Newsletter, I reported that the Anglesey County Council had not yet endorsed the final decision about Ty Mawr and a number of you attended the final meeting on January 30th in Llangefni.

At this meeting, the original decision was reversed and the Council voted by a majority of 6 to accept the application and support it. We were extremely suspicious of the change of heart experienced by a few councillors in order for this to be passed. Perhaps they were aware of the consequences of voting against the Executive!

One councillor who did do so was the Planning Portfolio holder. He was subsequently removed from his post and accused of unprofessional behaviour.

Many groups, apart from ours, were angry and frustrated. Letters were written to the Welsh Assembly Government to demand that the application be "called in."

This week, we have had official notification that **it is being "called in"**.

You might have seen County Councillor Bob Parry's reaction to this in the Press.

We are obviously delighted that the broader issues will be considered.

PLANNING APPLICATION 39C456A –St. George’s Road, adjacent to Aber Mor. This is an application for 2 semi-detached houses and a carpark for 4 vehicles.

We feel that this application is unacceptable as it curtails the remaining open area alongside the road, which affords a view of the Straits. Aber Mor itself, was built on a boat storage area and its size and location aroused much local opposition and anger. At the time, we were not classed as a **Conservation Area** – now we are and this should be taken into consideration. If it is allowed, it will be considered another ‘departure’ from planning regulations and will need much justification.

ACTIVITIES.

At the end of January, **Mike Blackburn** returned by popular demand and talked about the river Conwy- from source to sea. As always, he was entertaining and informative and we hope to be able to book him again this year but he is very much in demand as a speaker.

After our Annual Dinner in February, **John Smith** – the Technical Services Officer from Oriel Mon- gave an illustrated and much appreciated talk on Kyffin Williams.

Last month we had a change of speaker from the advertised and welcomed **Margaret Dunn**. Margaret Dunn leads a group who are searching for old houses (1400-1600) to study. These are quite difficult to find because so many of them were burnt down prior to this period. The main dating is done by studying the trees used in their construction and it was fascinating to learn how these houses had been altered. She is keen to find any on Anglesey (only one so far) and would be delighted to hear from anyone who could give her any information.

Memorial Hall Community Centre, Water Street.

In response to a public appeal last August, for help in managing the Centre, three Civic Society members volunteered their services:- Jane Cherrett, Liz. Moyle and Vera Jones now serve on the new Management Committee. County Councillor Selwyn Williams took the responsibility of the Chair.

Various improvements to the fabric of the Centre have been carried out. The most noticeable of these being that the foyer, toilets, stairways and the small Committee room have all had a fresh coat of paint. The Centre is now ready to engage new users. Hire terms are very reasonable.

Rooms can be booked by telephoning **Damian on 07727613802**

Set up in 1923 the Centre has a long history and the new Committee plans to celebrate this by arranging an exhibition. If you have any memorabilia, anecdotes, photographs of past times, we would like to hear from you.

Our AGM will be held on Thursday June 4th at 7p.m. and is open to all. We need your support. For further information contact Jane Cherrett 01248 713440.

NEWS & COMMENTS FROM OUR COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

TOWN CENTRE UP-GRADE.- Councillor Keith Evans.

Uxbridge Square and High Street have a bright new look, after the completion of the County Council's major improvement scheme, costing £400,000 – funded by the Assembly's £300,000 grant award and £100,000 from the Highways Department coffers.

The attractive paving and wrought iron furniture is clean and fresh, planters and seats are extra features, as well as finger posts located in the Square, Wood Street and the Waun carpark.

It has taken several years for us to achieve this upgrade – after earlier stages in Wood Street and Bridge Street and I hope you are as delighted with it as I am.

The Town Council intend to help by providing hanging flower baskets.

Considerable disruption occurred to local businesses, traffic and pedestrians while work proceeded over 3 months. We appreciate the patience shown by the vast majority.

COED CYRNOL CAR PARK.

This scheme is now complete, providing a larger, better arranged facility which will encourage a greater turnover of vehicles. The pay-&-display system should discourage the blocking of the area with all-day carparkers and enable visitors to access Coed Cynrol, the Belgian promenade, Church Island and the Telford Centre.

The ACC Highways Department and the Town Council are partners in the project which cost £50,000 with funding support from the Assembly. The boundary fencing and woodland gate were renewed and the new carpark surface is of the best standard.

TOWN COUNCIL.

New officer appointments to the Town Council in place of Mr. Gwilym Evans are - Mrs. Caroline Bracey as Acting Town Clerk and Mrs. Isobel Watson as Financial Officer.

Councillor Selwyn Williams.

Owing to government cut-backs, the scheme to construct a turning circle at the end of the **Bron Fedw** Council houses will not be constructed until 2010.

The property owners at **Pen y Clip** have won their appeal from the Forestry Commission against the replanting on their land where they had indiscriminately cut down a great number of trees. This land is designated as a **Candidate Site** in the draught **Local Development Plan** which means permission could be sought to build residential properties on it.

I would like to hear from any members of the Civic Society who are keen gardeners and would like to have an **allotment area** in Menai Bridge. (01248 716370)

Civic Society Outings Summer/Autumn 2009

Saturday May 23rd

2.30pm Visit to Prichard Jones Institute, Newborough (property featured in TV series Restoration) Talk on the history and renovation of the building by Mr. E. Parry Williams, conducted tour followed by tea. Cost members £5, guests £6. Own transport required.

Saturday June 20th

2.30pm Visit to Plas Cadnant garden, Menai Bridge, (SH 556 733) with Mr. Anthony Tavernor. The garden continues to delight visitors. The area opened up in 2008 is developing and its main feature is a rock pool. The garden is one of two in Anglesey described in the recently published book 'Discovering Welsh Gardens' by Stephen Anderton (garden correspondent for the Times) published by Graffeg at £18.99. Refreshments included. Cost £5 members, guests £6. Proceeds for Civic Society funds. Follow the drive off the old Cadnant bridge. Cross two cattle grids to reach the allocated parking area. Short walk to the front of the house.

Sunday September 20th

2pm The Bridges Walk – a circular walk led by Mr. Bob Daimond (engineer & bridge historian). Park on the approach road to Treborth Botanic Gardens and meet by the garden entrance gate. The walk leads through the woods to the Britannia Bridge. Stories on the bridge construction, see the Lions, broken Jack and tube section before returning to cross Telford's suspension bridge and more explanation. Stout footwear recommended, & suitable warm clothing. Cost £4 members, guests £5 Proceeds to the Heritage Trust, Menai Bridge.

Saturday October 17th.

Day outing to Nant Gwrtheyrn (on the coast between Trevor and Pistyll) Hidden in the secluded Nant Valley, the former quarry village of Porth y Nant was deserted by 1959. Dr. Carl Clowes will tell us the story of its re-birth as a Welsh Language Study Centre. The old chapel, street houses and the quarry manager's house have all been restored. Interesting walks on site. Leave Menai Bridge 9.30am, return approx 4pm. Cost £20 per person includes return coach fare & lunch at the Centre .

PJ Institute Newborough May 23rd

I require.....places at £5 ,places at £6 Total cost.....

Name..... Tel. no.....

Plas Cadnant garden June 20th

I require.....places at £5,places at £6 Total cost.....

Name..... .Tel.no.....

Bridges Walk Sept. 20th

I wish to bookplaces at £4,places at £5. Total cost.....

Name..... Tel. No.....

Visit to Nant Gwrtheyrn Oct. 17th

I wish to bookplaces at £20 Total cost.....

Name..... Tel. No.....

Please complete the form and attach a cheque for the total amount, made payable to

Menai Bridge & District Civic Society

and return to **Mrs Jane Cherrett, 15, Caer Gelach, Llandegfan, LL59 5UF**
Tel.01248 713440

Please apply or give an indication of interest by April 30th.