

Porthaethwy – Mynedfa Ynys Môn  
Menai Bridge – Gateway to Anglesey

# NEWSLETTER

## Cymdeithas Ddinesig Bro Porthaethwy

## Menai Bridge and District Civic Society

# CYLCHLYTHYR

Dates for your diary:

More details on page 3

**January 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Michael Davies – Elec-  
tronic and Pipe Organs –  
How do they Work?

**February 17th**  
**ANNUAL DINNER**  
Guest speaker John Cowell  
- **When the Steamers**  
**arrived.**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Dr. Steve Mudge – **What is**  
**our local environment?**  
An environmental forensic  
introduction to Anglesey

**April 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Dr. Brian Jones, Headmaster  
David Hughes School – **Sec-**  
**ondary Education - How**  
**Times have Changed.**

**May 18<sup>th</sup> AGM AN-**  
**NUAL GENERAL**  
**MEETING** Barbara Vater-  
laws – **The Music in**  
**Wales before the 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Century**

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Winter/ Gwanwyn 2012

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### Menai Bridge and District Civic Society Award Guides and Scouts lead the way.

At our last Annual General Meeting we agreed to consider making an Award to recognise good design and celebrate excellence in local endeavour that makes a contribution to the quality and appearance of the built environment in Menai Bridge and District. A further prize will recognise the contribution by an individual or group towards improving community life.

We are delighted to announce that the Award has been made to the Menai Bridge Scout and Guide Premises and also to the Scouts and Guides for their service to the community in Menai Bridge over the past 100 years.

The new building has been designed to be as environmentally friendly as possible. eco-friendly features

such as photovoltaic panels on the roof to produce electricity, with any spare being sold back to the National Grid, disabled access and multi-use rooms. They raised £350,000 (through grants, local donations) over the past eight years, £20,000 was raised by the local community. It provides really up to date facilities for the modern world of scouting and guiding. The new building replaced an old wooden hut that the Guides and Brownies below would have been familiar with. In the 1950s. I'm sure you'll spot some familiar faces



Photo Briony Davies



## CIVIC TRUST and NATIONAL NEWS

### MPs inject dose of common sense into planning policy controversy

"A welcome dose of much needed common sense which would bring sensible reforms to planning policy."

This was the reaction of Civic Voice to the publication of the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee report on the National Planning Policy Framework published today (Wednesday). Civic Voice is the national charity for a network of hundreds of community-based civic societies across England (Civic Trust for Wales in Wales, Ed.) whose volunteers are the most numerous participants in the planning system.

Commenting on the MPs' report Tony Burton, Civic Voice Director, said, "There has been widespread concern about the Government's planning reforms which would bias decisions and put everyday England at risk. This Select Committee report should be heeded by the Government to take the heat out of the controversy over planning reforms and bring sensible improvements to planning policy."

Civic Voice welcomes the Select Committee's conclusions that:

There is "no conclusive research that planning policy is a particular constraint on economic development" (para 12)

The "default yes to development" should be rejected and replaced by a clear approach to plan-led sustainable development which integrates the needs of the environment, people and the economy. New development should be guided by the principles of "brownfield first" and "town centre first"

There should be new provisions for communities to secure "absolute protection" of town centres from out-of-town development (para 158).

"The decisions the Government makes over the next two months will decide the future of planning and development in England for a generation. We urge all those who share our concern to join our Campaign for Fair Planning - <http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/fairplanning> - and help put people and local places at the heart of planning decisions."

This extract from the Civic Voice's website applies just as much to Wales as to England and we support their call to reject this apparent 'developers' charter'.

Within Wales and within Anglesey in particular the situation is exacerbated by the fact we do not have any up to date Local Development Plan anyway, we do not have an operational elected Executive (still being governed by Commissioners appointed by the Welsh Assembly Government), local Council Boundaries may be abolished (see pages 3 & 4), and we have a drive to be seen as the 'Energy Island' - take your pick between another nuclear power station, forests of 100m high wind turbines, transmission lines, biomass digesters..... Which affects us most in Menai Bridge, what do we concern ourselves with? The short answer would be everything! The Society has never shied away from confronting unreasonable, unjustifiable change so the next few months will be busy - starting with submissions regarding the Joint Local Development Plan and proposed Boundary Commission changes. We will keep you up to date with progress through our Newsletter and at meetings. You can help too. If there's a public meeting see if you can attend. The 'public meeting' in Penmynydd about wind turbines created immense interest and I'm sure PAWB's meeting in Llangefni on 21st Jan 2012 (against land purchase for Wylfa B) will do the same. How relevant is our Civic Society Award in relation to all of this? Couldn't be more so, it recognises the continuing strength of community life.

## AUTUMN PROGRAMME NOTES

### September 23<sup>rd</sup> The Re-construction of the Menai Suspension Bridge 1938-1940.

Many thanks to Bob for bringing to life the technical aspects of the re-construction and also some of the human interest stories. The latest displays at the Heritage Centre are really worth a visit and the tea's good too.

**October 28<sup>th</sup> The Isle of Anglesey Coastal Footpath.** Rosie Frankland explained the work of her team, including volunteers, in maintaining the 125 mile path, founded some 30 years ago. View their Newsletter at [http://www.visitanglesey.co.uk/en-GB/anglesey\\_coastal\\_path-103.aspx](http://www.visitanglesey.co.uk/en-GB/anglesey_coastal_path-103.aspx)

or ask for a copy in the Library. Path markers can be seen in Menai Bridge in Beach Road. Most of the path is within the designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, apart from Menai Bridge which is excluded.

**November 25<sup>th</sup> Dickies Boat Yard** Peter Dickie - gave us a brief history of his family's development of the Company from the boat building firm of the mid nineteenth century to the now international boat supply and chandlery business. The business has now moved to Port Penrhyn.



Beach Road in 2010, part of the Coastal Footpath. Photo Liz Moyle

**December 9<sup>th</sup> Cwm Cadnant in context.** Our afternoon meeting was very well attended. Mike Brogden, who lives in Cwm Cadnant, explained how the size of the community in the Valley had declined over the years, as it ceased to be a main ferry landing. His interpretation of historical data, amongst them reports of Court proceedings, showed the Cwm and Llandegfan in a new light.

## FUTURE EVENTS

**Regular meetings are held in the Menai Bridge War Memorial Community Centre and start at 7.30 p.m.**

**January 20<sup>th</sup>** Michael Davies (formerly of Menai Organ Company) – Electronic and Pipe Organs – How do they Work?

**February 17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DINNER at the Victoria Hotel, Menai Bridge.**

Guest speaker John Cowell - When the steamers arrived.

See separate Booking form—to be returned to Mrs F J Cherrett, The Shiel, 15 Cae'r Gelach, Llandegfan, LL59 5UF

**by Tuesday, 7th February 2012 at the latest.**

Please note that numbers are limited to 60 so if necessary bookings for our members' dinner will be allocated on a first come first served basis .

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>** Dr. Steve Mudge – What is our local environment? An environmental forensic introduction to Anglesey

**April 27<sup>th</sup>** Dr. Brian Jones, Headmaster David Hughes School – Secondary Education - How Times have Changed.

**May 18<sup>th</sup> AGM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Barbara Vaterlaws – The Music in Wales before the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Jane Cherrett

## NEWS FROM OUR COUNCILLORS

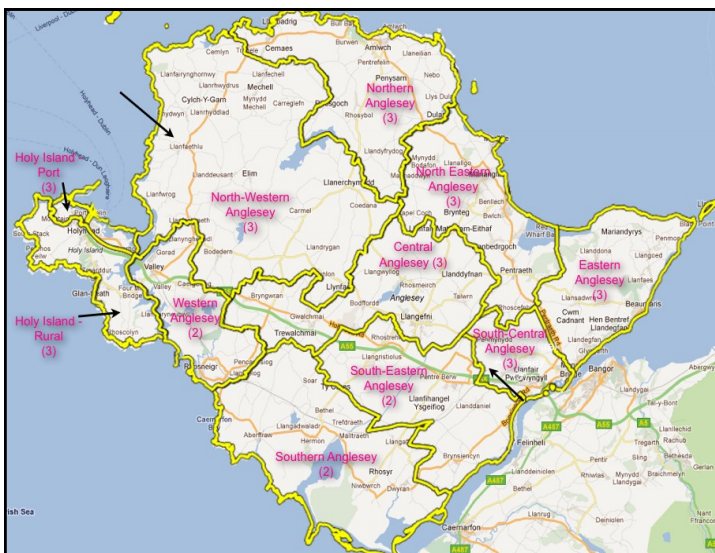
### News from Councillor Keith Evans, Local Member for the Cadnant Ward.

The arrival of the New Year, offering the prospect of **The Queen's Jubilee and the Olympic Games** in the summer, suggests there are exciting times ahead on the national scene. Here, the Town Council is keen to play a small part by accommodating a beacon on the Cei Bont amenity area, alongside Beach Road, on Monday, June 4, at 10.00pm.

On the **local government scene** locally, we are in limbo over whether the County Council's due four-yearly **elections** will take place in May. If that happens — and that is what the Council wants — it will be based probably on the existing format of 40 established Wards returning 40 Councillors. However, the Welsh Government's Minister, Carl Sergeant, has virtually instructed the Boundary Commission to radically re-draw the Anglesey map, to provide 11 bumper multi-member Wards, including lumping Menai Bridge with Llanfairpwll and Penmynydd to *form an electorate* of 5,000-plus, with *three Councillors being* returned for the whole area. Menai Bridge's electoral identity, as per Cadnant and Tysilio, would disappear and the fear is Menai Bridge Town Council could go as well. This is something we are fighting (see page 4 Editor). Other topics of interest currently ...

The **Mount Street** hammer-head scheme, campaigned for since 2008, to enable vehicles to have a turn-around facility, could come to fruition at long last early this year, if Highways Department intentions become a fact. The Joint Planning Policy Unit, created recently for Anglesey and Gwynedd, is preparing the **long term strategic plan**, with a team based at Bangor made up of officers from both Councils. The early tasks being pursued include the receipt of candidate sites for development and the matter of on-shore wind turbines. Concern continues about an attempt by the developer to amend part of the planning approval for the Waterfront location by **constructing another block of flats** in front of the Victoria Hotel, whose existence as a functions' venue is based on its scenic outlook and appeal. The hotel is a listed building. **Unwanted new and used furniture** is required by Menter Mon, which offers a free collection service. Telephone 01248-724433. The scheme is part of the campaign to reduce landfill and recycle

furniture.



### News from Councillor Selwyn Williams, Local Member for the Tysilio Ward.

I am pleased to say that I am returning home to Menai Bridge. My new address is 7 Cae Gweithdy , Menai Bridge LL59 5QZ.

Telephone 01248 714429.

Mobile number remains the same — 07757011843.

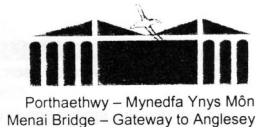
The surgeries I held last year have been popular so I've decided to continue these.

I will be available every other week, from Saturday, 21st January 2012, at the **Menai Bridge War Memorial Community Centre**, Water Street, Menai Bridge from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Lounge Room of the Centre has been refurbished and provides a comfortable meeting place.

For full details see the Boundary Reviews at Local Government Boundary Commission website <http://www.lgbc-wales.gov.uk/> . Apologies for the quality of the map. Editor

**"Memories of Menai Bridge"** - will continue in April with the recollections of Rol Bach, about his service with the Fire Brigade.



Porthaethwy – Mynedfa Ynys Môn  
Menai Bridge – Gateway to Anglesey

**Lady Anglesey**  
**Llywydd/ President**

**Liz Moyle**  
**Cadeirydd/Chair**

**Maureen Parry-Williams**  
**Ysgrifennydd/Secretary**

**Jane Cherrett**  
**Ysgrifennydd Cymdeithasol/  
Social Secretary**

**Renata Hufton**  
**Trysorydd/Treasurer**

**Iola Prytherch**  
**Deputy Treasurer/Trysorydd  
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**Booking activities for events  
and outings -  
Jane Cherrett**  
**Tel 01248 713440**

**County Councillors :**

**Keith Evans Selwyn Williams**

**Town Council :  
Canolfan Tysilio, Menai Bridge**

**For all correspondence please  
contact the Secretary,  
Mrs Maureen Parry-Williams,  
Tyn y Coed, Newborough,**

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

## PLANNING AND LOCAL NEWS

### The Joint Local Development Plan.

It is well worth having a look at the Councils' information websites asking for comments from the public by **27th January 2012**. Anglesey's headline emphasises 'Developing the vision, objectives and strategic options' while that for Gwynedd features the search 'for potential development sites in Gwynedd and Anglesey', which is interesting in itself. How do you want your community to look in 2026? What do you want to conserve, what is appropriate for development? Is there a specific plan for Menai Bridge in progress? What do you value most? The open spaces, recreational areas in Menai Bridge, access to the Straits?

The Society's Constitution states, as one of its aims, that it is established to 'promote high standards of planning and architecture, to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the 'area of benefit' ( i.e. Menai Bridge and District).

The Draft Vision will be recognised 'for its lively communities that celebrate their culture heritage and unique natural environment'. Nothing to argue with there. The interest begins in the detail, in (some) the possible strategic objectives - provide housing where people want to live together with appropriate infrastructure, contribute to reducing greenhouse gases, make use of suitable previously developed land. Again all laudable but would we want more housing estates in Menai Bridge; is there room? No? Sites have been identified already. Do we want mega wind turbines despoiling the countryside? Do we want another nuclear power station? What happened to the DTI's 2006 Report indicating that the Wylfa site would not be prioritised because of its physical location in relation to the UK National Grid; doesn't the same apply to turbines?).

**Housing** receives most attention in the 'Draft' with housing number options seen to increase by between 3.3% and 11.6% over 15 years.

Doesn't seem that much but that could be 9,500 houses, not necessarily distributed evenly but focussed say on Bangor/ Menai Bridge and other 'primary key settlements'. As population has only increased by 1.16% in the last 10 years is this planning for more single occupier houses, people moving to the area or fewer moving away or a combination of all? Focus on a fewer number of large developments close to employment centres e.g. Bangor, Holyhead, Pwllheli could be one solution. If we favour this are we in danger of being seen as NIM-BYs? Whatever we choose and whatever happens Menai Bridge and Anglesey will change; but don't say you weren't consulted!

### Onshore Wind Energy -

**comments by 10th February.** The Supplementary Planning Guidance has plenty of information about noise, 'flicker', safeguarding heritage sites but nothing about power transmission lines or substations. Perhaps they're going to join with the new 'infrastructure' for Wylfa B.

### Boundary Commission Changes

In 2010 the Commissions's proposals to change Local Council boundaries on Anglesey met with resistance. The revised proposals, issued this November, have given scant time for community consultation although they seek profound change i.e. reduce the number of Councillors from 40 to 30, all Wards to be banded together in groups and elect Councillors between them e.g Cadnant, Tysilio, Llanfair PG joined together to elect 3 councillors; the proposed name for the new Ward is South-Central Anglesey. The idea is to achieve greater electoral parity and fairness with about 1750 electors electing one Councillor.

Gwynedd's proposals on the other hand show a reduction of Councillors from 75 to 66, with an average of 1297 electors per Councillor. The fairness and parity of this escapes me. One can only ask why?

### Beryl Glynne Cains

Sadly Beryl died on December 13th, 2011 after a short illness; she was 85. Beryl will be greatly missed, not only for her deep knowledge of Menai Bridge (she was brought up in Tyddyn To when it was still a farm) and 'common sense, stand no nonsense' approach to planning and

community issues but also for her warm welcome and enjoyment of a good chat! Beryl served on the Civic Society Committee for many years and was especially active in the campaign to save the waterfront. Our sympathies go Geoff and the rest of the family.