

### Dates for your diary:

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2011  
Friday, 28th January  
Ferry Crossing— David Longley

11th February Annual Dinner with David and Hilary Crystal

Friday 25th March  
Drovers- Donna Goodman

Friday 15th April —  
Menai Bridge? Prof David Last

Friday 20th May ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Speaker Adam Voelcker

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Spring/Gwanwyn 2011

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### Freedom of Anglesey Ceremony to RAF Valley



The annual Re-enactment Ceremony of the Freedom of Anglesey to RAF Valley was held in the town on Saturday, September 25th 2010.

This is the first time, Menai Bridge has hosted the special ceremony honouring the men and women of Royal Air Force Valley. More than 400 attended the event in Cae Waen Car Park and Uxbridge Square. The ceremony, which honours RAF Valley's contribution to the island, included a parade through the town by RAF personnel, and a fly-past by two Harrier jets and a Sea King helicopter. Menai Bridge 1465 Air Cadets Squadron also joined the parade. After an inspection by the Chairman of the Council, Cllr. Selwyn Williams, the Lord Lieutenant Hugh Daniel Morgan, and Group Captain Bruce Hedley the parade marched through the town led by the Band of the RAF. A stirring occasion.

(Freedom of the 'City' is an ancient honour granted to martial organisations, allowing them the privilege to march into the city, " with drums beating, col-

that ambitious generals did not mount a military coup against the Senate. (Similar laws were passed by cities throughout the Medieval era. However, legions, regiments, or other martial groups that had given heroic service or whose honour was beyond question, might be granted Freedom of the City: the group would not have to disarm or break ranks before the city gates were opened to them. Given the serious risk the city would be running, this was a rare honour.

Photos - N. Neale



**For details of the Public Meeting - see page 4**

**CIVIC TRUST and NATIONAL NEWS**

“Following the recent election there are now two different political groupings in power in England and Wales. With this comes the possibility of a divergence in approach on planning policy. One of the last pieces of planning policy published prior to the election was Planning Policy Statement 5 (pps5) which provides a holistic and sustainable approach to the historic environment in England. In Wales there has been the recent publication of an updated Planning policy Wales (ppw) (2010), an updated Technical Advice Note 12 on Design (tan 12 2009) and a new Technical Advice Note 22 on Planning for sustainable buildings (tan 22 2010). Two other concepts that have not yet transferred into Welsh policy are the collective term “historic assets”, a term that originates from the draft Heritage Protection Bill, and the concept of “significance”. Hopefully, a future Assembly Government can will be issued quickly that amalgamates all the aspects of historic environment guidance. More positively, Wales has advanced further in the approach to historic landscape protection through “historic landscape characterisation” (as recognised in tan 12, Design (2009), paras 4.11 and 5.5.2). Good design should recognise the historic landscape context. Welsh planning policy closely inter-links the historic environment and landscape – something not done in England. . . . .

The Assembly Government is proposing changes that will make it easier for home owners to extend or improve their property without the need for a planning application. A consultation paper, Proposed changes to householder permitted development rights, is being issued and people are invited to send in their views by **15th February 2011**.

Proposals include conditions to minimise impact on neighbours and also take account of flood prevention by requiring the use of porous materials for hard surfaces, for example, porous asphalt, permeable concrete block paving, or making provision for water to drain naturally.

Environment Minister, Jane Davidson, said: “Our proposals are detailed and include a guidance document to make it easier for people to understand the changes they can make without needing planning permission. We think we have struck the right balance in helping local planning authorities redirect their resources by taking some of the small planning applications out of the system whilst safeguarding the impact on neighbours.” These extracts from the Civic Trust for Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government websites are just part of the ongoing changes to the complex controls governing our ‘landscape’. Perhaps they will aid clarity in the future?

**Soap Opera**

On Friday 26th November a small but stalwart band of members braved the cold to hear an excellent talk and video presentation, by Susan Waters, Co-Director of Rondo Film Company, about the development of the Company and one of its major successes, Rownd a Rownd. Twice weekly on S4C the programme provides great local drama and an advertisement for Menai Bridge and the surrounding area. By now we’ve got used to camera crews and filming taking place all round the town but the ‘filmset’ in Dale Street still puzzles

**Records and Archives Office**

The talk by Hayden Burns from the Anglesey Archives Service, on Wednesday, 8th December, was also excellent - a detailed explanation of the work of the Service and a tantalizing glimpse of some of the many photos and other records available. This afternoon meeting was something of an experiment - to see if members want to meet in the afternoon. As twenty five turned up for the talk, tea and mince pies we’ll take that as a yes!

**Stryd y Gwlith/Dew Street**

Along the side of one of the Studios (the old Luxor Cinema) is Dew Street — named we think after the Dew Family. Does any one know anything about the family; a distant relative, living away, would be grateful for more information. Any details—to the Secretary, initially.



Photo - Rownd a Rownd

visitors. It’s great that the area is so well used; providing work space for all the ‘backroom staff as well. We have been invited to have a tour of the site later in the year and details will appear in the Newsletter in due course. The Dale Street site was previously a showroom for the Timber Merchants, William Roberts, and before that housed T. Jones and Sons - a removal firm, garage and coach hire firm. The old coaches were a real feature; whatever happened to them?



Photo- N. Neale

## FUTURE EVENTS

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

**Friday, 28th January Crossing the Menai Strait** — the story of the ferry crossings. David Longley

**Friday, 11th February ANNUAL DINNER** at the Victoria Hotel, Menai Bridge. Guest Lecturer: Prof. David and Mrs Hilary Crystal; "The perils of being a linguist"

See separate Booking form—to be returned to Mrs F J Cherrett, the Shiel, Cae'r Gelach, Llandegfan, LL59 5UF by **Tuesday, 1st February 2011 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**

**Friday 15th April - Where in the World is Menai Bridge?** Prof. David Last

**Friday 25th March — an Introduction to the Drovers.** Donna Goodman

**Friday 20th May — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, speaker Adam Voelcker. 'Herbert Luck North - a modern Got**

Jane Cherrett

## NEWS FROM OUR COUNCILLORS

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

**New Year Notes. The Big Freeze** . . . during November and particularly around Christmas affected everyone but it is pleasing to hear appreciation by members of the public at the way that County Council essential services were maintained, despite the exceptional conditions.

Praise has been heaped on care workers from the Social Services Department and waste bin collectors from Verdant, while the Highways' salting/gritting teams' treatment of main roads has been acknowledged, although concern was expressed about untreated minor and estate roads and pavements. **Boundary Commission for Wales** . . . Controversial proposals to alter the Cadnant Ward have been dropped by the WAG Local Government Minister, Carl Sargeant - and it is a huge relief. The Minister's reasons are based on an overall criticism of the Commission's work around Wales but I hear also that the financial implications of implementing the changes were a factor, as well as opposition from political ranks in South Wales. The original proposal for Cadnant, you may remember, was to merge the ward with Llanfairpwll's two wards and then, after my protests, the amended idea was to make Menai Bridge into a multi-member ward to elect two County Council members.

Now, it will be status quo for the 2012 election - Cadnant lives on.

**Causeway Coed Cyrnol to Church Island** . . . The collapse of part of the retaining wall at the Causeway on to the foreshore prompted emergency action just before Christmas. As no-one owns the structure, the Town Council took the lead, supported by St Mary's/St Tysilio churches and now the County Council's Highways Department are also engaged - and all are likely to share the cost, with the Dale Street Trust also contributing. **Financial Prospects** . . . Local Government budget time is with us again and the indications are that the County Council is aiming to limit the increase in Council Tax to 5%.

**Mount Street Hammer-head** . . . The much needed hammer-head (to enable vehicles to turn around at the end of Mount Street/Bron Fedw) is being considered, sympathetically we hope, by the Highways Department. A site meeting was attended by the Head of Service, Dewi Williams, and the two local members, Selwyn Williams and myself. Purchase of a small parcel of land will be necessary and funding has to be found. **Porth y Wrach** . . . . A local resident petitioned some years ago for the facility (presumably the slipway, seating area and beach) to be designated as a village green and the issue appears to be tangled up in legal definitions. The interpretation even went to the House of Lords. To unravel the complexities locally, a **public enquiry is arranged for March 22, 2011**

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

**Freedom Ceremony** We value greatly RAF Valley's presence here on Anglesey, both in terms of the important work carried out by 22 Search and Rescue Squadron and the base's continued importance to our local economy through providing employment and apprenticeships. The base at RAF Rhosneigr started in 1939 and was renamed RAF Valley in 1941.

This annual ceremony gave me, as Chairman, and the people of Anglesey an opportunity to show our appreciation.

I know that RAF Station Commander, Group Captain Bruce Hedley, and RAF personnel greatly appreciated the warm welcome given them by the people of Menai Bridge. The ceremony, of course, coincided with the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and also allowed us to reflect on the contribution the people of Menai Bridge and District made during both world wars. The year 2010 also marked the 125th Anniversary of SSAFA, the Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen Families Association and 2011 is also the 70th Anniversary of the Air Training Corps in the UK.

The **Census** will soon be upon us again. On March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Census Questionnaire will arrive on your doorstep; almost 25 million will be sent out to every household in England and Wales. Complete the questionnaire by 27<sup>th</sup>, March. It will take about 30 minutes if you have a family of four, or ten minutes for an adult. It can also be completed on the internet [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk) **The Census helpline in Wales is 0300 0201 130 or for England it is 0300 0201 101.**

Many of the residents in the Tysilio Ward are aware that my home has been for sale for some time - it has now been sold, and I shall be making enquiries for renting properties in or nearby Menai Bridge. I would like to assure residents that I will be carrying on the **same service** I have given them since my election in May 2008 - telephone and mobile contacts will still be the same.

When I have found what I need all the residents of the Tysilio Ward will be sent details through their letter boxes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you and I send my sincere Compliments of the Season.

**Lady Anglesey**  
**Lywydd/ President**

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

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

**Jane Cherrett**  
**Ysgifennydd Cymdeithasol/  
Social Secretary**

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

**Iola Prytherch**  
**Deputy Treasurer/Trysorydd  
Cynorthwyol**

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Cylchlythyr**

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**outings Tel 01248 713440**

**County Councillors :**

**Keith Evans Selwyn Williams**

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

**For all correspondence please**  
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**LL61 6PY**

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

## PLANNING AND LOCAL NEWS - Public Meeting

**On Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Menai Bridge & District Civic Society held an Open Meeting at the Memorial Hall in Water Street to discuss the problems of developmental projects in the Conservation Area of Menai Bridge.**

Lady Anglesey opened the meeting and explained how she had first come to the area on her marriage to Lord Anglesey, exchanging her South Wales homeland for the North. Since then she has been dedicated to her new home area and the protection and promotion of Anglesey in particular. Her passion for protecting the character and way of life of the island kept her active in the Civic Society. Lady Anglesey then introduced the Chairman for the evening – Mr. Jack Harrison who is the Chairman of the Menai Bridge Partnership Group and the secretary of the Menai Bridge Chamber of Commerce.

Our local Cadnant Ward County Councillor, Mr. Keith Evans, was invited to give an over-view of the present concerns occupying the minds of many of the audience of about 50 in number. He drew attention to the achievements and improvements of the area, particularly over the past 5 years. These had included the half million pound investment in Uxbridge Square, the £200,000 improvements at Porth Wrach, the new Community Leisure Centre at the David Hughes school, Keith also touched upon current problems in the town, one of the major concerns for years had been the lack of car parking, which contributed to many of the recent planning applications causing concern. Of the 5 Council operated car parks, only 3 were in their ownership. Of the 2 leased car parks, one was secure and one was still to be negotiated. The advent of Waitrose, while bringing benefits to the town, also caused additional parking problems by not allowing its personnel to park on the premises. The lack of space for vehicle parking in the old areas of the town, reflects the age of the houses. The narrowness of the streets, while adding to the character of the area, also exacerbates the problem and should mitigate against increasing the density of development. The **Conservation Area document** states that such areas should be enhanced and sympathetically developed so as to preserve the character. This is our main objection to many new planning applications. Guidance is being ignored.!

Jack thanked Keith for his input and invited Professor Jago of the University to address the meeting concerning future developments of the University sites in Menai Bridge. The present old building was not fit for purpose and would be demolished and replaced by a more attractive design which would have the same dimensions. The University had obtained substantial funding and intended to designate Menai Bridge as its centre with other businesses radiating from it. He conceded that there would be a period of disruption which the University were hoping to minimize by agreeing with the ACC Planning Department that they could have access to the site through the Bulkley car park. He anticipated that the demolition would begin next summer, the reconstruction would take 15-18 months and the project should be completed by January 2013. In response to questions, he stated that he was unaware of any plans to sell Ynys Faelog when staff were moved out from the buildings. Neither had he any knowledge of land which belonged to the Mostyn Arms and was adjacent to their present site, being considered for purchase by the University.

Jack thanked all who had participated and attended and noted the wish of the audience to be kept informed of developments and to attend future meetings if required.

**The Isle of Anglesey County Council Planning Committee met on Wed. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 2010** to consider the application to demolish the existing boat storage shed, erect a replacement building to be used for boat repair and storage in addition to a temporary access road and compound at Ynys Faelog, Menai Bridge. It was noted that there had been 52 responses to the application, all in opposition which include Menai Bridge Town Council, The Civic Society, CPRW and members of the public. As there is a 'Certificate of lawfulness in existence which is in the developer's favour' there are no grounds to refuse redevelopment (nature conservation issues having been considered by CCW) but the Planning Officers have imposed 18 conditions including — site only to be used for boat repair/storage, level of the site in relation to its surroundings to be agreed, finished ground floor level to be 5.39 m above Ordnance Datum, noise impact assessment., requirement for the developer to complete a legal agreement under section 106 to provide a 'Bond' in case the temporary road is not removed.

We believe the action of the Civic Society in protecting this Site of Special Scientific Interest, within the Conservation Area, has highlighted how vulnerable our Town and District is to unsuitable development. We await further news with interest. **Maureen Parry-Williams**