

***CYLCHLYTHYR Y HYDREF 2008***  
***AUTUMN NEWSLETTER.***

**COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR. – Jack Harrison.**

We were saddened to hear of the untimely death of KEN THOMAS, Chairman of our neighbouring Bangor Civic Society. Maureen and Iola represented us at the funeral. The Ty Mawr Development appears to have been taken off the “back burner” again. We will continue to monitor its progress closely and keep you informed.

Once again Jane has created a varied and interesting programme of Winter Meetings. Please try and attend as many as possible. You will find the experience very rewarding.

Regrettably, it has been necessary to increase charges for these events and details are listed below by Maureen.

We have made little impact on membership recruitment in the last few months. The health and survival of the Society depends upon a large and active membership and recruitment of younger members needs a particular emphasis.

How many friends do you have who may be interested in joining?

A significant number are in arrears with membership contributions. Please check your records to see if yours are up to date. If you are in doubt Renata or Iola will be able to help.

It is our intention to have the Annual Dinner at the Anglesey Arms Hotel in February. It is some time since we have used this establishment and any feedback about its current standard of cuisine and service would be welcome. Comments should be directed to Jane.

Finally, on your behalf, I would like to thank the Committee and the executive officers in particular, for all their hard work and commitment.

Personally, I am hoping for an Indian summer to relieve the gloom which appears to have gripped us all in recent times.

I look forward to meeting with you all during the coming months.

**The Secretary's comments.....**

Further to the sad news of Ken Thomas' death at the age of 81, we can remind you that he was well-known for being the Welsh General Secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association who was involved in a bitter civil servants' pay dispute with the Thatcher Government in the 1970s. He was averse to unnecessary militancy and advocated quiet diplomacy. He was awarded an OBE in 1996.

Without his leadership, there are concerns that Bangor Civic Society may become moribund as Caernarfon has apparently done. We are now the main, functioning Society in this area and, as such, need to ensure that the local people consider us informed, concerned and pro-active so that they feel we are relevant to their local community. I can only endorse the comments made by Jack with regard to membership.

With reference to the venue for our Annual Dinner: we have been very satisfied with the Victoria Hotel who have always made us feel very welcome. However, it was our wish to support both the Menai Bridge Hotels in turn. Over the last few years, the management at the Anglesey Arms has changed and the standard fluctuated. We would like to return to our previous arrangements and would like your opinions.

We understand that a change of management is likely in the near future. Please contact Jane.( 713440)

It was our turn to pay the rent on **the Pier Gatehouse** again this year. We still have no specific plans for using it so, once again we are appealing for your ideas. AND it would be marvellous if someone felt they could “care-taker” it as this would enable it to be used for publicity.

There are other groups in Menai Bridge who may benefit from having publicity space. For instance, **the Menai Bridge Partnership group** needs to be re-vitalised. This was intended as a forum where all local groups could be represented and communicate. Jack has offered to take the Chair while the secretary contacts all the original group members and invites them participate in discussions for encouraging closer co-operation within the town.

There is also a new Committee taking charge of **the Canolfan in Water Street**. Some previous members have stayed on to ensure some continuity. Selwyn Williams, the new Councillor for the Tysilio Ward (and our previous Chairman) will be the new Chairman, our Social Secretary, Jane Cherrett has been prevailed upon to be their new Secretary and Liz Moyle will take over as Treasurer. We wish them all the best and assure them of our support.

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

**TY MAWR** is on the Agenda once again with claims and counter-claims being made. No superficial judgement should be made without considering all the implications and ramifications. At our Open Meeting last January, the Civic Society rejected the development after listening to a number of speakers explaining the implications in depth. Last month, the Welsh Assembly Highways Dept. finally admitted the traffic problems that would be caused by such a development and conceded that these were insurmountable at present. Despite this, the development company-Ynys Mon Estates- is still presenting this as a desirable and viable proposition emphasising job opportunities and leisure facilities.

There are much deeper issues being raised with regard to the promoting of this scheme and the political implications are quite far-reaching. There is another development group wishing to promote these facilities in Llangefni and many local people feel that this would be a much fairer option for the whole island as it is the hub and not on the periphery.

**NODDFA** has a new application in this month. The design is still modern but more in keeping with the area. It is 3 storeys with space in the roof. There are 4 balconies but these will not appear too conspicuous as owners of the British Legion houses have been given permission to attach balconies to their properties. It may be acceptable **The MOORINGS**. The house has been converted into apartments which appear to be quite acceptable. The main concern here has been the cutting down of the trees and the dubious reasons given for this action. There will be an application for parking spaces and garages.

**JOHN EDWARDS APARTMENTS**. The land between these and the wall of the Victoria Hotel is now to be used for boat storage. A 2-year temporary permission for ‘change of use’ is likely to be granted.

## **NEWS FROM OUR COUNTY COUNCILLORS.**

**Selwyn Williams** is grateful to have been elected to serve the Tysilio ward. One of his strengths is his willingness to tackle other people's problems. He is confident that he has the determination and ability to make a difference.

He has joined with Councillor Keith Evans and former Councillor John Meirion Davies to establish a turning circle at the end of Bron Fedw.

Also in that area, he ensured that the Forestry Commission were fully informed of the illegal felling of 2 acres of trees at the Pen y Clip property and subsequently that an Enforcement Order was made for their replacement with young stock.

Selwyn has also been concerned with pressing Arriva to create a direct route from Menai Bridge bus station to Parc Menai at certain times, to facilitate travel to work.

He has been in touch with the North Wales Housing Association for them to increase pressure on Scottish Power to accept the new Tyddyn Garth Estate.

For the general appearance of the area, he has put pressure on the ACC for signage on the greens at Lon Menai, Lon y Bryn and Lon y Garth to prevent vehicular parking.

Also, street/road signs need replacing. Some in the Tysilio ward have already been done.

Other successes have included the housing the homeless, ensuring the Meals on Wheels service continues to supply local needs, communicating with the local CBO.

**Keith Evans** has served the electorate of the Cadnant ward for over 50 years and feels that, in spite of a number of successful projects that he achieved over the years, he is still enthusiastic and determined to tackle a number of outstanding problems that remain, particularly with regards to highways.

Plans that are currently under consideration include the reconstruction and up-grading of the Coed Cynrol carpark- in partnership with the County Council. The problem is that there are too many long-term parkers, and those using the adjacent dental surgery and the restaurant. Consequently visitors to Church Island and dog walkers find it difficult to find a parking place.

The intended solution is to make it into a short-term, pay & display carpark. This will operate under the same conditions as other Council carparks. More room will be created by removing the roundabout and re-drawing the parking bays.

In the centre of the village, the up-grade of the High Street and Uxbridge Square will be achieved with fancy paving stones and new railings with the addition of plants and seating later.

Down at Porth y Wrach, the area beyond the garden will be made into a boat-trailer park to relieve the congestion on Water Street and Beach Road.

There will also finally be a residents' parking scheme for Bro Hyfred.

Later this year, both Councillors will be involved with discussions on the future running of the Ffair Borth . All aspects will be closely monitored this year with a view to improvements in the future. The Policing costs have been reported as approximately £20,000 and the force is thought to be keen to have this expense removed from their responsibility.

Other venues have been considered in the past but there are numerous criteria to observe. The Trading Standards Officers are responsible for the Fair but the Highways Dept. is also closely involved. This year I understand that they will keep the public carpark, behind the Buckley, open.

## ACTIVITIES.

### Activities –Past and Future

The visits that Jane had arranged to Blaen y Nant Farm and Benarth Hall were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. The visit to the University was also of great interest but fewer people than expected were present.

The final visit will be to Plas Cadnant on Sunday, September 21st. The numbers were limited and we have now reached this limit! The cost is £4 for members and £5 for non members.

We would like to remind you that we do not ask you to contribute to our talks, if you are a member- but would ask for £2 if you are not a member. Because we always provide light refreshments and we have not been covering the cost, we do appreciate a contribution towards these.

Jane has put together a varied (and even challenging !) programme for the months ahead. If anyone would like to attend but has no transport, phone Maureen (440668) or Jane (713440) to see if we can help. All meetings are in the Canolfan in Water Street at 7.30.

- September 26<sup>th</sup>.      **Terry Patching, Caernarfon Airport.** –  
Past glory, Present state and Future plans.
- October 31<sup>st</sup>.        **David Kent** (Chairman , Supporters group of the Welsh  
Highland Railway) **We are almost there!**
- November 28<sup>th</sup>.     **Revd. Michael Outram** (Vicar of Penmaenmawr & Succentor  
of Bangor Cathedral) **Bangor & Barchester** –Fact or Fiction.
- January 30<sup>th</sup>.        **Mike Blackburn. The River Conwy, from Source to Sea.-**  
Geology, geography, history and people.
- February 20<sup>th</sup>.      ANNUAL DINNER. Guest speaker is **Mr. John Smith,**  
Technical Services Officer, Museum Collection, Oriol Mon.  
**Kyffin and the Oriol.**  
Venue details to be confirmed.
- March 27<sup>th</sup>.          **Mark Watkin Jones.** (Group Managing Director, Watkin  
Jones & Son.)
- April 24<sup>th</sup>.          ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Followed by  
**Bridget Geohegan –‘Adventures in Family History’**

ALSO: **AGM of MEDRWN MON** on **Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**, 2008 at the  
Thomas Telford Centre, Menai Bridge at 5.00p.m.

The meeting will be addressed by **Mr. Martin Jones**, Chief Executive, N-W Wales  
National Health Service Trust.

