



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 diary:
More details on page 3

September 23rd

Bob Daimond - **The Reconstruction of the Menai Suspension Bridge 1938-1940**
October 28th

Rosie Frankland – **The Isle of Anglesey Coastal Footpath**
November 25th

Peter Dickie – (Managing Director) - **Dickies Boat Yard**
December 9th

2.30pm Mike Brogden – **Cwm Cadnant in context**. Preliminary interpretation of its Social and Economic History

January 20th

Michael Davies (Menai Organ Company) – **Electronic and Pipe Organs – How do they Work?**

February 17th

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

March 23rd

Dr. Steve Mudge – **What is our local environment?** An environmental forensic introduction to Anglesey

April 27th

Dr. Brian Jones, Headmaster David Hughes School – **Secondary Education - How Times have Changed.**

May 18th AGM ANNUAL

GENERAL MEETING Barbara Waterlaws – **The Music in Wales before the 20th Century**

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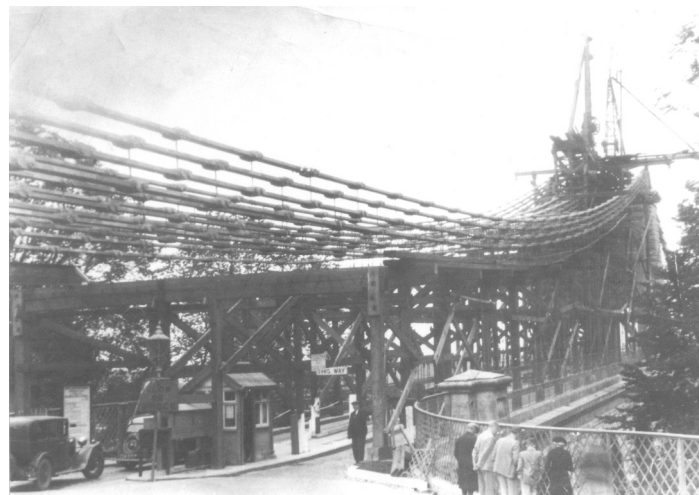
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Autumn/Hydref 2011

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The Reconstruction of the Menai Suspension Bridge 1938—1940

We start the Autumn series of meetings with a talk by Bob Daimond, Chair of the Thomas Telford Heritage Centre Committee, about the reconstruction of the Bridge. This is a good time to remind everyone that the Heritage Centre grew out of the Civic Society and has been steadily working to achieve the aims and aspirations identified at the start. For instance: it attracted significant grants to Menai Bridge which have saved and renovated the former National School as a Community and educational facility, and also refurbished St Mary's Church (with the



money we paid them for the building and required to be earmarked to be spent locally). After years of work and winning grants to get a project business plan, planning permission, etc for Prince's Pier we have managed to persuade the County Council to hand it over, and Menter Môn to take it on, to be developed in partnership with us as a commercial and Heritage Centre. In Canolfan Thomas Telford we have established a high standard Heritage exhibition

(unfortunately on a seasonal basis to date) which is admired and appreciated by visitors and locals alike once they venture inside. The visitors come from all parts of the UK and many other parts of the world. We need more help in spreading the word and getting people to come and visit and to come and help.

The Heritage Centre are organising an open day in the Bridge House on Saturday 24th September. Please contact the Centre for more information.

What was it like to work on the reconstruction? Do you have any memories of this or family who remember? It's important. Please contact Bob Daimond or Maureen Parry Williams with details.

Nominations invited for Menai Bridge and District Civic Society Award - results to be given in December issue

CIVIC TRUST and NATIONAL NEWS

Theatre of the Street

“What do we learn about *our* way of life from the fact that the Castle Arcade (*in Cardiff*) specialises in boutiques, delicatessens, fancy dress, books and clothes; or that the High Street arcade features mostly designer clothes, vintage clothes, and jewellery; or, to take a third example, the Morgan Arcade, which offers fair trade food, and organic herbal skin care? Something is being said here, implicitly, about a, perhaps residual, hunger for something other than the goods on display in large department stores. Personally, I find that rather heartening. I am less heartened by what remains of the Wrexham arcades. In part, it is because they are more passages than arcades, and there is little sign that the town is taking them seriously as *places* within the town..... There is the potential now to reveal what has long been hidden, and to remake Wrexham as a place to observe what Bertold Brecht called ‘the theatre of the street.’ “

So writes Derek Jones about Cardiff and Wrexham in the latest issue of the Civic Society for Wales’ Magazine. Cardiff has long been known as the ‘City of Arcades’, due to the highest concentration of Victorian, Edwardian and contemporary shopping arcades in any British city.

Up until the 1790s there were only 25 retail shops in Cardiff, most shopping being carried out from market stalls. The opening of the Royal Arcade in 1858 was the first indoor arcade built in Cardiff. Come further west and north and we have arcades and market halls too! The large arcade in Llandudno is even called Victoria Arcade although I wouldn’t say it caters for local businesses. Llangefni has a lively market on Thursday and Saturday and Holyhead is trying to breathe life into its main street by holding a market there as well. What of Menai Bridge? We still have some fine ‘individual’ shops and cafes, a local fresh produce market held monthly, a delicatessen, local butchers and an ironmongers that is in a class of its own. They deserve our support. Why? They provide local employment; they buy from local suppliers and provide further employment. They bind our community together; they provide variety and a welcome, they..... you add your own views. But no arcade or developed Market Hall, why not?

We have an excellent website (being developed by the Menai Bridge Partnership) all about the town. Well worth a look at (www.menai-bridge.org).

Liz Moyle

SPRING PROGRAMME NOTES

Friday 20th May — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, speaker Adam Voelcker. ‘Herbert Luck North - a modern Goth. A well-attended AGM heard Adam Voelcker speak on the life and work of Herbert Luck North. North’s architectural work reflects his strong religious beliefs, which when combined with his Arts and Craft designs resulted in Brithdir Church, near Dolgellau, and The Close in Llanfairfechan, and many other works beyond North Wales

Summer Outings

Tour of The North Wales Traffic Management Centre, Conwy, 18th June. Thanks to Bob Daimond for arranging the visit where members saw first hand the safety management of traffic via the 10’ x 20’ multi-screen.

Talk, Tea and Tour of Fort Belan, Llanwnda, Caernarfon with Sue Lloyd Roberts, BBC Human Rights Correspondent. 14th August. Fascinating talk by Sue Lloyd Roberts about her work and the various disguises and subterfuges necessary to get that vital information so we can help those in desperate need, either politically or economically.



Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens, 28th July Thanks to Anthony Tavernor for a delightful visit to track the development of the Gardens. The herbaceous borders are magnificent and the box hedges in the herb garden are recovering after being used as a trampoline by some visitors.



Behind the scenes at Rownd a Rownd, Menai Bridge, 14th July.

Members had a guided tour of the studios by Rownd a Rownd Chairman Robin Evans and Director Susan Waters. We had an insight into the intricacies of fitting film making into school schedules. The set is based in the old ‘Tom Jones Garage’ and the old Luxor Cinema but indeed uses locations throughout the town. This Welsh language soap provides valuable publicity for the town, regular employment for 50 + people and the opportunity for local youngsters to train for an acting career.

FUTURE EVENTS

Regular meetings are held in the Menai Bridge War Memorial Community Centre and start at 7.30 p.m. except for Dec. 9th (see below)

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October 28th Rosie Frankland – The Isle of Anglesey Coastal Footpath

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Barbara Vaterlaws – The Music in Wales before the 20th Century

Jane Cherrett

NEWS FROM OUR COUNCILLORS

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

Planning matters. Several interesting Planning matters have been presented for attention and decision in recent weeks, some offering obvious improvement which the public will appreciate and others causing concern and worry. In brief, the significant applications were: Anglesey Arms Hotel – major refurbishment, internal and external; Liverpool Arms Hotel – ditto; Mostyn Arms Hotel – conversion to students' hostel; *New restaurant project at Porth Daniel, Water Street (old Wm. Roberts & Co. sawmill)* - without on-site parking Islwyn, Lon Gemant, Holyhead Road – significant extension of bungalow into a two-storey house; Glan Ceris Court Flats – felling of 25 trees. Temporary access was gained through the boundary wall at Beach Road. **Cricket Club.** Much enthusiasm and praise arose from the club's 50th anniversary celebrations at the Ty'n-y-Caeau ground, where a week of special events attracted much public support. The superb facilities and sunshine helped. **Post Office** A new Post Office service is being opened at No. 7 High Street, switching from the traditional location on the corner of Bridge Street and Water Street. We wish the new sub-postmistress and her husband well in their new venture. **French Market.** At very short notice, a French Market suddenly appeared at the High Street car park as a one-day promotion. The initiative was welcomed and perhaps a more substantial feature will follow.

Parking Proposals. The County Council's Highways Department, in tandem with the Town Council, has prepared a list of around 20 traffic orders' amendments, which should help to resolve some irksome problems. **Old Chapel** The former Baptist Chapel in Dale Street, which offers air-conditioned accommodation for a well-known fruiterer/greengrocer, is a regular topic of *conversation, because of the deplorable/possibly dangerous state of the building* –and the apparent lack of a development scheme for the site. Ideally, there could be a civic community centre there, with shops, offices, and flats, if the right package could be put together. The site owner's reply to Town Council approaches for information is still awaited. **Public Toilets.** The County Council, under severe financial pressure, is conducting a detailed review of the island's loos, including the three in Menai Bridge, and some closures seem to be inevitable.

Council Elections. The next elections, for the County Council and Town Council, are due for May 2012 but doubts continue at the island level over the ward structure, which threatens Cadnant's status. Watch this space.

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

Joint Local Development Plan for Gwynedd County Council and Anglesey County Council 2011

Gwynedd Council and the Isle of Anglesey County Council have decided to set up a Joint Planning Policy Unit on the 1st, May, based in the Town Hall, Bangor, to prepare for a Joint Local Development Plan for Gwynedd and Mon Local Planning Authority. The JLDP will create a Land Use Development Strategy for a period of 15 years, it will concentrate on sustainable development in Housing, Retail, Employment and other uses. The Delivery Programme Agreement will produce the JLDP and a Community Involvement Scheme ensuring that members of the public, key stakeholders are part of the preparation plan process. **Candidate Site Consultation Document** has been produced for which outlines the methodology to enable developers, landowners and the members of the public to submit plans for future developing sites. Members of the public can view this Document at either the Town Hall at Bangor, Gwynedd County Offices in Caernarfon or Anglesey County Council in Llangefni and on the Internet up until the 18th September, 2011. There are a number of proposed Candidate Sites in the Tysilio Ward some surrounding the private housing estates and some within the Ward.

Gwynedd County Council Planning Application No: C11/0546/1IAL For Bangor City Football Club, erection of all weather pitch and installation of 8 floodlights on land on Holyhead Road, Bangor. Quite some time ago the Civic Society mounted a massive campaign to object to this Planning Application on the grounds of Noise and Light Environmental Impact, though it was not successful, it did show that a concerted effort by a local lobbying group could make an impact on Planning Applications by local authorities. Those members wishing to either support or object to this can do so by 14th, September, 2011, either in writing to the Planning Dept, Gwynedd County Council, Pwllheli, Gwynedd. LL53 5AA or contact by email on Planning@gwynedd.gov.uk

Anglesey Older People's Bilingual Esteddfod 2011.

This year's Esteddfod will be on the 1st, October, 2011 at 10.30a.m. at Ysgol Gyfun, Llangefni, admission will be £2.50.

There will be opportunities for individuals to submit work for Handicrafts, Flower Arranging, Cookery, Photography, Painting, Craft Poetry and Prose, Reciting, Singing, Music, etc. The organiser is Ms Helen Ellis, Age Well, Canolfan Byron, Mona, Ynys Mon. LL65 4RJ. Tel: 01407 721947 or email: helen@ageconcernwynedd.co.uk Age Concern supports the development of three Age Well Centres, the Older People's Forum, and practical support for the Over 50s Groups of Anglesey. (Councillor Selwyn Williams is Anglesey County Council's Older People's Champion for 2011/12. Editor)

PLANNING AND LOCAL NEWS

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
Cynorthwyl**

Liz Moyle
**Newsletter Editor/Golygydd
Cylchlythyr**

Norman Neale
Photos/Ffotograffau

CONTACT LIST

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**Jane Cherrett -
Booking activities for events and
outings 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,
LL61 6PY**

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

Planning issues

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and what the Planning Department thinks enhances our Conservation Status in Menai Bridge is open to debate—and yes we have debated with the Planning Department! Personal taste is a difficult subject. What is also difficult is the continued piecemeal development of Menai Bridge and indeed of projects in general. It makes monitoring and objecting to planning applications harder. For the first time both our County Councillors have raised planning issues (they write independently of each other and the Editor). What we lack in Menai Bridge is a coherent Development Plan; not altogether surprising as the County doesn't have one either. Or perhaps I should say that the last approved plan was in 1992!! How long will it take Gwynedd and Anglesey to come up with a combined approved Plan? What resources will the Planning Authorities have by then in order to enforce planning regulations?

The waterfront area is under particular pressure with new flats, a proposed 'marine style' restaurant, etc. Ynys Faelog is a prime example. Ynys Faelog Island (!?) is being advertised for sale through estate agents. One local person likened the design/ graphic interpretation to that of a 'U Boat pen'. I've not seen a 'U Boat' or its pen/dock but I gather that they didn't think it was attractive. Have a look, what do you think?

Pylons

In our last issue we featured Anglesey, the Energy Island. New energy has to be transmitted to where it's consumed. For Anglesey and Menai Bridge this could mean additional 'infrastructure', or pylons and substations to you and me. CPRW are so concerned they are campaigning against this development. We support them. Whether you want a new

nuclear power station on Anglesey at all — well that's for another time.

"We do not want these ugly lines of pylons destroying, or despoiling, our protected areas" said Gwyn Morris Jones, of CPRW.

Sasha Davies, director of the council-backed Anglesey energy island project said that in an "ideal world" the undersea option would be preferred. "But we've got to be practical as we need the jobs here on Anglesey, and indeed we also need to safeguard our tourism and agriculture sectors," she added.

Martin Kinsey, senior project manager with the National Grid, said it had an "important job to do in upgrading and developing the electricity transmission network in north Wales".

Before any decision is taken there would be a "thorough assessment" of the options taking account of community and environmental impacts, while balancing the economic effect and feedback from consultations, he said.

Public consultation is due to start early next year.

Porth y Wrach Enquiry — latest news

Following an application in 2004, by local resident Rob Evans, for Porth y Wrach to be designated a 'Village Green' a 3 day Public Enquiry was held at the War Memorial Community Centre, finishing on 24th March 2011. We have now heard that the Inspector has recommended that the application be refused on the grounds that he does not consider it was demonstrated that there was use by a significant number of local inhabitants for the whole of the relevant 20 year period"



Richard Johnson's Memories of Menai Bridge

After many months we are beginning to publish some of our Civic Society records. The first extract looks at the recollections of Richard Johnson especially about sailing and boating on the Straits before the War. He holidayed here and made many firm friends, was taught how to sail by local boatmen whom he and his family held in high regard. Thanks to his recollections we have been able to identify that part of the Boatshed at Ynys Faelog may have been made from the old wooden decking from the Suspension Bridge and will ask for this to be checked should any development take place. If you have any details you could add do please get in touch with the Secretary. The first issue of 'Memories' is enclosed and the full transcript is given on our website.

Our website is being redesigned to allow room for the many photos we have available. All photos, so far as we are aware, are from the collections of members or their family and are reproduced with their kind permission.