

Cymdeithas Ddinesig Porthaethwy a'r Cylch Menai Bridge & District Civic Society.

CYLCHLYTHYR Y GWANWYN/ SPRING NEWSLETTER.

Ebrill 2007 April

CHAIRMAN'S LAST STATEMENT.-

This is my last Chairman's Report as, at the Annual General Meeting on April 27th, I shall be retiring as the Chairman of the Menai Bridge & District Civic Society, having held the position for over 3 years. I took on the position when Councillor Jean Baker retired in December 2003. She had also been acting as secretary but Maureen Parry-Williams took over that responsibility. At that time, the Civic Society was again facing one of its greatest tests—to uphold the objections of the members to planning permission being given by the Ynys Mon Planning Department to the building of houses on the quayside of the former William Roberts' Timber yard, now referred to as the Waterfront.

Our successful campaigns to the general public and the Membership resulted in 700 letters of objection being received by the ACC Planning Department who finally agreed to refuse permission for residential development on this historically sensitive site. (It is now Grade 2 listed.)

During my time in office, the Committee has been involved with the Regal Bingo, the Bangor City redevelopment at Nant y Porth, the Bangor University proposed new Halls of Residence, the residential developments along Water Street and a number of other local plans.

I have gained incredible experience and friendship in working for the Officers and Committee Members of the Civic Society and hope to be able to keep attending meetings.

As a seasoned activist and lobbyist over the last 30 years, I am indebted to the Civic Society Secretary for her guidance and support. I am sure that the new Chairman will steer the Civic Society to greater strengths of achievement.-Selwyn Williams.

Dr. Eifion Jones' Memorial Plaque.

On the anniversary of Eifion's death, Thursday, March 29th, a small group of friends, relatives and colleagues gathered at Porth Wrach to dedicate the plaque and share memories of a charismatic and memorable man.

Colin Davey lead the tributes describing him as “ Mr.Positive, Mr.Helpful, Mr.Nice Guy, my Mr.Dependable.” His life was his family, Menai Bridge (where he taught for many years at the School for Ocean Sciences), the Environment (he represented the Wildlife Trust,) and the Church. Colin recalled several stories to illustrate Eifion's character –his compassion , his energy and the way he radiated health and goodwill as he strode through the town with a good word and a smile for everyone.

Others joined in with their memories and , as the weather was uncertain, these were continued at his home where Marion and the family welcomed us.

The Civic Society also planted a holly bush in his memory.

After a lengthy, official delay, Mr. Leslie Randall was able to erect this plaque for us.

Menai Bridge Community Heritage Trust.

We are delighted to offer our congratulations to the Trustees of Prosiect Menai , and to Jean Baker and Nick Holyfield who have finally secured the purchase of St. Mary's Church Hall. The Bridges Exhibition is now safe and offers visitors and local people alike a fascinating and marvellous illustrated history of our spectacular bridges.

Planning Matters.

There was a meeting held in Llangefni on April 3rd for Stakeholders in the **Local Development Plan**. The group divided into 3 to discuss certain aspects of the proposals.

At this stage, my main concern is the emphasis on the Mon / Menai Hub. Irrespective of the opinions of the local area, there seems to be a determination to establish an Industrial Estate on the Anglesey side of the Straits and the favoured site still seems to be at the top of Menai Bridge on the Ty Mawr site. I pointed out that this had already been rejected twice by the Planning Inspector and was strongly opposed locally.

It was interesting that the WDA representative admitted to me that they owned part of the proposed site and had been asked to purchase it by the Anglesey County Council. I get the strong impression that **no one is going to listen to us . To call it consultation is an insult to our intelligence.**

The Old Quarry, New Street.

In the Winter Newsletter of 2006, we mentioned this site as a possibility for extra parking. The ACC Property Department have been contacted, following the closure of one end of the quarry. According to Mike Barton (Head of Property) this has been considered necessary in the interest of preventing unauthorised access and safety. It is being considered for disposal but the process has been delayed to allow further local dialogue and the consideration of other options. (We have enquired about the possibility of leasing it.) He confirms that our Local Member has also expressed concerns over the lack of parking in the area and has taken a keen interest in this area for some time., having expressed his opinion back in 2002 that it should be kept in the public domain.

At that time Menter Mon also submitted a plan for improving this area. We have obtained a copy. Marion Jones has also continued to be very active in submitting evidence to support an application for the footpath through the area to be claimed as a public Right of Way as it has been used for well over 20 years. This application has joined the queue awaiting attention from the Rights of Way team.

Min y Don.

I have received an interesting phone call from a firm of Chartered Architects in Manchester. They are the Fallows Gowen Partnership, trading as FGP Ltd. They claim that their client is interested in developing this site and is seeking input from the local council and the Civic Society. To us, this makes complete sense—to be aware of what we are likely to object to before they submit their plans. However, we will remain to be convinced.

About Wales.— The Civic Trust for Wales quarterly magazine

The March 2007 issue of the magazine produced by the Civic Trust for Wales opens with a 3-page appreciation of Holyhead. On the inside of its back cover it evaluates the Bangor Civic Society website and declares that it takes the Blue Riband for imagination and interest.

Terry Williams, their secretary, will be talking to us about their future at our AGM on Friday, April 27th. (Check for yourself on www.bangorcivic society.org.uk) Our website is also now up and running —www.menaibridgecivicsociety.co.uk

Anglesey Geopark week..

I thought some of you might be interested in the programme.

Margaret Wood was the speaker at our annual dinner two years ago when she was just setting this up. They are now based at the Prichard Jones Institute in Newborough.

I should mention that we were delighted to see so many of you at this year's Annual Dinner, back in February. Once again Lord and Lady Anglesey honoured us with their presence.

Lady Anglesey continues to actively support and advise us.

Finally, we would like to thank Selwyn Williams for all his hard work as our Chairman over the past few years. He originally agreed to be in office for 3 months, as he had so many other commitments. However, Chairmen are hard to find and he was persuaded to remain for over 3 years so we wish to express our appreciation.

Maureen Parry-Williams. 01248 440668

ACTIVITIES for the summer session.

We apologise to those of you who were hoping to hear about ‘A 19th Century Physician’ at our scheduled meeting on March 30th. Unfortunately, the speaker made a mistake with his dates. However, it did give us a chance to share some information with you and quite a few of you enjoyed having a chat over a cup of tea. I must also thank my husband who stepped in and gave a short talk about Penmaenmawr.

Friday, April 27th. 7.30 p.m. in the Community Centre
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Mr. Terry Williams, Bangor Civic Society will talk about “The future of Bangor Civic Society –protecting and promoting our built heritage.”

Sunday, May 6th. Guided tour of PLAS CADNANT garden by kind permission of Mr. Anthony Tavernor. Renovation of this beautiful garden, hidden away in the Cadnant valley, continues. We are getting a springtime look this year.
2.30 p.m. Follow the drive off the old Cadnant bridge and go over 2 cattle grids to the allocated parking area. There will be a small charge this year and booking is essential. Members—£2 Non-members-£4 (refreshments included.)

Saturday, May 12th Community Centre. Menai Bridge
COFFEE MORNING, bring-&-buy, plants stall, cakes, books etc.
10 a.m.– 12 noon. In aid of **Bangor Memorial Arch Renovation.**

Friday, June 22nd. Visit to COCHWILLAN & FELIN COCHWILLAN where we will have tea. Cochwillan was built in 1645 and is one of the finest examples of a ‘hall house’ in the U.K. Cochwillan mill has been in the family of the present owners for generations and is hidden beside the River Ogwen near Tal y Bont. It is being carefully restored. Meet at lay-by outside Prosiect Menai at 2 p.m.
Cost includes admission and tea. Members—£5 Non-members—£6

Wednesday, July 18th. Mr. Gwyn Jones from Dwyran will lead another excursion to view some of Anglesey’s hidden churches: Llanbabo, Llanfugail and Tal y Llyn.
Meet in the lay-by by Prosiect Menai at 5 p.m.

BOOKING FORM.

Please tick your choices.

NAME: _____ Tel. No: _____

Plas Cadnant

Cochwillan

Anglesey Churches.

Please return to M. Parry-Williams, Tyn y Coed, Newborough. LL61 6PY.

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