

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

Y Llais Annibynnol  
The Independent Voice

## CYLCHLYTHYR Y GAELF / WINTER NEWSLETTER Ionawr 2007 January.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

I would like to extend the "Compliments of the Season" to all our Civic Society members and thank you for your continued support.

The Officers and Committee members who work tirelessly on your behalf to promote and lobby for the issues which are of paramount importance to Menai Bridge, would appreciate more feed-back from you as to whether you consider we are focussing on the correct issues..

We are very fortunate that our secretary—Maureen Parry-Williams, and our new Social Secretary—Jane Cherrett, continue to work hard on your behalf. We are also fortunate in having an enthusiastic Committee who are available to help out whenever they are needed.

Jane has arranged an interesting and varied programme to take us through to the Summer. There are events, talks and visits, hopefully to suit all tastes. We were disappointed that the afternoon talk we arranged on December 8th, which was followed by a pre-Christmas tea, did not encourage more of you to venture out. Please let us know what would tempt you!

We hope to see as many of you as possible at our Annual Dinner on February 16th.

### PLANNING MATTERS.

As usual, much of our attention is focussed on Planning considerations in and around our area. We are determined to uphold the integrity of the Conservation Area but also need to ensure that other areas of the town are only subject to sympathetic development that maintains the character of the surrounding area. We failed to influence the planning permission for the gardens of '**Noddfa**'. This is in the Conservation Area and one of the pair of houses built by the British Legion. It is also bringing more traffic to a narrow road in an already congested area. Conditions have been imposed by the Planning Department but these cannot alter the fact that such a building is being allowed against strong opposition, in a protected area.

'**Tyddyn Isaf**' has been refused planning permission by the A.C.C. Planning Committee after John Meirion Davies backed up the many letters of opposition sent in by local people.. However the builder (Watkin Jones) has appealed against the decision. This Appeal should be heard before the end of January, in front of an inspector.

A decision on **Hafod Wern** has been postponed.

It is also quiet on the waterfront—the application for the boat rack has been withdrawn, but will doubtless be re-submitted in some form and the building of the houses is dependant on agreement between developers. Neither have we learnt any more of the sale of Min y Don.

There has been much local anger over the destruction of trees associated with the development of the flats in **Wood Street**. I understand that there is an agreement with the Town Council to plant replacement trees elsewhere.

We also need to be aware of other developments that impinge on our surroundings. The **banks of the Menai Straits** are not adequately protected from development. On the **Bangor** side, land owned by the University may well be sold for development in the near future. It is obviously even more difficult for us to influence planning applications in Gwynedd but they do affect our environment.

Another great concern to us is **the traffic congestion** in the town—one of our main arguments against further development. When the **Wood Street carpark** was closed for a few weeks in October, it highlighted the problem. I understand that Beaumaris traders are also concerned at the congestion in our High Street as they feel this inconveniences people heading in their direction and could influence choice of destination at peak times, particularly by Coach Tour operators.

Still on the subject of Planning, a study is being undertaken of the “**brown field sites**” in all Anglesey areas. These identify our local sites that could be easily redeveloped in the future. There is also a request for local people to identify “**green field sites**” that should be protected. The A.C.C. needs to raise money by selling, for development, any pieces of its land that appear to be unused. We need to be alert to small green sites (i.e. The Quarry in New Street) that could disappear. Please let us know of any for which you feel concerned.

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, consultation has begun for the **Local Development Plan** which will completely replace the present Unitary Development Plan in 2010. It is essential that we all are able to express our preferences for our island, as apathy allows developers a “free rein”. These plans have been on public display in 5 centres on the Island. Menai Bridge was not included and local bodies (ourselves included) as well as the Town Council objected strongly. As a result, these plans will now be on display in **the Menai Bridge library** from **January 11th—18th**. **PLEASE** make every effort to view them so that it justifies the efforts we made to have them brought here. For the Computer literate, they are also on the A.C.C. website.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES.

Our programme for this autumn included talks on the architecture of Herbert North, how to identify tree roots in your garden and the problems of water pollution. We also had a video reminder of our visit to the churches of Llaneilian, Llangwenllwfo and Llangadwaladr. For those of you who have not received our programme booklet for the Spring/Summer session, please contact Jane.

Our next meeting will be on January 26th and the subject will be “Old Postcards.”

Our Coffee morning, held jointly with the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales, raised over £100 for each organisation but we would like to have seen more of you supporting us.

We have also represented you on the Anglesey Environmental Committee, the Menai Bridge Partnership, the Board of Medrwn Mon, and the North Wales Memorial Arch Renovation Group. The latter is a group that was called together by Alan Parry, Director of Corporate Communications and Marketing of Bangor University. There had been a growing concern that the **North Wales Heroes' Memorial Arch** which is situated in the College grounds was falling into such disrepair that it had to be closed to the public. A meeting of interested groups and individuals was held on October 25th and it is now intended to establish a smaller “working group” to move some issues forward. We need to put forward a representative to participate in the group. If anyone is willing to fill this role, I would be delighted to hear from you.

The total renovation cost will be in the region of £200,000. The University has already spent over £26,000 in the last 2 years. Cadw will be allocating £46,800. Other avenues of funding are being explored but it is anticipated that an additional £105,600 is required. We would like to contribute and welcome ideas for fund-raising. Perhaps our Spring Coffee Morning would be an opportunity?

In October, we also took part in the Service of Remembrance for the victims of the Aberfan disaster and their families and laid a wreath at the Aberfan Garden of the Telford Suspension Bridge. Plans to erect our Memorial Plaque to the memory of Dr. Eifion Jones are now, finally, moving forward and we hope it will be in position by the end of January, weather permitting.

#### PUBLICITY.

We have not yet achieved our ambition of having our own website but are spurred on by the achievement of the Bangor Civic Society. ([www.bangorcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.bangorcivicsociety.org.uk))

My Memories of Menai Bridge is progressing at a much slower pace than I had hoped but I have received a great deal of information and I am gradually getting it organised.