

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

Y Llais Annibynnol
The Independent Voice.

CYLCHLYTHYR Y GWANWYN/ SPRING NEWSLETTER. MAI 2006 MAY

Our **A.G.M.** will be on **FRIDAY, May 12th** at 7.30 in the Community Centre.
Please try to join us, as we need to decide on several courses of action.

ACTIVITIES:

Our **annual dinner** was held at the beginning of February in the Victoria Hotel, Menai Bridge. We were delighted that so many of our members were able to attend and the atmosphere was relaxed and friendly so that everyone was able to enjoy the occasion.

Once again, we were very pleased that both Lord and Lady Anglesey were able to attend. Their support and encouragement is very much appreciated.

Our Chairman, Selwyn Williams, recapped on all the current developments in our town and possible future demands while Hugo Breen-Turner up-dated us on the latest situation in Water Street as he has been liaising with Keith Evans, our County Councillor.

Marian Jones reported on her involvement with opposing the sale of The Quarry which the County Council were contemplating selling, at the top of New Street. She had been corresponding with our M.P. Albert Owen, keeping him informed of the concerns of the local residents.

Our after-dinner speaker was our local International winning photographer, Glyn Davies. To illustrate his talk, he brought along a selection of his breath-taking framed photographs. His enthusiasm was exhilarating. We have arranged a private viewing at his studio on, **TUESDAY, MAY 9th** at 7 p.m. Please phone me to book your place. (01248 440668)

On January 17th, Briony and Phillip of Hortus Monensis came to talk to the group about their renovation of the gardens at Rhianfa. This was of great interest and we have arranged an afternoon visit, under their guidance, on **THURSDAY, JUNE 1st**.

On **TUESDAY, MAY 23rd**, we have another afternoon visit planned to meet Dr. Craig Shuttleworth, on site in the Newborough Forest, to learn more about the Red Squirrels.

Those of you who were able to attend our November talk by Gwyn Jones on the remote and interesting Churches of Anglesey, might remember that we promised to try to arrange for Gwyn to guide us to some of these. This has now been arranged for **TUESDAY, JUNE 13th** at 6.30 p.m.

If we meet at the lay-by, opposite the Co-op in Menai Bridge, we can sort out how many cars we will need and hopefully match them and passengers.

To complete our Summer visits, Anthony Taverner has agreed to our annual afternoon visit to his gardens at Plas Cadnant, on **SUNDAY, JULY 23rd**.

BOOKING FORM for above outings. These are intended for **Members only**. Please indicate if you are interested and return to M. Parry-Williams, Tyn y Coed, Newborough, LL61 6PY.

NAME : _____ Tel.No. _____

Tuesday, May 9th.	Glyn Davies
Tuesday, May 23rd.	Newborough
Thursday, June 1st.	Rhianfa
Tuesday, June 13th.	Anglesey Churches
Sunday, July 23rd	Plas Cadnant

At the end of February, Dave Jump, the A.C.C. Conservation Officer gave a very interesting and informative talk on the general considerations of a Conservation Area.

At the end of March, Georgina Ryan organised a fund-raising Spring Fair. We are very grateful for the members who turned up to help, as well as those who donated gifts. We did have quite a selection of goods left over. Some of these we have been able to sell to dealers and the rest we have passed on to local charities, as storage is difficult. We raised over £300. Thank you again.

DEVELOPMENTS.

The **Wood Street** flats are nearing completion. We have continued to be concerned over a number of issues, including the threat to the ancient footpath. Far too many trees have been cut down, considering that the original plan claimed that none would be !

The plans submitted for the **Grosvenor Garage** site have been turned down at present.

The planning application relating to squeezing another house in next to **Noddfa on Beach Road**, has been withdrawn. We expect it to be re-submitted.

The **Water Street** development came before the A.C.C. Planning Committee at the beginning of April and was deferred to the May meeting to give the Planning Dept. an opportunity for further negotiations. Over 500 letters of objections had been submitted and these supported the lowering of the height of a number of the buildings, not only those in front of the Victoria Hotel which would be detrimental to its business but also the dominant four-storey "book-ends" on the Min y Don site and next to Crag Side. We were extremely pleased that our County Councillor, Keith Evans, presented all our objections very clearly. We have also received support from our A.M. Ieuan Wyn Jones and our M.P. Albert Owen who has met with the owners of the Victoria Hotel and representatives of the Civic Society.

I understand that the windows are to be removed from the top storey of the four-storey blocks and the height will be reduced by half a metre. Can this be considered an acceptable compromise?

There are also 16 conditions that should be met! I do not think that this matter is yet completed.

It will be considered this Wednesday, May 3rd. The meeting starts at 1 p.m. in the Council Offices.

We have been closely monitoring the developments of the **Bangor University Halls of Residence**. We are not satisfied that these buildings will be of a reasonable height and sympathetic to the area. The information we have been given has certainly been rather misleading in places, even after attending meetings and studying the plans we are confused. We have written letters, stating clearly the grounds for our objecting.

As a number of issues arise which are "cross border", we are intending to forge closer links with the Bangor Civic Society and hope, eventually, to also work more closely with Caernarfon Civic Society.

We have already attended a few of each other's meetings and feel we have concerns in common.

Terry Williams of the Bangor C.S. is very concerned that the University has decided to close the Memorial Arch in Bangor to members of the Public because the floor is considered to be unsafe. The wooden panels contain the names of the War dead so it is an emotive issue which should also concern us. We are writing to the Vice Chancellor to express our dismay that no remedial action is being considered.

COMMITTEE.

We were devastated to lose Brian MacCarthy in February. He had been a past chairman and was a loyal committee member. I found his support and advice invaluable.

Our Committee **would welcome new members**. Please consider whether you could join us. We have a very good working relationship and the atmosphere is friendly and relaxed! Even if you can only offer a limited commitment, it would be appreciated, as it enables some tasks to be shared. It also ensures that we have a wider range of opinions. There are a few important outstanding issues that we need to consider.

We still have no volunteer(s) to translate our communications! My apologies that I cannot do it.