

CYLCHLYTHYR Y GAELF 2009
WINTER NEWSLETTER.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – Jack Harrison.

May I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year, together with the hope that all those harbingers of doom are frustrated in 2009.

I am disappointed that, because of conflicting commitments, since September I have been able to attend committee meeting only and I apologise for this omission. I currently have a particular problem with Friday evenings but this will be resolved within the next four months.

After discussions with Maureen about resigning earlier this month, I have cause to believe that the situation will improve by the middle of the year so that I will again be able to devote the time and concentration which is necessary as Chairman of this Society.

Maureen has agreed to act in “locum tenens” until the AGM and I will remain in close contact during this period.

I hope that you will accept that my interest and support for the Society has not waned and look forward to meeting you again in April.

Obviously the largest challenge we face is the blatant attempt to impose the development of Ty Mawr on our doorstep and we will do everything possible to thwart that.

Maureen will expand on the progress of this development.

There will be much disruption of traffic (both machine and pedestrian) in Menai Bridge until the end of March, resulting in inconvenience to both residents and visitors. However, the improvement is long overdue and the benefits will be worth while.

Once again, on your behalf, I would like to thank the Officers and the Committee for all the hard work they put in for the Society.

Finally, you may have heard that the Marquis was hospitalised with a broken ankle before Christmas. I am pleased to say that he is now back at home and we wish him and our President- Lady Anglesey- every good wish for his full recovery.

Secretary’s Comments.-Maureen Parry-Williams

There have been a number of issues claiming our attention since September.

The dominant issue has been the siting of the Ty Mawr development at Llanfairpwll. It was last January when the Civic Society held an Open meeting in the Telford Centre and listened to a number of speakers explaining, in depth, the implications of this development for our area. Those present unanimously rejected the scheme.

Since then, there have been several pronouncements by the publicity section of Ynys Mon Estates, to convince the general public of the desirability of the proposals. None of their claims stood up to serious scrutiny or could be substantiated.

However, there are obviously influential County Councillors who are convinced that this development must go ahead, despite any/all logical arguments to the contrary that are advanced by concerned organisations, local councils and individuals. The Executive Council are adamant that the advantages of this scheme far outweigh any proven

disadvantages- which leads us to speculate whether their concerns are for the island as a whole or whether they have another political agenda.

Both Holyhead and Llangefni have put forward strong arguments for locating this development within their areas and Holyhead already has the necessary infrastructure. Jobs are being lost in the north of the island and a development in the south of the area, so close to Gwynedd, will surely increase the deprivation.

However, the private developer has rejected these sites as being too distant from the student population of Bangor: one of the main considerations.

It seems that the requirement of the private developer is driving this scheme.

What is more disturbing is that the Planning Department has recommended acceptance- against their own planning guidelines and against the findings of all previous Inquiry Inspectors.

At the full Council meeting on December 5th, the debate was long and at times passionate. If councillors had made their position clear in advance, they were not supposed to take part in the debate. Our own councillor Selwyn Williams was therefore barred as he had made his opposition clear previously, as an official of the Federation of Small Businesses but other councillors, who were known as supporters of the scheme, were allowed to speak. Councillor Keith Evans only made his views known when he voted against the development as a result of a survey of the opinions of his constituents

The vote was recorded. For the most part, the Executive of the Council voted in favour although one who did not was the Planning Portfolio holder. The planning application was rejected by one vote.

On January 30th, the Council meets again to either confirm their decision (as they had voted against the recommendation of the Planning Department) or to alter their decision and agree with the Executive. Councillors are aware of their audience and we would encourage any of you who feel strongly to be present as well as ensuring that you Councillor knows your views, Only a few of us were able to be there last time and this was taken by some as an indication that the public were not that concerned at the outcome.

In the intervening period, energetic lobbying is taking place by those who lost the vote. The developer is offering a projected figure of 1300 to 1800 new jobs. There is no consideration of the jobs that will be lost across the island in small businesses and tourism if this development blocks the gateway to Anglesey. Neither is there any guarantee of the quality of the jobs or the sustainability of the project when adjacent areas in Gwynedd have completed their expansion.

Venue- Main Council Chamber, Llangefni. 2p.m. January 30th.

Other concerns expressed in Menai Bridge.

County Councillor Keith Evans has requested the Town Council to consider a disturbing response by Welsh Water as part of the planning consultation process. On the issue of foul drainage and surface water disposal, the conclusion offered by them was that there was capacity within the Menai Bridge system to cater for this massive development spanning 57 acres.

In recent years, flooding incidents have occurred around the town, attributable to excessive development in the upper part of the residential area when the system has been unable to deal with the consequences of extreme weather conditions. The Town Council has therefore been very cautious over sanctioning new developments. If the County Council sanction the development of Ty Mawr, would they be prepared to be responsible for any subsequent flooding damage in Menai Bridge and pay compensation?

The Menai Bridge Chamber of Commerce has also expressed grave reservations as to how the town could survive the severe economic set back of the disruption that would be caused by the development of Ty Mawr which is sited so close to the town. It is also felt that “the evidence (to justify the development of Ty Mawr) provided by the Management Consultants is vague, contradictory and often confusing”.

CONSULTATION & COMMENTS ON THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

Written responses to this consultation were requested by January 9th.

It is difficult to feel confidence in this consultation when the County Council is willing to ignore public opinion on major issues that they are determined to pursue. A recent example of this has been their response to the people of Holyhead who have objected to a Night Shelter being situated in the centre of their area.

However, if we do not make our opinions known, the County Council will be able to decide issues without needing to justify them. Transparency is not the automatic choice of many politicians.

Other Planning News.

It appears that the developer of the Min y Don site does not intend to proceed at present and an application has been submitted for a temporary, secure boat storage area.

The revised plans for ‘Noddfa’ have been passed.

From JEAN BAKER of the Heritage Trust.

Prince’s Pier has now been secured for a permanent exhibition telling the story of the two bridges across the Straits and the history of the area. Our thanks must go to Menter Mon and the European Fund.

We can now begin to plan the exhibition. The Pier buildings, when restored, will have the space to exhibit the relevant artefacts to tell the story. Please contact us if you think you have memorabilia which could go on display.

ACTIVITIES.

Our visit to Plas Cadnant in mid-September began our Autumn programme. We are very grateful to Anthony for allowing us the opportunity to appreciate his renovation of the gardens year by year and to Graham who presides over the refreshments at the end!

Our second September meeting was very well attended. Mr. Terry Patching gave a talk on Caernarfon Airport which was officially opened in 1940 as RAF Llandwrog when Hurricane planes were stationed there to protect Manchester and Liverpool from German attack.

We learned of the development of the Mountain Rescue Service, the reason for the site remaining on the Official Secrets List until 1956 and the work of the Dakotas. Apart from its Charter Company and private flying school, the site houses a museum of aircraft and memorabilia relevant to North Wales.

In October, we again learned of a local transport scheme. This time Mr. David Kent, Chairman of the Welsh Highland Railway's Supporters group gave a lively and informative talk on the problems faced and overcome to rebuild the rail route from Caernarfon to Porthmadog. The through route is expected to open for Easter 2009 and it will then be possible to travel 44 miles of narrow gauge track from Caernarfon to Blaenau Ffestiniog.

In November, the Rev, Michael Outram, Vicar of Penmaenmawr and Succentor of Bangor Cathedral entitled his talk "Bangor and Barchester" enlightening us on the characters and scandals of the preceding century which even spilt over to the English Presbyterian Church in Menai Bridge.

Our speaker on January 30th will be Mike Blackburn who is returning by popular demand. This time he will talk about the River Conway – from source to sea: its geology, geography, history and people.

In February, we have our Annual Dinner. (Please see separate sheet at the end). After consulting you, we have confirmed that we will be holding this at the Anglesey Arms Hotel whose new manager is keen to welcome us back and has offered us an interesting choice of menu.

Our after-dinner speaker will be Mr. John Smith, Technical Services Officer of the Museum Collection at Oriel Mon. He will be talking about "Kyffin and the Oriel." We hope you will be able to join us.

In March, Mr Mark Watkin Jones will be addressing us and it will give us the opportunity to exchange ideas on local developments!

Please don't forget our AGM on April 24th when Bridget Geohegan will be explaining "Adventures in Family History."

MEMORIES. I am still working on writing up your Memories but it is slow work as so many of you were generous with your contributions and I am struggling to cope with limited time and my slow typing speed! Please bear with me!

NEWS FROM OUR COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

Keith Evans – Cadnant Ward.

The High Street and Uxbridge Square improvements began on January 5th and are due to last 3 months.

The total cost is estimated at £400,000. The Welsh Assembly are providing three-quarters of the funding and the other £100,000 is being accessed from the Highways Budget of the Anglesey County Council.

The footways will be re-vamped and there will be wrought iron railings, limited seating and landscaping in the Square. There will also be a pedestrian controlled crossing in the Square itself.

Inevitably there will be disruption and problems. A general letter will go out to the local inhabitants and there will be Highways Officers in attendance.

The carpark at Coed Cyrnol is almost complete and the finishing touches are just being added.

The Clerk of the Town Council, Mr Gwilym Evans, is retiring after fourteen and a half years. The present job will be split into two part-time positions – Town Clerk (16 hours) and Financial officer (5 hours). Applicants are being interviewed at present.

I have requested the Town Council to consider the implications for our town of the disturbing response by Welsh Water to the proposed development at Ty Mawr. They have already indicated that they are against the plans for the site and their concerns should be reiterated.

For the last four years I have been promoting the case for the Heritage Trust to acquire Prince's Pier. I am delighted that this now seems to have been secured.

Selwyn Williams – Tysilio Ward.

I have been concerned that all my electors should be kept informed of any developments that are taking place or proposed for the Town. Therefore I issue a Newsletter to all the electors in my area to alert them to the issues of which they need to be aware. I have also included a map to accompany the Local Development Plan to indicate the danger areas, such as potential development sites and the possible route of the Menai Bridge By-pass.

Candidate sites are a feature of the Plan where planning permission might be granted. i.e. Maes y Hafod, Tyddyn Isaf, Lon y Gamfa and Pen y Clip.

The Town Development work has already begun and I hope that residents will continue to visit the local shops while this work is being carried out

New Waste Recycling scheme.

The residents of the Tysilio ward are being asked to try and recycle their food waste in special new containers. There will be a leaflet distribution to all the houses in the ward and an Exhibition at the War Memorial Institute in Water Street on January 20th from 3.15p.m. to 6.45p.m.

There will be a Food Waste Trial Pack delivered to every house in the ward between January 26th and 30th with full instructions. (Tel.01248 752 860).

I have also been involved as the Chairman of the War Memorial Institute Committee with minor improvements to the building and upgrading some of the facilities.

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MENAI BRIDGE CIVIC SOCIETY.

FEBRUARY 20th, 2009

ANNUAL DINNER.

ANGLESEY ARMS HOTEL.

MENAI BRIDGE.

£15.50 per.head.

7 p.m. FOR 7.30 p.m.

MENU CHOICES.

NAME: _____

FIRST COURSE:

1. Soup- broccoli and Stilton
2. Paté – chicken liver
3. Prawn and melon.

MAIN COURSE:

1. Roast pork & accompaniments
2. Roast lamb & accompaniments
3. Salmon with cream & wine sauce
4. Mushroom stack & goats' cheese

SWEET COURSE:

1. Bread & Butter pudding.
2. Treacle Tart
3. Ices.

COFFEE & MINCE PIE.

Please indicate your choice for each course CLEARLY.

**Return your completed order sheet and appropriate payment
(Cheques made payable to Menai Bridge Civic Society please) to**

Iola Prytherch, 16 New Street, Menai Bridge, Anglesey.

By Friday, FEBRUARY 13TH.

**Our after-dinner speaker will be Mr. John Smith, Technical Services
Officer of the Museum Collection at Oriel Mon. He will be talking about
“ Kyffin and the Oriel.”**

**If you could offer a contribution to our RAFFLE to be held on the night,
I will be very grateful to receive it.**

Maureen. 01248 440 668