



NEWSLETTER

Cymdeithas Ddinesig Bro Porthaethwy

Menai Bridge and District Civic Society

CYL CHLYTHYR

Dates for your diary:

More details on page 3

Friday, 24th September
Mynydd Parys Mines —
David Jenkins

Friday, 22nd October
David Hughes School—Dr.
Brian Jones

Friday 26th November
Soap Opera—Susan Waters

WEDNESDAY 8th December NB—this is an afternoon meeting 2.30 - 4.30 p.m. Introduction to Anglesey Archives. Hayden Burns

2011

Friday, 28th January Ferry Crossing— David Longley

11th February Annual Dinner with David and Hilary Crystal

Friday 25th March Drovers—Donna Goodman

Friday 15th April — Menai Bridge? Prof David Last

Friday 20th May **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**
Speaker Adam Voelcker

Inside this issue:

Anglesey Archives	1
Civic Trust—national news	2
Abergwyngregyn Plas Cadnant	2
Future Events	3
News from our County Councillors	3
Planning and Local News	4
Contacts	4

Winter/Gaeaf 2010

Page/Tudalen 1



Photos - N. Neale

Records and Archives

The Archives Office welcomes new contributions and volunteers. In the future we hope that the Society will work with them more closely. We have a special, informal session before Christmas. Now our own Civic Society website is expanding we too are getting requests for information.

The main aim of the Record Office is to ensure the survival of documentary evidence from both public and private sources which throw light on life in Anglesey over the centuries. The Record Office keeps people in touch with their heritage by letting them know what has gone before in the community. Many people do not realise the extent and wealth of material available in the Record Office but more and more are finding that 'digging' in the archives is not a daunting academic exercise but an enjoyable pastime: exploring, finding out and discovering the past. A visit to the office in Llangefni (book beforehand) or look at their website is well worthwhile e.g. 'document of the month' features Menai Bridge Band. The Office is closing for a short while in September for essential work, and NOT permanently as one rumour would have it. If fact over the next few years facilities for visitors, researchers, historians will be expanded.



Thanks to Norman Neale for his photos of Menai Bridge Fair in the 1960s. The Laundrette, VG Stores and Luxor Cinema (where the present Rondo Studios are) have gone from Hill Street but the Square remains substantially the same. What's different? Cars, gaslight, people don't wear hats anymore. Are we better off, worse off, have more community spirit or less? Come and have your say and bring your photos and mementos with you!



Photos - Anglesey Archives. Menai Bridge Fair 1900s

CIVIC TRUST NEWS

“Record year as seven buildings in Wales win national architecture award.”

Seven Welsh projects were successful in the 2010 Royal Institute of British Architects Awards. A record number of seven winners represents a significant increase from previous years and demonstrates continued enthusiasm for the RIBA Awards programme in Wales. Civic Trust for Wales trustee and RSAW director **Liz Wald** says: "The winners illustrate a new level of design excellence in Wales with dazzlingly different buildings that are emerging in the landscape, all of which are thoughtful, intelligent and sensitive."

The seven buildings in Wales by that have won RIBA Awards :
 1. Margam Discovery Centre, Port Talbot, 2. Creative Business Units, Aberystwyth Arts Centre, 3. Cardiff Central Library,
 4. Chapter Arts Centre, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff
 5. Sleeperz Hotel, Station Approach, Saunders Road, Cardiff
 6. Skypad - Teenage Cancer Trust Unit, Heath Park, Cardiff
 7. Hafod Eryi (Snowdon Summit Building) , Caernarfon,

RIBA President Ruth Reed said about the 2010 RIBA Award winners:

“The RIBA Awards reflect not only the state of British architecture but also that of its economy. In the midst of the deepest recession in the 45 year history of the RIBA Awards, this year’s winners demonstrate that although times might be hard for architects, there are still great buildings being built throughout the country and overseas. The RIBA Awards always give an opportunity for gem-like small projects and less established practices to shine through and this year is no exception. Far from being a size prize, the RIBA Awards are for buildings that offer value to people’s lives. ... “

While we can’t compete with the RIBA or indeed the well established Award Scheme run by the Conwy Valley Civic Society we can seek to ‘celebrate excellence in local endeavour’. This was agreed at our own AGM and the details of this are being considered. Recognition to projects ranging from conservation of buildings or natural habitats, the introduction of a new building, field or road boundary or community facility could all be considered; size is immaterial.

Visit to Pen y Bryn, Abergwyngregyn



We had a sunny afternoon for our visit to Kathryn Pritchard Gibson’s home, the manor house Pen y Bryn, at Abergwyngregyn. This was arranged following the interest generated by her talk to the Society — “the History of the House of the Llewelyns”. We were able to climb to the top of the tower and had a walk to the lower field – the site of a gruesome killing in times gone by, and also the route of an old Roman road. The introductory talk and cup of tea at the end of the tour was much appreciated. In the porch a short poem (an Englyn) by Tudur Dylan Jones is displayed.

Yn olau uwch Garth Celyn — hen obaith
 Sy’n Abergwyngregyn,
 Ac fe ddychwel Llywelyn
 Yn barhaus i Ben y Bryn

A literal translation of this is:
 All bright above Garth Celyn hope
 Still lives on in Abergwyngregyn
 That Llywelyn will return
 And stay forever at Pen y Bryn

(The novelist Robertson Davies once said that englyns (sic) were an old enthusiasm of his. He said that the form was derived by the Welsh from the inscriptions on Roman tombs in Wales.) Thanks to J B Williams for the translation; she notes that the translation in no

way conveys the musicality of the original.

AGM and the Indefatigable

At the AGM on the 21st May the existing committee officers were re-elected. We welcomed a new committee member, Ivor Williams, who helped to Chair the meeting as our President, Lady Anglesey was unwell. Major topics discussed ranged from the imposition of additional evening charges in Council car parks (see page 4), developing our own award scheme to recognise ‘good’ development projects, to the pros and cons of the nuclear power station in Wylfa. The formal part of the AGM was followed by a talk from Lt. Col. Simon Hall, Commanding Officer of the Joint Service Mountain Training Centre based at the former Indefatigable site in Llanfair P. G.

Trip to Llanrwst

The 9 members who went on the trip to Llanrwst on June 30th had a splendid day. We toured Gwydyr Castle the home of Sir John Wynn (1553-1626) and then went up the hill to visit Gwydyr Uchaf chapel, built in 1673 with its fine painted ceiling. After lunch at Blas ar Fwyd in Llanrwst, we were met by Mrs Pat Rowley, former Mayor, who took us round the 400 year old Almshouses in Church Street. They were built in 1610 by Sir John Wynn for 12 poor men of the Parish. Our visit ended at St. Gwrst Church where the Rev. Lynette Norman gave us a conducted tour including the side chapel containing the stone coffin of Llywelyn the Great..

Plas Cadnant

The rain held off for our visit to Plas Cadnant on July 25th. The garden continues to be a favourite venue for Civic Society members. The visit began with a 10 minute DVD showing how the garden has been re-discovered and developed over 12 years by Anthony Tavernor. The restoration of the old farm buildings was the first ‘job’ and then followed the restoration of the walled garden, herb garden and herbaceous beds. The steep, dry valley garden, still undergoing development leads down to the fast flowing Cadnant river. It was interesting to see an old photograph which showed the detail of the long lost balcony at the front of the house. Our thanks to Anthony and Graham for their hospitality.

Many congratulations - the work at Plas Cadnant has been recognised by the Campaign for Rural Wales. Close to Plas Cadnant is an Iron Age settlement and also a natural amphitheatre where reputedly Giraldu Cambrensis gathered people from all over Anglesey to recruit for the Crusades.

FUTURE EVENTS

Regular meetings are held in the Menai Bridge War Memorial Community Centre and start at 7.30 p.m.

Friday, 24th September Mynydd Parys Mines — their history and development. David Jenkins

Friday, 22nd October David Hughes School — Education. Dr. Brian Jones, Headmaster

Friday 26th November Why choose Menai Bridge for a soap opera? Susan Waters, Co-Director of Rondo Film Company

Wednesday 8th December The Anglesey Archives Service. Mr Hayden Burns NB—this is an afternoon meeting 2.30 - 4.30 p.m. Tea and mince pies

2011

Friday, 28th January Crossing the Menai Strait — the story of the ferry crossings. David Longley

Friday, 11th February ANNUAL DINNER at the Victoria Hotel, Menai Bridge. Guest Lecturer: Prof. David and Mrs Hilary Crystal; "The perils of being a linguist"

Friday 25th March — an Introduction to the Drovers. Donna Goodman

Friday 15th April - Where in the World is Menai Bridge? Prof. David Last

Friday 20th May — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, speaker Adam Voelcker. 'Herbert Luck North - a modern Goth'
Jane Cherrett

NEWS FROM OUR COUNCILLORS

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

Now that the August recess is past, and holidays are fading into memories, the County Council is engaging in the normally hectic autumn schedule of meetings. Of paramount importance, of course, will be the fate of the so-called **Alliance**, which the Council leader Clive McGregor, interim managing director David Bowles and others have put in place - a coalition (the in-word nowadays) of right minded individuals from certain groups, keen to ensure the authority continues in its present form. The new format is fragile, it has to be said, and has its well meaning detractors, while others are hostile and, again it has to be said, some even harbour destructive intentions. Let us hope the good boys win ... for all our sakes, most particularly the residents of the island, who deserve and need a successful County Council.

Reflecting on recent weeks, while there have been few formal meetings, the work of the Local Member has continued on a day-to-day basis, dealing with electors' individual issues, important to them. These have included ... planning applications, highways matters relating to boundary/retaining walls, renewing street name plates, pot holes, deteriorating road surfaces, overhanging vegetation, pavement weeding and car park accesses, housing issues regarding wannabe tenants' requests, insulation and re-fitting work, an ongoing land encroachment, a delay in the disposal of a small parcel of land, finishing touches to the **Porth-y-Wrach** amenity project, personnel concerns and constitutional advice. It is worth reporting as well that... Councillors are now excluded completely from the house letting process, a Property panel has surveyed all non-operational land in Menai Bridge (and the whole island), the David Hughes School leisure centre is busy but more public awareness of its existence is required, Bro Hyfryd is to be given improved parking at the rear at long last and the Waen car park has a widened entry road from High Street. Apart from all the above, there is nothing to report.



New seating at Porth y Wrach

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

Freedom of RAF Valley at Menai Bridge, Saturday 25th September. I have been successful in persuading the County Council to hold this very important ceremony in Menai Bridge for the first time. The event is to celebrate the "Freedom" of Anglesey being awarded to RAF Valley. This ceremonial honour remains one of the oldest and highest civic honours given. The main arena for this parade will be in the Waen Car Park by the Fire Station, where the Band of the RAF and RAF airmen will parade. The ceremony will start at 10.15 a.m. and will include a General Salute, march through the town and flypast with aircraft from RAF Valley. Please see the local press for fuller information.

Merryweather Victorian Fire Engine. On a recent visit to Wylfa Power Station Apprenticeship School, under the management of their Senior Maintenance Officer, Colin Smith, I was able to see first hand the Merryweather Fire Engine at the start of its refurbishment. This is the first community based project that the Apprenticeship School has taken on. The apprentices are both proud and enthusiastic to be entrusted with this significant project. It is creating much interest in the "steam world" and through the Internet the School has been able to obtain an exact copy of the original factory manual. I look forward to when it can be returned to

Lady Anglesey
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Maureen Parry-Williams
Ysgrifennydd/Secretary

Jane Cherrett
Ysgifennydd Cymdeithasol/
Social Secretary

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

PLANNING AND LOCAL NEWS

Ynys Mon Local Development Plan.

The August Newsletter, produced by the Planning Department of the Council, brings us up to date with news about progress of the Plan; the process began in November 2008! They state, "some of the issues raised significant challenges to the progression of the plan". As the Head of Planning Policy has left his role "has been assimilated within the existing team". They mention a number of challenges particularly in relation to housing and employment issues, the identification of mineral safeguarding areas and the need to meet the Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA / SEA) requirements.

As a result, discussions have been held about establishing a Joint Planning Policy Unit (JPPU) with Gwynedd County Council to prepare a joint LDP for Ynys Mon and Gwynedd Planning Area (outside the National Park). Final details have not yet been agreed. They anticipate that the Adopted Plan will be in place by 2016. Watch the local press for an announcement on participating in the Consultation exercise on the Interim Policy.

New guidance notes for planning in Wales were issued in July 2010, together with 21 topic based **Technical Advice Notes**. We will look at Tan 5 and Tan 6, Nature Conservation and Planning and Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities first. These can be viewed and downloaded from the Wales Assembly Government Website wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/ppw2010/?lang=en For those of you who **do not** have this facility, copies will be available at our next meeting.

Maureen Parry-Williams

Local Planning.

This continues to be a contentious issue as so many applications are received for buildings or alterations in the Conservation Area. Some plans have been turned down initially and then quietly passed with some alterations. Everyone needs to be alert to such situations. The new policies in Tan 6 relax a number of the more stringent requirements and could be easily manipulated.

Extra Charge for Car Parks. Following the AGM, where the issue of extending the charge for car parks to the evenings was raised by concerned members, we have written to the County Council to protest. The response was that in these difficult times the Council needs to raise additional money from whatever sources it can. We will continue our protest.

Ynys Faelog Development - we have objected to the plan to develop the old Boat Shed. Development in a Conservation Area, SSSI, etc., utilising land owned by the County Council is inappropriate! If this site isn't protected what is safe? Will the Council charge the developers for access to its land - in the unlikely event this application is approved? Will they charge a

Who do you think you are?

As the secretary of the Civic Society, I was actually asked to help trace a Menai Bridge family connection this week! Another enquiry asks for information about Tafarn-y-Bont (formerly the Bridge End Cafe). We could do more of this and would welcome stories of any family history you have unearthed.

Subscriptions are due at the start of our new year i.e. 1st May 2010. Have you paid yours yet? If not please pay at the next meeting or send to the Treasurer, c/o the Secretary, Tyn y Coed, Newborough, LL61 6PY. Cheques should be made out to Menai Bridge and District Civic Society

Chairman's Sunday Service



Congratulations to Cllr Selwyn Williams, elected as Chairman (i.e. Civic Head) of the Isle of Anglesey County Council. He is pictured here with Geoff and Beryl Cains, founder members of the Civic Society, at the Chairman's traditional Sunday Service; this year held in Capel Mawr.

Photo courtesy of I of A CC and Trefor Davies Photographs, Mynydd Parys