

# NEWSLETTER

## Cymdeithas Ddinesig Bro Porthaethwy

## Menai Bridge and District Civic Society

# CYLCHLYTHYR

### Dates for your

#### diary: More details on

page 3. Lectures start at 7.30pm (unless otherwise stated) and are held in the War Memorial Community Centre, Water Street, Menai Bridge.

**Thursday April 26th**

**7.30pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, see papers attached.** Followed by, 'In search of Rex Whistler.' by Peter Simpson.

**Wednesday June 6<sup>th</sup>**

**10.15am** Visit the Natural Building Centre, Plas Tirion, Betws Rd., Llanrwst. We will then visit Ffin y Parc, gallery almost next door to Plas Tirion. Returning home via the Bodnant Welsh Food Centre at Furnace Farm.

**Tuesday August 21<sup>st</sup>**

**2.30pm** Visit to Pencychnant Conservation Centre, (top of Sychnant Pass). This house and its estate was the former home of Brian Stott, who was one of the Stotts of Oldham. talk and give a tour of house, we can view the art exhibition and take a short nature walk if required. Cost includes tea & cake £5

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Summer/Haf 2018

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### WALES AND THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE.

On the 16th March 2018 the University of Wales Graduates, Bangor Branch, sponsored an open lecture by Professor John V Tucker, entitled Wales and the History of Science.

In addition to theoretical computer science, Prof. Tucker, originally from Cardiff, also lectures on the history of computing and on the history of science and technology and Wales. Professor Tucker is a Founding Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales and in July 2010 he was appointed as its inaugural general secretary. You could say he knows his subject! We looked at some of the 'big names' of Science in Wales, many very local

too :

**William Jones** FRS ( developed Pi, Calculus from Llanfihangel, Benllech; 1675-1749,

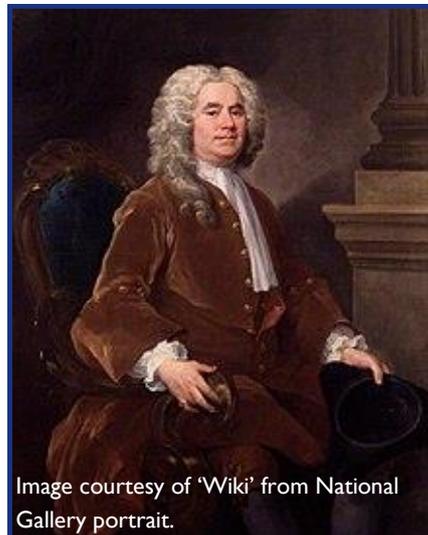


Image courtesy of 'Wiki' from National Gallery portrait.

**Sir William Jones** (son of the above), philologist, learned Sanskrit, a Judge, founded the Asiatic Society, which before its time disdained ideas of racial superiority and shared its discoveries with indigenous Bengali intellectuals.

**William Morgan** 1750-1833, Actuarial Science, created plasma, from Bridgend;

**G H Bryan** FRS, 1864 –1928, Aeronautics, Prof of Maths at Bangor;

**Bertrand Russell** OM, FRS, Nobel Prize for Literature.; from Trellech, In September 1961, at the age of 89, Russell was jailed for

seven days in Brixton Prison for "breach of peace" after taking part in an anti-nuclear demonstration in London. The magistrate offered to exempt him from jail if he pledged himself to "good behaviour", to which Russell replied: "No, I won't."

**David Edward Hughes**, 1831– 1900 from Bala, paved the way for the modern microphone. His printing telegraph adopted by Western Union

**Edward George Bowen—radar. 1911-1991** 'Taffy' Bowen, one of the men who developed radar, and helped win WW2 was born in Swansea, the son of a steelworker. There are more, many more.

**Edward Edwards**( 1803 - 1879 ), marine zoologist, b. 23 Nov. 1803 at Corwen , he was for some years a draper at Bangor , but in 1840 set up a successful iron-foundry at Menai Bridge . In 1864 he began studying fishes . His researches led him to effect great improvements in the construction of aquaria , and his devices were adopted by the leading museums in Britain and abroad. He died 13 Aug. 1879 (Thanks to a local member for this information).

If we move beyond the 'simple' scientific then what about other notable 'achievers'.

**Helen Rowlands, Menai Bridge** 1891 - 1955 missionary and linguist. Part of the 150 year long Welsh Calvinistic Methodists' Mission to NE India— the biggest oversea venture ever sustained by Wales. We will explore this further in later publications.

Prof Tucker said that 'Science' is done locally but validated internationally, he further posited the theory that each generation has to re-write history, including what is current. I can think of several local people who deserve recognition. Who do you think is worthy? Go beyond science as well into music, poetry and drama.

During the past four centuries Wales and Welshmen (mostly, unless you have more information!) have developed some astounding work of international significance. We should be proud of them. We live amongst the work of giants and we don't seem to notice.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**Environment Minister confirms no changes to Designated Landscapes**

(From the Assembly Government site)  
 Minister for Environment, Hannah Blythyn, has given a firm commitment that all Wales' existing Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks will be retained and their current purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty will not be weakened.

Speaking to AMs today, Tuesday 13 March 2018, the Minister confirmed the designated landscapes review process, which has been ongoing since 2013, will draw to a close with the publication of a policy statement in the coming months.

In May 2017, the Future Landscapes Working Group, chaired by Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas, published a review of Wales' National Parks and Areas of Outstanding National Beauty (AONBs).

The Group was established to explore the recommendations of the Marsden Report into the future of Wales' designated landscapes, which provided 69 wide-ranging recommendations.

During a plenary debate last June, the future protection of Wales' designated landscapes under the current Welsh Government was called into question.

Today the Minister sought to reassure all concerned parties the Welsh Government will not be changing the purposes of National Parks or AONBs.

In an Oral Statement in the National Assembly, Hannah Blythyn said:

"Designated landscapes have been in a state of review since a draft policy statement was consulted on in 2013.

"Today I want to settle some of the key questions on the Government's position and to give this Assembly the opportunity to get a sense of my priorities before I publish a policy statement in the coming months which will bring the review process to a close.

"I welcome the thorough and thought provoking reviews and reports of Professor Marsden and his panel and Lord Elis-Thomas and the Future Landscapes Working Group.

"The process of review has ingrained a new way of working between Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and stakeholders where they now share a much greater understanding of the national priorities which they can help to address by working together.

"My priority over the coming months will be to work with the Park Authorities and AONB partnerships on our contemporary Welsh approach to ecosystems and landscapes, while recognising the enduring value of their original purpose. (continued page 4)

**RECENT PROGRAMME NOTES**

**Thurs. Jan 25th Telford's Holyhead Road: a brief history.**

**B o b D a i m o n d .**  
 Many thanks to Bob for such an interesting and informative talk, combining both the technical and human side of Telford with great



**Dr. Stephen Mudge, Explorer Scout Leader** was our speaker for the afternoon of the Lunch. He explored Menai



Bridge's Scouting History between WW1 and WW2 and brought us up to date with details of the Scouts' recent visit to Flanders. A popular dynamic group at the forefront of modern scouting.

Photographs.

**Friday 16th Feb ANNUAL LUNCH**

The full Buffet Lunch at Plas C a d n a n t Lunch was excellent with plenty of choice and time to have a brief look at the snowdrops in the gardens as well. Which suits you best Lunch or Dinner; we'll ask you for your preferences at the AGM?



Photos N Kneale



**Thurs. March 22nd Chamber Music of Wales - International aspirations in rural Wales.**

A great evening as Peryn Clement Evans, Artistic Director & Principal Clarinetist of Ensemble Cymru explained and played his way through some familiar and some not so familiar music explaining the development of the Ensemble over the past 15 years.

Great to hear live music in the WMCC. The Ensemble are back in the area, in concert, from the 10th May, including Pontio and the Ucheldre Centre. See [ensemble.cymru/en/whatson/](http://ensemble.cymru/en/whatson/) for full details. (Photo courtesy of Ensemble Cymru)

## FUTURE EVENTS

Lectures held monthly at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Community Centre, Water Street on Thursday evenings usually.

**Thursday April 26th 7.30pm**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, see papers attached. Followed by, 'In search of Rex Whistler.' by Peter Simpson.

**Wednesday June 6<sup>th</sup> 10.15am**  
 Visit the **Natural Building Centre, Plas Tirion**, Betws Rd., Llanrwst. LL26 0PU. The owners Ned and Sophie Sharer are conservators of historic buildings, carrying out repairs and sustainable construction work. They run courses ranging from lime plastering to fresco painting. Ned has worked in Westminster Abbey and the British Museum. Sophie is an artist and potter and we will visit her studio gallery. Their barns & the garden at Plas Tirion are undergoing renovation and it all makes for an exciting visit. Sophie will talk about the history of the Plas and show their restoration work as it unfolded. Cost £8/per person to include, talk, tour and tea/coffee and homemade cake. We will then visit Ffin y Parc, gallery almost next door to Plas Tirion. Exhibition of Colin See-Paynton (engraver and print maker) and Carl Chapple.

Returning home via the Bodnant Welsh Food Centre at Furnace Farm. Chance to shop and visit the café. Transport in private cars, car sharing where possible.

**Tuesday August 21<sup>st</sup> 2.30pm**  
 Visit **Pensychnant Conservation Centre**, top of Sychnant Pass. This house and its estate was the former home of Brian Stott, who was one of the Stotts of Oldham. An important and wealthy family who built cotton mills in Lancashire and who made industrial cooking appliances. The present Warden will talk and give a tour of house, we can view the art exhibition and take a short nature walk if required. Cost includes tea & cake £5  
 Transport to both events will be by private car, so please indicate if you are willing to take your car and take passengers as well. Also please say if you need transport. Names to Jane Cherrett 01248 713440

Please see separate Booking Form.

**Saturday 15th September 2018 2.30 - 5.00 p.m.**  
**GARDEN PARTY AT PLAS CADNANT - advance notice.**

**Guests and non-members are welcome to meetings and outings (regular meetings for a fee of £2)**

[Jane Cherrett](#)

## ELM TREE FELLED

Sadly we have to report that an elm tree belonging to the Town Council, on their land, on the way down to the Belgian Promenade was apparently cut down without permission. The tree, a rare specimen of elm, had recently been made the subject of a TPO - Tree Preservation Order, in recognition of its rarity and position. The Council and County Council are understandably upset about this development and have reported the matter to the Police. If anyone saw anything suspicious



between 1st– 3rd March do let the Town Council (01248 716959) know; this is a serious offence.

Any Society thrives on new members and new ideas and we're no different. Help of all sorts, either a 'one off' or longer term, is welcome ranging from organising a photographic display, writing an article for the Newsletter or Press, to checking our stock of leaflets in the Library is up to date, to reporting damage (like that aside), checking Planning Applications, translation, making tea, IT expertise, greeting people at Meetings.

## WHAT IS THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)?

The Data Protection Act is being replaced by the General Data Protection Regulation. It is complex but basically says that personal data will be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently; only being used for the purpose you are aware of and no other i.e. used to send you your Newsletter but not to allow other organisations to send you begging letters. Only the minimum accurate, up to date data necessary should be used, not kept for longer than necessary and that storage is safe and secure.

There are several bases for processing data of which consent is one, others being legal obligation (e.g. processing Gift Aid) or legitimate interest (e.g. maintaining lists of Society Members). You have a right to know the data held about you and ask for it to be deleted if you wish. The only data we hold is what you enter on your membership form and no one outside the Society has access to it. Some members may have completed forms many years ago so as subscriptions are renewed this April/May we will take the opportunity to check you are happy with the data held, how we contact you and let you have a copy of our Data Policy Notice.

## SHALL I? NO I WON'T, YES I WILL, WELL MAYBE.

I know, you've read the AGM details and you can't decide whether to offer to help or not? If I volunteer to help I'll be stuck with a job forever and I don't want to be on a Committee. Well no you won't and you don't have to be. Do they really need more help? Yes, we would really value your contribution and opinion about things!

**Anthony Tavernor Esq.**  
Llywydd/ President

**Liz Moyle**  
Cadeirydd/Chair

**Maureen Parry-Williams**  
Ysgrifennydd/Secretary

**Jane Cherrett**  
Ysgifennydd Cymdeithasol/  
Social Secretary

**Renata Hufton**  
Trysorydd/Treasurer

**Iola Prytherch**  
Deputy Treasurer/Trysorydd  
Cynorthwyol

**Liz Moyle**  
Newsletter Editor/Golygydd  
Cylchlythyr

**Norman Kneale**  
Photos/Fotograffau

#### CONTACT LIST

Newsletter contributions -  
**Maureen Parry Williams**  
Tel. 01248 440668

Booking activities for events  
and outings -  
**Jane Cherrett**  
Tel 01248 713440

County Councillors :  
**Alun Mummery, Meirion Jones**  
and **Robin Williams**

Town Council :  
**Canolfan Tysilio, Menai Bridge**

For all correspondence please  
contact the Secretary,  
**Mrs Maureen Parry-Williams,**  
Tyn y Coed, Newborough,  
LL61 6PY

**See our Website at**  
**www.menaibridge**  
**civicsociety.org.uk**

## Eisteddfod Gadeiriol Môn

### 1933 Porthaethwy

Geraint Williams has recently completely refurbished and enlarged his art Gallery in Llanfair PG. (Oriol Ger-y-Fenai-Gallery). Local members who visited noticed the impressive Eisteddfod Chair that takes pride of place. The Chair was 'rescued', via e-bay, from Stoke-on Trent. The puzzling thing is that the National Eisteddfod was held in Wrexham that year, 1933, but Mr Williams can find no mention of a Porthaethwy Eisteddfod. If you have any information about competitions or who might have won the Chair please let us know; it's too important to be forgotten.



## Environment Minister confirms no changes to Designated Landscapes (continued from page2)

"I am committed to ensuring Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks are valued for their natural beauty by our people, communities and country and our designated landscapes deliver rich ecosystems, vibrant and resilient communities and opportunities for outdoor recreation for all of the people of Wales."

That is the complete statement from the new Minister Hannah Blythyn. I wouldn't usually quote something in full but this sea change seems sufficiently important to do so.

It will be interesting to see how matters develop. On 30th March the Minister announced an extra £3.4 million for improvements to Designated Landscapes, the sum being controlled centrally I presume. This welcome investment though must be viewed in light of the potential swingeing cuts to the National Park Authority budgets e.g. £800k in Snowdonia over the next two years, with redundancies in view. National Parks 'make £1bn for Wales, to threaten that while English National Parks seem to be protected would not appear sensible. And let's not forget our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, where cuts have been even greater.

## Cae Glan-y-Mor

You may remember the field on the edge of the Straits, on the way to Llanfair PG.

Planning permission for a Zorb Site was turned down, eventually last year, by the Council thanks to the heartfelt protests of local residents, societies, our Councillors, AM and MP. Its importance as an AONB and iconic viewpoint was deemed too important for its intrinsic value and also for its contribution to the economy of the area to contemplate change. It is now for sale for £130,000, roughly double its agricultural value.

## Third Crossing of the Straits - Consultation.



It will be interesting to see what the results of the consultation come up with. It could of course directly affect the area, Cae Glan y Mor. Our view was the consultation was flawed - rather like the Pylon Consultation i.e. where do you want the pylons to go, not do you want pylons in the first place? The single span was preferred as being least visually intrusive but in general it was thought too expensive and unnecessary especially in times of uncertainty - e.g. will Wylfa actually go ahead, after Brexit will traffic to/from Ireland avoid the UK altogether and sail direct?