

Porthaethwy – Mynedfa Ynys Môn
Menai Bridge – Gateway to Anglesey

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 Community Centre, Water Street, Menai Bridge.

Jan. 28th Tuesday at 2.30pm
'Tiny café - big reputation! & more'. Mr. Terry Thomas & June Lavelle

Feb. 25th Tuesday at 2.30pm
'Carrots to Cappuccinos'. Mr. Justin Williams, Managing Director Fron Goch Garden Centre

March 13th Friday 11.00 Talk by **Medwyn Williams MBE** at **Plas Cadnant. ANNUAL LUNCH** at **Plas Cadnant. Assemble 12.15 for 12.30 service.**

April 28th Tuesday at 7.30pm **The Dark Island!**
C. Williams

May 12th Tuesday at 7.30pm **Annual General Meeting .**

Spring/Gwanwyn 2020

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MILLS, MILLS.

Our last Newsletter focused on the Mills at Cadnant and it highlighted the limited information about the history of these vital sections of the economy and everyday life of the area. The Society was involved in the 1960s in an attempt to save the main mill/factory with some success—the façade of the building was retained. That was standard practice then but in hindsight was inadequate. Hindsight is wonderful isn't it?

Anyway we were fortunate that one of our Society members, **David Chambers**, saw the value of recording what was architectural-ly important even if it couldn't be saved long



term or wasn't deemed important enough to save at that time.

A talented artist and Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, he worked for Holyhead Council. A member of Oriel Môn, one of

the founder members of Menter Fachwen and active in the Co-operative Movement. He painted many of the historical buildings of Anglesey including water mills, wind mills, and all of the 93 churches. His pictures are captivating with their attention and preciseness to detail. An immense task that must have taken him years.

Sadly David died in 2012 but his work, recording the architectural heritage of Anglesey, has been safeguarded by the County Council. There is a permanent exhibition of his work mounted on the 1st floor of the County Offices in Llangefni.

David used to teach art at Trefoss School in Anglesey. He organized numerous children's workshops, some of them with up to 160 children. He also was a puppeteer, ran his smallholding, taught evening watercolor landscape classes, gave talks; completed design works for the Greenwood Centre and Beaumaris Festival. A gifted raconteur his tales of RAF wartime service in Naples are legend.

It's pleasing that his work is still much valued and will aid the Welsh Mills Society/ Cymdeithas Melinau Cymru in their work.



We are grateful to his widow, Anna, for giving permission to reproduce here one of his works here.

STUNNING RESULT IN DECEMBER ELECTION.

Before you turn over the page I do mean December 1918!

One of the other Elections to be held in December was that held in 1918 when the Liberal Coalition was returned to power. In his own Caernarfon constituency David Lloyd George was elected by a majority of 12898, out of 15088 voters.

It was also the first general election to be held after the enactment of the Representation of the People Act 1918. Therefore, it was the first election in which women over the age of 30 (provided they met a property qualification), and all men over the age of 21, could vote. While Lloyd George was deeply involved in the Peace Conference (beginning formally in January 2019) the day to day hard work of constituency work fell to his wife Margaret. While much valued at the time her contribution to political life and support for returning servicemen is little known now.

We are grateful for the report from **Richard Rhys O'Brien** who highlights Lady Margaret's work locally and draws on the Archive of the **Rev. J.T. Rhys**, Mrs Margaret Lloyd George's Secretary and Richard's grandfather. She indefatigably campaigned to help those fighting for the War effort (on the Front and at home), helping their families, toured the country to help ensure that the newly enfranchised female electorate made an important and effective impact, and at home staunchly supported "the man that won the War".

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CIVIC TRUSTS and NATIONAL NEWS What is the National Development

Framework? "The National Development Framework (NDF) is a new development plan which will set the direction for development in Wales from 2020 to 2040. It sets a strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, decarbonisation, developing resilient ecosystems and improving the health and well-being of our communities. The NDF is a spatial plan, which means it sets a direction for where we should be investing in infrastructure and development for the greater good of Wales and its people." The introduction by the Welsh Assembly Government to their NDF is fairly straightforward but the following scope adds immense complexity.

Comments on the Framework were to be submitted before Christmas with an updated Framework submitted to the Assembly in September, following a statutory 60 day consultation. Timely considering the current increased anxiety about climate change.

However when you look at the proposals in more depth there is cause for concern. Such concern relates to the accuracy of parts of the Report and also to its proposed reduction in local planning accountability.

Comments from major interested parties has varied from scathing (**Council for the Protection of Rural Wales** - 'it is full of fundamental errors in defining the 15 wind and solar Priority Areas and fails to describe or assess potential impacts of its proposals upon them In its present form... is unfit for purpose' (continued on page 3)

RECENT PROGRAMME NOTES

Sept 14th Garden Party - see the full report on page 4 and on our Website. Another fine day, how lucky are we! Dragon and vegetables courtesy of Ysgol Uwchradd



Llandegfan and Collectables by some of our Society volunteers.

Photos N Kneale



Sept. 24th Bangor Pier, Past & Present and Future?

Mr. Peter Brindley. Great photos of the development of the Pier its immense popularity and role in WWI. Being refurbished but safe for future generations we hope.

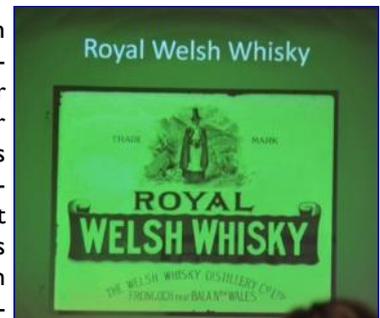
being refurbished but safe for future generations we hope.

Oct. 22nd The Jews of Bangor. Prof. N. Abrams, UW, Bangor. Lively presentation by Prof. Abrams about the research into the Jewish community being carried out in Bangor. Many remembered the Pollecof and Wartski stores in Bangor and Wartski's in Llandudno. Elegant and part of the community. Morris Wartski donated the fields in Upper Bangor to the city and successfully campaigned to free the Bridge from tolls



Nov. 26th Tuesday at 2.30pm about Fron-Goch, Nr. Bala. - Whisky, War, Revolution and Betrayal.

Mr. Paul Dicken. Thanks to Paul Dicken for illuminating a rather dark part of our history. The former Whisky distillery was developed as an internment camp first for German prisoners of war and then in 1916 for those involved, or deemed to



have been involved in the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin and Ireland — some 1,800 Irish prisoners, among them such notables as Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith. They were accorded the status of prisoners of war. The camp became a fertile seeding ground for the spreading of the revolutionary gospel, with inspired organisers such as Michael Collins giving impromptu lessons in guerrilla tactics. Later the camp became known as the "University of Revolution" or sometimes "Sinn Féin University". The camp was emptied in December 1916.

Dec. 10th RSPB Conwy - How we give nature a home

Mr. Julian Hughes enthralled us with some stunning photos of the nature reserve in Conwy. Developed from the soil extracted to build the Conwy tunnel in the 1970s. Originally the Third crossing of the estuary was to be a bridge placed very close to the Castle and cutting through the town. Determined opposition to what was seen to be a plan to wreck views of the Grade I Castle, in the name of 'cost and economy', was successful and the innovative tunnel built instead. Does have a familiar ring to it? I wonder if the third crossing of the Strait will go ahead and where?



Photo N Kneale from RSPB Archives/volunteers

FUTURE EVENTS

Lectures held monthly in the lounge of the War Memorial Community Centre, Water Street, Menai Bridge, on Tuesday usually.

Please note that:

January and February meetings begin at 2.30 p.m.

March meeting begins at 11.00 a.m. on Friday at

Plas Cadnant. i.e. is BEFORE our Annual Lunch.

April meeting starts at 7.30 p.m. in the War Memorial Community Centre.

The Society reserves the right to make reasonably necessary alterations to arrangements, if for example the Speaker is ill or the Centre is suddenly not available.

Where possible we will notify members by e-mail and offer an alternative venue and speaker. If you don't already receive our 'Latest News' e-mails, and would like to, please let Jane Cherrett have your e-mail address.

Jan. 28th Tuesday at 2.30pm 'Tiny café - big reputation! & more'. Mr. Terry Thomas & June Lavelle

Feb. 25th Tuesday at 2.30pm 'Carrots to Cappuccinos'. Mr. Justin Williams, Managing Director Fron Goch Garden Centre

March 13th Friday ANNUAL LUNCH at Plas Cadnant. 11.00 a.m. Pre-lunch Guest speaker, Mr. Medwyn Williams MBE. 'My life in Gardening and the Chelsea Flower Show'

Assemble at 12.15 p.m. for 12.30 lunch
Please see Booking Form for Lunch.

April 28th Tuesday at 7.30pm The Dark Island!
C. Williams

May 12th Tuesday at 7.30pm Annual General Meeting.

Jane Cherrett

Continued from page2. What is the National Development Framework?

The Royal Town Planning Institute for Wales is more welcoming, 'The draft NDF is a welcome start, showing there is a clear intent to tackle climate change, but this needs to be backed up with stronger evidence, detail and clarity to guide decisions..... The NDF sets out 11 outcomes, Welsh Government's ambitions for Wales. While the outcomes are well intentioned, we question where the statements of 'where we want to be in 20 years' are articulated in the rest of the document? The outcomes do not appear to have a clear, long term direction or actions associated with it.'

Savills, Estate Agents, comment, 'While the housing requirements in most adopted LDPs are based on household population projections – and reflected a going for growth strategy that saw housing underpin wider economic aspirations – the NDF's reduction is staggering. In South East Wales, for example, adopted LDPs have an annualised housing requirement of 6,832 homes, while the projections that the NDF uses show an annual requirement of just 3,359 homes – 51 per cent fewer.' The Isle of Anglesey County Council also comments succinctly, 'The IACC believes the draft NDF's approach to low carbon energy is too narrow and should incorporate all forms of low carbon energy production. The draft NDF does not do this and instead focusses on wind and solar developments only. The IACC has reviewed the background documents supporting the proposed Priority Areas for wind and solar. There is a lot of information in relation to the criteria applied. The justification for selection of the majority of the Island as a Priority Area for wind and solar energy is unclear. This is not acceptable and is of significant concern, the IACC objects to this designation.'

The 20 year National Development Framework may be seen as further stage in the progressive centralisation of major planning decisions. You may feel this is justified in view of the intense debate on the future of energy supplies but none the less it represents an erosion of the rights of local communities to have a genuine voice in the development of their areas. The Welsh Government has classed all renewable energy projects over 10MW as *Developments of National Significance*. Power to make these decisions has been taken away from Local Planning Authorities and reserved for Welsh Ministers.

'In contrast to proposals for Wales, English neighbourhood planning allows communities to have real influence on the development of their local area. Renewable energy planning applications up to 50MW are decided at local authority level. National Policy provides a general framework but decisions are made locally.

Whatever your views let us hope that the final version of the Report takes heed of the many comments made.

Liz Moyle

'Tamaid o Fôn A flavour of Anglesey'

"Ynys Môn - Môn, Mam Cymru - oedd 'basged fara' wreiddiol Cymru, ac mae'r Ynys yn adnabyddus o hyd am ei chynnyrch.

Mae'r llyfryn bach hwn yn tynnu sylw at rai yn unig o'r llyfryn a'r bwyd rydym wedi'u mwynhau dros y blynyddoedd. Gobeithio y bydd yn ychwanegu at eich mwynhad chi o Borthaethwy ac Ynys Môn hefyd. Ymlaciwch, dewch i fwynhau Môn Mam Cymru a'i bwyd bendigedig.

Welcome to 'a flavour of Anglesey'. Anglesey—Môn Mam Cymru, the mother of Wales - was the original

'bread basket' of Wales, and is still celebrated today for its produce.

This small booklet highlights just a few of the places and the food we have enjoyed over the years. We hope it will add to your enjoyment of Menai Bridge and Anglesey too. Relax, come and enjoy Môn Mam Cymru and its fabulous food."



A new venture for the Society - we've published a bilingual Recipe Book! Many thanks to the Anglesey Heritage Trust for their support. Fifteen, mostly traditional recipes and places to visit on Anglesey. The Anglesey Heritage Trust is also helping as we update our Website. The Booklet is available in local shops and at our meetings, price £2.



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See our Website at
www.menaibridgecivicsociety.org.uk

GARDEN PARTY 2019

A great afternoon, with many thanks to Prof Grove White for opening the event, the Town Mayor Hilary Hunt and Council representatives Ella Fisk and Wendy for attending Margaret, for the Collectables



stall - and the many contributors who helped make it a success. The sun shone, the Bands played, the Choir sung, the Spinners spun, the clog dancers set toes tapping and there was cream for tea! Especial thanks to everyone at Plas Cadnant who made it possible and helped us raise £1400 for our charitable funds and good causes.



Photos N Kneale



Prof. R Grove-White who opened the Garden Party with Menai Bridge Town Mayor, Hilary Hunt.



The theme of the Garden Party this year was traditional music and crafts and is something we will continue to promote. It's difficult to report everything in our Newsletter so more details and pictures are given in our Website on the special section about the Garden Party. Our Website is being updated so if you notice any glitches over the next few months please be patient, we will get there.

Thanks to :- Anglesey Red Squirrels, Gwynedd Wood Turners, Historic Gardens Trust, Jane Bunce Wildlife Artist, Menai Bridge Town Band, Margaret's Gervis, North Wales Saxophone Choir, Patrick Davies, Plas Cadnant Staff, Ysgol Gynradd Llandegfan, Heritage Trust, Gwynedd Woodturners, Anglesey Spinners, Weavers and Dyers, Historic Gardens Trust, Migldi Magldi Môn, Menai Bridge Town Band, Prof. R. Grove-White, Andrew Hancock, Threnody Choir, all the Society Volunteers.

Menai Bridge and District Civic Society Cymdeithas Ddinesig Bro Porthaethwy

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