

## Friends of Borth-y-Gest April 2012 Update

### **Hello from Borth-y-Gest**

I hope you have all had a very happy Easter and have been able to find some dry weather in which to enjoy Spring. It's more than a bit wet as I type this, which is a shame for the many holidaymakers who are in and around Borth. There are quite a few things to tell you about:

### **1. Benches**

We have some new and replacement benches in place for people to enjoy the views and the nature reserves. There are seven of them, all away from the car park and main path areas so I hope you'll enjoy exploring to find them. Here's a couple of photos to give you clues:



### **2. Tree planting**

We had a great morning planting new [replacement] trees in the Plantation and new 'native' fruit trees in Pen-y-Banc Reserve. We also transplanted some 'in the green' snowdrops on the Mersey Street 'buffer land' to get a wider spread through the newly cleared areas in future years. The Friends were helped by the children from Ysgol Borth-y-Gest, students from Coleg Harlech and volunteers from the Snowdonia Society – many thanks to all!

The fruit trees, which include apples, pears and damsons, will be a 'community orchard' in the years to come and this has been registered on the Wales Atlas of Indigenous Orchards – a project to encourage the preservation and spread of native fruit trees.

Here are some photos of the planting:



Planting trees in the plantation



Transplanting snowdrops

### **3. The village toilets and flower tubs**

I'm pleased to say that the toilets are now back in use after significant maintenance work by Gwynedd Council – a new roof and some repair to tiles on the inside. Many public conveniences have been closed in other parts of Gwynedd so it's good to see investment in ours. The Friends have now installed some flower tubs outside, to brighten up the rather drab appearance:



Thanks to Sheila Roberts and all those who helped

### **Coming up soon:**

#### **1. Coastal Path Walk – Saturday May 5th**

The Welsh Coastal path is officially opened on Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>. As you will probably be aware, the path goes through Borth-y-Gest village and past the Church, through Pen-y-Banc Nature Reserve [above the coves]. We have benefited through improvement work on this path over the last couple of years and I'm told that it's already one of the busiest public footpaths in Wales! The Official Opening of the Coastal Path has three main events: in Flint, Aberystwyth and Cardiff, but the Welsh

Government is encouraging local groups to have their own celebration. The Friends will have a walk from Borth-y-Gest Car Park to Llanystumdwy [Lloyd George's village, near Criccieth]. The walk is about 7.5 miles long and we'll come back by bus – they are approximately every half hour from Llanystumdwy to Porthmadog. North Wales Ramblers are planning a walk from Morannedd Café in Criccieth to Porthmadog on the same morning, so we'll pass them along the way.

Details: Meet at Borth-y-Gest car park, near the Notice Board, at 10am on Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>. Wear walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather. Dogs, on leads, will be welcome, but please be equipped to clean up after your dog if you bring it along. We will stop for a 'paned' [short food/drink break] along the way and there is a café by the river in Llanystumdwy when we arrive.

## **2. Annual General Meeting 7pm Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup> in Bethel Chapel, Mersey Street**

It's our AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> May. Do come along and hear about what we've been doing over the last year, and discuss what we might do in the next year. We need a couple more Committee members to reach our full complement – do join us and take part. After the formal business, committee member Phil Eccles will give us a talk on his recent kayaking trip in Greenland.

## **3. The Hebridean Sheep**

Our local flock is very healthy and busy producing lambs! Do take a stroll up the hill to see them – and you may just discover some new benches too! Robin Jones, the grazer, has asked me to pass on an invitation to take photos and send them to him. He has offered a small prize for the best which he would like to use on his website:

[www.hebsnbadgers.co.uk](http://www.hebsnbadgers.co.uk) This is well worth a look to learn more about the sheep and Robin and Meinir's 'adventure' in looking after them.

Robin is looking ahead to autumn, when he will have a batch of lambs ready 'for the table' and once again will be happy to sell them to Friends. They are delicious – I'll certainly be buying another one. Let me know if you'd like to be added to the list.



Two of Robin's lambs inspect the new benches

## **4. The Village Barbecue - 4pm Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

Plans are being put together for the next Village Barbecue. If you would like to join the small committee organising this, please let me know. Garry Bywater has again agreed to play for us, and we hope to have the "World Singers" again. More details soon.

### **5. The Open Gardens Day Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

Plans are now well advanced. Mark the date on your calendar and keep your fingers crossed for good weather! More details in next Update.

### **6. Nature Walk Mid-May**

We plan to hold another Nature Walk through our Local Nature Reserves, on an evening some time in mid-May. I will send an update when we can fix a date. It will be led by Haydn Hughes our Countryside Warden and assisted by Kevin Hall who knows about the wildflowers of the area. I'm looking forward to this!

### **7. Jubilee Celebration – June 2012**

The Woodland Trust have given the Friends an oak sapling grown on one of the Royal Estates. To mark the occasion of Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee, we will be planting this in a small protected enclosure on top of the hill behind Parc-y-Borth, near the new benches. I will inform the Friends when we have a date for this, which will be as close as practical to the Jubilee date of 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Don't forget that you can catch up with all Village Events, and see more photographs, on the village website: [www.friendsofborthygest.com](http://www.friendsofborthygest.com)

Enjoy the Spring!

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