

BORTH-Y-GEST UPDATE August 2011

Hello All

I hope you've all been able to take advantage of the generally good August weather in Borth-y-Gest - I think our coastline has fared better than other parts of the country [except today, when it's raining]. There are a few things to update you on.

Note: I'm having some problems sending mail. If you get duplicates of this, please let me know.

Current events

1. Photographic Exhibition by Deudraeth Camera Club in St Cyngar's Church - on now until Friday 26th August from 10am to 5pm.

Come along and see some stunning work by local amateurs, and enjoy tea & cake in St Cyngar's Hall afterwards.

2. Tuesday 30th August TIDY UP PARC-Y-BORTH PLANTATION (GR 560378)

Volunteers are invited to help remove and collect the plastic protectors from the young trees in the field beyond Parc-y-Borth Wood. We began the task in June but have more to do. Please bring a Stanley knife [if you have one] or secateurs, scissors and gardening gloves. Meet in the Car Park in Borth y Gest at 2.00pm (or at 2.15 in the plantation). Children are welcome.

Recent events

1. The Bird Walks, in July

We held two bird walks, in conjunction with RSPB volunteers, in July, with about ten people on each. The walks were interesting, but the birds didn't want to play - not many of them showed their faces, or wings. However, we did enjoy the local environment and heard a number of birdsongs that I certainly would not have identified without the help of the knowledgeable RSPB folk. Many thanks to Sheila Roberts for organising, and thanks to the RSPB folk for turning out to explore Borth-y-Gest.

2. The Inaugural Pilot Race - August 6th

This was a huge success! Eleven Pilot gigs took part, the village was well decorated, hundreds of people turned up, rowers and volunteers were in period costume and the atmosphere was 'buzzing'. All the crews enjoyed the event, especially the winners, from Bull Bay on Anglesey, and the event will certainly be repeated next year. Thanks to all those who helped with decoration, the book stall, beach marshalling, hooter blowing etc. The Friends of Borth-y-Gest presented each crew, and their 'pilot', with a special commemorative mug which was very well received.

Upcoming events [note: some of these are Cob 200 celebration events, rather than organised by the Friends]

1. History Walk - Queen's Hotel to Tremadog. John Parry and Carol Hayes are leading walks to explain about Madock's first cob, on the following dates: **2nd Sept at 10am; 5th Sept at 10.30am; 16th Sept at 10.00am.** Cost £4.00 [which goes to charity]. Meet in the car park of the Queen's Hotel [by the main line station].

2. History walk - Penrhyn mining. Wed 15th Sept. If you missed Harold Morris's walk that he led for the Friends, you can join his repeat of the walk on behalf of the Cob 200 committee. Meet at Gelert/Lidl car park at 9.30am. As we know, it's a fascinating area, well explained by a knowledgeable enthusiast. This walk is part of a 'Cob 200 Walking Festival' organised by Clwb Dringo Porthmadog [Porthmadog Climbing Club]. Full details of this and the other events can be found on: <http://cob200.com/pdf/clwb-dringo-english.pdf>

3. History Walk - Ynys area. Our Chairman, Richard Walwyn, will lead a walk in the Ynys [Talsarnau] area. Unfortunately Richard has had to be away from Borth-y-Gest for several weeks, so I cannot yet confirm a date. I do know it will be an interesting exposition of little known detail about the land 'just across the water' from Borth-y-Gest.

4. Friends' Open Meeting - Wednesday, October 5th in Bethel Chapel [venue to be confirmed] at 7pm. Come along to meet the Committee, meet other Friends, find out more about activities and make any suggestions. We have a Speaker, local naturalist, author, film maker and broadcaster **Huw Jenkins**

who will give a slide show based on his book: "**Snowdonia, not just a pretty place**". We will be raffling two subscriptions to the Welsh nature magazine "Natur Cymru" which Huw contributes to, and is about to become editor of.

5. **Bird Days - Porthmadog Cob. Dec 17th & 18th.** As part of the Cob 200 celebrations, there will be an opportunity to visit the bird hide below Boston Lodge where bird experts from the RSPB and the North Wales Wildlife Trust will explain about the many species of winter visiting waders on both sides of the Cob. More details nearer the event.

6. **Open Garden Day - June 2012.** Looking some way ahead, the Friends are organising an Open Garden day around the village, with a number of people opening their gardens for people to visit. This should be fun, informative and perhaps inspirational as we see the different approaches that people take. If you'd like to be part of this, please contact our Chairman, Richard, on arwalwyn@aol.com You do not have to have a pristine, horticultural society standard garden!

Other items

1. **A Kite Festival?** One of the Friends has suggested to me that a Kite Festival on the beach at a half-term would be quite fun. It sounds good to me, but we'd need somebody to organise it. We could give it publicity and no doubt find volunteers to help with the event, so if you're interested in running it, do contact me: medcalf959@btinternet.com

2. **The Hanging Baskets & Flower beds & boats.** Congratulations to **Sheila Roberts** and her team of volunteers for planting, watering, dead heading, erecting bunting etc. to make the car park area a wonderful display of colour through the summer. And also, of course, to Gwynedd Council for maintaining the flower beds around the bus shelter.

3. **Ebenezer Chapel railings.** It is nice to see that the Chapel railings have been given a facelift in the last week and now look much better.

4. **The Little History of Borth-y-Gest.** We have now sold out of the first print run! It's an amazing success story, thanks to **Richard Walwyn** for research & writing and **Cathy Woodhead** for editing and publishing this interesting little book. A 'second impression' has been ordered and will be available very soon.

5. **Borth-y-Gest School.** The Head, **Mrs Miller**, has retired and new Head, **Rhys Williams**, takes over in September. We wish them both well and look forward to the continued healthy success of Ysgol Borth-y-Gest.

6. **Porthmadog Maritime Museum.** This has been closed for far too long. Richard Walwyn would like to build a team of volunteers to take turns in manning the museum if we can get it re-opened. Contact Richard on arwalwyn@aol.com if you are interested.

7. **Volunteer Week - 26th-30th September** We have not had many 'volunteer days' this summer, but there are things to do! We plan to hold a number of working events in the last week of September, opening up some footpaths, clearing vegetation etc. I will be sending out more information on this in a week or so.

Finally....don't forget that, thanks to **Cathy Woodhead**, we now have our own website: www.friendsofborthygest.com where you can find details of upcoming events, photographs and other village news.

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