

Borth-y-Gest Update August 2013

Dear All

Well, we are coming to the end of what I think has been a 'proper' summer, with lots of good weather. There are still lots of visitors in Borth-y-Gest and many of them have been enjoying the 'new' paths on Pen-y-Banc. It's good to hear some of their comments – one person that I met on the paths as we cleared some bracken last week said: "I've been coming here for 40 years and didn't know this area existed – what a great job the Friends do!"

There are some signs of autumn...the ospreys seem to have departed on their long journey to Africa, and the first wigeon, about twenty of them, have arrived from Russia – in a few weeks there will be nearly a thousand in the estuary, some of them in Borth-y-Gest bay.

Here's a view of the village and the bay, taken from a boat



Past events

History Walk

Richard Walwyn led a very interesting History Walk around Ynys [Talsarnau] in July. It was a privilege to have Bob Hughes, son of Richard Hughes, open Ynys church for us and explain the history, and we all enjoyed spectacular views across the estuary to Borth-y-Gest, looking at the route that the ferrymen would have followed in the days before The Cob.

Wild flower and bird lists

The lists of wild flowers observed on our Spring Flower Walk are now on our website (www.friendsofborthygest.com) as are the lists of birds seen in Greenacres and Morfa Bychan Nature Reserves in June.

Forthcoming events:

The Pilot Gig Race

This year the Borth y Gest Pilot Race will be taking place in late morning on **Sunday 22nd September** when Madog Rowing Club will be running their third annual race. The gig teams will launch their gigs (with four rowers, one cox and a pilot) at the slipway in Porthmadog and the actual race will start at 11.00 am from the beach near the carpark in Borth-y-Gest. The race will end in Borth y Gest after the rowers follow a course out to sea past Ynys Cyngar and back. This is a great event to watch and you are encouraged to wear traditional costumes from the second half of the 1800s. If you would like to help with the event, for example as a beach marshall, please contact Maxine Jenkins or David Grant (maxinejenkins2000@yahoo.co.uk, davidgrant55@hotmail.co.uk).

The Friends of Borth-y-Gest have again provided commemorative mugs for the winning crew.

Open Gardens Cheque Presentation Evening

The final accounts of the Open Gardens Day and Jazz Evening in May show that we made £1,900 profit which will be split equally between The Air Ambulance and Aberglaslyn Mountain Rescue team. We plan to make our Open Meeting in October (date yet to be fixed) into a cheque presentation evening, with a short talk from each organisation about the work that they do for the people and visitors to north Wales. Many thanks to all who worked and contributed to make the day such a success.

In general:

The website (www.friendsofborthygest.com)

The website is beginning to look a bit overcrowded so sometime soon we will be doing some tidying up. It holds a lot of information about events, copies of Updates, and has some great pictures, so please bear with the clutter for a while.

Marine Watch

Thefts

We had a recent incident in Borth-y-Gest – the theft of an outboard engine and a quantity of fuel. There have been other thefts up and down the coast, so please keep your eyes open for suspicious behaviour in and around boats.

Jet Skis

Our Marine Watch PCSO, Paul Duggan, has been holding a number of Information sessions for jet ski users, covering safe handling, permitted areas and other pertinent info. They have been well received and Paul will be holding more sessions next season, I think. Porthmadog Harbourmaster, David O'Neil, has also been talking to jet ski users – particularly the ones who ignore the estuary speed limits! As the accident in Samsons Bay last week [which made the national news] sadly demonstrated, these machines need to be handled carefully and safely, and with respect for other users of the coast.

Stolen boats

Paul Duggan wrote to me: *I have now listed the 2 outboards and the boat stolen from our area over the last couple of weeks on stolenboats.org a website that list the national thefts, the idea being that should the property turn up for sale anywhere else in the country, then not only the local police will know about them but the marine community in general, should any one wish to view the site, here is the address.*

www.stolenboats.org.uk

If you need to contact Paul, here are his details:

SCCH / PCSO 2945 Paul Duggan, Swyddog Cyswllt Troseddau Morol /
Marine Crime Liaison Officer, Gorsaf Heddlu / Police Station, Ffordd
Abermaw, Dolgellau, Gwynedd, LL40 2YT Ffôn / Telephone: 101 Symudol /
Mobile: 07896 170968 paul.duggan@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

That's all for now. Don't forget our website and the Facebook group "The Friends of Borth-y-Gest" where we post photos and details of events. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

David Medcalf

Secretary – the Friends of Borth-y-Gest

Tel: 01766 512115

eMail: medcalf959@btinternet.com