

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

Hello from a frosty Borth-y-Gest, looking fantastic under crystal clear blue skies. The trees have now lost most of their leaves and adopted their stark grey winter characters – an interesting change from the lush greens of summer – and today the mountains looked near enough to touch. Here's a photo I took earlier today:



*The Moelwynion and Cnicht, from the slopes of Moel Ddu above Prenteg*

There are, as ever, a few things to tell you about:

### **Borth-y-Gest Carol Service – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

This year's Carol evening with the children of Ysgol Borth-y-Gest will be at 6.30pm on Thursday, meeting by the Christmas Tree on the village Car Park, then moving to St. Cyngar's Church. It will be followed by light refreshments in St. Cyngar's Church Room.

### *On a similar theme:*

There is a **Christmas Tree Festival in St. John's Church, Porthmadog**, 10am to 4pm, from Monday 10th to Sunday 16th December. There are a host of trees, donated and decorated by different organisations. The highlight of the week will be a Carol Service at 6pm on Wednesday 12th December. There will be light refreshments available each day.

### **Morfa Bychan Road**

If you travel from Porthmadog to Morfa Bychan, you will have noticed [I hope!] that the long awaited 40mph speed restriction is now in place all the way. This, combined with the new cycle/footpath, has greatly improved the safety of this very busy road. Well done to Gwynedd Council and, in particular, our Councillor Selwyn Griffiths whose tireless campaigning has brought these things about.

### **Dog Control Orders – Borth-y-Gest consultation extended**

The public consultation by Gwynedd Council that I mentioned in the November update has now ended and a number of decisions reflecting this have been made around the county. However, one decision that has not yet been made is whether or not to make Borth-y-Gest beach a dog exclusion zone. The consultation over this has been extended. See: [www.gwynedd.gov.uk/dogcontrolorders](http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/dogcontrolorders) where you will find a simple questionnaire. You can also email written comments to: [dogcontrol@gwynedd.gov.uk](mailto:dogcontrol@gwynedd.gov.uk)

Almost everybody who has contacted me thinks this is a bad idea as they see the beach as a good place for residents and visitors and their dogs, with few resulting problems. Whatever you think, do let the Council know via the links above.

### **November's Open Meeting**

At the Open Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November, we learned about Neighbourhood Watch (Online Watch Link) and Marine Watch. Many thanks to PCSO Paul Duggan and to Suzanne Millard for taking the time to come and talk to us. We have now gained a few more Neighbourhood Watch people, but more are needed for effective cover in the village. Contact **Gill Bywater (01766 515358)** to find out more.

### **The Wales Coastal Path**

The section of the Wales Coastal Path which runs from St Cyngar's Church towards the Powder House is now officially the busiest section of public footpath in Gwynedd (and, I suspect, in Wales). There is a hidden automatic counter along the path, managed by Friends' Committee member Dion Jones as part of his work for Gwynedd Council.

In the 13 months to the end of October there were over 123,000 people passing the counter – some of them going and returning, of course. That's about double the number on the second busiest section (near Caernarfon, I think). It's great that so many people enjoy the coast at Borth-y-Gest and, given the high numbers, we get very few problems with litter etc.

### **Tree Protection Orders**

Gwynedd Council has been consulting about confirming some temporary Tree Protection Orders [TPOs] around the village, imposed after a planning application sought permission to fell some trees behind Marine Terrace. The Friends and a number of individuals have asked for these TPOs to be confirmed, as the trees are an integral part of the charm of Borth-y-Gest and need protecting – see below: There is a current application to fell trees, within the temporary TPO area, behind Tan y Foel. Details should be on a lamppost near the property, but seem to have been removed, so here is the reference number should you wish to take a look on the Council website: C12/1455/44/CC

### **Future Plans**

A small group has already started planning the Open Gardens Day for Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 [to be confirmed]; another group is looking into the practicalities of holding a monthly Film Night in the winter months; we plan to hold a tree planting day in Parc-y-Borth plantation and a Beach Clean at Black Rock sands – these events probably in late January/February, depending on the weather. In the Spring &

Summer we hope to repeat some of the interesting local walks that have been successful in the last couple of years.

**As ever.....**

All of our events, plus photographs, can be found on our website at [www.friendsofborthygest.com](http://www.friendsofborthygest.com)

And events are also on the Village Noticeboard.

Cathy and I wish you all, and your families, a Very Happy Christmas and a healthy and fulfilling New Year!

**David Medcalf**

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