

BORTH-Y-GEST UPDATE

January 2012

Dear Members/Annwyl Aelodau

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda/Happy New Year from Borth-y-Gest where it really feels like winter today. It's clear, crisp and there's a cold easterly wind. All the surrounding hills are plastered with snow, looking fantastic.

As usual, there are some things to remind and update you about:

1. Porthmadog Maritime Museum A number of Friends have expressed an interest in this. It's top of the list here because there is a meeting tomorrow night, Wed 1st Feb, in the Yacht Club at 8pm to discuss its future.

2. St Cyngar's 100 year Celebrations Also coming up soon – on Saturday 4th Feb – a Concert in St Cyngar's as part of their 100 year Anniversary Celebrations. The concert features the William Matthias Chamber Choir, performing Fauré's Requiem. It's at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Carol Cooper – tel: 01766 513269. There will be other events celebrating this anniversary throughout the year.

3. Speed Bumps As mentioned in my last update, some local residents felt that the speed bumps should be removed – this is not the view of the Friends Committee or the majority of people who have spoken to me about it. At a meeting between Gwynedd Council and residents, the pros and cons were discussed and, I believe, it is unlikely that any changes will be made.

4. Pilot Boat race 2012 I have heard from the Rowing Club that the event will be repeated on Saturday 25th August [Bank Holiday Weekend]. I don't have any details yet, but I expect that the Friends will help to make this a Village Event.

5. Open Gardens Day – June 24th There will be an Open Gardens Day on Sunday June 24th. The Committee are expecting around 20 local gardens to be open to the public – many people have already volunteered to take part, but the Committee would like to add a few more. Contact Gill Bywater for details, on 01766 515358. I am asked to point out that this will be a celebration of local gardens, not a horticultural competition [just as well, as Cathy and I have volunteered with our 'wildlife garden'].

There will be a small charge giving access to all the gardens taking part. Proceeds will be distributed between the Air Ambulance and St Cyngar's Church Hall refurbishment project.

6. The Annual General Meeting This will be on Thursday 17th May at 7pm in Bethel Chapel. Do come along to hear first hand about what we've been doing, give your suggestions to the Committee and perhaps volunteer as a Committee member?

After the business, we will have a speaker: Mr Peter Williams, Operations Manager of the Criccieth Lifeboat. Borth-y-Gest is now of significant importance to the RNLI as we are the main launching area for their new shallow draft lifeboat. In late December, both the Criccieth lifeboats were in Borth-y-Gest after a sailing dinghy got into difficulties in strong.

7. Borth-y-Gest Car Park A number of residents have been concerned about the use of the car park overnight by camper vans which it has not been possible to legislate against. There has been a meeting with Council representatives and it seems that the legal status of the car park area can be changed which will allow some restrictions to be put in place. This change is in hand with the Council.

8. "Contact The Elderly" I have been asked to publicise this organisation who are setting up groups for isolated elderly people. A number of Friends are already involved, but they need more volunteer drivers and hosts for meetings. Find out more from their website: www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk or from the local organiser, Jane Carey-Evans, on 01766 522136

9. Environmental project We had a very successful day removing buddleia and opening up new paths in the area above the school. Do go and take a look and see where the paths lead! The contractor that we are using will be back in Borth this week, doing more work on clearing paths and, I hope, finally erecting the benches that we have commissioned in the viewpoints. I will be organising some 'volunteer days' for clearing some heathland, planting some trees we

have been given by the Woodland Trust and other projects for which many hands will make light work. Watch this space!

That's it for now. Enjoy the beautiful, if cold, weather!

Don't forget that news of events, photos and contact details can all be found on our website:
www.friendsofborthygest.com

Cofion gorau/Best regards

David Medcalf

Ysgrifennydd/Secretary

Cyfeillion Borth y Gest - yn gofalu ac yn gwella ein pentref

The Friends of Borth y Gest - looking after and improving our village