

BORTH-Y-GEST UPDATE

July 2011

Hello from Borth-y-Gest

As I write, the sun is out....the sky is clear blue and the water is sparkling in the bay. It's almost like April again!

There are a few things to update you with, starting with:

1. The Village Barbecue on June 25th

This was an amazing success, after unpromising weather. Thankfully it stopped raining by mid-afternoon and stayed dry until after we packed up! Over 120 people came along and it was great to see the mingling of friends around the barbecues and the music 'pavilion'. Gary Bywater and Jochen Eisentraut entertained us with wonderful jazz which really set the mood, and the Community Singers lived up to their name by involving us all in their repertoire of 'folky' type songs. Thank you to all of them. Thanks also to Robin Jones who provided a Borth-y-Gest reared lamb for the barbecue. We gave this away as samples in free 'lamb buns' which were very popular – we soon 'sold out'! We also have a debt of gratitude to Criccieth Starlight Players for the loan of a wonderful gazebo, to the RNLI for the loan of bunting, and to Moorings Restaurant, Seaview Tea Room, Norman Spragg and Purple Moose for providing raffle prizes. And, finally, thanks to all those who helped – all the effort was well worthwhile!

2. Bird walks in Borth-y-Gest Woods

Sheila Roberts has arranged for Geraint Williams, who runs the Glaslyn Osprey site for the RSPB, to lead a couple of 'bird walks' in the Woods, which is fantastic! By the nature of the events, numbers are strictly limited so will be allocated on a 'first come' basis. The dates are:

Tues July 19th – in the afternoon at 4pm and Wed July 27th – in the evening at 7.30pm

Please email Sheila at sheila.byg@virgin.net if you would like to join. Sheila will confirm times and meeting places directly with you.

3. The Village Website!!

Huge thanks are due to Cathy Woodhead who has created a website for the Friends. It is now 'live' and you can find it at www.friendsofborthygest.com We intend to keep it up to date with news of events and interesting items. If I can master the technology, I'll add some photos of the recent barbecue - there are already some charming photos of the village area on the site. If you have a boat, the site has tide tables for the rest of the year which may be useful.

So...take a look and add it to your 'bookmarks' so that you don't have to type it in each time You can probably click this link to make your first visit:

www.friendsofborthygest.com

4. The Inaugural "Pilot Boat Race" - Saturday 6th August, 1.30pm

Borth-y-Gest used to be the home of many of the pilots who would guide visiting merchant ships along the ever changing channels of Traeth Bach – hence the "Pilot Houses" at the end

of the Car park area. There was always competition to get the next 'contract' by being first to get to the visiting ships by rowing out.

As part of the **Cob 200 Celebration**, Porthmadog Rowing Club and the Friends of Borth-y-Gest are organising a Pilot Boat Race starting from Borth-y-Gest beach. A number of the Welsh coast rowing clubs are participating and at least twelve 'gigs' are expected to be competing to row a 'pilot' out to a ship moored near the Powder House. The gigs will launch in Porthmadog at around 1pm, and come to B-y-G to race from the beach at around 1.30pm.

After the racing there will be a procession of the gigs back up the estuary to Porthmadog Harbour where there will be a celebration party open to all. We hope that this race will become an annual event. Make a note in your diary - it should be quite a sight!

5. Wildlife Trust visit

A week or so ago I was very pleased to take Kate Gibbs, Chairman of North Wales Wildlife Trust, on a tour of Borth-y-Gest, having told her about the amazing environment that we have here with two Local Nature Reserves in the village,. She was most impressed by the area and the work that we've already done in clearing areas and opening footpaths and viewing areas and has promised support and guidance whenever we need it from the experts in the NWWT. It was very fitting that, during the walk, we came across an adder basking in a small clearing in the coastal heathland – a very positive sign of the health and biodiversity of the area. At Kate's suggestion, I have been helping to update the British Trust for Ornithology "Bird Atlas" for the area – an exercise which only takes place every twenty years. If you see any 'unusual' birds in your garden, or the woods, let me know. A bird which I'm sure is here, but I haven't seen for ages, is the thrush [Song or Mistle] - perhaps you have? I hope that our Bird Walks in the next couple of weeks will also add to the records.

6. The "Little History of Borth-y-Gest" book

The first edition of this excellent book by our Chairman, Richard Walwyn, has almost sold out! We are in the process of making some minor revisions and the Second edition will soon be available. You can find it in Borth-y-Gest shop, Browsers' Bookshop and other local shops, or direct through the village website [see above!].

7. Borth-y-Gest History Society?

Richard Walwyn is interested in setting up a group to research and share information on the history of the area and the people – from ancient to modern. If you would like to join, or pass on information or data, please contact Richard via arwalwyn@aol.com

8. Other events

We hope to hold:

8.1 A "**Meet the Sheep**" evening walk when Robin Jones will introduce the rare breed sheep [Hebrideans and Welsh Mountain] which are grazing the fields adjacent to Borth Woods.

8.2 A repeat of the **Nature Walk**

8.3 A repeat of the **History Walk**

I don't have dates for these yet, so will send a separate email when they are set. They will also be on the website.

9. Next Committee meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 26th July. If you have any suggestions for events or items that the Committee should discuss, please let me know.

Cofion gorau/best regards

David Medcalf

Ysgrifennydd/Secretary

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