

Borth-y-Gest Update June 2013

Dear Friends

Hello from Borth-y-Gest where we are basking in something of a heat wave. I heard that Porthmadog is, today, the hottest place in the UK and it certainly feels like it!

Those of you who are regular readers of the Cambrian News will be aware that the Friends get lots of positive coverage for the events that we hold. It was something of a shock, three weeks ago, to find ourselves on the front page of the Cambrian in a less than good way – accused by Porthmadog Town Council of running a campaign to dilute the Welsh language! This came after we wrote to the Council politely asking for a copy of their Minutes in English, as they are only available in Welsh. This request was refused and I was embarrassed to see the subsequent article in the paper! I'm sure you all know that we go to great lengths to publish our notices and other documents in both Welsh and English so I don't feel that the accusation is warranted – we are just interested in what our local Council does for Borth-y-Gest. Thankfully normal coverage was resumed last week when we had three very positive articles in the Cambrian for our litter picks and our Open Gardens Day.

As ever, there are a few things to tell you about:

1. Annual General Meeting – 15th May

The AGM was held on 15th May. It was well attended, with over 30 people there. Sadly, **Richard Walwyn** stepped down as Chairman as he has family demands on his time. He has been an excellent and supportive Chairman and will be sadly missed in this role. I am pleased that Richard is staying on the Committee. Unfortunately we do not yet have a new Chairman and would appreciate somebody stepping in to Richard's place – do contact him on 513288 if you are concerned about what is involved. Your Secretary [me] and Treasurer [**Robert Idris Jones**] were re-elected. We were delighted to welcome some new members of the Committee: **Maureen Crane, Linda Woollatt and Tom Brooks**. A full list of members can be found on the Noticeboard and the website.

After the formal business, we had an informative talk from Geoff Gibbs about the work of the North Wales Wildlife Trust. The Friends are now Affiliate Members of the NWWT which will be very helpful as we plan work in our Local Nature Reserves.

2. Village Clean Up – 16th May

We held a Village Clean Up on Thursday 16th May, ahead of the Open Gardens Day on 19th May. This was linked to a national "Clean Coast Week" and we had support from Keep Wales Tidy and Gwynedd Council Tidy Towns Department – and also from McDonalds [see below]! Over a dozen volunteers turned out to do a litter pick through the village and along Garth Road and the lower 'boatyard' road. Only about a dozen bags of rubbish were collected, mostly from the areas between Borth & Porthmadog, which was a testament to the efforts of the people who regularly pick up litter when they walk their dogs or just take a stroll along the village paths. Volunteers also cleared the weeds from the areas around the bus shelter and painted one of the flower boats, ensuring that the village looked at its very best.



Boat painting ready for the Open Gardens

And McDonalds? They are supporting Keep Wales Tidy and, as a reward for our efforts in Clean Coast Week, have sent me a bunch of vouchers for “healthy snacks and drinks” to be redeemed “at your local branch”! If anybody lives near a McDonalds, or knows young people who do, let me know and I’ll pass them on.



Village clean up team

3. The Open Gardens Day – 19th May

Sunday 19th May was a day of wonderful weather, to the relief of the eleven sets of owners who were opening their gardens. And the good weather brought the crowds, and the money! From the entrance tickets, sales of plants, books and refreshments, plus a wonderful Jazz in the Garden evening, the village raised an astonishing £2,000 for our two chosen Charities: The Air Ambulance and Aberglaslyn Mountain Rescue. Well done to everybody who contributed to making this wonderful day a success, and to the brave gardeners who opened their efforts to scrutiny by the public!



Visitors enjoying one of the gardens

4. Gwynedd Tidy Towns Department

Some members of the Committee met with **Gwen Alun**, Gwynedd Council's Tidy Towns Officer, last week, to discuss litter bins, dog waste problems and other items. It was a very useful meeting which, hopefully, will result in some differences to help others to keep Borth-y-Gest even tidier than it usually is. By coincidence there had been a large amount of debris, including a Tesco trolley, left from a 'party' in Parc-y-Borth fields. The rubbish had been gathered together by a couple of volunteers and Gwen arranged for the Council to come and clear the site the following day. Great work by all concerned!

Forthcoming Events:

1. Wild Flower Walk – Tuesday June 18th

I'm delighted to tell you that **Kevin Hall** has agreed to lead a Wild Flower Walk around the village and the Local Nature Reserves on Tuesday 18th June, meeting at the car park noticeboard at 6.30pm. The walk will last about an hour and a half. This will be the third walk that Kevin has led for us and I can tell you that he is a fount of knowledge on the local flora [and what he doesn't know is usually found in the small encyclopaedia that he carries around!]. The walks are entertaining and informative and will add to your enjoyment of your own walks around the village.

2. History Walk - July 20th

Richard Walwyn [author of A Little History of Borth-y-Gest] has kindly offered to lead another History Walk in the area. This is planned to be near Ynys, near Talsarnau on the other side of the estuary, which had close links with Borth-y-Gest in the days before The Cob. Put the date on your calendar - details to be confirmed in the next Update.



Bluebells in Parc-y-Borth

Finally, did you know.....that we have FIVE Nature Reserves within walking distance of Borth-y-Gest? They are our own two Local Nature Reserves, **Parc-y-Borth** and **Pen-y-Banc**, and three that are managed by **North Wales Wildlife Trust:**

Greenacres Reserve, adjacent to Greenacres Holiday Park at the far end of Black Rock Sands. This is wetland and heathland. The ‘bird survey’ two weeks ago recorded over 55 species here!

Morfa Bychan Reserve, behind Porthmadog Golf Club Greenkeepers’ workshops. This is duneland and heathland and had over 40 species in the bird survey two weeks ago.

Traeth Glaslyn, at the far end of The Cob. This is marshland/wetland. There is a bird hide very near the old Toll House and the reserve runs from there along the Glaslyn towards the new bypass. It’s a great place to see migrant waders in winter. More details of all these and more on: <http://www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/>

There is also, a little further away, **Gwaith Powdwr Reserve** on the site of the old Cookes’ Works at Penrhyndeudraeth, which has woodland and heathland. It is a nesting area for the elusive Nightjar. And, of course, the very successful **Osprey site** near Prenteg!

As ever, you can find details of all events, plus photos, on our website:

www.friendsofborthygest.com

If you use Facebook, we now have a Facebook page – search for Friends of Borth-y-Gest and “Like” us!

That’s all for now. Enjoy the summer!

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