

# BORTH-Y-GEST UPDATE

**March 2012**

## **Hello from Borth-y-Gest**

It's been a splendid Spring day today, with a high spring tide mid-morning – the village looked stunning!

First, a call to arms – for next **Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> March at 10am**. We need some volunteers to help with planting trees and transplanting snowdrops! Here are some details:

### **Tree planting:**

There are two parts to this:

1. We will be planting some native fruit trees, [apples, plums & pears], along the coastal path between St Cyngar's Church and the new paths up to the new view point [see below]. The new trees are already quite well grown and will need holes digging out to accommodate their roots.
2. We are planting the mixed woodland trees [rowan, birch, hazel, hawthorn etc] given to us by the Woodland Trust, in the plantation behind Borth Woods [Parc-y-Borth]. These are very small trees and will not need a hole digging out, just a spade inserting to create a slot to drop the tree root into.

### **Transplanting snowdrops**

There has been some significant clearing work in the buffer land [that's the buffer between the two Nature Reserves] which is just off Mersey Street, behind Glyn Terrace. This work has opened up the thicket that was engulfing the large apple tree and choking some rowan trees. It has also given a large area of snowdrops a chance to breath and multiply. We want to rake up some of the twigs lying on the ground after the major clearance work, to make new path lines to encourage people to walk there, and we also want to move some of the snowdrop clumps to other parts of the area, under the guidance of Haydn Hughes our Countryside Warden. With a bit of care now, we should get a wonderful display of snowdrops across this whole area in future years.

### **Volunteers**

We are being assisted by the Grwp Gwyrdd [The Green Group] from Ysgol Borth-y-Gest as part of their 'environmental education' which is great! I also hope to have some environmental students from Coleg Harlech and/or some volunteers from the Snowdonia Society to help with the work. But we need as many **Friends** as can be available too, please, along with their spades and/or rakes to assist with the planting/clearing work.

**We will be meeting at the Car Park, near the Notice Board, at just after 10am on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March.**

## **Now, some updates:**

### **1. New Paths**

The Friends, with a bit of help from our contractors, have created some very pleasant new footpaths in the land/woods between the coastal path and the area at the top of Mersey Street. There are some temporary bi-lingual signs indicating the path lines to help get them established – this seems to be working well. We will soon have some nice rustic posts, quite small, indicating the junctions and view points. We will also have some benches to allow people to stop and appreciate the amazing views of the estuary and Rhinogydd mountains.

### **2. New benches**

Our contractors have installed some new benches at the top of the fields behind Borth Woods. The benches are angled to give either a view over the sea to Criccieth and Pen Llŷn [The Llŷn Peninsula] or inland looking along the Glaslyn valley with good views of Moel-y-Gest, Moel Ddu, Moel Hebog and the Moelwynion. The Hebridean and Manx sheep that are in the fields have just started lambing, so there are some very cute lambs as well as the great views to be appreciated when you are up there.

The contractors have also placed a bench inside Borth Woods, near the top gate, giving a wonderful view down through the woods. The birdlife is amazing – in just a few minutes yesterday, whilst sat on the new bench, I saw a Nuthatch, a couple of Tree Creepers and a pair of Great Spotted Woodpeckers who were obviously ‘courting’!

### **3. The Flower Baskets/Boats**

It’s definitely spring – our hanging baskets have gone away to be filled with plants and members of the Committee are planning the display to go in the boats. An additional ‘flower feature’ this year will be flower tubs outside the toilets in an effort to brighten up their rather drab exterior. On that topic, I notice that the toilet block is currently being reroofed, so they are temporarily out of service, but it’s a good sign that the Council is investing in maintenance – there are too many places in Gwynedd where public toilets have been permanently closed.

If you would like to help with the weekly flower watering rota, please contact **Sheila Roberts on 01766 512735**.

### **4. Committee meeting/AGM**

There is a Committee meeting next week, on **Wed 21<sup>st</sup> March**. Let me know of anything you would like the Committee to consider – in particular whether we should have a special celebration for the Queen’s Jubilee and if so, what?

The Annual General Meeting is on Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup>, in Bethel Chapel in Mersey Street. Everybody is welcome and we will have a speaker from the RNLI after the business. As ever, we need Committee members – many hands make light work and all that – so let me know if you’d like to be more involved.

## 5. The Open Gardens Day on Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup>

Gill Bywater and her sub-committee are well on with plans for this. I think they are still looking for a few more 'gardens' to take part. This is not a competition or a challenge to show off a garden of RHS standard! The object is for the day to be interesting, social and to raise some money for the Air Ambulance and St Cyngar's Church Hall refurbishment. So let **Gill Bywater know, on 01766 515358**, if you'd like to join in with your garden or lend a hand on the day. Alternatively, come along on the 24<sup>th</sup> June and enjoy the chance to visit gardens all over Borth-y-Gest.

## 6. The Village Barbecue

We hope to hold this again, but I don't have a date yet – this will be decided at next week's Committee meeting. We don't want to clash with the Open Gardens Day, and have to work around high tides!

## 7. Porthmadog Maritime Museum

Plans are well under way to reopen this at Easter. If you'd like to be involved as a volunteer, contact **Dr John Jones-Morris on 01766 512153**. There are meetings about the Museum and local maritime history on the first Wed of each month at Madoc Yacht Club.

## 8. Book Launch!

Many of you will know **Cathy Woodhead** and that she published the Friends' very successful book "A Little History of Borth-y-Gest" written by our Chairman Richard Walwyn. Perhaps you won't be aware that Cathy herself has written a book, called "The Loss of the Criccieth Castle" – the true story of an epic voyage and disaster of a locally owned sailing ship in the South Atlantic in 1912. This is being launched on June 17<sup>th</sup> as part of Criccieth Festival. More details on [www.delfrynpublications.co.uk](http://www.delfrynpublications.co.uk)

Finally, **we need volunteers next Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> March for the Tree Planting** and remember that all our events and other information can be found on the Friends' website at:

[www.friendsofborthygest.com](http://www.friendsofborthygest.com)

Enjoy the Spring!

**David Medcalf**

**Secretary – The Friends of Borth-y-Gest**