

## Borth-y-Gest Update May 2013

Dear Friends

Hello from Borth-y-Gest where Spring is currently proving to be rather cool, windy and wet! That hasn't stopped the blossoming of trees and flowers though. There are spectacular Bluebells in Parc-y-Borth woods, and also a lot of sparkling white Wood Anemones – do take a stroll in the woods to see them.



The Bluebells in the photo are in front of the Bronze Age Hut Circles mentioned in the last Update.

Our local flock of Hebridean sheep now have their lambs and you will probably see them, looking very cute, if you venture to the fields at the top of the hill above Parc-y-Borth.



It's a busy week ahead, so this update is focussed on the events coming up.

### **1. Annual General Meeting - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 7pm at Bethel Chapel on Mersey Street.**

There will be an update on the activities of the last year and then the election of Officers & Committee for 2013/14. There will then be a talk from **Kate Gibbs, Chairman of the North Wales Wildlife Trust, about the activities of the NWWT.** The Friends Committee has agreed for us to become an Affiliate Member of the NWWT which will be very helpful with advice and volunteer work in our two Local Nature Reserves.

We have an urgent need for new members of the Committee as some existing members have retired this year. Please don't be shy about joining us, or afraid that it will be hard work. We meet every two months to share ideas and make plans, so we need a good varied input. I'll be happy to discuss Committee membership by email or phone with anyone interested but unsure.

## **2. Village clean up – Clean Coast week. Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

As noted in the last update, **the week of May 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> is Clean Coast Week in Wales**, organised by Keep Wales Tidy. We are joining in with this by organising a clean up of the coast at Borth-y-Gest, and around the village. This will ensure the village is looking at its best for the Open Gardens Day on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>. So, please help on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May - meet at the Car Park at 10am**. Black bags and litter pickers will be provided.

Thanks to the efforts of regular walkers on the Coastal path and the paths in our Nature Reserves there is not a great deal of rubbish in these areas, but there will be some! However, the approaches to the village on the Porthmadog side, particularly Garth Road and the road behind the boatyards, are often quite unsightly and are overdue for a good clean up, so we will be including these areas in our efforts.

Do join us – **we will meet at 10am and finish by 12 noon**.

## **3. Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 6pm – 10pm**

### **Jazz in the Garden at Bron-y-Garth Lodge [on Garth Road]**

As an opening event for the Open Gardens Day on May 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Jazz evening in the walled garden at Bron-y-Garth Lodge. Tickets are £10 and include a two course meal. Jazz music will be provided by our local 'stars' Garry Bywater, Andy Mackenzie and Greg Robley who are well known on the north Wales music scene. The food is being provided at cost and all profits will go into this year's Open Gardens collection for the Air Ambulance and Aberglaslyn Mountain Rescue Team. Tickets are limited, but there are still some available on a 'first come' basis from **Margaret McCabe** at the 'pink house' on Sea View Terrace [near the shop]. **Tel: 01766 514195**. This will be a very special evening in a great setting [which has covered areas] – don't miss it!

## **4. The Open Gardens Day – Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> 11am until 5pm.**

This was enormously successful last year and promises to be even better this year. Green Entry Stickers and Maps will be available (£5 per adult, children free) at an Information Point near the Flower Boats. There are eleven gardens open – all of them with different features & views.

Alongside the Information Point will be a Book Stand selling second-hand books.

There will be a Plant Stall at the pink house on Sea View Terrace.

The Committee has produced a very nice postcard showing a montage of the gardens in last year's event which will be for sale at the Information Point.

Light refreshments will be available at Morlais, Bron y Garth Lodge and St Cyngar's Church Hall (see map).

All profits will go to **the Air Ambulance and Aberglaslyn Mountain Rescue Team** [last year we raised £1,000!]

Please come along, bring your friends and have a very special day in Borth-y-Gest.

Note: The book and plant stalls will welcome donations of items for sale.

## **Recent Happenings**

### **1. Tree planting**

We had an excellent day in April, planting new trees in Parc-y-Borth plantation. Volunteers from the Friends were joined by the 'green group' from Ysgol Borth-y-Gest and a fun time was had by all on a 'production line' of hole digging, tree planting, protection placing and mulching. Many thanks to the organisations who supported us: the saplings were provided by **The Woodland Trust** and the tree protectors by **Gwynedd Council**. **Purple Moose Brewery** gave us bags of spent hops for the mulch and **Keep Wales Tidy** provided tools and protective gloves.



### **2. Laurel clearing in Parc-y-Borth**

A number of volunteers from the Friends joined Gwynedd Council Countryside Wardens to clear an invasion of non-native laurel bushes in Parc-y-Borth woods. The removal of these trees [which block light and acidify the ground] will enable the regeneration of the oak trees, and provide open areas for smaller plants such as the Bluebells and Wood Anemones. There are already masses of tiny oak saplings appearing!

### **3. Work on the Flower Boats**

Our Flower Boats now have new 'decks' of crushed slate which will provide a good setting for the summer flowers which are being planted. The boats will also get a lick of paint in the near future. Thanks to Gill Bywater and her fellow volunteers for their efforts.



## **Finally.....**

**Did you know that.....**there is a “rock cannon” on the far summit of Moel-y-Gest? Rock cannons were created by quarrymen as a sort of firework for use at times of celebration. They consist of a set of holes drilled into the rock into which gun powder was poured, then were linked by a trail of gunpowder which, when ignited, caused a series of spectacular bangs! There are quite a few in Gwynedd and I believe that most have around 10 holes or fewer. The Moel-y-Gest cannon is a very fine example having 17 holes across several yards of rock. I would love to see it in action! You can find it about 20 yards south [that’s towards Harlech] from the Trig Point.

## **Finally finally....**

These Updates are published only in English. If there is anybody in the ‘audience’ who would be prepared to translate them into Cymraeg, I would be very grateful. We already try to ensure that our notices and leaflets are bi-lingual in accordance with local practice and the recommendations of the Welsh Language Commissioner.

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

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

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

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