

BORTH-Y-GEST UPDATE

September 2011

Dear All

Hello from Borth-y-Gest where it promises to be an exceptional week, with warm temperatures, clear skies and one of the highest tides of the year – 5.8 metres on Thursday. Here are a couple of photos I took at high tide this morning:

As usual, there are a few things to update you with, but I will start with the most important – next week's "Open Meeting".

Wednesday 5th October – 7pm in Bethel Chapel. Open Meeting

We hold three open meetings a year, in Spring, Autumn and Winter. These meetings are an opportunity to hear what's been going on, to ask questions of the committee and to make suggestions for future events or topics for the committee to consider. We also try to have a speaker on a topic of interest to the area.

For next week's meeting, I am delighted that Huw Jenkins has agreed to be our speaker. Many of you will have come across Huw one way or another – he lives near Maentwrog, broadcasts regularly on BBC Wales, radio and television, writes books on Welsh nature and is closely involved with the nature magazine "Natur Cymru".

Huw will give a slide show on "Snowdonia, not just a pretty place", giving an enthusiast's view of many aspects of our wonderful Welsh environment. As an added attraction, we will have two subscriptions for Natur Cymru magazine to raffle at the meeting.

The Open Meeting in December will be our Carol Service - the date is not yet fixed.

On **Friday of this week, 30th September**, there is a **Coffee Morning** in aid of **McMillan Nurses** at **Sea View café** – from 10am until 12noon, I think. They will be glad of your support.

There have been a couple of events since the last update:

The Plantation Tidy Up

About ten Friends met in the Plantation [the new wood on the southwest side of Parc-y-Borth] to complete the job of removing the plastic tree protectors which have served their purpose and have been littering the area. A big thank you to everybody who helped – the wood is now pretty clear and the trees are developing very well, on the whole. It's interesting to see how some small areas have fared much less well than others, due to [I suppose] the ground condition or the exposure to wind and other environmental factors.

The Porthmadog Bypass Walk

Of course this wasn't a Friends event, but I did meet many of you during the day, which was extraordinarily successful! Several thousand people turned out to walk, stroll, run or cycle along the new bypass and, in the process, contributed lots and lots of money to the Rotary Club's fund for 'local causes'. The Bypass is an impressive project, encompassing the building of many bridges, a shift of the main coast railway line and environmental features that minimise the impact of yet another road in the area. Thanks to all who turned up.

We were not able to hold the planned **History Walk** around Ynys, as our Chairman Richard has had to spend a lot of time away from Borth. However, this simply means that we have it to look forward to in the future!

Other news:

We are progressing with plans for spending the Land Fill Trust environmental grant that we were lucky enough to win. In the very near future we should see some new benches appearing on the land beyond the school that we have been clearing, on the top of the hill above Parc-y-Borth [that, some years ago, Showell Styles named as Spyglass Hill], and at the viewpoint up the path behind the school. There will also be a replacement noticeboard – the current one is reaching the end of its life, and there will be a resurrection of a rather splendid slate sign celebrating Borth-y-Gest's success in the Caernarfonshire "Best Kept Village" awards some years ago. This competition no longer takes place – if it did, I'm sure we would continue to be successful, thanks to the efforts of many people in the village.

The grant will also pay for environmental work on our cleared land, around the viewpoints and other places to maintain views, restore heathland and remove invasive species.

We have also been successful in winning an award of native trees from the Woodland Trust and will receive a pack of 120 mixed trees in November. We will use these to fill gaps in the Plantation, where some trees have failed to survive, and to replace non-native trees in other areas of the Local Nature Reserves, all under the guidance of our Countryside Warden, Haydn Hughes.

The "hanging basket" season is coming to a close and the committee are very grateful to Sheila Roberts, Gill Bywater and all those who helped with planting, watering, dead heading etc. through the summer. And also, of course, to Gwynedd Council who did a great job with the flower beds around the bus shelter and on the green. Next year we have hopes to place flower tubs to brighten up the area around the toilets which are rather 'functional' in appearance.

There will not be an update in October as Cathy and I are going to be away for a month, trekking to Kangchenjunga, in Nepal. Perhaps I'll give a slide show at some future Open Meeting, when I run out of more 'local' topics and speakers.

Enjoy the Indian Summer of this week!

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

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