



CYMDEITHAS ABERAERON SOCIETY

Llywydd / President
Cadeirydd / Chair

Cynog Dafis
Kathleen Martin

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2013

The Aberaeron Story

This week marks a milestone in the brief history of the Society. Set up in the wake of the town's bicentenary celebrations, one of our ambitions has been to find a permanent space to display our photographs and reading material. Now, only five years on, with a grant of £46,400 from The Heritage Lottery Fund and match-funding of £6,000 from Ceredigion County Council, we are able to prepare to move into a dedicated space in Aberaeron Town Library. The new grant, awarded through HLF's *Our Heritage* programme, will provide, among other things, funding for:

- touch-screen computers displaying collections of digital stories and photographs in the Town Hall Library;
- training events and workshops on local history research and interpretation for volunteers;
- a community mosaic reflecting the past, present and future of Aberaeron, to be created by local groups, including school children and the elderly;
- an interactive heritage bench to be set up in the Tourist Information Centre;
- a bilingual film about Aberaeron's heritage;
- a display cabinet in the Town Hall foyer with exhibits about Aberaeron.

As in the past, Clare Thomas has been instrumental in obtaining this funding and we are very grateful to her and her team for their sterling efforts. The new project will be jointly managed by Clare Thomas and Sally Hesketh.

Volunteers

We aim to encourage members and other volunteers to become involved in our activities and events and hope that this project will open up heritage opportunities to wider audiences. We shall tell you more about how to get involved in the autumn.

Web-site

Our new web-site is now up and running. Take a look at our digital stories, the virtual town trail, our catalogue of photographs and more. See www.cymdeithasaberaeron.org We also have a Facebook account, maintained by Sally Hesketh.

There is still much to do – in particular many photographs need to be accurately labelled, and more information remains to be added. A group of volunteers will re-convene in the autumn to continue with the work of cataloguing the photos. If you would like to join them you are most welcome. Our contact details appear at the end of the newsletter.

Research group

A research group, led by Gareth Bevan, has begun to meet and members have decided to focus on Aberaeron during the war years (covering the periods of both world wars) in preparation for an exhibition to mark the centenary of the start of World War I in 2014. We have made preliminary visits to the National Library of Wales and the Ceredigion Archives, and are looking at all aspects of life in Aberaeron during the war years, including evacuees, the military camp in Cilfforch, and the Home Guard, as well as more poignant themes. If you have stories, memories, documents or photographs of any aspects of the war years, we would like to hear from you. Better still, come and join us!

Summer strolls

We have arranged three informative '*Summer Strolls*' around Aberaeron during August, the first to take place on Thursday 8 August entitled **Harbouring our Heritage** and led by Lowri Jones. This will be repeated on Thursday 22 August with Gillian Morgan as leader.

In the intervening week, on Thursday 15 August there will be a talk on **The Ins and Outs of the Inns of Aberaeron**, when the sites of many of the old taverns and pubs will be pointed out, of which there were over 30 at one time! Copies of Mair Lloyd Evans' and Mair Harrison's new booklet on the subject will be available for sale at the end of the walk.

All walks will start at 7.00 pm from the Tourist Information Centre on the Quay. They will be on level ground and will last for about an hour.

/PTO

Talks and visits

The programme for our evening talks is now completed and printed cards will be circulated to current members shortly.

In addition to our usual programme of talks, two visits have been arranged this year, one in the autumn to the archaeological site at Neuadd, Llanon on Wednesday 11 September at 7.30 p.m., and the other in the spring to Cardigan Castle at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 9 April. Further details about transport-sharing will be circulated with the membership cards.

The other talks will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings in Tabernacle Vestry, beginning on 24 September with a contribution in Welsh (with simultaneous translation) on the gentry of Cardiganshire: the speaker will be Gerald Morgan, always a popular choice. He will be followed on 15 October by another highly-respected speaker, Michael Freeman, who will talk about aspects of the first World War in Ceredigion. The intriguing title of Richard Ireland's talk on 19 November is *Criminal photography in Wales*. Then after the Christmas break on 14 January Paddy Tranter from Llanerchaeron will come to tell us about the living history production **Y Plas** set in Llanerchaeron, which we will have had an opportunity to watch on S4C in the autumn. On 18 February we shall be privileged to enter the little-known world of Welsh art under the guidance of art historian and broadcaster, Peter Lord, and, to conclude the series, our Chair, Kathleen Martin, will talk about workhouse children on 18 March. So, a full programme, and hopefully, something for everyone!

Dining club

Those of you who replied to our questionnaire

about future activities were unanimous in wanting a dining club, so over the winter, we shall organise two lunches and one dinner in local restaurants. Details will follow but in the meantime please note these dates in your diary: lunch at 12.30 on Thursday 28 November and Tuesday 21 January, dinner at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 13 March. If these events are well-supported, they'll become a regular feature of our programme.

Annual general meeting and dinner

Another important date for your diary is Friday evening 11 October. A short annual general meeting will be followed by a dinner in the Sports Club. Full will be sent with a notice of the AGM. Our aim is to have a good turn-out of members but, if you feel inspired to stand for membership of our committee of directors, so much the better!

Membership renewal

Our membership year runs from April to March. If you have not yet re-joined, we hope that you will do so. Please download a form from our web site or ask for a paper copy. Our membership secretary is David Jones. (tel. 07930 207859, e-mail daijones19@gmail.com). The cost is still £10 for individuals, £15 for couples and families, and free for under-18s. Future messages and newsletters will be sent only to paid-up members.

Good wishes

Our Chair, Kathleen Martin, is currently recovering after surgery and we send her our best wishes for a speedy recovery. In the meantime, Gareth Bevan is Acting Chair.

There are of course other members who are currently unwell and we also send you all our good wishes too.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Address: We now have a different office in Pengarreg:

11, Clos Pengarreg, Aberaeron SA46 0DX

This office is next door to the restaurant and, although it is not manned, if you pop a note through the letter box, we will get back to you. Just leave your address or telephone number.

E-mail: post@cymdeithasaberaeron.org

Web-site: cymdeithasaberaeron.org

Tel: 01545 571559 (answer phone)

Mobile: 07813264568 (Secretary)