

Celebration and Conservation

The Society is pleased to say that we are planning to resume a full series of events in 2022, COVID situation permitting. The first Meeting will be in February 2022 and we have booked St Augustine's Church Hall for the third Thursday of each month from February onwards, we all look forward to seeing you again next year. A schedule of events is attached/enclosed.

Victoria Square Update

Green Flag Community Award



October 14th. Friends of Victoria Square received their first Green Flag Community Award (2021/22), for all the work they've done in the past year to make Victoria Square a welcoming, environmentally conscious place that is safe, clean and secure for its visitors. The criteria for winning such an award also look at how the biodiversity & heritage of the site are featured, as well as how it engages the community around it.

FoVS will display its flag whenever its volunteers are out, maintaining The Square, and certificates are also on display in its noticeboards.

Talk Tour of Victoria Square's Trees.

On 30th October Vaughan Lewis from Ambler Tree Experts visited Victoria Square to deliver a couple of Walk & Talks about its trees. Those who attended gained some interesting knowledge, from tree identification to how to care for them. They also learned about why some of the trees needed special attention, or removal.

Attendees included FoVS members, as well as invited guests from the PCS and Penarth Tree Forum, and a representative from VoG Parks management.

At the same time a small Plant Sale by Donation was held, raising £25 for FoVS.



Post-Halloween Pumpkin After-Party



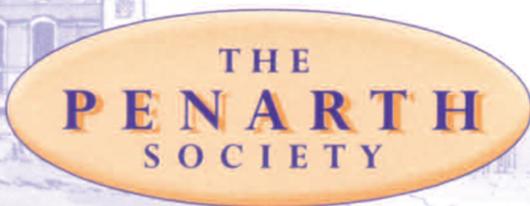
1-6th November. During the first week of November, FoVS held a collection for used Halloween Pumpkins. The idea being that they would feed them to the wildlife of The Square (such as squirrels and birds). The response was overwhelming with an estimate of around 300 pumpkins being dropped off over the course of the week. While as many as possible were carefully distributed around The Square (elevated to in order to stop hedgehogs from eating them), some were broken down for compost.

Several pumpkins were also donated uncarved, so these were re-gifted back to the community for their use.

FoVS will look at how this event was run, and its success, and use these as a basis for improving it again for next year.

Do you care about Penarth? - Join the Civic Society

www.penarthsociety.org.uk - £10 per annum individuals - £15 per annum for couples



PENARTH CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER
2021

Celebration and Conservation

Our Latest Campaign

The Committee has agreed to approach Vale of Glamorgan Council with a view to agreeing to erect a series of information signs throughout the town. At the moment such signs are very few and far between and the ones that are erected have no real information on the history or heritage of Penarth.

We anticipate around 20 to 25 information boards, coupled with a series of Blue Plaques attached to buildings and QR code information points which would enable mobile phone users to scan a code which would then give a link to our website which would have more detailed information about the building or person that is being featured.

This project is in its early stages and we will consult fully with members to let you know what our plans are, this will also give you the opportunity to make your own suggestions and comments.

We would anticipate the project taking some time, we will need to make a bid for National Lottery funding and will look to engage with the community and schools to help to build the information base for it.

We feel that if adopted this project could be very a very valuable source of information for residents and visitors alike.



Penarth Tree Forum

Climate Change is top of many people's agenda at present and trees play a very important in helping to minimise its effects. The Society's Tree Forum continues its important work. Our Tree Volunteers, in close collaboration with the Vale Council, have worked tirelessly over the summer months looking after Penarth's newly planted trees. The cliff top has changed out of all recognition with the trees and the areas of long grass. It is hoped that very few trees have died, which is in large part due to us. If any member is interested in helping, please contact us via the website.

Unfortunately, the Vale council have needed to remove large numbers of trees due to Ash Dieback disease. This is particularly evident on the Railway Path and on Windsor Road. We will be replanting on the Railway Path when all tree removal works have been completed, and will press for replacement trees in Windsor Road. We are hoping to set up a sponsorship scheme for street trees. One of the questions in our tree survey earlier this year asked if people would be prepared to help fund street trees and 81 respondents said yes. A number of councils throughout Britain have set up similar schemes and we are keen to see something similar here. The Vale have planted a number of new street trees in Gladstone Road, Barry and we are hoping for similar schemes here.

Understandably, work on the Vale's Tree Strategy was put on hold during the pandemic but we will continue to push for progress on this. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has announced a Climate Emergency and a Tree Strategy must be a part of that.

Recent Planning Applications.

The committee has made representations on the following..

2021/00977/PNT. Vodafone mast, Clive Place. The application is for the replacement of the current 15m mast and associated pavement boxes with a new 20m mast and 2 larger pavement boxes has been called in by the Vale Council. The Society have objected to this application as it is within the conservation area and will have a significant impact on the streetscape.

Tower Hill. Container in rear of care home property. The application is to extend existing temporary 12 month approval for an outdoor meeting room which had been given due to the pandemic. The property is in the Conservation Area and PCS objects to approval.

Ysgol Y Deri 2. Planning no 2021/00876/RG3

A planning application which is internal to the council has been made to locate a new special school building in Cosmeston.

The application is seen by the society as an expedient opportunity by the council to use land identified for the proposed Upper Cosmeston Farm housing development and to (inappropriately in the society's opinion) utilise Section 106 monies to help fund the proposal. (Section 106 monies are principally levies of building development to mitigate for loss of amenity and development impact).

The society have also raised issues with the suitability of the location, access constraints with the proposed access off Fort Road, that design proposals are inappropriate to setting opposite Cosmeston Medieval Village, the poor community benefits and poor public transport provision.

Upper Cosmeston Farm housing development.

The application for development has been objected to as previously advised. We are monitoring the situation constantly and note that there has been some publicity about increasing the number of social housing units.



New 5G Phone mast
in Elfed Avenue

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