



Cymdeithas Ddinesig
Penarth
Civic Society

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Celebration and Conservation

February 2023



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We hope that you like our new logo, it was designed by Owen and Elinor Evans, the children of Anne Evans, our Chair.

This is our first Newsletter of 2023, we are starting the year by urging Cardiff and Vale Health Board to reconsider their plans to build a Health Centre at Cogan Leisure Centre and to instead consider using the Police Station which is about to be vacated by South Wales Police.

This location is vastly more convenient for everyone in the town and has the additional benefit of a significant number of parking spaces. We will keep you informed of any developments.



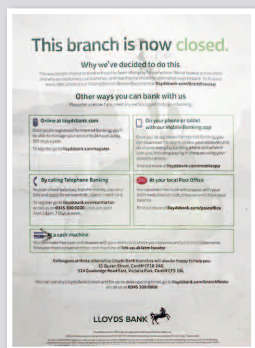
Heritage Campaign

We have been liaising with Vale of Glamorgan Officers to develop our project and identify suitable locations for Information Boards. The plan at the moment is to have 25 boards at various locations around Penarth to inform residents and visitors alike about the history and rich cultural heritage of our town. We will also have a series of Blue Plaques commemorating people who have lived or worked in Penarth

We have been invited to present to Penarth Town Council in February so our councillors can learn about the project and hopefully add their support. The latest design for an Information Board is shown here, it is the fifth generation version as we have tried to improve designs to make them as accessible, informative and attractive as possible.

More detail about the project can be found on our website

<https://www.penarthsociety.org.uk/heritage-trail>



Town Centre

Members will be well aware of the number of empty shops in the town, and that the final bank in Penarth will be closing this year. Last spring a new group called Penarth Living Streets arranged a series of well attended meetings to talk about ways we can all help. We were very fortunate that students from the Masters in Planning Course at Cardiff University undertook research projects in the town and their results were presented to us (and are available for any member who is interested.)

The Society, together with the Penarth Business Group, Penarth Living Streets and GPG (Gwyrddio Penarth Greening), is determined to take this forward. A very successful meeting was held in last Autumn to start to come up with ideas. As an example, it isn't obvious to shoppers in the town centre that the seafront is so close, nor is it obvious to visitors to the seafront that there are nearby shops. And the lack of banks could be addressed by a 'Banking Hub' – this is something that the whole community could campaign for. It is up to all of us – traders, residents and visitors alike to work together to ensure the continued vitality of our town. Three dates have been set for public meetings, so everyone can have their say on what they feel can and should be done, they are all at St Paul's Community Centre, first floor, Arcot Street at 7.00 PM on the 1st March, 29th March, and the third on 26th April, we would strongly encourage all our members to attend - or to send us their comments so we can discuss them.

Do you care about Penarth? - Join the Civic Society

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



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Friends of Victoria Square

Friends of Victoria Square have had a very busy 2022 - During the year volunteers have been engaged in a number of activities including creating; new log piles, planters, wildflower areas, bog and rain gardens, a composter, and maintaining all the additions to the Square from the beginning of the project.

A significant additional facility in the Square during the year was the installation of a large, 2000 litre, water butt. Thanks to Peter, Richard, Jimmy from All Saints, and Howard for enabling this. We hope during 2023, in partnership with Vale Council, to have mains water connected to the Square, in the form of a drinking fountain.

A big thank you to our volunteers on Saturday mornings, and other occasions for creating new features and maintaining the Square.

Making the facilities of the square available to others - We have held a number of BUG HUNTS on the Square and this Summer Victoria School sent 3 groups of 20 pupils with their teacher to enjoy a mini beast hunt. Bug Hunts were aligned to the school curriculum and aimed at enhancing awareness of environment, habitat and biodiversity.

We have also accommodated All Saints Church tots group for a bug hunt, and they have already booked a date for next Spring.

The Sunday School group of All Saints church have a dedicated area on the Square for planting.

We hope to strengthen these connections during 2023 and will look to engage with more schools and groups.

Sustainability & plans for the future - By Spring of 2023 the very last Heritage Lottery and Welsh Government grant funded element will be implemented. Our plans at this stage are to ensure that all of the improvements made to the Square over the last two years can be maintained for the enjoyment of all. We do have a very strong volunteer base and are confident that with their support this can be achieved.

In the immediate future we will not be looking for additional grant funds for capital expenditure. However, we will of course find it necessary to generate funds to sustain the group and Square. With this goal in mind we have already, during 2022, made a start with fund raising. We have held very successful plant and cake sales and have had some very generous donations for two dedicated benches. We will continue to look to raise funds from future events.



Friends of Arcot Triangle (FoAT)

Possibly the smallest public garden on the north side of Penarth, the Arcot triangle was redesigned many years ago by volunteers and opened by HRH Prince Charles in 1982. It had previously been a small patch of road-bound urban wasteland in Penarth.

The Arcot triangle has been transformed again over the last 5 years as it had become an overgrown, dark and uninviting space. Penarth Town Council and VOG carried out tree crown lifting work and created extra planting borders. Then Penarth Gardening Club, started by Tricia Griffiths, and local residents carried out regular gardening sessions and added lots of new donated plants.



In 2018 Penarth made its first entry into the Wales in Bloom competition and was rewarded with first place in the City and Town Centre category and a silver medal. The Arcot Triangle garden was assessed as part of the judging process and helped to achieve this success.

Section 106 monies funded a much needed circular seat around the central stones, that was built and installed by charity Vision 21, and artwork featuring brass plaques, bee hotel posts and bunting that were designed by a local artist to reflect the area's history.

This garden is now a lovely space for local residents and passers-by to enjoy and is a welcome stopping place between the north and south of Penarth. It is often decorated for local children at Halloween and locals congregate to sing carols there at Christmas.

Friends of St Joseph's Park (FoStJP)

The community group launched with an open community meeting at St Paul's Community Centre, May 2022 with over 20 local people attending. Our colleagues John Greatrex and Mike Parsons from the Vale of Glamorgan County Council (VOGC) attended the park September 2022 and agreed to mow the area ready for planting the community orchard.



Sunday 16, October our team of local volunteers from FoStJP guided by John and Mike from the VOGC got to work on planting the first community orchard in the north of Penarth, including 14 fruit trees (apples and pear of different varieties).

Our first tree was planted by Ffion a pupil from yr 6 at Albert Rd, Primary School after she won the logo competition for FoStJP. The trees have all survived the elements and we are looking forward to seeing them come into blossom in the spring.

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