

Cymdeithas Treftadaeth Dyffryn Conwy



Conwy Valley Civic Society

Chair report 2017 – 18

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Since our last AGM in Ro-wen meetings and lectures have been held in Betws-y-Coed, Eglwysbach, Ro-wen, Trefriw, and our committee meetings have been held here in Dolgarrog Community Centre. Our talks have covered many areas, including the work of CPRW, architectural restoration, hydro projects, floods, flooding in the Conwy Valley, and a talk (at short notice) on Colwyn Bay Zoo. We have also been entertained by anecdotes from a consultant engineer, and amazed by the photographic skills of one of our own members. Many thanks to all the speakers, and also to our programme secretary for the last year, Angus Fraser.

On the planning front – since the retirement of Nick Bevan earlier in the year Mike Young has taken over the “portfolio”, including monitoring and reporting on all planning applications in our area to the committee. At the request of some very concerned residents we looked into, and objected to, an application involving an ancient woodland in Eglwysbach, although in the end CCBC Planning committee did approve the application, with conditions. Of more recent interest has been the future and destiny of the Grade II listed Bull Inn, which has gone up for auction (for the second time) today. In my last annual report the proposed “Villas” in the grounds Caerhun Hall were mentioned, and we are still watching the situation, but a year later nothing *appears* to have happened, and we await developments (and no pun at all is intended there). Cadw has (as recently as this June) put in a consultation response to object.

At the last AGM we agreed that the number of Heritage Fund administrators be increased from three to a maximum of four – and I am extremely pleased to welcome Dr. Gwynfor Evans who has accepted our invitation to be our fourth Heritage Fund administrator.

Our Memorial Hall Heritage Fund grants continue until November this year. Ysbyty Ifan Memorial Hall have already claimed (planters for their War Memorial), Ro-wen has put in a claim (Granite sign for the hall), as more recently has Talybont (new oak noticeboard). The only other Memorial Hall yet to claim is Betws-y-coed, and we hope to hear from them before the closing date.

Many Civic – and other – societies are finding their numbers dwindling, and we are

not unaffected by this as so many other worthy interests compete, and, in addition, this year several of our long-standing and valued members have moved away from the area. I always ask current members to be on the look-out for new recruits, and to this end a new leaflet has been produced, which would not have been possible without the translation done by Dilys Phillips, who has also kindly translated some of our other membership forms. My personal thanks to Dilys for undertaking this.

We finished the year on a high note. Our society was honoured with an invitation to send a representative to the Conwy County National Eisteddfod 2019 Proclamation Festival, which was held in the town of Conwy and at Bodlondeb last Saturday, I was delighted that our committee member Buddug Cole represented us in the procession - and the 2019 Eisteddfod is to be held not just in The Conwy Valley but in Llanrwst, the birthplace of our society.

As was the case last year some of your committee members will retire from “active service” this year, and my thanks go to them for all they have done. We do have other members willing to step forward, we will have seats on our committee to fill, and volunteers to help in other ways during the coming year are always welcome... particularly as in 2019 we will be celebrating the Society's 50th birthday, we have not yet decided exactly *how* to celebrate yet – but celebrate we must!

Catherine Mortimer Hart
Chair, 2017-18

10th July 2018