



Carreg Trust Ltd
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Registered Charity Number: 1096691

Friends of Ty Encil Carreg

Spring Newsletter

2006

www.carregtrust.org.uk

THOUGHTS FROM ENLLI

Annwyl Ffrindiau. Dear Friends.

At the end of last year, I was reflecting with you all on the fact that whilst much of our work here on Enlli continues to surprise us as it changes and develops year by year, that the island itself in terms of both its physical and spiritual presence remains remarkably constant. Just as the island endures and rides the winter storms and remains unbattered, what we contribute as visitors and residents, both the positive and the negative, is only for a time; and whatever we might think we contribute, however essential we might consider our efforts to the island's future, the island remains essentially unchanged.

Carreg Trust and its work on Enlli is but one part of this wider God presenced picture. We try to keep in balance the practical requirements of the facilities and services that we offer all of our visitors and guests and the need to be open to the changes we see around us. This to be honest is not easy. but the support and encouragement we get from all of you makes it relevant and possible. We have found that the central purpose is to keep coming back

to the need to be true to the aims and purposes of why we are here as a Trust ... on this precious island ... which is to preserve, maintain and share the unique heritage of Enlli as a place for spiritual rest, healing and prayer. The greatest joy is the sharing, particularly when we realise and understand how every visitor to the island has to discover its particular God provided secrets for themselves ...

Nick Hawkins

'... Small fields that run all one way west to the sea, inviting feet to make new paths to their own discovered places....' (Christine Evans. 'Enlli')

Bardsey Healing 2006 July 15 - 29

At the centre of our programme for 2006 is a two week retreat based upon prayer and worship for healing and wholeness. This is organised jointly by the Order of Jacob's Well, a Healing Mission based in Cwmbran South Wales, and Carreg Trust. We are there to pray for healing for all whose names are given to us and will also be inviting visitors to join our prayers in daily Celtic Healing Services. A flyer with full details comes with this newsletter.

Housekeeper's Letter

Once again the time has come for a working party of volunteers to go to check on how Carreg has withstood the ravages of an Enlli winter, and to do all the usual repairs, gardening & decorating. A small, but ever enthusiastic band, will be crossing on April 22nd - weather permitting.

There will be some new plans & additions to the house. First & foremost we will be installing a Victorian cast-iron fireplace in the sitting room. The one we have acquired is from the 1870's, which is of course is when Bardsey houses were built. At present there is a breezeblocks type construction from the 1970's that everyone is more than happy to see replaced. Of course, the main reason for a fire is heat! We hope we will be able to extend the season, if required, and provide accommodation for longer winter stays. Bags of coal will be available for sale and driftwood kindling can be collected from the beach etc.

Outside we plan to radically prune Carreg garden to create more light & space, and allow long hidden shrubs to emerge again, plant a few vegetables, and acquire some garden seating.

Tŷ Encil Carreg shop will have some new additions. We have a newly commissioned work by Anne Smith: beautiful window hanging decorations depicting the island through a mixture of coloured & painted glass. Each will be produced in person by Anne, and therefore will be unique. Please do read her article in this newsletter. In Carreg Trust we have always sought to promote & sell goods & crafts made on Llŷn & we are delighted that Anne has accepted this commission.

Also on your stay don't forget to support the other shops on the island. They sell gifts, island made crafts & other goods at the Bird Observatory at Cristin & now also at the farm, Ty Pella. At the farm you can also buy seasonable fresh vegetables, and can order bread & cakes.

Janie Hawkins

CARREG TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CAN YOU HELP PLEASE ?

The Carreg Directors, Janie, Liz, Martin and Nick with our friends Ian and Betty Wood, who advise us on maintaining the house and garden, together form the **Management Committee** to run the Retreat House and Hermitage.

We could not do this without the practical help of Patrick and Gwyneth Murphy, island residents, who both look after our visitors when we are not on the island and also look after the house over winter.

The Management Committee always needs more practical help to keep Carreg Trust up and running. This includes :

- Preparation and cleaning of the house on changeover days.
- Welcoming our guests and seeing them on to the boat at Pwllheli or Aberdaron.
- Annual maintenance and preparation working party in early Spring for cleaning, restocking, decorating, gardening, simple DIY
- Outlets for stock of 'Siop Ty Encil Carreg'
- Fund raising
- Publicity and promotion

**Could you help us ?
Would you like to be part of the Management Committee ?**



Evelyn's Letter

The Restoration of Churches is never easy. The Restoration of Listed Grade I buildings is a minefield of bureaucracy, non - communication and long needless delays. However, as one whose husband was a priest in Wales all his ministry and restored or repaired several churches in his care, I have undergone a long learning curve and following the great restoration of a treasure at Pennant Melangell, which houses the oldest Romanesque Shrine in Northern Europe, I feel I have served my apprenticeship in lime plaster, lime mortar and fund raising on a grand scale!

You may say "Why bother with a building?", Well if you live in a remote place or a small community, it will become clear. The treasures we have inherited - where the very walls are soaked with the prayers of centuries and the floors are worn with the weary feet of the pilgrims throughout the ages - remind us that we are a part of the Great Pilgrimage of Christians through time, whose faith, determination and suffering have brought us a rich history on which to stand. It is not by our own efforts that Christ can be found in the silence of holy places. We can but be enablers opening wide the doors in welcome to all who come - tentatively, fearfully or full of curiosity to seek the sense of the presence of God in the silence. In the peace and in the timeless presence of the divine perhaps to tell a

story of pain and suffering or loss, or to reconnect with God after years of separation.

So, the roof and walls are restored, pillars floors and beams are cleaned and repaired. The bitumen and concrete are removed. Prayer continues throughout the devastation. We stand in the present moment to restore not just an old building built in 1137, but to restore a people who have a sense of mission and ministry and a God given gift to offer healing and reconciliation to those who feel alienated and distressed. To welcome in all who come and to listen and to pray, with and for, those who need support.

The church building is the safe place - out of the storms and away from the noise and rush of the world. A place to sit and be and allow God to pray through us so he may touch and sustain and encourage. Those who come bring with them the gifts of themselves and their faith and we receive a blessing and a strengthening which spurs us on as a parish as a community and as a working church. We can then hand on this treasure to generations yet to come, leaving it in a better state than we found it and the time capsule that has been placed in the ancient walls will tell of a community in 2005 who had a vision and of a small group of Christians who walked in the footsteps of the Saints of Pen Llŷn.

Evelyn Davies

**BOOK A ROOM
FOR YOURSELF
IN THE EARLY AND LATE SEASON AT THE
SPECIAL PRICE OF
£78.00 pp.**
Just 4 off season weeks left now in 2006 when
you can book individually or as a couple.
Weeks beginning Saturday :
May 13th
September 23rd
September 30th
October 7th



**BARDSEY ISLAND TRUST
SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE
BARDSEY CHAPEL
RESTORATION APPEAL
Can you help please?**

The Chapel on Enlli has an important place in the hearts and lives of many of us who have visited and know the island. Worship and prayer continues there throughout the year with island residents full-time and seasonal; island Chaplains lead Sunday services and summer visitors find a place for quiet and reflection. Ringing the bell for the call to worship is a vital part of the Chapels history, past present and future. However the Bell Tower structure is unsafe and the Bell will not be able to be rung again without major repairs. Thus the Bardsey Island Trust Spirituality Committee is launching an Appeal in 2005 for funds to complete this work early in 2006. We need to raise £5000 to cover the cost of this work and other essential repairs to both the outside and inside of the Chapel, including refurbishing the organ. For 130 years this Chapel has served the people of the island, residents and visitors alike, we now need to secure it's future. We have raised just over £3000 so far with your generous donations and with fund raising on the island by Gwyneth Murphy, but are still short of our target of £5000. Can you help please.

STOP PRESS: The Bardsey Bell has been completely restored at Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough, Leicestershire and a new headstock and bearings fitted. It will be on display in the island Chapel from the end of April before it is restored to it's position in the Chapel Bell Tower later this summer.

Please send your donations to Nick Hawkins. Chairman. Bardsey Island Trust Spirituality Committee. Cheques made payable to 'Bardsey Chapel Restoration Fund' Revd. Nick Hawkins Bryn Mor Llangwnadl Pwllheli LL53 8NS

BARDSEY ISLAND FERRY SERVICE

Tony Bruce offers a first class service to and from the island for residents, weekly guests and day visitors with his fast and comfortable modern boat the Highlander 2.

Sailings from Pwllheli and Aberdaron.

To enjoy the special magic of the island contact Tony for your visit.

Why not buy day tickets in advance for next summer and give them as a special Christmas present.?

Tel. 08458 1136554. Mobile. 07836 293146

Email. tonyhighlander@fuimus.fsnet.co.uk

Please mention the Carreg Newsletter when you contact Tony.

BOOK THE WHOLE HOUSE

**FOR YOUR GROUP
IN THE MAIN SEASON
FOR £472.00.**

Just 4 weeks left now in 2006.

Weeks beginning Saturday :

June 3rd

June 10th

August 19th

September 23rd

Nick writes 'Tommy Jones (a very well known Liverpool boxer) and his many friends that come as a retreat group have become very special regular guests at Carreg.. and Tommy himself with his colleague Ray have a remarkable story to tell, just a small part of which they share here....

From Alcoholics Anonymous to Bardsey Island. By Tommy J.

After suffering in hopelessness for many years and being convinced that I was doomed to end my days with the insanity of the soul destroying sickness of alcoholism, I finally landed at the gates of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I there began an incredible journey that eventually led me down the pilgrim path of the Llyn Peninsula to Ynys Enlli. The Journey was nothing less than remarkable when I came to realize that I had not known that I was on this pilgrimage for many many years. I have always loved the tranquility of standing at the waters edge, usually a fishing rod in my hand and being able there to breathe in the peacefulness that it brings.

After taking up with other members of the fellowship who had themselves found joy in the sport of sea fishing, we found ourselves being

steadily drawn further and further down the Llyn Peninsula towards Bardsey Island. This gentle progress took us several years, firstly fishing in the river Mersey then the river Dee then Talacre, Rhyl, Colwyn Bay, Caernarfon, Dinas, Clynnog, Trefor, then Nefyn and Edern and finally Bardsey isle.

One day after sitting in the church in Aberdaron after recovering from heart surgery I met Evelyn Davis, there was an instant connection and we began the last leg of our journey across the Bardsey sound to the island of 20.000 saints.

This was to be the beginning of the friendship that developed there with Nick and Janie who welcomed our party and showed us the way.

Since that day 3 years ago ,we have visited the island as many times as is possible and are set to bring many new members of our association whom we are convinced will benefit from the awakening that can result from this pilgrimage and a time of rest and recuperation.

Nick and Janie have become my personal friends and have offered so much support to me in this venture. I hope to work more closely with them this coming year with other

continued overleaf

"Ooh that's gorgeous . . . where did you get it?"

Life -Style Glass from Anne Smith Glass Designs, Rhiw

I create beautiful handmade stained and fused glass in unique designs and colours for interiors and architecture - all made in my studio here in the heart of the beautiful Llyn peninsula in north Wales. My contemporary style and traditional quality is perfect for living, giving and entertaining.

My stained glass is individually designed to customers' requirements - I develop unique designs based on customer's broad themes and colour preferences and use traditional leading techniques to create stunning stained glass windows and panels. I incorporate painting, sandblasting and fusing into my leaded panels to add extra depth and detail.

My fused glass includes awards, tiles, wall panels, tableware, dinnerware and a range of gifts and interior design accessories including hanging decorations, jewellery, soap dishes, keyrings, pet tags, dishes and bowls.

Originally a graphic designer, I began working in glass four years ago, finding an immediate enjoyment in the manipulation of glass. Whilst still pre-occupied with communicating through graphic patterns, shapes and vibrant colours, glass design has given me the new freedom of more three-dimensional expression.

I am interested in simple and functional designs and ideas that compliment today's way of living - hence Life-Style Glass.

My 2006 brochure is a small selection of my favourite designs, plus a showcase for my traditional stained glass work. For more information or to request a copy of my brochure contact me:

Anne Smith Glass Designs

Pen-y-Bwlch, Rhiw, Pwllheli, Gwynedd LL53 8AF

T 01758 780288 **E** anne@annesmithglassdesigns.co.uk

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alcoholics and other groups who are still suffering.

The remarkable connection between fishing in a place like Bardsey and the spiritual life that we have come to know, is best summed up by one of our members who very soon became aware of the link. I asked Ray to write his thoughts down for us and the following are some of his words:-

The Secret of the Llyn. By Ray.

The fisherman has represented, throughout history, the epitome of calm strength; the image of Man at ONE with his environment: at one with the elements, he embodies Ancient Man attuned to the Natural World. Natural forces raging around him he remains focused, steadfast. Whether casting a net from the side of a boat or a line from a dark jetty he recognizes and accepts that his catch depends almost entirely on benevolent forces.

He learns, almost intuitively, from which side to cast his net and when to move on and when a favourite spot is fished out. He moves on, knowing his intuition will not fail him; knowing the benevolent forces will lead him to better fishing grounds. And sometimes his

wanderings lead him to a place he has overlooked, maybe a place he thought he knew, or maybe a place he had simply thought was a waste of time fishing - a new place.

The Llyn Peninsula is just such a place for me and for some other fishermen of my acquaintance. At one time a peaceful and powerful place - and who would know this better than the man who stands at the shoreline, attuned to every natural, and perhaps supernatural, energy that strangely shaped tract of land has to offer.

On the map this whole area, from Holyhead (and aptly named) to Bardsey Island, looks like a treasure map, with the arm (the peninsula itself) of a mighty entity pointing the way. This is the Way of the Pilgrim, along the line of which benevolent forces and benevolent entities move and stand guard. Historically this is the Pathway of many thousand Christian believers and of course of those other religions that predate the Christian epoch. Many passed along this narrow channel of land drawn and driven by these benevolent forces: many priests, saints, monks and what are these if not fishermen.

**Island Discovery - Art and Spirit
12-19th AUGUST 2006. YNYS ENLLI.**

A week on Enlli in which we can explore our potential to record and represent all that this magical island shows and offers through the medium of art. The art course using many different media including painting, drawing and sculpture will be led by Carole Shearman who is resident as an artist on Enlli in the summer of 2006. This will be set in the context of quiet and reflective prayer and worship in the early Christian, Celtic tradition led by the island chaplain, Nick Hawkins. Our exploration of both art and spirit on Enlli will be set in the framework of a week where there will be plenty of opportunity for rest and relaxation, combining times for quiet and personal space with other times for sharing and learning together.

This is course that is open to all but is particularly suitable for art beginners and improvers. The cost includes all tuition, most of the art materials, all catering, accommodation and the ferry :

£280 pp for a single room

£240 pp for couples and those prepared to share a twin room.

Places are limited so please apply early.

For booking and information contact Nick Hawkins.

**BOOK A SHORT STAY
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9-13 September
19-23 August
23-26 August

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Weeks beginning Saturday :

May 13th
May 20th
October 7th
October 14th

Puffin Island

Enlli is not the only island in North Wales associated with hermit monks and in particular the later Austin Canons, the Augustinian order. Just off Penmon Point at the south-east tip of Anglesey and across waters as treacherous as those surrounding Enlli is Ynys Seiriol. Like Enlli the island has several names, of which perhaps the most interesting is the Viking name Priestholm, but it is of course more generally known as Puffin Island. The Welsh named it first as Ynys Lannog or Glannauc, later as Ynys Seiriol. Those who see it from the A55 may have noted the top of a building halfway along the island's length; this is in fact the tower of the monastic church built in the middle of the 12th century and, just as we have on Enlli, this is the only part of the church now surviving other than the foundations of nave and chancel. The tower has like Penmon a rare pyramidal stone roof. There are also foundations of four rectangular cells possibly as early as the 7th century and the walls of an oval enclosure or "cashel" around the church. Giraldus Cambrensis records in 1188 the presence of hermits living by manual labour and serving God. When there was any strife among the brethren, apparently, the island would be visited by a plague of small mice who ate up their food! The only other buildings on the island, on the eastern side, are the ruins of the Liverpool Semaphore Company's telegraph station of 1831. In Beaumaris churchyard by the north door is the grave (1864) of one of the last couples to live on the island, Hugh and Jane Jones. Living there could never have been easy; water supply is very problematic though the extensive elderberry bushes doubtless gave the basis for good communion wine. It is definitely an island for the birds not humans; there isn't as on Enlli the same sense of harmony between human presence and nature: in particular don't go at nesting time when the gulls are very angry indeed at intruders. The bird life is spectacular, including the puffins, who have returned in numbers following the elimination of rats from the island who

had infested it for a century, doubtless the successors of Giraldus's mice!

Access to the island is particularly difficult and puts the frustrations of getting to Enlli into perspective. There is no harbour and the initial ascent of the slope involves a scramble with rope ladders. A very high tide has to be chosen to go straight from the boat onto the beach. Permission must also be obtained from the owner, Sir Richard Williams-Bulkeley. There will, however, be a pilgrim visit to the island this year on Sunday July 23rd leaving Beaumaris Pier at 10am, returning about 2pm. Boat tickets are £8 each and may be reserved with myself, Neil Fairlamb, The Rectory, Beaumaris, LL58 8BN (tel 01248 811402 email: rheithor@aol.com). The Bishop of Bangor, Rt Revd Anthony Crockett, Patron of The Bardsey Trust, will be coming on the pilgrimage and there will be a short pilgrim service in the monastic ruins. In the afternoon of the same day there will be a pilgrim eucharist in St Seiriol's Priory Church, Penmon, led by the Bishop and a warm welcome to all.. Penmon Priory is very well known. As on Puffin Island, there are signs of early hermit presence notably Seiriol's well but the principal monastic site is the Priory Church (open every day) with its nave of c1140 built in the early years of the reign of Owain Gwynedd and the chancel of a century later; by 1414 for certain and possibly earlier it had become a Priory of the Order of St Augustine.

Those inspired by the Enlli pilgrim trail might be interested in a planned walk for later this year (again details from me) to re-enact the east-west/west-east walk undertaken by Seiriol of Penmon and Cybi of Holy Island walking from opposite ends of the island to meet each other in the centre of the island at Ffynnon Clorach near Llanerchymedd. Cybi Felyn, Cybi the Golden, had the sun in his face both ways; Seiriol Wyn, Seiriol the Pale, had his back to the sun: starting from either Penmon or Holyhead we would have a good walk with a meeting of pilgrims in the island's centre.

Neil Fairlamb

CARREG TRUST

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GOING TO THE ISLAND AND NEED TO STOCK UP WITH FOOD ?

Please support our local shop in Aberdaron.

If you are embarking at Porth Meudwy then the SPAR shop in Aberdaron can make up your food orders and box it up ready to go on the boat. Their meat and bread is particularly good. CONTACT JOHN OR SIAN on 01758 760234

www.carregtrust.org.uk

Bookings and more information including details of travel to Bardsey from:

Revd. Nick Hawkins.

Bryn Mor. Llangwnadl. Pwllheli. LL53 8NS.

Tel. 01758 770582

nick.hawkins@btinternet.com



Benlli III

07817 944063

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Please note that all bookings are subject to weather conditions and whilst every effort is made to avoid cancellations at short notice, they may occasionally occur.