



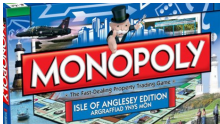
Stick Cottage Newsletter 2012



2011 was a busy year for **Stick Cottage** with lots of visitors, who came variously for sea kayaking, walking, sightseeing, windsurfing, beaches, mountains, cycling, birding or just enjoying the tranquility of Stick Cottage - you name it, we can offer it on Anglesey! Even thick snow on the beach in December 2010. Regular visitors to Stick Cottage will be glad to hear that we have reduced the offending cherry tree to 'shrub' height, so that normal television viewing should now be possible at all times (not just calm weather!). Time will tell whether the cherry minds its drastic haircut. And by special request, we have added a few strategically placed mirrors in the bathroom and bedroom.



We expected to have a flurry of paparazzi around June time, following the Royal couple in their adopted home but other than the occasional rumour that Kate is seen shopping in Menai Bridge Waitrose, all is quiet and Prince William carries on with his air-sea rescue work in relative peace. To commemorate the Royal couple, Monopoly have brought out an Isle of Anglesey version and **Plas Newydd National Trust House** will be holding a one-off Monopoly tournament on 28-29 January.



Oriel Môn, Llangefni is currently displaying (until Feb 29th) an exclusive exhibition portraying the work of Kyffin Williams and Charles F. Tunnicliffe and their unique relationship with Anglesey.

Starting again on January 21st, the **Anglesey Farmers' Market** will be bustling with award winning local produce and takes place in Menai Bridge on the 3rd Saturday of every month.



Anglesey is becoming a popular venue for exciting sporting events: the year kicks off on January 21st, with the **Coastal Trail Series** at Holyhead Breakwater Park, for 10Km, Half Marathon, Marathon and Ultra races with great views of the event to be had at South Stack.

In May, we have the ever popular **Anglesey Sea-Kayak Symposium**, which is an opportunity for sea-kayakers to gather,

attend courses and try out boats (oh, and the Anglesey Stick of course!), while in the evening a series of lectures and entertainment are provided.

The **Anglesey Vintage Rally** (May 12-13) is always popular and has been going for several decades now – vintage, classic and veteran tractors, cars, buses, lorries, motorcycles plus displays, traditional fun fair, crafts and models.



The **Menai Bridge Raft Race** has been running for over 10 years and is a very popular and amusing spectator sport.

As part of the **Olympic Flame**'s 70 day journey around the UK, the Olympic Torch will be coming to Beaumaris and Menai Bridge (May 29th).

The **Isle of Anglesey Walking Festival** is a regular feature with family-friendly guided walks and events, many of which start in Newborough Forest car park. In 2012 (June 2-17), there is a romantic 'speed dating' coastal walk event (!) and a bus tour to sample the Anglesey Produce Day.



The Queen's Diamond Jubilee takes place on an extra bank holiday weekend (June 2-5) with celebrations planned all over the country, including Anglesey.



Menai Strait Regatta (August 6-18th) is one of the largest sailing events in North Wales, playing host to a variety of yacht races and sailing events on the Menai Straits, catering for all classes of sailing from dinghies to cruisers.

Moelfre Lifeboat Day (Aug 18th) is always good fun and very well attended, with lifeboat displays and air-wincing rescue

demonstrations by RAF Search and Rescue, followed by the biggest water fight between the Moelfre lifeboat, its crew and visiting boats. In 2011, they won a Tourism award for best event.



The **Anglesey Show** (August 14th-15th) is a special family event with displays of livestock, equestrian events, crafts, local produce and exhibition pavilions, similar to the Royal Welsh Show.

Holyhead Sailing Festival (Aug 24-27th - to be confirmed) is an impressive combination of racing, parade of sail, sea battle with cannon and rifle fire, shore-side activities including kipper smoking, rope making, coracle building.



In 2011, we saw the first **Sandman Triathlon** at Newborough beach, forest and local roads (Paul and I took time out to cheer the cyclists on at the bottom

of the road) with at least 200 international competitors. In 2012, this will be taking place on September 16th, following the Snowdonia Slateman Triathlon on May 20th.

A couple of weeks later, it was the turn of the inaugural **Commonwealth Trail Championship** in Newborough Forest, an equally successful event, which we hope to see repeated annually.



Also new for 2011 was the **Storm Gathering** and the **Swellies Extreme Race** in October, the latter being for fanatical racing sea-kayakers. As it all took place between the bridges at Menai Bridge, it was a great spectator sport. We are hopeful that this will be the beginning of more sea-kayaking events around Anglesey.

In September, there was the **Woodland Festival & Sustainable Living Fair** at Carreglwyd Estate with demonstrations on green and traditional crafts, low impact building techniques, renewable energy systems, permaculture plus children's activities and live music. It is very much hoped that this will take place again this year.



Anglesey Oyster Festival (October 13/14) is an annual festival held at Trearddur Bay Hotel, with the chance to meet local seafood producers, watch cookery demonstrations and competitions.



Every summer, **Plas Newydd National Trust House** holds excellent open air Shakespeare productions, which are always a good evening and excuse for open air picnic in the beautiful grounds overlooking the Menai Straits. We can also recommend their Wet & Wild courses – taster water sports sessions – which got the thumbs up with some of our visitors last summer. **Beaumaris Castle** has numerous interesting events over the summer. Around Christmas time, **Plas Newydd** also hold a craft fair with numerous stalls set up in the house (giving one the opportunity to see the amazing Whistler trompe d'oeil mural and gallery at the same time!), while **Menai Bridge** has the traditional Telford Winter Festival on Church Island, complete with craft stalls and St Tysilio 'son et lumiere' pageant.

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Self-catering holiday cottage for 2-3 persons, ideal for exploring Anglesey, North Wales and the mountains of Snowdonia

Dates for your Diary (or reasons to come to Stick Cottage in 2012)

Event	Where	When
One-off Monopoly tournament	<u>Plas Newydd National Trust House</u> , Llanfairpwll	January 28-29
Island Inspiration – Kyffin and Tunnicliffe	<u>Oriel Môn</u> , Llangefni	Until February 29 th
<u>Anglesey Farmers' Market</u>	Ysgol David Hughes, Menai Bridge	Every 3 rd Saturday (starting January 21 st)
<u>Coastal Trail Series</u> - 10Km, Half Marathon, Marathon and Ultra races	Holyhead Breakwater Park	January 21 st
<u>Anglesey Sea-Kayak Symposium</u>	Porth Dafarch and Anglesey Outdoors	To be confirmed – usually the week before or after the Spring Bank Holiday
<u>Anglesey Vintage Rally</u>	Hen Blas Country Park, Bodorgan	May 12-13
<u>Menai Bridge Raft Race</u>	Felinheli to Menai Bridge	May 27 th
<u>Olympic Flame</u>	Menai Bridge and Beaumaris	May 29 th
<u>Isle of Anglesey Walking Festival</u>	All over Anglesey but quite a few walks start from Newborough Forest car park	June 2 nd - 17 th
Queen's Jubilee Weekend	Stick Cottage	June 2 nd – 5 th
<u>Menai Strait Regatta</u>	Beaumaris and Menai Bridge	August 6-18 th
Outdoor productions Wet & Wild water sports	<u>Plas Newydd</u>	July and August
<u>Anglesey Show</u>	Môn Showground, near Gwalchmai	August 14 th -15 th
<u>Moelfre Lifeboat Day</u>	Moelfre	August 18 th
<u>Holyhead Sailing Festival</u>	Holyhead Harbour	August 24-27 th to be confirmed
Various events	<u>Beaumaris Castle</u>	Summer holidays
<u>Sandman Triathlon</u>	Newborough	September 16 th
<u>Commonwealth Trail Championship</u>	Newborough Forest	September?
<u>Storm Gathering Swellies Extreme Race</u>	Menai Bridge	October?
<u>Anglesey Oyster Festival</u>	Trearddur Bay Hotel	October 13/14
<u>Woodland Festival & Sustainable Living Fair</u>	Carreglwyd Estate, Llanfaethlu	September?
Christmas Craft Fair	<u>Plas Newydd</u>	December?
Telford Winter Festival	<u>Menai Bridge</u>	December?