

# TYDDYN IOLYN FARMHOUSE

## WINTER NEWSLETTER

2011

### Welcome to my Winter Newsletter 2011

The Bed and Breakfast business has been busy again this year, and many of my guests have become regular visitors. It is wonderful to see so many friends returning and thank you all for your custom! Projects at Tyddyn Iolyn continue and hopefully the farmhouse will move into the 21st century with the addition of wi-fi in 2012. Lovely though it is to 'get away from it all' I do appreciate that many of my guests require this facility.



The A487 Porthmadog bypass was completed in October (seven weeks early) and there was an opportunity to walk along the full length from Tremadog to Minffordd before it was officially opened. The surrounding mountain views are stunning and the traditional dry stone walls along the route are beautifully constructed.

The general consensus is that the bypass will have a positive effect on the businesses and retailers of Porthmadog and it will certainly ease congestion in the town. Portmeirion is now a mere 10 minutes drive from Tyddyn Iolyn!

The relaying of the gas pipeline from Pwllheli to Blaenau caused some disruption to the lane up to the farmhouse and closed several footpaths this summer but in fact after my initial concerns (after finding a sign saying the lane could be closed for up to 6 months) I was reassured by contractors and the lane was only closed for a couple of days.

Archaeological excavation carried out at these sites have identified a 4m diameter Roman lime kiln and a stack of roofing slates, on the site of a known Roman settlement at Tremadog, as well as an exceptionally large bronze age 'burnt mound' in Pentrefelin. Burnt mounds were evidently sites where water was heated using hot stones and therefore located by a water source, in this case the Afon Cedron. Experts differ in opinion as to what the water was used for as often there is little evidence of bones or cooking. Excavation is continuing at the Pentrefelin site which may throw more light on the burnt mound.



2011 saw 'Cob 200', celebrating two hundred years since William Maddocks built the cob in Porthmadog. The rowing club celebrated with a 'pilot race' from Borth y Gest in our Celtic longboats, similar in design to the boats used by the pilots to guide the returning ships safely into the harbour at Porthmadog.



The Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways received two prestigious Heritage Railway awards in 2011 and bring year-round visitors to the area. In 2012 the railways will carry the Olympic Torch from Blaenau to Porthmadog before it makes its way through Criccieth on 28th May.



Additions to the Tyddyn Iolyn Bird list have been made, courtesy of my guests. They include the garden warbler, chiff chaff, white throat, long tailed tit, gold crest, and even a Merlin seen on the telegraph poles on the track leading to the farmhouse. This autumn flocks of starlings have been roosting in the trees around Tyddyn Iolyn, providing a spectacular sight and sound as dusk draws in.

Once again thank you all for your support. I hope to see you soon and send my very best wishes for a happy Christmas and New Year.

*Ann*