

# Some of the Happenings along the Coast of Llŷn

## 1647 – 1942

- 1647 Bardsey Island attacked by pirates
- 1650 Bardsey attacked again
- 1690 William III and his fleet anchored at Porthysgaden, on his way to Ireland
- 1726 Smuggling riots at Nefyn
- 1735 The sloop 'Maria' with a cargo of timber put in to Aberdaron due to bad weather
- 1748 51,000 barrels of herrings disposed of in Nefyn
- 1752 Schooner 'St John the Baptist' with a cargo of oats from Wexford wrecked at Aberdaron
- 1763 Smuggling cutter landing rum at Porthdinllaen
- 1767 A sloop of 199 tons anchored at Aberdaron, smuggling tea & brandy
- 1785 A large smuggling cutter temporarily disabled on the rocks at Porthdinllaen and seized by Customs Officer
- 1791 Smuggling lugger & French Privateer seen off Porthdinllaen
- 1802 The schooner 'Lovely' wrecked on Maen Mellt, on passage from Chester with foodstuffs.
- The Gwynedd Sub-aqua Club dived in 1969 and found 30 mature African elephant tusks and a quantity of copper sheeting bearing the imprint of Newton Lyons Works of Holywell, and numerous 200lb ingots from Eyton's foundry Bagilly, Flint, and also copper hoops from casks of butter which the 'Lovely' was known to carry.
- 1804 This year 656 vessels put in to Porthdinllaen and 2 ships were seized at Pwllheli for smuggling SALT
- 1809 A lugger smuggling salt was seized at Aberdaron.  
Boating disaster at Porth Neigwl (Hells Mouth) 6 lost.
- 1811 Porthmadog Embankment completed
- 1812 Severe storms breached it and parts were carried away, then repaired
- 1814 Sailing ship 'Dunahoo' wrecked at Porth Colmon, Llangwnadl
- 1815 The PRESS GANG visited the area. The first Steam Ship sailing up the St George's Channel was seen by inhabitants of Llŷn
- 1816 Smuggling lugger seized while landing SALT at Porth Colmon
- 1818 Foreign ship with a cargo of tobacco wrecked at Abersoch
- 1819 Dec 17<sup>th</sup> A boat from Bristol anchoring at Porth Iago capsized with a loss of 5 lives
- 1821 LIGHTHOUSE BUILT ON ENLLI (BARDSEY)
- 1822 Enlli Ferryboat lost with 6 lives, 14 were saved
- 1824 Irish ship with cargo of tobacco wrecked at Porth Neigwl (Hells Mouth)
- 1825 Porthmadog exported 11,396 tons of slates and 612 vessels loaded at Porthdinllaen this year
- 1836 The vessel 'Rhine' wrecked in Swnt Enlli (Bardsey Sound) on passage to Liverpool.  
No lives lost
- 1839 Ship 'Transit' with cargo of cotton wrecked at Porth Neigwl (Hells Mouth)
- 1840 Ship 'Arfestone' with cargo of gold wrecked at Porth Neigwl
- 1843 John Williams, KING of BARDSEY, drowned when his boat capsized in a squall. As many as 900 vessels arrived at Porthdinllaen this year

- 1847 A ship came ashore at Porthychain, with not a soul on board except 1 living pig!
- 1848 Aug 1<sup>st</sup> The first train bearing the name 'IRISH MAIL' left Euston at 8.45pm
- 1849 Schooner 'Mermaid' was lost in Swnt Enlli (Bardsey Sound)
- 1850 Smack 'Sellar' wrecked at Porthoer (Whistling Sands)
- 1850 Brig 'Arion' from Germany, lost at Borthwen no survivors
- 1858 Oct 18<sup>th</sup> Flat 'Ann' better known as 'Fflat Huw Puw' wrecked on St Tudwal's Island  
2 lives lost
- 1859 SEVERE STORMS over the Whole of the Welsh Coast. A Spanish ship was lost at Porth Colmon, another at Porth Ferin with all hands. Another 9 vessels at Porthoer with the crews of 7 of them all lost
- 1863 Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> Schooner 'Bardsey' wrecked off Porthdinllaen. 23 lives saved from wrecked vessels there that day.  
In 1863 the Receiver of Wrecks reported that as many as 206 vessels had been wrecked in the Porthdinllaen area in the last 25 years.
- 1864 Schooner 'Racer' of Pwllheli lost off Bardsey
- 1866 Schooner 'Mary Catherine' wrecked at Porth Neigwl, 1 saved
- 1868 Ship carrying timber wrecked at Aberdaron
- 1869 Schooner 'Voelas' lost near Enlli (Bardsey)
- 1878 FOG HORN ESTABLISHED ON ENLLI (BARDSEY)
- 1881 Oct 14<sup>th</sup> Steamer 'Cyprian' wrecked at Porth Cwmistir, Ederm. Only 8 out of 22 were saved. 14 bodies buried at Ederm Churchyard
- 1883 Barque 'Perseverance' stranded at Porth Neigwl
- 1884 Scottish brig 'Luther' on passage from Dundee to Newfoundland wrecked at Porth Iago
- 1891 Schooner 'William' wrecked at Porth Colmon
- 1898 The schooners 'Idea', 'Twelve Apostles' & 'Joseph Nicholson' all wrecked at Porth Neigwl
- 1901 Barque 'Stewart' wrecked at Porth Ty Mawr, Llangwnadl
- 1907 Schooner 'Two Brothers' lost off Abersoch
- 1908 Cunard Liner 'Lusitania' seen passing the coast of Llŷn
- 1912 Schooner 'Margaret & Elisabeth' with cargo of coal for Rhiw wrecked at Porth Iago
- 1914 Schooner 'Harvest Home' with cargo of china clay wrecked near Uwchmynydd
- 1916 A number of German submarines seen off the Coast of Llŷn
- 1917 C.F.R. Liner and many convoys passing through Swnt Enlli (Bardsey Sound)
- 1918 The Liner 'Oransa' torpedoed off Bardsey & a large number of bodies from torpedoed 'Leinster' & 'Burutu' washed ashore on the coast of Llŷn
- 1933 A fishing boat with 2 men washed out to sea at Tydweiliog and landed at Co Down Ireland; 35 hours later
- 1934 R.M.S. 'Queen Mary' seen passing Bardsey by people from Aberdaron.
- 1935 7 Destroyers anchored at Porth Neigwl (Hells Mouth)
- 1941 Jan 18<sup>th</sup> Dutch steamer machine gunned off Bardsey and towed to Porthdinllaen.  
Oil tanker bombed and set on Fire off the coast of Llŷn
- 1942 Dec Danish steamer 'Knut' mined off Bardsey. 15 of the crew landed in the ship's boat at Porthdinllaen

Our Thanks to Alun Harrison from **The Ship Hotel, Aberdaron** for the use of this information, which was compiled for him by a satisfied customer.