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Cyfeillíon Murluniau Brenda Chamberlain ar Enlli The Friends of the Brenda Chamberlain Bardsey Murals

Newsletter. April 2012.

Our project is moving forward rapidly. Last October Jane Foley was able to get across to Bardsey, between the leftovers of American hurricanes, and stabilise "The Girl on the Strand". She applied fibrous Japanese tissue to the mural which will prevent further loss of the flaking surface until the real conservation can proceed. See right.

Following Richard Farmer's discussions with the Listed Buildings Officer, the plans to re-roof and re-render Carreg were dropped, as it was thought that the hammering involved might damage the murals even more. Instead it has been decided to repair the cracks in the rendering, renew the gulleys, renovate the porches and roofs and replace the roof window. They would also remove the calor gas heaters, which produce three units of water for every unit of gas consumed. These will be replaced with wood-burning stoves.

The Heritage Lottery Fund grant application, which includes the building work and the conservation and restoration of the murals, has just been submitted. We wait patiently for the outcome.

Two related topics: firstly, Gwynedd Museum and Art Gallery in Bangor have recently been given two Brenda Chamberlain sketches. One of them, (see left), dated July 1953, mirrors the chief character in our "Figures in a Boat" and so gives an indication of when that mural was painted.

Secondly, two years ago, Brenda Chamberlain was being considered as one of the artists that Rolf Harris would explore in the first series of "Rolf on Welsh Art", along with Kyffin Williams, Josef Herman and Graham Sutherland. Unfortunately when the idea was presented to the BBC they feared high costs. What if the film crew were delayed in Aberdaron because of unkind seas? These fears have now been overcome and a Brenda Chamberlain programme is planned for the second series of "Rolf on Welsh Art". Next month, winds and seas permitting, Rolf Harris is due to go over to Bardsey, where among other things, he will view the Carreg murals.

We would like to thank Richard Farmer and The Bardsey Island Trust for all their work in putting the HLF grant application together and hope that our sponsors, pledgers and supporters, for whom our continued thanks, will be pleased with the progress made so far.

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