



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

**Newsletter VII February 2021**

“It’s a lovely moment of discovery” says Tom Sutcliffe to Huw Stephens on Radio 4’s *Front Row*, talking about Huw’s visit to see the Brenda Chamberlain murals. Huw has been travelling around Wales filming



Huw Stephens in Henllwyn

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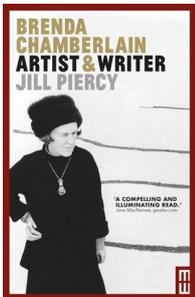
for *The Story of Welsh Art* that is being broadcast on BBC 4 in three one-hour episodes starting on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Suddenly our murals will be seen by a massive audience. For the *Front Row* clip go to:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000sgsx> .

Brenda Chamberlain gets mentioned in the first minute and in the later, ten-minute interview.

The last time our conservators, Jane Foley and Inez Litasova, did work on the murals was in August 2018, after which they went to Chicago helping to conserve elements of a 1935 U-boat - tiled floors and the original lino in the aft torpedo room! They were hoping to go to Bardsey again at the end of the 2019 season.

Unfortunately, the fates intervened. Jane was involved in a car crash where “the woman in the other car was doing her hair, sped up, crossed the road onto my side. There was no escape.” Jane’s knee cap was smashed up like a Crunchie bar (her consultant’s words). So, she thought she’d visit, “maybe next spring” - and we all know that life changed last spring. She still has hopes for this year.



On the last weekend before lockdown, the paperback version of *Brenda Chamberlain: Artist & Writer*, Jill Piercy’s 2012 biography, was launched at Aberystwyth Arts Centre. It coincided with a read-through of *Trusting Unicorns*, a play by Lucy Gough, inspired by Brenda Chamberlain. So, Brenda’s work is still under the spotlight.

For Christmas 2018, Siân Stacey (then the Island Manager; now the Bardsey Island Trust Chair) gave us permission to make cards using her photograph of the Abbey tower after a rare heavy snowfall. These were sold at talks that I give from time to time, along with cards of Carreg and Plas - those pictures taken from banners made under the supervision of Carole Shearman, by families holidaying on Bardsey. Of course, no talks now. We look forward to the day when they can start again.

