

# Cymdeithas Hanesyddol Llanelli Historical Society

President: Sir David Mansel Lewis, KCVO, JP, FRCA, KStJ



Founder member: Caroline De Abreu

Established 1999

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## AGM 2005

April's meeting was a full and busy gathering with an attendance of 70 and members present from as far afield as Cardiff, and Newcastle-Under-Lyme. We had two welcome guests, Paul Brookfield and his partner, Maria. Paul is the owner of the Metropolitan and was present at the meeting to receive a Llanelli Historical Society award to recognise his achievement in retaining, and sensitively developing, one of Llanelli's historic and attractive buildings.

Paul was presented with the award certificate and a photograph of the Metropolitan taken by Derek Newton-Goverd. Unfortunately, Derek was not able to present the gift himself as he had just come out of hospital that day. We wish Derek a very speedy

recovery.

As usual, the business of the AGM was over very quickly. Our Chairwoman gave her annual report and reflected on the many activities that the Society had been involved in over the year. Our treasurer presented a very healthy financial report and the officers and committee members were re-elected. One new committee member was elected, William Rees, and he was warmly welcomed on board. With no other business, the AGM was drawn to a

close

and the meeting moved into the more pleasurable part of the evening.

John Edwards gave a very entertaining talk on the impact of religion on the development of Llanelli. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the anecdotes with which John brought the historical facts to life and made them very real. We learnt a lot and laughed a lot – what more can one ask of an AGM night?



The chairwoman, Caroline DeAbreu presenting Paul Brookfield with a photograph of the Metropolitan.

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Our new committee member, William Rees.



Our speaker at the April meeting, John Edwards



### Family History Day

Dyfed Family History will hold its annual fair at the Drill Hall on Saturday, September 24th. This year it is hosted by the Llanelli branch and the LHS has been invited to have a presence throughout the day. The invitation has been accepted and we will have a table and display. There will be a need for volunteers to man the stall throughout the day and if we can muster up a number of volunteers, the task for individuals will not be arduous. Let's try to provide enough volunteers so that no one need be on duty for more than an hour. More details nearer the time.



## January Meeting

We started the year with quite a full house (60, in spite of wintry weather) and enjoyed a nostalgia evening with a film on early Llanelli. Mr. Eric Fletcher, a native of Llanelli and a keen and talented photographer captured the

Llanelli of 1941 on film. His work also attracted the attention of national television and in the 1980s he was interviewed, and his early film shown on a television programme. Both these films (his own and the TV interview) were shown at the January meeting and proved so popular that

they were shown a second time later that evening. The LHS is grateful to the Llanelli Library for allowing us to show these films, to the late Harold Prescott for his dedication and foresight in preserving this collection of old films and to the ongoing work of Derek Newton-Goverd for transferring all these old films on to DVDs.

## February Meeting

There were 65 present at February's meeting and after a bit of a chaotic start followed by a fire alarm scare when the room had to be evacuated, the evening continued smoothly and Colin and Pamela Morgan presented the very interesting story of Katurah Vaughan, Colin's ancestor who left the locality in

the 19<sup>th</sup> century to join the Mormon Church in America. Bringing the story up to date, Colin was able to share with the audience the recent discovery that Lynne Cheney, wife of the Vice President of the United States is also, like Colin, a descendent of Katurah Vaughan. Colin has been able to supply Mrs. Cheney with photographs

and information relating to their common ancestor, and has received a warm and personal letter in return.



*Lynne Cheney, wife of the Vice President of the United States and Colin Morgan, both descendents of Katurah Vaughan*

## March Meeting

In March, we held the first of the Open Forums. Members were not sure what to expect but most seemed to be pleased with the variety of activities that were available. Groups were able to display new and ongoing work that attracted much interest and sparked off discussion and a sharing of information and ideas. This was all made possible because of the relaxed and informal nature of the evening. Throughout the evening, Derek had the projector running, sharing with members some of the LHS's large collection of old photographs. The group working on local mills was kept busy during

the evening and Joyce Mollet a member of the social history group gave a brief presentation on the "Carte-de-visite" and the importance of these early photographs to local historians and family history researchers. Members were particularly taken with the new research of the group that is looking at the historic homes of Llanelli and the families who lived in them. Benita Afan Rees has prepared posters of some of these houses and these were on display. The Chairwoman had a number of calls, prior to that evening from those unable to attend because of illness, however, there will be another opportunity to view the posters at the May meeting.

### Subscriptions Due

Those present at the AGM paid their annual subscription of £10 to John Williams, our treasurer, some who were unable to attend have sent him a cheque, so if you haven't done so yet, John, I am sure, would love to hear from you!

### LHS Committee

**Chairwoman:** Caroline DeAbreu: 756141  
**Secretary:** Joyce Mollet: 755388  
**Treasurer:** John Williams: 810677

### Committee Members:

Peter Francis: 759920  
 Derek Newton-Goverd: 775943  
 Benita Afan Rees: 775320  
 William Rees: 775320



## May Meeting

Members can look forward to an interesting assortment of activities at May's Open Forum. The committee has planned a mixed bag that will have something for everyone.

John Williams will make a presentation with the intriguing title "Looking for Joshua" and it will have interest for local historians and genealogists alike. He will also demonstrate his skilled footwork using Powerpoint.

Byron Davies has been active in documenting some exciting new material that has come his way. It throws light on Llanelli's social and commercial life, 1832 – 1834. He plans to share the material with members and will be hoping to extend his knowledge with contributions from the audience.

The library will be available and



*John Williams plans to share with you his search for Joshua, so all those present at the May meeting can join John on the trail.*

the committee has recently made 16 new acquisitions that will be available for loan on the evening. In addition to all this, LHS member, Vernon Emmanuel, has kindly agreed to show his collection of photographs of Llanelli churches and chapels, past and present. He has gathered all his photographs on to CDs and the showing will be ongoing

throughout the evening with Vernon on hand to discuss his work.



*Marjorie Witty, our librarian, will have the LHS' selection of books and magazines available at the May meeting.*

### LHS Members Out and About

Members of the various interest groups have been taking presentations out into Llanelli and district, addressing a variety of local groups. Colin and Pamela Morgan have been giving illustrated talks on Llanely House and John Williams (now a very skilled Power Point operator!!) has taken the group's work on local mills out to community groups. The social history group has presented the "illustrated monologues" on women from Llanelli's past to a number of community groups and Benita and William Rees have also been actively involved in talks to the Llanelli public. A big thank you to all these members who give so freely of their time in making Llanelli's rich heritage better known in the area.

Anyone with news to share in future newsletters contact the editor, Joyce Mollet

## Open Day 2005

The committee has discussed this year's Open Day and have planned a new approach to this year's event. They have decided upon an Open Evening rather than an Open Day. The Open Evening will be held on the first Monday of August during the usual monthly meeting and will start earlier than normal so that members and visitors will have more hours to view the displays. As it will be summertime there will be an opportunity to open up the doors and , weather permitting, we can spill out on to the grassy areas. There is already a growing collection of new work to display and the committee is looking for more, so you (groups and individuals) are all encouraged to start documenting your new research and discoveries. Nearer the time there will be need for a planning and steering committee, and members will also be asked to man stalls and host the many guests that this event usually attracts. More details nearer the time.



## Your Society Needs You

Membership of the Society is still growing and naturally, the administrative work increases. The committee is still looking for LHS members who would like to become more involved. There is still need for a Vice Chair, a Vice Secretary, other committee members and people who might want to take on a particular role or responsibility. If this call seems to speak to you, then do contact one of the committee or consider sitting in on a committee meeting – you'll see that it is not all work, there is always the element of fun and most of it is really enjoyable.