



Cymdeithas Hanesyddol Llanelli

Llanelli Historical Society

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

Founder member: Caroline De Abreu

Established 1999

Newsletter
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LHS Exhibition in the Library

In the weeks leading up to Christmas the LHS had a display of work in the Neville Gallery of the Town Library. The display was in support of the Library's competition for Llanelli students, grades 10 and 11. Staff of the Library involved Llanelli students in a project to research the history of Llanelli's historic buildings and to then create an illustration of the building of their choice.

featuring all the buildings and was open for two weeks in December, just prior to Christmas. Library staff reported that there was a great deal of interest in the work on display and many visitors passed through during the two weeks that it was open.



Chairwoman, Caroline DeAbreu and LHS member, Malcolm Symmons, view some of the work on display at December's exhibition.



A visitor to the LHS exhibition taking particular interest in posters on Penyfai.

In order to encourage students and spark an interest, the Society mounted a changing display at the library with posters that featured a different building each week. This culminated in an exhibition

The Society now has a growing collection of display posters on Llanelli's historic buildings. There is a collection on Llanelly House prepared by Joyce Mollet and Caroline DeAbreu, Ancient Mills by John Williams and his research group, Bryncaerau and a variety of historic homes prepared by Benita and William Rees, to mention just a few.

Trip to St Fagans

The weather for the LHS trip to St Fagans in December was atrocious but this failed to dampen the spirits of our intrepid LHS travellers. "We had a grand evening, and although some of the Christmas events had been cancelled because of the

rain, we all had a good time," reported Pamela Raikes, our social events organiser. "There are more trips planned for the New Year," she added.

The February Meeting

CYMDEITHAS HANESYDDOL LLANELLI
LLANELLI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Machynys and Bwlch Y Gwynt The Lost Communities

An exhibition of photographs
taken by the late

David Hopkins
(1932 - 1970)



The Llanelli Historical Society invites members of the public to attend the February meeting to view previously unpublished photographs of Machynys and Bwlch Y Gwynt.

Date: Monday, February 13th 2006

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Lliedi Suite, Selwyn Samuel Centre

Admission Free

Mark Jewell, head of Llanelli Public Library, is anxious to trace a book about the history of Glenalla Chapel. If anyone knows of the whereabouts of a copy, he would be grateful if they would make it known to him.



What's New in the Society?

It is surprising to discover how many LHS members are currently involved in local history research. In this newsletter we read about a few of them but the editor feels sure that there are many more. If your work is not mentioned here, do think of including it in the next newsletter.

Members involved in research are always seeking information, new leads, documents and photographs

to shed light on their chosen subject so if you can supply any of these please speak up and contact the people involved.

Benita Afan Rees

Benita has, as usual, a number of projects in hand. She reports, "I am working on Llanelli's Historic Home and their families - especially the Child, Buckley and Roderick Families."

The houses that are occupying her time are, Falcon Inn (Henry Child's House, Thomas Street), Furnace House, Cilfig, Penyfai, Bryncaerau and Bradbury Hall.

She adds, "My CDRom project is the famous or infamous Ebenezer Morris and I would be grateful for any information on this grand old character. Also in the pipeline is Cilymaenllwyd with Soho Farm and I will be including new information from Conway Davies and Byron Davies."

John Williams and the Early History Group

Members of the Early History Group are forging ahead on their work on mills in the Llanelli area. They regularly take off on an "expedition of discovery" with



Members of the Early History Group seen on their way to the Carmarthen Archives!

current trips concentrating on the course of the River Lliedi. John Williams, Dafydd Jenkins, Colin Rees, Des Povah and Robert Bevan also spend time at the Carmarthenshire Archives and are discovering some fine treasures of new information. They are building a truly splendid history of the mills in our area

Byron Davies



Byron is another member who is actively involved in a new project. He is working on an accounts ledger that came out of a Llanelli drapery shop in the 1830s. He reports, "I am at the moment reappraising my article *The Ledger 1832 to 1834* and *The Directory* compiled from it. I am not satisfied with the foreword and am editing it. The directory itself is being augmented by annotations kindly submitted by Robert Protheroe Jones (now working at the Industrial and Maritime Museum, Swansea) who has identified some personalities

and has added interesting notes alongside."

Byron presented the original ledger together with a CD (allowing the contents to be easily searched on a computer) to Carmarthen Archives last year.

He also completed a Chronicle of Halfway and Pemberton at the end of last year and distributed it privately. He very kindly denoted a copy to the LHS library together with a copy of *Hanes Capel y Bryn*. Because of donations of this kind, the Society is building a very respectable local history book collection.

Joyce Mollet

Joyce published her book on the Llanelli World War 1 nurse, Mary Jane Hughes, in September and continues to work on researching women from Llanelli's past. She is planning a book on the Stepney women to include the three generations, Lady Margaret Cowell Stepney, her daughter, Lady Meriel Howard Stepney and granddaughter, Margaret Howard Stepney.

She has already accumulated much information and a large number of photographs but is anxious to hear of any material that members might know of.





Derek Newton Goverd

Derek continues to produce invaluable photographic records of old Llanelli for the LHS. These take the form of the traditional prints but also large collections on CDRoms and DVDs. He has produced some very interesting audio visual shows, some of which we have already viewed at LHS meetings, and he plans more. When asked about his work he said, "I would encourage all members of the Society to dig out their family collections of old photographs and share them with the Society. They are an extremely valuable historical resource. With the technology we now have available to us, we only need to borrow these photographs for a short period of time so that they may be scanned, catalogued into the LHS computer and returned to the owners."



presenting their findings at the July meeting, when they will take us on to the next stage of the story that they began in last year's programme.

January Meeting

We entered the New Year with quite a full house at our January meeting. It was a very enjoyable evening. Benita and William Rees took us on a visit to a few of Llanelli's Historic Homes, and along the way, we learned about the families who lived in them. The talk featured the Raby family and the Nevill family and through the PowerPoint presentation we had glimpses of houses such as Furnace House, Cae Mawr Cottage, Brynmôr, Field House, Vauxhall, Llangennech Park, Westfa and Felinfoel House. Posters depicting some of these houses and their families will also be on display at the February meeting so that members can have time to peruse the family trees that Benita and William have prepared and read the information at their leisure.



New Editors for the Llanelli Miscellany

You will all now have received your Christmas gift of the Llanelli Miscellany from the Society. It was reassuring to see, once more, so many contributions from LHS members. Out of the 17 articles, 9 came from LHS members! Members will also be aware of the change in editorship, with Peter Francis and Heward Rees

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

taking over from John Edwards. The following is taken from the Editorial Note of the 2005 edition of Miscellany.

"John Edwards, who has edited this publication for many years, has decided to step down from the post. Such was his professional approach that two editors have had to be appointed to try and maintain the standards he always adhered to. Not only was he an excellent editor but has published many Local History books of his own, adding greatly to the richness of Llanelli's cultural heritage. The two new editors will try and maintain the standards he set down but readers may have to be patient with them as they find their feet."

The Society would like to convey to John how much he will be missed in his role as editor of Miscellany and would like to congratulate the new editors on the sterling work shown in

Caroline and Paul DeAbreu



Caroline and Paul continue to work on the Boer War period with particular reference to Llanelli's involvement. They will be

There were quite a few of our regular and longstanding members absent from the January meeting due to ill health. They were missed. We wish them all a speedy recovery and improved health in 2006.