



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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Open Day

The annual LHS Open Day once more attracted a steady stream of visitors throughout the evening and gave members the opportunity to display some of the work they are currently involved in.



Visitors to the Open Day exhibition seen here with Cllr. Dillwyn Bowen and LHS committee member, Peter Francis as they examine the collection of antique photographic equipment on display.

One of the themes running through the display was the history of photography. The conception of the idea came from the talk given by Ann Dorsett at the March meeting when she introduced her audience to the work of the 19th/20th century Carmarthenshire photographer, J. F. Lloyd.



Ann Dorsett, Senior Museums Officer, Carmarthenshire Museums Service, seen here with LHS chairwoman at the March meeting.

The photographs she used to illustrate her talk showed a man way ahead of his time. These photographs, enlarged and mounted on boards, were kindly lent to the LHS for Open day by the Museum Service and attracted much interest.

This theme was further fuelled by photographic items, dating back to the early 20th century, that have been donated to the LHS by Stephen Rees from his family's memorabilia.

Members also brought in a selection of photographic equipment that showed the development of cameras from the early 20th

century. A "hands on" display is always an attraction, and there was an interested crowd around this table for most of the evening.

Visitors that evening included the Chairman of the Llanelli Rural Council, Cllr. T. Dillwyn Bowen and his Lady, Mrs. Joy Bowen; our President, Sir David Mansel Lewis and Lady Mary; and Maureen Price (Robin Craig's sister) with her husband and



Maureen Price, Robin Craig's sister, with our chairwoman, Caroline and the framed picture of Whitford Lighthouse, taken by Peter Francis and presented to Robin.

representing Robin who was unable to attend due to ill health. There were also visitors of all ages present that evening, from pre-schoolers through to retirees and all seemed to find something of particular interest.



The displays were of interest to all age groups

LHS Web Site

<http://www.llanellihistorical.co.uk/>

The work of Jason Gill at **<http://www.anabolic-budgie.co.uk/>**



Summer? Trip to Pembrokeshire



Some of the LHS members who were on the July trip

At the beginning of July members of the LHS enjoyed a very interesting, if rather wet, trip to a number of sites of historical interest. Although the weather was pretty dreary it failed to dampen the spirits of those who came along.

Pam Raikes did a grand job of organising the event and Peter Francis, John Williams and Dafydd Jenkins were the guides for the day. The group visited Castell Henllys, Nevern Church, Pentre Ifan and a part of the Pilgrims Way. It proved to be a splendid and action-packed day for a bus full of people determined not to let the weather conditions come in the way of learning and enjoyment.



Names to Pam Raikes to secure a place on the next trip.

If you missed this trip then book early for the next one which will be in the Autumn to St Fagans. It is timed to take in the opening of the reconstructed and refurbished St Teilo's Church.

This is one of the largest and most ambitious ventures to date at St Fagans. There is already a list of members booked on this trip to view the completed project and opening to the public. This will prove to be a popular trip so get your name down as soon as possible with Pam.



Can you help?

Photography in Llanelli
Joyce Mollet is researching the history of photography in the town and in particular the history of the Llanelli Photographic Society, claimed to be the oldest camera club in Wales. Anyone with information, photographs, anecdotes or anything that might be useful for this project, please contact Joyce at 01554 755388.

Writing memoirs

A Llanelli woman is seeking assistance in writing her memoirs. The husband of Mrs. Evans of Penry Place, Llanelli had an illustrious career in the diplomatic service and she would like someone to help her write her memoirs.

If one of our members feels able to help in any way, (with advice, contacts or in any other way) please approach Joyce Mollet who can make the contact

Llanwrtd Wells

One of our members, Ann Phillips, is looking for information on visits, Sunday School Outings or works outings from Llanelli to Llanwrtd Wells during the period 1830 – 1930. This will help her with her thesis, "A Small Welsh Spa". Any members who can help with any information should contact Ann on 01545 80211

Llanelli in 1880

Do you have information on your family that would shed light on Llanelli in 1880? John Williams, the society's treasurer, is in the process of compiling a social history of Llanelli in 1880. The aim of the project is to bring to life the 1880 map of Llanelli by selecting different streets and tracing the people who lived there. This is being done through photographs, and information on families, their occupations, and all the snippets of information that give us a better understanding of life as it went on in the streets of the town at that time.

The culmination of the project will be a presentation at the Society meeting on November 5th 2007. Any member interested in taking part should contact John.

A new addition to the LHS library

LHS member, Idwal Davies, launched his local history book, "Gone But Not Forgotten" earlier this year. He kindly presented a copy to the LHS library at the Open Day.



Idwal with Madge Witty at the Open Day.



Robin Craig



It was with great sadness that in June members of the LHS learned of the death of Robin Craig.

Robin had hoped to have travelled from his home in St. Margaret's Bay, Dover to join us at the Open Day. Unfortunately, he did not feel well enough to make the journey. A short time later he had rather a serious fall at his home and was taken into hospital. During his stay in hospital he seemed to show signs of recovery but before he was discharged he passed away, peacefully, in his sleep. There was a small family funeral and there will be a service to celebrate his life, in London, in the Autumn.

The LHS committee had prepared a framed photograph (taken by Peter Francis) of Whitford Lighthouse to present to Robin at the Open Day, and were able to present it to his sister and brother-in-law who attended that evening. Caroline, our Chairwoman, was told that he was delighted with the gift, and that it is now with Robin's son. It has special significance for him as the walk to Whitford Lighthouse was the last one that he took with his father.

Robin was a staunch supporter of the Society from the beginning and he will be greatly missed, however, his memory will live on in the hearts and minds of those who will, in the future, work with the books, manuscripts, and papers that he so kindly donated to the LHS.



Peter

Francis and Heward Rees (joint editors of the Llanelli Miscellany) are now accepting submissions for the next issue of the magazine, due to be published at the end of the year. The deadline is fast approaching so, LHS members, if you have a story to tell then now is the time to set pen to paper (or any other new gadget that you might employ!).

Spring Gardens

The revamped gardens in the centre of Llanelli will be named Spring Gardens thanks to the LHS. At one of the committee meetings Pam Raikes brought it to the attention of members that the Carmarthen County Council was seeking to rename the Sunken Gardens and was running a competition for a suitable name. There was overwhelming support in the committee to chose a name that had historical significance and Spring Gardens was the obvious choice. This suggestion was forwarded to the C.C.C. with supporting evidence to the effect that it would preserve a name that has long been associated



Some members of the LHS committee at the new gardens with the 1860 map of the area showing evidence of historical support for the name Spring Gardens.

with that particular area of Llanelli. On a map of 1860 the name Spring Gardens is clearly present at the site of today's new garden and on the 1890 map the street of houses that was present opposite the Presbyterian Church was named Spring Gardens. In their CD "Llanelli Birth of a Town" Benita and William Rees show that around 1776 some of the members of Adulam Baptist Church established a branch church in the

town and meetings were first held in a small house situated in **Spring Gardens**.

The committee was delighted when they received the news that the name they had put forward had been accepted. Spring Gardens, together with the circular seating area, named the

Bullring, was officially opened on Saturday 21st July.



At the opening ceremony for Spring Gardens, Mrs M. Gravell, Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council, presents the prize for the winning name to Caroline, LHS Chairwoman, accepting on behalf of the members of the LHS.

LHS Committee	
Chairwoman:	
Caroline DeAbreu:	756141
Secretary:	
Joyce Mollet:	755388
Treasurer:	
John Williams:	810677
Committee Members:	
Peter Francis:	759920
Derek Newton-Goverd:	775943
Pamela Raikes	
Benita Afan Rees:	775320
William Rees	775320

Please send any contributions for future newsletters to the editor, Joyce Mollet. News, views, short articles, letters, photographs - all welcome!