



# CYMDEITHAS HANESYDDOL LLANELLI

## LLANELLI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

**Founder member: Caroline De Abreu**

**Established 1999**

**NEWSLETTER**  
**JULY 2008**  
**Volume 6, Issue 2**

### Open Evening 2008

This year's Open Evening again drew a large crowd, and the subject this year, "The history of Photography in Llanelli" proved to be a very popular choice. The evening was not only supported by members of the Society but also by members of the Llanelli Photographic Society and many members of the general public.

Joyce Mollet had produced posters tracing the history of photography in the town from the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day and she opened the evening by introducing these through a Power Point presentation. Members of the Photographic Society had kindly allowed the LHS access to archival material, and LHS member, Pamela Morgan, gave us access to her husband Colin's collection of photographs. Consequently, the displays included examples of original photographic prints that dated back to the 1940s. The quality of these black and white prints gave the audience an insight into the standard of work of the Llanelli Photographic Society throughout the years.

It was not only an evening of displays but also an extremely interesting hands-on experience. Ray Rees, President of the Llanelli Photographic Society,



*Peter Francis pointing out items in his display of historic photographic equipment to LHS member Marjorie Witty.*

Peter Francis, our chairman, and William Rees, committee member, all mounted presentations from their collections of old photographic equipment. Between them they were able to showcase the history of photography in a very real way and these three "stalls" drew interest throughout the evening.

### LHS has a new chairman

In the last newsletter it was reported that after leading the Society from its inception our Chairwoman was sadly stepping down and that the LHS would have a new chair. At the AGM we did elect our new chair and we were delighted when Peter Francis stepped into the role. Peter has been a member of the committee and an active member

of the Society for many years, and is also an active member of a



number of other societies in the town. We all look forward to working under his leadership.

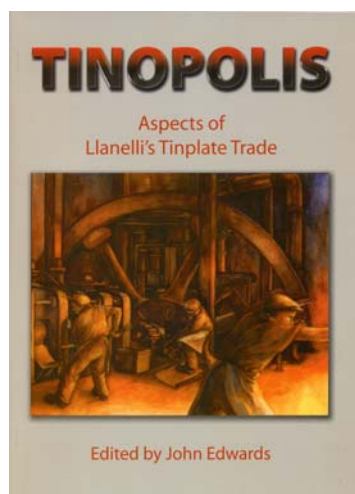
#### LHS Committee

**Chairman:**  
Peter Francis: 759920  
**Secretary:**  
Joyce Mollet: 755388  
**Treasurer:**  
John Williams: 810677

**Committee Members:**  
Derek Newton-Goverd: 775943  
Pamela Raikes  
Benita Afan Rees: 775320  
William Rees 775320



**Book Launch**



On Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, some members of the LHS attended the launch of a revised edition of the book Tinopolis, edited by John Edwards. This new publication is a very welcome addition to the collection of Llanelli local history books.

The first edition was published by Llanelli Borough Council in 1995 and as John Edwards points out, “The book was completely sold out in a very short time and there has been a constant clamour for a reprint ever since. It was also very difficult to get hold of a copy on the second-hand market because it was the type of book which was retained and kept in the family.”

Describing the book, Malcolm Symons writes, “The articles and stories within the pages range from factual and informative to anecdotal and humorous. Some express anger, others see only a rose-tinted past, but the overwhelming impression obtained is that of nostalgic sadness for a way of life that once was, but has gone forever.”

The value of the book lies not only in the subject matter but in

the contributors who provided the articles for the collection, many of whom are, sadly, no longer with us. Through this publication we can still hear the voices of those who lived through, worked in and experienced this important part of the town’s history.

We are all indebted to the Llanelli Civic Society for undertaking the task of publishing a second edition.

**An addition to our film collection**

Recently a very interesting discovery was made. A film was found that had been made in 1963 of Machynis, New Dock and Christ Church. Derek Newton-Goverd transferred the film on to DVD and, as there was no sound, added appropriate music to the scenes. This film footage was the work of a professional photographer and shows life as it went on in the society around the church more than forty years ago, and it is an extremely valuable piece of social history. Thanks to Derek we now have a copy in our library and at the next evening of historical films we can look forward to a showing.



**Autumn Attractions**

We have some interesting evenings to look forward to after the Summer Recess. In September William and Benita Rees continue their theme of the large houses in Llanelli’s Past with an illustrated talk on Penyfan Then in October

John Williams and Dafydd Jenkins will transport us back in time to take part in a “whodunit” of the 18th century. Together, John and Dafydd have been researching the case of Wil Maney, gathering the available evidence on this gruesome murder case which resulted in Wil Maney’s execution.

**Monday, October 6th**  
 Wil Maney  
 (William Emanuel)  
 his life and times  
 Pembrey Mountain 1750 - 1790  
 Dafydd Jenkins and  
 John Williams

Wil Maney  
 (William Emanuel)  
 ei fywyd a'i farwolaith  
 Mynydd Penbre 1750 - 1790  
 Dafydd Jenkins a  
 John Williams

**Christmas Celebrations**

It is far too early to start thinking of Christmas, but plans have to be set in place and bookings made. The December meeting (Monday, 1st) will be held at the Halfway Hotel where we will share a meal and enjoy some activities and entertainment.

The committee has booked a private room and there will be a choice of meals (no turkey you will probably be glad to hear!). Entry will be by ticket and these will go on sale, at £5.00 each, from September (choice of meal to be made when purchasing ticket). Members are welcome to bring along a guest.





## The Passing of Two Loyal LHS Members

The LHS sadly lost two members this year, members who had been supportive of the Society from the very beginning. On May 18<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth Davies, known to us all as Betty, passed away and on June 22<sup>nd</sup> we lost Irene Pearson.

Betty, whose home was in Pwll, became part of the Society in the very early days and there were very few meetings when we did not see her cheery smiling face come through the door. Local history and family history were two of her passions and she was a thorough and skilled researcher, always extremely generous in sharing the fruits of her many hours of work. Betty had been educated at Llanelli Girls' Grammar School and trained as a teacher in Swansea Training College. For six years she taught in Thetford, Norfolk but soon returned to her beloved Wales. She took up a post in Brynsierfel School and it was here that she



*Betty with Jon Gower at the launch of "A Long Mile" in 2004* became the Deputy Headmistress. Betty was the driving force behind the publication of Jon Gower's book "A Long Mile" that documented the history of Pwll. It was she who brought together residents of Pwll to form the Pwll Historical Society with the single goal of gathering material for the book. Her energy and enthusiasm kept this small band of dedicated researchers working for two years, gathering material for the project that ended up in a publication to be proud of and so beautifully written by Jon Gower.

Irene joined the Society in the very early days. She lived in Ferryside but nevertheless drove up to meetings throughout the year and was a loyal supporter. Irene was a nurse by profession, born in Birmingham but a resident of Ferryside for 35 years. Here she raised her four children, and where she was a keen chorister. After a short illness she died in Glangwili Hospital on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Both Betty and Irene will be sorely missed.

## Library News

John Williams, our treasurer, has been gathering together the lists of books that we hold in our LHS library and updating them with all the acquisitions of the last couple of years. He is creating one catalogue and copies of this will be available soon for you all to browse and, if you wish, take away. The committee hopes that in the future the membership will make more use of this excellent resource. Details will be given with the catalogue on the borrowing procedure and if anyone has a suggestion on how these materials might be made more accessible to members then please contact John.

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

## Financial Help From The Council

Llanelli Town Council has once more made a generous donation to the LHS which will be a great help towards the costs involved in running the Society. As always we are very grateful for their kind support.

### LHS Web Site

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

The work of Jason Gill at

<http://www.anabolic-budgie.co.uk/>



*Betty and Irene at the LHS Christmas Party in 2003*