



# CYMDEITHAS HANESYDDOL LLANELLI

## LLANELLI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

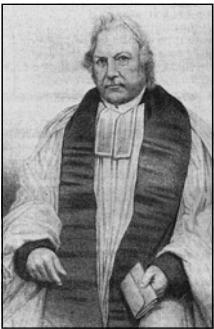
*Founder member: Caroline De Abreu*

*Established 1999*

**NEWSLETTER**  
**MARCH 2007**  
**Volume 5, Issue 1**

## Launch of a New Local History Resource

In October, Benita and William Rees, members of the LHS committee, launched their CD, "The Life and Times of Ebenezer Morris." Kenneth Jones, a descendent of Rev Morris, contributed his many years of research to the final work and Benita



and William were responsible for the illustrations and editing. At the launch in Park Howard Ken Jones was present with members of his family, three generations of Rev Morris'

descendents who had travelled down from Cardiff. Also present were many members of the LHS.



*Benita Rees and Ken Jones seen here at the launch in Park Howard.*

Ken Jones, together with Benita and William Rees, have done a splendid job of bringing to life this colourful local character and placing him in the context of his family and the events of the time. This latest release can now be added to Benita and William's growing number of CDs that form an important contribution to the collection of publications on Llanelli's history.



*Three generations of Vicar Morris' descendents.*

As one works through the material in this CD, the well-known Llanelli vicar emerges in a powerful way. Much of what has been written in the past on the vicar has been concerned with his court cases and the disputes that seemed to be a regular part of his life, together with a few anecdotes that have given us a glimpse into his character. This publication goes a great deal further and using new evidence and documentation provides a clearer picture of Ebenezer Morris, the man.

LHS members sampled some of this when Benita and William launched the programme for 2007 with an illustrated talk. We were delighted that evening to welcome Ken Jones who, in spite of the dreadful weather, travelled from Cardiff to join them for the presentation.

There is now a copy of the CD in the LHS library and Benita and William have copies for sale.

### **A new addition to the LHS library**

We have a new and valuable addition to our library. Byron Davies, a long-standing member of the Society, has presented a copy of his recent publication, "Halfway and Pemberton – A Chronicle" to the LHS. The book records the growth of the area from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century to the 1960s and it reveals a self-contained community with its own farm, library, school and hotel, together with the industry that provided work in the area, the coal mines. This is a timely publication for we can see, from Byron's research, history repeating itself in the proposed Scarlets Stadium to be located only a few hundred yards from where once an athletics stadium could be found. It was opened back in 1894 and had a capacity of 10,000.

Thanks go to Byron for his kind donation.

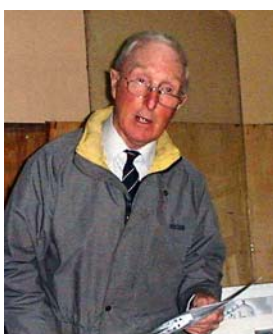
**LHS Web Site** <http://www.llanellihistorical.co.uk/>

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



## The Passing of a Good Friend

On Tuesday, September 19, 2006 the Society lost a much valued member, loyal supporter but most of all a good friend. Colin Morgan passed away after 11 months of illness, borne with courage, optimism and even humour. He faced his illness as he had lived his life, for these were the traits that he had always shown in abundance, together with compassion, warmth and a passion for a host of wide-ranging activities.



*Colin leading LHS members on a tour of Llanelly House*

Those who knew him were well aware that if Colin became involved in anything then there was no question of simply dabbling, he entered in with

enthusiasm and total commitment. We in the LHS witnessed this, time and time again; we saw it in his work on behalf of the restoration of Llanelly House, in his active support of all open days and his involvement



*Colin, with Peter Francis, preparing to cross to the island in Pontwym - Old Castle Pond during an Early History Group field trip.*

in the field trips, to name but a few.

He was an historian, actively involved in research, and gave illustrated talks regularly up until last year. The LHS could always rely upon Colin, together with Pam, to give at least one stimulating talk on each annual programme, and so it was with many other organizations in and around Llanelli.

Colin was a climber, a walker, a photographer, a speedway enthusiast (still riding his motorbike at 80), and, as the technician for the Talking Newspaper, a dependable volunteer from its inception.

At his funeral service at the town's Parish Church it was very evident that Colin had touched many, many lives. Hundreds of people were in attendance, not simply to represent the many organizations in which he was involved, and to acknowledge his contribution to the town, but

because he was a good and true friend who touched their lives in so many ways.

We miss you, Colin and our condolences go to Pamela and the family.



## LHS Acquires Censuses

Local history researchers and family historians in the LHS will be pleased to learn that CD ROMs containing the censuses for Carmarthenshire, Glamorgan and Staffordshire (because of the links due to migration to the pottery factories of Llanelli and Swansea) have been purchased for use by members.

We have to thank Awards for all Wales for this valuable addition to our resources, as



they allowed us to make the purchase from money remaining from our 2006 grant. Towards the end of last year we approached them to explain how important these censuses are to the work of various research groups within the Society and they readily agreed for us to use the remaining money for this purpose.

Check later for more details on who to approach to borrow these discs.

### Support from Rural Council

Llanelli Rural Council has again shown its support for the LHS. At a reception attended by Caroline DeAbreu, chair of the Society and Joyce Mollet, secretary, a cheque was presented by council chairman, Dillwyn Bowen, money that will be a great help to the administrative costs of the Society.

### Stephen Rees Collection

LHS member, Stephen Rees, has recently moved house and the Society has benefited greatly from the inevitable clearing and sorting that goes with downsizing. Stephen has kindly placed in our keeping interesting and valuable documents, books, photographs, maps and memorabilia relating to Llanelli's past. These are being catalogued and will prove very useful to those involve in local history research.



## New Project for 2007

The Early History Group is starting a new project, that members are calling, "Llanelli in the 1880s." It is hoped to bring to life the 1880 maps of Llanelli by tracing families who lived in Llanelli during that period.

Any Society members who can trace their family to an address or area of Llanelli during the 1880s and who would like to supply details, photographs and stories, and thereby take part in this project should contact John Williams (treasurer). John's group already has ten members who are interested. It is hoped to do a presentation to the Society at the November meeting.



LHS members, Peter Francis and Heward Rees have once more done a splendid job of editing the "Llanelli Miscellany" and the Society once again purchased a copy for each member and provided it free of charge. LHS members yet again provided almost half the articles, but don't rest on your laurels, Peter is already looking for contributions for the next issue, so get writing you local history buffs.

### 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

## Open Day

It is that time of year again. Yes, LHS members have started to prepare for the 2007 Open Evening. As you will already have seen in the new programme the date is Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> and yes, it is the Spring Bank Holiday.

The committee has already made some plans and various groups are preparing their work for display, however, it is difficult to get this planning done at the regular committee meetings and so a group concentrating on Open Day will be meeting on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

We would welcome more involvement from members and so if you would like to come on board with offers of help, ideas, or contributions of any nature, please approach a committee member for time and venue of meeting. You will be welcomed with open arms!

## Robin Craig Collection

Work continues with cataloguing the collection donated by Robin Craig and those who have been involved continue to report on the wealth of material that we have inherited. The maps alone are proving to be a tremendous boost to ongoing research and will be one aspect of the collection that will be displayed at Open Evening. You will also learn that evening which journals form part of the collection, and how you will be able to gain access to them. Robin is hoping to join us that evening providing that his health allows him to make the journey from Dover.



*Nicholas Howard, grandson of Lady Stepney seen here with his wife.*

and had warm memories of Llanelli and the time he spent here

## Visit by Nicholas Howard

In September, the grandson of Lady Stepney, Nicholas Howard, visited Llanelli. Some members of the LHS committee were invited to meet with him and his wife. Also present was Miss Gwyneth Evans, who, for many years, worked in the office of the Stepney Estate and remembered Lady Stepney well. Nicholas was not raised in Cilymaenllwyd but spent many holidays there with his grandmother

The reminiscing about Cilymaenllwyd and the anecdotes shared that evening provided important and helpful background to those LHS members who are researching and recording the history of the house and the Stepney family. Nicholas also brought with him family photographs, copies of which are now in the LHS collection.

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