



Cymdeithas Hanesyddol Llanelli Llanelli Historical Society

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

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Llanelly House missed out on the chance to scoop £3,375,000 - more than enough to complete the restoration project - when it failed to win the final of the BBC *Restoration* series. However, not all was lost, we won the Welsh round and the publicity gained for this fine building was enormous and cannot fail to benefit the town's programme of restoration.



Sir David and Lady Mary Mansel Lewis opening the exhibition at the Parish Church

Exhibition at the Parish Church

Members of the LHS were heavily involved in the exhibition that was part of the publicity drive leading up to the BBC2 programme. The exhibition covered the architecture and history of Llanelly House and was officially opened by our president, Sir David Mansel Lewis. During the week hundreds of visitors passed through the doors of the Parish Church

LHS involvement in the BBC Restoration series

Society members helped in many ways to make Llanelli's part in the Restoration Programme a success, and as a result, our Chairwoman received a letter of thanks from Mr. Lynn Davies, Town Clerk. Mr. Davies asked Caroline to convey his thanks to you all, and so sections of his letter are quoted below.

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"Now that the dust has more or less settled after the hectic activity of the past few weeks, I wanted to take the opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to you and the members of the Society for the contribution you all made to the events organised in conjunction with the programmes broadcast on 5th and 14th September. The contribution made and the assistance given by the small group which took responsibility for preparing for the exhibition and the two lectures was invaluable, and I very much hope that the close co-operation that was so obvious in that particular

exercise will continue for the future as the Llanelly House project proceeds.

..... I would, therefore, ask you to convey my thanks to all your Society members, ranging from those involved in the small group referred to above, to those who very kindly volunteered to man the exhibition in the Parish Church, those who travelled to London for the final and to those who I am sure voted and voted and voted for Llanelly House. Without their help and support we would not have achieved what we did.

Yours sincerely"



Exhibition at the Parish Church

The Parish Church proved to be the ideal venue for the Society's historical account of Llanelly House. Monuments to the Vaughans and Stepneys, who had owned the property down through the centuries, looked down on the visitors providing a very real connection with the past.

Colin and Pamela Morgan, with their team of workers, did a sterling job of manning the exhibition and a big thank you is directed their way.

Colin was at the opening and closing of the exhibition each day, and also made sure that there was a smooth change over at lunchtime. It all went without a hitch.



This was the first visitor to the exhibition, after this hundreds of people came through the church during the week..

I was there !

A coach party from Llanelli attended the live final of *Restoration* at the Tower of London and were very vocal in their support! There were many LHS members aboard the bus and all agreed that it was a great experience.

Reminder for December

Don't forget that December's meeting is a social occasion and members are invited to come in historical costume. In past years many have entered into the spirit of the evening, so this year lets make it a greater number in costume. All you local history enthusiasts, let's make it a night to remember!

Award to the Verandah



At the August meeting members of the LHS presented Mr. Ali, manager of the Verandah Restaurant, with an award for the work carried out on one of the town's important historic buildings.

Mr. Ali was congratulated for the manner in which he had renovated this ageing, but attractive building, returning it to its former glory.

Our chairwoman said, "We can now begin to envisage how attractive this part of town will be when the plan to rejuvenate the area gets underway."





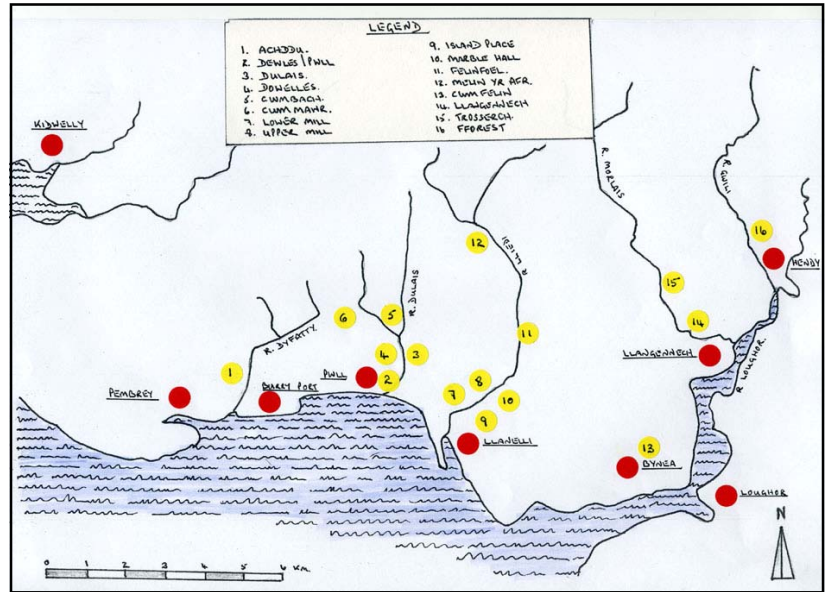
Medieval Mills in Llanelli

Item from John Williams, our treasurer

On 22 August 2003 members of the Early History Research Group were invited to visit Cambria Archaeology at their headquarters in Llandeilo.

They were met and hosted by Mr. Richard Jones of the Heritage Management who discussed with them the current research, "Medieval Mills in Llanelli." The Society is indebted to Richard for his enthusiasm and assistance given on the visit.

This map shows the location of the local mills and has been compiled by John Williams.



British Association of Local History

The secretary sent a press release and a photograph covering the Society's involvement in Llanelly House and the BBC2 programme, Restoration, to the BALH, however, it failed to be included in the last issue.

The Society did, however, have a place in a news item in the Local History News!



"Many local history societies have an image or typeface to identify their products often with clear – or subtle – links to their area. Durham County Local History Society is following in the footsteps of Llanelli Historical Society (see LHN 67 page 12) by organising a competition for a new logo design."



John Parry has been in hospital for surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to his return to LHS meetings.

www.Llanelli-Historical-Society.co.uk

Have you seen our web site recently? If you haven't looked in, then you're in for a surprise. In today's jargon, it is a very happening place! Thanks to the hard work of Vaughn Jones, it has become a very professional production.

During the Llanelly House event he updated on a very regular basis and made sure everyone had an up to the minute progress report, knew how and when to vote, and were aware of the various events organised in conjunction with the BBC programme.

The statistics show that the site is becoming very popular, with 742 hits in May, 3,060 hits in June, 6,452 hits in July, 9,504 in August and 25,881

in September! No, that is not a misprint, 25,881 and at the time of going to press the month is not out.

Visits have been made from, Australia, Netherlands, Canada, Switzerland, Germany, Chile, Italy, Malta, Greece, Japan and South Africa.

The pdf file on the history of Llanelly House has had the greatest hits of all the files (except the home page) and Vaughn suggests that this can be explained by schools linking directly to this file. It is encouraging news that the work of society members is reaching the local schools.

Future Newsletters
If you have any news you wish to share pass it on to the editor, Joyce Mollet.



Your Society needs you

As membership of the LHS has grown (currently 119), so have the demands made on the time and commitment of its members.

Consequently, the chairwoman and committee are looking for members who would like to become more involved in the work of the Society so that the tasks can be shared out a little more.



The LHS annual trips and visits

The chairwoman would like to draw your attention to the annual trips and visits that we have enjoyed in past years. Because of other pressing commitments, such as the Llanelly House Restoration programme and our Open Day, there has not been the time to organise this year's trip.

The committee is hoping that there is someone (or a small group of "someones") who would consider taking on this commitment. The volunteer/volunteers would not be starting from scratch as contacts with bus companies and venues for meals, etc. have all been set up. In other words there is a file of material ready to be handed over and plenty of suggestions of possible locations, but we need someone who will take on the responsibility of the organisation.

These trips and visits have been so successful in the past that it would be a shame if they did not continue, so "come on you members there must be a few of you who would like to take this on!"

Re-establishing a tradition

The committee would also like to re-establish a tradition from the past.

Anyone who has delved into the newspapers from Llanelly's past will be familiar with the practise of reporting on society meetings in the town. It is always of historical interest to read about the talks that were given and the people who made contributions; and to glimpse into the activities of these groups

Could we perhaps continue the tradition and provide the Star with a press release each month of the LHS meeting?

The committee wonders if we might have someone

LHS Committee

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within our membership who can make that commitment. Is there anyone who might consider taking on this task?



LHS members with their guide during a trip to Caerleon in 2002.

Summer Meetings

We have been treated to some excellent presentations over the Summer months.

In July, Brian Hitchman gave a very interesting talk on the Mynydd Mawr Railway and the enthusiasm of the audience reflected the high quality of the presentation. Thank you Brian.

In September we hosted the public lecture to support Llanelly's inclusion in the Restoration Programme. The Lliedi Suite was full to overflowing to hear one of our long standing members, Dr. David Davies give a talk entitled, *The House of Stepney - The Rise and Fall of the Owners of Llanelly House*, and we felt very privileged to have Dr. Davies share with us his exceptional, and very recent research on the Stepney family. It was a wonderful evening and most appreciated.