



Founder member: Caroline De Abreu

Established 1999

Current membership 140

Newsletter
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LHS Helps to Name Streets

Back in May the Town Council approached the Llanelli Historical Society inviting members to become involved in naming the new streets in the residential development created by David Mclean Homes Ltd. at North Dock.

Unfortunately, there was no time to approach the membership, so the committee discussed it and explored different possibilities. The suggestion that the committee ran with, was to name the streets after ships that had been built in Llanelli.

With this in mind they contacted LHS member, and an authority on the history of local shipping, Robin Craig, who immediately returned a list of possibilities.



Brigantine, Clara Novello of Llanelli, 1858—1888, one of the ships on the list submitted to the Llanelli Town Council by the LHS



Robin Craig, seen here with Madge, Joyce and Caroline when he gave a talk to the LHS in 2003

Presentation of Historic Models at Parc Howard

Our President, Sir David Mansel Lewis, chairwoman, Caroline DeAbreu and Secretary, Joyce Mollet, were invited guests at an event in Parc Howard on Saturday, 11th September.

They had been invited to represent the Society when LHS member, John Wynne Hopkins made a presentation of historic models and their display cases to Parc Howard Museum.

Members will have seen these historic models (created by pupils of

Penybryn Senior Special School), displayed at our Open Day last year.

LHS members were officially thanked both by John, and the Chairman of Carmarthenshire County Council, Cllr. Gerald F Meyler, for all their hard work in selling Christmas cards and raising many hundreds of pounds that helped to purchase the display cases.

Well done all those who worked to raise that money!

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These suggestions were submitted to the Town Council and the committee is delighted to report that all the names suggested by the LHS were included in the list forwarded by the Llanelli Town Council to David Mclean Homes.

Thank you, Robin for your involvement.

Llanelly House

Colin and Pamela Morgan have been out and about giving talks on the History of Llanelly House to various groups in the area. They use the LHS posters and photographs to illustrate the talk, and they share, with their audience, their personal experience of actually living in part of Llanelly House. Word is getting around and they have been in great demand. They also have more commitments lined up for the autumn and winter. The U3A at Burry Port insisted on giving them a fee, which they kindly donated to the Llanelli Hospice fund.

Apologies to all who were looking forward to the autumn trip to Llancaiach Fawr Manor. The visit had to be cancelled due to double booking by Llancaiach. However, all is not lost. The trip is on for February and we ask all those interested to contact Pamela Raikes.



Launch of the CD, Parc Howard

Benita and William Rees have launched yet another of their successful CDs.

The launch was held at Parc Howard Museum where the reception room was full to overflowing, and excerpts from the CD were projected on to a large screen. It was a fine, sunny day and guest were able to spill out onto the beautiful lawns and gardens. It was quite a party atmosphere.

Benita thanked the many people who had helped her in her

research, especially Ann Dorsett, County Museums Officer.

Most of the Societies of the town were represented, with a large number of LHS members present.

The CD provides us with a history of Parc Howard from its earliest days, giving us glimpses into the lives of the families who have lived there over the years, and the important events from its long and fascinating history. A “must have” for all those interested in the town’s history.



“William’s and I would like to express our appreciation for the support we received from the LHS. The presence of the members gave us a boost and also gave us confidence. We were thrilled and delighted with the support and encouragement and we hope everyone enjoyed themselves.”

Mabolgampau in Llanelli in the 1930s



The LHS has, once more, been made custodian of interesting memorabilia, which will eventually find a home in Llanelli House. This statuette was presented by Lady Meriel Howard Stepney, to

be competed for annually by the school children of Llanelli.

This was the prize for boys, and there was a similar one for girls. Both have been placed in the care of the LHS until, (because of their Stepney connection) they find a place in Llanelli House.

The statuettes were in the keeping of the late Mr. Tom Davies, and brought down to Llanelli, from Cardiff, by his daughters.

Kathleen Davies told the Society’s chairwoman, “My father was in charge of physical education under the Llanelli Education Committee in the late 1920s and through the 1930s. It was through his work and many initiatives that the standard of teaching in physical education in Llanelli was something talked of country-wide.”

Kathleen and her sister brought with them fascinating material (documents, newspaper clippings and photographs) that showed how their father’s work benefited thousands of children in the Llanelli area, introducing them to exciting new approaches to physical education. He introduced innovations to the schools of Llanelli that did away with the humdrum and monotonous physical training of the past, and organised hundreds of children in displays that combined movement,

colour, music and dance.

Do any of our members remember the annual Mabolgampau held in Llanelli in conjunction with the Urdd Gobaith Cymru?

Are there members who remember anything about Tom Davies’ work to establish evening play centres in the town attended by around 300 children every night through the winter months, or the physical training classes for unemployed men?

If you have any knowledge of Tom Davies’ work in the town, the social history group would love to hear from you.



One of the many demonstrations given by the schoolchildren of Llanelli, c late 1920s/early 1930s

Reduced subscription

The committee has had requests from people who are unable to attend meetings because of infirmity, long term illness etc., but who would like to retain their support of the Society. In response to this the committee decided to have a “50% contribution” available for these members.

For this subscription these members will receive their complementary copy of *Llanelli Miscellany*, and the quarterly newsletter. Please approach the Treasurer (John Williams) if you know of anyone who would like to take up this offer, and he will bring it to the committee, who will look at each application on merit.

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



September Meeting

We began the Winter Programme with a presentation by the Social History Group who introduced some notable women from Llanelli's Past.

The group selected three women for this presentation, and using the original research of **Joyce Mollet**, each member created their own, first person, scripts. Their roles were more convincing as they presented them in a darkened room, and the audience heard only the voices of these women, while up on a large screen they projected images. There were around 130 images to support the three stories.

Caroline DeAbreu took on the role of Helen Raby (1821 - 1899), granddaughter of one of Llanelli's first industrialists. Helen was a prolific writer who worked in a number of genres; journalism, poetry, fiction, travel writing etc. She had her work published in London magazines, Carmarthenshire journals and the local newspapers in Llanelli and Hampshire.



Caroline gave an overview of her life and work, and the local events with which she was connected, and she also read some of Helen's poetry.

Pamela Morgan was Lady Meriel Howard Stepney (1876 - 1952) and included, in the account of her life and work, material on her early life that was new to most of the audience.

She presented an interpretation of Lady Stepney's early life that goes a long way in explaining the character of the woman that Llanelli people knew and loved.

Marjorie Witty gave us Nurse Mary Jane Hughes (1887 - 1986), a World War I nurse who served in Egypt, and on a Hospital Ship travelling the East Coast of Africa; a nurse who was mentioned in dispatches and decorated with the Royal Red Cross medal for bravery.

Thanks to the support of Joan Ward (Nurse Hughes' niece), and Ann



Dorsett (County Museum's Officer) many of Nurse Hughes' photographs were used to illustrate the presentation.

This collection of personal photographs, documenting a woman's experience in the Great War, is a wonderful resource, and more

comprehensive than any single collection held at the Imperial War Museum.



Anyone with news to share in future newsletters contact the editor, Joyce Mollet

Visit to The National Museum of Wales July 2004

The visit organised by our treasurer, John Williams, to the National Museum and Gallery, Cardiff was a great success.



Many LHS members had not made a visit for some years and were delighted with the opportunity to see the new displays.

John had organised the services of a guide who gave members an

excellent introduction to the touring exhibition, "Buried Treasure" and they also had the time to wander through other areas of the Museum and Gallery.

There was an added bonus in that during the visit they were able to see Raphael's masterpiece, the Madonna of the Pinks, on tour from the National Gallery.

John would like to draw the attention of members to two events that are currently running at the National Museum and Gallery, Cardiff. Both are free exhibitions.

The Queen of the Night - a goddess of the underworld from the south of ancient Mesopotamia (present-day Iraq).

This is a relief made of baked clay between 1800 - 1750 BC.

She will be on display from 7 September - 28 November, on tour from the British Museum.

An Art Accustomed Eye: John Gibbs and art appreciation in Wales 1945 - 1996

18 September - 16 January 2005

John Gibbs was one of the most important collectors of modern and contemporary art in Wales.

His focus was on British Modernism, and among his first purchases were outstanding paintings by Paul Nash, Christopher Wood and John Piper but he was also a strong supporter of Welsh art.

The exhibition brings together over 40 works, not only from his private collection but also from organisations that he helped - including the National Museums and Galleries of Wales.