



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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LHS Open Evening

Open Evening on the first Monday of August proved to be a great success. Over 200 people attended the event and amongst the invited guests were, Nia Griffith MP, Cllr. Jim Jones, Chairman of Carmarthenshire County Council, Cllr. Nigel Bevan, the Town Mayor, and Cllr. Diana Darby, Chairwoman of the Llanelli Rural Council and her consort, Mr. Peter Darby.



Cllr Jim Jones, Chairman of Carmarthenshire County Council, in conversation with the Chairwoman, Caroline and Pamela Raiques, our social events organiser.

The Society had on display some of the work that the various interest groups had produced over the year. There were posters on Medieval Mills in the Llanelli area, Llanelli's involvement in the Boer War, shipwrecks found off the coast of Llanelli, historic homes of Llanelli, noteworthy women from Llanelli's past and much, much more.

Thank you to all members who made the event possible by providing material, preparing the displays, setting up the exhibition and supporting with your attendance. Well done LHS!



Social History Display

The section on social history included brief biographies of two men of the 1920s and 1930s who were very well known and loved by the children of Llanelli, Tom Davies who revolutionized the teaching of physical education in the schools, and Harry Stediford, entertainer who took his Punch and Judy shows all over South Wales. Tom Davies' daughters travelled down from Cardiff to visit the exhibition and many members of the Stediford family were also present.

The photographs displayed on these posters drew much attention from visitors to the exhibition. John Edwards felt sure that he was one of the small boys dancing around the maypole in one of the school children's displays at Stradey and Idwal Davies, another Society member, clearly remembers taking part in Tom Davies' classes

for young men in the 1930s. The photographs brought back memories for many that evening.

A Trip Down Memory Lane

The committee set aside one area of the room for showing the Society's extensive collection of photographs of old Llanelli. These were projected on to a large screen and proved so popular that at times all seats were taken and it became standing room only.



A young visitor absorbed in Peter Francis' pictures of shipwrecks around Llanelli's coastline



Bumper Raffle

Was yours one of the lucky tickets at the Open Evening raffle draw?



The monthly raffle turned out to be a splendid event due to the generosity of the invited guests. Nia Griffith our MP, donated a beautiful clock set into the House of Commons insignia, a portcullis.

Catherine Thomas, our AM, who sent her apologies for that evening, donated an invitation to tour the Assembly Building in Cardiff followed by lunch.

The LHS also provided a framed print of the Parish Church, and copies of local history books by John Edwards and Byron Davies.

Other Events at the Open Evening

Members of the Civic Society had on sale their new publication, a replica copy of *Old Llanelli* by John Innes. There was a great deal of interest and this led to a



There were times during the Open Evening when the room was so full that it became difficult to get close to the work on display.

number of sales. A copy was donated to the LHS for the library and Vice Chairman of the Civic Society, Hewart Rees, presented it to the Chairwoman thanking the Society for the encouragement and support given for the venture.

Benita and William Rees also had a stall at the event selling copies of their popular CDs, *Llanelli - Birth of a Town* and *Parc Howard - From Mansion to Museum*. They took the opportunity to

sell the LHS Christmas cards and in spite of the early start, sales were brisk.



Hewart Rees, Vice Chairman and Fred Hughes, Secretary of the Civic Society seen here with Joyce Mollet, Secretary of the LHS.



Marjorie Witty expertly managing the raffle table, LHS member, Idwal Davies purchasing tickets and two visitors examining the local history books that were two of the prizes.

Date for your diary

Family History Day

Dyfed Family History will hold its annual Open Day at the Drill Hall, Murray Street, Llanelli on Saturday, September 24th. This year it is hosted by the Llanelli branch and the LHS has been invited to have a presence throughout the day. The invitation has been accepted and we will have a table and display. We still need more volunteers to man the stall throughout the day so that those on duty need not stay for more than an hour. If you have some time to spare then please approach one of the committee for details.



Community Champions 2005

Llanelli Historical Society members nominated Harry Davies for a Community Award earlier this year. We were all delighted when one of the awards, the Chair's Civic Award, sponsored by Carmarthenshire County Council Chairman, Cllr. Jim Jones, went to Harry. Harry received his award at a ceremony held at the Llanelli Town Hall where he was accompanied by his wife, Joyce, and the chairwoman and secretary of the LHS.

The Llanelli Star reported the following:

"Harry Scarlet as he is known has a long history as a rugby correspondent. Nominated by the Llanelli Historical Society, who said they felt there was no-one more deserving of this honour than Harry who at 90 is still very involved in the affairs of his home town and is still practicing his art of journalism. Harry, of Hedley Terrace, was a founder of the local branch of the talking newspaper for the blind and visually-handicapped and is still an active member involved in hands-on tasks. His humour, warmth and integrity are further reasons given in support of this nomination."



Harry Davies receiving the award from Cllr. Jim Jones at the ceremony in the Town Hall.

Please send any contributions for future newsletters to the editor, Joyce Mollet.

News, views, short articles, letters, photographs - all welcome!

Important programme changes.

Monday, 3rd October 2005:

Nostalgia Evening - films of old Llanelli. Some will be items brought back by popular request while others have not been shown before.

Monday, 7th November 2005:

Early History Research Group - "Medieval Mills in Llanelli Part 2"

Wednesday, 7th December 2005

St. Fagans Christmas Tree event.

Reception for Llanelli Societies

Chair of the Llanelli Rural Council, Councillor Diana Darby, hosted a reception for Llanelli Societies on Thursday, 11th August at Vauxhall Buildings. The LHS committee represented the Society and together with representatives from the other societies enjoyed Cllr. Darby's generous hospitality. The evening was an excellent opportunity to connect with the other societies in the town, to exchange ideas and share news on future plans and events.

The Society will be celebrating Christmas a little differently this year. A bus has been booked to take members to St Fagans to take part in the Special Christmas Tree event. More details at the October meeting. **To facilitate this there will be no meeting at the Lliedi Suite on Monday, 5th December.**

Monday, 9th January 2006

Meeting date changed from the first Monday (January 2nd) to the second Monday of the month due to the Bank Holiday and the closure of our venue on that day.

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
 William Rees 775320

LHS September trip

If you have not yet reserved a place on the LHS trip to Llancaiach Fawr Manor on Thursday September 15th, there is still time but you will need to book and pay this evening. Those who have visited before thoroughly recommend the outing. (Price £10 and includes transport and entrance fee)

Membership Update

The Society is approaching the end of its sixth year and paid up membership continues to exceeds 100.