

LLANDAFF SOCIETY

CYMDEITHAS LLANDAF



Affiliated to The Civic Trust for Wales
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NEWSLETTER 121 WINTER 2011—12

High Street Improvements:



2012

FUTURE EVENTS

Unless otherwise stated, all venues:

The Parish Room, High Street Car Park, Llandaff

Friday, 24 February at 7.30pm

Question Time:

Your opportunity to raise matters of local and community interest with our Councillors:

Kirsty Davies and Gareth Aubrey and our Community Police Officer.

Friday, 23rd March at 7.30pm

Speaker: Mrs Kate Bates, Head teacher, Llandaff CW School.

Your Membership card/ Programme for 2012, unavoidably delayed, accompanies this Newsletter and includes details of our primary events for the year ahead.

As our picture shows, work on this project is progressing rapidly. Our High Street been crying out for a face lift and inevitably there will be restricted access and some disruption during the period of the works but it is hoped that the enhancements carried out by Cardiff Council, after careful public consultation, involving Llandaff Society; its Traders Sub-Committee and Llandaff Conservation Group, will substantially enhance facilities and improve the ambience for shoppers; tourists and those simply enjoying the social life. The definitive plan will remain on display in the 'Spar' notice board.

Update from Councillor Kirsty Davies



A quick update with regard to the Llandaff scheme in general; we had to commission an archaeologist earlier this week after a wall circa 1750-1800 was unearthed un-expectedly when the paving slabs and tarmac were removed outside the Spar. This should not overly delay the scheme however. Cardiff Archaeological Trust is on site overseeing some of the works and surveying the wall. At this stage it appears the wall formed part of the boundary wall for the old school.

Cardiff Council has instigated an archaeological watching brief during improvements to the High Street Llandaff. During the initial ground excavation works for new parking bays a section of wall was uncovered. It is a foundation remnant made up of large cobblestones and limestone bonded by a lime mortar. This wall is probably the old boundary wall of Llandaff Church Junior School. The school was built in 1867 and designed by John Pritchard; finally being demolished to make way for the Spar and other shops.

Further work may reveal more archaeological evidence; it has been suggested that a Roman and later medieval road, may follow the current line of High Street. Cottages are also recorded on the site before the school was built, and evidence of these and the earlier roads may be encountered as work progresses to the southern end of High Street. NB. Wall is clearly visible to the right of the trench.

Photo and report - Jim Stewart-Turner PIFA CARDIFF ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

UWIC RIBA Award.

The Llandaff campus at Western Avenue first developed in the 1960's, provides the heart of the recently renamed Cardiff Metropolitan University. The new School of Management opened in Autumn 2010 to provide an imaginative, state of the art facility. Llandaff Society congratulates 'Cardiff Met' on the RIBA award for this splendid building.

View from afar.

Our Chairman, Geoff B-G has been on his travels to sultry Sydney, Australia and on to beautiful Tasmania, where he has been pursuing 'the Llandaff connection'. Having first been there in 2005 when he was photographed for the Newsletter admiring a 'Llandaff' road sign encountered along the way on Tasmania's East Coast he was lured back to find out more. His researches led him to the Glamorgan Bay Historical Society; Swansea Museum and the Tasmania National Archive. More on this will appear in our next edition Suffice it for now that his enquiries also revealed new information about 20th Century events in our own City of Llandaff!

Queens Diamond Jubilee;

Whether or not 2012 will be remembered as the year of the London Olympics remains to be seen but it will be immensely significant as the year our Queen celebrates her 60 years on the throne. Recalling those grainy black and white television pictures of Coronation Year, it is incredible what events and unforeseen changes in the fortunes of our nations and of the world have since come to pass. Our longest serving monarch has acted as a uniting force throughout the Commonwealth of Nations and the English speaking world.

Queen Elizabeth II's celebratory visit to Wales includes a service of thanksgiving to take place at Llandaff Cathedral. The full focus of the media will be on Llandaff so the flags should be out with our streets clad in festive bunting. Llandaff Society plan a commemorative project to mark the historic occasion and have appointed Rosemary Scadden as co-ordinator for a celebratory event that could see the return of Llandaff Street Fayre or a 'royal' garden party in the Bishops Castle. Time is short so the Editor invites readers' ideas and/or volunteer interest as a matter of urgency.

Armistice Day 11.11.11.2011

Canon Graham Holcombe officiated at this increasingly well supported event attended by a large crowd, including many pupils from local schools. More than two dozen wreaths were laid and many crosses planted to commemorate those fallen in war. The Last Post and Reveille was faultlessly sounded by a young trumpeter from Cathedral School.



Brunel Part 2.

The November Sessional Meeting marked the welcome return of Stephen K Jones, an authority on Brunel, who delivered an excellent illustrated lecture focussed on Isambard Kingdom Brunel's later work including the revolutionary 'Great Western' and its sister steamships and the special docks built to receive them.

Assistant Bishop addresses the Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner of LS was held on 3rd December at the usual venue of Llandaff Rowing Club. Our guest speaker the Right Reverend Bishop David Wilbourne kept us highly entertained with numerous anecdotes and funny incidents from his ecclesiastical travels on the way to Llandaff. The response was made by our President Capt. Sir Norman Lloyd Edwards. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

Christmas light-up in the High Street

The rain held off as crowds assembled for this popular launch to the festive season. Carols were led by Cathedral School brass ensemble and the singers of Oriana. Then local rugby legend Stephen Jones; accompanied by his wife and baby son, was introduced by 'Kairdiff's' own Frank Hennessy as Father Christmas arrived. As Stephen threw the switches, the new light sets co-ordinated with those at the Maltsters and the Butchers Arms to great effect as the chestnuts crackled outside Llandaff Institute. Thanks are due to all involved in the success of this event, especially to K2; Kalla Bella and Jaspers for magnificent fund raising initiatives.



Candlelit Carols at St Michael's College

This took place on 15th December when Oriana ladies choir gave a programme of song and readings from Louisa M. Alcott's 'Little Women' to a full house at St Michaels College Chapel. Special thanks go to our Llandaff Society Vice Chair Pauline Grainger for her organisation and performing skills. A retiring collection realised £316.00 for NSPCC. Minced pies and mulled wine rounded off a most enjoyable start to the festive season.

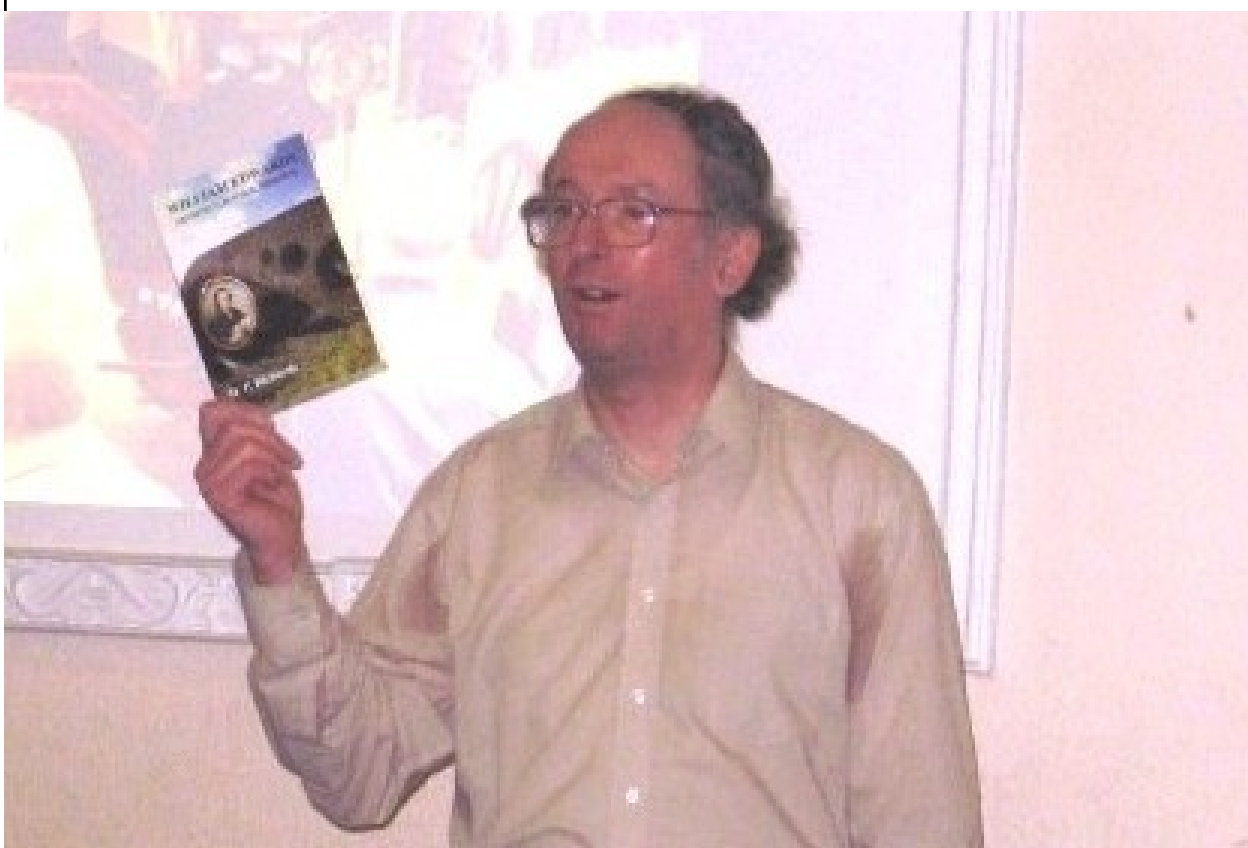
LS Occasional Paper No 17

A new LS Occasional Paper No 17 - 'Llandaff newly-weds in the Seventeen-sixties' was launched during the evening. This fascinating insight into the life of the Mathew family is beautifully illustrated with fine portraits by Gainsborough. The paper; the result of meticulous research on both sides of the Atlantic by Norman and Vanessa Cunningham is available at just £4.00.

First sessional meeting 2012

Friday 27th January was the evening of our first sessional meeting of 2012, when Brian Davies, Curator of Pontypridd Museum was guest speaker to a packed house.

Having studied History at York University he became an Education Officer with the National Museum of Wales, before helping set up Big Pit mining museum as a major historical attraction.



He has been Curator of the Pontypridd Museum since its foundation twenty years ago. Working immediately alongside the remarkable New Bridge, which William Edwards built to span the Taff in 1756, it has naturally intrigued him and in effect has become his passion. His comprehensive presentation, delivered with infectious enthusiasm, included many fascinating slides illustrating the innovative bridge, modelled perhaps on Venice's Rialto Bridge, as an inspiration for many artists including the romanticist, Richard Wilson and the great JMW Turner. Brian was authoritative, knowledgeable and memorably provided an outstanding evening – a great start to the New Year!

SHEILA JENKINS 1934-2011

Born and raised in Pontypridd, on leaving school Sheila learnt secretarial skills at Bloggs College in Greyfriars Road, Cardiff before starting work with Leslies Stores in Taff Street. However a career in the Civil Service appealed and she joined Ministry of Public Building and Works at Gabalfa. Meanwhile the family moved to Rhiwbina in 1964. Sheila and her sister Myra moved to Llandaff in 1982 and there she soon became involved with local activities including Insole Estate Residents Association, which she served as Hon. Secretary for many years.

Having joining Llandaff Society, and after retiring from what had by then become Property Services Agency, Sheila became its Hon Secretary continuing in that role until illness struck.



Sheila's dedicated work in that post has made an invaluable contribution to the success of LS. Her industry and utter reliability was of the highest order and her ability to take shorthand verbatim in committee led to the production of detailed minutes of its proceedings. Readiness to adapt to the needs of modern information technology enabled Sheila, as Editor, to produce LS Newsletter to a high standard and her organisational flair ensured that once the drafts had been finalised it was printed and distributed with splendid efficiency.

Sheila was an exceptional citizen of Llandaff whose busy presence in the community will be much missed, as it will also be on the paths of St Davids Head and in the South Cornwall sub-tropical gardens that she greatly loved.

GARTH LLOYD 1928-2011

An appreciation of this talented former committee member of Llandaff Society, who died after a short illness, will appear in the next Llandaff Society Newsletter.

Summer Coach Trip

This ever popular highlight of the Summer will take place on Tuesday 12th June 2012 when our party will be the only group to visit Sir Roy Strong's remarkable garden at The Laskett, Much Birch near Hereford. An additional visit to complement is planned and by public demand this will take our group to the secluded ancient delights of Abbey Dore.

Transport will be by reliable motor coach provided as previously, most likely by Thomas of Rhondda. More information will be forthcoming but if you would like to secure your place please contact Pauline Grainger, LS Vice Chair.

Llandaff Exhibition at Cardiff Story Museum, Old Library Cardiff

This special event for Llandaff closed on 30th November 2011 having been visited by all who passed through Cardiff Story Museum during its' three months run. LS Archivist, Donna Howard was frequently in attendance to assist visitors and at the schools half term, morning sessions were attended by Geoff Barton-Greenwood who read from Roald Dahl's 'Further

Adventures of Boy' to over thirty children of all ages and John Prior - Morris who related the heritage story of Insole Court. At time of writing official feedback had not been received but the Cardiff Story Museum's interest in all things Llandaff for the future is already evident.

Vacancies

At the end of 2011 Llandaff Society was without both Hon Secretary and Editor of this newsletter. For the moment, Jenny B-G has stepped in temporarily in the role of Minutes secretary, with Diana Langmaid, our Hon Treasurer taking on Membership responsibilities and other members of committee have produced this Newsletter.

The important role of Honorary Secretary is however open and if there is anyone out there with the necessary range of skills and interest, our Chairman GB-G would like to hear from you with the possibility of joining our dedicated and friendly team in the vital task of taking LS and our community forward whilst safeguarding our past.