

# LLANDAFF SOCIETY

## CYMDEITHAS LLANDAF



Affiliated to The Civic Trust for Wales  
[www.llandaffcity.co.uk](http://www.llandaffcity.co.uk)



NEWSLETTER 123 SUMMER 2012

2012

### FUTURE EVENTS

Unless otherwise stated, venue is the Parish Room, High Street Car Park, Llandaff at 7.30 p.m.  
Admission £2:00. Non members £3:00

Friday, 28th September.  
Talk on the History of Cardiff's Victorian Parks by Rosie James. Chartered Landscape Architect with Cardiff Parks.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October: Annual General Meeting — 7.30pm at the Parish Room: followed by Cheese and Wine. (AGM Notice accompanies this edition.) There are a number of Committee Vacancies including that of Hon Secretary and nominations in advance would be welcomed.

Further notices on the back page.

### SOMETHING IN THE AIR ! WINNING DAB RADIO DESIGN HELPS 'CHILDREN IN NEED'



Listeners to the Radio 4 Today programme may have heard James Naughtie announce the winner of their national competition to design the case for a limited edition digital radio to mark the return of the programme from the old Television Centre to new studios in New Broadcasting House, Portland Place, and to raise funds for Children in Need. The winning design is by Llandavian, DAVID HAMPSON. David is a product designer living in Highfields, who now has a visual impairment. His interview on the programme gave a fascinating insight into how he was able to use computer software to enable him to win through.

David said to the Llandaff Society:  
"I was thrilled at winning this competition particularly since my design will not only go into people's homes around the world, but also potentially raise £75,000 for Children in Need. The design brief was to say something about old and new Broadcasting House and the Today Programme. The sweeping shape of the new Broadcasting House is reflected on the side panels and the clock face and aerial mast on the front. The Today programme is represented by the lights working in its windows."

The technologically advanced Tivoli Ten Plus radio is Tivoli Audio's smallest and best performing DAB, DAB+, and DMB compatible table radio. It is available in a limited edition of just 1500, signed by the Today Programme presenters, James Naughtie, Evan Davies, Sarah Montague and John Humphreys. Of the £199 price, £50 goes to Children in Need. Full details can be found on the manufacturer's website [www.tivoliaudio.com](http://www.tivoliaudio.com)

Our sincere congratulations go to David.

Pictures courtesy Andy Giles Associates





QUEEN’S DIAMOND JUBILEE RIVER PAGEANT

Congratulations to Ian Hall of Llandaff Rowing Club, who lives in Ely Road. Ian rowed in one of five Venetian boats in the Jubilee River Pageant. The organisers were aware that two gondolas had been brought over from Venice for the pageant of Charles II. For Elizabeth II, in 2012, they brought over a ten-oared and an eighteen oared gondola - the largest in Venice. These were crewed by Venetians. They were joined by three British-based boats with British crews. Ian rowed in 'Nicolotta', a ceremonial gondola technically known as a balotina, with a crew of four and two passengers. He described the event as fantastic, and amazingly well organised. Though both he, Prince Phillip, and the Choir of the London Philharmonic Orchestra would have preferred better weather.



Ian was not the only Llandavian helping the Jubilee celebration. His god-daughter, Hannah Morris, is the creative director of Bakehouse Factory, an interactive theatre company commissioned to perform at the The Big Jubilee Lunch at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich. Alongside her sister Becky and other Bakehouse Factory performers, she entertained the Jubilee crowds

with songs, games and right royal story trails. Hannah says "The atmosphere was wonderful - all ages were out on the streets being joyful on that drizzly London afternoon. The day was full of silliness and laughter - brilliant!".

CHANGES AT THE CATHEDRAL:

The sudden retirement of Dean John Lewis and resulting gap while the selection of a successor takes place means that Archbishop Barry Morgan has stepped into the role of acting Dean with a declared objective of inclusivity as

his mission, in which we wish him all success. Llandaff Society shares this perspective and welcomes the opportunity to work with the Cathedral and other elements of the community to build for the future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

HIGH STREET IMPROVEMENTS: AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW

I was very surprised to read in the Spring 2012 Newsletter such a glowing account of the High Street improvements. I quote ‘The appearance of the street has been entirely transformed by realignment of the highway with parking bays and associated adjustments to pavement widths to provide a new and pleasing perspective. . . .We can be justly proud of what has been achieved which is well beyond what was promised.’ What nonsense! The majority of people I have spoken to, while admitting it is an ‘improvement’ of sorts have expressed their great disappointment. Indeed, the Llandaff Society Committee considers that the improvements fall short of ideal, particularly the extensive use of tarmac and the width of the pavements. Why is the pavement so narrow on the Post Office side? Why is it so wide outside Cathedral Cleaners where a small loading bay in this position would have been useful. Why are the kerbs unnecessarily high? I could go on! And how can you say that it ‘is well beyond what was promised’. Ideas suggested by the Conservation Group and Llandaff Society Committee were relayed to the Council. These ideas included the use of small paving slabs on the pavements, sloping kerbs and crossing points at intervals. This would relieve the visual impact of the tarmac and make the street look less

conventional. This approach would have emphasised the importance of pedestrians without complete pedestrianisation. A meeting was held with Council Officers at County Hall to discuss the preliminary designs but it soon became clear that most of our suggestions would not be realised. So we have ended up with a tarmac road, massive kerbs and a pavement on each side. Where is the imagination? Where are the design skills? The street is in one of the prime conservation areas in the City and the main thoroughfare leading to the Cathedral. The improvements could have transformed it into an area worthy of its status. As it is, the work carried out is a big disappointment and a missed opportunity.

David Hamley 19 June 2012

Ed: This issue runs on, with widely divided views in favour and criticism expressed. Contempt for the parking arrangements is regularly demonstrated, not least by a certain blue van! Let the Editor what you think!



REMEMBERING REV'D. BOON-HOR KOO:-

Canon Graham Holcombe writes:  
  
The Llandaff community was saddened to hear of the death of Boon after a short illness patiently accepted with the support of Nel and family. Originally from the Federated Malay States, Boon excelled in his

professional life as Head of Ophthalmics at University of Wales Hospital. For many years he was a server and member of the P.C.C and on retirement he was ordained as a non-stipendiary priest ministering at Llandaff Cathedral. In addition he served as a committee member of Llandaff Society.

‘ORCHARD CARDIFF’:

Insole Court Community Garden makes the following seasonal request:-

Do you have more apples and pears than you know what to do with ?

Orchard Cardiff is a project aiming to use fruit that would otherwise go to waste every autumn in gardens.

Either

- We can come to your house at a time to suit, when the fruit is ripe. You can keep as much of the crop as you like and we will take away the rest to turn into apple juice and cider.
- Or
- You can bring your fruit to us in Victoria park and help to press the fruit in return for some fresh apple juice.

If you want to know more, or arrange for your fruit to be collected, then please contact Jenny Howell Tel. 0795 012 8053 or e-mail [jenny@orchardcardiff.co.uk](mailto:jenny@orchardcardiff.co.uk)

‘TAS’. MANIA !

As reported in our Winter edition, our Chairman’s travels in Australia took him on to Tasmania where he investigated the origins of ‘The Other Llandaff’ in the County of Glamorgan on the East Coast.

Driving towards Tasmania’s dramatic Freysinet Peninsula National Park in 2005 with his family, they were astounded when they saw a lonely road sign announcing ‘Llandaff ‘ and within a flash were through it ! All it comprised were two or three timber bungalows and an abandoned graveyard with a traditional Welsh look about it, set in rolling pastures dotted with gum trees. Time did not permit investigation on that occasion. Nevertheless the desire to find out more proved irresistible !

At the Tasmanian National Archive Geoff established that early settlement of the East Coast took place in the 1840’s as roads were extended by gangs of transported prisoners. Leading amongst the newcomers was one George Meredith; an officer of Royal Marines; who had served at Pembroke Dock. He opened up sheep pastures on his estates around Llandaff Bridge, fighting off rivals; hostile aboriginal people and marauding’ bush rangers.’ Succeeding in taming the wild, Meredith’s family home was established at ‘Cambria’, on the edge of Swansea, originally known as Waterloo Point.

Travelling to Swansea, our Chairman visited the Glamorgan Heritage Museum, where he was welcomed by the Curator; Maureen Martin Ferris, who is also Chair of Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society. Would you believe it her home is situated at Pontypool! Maureen presented Llandaff Society with a guidebook to the locality.

Officially named Swansea in 1850, when the Great Swanport District became the County of Glamorgan that in 1860 became the first rural municipality in Australia; responsible for roads and police. Welsh place names were suggested by George Meredith in reminder of his Welsh origins.

What happened to Llandaff ? Twice a school was opened there and then closed down and converted into a house. The strange thing is that plans for development were drawn up but never built . Yet Llandaff appeared on maps as of strategic importance. The idea was to suggest what is known as a ‘Potemkin Town’. This may indeed have deceived the Russians at the time of the Crimean War but left the other Llandaff as ‘ the town that never was!’



## REPORT ON EVENTS HELD

### INSOLE COURT TRUST BIG LOTTERY SUCCESS Saturday 8th September 2012



Llandaff Society is delighted to hear of Insole Court's success in the award of £761,724 from the Big Lottery and Welsh Government to take forward the Community Asset Transfer (CAT). This will involve the restoration of the Stables to provide a Community Hub. An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £2.2m is currently being prepared by the Trustees, as well as seeking the additional £500k of funding needed.

This success was celebrated at Insole Court by The Insole Court Trust together with Friends of Insole Court; Insole Estate Residents' Association and Llandaff Society on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September with a 'Bring and Share' tea and a 'Bring and Buy' fundraiser towards the Insole Court Appeal.

The event was addressed from the Terrace by Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, Cllr Huw Thomas, Cardiff Council's Executive Member for Sport, Leisure and Culture with John Prior-Morris (Friends of Insole Court), Anthony Clatworthy (Insole Estate Residents' Association) and Geoffrey Barton-Greenwood (Llandaff Society). After a fanfare by Daniel Welch of the Cathedral School, the 150 visitors to the event 'Held Hands around the House' with a continuous circle of bunting, specially sewn for the occasion by Insole Court volunteers. The occasion later made 'Wales Today' television news. Wow!



### DIAMOND JUBILEE BANK HOLIDAY: Tuesday 5th June 2012



Despite enormous efforts to set up a truly memorable 'Picnic on the Green' with carousels; sideshows: donkey rides; Joey the Clown and Richard Berry's storytelling tent in the Bishops Castle, the disastrous weather was yet again the winner on this day. Nevertheless over 200 donkey rides were taken up and those who braved the elements said they had thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The Childrens Art Competition produced an splendid response from local schools. Winning entries showing a great deal of originality and artistic skill were exhibited in the windows of 'The Great Wall' takeaway and prizes were



afterwards presented at Llandaff Institute where celebrations continued into the evening to the lively music of 'The Goodfellas'.

Special thanks are due to Rosemary Scadden, Event Co-ordinator for her highly professional oversight, and to Llandaff Society Vice-Chair, Pauline Grainger who sponsored the donkey rides raising some £200 for The Brook Animal Charity. Also to those volunteers, including Air Cadets of 30F (City of Llandaff) Squadron ATC and Rotarians of Cardiff, City of Llandaff Rotary Club.

The verdict! Lets do it again! Why not an annual Llandaff Fayre embracing the widest cross-section of our community?

### ANNUAL COACH TRIP TO:

Sir Roy Strong's garden at 'The Laskett' in Herefordshire on 12<sup>th</sup> June was a sell-out. The unique charms of this eccentric creation; embellished in Portmeirion pastiche style, were enjoyed after welcome refreshments kindly laid on by Pauline Grainger. Meandering through the lanes the party lunched at Abbey Dore Court and inspected its contrasting traditional riverside gardens before proceeding to Abbey Dore church. There the story of this once great Norman monastery was recounted by informative volunteer guides and tea provided by The Friends. A great day out !





EVENTS HELD cont....

25<sup>th</sup> May, Sessional Meeting, chaired for the evening by Kay Powell. I was pleased to welcome Peter Kingsbury, former Principal Planning Officer at Cardiff City Council and representative on Llandaff Conservation Group. He recounted his experiences in planning in the city and went on to consider prospective changes in the planning system now under Welsh Assembly Government consideration.

Friday July 20<sup>th</sup> Llandaff Society Walk about historic Llandaff led by the Chairman took place on a warm evening and was enjoyed by two dozen people many of whom were visitors from Rhiwbina Civic Society and Treforgan WI.



DEAN JOHN LEWIS - THE FINAL ENIGMA !

Can you recognise the Victorian Cleric whose larger than life portrait was on the point of going to the tip when his cleaner Andrea Mohammed intervened. Attempts to identify have so far failed! Let the Editor know what you think!

FUTURE EVENTS COLUMN

European Heritage Days ‘ OPEN DOORS’ : The Llandaff ‘cluster’ of activities is once again at the forefront of this inspired annual programme in South Wales with a wide swathe of local organisations participating. Llandaff Society have once more offered a Guided walk around the City within a city and are delighted to have arranged with W. Clarke, a visit to their Cardiff Road headquarters when the story of their over 150 years of architectural masonry and church furnishing will be told.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September-7.30pm at the Parish Room  
Speaker is Rosie James, Chartered Landscape Architect, Cardiff City Council speaks on the History of Cardiff’s Victorian Parks.

\*\*\* Local Police Commissioner Hustings \*\*\*:-.

An Important additional event: Date and venue to be arranged, with candidates Mike Baker: Alun Michael: Neil McKevoiy & another.  
Chaired by Canon Graham Holcombe.

Look out for details in the press; on Notice Boards and the Llandaff Society Website.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November: Armistice Ceremony, War Memorial The Green, 10.45 for 11.00 am.

Friday 23<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm at the Parish Room : Screening of a talk on Llandaff Cathedral by the late Dean Alan Davies.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November : High Street Lights ‘Switch - on’ from 6.30pm.

Friday December 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Llandaff Rowing Club 7.00 for 7.30pm  
After Dinner speaker Professor Baroness Ilora Finlay of Llandaff.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm: Candlelit carols at St Michael’s College Chapel followed by mulled wine and mince pies. (NB Ticket only)  
Telephone Jenny B-G on 029 2056 3181.)

THE NEWSLETTER AND VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD WILL ANNOUNCE LAST MINUTE AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS TO THE ABOVE AND PROGRAMME.

STOP PRESS ! There are plans for an Insole Court Christmas card featuring a winter scene from the Fred Weekes frieze. Please don't buy all your cards until you've seen the lovely collectors' item.