





The Llandaff Society Cymdeithas Llandaf

Founded 1977

Patron: Capt sir Norman LloyEdwards KCVO, CGStJ, RD, LLB, JP (rtd)



<div>2023-4 events 7.00pm In Memorial Hall unless stated otherwise</div>	<div>Newsletter No 146 AUTUMN/ WINTER 2023 Contact: info@llandaffcity.co.uk</div> <div>Ar gael yn y Gymraeg hefyd</div> <div>WE MAKE NO APOLOGY FOR FEATURING THE STATE OF THE ANCIENT BUILDINGS OF LLANDAFF YET AGAIN.</div> <div><div><div>The frantic cosmetic facelift for the visit of King Charles did nothing to stop the destructive work of uncontrolled vegetation in the ancient walls of: the Campanile, the Castle and Court Lane, nor the application of obscene graffiti.</div><div><div><div><div>BIGGER BUDDLEIA & BENT RAILINGS</div><div></div><div><div>GRAFFITTI AND RUSTING IRONWORK ON THE DOORS</div><div><div><div></div><div>Elsewhere on the doors there are graffiti using language unsuitable for this publication</div></div></div><div><div><div>Your committee is increasingly concerned at the degree to which the ancient stone buildings in the village are being allowed to deteriorate both by civic neglect and surrender to vandalism.</div><div>The <i>still unlocked Campanile</i> (a War memorial) remains victim to the vigour of Buddleia, Brambles and Sycamores.</div><div>In the Castle insensitive permissions have allowed events to be supported by vehicles - leaving cracked paving stones as trip hazards. The memorial bench to Norman Cunningham our past Chairman, and the fine interpretive historical panel, were both damaged by vandals. The council's response in the absence of any repair budget ? Simply to remove both.</div><div>This vandalism has increased since the routine locking of the gates of the Castle at night time was discontinued several years ago.</div></div></div><div><div><div>We have therefore joined forces with the Insole Court Trust to use the good offices of the Conservation Areas Advisory Group to press the Council to restore night-time locking in both venues.</div><div>Your committee thinks it inconceivable that such decay would be tolerated in an English Cathedral City. Superficial 'tarting up' for the occasional royal visit is just not good enough.</div></div></div><div><div><div>It is becoming more and more apparent to your committee that some form of concerted campaign on the scale of that which rescued Insole Court may be needed to secure an improvement in the care of these precious structures redolent of Llandaff's long history. It is clear that without any kind of income-generating purpose, the funding of proper maintenance is unlikely to be a civic priority in these straitened times. We therefore call on all people of goodwill to join us in pressing the Council to commission Conservation and Management Studies for the Bishop's Castle and the Campanile aimed at ensuring regular maintenance and some income-generating function so that future generations can benefit from these magnificent scheduled monuments,. (JP-M)</div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div>
<div>JANUARY 26TH ↓</div> <div>"The Secret lives of Salmon and Students" Sian Griffiths</div> <div>FEBRUARY 23rd ↓</div> <div>"Civil War in South Russia" Nik Cornish</div> <div>March 1st Rescheduled dinner (provisional)</div> <div>March 29th ↓</div> <div>"Winston Churchill – Hero or Villain in South Wales" David Maddox</div> <div>APRIL 26th ↓</div> <div>LISBETH DAVID LECTURE In Howell's School</div> <div>MAY 24th ↓</div> <div>William Morgan and the Welsh Bible Richard Carter</div> <div>June 28th ↓</div> <div>Alun Gibbard (Topic awaited)</div> <div>July Date TBA ↓</div> <div>ANNUAL COACH TRIP</div> <div>AUGUST SUMMER RECESS</div> <div>SEPTEMBER 27th ↓</div> <div>Question the Councillors</div> <div>October 25th ↓</div> <div>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</div> <div>November 29th ↓</div> <div>The Taff Vale Railway Peter Fortune</div> <div>DECEMBER</div> <div>Dinner & Service TBA</div>	

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR (STILL INTERIM - BUT RE-ELECTED) CHAIRMAN

Two years ago, when Geoff and Jenny Barton-Greenwood found it necessary to step back from their eighteen-year leadership of the society, we had to make some quick decisions in order to sustain continuity. I agreed to take on the chairmanship (doubling as Secretary) on an interim basis, but made it clear that younger leaders would soon be needed to take us through the coming decade, and to that end I would be seeking to draw new talent into the committee.

There has been only partial success. The committee has been strengthened by the energetic presence of Norma Jarboe, Henry Jones and Alun Rees (who is now Vice-Chair); and we have been able to keep in touch with past practice through Vice-President, Geoff Barton-Greenwood's continuing service as a committee-member. I am also grateful for Donna Howards's careful guardianship of our funds.



However, no successor was found to put before the AGM on October 27th as the new Chairperson; and the same officers who were ready to stand down two years ago, have agreed to continue for lack of any replacements. Whilst all (including myself) have no intention of leaving the Society rudderless, this cannot go on forever, and if your society is to thrive it needs to continually refresh itself.

At the AGM the existing officers were re-elected for lack of any successors but I made it clear in my annual report that we are looking for some fresh and relatively younger people to join the work of your Executive committee. To this end, we extend the hand of welcome to members (existing or new) who, while they may not yet be able to take a leading role due to work and parenting pressures, have an active interest in our objects, and could 'shadow' one or other of our officers by attending committee-meetings as and when they can, and receiving minutes.

So please consider whether you, or someone you know might be able to serve in this way, and if so, please contact me, John Prior-Morris via john.priorarrangements@hotmail.co.uk

Meanwhile, our three new committee members are making their presence felt, and are asking good questions about the future of the society and its constitution, now that we are no longer affiliated under the charitable umbrella of the now defunct Civic Trust for Wales. Norma and Henry are leading what we are calling a "Governance Review" which will soon result in a major exercise in opinion-gathering about what the society should be doing. This will be conducted by a variety of means, both paper-based and online, to gather opinions from you the members, and also from a wider Llandaff demographic. Please be on the lookout for this; we need your opinions-

Finally, may I, on your behalf, give this message of congratulation to our much-loved Life-President, Captain, Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, on reaching his 90th birthday in such fine fettle.

"We trust, Sir Norman, that you will continue to keep your presidential eye on us for years to come."

PLANNING "NATTERS" - by our planning adviser, KAY POWELL

The Llandaff Conservation Area Advisory Group – comprising individuals from the various bodies interested in protecting and enhancing our three Conservation Areas - is the only one left operating in the City. It used to be attended by a City Conservation Officer but budget cuts have meant that has not happened for many years. Our group is chaired by one of our Ward Councillors, with Greg Owens as our very diligent Secretary. New Councillor Peter Jenkins has taken over as Chairman from Philippa Hill-John, and we have resumed meeting face-to-face in Insole Court, having 'met' on-line for the last two years. This ensures that a "Llandaff Voice" continues to be heard by City Planning! (Kay Powell)

[Members may be surprised to learn that there appears to be no protection for traditional or historic house-names in Conservation legislation. Nothing it seems, protects building names enshrined in historic records from being altered in name or language at the whim of owners, whether innocently ignorant, or simply uncaring]. (JP-M)

GOOD NEWS (AND A CHALLENGE) FROM INSOLE COURT:

We are glad to hear that the Trust has secured grant support in the region of £300,000 from major Lottery sources, to address the vitally necessary repair work to the fabric of the mansion which continues to suffer from damp ingress; and also to improve in-house catering facilities. However, much of this grant support is conditional on raising at least £30,000 in locally-sourced 'match-funding'. The Trustees are urging their supporters to do anything they can to assist in raising this sum, and we commend their fundraising efforts to your attention.

Many of you were engaged in the long campaign to save the Court, and the message is that a rebirth of that community spirit is needed now to ensure this 'Jewel in Llandaff's Crown' continues to thrive. Please look out for their community fundraising activities and support them if you can. (JP-M)

SESSIONAL PROGRAMME PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE - Alun Morgan

The programme for 2023 has had, I feel, both variety and quality. The main challenge has been to find venues, since the Memorial Hall became unavailable in February . Consequently talks have been held in the Parish Hall, the Llandaff Institute and, for the first time, the Great Hall in Howells School which accommodated the Lisbeth David Lecture. This proved such a splendid and appropriate venue that Mrs Sally Davies, the Head Teacher has agreed to partner with us in making this a regular annual commemoration of such a distinguished Llandavian and howellian

The programme for 2024 is already taking shape; again, I think in a very interesting and diverse format. We have firm commitments from Alun Gibbard, Sian Griffiths and Nik Cornish. They will choose their topics nearer the time.

Dean Powell, a superb speaker and long-standing friend of the Society, had already promised to come and speak to us next spring. Very sadly Dean passed away recently; a great loss to not only his family and friends but to civic society in South Wales as a whole.

The historians, David Maddox and Richard Carter will talk about *Winston Churchill: Hero or Villain in South Wales* and *William Morgan and the Welsh Bible*. The Lisbeth David lecture will be at its new venue, the Great Hall in Howells; one to commemorate Lisbeth David, a distinguished Howellian.

We will once again organise a session with our local councillors and community police officer and arrange at least one summer coach trip and a December dinner as well as the Carol Service in St Michael’s Chapel, St Padarns. My e-mail address is: alunmorgan47@gmail.com

A CURIOUS OBSERVATION ON THE CARDIFF MET RUGBY FIELD



Early one morning whilst doing my best to give the impression of taking vigorous exercise, I was struck by the ingenuity of this fairly aged gentleman’s temporary sleeping arrangements. With his trusty stallion safely locked to the upright, this “Knight of the Road” had spent his night off the road, doing harm to no-one, and crushing not a blade of grass.

I greeted him, and he returned the compliment, and by the time I had completed my none too vigorous stretches and trots, he had folded his hammock, bundled it into his saddle-bag and trundled off on his pedally steed towards Western Avenue, and the beginnings of the rush-hour traffic.

JP-M

WERE YOU IN THE VILLAGE SCHOOL WHEN IT WAS “STRAFED” ? Beryl Goodwin was.

Beryl has told us of the day during World War 2, when she was in the Infants’ School, and Mr Rex was the Headmaster, the playground of the school in High Street (where SPAR now stands) was machined-gunned by a Luftwaffe pilot.

“When the air raid warning went, the teachers had a drill. The boys and the girls had separate playgrounds, but we all had to get into the same shelter.... This meant going from our classrooms across the boys’ playground to get into it.

“We were sent across in small groups, one group at a time, so there wouldn’t be a queue of us standing out in the open air.

“My little group had got into the shelter, and suddenly the boys and girls from the next group came in - all frightened and excited - telling us that just as they had been about to cross, their form teacher had looked up and seen a plane heading their way - and so she’d pressed them all back in against the wall. She was just in time, because the plane’s machine guns sent bullets flying right across the boys’ playground. If she hadn’t been so quick they might all have been killed.

“Anyway, thank goodness nobody was hurt and the boys were able to spend days picking up stray bits of bullets to keep. We girls were mad because there wasn’t anything to pick up in our playground.

“Years later, when Miss Samuel organised a school reunion, there were men who brought their bits of shrapnel with them. They had kept them all that time.”



If there is anyone else alive who remembers this incident, or heard someone in their family talking about it, we would love to hear from you, and so would Beryl. So please get in touch.

DO YOU HAVE MEMORIES OR STORIES ABOUT LLANDAFF INSTITUTE?

Roger Martin is still researching its history, and he asks anyone with information or memories, including stories, events, personalities or pictures they are willing to share, to kindly contact him on 07791 149532



COACH TRIP TO HAY FESTIVAL June 2nd - Kay Powell

On June 2nd, thirty-six Llandavians took the coach for the Society’s first organised visit to the Hay Festival.



(Photo Sam Hardwick)

We left from Cardiff Road, outside the Cathedral School, to avoid the bus having to turn on the Green, and were blessed with good weather which added to the enjoyment of the bus journeys there and back.

There were some inspiring talks, including two from Ukrainians: Yeva, a 12 year old refugee who had written about her experiences and those of her friends in the war. Another was by a Nobel prize-winning young Ukrainian Human Rights lawyer who's painful research had led to charges being brought against Putin and his Children's Commissioner.

A Cambridge academic, Jennifer Gabrys, encouraged her audience to monitor air pollution for themselves, since mobile devices used by Councils are not reliable - however Swansea do provide real time access to theirs. The speaker at that session had set up a pilot with new ‘dust-monitors’ she had commissioned for measuring particulates in Deptford. Major road intersections and, somewhat surprisingly the River Thames, were found to be major sources (the latter from diesel boats).

All said they thoroughly enjoyed the day, and the idea of this being repeated next year in addition to the annual July trip seems to have taken root. We’ll have to see.....



ANNUAL SUMMER
COACH TRIP
-
DINEFWR PARK
LLANDEILO
Alun Morgan



On July 11 a party of 38 members and friends left Llandaff to visit the pretty market town of Llandeilo and then the National Trust site, Parc Dinefwr. The weather was changeable throughout the 90 minute journey but took a definite turn for the worse on reaching Llandeilo. Thankfully, there are some very good venues for coffee, snacks and meals in close proximity so it was easy to escape the elements. Having spent two and a half hours in the town we then made the short journey to Parc Dinefwr. This is centred around Newton House, the 17th century mansion, which is also home to the distinctive breed of white cattle, who originated at Dinefwr hundreds of years ago.

There are several stunning walks; to the deer park, to lily ponds, or to Castell Dinefwr which overlooks the estate, with magnificent views across the Towy valley and to the majestic ruins of both Carreg Cennen. and Castell Dryslwyn.

The number of castles in close proximity indicate how this lush fertile valley was fought over bitterly and repeatedly by the Normans and Welsh in the Middle Ages. With the weather still poor, Newton House was the obvious starting point, and a most interesting one at that.

The splendid rooms are interpreted and there are numerous storyboards telling the



history of the house, the people who lived and worked in it and the wider context of the events and developments that were occurring at the various stages of both Castell Dinefwr and Newton House.

By mid-afternoon the weather changed for the better and many took advantage of the sunny and blustery afternoon to explore the grounds more fully and take in the beautiful views and fresh country air.

We left at 16:00 for the journey home; our expert driver, Rob, continuing to be most helpful, aided by the exemplary punctuality of our coach party members from morning departure to the afternoon return schedules. We arrived back in Llandaff around 17:45 and the general feeling seemed to be that it had been a very interesting, varied and enjoyable day out.

Alun Morgan



OUR VICE-PRESIDENT CHANNELS HIS INNER “FLYING ACE”



From the 1950s, I shared every young chap’s dream to take to the air and fly in a Spitfire. Impressed, not only by its incredible combat record in World War II, but also by the sublime beauty of its elliptical wing-form, and its legendary Rolls Royce ‘Merlin’ engine, I imagined myself squeezed into the tight-fitting cockpit and zooming through the air.

Seventy years later, as a very special 80th birthday treat, my family arranged my dream flight at former RAF Biggin Hill, from where the Spitfire had thwarted the Mighty Luftwaffe; notching up over 1000 victories in the hands of the incredibly brave boys of RAF Fighter command, who truly earned Prime Minister, Winston Churchill’s eloquent tribute:-

**“Never in the field of human conflict
was so much owed by so many to so few”.**

The legendary Spitfire became my obsession, and through the years I searched for survivors wherever they might be located. By the 60’s just a token number of the more than 22,000 actually built were still in flying condition, apart from several in the protective care of the RAF. In time I heard that more Spitfires, and two-seat trainers were getting back into the air, and I determined to realise my dream. So when at my birthday luncheon, my wife and family presented me with a chance of a flight in one:- Oh Boy was I excited!

In late July we drove to Biggin Hill, arriving to the familiar roar of a Merlin engine as a Spit took-off. On the tarmac two authentically camouflaged Spitfires were parked as if ready to Scramble. In the briefing room I was put through the preliminaries, and learned there was room in the chase-plane for my wife Jenny, my son Alex and my grandson Henry.

I was soon kitted-out for my flight in flying suit, gloves, and ‘bone dome’ with radio connection; and then I met my personal pilot, Barry Hughes, who immediately inspired confidence and invited me to suggest where our flight should take us. Soon I was strapped in the cockpit behind Barry, and familiarised with the intercom and emergency procedures. The all-round vision hood was slid into place as the 12- cylinder engine fired-up and the propeller swung into action. After final checks, we taxied smartly onto the runway and took-off, followed by our chase plane. There was a roar as the pilot opened the throttle and the power kicked in. Flying westwards we climbed rapidly to 2,000 ft, and I marvelled at the fact that I was at last airborne in this incredible aeroplane, whose black and white stripes on wings and fuselage identified it as an actual combat veteran with victories in the closing phases of the war following D-Day.

On this crystal clear day, vistas opened up - of Central London and the Thames estuary on the one side, and the English Channel coast on the other. Then, accelerating to over 200 knots, we circled round another favourite location, RAF Kenley, that I had visited with the International Air Cadets. I took the opportunity for a photoshoot, flying in formation with my family’s plane.

Turning eastwards along the North Downs we headed for Sevenoaks and my pilot asked if I was ready to take the controls. I did so, banking left and right, climbing and diving until we flew over the verdant woodlands of the Weald where I spotted Churchill’s country home, Chartwell, which we duly orbited in his honour.

All too quickly we turned back towards base and looking down, I saw upturned faces as crowds acknowledged our overflight of a motor race meeting at Brands Hatch. Then the intercom crackled as my pilot asked whether I would like to do a victory roll. Wow! a Victory roll ! “Go for it!” I replied. It was so thrilling it had to be repeated.

Our descent began with a curving approach to the hallowed turf at Biggin Hill. The power was cut as we touched down safely. Taxiing back towards the tarmac apron we were welcomed by the groundcrew and my family, who were already there. I was overwhelmed by the welcoming cheers and congratulations. Many pictures were taken as the cockpit hood was drawn back and I was unstrapped. Climbing down from the Spitfire there were many more photographs. Back in the briefing room I took off my flying gear, and found records already prepared, including a signed certificate, videos, and a prestigious embroidered patch showing the very aircraft in which I had flown, proudly declaring:- “I flew a Spitfire!.”

“MARGARET’S MEMORIES”



One of Llandaff Society’s most senior members, Margaret Moorcraft was born in 1925, into the family of an injured Great War Army regular, who had returned to this “land fit for heroes”.

When the large Ely housing estate to either side of Grand Avenue was built, it offered a pleasant garden-village setting to grow up in. Her father had been a Regimental Quarter-Master Sergeant at Donnington depot near Nottingham, and her mother, a nurse there when they met. They were lucky to be allocated a house in Ely before moving to leafy Caerau.

At Ely Primary School, a two-mile walk from home, Margaret did well; passing “the Scholarship” to Canton High School; riding her bike there every day, and gaining her Matriculation (precursor to the modern GCSE exams).

On reaching this milestone, Margaret immediately started work in the wholesale clothing business; but in 1942, at the age of seventeen-and-a-half, she was ready for adventure, and smartly went to the Royal Navy recruiting office where she signed up for the Women’s royal Naval Service (known as “The WRENS”). Whilst her initial training was scheduled to take place in Mill Hill, London, this quickly changed due to an outbreak of infection, and she soon found herself posted to a new location somewhat far from the sea – at Stafford. There, she received solid naval training in discipline, marching, saluting and other essential skills, before being selected for a specialist course with the Fleet Air Arm; choosing to become an armourer – a technical role involving guns bombs and torpedoes, in which she felt quite happy.

Expecting a choice of posting, Margaret got her marching orders, and soon found herself sent, at the coldest possible time of the year to the god-forsaken Air Station at Fearn “HMS Owl”, 35 miles north-east of Inverness and some 700 miles from home. Accommodation was austere, with quarters being in unlined corrugated-iron Nissen huts with just a cast iron coke-fired belly-stove for heating. Despite being absolutely perishing, she and her team of four girls (1 armourer, 1 aircraft mechanic, 2 airframes ratings) soon set to work out on the barren airfield to keep their aircraft ready to fly and fight.

Their planes were T-tailed, long legged Fairey “Barracudas” – three seater torpedo-bombers destined for service on aircraft carriers. On completion of training, these aircraft with crews of three, were to engage in raiding along the Norwegian coast, then in enemy occupation. They distinguished themselves in targeting the fearsome battleship “Tirpitz”.

The girls rode bikes around the airfield, and also used them as personal transport; but they had trucks when fetching boxes from distant bomb stores. Once they had been shifted to the aircraft dispersals, the fused 10lb practice bombs were lifted, and hung onto the under-wing bomb-racks, ready for their training role. At times, these duties were also carried out at night.

It was while at Fearn, that Margaret joined a concert party that would entertain in the surrounding locality. Experience as a tap-dancer came in useful, and she also performed as a lead singer with a service band – bringing light relief to all from the privations of airfield life.

After a time, Leading WREN, Margaret found herself posted to Ronaldsway Airfield on the Isle of Man, which, by comparison with Fearn, she remembers as “absolute heaven”. There, the convenient rail network gave opportunities for a great social life in the vibrant capital, Douglas.

Margaret recalls many journeys on the last steam-train back to base, accompanied by rowdy groups of drunken sailors. Life was good, with memories of dancing in Douglas’s seafront venues, and wolf-whistles from Italian prisoners of war.

After many days of work at the windswept airfield perched on its rocky eninsular jutting out into the Irish Sea, Margaret recalls that, just once, she had a flight in the weird Barracuda, on a mission to test the spindly retractable undercarriage; in which she was ordered to “look out of the window and just see if it is down” - some small reward for her sterling work.

After two years on the Isle of Man, victory brought the Second World War to an end; and Margaret found herself posted to yet another remote coastal air station, this time at Crail, near St. Andrews, from where she was demobbed. Civilian life at home resumed and Margaret was able to return to her job in the wholesale clothing business; soon having a joyous reunion with her boyfriend, who had his own fund of adventures from his years in the Merchant Navy. Soon they married, and her husband was promoted through First Officer to Captain on general cargo duties with Dene Shipping and then Silver Line. Settling first in Rhiwbina, they then moved to a new home in Llandaff, which they aptly named “Rio Dene” after his ship. For many years Margaret would go to sea with him and duly travelled the world.

Margaret – 3rd from the right – back row



Margaret mid-front – sleeves rolled up!



Through the years, Margaret has maintained her links with the Royal Navy through membership of the Association of Wrens; seldom failing to turn out immaculately dressed at military occasions – as evidenced by this china model that has pride of place on her mantelpiece.

Life also brought joy in the form of a daughter and a son, along with four grandchildren and three great grandchildren. These responsibilities have taken Margaret to High Wycombe and to Formby, in Lancashire fairly regularly, - fitted in with involvement in Llandaff’s life – Saving Insole Court, being treasurer of organisations such as the Mothers’ Union, Young wives etcetera. “It’s funny – I always end up being treasurer” she says.

She has given up her car now and “depends on the buses” but her thirst for adventure remains; as evidenced by a helicopter flight over her home city of Cardiff, which she described as “truly amazing!”

REMEMBERING

RICHARD BAZLEY 1939-2022

AND

ROSEMARY SCADDEN 1943 - 2023



It is particularly sad to record the passing of this flamboyant couple.

Richard succumbed to multiple health conditions in October 2022, after an incredible life, starting as the son of the manor, at Nash, near Cowbridge; riding to hounds and playing rugby for Pontypool and Cowbridge while at university in Cardiff. He trained as a chartered auctioneer and estate agent in Bridgend before joining the District Valuer, in Cardiff. Following a spell in estate agency in Llantwit Major, he launched into the London property scene, and Mayfair society. As a 'high roller' he became acquainted with John Aspinall and his flash circle, including the notorious Lord Lucan. For some time then, he chanced his luck on the US markets. On returning to South Wales, he married Rosemary.



Here he engaged in rather risky property ventures, and visionary schemes, including championing at Westminster the case for the Severn Barrage. He will be remembered in Llandaff as a 'Man about town' bringing Saville Row elegance to our High Street while residing at 'Llandaff House', first occupying the whole, but later the Old Stables - while still maintaining a flat with Rosemary in Mayfair.

Rosemary came from Newport and having qualified as a teacher, went with her first husband to serve in distant Crown outposts: firstly to Uganda, from which they were expelled by Idi Amin; then on to the balmy climes of the Solomon Islands, where she greatly enjoyed the outdoor lifestyle.

On returning home solo with two young daughters and needing a new career, she joined the growing world of regional television production; first with Harlech TV and then BBC Wales. Starting as a researcher, she soon became a production assistant, working with Sir Harry Secombe on Highway and Songs of Praise. Keen as ever to further her education, she took a late degree in English and became a keen member of Women's Archive Wales. Meanwhile, she researched and wrote her book "It Should Not Happen to a Little Girl" about young Welsh girls in service in London. Rosemary continued to deliver talks on many topics, including her beloved hometown of Newport, and of course, Llandaff, where she was an active committee member and minutes Secretary for the Llandaff Society, until her sudden affliction which led to her demise in February 2023.

JOAN TAYLOR (GOULD) 1941 - 2022

Joan played many roles in our village community. She went to the village school, where SPAR now stands; had happy times performing with the Llandaff Musical Society; was 'Tawny Owl' in the 2nd Llandaff Brownies, a member of the Tefoil Guild; and in the 80s and 90s campaigned to save Insole Court - always ready to have one of 'those posters' in her window. She was born in December 1941 above the family newsagent and haberdashery at 25 High Street owned by their parents Basil and Winifred. After school, she worked there with her older sister Clara, before training and working as a phlebotomist, and marrying the love of her life Jeff Taylor, in the Cathedral. She became a wonderful mother to Sarah and Amanda - returning to work in the village butchers and the post office, before retraining as a medical foot care professional.



Later Joan and Jeff settled in Heol y Pavin where she was a very good neighbour, always ready with a welcoming smile to give her time and words of wisdom to those that needed it. She spent many happy hours on the village green with her five granddaughters, and latterly became a member in 'The Pound' and enjoyed her Tai chi Classes and making good new friends.

After a short illness with kidney cancer Joan passed away peacefully at home with her family in December 2022.



BARBARA HOWARTH - 1928 - 2023

Llandaff people will have known Barbara in many different ways, over many years.

As a dinner-lady at Llandaff Infants, as an early Cathedral shop worker, as a member of St Teilo's Guild and the Llandaff Society. The love of her life was Guiding - Brownies and Girl Guides. She was a Brown Owl in Llandaff, Costume Mistress at the Gang Show, and became for about 50 years, a stalwart of the Trefoil Guild; meeting regularly with her Guiding friends, "The Llandaff Girls" on Tuesdays for their Coffee Mornings, a tradition that we understand, continues to this day.

She spoke of the time when, as a nurse during the second world war, she was serving with her cousin Sonia - young women together. One day, they boarded a bus and saw the one they had just missed, some distance ahead of them, destroyed by riding over a landmine. After that, they they faced whatever fate threw at them, with stoicism and courage, taking every chance they got to laugh and dance.>



Barbara Howarth
July 1928 - August 2023



THE LLANDAFF SOCIETY'S CIVIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award seeks to encourage pride in the public face of our Area of Benefit, which centers on the Ancient Cathedral City.

"The Barton-Greenwood Cup" is presented afresh at each AGM in recognition of steps taken by householders, traders or other bodies to maintain or improve the experience of living in, or visiting Llandaff.



THE 2023 BARTON-GREENWOOD CUP was awarded to organist **Stephen Moore** and his wife **Olivia Gomez**, for their revival of the Llandaff Cathedral Festival after the Covid lockdown,* and their major contribution to the musical life of Llandaff over a period of years.

They are seen here holding the Cup and also a perpetual memento provided to winners by previous winner, Mrs Catrin Jeffries.

We acknowledge also **Canon Holcombe's revived festival in the years preceding Covid.*



ARMISTICE COMMEMORATION 2023

Flags flew proudly under blue skies over this year's service, which was held on Friday 10th November, to ensure that all local schools would be able to participate.

Goscombe John's sublime War memorial was bathed in glorious sunshine, as Canon Precentor Mark Preece conducted our Act of Remembrance for his last time before taking up his new appointment as Archdeacon of Margam.

Canon Mark goes with our warmest good wishes.



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

During the service (organised on behalf of the Society by Jenny & Geoff Barton-Greenwood - with accompaniment from the Cathedral School Music Department), more than 35 poppy wreaths were laid, representing the armed services and local organisations.

These raised over £1,000 for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

WHAT WILL BE THE FATE OF ROOKWOOD HOUSE ?



As reported in the last issue (No 145), most of the Rookwood Hospital site is scheduled for disposal by the University Health Board. This remains the case, and the fate of this fine Victorian house in any development of the site remains an unresolved concern.