

LLANDAFF SOCIETY

CYMDEITHAS LLANDAF



Affiliated to The Civic Trust for Wales
www.llandaffcity.co.uk



NEWSLETTER 125 SPRING 2013

2013

FUTURE EVENTS

Unless otherwise stated, venue is the Parish Room, High Street Carpark, Llandaff at 7.30 p.m.

Admission £2:00. Non members £3:00

April:

Friday 26th
The 7th Lisbeth David Memorial Lecture given by Dr. Peter Lloyd Jones, Chairman of the Capt Scott Society, on the Geologist Lt Col Edgeworth David—A Polar Hero from Llandaff/St Fagans.

May:

Friday, 31st
Principal Dr. Peter Sedgewick talks on progress at St Michaels Theological College.

June:

Friday 15th
WWII Fund-raising Event at Insole Court Still in planning, it is hoped to have fire engines, ARP wardens, GIs, Home Guard, ration books, spam sandwiches. Check www.insolecourt.com or noticeboards details.

Lt HARRY MATTHEWS DFM, RFC/RAF: Our own Knight of the Air!

Our Chairman was thrilled when he learnt that life member, Glyn Matthews' father had been a First World War pilot and written a memoir concerning his experiences. Born and raised in the Old Parish of Llandaff he joined the RFC as a motor cycle despatch rider, soon volunteering for flying training. On gaining his 'wings' he was posted to a Home Defence squadron guarding the East Coast from Zeppelin attack at night. Transfer to France led to his completing 72 bombing missions over the lines in open cockpit black painted FE2b aircraft with 48 Sqn RFC. In tune with the humour of the times he christened his aeroplane 'Cheerio' ! His bravery and determination in pressing on to the target; taking off and landing by the light of bicycle lamps attached to the 'stick and string' aircraft, whilst still a Sergeant, won him the Distinguished Flying Medal (DFM) and a commission.



Glyn and Ralph pictured with Gerallt Nash, Head Curator National History Museum of Wales

When Glyn and his older brother Ralph; who served with the RAF at home and in India in WWII, rediscovered their father's DFM , badges and a fragment of his aircraft, they asked our Chairman whether a museum might accept these items for permanent display. This led to a formal hand over to the National Museum of Wales, followed by tea and cakes at St Fagans. There was great surprise when Glyn's bag also revealed a .38 calibre service revolver (de-activated!!!) which Lt Matthews had taken into the air on his bombing missions ! During the Second World War he kept it under the counter at his garage in Virgil Street, Grangetown just in case 'the Jerries' invaded. In the event it was never needed but they got their own back when incendiaries dropped in a Luftwaffe raid set fire to Matthew's Garage which was burnt out.

RINGING CHANGE AT THE CATHEDRAL

The installation of the Rev. Janet Henderson as new Dean of Llandaff on 2nd March 2013 was attended by our Vice Chair, Pauline Grainger, who was delighted to present a symbolic gift of a map of Cardiff during the celebration.

Brought up in Wales and educated at Howell's School, Llandaff, Dean Janet has moved with her husband from the Diocese of Ripon. As a nurse specialising in blood diseases and renal transplants, Dean Janet became involved in youth work and the Church and decided that the psychological and spiritual welfare of patients was her chosen field. With a first in Theology from Durham University and following ordination in 1988, Janet's pastoral career began in the City of Nottingham where she progressed through several posts within the Diocese of Southwell. In her new role she plans to meet the people and extend the Cathedral's outreach. For relaxation the Dean enjoys playing both piano and double bass and looks forward to concerts at The Millennium Centre and supporting Welsh Rugby. Llandaff Society offers the new Dean a warm welcome and all good wishes in her challenging mission.



FIFTY YEARS OF DR WHO TIME FOR A BLUE PLAQUE ?

As the new series of this amazingly successful television phenomenon gets into its stride, viewers are looking forward to the series fiftieth anniversary in November 2013. Much of the drama that has compelled the attention of successive generations is due to the Doctor's awe inspiring enemies; 'The Daleks'. First appearing in the second series they have remained The Doctor's perpetual adversaries through time were created by local boy - Terry Nation! He went on to a successful career as a Hollywood script writer but it must be remembered that his first 22 years were spent at home in Fairwater Grove West. Are there any ideas out there as to how Llandaff Society might take this Blue Plaque possibility forward ?

BUS LANE PLAN FOR LLANTRISANT ROAD

Over the past few weeks Cardiff buses has posted notices advising of plans for an exclusive bus lane to be inserted into a length of Llantrisant Road from Gillian Road towards Bridge Road. The closing date for public consultation was 12th April and the ostensive reason for this drastic measure is that this will save four minutes per bus movement at the morning peak hours for inbound Cardiff services.

Any adverse effect on the movement of other vehicles is not considered, especially the manner in which left turning movements into Bridge Road will be affected when contesting with buses and taxis for the junction. The traffic situation in Llandaff is bad enough already but will inevitably deteriorate with accompanying increase in pollution affecting pedestrians if this drastic plan is implemented. Llandaff Society has objected to the proposal in support of the views expressed by our local Councillor Kirsty Davies.

WHAT'S IN AN 'F'?:

When our Chairman and his wife Jenny recently visited London's Eurostar Terminal at St Pancras they delighted in the splendid restoration of the soaring Midland Hotel that fronts Euston Road and the endearing life-size bronze statue of the late Sir John Betjeman holding onto his hat as he views the huge and magnificent glazed cast iron arch of the train-shed. Afterwards they toured the adjoining modern British Library where the most precious treasures may be viewed in The Sir John Ritblat Gallery. One of the oldest maps on display made by George Lily in the year 1546 and is the earliest known representation of the British Isles. Naturally, they sought out South Wales and there clearly labelled was our ancient city - The early spelling at the time of the great Welsh Tudor dynasty :- 'LANDAFF' (one L and two FFs) ??? Any comments?

STEVE WEST BENCH PROPOSAL:

Since the original wood and concrete framed benches outside Barclays Bank, Cardiff Road were removed on safety grounds a few years ago, passengers awaiting inbound city services have been required to stand or balance precariously on the vestigial plastic forms built in to the standard bus shelter. The privately owned landscaped area in which they were located has been solely the preserve of one green and red Cardiff council litter bin. Disabled rights campaigner Steve West, a life member of Llandaff Society, feels it is high time for the benches to be restored for disabled persons and for the benefit of the public at large. We wish Steve well in achieving his worthy task.



WORK STARTS ON THE PRICHARD BRIDGE:



After sustained pressure from Llandaff Society and Llandaff Conservation Group, Cardiff Council Conservation team and Bereavement Services have approved a scheme for restoration of this fine bridge that spans the old mill leat between the Cathedral Churchyard and the transpontine cemetery. The structure is to be made good and the road surface relaid.

As we write a team equipped with mini-excavators and dump trucks is digging out under the arch and the adjoining sections of the watercourse to reveal the elegant structure to advantage. Plans include the provision of well designed iron railings to complement the location and protect for the future.

EVENTS HELD

Question Time

with local Councillors:-

Cllr Gareth Aubrey and Police and Community Police Support Officer, Helen Coleman, fielded a range of questions from the floor under the able chairmanship of John Prior Morris. Cllr Aubrey introduced Cardiff Council's current public consultation regarding communities and how they should be represented. Thereafter, Paul Egan from One Voice Wales explained the possibilities, posing interesting questions for Llandaff. Views to the Editor please!

Friday 22nd March:

Dr James Marsden, a colourful figure in Llandaff's High Steet over many years; once Vice Principal of Cardiff College of Food Technology gave a delightful talk on The Mirfield Fathers -The community Cardiff lost: As an undergraduate at University College, Cardiff in the early 'Fifties' our speaker had enjoyed life in the hall they ran at St Margaret's Crescent, Roath. John kept his audience well entertained with hilarious tales from this long lost era when degrees were really worth getting.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR INSOLE COURT RENEWAL



I'm sure you're all aware that the Insole Court Trust was successful in its application for £2.2m from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards its restoration. It is hoped that work will begin on a community hub in the stables in autumn this year but, in the meantime, there is a need for fundraising to ensure that the project begins on time and all four of the Llandaff community associations - the Llandaff Society, Insole Court Trust, Friends of Insole Court and Insole Estate Residents' Association - are working together with this aim.

Therefore, we are asking our members to support Insole Court and pledge just £10 per month for the two years of the renewal project, and become an Insole Court Community Benefactor to help secure the future of this unique place. They will be remembered in the history of Insole Court with their names recorded in the '**Benefactors' Book**', to be displayed in the restored library and will receive early information of events and project updates.

Insole Court Trust intends to launch the Community Benefactors' Bond in May 2013. If you would like to receive details, please contact info@insolecourt.com. Don't miss this opportunity to be remembered as an active supporter of the Insole Court project.

Telephone Geoff B-G on 02920 563181.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Sir,

We would like to sincerely thank Llandaff Society for the support shown by objecting to the planning application for a development of around **48 houses on open space at Radyr Court Road**. We are very pleased to report that, subsequent to their site visit, the Planning Committee refused consent, effectively overturning the recommendation of planning officers. Members cited the amenity value of the site and the proposed unsuitable access via Radyr Court Road as their reasons for refusal. So we have been successful at this stage, and we assure you that we will do our utmost towards achieving a dismissal, should there be an Appeal. We hope that we can continue to rely on Llandaff Society support. (Updates can continue to be found on the web-site: www.saveradyrcourtroad.org.uk)

Yours faithfully, Helen Stewart

This glorious framed print, from an original by the late Garth Lloyd, will be presented to the Dean and Chapter for display in the Parish Room where Llandaff Society session meetings are usually held.



TUESDAY 2nd JULY: ANNUAL COACH TRIP to Avebury Manor (NT) and Marlborough, Wilts.

Avebury Manor is a National Trust house dating from mid-Tudor times or earlier, which recently featured in a BBC television series – ‘The Manor Reborn.’ It is located within the great megalithic stone circle; a renowned World Heritage site. Over the centuries it has had many owners, each of whom has left their mark on the house and gardens. Although of modest scale it retains an air of opulence and the BBC series provided an opportunity to create the feeling of a lived in property where you can sit on the furniture; lie on the beds and even wash-up in the kitchen; much in line with new National Trust thinking.

Refreshments may be taken in the elegant tea room and/or typical NT stableyard restaurant. In addition there is the usual shop and a Tithe Barn Museum housing some of the discoveries of archaeologist Alexander Keiller’s excavation of the stone circles. (NB: a separate charge of £4.00 per person applies!) Later we shall make the short journey to Marlborough; claimed to have the widest main street in England. There, many fine houses can be seen along with an interesting variety of shops and the famous College once attended by The Duchess of Cambridge.

At present the plan is to leave The Green at 09.00am, stopping at Leigh Delamere Services for a comfort break, with timed ticket entry on arrival at Avebury Manor from 11.30am. We expect to leave for Marlborough by 3.00pm, reassembling thereafter for return journey at 4.30pm.

Cost for NT members £13.00 (NT membership cards to hand please!)

Cost for non- NT members £21.50

NB: The above prices include a driver’s gratuity.

To reserve places please complete the form below and send to:-

Diana Langmaid, 55 De Braose Close, Danescourt, CARDIFF. CF5 2DJ.

.....
Please reserve me (...) places for the Llandaff Society Coach Trip to Avebury Manor and Marlborough on Tuesday 2nd July 2013, for which I/we enclose a cheque in the sum of £..... in favour of:-
“Llandaff Society”.

Name:-

Address:

Tel No:

e-mail address:-