



LLANDAFF SOCIETY CYMDEITHAS LLANDAF

Affiliated to The Civic Trust for Wales

www.llandaffcity.co.uk



Newsletter 127 Autumn 2013

FUTURE EVENTS

October

Friday 25th @ 7.30pm
Llandaff Society AGM
followed by cheese and
wine
(Notice herewith)

November:

Tuesday 5th @
12.30pm for 1.00pm
**Gourmet
Guy Fawkes Lunch**
at Mulberry Street
Tickets @ £ 15 pp from
'Mulberry Street' are still
available. This event in aid
of High Street Christmas
Lights.

Monday 11th: @
10.45 for 11.00pm
**Armistice Day
Ceremony**
Llandaff War Memorial
The Green

Friday 29th
**Sue Haymer of
Glamorgan Family
History Society**
"Tracing your Family in
Llandaff"

December

Friday 6th @
7.00pm for 7.30pm:
**Llandaff Society Annual
Dinner**
at St Michael's College.
*A new venue for this
popular event.*
Guest Speaker:-
Greg Owens,
former ward councillor.
Tickets are
going well already, so make
sure you apply *asap* using
the attached application
form.

SAVE LLANDAFF MEADOW !!!



Further to initial report in our Summer Newsletter an *ad hoc* committee of interested persons is opposing this unwelcome proposal to turn the wild meadow into a football pitch and their striking posters have appeared widely. Public notices concerning the planning application have now been posted. Llandaff Society committee is disappointed that Cardiff Metropolitan University have not consulted us as Llandaff campus is wholly within the Conservation Area and there is a manifest need for sensitivity in the relationship between 'town and gown'!

Why we should object :-

The meadow is within the unique Taff Green Corridor, lying at the heart of Llandaff Conservation Area and is an integral part of the timeless setting of Llandaff Cathedral.

It has been a wild and open space since Second World War use as statutory allotments ceased and is a significant urban wildlife habitat.

This proposal may be part of a larger plan to expand Llandaff Campus regardless of its sensitive location with accompanying loss of public amenity.

Contact your councillor and/or your Council on development@cardiff.gov.uk citing planning application 13/01871/DCO

SOME GOOD NEWS

Tireless disability campaigner, Steve West, has been successful in his efforts to replace the missing bench at Cardiff Road (Barclays Bank) bus stop and we look forward to seeing this much needed facility installed shortly through the good offices of Rob Monkley, Cardiff Council Highways, who was previously involved in the High Street Improvements.

Recent Events

Friday 13th September Prichard Bridge Reopening. Through the morning, volunteers from 'Keep Wales Tidy' carried out final clearance work and planted a myriad spring flower bulbs. Former Cathedral Archivist, Nevil James, outlined the bridge's history, then, rededication of the beautifully restored Prichard Bridge was conducted by Canon Graham Holcombe. When the ribbon had been cut, well deserved refreshments were enjoyed. (Nevil's note on the fascinating history of the bridge is reproduced overleaf.)



September 14th to 22nd European Heritage Days 2013: Llandaff once more offered a cluster of 'Open Doors' opportunities including the Cathedral; WJEC; St Michael's College; Insole Court; Howell's School and BBC Wales HQ. 'The Llandaff Walk', led by our Chairman, was again oversubscribed and participants commented that 'they did not know there was so much history on our doorstep!' The fascinating visit to W. Clarke, Sculptors, was well supported, providing a rare opportunity for some of the remarkable treasures of this old established family firm to be examined.

Friday September 27th: Rosie James, Landscape Architect, Cardiff Parks made a welcome return visit and delivered an entertaining and informative illustrated lecture on 'Cardiff's Edwardian Parks', followed by an update on the Council's Restoration and Management Plans for the Bishop's Castle and Bell Tower.'

Bab's Banquet at Jaspers : On Tuesday 10th September a full house enjoyed an excellent selection of assorted sandwiches; cream scones and cakes on this pleasant occasion in aid of High Street Christmas Lights.

K2 Hot Buffet Supper: This friendly event in aid of High Street Christmas lights was a sell-out due to the special efforts of Kim and Kevin. Well done!

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2013 (RYLA)

Young people from our community are to be congratulated on their achievement of RYLA Scholarships sponsored by Rotary Club of Cardiff – City of Llandaff with additional funding from a sister club; The Rotary Club of Cardiff.

The five students, aged between 16-18 years, selected for one of the 5-day Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) courses held at Dolygaer Outdoor Pursuits centre in the Brecon Beacons during August were:-

- **Tom Elwood** -KingsMonkton School and 1344 (Cardiff) Squadron Air Training Corps.
- **Caradog Elis ap Iestyn** - Bishop of Llandaff, C in W High School and a Cadet Corporal in 30 F (City of Llandaff) Squadron Air Training Corps.
- **Sam Johansen** - Bishop of Llandaff C in W High School. Also a keen Scout and active offshore sailor, Sam is grandson of LS members Karl and Margaret Johansen
- **Ben Morris** - Bishop of Llandaff C in W High School. A keen Scout and active offshore sailor.
- **Chris Procter** of Bishop of Llandaff C in W High School and an active offshore sailor.

RYLA courses are supervised by experienced instructors from Merthyr Tydfil CBC Education Department and aim to develop the leadership skills of young people through a testing programme of external activities ranging from hill walking to abseiling, canoeing and caving. Various schools and cadet units in Cardiff were invited to apply for the places and the successful candidates were selected by interview..

By way of follow-up to this scheme, each of the 5 candidates was invited to give a short brief on their experiences to Rotary Club members at a dinner on 24 September at their base in the Churchill's Hotel, Llandaff: Each student was well supported that evening by their sponsors and family members.

The Rotary Club of Cardiff – City of Llandaff has 25 members and will be celebrating its 50th birthday in 2014 . It has a proud history of supporting local and international projects and of working within the local community, notably through its Christmas Food Parcel Collection; helping local young people with literacy projects and organising annual sporting and music competitions.

Membership information is available from the Club Secretary at llandaffrotary@gmail.com

NEVIL JAMES NOTES ON THE PRICHARD BRIDGE

Prior to 1855, when the Parish of St John Canton was established, the Parish of Llandaff extended southwards to the sea between the Taff and the Ely rivers, west to the present site of Ely Police Station, east to include Llystalybont on the far bank of the Taff and north the include Llandaff North as far as "The Pineapple". In 1801 the population of this extensive Parish was 860 and 23 burials took place at Llandaff. By 1851 the census showed the population of Llandaff Parish to be 1821 with 41 burials recorded in the Parish Registers.

The population of Canton Parish expanded rapidly as industry – such as the South Wales Railway – grew at great speed, so that the Parish was further subdivided with the establishment of St Catherine's, St Luke's, St David's Ely, St Paul's Grangetown and, after the Second World War, Llandaff North and Fairwater. Critically, none of these new parish churches had burial grounds attached to them and the parishioners retained the right to burial at Llandaff. The mortality rates, in Canton in particular, were high and this caused a crisis in the availability of burial plots. The situation was made even worse by an Order in Council dated 5 June 1858 which prohibited burials in and within three yards of, the Cathedral and in the south churchyard except in existing vaults or walled graves. The area north of the Cathedral was not a burial space and was used by the local youths for ball games!

On 26 April 1859 a Burial Board for Llandaff was convened – in the Red Lion, on the Green – Chaired by Dean Thomas Williams. Members included Evan David of Fairwater House, George Coleman the Miller (A wise move considering the decisions which would have to be made) Clement Waldron (a lawyer), Graham Dornford, Tom James of Monachty and William Williams of Ely. Heading the list – appropriately one might think – was Walter Coffin, ex MP for Cardiff who lived in The White House. John Prichard the Cathedral Architect was co-opted.

At this first meeting they agreed to borrow £1500 to purchase and lay out two parcels of land. The area between the cathedral and the mill stream from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the area beyond the

mill stream – grandly called "the transpontine" – from Lord Bute.

By the end of 1859 these land purchases had been effected at a cost of £989.2.6 and Prichard had been charged with the production of plans and specifications for the bridge, whose restoration to its former glory we celebrate, and for the layout and planting of the burial ground. It was arranged for the mill stream to be drained for a week to allow it to be walled on both sides as it passed through the enlarged graveyard (We see now why the miller was a Board Member!).

The first interment in the Transpontine Graveyard (Which had been consecrated by the Lord Bishop) took place in June 1860. The way in which the four sections of this burial ground were brought into use has been carefully researched and published in 1984 by Howell's School. This area passed into the care of the Local Authority in 1922. [In 1860 there were 101 burials, including 79 from Canton. *61 were under the age of 10*]

The area between the Mill Stream and the north wall of the Cathedral provided 340 grave spaces, all of which had been brought into use – or at least spoken for – between March 1883 and September 1884.

This bridge represents almost the last visible link with an industrial enterprise which was vital to the life of almost every village – its Mill. Llandaff's mill stream, with its now largely lost network of sluice-gates, spillways and mill ponds is centuries old and powered, in its time, TWO mills. Largest and oldest was the corn mill which stood at the eastern end of Mill Lane and which was swept away to make way for Western Avenue in the 1930's. Photographic evidence shows a large and prosperous looking building. The second Mill was served by this stream after it had powered the corn mill and was a "Fulling Mill" which used water-powered hammers to convert cloth into flannel. This building still exists. After a comparatively short life as a mill it became a "House of Mercy", run largely by the ladies of the parish for the care and rehabilitation of what were euphemistically termed "Pavement angels"! It now houses Cardiff Equestrian Centre.

**Leonard Charles Franklin
1937 - 2013
as remembered by John Prior-Morris**

Those who knew Len Franklin will not be surprised to discover that his grandchildren called him "Lord Len of Llandaff". "Lord" because he was a larger than life character in their lives, and "Llandaff" because of his pride in being Llandaff born and bred. The community in this Village City benefited hugely from Len's loyalty, friendship and leadership over the years. Here was an active, sociable and friendly man, who cared about his neighbourhood.

Len was born in Chapel Street on the 19th December 1937. Nineteen years later he met Brenda when the circus came to Sophia Gardens, and, in June 1959, they married in the Cathedral, then settled down in the Chapel Street of his birth to bring up their family. Brenda became a much-loved dinner-lady to generations of children in the village; and carpenter Len worked as foreman for John Smart the builder, who had grown up in Cardiff Road almost next door.



It is claimed that the furthest Len ever went was to see Brenda's sister, Babs, in Llanharan). Nevertheless - from his family gatherings (and later chairmanship) at the Institute, to takeaways at the Great Wall - we are reminded by his life, of the real importance of what is local, and that the things we too often take for granted - the family, the people, the neighbourhood - turn out to be the most precious things of all.

Len was a genuine man who cherished the concrete things around him - never happier than when cooking Sunday or Christmas lunch for all the family or at one of his numerous family gatherings at the Llandaff Institute. He possessed a characteristic respect for people, and had a deep capacity for kindness. As one family member put it: "He would do anything for anyone, always there when you needed him most"!

Len died on 20th April 2013 and Llandaff will miss him !

!!! STOP PRESS !!!

CARDIFF DEPOSIT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Cardiff Council has announced public consultation events but none is listed for Llandaff. Llandaff Society will therefore present the latest proposals for debate at a:

**PUBLIC MEETING,
ST MICHAEL'S COLLEGE,
MONDAY 11th NOVEMBER AT 7.30PM**

Historic Llandaff will be substantially affected by plans to build 9,500 new houses between Llantrisant Road and St Fagans with major infrastructure issues to be addressed including a possible rapid transit corridor along the River Taff west bank. Llandaff Society is working on the LDP as part of North West Cardiff Group alongside St Fagans Community Council; Radyr & Morganstown Community Council; Pentyrch & Creigiau and Radyr & Morganstown Association.

– COME ALONG AND HAVE YOUR SAY !