



LLANDAFF SOCIETY CYMDEITHAS LLANDAF

Affiliated to The Civic Trust for Wales

www.llandaffcity.co.uk



Newsletter 128 Winter 2014

FUTURE EVENTS

Unless otherwise stated sessional meetings take place at The Parish Hall, High Street Car Park. 7.30pm sharp. For latest information see the Notice Board outside 'Spar' High Street Llandaff

March

Friday 28th
'The Drovers of Wales'-
A talk by **Peter Davies**

April

Friday 25th April
'The Lizbeth David Memorial
Lecture'
**Nicholas Lambert of Birkbeck
College**
'Aspects of Llandaff'

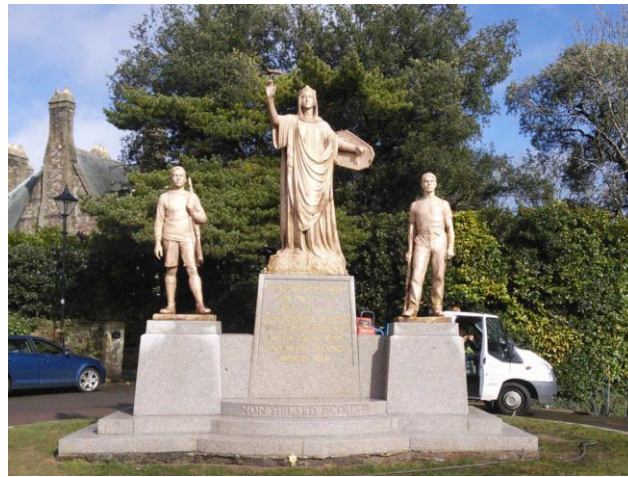
May

Friday 23rd
**Captain Derek Hansing of the
legendary P&O' Canberra'**
'Adventures of an old salt !'

WAR MEMORIAL RESTORED FOR GREAT WAR CENTENARY

Restoration by Cardiff Council of Sir William Goscombe John's memorial group of statues is underway as we go to press.

Removal of the familiar weathered black paint by specialist contractors, Mossfords has revealed miraculous 'golden' figures during initial refinishing and the completed work is keenly awaited. Will it be as the great sculptor intended ?



Events held

Note to Members: Copies of the Minutes of the October 2013 AGM may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

Armistice Day, Monday 11th November 2013. The well attended commemoration, which was not spared the rain, was conducted by **Canon Graham Holcombe** and 24 wreaths were laid



Llandaff Society President Capt. Sir Norman Lloyd Edwards, Margaret Samuel and John Prior Morris

'The Night they bombed Llandaff' : Evocative wartime melodies from distinguished local soprano; **Iona Jones**, accompanied on the piano by **David Geoffrey Thomas** introduced this adaptation of the events recorded in LS Occasional Paper No 6 to mark the 73rd anniversary of the devastating Luftwaffe raid of 2nd January 1941. Written and directed by **John Prior Morris**, with chillingly authentic sound effects, expertly co-ordinated by **Alun Salisbury**, the story was told through 'I was there' witness testimony as the terrible night's events unfolded. Remarkably, four of those witnesses were present to tell their tales in their own words; **Nevil James: Ken and Beryl Goodwin** and **Muriel Jeremy**, then aged 5 years. Other parts were taken by John : **Diana Langmaid**, **Rosemary Challoner: Dick Berry** and **Geoff Barton- Greenwood**, with John providing a hilarious impression of **Rob Wilton's-'The day war broke out'** joined by **Dick** as the **Weston Brothers**; **Geoff** as **Noel Coward** and the boys rendering comic songs of the period. This remarkable occasion raised a useful sum to launch community funding of **Insole Court Stables Clock Tower** project.

'Tracing your family in Llandaff' with Sue Haymer, Glamorgan Family History Society, Friday 29th

November : This fascinating and informative talk showed those present how they might research Who they think they are.

Llandaff Society Annual Dinner :- held in the Refectory of St Michael's College on 6th December 2013. This was a new venue for the occasion and was a sell-out at which replete diners were treated to a highly entertaining and informative after dinner address by **Greg Owens**, former Llandaff councillor and Cardiff Council Leader.



John Isaacs, announces this year's Christmas Lights fund raising events and thanks Mulberry Street for an excellent lunch.

Similar events are planned for April 15th at K2; June 3rd at Jaspers and September 8th at Kalla Bella. Tickets will be on sale at the respective venues and at Llandaff Society meetings. An innovation this year will be a long term raffle; prizes for which have been generously donated by most of the high Street traders. The raffle got off to a good start at Mulberry Street and we hope to persuade many more of you to get your tickets over the next 8 months. The draw will be made at an October event; date yet to be decided. Then it will be all set for switch on once again on Wednesday 26th November.

'Terry Nation' Blue Plaque: Wed 20th November.

To mark the 50th Anniversary of BBC Wales produced 'Dr Who', The Llandaff Society felt it was time to recognise that his arch enemies 'The Daleks', which have impressed generations of youngsters, were created by **Terry Nation**, whose first 22 years were lived at 116 Fairwater Grove West. His family, sent their appreciation from California via **Tim Hancock**, their UK agent (nephew of Tony for whom TN wrote comedy scripts) who unveiled the plaque in the presence of pupils from Terry Nation's old schools:- Radnor and Kings Monkton. Thanks are due to Welsh Government- Cadw for support in this venture and to BBC Wales for The Dalek.



The Dalek has landed in Llandaff!

Candlelit Carols: Despite the challenges of storm and tempest, the unique atmosphere of the 'Pace' Chapel at St Michael's College once more welcomed a full house, resounding to seasonal carols and readings by the ladies of 'Oriana', conducted by **Diana Lambert**. A retiring collection for St Michael's chosen charity 'Making Music- Changing Lives', the objects of which were outlined by Rev Jan Gould, Rector of Ely, resulted in a substantial donation. Minced pies and mulled wine in the Refectory splendidly rounded off this special evening .

HIGH STREET CHRISTMAS LIGHTING : John Isaacs, Chair of the High Street Trader's sub-committee,

reports :- Following an amazingly well supported lighting- up by actor Charles Dale,(Big Mac from Casualty) on Wednesday 27th November. The 500 plus crowd were entertained by the swinging singers of Howells School and carols were accompanied by the Cathedral School Brass Ensemble, with sound and lighting courtesy of Avanti Media. The new fund raising season launched with a financial and social success at **Mulberry Street** restaurant on February 25th when 43 supporters enjoyed a most pleasant luncheon and helped raise over £200 towards the cost of our Christmas decorations for 2014. Thank you all including our genial host **Geraint** and staff !

BBC LLANDAFF COULD BE LISTED ?

When a researcher from BBC Wales Radio asked 'Was The Llandaff Society behind this request for listing by Cadw of the Llantrisant Road Headquarters Building?' it was clearly stated that this was not the case. Since the initial report of plans for relocation the Society has awaited developments in view of community concern for the future of this strategic site and it had been hoped that BBC would keep us informed as plans progressed.. Unfortunately, this has not been the case and after consideration, our committee agreed that the building deserves consideration for listing because of its historic status as home of our national broadcaster and the foundation of a Welsh language television channel.



BBC Wales HQ was custom built to the design of the Sir Percy Thomas Partnership leading Welsh architects of the day. Elegantly situated within the mature grounds of demolished Baynton House it has become part of the landscape of the area, conveniently providing for generations of BBC staff. Its presence makes an impressive statement appropriate to our national public service broadcaster..

As BBC Television celebrates its fiftieth birthday Llandaff Society has therefore supported the listing in the earnest hope that the 'powers that be' will think again and stay..



THE BOER WAR PHOTOGRAPH: About four years ago a lady clearing a house in Llandaff North contacted to say she had discovered some old Llandaff photographs and would like them to have a safe home with The Society. The items included a remarkable framed sepia view of a full parade of soldiers as they marched from The Green into the High Street outside what is now 'The Summer Palace' Chinese restaurant. They are being applauded by a throng of locals in fine attire outside Mrs Wood's shop and the mediaeval Bishop's Palace. The clarity of the photograph brings the scene to life again and researches have established that the khaki clad troops wearing

tropical helmets and bush hats are the men of 3rd Militia Bn. Welch Regiment, returned from the Second Boer War, marching past after a service of thanksgiving at Llandaff Cathedral. The picture has been copied and reframed ready for public display in **Jaspers Tearooms** and it is intended that it will be handed over to Babs when her fundraising tea for High Street Christmas lights takes place in the late Spring.

LOCAL INFORMATION PANELS: Cardiff Conservation Officer, **Annabelle Evans**, visited LS committee to show provisional layouts for four information panels recounting history and events intended to be placed at sites in the village. Helpful provisional designs were shown and Committee members were invited to make comments as part of the public consultation process. Locations currently proposed are the Bishops Castle; the ruined Bell Tower; The Market Cross and of course the Cathedral, with a visitor map which it is hoped will be located on the Corner of High Street. In addition the stunningly restored transpontine 'Prichard' bridge will have its own information board.

High Street Car Park has at last received a general tidy-up by Cardiff Council although there is still much to be done to properly restore it. Meanwhile long awaited disabled parking and Loading bay markings have appeared in the High Street but the additional disabled parking intended for the car park access roadway have not been provided. Instead unwelcome double yellow lines have been painted alongside Garlands, in place of extremely convenient very short term parking hitherto enjoyed. Whatever happened to public consultation ?

Radyr Court Road Site Appeal.: Notice has been received of an Appeal in relation to Refusal of outline planning consent to develop 48 dwellings in the paddocks near the railway bridge in Radyr Court Road. The Inspector's Inquiry will take place on 21st May 2013 and The Llandaff Society's objection provides the opportunity to speak. Although just outside our community, we are opposed to the unwelcome intrusion into the Taff Green Corridor, and particular difficulties presented by additional traffic passing along this essentially rural by road and its already difficult junction with Bridge Road at Llandaff Bridge.

LDP AND ALTERNATIVE SITES: Following our second Public Meeting held at St Michael's College in November, further responses have been made with a view to ameliorating the worst effects of the proposals and commending the creation of sustainable communities. Llandaff Society through **Kay Powell**, is taking a prominent part in the influential North West Cardiff Group, which has recently met **Mark Drakeford AM**. Comments regarding the latest amendments to Alternative sites have been prepared and offered to the Group.

'SAVE LLANDAFF MEADOW' - Campaign update

Cardiff Metropolitan University's September 2013 planning application to create a football pitch at The Arls Field continues to be deferred for decision by Cardiff Council's Planning Committee. In the meantime requests to meet with Vice Chancellor; **Anthony Chapman**, to discuss the relationship between 'town and gown' have not yet borne fruit. Llandaff Society has therefore taken further steps to protect the wild meadow site from development.

After careful consideration of public comments and archive material located by former Vice President Norman Cunningham confirming that the land has never been used as a proper football pitch since Llandaff Tech was established in 1954. Also that its' identity as a wild meadow was confirmed in 1989 when Llandaff Society obtained official support for the

planting of an avenue of oaks along the public footpath between the formal sports pitches and The Arls Field

An application for the land to be registered as a Village or Community Green has therefore been prepared and this together with a volume of witness statements and a dossier of supportive photographs has been presented to Cardiff Council. This application is based on the fact that unrestricted public access has been available over the minimum qualifying period of 20 years. It would be magnanimous of Cardiff Met if they took the long view and were persuaded to join with their neighbours in this imaginative move to maintain Llandaff's rural character.

OBITUARIES:

Margaret McGahey

A stalwart presence especially at Rookwood Hospital over many years died on Boxing Day after a short illness

Dr David Wood

A long-time resident of Llandaff and valued member of the Llandaff Society, leaves a widow, Val.

By arrangement with Insole Court Trust and Friends of insole Court, the latest copy of RESTORATION NEWS accompanies this issue.

!!! STOP PRESS !!!

Dr Peter Sedgewick, a great friend of Llandaff Society, has announced his intention to retire later this year after 10 years as principal of St Michael's College during which he has led a significant turnaround in its fortunes.

A warm welcome is extended to **The Reverend Gerwyn Huw Capon; the new Dean of Llandaff**. His Installation at Llandaff Cathedral took place at 6.00pm on Friday 28th February 2013. All good wishes go to him in his challenging spiritual role within our community