

LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 137

DECEMBER 2008



**LEGEND HAS IT THAT
ST CADOC WAS AIDED BY
A DEER WHEN HE BUILT
HIS MONASTERY IN LLANCARFAN**

Local Births, Funerals, Marriages etc.

Baptisms

Lara Grace Clarke 30th March
Isabelle Elizabeth Spencer 13th April
Manon Rose Evans 31st August

Marriages

2nd July
Kevin Joseph Conneely to Rebecca Jane
Teesdale
13th Sept
Edward Thomas Davies to Jamie Louise Powell

Funerals

Lynnus Ivor Price 15th March
William Rowland Whitworth 4th Sept
Douglas Henry Chugg 3rd Oct.

Website: www.llancarfansociety.org.uk

President: Phil Watts

Chairman: Mike Crosta

Secretary: Gwyneth Plows 3 Showle Acre, Rhoose,
CF62 3HZ, Tel. 01446 713533

Contributions to the Newsletter to: Ann Ferris,
Fordings, Llanccarfafan CF62 3AD., or to Alan Taylor
by email to a.j.taylor@btconnect.com

Subscriptions/Membership Secretary Audrey Porter,
Millrace Cottage, Llanccarfafan CF62 3AD.

Mailing Enquiries: John Gardner, The Willows,
Fonmon, CF62 5BJ Tel. 01446 710054.

Local Church Christmas Services

Thursday, 18th December

7.00pm Llantrithyd Carol Service

Sunday, 21st December

6.00pm Carol Service in Penmark

7.30pm Carol Service in Llanccarfafan

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Penmark

11.30pm Llanccarfafan

Christmas Day

9.00am Penmark

9.15am Llantrithyd

11.00am Llanccarfafan

TUESDAY CLUB PROGRAMME

DEC 16th Party 7.30pm Games and Nibbles
Please bring a "lucky dip" gift value about £1 and a
plate of nibbles, non members welcome, do join us
for some fun.

JAN 20 LUNCHING OUT

FEB 17 Speaker to be arranged

MAR 17 AGM (then some games and refreshment)

APR ? JUMBLE SALE Date to be arranged

**Chair: Audrey Porter 781328 Sec: Audrey
Baldwin 781416 Treasurer: Ann Ferris 781350**

New members welcome, contact Audrey B.

Llancarfan Primary School Newpage

Children in Need

Children in need was on Friday 14th of November Llancarfan school raised a whopping amount of £152.31. We sold cakes and dressed up as a super heroes to raise money for those in need of our help. We all had a great time and everyone enjoyed themselves very much.

Molly and Ellie

Sports

Both the A and B football team have played against St Nicholas. The A team had a great 6 -2 win and the B team lost 7 -1.

Luke and James

In October the Tag Rugby A and B teams took part in a tournament in St. Nicholas. Both teams played five games. As always the B team won all the matches and the A team lost a friendly match against Llangan, drew one and won all the rest.

James

The Netball team has played four matches this term. We have drawn one, lost three and are working hard to keep improving. Callum



On Friday 24th November we took part in 'Wear it Pink' to raise money for breast cancer: We raised a whopping amount of £105.95.

We raised this money by selling dares at 20p, some of them were tie yourself to the pinkest

person in your class and run into the playground and shout at the top of your voice I DARE TO WEAR IT PINK! We also charged 50p to wear pink. Hannah and Evie

GREEN DAY

In November, we had a green day where we all wore green to school and learnt a bit about recycling, litter and pollution. The year six Eco Committee went around the classes and taught the children how to help the environment. We all had a lot of fun and we had visitors from Techniquest doing a recycling workshop with us in the morning. By Maisie

Junior Road Safety Officers



In September at Llancarfan Primary School, the children elected four children to become Junior Road Safety Officers (J.R.S.O.). So far we've had one meeting which was in November and we are thinking of ways to encourage people to park in the village car park instead of parking at the bottom of the hill. Olivia

We are the Champions is a sporting event that almost all the Vale schools take part in. There are 3 events: tug of war, swimming and obstacle race. We came second in our group heat and made it to the final. We had a small year 6 team and we all worked very hard to come joint 7th in the final. Megan

A letter from your Chairman

Your Committee has been giving a lot of thought to the Newsletter which of course is just one of the objects for which the Society was formed, social activities being an important one. We ask frequently for contributions from members but unfortunately there is not a great response. We appreciate many members have hardworking lives and responsibility for children but we find ourselves often with insufficient or quality material.

We have therefore come to the conclusion that it would be better to have fewer Newsletters of quality and interest than try to produce quarterly, as we have been trying to do hitherto. This might even mean just one newsletter per year but we would expect to produce more frequently, particularly for those living away, a newsheet of events, programmes and general news.

We would welcome the energy of younger members on the Committee and, as always, ideas and opinions.

Mike Crosta, Chairman.

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President's Message Christmas 2008

Milestones come and go, some are more memorable than others. In 2008 Llancarfan Society passed a significant milestone of 21 years since its formation.

In November 1987 we held our second dinner to mark the formation of the Llancarfan Society, the first one had already taken place in September 1987 in the Fox and Hounds. We have now had 22, and look forward to many more.

With this newsletter the Society has produced 137 newsletters, which gives an average of over five per year. This would not have been achieved if it were not for the hard work and support of many people.

Functions held in the village through the year, whist drives, May Day Walk, Petanque

competitions, mystery outing and the dinner have all been well supported. The newest event, the Llancarfan Show has been a great success, a reward for the hard work of the organisers. The social evening held on the first Tuesday in December at the time of writing has not taken place yet, but I am sure it will be as big a success as usual with carols ringing out loud and clear.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued interest and support to the Society and wish all our readers a Happy Christmas and Best wishes for the New Year and hope that next year will be as good as the previous twenty-one for the Society

Mystery Trip – Mick Mace, Past President

The Society's Mystery trip for 2008 took place on Friday the 11th July, arranged and organised as in several previous years by Gwyneth Plows, who would nevertheless insist on recognition and thanks being offered to Alan Taylor who recommended the eventually chosen mystery destination.

The coach left promptly, well almost, at 1830 hours from outside the Community Hall and headed for the chosen venue, via Gwyneth's devious and definitely "B class roads" which tested our driver's coach handling ability to the full.

We were blessed with a lovely evening of fine weather, which showed off the superb valley scenery as we passed through well-known urban area in and around Caerphilly County Borough to climb hills presenting many vantage points to enjoy the views. Many were the guesses at our mystery hostelry – all good tries, but all equally wrong! All was revealed as our coach approached and passed a sign to the long very rural driveway leading to Llechwen Hall and Restaurant, an undiscovered beauty for most of us lying in the midst of the Cynon Valley at Llanfabon near Pontypridd.

After the usual rush to the bar, the dining room was a haven to relax and enjoy a fabulous dinner and good wines with good friends. **3.**

Llechwen Hall was indeed a perfect place to end our trip with a welcoming host and staff and congratulations are due to Gwyneth and Alan for their choice – they will be hard pressed to equal it next year! Even a small group of perhaps local people appear to enjoy our party banter which must have intruded upon their peaceful evening, although they did threaten to invade Llanarfarn some time!

I am sure that some of us would have liked to take advantage of the Hall's "Booze and Snooze" to stay overnight but our coach awaited us so any snoozing had to be kept for the much shorter home journey, if such were possible despite the rather poor quality singing!

Thank you again Gwyneth, for handling the finances, including meals, coach and tips for staff and driver.

Well done and here's to the next time.

Our visit to Highgrove

(Organised by Llanarfarn Ladies Tuesday Club)

August 17th was a very wet day,
But we were going to Highgrove come what
may

With hopes high and passport in hand
We met our guide Alison to show us around the
land

She said, "Bring your wellies in case it's wet,
But I've never had a damp tour yet".

Still raining Alison said "you Welsh are strong,
The Americans would have long gone."

We saw fruit, veg, trees and flowers,
And lots of ecclesiastical stone (in between the
showers)

The walk was ending, the café was in sight,
The tea and biscuits were just right.

We thank our organisers, Audrey, Ann and Sue,
Who planned the day well, even down to a Loo!

Written by Jean Davies

An Evening at the Fox & Hounds by Robert Hutchings

With the appetites of 45 members of the Llanarfarn Society to Satisfy, together with 9 other guests, John and Sue Millard certainly had their work cut out on 4th October, But if their efforts were redoubtable, those of Rebecca and her co-helpers were all the more so.

We knew that space at the Fox & Hounds for 45 of us would be tight; getting around the many tables to serve us all would have been difficult enough had it been a one-course fast food meal. But it wasn't; it definitely wasn't. Prior to the evening we'd made our choices for all three courses from a lovely, varied menu; and that, in itself, made serving a less than straightforward task. But then half of us seemingly forgot what we'd ordered leaving Rebecca to try to unscramble things and satisfy everyone. It was a tribute to her patience and good nature that we all ended up with our chosen food.

And it was all every bit as delicious as we've come to expect from John after 7 years.

It was a horrible wet evening on 4th October (not the first this year!) and raincoats, umbrellas and cars were there in profusion. But nothing dampened our spirits. It was a pretty unanimous view that the evening was a great success. To return our annual dinner to the Fox was an inspired idea and whoever first proposed it has my vote to run the Assembly Government.

As well as 'mine host' and his team, our thanks must also go to Gwyn Plows for her uncomplaining organisation of us all and to Alan and Sue Taylor for their energetic support of the whole evening. The ubiquitous raffle, organised, of course, by Audrey Porter, raised over £100 and the success of my evening was well and truly ensured when I won the first prize.

In case you've not realised it yet, if you missed this meal by being on holiday or being otherwise engaged, you missed a cracker.

So, thanks Llanarfarn Society. Here's to the next!

Ruth's Watts Petanque Shield

This took place on 22 June, which for once was fine and even sunny. The photo following shows the Llancarfan Petanque Piste, on a lovely spring day, with the daffodils blooming.

It is quite a tranquil spot and many enjoyable game can be had here. The villagers usually meet on a Friday evening but it is available for use for boules at any time.

Seven teams entered and rather than a round robin match, only the winners of each game could play on, due to starting at the rather later time of 3.00pm.

The winners were Sam Smith, John Angell and Rhodi Grey.



The Lord Mayor's Petanque at Pentwyn Leisure Centre

The 24th July saw the winning team from the Ruth Watt's Shield match, together with three other teams, arrive to do battle with various teams from around the area.

It was a lovely evening and the battle commenced – the teams are split into two sections and play each team in the other section the winner of each section playing in the final to win the cup. Unfortunately, it went a little wrong this year and it ended with a toss to see which of the leading teams played in the final. None of our teams were successful.

However, we all went to enjoy a superb buffet, which had been laid on by the Leisure Centre, the Lord Mayor, providing the wine.

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New Zealand Lougher Family by Wendy Lawday

I have recently had contact with a distant cousin in New Zealand, a descendant of David Lougher of Llantrithyd (1801-1871). She is planning to visit the UK next year and we hope to meet up.

Her closest relative here would be the Yorath family, and I hope that someone may have a contact in that family, or with some present-day Loughers who would like to make contact.

Copy of Hand-out for the Society Mayday Walk 2008, around Duffryn, led by Dave Williams.

Prepared by Alan Taylor

Duffryn (Welsh for Valley)

This valley runs like the Llancarfan valley in a northerly direction, caused by the folding of the earth's crust during the Amorian Period movements of the earth. Rocks in the Vale are of Mesopoic Trias type.

Earlier this area of Duffryn Village was called Worleton or Columbar, meaning Dove Cote. Although Archeologists have undertaken considerable research for foundations of buildings, nothing was found. A moat was possibly dug as part of a Norman stronghold about the end of 10th Century. A William Dettourgel was the incumbent of the moat and there is evidence of a Hiring Fair here.

The moat was later swamped and it is obvious that ditches were dug along the northern boundary to

alleviate flooding, The fields were drained with clay pipes, manufactured in Bridgewater, in fact, tiles on the old cowshed alongside the road have Bridgewater stamped on them.

Although the valley is now called Duffryn, the name was probably brought here by the Pryce family who originally came from Duffryn in the Aberdare Valley. The Cory family have the honour of refurbishment of the house and gardens to the size today.

In 1961 the Dave Williams family were living in Tinkinswood Farm and could remember the original gardens and they only covered the area around the house and most of the front gardens were fields.

Reginald Cory, who bought many worldwide plants to Duffryn Gardens did not ever live there, but in Hampshire. It was his sister that lived in Duffryn and had a herd of Jersey cows which she kept at the Home Farm. This is where Jonathan Bird lives. John Cory married late in his sixties, but again never lived at Duffryn. Miss Cory was a very religious person and had the Public House closed in St Nicholas.

Cenydd Traherne bought the Duffryn Estate in 1938 for £25 per acre. Doghill Farm had been empty for 10 years prior to the sale. After refurbishment Margaret Rees' mother, of Penonn, lived there when first married.

Sam Norman by Mike Crosta

In a few years it is possible, when he is famous, that the villagers of Llancarfan will be able to say "I knew Sam Norman – he lived in our village".

Sam lives in the village with his family. He is 14 years of age and attends Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg. Residents of the village came across him at various times, such as when he helped out at the village hall or took part in senior village games of petanque, but I am sure most people have no idea of his sporting interests and achievements.

Sam's athletic enthusiasm started unexpectedly at Under 15 Boys level. His first gold medal was in the Welsh Schools Athletics Championship when the school team came first. He then started to compete in club competitions and is a member of the Barry & Vale Harriers Athletic Club. He has represented them for about 18 months and won 2 gold medals from one of his first competitions with the club when he took part in the junior league semi-finals and won in both shot put and long jump. These, he discovered, were his two main events.

Sam is also a member of the Welsh Wing Air Cadets where he has earned 2 further gold medals for the long jump and shot in the Air Cadets Inter Squadron Athletic Competition. He earned a gold medal for shot put and a bronze medal for long jump in the quarter-final of the Cadets Athletics Regional Championship. He won a further gold medal for shot put in the semi-final of the national cadet athletic championship. A bronze medal followed for shot put in the final of the junior league, throwing 11.10 metres, and a silver medal in the Cadets Athletics Championship final for the whole of the UK, throwing 11.49 metres. He has also won the Regional Air Cadet Cup for Sportsman of the Year for both 2007 and 2008, having represented them in both athletics and swimming. Sam has earned many other patches, certificates and awards for participating in other competitions.

Sam says that he is hoping to develop his abilities next year as he climbs to the next level of Under 17 Boys. He hopes eventually to represent Wales in athletics, with his eventual goal being to represent his Country in either the 2012 or 2016 Olympic Games.

I am sure you will join me in wishing Sam the very best of luck in his endeavours.

Obituaries

Lynnus Price March 2008

We are grateful to have the eulogy given by Archdeacon Bill Thomas at the funeral of Lynnus Price on March 14th. We would like to extend our sympathy to the family at their sad loss. With the blessing of Beryl, Llewellyn and Oenwen we are able to give the eulogy for our readers.

Lynnus was born in the year before the outbreak of the first World War on June 11th 1913. At Lidmore Farm, Duffryn, where his mother's parents farmed before his parents.

He was one of five children and sadly his twin brother died at birth. At birth Lyn was himself a light weight just 2lb, and to have survived at a time of uncertainty and very basic medical care was a remarkable feat. Kenneth Lyn's elder brother also died as a young boy.

Lyn moved to New House Farm as a baby with his parents, brother Dilwyn and sister Bellona and lived in Moulton ever since.

Lyn liked the sea and in his youth had a great longing to join the Navy, in fact he even went as far as to obtaining application papers to join the Navy but love of the land and farming was too strong to break away from. However that longing for the sea later in life manifested itself in cruising holidays which were greatly enjoyed. Lyn devoted his life to the land and as a young man spent many hours ploughing with horses and later with tractors, he was also an expert with and had the art of laying hedges.

Lyn met Roswyn David a farmer's daughter of Bryn Farm, Pendoylan and they married in 1937, and had two children Oenwen and Llewellyn, who like their parents were brought up to love the farming way of life.

During the winter, Lynnus, Dilwyn and their cousin Gwilym took a threshing drum each from Moulton and went around the farms of Glamorgan and as far west as Swansea, leaving their wives to do a lot of the farm work.

It should not be a surprise to learn or know that Lyn was a member of the Home Guard, but not under Captain Mannering. Often Lyn would relate many amusing stories of that experience which would have been good script for the T. V. series Dad's Army.

Lynnus loved the farming life to such an extent, that his only outside interests and hobbies were the sea. Minutes before he died he wanted to know what Llewellyn and the boys were doing on the farm.

With the death of Lynnus, Oenwen and Llewellyn have lost a father who brought them up to love the land and shared that way with them, the Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren will miss a wise old sage who linked them also to the farming way of life, and for the rest of us, a much loved friend of long standing whose knowledge of the sea and naval history was second to none. Sadly for the family, Llewellyn's wife, Beryl, lost her mother, Annie Richards, on July 14 aged 93.

Annie lived at Westview, Hensol, formerly of Brigam Farm. On a happier note, a new baby arrived, Elinor Catlin, on June 12, a daughter for Lynn & Sian Price, sister for Abigail and William.

Douglas Henry Chugg

Died on the 25 September, aged 73, at home in Llancarfan.

Douglas had suffered a long illness with amazing courage and fortitude. He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends.

Douglas was born in Aberdare, the youngest of 15 children. As a merchant seaman he travelled the world before meeting his much loved wife, Jackie, in the famous port of Plymouth.

Douglas and Jackie had been married for 42 years and have two children and a grandson.

They moved to Llancarfan eight years ago and integrated themselves into village life, making many friends and becoming much loved by all.

We shall miss Douglas' great sense of humour and above all, his kindness.

Wedding Bells

Jaime Louise Powell is the youngest daughter of Georgina and Stephen Powell who have lived in the Parish of Llancarfan for 35 years.

The Powell's originally lived in Grovelands House, in Moulton and when Jaime was three they moved to Ty Uchaf in Llancarfan.

Jaime attended Llancarfan Primary School and later Cowbridge High. She went to University in Cardiff and took a degree in Sports Management.

After getting her degree she left university and went into marketing and a couple of years later she joined the family's motor group. She progressed well and took over the running of one of Steve Powell's motor dealerships in Merthyr Tydfil.

Here she met motor trader Edward Davies who dealt with the Merthyr dealership. Edward was the eldest son of Robert Davies the senior partner in RDP Law in Gwent and Edward owned and ran his own commercial vehicle sales business just outside Abergavenny.

Three years later Jaime and Edward decided to get married and they both agreed that they wanted to be married in St Cadoc's in Llancarfan with Malcolm Davies officiating the marriage. Malcolm had seen both the Powell girls grow up and had nine years before officiated over the eldest daughter Emma's marriage to Simon Heselton, who now live in Penylan House in Llancarfan and have two boys Morgan and Daniel.

The 13th September was the date of the wedding and Llanerch Vineyard was chosen as the venue as it was different and local, plus it was fast becoming the place to go for a fantastic gastronomic experience. The place oozed character and as the sun shone on the happy couple that day and with Malcolm's service, great as always, everything turned out to be a phenomenal success.

Jaime and Edward now live just outside Abergavenny and Jaime has since joined Edward in running their van business, Leeway Van Centre.

8.

Richard Edward 1817 -1880 Welsh Baptist Minister in Llancarfan from John Cann

Graham Jenkins' article in August was a fascinating history of Bethlehem Welsh Baptist Chapel. Since it was originally written, I have been doing a lot of work on the descendants of Thomas David of Little Mill, Llanvithin. As luck would have it Thomas and Gwennllian's second daughter Margaret married Richard Edward in 1850, by which time he was an ordained minister in Bethlehem Chapel. With even greater luck, Brian James found several references to him in early Welsh Baptist publications. All were in Welsh, but Brian translated the short ones, and Non Evans kindly translated the major opus from "*Seren Gomer XXV (1904)*". This article, written by someone who knew him, is entitled "*Llancarfan & Richard Edwards*". It gives quite a bit of information on Richard which I was able to include in a booklet on the Davids.

Below is the relevant extract, nearly all is from "*Llancarfan & Richard Edwards*".

According to the "*Seren Gomer*" article Richard Edward was born and bred, lived and preached in Llancarfan. Census data however gives his birthplace as Bonvilston, otherwise the facts in the article are likely to be correct. Richard was baptised by Mr Robert Pritchard at Bethlehem Baptist chapel (most likely nearby in the stream). This was sometime between 1829 and 1835. About 1839 Richard Edward started preaching as did Bassett Edward Thomas. When the existing ordained minister (Mr Robert Williams) departed for America they were joined in 1842 by Dr Levi Thomas an ordained minister. "*Bassett Edward Thomas was the organiser, Richard Edwards the man of feeling and Dr Levi Thomas was the one who made a crowd one*".

Richard Edwards was a ploughman or a gardener possibly the latter as in a poem is "*A blond haired man from Llancarfan / The son of the orchard during the day*". He and Bassett Edward Thomas, son of a farmer from Llanbethery, were both ordained joint ministers of the Llancarfan

Baptists in 1848 (also in *Y Beddiwr VII, 1848*). In 1850 "*Richard Edwards was considered wise to marry a young gentle woman, a member of the*

methodist chapel and in this area Mrs Edwards

remained for the rest of her life, a handsome wife still, a good wife to the Minister of the Baptist chapel Llancarfan".

"On Sunday July 27 1851 Richard Edwards was preaching to a crowd of people on the bank of the river and Bassett Edward Thomas was baptising in the river" And in Y Beddiwr X, 1851 - "A respectable man and wife, Mr and Mrs Morgan, Fonmon, were baptised 27 July 1851 in the river near the chapel. Brother R. Edwards preached, and B.E.Thomas baptised them. There was a numerous congregation of every class."

But *"Rarely could Richard Edwards take part in the monthly Vale of Glamorgan meeting, as he was at home in his garden, content on the hill, digging in the valley, and threshing the abundance after the*

harvest" (a metaphorical allusion to his faithful work in his own spiritual patch, as well as probably literally correct) "But he did preach twice in the monthly meeting in Pisga, Pyle in November 1851".

Marmora the author of the article was David William Morris, a baptist minister then 80 years old. He visited Richard's house when he was 30. He says *"In August 1856 I visited their house and Mrs Richard Edwards was very welcoming, but her husband was in Tondy."* (where he was a minister for two years.) And finishes his article with a flourish - *"It was in Llancarfan that Richard Edward died on March 25 1880, 63 years old. He was buried in the Baptist cemetery in Llancarfan. It is appropriate because he was Richard Edwards, Llancarfan born and bred, was a 'member', preached and was ordained there."*

Llancarfan Village Show 2008

The non-existent summer of 2008 did not deter the organisers, exhibitors and visitors of the 3rd Llancarfan Village Show held on Saturday 26th July. Selecting the best date for any such event to maximise the number of horticultural exhibits 'ripe for showing' is always tricky, but with the exceptionally unseasonable weather throughout this year, there was no 'prime time' for harvesting the entries.

9.

For the first time the Show was staged at two venues, horticultural and domestic classes exhibited at the Village Hall, with arts and crafts, photography and the children's entries at the village Primary School. After the flurry of registration on Friday evening, and the final staging of entries early on Saturday morning, the judges arrived at 10.30 am to be greeted by an array of exhibits. They unanimously agreed that the finely produced schedule has resulted in an exceptionally high standard of entries, a credit to the show organisers.

The judging completed, and prize stickers applied to the winning entry cards, the judges and stewards were entertained at the Fox and Hounds with a buffet luncheon. When, at 2.30pm the doors opened to the public, exhibitors and friends discovered the fate of their entries and enjoyed a convivial afternoon.

The refreshments were kindly provided by 'the ladies' and, as always, were mouth watering.

The overall winner of the show adult classes was Alan Taylor, the junior overall winner was Mali Ford, the RHS. Banksian Medal was presented for the best exhibit in the horticultural classes for his Golden Dahlias to Bob Hartery, and the Richard Ferris plate for the best exhibit in the vegetable classes went to Alan Taylor.

Llancarfan Village Show has now achieved a hat trick of successes, and is a much looked forward to event in the village calendar. Although winter is now upon us it is never too early to sow the seeds for the fourth event – Llancarfan Village Show 2009.

No Memory of The Same

There is a remarkable building at the heart of Llancarfan. No, this doesn't refer to the *Fox & Hounds* (although as one of the axles on which the village community turns, the pub surely matters to us.) The building in question is the church of St. Cadoc – and over the last twelve months, it has revealed itself as ever more remarkable. It has proved home, not just to some of the finest mediaeval wall-paintings in Britain, but also to the stunningly ornate, and sadly neglected, carvings long known (inaccurately) as 'the reredos'.

Perhaps as surprising as anything is that some of St. Cadoc's emerging wonders were deliberately covered up nearly five hundred years ago - by those who believed that elaborate decoration, graphic storytelling, and graven images were an abomination of the soul. Readers will be aware that, following the wholesale pillaging of monastic goods during Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries, churches faced another 1547 royal edict to ' . . . destroy all shrines. . . pictures, painting and all other monuments of feigned miracles. . . so that there remain no memory of the same in walls, glass-windows, or elsewhere within their church or houses.'

Llancarfan admits to having retained 'no memory' of its church wall paintings until at least Victorian times. Then, local oral history suggests that, during the 1800s, signs were beginning to emerge that the walls were not a white as they were painted. But such traces of

early worship were rapidly swept under the Victorian carpet. Not that they could afford a carpet; the church proved so poor that it was unable to put in hand any commonplace Victorian 'improvements' which would surely have destroyed these mediaeval wonders.

The tale of how the latest evidence emerged of our church's colourful past is doubtless familiar to Llancarfan Society members. To recap briefly, a thin red line revealed itself to the architectural restoration team led by Alwyn Jones - prompting them to call on the services of international wall painting conservators, Jane Rutherford and Ann Ballentyne. Following their early work in February 2008, the stunning picture stories which began to emerge from beneath some 20 layers of whitewash captured the imagination of press, television, academics and, of course, villagers.

And this was just the beginning. The subjects of the paintings, as our conservators gently revealed and patiently explained, are traditional protagonists in the tale of St. George & the Dragon. King, queen, princess, lamb, dragon's snout and St. George's armoured foot are already discovered there in unusually well-preserved earth-colours. There are persuasive hints too of other tales - a skeletal head with a top-knot shroud, a serf in a woolly hat, and the

word 'Gula' - 'gluttony' - promising perhaps a full parade of Seven Deadly Sins.

In this briefest of introductions, one assumes that those near enough to Llancarfan will have already relished glimpses of our banned 15th century art. As well as regular worshippers, many have visited the church, and marvelled at what is to be seen and is promised. Visitors too will be encouraged, we hope, by first our attempts at unravelling the story on small interpretive panels, displayed on a protective light oak rail, and installed in the church following the two conservation sessions.

The project progresses. In early November 2008, delegates from both the Heritage Lottery Fund and CADW joined church authorities, conservators and architects in St. Cadoc's for a presentation on the discoveries, initiating plans for a significant fund raising campaign.

When it comes to appeals and events, Llancarfan will, as ever, rely on the support and enthusiasm of its caring residents. But it is encouraging to find that, such has been the early positive support from CADW, it has rushed to publish a full-page image of our princess and her lamb in their Autumn 2008 book on *Builders & Decorators - Medieval Craftsmen in Wales*.

As the funds fall into place, both for the staged conservation of the so-called 'reredos' (perhaps a unique and incredibly-intricate relic of choir-stall canopies from some unknown cathedral or monastery), and for the consolidation and revelation of the mediaeval art, work can begin again, hopefully in 2009. Surely then, both tales and truths will begin to unravel.

In the meantime, there are intriguing guesses to be made. Not least of these involves the half-revealed white swans on a coat of arms above the South door. This seems to fit the heraldic description of the Bawdrip family crest; they were a significant local family who lived initially at Penmark Place, and were subsequently powerful landholders in Splott. Were these the initial patrons of the wall-paintings? And if so, what did they feel when

their sponsored art was whitewashed out of sight within a hundred years of its creation? **10.**

It may be that your editors will permit an examination of some of the emerging clues, and expert descriptions in a later edition of the Llanccarfán Society newsletter? Meanwhile, this is a call for all good crusaders in the Vale to mount their steeds, and pledge their swords (perhaps even their worldly wealth!) towards rescuing and revealing the remarkable treasures of St. Cadoc's church.

Ian Fell, The White Chapel, Llanccarfán.

January offers at The Fox & Hounds

2 course lunch £8.95 per person, Tuesday - Friday
2 course dinner £10.95 per person, Monday - Thursday evening

Look out for our quiz and games nights.

John, Sue and Rebecca wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Society 2009 Calender.

Society meetings will be held bi-monthly in the Llanccarfán Community Hall at 8.00 pm. Commencing 06 January 2009, all members welcome.

Mar 10	Whist Drive
Apr 14	Whist Drive
May 04	May Day Walk
May 12	Whist Drive
June 02	Treasure Hunt (On foot)
June 09	Whist Drive
June 28	Ruth Watts Petanque Challenge Cup
July 10	Mystery Trip
Aug 22	Village Show
Sep 08	Whist Drive
Sep 26	Annual Dinner
Oct 13	Whist Drive
Nov 10	Whist Drive
Dec 01	Social Evening
Dec 08	Whist Drive

LLANCCARFÁN COMMUNITY HALL

By Sue Taylor - LDCA

The Llanccarfán and District Community Association has now received planning permission for an extension that will comprise, disabled facilities to comply with current legislation, a stage and much needed storage areas.

The plans are available for inspection at the Hall. Any comments, suggestions can be raised with the Committee by contacting 01446 781337.

As it is going to take a considerable time to raise the necessary funding, the Committee has decided to go ahead with installing a brand new Kitchen during the Christmas holiday period. The Kitchen will be fully equipped, which will make it an ideal venue for family parties and community events. Bookings may be made by contacting Sarah Angell on 01446 781300.

For your diary, the next LDCA planned event will be a Valentines Eve/Neil Diamond Tribute evening on Friday, 13 February. Tickets are £10 including Supper, available from Gwyneth Plows 01446 713533.,

The Hall serves not only Llanccarfán, but the whole Community Council area of Llanccadle, Llanbethery, Llantrithyd, Moulton, Walterston and surrounding Hamlets.

It is going to take some hard work to raise the necessary finance and our Committee is looking for an enthusiastic, energetic person to head the Fund Raising Committee. If you are able to take a little of your time and wish to help to put something into the Community, please contact us as soon as possible.

If we can upgrade the Hall, we can start to provide proper facilities for our children and all generations, so that activities can be arranged close to our homes.

Retirement of Archdeacon Bill Thomas

Since Malcolm Davies retired as Vicar, Llancafarn and Llantrithyd has had an interesting and sometimes perplexing time. We were first told that a new Priest would be appointed, but later that this would not be possible and so there was an interregnum which lasted for a year or so. Then we became part of an experiment which was the 'East Vale group of Churches', this by and large was a success with Llancafarn and Llantrithyd joining another seven churches with five Priests looking after the services and people.

Whilst in general this worked quite well it meant that we never really got to know our Priests that well and so when it was decided that the Archdeacon of Llandaff, the Venerable Bill Thomas would become responsible for our two Churches we were very pleased indeed.

Bill has been wonderful, involved in everything that we do from taking services to visiting the sick and most importantly the Primary School in Llancafarn.

Last year it was decided to make our group official and join Penmark into a three church benefice with Bill as its Priest and this has worked very well indeed.

Bill retires at the end of the month and we shall miss him very much indeed, On behalf of the PCC., I should like to thank him for everything that he has done and to wish Jean and him a very happy retirement.

Bill, We thank you very much for everything, you will be missed and always be welcome among us.

By Sam Smith.

Graham Jenkins' 80th Birthday

With two birthdays and a wedding anniversary, the 7th June is an important date in the Jenkins/Kemp calendar. The 7th June 2008 was especially important as it marked Graham's 80th birthday. After much discussion, Audrey, Katherine and Caroline decided to hold a surprise party at Flaxland Fach, but no doubt the numerous cryptic telephone calls between Flaxland Fach and Colcot Road ensured that Graham had an idea that something was afoot! Fortunately, the weather was reasonably kind and final preparations went more or less without a hitch! The sixty or so guests, some of whom had travelled from as far a field as France, were asked to arrive earlier than Graham to ensure that all vehicles were safely out of sight by the time he arrived. Having for some months said that he didn't want a party Graham clearly enjoyed himself and together with the guests enjoyed a barbecue, expertly provided by chefs Robert and Dominic, followed by desserts prepared by Sophie and Harriet. Happily for the conspirators, the party was a great success and gave everyone, particularly those who hadn't seen each other for a while, a chance to catch up. Thanks must go to Viv and Rhodri Price who kindly volunteered to transport tables and chairs from the village hall and for allowing use of the shed for parking.



