

# LLANCARFAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER 141

MARCH 2010



*“Once more the morning mists lay thick in the valleys, and grass and fern were heavy and dank with dew. The sun had not touched even the hill-tops yet; only the east had begun to whiten with the promise of dawn. But, early as it was, in the monastery of Llanccarfán life was already astir; the prayer and labour which went on there rarely ceased altogether either by day or night. Real labour it was by which Cadoc, the abbot, and his monks had made this little sanctuary in the midst of the wilderness, the ‘watery moor,’ as the chronicle calls it, tenanted only by wild creatures, the boar, who housed under the bushes, and the swans who built their nests and reared their young among the tall reeds and the wide, still pools.”*

*From The Star in the West : Mary H. Debenham : 1904*

## CONTENTS

3 - 4	ROBERT HUTCHINGS O.B.E. : HARD HAT & SOFT HEART
5 - 6	FROM LLANTWIT MAJOR TO LLANCARFAN MINORS
7 – 10	EVENTUALITIES & DISPATCHES
11 - 12	TIFFS, TAFFS & TESTAMENTS
13 - 14	WALTER DE MAPES? – NOT LIKELY!
15	A THEOLOGICAL AFFRONT
16	PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## ON SEARCHING THE PAST

Anyone wishing to revisit previous Llancarfan newsletters – which have proved a remarkable resource for local history, lore & family narratives – will surely know that the letters are readily readable online. Thanks to the diligence of Llancarfan Society colleagues, people can find the newsletters at <http://www.llancarfansociety.org.uk/html/newsletters.html>.

Should readers then need to focus their research, rather than be tempted to graze the past in random fascination, there is also an invaluable subject index to the first two-thirds, compiled by Ann Ferris.

Ruminants like us, however, will be aware that the former editor, John Etherington, was always looking for new pointers to Llancarfan in literature. We hope Mary H. Debenham may be a discovery. Correct us if we're wrong, but we wonder if our contributors have come across the lady who is quoted on the front cover? If not, then one day we will explore the traces of this author, yet another lover of this gentle valley.

On first acquaintance, Miss Debenham seems to have been a highly prolific writer who (between 1888 & 1945) published an astonishing 90 or more works through *The National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Church of England*. So there must be a good tale to tell. In the meantime, we enjoyed her evocation of our 'watery moor' – which has surely re-earned such a description during the bitter winter only just retreating from our vale.

## ROBERT HUTCHINGS O.B.E. : THE MAN WITH A HARD HAT & A SOFT HEART

**When I went to talk with Bob Hutchings about his OBE, announced in the New Year's Honours List, it was I who was honoured [writes Rhodi Grey]. Because I learnt, not just about the award itself, but about the reasons why Bob earned that honour.**



Building an eco-friendly future,  
Bob with Jocelyn Davies, Wales'  
Minister of Housing

Bob, as you may or may not know, was born and brought up in a small Hampshire village in the New Forest. His first career was as a professional footballer - and had he not broken his leg in the FA Youth Cup semi-final, playing for Bournemouth against Wolves, who knows what other honours would have come his way?

It was not to be. His father sent him off on his crutches to get "a proper job". Used to passing things on and checking back, Bob joined the Civil Service to become an auditor! He

worked first in London before being moved to Lincolnshire where he met and married Judy, 49 years ago. They then moved to Leicester, then Nottingham, and Cheshire, until Bob was promoted to Regional Director of the Audit Commission in Wales. They moved to Llancarfan in 1989. It was the pinnacle of his career, but a move shadowed by family tragedy because, at the same time, they lost their eldest son in a car crash.

Bob stayed with the Audit Commission until the formation of the Assembly Government, and its annexation of the audit role in 1999, when he took early retirement at the age of 58 years. It was during this time that he also became increasingly involved in voluntary community projects. In Llancarfan, it was to Bob that Steve Vink (as Chairman of the Community Council) turned when the *Fox and Hounds* was put up for sale and the villagers were looking to fight the loss of their local. Given the possibility of it no longer being the village pub, Bob's spontaneous response was "why don't we buy the damn place?" This inspired reaction led to him, Bob Teesdale, Richard and Steve Powell pulling everyone together and putting in place the purchase of the *Fox* by the village. The rest is history.

No less important, but more significant, Bob became involved in Housing Association Projects in Barry and Newport. Upon his retirement, he became a Trustee of the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, Non-Executive Director of Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust, Council Member of Cardiff University, and an Independent Councillor for Newport County Borough Council.

However, his greatest contribution, and his proudest achievements have focused on the Housing Association in Newport, now known as the Seren Housing Group, where he is Chairman. Here his business acumen, his vision and, most importantly, his humanity has helped develop six separate companies into an organisation with one common purpose. The individual companies are involved in house building; house letting (with a portfolio of five and a half thousand houses); house sales, especially where shared ownership is involved; helping people with learning difficulties; helping the homeless around East Wales; and helping people with alcohol problems.

Out of these various companies, Bob has created an organisation whose mission is to provide homes for people that are more than bricks and mortar. In his words - 'We will house you, and, if you need help, we will help you too'; alternatively, 'We will help you – and, if you need housing, we will do that too'.

Bob is setting challenging environmental targets too. The aim with his organisation's latest construction project is that, with careful planning and use of the latest resources, the energy cost per tenant should not exceed £100 per year. This is a brave promise from a dedicated man who well deserves his award.

You would think, with all these commitments, he has little time to relax, but he enjoys life in Llancafán, with its strong community spirit, a spirit which seems to him to be constantly evolving as people come and go.

But when it comes to relaxation, both he and Judy have no doubts – it is with their grandchildren. One of them has just joined the cast of the musical *Oliver* in the Drury Lane Theatre in London, as one of Fagin's urchins. And there is no better summing up of Robert Hutchings, the man, than that he is looking forward more to going to see his grandson perform, than to the visit to collect his OBE in a few weeks' time.



## FROM LLANTWIT MAJOR TO LLANCARFAN MINORS

**The Llancarfan Primary School pupils are on tenterhooks – for after their break to search for the Easter eggs, they’ll be welcoming a new Head teacher to Llancarfan. But Mrs. Sally Brereton is no stranger to the Vale, and she gave *Penny Fell* a glimpse of her life and passions . . .**

There once was a young lady who lived near Barry; she fell in love with an Essex boy, married him, and followed him to Billericay. Aaah! But before long, she tempted her husband back to south Wales, and raised a happy family. A familiar plot? Nope - not *Gavin & Stacey*, but the true romance of Mrs. Sally Brereton, head teacher-in-waiting at Llancarfan Primary School. She and her Essex-bred husband laugh about the parallels with the TV series, which, she hastens to add, only go so far . . .

At the moment, life is a bit of a whirl of packing boxes for Sally, clearing her desk at Llanilltud Primary School where she’s been Deputy Head for five years. She takes the hot seat at Llancarfan after Easter.

A local girl, born in the maternity hospital at St Athan, bred in Rhoose, Sally Brereton has deep roots in the area. She came into teaching via the rather unorthodox route of being a mum. A former housing officer, she gave up work for a while when her sons were tiny, and became involved in their Welsh language playgroup in Rhoose. She took to working with children like a duck to water, realised her vocation, and progressed smartly to a PGCE. Now, she says, children remain the best thing of all about being a teacher.

“Just to witness and play a part in their discovery, their enthusiasm – the process of finding out about the world, which, when they are little, they often do out loud and share with you. That remains the best part of teaching”. And her favourite age group usually turns out to be - whoever she’s teaching at the time.

On early impressions, what does she think of Llancarfan School?

“Very very close-knit, caring, nurturing, I think that’s what hits you straight away. It’s just big enough with plenty of children in each peer group, so that everyone has someone to be friends with, but small enough for everyone to know each other. Anybody I mention it to, supply teachers or whoever say ‘Oh, I’ve been there, oh, you’ll love it, it’s such a nice school’ . . . I really have not heard a bad word about Llancarfan,” she reports emphatically, beaming.

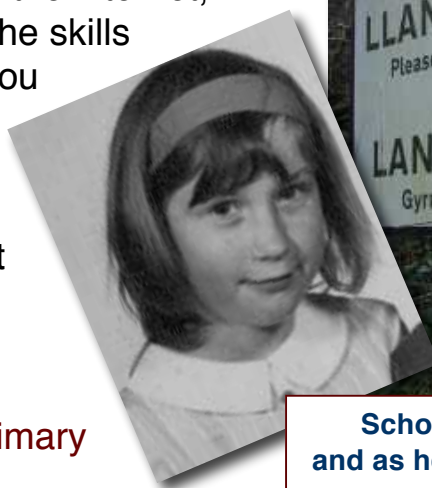
Llancarfan School is the youthful heart of village life, and Sally Brereton already has some form when it comes to working with the wider community. Her current school collaborated with the local Twinning Society – geography lessons got a shot in the arm when she devised a new work scheme to focus on Llantwit's twin town of Le Pouliguen in France. As Acting Head, she took her tuneful charges to sing with the church choir. And, given that her own special passion is local history, she's looking forward to finding out more about Llancarfan's past and, perhaps, reflecting that in the classroom.

Getting the kids out of the classroom appeals to her too, and not just for the annual jolly. She loves Llancarfan's country setting :

"I'm so interested in the idea of the Forest School - taking children outdoors and learning a bit more about nature, hands on. If you've got somewhere local where you can just go and have a look at trees and leaves, and the stream as well! I suppose in the old days you would have called it nature studies. That's just fabulous."

At the moment, she's being cautious about specific plans for the school. As term starts, Mrs Brereton is conscious she's a new girl. "I'm just looking forward to learning everything I can . . . I've made quite a few visits to Llancarfan, to the school, but it's not the same as actually being there. I've got to get a feel for who does what, what the children are like, soak all that up. I will have to walk, as well as run!"

If she's holding fire on specifics, what in general, then, what would she hope to give her Llancarfan pupils? "Curiosity," her answer comes quickly. "If we can arouse a desire to find out about things, and show children how to find out – whether from books, the internet, other people: if we give them the skills of the three R's – and, today you have to add IT – so that they can do that! - If we can arouse in children that excitement in finding out about the world they live in - then I think we've done a good job."



**Schoolgirl Sally aged 9,  
and as head teacher in waiting**

The latest missive from our Primary School is on the back page.

# WHAT'S OCCURIN'? OR MAYBE EVEN OCCUR'D!

## **CHURCH NEWS**

*A reminder of Church Service times :*

Morning Eucharist each Wednesday at 09.30.

Service each Sunday at 11.00.

**Palm Sunday** is on March 28<sup>th</sup> with the service starting at 11.00.

This includes the procession around the village, following the donkey.

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> of March** : Meditation & Compline. St. Cadoc's at 19.00.

This is a short reflection for the Monday of Holy Week, before the traditional service of Night Prayer. Also, at the same times, at Llantrithyd on the Tuesday & Penmark on the Wednesday of Holy Week.

**Maundy Thursday 1 April** :

Volunteers please to contact the Church Wardens for the Watch.

**Good Friday** : 14.30 : Liturgy of the Last Hour, at St. Cadoc's.

**Holy Saturday** : (Easter Eve) : 20.00.

Vigil, Blessing of the Paschal Candle, and a First Communion of Easter.

**Easter Day** : Sung Eucharist at 11.00 .

12<sup>th</sup> April

Vestry Meeting

8<sup>th</sup> May

Confirmation Service

13<sup>th</sup> May

Ascension Day. Joint Service at 19.00. for the three parishes to be held at St. Illtyd's Church, Llantrithyd

## **CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL**

The Electoral Roll must be fully revised this year by Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

The Annual Vestry meeting is on Monday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 07.00 p.m. in St.

Cadoc's Church. You need to be on the Electoral Roll to vote & stand for

election to the Parochial Church Council. Renewal forms in the church now.

## **CONFIRMATION SERVICE**

The Confirmation Service, led by the Reverend David Welbourne, Assistant

Bishop of Llandaff, will be held in St. Cadoc's on Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 18.00

with a number of local churches in attendance.

## **RESTORATION**

As you will know by now, experts have identified the wall paintings as a

significant find, these having survived as almost unique illustrations of their subject matter in Wales. The conservators hope to resume conservation of the wall paintings in September, and at the same time external work will weather-proof the porch & south wall. At the end of Phase One of the project, the complete surviving painting of St. George & the Dragon should be revealed & restored, part of the rich heritage of our village & church history.

The Restoration Committee of the Parochial Church Council have applied for grants which, if received, will go a long way towards funding the project. However, there will always be a short fall, as there is a requirement that the local community contributes too. The PCC are in the process of arranging fund-raising events, and to date have planned:

- Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 14.00 : Strawberry Teas & Pimms at the Rectory.
- Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup> : The Cowbridge Male Voice Choir will entertain us.
- Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup> : The Harvest Festival Dinner.

These events, if well attended, will help greatly – but still leave many thousands of pounds to be raised. The church will establish a fund-raising committee, and seek volunteers to participate in driving a fund-raising appeal. To help the Church – we (the Newsletter editors) would welcome your thoughts as to how this money could be best raised. We will happily pass these on to Peggy Jackson and the PCC. Remember – this is *our* heritage.

## **LLANCARFAN SOCIETY NEWS**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

It's subscription time again, and enclosed is a Membership Renewal Form. The society would welcome its return with a subscription as soon as possible.

### **MAY BANK HOLIDAY WALK : MONDAY 3 MAY 2010**

Following a pre-walk reccy earlier this month, we can confirm a lovely historical stroll - up through the wooded fringes of St. Donats' castle, round through the bluebell (we hope) woods to the sea, and the chance to discover splendid coastal views. The round trip culminates at the hidden church of St. Donat's, set in the dell behind Atlantic College. Further details in due course.

### **THE VILLAGE SHOW : SATURDAY 21 AUGUST 2010**

Arrangements progress apace, and the Show Schedule is enclosed.

### **WHIST DRIVES**

The increasingly popular Whist Drives are taking place in the Community Hall on the last Tuesday of each month.

### **PETANQUE**

The new season commences on the piste at 17.00 on Good Friday.



### **FUTURE DATES FOR THE DIARY**

- Society AGM : May 6<sup>th</sup> at 19.30 in the Community Hall
- Ruth Watts Petanque Competition : June 27<sup>th</sup> on the Piste
- The Mystery Trip : July 9<sup>th</sup>
- The Annual Dinner : September 25<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Choir Evening : December 7<sup>th</sup>

### **TUESDAY CLUB**

The Llancarfan & District Ladies Tuesday Club (formed in the early 70s) holds meetings every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 19.45 in the Village Hall.

They arrange to have interesting speakers, outings, and an annual Jumble Sale – the next one being on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The Club prefers to buy items with the proceeds & donate those to local charities – rather than send cash. Over the years the Tuesday Club has given to more than 40 local charities.

The up-coming programme now being prepared includes a speaker on *A Wedding in Nepal*, one on *Antiques*, and a visit to Aberglasney. New members are more than welcome. For more information please contact

*Chair* Audrey Porter  
781328

*Sect* Audrey Baldwin  
781416

*Treasurer* Ann Ferris  
781350

### **THE POPPY APPEAL 2009**



TIDYING THE MEMORIAL 2009

It was unforgivable of us not to have reported on the wonderful work carried out by Blair Evans and his team of helpers, including Jane John, Les White, and not least Ray Evans, his treasure and treasurer.

This happy band work so hard each year in the Bonvilston and District area, including Llancarfan, selling poppies to support and in remembrance of our armed forces. This effort is all the more poignant at the present time, with so many of our fellow citizens laying down their lives on our behalf in conflicts around the world.

Yet to be confirmed, but Blair informs us that in last year's appeal [2009], the team raised over £1,300 – a wonderful effort which they hope we will all help them to beat this coming year.



## SPORTING & CAVORTING



**BOXING DAY 2009 : SHARON SHOUTS FOR WALES WHILE JOHN ANGELL TRAPS THE DUCK EGGS**

**TENNIS CLUB** No news yet, but fear not, we haven't forgotten you.

### **CRICKET CLUB**

Pre-season training is on the horizon. This takes place in the *Fox & Hounds* on Thursday April 29<sup>th</sup> at 19.30 The usual curry & raffle @ £10 a head. Everybody is welcome, and the club will be very grateful for any support. The fixture list will be published by then, and posted on the board in the pub. Prospective members can contact Rob John on [janejohn1@btinternet.com](mailto:janejohn1@btinternet.com) or on 07889-107795. He will love to hear from anyone, regardless of ability!

### **THE COMMUNITY HALL**

The LDCA Committee has now had confirmation of two separate grants, one of £40,000 from Creative Rural Communities, with matched funding from the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The current hope is to start building the extension in the early summer, to provide more storage & a disabled toilet.



### **FLOWER ARRANGING**

The village's budding flower arrangers are currently meeting in the Community Hall each Tuesday morning. At the moment the class is full, but please do 'watch this space' and/or contact Mary Grey on 01446 781936.

### **LATE BLOOMER**

In the absence of St. David's daffodils, Frank Jamieson brought his own style to flower arrangement on St. Patrick's Day!

## TIFFS, TAFFS & TESTAMENTS : Ian Fell

***Are you rude to the neighbours?*** Trevor Winterbottom and I have got it down to a fine art. Not in a nasty way, you understand. But up where we come from, which is even more Up than Y Gogledd, the exchange of humorous abuse is a required gesture of brotherhood & affection. Mind you, with names like 'I Fell' and 'Winterbottom', mickey-taking is tricky to avoid. But we're hardened to it.

I only mention this because, fishing on the Internet for Llancarfan lore, you can come across Cardiff's Quarter Session Files. These bundles of decaying parchment have survived for the period from 1727 to 1753 (the first two King Georges' time). The papers record the un-neighbourly doings of assorted Glamorgan residents, matters thought naughty enough to bring before a judge in Cardiff's old Shire Court.

Back then, it would seem, Trevor's and my macho banter might not have had us up before the beak, but we'd certainly be skating on thin ice. And as for the wilder gossip heard in today's Llancarfan, in the 1700s this could easily have brought charges of libel!

Take for instance a case back in January 1729. Thomas Love of Penmark, Gentleman, complained to the court about the libelous words of our good neighbour, William Richard of Llancarfan. Bill Richard was accusing Love's son of theft: 'He came to my wood & stole my Ashes, and brought his Wain and Oxen in the Night to carry them away.'

Perhaps other contributors can help with the meaning of this? Are we talking about 'ashes' as fertiliser here? Mix them into your dung-heap, and you're probably well set up for muck spreading. All you need then is your Wain and Oxen, and the Penmark grass is guaranteed greener.

Anyway, I don't yet know what the court concluded about this (alleged) night-time raid by the *hogiau* / boyos of Penmark. I use the Welsh word for 'lads' only because much of Llancarfan's mutual abuse happened in Wales's native language. For example in October 1731 the Court heard about the challenge issued to Mr. Henry David by Llancarfan's Andrew Evans. The scandalous words of Mr. Evans were transcribed as

*'Harry David, y Rogue, Leidir, mab y garne Bittain Deoch y maes.'*

Now a discrete translation of this period spelling seems to read:

‘Come on out, Harry David! You’re a rogue, a thief, and your Mum’s a lady of the night!’ Which is not very Llancarfan, Vicar.

Perhaps the best bad-mouthing of all came from the tongue of a certain good mistress of Llancarfan, and was duly reported to the Cardiff Quarter Sessions in January 1733. Again the lady called on the potency of her period Welsh language:

*‘Y Mae yin cawse ach mennin yn drewy, Ac y mae yin Tuy yn drewy, ac yn Rwstro fy fynd Rhyd yr Heol!’*

In other words, she told her neighbour ‘Your cheese and butter stink, your house stinks too, and it’s stopped me going across (fording?) the street!’

I leave the reader to unpick the issues of country life implied in such vituperation. Meanwhile, we’re going off to check the fridge, in case the ripe Camembert is calling out for justified neighbourly abuse!

See : [http://www.archive.org/stream/cu31924091779219/cu31924091779219\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/cu31924091779219/cu31924091779219_djvu.txt)



IN 1664, the chronicler John Aubrey looked out from his cousin’s mansion at Llantrithyd & saw ‘the mountaines of Devonshire all white with snow’.

AND on a rare morning of sunshine in this bleak winter of 2010, from the cliffs at Ffontygari we saw just the same.



## **‘WALTER OF WALTERSTON? WALTER DE MAPES? NOT LIKELY.’**

*Following our recent references to Walter de Mapes, we are grateful to **John Cann of Walterston** for surprising us with the news that the man in question was not of Norman origin with a fancy French name, but was in fact a humble Welshman, probably from Wormsley near Hereford, called Walter Map. Here, in an abbreviated extract from John’s booklets about Walterston, John invites you to follow the complexities of trying to identify Walterston’s first Lord of the Manor.*

**YOU CAN FIND** hard documentary evidence for the Lords of Walterston after 1480 – but before that, for mediaeval Walterston, there is nothing.

Archaeological evidence makes us reasonably sure that a 'castle' and a village existed here by the middle of the 12th century. An original 'Lord's Hall' would have been on the 'castle' site, though it was certainly not the house now called *Trewallter Fawr*. However, it *is* reasonable to deduce that the first Lord of the Manor had the name Walter. So who was he? The literature offers two contenders.

**IOLO MORGANNWG** though it was Walter de Mapes - which view was repeated by the Victorian antiquary G. T. Clark. But the fact is, Walter de Mapes was not a Norman Marcher Lord, as Iolo seemed to believe, but very much a Welshman – Walter Map – born around 1140, rather too late to be the original Lord of Walterston.

'Map' is an original Welsh form of 'ap' meaning 'child of', and this was the nickname given to the Welsh by the Saxons. Briefly, after studying in Paris until at least 1160, this 'de Mapes' became a clerk at the court of Henry II, and was frequently a travelling justice. These travels are occasionally recorded, as is his court and Church career.

But while Gloucester, Hereford and Oxford feature in those records, they show no connection with South Wales, never mind the Lordship of Walterston. Nor does any of Map's writing mention our hamlet.

**ANOTHER MAN, DE WALTERVILLA**, is an alternative candidate offered by G.T.Clark. Clark came across this man as a witness to a Fitzhamon Charter to Tewkesbury Abbey in 1102. This is relevant because Fitzhamon is known as the 'Norman conqueror of Glamorgan', with a stronghold at Cardiff Castle. The date of 1102 is certainly early enough for 'de Waltervilla' to be

Walterston's first Lord – and so Walterston could well have been lands given by Fitzhamon to de Waltervilla. But then again, there is another Walterston in the Golden Valley, Herefordshire, which is much closer to Tewkesbury. And there is no evidence to connect de Waltervilla conclusively to *our* Walterston.

**THE OTHER POSSIBLE APPROACH** to identifying Walter of Walterston is to work back from the first *known* Lord of Walterston. This is John Malefaunt who died in the 1480s. John's widow Margaret was supported by a dower – an annual payment of one third of the return from six main Malefaunt manors, one of which was Walterston.

This leads us to one other clue. This is in the *Breviat of Rice Lewis*, written in 1596, which recalls that formerly "*Wallerston was parcell of the ffleminges landes.*" A Sir William Fleming was John Malefaunt's grandfather. So his daughter *could* have brought Walterston with her when she married Edmund, John's father.

Winding back, the Flemings got much of their land from the de Sullys. A Walter de Sully held two of the Malefaunt Manors, Wenvoe and Llanmaes, in 1260 - and may also have had Walterston. Even earlier, in 1160, we find a Walter de Sully described in a charter of 1160 as "*Vice-Comes de Glamorgan*". We know that the manor of Sully was named after him - or more likely his father Reynold (or Raymond).

**So in short, it would not be surprising for this Reynold to establish his son in a Manor of his own – our very own Walterston.**

**ON BALANCE THEN**, we offer you Walter de Sully (fl.<sup>1</sup>1160), as the most likely first Lord of the Manor of Walterston. The full argument is in my two booklets - *The Manor of Walterston & Medieval Walterston* - with their evidence of the early 'castle' and village. These can be had from me, John Cann, in return for a reasonable donation towards restoration of the Church wall paintings.



*RHODI GREY ADDS : I am gratefully reminded of the well-meaning guide on a recent holiday in Vietnam, who led us up a very long flight of very steep steps to see the temple where an ancient king was buried. On finally reaching the top, the guide announced that the temple was no longer open to the public, and that in all probability the king had never been buried there in the first place. So Walter, or whatever your name is, you are in royal company!*

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<sup>1</sup> fl. = 'floreant' – that is 'flourishing', often used in genealogy when we don't know accurate birth or death dates.

## A LOCKED CHURCH IS A THEOLOGICAL AFFRONT

The other week – wearing our company’s *Media for Heritage* hat – Penny (Fell) and I (Ian) went to a one-day conference on Church Tourism at Dyffryn House. As you’d expect, there were even more dog-collars in evidence than at Tyn y Coed Country Lodge for Dogs – but there too were at least as many lay champions of our cultural heritage.



Let’s be honest, the idea of ‘Church Tourism’ originally sounded a bit creaky to us, in danger of trivialising what a church is about. However, as both the Heritage Lottery Fund and CADW are imminently considering the St. Cadoc’s bid for sizeable funding, we needed some mental readjustment. After all, Chaucer’s pilgrims were ‘church tourists’, and although the Reformation banned pilgrimages to (for instance) the celebrated shrine at Pen-rhys in the Rhondda, the ‘church tourism’ instinct has not been suppressed. Whether for religious or historical reasons, visiting churches in search of cultural enlightenment and spiritual uplift continues to be an honourable pursuit.

It proved an excellent conference, a disciplined and informative sharing of the successes (and hazards) of a decade of professional church tourism in Wales. Among an impressive range of lively initiatives throughout the country, we were told for example of North Montgomeryshire’s *Living Stones Heritage Trail* (16 churches, including that of St. Melangell, where ancient pilgrims had carved their footprints in the stones). We were reminded too of neighbourly plans to restore the ruined 13<sup>th</sup> century ‘Galilee Chapel’ at the western end of St. Illtud’s Church, Llantwit Major. This, it is hoped, can find new life as ‘a centre for education in Celtic Christian studies’.

Perhaps a more surprising take on the pilgrimage instinct was to underline the church’s willingness to support the *Who Do You Think You Are* enthusiasm for genealogical research. There was even talk (from the *Ceredigion Faith Project*) of a ‘touch-screen graveyard map’, allowing an electronic quest for ancestral traces!

And think on this, St. Cadoc - the statement from the men at *Ecclesiastical Insurance*, confirming that ‘we never insist that a church is locked’. Then too Canon Jeremy Martineau, the man who set up Churches Tourism in England, made his own views very clear indeed :

‘A locked church,’ he said, ‘Is a theological affront’.

Yet again the ace reporters from Llanccarfafan School have filed their updates on issues national, international and probably intergalactic too . . .

## LLANCCARFAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

At the end of January 2010 the year 6 pupils took part in a road safety quiz. The quiz was run by Mr. John Rogers. The class was split into three groups. Two groups of four and one group of three. The road safety quiz was all about safety around and on the roads, and road signs etc. The winning group got 41/50 questions correct and narrowly missed out on going through to the area finals.



In February some of the children from Llanccarfafan took part in a chess tournament in Cardiff County hall. They played in six matches. The children who took part were given a certificate from the mayor of Cardiff and Adam won



In February the Year 6 pupils went to Cardiff to take part in a Gamelan drumming workshop. The workshop lasted 2 hours and the pupils really enjoyed it. By the end of the session we could all play a song together!

Every Easter at Llanccarfafan school we sell knitted chicks with Galaxy chocolate eggs for £1 each. We do this on behalf of the Velindre hospital. We hope to raise a lot of money for this worthwhile cause.



On World book day a very talented author called Phil Carradice came in and did a workshop with the children in school. The author told the school lots about story writing and poetry and we also got to try his method of writing. He also showed the pupils a selection of his books.



The children in Llanccarfafan have been very busy raising money for Purple Pinky Day, which supplied money for polio vaccinations. Money was also raised for Haiti and Wear it Pink Day. A fantastic amount of money was raised for each cause.

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