

# LLANCARFAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER 165 MARCH 2016



Llancarfan's Will Renwick has clearly found a means of locomotion denied to most of us. Surely he's levitating here? When you think of it, how else could he achieve his remarkable pedestrian perambulations?



## CONTENTS

3 - 4	WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WALK
5	MAY DAY WALK : 2 <sup>nd</sup> MAY 2016
6 - 7	EVENTS, DIARY DATES & SAD FAREWELLS
8 - 9	MUSIC TO OUR YERS
10 -12	LLAST TANGO IN LLANCARFAN
13 - 14	TRUMPETING WITH TITANOSAURS IN WELSH PATAGONIA
15	PLANNING FOR THE FLOOD
16	CLASS ONE AND THE DRAGON

## EDITORIAL

We had a curious experience whilst watching the reports of the devastating floods in the north this winter. From 1983 to 1995 Penny and I reared our sons in Yorkshire's Calder Valley (which is very much more beautiful than its locations chosen for TV's powerful *Happy Valley* series). However, what with us knowing and loving the valley so well, we were shocked to see the news coverage of an inundated Sowerby, Mytholmroyd, and Hebden Bridge. The devastation wrought by the Yorkshire Calder was unbelievably cataclysmic.

Days later, the news cameras moved over the Pennines to another Calder, the Lancashire one, callously imitating its Yorkshire namesake by flooding the village of Whalley. *This* village I knew even better, because I was born there. Glued to the telly, we watched as journalists door-stepped the owner of 38 King Street, filming *his* tale of the inundating waters. Number 38 was my teenage home, the house in which my parents survived my adolescent years.

So, I have to own up – floods are me. I have clearly cursed my former homes. If there was a witchcraft ducking stool on the banks of the Carfan, I would be a natural candidate for trial by water. Perhaps that was one reason I joined many villagers in attending the *Natural Resources Wales* Flood Awareness Meeting here on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February. A first reaction is within.

Then again, muddy though pathways remain, we're well aware that we should be out walking. So we hope our readers – and future May Day walkers? - will find inspiration in Will Renwick's impressive adventures. Will says he doesn't recall levitating on the Camino de Santiago. But our cover picture cannot lie!

## WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WALK

It was nice, *writes Will Renwick*, to have the suggestion that my last couple of years have been worth writing about, and somewhat of a reassurance to myself that I am doing things right – it doesn't always feel like it!

The position I now find myself in is all down to a decision I made in 2012. Bubbling with a desire for a bit of an adventure I set off from Pancross to walk around the perimeter of Wales. The feet were itching. Stepping out from the front door, I knew I was setting myself up for the trip of a lifetime. What I hadn't realised was that I was also on a path towards a rather unusual career.

I credit my 1,000-mile walk as being the clincher after I moved to London, applied for endless jobs, and decided to try my luck with *The Great Outdoors* – one of the country's leading outdoor magazines. Fortunately, my obvious love of hiking and the outdoors made up for the fact I had zero qualifications in journalism. All of a sudden I was able to call my hobby work.

Since I got the job I've been overseas: climbing mountains to drink whiskey with Saami people in a snow-coated Lapland, to the Swiss Alps, even to the Dolomites to traverse cliff faces via 'iron routes' from the Great War. Somehow too I ended up blagging a trip to New York (not much hill-walking there, mind).

Adventures at home have included the Lakes, Cairngorms and hiking all of the West Highland Way. The most enjoyable walks however, have often been the ones closer to home. Topping Wales's 15 highest mountains in two days was a fun challenge, as was a post-Christmas wild camp in the Black Mountains, with baked beans and mulled wine warmed on an open fire.

One of my favourite walks was undertaken before working for the magazine. This was the Millennium Heritage Trail, a 50-mile circular route around the Vale of Glamorgan. In the three days I encountered some fantastically varied coast and country, a lot of which I was unaware of. Highlights were the Dyffryn valley, Hensol Forest and the stretches of woodland between Penllyn and Llansannor. Then of course there's the riverbank walk between Llancarfan and Penmark as well.

If you're looking for ways to stretch your legs in the Vale I'd very much recommend trying the Millennium walk, or at least a section of it. There are also the Vale Trails, a series of circular routes that were launched by *Creative Rural Communities* last year; they visit some of the Vale's finest corners.

Newsletter readers might like to read more about my walk around the Vale, and share some of the rest of my pedestrian adventures. For instance, the page extract below is from my blog at [willwalkswales.wordpress.com](http://willwalkswales.wordpress.com).

### WELSH 3000S

I've hiked most of south and mid Wales over the last few years, but the jewel in Wales' crown, North Wales's Snowdonia, had been rudely unexplored. So I thought, what better way to...

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### PYRENEES BACKPACKING

It was one of those trips that came about through pub talk. I was on holiday in Toulouse and had met a few students from Scotland who were full of tales of the adventures they'd...

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### THE BLACK MOUNTAINS

I've decided The Black Mountains are my favourite part of South Wales to explore. I've visited a few times, most notably when walking Offa's Dyke, and I've now found that when I'm getting...

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### GLYNDŴR'S WAY

After walking almost everywhere in Wales, Mid Wales was my last unexplored region and what better way to explore it than by walking my last Welsh National Trail, the Glyndŵr's Way. The path is...

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### DOLOMITES (ALTA VIA 2)

After my trek along Glyndŵr's Way earlier this summer I returned and proclaimed it one of my hardest walks. There was wind, rain, endless hills and little facilities. That trail now seems like...

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### BRECON BEACONS (IN THE SUN)

On a sunny Friday evening most people my age would be heading straight to a beer garden, however, after that taste of adventure on my walk around Wales, when I get the chance to go...

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### WALES IN A WEEK

A friend recently got in touch to tell me he's planning on hitching around Wales in seven days and wondered which were the best day sections I walked. I love talking about the...

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### GOWER

We've rounded the bend. Wales has suddenly turned a fuller shade of green to signal that summer is near. It's time to get outdoors... even more. An extra incentive is that the Big Welsh...

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Of course, I'd also recommend *The Great Outdoors* magazine as well, which over the last year has developed an increasingly Welsh flavour! If you'd also like some advice on routes I'd be more than happy for you to email me on [whrenwick@hotmail.com](mailto:whrenwick@hotmail.com).



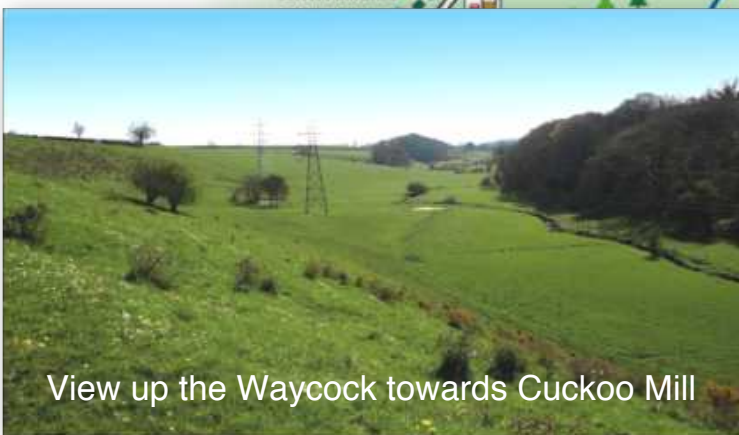
## MAY DAY WALK : 2<sup>nd</sup> MAY : VALEWAYS SHOWS US THE WAY

This is the proposed round trip for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May Day Walk, 2016 – a nostalgic route, particularly requested by our President, Barbara Milheusen. It follows the very successful circuit last year of Castle Ditches, led by Professor Maddy Gray, and generously hosted by June & Andrew Studley.



*This map is modified from one of many VALEWAYS routes around our Vale.*

*The VALEWAYS Walking Festival runs from 19-22 May, and will include a **Garnllwyd Nature Walk** on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Details in March from [www.Valeways.org.uk](http://www.Valeways.org.uk)*



View up the Waycock towards Cuckoo Mill

Maddy will lead us again, up to Iolo Morganwg's Pen'On, down & across the River Waycock, and then up through the woods to explore Penmark Castle. This year's welcome is promised by James & Mark at *The Six Bells*. For those continuing, the return journey is down to Kenson Bridge, then up the Carfan back to Llanancarfan itself. Keep fingers crossed for blissful weather!

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

### SOCIETY DATES SCHEDULED FOR 2016

Committee meets :1 Mar (1900), 3 May [AGM], 5 July (1930), 6 Sept, 1 Nov.

#### General Society Events :

2 May	May Day Walk to Penmark (and back)
3 May	AGM
26 June	Petanque : The Ruth Watts Cup
?? July	The Mystery Trip : date TBA
23 Sept	Annual Dinner
2 Dec	Christmas Social Evening

### ASPECTS OF ST. CADOC SERVICES IN MARCH TO EASTER 2016

6 March	1115	Mothering Sunday St. Cadoc
9	1200	St Mary's Lenten Lunch in Village Hall, Penmark
20	1115	Palm Sunday Eucharist St Cadoc
21,22,& 23	0930	Eucharist with meditation St Cadoc
24	1900	Maundy service Eucharist, feet washing & watch until midnight St Cadoc
25	1000	Good Friday Children's service
	1300	Stations of the Cross St Cadoc
26	2000	Easter Vigil Ceremony of Light & Eucharist St Cadoc
27	1115	Easter Day Eucharist St Cadoc

*Please see St Cadoc's notices for other Penmark and St. Illyd details.*

### MOVIES WITH MARTIANS

Dr. Jim Barratt's escapist film fantasies continue to delight the Vale, not least the most recent Community Cinema showing of *The Martian*, whose capacity audience 'exceeded all expectations'. Jim's engaging web page at <http://llancarfan cinema.co.uk> reports that the film's Oscar nominations included 'Best Supporting Potato'! Us couch potatoes are booking now for *Spectre*, the 'achingly cool' Bond movie (with cocktails) on Friday 18 March.

### TIME FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS PLEASE

Please, dear readers, the time is **now** for society members to **renew their subscriptions** for year ending March 2017. The membership rate holds at £15 per household, £10 for single occupancy. Thirty-one people still owe for last year, and we do hope they can now settle up with Joann Scott-Quelch.

**MATTHEW LEWIS** Our congratulations to Matthew Lewis, who has been promoted from Major to Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Welsh Regiment.

**NEXT EVENTS COPY DEADLINE : 21 MAY 2012**

## SAD FAREWELLS

*Since our last edition, families & villagers have mourned the deaths of at least three people who, past and present, played their part in Llancarfan life :*

**David Gay** was born in Barry in November 1941, and became a pupil at Cadoxton School & Barry Boys' Grammar School before studying at the Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff. He met Kay at St Aidan's Church in Barry, marrying his childhood sweetheart in 1965. David completed his Diploma in Architecture in 1967, and in due course *Andrews, Gay and Partners* was formed. He proved an active member of the Round Table, was an accomplished tennis player, and added to his civic roles that of President, Barry Chamber of Trade, Worshipful Master, Old Barriars' Lodge, President of the Barry Rotary Club, and Chairman of Barry Horse & Flower Show.

In March 1969 Julia was born, then Philippa in May 1972. David built 'Stepping Stones' in Llancarfan in 1978, the family forming a strong circle of friends. The stables he built supported his family passion for horses. In 1989 he achieved a lifelong ambition when his Welsh Mountain Pony, *Breachwood Marwyn*, won the *Royal Welsh Owner/Breeder & Supreme Champion*.

A proud father & grandfather, villagers will see evidence for this in the (nearly full-sized) pirate ship in his garden. As his family observed, 'his last years were cruelly restricted by illness, but our years are all richer for his life.'

**Joan Palmer**, formerly of *The Sheiling*, has died. Last tributes were paid in a funeral service on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The Society sends its sincere condolences.

### **Alasdair Michael Cann : 1962 – 2016.**

*John Cann kindly writes :*

Alasdair was born in the front bedroom of 1 Penylan House. He lived in Llancarfan for 12 years, and then in Walterston until the last two years of his life. Although he had Down's syndrome Al went to Llancarfan School for a year, when Llew Lewis was headmaster. He later went to Maes y Coed in Barry, run by Barbara Milheusen. To get there he travelled in and out with Gwyn Liscombe, both singing 'Obla Dee Obla Dah, life goes one' continually. He was happy, loving, kind and friendly, with a wicked sense of fun.

Bay View Lodge Nursing Home in Rhoose have cared for him and loved him for the last two years. He died there peacefully with his parents at his side on the 28th of January. Al had a humanist funeral on Wed. 10th of Feb. There were many Llancarfan people there who had known him all his life. After weeks of terrible weather the sun came out and the sky was blue, as all listened to one of Al's favourite songs 'Mr Blue Skies' by ELO.





Elin Owen (Lowri behind piano!)



Isobel Glynn



Allan Grayson Jones

## THE VALE CERTAINLY HAS TALENT!



Alice Voisey-Smith



Impresario Sheelagh Lewis



Tom Davies & Elinor Parsons



Sophie Voisey-Smith



Sophie Thomas



Christiaan Jenkins



Sam Smith & John Angell



Sharon Richards



The (nearly) assembled team





18 Dec 2015:  
Llancarfan  
Fundraisers  
bring musical  
delights to  
our ears & eyes.  
Not to  
mention the  
time-honoured  
ritual of  
vamping  
the vicar!



Ray Evans invites Canon Derek to show his financial potency as a 'Big Spender'



Early Byrds with Alicia, Megan, Manon & Bronwen



Mick

7 Feb : *The Early Byrd Singers* enrich the Sunday service with plainsong - then lead a chorus of 'Happy Birthday' to St Cadoc's 90-year-old stalwart, Mick Mace. Many congratulations, Mick!

15 Feb : After the stardust of *The Vale Has Talent*, Rob Gretton & his team tread the boards of the village hall. The newly stripped floor is today the perfect red carpet for future talent. Time now for some kinder lights?



The Strippers

Photos : Debra Pearce, Richard Belcher & Ian Fell



m

And voices are raised by a talented audience in aid of LATCH & Llancarfan Primary School

## LLAST TANGO IN LLANCARFAN

Some of us will have seen Ray Evans vamping the vicar<sup>1</sup> during December's excellent fund-raiser *The Vale Has Talent*. Ray's performance of *Hey Big Spender!* was a pretty steamy affair, even for those familiar with Llanccarfán in its liveliest times, not all tales of which have been documented for posterity. But then, if a thriller novelist can write *Last Tango in Aberystwyth*, and the Beeb sweep us into *Last Tango in Halifax*, why shouldn't Llanccarfán's glitterati create their own tribute to the infamous *Last Tango in Paris*?

No, I'm not serious. It's more likely to be *Last Tangle*. But – to get a bit book club - the over-statement of taking the very famous (or infamous), and applying its title or themes to places of a humbler nature is a traditional device to get our attention and to make us laugh. So, for instance, Malcolm Pryce's detective novels (set in a dystopian Aberystwyth run by Mafia-like druids) are already comedy classics. His first runaway novel, *Aberystwyth Mon Amour*, had all the machismo of a Raymond Chandler thriller, and its over-inflated satire has prompted a string of enjoyable 'mock heroic' follow ups.

However, the *real* reason for mentioning this is the discovery that, over a hundred years ago, our little Llanccarfán was already the subject of humorous hyperbole. We know this because friends from the Llantwit Major Historical Society got in touch to say they've found in their exemplary archive a rare early letter written by David Gwilym John, the brilliant cartoonist whose life I sketched in Newsletter 164. They've kindly let me share it with our readers.

Examining the letter, internal evidence suggests it was written by Pancross-born Dai John in March 1904. You'll remember that in the early 1900s he made his name creating cartoons & narratives starring the famous character of Dai Lossin. As is recorded in Meic Stephens' *New Companion to the Literature of Wales* - posh it is! – Dai Lossin was captain of the Cwmsgwt Football Club, through which role he 'became something of a folk-hero'.

Again according to the *New Companion*, Cwm-sgwt [*sic*] was 'the nickname for any derelict place, especially in Glamorgan.' But in the over-inflated imagination of Dai Lossin, Cwmsgwt represented the pinnacle of political, sporting, and cultural excellence in Wales. 'Great conference at Cwmscwt,' declares a cartoon in December 1919. 'Where shall the proposed Welsh Parliament meet?' Then another of September 4<sup>th</sup> 1920 – at a time of post-war conflict over wage-reductions for miners - features a 'Momentous Game at Cwmscwt'. Dai Lossin is asked why he is 'working a scrum formed exclusively of Labour and Trades Union leaders and Government

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<sup>1</sup> Aka Canon Derek Belcher Obl.O.S.B.

representatives'. Lossin replies that 'Lloyd George did tell me the only way for to stop a Coal Strike was to get um all to put their heads together'.

In our world of one-liners, Dai's curiously wordy captions and columns in the *Football Echo* seem quaint. But at times it becomes clear that Cwmscwt, though an amalgam of places, is not a million miles from our own village. For instance, in April 1926 Dai Lossin shares the trial of holding things together in one of his many civic roles as Master of the *Cwmscwt Working-Men's Hunt*:

'Anuther thinning inflewence was the Sent. [*Scent*] The Licensed Vittlers Assosiashun must have drag a lot of herrings across our track because the Sent did alwiz seem to go past the Publicks . . . "Have you fownd your Quarry yet?" Shon Shon the *Fox and Hownds* did ask as we ware coming owt wiping our mowths. "We have neerly fell into a kupple" I did say . . .'

Which brings us to the letter, from Llancarfan (Ty Mawr?), sent just before Easter 1904, when Dai John was only 20. It went to his Llantwit friend 'Hughie' - Hugh Price Andrews, aged 19, who later ran the post office there. Hughie Andrews would also earn 'a debt of gratitude' from Llantwit because 'he assiduously photographed all the street life, buildings, personalities and "goings-on" in Llantwit Major during the first half of the twentieth century.'<sup>2</sup>

To be frank, Dai John's 6-page letter<sup>3</sup> still has much of the adolescent bravura of a pupil's contribution to a school magazine. Its main purpose is perhaps to invite Hughie to play soccer in a (Glamorgan League?) fixture between 'the Llancarfan belles' and Cowbridge<sup>4</sup> on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Dai John doesn't name *his* team, but says the Cowbridge players are 'Russell (goal), Lambert, A. Spencer, Thomas the Bear<sup>5</sup>, Beatham, J & C Stockwood, V Gwyn, + some others'. As an extra incentive, Dai adds a PS that 'All the Llancarfan skirt are turning out to see the engagement with Cowbridge if it comes off . . . you shall lead us on the field with the ball, just behind me.' Very Dai Lossin!

The letter's main purpose apart we find, forming most of its content, the over-inflated Llancarfan references. The letter begins (quite obscurely) as follows:

'Dear Hughie,  
Many thanks for the photos. They are A1. Dai James one of the Welsh forwards has a brother down here apprenticed to one of our local farmers. He is of Welsh blood but Russian by birth & speaks

<sup>2</sup> See '*Llantwit Major: Aspects of its History* : Vol 1 : 2003, reprinted 2007.

<sup>3</sup> A full transcript can be made available, with many other references to puzzle over and explain.

<sup>4</sup> Organised by 'Arthur Spencer & Co', perhaps the young 'brewer' from the Duke of Wellington Inn, Cowbridge.

<sup>5</sup> Doubtless Thomas Thomas of the *Bear Hotel*.

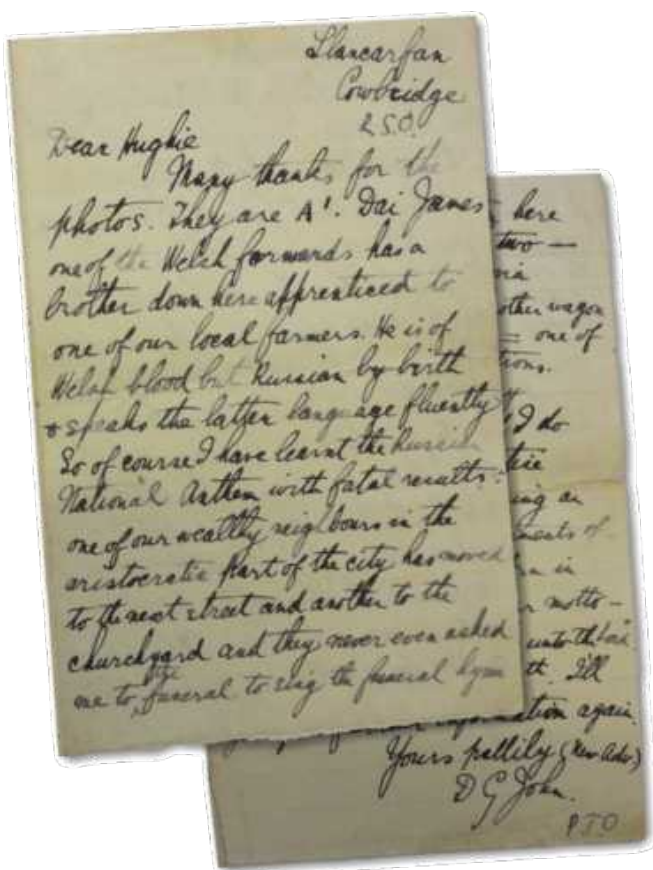


the latter language fluently. So of course I have learnt the Russian National Anthem with fatal results : one of our wealthy neighbours in the aristocratic part of the city has moved to the next street and another to the churchyard and they never even asked me to the funeral to sing the funeral hymn because the municipal undertaker has run out of coffins.'

Riddle that one! He then continues:

'The attraction at the Llancarfan Drury Lane Theatre this week is the world famed duet "Sing me to sleep" by Mr D G John of the Nash Syren. Your letter very much tickled the Hon D.G.J. but he restrained himself. Llancarfan people only laugh at their own jokes.'

Referring to Hugh's snaps, John felt that one group photo should be entitled 'A study in feet' – presumably Hughie was still polishing his camera-aiming skills. As for the photographic apparatus, Dai John fantasised that



'I picked up some of the fragments of the camera on the Llancarfan pier. "O, what a dream of loveliness!" . . . '

' . . . The illustrated p c you sent me about a week or so ago now holds an important position among the engravings of ancient relics in the Llancarfan Museum . . . '

' . . . We had a General Election here last Monday – majority two – electors came to the polls via steamroller & wagon & another wagon & a man to push behind = one of DGJ's own unrivalled fictions.'

Ah, so it wasn't all true? And wouldn't Dai John have been astonished by the secrets that humble Llancarfan has today revealed to its citizens! But back in Dai John's fervid imagination in 1904, our small village had already had comic greatness thrust upon it. Then, within a very few years, John had honed his adolescent humour into a comedic celebration of South Wales, and his Dai Lossin had achieved immortal fame in the pages of the *Football Echo*.

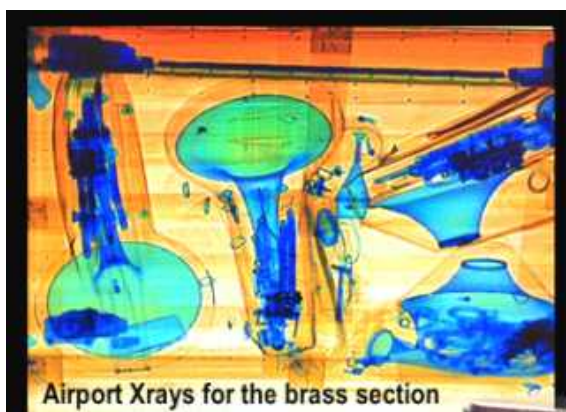
## TRUMPETING WITH TITANOSAURS IN WELSH PATAGONIA

Penny Fell

Photos by Andy Farquarson

Last summer, Llancafarn was delighted to welcome to the village Crynallt's new owners, **Andy Farquarson** and **Becci Hemming**. Once 'Orchard Cottage', Crynallt used to be a tied farmworkers' house; in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, its occupants might have heard wonderingly of a wild expedition undertaken by fellow Welshmen. 1865 was the year when 153 settlers started out on an 8000 mile journey in a deliberate attempt to colonize part of Argentina for Wales: they were off to Patagonia.

A century and a half later, barely had Andy & Becci waved goodbye here to their removal van before Andy found himself following in those ancient footsteps. As Operations & Logistics Manager for the BBC's *National Orchestra of Wales* (NOW), he orchestrated (no pun intended) their epic trip to Patagonia. This was a major cultural visit to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'Y Wladfa' as it's known.



The tour involved visits to Argentina, Chile & Uruguay, and (for Andy) the task of ensuring a harmonious travel schedule. This required transporting 82 people; 526 items of freight (including priceless, fragile instruments, all subject to maverick baggage handlers and fierce security checks); 3567 kilos of baggage, and the reservation of 583 time-critical airline tickets.

Patagonia hosts the biggest Welsh-speaking population outside Wales, and Andy says he honestly really didn't know what to expect of the visit. He certainly didn't find the lush, fertile green valleys of home, which the original Welsh settlers had, in their turn, hoped they might discover :

"Basically," says Andy, "It's a desert. You drive for miles seeing nothing except for dry land, flat with rocks and gauchos and ranges dotted around, and then nothing much else. Until you come upon a town."

There was no concert venue large enough for the Anniversary Gala Concert in Trelew, so a vast former wool warehouse was adapted. But in spite of huge celebrity status, NOW didn't have exclusive use; they shared a roof with Patagonia's other current superstar, a massive reconstruction of the Titanosaurus, unearthed nearby, and seen on the previous page.

Their house-mate was the world's biggest known dinosaur skeleton, this being the only space suitable for its reconstruction. It weighed in at 70 tonnes, was 120 foot long and 65 foot high. "We knew beforehand that the Titanosaurus was going to be there, so, as a tribute, we included excerpts from Jurassic Park in the programme - which went down really well."

Welsh is still *the* language among the communities they visited, but not quite as it's spoken here : "One of the oddest things was hearing Welsh spoken with a Spanish lilt – even I could hear that. When we performed, we did Welsh singalong music, like *Calon Lân*, and everyone leapt to their feet to join in. It knocked us back a bit because they certainly don't do that in the UK. People were packing the aisles, blocking the fire exits – it was amazing."

Some NOW members got close to local people, travelling for workshops and recitals in schools, nursing homes, even on a steam train: and the musicians learned new things too. "The harpist Catrin Finch, for instance, played Welsh music to children, who then played on Spanish guitar - then they put harp & guitar together with traditional rhythms. Good fun."

Andy's day job doesn't call for him to exercise any performance skills in his own musical right: but wearing another (rather splendid) hat, he *does* play trumpet in the band of the Royal Welsh Regiment, and has travelled with them to Australia, Canada and in Europe. The most high profile evidence of this role is when he appears in full regalia for the anthem at national rugby matches. Becci helpfully describes him as "...the one behind the goat."



Meanwhile, whilst Andy has been travelling, his partner has not been idle. She completed her PhD thesis in the autumn, and in January became Dr Becci Hemming. A lecturer in physiotherapy at Cardiff University, her specialism is back pain (neighbours, please form an orderly queue.) And if that's not enough excitement to deal with, Andy and Becci became engaged at New Year. Wedding bells are due to ring, with an appropriately musical flourish, next year - May 2017 - when they will marry at St Cadoc's church. Congratulations - and a trumpet voluntary - all round!



## PLANNING FOR THE FLOOD

There's an old joke that goes something like 'How do we get to [*insert name of tricky-to-find village e.g. 'Llancarfan'*]?' – to which the reply is 'Well, I wouldn't start from here . . .'. It was a bit like that at 11 February's *Natural Resources Wales* Flood Awareness Meeting. Briefly, the things that the experts wanted to tell us did not reflect the issues the hall audience wanted to discuss. Consequently, however sensible their 'be prepared' message was, the *Natural Resources* speakers were themselves ill-prepared to deal with the collective anger expressed by villagers at the strongly-attended gathering.

To be fair, the practical moves recommended for village action, 'before, during and after a flood', were entirely sensible. The paperwork distributed is absolutely worth reading and acting upon. A booklet offers good checklists, with plans about knowing who & how to contact others, storing valued items safely, thinking ahead re things to move, checking insurance, knowing how to turn off services, even preparing a flood kit. Physical protective measures are outlined, with actions to take during a flood itself. Weighted plugging of sinks, baths, water inlet pipes; disconnecting gear that uses water – flagging up things not immediately thought of. Key to plans are 'Community Engagement Documents', encouraging collective action. A meeting will to address this, but we are unclear as to local leadership. Is this a Community Council initiative?

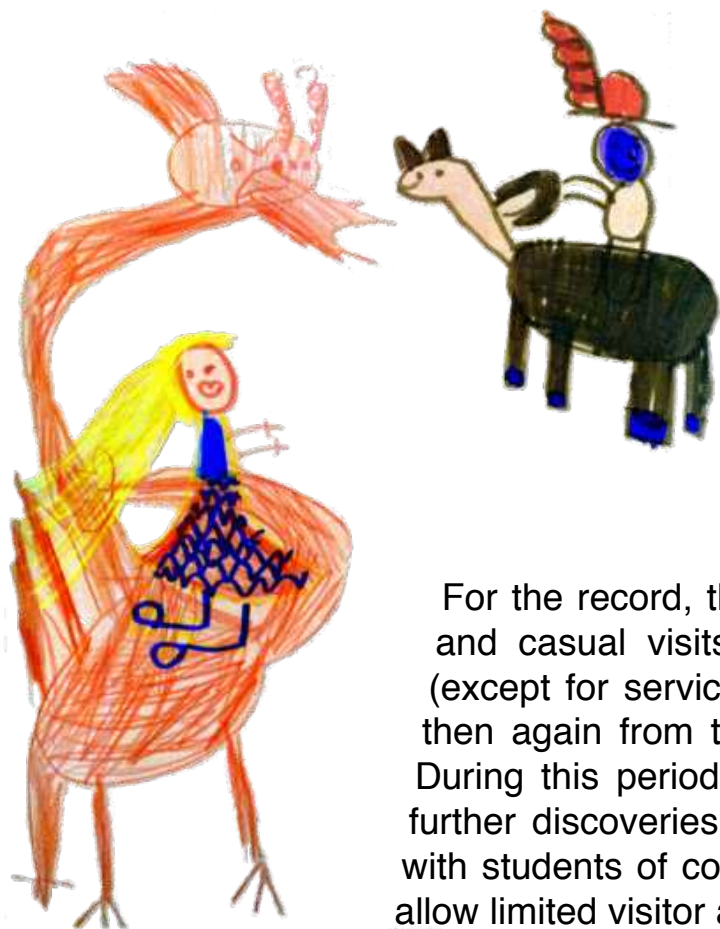


The big issues that *were* forcibly raised but not addressed were of course the sources and nature of real & potential flooding. Some felt that dredging the Carfan had been effective in preventing any recent river flooding. However, Miriam Jones and her *Natural Resources* team reported that dredging was apparently not considered to

be an effective strategy nowadays. The over-riding village concern was for prevention, not belated reaction. How do we stop the waters calling the tune?

The elephant in the room proved to be the assumed source of recent flooding threats – viz. the water flowing from the western hillsides, and streaming in a brown slick down Pancross Hill. Such deluges have been a present reality, as evidenced by the landslip halfway up the hill, and sandbags still protecting a vulnerable doorstep. Contacts offered include *Floodline* on 0345 988 1188 and, from our advisory visitors, [Miriam.Jones@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:Miriam.Jones@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk).

□ **MRS BIRKIN'S CLASS ONE** . . . pictured the plight of the village princess on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, when some 20 of our school youngsters braved the St. Cadoc's dragon on a visit to see the church wonders.



Much frightening artwork resulted from Llancarfan's Class One re-telling of the St. George story. And it was lovely to find that the ancient paintings could play their part in encouraging an early taste for village history & legend.

For the record, the church is now open daily for group and casual visits. Visitor access will be suspended (except for services) from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of April, and then again from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June to 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. During this period there will be more work to conserve further discoveries, and also extended training sessions with students of conservation. The church is planning to allow limited visitor access during the 2<sup>nd</sup> training period.



The BBC's *National Orchestra of Wales* followed 1865 settlers to Patagonia.

A Llancarfan neighbour got them there.

See page 13.

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Edited by Ian Fell : [ian@fellttoearth.net](mailto:ian@fellttoearth.net)

Society President Barbara Milheusen

Society Chairman Ian Fell

Secretary Gwyneth Plows

Subscriptions & Membership to

Joann Scott-Quelch, 2 Penylan House, Llancarfan CF62 3AH

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