

**LLANCARFAN SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER 178
JUNE 2019**



CONTENTS

| | |
|----|---|
| 3 | Remembering Tom Hunt |
| 4 | St Cadoc's conservation update |
| 6 | Llancarfan makes the list of Welsh icons |
| 7 | Royal children, a play-cottage and a terrier |
| 8 | School dispatches |
| 9 | What's occur'd |
| 12 | Broadband breakthrough |
| 13 | An evening with lolo |
| 14 | Dates for the diary |
| 16 | Primary concerns |

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the summer issue. With luck, by the time you read this it really will be summer outside. Thank you to those who have contributed to this latest edition of the Newsletter. Contributions from others for September and beyond would be most welcome. Don't be shy!

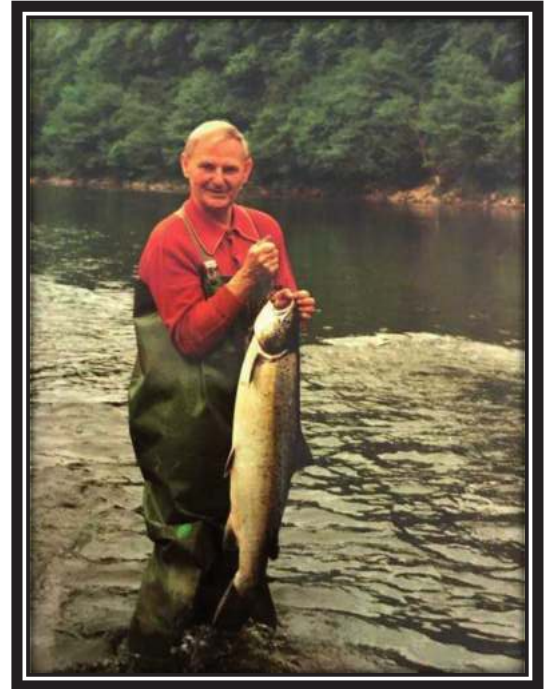
Readers are also encouraged to send in letters or comments. We were delighted to receive the following correspondence from Faith Anderson after she was featured in the March issue. Faith's grandfather, you may recall, had been stimulated by the creations of Pancross-born cartoonist David Gwilym John to write over 200 poems. Faith reports that the South Wales Miners Museum is going to take one of the poems (about mining) and is working on doing something with it. "I'm awaiting what at the moment," she writes. "It would be wonderful to have one on display there." Faith has also been reading some of the poems to local groups.

We went to press for June too late to include coverage of the Llancarfan Village Open Gardens Day on June 15th. Green-fingered readers will have to wait until September for a report. A nod to it, meanwhile, with our cover image. Happy gardening – if the rain holds off.

TOM HUNT 1929 - 2019

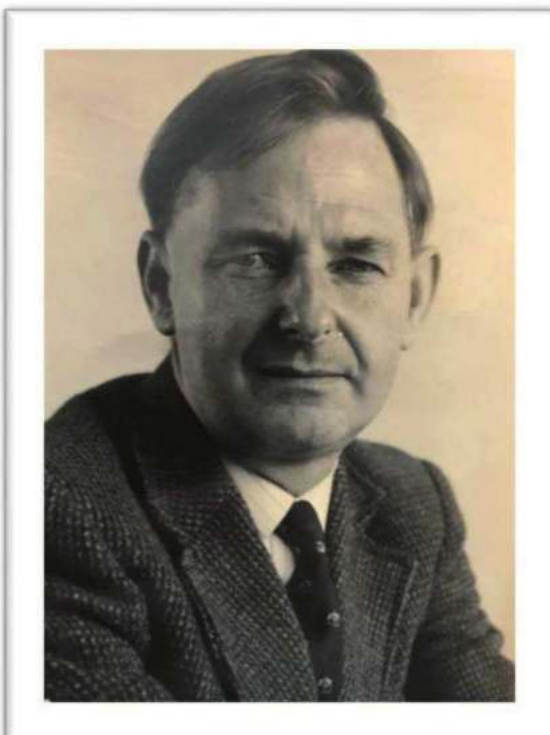
Tom was born in Wigan on September 10th 1929. His father died when he was seven years old, and he was then raised by his mother and elder sister on a street called Copperfield.

Tom graduated with a BSc in 1952, having been an external student with the University of London. He spent much of his career working for BP in Barry as a research chemist specialising in polymers, adhesives and paint. He took early retirement in 1984, which gave him the opportunity to set up a consultancy firm called Raccon with other former colleagues. Many a dented car has been filled with their formulation for a car body compound.



After meeting through an advert in the Times, Tom and Jean were married in Edinburgh in July 1970. They set up home in “Dail Gwyrdd”, which they renamed Copperfield in memory of the street on which Tom grew up.

Tom was a keen fisherman and belonged to the local fishing club. He spent many hours waist deep in the rivers of North Wales and Scotland with his friends, fishing for salmon. He was a keen jazz fan, going to jazz clubs and concerts in his earlier years, and enjoyed listening to his extensive range of albums.



He loved animals and was devoted to his black Labrador Bess, who was bought from Cardiff market shortly after he and Jean moved to Llancafarn. Bess appears in the photograph hanging in the Fox and Hounds with Tom and Jean’s neighbour, Harry Hughes. In later years Tom had a local cat who had adopted Tom and Jean in their new home.

Tom liked to keep up with current affairs and after picking up his daily copy of the Times from the Fox and Hounds, would read it cover to cover, often completing

the crossword. He was a keen follower of sport - cricket, football and rugby, burning the midnight oil when matches were on the other side of the world. He enjoyed playing bridge and in more recent years could be found on the Pétanque piste on a Friday afternoon, enjoying a game or two.

After Jean's death in 2016 Tom remained independent until June last year when he had a stroke leaving him unable to walk. After a couple of months in hospital he was transferred to Ty Enfys care home where he was well cared for. In February he developed pneumonia and died peacefully on March 3rd.
Edward and Jenny Knott

MEDIEVAL WALL PAINTINGS – CONSERVATION UPDATE



The paintings at the west end of the South Aisle, post conservation (June 2017). Photograph: Alwyn Jones Architects

After the breathtaking discovery, painstaking conservation and revelation of the exceptional collection of medieval wall paintings at St Cadoc's Church, it became apparent in 2017 that damp, wicking up from the ground beneath the church walls, risked jeopardising the medieval wall paintings. The rising dampness visibly appears to be worsening and is affecting an increasingly large wall area. If there is no action taken, it may only be a matter of time before the medieval plaster that supports the paintings is affected. More

frequent extreme weather events are further heightening anxiety about the risks to the wall paintings and other historic artifacts in the building.

Experienced structural and civil engineers (Mann Williams) have been advising the Parochial Church Council (PCC) on how best to mitigate the high ground water problem for the church. Mann Williams have suggested a combination of possible measures including:

1. Channel drains at the church entrances to reduce surface water flow through entrances.
2. Channel drains on paths to reduce surface water flow across them.
3. Deep cut-off drain to intercept and reduce groundwater flows. This might be on the line of the existing sloping path to the west of the church.
4. Further reducing ground levels adjacent to South Aisle's west wall to reduce impact of ground water.
5. New drainage to replace existing presumed soakaway(s) taking rainwater from western end of building. This would probably involve a new outfall to the stream (this is likely to require consent form Natural Resources Wales).

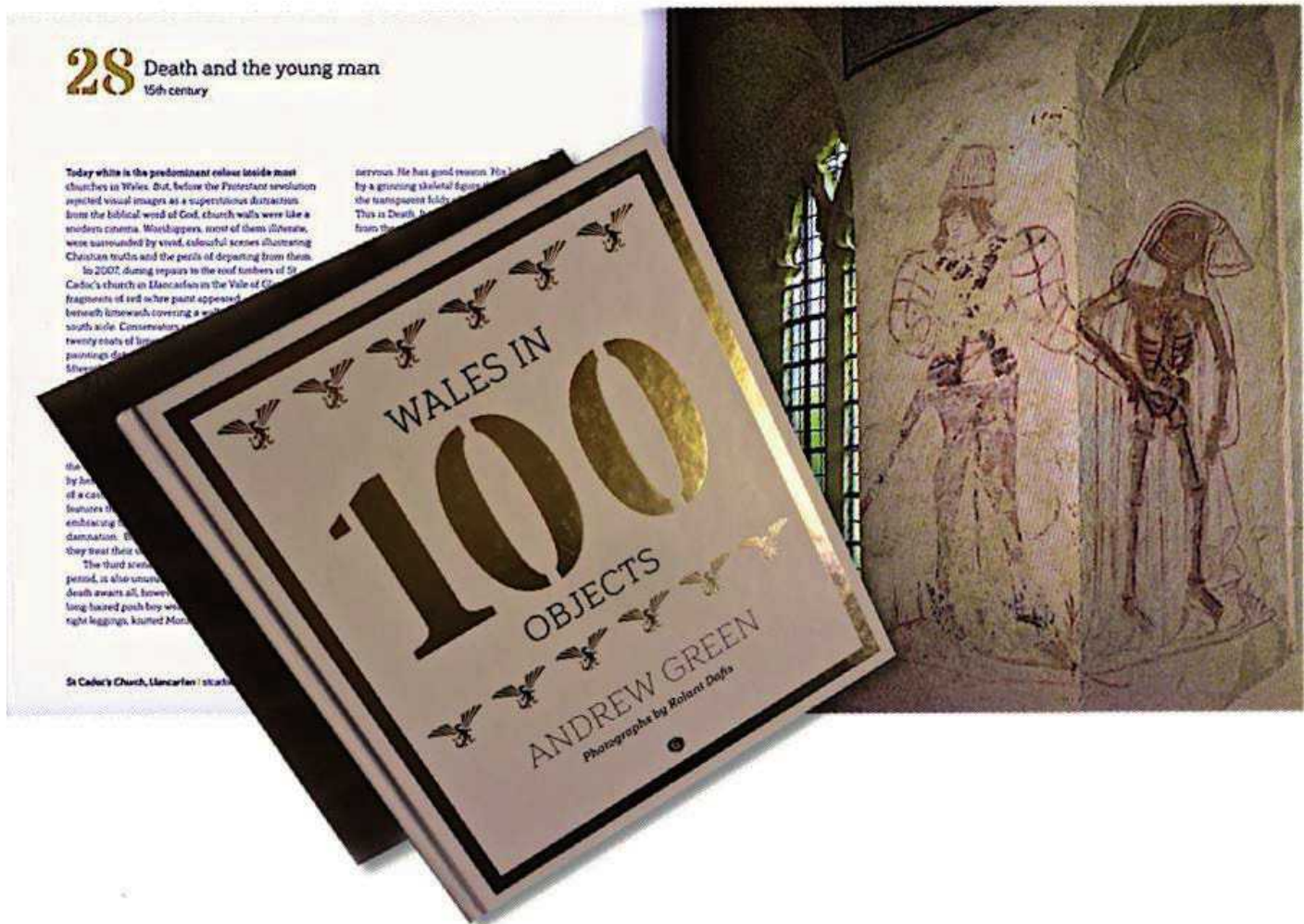
As an initial step in developing these proposals, Mann Williams have recommended geotechnical site investigations to determine the groundwater profile and to monitor groundwater levels. These will involve monitoring groundwater levels for up to 12 months before final proposals can be developed, as well as post-work monitoring to gauge the effect of the works.

The site investigation proposals will involve forming up to six boreholes within the grassed areas of the churchyard close to the church building, while keeping a distance from graves. Before the boreholes are formed, an experienced archaeologist (Cardiff Archaeological Consultants) will carry out exploratory excavation of each proposed borehole location, using hand-tools only, to investigate any archaeology (including possible unmarked graves). Subject to the archaeologist's approval, an experienced site investigation contractor will form the boreholes. Each will be 100mm in diameter and capped at ground level. These will enable monitoring of the groundwater levels throughout the year. The impact on other churchyard users should be minimal since only one hole will be worked on at any one time, and the contractor will closely supervise the forming of each borehole using a relatively small "tracked" rig.

The PCC's hope is that the site (groundwater) investigation work will be able to begin on site in the near future, pending Llancarfan Community Council's permission to start following safety checks.

Kevin Barry

SUMMING UP ST. CADOC'S *By Ian Fell*



If an author is encouraged to sum up Wales in 100 Objects, who better than Andrew Green, the inspirational former Director of Wales's National Library? And can Llanccarfan do other than celebrate if, laced there on the string of pearls in Andrew's lovely new book, appear figures from our very own church wall? – images written about here as “among the best and most complete of their kind yet found in Britain”.

Ignore the fact that our “Death & the young man” – in other words the social-climbing “Gallant” about to be carried off for his Pride in dressing above his station – appears only as 28 in this list of Welsh icons. In his introduction, Andrew says that the list is not a ranking or “a treasury of our best or best-known objects”. “All,” he says, “have been chosen for their intrinsic interest and for the richness of their associations.” The 99 other objects, deliciously photographed by Rolant Davis, join our Gallant (St George and a fine set of Sins) in “exciting readers to think about the objects they consider best represent Wales and its histories”. And are we proud to be listed in this lovely “cabinet of curiosities”? You bet! Even though the paintings we're proud of were created as a warning *against* those very excesses of Pride!

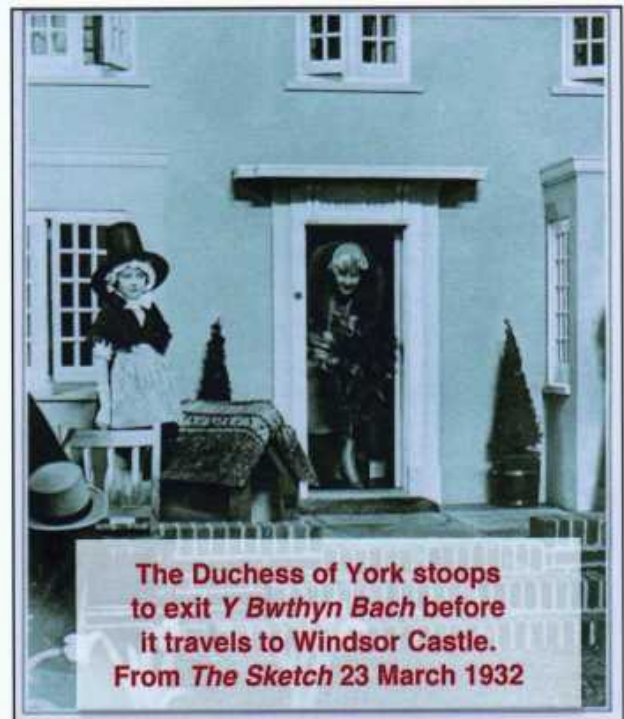


Women of To-day.
 WELSH TERRIER FOR PRINCESS
 ELIZABETH.
 "IANTO FULLPELT". AND THE MODEL
 HOUSE GIFT.
 By OUR WOMAN CORRESPONDENT.



Recent media has shown Prince George & Princess Charlotte enjoying their mother's *Wild Flower Garden* at *Chelsea Show*. This spurred fond memories of a local contribution to the Queen's own garden childhood. Back in March 1932, when about to turn six, Elizabeth was given a rare gift by "the people of Wales". Her parents visited an *Ideal Homes* exhibition in Cardiff and received, on her behalf, a little Welsh play-cottage called "Y Bwthyn Bach". This still sits in Windsor Great Park, and is now doubtless welcoming the new royal youngsters.

Wales also handed over a 'Guard Dog' – in the form of a Welsh Terrier called *Ianto Full Pelt*. (See his kennel here.) And how did Ianto get his name? You're there first! He was named after Ianto Full Pelt, a popular member of Dai Lossin's fantasy rugby team, and of course a character created by Llancafán's cartooning genius, David Gwilym John!



Left: the Princess's Ianto, drawn by Ernest Mills, from *The Sketch*, June 1932

Left: The 'real' Ianto Full Pelt, as created by Dai John ..

DISPATCHES FROM OUR VILLAGE SCHOOL

SWIMMING: Excited juniors brushed up on their swimming skills during their block of swimming lessons at Fontygary Leisure Park in May. The coach made several trips back and forth to the school to ensure that all children in KS2 had the opportunity to learn this important life-skill. During the first day, we were introduced to our instructors and divided into groups to focus on different skills. Over the course of the week, we all improved our technique and now feel much more confident in water.

NATIONAL TESTS: Phew! We are relieved that testing week is now over. This year was certainly more interesting as we had to complete tests online for the first time. There were several teething problems as we all tried to log on together – the server wasn't happy! Eventually, we were able to access the maths paper and - eek! - we will all find out how well we did in July.

CYCLING PROFICIENCY: What a term! Another week, another life skill to learn. On May 15th-16th, Llanccarfan Primary was visited by the Vale Cycling Proficiency Test Officer, who instructed Year 6 pupils on the Highway Code. Needless to say, we all knew how to ride a bike beforehand, but we did learn how to look after and check our bikes before jumping on them. We also learned the correct way to approach a junction and

who should give way. We were all awarded certificates for passing the test. Look out local residents: we will definitely be riding our bikes around the village during the holidays.



DUCK RACE: What a fabulous way to celebrate the last day of term with the traditional annual Llanccarfan School Duck Race. The rain disappeared and the sun came out for an hour while hundreds of ducks



were released into the water at the Old Mill. The ducks were encouraged to swim through the village to the Fox and Hounds by Mr Smith and Mr Thomas, who followed behind them and made sure none lost their way. Some of the children bravely joined in with the ducks and jumped in the water despite it being freezing cold. Hopefully all were dry again by the time of publication!

All of the onlookers enjoyed eating the delicious cakes on offer as they watched the ducks make their way to the finish line, where prizes were awarded to the first three and very last duck. Congratulations to the winners.

PURE GOLD

Recognise the happy couple? Yep, it's this newsletter's former editor and its current deputy editor, aka the Fells, who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary last month.



Ian and Penny were married on May 12th 1969 in Saltaire, West Yorkshire, home to woollen mills and a David Hockney gallery. Their three sons all feel close to Llancafán, although only the youngest, Josh, grew up here. Some 65 family and extended family travelled from all over UK for a buffet lunch in the village

hall. In the evening they were joined by around 20 neighbours for partying and music. The hall was transformed with bunting, flowers, fairy lights, paper chains and lanterns as guests aged from 16 months to 86 years partied into the night. Congratulations - and cheers!

LITTER-ARY EVENT

On Sunday April 7th, a gaggle of community-minded locals gathered at the village hall, then fanned out across surrounding roads and lanes to pick up litter. Eighteen residents of all ages from Llancafán and Llanbethery joined the effort – three times more than last year. In all, they filled around 30 large bags (kindly donated



along with litter-picker-uppers by the VOG Council) with cans, cups, crisp packets and much more, not to mention various car parts and a cracked Duke Ellington CD. On one 10-metre stretch of grass verge between Five Mile Lane and Walterstone, more than 60 Red Bull cans were recovered. The mass of litter collected was testament to the depressing willingness of so many visitors to the area (surely not locals) to toss rubbish away in our beautiful lanes – but also to the readiness of residents to help deal with the scourge. Those who participated were rewarded afterwards with cake and refreshments in the hall, kindly donated by several participants. Another litter pick will be held later in the year focusing on areas not covered in April.

GRAVEL, GAME, SET AND MATCH

Is it Wimbledon? Flushing Meadows? Roland Garros? No – it's the new-look Llancafán Tennis Club.

Members were on hand recently to spruce up the area in front of the court, raking out a lorry load of fresh gravel, adding new flower pots and removing the old plastic shed.



An Easter Egg Hunt was held there on April 28th to open the new season, with free tea and cakes courtesy of the club. Shortly afterwards, specialists jetwashed, repainted and resealed the court ready for the summer. This lost sheep was unimpressed, but we're 15-loving it.

BOULING TALENT:

Entrants competed for the Ruth Watts Trophy in the annual pétanque competition on June 9th. Despite strong opposition from contestants from Cowbridge, Team Watts (Phil, Sue and Russ) walked away with the shield. And despite the weather not exactly behaving itself, a good time time was had by all.

Right: Who's closest to the jack? John Angell and Sam Smith agree to disagree again



*This year the **MAY DAY WALK**, held on May 6th, took us beyond the village boundaries and over to Llantwit Major. Around 20 people braved an unseasonably cold morning for an intriguing tour round the historic highspots of the old town in the company of Nigel Williams, of Llantwit Major History Society. The preliminary walk took us past some of the beautiful old hidden buildings which you miss on a drive through the town. Our tour ended with a chance to explore the flourishing History Society Archives; and then doughty souls pressed on for a further trek down to the coast and lunch at Llantwit beach.*

Left: Clocking on for the tour

HOLD THE FRONT PAGE?

Journalists—including reporters from The Guardian, Daily Mail and Country Life—visited St Cadoc's in early May on a whirlwind tour of the Vale's top tourist attractions. With notebooks at the ready, they were primed to sniff out local stories. Village goings-on did not, alas, manage to push Brexit off any of their front pages.



MALVERN SPRING FESTIVAL TRIP



Shelagh Hughes writes: On the Friday night before our departure, Monty Don encouraged viewers of “Gardener’s World” to visit the Malvern Show. Anticipation grew at the thought of bumping into “our hero Monty”. A party of 27 left Llanccarfan as ominous grey clouds gathered. However, as the coach approached the glorious Malvern hills, the sun started to shine through. We were again met by inspirational show gardens and lots of plant-shopping opportunities. The show was dominated by naturalistic gardens, with emphasis on attracting bees into the garden. Everyone said what a lovely day they had, and we are already looking forward to Malvern 2020.

ULTRAFAST BROADBAND UPDATE (SPOILER ALERT: IT’S COMING!)

With the world becoming increasingly digital and online, the demand for digital connectivity has never been greater. Whether it be work-related, educational, shopping, TV & gaming, video calling or just general internet browsing, the need to have a fast reliable broadband connection is absolutely paramount. Here in Llanccarfan and the surrounding community we have suffered several setbacks since 2013 in getting any form of service established over and above the somewhat snail-like broadband speeds.

All that is about to change: on February 19th 2019 Llanccarfan Community Council signed a contract with Openreach to deliver Ultrafast Fibre Broadband to the area. The monies raised through community participation and fully covered by Welsh Government grants totalled just over £66,000, and will cover the provision of fibre to over 120 properties. This project alone has put Llanccarfan on the map as the largest Community Fibre Partnership in Wales. It will allow businesses to thrive, homes to go fully online, children to benefit educationally (and, yes, also do some online gaming). In short it will open Llanccarfan to the digital world.

In the past few weeks the build-work has started,



and during the course of June, July and August we will see a hive of activity right across the community from Openreach and their contractors. The work will involve tree cutting, fibre installation, pole replacements, underground ducting work etc. They will also be tidying up the existing copper infrastructure and removing redundant cables where possible so we have a tidier and smaller number of overhead wires. This is by no means a small project and the work will take several months to complete, but given the public focus on this we remain assured that it has the highest priority for completion.

There will be some drop-in sessions at Llancafarn Village Hall in August so that participating households can get information about which providers offer the new service and what would be the most appropriate service to upgrade to. This is to help you as residents and businesses make informed decisions about what to move towards when the fibre build is complete.

Once again the “small but mighty” attitude of Llancafarn has won through, ensuring that the community gets what it needs and deserves.

Martyn Hughes

AN EVENING WITH IOLO MORGANWG

It has become traditional for Llancafarn Society to kick off its AGM with a talk, loosely connected with a subject of interest to the village, past or present. This year we got a treat. One-time actor, teacher, now writer and flag-bearer for Iolo Morganwg, Gareth Thomas came to talk about his maverick, complex, often maligned hero. Born at Pen-onn as Edward Williams, but later to reinvent himself under his new name – and reinvent much of Welsh history as well.

Iolo’s name is known to all. However, in Llancafarn we seem perhaps oddly shy of claiming this local hero as our own – no blue plaques or anniversary festivals honour his roots in this village.

Gareth confesses that Iolo has taken over every fibre of his life and home, and as we reported in the last issue, recently published a novel, “I, Iolo”, a fiction based on his story. Gareth’s illustrated talk pushed ajar the door on many aspects of the man’s life, and it’s fair to say he left us wanting more. Nothing beats the joy and privilege of an hour spent in the company of a



genuine enthusiast who can draw on a wealth of study, impeccable comedy timing, rapport with the audience – and a rich singing voice thrown in. Evenings at the theatre have been less enjoyable.

Gareth took us on a full-speed journey through his hero's family background (an educated and influential mother), his youthful charm, affairs, marriage (miraculously lasting), escape to the fleshpots of Georgian London (unsettling for a nonconformist Welshman), business ventures (uniformly disastrous), talents as a stone mason, and his re-imagining of a national history – the latter being notoriously rich in speculation and forgery, but short on fact.

So many chapters of Iolo's story were left unopened, due to the complexity of the man and the shortage of time. His marriage (he was – if you haven't already figured it out – a terrible husband), his politics (fiercely anti-slavery). Those who couldn't make this particular talk missed a lot of fun. Come back again, Gareth, we'd like to hear the rest!

Penny Fell

DATES FOR THE DIARY....

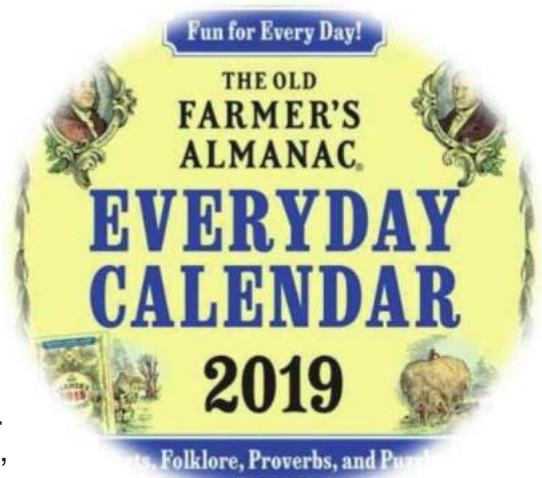


June:

29th – 12.00 for 12.30pm, Fox and Hounds.
Llancarfan Society Lunch, a new feature in the social calendar. The Fox has put together an excellent menu, £25 for three courses. For menu details and booking, contact Katherine Kemp: 07766 244141
 gordon.katherine@icloud.com

July:

6th – 7.15pm for 7.30pm, Llancarfan Community Hall.
Sideways pop-up screening. Starring Paul Giamatti, Thomas Haden Church and Sandra Oh. Llancarfan Community Cinema hosts a special screening of this vinophile's classic with themed wine tasting, in association with Bay Tree Wines. £20 per head, advance bookings only.
 llancarfancine@gmail.com



First half of July (date TBC) – Village tennis tournament. Details to follow.

August:

17th - Llancarfan Community Hall. **Llancarfan Village Show**. Start mollycoddling those marrows, finessing the fruit cakes, perfecting the preserves. Llancarfan Village Show hopes to have record-breaking entries this year. Details of classes and how to enter from Ann Ferris, Fordings, Llancarfan, CF62 3AD Tel: 01446 781350

September:

21st – Cocktails evening in the village hall, with professional mixologist! For details, contact Frances Valencia 07840 128505. valencia.frances@gmail.com

October:

5th – SAVE THE DATE! Special screening in St Cadoc's Church of the beautiful period film **A Month in the Country**, launching a youthful and charismatic Colin Firth to stardom. He plays a traumatised post-WW1 wall painting conservator and the site-sympathetic screening is part of this autumn's Vale Film Festival. Event still subject to confirmation but tickets are limited so book early; more details to follow in the next Newsletter and on the Llancarfan Hub.

Beware! Begonia burglars operate in this area

A warning to all. Fran Winterbottom did a little summer replanting at the end of May, putting begonias in the big stone tubs which have graced the frontage of Brook Cottage for over 30 years. Next morning, she did a double take to discover that they had vanished overnight. The theft must have taken two strong men, a getaway vehicle and the cover of darkness. It quickly emerged that both Broadhayes and Navigator Cottage, on the top road, had also lost heavy-duty flower tubs on the same night. The police have been informed.



All contributions to this newsletter are copyright of the Llancarfan Society and may be edited, but it is not intended to restrict re-use by contributors of their original works

Editor: Matthew Valencia

Deputy Editor: Penny Fell

Society President: Barbara Milhuisen

Society Chairman: Gordon Kemp

Society Secretary: Katherine Kemp

Subscriptions & Membership: Joann Scott-Quelch, 2 Penylan House, Llancarfan CF62 3AH

For past issues, visit www.llancarfansociety.org.uk

Letters, queries and contributions: matthewvalencia@gmail.com

NEXT COPY, NEWS AND LETTERS DEADLINE: AUGUST 23RD 2019

PLAYGROUND SCRAP

There have been dramatic developments aplenty in recent months – in local politics and beyond – related to VOG Council’s proposal to close Llancarfan Primary School and transfer its pupils to a new school in Rhoose.

In May Gordon Kemp was the only VOG Cabinet member to object to the closure/transfer plan (having previously voted against it at least twice. Gordon (who is also, of course, Llancarfan Society chairman) was later sacked from the Cabinet when he joined ten other Conservative councillors in refusing to support the Council budget. His defenestration came shortly after he voted against the school proposal. A subsequent mass Cabinet resignation,

followed by a rash of party defections, led to the formation of a new governing coalition led by Labour, with support from Llantwit First and a group of Independents (former Conservatives). The proposed school closure was one of the issues that had split the previous administration.



The new-look Council leadership has said it won’t rush to make a decision on the school’s future. Lis Burnett, the new Cabinet member for education, says there will first be a full review of evidence. Councillor Burnett previously chaired the Scrutiny Committee that called on Council officers to re-engage with the local community over the proposals (they chose to reject the advice). She has previously said on social media that the closure “wouldn’t be happening if Welsh Labour were running the council”.

VOG’s Executive Leader, Neil Moore of Labour, has said that the closure is “probably set in stone”. Is it? The Welsh Government subsequently confirmed that, as of late May, it had not received the business case for the proposals from VOG. The decision can therefore be rescinded at any point by the Cabinet. Gordon (who remains a Councillor), newly elected Councillor Andrew R.T. Davies and the school Action Committee have all requested meetings with Mr Moore to discuss the issue.

Readers wishing to contact Cabinet members should write to:

Neil Moore (Labour)
Lis Burnett (Labour)
Eddie Williams (Llantwit First)
Margaret Wilkinson (Labour)
Ben Gray (Vale Independents)
Kathryn McCaffer (Vale Independents)
Peter King (Labour)

nmoore@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
lburnett@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
edwilliams@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
mrwilkinson@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
btgray@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
kfmccaffer@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
pking@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk