

LLANCARFAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER 179

SEPTEMBER 2019



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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our September issue. It has been quite a summer, with the village a hive of activity, even if the weather hasn't always behaved (surprise, surprise). In our autumn (let's hopefully call it late summer) issue, we review the successful Open Gardens day in June, held just after our last Newsletter went to press. And we have two picture-packed pages on August's Village Show, which was the fruit of many labours. Thankfully, fears of a washout proved unfounded – though the rugs did take a week to dry!

Also in this issue, Andy Farquharson gives a taste of his life as an orchestral contractor, which sees him rubbing shoulders with celebs and stormtroopers, and we also pay tribute to Phil Watts, for so long a towering figure in the life of Llancarfan, who has just turned 90. On a sad note, we bid farewell to Audrey Jenkins and Marjorie Fell – one a longstanding member of the community, the other a very welcome addition to its ranks in later years – who both passed away in recent months, their combined age 193.

We look ahead to events later in the year with a bumper list of dates for the diary, and Jim Barratt gives the lowdown on what promises to be the local cinematic highlight of the year, especially for fans of Colin Firth (steady, ladies): a one-off screening of *A Month in the Country* in St Cadoc's. Grab tickets while you can. However, the Editor has been asked to point out that rumours of a possible guest appearance by the smouldering erstwhile Mr Darcy himself are most definitely false.

We hope readers will also appreciate the old newspaper cuttings about Llancarfan included in this issue. Thank you, Graham Brain, for the idea, and for providing the first batch. Other readers are encouraged to send in similar items and also to suggest articles they would like to write – or see written by someone else. Until December then....

AUDREY JENKINS 1929 – 1919

August sadly saw the death aged 90 of Audrey Jenkins, long held in affection and respect as a member of Llancarfan's community.

A talented organist at St Cadoc's, she contributed much to the church and social life; marriage into the Jenkins family (whose local roots go deep) gave her a lifelong passport into the heart of the village.



Audrey (neé Phillips) was born in 1929, daughter of a Master Baker in Barry. She was a bright child, winning a scholarship to Barry Grammar and going on to the University of Wales College Cardiff to read Music and English – educational ambition rare for a girl in the 1940s.

Music was her passion. She was a gifted pianist, but a disinclination to travel from her hometown stopped her from pursuing her earliest ambition – to become a concert pianist. She stayed in Barry, and happily married Graham Jenkins in 1954, a marriage which was to last 61 years, until his death in 2015. They relished family life, home-making and much travel (even Syria!) together. (*See Newsletter 142, 2010 for an interview with them both.*) But music still shone through Audrey's life. Studying alongside Alun Hoddinott, she, like him, won awards for performance at college, and qualified as a teacher in 1949.

After the birth of her two daughters, Caroline and Katherine (Kemp, LS's own tireless secretary) her career took flight from 1964, as Senior Mistress and Head of Music at St Cadoc's Secondary School; then Head of Music at Barry Girls' Grammar School from 1967.

Audrey taught both her daughters with a dauntless lack of favouritism and raised them to attain the highest academic standards. She made a huge contribution to the musical achievements of the Grammar School, training an inspirational choir and contributing to the 1968 Eisteddfod in Barry. A lady of determination, high standards and strong political principles, Audrey exemplified a generation of admirable strength. In spite of an inhibiting

fracture, she last played at the St Cadoc's baptism of her great-grandchild, Rupert, in 2017. The many who attended her funeral were treated to a recorded piano solo by Audrey herself. The archival nature of the recording couldn't disguise her spirit and gift of musicality. It was a reminder of what we have lost.

MARJORIE FELL 1915 – 2019

Marjorie Fell - who for a short time was the village's oldest resident - passed away in June, just seven weeks short of her 104th birthday. A Lancashire lass for nearly a century, she bravely moved to Llancafarn to be near Ian and Penny in 2011, when she was 96 years old. She lived independently at Beechcroft for three years - albeit under strict observation. Even at this advanced age, she was



a frequent supporter at the Boxing Day tug of wars; the jumble sales; street parties; village shows and church events. After a fall, she moved to Milsom House Nursing Home at the age of 99. The village remembered her with a wonderful celebration of her life at a funeral in July. There were 103 peals of the St Cadoc's bell, one for each year of her life, and a warm farewell to a newcomer who was kindly welcomed into the village so late in life.

Just before the Newsletter went to press, we received the very sad news that Blair Evans had passed away. We will celebrate Blair's life and many contributions to the community in the December issue.

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NEXT COPY, NEWS AND LETTERS DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 24TH 2019

OPEN GARDENS

By Melinda Thomas



Country cottage charm at Carreg Llwyd



In the pink at Windrush

“Rain, rain, go away!” was our mantra in the week leading up to the first Llancarfan Society village Open Garden day on June 15th..... and we were fortunate. Having endured what seemed like a battery of never-ending heavy showers whilst preparing the gardens, a day of mainly sunshine (with a couple of showers) encouraged more than 60 visitors to take in the air and appreciate what our gardens and characterful village had to offer.

Six properties opened their garden gates and each garden offered different features, styles of planting and views of the village. Some visitors travelled from Bridgend, Barry and Llantwit Major as well as from within the village.

There were even a few visitors from the brook (see below), although we don't think they bought a ticket! Quack quack! However, all visitors were receptive to the gardens, showed great interest and seemed to enjoy the day. Nearly £400 was raised for The Children's Wales Air Ambulance Trust. Thank you so much to everyone who participated and was brave enough to open their garden for the first time. Many thanks also to The Fox and Hounds Inn, Bay Tree Wine Company and Llancarfan Society for their sponsorship and to all those who helped out to make the day a success. We plan to hold another Open Garden day next June and would be delighted to have a greater number of gardens take part both in the centre of the village and the wider



village area. Please contact Melinda Thomas if you are interested, or would like to talk about the possibility.

Autumn is a great time to prepare and plant for next year. Happy Gardening!



Everything coming up roses at the Old Parsonage



Desirable home from home at Woodlands



Picture-perfect planting at Fern Cottage



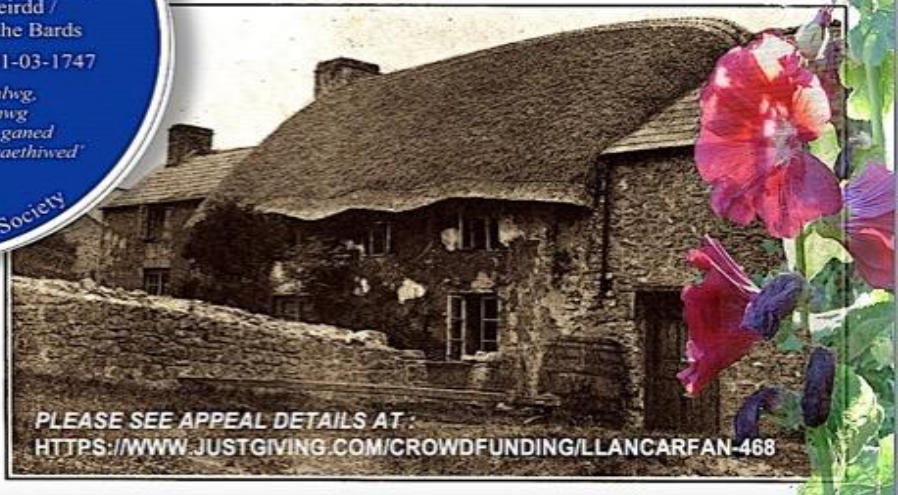
Warm welcome at Brook Cottage

THE PLAQUE WE LACK



OVER THE LAST TWENTY YEARS, INTEREST IN THE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF IOLO MORGANWG, THE BARD OF LIBERTY, HAS GREATLY INCREASED. IOLO WAS BORN JUST UP THE ROAD HERE IN THE HAMLET OF PENNON. YET THERE IS **NOTHING TO PROCLAIM THIS FACT**, OR THE VILLAGE CONNECTION WITH ONE OF WALES' MOST IMPORTANT & CREATIVE SONS. IT IS HIGH TIME THERE WAS!

THE LLANCARFAN SOCIETY IS LEADING A **CROWD-FUNDED INITIATIVE** TO PLACE A BLUE PLAQUE ON THE HOUSE WHICH RISES OVER THE REMAINS OF IOLO'S BIRTHPLACE. PLEASE HELP US!



PLEASE SEE APPEAL DETAILS AT: [HTTPS://WWW.JUSTGIVING.COM/CROWDFUNDING/LLANCARFAN-468](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/llancarfan-468)

PHIL WATTS, NONAGENARIAN!

By Barbara Milhuisen



Then.....

.....and now

Phil was born 90 years ago this year. Our families have been friends for over a century. One of the celebrations to mark Phil's birthday was participation in the Watts & Morgan Petanque tournament in Cowbridge. Friends and family came from near and far, including daughter Vivienne returning from Australia.

Phil attended Llancafán school as a child, and later had many different jobs including as a welfare officer, when in the school holidays he helped run special events for handicapped children at my school. My contact with Phil has spanned all my life. I was proud to play the organ at his wedding to Ruth in August 1952! He and Ruth were later to visit me in France to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. Their happy marriage continued despite Phil pursuing his sporting interests – football, cricket and later bowling. His many tales about the Llancafán cricket team deserve a further article.

Phil now lives in Barry but returns regularly to Llancafán to worship at church and play boules. He has many seats around the village dedicated to Ruth, his mother and father, and sisters Kathleen and Mary. He is a member of the Friendship Club (Darby & Joan) and Rhose Bowls Club, with many friends. Phil is the founder member of the Llancafán Society and we all owe him so much for everything he has done over the years, and for his continued friendship. Please, Phil, keep going with your humour and long-lasting, cherished friendship.



Holding court

THE BEST OF LLANCARFAN ON SHOW

Sandwiched between apocalyptic storms, the morning of the Village Show braced itself for an afternoon of watersports. But no! On August 17th the sun shone bright and stayed all day to join the fun. After months of hard work, the committee (and attendees) were rewarded with a real village celebration, showcasing craft and horticultural skills. A full list of trophy winners is below – these were just some of the highlights:



Gardeners brought their best, from gargantuan onions to embarrassing vegetables



OriGINality



Cowboys won out in the Flowerpot People showdown



Competitors entered the Clash of the Cakes hoping to taste sweet victory



Garden bouquets triumphed against the week's battering rainstorms



...and other flowers were set to music



Our young artists show their animal spirits...



...while Edward Knott, Sue Taylor and Ann Ferris sample the scones



Serious discussion on beans between Gordon Kemp and Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Christine Cave, who kindly presented the show prizes



Committee members Katherine Kemp and Sue Taylor surveying the haul of trophies before end-of-show prize-giving



Youngest winner: Ella Croll took the Junior Cup



No wooden spoon for Jane Graves who scooped the Cookery Trophy



Multi-talented Megan Bettley wins the Michelangelo Award



Marged Cross, undisputed best in show with a whopping three trophies

THOSE WINNERS IN FULL...

- Junior Cup - Ella Croll*
- Hedley Gay Cup - Megan Bettley*
- Michelangelo Award - Megan Bettley*
- Adult Cup - Marged Cross*
- Frank Taylor Cup - Penny Fell*
- Richard Ferris Cup - Marged Cross*
- Alan Taylor Cup - Melinda Thomas*
- RHS Banksian Medal - Marged Cross*
- Cookery Trophy - Jane Graves*
- Mary Grey Salver - Alison Hannaby*



RESIDENTS' CORNER: Andy Farquharson

It was my music teacher at secondary school who said “music isn’t just about performing”. At the time I didn’t quite understand what he meant (or whether he was gently trying to deter me from a performance career). But many years later I now get it.

Having moved from the role of Operations and Logistics Manager at the BBC National Orchestra of Wales two years ago, I now work as an Orchestral Contractor (or ‘fixer’, as we’re more commonly known). Essentially, this means I book musicians for anyone who needs them - for pop acts, tours,

and more ‘standard’ classical concerts - as well as handle any logistical elements that are needed such as transportation of the players (and their instruments!), technical requirements for venues, managing and running the concerts themselves, and, most importantly, ensuring everyone gets paid.

Since going solo I’ve been booking an increasing number of musicians for ‘live-to-film’ concerts - where the orchestra plays the original film score live in sync with the action taking place on the big screen at the same time.

I’ve now done this for *La La Land*, *The Goonies*, *Love Actually*, *Bridget Jones’s*

Diary, *The Italian Job*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Paddington*, to name a few. In addition, as a now ‘Disney-approved’ contractor, I’ve also provided orchestras for their large-scale touring shows such as *Beauty and The Beast*, *Star Wars: A New Hope* and earlier this year for their *Pixar in Concert* series. I’m currently preparing to hit the road for a one-week UK arena tour with *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*, which has 75 musicians involved. Life on the road isn’t glamorous by any means - 7am starts and 1am finishes, and sleeping (or trying to) on a tour bus. I admire the crews that can do it for months on end.

The idea of ‘with orchestra’ is also becoming more popular as solo artists create orchestral reworkings of some of their best-known tracks for the road, and I’ve had the pleasure of working with Marc Almond (Soft Cell), Sophie Ellis-Bextor (back on tour this November), Trevor Horn (of The Buggles/‘Video Killed the Radio Star’ fame), and the ‘father of disco’ Giorgio Moroder, who at the age of 79 decided to tour live for the first time with his



Donna Summer hits alongside film tracks such as *Flashdance...What a Feeling* and *Take my Breath Away* from *Top Gun*.

Possibly much to my music teacher's disappointment, I still continue to play trumpet when time allows, mainly with the *Regimental Band of The Royal Welsh*, which is a British Army Reserve band that I've been performing with since my first year studying Music at Cardiff University in 2005.



Of course, life in music isn't simply 9 to 5 or Monday to Friday (although are there many jobs like that nowadays?), and I'm very

grateful for Becci's support with me working evenings and weekends or being away from time to time - and I certainly appreciate coming home to the peace and quiet of Llancarfan...even if my four-legged work colleagues aren't the best for productivity at times!

ST CADOC'S SILVER SCREEN

by Jim Barratt

Regular readers will be familiar with the remarkable story of St Cadoc's Church's wall paintings, discovered by chance during repairs to the roof in 2005/06. What readers may not know is that these unique works are under mortal threat from a recently discovered damp problem in the church. The exact source has yet to be determined but the need for remedial action is urgent and fundraising must begin in earnest.

To launch its appeal, St Cadoc's is taking the bold step of transforming itself into a Pop-up Picture Palace. For one night only, the church will host a special screening of *A Month in the Country* (1987) as part of the inaugural Vale Film Festival, which runs from September 26th until October 6th 2019.

The Festival, supported by Creative Rural Communities, is intended to shine a spotlight on the Vale's hidden corners and lesser-known treasures, bringing locals and tourists into unconventional



venues to see films and take part in related workshops.

There are pleasing echoes of the St Cadoc's story in *A Month in the Country*, which makes it a perfect fit for our event. The film was adapted by playwright Simon Gray from J.L. Carr's acclaimed novel. It tells the moving story of WWI veteran Tom Birkin, played by a youthful Colin Firth in his first starring role. Impoverished and battle-scarred, Birkin spends the summer of 1920 uncovering a medieval wall painting in a Yorkshire village church.

During his stay, Birkin develops an unspoken love for the vicar's wife, Alice, played by the late Natasha Richardson. He also finds a common bond with archaeologist and fellow veteran James Moon (Kenneth Branagh, in his big-screen debut). As both men uncover the mysteries of the church's long-lost past, they begin to lay the horrors of war to rest.

On its release, this modern classic of British cinema was hailed for its haunting beauty, elegiac tone, and award-winning score by Howard Blake (*The Snowman*), with critics describing it as "near-perfect cinema" (*Daily Mail*) and "stylish and original" (*The Times*). Despite this, the film disappeared from view after the master print was thought lost. Fortunately for us, some careful detective work located a copy of the film and it was reissued on DVD by the British Film Institute in 2016.

The event takes place on Saturday October 5th at 7pm and will help to showcase St Cadoc's as well as raising much-needed funds to protect the wall paintings for future generations. In addition to the film, ticket holders will be treated to live music, inspired by the film's score, from Hiraeth String Quartet. There will be plenty of time for audience members to marvel at the wall paintings (specially lit for the occasion), Ian Fell will be on hand to talk about them, and a full range of refreshments will be available.

The evening promises to be an unforgettable experience in support of a very good cause, with tickets priced at £7.50 each (£6.50 for Llancarfan Community Cinema members). Places are very limited, so book now to avoid disappointment by calling or emailing Sue Taylor (01446 781453, sue.taylor45@btinternet.com) or Kevin Barry (01446 781735, kgbarry2010@hotmail.co.uk)

**From the Barry Herald
Oct 15th 1909**

LLANCARFAN
Agricultural Improvement Society.
Ploughing Match,
HEDGING and DITCHING,
HORSES AND COLTS, . . .
HARNESS, ROOTS & VEGETABLES.
Open Competitions in most Classes.
THIS ANNUAL SHOW
WILL TAKE PLACE ON
Wednesday, Oct. 27th,
AT
TREGOGAN AND RHOOSE FARMS.
Full Particulars see Posters and other Bills,
Entries close on Saturday, October 23rd,
to the Secretary, Mr J. JAMES, Whitton
Farm, Llancarfan, near Cowbridge.
Dinner at the Carpenters' Arms, Rhoose
AT 5.30 P.M.

DISPATCHES FROM OUR BELOVED VILLAGE SCHOOL



SUMMER FAYRE....

Our DT/Science/Enterprise Week allowed the children to design their business hats and develop their entrepreneurial ideas. Products were designed, developed and marketed over the week and sold at the annual Llancarfan Summer Fayre. Watch out Sir Alan Sugar! The fayre was really well supported by parents and former pupils and everyone had a fabulous time.



SPORTS DAY....

Parents and carers were invited along to an afternoon of competitive sports. The competitors chanted and encouraged their teammates whilst spectators sweltered in the unusual heat. Races included the entertaining dressing-up obstacle course race and big hoppa races. Score on the doors remained very tight until the final race,



the house sprint. After rechecking the scores, Dyfan was announced as the winner. Well done everyone!



MORFA BAY....

This month, our intrepid Year 6 children headed for Carmarthenshire for their outward bound residential camp. Activities included caving, paddle-boarding, mountain-biking and gorge-walking to name but a few. Happy but exhausted children returned to the village with plenty of memories and experiences to share with families and friends.



COWBRIDGE PHYSIC GARDEN EISTEDDFOD....

In an attempt to promote Cowbridge Physic Garden, trustees decided to hold an Eisteddfod. Creative writing entries and paintings of the garden were submitted by a number of schools in the Vale for consideration. We were very

pleased to learn that a Llancarfan Year 5 pupil won first prize for creative writing, and Year 4 and Year 6 Llancarfan pupils won first prize for their artwork. What a fantastic result!

DATES FOR THE DIARY....



September

13th - Cinema: ***Fighting with my Family*** (12). Florence Pugh stars in this comedy drama biopic of wrestling champion Paige, Village Hall, 7.15pm. Tickets £5/Members £3.50

20th - Celebration Dinner with Andrew Matthews, Baritone. Proceeds to St Mary's Church Restoration, Six Bells, Penmark, 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets, £25

October

5th - St Cadoc's screening of lost Colin Firth movie ***A Month in the Country*** (PG), also starring Kenneth Branagh and Natasha Richardson. Festival evening with wine and live music, in aid of church wall paintings rescue fund, St Cadoc's 7pm. £7.50/£6.50 Llancarfan Community Cinema members. To book, contact Sue Taylor: 01446 781453, sue.taylor45@btinternet.com; or Kevin Barry: 01446 781735, kgbarry2010@hotmail.co.uk

12th - Cheltenham Literary Festival Trip. Coach expedition for book lovers, shoppers or sightseers! For coach details, contact Shelagh Hughes: 01446 781663. If you want to attend festival events, book independently via Box Office: 01242 850270

24th – Cinema: ***Shiny Shrimps*** (15). Exuberant French film about a homophobic swimming star forced to coach a flamboyantly gay water polo team. Priscilla Queen of the Desert with water wings! Village Hall, 7.15 pm, £5/£3.50 members

30th - Village Get-Together Lunch, Fox & Hounds, 1pm

31st - Llancarfan Society Halloween Party, with Apple Bobbing and Marsh Mallow games plus hot dogs. Fun for the whole family. Village Hall, 5.30-7.30pm

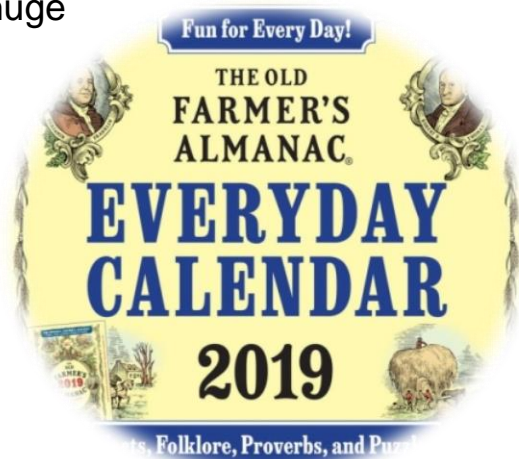
November

8th – Cinema: ***Yesterday*** (PG13). Danny Boyle's warmly-received Beatles tribute starring Lily James and Himesh Patel. Village Hall, 7.15pm, £5/£3.50 members

10th - Remembrance Day Service, 10.45am, please meet outside church for War Memorial ceremony

16th – Cinema: **Italian Job**. Following the huge success of the last wine-themed film night, here's more classic vino with favourite movies. In association with Bay Tree Wine, 7.15pm, Village Hall, £20, tickets limited, book in advance:
llancarfancine@gmail.com

27th - Village Get -Together Lunch, Fox & Hounds, 1pm



December

6th - Llanccarfan Society Christmas social. Christmas tree display, Santa in attendance, St Cadoc's, 7.30pm

13th - Rhoose Community Choir & blessing of Christmas trees

14th - Cinema: **Rocket man** (15). Taron Egerton stars in fantastical Elton John biopic about the breakthrough years, Village Hall, 7.15pm, £5/£3.50 members

22nd - Festival of Nine Lessons Christmas Carol Service, St Cadoc's, 7pm

24th - Christingle Service for children, 3pm; Midnight Mass, 11.30pm, St Cadoc's

25th - Christmas Family Service, St Cadoc's, 11.15am

From the Evening Express Dec 29th 1895

At Barry Police-court on Monday (before Major Thornley and Dr. E. Treharne) Thomas Jones, farmer, Llanccarfan, was charged with having infected sheep in his possession, and not reporting the same to the police.—Police-constable Headen, Penmark, having sworn that he found thirteen sheep suffering from scab on defendant's farm, Superintendent Giddings stated that complaints had been made by the county sanitary authority that there had been wholesale infection of sheep in Glamorganshire by sheep brought from the neighbourhood of Llanccarfan.—Defendant said that the police-constable's wife had been notified of the infection in question by his (defendant's) servant.—The Bench considered the offence a serious one, and fined defendant £5 and costs.

From the Cardiff Times Nov 11th 1871

LLANCCARFAN.
ACCIDENT WHILE DRIVING.—On Saturday John Howells was returning home from Cardiff with a cart load of iron from Mr. Griffiths, when he met with a serious accident. The cart had nearly reached the summit of Dog-hill, when the horse became troublesome. Rearing upwards it backed down the hill with such rapidity that the cart came in violent collision with the bank, and the concussion was so great that the horse, driver, and cart, with the heavy load, performed a complete somersault. The driver sustained a fracture of the knee and other severe injuries, and the iron was scattered about, but the horse singularly enough escaped without injury. Howells was conveyed home, and is likely to be laid up for some time.