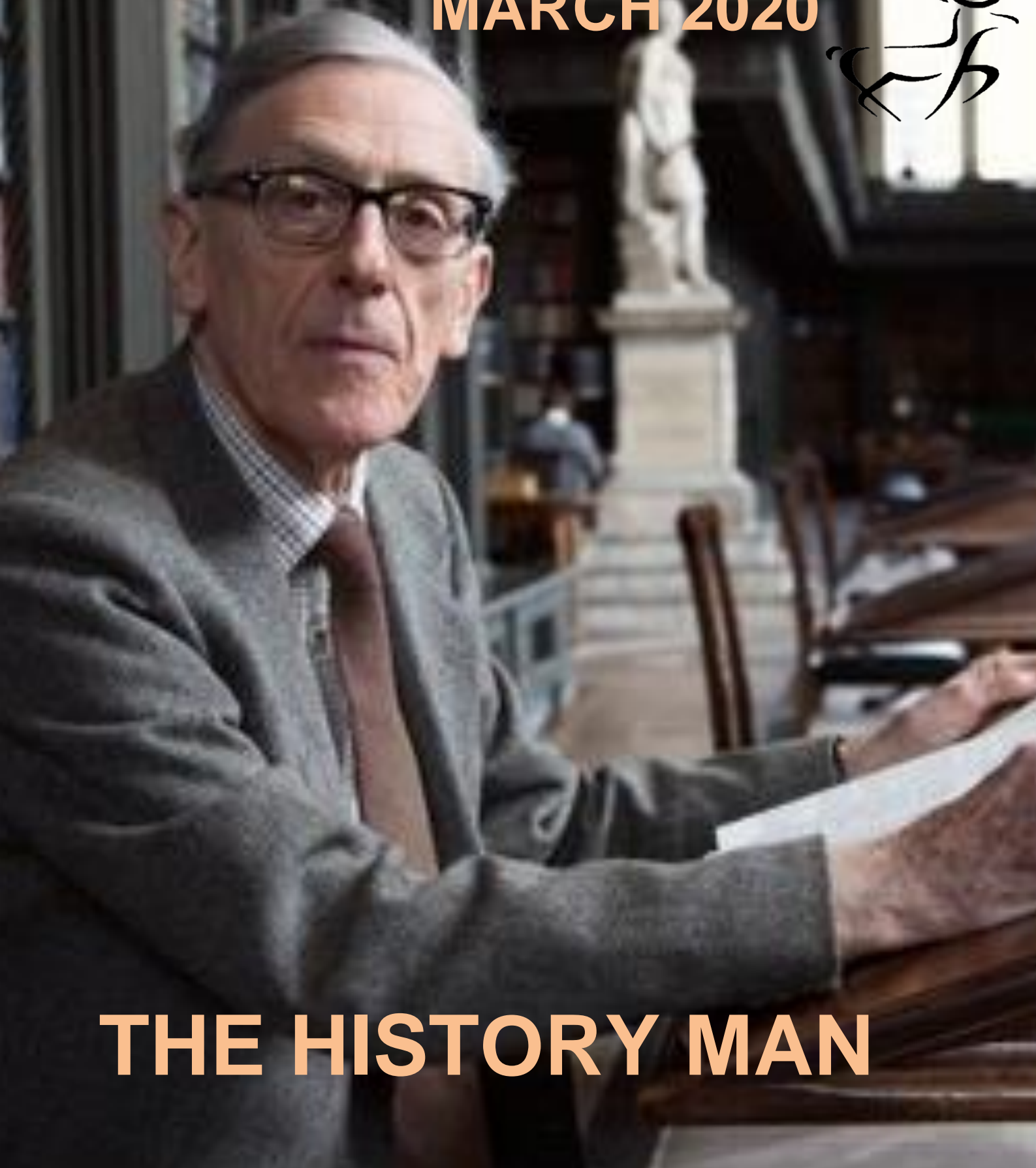


**LLANCARFAN SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER 181
MARCH 2020**



THE HISTORY MAN

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NEXT COPY, NEWS AND LETTERS DEADLINE: MAY 25TH 2020

JOHN GARDNER

By Barbara Milhuisen

John passed away on January 4th 2020 aged 84 years. He was born at No1 Pancross Cottages, the first son of John and Letty, into a devout church family - his grandmother continued to cycle to Sunday services well into her 80s. John attended Llancarfan school, later joined by his brother Brian.

John later met Jean, who would become his wife, but before they were married in Llantwit Major church Vicar Payne insisted that Jean be christened in Llancarfan church, and she duly was on April 1st 1961. John and Jean went on to have two children, Paul and Louise. John was a faithful and enthusiastic member of the Llancarfan Society. He and Jean attended dinners, but he is best remembered for leading us on coastal paths on May Day walks. His later years were spent in Fonmon. At his funeral Paul contributed a most moving poem that highlighted John's qualities. We will not forget him.



PHILIP HEATH



Philip passed away on January 12th at the age of 89. He had come to live in Moulton when he married Kay Richards. Kay was a widow and Philip a widower. It was Kay who persuaded Philip to take an interest in Llancarfan affairs. The couple later moved to Barry and attended Porthkerry church, where Philip played the organ for many years.

Visit the village hall and view the photographs framed and displayed on the walls. They are the result of many hours spent by Philip choosing themes and locations, with the help of Philip Watts.

SIR KEITH THOMAS, CH FBA FLSW FRhistS

In the New Year Honours List, the highest accolade - Companion of Honour - went to renowned historian Sir Keith Thomas, a son of Llancafarn and a former President of this Society. We congratulate him warmly – there are only 63 Companions on the list, which includes Sir David Attenborough, Elton John, David Hockney and Judi Dench. Our present President, Barbara Milhuisen, grew up in the wake of the young Keith Thomas. She writes now:

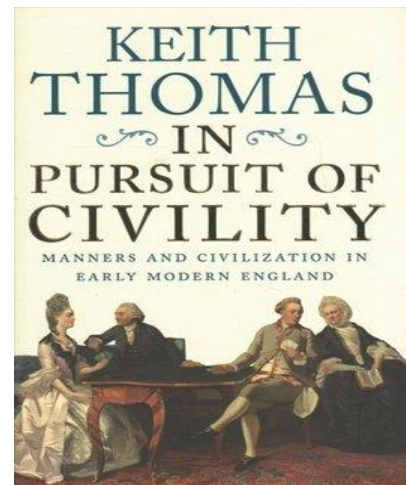


Sir Keith was born in Wick on January 2nd 1933; his mother had previously been a headmistress. The family, including younger brother Tony, moved to farm at Pancross, Llancafarn on March 1st 1934. Their father soon became churchwarden, and later sister Isobel was born. The children attended Llancafarn Primary School, Keith and Tony gaining scholarships to Barry County Grammar School.

Keith soon made his mark at school. It was not easy to get to

Barry. When I started at the Girls County School, it was a choice of going by bike or walking. Later, we had transport, thanks to Councillor Ruth Jenkins, who was influential in making a taxi arrangement. This taxi was for nine children, collecting others from Penmark and Fonmon. When it was needed for funeral duties, we were tiered in a taxi for five and I had the honour of sometimes sitting on Keith's lap or being folded up and put in the boot.

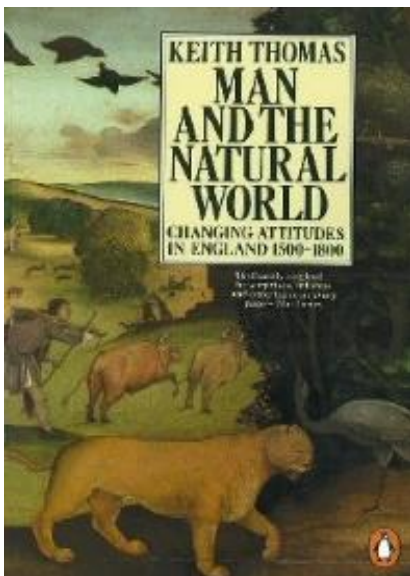
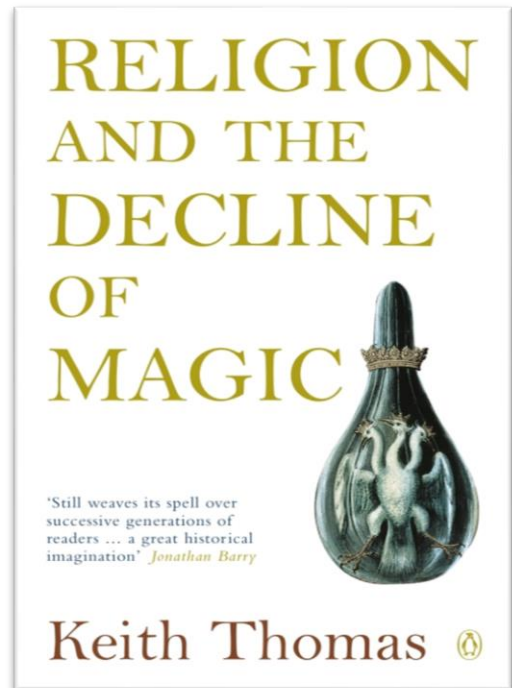
Keith was already a noted star pupil of the literary debating society. In 1950 the first of his writings, entitled "Inspiration", appeared in *The Barrian*, the school's magazine. Ruth Jenkins is still in touch with Mike Righton and John Cann, two of his contemporaries, also from Llancafarn. Campbell Reed, along with Phil Watts, played cricket with Keith in the village team – he had the reputation of being a decent leg spin bowler. At the same time, he helped his father and family with haymaking on the farm.



Following school, he won the Brackenbury Scholarship to study history at Balliol College, Oxford. Like other 18-year-olds at the time, he did National Service - as a sergeant in the army – and spent some time in Jamaica.

At Oxford he achieved a first-class degree and his outstanding intellect was soon recognised. Keith has had a long, distinguished academic career. He became a Fellow of All Souls as early as 1955. His publications included “**Religion and the Decline of Magic**” and “**Man and the Natural World**”, both judged to be a major influence on the way modern history has been studied. He was President of

Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and remains an Honorary Fellow of All Souls, Balliol, Corpus Christi and St John’s Colleges. He and his wife, Lady Valerie Thomas, have two children, and divide their time between Oxford and Ludlow.



When Llancarfan Society first started, I was the first secretary and was asked to write to Keith to ask him to be our first President. I was tempted to write in Latin because he was very kind to a “silly child”, as he called me, when helping with my homework. Keith continues to keep in touch with Llancarfan, visiting his family and attending Society dinners - noting that the rooks in Pancross Wood have disappeared! Congratulations

from the Society. Please can you just do one more thing for Llancarfan, Sir Keith, and save your – and our – village primary school?

Thanks to Tony and Joan Thomas, Phil Watts, Campbell Reed, John Cann and Mike Righton for help in compiling this.



**Riband and badge of the
Companions of Honour**

RESIDENTS' CORNER: MATTHEW VALENCIA

Having been told that some readers might be vaguely interested in what his day job entails, your editor has decided to indulge himself...

I am, essentially, institutionalised. The Economist magazine (we actually call ourselves a “newspaper”) has been my employer for 27 years. I’ve spent my entire career there, bar a couple of years as a cub reporter at Euromoney magazine in the early 1990s.



All these years later, I’m still trying to figure out how I ended up in financial journalism. After all, I read English Literature in university, and graduated with not the slightest interest in the world of money. But life takes funny turns.

My career at The Economist has been varied. I started off covering Central and Eastern Europe, travelling extensively to that region, then spent

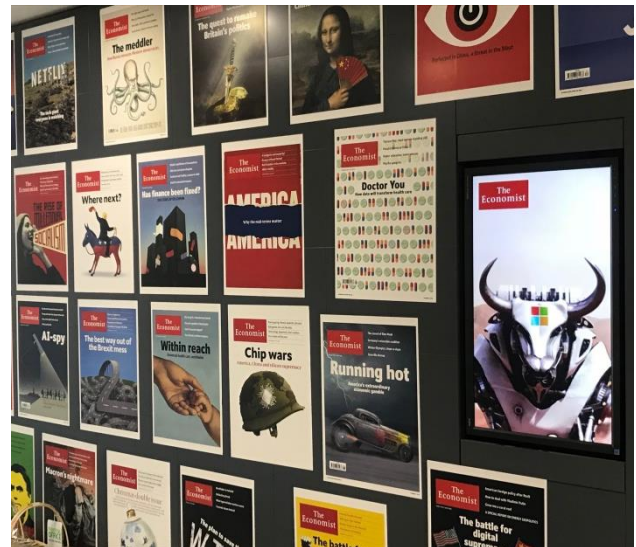
three years in London as banking correspondent. My first stint abroad was two years in Germany; my second, eight years in New York, during which I covered the collapse of Lehman Brothers and the global financial crisis. In between, I had stints as Business Editor and as head of Global Agenda, an early attempt to beef up our online content. More recently I was our Special Assignments Editor, writing features and investigative pieces, and after that head of Espresso, our daily app (so named because it gives readers an early-morning shot of daily news and analysis). These days I help run the “back half” of the paper: the Business, Finance & Economics and Science & Technology sections – between them, around 18 pages of the paper.

Although it has not always been plain sailing, I consider myself incredibly lucky to have been able to forge a long career at The Economist, which has long laid claim to being the world’s pre-eminent current affairs magazine (we have readers all over the globe, around half of them in North America). The job has allowed me to meet all manner of political and business bigwigs, from Bill Clinton and Hugo Chavez to Henry Kissinger and Bill Gates. There have been a few missed opportunities along the way too. One meeting I turned down was with Jordan Belfort. I hadn’t heard of him at the time and told his PR man, who was hawking Belfort’s book, that I was too busy to do an interview. The book was “The Wolf of Wall Street”, which was later made into a Hollywood film, with Belfort played by Leonardo di Caprio. Hey ho.

We have two rhythms at The Economist: the weekly schedule of the print edition, and the daily schedule of our digital content. The print schedule starts

with our Monday morning editorial meetings: various departmental meetings followed by the main meeting overseen by our editor-in-chief, Zanny Minton Beddoes, or her deputy when she is away (see picture, previous page). This is where potential “leaders” (editorials) get pitched and debated – there are usually 50 or more journalists and other editorial staff members present. The five most stimulating leaders are picked to run that week at the front of the paper. We go to press on Thursday morning, after all the pages are proof-read and signed off in the “reading room” – these days not actually a room but a big open-plan area in our office off the Strand in London’s West End. We hold another set of editorial meetings on Friday morning to start sketching out the possible running order for the following week.

The most vibrant discussions are reserved for our cover stories. Some of these are the stories that have been making global headlines: we have already put the coronavirus and its impact on the global economy on the front page twice (with more to come, no doubt). Other cover stories are big themes that may be off the news but which we feel the world needs to know about. A recent example was the “internet of things”—the connecting-up of everyday devices, from doorbells to fridges, into computers that seem to know more about us than we do. For those of you who don’t have time to read it, the bottom line is: be worried.



Unique office wallpaper

Our digital content is pumped out through our website and our app. The biggest stories of the day go out on our Economist Today newsletter at 9pm.



Past editions, going back to 1843

Gone are the days when we could wait until Friday, the day the mag appears on newsstands, to offer our take on big news that broke on the previous weekend. These days we also produce blogs, podcasts, films and radio content, as well as putting on conferences all over the world.

The Economist is now in its 177th year. Many people would call it “right wing”. In fact our creed is classical liberalism, not conservatism.

We champion free trade. We are suspicious of “big government” but believe the state has an important role to play in areas like welfare and health care. We are socially liberal: we support gay marriage and drug legalisation—how else to kill off the pernicious black market for a product that will always be

available, whatever restrictions governments impose? We oppose the death penalty. It's a lousy deterrent. Just look at America.

These days, my contribution to The Economist's output is made partly from the office and partly from home. I aim to spend every second week in London. The commute would be easier if there were still flights between Cardiff and London – those, alas, ended long before Flybe went under! On the plus side, teleworking from home is a lot easier now that we have 21st century broadband. I expect to be doing more of it than usual in the coming months, thanks to the corona-restrictions.

The media is a tough market these days. It is hard to think of a business that has been more disrupted by technology. The tech giants like Google and Facebook have scooped up most of the advertising revenue that mainstream media used to rely on. But I'm happy to say The Economist has survived these headwinds and is building for the future. Here's to the next 177 years.

PRIMARY COLOUR: NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOL (WRITTEN BY OUR YEAR 6 CHILDREN!)

Visit to St Cadoc's Church

As part of their Religious Education topic, reception, year 1 and year 2 children took a walk through the village to visit St Cadoc's Church. The children have been looking at special places and have learned about all the special features that can be found in a church. Dragons Class would like to say a big thank you to Mr Ian Fell for talking to us about some of the special things we can find in St Cadoc's Church.



Victorian Day



Year 6 has been studying the Victorians this term and enjoyed a fantastic Victorian Day here at Lllancarfan, bringing the olden days to life. They dressed up as Victorian school children and Mrs Crick dressed up as a very stern Victorian school mistress! Throughout the day the children had a taste of what life

was like for children in the Victorian era. They carried out domestic chores, polished boots, gardened and even recreated what it was like to be a chimney sweep. The children certainly learned a great deal about what it

must have been like for a child in the late 1800s, but at the end of the day they were very happy to return to the 21st century!



Visit to Cardiff Castle

Towards the end of last term, Llandcarfan Primary travelled to Cardiff Castle. Mountains and Castles' class went off to education rooms and learned about the Victorian element of history

hidden away in the extravagant

rooms of the castle. Rivers and Dragons had their own adventure, investigating what soldiers wore, and took part in other fun and interesting activities, including a very exciting visit to Santa. Mountains class had a very adventurous tour of the castle walls and heard lots of exciting stories about the family that lived there. While searching the war museum, year 6 found a roleplay section and had lots of fun dressing up as military characters.

Valentine Disco

The Valentine disco, organised by the newly formed Friends of Llandcarfan, was an outstanding success! Our very supportive Mums and Dads were amazing. Mr Abbott provided a top disco and Mr Thomas donated the very tasty sausages from Lush Butchers in Penarth. We all had a fabulous time with our friends finding secret hidden hearts, decorating heart cookies, and learning crazy dances!



FOLLOWING IOLO: LAUNCHING HIS PLAQUE AT PENNON

Ian Fell

So what does it take to persuade Vaughan Roderick, the Editor of BBC Welsh Affairs, to be absent from work for his very first time on budget day? No, not the coronavirus. Only the fact that, as he says, “I had agreed months ago to unveil a memorial to Iolo Morganwg on the day of his birthday and decided to give priority to Iolo over Rishi . . .” In other words, Llancafarn was more than honoured when Vaughan arrived on March 11th to reveal from under the Welsh flag your Society-sponsored blue plaque which now adorns the facade of Pennon’s *Bryn Iolo*.

Professor Catherine Treadaway, who owns *Bryn Iolo*, kindly agreed that such commemoration on her house, which sits on the footings of Iolo’s birthplace, was much overdue. Consequently she graciously hosted thirty-plus visitors and enthusiasts at a noontide ceremony.

As for the unveiling, Vaughan was not the only celebrity to honour Iolo’s memory. Also joining us were the distinguished former Archdruid and poet



Gregg Lynn



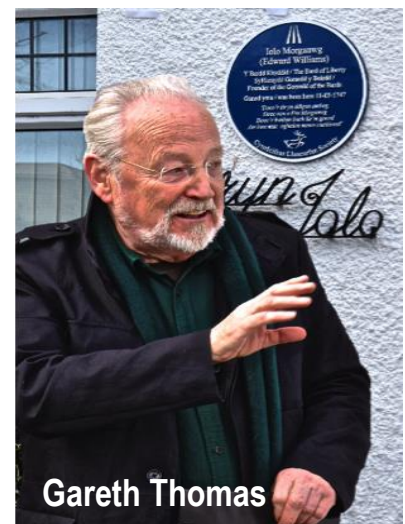
Moment of unveiling



Vaughan Roderick



Jim Parc Nest



Gareth Thomas

Jim Parc Nest, and our local author Gareth Thomas. Gareth was the prime mover in working to crowdfund lolo's blue plaque.

Under for once welcoming weather, bilingual tributes and dramatic readings were introduced by your Society's Chairman, Gordon Kemp. A splendid and learned speech by Vaughan then confirmed his theme that "While every age has its own lolo . . . of all the colourful eighteenth-century characters, lolo is the one who has never been frozen in his time." Vaughan further persuaded us that lolo, who named himself "the Poet of Freedom", was particularly relevant to our time. He was, said Vaughan, the first Welshman to understand that a nation is a fabricated thing, and something that must be created. "According to lolo, a nation needed institutions, including universities and a library. And he also understood the need for mythology" – which, said Vaughan, lolo had no reservation in setting about creating!

Musically-melding proceedings as people arrived was the ever-tuneful Gregg Lynn. Gregg, of course, is the front man of the band *Yr Hwntws*, with whom he's recorded highly enjoyable versions of the Glamorganshire folk songs that unstoppable lolo collected. Gregg later delighted visitors and villagers in the *Fox and Hounds*, singing and unravelling the tales behind the music that antiquarian lolo had gathered from among the working folk of this 18th century Vale.

Happily too, among those who accepted Rhiannon Dobson's invitation to continue celebrations in the *Fox* was the amiable Jim Parc Nest and his wife, the author Manon Rhys. During the unveiling of the plaque, Jim moved us with an elegant reading of his award-winning Eisteddfod poem about lolo. This was then complemented by Gareth (Thomas) reading from *I, lolo*, his "creative dramatisation" of lolo's life. Gareth continued festive tributes late into that evening with an inspiring talk to the Llantwit Major History Society. It was of course all about lolo, until now perhaps a locally-under-recognised Pennon-born genius. Your society hopes that many further excuses for fêting lolo lie ahead.



Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus!

Kevin Barry writes: Barbara Milhuisen arrived at St Cadoc's Church on St David's Day in traditional dress to set the tone of the service. The service was very well attended and the congregation were blessed to have a harpist, Caroline Greenwood from Boverton,



...AND WHO'S THIS SPRIGHTLY ELF AT THE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL?

and a solo singer, from our very own village, Lowri Wyn Owen. Along with our organist, Sheelagh Lewis, the worship was enhanced with traditional Welsh music and hymns.

After the service we enjoyed traditional Welsh cakes, baked by Beryl Price, to the background of Welsh melodies played on the harp.

We are looking for young adults who can either sing or play musical instruments and would like to perform at St Cadoc's as part of worship. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Sheelagh Lewis: 01446 781002; sheelaghlewis@icloud.com



GOOD GOLLY, MISS HOLLY!

Another bundle of joy arrived last month. Andy and Becci Farquharson's first child, Holly, was born at the Heath Hospital at 6:17pm on February 16th, weighing in at a very healthy 8lb 11oz. Welcome to the world, little 'un, and warm congratulations to very proud Mum and Dad. Good luck getting any sleep in 2020!



HOOTS, MON - WHAT A HOOT! BURNS SUPPER 2020

The village hall was full to capacity on Saturday January 18th, with 65 revellers enjoying the LDCA's latest Burns Supper. A good time was had by all, with those attending eating their fill of cockaleekie soup, haggis and trifle—and the odd dram drunk too. As in years past, local orator-in-chief Sam Smith led the traditional recital of the Address to a Haggis with appropriate gusto and sense of drama. Piper John Campbell returned, too, to great acclaim. So good was John that he has already been booked for next year.



Get the wellies

Ciara, Dennis and Jorge came bearing gifts of rain, hail, wind. Luckily, no houses were flooded and no cars caught out by the ford, though Martyn Hughes did manage to lose his ladder (later found!) while crossing it in his pick-up.



FROM SNAIL'S PACE TO ULTRAFAST

by Martyn Hughes

On January 24th 2020 the Llancarfan Community Fibre Project was completed, allowing all participants to order their new Ultrafast Fibre Broadband service. Just like the time when electricity first became available, it has been very much like coming out of the darkness into the light. For many years as a community we have suffered from some of the slowest broadband speeds in the UK, and despite several valiant attempts, previous projects have failed to hit the mark. The project led by the Llancarfan Community Council and community members has worked over the past 18 months to pull it together by engaging with Openreach, the Welsh Government, service providers and the community at large.



Now completed, it can deliver the fastest broadband speeds in the UK and indeed the world. The feedback from people since properties have gone live with the new service has been nothing short of elation. It has allowed young and old to leverage the internet, whether for schooling, gaming, TV or to run a business from home.

Some key facts about the project:

- Largest Community Fibre Partnership in Wales.
- 91 community participants.
- 129 properties passed.
- 25 businesses connected.
- £66,500 Community Contribution fully funded by Welsh Government grants.
- Speeds of up to 1GB available with 150MB and 330MB being the most popular choices, delivering speeds over a hundred times faster than previously.

With all participants now connected or in the process of being connected, there is ample capacity in the network to allow all other residents to take up the service. So please encourage friends and neighbours to do so. In the coming weeks Openreach will be working with the community to produce a promotional video to be used for other communities across Wales. We are looking for Welsh-speaking members of the community to participate in this video. If interested, please contact Martyn Hughes on 07780 338892.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Huge thanks to Martyn, and also to Martin Williams, for their Herculean efforts in getting the project off the ground and then completed. Community at its best.*

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU..... AND YOUR GARDEN! OPEN GARDENS DAY: SATURDAY JUNE 13TH 2020

With thoughts turning to spring and the promise of better weather, what better time to get out into the garden and prepare for the village garden open day. Those who took part last year enjoyed a lovely day with visitors who were both friendly and very complimentary about all the gardens they visited, and monies raised benefiting Wales Children's air ambulance.



This year we would like to extend the pool of gardens to the wider community. Your garden doesn't have to be perfect, but just has to offer interest for around half an hour. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Melinda Thomas: melindathomas333@btinternet.com



UPCOMING (OR DOWNGOING) EVENTS

As we go to press, there seems little chance of most of this seasons's events actually happening due to the coronavirus pandemic. Please keep your eye open on the Llancarfán Hub to see which ones actually go ahead – and keep safe, all.

Society Calendar

April 4th: The Red Shoes theatre visit by coach to the Millennium Centre

July 11th: Village Show at the Village Hall, doors open 2.30pm

There is no AGM and annual May Walk currently planned: please watch Llancarfán Hub for any developments

Easter services at St Cadoc's

April 5th, 11am: Palm Sunday Meet at Church and process around the village singing Hymns, followed by a Service of Holy Eucharist

April 6th, 7th and 8th, 9.30am: Litany and Holy Eucharist

April 9th, 10.30am: LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL Mass of the Chrism;
7.30pm ST CADOC'S Mass of The Lord's Supper and washing of feet
followed by The Easter Vigil until midnight. People wishing to take part in this
vigil should enter their name on the list in the Church

Good Friday April 10th, 10am: Stations of the Cross; 12 noon ST ILLTYD'S
CHURCH, LLANTRITHYD Meditation; 1.30pm ST CADOC'S Liturgy of the
Day with Holy Communion

April 11th, 8pm: Vigil and first Mass of Easter

Easter Day April 12th, 11.15am: Holy Communion and Easter Egg Hunt for
the children

A CALL FOR HELP

During these uncertain times, St Cadoc's Church is looking for volunteers to help with keeping contact with our elders in the village. Some may need help more than others, but all would like to know there is a point of contact if a problem arises. It may help if volunteers can pick up prescriptions, help with shopping, etc. It may be that an older resident just wants to talk. If you know of anyone who needs help, or you would like to volunteer, please contact Fr Derek on 750053, Sue Taylor 781453 or Kevin Barry 781735.

Other Events

April 19th: The Lion King doors open 3pm for 4pm family screening, Village Hall

April 24th: Knives Out James Bond meets Agatha Christie, Daniel Craig stars, Village Hall, 7.30pm

May 23rd: LDCA Quiz & Curry Night, Village Hall. Details to follow

June 13th: Open Gardens Day

CHURCH/PRIVATE PRAYER & CORONAVIRUS

The Church In Wales has advised all clergy that during the coronavirus problems they should only offer bread at Holy Communion and not wine. There will also be no shaking of hands when the Peace is given. If you wish to attend church but do not want to receive Communion, then that is perfectly acceptable. If you are not sure if you can make a church service but would still like to partake in private prayer from your home, then contact Fr Derek on 750053 or Kevin Barry on 781735.