

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**Monday 8th November, Curry Evening** at the Sheesh Mahal. 7pm for 7.30pm. Cost is £12 and tickets are available from the Museum

The new and improved “**Christmas Cracker**” at the Museum, **8th and 9th December**, tickets will be on sale at the Curry Evening and then from the Museum £4 each includes a glass of mulled wine and a minced pie plus light hearted entertainment and carols for all of the family.

**Thursday 20th January, Wine Tasting Evening and Silent Auction.**  
(Please see page 8)

**Monday 14th February 10.30am.** Spend Valentine’s morning with the company of Friends with our 3rd Friendly Get Together. Tea and coffee is available, and anyone who would like to bring along any Valentine themed cakes / biscuits will be welcomed with open arms! A talk will also be provided by the museum.

**Thursday 17th February, Trevor’s Fun Quiz**

**Thursday 17th March, ‘Paxton’s Tower’ a talk by Jill Davies**

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Nov

# THE FRIEND

2010

*The Newsletter of The Friends of Carmarthenshire County Museum*



### THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

**Nov 2, 1721** - Peter I was proclaimed Emperor of all the Russias.

**Nov 4, 1922** - King Tut's tomb was discovered at Luxor, Egypt, by British archaeologist Howard Carter.

**November 20, 1947** - England's Princess Elizabeth married Philip Mountbatten.

### The Friends Annual Curry Evening at the Sheesh Mahal Restaurant

**Monday 8th November 7.30 pm**

Tickets available at the Museum

£12 each

### The All New Christmas Cracker will be at the Museum. December 8th & 9th.

More carols, more readings, more fun and all for the price of £4

Tickets on sale at the Curry Evening and then from the Museum

### Appeal for a Sewing Machine

Do you or anyone you know have a sewing machine they no longer require? The Tuesday volunteers at the museum urgently need a sewing machine for making garment covers, and the old Singer they have been using appears to have given up the ghost. If a machine could be donated to the Museum it

**Editor’s Note:** In order to cut down on costs and administration, I would like to ask the Friends if anyone would prefer to receive the newsletter via email rather than through the post. I realise it is not ideal for everyone—I know I prefer to have the hard copy rather than read it from the screen, but if you would like The Friend electronically then please email me to let me know. My email address is at the bottom of page 4. **Tracy Dyson**

[www.carmarthenmuseum.org.uk](http://www.carmarthenmuseum.org.uk)

## Antiques Evening

Members who came to the Museum on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, for our talk on "Antiques" were really pleased they had done so. The Rev. Dr. Felix Aibel gave us an entertaining and informative discourse, using the ceramics he had brought along to highlight the points he made. Dr Aibel, himself, is a larger than life character, multi-talented and multi-qualified, with 2 degrees and a doctorate, and experience as a teacher and Congregational minister in the Aberaeron and then Trelech areas.

His interest and expertise in antiques has lead him to present TV programmes on S4C since 2004.

All this showed up in a masterly presentation, mainly about ceramics. He told us about the many fakes on the market, and how to spot a ringer.



Only a few people had brought in their own items for comment and valuation, and this contrasted with one occasion he told us about, when, at a charity event, 200 items were produced, which meant he left that meeting in the wee small hours!

Luckily, we were able to finish earlier than that, and enjoy a little refreshment. All in all, it was a very entertaining evening.

**Glyn Worthington**

## Luck Slippers

The opening of the Lucky Slippers Exhibition.

Huw Rees, of S4C's Wedi 3 and Wedi 7 opened the show and the exhibition later featured on Wedi 3. Huw is seen here in conversation with Eunice Atkin, who lent the county museum her wonderful collection for the exhibition.



**The exhibition will run until Christmas**

## **The annual joint meeting of the Civic Society and the Friends of the Museum was held in the old Bishop's Library in the Museum at Abergwili, a fitting venue for a well-presented, scholarly talk by Heather James.**

Introduced by Friends' chair David Grindrod, Heather's subject was 'The Dolaucothi Gold Mines – an ongoing debate'. Excavations at Pumsaint in the 1970s by Dr. Barri Jones showed that an early AD 70s auxiliary fort was soon reduced in size and decommissioned by the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century. There is, however, evidence of late Roman occupation, particularly in the form of coin hoards and gold ornaments. In 1934 miners found oak fragments of a man-powered drainage wheel 48 metres below ground. Carbon dating and the fact that a mature oak could have been used to get the curve of the wheel proved that only 30 years after the conquest the Romans were working deep down.

Water was crucial to the whole process. Leats collected water into tanks for release in sudden bursts onto the working area, first to remove debris and then to trap the gold flecks in tanks lined with furze. There were probably no slaves but skilled workers; there were no trains of pack ponies. It is not known how productive the mines were, they might have been a wasted investment.

In 1989 a radical theory was put forward that late Iron Age Celts had worked both above and below ground. When the Romans exhausted their old surface workings they had to go deeper and invest in watercourses. Minerals were exploited in the Bronze Age so this is entirely plausible.

Heather was thanked by Dr. Quentin McGarvey, chair of the Civic Society, who complimented her on the way that she had presented a large body of knowledge in such a clear manner. The next event will be fund-raising curry evening at the Shish Mahal restaurant on Monday 8 November. Tickets are available from the Museum, 01267 228696.

**Jill Davies**

## **MYSTERY OBJECT**

The last mystery object was in fact a bee smoker. I apologise, but due to the packed newsletter on this occasion I do not have the space to add a mystery object this time. There will be one for the next newsletter however.

**Tracy Dyson**

## Amgueddfa Cofiant Captain Cook, Whitby.

Cyd-ddigwyddiad ydoedd bod tîm dawnsio gwerin o Gymru (â'r ferch a'r mab-yng-nghyfraith yn rhan ohonno) yn cymryd rhan yng ngŵyl gwerin Whitby ar yr union adeg pryd 'roedd Delyth a finnau ar wyliau gerllaw yn Rosedale Abbey. Trefnu i fynd i'w gweld ar y Dydd Mawrth dim ond i'r dydd gael ei spwylio gan y glaw. Ond "y mae i bob cwmwl" ... medd y dywediad Saesneg a dyma felly fanteisio ar y cyfle a mynd i weld yr Amgueddfa uchod. Sôn am ddiwrnod i'r Brenin. Amser oedd yn gyfun a rhaid oedd rhuthro drwy yr ardangosfa arbennig sydd wedi ei gasglu yn yr adeilad unigryw yma.

Yn amlwg y mae rhan fwyaf o'r Amgueddfa yn cofio ac yn anrhydeddu y morwr arloesol hwn a wnaeth cymaint i ddod â deall o fyd a bywyd ardaleodd pell, yn enwedig un y Môr Tawel, i Brydain y Ddeunawfed Ganrif. Nid yn Whitby ganwyd Captain James Cook ond gerllaw ym mhentre Marton, sydd nawr yn faestref i Middlesbrough. Ond fan yma ddechreuodd ei yrfa forwrol fel prentis i Captain John Walker. Cymaint oedd ei allu ym mhen pum mlynedd ddaeth yn fêt ar un o longau hwnnw. Halio glo oedd busnes hwn ond yn anffodus ni chefais unrhyw gefndir ar y rhan yma o fywyd Cook. Maes o law symydodd i Lundain ac yn 1755 ymuno â'r Lynges Brydeinig a dechrau ar yr yrfa nodedig cysylltwn ag e. Cyfnod y Rhyfel Saith Mlynedd ydoedd yn erbyn Ffrainc a threuliodd y rhan fwyaf o'r amser hwn yng Nghanaada ble dechreuodd feistroli y gamp o fapio tir. Ar ôl y rhyfel hon cael ei benodi i fynd ar y cynta o'i dair taith i'r Môr Tawel. Ychydig iawn, iawn o dirlun y Môr Tawel oedd wedi ei fapio erbyn y cyfnod yma fel 'roedd un map yn dangos – rhyw ddwy linell i Seland Newydd er engraifft; tra 'roedd Awstralia yn fwy o gynyrch dychymyg rhyw gartographer na'r hyn ydyw; a rhan fwyaf o'r nyssoedd yr ardal heb unrhyw gofnod. Rhyfeddod oedd sylwi wrth edrych ar y mapiau cymaint oedd Cook wedi cyflawni i gael y byd daeryddol o'r Môr Tawel i'w le.

Ond nid daeryddiaeth yn unig oleuwyd ganddo. Cafodd y Gwyddonwyr, fel yr Arlunwyr, oedd yn rhan mor hanfodol o'i griw, bob chwarae teg i gyflawni gwaith manwl a llawn. Hefyd 'roedd ei ddiddordeb yn y bobl a'i diwylliant yr un mor drwyadl – cydsyniodd ddod a brodor o'r Ynysydd i Brydain i hwnnw gael gwiredi breuddwyd i weld Ewrob. Nid yn unig dod a fe yma, pryd 'roedd yn barod i fynd adre fe wnaeth Cook sicrhau hynny hefyd. A dyna agwedd arall ddaeth yn fwy o'r ymweliad yma, pa mor gonsyrnol oedd Cook o iechyd a lles pobl 'roedd yn dod ar eu traws. Yn arbennig, ennillodd gydnabyddiaeth am ei waith yn gwella ansawdd hwylio i'r morwr cyffredin yn y Llynges.

Braidd yn ironic taw meistr yr ail long oedd ganddo ar ei Drydydd Daith oedd un Captain Bligh! 'Roedd hwn yn fwy o ddydd ei gyfnod na Cook wrth i ni gofio am y "Mutiny on the Bounty". Ar y cyfan bywyd caled, digysur oedd bywyd y morwr cyffredin adeg y Ganrif hon, ond byddai lawer, llawer gwaeth oni bai am Cook. Bu farw adeg y Drydedd Daith, cael ei ladd yn Hawaii. Er y sylw rhoddwyd i Cook ei hun, 'roedd 'na gofnodion o'i fywyd teuluol hefyd. Bu ei

wraig yn weddw am dros hanner canrif. 'Roeddent wedi colli tri plentyn tra 'roeddent yn ifanc. Wedi marwolaeth Cook farwodd y tri arall a'r weddw felly yn gorfod byw ar garedigrwydd cefnder. Ar weithaf gorchest ei gŵr ni chafodd bensiwn o'r wladwriaeth yn syth. Rhaid oedd ar gyfnod maith o ddeisebu ac ymbil taer ar ei rhan gan teyrngarwyr Cook i'r Lywodraeth gytuno ar swm gybyddlyd. Parhaodd gydol ei gweddwdod hir i fod yn ddibynol ar y cefnder yma.

Lleoliad yr Amgueddfa hwn yw y tŷ oedd gartref i Captain John Walker a'i deulu. Crynwyr oeddynt a cawsom gip olwg hefyd ar fywyd y Crynwyr y cyfnod hwn. Ystafelloedd plaen, diaddurn. Dodrefnu trwm, diffasiwn hyd yn oed yn y cyfnod hwn. Attic fawr i'r adeilad ble byddai y prentiswyr yn cysgu – er bod Cook wedi ennill ffafriaeth gofaluwraig y tŷ (Mary Prowd) ac yn cael llecyn bach i'w hunan i weithio ynddo heb bod y gweddill yn ymyrryd arno. Yr hyn oedd yn amlwg pa mor gywir a gofalus oedd y Crynwyr yn trin ei gweithwyr a John Walker yn engraifft arbennig o hyn. Caredigrwydd. Cariad Cristnogol ddwedwn i ar waith. Fan yma gleu wnaeth Cook brofi yr hyn oedd am weithredu yn ei fywyd personol nes ymlaen. Ond cyfnod y Slave Trade ydoedd hefyd a 'doedd Cook ddim heb drochi ei ddwylo yn y maes anfoesol, greulon hon. Cofiwn nad oedd yntau yn Grynwr a 'doedd yr Amgueddfa hon ddim yn adrodd unrhyw hanes o waith rhain i waredu Caethweisiaeth. Eto chefais yr ymdeimlad o'r heddwch a'r bodlonrwydd a'r di-dderbyn wyneb 'roedd y Crynwyr yn dangos yn ei bywydau. Un engraifft ysgafn, pwysig o hyn - A Cook yn enwog bellach; yn gapten yn y Llynges Brydeinig a'r Horetio Nelson ifanc yn rhan o'i griw; wedi ennill cydnabyddiaeth gan ei frenin a'i wlad am ei orchestrau; dyma yr hen Fari Prowd yn ei gyfarch rhyw dro heb ddim rhopdres ond fel "my dear Jamie!"

Yn annwyl fel yna oedd fy nheimplad i amdano hefyd ac am yr Amgueddfa effeithiol a byw hon.



As time was restricted, impressions only were gleaned from a visit recently to the Captain James Cook Memorial Museum in Whitby. One felt close to the man: appreciating his tremendous work in enlightening the knowledge of the South Seas in his day; his care for people, crew, natives and all whom he came in contact with; the plight of the widow following his death. The Museum also gave a glimpse into the lives and ethos of a Quaker family at this time as it is based in what was then the home of Cook's first naval employer – Captain John Walker. Despite the rain spoiling the reason for the visit to Whitby (to see the street Folk Dance Festival), both Delyth and I came away with a very warm, comfortable feeling for this remarkable man.

**Brenig Davies**

Descend northward along the A4069 from its high point on the Black Mountain down to Llangadog and you rapidly traverse some 189 million years of the earth's story.

Thanks to ancient earth movements having squeezed the various rock formations, a journey through those few miles along the course of the Sawdde takes you from the limestone of the Carboniferous Period (359 - 299 million years ago), the red sandstones of the Devonian (416-359 mya) and the mudstones and sandstones of the Silurian (443 - 416 mya) and Ordovician (488 - 443 mya). Generally speaking, these rocks were formed from underwater deposits in much warmer climatic conditions.

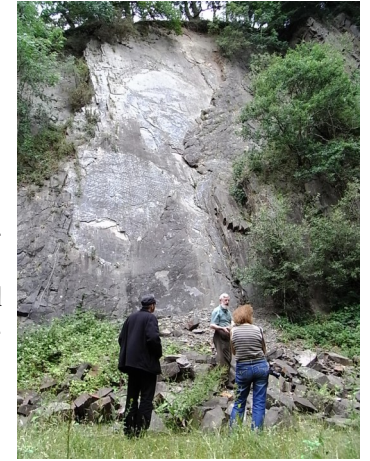
This profusion of rock types and formations prompted the Welsh Stone Forum to visit Carmarthenshire, in July, for the second time this year. Dr. Jana Horák (National Museum) and Dr. John Davies have been examining the variety of stones used for building within the National Park and their regional distributions. They have called one of these regional distributions, or 'building stone domains', Sawdde Stone.

Sawdde Stone is not a specific rock type, rather it is a mixture of cobbles drawn from all the rocks encountered by the Sawdde and its tributaries, as they flow down from the Black Mountain escarpment. These cobbles were then deposited in a fan shape where the Sawdde broke out onto the Tywi floodplain around Llangadog. This process must have begun at the end of the ice age, some 10,000 years ago when the retreating ice would have produced huge quantities of meltwater.

Because the cobbles could be gathered by just by digging into the alluvial deposits of the floodplain, Sawdde Stone was an easily winnable building stone for the area. Drive in and around Llangadog and you will easily see buildings constructed from rounded river cobbles, chopped in half to expose the colour of the various rocks. This produces an attractive polychrome stone work.



The Forum also visited one of the quarries at Cwar Glas in the Sawdde Gorge. Due to the vast earth movements mentioned earlier, these thin sedimentary layers, with the impressions of ripples on their upper surfaces, are almost vertical. Hard to imagine them originally being formed in a tropical climate and conditions likened to the Okavango Delta in Botswana. Winning the rock must also have been a challenge, but the Black Cock formation was deemed good enough for the construction of Llandoverly College (1849 -1851).



Dr. John Davies has generously agreed to conduct a tour of Carmarthen next year for the Friends, looking specifically at the various building stones used. I haven't finalised the date yet, but don't miss this fascinating and informative event delivered by a true and expert enthusiast.

**Gavin Evans**

### Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

A social evening is planned for this date. This will be a cheese and wine and also a Silent Auction.

For this we will need members to donate items to be "auctioned". These should not be tat, but things which people will want to bid on. Donated items in the past have ranged from quality ceramics to teddies to typewriters!

Please have a look through your cupboards and drawers to see if there is anything you want to donate.

The Silent Auction takes place over about an hour, while you are supping, and involves the items donated being on display, each with an identifying card. If you want to buy an item, you write your name and your bid on the card.. Someone else who wishes to buy, can then add their name with their enhanced bid. When the whistle blows to mark the end of bidding, the lowest name, with highest price, is the successful purchaser.

We need good items to make this a jolly and exciting event.

**Glyn Worthington**