

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 14th February

The Quiz Night with Trevor Lloyd 6.45 p.m.

An evening not to be missed!

Teams of four will compete to have their name on the Challenge Shield. GET READY!

Thursday 14th February

Learning with Grandma: 11.00 and 2.30



Saturday 16th February

Sir Henry Vaughan's company of the Sealed Knot : 10.00 until 4.00

Thursday 13th March

Visit to St Peter's Church with Arwyn Price

Meet at the church at 7.00 p.m.

Thursday 10th April

Social Evening

Thursday 22nd May

AGM and Dr Geraint Gruffydd: Bishop Richard Davies and his circle revisited

Saturday 16th February

Antiquarian Society Day School: The Wild and the Tame, Animals in Carmarthenshire History. Six distinguished speakers.

Principality House, National Botanic Gardens; 10.30—4.30

Non-members £9.50 to include coffee and entry to the gardens. A buffet lunch can be ordered for £9.00.

Contact Hazel Martell on 01267 23148. Closing date 8th February.

Wednesday 13th February

Friends of Carmarthenshire Archives: Lecture

Revd William Strange: Local History

Record Office 7.00 p.m.

THE FRIEND

*The Newsletter
of
The Friends of
Carmarthen
County Museum*



**February
2008**

THE ANNUAL FUN QUIZ

Many people look forward to the middle of February. The days are lengthening and the crocuses are out— let's hope they are not under a cover of snow. Most Friends look forward to this time even more eagerly, anticipating the controlled chaos and happy backchat, together with fierce but friendly rivalry, that is such an important part of the evening.

For those who have the misfortune never to have been to the quiz (now in its 10th year), do try to rectify the situation. Come along by 6.45, either as part of a team of four or as an individual willing to join a team. The cost is £10 for the team and this includes a glass of wine during the interval. Answers are written on the quiz sheet by the team captain. Trevor Lloyd will be the quiz master, as usual, and, as usual, he has tried out the questions on his long-suffering brother to be sure that they are neither too easy nor too hard.

ENJOY!

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

On Thursday March 13th the Friends will visit this historic church for a guided tour by Vice-chairman Arwyn Price. It is therefore very fitting that this issue of *The Friend* should feature Arwyn's article on its connection, or possible connection, with George III. Friends who came to the last Open Day will well remember the talk he gave on this appealing story. No doubt, as well as learning of the history behind some of the very many monuments in the church, we will hear just a little more about Hannah Lightfoot!

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MUSEUM MATTERS

This year we celebrate the Museum's centenary. One major celebratory event will be the first ever Arbour Stephens lecture. The museum's recent refurbishment benefited greatly from the Arbour Stephens bequest, one condition being that we should arrange an annual lecture on an 'Arthurian' period subject. The lecture will take place on Saturday, 19th April at the Halliwell Centre. Look out for further details.

Half-Term is looming – Saturday 9th February to Saturday 16th February. Traditionally, we've never had activities for this half-term, but we've decided to be a little less timid and to come out of our winter shell for once; and all thanks to some wonderful people who wish to be associated with the museum.

Firstly, on **Thursday 14th February is Learning with Grandma**. Grandma is Valerie Wood-Gaiger who is from Myddfai. Valerie is behind a publishing venture called Learn with Grandma which aims to encourage grandparents and grandchildren to have fun and learn together. Learn with Grandma has just **published 'The Ice Journey - Y Daith Dros yr Iâ'** which is the first in a series of fictional stories about pan-European prehistory that progresses from the Ice Age through to the Roman Empire. So bring the grandchildren along to meet Valerie between **11.00 – 12.00** and **2.30 – 3.30**. Hopefully Valerie will make future appearances as more of the books are published.

Then on **Saturday, 16th February, Sir Henry Vaughan's Company of the Sealed Knot** will return to represent the garrison of the Bishop's Palace at Abergwili in 1644, when Carmarthen was on the front line between the King and the Revolted forces of Parliament. The defence will be conducted **between 10.00 and 4.00**. In 1644 Wales was renowned as the 'Nursery of the Kings Infantry'. Sir Henry Vaughan's Company re-enact the Welsh Soldiers of the King, campaigning across Britain, in Sealed Knot Events.

Gavin Evans

If you have basic computer skills, would you consider volunteering for a few hours a week? There is an urgent need to transfer records from the old card index on to the dedicated museum records system. Training in the use of the system will be given. The Thursday morning volunteer cataloguing group which met for several years has now disbanded. As a result of their good work, the priority has now changed. Contact Anne Wright on 01267 228696.

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**Towy
Antiques
Fairs**

Antiques Fair
*Saturday and Sunday
26th and 27th January 2008*

United Counties Showground
10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. Saturday
10.00 a.m. — 4.00 p.m. Sunday

HANNAH LIGHTFOOT'S SHOE

Why did Celia and I get so excited at finding a single shoe marked "Hannah Lightfoot's Shoe" in a display cabinet on the first floor of the Museum some two years ago?

The shoe was very dainty, about a size 2 and embroidered with silk, just one shoe with no provenance on how or when it came into the Museum. The significance was its once owner Hannah Lightfoot, her connections with King George 3rd, St. Peter's Church, Carmarthen, and the private visit of the present Duke of Kent to St. Peter's in the year 2000.

Hannah was born on the 12th October 1730 into a strong Quaker family at Wapping, East London. Her father, Mathew, was a shoemaker and died in 1732, leaving her mother, Mary, and Hannah to be taken in by her mother's brother, Henry Wheeler, who owned a drapers shop at St. James's market, London, which today would be near the junction of Piccadilly and Regent Street. Henry also was a strong Quaker.

During her time at St. James's market, her uncle's business became profitable and he engaged a maid to assist his wife and their four children. The maid's name was Anne Tayler, who made a great friend of Hannah. After some years Anne Tayler married a servant of a very wealthy London family who were well known in Royal circles. Hannah spent some time whiling away the hours of her spare time sitting in the window of the shop watching the upper classes pass by in their sedan chairs on the way to various shops and theatres. One such person happened to be young George, Prince of Wales, who took an instant liking to Hannah although she was eight years older than him.

Arrangements were made for a meeting between the two by a Mrs. Eliza Chudleigh, Lady-in Waiting to George's mother via Hannah's old friend Anne Tayler. The relationship blossomed in time to such an extent that it became the talk of the whole of London Society. The Royal Family arranged with Hannah's uncle to put an end to the relationship and marry her off to a young fellow Quaker by the name of Isaac Axford. On the 11th. December, 1753, a wedding took place at the Rev. Dr. Keith's Wedding Chapel in Mayfair. This was an unusual venue as both were practising Quakers. It did mean however, that by marrying there the Wedding banns would not be read at the Parish Church, thus avoiding publicity.

That should have been the end of the affair, but as Hannah left the Chapel a coach and footmen were waiting to whisk her away and she went willingly - pursued by the wedding guests and poor old Isaac Axford. She was not to see Isaac again, therefore, as the marriage was not consummated, it did not constitute a legal marriage.

From this point onwards the story becomes somewhat disputed, for reasons that, if true, the Monarchy of Great Britain would have been in question.

Hannah was taken by coach to George's palace in Peckham Rye, south London, and the next we hear of her and George is contained in two documents dated 17th April 1759 and 27th May 1759 (now in the Public Records Office at Kew). Each refers to a marriage between them and witnessed by William Pitt, The Elder, (Prime Minister 1766-8) and Hannah's friend. Anne Tayler. The reason for the two ceremonies was that the first was signed George P. and Hannah and the second George Guelph (George's German Surname) and Hannah Lightfoot. The Rev. Dr. Wilmot performed both ceremonies which took place at Kew Chapel. It is said they had three children, two boys and a daughter who married a Dr. Dalton of Carmarthen, whose daughter, Charlotte, is buried in a vault in the Chancel of St. Peter's Church, Carmarthen?

The year 1760 was an eventful year for George as his Grandfather died and he became King George III and Elector of Hanover.

What of Hannah at this time? Rumours were rife that she had died and had been buried in the name of Rebecca Powell in Islington Parish Church, the Vicar there being well rewarded some years later by the Royal Gift of a number of lucrative parishes in the West of England. This funeral took place on the 27th May 1759, the same day as the second marriage. Others say she died in 1764, a year before the marriage to Queen Charlotte, yet another that she lived to over 100 years old. Her will is interesting as it states "I commend my two sons and my daughter to the kind protection of their Royal Father, His Majesty King George 3rd. " Signed HANNAH REGINA and is dated 7th July 1762.

What do we know further of Hannah? She was known as the fair Quaker Girl owing to her not contracting smallpox, therefore having a fair complexion with no pox marks. Her portrait was painted on two occasions by Sir Joshua Reynolds, one is now in the National Portrait Gallery in London, the other in a Gallery in Seven Oaks in Kent. It is interesting to note that Sir Joshua kept details of all his paintings, but the details of these two pictures seem to be missing. It would have noted who had commissioned the paintings, the sitters details, when paid for and by whom. TO CONCLUDE.

So what is Hannah's shoe doing in the Museum? Why did the organ ordered by George's three daughters for Windsor Castle in 1796 end up in St. Peter's Church, Carmarthen? Was Charlotte Augusta Catherine Dalton buried in the Chancel of St. Peter's Hannah's Grand or Great Grand Daughter? Why the interest of the well known broadcaster Jeremy Pax

Continued on page 8

Dwyiethrwydd yn y Ffindir— Bilingualism in Finland

Ken Griffiths

Nifer cydmarol fychan ddaeth allan drwy'r tywydd garw ar Nos Iau 10fed o Ionawr i wrando ar Mr Ken Griffiths yn traethu ar agweddau o ddwyiethrwydd yn y Ffindir. Ganwyd Mr Griffiths yn Sir Gâr a mynychodd Ysgol Ramadeg y Gwendraeth (yr oedd yn y chweched dosbarth pryd dechreais yno), cyn graddio yn Economeg ym Mrifysgol Aberystwyth. Symyd wedyn i Canada ac ennill gradd uwch ym Mrifysgol McMaster. Treuliodd rhyw ddeg mlynedd yn Ngogledd America yn gweithio i Fanc Canolog Canada a'r IMF yn Washington cyn symyd 'nôl i weithio fel gwas civil yn Llundain ac yng Ngaerdydd. Bu hefyd am gyfnod yn Gyngorwr Sir yng Nghaerfyrddin. Gyda'r fath gefndir a hyn syndod efallai oedd ei faes dewis ar ein cyfer ond 'roedd yr ateb yn ddigon syml. Tra yng Nghanada priododd a merch o'r Ffindir a dewis, maes o law, i fagu eu plant mewn iaith niwtral megis Saesneg. Dyna y spardun ar adeg pryd 'roedd Llywodraeth Canada yn trafod syt i oresgyn y ddiffyg oedd wedi codi iddynt hwythau yn sgil y protestiadau yn Quebec yn ymwneud a safle y Ffrangeg. Penderfyniad Llywodraeth Canada oedd deddfu ar hyd y llinellau a profiadau y Ffindir. 'Roedd Mr Griffiths yn amlwg wedi gwneud ymchwil manwl i hanes mamwlad ei wraig ac wedi manteisio yn ystod ymweliadau a'i deulu-yng-nyfraith i gael ymateb y bobl gyffredin hefyd i sefyllfa dwyiethrwydd y Ffindir. Swedeg yw yr iaith leaf erbyn hyn ac mae deddfwriaethau y Llywodraeth yn cael eu lliwio i ddiogelu yr iaith honno. Nid fel yna fu gan bod y Ffindir am gyfnod hir yn rhan o Sweden (o'r ddeuddegfed ganrif tan 1802), cyn dod yn rhan o Ymerodraeth Rwsia hyd at 1917. Yn wlad annibynol ers hynny mae wedi ymgeisio i gadarnhau safle a hawliau y rhai sy'n siarad Swedeg yn ogystal a hybu twf Ffinneg fel ei bod erbyn hyn yr iaith swyddogol ym mhob agwedd o fywyd y wlad.

I rhai fel finnau sydd wrth fy modd yn gwrando ar hanes 'roedd darlith Mr Griffiths yn un glodwiw iawn. Eto 'roeddwn yn ymwybodol bod rhai (gan gynnwys gwraig fy hun) a fyddai well ganddynt glywed rhagor am ei brofiadau personol gan bod yr hun wynebaw e a'i wraig yn rhywbeth sy'n gyffredin i Gymry heddiw. Eto ar y lefel wladol diddorol oedd y drafodaeth wedyn ar y gydmariaeth rhwng datblygiad y Ffindir a'r hyn sydd yn gwynebu Cymru heddiw. Y gwir yw, pr'un a'i deddfu neu beidio, mae llwyddiant neu tranc iaith yn ddibynnol llwyr ar ewyllys da a goddefgarwch y dinasyddion. Diolchwyd i Mr Griffiths yn ddestlus iawn gan Mrs Shirley Griffiths.

Brenig Davies

Christmas at the Museum 2007

The Christmas season started for most Friends when the Myrddin Chorale filed down the oak staircase, beautifully decorated with understated swags of greenery and berries by Marion, to take their place by the huge Christmas tree with its twinkling white lights provided by the Friends.

The Chorale, conducted by John Morgan and accompanied by David Poulter, provided a mix of well-loved and new items. The audience joined in carol singing and left with "Jingle Bells", by now the traditional end to the concert, ringing in their ears.

The guests of honour were, on the Wednesday evening, Rhodri Glyn Thomas, A.M. and on Thursday, Bishop Carl and Mrs Cooper. The Friends are very grateful to them for making the time in their busy schedules to support our very important fund-raising event. We expect to have heavy demands on our funds during 2008.

South Wales: 250 Years of Landscape Change Richard Keen

Richard Keen's talk was greatly enjoyed by both Friends and members of the Civic Society at the annual joint meeting in November. As chairman of the Civic Society, Quentin MacGarvie, said in his introduction, Mr Keen has been involved with in the conservation and publicising of the landscape all his working life.

After showing some slides of paintings by early travellers to Wales, which resulted in a big increase in the number of visitors, Mr Keen went on to discuss changes in the landscape. The main influence was, of course, the industrial revolution, when south Wales supplied a large proportion of the raw materials developing industries demanded. The migration of labour from rural areas also led to huge changes through massive housing development. By the late 20th century many of the industrial sites were partially reverting to a semi-rural nature but now it is important to preserve the most significant as part of our heritage. It is not only Blaenavon, a World Heritage site, which deserves to be preserved. Our chairman, Brenig Davies, warmly thanked Mr Keen at the end of a most interesting and stimulating evening.

(continued from page 6)

man who visited St. Peter's recently? But I think I will leave you with the comment of the Duke of Kent when asked after visiting St. Peter's what he thought of the story, and I quote, "Shall we not leave any further comment to the Historians?"

W. Arwyn Price