



Mererid Hopwood in the Main Hall

Her cywydd celebrates Abergwili and the area

THE FRIEND

*The Newsletter
of
The Friends of
Carmarthen
County Museum*



*May
2009*

The A. G. M.
The A. G. M.

will be held in the old Bishop's Chapel in the Museum on
Thursday 21st May at 7.00 pm.

Notice is given here that the committee proposes a small change to
the name of the Society to bring it into line with the official name of
the Museum and with our Welsh name.

If the motion is carried the name of the Society in future will be
The Friends of Carmarthenshire County Museum.

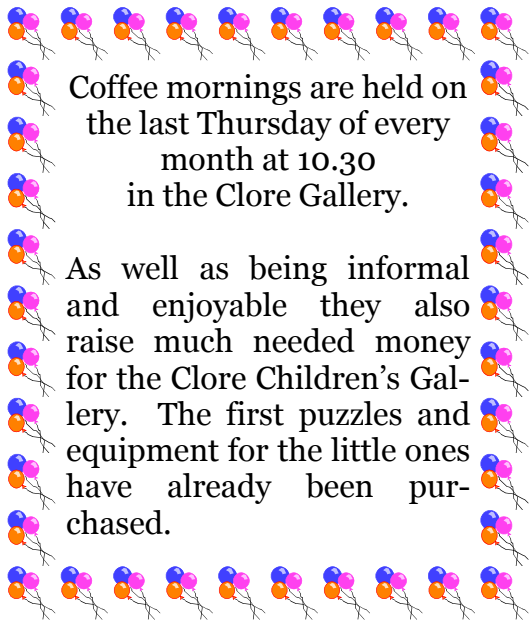
A glass of wine will be served in the hall after the AGM.

This will be followed by a talk
by the Revd Leigh Richardson, Vicar of Abergwili,
on his experiences as a chaplain in Iraq.

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Friends' Activities



Coffee mornings are held on the last Thursday of every month at 10.30 in the Clore Gallery.

As well as being informal and enjoyable they also raise much needed money for the Clore Children's Gallery. The first puzzles and equipment for the little ones have already been purchased.

Travels in New Zealand was the title of the talk given by committee member Hugh Jones in March. The spectacular photographs and Hugh's entertaining commentary were greatly appreciated. The Friends are in debt to committee members who give their time and energy in this way and in organising the refreshments.

The big **prize draw** we held last winter provided us with a very welcome boost to our funds. We raised £375. Organiser Linda Owen and Chairman Brenig Davies thank everyone who bought tickets and took more to sell to their friends and neighbours. We intend to order more tickets for the next draw—watch out for information in the September issue of The Friend. Please help us sell them all.

An appeal

Will all members who have an email address please send it to the editor, Jill Davies, at jill.davies2@tiscali.co.uk. This will help us to contact you more easily.

The very successful **fun quiz** was won (again) by **Clueless**, whose members consisted of **Cyril Phillips, Brenda Lloyd Davies, Rhodri Young and Eric Anscombe.**

Everyone enjoyed the evening very much and we all want to thank Trevor Lloyd for his hard work and to wish him well as he continues his recovery from his recent serious illness. We have all been thinking of you, Trevor.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 23rd April 7.00

Talk by Eric Davies: **The Gregorian Calendar**



Saturday 2nd May Coach trip to Bristol 8.30 am

Contact Arwyn Price 01267 236934.

Thursday 21st May AGM 7.00

Talk by Revd Leigh Richardson on his service in Iraq

Monthly coffee mornings: last Thursday of every month.

Next one: Thursday 30th April 10.30

£2. All money goes towards equipment for the children's gallery. Come and see what you have already bought.

EXHIBITIONS

24th March— 30th May: "Only in my Dreams" - Quilts by members of LINKS. LINKS supports people with mental health problems. See page 5.

MUSEUM EVENTS

Adult Learners' Week: Saturday May 9 "Every object tells a story" - short talks by members Brenig Davies, Jeremy John, Arwyn Price and Jill Davies. From 10.30 on

Saturday May 16 "Family Learning Day" - exploration of the museum grounds with a ranger from the Countryside Unit. 10.30

National Archaeology Day

Saturday July 18

Panel a Phapur: coffee and the chance for Welsh learners to chat with native Welsh speakers

Saturday April 25 10.30 in the museum café

OTHER SOCIETIES' EVENTS

Friends of the Archives Wednesday 13th May

AGM and lecture: **Working class women in the thirties**

Antiquarians: Saturday 25th April

AGM and lecture: Roger Turvey on **The Lord Rhys**

Saturday 16th May: Guided walk at **Penllergaer**

**“Only in my dreams”
An exhibition of quilts by members of LINKS**

Carmarthenshire County Museum is playing host to an exhibition of quilts made by members of Links. Links is a small local charity that helps people recovering from mental health issues to regain their self confidence and self esteem. It is based in Trostre Road, Llanelli. Links provides a warm, supportive environment where people are able to take part in a variety of courses and activities. These help them to return to mainstream employment, education and leisure activities.



Dorothy Morris and Jen Jones with two of the class members

Classes in quilt making and textiles were led by Dorothy Morris, a local artist. Members of the Swansea Embroiderers’ Guild also helped members of the class to make one quilt.

Before starting on their quilts, the class studied traditional Welsh quilt making. Their studies included a visit to Welsh quilt expert Jen Jones’s shop. They then worked individually and in groups to produce their own quilts. The exhibition shows a wide range of work from traditional patchwork to more adventurous batik-based designs. They are all very colourful and highly decorative and show a great deal of dedication on the part of the class



Guests at the opening admire one of the quilts

Jen Jones came to the museum to open the show on April 2nd. Her praise for the creativity of class members was very much appreciated.

The exhibition runs until the end of May. All quilts are for sale and proceeds will go towards funding course materials for similar project at Links.

Ann Dorsett

All photographs will appear in colour on our website
www.carmarthenmuseum.org.uk

Museum Matters

Funds raised at the Friends' monthly coffee mornings will help the museum service to buy some new children's equipment for the Clore Discovering and Exploring Gallery. This project has been helped by a donation from one of artist B. A. Lewis's descendants (you may have seen the exhibition of B. A. Lewis paintings and enjoyed the talk on B. A. by his grand-daughter, Barbara Webb).

The money raised will buy a good quality table and chairs, designed for use by very young children. The museum also hopes to buy a colourful mat for the young children's area and some attractive book cases.

Ann Dorsett

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

We finally celebrated our 'Ein Lle Ni' oral history project on April 1st, snow having sabotaged our first attempt in early February. We brought together participants, including Abergwili residents and children from the village school. A highpoint of the project has been Year 6 pupils gaining Key Skills qualifications at Level 1 in both Communication and ICT, the first primary school in all of Wales to do so. Naturally, the Local Education Authority is very pleased.

Mererid Hopwood delivered her specially-written cywydd that celebrates various places around Abergwili. Mererid made history in 2001 by becoming the first woman ever to win the bardic Chair at the National Eisteddfod. Mererid also wrote a story – Beni Bwlch Bach – which celebrates the village's farming past. The children took this and worked it up into a virtual book for viewing on computer. We are quietly confident that the National Grid for Learning Cymru will publish it on their website (www.ngfl-cymru.org.uk) as an example of good practice for schools across Wales to follow.

Also, the project has produced some great new family activities for use in the museum. These include some discovery backpacks that help visitors explore our portraits of Richard Vaughan and Madam Bevan, as well as an activity about games in the past. [More about this in the next issue—ED]

A big thanks to Christine Bound and Annabelle Lewis (and yes, your Chairman, too) for keeping all well supplied with tea, squash and cakes, and for clearing away the crumbs afterwards.

We are going to participate in **Adult Learners' Week** again this year. The two dates for your diary are Saturday 9th May and Saturday 16th May. The Friends are contributing to both days. The first event is called 'Every Object Tells a Story'. Brave souls have volunteered to talk about their favourite museum objects. Brenig is becoming an expert both on St. Paulinus and Bishop Laud's chapel, Jeremy John will explore the murky doings of the Dolaucothi murder and Arwyn Price will use a BA Lewis painting to recall the past days of Carmarthen quay. However, there's still space for more of you to participate.

Another appeal

Please can you spare...!

During our National Archaeology Day event in July I am intending to hold a couple of workshops for children. The first will be spinning using a drop spindle and showing a spinning wheel in operation and the second will be simple weaving. For the latter I would be very grateful for the donation of any oddments of wool which you may have lying around at home, it doesn't matter how much or how little of any colour because due to time constraints the items the children will be making can only be small. Any other items which can be woven will be very welcome too. Many thanks.

Anne Wright

Loquacity helps, but it's not essential and I am more than happy enough to provide you with help. The second Saturday will concentrate on the outdoors; one of the council's countryside rangers is due to help us explore the natural history of the grounds. Also, Cyril Phillips will lead a walk around some of the village's footpaths. **Do check with us beforehand for final arrangements for both days as there may be changes.**

Sir Henry Vaughan's Company of the Sealed Knot has been relatively quiet so far this year. However, they are now emerging from winter quarters. They made their first appearance in Abergwili on April 4th and soon we'll know of future training dates at the museum. Remember, if you fancy the whiff and crackle of black powder, the Company is always keen to 'acquire' new recruits.

It's been a few years now since we started taking part in the annual **National Archaeology** celebrations. Nationally the event has become so successful that this year it has been renamed the **Festival of British Archaeology** and will last a fortnight. We, sadly, will have to remain our usual modest selves and limit our event to Saturday, 18th July. Final programme is yet to be decided, but Nigel Nayling and Jemma Bevan from the Department of Archaeology at University of Wales, Lampeter, will be here with lots of exciting activities, as well as encouraging you to pursue further your interests in archaeology.

And finally a fantastic 'discovery'. If you have internet access, go to www.bl.uk (British Library homepage), type 'Abergwili' in the SEARCH box, click 'GO' and see what comes up under 'Online Gallery images'. Sorry to be mysterious. There is a quicker way to explain, but I'd be breaking copyright to do so.

Best wishes.

Gavin