DATES FOR YOUR DIARY THE PROGRAMME FOR 2009—2010

Wednesday 28 October

Joint meeting with Carmarthen Civic Society, 7.00 Andrew Green, The Librarian, National Library of Wales: *Carmarthen in the National Library*

Thursday 29 October

Coffee morning to raise funds for the children's gallery. 10.30.

Monday 9 November

Fund-raising Curry Evening at the Sheesh Mahal Restaurant. 6.30 for 7.00

Tickets £12 from the Museum, limited to 60, to be paid for at the time of purchase. On sale **NOW**. 01267 228696

Wednesday and Thursday 9 and 10 December

Christmas at the Museum, 6.30, concert to start at 7.00 Tickets £4 from the Museum, limited to 45 each night, to be paid for at the time of purchase., but can be reserved for 2 days. Tickets on sale on Monday 30 November. 01267 228696

Monday 18 January 2010

Cheese and Wine at the Museum: A social evening for members and their friends

Thursday 11 February

Annual Fun Quiz (or as it is known by now, Trevor's Quiz)

Thursday 11 March

Nigel McCall: Illustrated talk, Antarctic Adventures

Thursday 15 April

Evening visit to the "painted church", Trinity Church, Pontargothi

Thursday 27 May

The A.G.M., followed by Ken Davies with his video of past BBC news stories

Antiquarians

Friday 13 November: The gas pipeline— archaeological discoveries. Neal Fairburn at Heol Awst chapel. 7.00

THE FRIEND

The Newsletter of The Friends of Carmarthen County Museum



November 2009

Curry Evening

Following its resounding success last year! A curry evening at the Sheesh Mahal Restaurant

Monday 9 November

Numbers limited to 60

The restaurant makes a substantial donation to our funds Tickets £12.00

On sale **NOW** at the Museum

Christmas at the Museum

The Myrddin Chorale under its conductor Dr. Dulais Rhys will be at the heart of both evenings,

Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th December.

The guest of honour on Wednesday will be Cllr. Tysul Evans, Chairman of the County Council and on Thursday

Cllr. Lynwen Williams, Abergwili Community Council There will be a bottle stall and a decorations stall. Tickets $\pounds 4.00$

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Editor: Jill Davies, 01558 668564 jill.davies2@tiscali.co.uk Curator: Gavin Evans, Carmarthenshire County Museum, 01267 228696, GaHEvans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk





'Does dim os ond taw Nadolig yn yr Amgueddfa yw un o'r atuniadau mwyaf, os nad y mwyaf un, yng nghalendr ein gweithgaredd fel Cyfeillion yr Amgueddfa. Y gair mwyaf glywn bod 'na naws tymorol yn perthyn iddo ac yn wir, mae rhyw wefr yn cyffwrdd dyn wrth wrando ac wrth ganu ein carolau traddodiadol. Dyma y cyfle priodol, amserol i'n hatgoffa ni am yr hyn sydd yn cynnal Cristnogion bod Duw nid yn unig wedi dod i'w fyd ond Ei fod yn barhaus yma. Duw yr Emmanuel. Duw yn ei fyd. Fu'n ofynol i mi atgoffa fy hunan o hyn wrth atgoffa ffrind wnaeth ymateb mewn syndod bod gyda ni gyfarfod sydd yn dathlu Nadolig mewn Amgueddfa – adeilad i gasglu ac ymddangos hen greiriau o'r gorffenol! Gadawaf e i'ch dychymyg yr hyn ddywedodd wrthyf! Ateb syml oedd a sydd gennyf i'm cyfaill ond ei bod yn bleser gwasanaethu Iesu ta beth yw yr achlysur, ta ble mae'r lleoliad. Cyfle yw y ddwy noson yn Rhagfyr i minnau atgoffa fy hun pa mor ffodus ydywf i allu gwneud hyn mewn safle sydd yn cynnal fy niddordeb. Nid dyletswydd ydyw ar weithaf y cyfrifoldeb sydd yn dod yn sgil swydd, ond pleser. Pleser o fod o wasanaeth i Grist, cymdogaeth ac i gydddyn. Mae adnod yn y Beibl sydd yn ein hatgoffa bod Iesu wedi dod at bobl Ei hun ac mewn man arall nad yw yn ein galw bellach yn weision ond yn gyfeillion. Toddwch y ddwy ymadrodd yma i'w gilydd, bod cyfeillgarwch a pobl yn mynd llaw yn law, yn ddiwahan a mae gorwel ein gwasanaeth ni yn ddibendraw ond byth yn amhersonol. Y funed rhowch eich llaw yn eich poced i gyfranu tuag at unrhyw ofyn neu elysen mae'n dod yn bersonol, y chi sydd yn rhoi. Felly wir yw fy nheimlad innau wrth ymfalchio ein bod wedi diogelu cymaint o gasgliadau o'r gorffenol i'r Amgueddfa. Ni sydd yn gwneud ond nid ni sydd yn berchen. Rhan o rhwydwaith gyfeillgar ydym sydd yn dod â ddoe yn berthnasol i heddiw ac yn dod a phleser ac ystyr i fywydau heddiw. Fel Cristion fy nghred i yw taw angen mwya dynoliaeth yw meithryn perthynas iawn â Christ a rhan o'r feithrynfa hon yw dod i gysylltiad clir â'n gorffennol, deall pam y daeth yn Emmanuel. Os na lle gwell heddiw i ddod i gysylltiad ac felly dealldwriaeth o'n gorffennol na mewn Amgueddfa? Cystal man ag unman te i ddathlu Ei ddyfodiad a'i fodolaeth.

Nadolig Llawen i chi bawb.

Brenig Davies

Christmas at the Museum is one of the most popular attractions in our yearly calendar and as good a setting as any to praise God as our Immanuel. In the context of our involvement with the Museum it reminds me of the privilege we have to be of service to God, our community and fellow-human beings today. Involvement is not a passive experience but essential now to connect with the past and make the past meaningful for the sake of the future. Christ came to be with people and to make us His friends and fundamentally what is needed today is to form the correct relationship with Him for the sake of tomorrow's people. What better place to celebrate Christ as Immanuel but as Friends in the Museum?

Have a Merry Christmas everybody.

Brenig Davies

An evacuee returns

During the summer Alan Radcliffe paid two visits to the Museum. 66 years earlier as a young boy he had lived there for seven months, when it was the Bishop's Palace. Now he was coming back with his wife, Shirley, and his son and grandchildren from Australia because he wanted to show his family the place which had been such a big part of his life.

Manwood School, a public school in Kent, was evacuated to Carmarthenshire in the summer of 1940, when the Battle of Britain was being fought in the skies over southern England and the Medway towns were at risk of bombing because of the dockyards and the Sunderland flying boat construction works. The train journey, which could easily take 12 hours, sometimes longer, must have seemed interminable, with many stops in sidings to allow troop trains to pass. Many boys were billeted in Pibwrlwyd, others in the town; they shared school facilities with the old 'Gram', the Queen Elizabeth Boys Grammar School. During the holidays some went home, the billet boys moved into Pibwrlwyd so that all the evacuees who couldn't go home were together.

Alan was still at his prep school at this time and was evacuated to the Lake District where he had relatives. His parents found the

standard of the school he was attending there so poor that in February 1941 he was allowed to enter Manwood at an earlier age than normal. Because of the red blazer and cap of his prep school he was nicknamed "radish". With the younger boys he either had to walk to school or try to get on one of the buses which were often full by the time they reached Pibwrlwyd. Alan remember being hungry a lot of the time, often resorting to eating bread with mustard or salt when the margarine or jam in his food parcels from home had run out. However, life in "Pib" was not always grim. *The Manwoodian*, the school magazine, paints a rather different picture. A description by one of the mothers, who came to stay to be with her son, of the Christmas festivities in 1940, a month or so before Alan arrived and before rationing really started to bite, talked of "good fellowship and merriment". She had been met by Matron "who handed me a plate of eggs—things I had thought of only, for three months. This proved to be the forerunner of many good dishes to come".

In September 1943 Alan moved with five other boys to the Bishop's Palace on the invitation of bishop Rosser. Going in through the side door (they were never allowed to use the main door) they met the staff—Mrs Chalk, the housekeeper, Glenys and Ethel, the maids, Mary, the cook, and Dan, the chauffer, who lived in the lodge with his mother. The boys shared three bedrooms, Alan's being in what is now Dara's flat.

They ate in the kitchen and did their homework in what is now the agricultural gallery. When Alan saw the kitchen on his visit, he could not believe how little it had changed. The dining table he sat at every day is still there. The boys had the run of most of the Palace and all of the grounds. He remembers the scurrying of the maids down the first floor office corridor to chapel every morning for the 7.30 service. The hall and the staircase have not changed at all. The Bishop's Pond was popular, not least because they could catch fish to supplement the rations. Alan recalled the day when they caught more than they could eat for their supper. In the days before refrigeration the maids tried to

Alan outside the hostel in Pibwrlwyd in the summer after he was evacuated

keep the surplus in a bucket of cold water. The weather was warm; the next day fishing was banned until cooler weather arrived.



Alan stands in the corner of the kitchen where Mrs Chalk had her chair near the range and where he was allowed to warm himself in cold weather.



The main bedrooms are now galleries; Alan and Shirley were particularly interested in the 20th century gallery, where there is a display from the 1940s.

Sundays were for church going. Morning service at Abergwili was compulsory, as was evensong on alternate Sundays, when the service was in English. The compulsory walk was fitted in around afternoon Sunday school.

Two editions of *The Manwoodian,* for Spring/Summer 1941 and Autumn/Spring 1942, give many glimpses of life for the evacuees. Despite generally good health there was an outbreak of mild diphtheria, which must have been a great worry for parents far away in Kent, and of scarlet fever the following year. The J T C was very active. As well as all nine candidates passing the Provisional War Certificate "A" examination, there was much shooting practice and several field exercises. The band was reformed; "strains of martial music must have floated from the School Field to Guildhall Square, for invitations were soon received for the band and contingent to take part in Civic Processions, and the fame thus gained took our mellifluous flutists to such far-flung places as Abergwili and Laugharne". Scouting was very popular, with almost every boy enrolled. Rugby was played against both evacuated schools, such as Erith, also from Kent, which was at Whitland, and against local grammar schools. "Our first game against a Welsh Secondary School took place at Drefach, where we played the 1st XV of the Gwendraeth Valley School. We failed to adapt ourselves satisfactorily to the conditions of play, the uphill field completely disconcerting us... the tough Gwendraeth Valley forwards were possibly a new experience for us".

In 1943 the Americans arrived and their camp at what is now the hospital turned all the roads to mud. Cycling to school became difficult but gum became plentiful. The tide of war was turning and in April 1944 Alan returned home to Sevenoaks. He was among the 50 %