

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY THE PROGRAMME FOR 2009–2010

2009

Thursday 10 September

Ann Dorsett, Senior Museums Officer: *Carmarthenshire Paintings*

Wednesday 28 October

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

Monday 9 November

Fund-raising *Curry Evening* at the Sheesh Mahal Restaurant.

Wednesday and Thursday 9 and 10 December

Christmas at the Museum

2010

Monday 18 January

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: Saturday 17 October, *Dryslwyn Castle*.

Llanarthne Community Hall 10.30 for coffee and talk, 1.30 Dryslwyn Castle car park for tour and talk by **John Kenyon**, National Museum of Wales



THE FRIEND

*The Newsletter
of
The Friends of
Carmarthen
County Museum*



*September
2009*

MUSEUM NEWS

There have been no Friends' events since May. However National Archaeology Day was celebrated in style in mid-July so this edition of *The Friend* is devoted to showing what went on during an action-packed and well-attended day.

The programme re-starts in September with Ann Dorsett's talk on *Carmarthenshire Paintings* on Thursday 10 September and continue through the winter. Please support as many as you can. The first coffee morning will be on Thursday 24 September and will be held on the last Thursday of every month except December.

The October event is our joint meeting with the Civic Society on Wednesday 28 October at the Register Office when Andrew Green, Librarian, National Library of Wales will speak on *Carmarthen in the National Library*. For further information ring the Museum on 01267 228696.

The next edition of *The Friend* will have details of the curry evening. This was a great success last year; everyone had an enjoyable evening and the Sheesh Mahal made a donation of £5 per person to our funds. Your support is vital.

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National Archaeology Day

Carmarthenshire County Museum held its annual Archaeology Day in July. Members of the Friends were there to lend support and it was a delight to see and particularly to hear the buzz throughout the museum and the grounds all day.

Every year a "dig" is set up, aimed mainly at the younger children, who happily spend a couple of hours digging for artefacts, which range from shards and coins to bones and clay pipes. After heavy rain the digging this year was easier but messier, which made the youngsters enjoy it all the more. The finds were deposited in trays ready to be cleaned and identified.

It was noticeable this year that children who a few years ago were avid diggers had by now grown up a lot and their interests had changed. The archaeology stalls set up by the Archaeology Department of Lampeter University proved a big draw. Dr. Nigel Nayling had a variety of bones and skulls on display. His explanation of their characteristics and the way to identify them held the attention of parents as well as children. Also of interest was a video of the excavations the Department has carried out for several years in Strata Florida Abbey and its precincts with the aim of establishing the extent of the Cistercian abbey's outbuildings and its importance in the culture of the surrounding area. Dr. Gemma Besant, who has been very much involved with the project, answered many questions.

An innovation this year was a spinning and weaving workshop organised by the conservation officer Anne Wright. Fleeces, spun yarn and knitted and woven articles were on display to inspire the children and adults who crowded the room all day. Most tried their hand at spinning on both spindles and spinning wheel, having been shown how much strength is gained by giving even a slight twist to the wool by Alice Evans, a freelance designer who gives professional tuition in spinning and weaving. Pride of place was given to a half-size replica of an Iron Age loom. This had been specially made out of hazel wood by Mick Tobin after making a visit to the Iron Age village in Castell Henllys, Pembrokeshire, to see for himself how they were made. Pauline, his wife, demonstrated weaving on the loom. Anne was delighted when Mick said the museum could keep it for use with school parties. Other types of loom – peg, card and weighted – were demonstrated by Esmé Wagstaffe and were used to produce small pieces of work which could be taken away.

Archaeology Day was, as always, an enjoyable and educational day for the children lucky enough to have been given the opportunity to attend and museum staff is grateful to Esmé for arranging for Alice and Pauline to complement her own expertise.





Above: Alice Evans spinning
Opposite above: total absorption in The Dig
Opposite below: Esmé Wagstaffe shows Lizzie Lewis
how to use a card loom





Opposite: Pauline Tobin using the replica Iron Age loom
Left: the chainmail is too heavy to be worn by children
Below left: the furniture bought from the proceeds of our coffee mornings is ready for use by the youngest visitors
Below right: the Iron Age replica loom built by Mick Tobin from hazel wood, as used in Castell Henllys

