



Llanrwst and District Historical Society

Newsletter *Issue 9* January 2008

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Recent meetings

July: On Sunday, July 8th, a group of ten members enjoyed a visit to Dolwyddelan castle. It was a lovely sunny afternoon and on climbing to the top of the castle they enjoyed an unexpected recital of Welsh airs on a bagpipe played by Mr Gregory. The members were then shown around St Gwyddelwern's church by one of the parishioners.

The afternoon ended with a visit to the railway station which has been enhanced by hanging baskets, floral tubs and planted borders all done on a voluntary basis by a group of local people.

September: Owing to the unavoidable absence of our guest speaker, Mr Vivian Parry Williams we enjoyed a most interesting talk, illustrated with slides, by Mr David Jones, originally from Llanrwst, and son of the late Mr and Mrs Eddie Jones. His subject was the Welsh connection in the development of Radio, outlining the important part played by Welshmen such as David Hughes and William Prys as well as places like Waun fawr

October: Mr Wolley retired from his work as an architect and set up his Conservation practice the very next day, such was the extent of his interest. To look after any church building an architect has to make a detailed study of the building every five years and make a pictorial report for the lay committee. Mr Wolley explained why limestone and sandstone do not get on together. He was also in charge of the conservation work carried out on St Grwst Church about 6 years ago. The roof was in poor condition, the lead on the tower roof had suffered badly. This was major repair work which was all done in the traditional way. He also worked on the restoration of the almshouses which is now an excellent local museum. At Llanddaged church some re-roofing had been necessary. The photographs used to illustrate his talk were excellent and certainly helped his audience have a better understanding of the subject.

November: Mr Orig Williams was the guest speaker at our November meeting, and as usual was very interesting. He recounted events from his childhood in Ysbyty Ifan and then his adventures around the world boxing, wrestling, playing football and his time in a circus, to mention just a few of the interesting and hilarious anecdotes which he delivered in his own inimitable way.

December: On a wet and very blustery night, Mr Hywel Jones gave us a most illuminating and comprehensive talk on the 'Civil War in North Wales' with particular reference to the siege of Denbigh Castle, and the bloody battles around the town. We enjoyed excellent home-made mince pies, tea and chat afterwards.

Future meetings

- February:** Legends of the Conwy Valley Mr James Berry
- March:** Romans in the Conwy Valley Mr Arthur Pierce
- April:** AGM, followed by an entertaining evening with tea and biscuits
- May:** History of the Gwydir Forestry Commission Mr Gareth Jones

➤ *As our financial year now runs from September to August last year's subscription is valid until September 2008 and includes a free pass to the Almshouses for the period of the membership.*

The Historical Society has made a donation to the Almshouses to cover this cost.

Llanrwst Website

The Llanrwst website is now up and running and is being added to on a regular basis. As a Society we have contributed towards the costs and have also paid a subscription to advertise our Society meetings and our publications. We also put our newsletters online. The web address is:

www.llanrwst.net

Scotland Street book

The Scotland Street Book has all but sold out. We are now down to the last few copies. Having only launched it in June we have been amazed at the demand, not just from local people but from as far afield as Canada and Australia! Following this success demand grew for the Watling Street Book which had to be reprinted and is selling steadily. We must thank Kelvin for his stalwart efforts in selling the books in his shop.

Photographic Competition.

Mr Ken Bowden has organised a photographic competition for members with entry costing £1. The subject is to be of a historic nature, a building or part of a building or sign etc. in the town of Llanrwst. All entries have to be in by the March meeting at the latest. The entries will be judged by Mr Richard Hayward and winners announced at the AGM.

Society Banner

As a Society we put on several photographic exhibitions and attend different venues therefore we thought it a good idea to have a bilingual banner so that we can be recognised at events. This has now been purchased and will be on show at the next meeting.

Llanast Llanrwst

For our contribution to the activities of the 'Llanast Llanrwst' Pat Rowley and Pat Williams put up a photographic display of old shops and businesses in Berry Books' window. We are grateful to James Berry for giving us this space.

Conwy Voluntary Services Group

As our representatives on the Llanrwst website committee Pat Rowley and Pat Williams attended an open day organised by the CVSG at the Town Hall in Llandudno as the website had been financed in part under the small grants scheme.

Actions

- The cemetery of the old 'Capel Sentars' (Tabernacle) in Scotland Street has been cleared and the information on the gravestones recorded.
- A letter has been sent to the County Highways Department regarding the bridge and the recent damage caused by a very large lorry.

