



Llanrwst and District Historical Society

Society Newsletter *Issue 10 July 2008*

Recent Meetings

February: Mr James Berry opened the new year with his comprehensive talk on the legends of the Conwy Valley taking us down the river to the coast referring to legends such as Dylan Ail Don, Maelwn Gwynedd and the yellow fever, Moloch's altar in Glan Conwy, Dafydd ap Siencyn and the Afanc to name but a few. His enthusiasm and knowledge of his subject made for a very enjoyable evening.

March: Over eighty members and visitors attended the March meeting to listen to Mr Arthur Pierce, a member of the Society, giving his view of 'The Romans in the Conwy Valley' Mr Pierce began with background information on roads and forts in England before following the course of the invasion into north Wales. As a keen walker he had traced old pathways and roads high above the Conwy Valley and had taken many photographs of scars and mounds in the landscape and actual remains of paved roads with which he illustrated his talk.

April: Following the business part of the meeting Mr Pierino Algieri had us all enthralled with his audio video presentation. We were taken up mountains, around Bodnant garden, down to the beaches and onto the moors. The sunrises and sunsets were spectacular. For members who were unable to attend, especially our friends from other parts of the country Mr Algieri has an excellent website showing some of his magnificent pictures.

<http://www.algieri-images.co.uk/>

May: At the May meeting we were most fortunate that Mr Thomas Barrie Moore stepped in at the eleventh hour to give an excellent talk on the Gwydir Forest and forestry in general. He began by explaining the need for new forests of relatively quickly maturing trees following the felling of the deciduous forests during the First World War, describing in great detail the setting up of commissions across the country and each chain of command therein. He related many stories from his working life in many forests and at times had his audience in fits of laughter. His talk was given with such passion, with few notes, that it made the whole story of the forest come alive. No member of the audience will look at the forest around us in the same light again!

June: Mr Dic Jones our speaker at the June meeting enthralled us with his memories of his childhood in Llanrwst. Though he remembered hard times he had his audience laughing at some of the antics he had got up to and the tales of mischief and fun. As a teenager Dic left Llanrwst for the world of football, playing for many of the well known teams and with players who were household names. His claim to fame is that he was the only professional player to have played in every position on the field. There were many questions from the gentlemen about players and specific matches, many of which they had travelled to on a 'Moi Hughes' coach.

Future Meetings

- **September 3rd** Tudor Gwydir, aspects of its architecture and patronage. Peter Welford
- **October 1st** Robert Harris, local artist 1849-1919 Dr Llyr Gruffudd
Talk will be in Welsh with simultaneous translation
- **November 5th** 'I was There' Idris Evans
- **December 3rd** An evening of entertainment Triawd Llanrwst
Tea, coffee and mince pies will be served to add a festive flavour!

Please remember that your subscription for 2008/9 is due at the September meeting.

If you are unable to attend please renew your membership by calling at **Kelvin's shop** or send a cheque for £5 to the Treasurer, **Mrs Mary Marrow, Firs Cottage, Maenan, Llanrwst. LL26 0YR**

Donation to the Urdd

At the AGM the Chairman presented Mr Arwel Roberts, member of the local working committee for the Urdd National Eisteddfod being held in Conwy County, with a cheque for £500 towards the fund. The Society feels that the tradition and heritage of the eisteddfod are an integral part of our history and that it is so important to encourage youngsters to immerse themselves in that heritage.

Scholarship for the school

Again with young people in mind, at the AGM the Chairman announced the intention of the Society to set up a scholarship of £100 for a student at Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy who excels in history or a history related subject at A level. This scholarship would run for five years, helping five individual students on their way to further education.

Photographic Competition

Mr Pierino Algieri very kindly judged our photographic competition and gave some very good constructive criticism to all the entrants. The prizes were awarded as follows: 1st. Mr Richard Hayward, 2nd. Mr Terence Williams, 3rd. Miss Ceri Jones. It was heartening to see our junior members taking an active part in the competition and to see Ceri winning a prize. We thank Mr Ken Bowden for his stalwart effort in arranging it.

Scotland Street Book

Every copy of the Scotland Street book has now been sold!

Denbigh Street Book

The book group are very busy researching the history of Denbigh Street and are also collecting stories and photographs. If any member or anyone you know has any information you would like to share with us please contact Pat Williams, Pat Rowley or Kelvin Roberts (Dickinson's).

Actions

- Shaun Bastable a member of the Society is to paint the cemetery gates in Scotland Street.
- Work has now begun on demolishing the non-listed buildings of the old Grammar School. The site will then be developed, comprising of community housing for the elderly and other community-based facilities.
- Due to pressure from the Society the old National School has been tidied and the windows boarded up.
- The Watling Street School clock tower has been removed for renovation and will be put back up shortly.
- Luxury apartments are now being erected on the Victoria Hotel site.

