



**D**ear Subscriber,  
Welcome to our Newsletter which will bring you up to date with current developments, and tell you something about our plans for the future.

## **Bryntirion**

The Bryntirion interpretive panel of which we have been speaking for many months, has finally been installed on the wall bordering the site of the old workhouse. This has taken an exceptionally long time due to the requirements of the Council's planning department. When it was ready to go up, someone discovered what looked like Japanese knotweed growing out of the wall which delayed things a bit further, but the problem has been overcome. On the first day scheduled for the installation of the panel, there was another hold-up – it rained cats and dogs, making work quite impossible. However, it is up now and looks very impressive.

You can go and have a look at it in Swansea Road, Bryntirion Terrace.

<http://www.llanellich.org.uk/Panels/bryntirion-interpretive-panel.html>



## **Box Cemetery**

We are preparing two panels for the Llanelli Joint Burial Authority: one speaks of the general history of the Box since its inception in the 1850s, and the other picks out individuals buried here whose lives or deaths we think will be of interest to visitors and future historians.

Once again planning is holding things up a bit, but we hope these will be in situ early next year.

One of the most interesting, and possibly unique features of the Box, is that so many of the headstones carry not only the name of the deceased but his or her address as well. We assume that this was done because of the numbers of people in Wales who have the same names, both Christian and surname. (How many 'Huw Joneses' or 'David Williamses' do you know?) Having the deceased's address cut into the stone meant that mourning relatives and friends could be sure that they were remembering the right 'Jones' or 'Williams' in the right place.

## **Machynys Mound**

In conjunction with the Lost Communities Group, we are still working on an interpretive panel for the site of the demolished Machynys House and farm. Actually, 90% of the work is done, but we cannot go much further until we know precisely what Carmarthenshire County Council is planning for the site. The current proposal is for an "Eco-Park" at the back of the Pentre Nicklaus development, and in its current form appears to involve the destruction of the few remaining walls of the old mansion, and, inevitably, the trashing of any archaeological remains which may be buried under the soil.

Several groups and interested parties have made representations to the Council pointing out some of the disadvantages of their plan, but we do not yet know how it will turn out.

In the meantime, and coincidentally, Dyfed Archaeological Trust invited us to a training day which introduced their Arfordir (Coast) project and its objectives. The aim of the project is to show interested parties different recording methodologies and recording forms, ranging from just field observations to measured surveys. About ten of us gathered in the Fred Roberts room of the new Llanelli Library for the classroom part of the day for two hours on a Saturday morning in September. Menna Bell from Dyfed Archaeology gave us an overview of the kinds of coastal archaeology which should be monitored and recorded, all of which was very interesting.



Some of us were not too sure about doing the 'hands-on' part of the day, but since it wasn't raining, we did meet again in the afternoon for the practical session. Since Llanelli Community Heritage have an interest in the Machynys Mound, that was where we decided to start. No digging was involved, fortunately, but we did take detailed measurements, under Menna's expert direction. It involved measuring poles, and tape measures and precise pinpointing of our location, and lots of stumbling around in the long grass over uneven ground. Much of the afternoon was spent forging a way through brambles and the tangles

of ivy which cover the old walls. We now have an idea of how to take the first steps in surveying a site, and are looking forward to doing more of it when we can find the time, and when the weather is kind.

## John Chambers Plaque

No one needs reminding that the Olympic Games took place this summer. What not everyone knows is that Llanelli has a unique association with the Games. John Graham Chambers, who was born in Llanelly House was responsible for formulating rules for rowing and athletics which became part of the modern Games. The famous Marquess of Queensberry boxing rules are his too – the Marquess was a friend of his who put up the money for boxing prizes and so got his name into boxing history. The place in history of our man though, will be commemorated in a blue plaque which is to be put up on one of the walls of Llanelly House when it opens to the public next year.

<http://www.llanellich.org.uk/Events/the-olympics-dai-greene-and-chambers.html>

## Bus Tour of Llanelli

We had another successful tour in an open-top double-decker in September. Luckily the weather was dry, and the forty or so passengers enjoyed Lyn John's commentary of the various historical points of interest and blue plaques in and around the town.

We would like to do the tour again next year, but costs have gone up alarmingly and we may not be able to afford it.

<http://www.llanellich.org.uk/Events/bus-tour-september-2012.html>



## Blue Plaques in the Pipeline

Plaques for Francis Dunn, RN, and the Mormonite Chapel are ready but awaiting various permissions. The plaque commemorating the Mormonite Chapel of 1852 is to go on a plinth in the car park of the new Eastgate development. The developer, Henry Davidson Developments, has agreed to erect a plinth but we are waiting to be told where and when.

## Christmas Cards

Our Chairman, John Wynne Hopkins, has produced three new cards for Christmas 2012. <http://www.llanellich.org.uk/Misc/christmas-cards.html>

