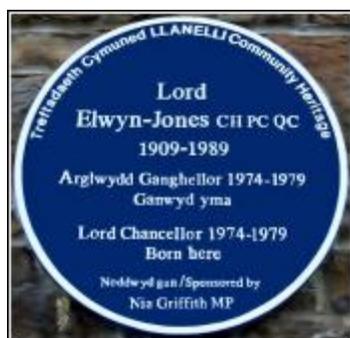




Dear Subscriber,
Welcome to Newsletter 006, December 2013 which will bring you up to date with current developments, and tell you something about our plans for the future.

Blue Plaque Unveilings

We have more than [47 blue plaques](#) in and around Llanelli, not all of which have been officially 'unveiled'. We have to wait for the right person to be available at the right time. In the last few months, we have been lucky and have been able to 'unveil' two of our plaques – one in honour of Lord Elwyn Jones and one in honour of Emmeline Pankhurst, both in their different ways champions of democracy and equality.



We were very pleased to have Lord Howard of Lympne aka Michael Howard, a Llanelli boy, to unveil the plaque to his friend and mentor, [Lord Elwyn Jones](#). We knew that Elwyn Jones had helped him early on in his career, but were not aware that in fact Michael Howard had been in his Inner Temple chambers for sixteen years and had a deep regard and respect for him. At the unveiling in September, Michael declared himself honoured and truly delighted to have been invited. Nia Griffith, Labour MP for Llanelli, sponsored the plaque, but on this occasion Labour and Conservative politics clearly did not come into it.

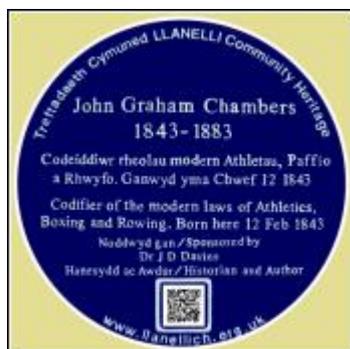
Thomas) commemorating the visit to Llanelli in 1912 of [Emmeline Pankhurst](#) – a leading light of the Suffragette Movement.

Towards the end of the month Nia Griffith, MP, was with us once again to unveil a plaque (sponsored by former AM, Catherine

Llanelly House

Llanelli Community Heritage was invited to attend the grand opening of [Llanelly House](#) at the end of October in recognition of the historical research work done by us.

After delays caused by the unexpected difficulties that often accompany a project of this complexity, it was a delight to see this fine mansion townhouse restored to its eighteenth century glory.



A Chinese porcelain dinner service decorated with the coat of arms of the Stepney family has pride of place in one of the panelled downstairs rooms. The rest of the house is not quite complete - educational and inter-active areas have yet to receive the final touches, but all will be accessible to the public with guided tours offered at a small charge.

(including LCH) in bringing the project to fruition.

Robert Pugh and J.C. Williams congratulated everybody concerned on behalf of the trustees. Claire Deacon of Carmarthenshire Heritage Regeneration Trust who oversaw the project and the all-important funding stream (amounting to over £6m. from various sources) acknowledged the invaluable work of the staff and researchers

There is a plaque associated with Llanelly House – that for [John Graham Chambers](#) who was a great sportsman and codifier of rules for rowing, athletics and, most famously, the Queensberry Rules for boxing. The plaque has been put up, but unfortunately in the wrong position - too high up to be

read easily and too high up for the QR code to be accessed. The builders have now been instructed to remove the plaque from its present position and place it at lower level.

Early Seventeenth Century Llanelly

There was a good turnout in November at the Metropolitan in John Street for a lecture by Stephen David on the subject of Llanelli at the time of the death of Elizabeth I. Llanelli is often thought of as a nineteenth century industrial town now fallen on hard times - the hard times bit is true, as it is for so many post-industrial centres in modern Britain, but Llanelli has a history which dates back much further than the reign of Queen Victoria.

Another monarch, James VI of Scotland who became James I of England in succession to Elizabeth I in 1603 as part of his new kingdom took over the rights and privileges of the Duchy of Lancaster. Fortunately for modern historians, a detailed review of the ducal possessions was undertaken and since Llanelli was part of that inheritance, we now have access to accurate information as to the number and size of landholdings, the costs of rent, the regularity of markets – all indicators of the kinds of life the people of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century were able to lead.

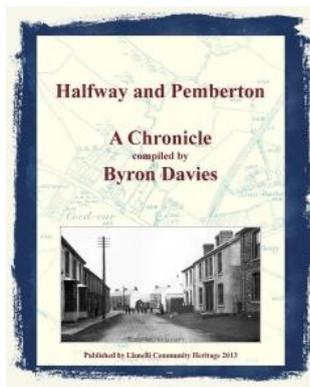
In Llanelli, Welsh men lived and owned property in the town (small though it was) in contrast to many other towns in Wales where town living and property ownership was restricted to English men. And the inhabitants were prosperous enough to support the services of a glover.

The mainstay of the economy, as elsewhere throughout Britain in this period, was agriculture, mostly subsistence with a little left over for the local market. Very small-scale coal mining, of the drift type, mostly supplied a local market, and there was little sign at this period of what was later to become the port of Llanelli from where coal and finished tinsplate products were shipped to the world.

Gelli Panel

Our current projects include an interpretive panel which is to be erected on the green space next to the [bus stop on Gelli Road B4297 opposite Trallwm Road](#). We have just received a grant via Llanelli Rural Council and are proceeding apace with the research work.

Our First eBook “Halfway and Pemberton – A Chronicle” by Byron Davies



We are pleased to announce our first publication offered as a free [download](#) from our website. The 90 page book is a fascinating account of *Halfway and Pemberton* with many photos, facts, maps and statistics, covering the best part of two hundred years of history.

“My family’s association with the communities of Halfway and Pemberton goes back to at least 1861. The census of that year records that my maternal great great-grandfather, Thomas Law, a miner, lived at Halfway with his wife, Jane, and their four children. He was born in the parish of Pembrey in 1819, a descendant of a Scottish mariner who either jumped ship or was shipwrecked on the treacherous sands of Cefn Sidan and came ashore at Pembrey; or so the family legend goes.”

Byron Davies

Many New Articles



See some of the new articles added to the website:

- [Trolley Bus Reminiscence](#)
- [Bevans Shipbuilding Yard](#)
- [Bryntirion and the Union Workhouse](#)
- [Llanelli in the 1860s](#)
- [St. David's Railway](#)
- [Thomas the Black Barber](#)