



Dear Subscriber,
Welcome to Newsletter 007, July 2014
which will bring you up to date with
current developments, and tell you
something about our plans for the future.

Blue Plaques

On an extremely cold, wet and windy January afternoon, Huw Edwards of BBC News fame and the president of our organisation braved the weather to unveil the plaque near the site of the **Ty'r Fran Tollgate** recording a violent event during the Rebecca Riots. The tollgate was taken away from the Felinfoel road and dumped in a nearby coal mine shaft.

On Friday, 22nd August at 2.30pm a blue plaque commemorating **James Dickson Innes** (1887-1914) will be unveiled. It has been in situ for some time, but it will now be officially unveiled by the Llanelli Art Society on the one hundredth anniversary of his death. The plaque is near the traffic lights on the north side of Murray Street. You are very welcome to attend.

Some of Innes' early work is on permanent display at Parc Howard, and there is an exhibition of his later work at the National Museum in Cardiff this summer.



We have a number of blue plaques 'under development': **Francis Dunn, R.N.** (lost in the Arctic on the ill-fated Franklin expedition to discover a north west passage); **Elim Chapel** (formerly 'Mormonite Church') demolished 1990s; Steadman **Davies** (martial arts master).

Panels

On a fine morning in May this year Councillor Pam Edwards unveiled the two latest interpretive panels set up in Llanelli's municipal cemetery, more familiarly known at the **Box Cemetery** ([click here for the website to find out why](#)). A small choir of boys and girls from Dafen School sang in celebration, and the ladies from the cemetery office provided delicious homemade cakes to accompany tea and coffee. We hope these panels will provide useful and interesting information for the children as they grow up and want to learn more about the lives, and deaths, of their forebears.

There is still a great deal of history unexplored at the Box so a third panel could be in the offing if funding becomes available.

Branching out beyond Llanelli proper, a new interpretive panel will shortly be erected at **Five Roads**. This was an easy one for us because the gentlemen of the Five Roads Community Project did most of the work. It's an interesting panel which charts the progress of a rural community from the earliest times, through the agricultural revolutions and two world wars to the present day.

The **Gelli interpretive panel** financed by a grant from the Rural Council covering the history of the Gelli area is now at proof stage so we can confidently expect it to be in place near the bus stop on Gelli Road (B4297 opposite Trallwm Road before Christmas.

Spreading the Word

John Wynne Hopkins, our chairman, and Lyn John, vice-chairman, have been continuing the good work of spreading their local historical knowledge among the societies of Llanelli. One of Lyn's most popular talks features old photographs of the town. Spurred on by Lyn's talks, people have searched for their own old pictures, and come up with reminiscences to match - all of which adds to LCH's stock of knowledge.



A fascinating, and some think controversial, talk on **Carnwyllion Castle** was given to members and guests in June. About ten years ago John and Lyn carried out excavations on the 'island' in Old Castle Pond (the clue is in the name) showing that a stratum of burnt timber overlays a packed clay foundation. This supports the theory that there was once a motte and bailey castle here which was destroyed, possibly during the course of uprisings by local lords against the Norman overlords.

Click here for the [website article](#).

St. Elli's

We had a field trip in June to **St. Elli's, Llanelli's Parish Church**. Not much of a 'field' since the impressive building is in the centre of town opposite historic Llanelly house. Alwyn Hurren, retired churchwarden, conducted a part of twenty around the church pointing out its unique features with the help of his wife, Brenda. This has been a place of worship for many centuries probably dating back to the dark ages. The tower (believed to be twelfth century) at the western end is the only truly ancient part of the building extant, the rest of it having been demolished and re-built in grand style in the early 1900s when there was money in Llanelli and devout parishioners prepared to spend it on beautifying their local church. If you are in Llanelli any time, do take a look at St. Elli, it's well worth a visit.



Llanelli Tours

We are delighted to note that Llanelly House is doing so well with its café/restaurant and house tours. The Civic Trust for Wales visited recently, and after they had been round the house, our Lyn John gave them the LCH tour around the centre of town. We hope to soon have our Town Trail officially designated and, if the funding is available, supported by interpretive panels at the Parish Church and the Town Hall. Don't hold your breath though – these things take time!