

No. LXXV

Winter  
2019/20

# the link

The  
**Lampeter**  
Society

Cymdeithas  
**Llambod**



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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of *The Link* was designed by Jill Sweet (JS Typesetting Ltd., Porthcawl) and printed by Kevin Evans at the College in Lampeter. Its distribution was managed by Gemma Russell, the UWTSO Alumni Officer.

### Cover images

#### Front

Some of those attending the Lampeter Society Reunion, 2019 – by Richard Haslam (1994)

#### Back – submitted by Dave Clare (1972)

*Top* - College Street, probably around the 1940s. Dave writes: "It looked very like this still when I was at SDUC, 1968–72. The alley on the right led to the open-air livestock market. I used to walk through there daily to come to the refectory for breakfast from my digs. The old post office is on the right."

*Middle* – Harford Square, c.1970

*Bottom* – Harford Square, c.1970 from the opposite direction

### Explicanda

1. Throughout, dates in brackets after names indicate years of graduation.

2. In addition to its plural sense, the pronoun 'they' is used throughout "to refer to a person of unspecified sex" rather than 'he or she' and similar forms. Even though not universally accepted, this usage dates back to "at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century". Then, in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, it again became common "as the traditional use of 'he' to refer to a person of either sex came under scrutiny on the grounds of sexism." (*Oxford Dictionary of English*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, revised, 2005, p.1832). Moreover, it seems to be a usage that befits the current gender-sensitive times.

### Addendum

The person in the image on the back cover of issue LXXIV (Summer, 2019) could be Bob McCloy (1956), the former Chair of the Lampeter Society. Can anyone confirm this or posit an alternative?

## EDITORIAL

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Welcome to this Winter issue of *The Link* – my penultimate as editor. I shall be stepping down from this voluntary post next Summer. However, we are delighted to announce that Brendan McSharry (graduated 1971) will be working with the editorial team on the Summer, 2020 issue and then take over as Editor for the Winter, 2020–21 edition. His illustrious career as a Civil Servant and then at a very senior level in cultural relations, education and training for the British Council, means that *The Link* will be in a safe pair of hands. This long-established way of linking graduates of all ages will thus be able to continue to keep them informed of current University achievements and activities, as well as looking back to past glories and forward to future events.

During my tenure of the post, a key editorial policy of the team has been the importance of balance. We feel that *The Link* should meet the needs of the diverse age range of its readership, with items that reflect the interests of those who graduated 60 or more years ago all the way through to those who did so very recently. Hence, a sense of looking backwards with the rosy glow of nostalgia is complemented by items that celebrate the present and inform about the future. We always welcome comments about the extent to which we manage to implement this policy and how we could improve our efforts.

A new focus in this issue is on academic research, publications etc. Do let us know what you think of this development.

# THE LAMPETER SOCIETY, 2018

## LOGO COMPETITION

The Business Committee would like to give their grateful thanks to Alan Foster (1966) and Katherine Black [Kat Black Creations] (2000) for their submissions. Katherine was judged the winner by a small majority of those members attending the 2018 Reunion and she has since been awarded a prize of a traditional, crested, cup and saucer. Nonetheless, the Committee has since decided that no logo is required for the Lampeter Society.

Victoria Welsby (2004)

# THE LAMPETER SOCIETY, 2019

## ANNUAL REPORT

Adrian Gaunt, who has been editing *The Link* for nearly four years, is stepping down as Editor. I'm sure everyone will agree that Adrian has done a wonderful job. We are, though, also looking forward to seeing how the new Editor, Brendan McSharry, will develop the magazine when he takes over next Summer.

It was wonderful to see so many people at our annual Reunion last Summer – many first-timers as well as lots of familiar faces. It was great chatting with all the Society members; I always feel a bond with everyone who studied at Lampeter. The Committee has worked hard to refresh our Annual Reunion so I do hope those of you who attended enjoyed the weekend. Plans are well under way for the 2020 Reunion, more of which you can read about on p. 7 of this edition.

Earlier this year I had the great pleasure of introducing the Annual Lampeter Society Lecture, an annual event funded by the Lampeter Society. It was one of a series of events at the University celebrating International Women's Day and was delivered by Barbara Wilding, former Chief Constable of the South Wales Police. Barbara spoke passionately about her commitment to gender equality within the Police Force and was very open about her own challenges which she overcame to reach the very top

ranks within the Police. Barbara very kindly waived her fee and we made a donation to her chosen charity, National Crimebeat, a Youth Crime Prevention charity. Details of the 2020 lecture can be found on p. 6.

This year, too, the Lampeter Society made donations of £1000 to the Chapel and £500 to the Library, for which we also bought the first four volumes of the Oxford edition of John Donne's sermons. Peter Mitchell, Senior Lecturer in Early Modern English Literature, gave a very informative and standing room only talk on the poet during the Reunion, where those attending could view the four editions we funded, as well as other works of Donne found in the archives.

Throughout the year, there have been several smaller reunions taking place across the UK, including the Annual Dinner in London, which had record numbers attending, and the more recent reunion in Cardiff, which was also well attended. Reports on many of these events can be found on pp. 25–26.

In the Summer, I had the pleasure of attending Graduation and welcoming graduates into the Lampeter Society. During the day, I spoke to the Vice Chancellor who reiterated to me his commitment to the Lampeter campus. In his address to graduates,

he referred to it several times as the 'heart' of the University.

The University at Lampeter has made changes, some of which may be controversial, but I believe it has to diversify in order to keep abreast of external pressures. I feel positive about the future. Indeed, at the 2019 AGM we launched two projects which we feel are a fitting way to look forward and plan for our celebrations to celebrate the University's bicentenary in 2022. You can read more about the '200 Lampeter Voices' and the '200 Schools' projects on p. 19 of this edition. Both have made a good start and I look forward to continuing working on them in 2020. Thank you to everyone who has supported them so far.

Considering the relatively small size of the University, the Lampeter Society is quite active and well-supported. The love that we all share for the place is evident. I would like to formally thank the members of the Lampeter Society Business Committee for their hard work and support this year, in particular the Vice-Chair, Chris Deacy; the Secretary, Victoria Welsby; the Treasurer, Andrew Leach; and *The Link* Editor and Deputy Editor, Adrian Gaunt and Peter Bosley respectively.

We look forward to another busy year supporting the Lampeter campus

and being a focal point for Lampeter alumni worldwide! Thank you for all your support and I look forward to seeing you at the Summer Reunion, a local reunion or working with you on one of our many projects throughout 2020.

**Esther Weller (1999)**

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lampeter Society held on Saturday, 20 July, 2019, in the Cliff Tucker Theatre at 11.15 am.**

PRESENT: Mark Arnold, Peter Bosley, Paul Caswell, Rosemary Davies, Chris Deacy, Gail Dean, Hannah Epicheff, Kyle Erickson, Frances (Pushka) Evans, Mike (Barley) Evans, Alan Fairhurst, Christine Fairhurst, Jason Fawkes, Anthea Foy, Malcolm Foy, Kevin Gilbride, Richard Haslam, Owen E. Jeffery, Owen Louis Jeffery, Andrew Leach, Caroline Lewis, Margaret McCloy, Robert McCloy, Brendan McSharry, Kevin McSharry, Eamonn Moloney, John Pascoe, Geoffrey Peek, Bernard Pile, Mike Rickard, Rob Rosset, Duncan Rothwell, Gemma Russell (UWTSD), Ed Simons, Jeremy Smith (UWTSD), Carleton (Rees) Tarr, Gary Walling, Martine Mary Waltho, John Ward, Esther Weller, Victoria Welsby

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Bill Fillery, Adrian Gaunt, Gavin Hughes, John Morrison-Wells

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM, 14 JULY, 2018:  
Agreed with no changes.

MATTERS ARISING:  
No matters arising.

CHAIR'S REPORT – ESTHER WELLER  
(see item above entitled *Annual Report*)

LAUNCH OF THE '200 LAMPETER VOICES' PROJECT – CHRIS DEACY  
Chris gave a brief outline of his current Nostalgia Project, in which

he has already interviewed some Lampeter alumni including Canon William Price, former Lecturer in History from 1970 to 1997 and author of the definitive history of the College (around three-quarters of this item was spent discussing Lampeter).

The '200 Lampeter Voices' project is in a similar vein. The aim is to have interviewed 200 Lampeter alumni by 2022. Interviews would be focused on people and memories of time spent at Lampeter to mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of the College. Contributions can be made either by means of a one-to-one interview or by other methods. Anyone interested in taking part/ volunteering to be an interviewer should contact Chris Deacy or Esther Weller. Esther (Chair) has spoken with the Library about having them take place there.

Question: Will there be a formal structure to the questions or will it be more informal?

Response: Both, as some people struggle with which questions to ask as an interviewer and rigid question formats are not for everyone. There will be a set question format for those that prefer to contribute in writing rather than by interview.

### LAUNCH OF '200 SCHOOLS PROJECT' – ESTHER WELLER

Everyone who attended the Reunion has been given a blue box which is part of the marketing material sent out to schools; each one turns into a pair of Virtual Reality (VR) glasses. The aim of this project is to increase recruitment by visiting 200 schools by 2022. The proposal is for Lampeter alumni to visit their local schools to speak about their 'University experience', particularly at Lampeter.

The University courses currently on offer may be different than those available in previous years but the experience is very similar. Delegates were given a demonstration of how to assemble the boxes and use them with a smart phone to get a 3-D tour of the Lampeter campus.

If anyone is interested in taking part, please contact Esther or a member of the Business Committee.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT – ANDREW LEACH

The financial year ends on 31 July, so figures are not yet complete for the year.

The Reunion total is posted under the Expenses and Expenditure column – it was noted that a query has been raised with the Swansea office to investigate the figures for the 2018 Reunion.

Expenditure – as well as the normal annual grants etc., money was also contributed to the University rugby tour and four books were bought for the Library.

Finance has been moved from Carmarthen to Swansea. Several years ago, it was decided that the Committee's finances would go through the University. Now that the move has taken place, it has been decided to re-activate the Lloyds bank account with members of the Committee having signing authority. Three signatories have been set up and payments need to be authorised by a minimum of two signatures. This will be for more day-to-day use and will take some of the pressure off Swansea.

We are also trying to increase the profile of the Business Committee and increase the number of annual donations. A leaflet has been produced saying what we do along with a donation form on the back.

Question: Is there any interest on the Lloyds account?

Response: No interest on anything. Can be discussed further by the Business Committee.

Question: Can you give Gift Aid on donations?

Response: It is not possible to donate Gift Aid through the University. It was discussed at Committee level about being a charity, but it was decided not to become one because of the amount of work involved.

Question: Why have travel and expenses increased by 50% from last year?

Response: Change in Committee members so also of locations where members are travelling from for meetings.

#### *THE LINK – PETER BOSLEY*

Adrian Gaunt is stepping down as Editor so we are looking for volunteers to join the editorial team, with a view to eventually taking over as Editor. If anyone is interested in getting involved, contact a member of the Business Committee. *[As mentioned in the Editorial on p. 1, we are delighted to announce that Brendan McSharry will be taking over as Editor with effect from the Summer of 2020 – Ed.]*

1,500 copies of *The Link* are currently printed. Gemma (Alumni Officer) sends out 900 copies to contacts on her database and then spare copies are sent out through the year on request.

Question: In an instance in which a couple attended Lampeter, can just one copy of *The Link* be sent out?

Response: This will need to be raised with Gemma.

#### *UPDATE ON UWTSO – DR JEREMY SMITH*

Thank you for all the support for the faculty and campus and thanks for the two initiatives being launched. Nothing sells Lampeter better than alumni!

The VR glasses were conceived at last year's AGM as there were a lot of questions on Marketing and this was one of the ideas that came from that. Lampeter is difficult to promote as it has a low profile which needs to be raised. This is a way to bring Lampeter to the students. If we can get people to visit the campus they fall in love with the place, so every applicant/enquirer is sent a set. Conversion rates are very high for those that attend open days; the difficulty is getting students here as there are no trains and access by road isn't the quickest. We have currently received 600 applications for September. This idea will be developed and updated but so far we think it is working, as this time last year (before we started using them) we only had 70 confirmed applicants before clearing whereas it is currently 90.

It's been a difficult year – not just the low intake in September. To be sustainable as a faculty we need 100 undergraduates minimum per year through UCAS. Those who apply through other methods take that up to 300 plus, which is sustainable. We have high post-graduate numbers – up to 480 students undertaking distance learning and 70–80 research postgraduates. If we can continue that figure we can sustain ourselves through this difficult time.

The other significant issue has been the restructuring of the whole University and not just this faculty, in which we have lost ten academic staff. I must stress that we are not the only University experiencing this. Indeed, most, apart from Oxbridge, are going through similar changes and cuts including Reading, Cardiff, Bangor, Aberystwyth, Gloucestershire and Hull.

The UK Higher Education sector is in a very difficult position due in part to the demographic dip. There are fewer 18-year-olds and with the cap being lifted on the number of students larger universities can take, they are no longer limited to how many they can recruit.

Lampeter used to always benefit from Clearing but we don't attract as many students this way as previously because of the lifting of the cap.

Also, STEM [*Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths – Ed.*] subjects are a priority for government funding and support whereas Lampeter is built on the Humanities. Moreover, students elsewhere tend to be in part-time work as well as studying.

All of the above challenges taken together mean that it is difficult for Lampeter to compete.

It's a gloomy picture for the sector but we just need to ride through this storm. Lampeter is doing ok. Conversion rates have increased and postgraduate numbers have gone up, possibly as postgraduate fees are lower than those for undergraduates since most courses tend to be part-time. Online learning has been repackaged for all postgraduate distance learning.

There is now a video room where lectures can be uploaded. Also, we now offer a Professional Doctorate (1 year taught, 2 years in the field), currently offered in Theology as well as English and Linguistics.

Teaching levels at Lampeter are second to none, thanks in part to the block teaching system that was introduced. This was the first year using it and preliminary analysis shows the majority of feedback is positive with very few negatives. Attendance levels were around 90% and results improved by 4%. With this system students get 48 hours of contact a week with a tutor per module, which in comparison with other universities is a high level, so students are getting good value for money.

Question: Are these statistics being used in marketing?

Response: We need to get this information out there. There is a short video on YouTube on the block teaching system. Unfortunately, we don't have the same resources as bigger universities so we have to do targeted marketing. The front page of UCAS website had a picture of the Lampeter campus for one week.

Question: I notice we now offer Health and Well-being courses. Also, for financial reasons, parents play a lot more of a decision-making role regarding the University their children attend. Are parents being targeted based on what they get for their money?

Response: The University has to appeal to both students and parents. A comparison table has been produced on costs of accommodation etc. and Lampeter wins on this hands down. Student support and welfare is a high priority for us. We push that as well as the safety of students.

The University is looking to develop a different approach to the Humanities so that they include Health, Well-being, Coaching and Child Studies. These subjects are all more orientated towards employment. There is a need to stretch Humanities and make the subjects we offer more employment-focused.

Comment from Chair: Esther thanked Jeremy for the statement he put out on Social Media following negative reports.

Response: If a lot of criticism and negativity is seen online, there is a potential risk of off-putting potential students. We are committed to keeping Lampeter alive as a University.

Question: Now that there are two Further Education Colleges as part of the faculty, why are not busloads of students brought to Lampeter and persuaded to apply?

Response: Health Counselling and Child Studies will be starting at FE level on the campus.

Question: Can you clarify the relationship with the Academy of Sinology.

Response: We are not looking to cut down on undergraduates; numbers are stabilising at 300. The Academy is growing; it has brought richness to the campus and the University. Before deciding on Lampeter, the Foundation were in talks with Cambridge and Durham. The Foundation are happy here and like the campus and its history. More integration is needed both with the Foundation and with Chinese students.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There were no submissions for roles. All four current officers happy to remain in post and were re-elected:

Chair – Esther Weller  
Vice-Chair – Chris Deacy  
Secretary – Victoria Welsby  
Treasurer – Andrew Leach

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sports Pavilion: A question was raised over whether there was an update on what was happening. The Business Committee did not have any information at that time but will make enquiries [see item in News, p. 17 – Ed.]

Alumni Office: It has launched donations for Scholarships and Bursaries for which students can apply. More information can be found on the University website and donations are able to attract Gift Aid. However, the Society has expressed

concern that the request for donations duplicates the Society's request for donations and discussion is ongoing.

200-year Anniversary: A question was asked regarding if there are any other plans than the two projects launched today. We are looking to invite Prince Charles to the Reunion dinner and investigating the possibility of having a Commemoration Service in St David's Cathedral.

DATE OF NEXT AGM: SATURDAY,  
18 JULY, 2020

**Victoria Welsby (2004)**

## REFLECTIONS – ANNUAL REUNION

I knew I would be amongst friends, but I still arrived in Lampeter in July with a hint of trepidation. It was raining at least, so it felt very familiar. I eased myself in gently – a drive through the town to Aberaeron – before arriving in OB. I needn't have worried; I felt immediately at home. A drink with an old friend in an odd pub (sadly without any local beer), and then a bit of calm and reflection in Chapel set me up. With the Venerable Dorrien Davies presiding, we gave thanks in anticipation for the chance to meet and reminisce.

More friends arrived, so naturally we headed over to the Union (new Union to me), for burgers and beer (not local), and then the best quiz ever. Absolutely side-splittingly funny – helped by the sound system, and subsequent sound bites. You had to be there. Our team won, but we were numerous by then, and greatly assisted by local expertise. Lots more chat and to bed not too early.

A short run (shuffle) around the campus before Saturday breakfast revealed some shabbiness at the peripheries; some new buildings; trees rather larger than in the 1970s/80s; some new planting; some change of land use – fewer sports pitches; a smarter sports hall; smarter Canterbury. It was terrific to be in the Refec again, with a bunch of great friends with whom I shared many

a breakfast in the same place, many years before.

Then to Conti's – not quite as I remembered it, but very conducive for more chat, together with amazing ice creams and countless coffee choices. We moved on to another odd pub (no local beer) to meet Mike Walker – one of our fabulous and inspiring tutors. A very happy couple of hours, sharing and reminiscing, with plenty of photos. We hadn't changed a bit (well Mike hadn't).

Strawberry tea was very welcome, along with a sneaky peek into the Founders' Library, then a wander into the old Union building (the real Union building as far as I was concerned), and previously unseen subterranean passages.

After group photos and Dinner, we retired once more to the Union (still no local beer), deserted apart from three of us propping up the bar. More friends arrived from dining in town, and an apparently excellent harp and West African kora concert. A bit of nobbling of the DJ produced music we could dance (?) to. Gloria Gaynor "I will survive" has never sounded so good, and is now downloaded to my phone.

On Sunday morning I enjoyed a bit of quiet time, wandering and sitting about the campus. It was becoming sunny. I was becoming emotional, thinking of two adorable Andrews – Andy Lawson (?1983 and commemorated in the new Union building) and Andrew (Pilsbury) Walker (1984) who loved the place and died in Lampeter. Then all too soon, farewells and journeys home, my mind still overflowing with ancient, persistent, tantalising memories.

The weekend was memorable, enjoyable, and surreal. Poignant, heart-rending, and heart-warming. Fun, and often hilarious. Familiar – in fact I just felt completely at home. The Reunion was immensely rewarding in so many ways. We'd altered only physically (waist lines, hair, wrinkles, glasses); our characters thankfully intact. I feel so incredibly blessed to have been at SDUC at the time I was,

with the people I knew. It and they touch me immensely still.

**Lyn Fisher [née Rudler] (1982)**

It is the end of November, and I am in Switzerland, a far cry from Friday, 19 July, and beautiful Lampeter, but my recollections are strong.

I was happy to be roped in to help with welcoming and registration in the Cloisters that afternoon, after which the first main event was 'Reminiscing' at 5.30pm in the Founders' Library. Nearly everyone had an interesting story to tell. It was well-chaired by Chris Deacy. Personally, I feel very little nostalgia for Lampeter. I love the place, of course, but I am glad I am not the person I was when I arrived in October, 1968. I am grateful to Lampeter for giving me the opportunities I have had, but I don't want those days back. The past, however, is not a foreign country and is useful in that it provides us with links to the present and to the future.

The next item was the 7pm "BBQ, pub quiz and launch of the Annual Great Lampeter Treasure Hunt". Congratulations to Esther for organising activities which really bring people together. Belated apologies from me to my team mates for my poor contributions during the quiz, but I was concentrating on my beer.

The following morning, at 9.15, there was a superb organ recital,

given in the chapel by the Rt Rev Dr Richard Fenwick (Lampeter 1966, 1986, 1995), the former Bishop of St Helena, who delighted us with some fine pieces by JS Bach, John Bull, and others. He was also the preacher at the 10am Lampeter Society Annual Commemoration Service, which was followed by tea and biscuits in the Cloisters.

I have to confess that I have a decidedly sketchy memory of the Lampeter Society AGM at 11.15. I can remember that it was well-chaired, and I do feel that it's absolutely necessary to hear about what is happening in the Society and in the University. To me, this is an opportunity for us to be informed, but the place (Cliff Tucker Lecture Theatre) and the time (just before lunch) are not very conducive to the exchanging of ideas.

As no croquet hoops or bows and arrows were available, the Lampeter Intergenerational Games had to be cancelled, or maybe postponed till 2020, but at 3pm we had an interesting short talk on John Donne given by Dr Peter Mitchell in the Roderick Bowen Library. This was followed by the Strawberry Tea in the Cloisters of OB, after which we had the Group Photo at 6.45 on the steps near the Library.

One of the most popular events is always the pre-dinner drinks reception (7pm) – outside or inside Lloyd

Thomas Dining Hall, depending on the weather. Having bought relatively few raffle tickets, I was almost embarrassed at how many bottles I won and I wondered how depleted the Lampeter Society funds were getting. If I'd been embarrassed enough, I would have put one back.

The guest speaker at the ensuing Reunion Dinner was Edmund Simons (Archaeology and Classics, 1990). He reported how he was currently developing a whaling station in South Georgia and gave us a colourful talk. That evening, many of us spent some pleasant hours in the Students' Union, the details of which escape me at this very moment. I do remember noticing, however, that a great time was had by all!

The following morning, unfortunately, I had to be off soon after breakfast. I do, though, want to thank Esther very, very much for her extremely hard work and devotion to the Lampeter Society in organising such a successful Reunion weekend. Thank you too to everyone who helped make this reunion so enjoyable! I heard so many people say how much they loved not only seeing contemporaries but also meeting and mixing with all other generations of alumni. Many, many thanks, too, to all members of the Committee for all that they do throughout the year.

**Geoffrey Peek (1972)**

## THE LAMPETER SOCIETY, 2020

### ANNUAL FUNDED LECTURE – 3 MARCH

'Wales and Second World War: poets, painters, pacifists and my parents' – a talk by Emeritus Professor of Poetry at University of South Wales and Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, **Professor Tony Curtis**

**Tuesday, 3 March, 2020, 5.30pm**  
**Founders' Library, UWTSU, Lampeter**

**All welcome – the event is free to attend**



Professor Tony Curtis will be giving the 2020 Lampeter Society Lecture in commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. His talk will follow the chronology of his parents' war service – the Royal Artillery and the Women's Land Army – beginning in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire, and the experiences of their contemporaries in Wales and beyond, at war and on the home front – including the work of Dylan Thomas, Vernon Watkins, Raymond Williams, Ceri Richards, Glyn Jones, John Tripp, Alun Lewis, Ray Howard Jones, Dannie Abse, Wynford Vaughan Thomas, Raymond Garlick and David Lloyd George.

It will be a fully illustrated 'Powerpoint' talk with extracts from Tony's anthologies, *After the First Death* and *Wales At War*, both published by Seren. With photographs and paintings, poems, fiction and first-hand accounts, this is a fitting focus for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of hostilities.

**You can confirm your attendance and ask any related questions by emailing Dr Matthew Cobb at: [m.cobb@uwtsd.ac.uk](mailto:m.cobb@uwtsd.ac.uk)**

**Esther Weller (1999)**

## REUNION – 17–19 JULY



Plans are well under way for the Lampeter Society 2020 reunion! We're excited to announce that our headline act for the Friday evening will be the renowned Brummie comedian and Lampeter's very own 1994 graduate, Andy White – his unique take on Lampeter life is definitely not be missed!

*Andy White is an energetic, confident and silly Brummie who combines silly voices and a mad afro to devastating comic effect. Andy has numerous media appearances, including the 'BBC New Comedy Awards' on BBC Choice, 'Brand Spanking New' on BBC Radio 7 and his winning performance on the 'Weakest Link comedian's special'! His appearance on the BBC quiz show featured in his five star (\*\*\*\*\*) *Three Weeks* Edinburgh show, 'It Started With A Quiz' in 2007. This followed on from his well-received one man show at the 2005 Leicester Comedy Festival: 'Young, Gifted and Beige.'*

**([www.thecomedyagency.co.uk](http://www.thecomedyagency.co.uk))**

Along with the regular Friday night pub quiz and a return to a more formal (but not as formal as the Saturday night dinner!) evening meal, the Friday evening will kick the weekend off to a great start!

The preacher at our Saturday morning Commemoration Service will be Archdeacon of St. Davids, The Venerable Paul Mackness (1996).

The Treasure Hunt and Intergenerational Games are taking a break this year but we have some exciting activities in their place. On Saturday afternoon, we will be setting up a recording studio for alumni to record their interviews for the '200 Lampeter Voices' project (for more information, see the article on p. 19). Alongside this, we will be setting up a games room in the Students' Union where you can challenge fellow alumni to a game of Monopoly, Jenga or Pictionary – or even stage your own unofficial intergenerational games tournament over the pool table!

Our guest speaker at the Reunion dinner this year will be the writer and broadcaster, Ian Marchant. Ian has written and broadcast on a number of subjects, including the history of the British railway system,

an investigation into the recycling we send overseas, and the history of barbed wire. Ian studied Philosophy at SDUC in the late 1970s. [You can read his autobiographical note on p. 24 – Ed.]

Sunday morning will feature an informal discussion in the Founders' Library with one of Lampeter's leading luminaries! Keep your eyes on social media and on the next edition of *The Link* to discover their identity.

As always, you are free to take part in as much or as little as you would like. If you are celebrating a significant milestone since graduation, a regular attendee or attending for the first time, don't miss this wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends and re-live those Lampeter years!

As last year, the University has developed an online booking system in order to reduce paper and speed up the booking process; we would encourage you to use this to book your place(s). The electronic link for it is now available in the Lampeter Society section of the UWTSd website, under 'Events and Reunions'; if you would like me to email it to you, please let me know ([estherb16@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:estherb16@yahoo.co.uk)). However, the paper booking forms are still available and if you would prefer to use these, please complete them (on pp. iii-iv of this issue) and return them to 'Lampeter Reception' at the University.

We look forward to seeing you in Lampeter in July!

We have more dates for your diary though! The 2021 Reunion will be held in Lampeter from 23–25 July and the all-important 2022 one will be from 22–25 July. That will be a special four-day event to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the College and the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lampeter Society! Both the University and the Society are currently looking at appropriate commemorative events – see the item on p. 11 for ideas received so far!

**Esther Weller (1999)**

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## From David Blackwell (1972)

Since leaving my revered *alma mater*, I can count on the fingers of one hand the number of times St David's College, Lampeter, has cropped up in media of any kind. But those rare occasions have always shown the College in a positive light – I especially remember the 2017 obituary in *The Daily Telegraph* on Tony Bianchi, the Welsh novelist and one of my contemporaries, and Pamela Petro's 1997 account of touring the world speaking Welsh, *Travels in an Old Tongue*.

This year (2019) I read with much enjoyment *The Professor & The Parson* by Adam Sisman, a story of desire, deceit and defrocking, relating the extraordinary life of one Robert Peters. For reasons of space I shall stick to quoting the flyleaf, which describes Peters as “one of England's most eccentric conmen, a serial seducer, a fraud, a bigamist – and possibly the last Anglican clergyman to be formally defrocked.” He lacked any qualifications, but obtained teaching posts around the world despite being repeatedly dismissed and deported from country after country. He always bounced back, “leaving a trail of destruction that included at least eight marriages, three prison sentences, an investigation by the FBI and a disastrous appearance on *Mastermind*.”

All highly entertaining, but my amusement came to an abrupt halt a few pages from the end when I found that one of the last Colleges set up by Peters (by now a self-styled bishop) in a bungalow near Kettering in 2005 had had its courses “validated by the University of Wales, Lampeter, an institution which would be criticised for laxness.”

The footnote reads thus: “Lampeter lost its separate identity in 2009, when it merged with another constituent body of the University of Wales. A Quality Assurance Agency report

in 2007 had warned of ‘limited confidence’ in its management and ability to ensure academic standards.”

Ouch! But a few days after finishing the book, *The Link* dropped through my letter box with stop press news that Trinity St David had moved up from 86 to 57 out of 121 in *The Guardian University Guide 2020*. It's good to see the old place is moving in the right direction again.

## From Peter Bosley (1967; 1977)

Early in 2019, I came across an interesting review. It was of a book by Ian Marchant entitled *A Hero for High Times: a younger reader's guide to the Beats, Hippies, Freaks, Punks, Ravers, New Age travellers and dog on a rope brew crew crusties of the British Isles, 1956 to 1994*. Now, I'm sure you would all agree that this doesn't sound like my normal reading but I worked through the enthusiastic review and discovered that Ian Marchant had been to Lampeter! Indeed, he is described as a Philosophy graduate.

Interest provoked, I looked further and found a list of books he had written including *Parallel Lines, or journeys on the railways of dreams*. The blurb on the front (I immediately bought a copy on Amazon) from *The Times* describes it as “part Bill Bryson, part Nick Hornby, part memoir and part pastiche.....wonderfully funny”.

I'm only half-way through (very rapidly completed) but I can really strenuously recommend it. It takes the reader from a childhood in Newhaven and thence to Lampeter – the only University that would take him without “O”-level French (sounds familiar as some of you will recall). He says later that he was too stoned during his time in Lampeter to get his degree. However, he fell into railway enthusiasm and, thus far through the book at least, writes of railway journeys in Wales and elsewhere with an amazingly perceptive and acute series of observations. Really

good, very funny – and for a railway enthusiast like me, utterly enjoyable.

Give it a go!

[Note: Ian Marchant will be the speaker at this year's Reunion dinner – see his autobiographical note on p. 24 – Ed.]

## From Roger Brown (1963)

The photograph of the library on the back cover was used on a brochure about the College in the 1950s, but what is interesting is that the balcony placed on top of the bookcases, to give access to the bookshelves, isn't there. One wonders about health and safety in those days! It also indicates how many of the antiquarian books were on open shelves. I remember to my amazement finding a copy an early 15th century work with the signature ‘T.Cant’ on the flyleaf (Thomas Cranmer).

## From Pedr Fawkes (via Facebook)

I am delighted to have just received the Summer, 2019, edition of *The Link* which I have read from cover to cover. It is lovely to be kept in touch with Lampeter goings-on.

I should just like to express my slight concern that the postage cost to send it to me here in Thailand was £5.05, not including the cost of printing the magazine. I wonder if in this day and age, most Lampeter grads wouldn't be just as happy to read an electronic version sent to email addresses and the money saved donated to efforts to save the most amazing University in Wales and in Britain. I don't want to tread on anyone's toes and, as I said, I was delighted to receive my copy...just saying.

## From Shan Harmony

Is there anyone out there who was around in the Autumn Term, 1967? That was the limit of my time at the College but it would be good to be in

touch with anyone else who was there then. I currently live in Lampeter, incidentally. My email address is [shanharmony@aol.com](mailto:shanharmony@aol.com)

## From John Morgan-Guy (1965; 1984; 2009)

May I make a few observations on the latest issue of *The Link*?

1. John Loaring's purchase of the print on the front cover. This is far from uncommon; the University Archives hold several copies of this, and of its companion piece, the interior of the chapel looking towards the organ gallery. Indeed, the Archive holds a very extensive photographic collection concerning the College, its life and its buildings. The items have been catalogued, and the catalogue in outline is readily and freely accessible online. Hence any query that alumni come up with regarding illustrations (such as regarding provenance and/or dating) can be answered by reference to this or to the archivist, Nicky Hammond. I am a little surprised that so many of the alumni and members of the Lampeter Society seem unaware of the extent and nature of our holdings, which date back to Student No.1 in 1827. *The Link* could do a major service in publicising the **very existence** of our holdings to its readers! [*Done herewith!* – and see *John's note on p. 18 – Ed.*]
2. Regarding Paul Hamlet's suggestion on p.6 of exhibitions, this is already in hand, here in the Roderic Bowen Library and Archives.
3. 2022 celebrations. Your editorial suggestions (p. 8) are valuable, but perhaps don't take into account our recent research into the beginnings of the College. Although the concept was that of Bishop Burgess – and he initiated the first appeal for funds (largely among his clergy) – the matter had really run out of steam by the early 1820s, and he had almost given up on it. It was really John Scandrett Harford and John Jones of Derry Ormond who revived it, using their business and banking contacts, mainly in England. We are currently tracing our original backers. Burgess more or less lost interest in the College

after he was translated to Salisbury – he had gone before the College opened – and the real founder, if such he can be called – was Harford. A publication for 1822 on the College's founders, benefactors and financial supporters would be a very suitable commemoration, and help set the record straight. [*Thank you, that's most helpful – Ed.*]

4. Founders of the Boar's Head Club (p.14). Of these, I know that Mike Hodgkiss – known to his friends for some now incomprehensible reason as "Hitchpost" – is very much alive, and living in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

5. I would take issue with John Loaring's assessment of the late Donald Jones's lectures. They were meticulously prepared, accessible and well-ordered, delivered with authority, and occasional (very occasional) double entendres, which were always worth catching. I had the pleasure of knowing Donald quite well in the years (1963–5) when I was successively secretary and president of the College History Society. I know how hard he worked on his lectures, and respected his commitment. He had been something of a 'star pupil' of the distinguished medievalist, Prof. S. B. Chrimes, at Cardiff, and to some extent modelled himself on him.

6. The 2019 Reunion. Members of the Society visited the Roderic Bowen Library for Peter Mitchell's lecture. It is worth noting that the staff of the Library and Archives prepare regular exhibitions on matters of College and local interest, as well as others based on our very rich holdings. For many of these we prepare accompanying booklets, freely available to visitors and alumni. There was a selection of these available when members came to the lecture – no charge!

I hope these random thoughts have been useful.

## From Rob Rosset (1974)

[*In The Link, LXXI, March 2018, pp. 19–20, we published a memory of John Ryder by Rob. However, he was unclear about the date of John's death. The*

*letter below was in response to a note by John Loaring (1967) pointing out that it was actually in 1994 – Ed.*]

Well, well ... doesn't memory play tricks! I remembered visiting him in the mid-1990s, though it must have been the early 1990s. He died in 1994 – it was quite some time after that when Vernon phoned me up to tell me about his death, maybe getting on towards the late 1990s (?).

Of course, if you add on the time it takes for solicitors to deal with estates, it is not surprising that I placed his death around the late 1990s, relating it to the dispersment of his library. I worked back from that date to placing our visit in the mid-nineties. A couple of interesting things do come out of this. I didn't say in my piece that Dr Ryder talked to us about Professor Chandaman's funeral and what he thought was the 'poor' turnout of History Staff members at the event. From my imperfect memory, I think he said that 'one' person attended it.

Also, I recall that he died as a result of a somewhat 'freakish' accident. He was in his car coming out of a garage and lost control of the vehicle; a nasty accident ensued.

Finally, having suffered the very recent bereavement of my wife, it is my considered opinion that it can be very difficult for some people to attend funerals, including family. We had a Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Maria last week and family and friends came over from Spain – that was really because Maria was sage enough to tell me before she died to pay for their air fares and some of their accommodation. A couple of Lampeter friends couldn't make it and they were upset because they already had arrangements booked months ahead for the day in question. In this sense, any death is mightily inconvenient all round.

## From Christina Hill Williams

I am very pleased with *The Link*. Thank you, and thank you for the interjection – 'lymphodema' probably did need an explanation!

I was interested to see Maesycrugiau Manor – I once stopped there with friends on the way back from somewhere for a meal – not the Boar’s Head Club but just casually dropping in for a meal. I wonder if it is still a restaurant? *[Unfortunately, no, but it is a B&B establishment – Ed.]*

I haven’t yet made any suggestions for the bi-centenary but here are a few:

1. A permanent feature, maybe a plaque of Welsh granite, to be placed somewhere externally on the wall – of OB? In the quad? It would in effect be a “foundation stone” but updated – the date of the College’s foundation

and the fact that the stone was erected to commemorate 200 years. The Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed or the High Sheriff of Dyfed could be invited to unveil it.

2. A similar bronze or brass plaque to be sited in the Chapel, with the foundation date of the College and possibly also the date of the first service held there if this is known – to be unveiled by the Archbishop of Wales.

3. An exhibition in the Old Library commemorating the foundation and with display material on the history of the College over the two centuries:

numbers of students, subjects taught, when new subjects were offered and departments were opened, admission of women, lists of principals etc. Does the Foundation Charter exist, I wonder? Maybe it’s in the National Library of Wales rather than the College. The exhibition could run throughout the bicentenary year.

4. The above to be funded by an Appeal to all graduates and other interested bodies. A subscription book could be opened listing all contributors – that tends to get people to pay up! That could form part of the permanent archives of the College.



OB – Building Works in January, 2020 – photograph by John Loaring (1967)

# SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE COLLEGE BY THE LAMPETER SOCIETY – A REMINDER

2022 will be the bicentennial of the Foundation of the College – and also the 85th anniversary of the establishment of the Lampeter Society! We would welcome even more suggestions as to possible ways of celebrating these two momentous events than have been suggested so far! These include, in summary:

## from Nicholas Groves (2000, 2008)

- a revised version of his book (published in 2000) about the history of the academical robes of Lampeter to mark the three 2022 anniversaries (200<sup>th</sup> of the College foundation; 170<sup>th</sup> of the BD degree; 85<sup>th</sup> of the Lampeter Society)

## from Paul Hamlet (2004, 2012) – in the Summer, 2019 issue

- a service of celebration and thanksgiving for both the Bicentennial of the College and the

85th Anniversary of the Lampeter Society during the 2022 Reunion

- a service in St. David's Cathedral
- a range of memorabilia should be created, including a reissue of '1822 cufflinks' in black and gold with either the University's logo or the cinquefoil found on the old University flag and on its present coat of arms
- the University should mount an exhibition of photographs, prints and pictures and artefacts illustrating the people, the buildings and the life at Lampeter over the years, indeed centuries

## from John Morgan-Guy (1965, 2004, 2009) – in this issue, on p. 9 above

- a publication on the College's founders, benefactors and financial supporters

## from John Ward (1981)

- make the 2022 Reunion at three-day event [*it will actually be four – Friday-Monday – Ed.*]

## from Christina Hill Williams, in her letter on pp. 9–10 herein

- a permanent feature, maybe a plaque of Welsh granite to be placed somewhere externally on a wall with the date of the foundation and that of the commemoration
- a similar bronze or brass plaque to be sited in the Chapel, with the foundation date of the College and possibly also the date of the first service held there
- an exhibition in the Old Library commemorating the foundation

and with display material on the history of the College over the two centuries

- the above to be funded by an Appeal to all graduates and other interested bodies, with a subscription book listing all contributors.

In addition, the Business Committee have already begun work on two special commemorative projects (see p. 19 for details):

- '200 Schools'
- '200 Voices'

Other suggestions from them are:

- an expensive, luxury album with copies of the extensive photographic collection concerning the College, its life and its buildings held by the Roderic Bowen Library and Archives
- a procession through the town during the 2022 Reunion.

Further suggestions are:

- inviting to the main celebrations / the Reunion Dinner HRH the Prince of Wales and the descendants of the other original families who contributed to the Foundation (such as those of Harford and Burgess)
- a competition to win a free dinner at the Reunion
- a free dinner for members attending the Reunion
- the Reunion dinner to be provided at cost.

Keep the ideas flowing! – please submit to me.

Editor

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE LAMPETER CAMPUS

[Except where indicated, items are based on press releases submitted by Arwel Lloyd, Principal PR and Communications Officer, UWTSO – Ed.]

### League Tables

► SILVER AWARD FOR UWTSO IN THE *TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK* (TEF)

This framework assesses excellence in teaching at universities and Colleges and how well they ensure excellent outcomes for their students in terms of graduate-level employment or further study.

► SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN *GUARDIAN* 2020 LEAGUE TABLE RANKING

UWTSO has seen its ranking increase by 29 positions in the *Guardian 2020 University league table*, a joint 3<sup>rd</sup> highest increase in ranking in the UK. The University is now positioned joint 57<sup>th</sup> overall out of the 121 featured institutions from across the UK. It was also ranked =8<sup>th</sup> in the UK for satisfaction with teaching.

► *COMPLETE UNIVERSITY GUIDE* LEAGUE TABLE RANKS UWTSO JOINT 8<sup>TH</sup> IN THE UK FOR 'STUDENT SATISFACTION'

UWTSO has once again increased its ranking in *The Complete University Guide* (CUG) 2020 league table, climbing 13 places and an increase in ranking for the fourth consecutive year.

► UWTSO WINS NATIONAL *WHATUNI* 'COURSES AND LECTURERS' AWARD

The University has won the prestigious 'Courses and Lecturers' award at this year's national Whatuni Student Choice Awards (WUSCAs).

► UWTSO RANKED IN TOP 10 IN THE UK FOR 'TEACHING QUALITY' IN THE 2020 *TIMES AND SUNDAY TIMES GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE*

This *Guide* is published annually and provides rankings and full profiles of 131 UK universities. As well as securing an 8<sup>th</sup> position for 'teaching quality', the University was also ranked 24<sup>th</sup> overall in the 'Social Inclusion' table after being placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the UK for 'students with a disability' and 12<sup>th</sup> in the UK for 'mature students'. UWTSO is also celebrating a number of successes at subject level – in particular, UWTSO's 'Art and Design' provision has been ranked 11<sup>th</sup>

overall out of 85 UK providers – up 5 positions from last year.

### University News

► WALES' OLDEST UNIVERSITY BUILDING TO RECEIVE £2.1m REFURBISHMENT

Built between 1822 and 1827 to the designs of English architect and antiquary C. R. Cockerell, the Grade II\* listed Old Building has witnessed great change over the past two centuries. Now that we look forward to celebrating our bicentenary in 2022, the building is set for a £2.1m refurbishment and modernisation plan to provide fit-for-purpose facilities for twenty-first century learning and teaching. The refurbishment is being undertaken in partnership with the Chin Kung Multi-Cultural Educational Foundation.

► PROVOSTS APPOINTED TO LEAD CAMPUS DEVELOPMENTS

The University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSO) has appointed Gwilym Dyfri Jones, Professor Ian Walsh and Dr Conny Matera Rogers as Provosts of its campuses. Gwilym Dyfri Jones will take on the strategic lead of the Carmarthen and Lampeter campuses, Professor Ian Walsh will lead the Swansea campuses and Cardiff Learning Centres and Dr Conny-Matera Rogers will lead the London campus and Birmingham Learning Centre. The Provosts will ensure that the development of the campuses have a clear sense of place in order to promote their distinctiveness as destinations of choice for students, staff and the wider community.

They will also assist in delivering the University's civic mission by working with organisations in the local community to ensure that the University, its provision and assets are developed to support the social, cultural and economic needs of the region.

► UWTSO RECEIVED ACCREDITATION AS REAL LIVING WAGE EMPLOYER

The Real Living Wage is a voluntary payment of £9 per hour, outside London, made by over 6,000 employers in the UK to employees on the lowest grades who are over 18 years of age. Set by the Living Wage Foundation, the Real Living Wage is calculated from the cost of living based on a basket of household goods and services and is intended to enable people to meet their actual living costs. UWTSO joins 224 employers in Wales to volunteer to pay its employees the Real Living Wage.



## Conferences

### ► UWTSD HOSTS THE ALISTER HARDY RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE RESEARCH CENTRE'S 50th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

During the week of 5 July, 2019, delegates and keynote speakers from across the globe visited the Lampeter Campus for the 2019 Religious Experience Research Centre's Conference. This year's conference was entitled 'The Future of the Study of Religious and Spiritual Experience' and celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Religious Experience Research Centre (RERC) which is now housed at Lampeter.

### ► ARTHUR IN WALES CONFERENCE – 'KING ARTHUR OF WALES?'

From 24 – 25 May, 2019, a special conference that aimed to explore the legend of King Arthur was held at UWTSD's Carmarthen campus. The Conference was hosted by the Faculty of Humanities and Performing Arts at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

#### **By Dr Lester Mason, Lecturer in Modern History, UWTSD**

The conference posed the question: Arthur, Warlord, King, or merely a figment of fancy?

King Arthur has intrigued academics, poets, artists and nationalists across the centuries. Was he a Welsh warlord or an English knight? Is he dead, or merely resting until his country calls him to lead his people to freedom? Was there ever a King Arthur? With so little hard evidence to hand, it is difficult to separate fact from fiction. The Conference aimed to shed light into previously dark corners by examining anew the accepted academic norms, and to showcase the stories, poems and artwork relating to him.

We have all heard various stories about King Arthur, who according to medieval legend led British forces into battle against the Saxon invaders in the early sixth century. However, questions are still asked about whether he was actually a real person or simply a hero of Celtic mythology. The debate has gone on for centuries and historians still have not been able to confirm if Arthur ever existed. The conference gave all present an opportunity to explore different ideas surrounding the legend.

Over two days, experts in the field of Arthurian studies from Wales and beyond met at the Trinity St David Carmarthen campus to listen to a series of lectures, readings and keynote speeches on the place and significance of Arthur and the Arthurian legend in Wales. Formally opened by the University Provost Gwilym Dyfri Jones, the keynote speakers included Professor Dafydd Johnston from the Centre of Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies (CAWCS) and author Llyr Gwyn Lewis. The first day also included a selection of poetry readings from Professor Mererid Hopwood and Professor Tony Curtis, followed by an address by Dr Martin Crampin entitled 'King Arthur, the Grail, Saints and Early British History in

Stained Glass' and by Bryce Aszody-Robinson, on 'King Arthur in Film'. The first day's proceedings were concluded with a Book Launch and drinks reception hosted by the University of Wales Press; the featured publication was *Arthur in the Celtic Languages*, edited by Dr Ceridwen Lloyd-Morgan.

Day two included contributions from Douglas Ewart on 'Arthur: Building a Legend from Fragments'; Dr Simon Rodway from Aberystwyth University on 'Arthur of England versus the Celts: Ethnicity and Nationalism in T. H. White's *Once and Future King*'; Professor John Koch (CAWCS) on 'Does King Arthur Feature in *Y Gododdin*?'; Will Parker, 'Artúr: The Cambro-Gaelic Background Reconsidered'; and finally Jon McLeod, 'Re-inventing Rhydderch Hael – Some Arthurian Parallels and Contrasts', concluding a rich and varied agenda.

The conference was formally closed by the archaeologist Professor David Austin, Director of the Strata Florida Project, who gave a hearty thanks to all the contributors and also thanked everyone present for their support.

Arthur remains an intriguing figure in Welsh and British history, and if not all the questions posed at the outset were definitively answered, through a series of enlightened and informative lectures and readings presented at the Conference, new light was shed on the enigma of 'Arthur' and his place in both history and mythology.

### ► UWTSD HOSTS FOURTH INTERNATIONAL INTERFAITH SYMPOSIUM

The University of Wales Trinity Saint David hosted its fourth International Interfaith Symposium, bringing together faith leaders and academics from Wales, the United Kingdom, and further afield. The event was an opportunity to bring together scholars and practitioners from diverse traditions and practices in order to discuss matters of multifaith and interfaith engagement, as well as themes of contemporary relevance that are vital for peaceful coexistence.

#### **By Robert McCloy (1956)**

The symposium was entitled 'Practising What Is Preached: Practices of Justice in a Multi-Faith Context'.

By a strange set of circumstances, I attended this year's Interfaith Conference. I had been busily exploring the possible relationship between Rowland Williams, that brilliant early nineteenth-century theologian and Vice Principal of Lampeter, and Sulak Sivaraksa [*a Thai Buddhist who graduated from SDC Lampeter in 1958, then became a barrister, publisher, activist and academic who, in exile, developed spiritual models for change; Founder and Director, Sathirakoses-Nagapradeepa Foundation – Ed.*]. Drafting a piece about post Second World War Britain, Williams had written:

Thus whilst the West uneasily displayed confusion as it sought to come to terms with a world of changing

values, the East, too, faced its own challenges. An insight, for the writer, into the latter was offered by meeting Sulak Sivaraksa at St. David's College, Lampeter, in the early 1950s [and thereafter remaining a life-long friend]...

Reading a recent edition of *Seeds of Peace*, the journal of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists, I read to my surprise an item about this year's event at that very institution, and duly resolved to attend.

As I sat in the first session, I was much impressed by the authority and tolerance displayed by the speakers and reflected that the two figures he had been studying would each have surely been most impressed had they too been on that occasion in the Founders' Library.

Reflecting upon the conference, certain impressions stand out. Participants spoke from differing perspectives: some driven by profound belief but overtly anxious to learn of other experiences; others focused more upon a clinical analysis of differences in faith; and yet others were preoccupied with the practicalities of improving society. It can be supposed that here was a contemporary manifestation of parallel discussions in the 1950s in Sulak Sivaraksa's Lampeter, albeit the context then would have been more narrowly drawn, often limited to 'shades' of Anglicanism. The conference contained witnesses of a considerably more diverse world who were able to speak with direct experience and surely, at the very least, would have been able to qualify and correct many misunderstandings that would have been present even in this generally benign gathering.

Conversations at coffee breaks and meals complemented the positive experience and offered further evidence of Lampeter's current outreach – embracing, for example, the Catholic University in the Ukraine – in marked contrast to the insularity of its earlier life.

In a sense, this conference was focused upon the very subject introduced by Rowland Williams. As a gifted theologian and linguist, Williams had contributed an article to *Essays and Reviews*, a publication that had profoundly stirred the intellectual world of early Victorian Britain.<sup>1</sup> Herein Williams and his co-authors had mounted a defence of the liberal and German-inspired interpretation of religion to the consternation of their then rather conservative fellow clergy.

Indeed, such was the uproar provoked by this popular publication that clergy brought against Williams a charge of heresy and demanded his removal from office. The charge, upheld in the ecclesiastical Court of Arches, was however dismissed by the High Court on appeal. His vigorous stand has been subsequently recognised as the

1 Roland Williams: 'Bunsen's Biblical Researches' in Benjamin Jowett, ed. (1860): *Essays and Reviews*, John W. Parker and Son, London

decisive factor liberating to this day the freedom and intellectual integrity of teaching in theological faculties in England and Wales.

Whilst *Essays and Reviews* had had a shattering effect, Williams's sustained major study, *A Dialogue*<sup>2</sup>, written in the style of a platonic dialogue, reveals in detail his knowledge and respect for Hinduism and Buddhism. In holding to his own Christian beliefs, he nevertheless reaches out in sympathy to those sincerely professing other faiths. In this he very much exemplified the approach of those attending the conference.

Sulak Sivaraksa, who first encountered Williams in 1954 in Lampeter, was, and remains, a Buddhist. For some fellow students his regular chapel attendance was a surprise. Notwithstanding, he participated fully in collegiate life which was characterised by daily chapel; formal daily dinner in gowns, with Latin grace; lectures and tutorials, likewise in gowns; afternoon sport or walks; study in the Library (now the Founders' Library); evening meetings of societies – occasions for animated debate and the consumption of cocoa and toast; and meetings of the Junior Common Room. As Student Librarian he would have ascended and descended the same stairs, walked the same cloisters, occupied the same spaces and examined the contents of the same library shelves, as had Rowland Williams a hundred years previously.

For my part, I deeply regret not reading Rowland Williams' publications as an undergraduate at Lampeter. At the time, vigorous arguments between high and low church took centre stage while both factions were united in castigating 'modernism'. In retrospect, the rationalism and tolerance of Rowland Williams could have been a powerful and effective stabilising force.

As for Sulak, following further study at the Inns of Court and employment in the BBC, he returned to Thailand and took up the profession of publisher and social commentator. Therein, remaining a Buddhist, he progressively articulated an expression of his faith which emphasised its practicality in certain social conditions. In due course, this led to confrontation with the autocratic and undemocratic agencies of the state involving exile and trial. Notwithstanding, in that process, Sulak, amongst other lasting initiatives, created the International Network of Engaged Buddhists, and, perhaps inevitably, took on the role of representative Buddhist at international gatherings of world faiths. In a sense both he and Rowland Williams were very much present at the conference.

2 Roland Williams (1856): *A Dialogue of the Knowledge of the Supreme Lord, in which are compared the claims of Christianity and Hinduism, and various questions of Indian Religion and Literature fairly discussed*, Deighton Bell and Co., Cambridge; Bell and Dalby, London.

## Research Update

STAFF REACTIONS TO CHANGES AT THE SW HEALTH BOARD INTEGRATED CARE CENTRE, ABERAERON

By **Dr Tristan Nash, Programme Director – Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities & Performing Arts**

**Luci Attala** (Senior Lecturer in Anthropology, Lampeter, and ex-nurse) started on 21 October, 2019, to work alongside personnel of *Hywel Dda* (SW Wales Health Board – part of the NHS). Because staff well-being affects efficiency and public experience of care provision, the Board has commissioned a qualitative study of the ways in which they are experiencing current changes in working practices as a result of the 2015 Well-being of Future Generations Act, which led the Health Board to amend the way it provides care. It opened an Integrated Care Centre in Aberaeron (AICC) where a broad selection of health and social care professionals work alongside each other; others are planned. As an anthropologist – and ex-nurse – Luci is focusing on how people are experiencing the lack of labelled offices and ‘hot-desking’ instead (finding and booking a temporary space at a suitably-equipped desk in a shared room). She will be there for the first month to see how they are negotiating the change and will return in the New Year for another month to see how things have settled.

[*Editor’s Note:* Luci would like to hear from people who have had any experience of ‘agile working’, ‘hot-desking’ or similar. Please write to her at: [l.attala@uwtsd.ac.uk](mailto:l.attala@uwtsd.ac.uk)]

THE FIRST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTEFACTS FOUND DURING THE SEARCH FOR LOST PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENTS IN THE NORTH SEA

**Dr Martin Bates**, a geoarchaeologist at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, has been working with a team of researchers from Belgium and Britain on an 11-day expedition in the North Sea. Through chance finds by fishermen over many decades, it has long been suspected that the southern North Sea hides a vast landscape that once was home to thousands of people [*commonly called ‘Doggerland’ – Ed.*]. Over the past two years the British team has been recreating the drowned landscape using data provided by oil and gas companies, wind farm developers and the Coal Board. The modelled landscape contains locations where evidence for past human activity might most likely be found. Dr Martin Bates has a research focus on soils and sediments from archaeological sites and the geoscience of submerged landscapes.

UWTSO PROFESSOR THROWS LIGHT ON HISTORIC INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI RISK

The 2004 Boxing Day tsunami in the Indian Ocean was seen as unexpected at the time, yet geological research has since shown that at least two other damaging tsunami events have hit the region over the past 1,000 years. In order to gauge the magnitude of such historic events, and to better understand the impact of the 2004 tsunami, **Simon Haslett**, Professor of Physical Geography and

Pro Vice-Chancellor at the University of Wales and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSO), undertook a field investigation on the Malaysian island of Penang in the Malacca Strait where the seaway opens into the Indian Ocean. Professor Haslett, a member of the Coastal and Marine Research Group, surveyed coastal boulder deposits in Penang that provide evidence for the impact of past tsunamis. He concluded that there is no field evidence to suggest that the earlier historic events were of a significantly higher magnitude and wave height than the 2004 tsunami – important for considering natural hazard planning in the region.

## Recent Publications

► UWTSO LAMPETER LECTURERS EDIT INTERDISCIPLINARY BOOK SERIES

Two lecturers from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David’s Lampeter campus are editing a series of books entitled *Materialities in Anthropology and Archaeology*, published by the University of Wales Press. **Dr Luci Attala**, a Social Anthropologist, and **Dr Louise Steel**, an Archaeologist, have joined forces to work on a series of books that offer a timely investigation into the material world and the place of peoples within it. Whilst traditional theories of materiality have focused on how objects shape the lives of people, this interdisciplinary series aims to demonstrate how the world is comprised of assemblages of interacting materials, demonstrating the role of matter in the formation of material worlds.

► MENNA ELFYN, EMERITA PROFESSOR AT UWTSO, PUBLISHES A WELSH / CATALAN VOLUME

**Menna Elfyn**, Emerita Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSO), has launched a new bilingual version of her popular volume, *Murmur* – in Welsh and Catalan. Translated from Welsh into Catalan by poet and translator Silvia Aymerich, Menna and Sylvia recently celebrated the publication of their book with two very special events – one at Canolfan S4C Yr Egin in Carmarthen and another at the Senedd in Cardiff.

## Awards

► **SOPHIE HOWE**, FUTURE GENERATIONS COMMISSIONER FOR WALES, AWARDED UWTSO HONORARY DOCTORATE

Sophie was appointed Commissioner in early 2016. Her Honorary Doctorate was Doctor of Science.

► FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES AWARDED HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

An Honorary Fellowship of the University was presented to the former Chief executive of the National Library of Wales, **Linda Tomos**.

► LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES ELECTS NEW FELLOWS

The Learned Society of Wales has elected a leading academic from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David

among the newly-elected Fellows. Professor Matthew Jarvis, Anthony Dyson Fellow in Poetry at University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Lecturer in Literature and Place at Aberystwyth University, co-Chair of the Association for Welsh Writing English, and lead editor of the *International Journal of Welsh Writing in English*, is among the 48 new Fellows from across the arts, humanities, sciences, and beyond. Each new Fellow has contributed to the world of learning as a researcher, academic, and professional – and all come with a strong connection to Wales. Election to the Fellowship is a public recognition of excellence, is keenly competed, and takes place following a rigorous examination of each nominee’s achievements in their relevant field(s).

## Overseas Visits

### ► CHINA EXPERIENCE FOR UWTSO ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE STUDENTS

In October, 2019, the Chinese Summer School, like the one in 2018, was again arranged in conjunction with UWTSO’s partner institution, Beijing Union University (BUU). BUU is one of the largest universities in Beijing and over a number of years both institutions have been working in partnership on a number of projects.

## Update: Students’ Union (October, 2019)

We have had a great start to this academic year. Our intake has almost doubled from last year and we seem to have gained a very engaged group of students. Many societies that folded at the end of last year have re-formed, as well as many new ones appearing. Our events so far have been well received and we plan to continue running at least one event/workshop every week throughout the year.

Our by-elections have seen lots of students run for the vacant positions we had. The engagement and interest in being more involved has been overwhelmingly positive. We saw this in our Welcome Survey where we greatly exceeded our target number of responses, more than doubling from last year. It is really exciting for us to have such an engaged cohort of students and is also testimony to the hard work we have all put in to make engagement more accessible to our students. I look forward to the nominations (opening in December) and elections for the next campus President.

We have launched our campaigns for this year and I am very pleased with the progression of our plans. We are focusing on: Period Poverty and Education; Sustainability; Mental Health; and my personal key campaign – Health and Well-being. These are all off to a great start and I look forward to the events we have planned throughout the year, all of which will be a part of one of these campaigns as I hope to move away from running one-off, random events that do not link in with our plan and ethos.

We have also launched our Lampeter Newsletter, an idea of mine to try and engage all our students and ensure

everyone is aware of what is going on. This has been very well received and we hope throughout the year that more and more people will sign up to keep up to date with events and campaigns.

We are focusing this year on parity of experience and as part of this are looking into that of our part-time and distance learning students, making sure that they are receiving the support they need. We are currently working with academic staff to send out a survey to distance learners in December which we will then feedback on in January.

This year we are receiving 500 names from Mr X, a charity that will provide the gifts we donate to local children in South West Wales.

Work has started on the pavilion and we are all very happy to see the maintenance happening to such a historic building. The University is undertaking like-for-like restoration which, while it may take longer, will hopefully restore the grandeur that the iconic building once had [see the special item about this on p. 17 – Ed.].

I have also been in meetings with Gwilym Dyfri Jones, our new provost, and we have discussed student involvement in the future planning for the Lampeter Campus. Lots of exciting prospects will be coming our way over the next few years, especially with the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations coming up.

**Martha Warren,  
Lampeter President**

## Interview with Martha Warren



**Martha Warren**

It’s a sunny but cold day at UWTSO Lampeter and the place is alive with shouts, whistles and cheers. It’s the Challenge Cup Final and teams from across UWTSO and

other universities are competing in basketball, hockey, football, netball and more. Being the home of rugby in Wales, it's no surprise that the day culminates with a big rugby match – but it's not just the men's team we are expecting to see since Lampeter's Women's RFC are stretching and warming up on the touchlines too.

Martha Warren, current Lampeter SU President, speaks to us about joining the women's team and what it means to be a part of the surge of women taking up the sport.

### **1. How long have you been playing rugby?**

I signed up to the rugby team in my first year, which was the first time I had ever played the sport. My only previous experience was throwing the ball around in the garden with my dad, brother and dog – who is great at catching the ball. Ever since I signed up in first year, I have been hooked and I am still playing now. I only wish I had had the opportunity to play at school before coming to University.

### **2. What is the social side of the sport like?**

The social side of rugby is a big part of what it means to be in the team. Whilst we all enjoy going out and socialising and having a few drinks, that isn't the only social activity. We are a big close-knit family who always support one another. This means that we have study socials each week where everyone can get together and do work. It's really useful as some of the older girls can help the first and second years with theirs if they need it.

### **3. Where do you train and how often?**

We generally train on the university pitches twice a week but we also try and do a weekly fitness session. At the moment this has taken the form of 5k training, as we have signed up as a team to do a 5k run in aid of Cancer Research. Although that might sound like a lot of training, it is a great way to have a break in between work and partying. It also does wonders to clear your head and helps boost endorphins.

### **4. What advice would you give to other students wanting to join a sports team when starting university?**

The one piece of advice I would give to anyone who was thinking about joining a sports team is – just do it! The members of all the teams are so lovely and welcoming. Being on the rugby team has been one of the best decisions I have ever made; it can be really easy to get cooped up in your room as a student and joining a team gets you out. If anyone is worried they may not be fit enough or experienced enough, then don't worry. Every team, especially in Lampeter, has lots of beginners.

### **5. Have you noticed that more and more women are taking up rugby since you started?**

There has definitely been a massive increase in the number of women playing rugby since I began playing. In my first year we were lucky if we had five girls turn up to training, but now we have nearly a full team (15). It has been great to see more and more girls joining in and giving rugby a go. I think it has helped that we marked ourselves very much as a beginner's team and so anyone who just wants a bit of

a run around can join without worrying about any serious matches going on.

### **6. Why did you decide to come to UWTSD Lampeter?**

I decided to come to Lampeter not only because the course here was fabulous, but also because I fell in love with the town and campus. It is so lovely being able to walk down the street and be able to smile at people and know nearly everyone you pass. Having grown up in a rural community, Lampeter has been the perfect place for me as I feel right at home.

*(Courtesy of the student magazine, Lampeter)*

## **Update: UWTSD Pavilion and Playing Fields**



**The Pavilion – submitted by John Loaring (1967)**

Many of you will be aware of the dilapidated state of the Sports Pavilion and the terrible condition of the playing fields. It is no secret that the College authorities attempted to sell off these to a supermarket group and this was fortunately blocked by the local planning authority. There has even been talk of removing the Pavilion to the Welsh National Folk Museum in St. Fagans. In view of this, efforts have been made by several people, especially Ieuan Davies of the Old Codgers, and Janet Dunlop, to get the College authorities to accept their responsibility and to protect and preserve the Pavilion and Playing Fields for the benefit of future generations of students.

The Pavilion was built in 1905, when, to celebrate its opening, a match was played between the College Rugby XV and a Welsh International XV. The Pavilion is, of course, a Grade 2 listed building. In recent years it has been totally neglected by the College authorities and allowed to fall into a state of disrepair.

On behalf of the Lampeter Society, Ieuan Davies and I met with Emyr Jones, Senior Estates Manager, and Catrin Morgan Jones, also from the UWTSD Estates Department, to inspect the building and to see what needed to be done to preserve it. At the same time, representations were made to the Ceredigion County Council to make them aware of the fact that the College was in breach of its legal duties in respect of a listed building and to get them to

bring pressure on the College to put things right. Ben Lake, the Plaid Cymru M.P. for Ceredigion, also got involved and brought his political influence to bear on the University authorities.

As a result, work has finally commenced. The University will undertake 'like for like' repairs to the exterior of the building. These works include:

- Fascia repairs and redecoration
- Repairs to the gutter and fitting new gutters
- New glass panes for the smashed glass
- Roof repairs including replacing slipped tiles
- Removing plants from the guttering and roof
- Scarfing external joinery.

The aim is to complete the work by the end of the year, but with the nature and age of the building and the intricacy of the 'like for like' repairs, it may go into the new year.

No internal works have been agreed to date as the focus is to ensure the building is watertight before an analysis of the internal condition can be undertaken.

An inspection of the Playing Fields carried out on behalf of the Welsh Rugby Union has deemed the pitch to be unsafe. The playing surface is unstable due to the network of mole tunnels beneath the surface and poor drainage. A feasibility report carried out in 2016 suggests that an investment of £50–60,000 would be required to install proper drainage systems and replace the playing surface.

Since that report was undertaken, there has been further deterioration. A recent viewing reported that there are now saplings appearing on the playing area. Furthermore, the contractors working on the Pavilion are driving their vehicles across the pitch and using it for storing materials and dumping waste. The playing fields are therefore out of use for the foreseeable future and the College Rugby teams are having to play their matches elsewhere.

In these cash-strapped times, restoration of the playing field is unlikely to be top of the list of priorities for the University. Having said that, is there any other University in the land that does not offer its students adequate sports facilities? It is possible that grants might be made available from the Welsh Rugby Union, the Lottery Fund, or the Welsh Government, to assist with these costs. Initial discussions have been held with the WRU. These talks have stalled because applications must have:

- at least 20% match-funding from the bidding party (the bid is for £50,000, so that means that the University would need to provide £10,000 from its own or other external resources)
- maps, diagrams, photographs and usage chart of the facility
- letters of support from the beneficiaries of the project
- additional paperwork including a regional development plan (amongst other things) for any request over £25,000

- a detailed budget outlining the development work required
- a copy of a pitch quality report.

None of these requirements is insurmountable. However, in order for any grant application to be successful, it would have to be demonstrated that the playing fields are being fully utilised.

It is possible that they could be made available as a community amenity for clubs, schools, societies and other bodies in the Lampeter area to be used and enjoyed by all. However, the first priority is to get the field fit for play for the benefit of current and future Lampeter students.

Maybe the Lampeter Society could support a fund-raising campaign amongst its members to raise funds for the development of the College Pavilion and Playing Fields. It does not seem right that the birthplace of rugby in Wales should not have somewhere for today's students to carry on the tradition of rugby, football, hockey and cricket being played in Lampeter.

**John Loaring (1967)**

## UPDATE: THE RODERIC BOWEN LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

For several years now, the staff of the Library and Archives have compiled and prepared exhibitions, largely based upon our exceptionally rich holdings of printed books and manuscripts. The exhibitions are held in the foyer of the main University Library at Lampeter, and in the Roderic Bowen Library itself. They focus upon our collections, and upon the history of the College and the locality. They are changed regularly – and access is free during Library opening hours!

In many cases, we prepare a catalogue or essay based upon the exhibition, and these are published as illustrated pamphlets. Copies of these are free, and Lampeter Society members may request them, in either English or Welsh, from our Special Collections Archivist, Nicky Hammond. (A contribution towards postage is appreciated – but not mandatory!) The following are currently available:

*1918–2018. A commemoration.* (Biographies of all those whose names appear on the College War Memorial).  
*Parcel Rees Bowen. St David's College Student. Wounded by the Bolsheviks. Assassinated in Dublin.*

Both of these were compiled by our former Special Collections Archivist, Sarah Roberts.

*The College Afloat. St David's College Alumni serving on board ship during World War One.*

*The Derry Ormond Tower and the Battle of Waterloo.*

*The College, Hitler's Deputy, and Churchill's Secret Army.*

*Henry James Prince. The Lampeter Student who believed he was God.*

These have been compiled by Dr John Morgan-Guy, Hon. Research Fellow in the Roderic Bowen Library.

Others are in preparation – and may well be available by the time you read this! Namely:

*Morgan Rhys of Cil-y-cwm (1716–1779); schoolmaster and hymn-writer.*

*Lampeter and the Atom Bomb* (the connection between the Rev Raymond Renowden, formerly Head of the Philosophy Department at St David's College, and the visit to the devastated city of Hiroshima by the Emperor Hirohito in 1947).

We are planning further exhibitions during the Academic Year 2019–2020, which will focus particularly on former members of staff and alumni who have, over the years, made significant – and sometimes surprising – contributions to history. So watch this space – all will be revealed in due course!

**John Morgan-Guy (1965, 1984, 2009)**  
j.morgan-guy@uwtsd.ac.uk

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

*At this year's AGM, held during the annual Summer Lampeter Society Reunion, we launched two projects, both linking in with the proposed bicentenary celebrations.*

### '200 Schools'

This project encourages alumni and current students to give talks to sixth-form students at schools and in other settings (such as adult education centres, community groups etc.) about university life in general and the Lampeter experience in particular. We hope to have reached our aim of providing 200 talks by 2022. The University may have changed since you were there, but fundamentally it is still the same place we all loved. Living on a small campus, having a close relationship with the teaching staff, a rural setting, forging strong friendships - all are still part of the Lampeter experience.

You don't need to be an expert in what courses the University now offers as we can signpost to the website and prospectus. We will provide all volunteers with copies of the Lampeter student magazine, the 'No Ordinary Place' brochure and some Virtual Reality goggles, which enable the user to be 'transported' to a virtual Lampeter – potential students would be hard pushed not to fall in love with the beauty of the campus. If we can take the campus out to them, hopefully they will want to come and experience the University for real.

### '200 Lampeter Voices'

By 2022, we'd like to have captured the memories and experiences of at least 200 present students and of a wide range of alumni from across the generations. Esther Weller and Chris Deacy (Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Lampeter Society Business Committee) will be carrying out interviews but we can also email the questions to

potential respondents instead, if that is more convenient. We'll be transcribing the interviews so we have a written record because, as well as looking backwards, we hope that the document produced will be of interest to potential and future students when deciding on their choice of University.

*If you would like to get involved in either or both of these projects, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Esther at [estherb16@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:estherb16@yahoo.co.uk) for more information. Thank you!*

Esther Weller (1999)

## ALUMNI UPDATES

*The Link* is launching a new column which focuses on updates from Lampeter alumni – initially on some of those who have pursued a career in academia. In each issue we will hear from a different subject area and, in their own words, follow the progress of former Lampeter students who are now teaching and researching in that discipline at universities around the world. We thereby will discover how their time spent at Lampeter has contributed to their subsequent career path. The subject for this issue is **Theology and Religious Studies**.

In my own case, three degrees over ten years kick-started an academic journey which began in the University of Wales and moved to the University of Kent, where I have been based since 2004. It is the indelible influence of individuals such as Professor Paul Badham, with his work on near-death experiences and immortality, and Dr Chris Arthur, with his research into religion and the media, which set in motion a very stimulating journey which has taken me to teach and publish on death and the afterlife, religion and film, Christmas and (currently) nostalgia. Below are the updates from other former students.

### 1. Dr David Cheetham, Reader in Philosophical Theology, University of Birmingham



I was at Lampeter (SDUC as it was then known) from 1987–93. I did all my degrees there, and found my research interests almost by accident. Perhaps the best decision I made was to do my PhD on the work of John Hick (whom I later met and became friends with when I took up my post at Birmingham University later). Hick was a gift as a thinker because he covered just about all the major areas in the philosophy of religion: the existence of God; life after death; the problem of evil; the challenges of religious pluralism, and so on. So, I learnt a lot from studying him and it prepared me for my own research direction.

I took up a research fellowship at Glasgow University in 1994, looking at the relationship between different religious communities in that city. Then, following a couple of temporary lectureships around the West Midlands area, I was appointed to Birmingham University in 1999. It is here that I have really flourished (and been promoted). I have written or edited eight books (mostly on questions of religious pluralism). I often look back on Lampeter, and I realise that many of the ideas I have written about began life as conversations (late night!) with friends there.

## 2. Dr Andrew Crome, Senior Lecturer in Early Modern History, Manchester Metropolitan University



I completed my undergraduate studies at Lampeter in 2004, graduating with a BA in Theology and Ancient History. After leaving Wales, I worked for a few years before beginning postgraduate studies in religious history, gaining a PhD in Theology from the University of Manchester in 2009. Since then I've worked as a lecturer and researcher in Manchester and Dublin, and am currently Senior Lecturer in Early Modern History at Manchester Metropolitan University.

My research has two strands, the first focusing on Anglo-American apocalypticism from 1600–1900. My latest book, *Christian Zionism and English National Identity, 1600–1850* (Palgrave, 2018), focuses particularly on belief in Jewish restoration to Palestine as an end-time event. The other strand of my research focuses on religion and contemporary popular culture, an interest that began with popular apocalypse, but in recent years has focused mainly on religion in popular culture, fandom and fan fiction. These interests led me to co-edit a book on *Religion and Doctor Who* (DLT, 2013) that most people find a lot more interesting than my historical work!

## 3. Professor Susan Deacy, Department of Humanities, University of Roehampton



I graduated in 1991 in Classical Studies and Theology and with an interest in ancient religion and mythology, fuelled not least by studying biblical texts, notably Johannine Literature with D.P. Davies. I moved from my BA to a PhD on the goddess Athena, and into a career in academia which started with teaching at Lampeter, followed by Aberystwyth and several other universities, culminating with Roehampton where I've been working since 2004 – apart from a semester in 2010 as a Guest Professor in Vienna.

I was promoted to a Chair in January 2018 and became Professor of Classics. My interests remain in ancient religion and myth, not least ancient deities. My interest in myth took an unexpected turn about a decade ago when I started exploring into what it is about classical myth that entices autistic people. My disciplinary home is Classics but I wander the borderlands with Theology and Religious Studies, and my most recent research paper brought me back to where it all started when I looked at Athena in light of the Logos of John 1.

## 4. Dr Wendy Dossett, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, University of Chester



My degree was in English Literature and Religious Studies, but I often joke that a quarter of it was in Classics, as I did modules in 'Tragedy' with Geoff Eatough and 'Religions

of the Roman World' with Tony Brothers. Buddhism was my real passion (if that's not a troubling thing to say!) and under the tutelage of Chris Arthur I grew interested in the ways colonial scholarship had shaped Buddhism in the Western imagination, specifically to exclude and downgrade Pure Land Buddhism. I did field work at a Pure Land temple in Japan for my PhD. The thesis took me more than six years to write as alongside it I worked to fund my studies.

I trained as an RE teacher, and in 1995 got a job in what was then Trinity College running the Religious Education Resources Centre. Six years on, in 2001, I returned to Lampeter to take up a post as a lecturer and Associate Director of the Alister Hardy Religious Experience Research Centre, which still continues to flourish in Lampeter under the directorship of Professor Bettina Schmidt. In 2010 I took half a career-break. I worked half my time as a key worker in a drug and alcohol rehab and held a 0.5 post in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Chester. I became full-time at Chester in 2011, where I still am today.

These days, my work on national committees and my publications are less around Buddhism and Religious Education and more around addiction recovery, with a focus on my large and ongoing research project called the Higher Power Project. Lampeter, particularly Chris Arthur, gave me a strong sense of the instability and discursive nature of academic categories like religion and spirituality, which continues to serve me well in my work. It helped me to value and pay attention to how individual lived-experience relates, or doesn't, to teachings, doctrines and institutions. It also gave me a deep and emotional appreciation of the vividness of the specific shade of green seen only in Ceredigion fields, and for which I often experience painful pangs of *hiraeth*.

**5. Dr Paul Hedges, Associate Professor in Interreligious Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore**



Would I be an academic if I hadn't been to Lampeter? That's a wonderful 'what if?' question, especially for somebody who has barely stepped foot outside of educational contexts in his whole life. But Lampeter allowed me to turn what was always a burning issue or question for me into my career.

As an undergraduate, I took a joint degree in Theology and Religious Studies, because I was never interested in knowing about only one tradition. But a particular course, taught by Professor Paul Badham, on Christianity and its relationship to other religions, allowed me to explore my fascination with the way those things we term 'religions' are connected, related, disputed, and make sense of each other. I stayed on, as many did, for the Death and Immortality Master's degree, before undertaking my PhD looking at Fulfilment Theology, or how mainly nineteenth century British Christians made sense of Hinduism.

My current role as Associate Professor (and previously Reader) in Interreligious Studies is, in many ways, a direct outcome of this. A dozen books (my first was my PhD) and many articles later, I still find myself exploring interreligious relations, though often in new ways. While I still work on historical questions, I have also explored current and more sociological issues, and am at present looking at issues in method and theory in how we make sense of religion and religious diversity, as well as interreligious hatred, prejudice, and violence. Half a world away now in Singapore, Lampeter still lives on in the work I do.

**6. Dr Stephen Jacobs, Senior Lecturer in Media, Religion and Culture, University of Wolverhampton**



Lampeter took a real chance on me. I was accepted as a mature student with no formal qualifications, having spent the previous years alternating between working in kitchens and travelling in India. I did my undergraduate degree in Religious Studies, mostly because I was fascinated with the Indian traditions that I had encountered on my travels. After graduating, I continued with my PhD research at Lampeter on the Hindu reform movements of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, under the supervision of Gavin Flood.

I was fortunate enough to be offered a post in the Religious Studies department at the University of Wolverhampton, where I still work as a senior lecturer in Media, Religion and Culture. I continue to be fascinated with the Indian traditions. Perhaps the most significant subject I studied at Lampeter was Chris Arthur's module on religion and the media. This sparked my ongoing interest in the complex relationships between religion and popular culture.

My latest ethnographic monograph was on the Art of Living Foundation, a global Hindu-derived meditation organisation. This research drew together many of my academic interests – such as the Hindu traditions in the contemporary world and the use of media in communicating religious ideas – that I started to develop during my time studying at Lampeter.

**7. Professor Gerard Loughlin, Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University**



I went to Lampeter in 1976 to study for a degree in Theology and English – at least that's the degree I gained in 1979. But I remember also studying History in my first year, and so perhaps my subjects were not settled until the start of my second year.

My interest in both theology and English persisted, and I stayed on at Lampeter to study for an MA by research in the English Department, looking at late nineteenth-century novels that explored religious faith and doubt. My wonderful supervisor was Barbara Dennis. Despite reading now largely-forgotten novels, I must have continued to engage with more direct theological subjects, for with the help of Paul Badham I applied for a Studentship in Theology at Trinity College, Cambridge. It may have been because it was the first time the studentship had been offered and there were few applicants, but after a memorable first visit to Cambridge, and a walk around Trinity and along the Backs with the then Dean of Chapel, John A.T. Robinson – former Bishop of Woolwich and author of *Honest to God* (1963) – I was subsequently offered the studentship and moved to Cambridge to study for a doctorate in divinity in 1980 on what turned out to be a very negative assessment of John Hick's 'systematics'.

After qualifying to teach in schools, I got a job at St Dominic's Sixth Form College in Harrow, London, and I can never underestimate the resilience and dedication of those who teach in our schools and Colleges.

Eventually someone thought they would risk offering me a Lectureship in Religious Studies at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. All but one of my former colleagues are now retired, though several are still active in their areas of interest. The final staging post in this academic itinerary is the University of Durham, to which I moved in 2004.

*If you or your contemporaries are working in academia post-Lampeter then get in touch with us and you may appear in a future edition of The Link!*



**Dr Chris Deacy (Lampeter, 1991–2001)**  
University of Kent

## ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS

**Lawrence Pintak [graduated 2009] (27 June, 2019):**  
*America & Islam: Soundbites, Suicide Bombs and the Road to Donald Trump*, Bloomsbury PLC / I.B. Tauris, London

Lawrence Pintak is an award-winning journalist and scholar who has written about America's complex relationship with Islam since 1980. He has been called the foremost chronicler of the interaction between Arab and Western media and is the author of five other books on the intersection of media, perception and U.S. policy towards the Muslim world.

A former CBS News Middle East correspondent, Pintak was the founding Dean of The Edward R. Murrow College of Communication at Washington State University (2009–2016) and previously served as Director of the Kamal Adham Center for Journalism at The American University in Cairo. In 2017, he was named a Fellow of the Society of Professional Journalists for "outstanding service to the profession of journalism" around the world. He is a frequent contributor to publications such as *Foreign Policy*,

*The Daily Beast*, *Axios* and other media outlets. He holds a PhD in Islamic Studies from the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David.

Donald Trump's attitudes toward Islam became a key point of contention on the campaign trail in the 2016 election, and in power he has continued his war of divisive words and deeds. Lawrence Pintak scrutinises America's relationship with Islam since its foundation. Casting Donald Trump as a symptom of decades of misunderstanding and demonisation of the Islamic world, as well as a cause of future tensions, Pintak shows how and why America's relationship with the world's largest religion has been so fractious, damaging and self-defeating.

The book has received many highly-positive reviews, such as:

"This is an impressive and must-read treatise debunking Trump's racist and Islamophobic politics. Building upon a deep, decades-long knowledge of American and Middle Eastern affairs, and far from being apologetic, Pintak dismantles America's Far-Right destructive narratives on Muslims and Islam in the U.S. and abroad, and brings back sanity to a volatile debate." – Khaled Hroub, Professor of Middle Eastern and Arab Media Studies, Northwestern University/Qatar

"In this well-timed intervention, Pintak draws on decades of experience to deliver a sharply observed, critical tour of America's problematic political debate about Islam....It offers an important guide for the media, politicians and the public." – Marc Lynch, The George Washington University, author of *The New Arab Wars*

"Lawrence Pintak's *America & Islam* provides a valuable roadmap to what he calls 'the dark side' of America's long relationship with the world of Islam. It provides rare access to an impressive range of Muslim voices, while addressing one of the central questions of the American experience: How did we get where we are today? We ignore Pintak's findings at our peril." – Jonathan Lyons, author of *Islam through Western Eyes*

"In this thoughtful and well researched book, Pintak takes a close look at why a deep misunderstanding of Islam still persists in America. The result is an honest, fair, clear and timely appraisal in which Pintak deftly avoids the temptation to simplify or patronise the complex dynamics at play in Islam today." – Clarissa Ward, CNN Chief International Correspondent.

Editor

## UPDATE: TRAWS LINK CYMRU

**Further progress on the restoration of the rail link between Carmarthen and Aberystwyth, and thence to Bangor.....**

The Welsh Government has recently published a document through its transport arm, Transport for Wales, entitled *A Railway for Wales: Meeting the Needs of Future Generations*, which establishes a western rail corridor as a key element in future government thinking. This is the first time that this has been publicly stated and is a major victory for the campaign.

Additionally, the campaigners have been in talks with Plaid Cymru MPs and AMs (who were instrumental in prising £300,000 from the Welsh Government to fund the feasibility study published in 2018), and the Campaign now has a joint strategy with Plaid to press for the re-establishing of the rail link connecting Bangor with Swansea by way of Aberystwyth. The campaigners gave a well-received presentation at a fringe meeting at the recent Plaid Cymru Annual Conference.

It appears that the project has been placed at the centre of transport developments in western Wales, and looks like staying there!

**Mike J.C. Walker, Emeritus Professor of Quaternary Science, UWTSU; Honorary Professor, Aberystwyth University**  
(Sent via Peter Bosley (1967, 1977))

## STOP PRESS! – KARL McCARTNEY

Karl is a Lampeter graduate and was the guest speaker at a recent Reunion dinner. At the General Election on 12 December, he won back Lincoln for the Conservative Party, having lost it to the Labour Party in 2017.

**Peter Bosley (1967; 1977)**

# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

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## IAN MARCHANT – AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

*[Ian will be the Guest Speaker at the 2020 Lampeter Society Reunion on 18 July. Also see Peter Bosley's letter to the Editor on p. 8 – Ed.]*

Ian Marchant wasn't born in Newhaven in East Sussex in 1958, but he often claims that he was because of his deep embarrassment about his real place of birth. But he really did grow up in Newhaven, and went to school there, and he still sees it as home, even though it quite clearly isn't, given that he lives 250 miles away in Mid-Wales.

He didn't graduate in Philosophy from St David's University College, Lampeter, in 1979. Or ever. He is currently a Masters student studying Church History at Lampeter, though. Honest. He didn't make a living singing in bands in the late 1970s and early 1980s; nor did he become a civil engineer in the late 1980s, as he didn't have any facility for the maths. He was surprised to learn recently that he didn't graduate in the History and Philosophy of Science with a Creative Writing Minor from Lancaster University in 1992. He really did live in a caravan for many years, but he didn't share it with a chicken called Ginger, who was rather an occasional visitor.

He put his 'career' as a 'novelist' on 'hold' when his second novel, *The Battle for Dole Acre*, (whose title he can't pronounce), didn't really sell. He decided to write non-fiction instead, because reality is so much less plausible than made-up things. Like, there was the time with a pair of twins on duty at a Travelodge in Ely, which no one believes, but which really happened.

He didn't know much about railways or pubs when he started writing his acclaimed travel memoirs *Parallel Lines* and *The Longest Crawl* (though he does now). He did stay awake for months to write his last book *Something of the Night*. His latest book, *A Hero For High Times*, has not yet been optioned for a fillum, so get in quick – I would.

He no longer sings in a cheesy cabaret duo called 'Your Dad', because the other half of 'Your Dad' died. He does still support Brighton and Hove Albion, makes radio shows when he's invited, and enjoys a cooked breakfast in Elda's Colombian Coffee House, High Street, Presteigne, Radnorshire.

You can read his blog, which he doesn't update enough, via his website... [www.ianmarchant.com](http://www.ianmarchant.com)

# REPORTS – YEAR GROUP REUNIONS AND OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2019

## 1970s REUNION – LAMPETER

*[This was the annual unofficial reunion for 1974 graduates and their friends – Ed.]*

Isn't it strange the ideas one has when three sheets to the wind? – what appears a cracking scheme at about 11pm on a Saturday night in August can take on a life of its own in the cold light of day. Sitting around the dining table in 2018 during our annual get-together, we decided a theme was needed for the following year, and so the plan for 1970s fancy dress was born. When I say 'fancy dress', the theory was that at least some of us would probably end up wearing for a joke what we used to consider

the height of fashion in 1974. When I started trawling through the attic, I discovered a bag full of May ball dresses which had seen better days, and a cracking cheese cloth smock that was strangely rather tight around the bust!

As we don't seem to have much luck arranging dinner in College, we once again gathered at the Castle Green where Mavis and Bryan put on as wonderful a spread as ever. What an array of 70s fashionistas assembled in the bar of the Black Lion to traipse down the High Street and around the corner!

Nearly everyone managed to dig out a pair of flares or a collarless shirt. The prize has to go to Tim Hodge who found a wig which made him look spookily like he used to look in the 70s. There are probably a few more wrinkles but the appearance was uncanny. Then of course there was Rod Stewart look-alike Chris Arkey – renowned as a dead spit in the 70s. Possibly the most bizarre happening

was John Mole's insistence that, in order to get the best value from his outfit (costing just over a fiver, apparently), he would wear the wig all weekend. Goodness knows what his fellow bus passengers from Aber train station thought.

It would be brilliant if more people wanted to come along although we always manage at least 20 for the Saturday night dinner. Friday tends to see splinter groups spread around various pubs and eateries such as Stewart Lloyd's chippy and the Shapla. Someone always takes a trip to Newquay and Aberaeron for a spot of dolphin watching and we all manage a reminiscent stroll around campus. This year we even discovered the upper floor in Conti's so that we could watch the world go by accompanied by his wonderful ice cream and coffee. Judging by some of the driving we saw out of the window, the standard of traffic negotiation hasn't improved much since 1974!

**Carol Jenkins (1975)**



Sue Pester (1975)



From left to right: John Mole (1973), Chris Arkey (1975) and Tim Hodge (1975)

## 1970s REUNION – CARDIFF

The 70s Lampeter Reunion in Cardiff is now well-established as a regular event every two years. As always, the 2019 gathering centred on a lunch at the Park Plaza Hotel on 13 July. Around 50 alumni and partners attended. It was a relaxed, informal event, as we met friends not seen since the last reunion and others not seen for around 40 years. There was much reminiscing and catching up to be done. Jeremy Smith, Dean of Humanities on the Lampeter Campus, joined us and was able to update us on current University life in Lampeter.

The reunion also included evening gatherings on Friday and Saturday at Henry's Café Bar, where on Saturday evening the Lampeter contingent staged an almost total takeover of the entire outside seating space.

Our thanks are due to Sue Gandy (Kearney), the organiser and moving spirit behind the event, and Steve Clark, who ably handled financial matters. Here's to the next gathering in 2021!

**Andrew Leach (1977)**

## SWANSEA MEETING AND LUNCH

The Swansea Branch of the Lampeter Society had a big decision to make this year: should we have a lunch or a dinner to celebrate St David's Day or... should we be brave and break with nearly fifty years of tradition and have afternoon tea?



Yes, afternoon tea was decided on, but not just taken anywhere but in the wonderful library building of the new TSD building on the banks of the River Tawe in the SA1 Swansea Waterfront development.

And, not only tea, but beforehand we had a tour all around the premises. What a wonderful place – so light, so roomy, such magnificent views and so many quiet places to sit and study. A few of us almost signed up immediately to become students once more.

After our tour we had our business meeting. This was held in a spacious lecture room where the helpful staff had laid out a hot buffet for us to enjoy – plate after plate of delicious food.

Our meeting was more informal than usual as items on the agenda were discussed and minutes read between bites of tasty food and glasses of wine. Yes, I know it was supposed to be tea but our business was intense and we did have pots of tea as well! We had to discuss the many details of the large slate plaque that our branch was to present to the College to commemorate the inauguration of the College in 1822.

Lots of us attended and thoroughly enjoyed our viewing of the new building.

Where to next year...Carmarthen, Lampeter or a reciprocal visit to a College in China?

**Margaret McCloy,  
Swansea Branch PR**

## PLANS FOR THE SEVERN-THAMES BRANCH OF LAMPETER ALUMNI

I would like to form a Lampeter Society Branch to cover the area loosely between Bristol and Reading (the M4 corridor Branch!). There are already Society branches operating in London, Cardiff and Swansea (for details of these see *The Link* or check the Society's web pages).

I suggest, initially, we meet in **Newbury on Tuesday, 18 February, at 12.30** – I'm not wedded to this date or location, but we have to make a start! I'll sort out a pub in Newbury with a decent menu, car park and proximity to the station.

Please respond to **Peter Bosley (1967, 1977)** at **[bosleypeter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bosleypeter@yahoo.co.uk)**

# FEATURES

## SOME 'CANTERBURY' CHARACTERS, 1961–63

Reminiscences inspired by the photograph of the old Canterbury Building in *The Link*, Winter 2018–19  
[no. LXXIII, p.12 – Ed.]

Between 1961–3 I occupied a “don’s set” of rooms at the Western end of the old Canterbury Building, which was considered unsafe. The previous occupant, Jim Sambrook, said he had been startled by the Rev Fred David’s question, “Is the architect’s hat in your bedroom?” – the architect could have left it there, after inspecting the gable wall for cracks. Later I was told it would be no surprise if the water tank above the bedroom tilted over. But I still think that fine Victorian building should not have been demolished.

The other “don’s set” was occupied by Donald Jones, who later became known as Don, but probably not on account of donnish behaviour. We formed what he called “the James Ogden entente”: I believe we were the only Assistant Lecturers and as such excluded from the College Board, which we thought assertively old-fashioned and a potential enemy. For instance, it sought to enforce a rule, unfamiliar to me, that lectures were compulsory. I was required to send round a paper for students to sign; it came back with the signatures of Napoleon, Prinny and Mac the Knife amongst others, so I heard no more about the matter.

At the opposite end of Canterbury was a more lavish “don’s set” – with a private bathroom – occupied by the Head of French, Dr Rhys Jones. From time to time, Rhys held a salon there, donning a Parisian smoking-jacket, handing round French cigarettes and absinthe, discoursing on the *Symbolistes*. He cast himself as “an unconventional academic” and played the part pretty well. He would park his car, a black Morris Minor, at the back of the building, so that in the evening we could “slip for a quiet drink” in some remote village pub, escaping the supposed surveillance of clerical masters.

Two more members of staff were accommodated in Canterbury at that time: Wing Commander George Smythe, the Bursar, in rooms above the entrance hall, and Robin Rider, the Librarian, in one of the students’ sets. Their work kept them to a stricter timetable than ours, but Robin would sometimes join Donald and me for coffee after lunch. Smythe, who had been a fighter pilot in the Second World War, sometimes invited us to his rooms for Bovril, which he said was more “nourishing” than coffee. As Bursar, he knew what we were being paid, and often told us there were better jobs on civvy street.

Donald and I had to lecture on subjects that were unfamiliar to us and could not have coped without

considerable help from the College: board and lodging was not expensive and we enjoyed the service of “the bedders” (bedmakers and cleaning ladies). Mine was Miss Jones, who had a smallholding at Cribyn and occasionally sold me fresh eggs. I made my own bed, but she remade it to a higher standard. I wish I had learned enough Welsh to have conversed with her in her own language but she could be eloquent in English: “You must be up betimes tomorrow, Mr Ogden”, she warned, “or it’s been and gone I’ll be.”

Probably the most eccentric resident was one of the students, Mr Linn from Hong Kong. From there he was sent cheap shirts, and when short of cash he would sell one to me for half a guinea [10s 6d then = 52.5p – roughly equivalent to £11.50 today – Ed.]. He rejected College furniture and lived mainly in what he called “the inner chamber” of his set, where he had a mattress and some cushions on the floor, cooking facilities, and an expensive hi-fi. He told me he had found G.G.Coulton’s *Medieval Panorama*, in a glossy paperback, impossible to read. He had therefore immersed it in water and dried it on his electric fire till the ends of the pages went brown; the resulting tome had a medieval appearance, but alas reading it remained difficult.

In 1961, Lampeter had just been recognised by the Universities Grants commission as a University College. With some benefit of hindsight, I conclude that it deserved its status: it was well-managed, attracted good or respectable academic staff and students, and encouraged varied intellectual effort as well as genuine fellowship.

James Ogden, Assistant Lecturer,  
SDC, 1961–3

## TRAVELS IN WALES – AND THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF AVOIDING LAMPETER!

WELL, IF YOU EVER PLAN TO MOTOR WEST...

One of the major advantages that you get from spending your undergraduate days at Lampeter is that you have a good excuse for retracing your steps back there in later life. After spending forty years in Northumberland, we came to live in Gloucestershire, and for the last four years we have been exploring the places in Wales that we have missed. It is surprising how many times on the way back from the west coast we have come back through Lampeter – but that was intentional since we had not been back for a while. What we did not expect was for Lampeter to have some sort of force field that means that you are pretty much bound to go through it whether you intended to or not.

That Wales has a rich and magical landscape that is endless in its variety goes without saying. When I was at the College, a guy called Brendan (I have forgotten his second name), stood outside Lloyd Thomas building armed only with a large stick and a map of Middle Earth and demanded to know who was coming with him on an Adventure. I don't think he had many takers and he probably ended up in Conti's, but it just proves how inspiring the place is.

But odd things do happen on Welsh roads – it's a fact. In the 1950s once, coming back from a family holiday in Abersoch, we were surprised to be overtaken by the dinghy we were towing. Luckily it buried itself in the undergrowth on the other side of the road. On another occasion a caravan decided to part company with us near Whitchurch and we had to come back for it a few weeks later when my dad had sorted out a towbar that looked a bit less like a bent hairpin. He was still shaking his head over it and saying "That bloke at the garage said it was a patent job..." when we finally got back home.

However, that was some time ago and as you get older you sort of expect

things to settle down and become a bit more predictable – which was kind of what we expected on last year's trip. We started at the National Botanic Garden of Wales at Llanarthney – which, by the way, is a fascinating place to visit, not only for the justly celebrated exotic plants in the glasshouse, but for the sheer scale and ambition of the restoration of the regency estate, especially the way the views open up to north and south. The idea was to go to Towyn on the North coast to spend a few days visiting the Talylyn Railway. I have worked on preserved railways for 15 years and have always wanted to visit the first in the world, but had not got round to it until now. We decided to go via the coast rather than inland via Lampeter, mainly for a change but also perhaps to catch some glimpses of the sea and remind ourselves of those rather sick-making trips we used to do from the College out to Aberaeron or Llangrannog. (We actually sailed from Aberaeron one bright Summer's day, but I don't know if the College still has a sailing club.)

All went well until just past Carmarthen. We had studied the map, the satnav was on, but nevertheless somehow we missed a gigantic green sign pointing left and were on the familiar switchback towards Lampeter. Not only that, but we were following the bus from Carmarthen – an experience probably familiar to generations of students since the railway was closed. I am glad to see that the College is actively supporting the idea of reinstating this latter vital link through the middle of Wales [see *update on p. 23 – Ed.*]. I can remember watching shunting on this line from the lecture hall, although by that time it was closed to passengers. At the time, it would have seemed an easy task to reopen.

But no. The bus (and us) followed the familiar routine. Bump, bounce, roll down hills and stop for a bus queue and wait until the driver has caught up on the gossip with everyone,

then off again. Until, that is, we got to Llanybyther. Here things got interesting because a gang was laying tarmac along one side of the road through the village, and the vehicle that was doing the laying was huge. The guy on top driving it was grinning like a Cheshire cat, but the foreman on the road was not happy at all, and was trying to get everyone to slow down and take a chill pill, although he did not quite express it in those terms.

This advice you would have thought would be music to the ears of the bus driver, however expressed, but for some reason he decided that this was his moment to break free and we watched as in a slow motion film as the engine cover on the side of the bus caught in a protruding piece of the asphalt machine and unravelled like a cardigan sleeve. The foreman shouted something interesting judging by the look on the bloke driving the tarmac machine, and he had to chase the bus down the road to the next convenient stop because the driver had not noticed the missing engine cover nor, presumably, the rending, tearing noise with which it parted company from the bus.

Meanwhile, a motorhome close behind took the opportunity to get out from behind the bus and drive straight over the newly-laid tarmac on the other side of the road. We did not hear the foreman's comment – luckily he was some distance away.

Thus, after many adventures, which is as it should be, we found ourselves looking for a place to finally stop, look at a map and find out what had happened. It will not surprise you, gentle reader, to learn that this was how we found ourselves in the car park by the New Building (if that is what it is still called) watching students drift here and there much as we remembered. It was not a bad feeling in the end, almost as if we had come home.

**John Earl (1972)**

# OBITUARIES

## REV ROBERT IVOR BLACKMORE

In the *Western Mail* of Monday, 4 November, 2019, it was announced that the Rev Blackmore (1962) had most sadly died on Sunday, 27 October, 2019. The funeral service was held at St. Hilary's Church, Killay, on 6 November, 2019, and was followed by a cremation at Llanelli Crematorium.

**John Loaring (1967)**

## JULIE BRAKE

Very sad to hear the news of Julie Brake passing away at the beginning of May. She always had a beaming smile whenever you saw her and was a totally lovely person. She went on to master the Welsh language and with great success too, becoming an author. Only just recently, her chapter in a new book out for 'Welsh for Adults' has won a huge amount of praise from Welsh tutors and learners. She is a great loss to Glyndwr University and to all of us who knew her, and I for one admired her greatly and send condolences to her family and loved ones. RIP Julie *a phob bendith iti [good wishes – Ed.]*.

**Antoni Morgan via Facebook**

## ANTHONY BREEN

I have just heard from Susan Gandy that Tony Breen (Lampeter 1976–79?) passed away recently. On 16 July, 2019, *The East Anglian Daily Times* said that he died suddenly on 24 June, 2019, while on holiday in Wales. The beloved husband and best friend of Cathryn, he will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Anthony's funeral took place at Our Lady's Catholic Church, Stowmarket, on Thursday, 25 July, 2019.

**John Loaring (1967)**

## D. P. DAVIES & PROF. KEITH ROBBINS

In September, 2019, we were very saddened to learn of the deaths – within one week of each other – of two Lampeter stalwarts who made a significant mark on the academic and personal lives of many generations of staff and students.

**Professor Keith Robbins** (1940–2019) was Vice Chancellor of the University of Wales, Lampeter, from 1992 until 2003, having previously been Professor of Modern History at the University of Glasgow. Fellow Lampeter historian, Dr Jeremy Smith, Assistant Dean for the Faculty of Humanities and Performing Arts, remembers Professor Robbins as “a man of great charm and standing, and a renowned historian of modern British history. His knowledge of the past was authoritative and broad, and spanned five decades, ranging from a study of the events at Munich through to a History of Oxford University in the 1970s and 80s.”

In later years, Keith Robbins moved to Oxfordshire where he is remembered fondly by fellow historian and Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Oxford Brookes University, William Gibson (1980, 1983, 2004), who has kindly contributed the following obituary especially for *The Link*:

I first met Keith in 2011, when he agreed to contribute to a research handbook I was editing. He took on the almost impossible task of surveying Methodism and globalisation in 8,000 words. I was sceptical as to whether it could be done, but Keith pulled it off – and superbly. His essay was a scholarly *tour de force*, the work of a historian still at the top of his game.

Subsequently, Keith disposed of some of his books and offered them to my Centre at Oxford

Brookes University. I went to Pershore, where Keith had built an extension along one side of his house that contained his library. It was a marvellous collection of which he was justly proud. I came away with boxes of books that were a very generous gift to a small research centre.

Thereafter I saw Keith from time to time. He was editing volume four of the *History of Oxford University Press*, covering the years from 1970–2004. It was an undertaking that would have defeated many scholars. It involved marshalling 22 contributors as well as dealing with some extremely sensitive issues. They included personnel problems at the Press, its income and global earnings, and its charitable status. Each of these required Keith to co-operate with the Press's lawyers and accountants. I know from one of the contributors to the volume that, throughout, Keith handled the issues with extraordinary diplomatic skill. His wry character and sense of humour carried him through the immense frustrations of this role.

We occasionally discussed the problems of universities in Wales. He was naturally sad to see the federal University of Wales break up. As a former Senior Vice-Chancellor of it, he knew the institution well and was doubtful whether the individual Colleges would thrive. He was also dejected about Lampeter's demise as a separate institution, but he was too scrupulous to interfere. Keith was proud of having served as Welsh Supernumerary Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford twice – once in his capacity as Principal of Lampeter and once as VC of the federal University of Wales. It drew him closer to the

University of Oxford for which he felt a great affection.

My impressions of Keith were of a man of great generosity, enormous skill and scholarship, and of tact and discretion, that would have made him successful in any field he chose.

*[According to a Facebook post by Sean Slater (2005), Prof. Keith Robbins's funeral was held on 3 October, 2019, and a Service of Thanksgiving in Pershore Abbey on 26 October, 2019 – Ed.]*

**Professor D.P. Davies** (1939–2019) left an indelible imprint on Lampeter over five decades.



The son of a parish priest, D.P. was born in Brecknockshire at the beginning of the War and studied Classics and Theology at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, from where he graduated in 1962 before moving on to Ripon Hall, Oxford, to train for the priesthood. He then served as a parish curate at St. Mary's, Swansea. He was appointed Lecturer in New Testament at St. David's College, Lampeter, in 1967 and later became Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Head of Theology and Religious Studies, D.J. James Chair in Theology (in 1986) and, from 1988 onwards, Deputy Principal and Pro-Vice Chancellor.

D.P. was a New Testament theologian who introduced me to Mark's Gospel in the first year of my time at Lampeter, in 1991, and I went on to study his course on Johannine Literature and his contributions on Latin American theology of liberation. As Wendy Dossett [*see Alumni Updates on pp. 20–21 – Ed.*] points out: "Not only did Professor Davies contribute so much to the wider university, he built the Department of Theology and Religious Studies into the greatest department in the UK for several generations of students. His championing of the study of religions other than Christianity, and his global outlook, alongside his deep sense of his Welsh roots and his commitments to liberationist thought, combined to form a contribution to the life of the College which was truly inestimable".

Three other former students were especially keen to pay tribute to his vast legacy. For Marion Stuart (then Bromige):

As a student, I was the same age as D.P., and in fact he was ordained on my birthday in 1964. D.P. allowed me to attempt a Bachelor of Divinity degree, having left school at the age of 16 with just 5 'O'-levels. To prove I could cope with two languages (Greek and Hebrew), he allowed me to take first year Hebrew whilst working towards my Welsh 'O'-level, having already studied Modern Greek. What other University would have such an understanding member of staff to accept a grandmother for a B.D. with no 'A'-level qualifications?

That was just the beginning of getting to know a peer who became a friend as well as a tutor. I persuaded D.P. to become President of a newly-formed Gateway Club in the University. He even did a bit of washing up at the Theology departmental party in my house, and would sit and discuss his writings/theology/the Church over a cup of coffee in the kitchen of the Theology Department house in Bridge

Street. He was a support when I was personally challenged with some aspects of life and he used me as an 'Auntie Flo' in return, and I was able to see a man who had a self-confessed 'complex' personality, with such complexity helping many a student with their studies and their personal problems.

Liz Cleves was a contemporary of mine and writes:

D.P. was Pro-Vice Chancellor when I attended Lampeter as an undergraduate in the early nineties, yet he was always very down to earth and approachable. As lecturer and tutor, he was notably astute, compassionate and caring towards others. He displayed genuine humility as he understated his many achievements that went far beyond academia.

Having lived in Ireland for 14 years, our paths crossed again as D.P. was the moderator at the Bible College in Dublin when I was studying on a Master's programme. I was just 18 when I met him as an undergraduate student yet we kept in touch until my late 30s. He was a significant influence in my life. I remember his sharp wit and wisdom, together with his acute discernment of spiritual, ecumenical and academic matters. His lectures were captivating and memorable as he radiated a natural warmth towards others despite his senior role at the University. D.P. is deeply missed by many. He is a person who helped shape my path and worldview. I will always be grateful for his friendship and the positive impact he had on my life.

And, for Susan Deacy [*see Alumni Updates on p. 20 – Ed.*], now Professor of Classics at Roehampton, notes:

D.P. Davies was the most important theological influence on me as an undergraduate and I have especially fond memories

of his classes on Johannine Literature (in 1990/1 – in the Arts Hall – I can even remember the venue). He was very much in my mind when I began, in Summer, 2019, to cohere interests in New Testament Studies and Classics by interpreting the goddess Athena in light of the Logos of John 1 – and vice versa. This was a couple of months before I heard the news of his death. If this ever grows into a published paper, I'll dedicate it to his memory.

*My thanks to Professor Denisil Morgan, Dr Wendy Dossett, Marion Stuart, Liz Cleves and Professor Susan Deacy in assembling this article, parts of which are based on a translation of an article by Prof. Morgan which first appeared in the Welsh language magazine Barn ('Opinion') in November, 2019.*

**Dr Chris Deacy (1994),  
University of Kent**

## REV VIVIAN PHILLIP ROBERTS B.D.

In the *Western Mail* of 10 September, 2019, it was reported that the Rev Roberts (1958), the former vicar of the parish of Pembrey & Llandry, had passed away on 4 September, aged 84. He was the beloved husband of Jillian, the devoted father of Andrew and Sarah and the loving *dadcu* [*grandfather – Ed.*] of many grandchildren. The funeral was held on 18 September in Pembrey, followed by interment in the churchyard.

**John Loaring (1967)**

## THE VERY REVEREND EDWARD SHOTTER

In July, the Daily Telegraph reported:

The Very Reverend Edward Shotter, who died on 3 July, 2019, aged 86, was Dean of Rochester from 1989 until 2003 and was a notable pioneer in the field of medical ethics.

In the early 1960s, Shotter, always known as Ted, was Intercollegiate Secretary for the Student Christian Movement. His work with the London medical deaneries led to his founding the London Medical Group (LMG) in 1966, and he was its Director of Studies for 23 years. There grew out of this the Society for the Study of Medical Ethics, later the Institute of Medical Ethics, which Shotter directed from 1974 until 1989. He was also instrumental in setting up the influential *Journal of Medical Ethics*, in which topics have ranged widely from the rights and wrongs of prolonging life and assisting death to medical involvement in torture.

Keen that the discussion and application of ethical theology in relation to the practice of medicine should not be seen as a “chaplaincy exercise”, Shotter strove to maintain impartiality and balanced representation in LMG debates. He served simultaneously as Chaplain to London University Medical Students and chaired a committee for the welfare of Czechoslovakian medical students stranded in Britain by the abortive Prague Spring of 1968.

Edward Frank Shotter was born on 29 June, 1933. Following education at Humberstone Foundation School in Cleethorpes he went to study at the Durham University School of Architecture. Domestic architecture remained among his recreations but, sensing a vocation to Holy Orders, Shotter moved on to St David's College, Lampeter, to read for a BA in Theology before training for ordination at St Stephen's House, Oxford. He was ordained in 1960 to a curacy at St Peter's, Plymouth, where he remained for two years before taking up his post with the Student Christian Movement and then developing his work with the London Medical Group. He was

made a Prebendary (Honorary Canon) of St Paul's Cathedral in 1977.

Shotter was appointed Dean of Rochester in 1989 and did much to engage the cathedral with the wider community, including support for business and enterprise in Medway; the local campus for the University of Greenwich (where he chaired the Ethics Committee); the Kent County Constabulary, to which he was Chaplain; and the King's School, Rochester. In 1975 he had been awarded the Patriarchal Cross of the Romanian Orthodox Church. When he retired from Rochester on his 70th birthday in 2003 he was made Dean Emeritus.

The significance of Shotter's work was recognised by a number of awards, including Fellowship of the Royal Society of Medicine, Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians and the Henry Knowles Beecher Award by the Hastings Center for International Bioethical Research.

Together with his wife, Jane (née Edgcumbe), whom he married in 1978, Shotter was a genial host, always insisting, despite her concern for his health, that the generous lunches they gave should include cheese. She survives him, together with their two sons and a daughter.

**Submitted by David Blackwell (1972)**

## ALASTAIR 'WALLY' WALLACE

Alistair (1948–2019) – known to some as “Wally” or “Wal” – started at Lampeter in October 1967, coming over from Jersey with his friend Martin. Alistair's long-time close friend and Lampeter contemporary, Pete Ward, says that “*Wal looked like a surf 'dude', and Martin, I think, was one!*” He also explains that in their



Phil Walkling and Alistair Wallace (R) at the Cambridge Lampeter Reunion in May, 1995

first year the two Channel Islanders shared student accommodation in Garth House, but, because of Martin's "pulling power", Wal actually spent most of his nights sleeping on the floor of Pete's Terrapin room.

Alistair's mother raced cars: possibly some of her love of motor vehicles passed on to him – he very much appreciated classic cars, though he was rather notorious at Lampeter for the dilapidated state of his vehicles. Mind you, it was quite unusual, then, for an undergraduate to possess a car of any kind.

A tall and well-set-up chap, genial and kindly, he became somewhat renowned as a ladies' man (his widow Pam – another Lampeter student – allows me to mention this because it doesn't worry her – it was she, after all, who ended up with him on a permanent basis...)

Alistair played a very lively role in College life generally. A larger than life character, he got into many scrapes, most of which are not for print! However, on printable topics, he was, for example, a founder member of the 16 Club (which recently celebrated its "triple 16" – i.e. 48<sup>th</sup> – anniversary) and an occasional and energetic player of the jug at Folk Club. He also played some rugby for the College and at least one game in goal for the hockey team.

Although he started at Lampeter in 1967 (reading English, History and Philosophy), he stayed on rather longer than the usual three-year undergraduate period as he changed horses once or twice en route, finally going on to take a Single Honours Degree in History, graduating in 1972.

Even after graduation he still couldn't bring himself to leave the place and so worked for some time at the local Milk Marketing Board in Felinfach, lodging at Drefach with the late Keith Lewin, then Assistant Finance Officer of the College.

Nonetheless, in due course Alistair went out into the world of teaching, to Hassenbrook School in Stanford-le-Hope. (It is touching to note that despite his having been retired for many years by 2019, around a hundred of his old pupils, hearing of his death, commented on Facebook about how much they had appreciated him).

Alistair retired early as a result of ill health but rejoiced in meeting again (by serendipity, as a result of his attending a Lampeter Society reunion) his most glowing old flame from College, Pam. On being reunited, their love rekindled and happily, better late than never, they married. A few years later they decided, perhaps inevitably, to return to Lampeter, where they had originally met and which meant so much to them. They settled in nearby Bettws Bledrws, with beautiful views over the valley.

They had some ten happy years there, with a circle of friends old and new, together with occasional visitations from old ex-Lampeter contemporaries, calling in to say 'hello', to reminisce and gently carouse. They took part in some College activities such as Lampeter Society reunions and 16 Club events. Unfortunately though, all good things come to an end and, with neither of them in good health, they began preparations for a move to somewhere more accessible. In the midst of this, Alistair fell into his final illness and passed away on 26 October, 2019.

The weather had been terrible, with torrential rain, flooding, fog and even snow, but thankfully, for his funeral on 15 November at Aberystwyth Crematorium, the sun shone. The service was attended by many friends from far and near and included a reading, by close friend and Lampeter graduate Kathy Miles, of a poem that she had written for the occasion.

The service was taken by Lampeter graduate, friend and contemporary, the Rev Alisoun Francis (née Shephard). It was a deeply moving occasion, so sad, but, in some respects, uplifting too.

Alistair will be very much missed and I have no doubt that Pam is well aware of how warmly her Alistair will be remembered.

**Pushka Evans (1974)**



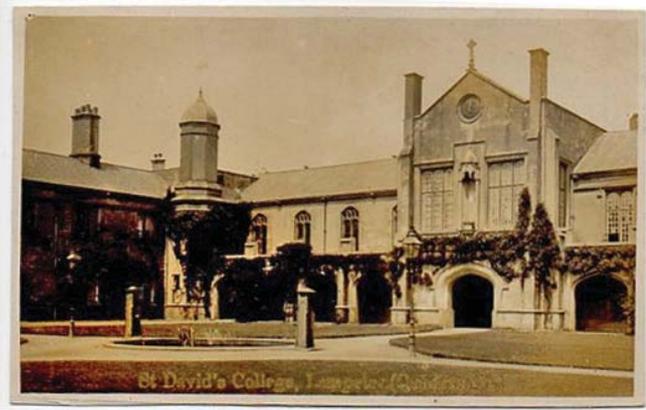
## MAKING BEQUESTS TO THE LAMPETER SOCIETY

Bequests are always most welcome and members of the Committee of the Society would encourage all alumni to include the Society in their wills to ensure that we are able to continue providing a quality service for the College, alumni and current students in the future.

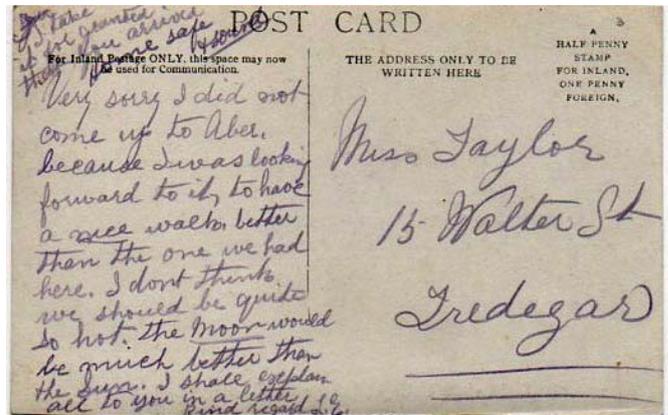
**Editor**

# MEMORABILIA

## POSTCARD OF LAMPETER COLLEGE



Submitted by John Ward (1981)



## LAMPETER SCARVES AND TIES FOR SALE

As the Lampeter scarves and ties have proved to be so popular over the last few years, we have been trying to keep a supply to hand. Both are currently in stock and ready for dispatch!

**Scarves** are in Saxony wool, 180 cm in length, and 23 cm wide. There are nine stripes in black and gold on the front together with the logo embroidered in the central black stripe, whilst the reverse has five stripes in maroon, blue and gold; each costs £25.



**Ties** are black silk with a double diagonal gold stripe with the St. David (in-his-niche) logo and cost £12.



Postage costs are £3 for a scarf or £1.50 for a tie. A joint scarf and tie order is £3 as the ties don't weigh much. Two scarves are £4.50.

Please contact Richard Haslam (rhaslam@hotmail.com) for details and availability as stock fluctuates. Once you are advised that your requirements are in stock, please pay as detailed below and email confirmation of your payment to Richard, who will then dispatch your order.

Payment can be made by bank transfer to – account name: Lampeter Society; sort code: 30-94-85; account number: 00072466; reference: [your surname] 'scarf / tie / scarf and tie' (as appropriate).

Richard Haslam (1994)

# MISCELLANEOUS

## THE LAMPETER SOCIETY

### Enjoyed your time at Lampeter? ... help us support the Lampeter Campus.

The Lampeter Society exists to support the Lampeter Campus of the University and to act as a focus for alumni. All Lampeter graduates are automatically members of the Society and those who give their contact details to the Alumni Officer receive a hard copy of the Society's full-colour, bi-annual magazine – *The Link*, copies of which are on the UWTSd website in the Lampeter Society section.

Our support is given financially or in any other appropriate way and covers the whole range of University life. In recent years we have:

- made annual donations to the Library and the Chapel
- paid to have the Students' Union Officers' Honours Board updated each year
- funded an annual Lampeter Society lecture
- bought a mobile bar for the campus catering team
- contributed towards the cost of the Harmony Garden
- subsidised a Rugby Club tour and kit for the Fencing Club
- purchased four volumes of John Donne's poetry for the Library as well as a book on C.R. Cockerell, the architect of Old Building
- supported an international conference on 'Globalism in the Ancient World', organised by the Department of Ancient History

- donated the History of the College – a sequence of large pictorial boards – which used to hang in the Cloisters, though its current whereabouts is unknown.

**However, all of these activities rely on the Society having sufficient funds available. It is thus reliant on donations made to it. Some graduates make one annually (the minimum requested is £10 – but if you wish to be more generous this would be gratefully received). Such donations are essential to enable us to maintain the range of support we offer to the Lampeter Campus – please give generously.**

The Society's main event is the annual weekend Reunion which takes place in July on campus. It includes the AGM and the Reunion Dinner. Details are to be found on the University website, in *The Link*, and on the Society's Facebook page. This is intended to be a relaxing, informal and enjoyable weekend for catching up with old friends and meeting new people. The programme is completely flexible and you can take part in as many or as few of the events as you like. You are also welcome to bring along other family members or friends. [See details of the events scheduled for 2020, 2021 and 2022 on p. 7 – Ed.]

Other reunions and meals take place in various parts of the country, when there are alumni willing to organise them. The Lampeter Society is always ready to support and publicise these events.

Andrew Leach (1977)

## DATES FOR DIARIES, 2020

### General

**Tuesday, 3 March, 5.30 pm**

Lampeter Society-sponsored Lecture  
(see p. 6)

**Saturday, 25 April**

Rugby match – 'Old Codgers' v  
College rugby team

**Saturday, 9 May**

May Ball (all alumni welcome)

**Friday, 29 May**

Lampeter Society London Branch –  
Annual Dinner

**Friday, 17 – Sunday, 19 July**

**The Reunion of the Lampeter  
Society in Lampeter**

### *Forthcoming open lectures in Philosophy in early 2020*

**28 January**

Prof. Havi Carel, University of Bristol  
(via Skype): 'It's hard to think without  
your pants on: epistemic injustice and  
patients as knowers.'

**11 February**

Marthe Kiley-Worthington, Lancaster  
University, Centre of Eco-Etho  
Research & Education – Trustee of  
We Are All Mammals.

**25 February**

Prof. Chris Norris, Cardiff University:  
'Philosophy, Verse and "Creative  
Criticism"'

**10 March**

Prof. Clive Cazeaux, Cardiff University  
(Cardiff School of Art): 'What is audio  
drama?'

**7 April**

Dr Paul Giladi, Manchester University:  
'The Agent in Pain: Alienation and  
Discursive Abuse'

**12 May**

Jernej Markelj, Cardiff University:  
'Contagion of Oedipal Fictions: Viral  
Falsifications and Their Receptive  
Hosts.'

[*Editor's Note: For enquiries,  
contact Rebekah at: r.humphreys@  
uwtsd.ac.uk*]

## REQUEST FOR COPY FOR FUTURE EDITIONS OF *THE LINK*

The deadline below will have to be rigidly adhered to; copy received after the date stated will, regretfully, not be included.

\* **Summer, 2020 – Friday, 15 May, 2020**

*Subsequent deadlines will be decided by the new Editor and will be publicised in the Summer, 2020 issue.*

Editor



## MEMBERSHIP OF THE LAMPETER SOCIETY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

**Chair / Reunion Co-ordinator:**

**Vice Chair:**

**Treasurer:**

**Secretary:**

**Editor of *The Link*:**

**Deputy Editor of *The Link* / Severn-Thames Convenor:**

**UWTSD Liaison:**

**London Convenor:**

**Swansea Liaison:**

Esther Weller (1999)

Chris Deacy (1994)

Andrew Leach (1977)

Victoria Welsby (2004)

Adrian Gaunt (1966)

Peter Bosley (1967/1977)

Bill Fillery (1969)

Richard Haslam (1994)

Steffan ap-Dafydd (1976/1991)

[estherb16@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:estherb16@yahoo.co.uk)

[deacychris@hotmail.com](mailto:deacychris@hotmail.com)

[ajpleach@gmail.com](mailto:ajpleach@gmail.com)

[victoria@welsby.org](mailto:victoria@welsby.org)

[adrian\\_gaunt\\_04@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:adrian_gaunt_04@yahoo.co.uk)

[bosleypeter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bosleypeter@yahoo.co.uk)

[fillerybill@gmail.com](mailto:fillerybill@gmail.com)

[rhaslam@hotmail.com](mailto:rhaslam@hotmail.com)

[steffanap@msn.com](mailto:steffanap@msn.com)



**Peter Bosley with a celebration [75<sup>th</sup>...shh!] birthday cake at the October Business Committee meeting**

We would love to have further volunteers to share the work (and to lower the average age even further!) We meet three or four times a year, either at the Celtic Manor Hotel near Newport, or near Cheltenham, and generally on Saturdays to enable those still working to attend.

If you have any general queries about the Society, please write to us at: [lampetersociety@gmail.com](mailto:lampetersociety@gmail.com)

Editor

## THANK YOU

My grateful thanks to all the contributors to this Winter edition of *The Link* – and to everyone for adhering to the copy deadline; to *The Link* Deputy Editor, Peter Bosley; to Esther Weller (Chair) and Chris Deacy (Vice-Chair) for their support; to Alan Foster (1966) for his help with proofreading and the layout of the forms; to Lucy-Jane Michel (née Gaunt) for her assistance with Latin phrases [she is currently studying for the part-time UWTSD Postgraduate Diploma in Greek and Latin by distance learning]; to Jill Sweet for her excellent design work; to Kevin Evans for the printing; and to Gemma Russell for the efficient management of the distribution.

Adrian Gaunt (1966)

# ENDNOTE

## EXTRACT FROM THE DIARIES OF FRANCIS KILVERT

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 1871**

Mr Marsden entertained me with some reminiscences of his own. "When I was curate of Llangorse", he said, "the Vicar of Talgarth was ill and I had to procure an assistant curate. So I wrote to Llewellyn, now Dean of St. David's – then Principal of Lampeter – to send me a man who wanted a title for orders and could speak Welsh and English. Llewellyn wrote that he had the very man for me, *doctus utriusque linguae* ['taught in both languages' – Ed].

The man came. I saw his Welsh was very shaky. Once he was publishing Banns. He meant to say 'Why these two persons may not lawfully be joined together in Holy Matrimony'. But what he did say was 'Why these two backsides may not lawfully be joined together in Holy Matrimony'. Everyone in church hid their faces. When we came out of church I said, 'Well, you have done it now.' 'What?' said he. I told him. 'God forbid' said he."

Submitted by John Earl (1972)



SDC hockey team, 1966. Submitted by Peter Bosley (1967, 1977)

## LAMPETER SOCIETY REUNION 2020

### Friday 17 July – Sunday 19 July

### DRAFT PROGRAMME

This is intended to be a relaxing, informal and enjoyable weekend for catching up with old friends and meeting new people. The programme is completely flexible and you can choose as many or as few of the events listed below as you like – everything is voluntary. You are, of course, welcome to bring along other family members or friends. **(Unless pre-booked, please note that accommodation, the Reunion dinner, and other meals apart from Sunday lunch, will not be available.)**

#### MAIN EVENTS

##### Friday 17 July

**3.00 pm – 5.00 pm: Registration** – Cloisters, St David’s Building (thereafter keys can be collected from Reception). *Free refreshments.*

*The table plan for the Reunion Dinner will be available: please ensure you sign up for a seat before you leave the area as this will give the catering staff more preparation time.*

You will also be able to sign up to participate in the *Lampeter 200 Voices Project* (see below).

**5.30 pm: Welcome Reception** – 1822 Café / Bar

**6.00 pm: Dinner** – Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall

**7.30 pm: Pub quiz** – Students’ Union

**8.45 pm: Andy White** (*renowned Brummie comedian – 1994 Lampeter graduate*) – Students’ Union

##### Saturday 18 July

**8.00 am – 9.00 am: Breakfast** – Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall

**9.15 – 9.45 am: Organ Recital** – Chapel. *Rt Rev Dr Richard Fenwick, PhD (Wales), MA (Wales), BA (Lampeter 1966), MA (Trinity College Dublin), MusB (Trinity College Dublin), former Bishop of St Helena in the Anglican Province of Southern Africa*

**10.00 am: Lampeter Society Annual Commemoration Service** – Chapel. *Preacher – The Venerable Paul Mackness, BA (1996), Archdeacon of St. Davids*

(If you wish to maintain the tradition of wearing academic dress, please do so.)

**11.00 am: Coffee, tea and biscuits** – Cloisters, St David’s Building

**11.15 am: Annual General Meeting of the Lampeter Society** – Cliff Tucker Lecture Theatre. There will be updates from UWTSD about the campus, academic programme etc.

**1.00 pm: Informal lunch** – Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall

## **2.00 pm – 4.00 pm: Optional activities:**

- \* **interviews** for the *Lampeter 200 Voices Project – Recording Studio*. By 2022, the aim is to capture the memories and experiences of at least 200 present and former students [see *The Link* LXXV, Winter 2019-20, p.19, for more details].
- \* **croquet** (on the grass outside OB – weather permitting!)
- \* **table tennis** (Students’ Union)
- \* **pool** (Students’ Union)
- \* **board games** (Students’ Union)
- \* **museum** (former Porter’s Lodge)

## **4.00 pm – 5.00 pm: Strawberry Tea – Cloisters, St David’s Building.**

## **6.45 pm: Group photo – Steps next to the library (weather permitting!)**

**7.00 pm: Pre-dinner drinks reception** – Bottles of wine for the Reunion Dinner will be available for purchase. (Note: one drink will be complimentary.) Raffle tickets will be on sale @ £1 each, with all proceeds going to Lampeter Society funds.

## **7.30 pm: Reunion Dinner – Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall**

**GUEST SPEAKER – Ian Marchant** (see his autobiographical note on p.24)

Smart casual wear please (but dressing more formally is perfectly acceptable if you wish!)

After the dinner, the Students’ Union will be open until late, with a disco in the Extension.

## **Sunday 19 July**

**09.00 am – 10.00 am: Breakfast – Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall** (for those who can drag themselves out of bed!)

**10.15 am – 11.00 am: Question-and-Answer session with Local Lampeter Luminary - Founders’ Library**

**11.00 am: Leisurely walk to the Falcondale.** Meet in the **Cloisters, St David’s Building**

**12.30 pm: Sunday lunch – Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall**, and farewells until 2021.

**ALSO**...in keeping with Lampeter’s proud Christian traditions, services will be taking place in St David’s University Chapel throughout the Reunion weekend – all are welcome.

<b>PROGRAMME OF CHAPEL SERVICES (St David’s Building)</b> <b>(TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)</b>	
<b>Friday 17 July 5.00 pm:</b>	Evensong
<b>Saturday 18 July 5.00 pm:</b>	Roman Catholic Mass with Fr John Pascoe (1967)
<b>5.45 pm:</b>	Evensong
<b>Sunday 19 July 11.00 am:</b>	Holy Communion

## FFURFLEN ARCHEB

**(SYLWER, HEB ARCHEBU YMLAEN LLAW, NI FYDD LLETY, CINIO'R ADUNIAD NA PHRYDAU BWYD ERAILL, AR WAHÂN I GINIO DYDD SUL, AR GAEL.)**

**Nodwch isod (a danfon at Dderbynfa Llanbedr-Pont-Steffan yn y Coleg):**

- a) nifer y lleoedd yr hoffech ar gyfer pob digwyddiad yr ydych chi'n ei ddewis  
b) unrhyw ofynion arbennig – er enghraifft, anghenion bwyd, llety ar y llawr gwaelod, ystafell teulu (cyfyngedig o ran nifer). Pe hoffech chi breswyl ychwanegol, cysylltwch â lampeterreception@uwtsd.ac.uk, ffôn 01570 422351 cyn i chi dalu. Gallwch hefyd gysylltu ag Esther Weller (Cadeirydd) ar estherb16@yahoo.co.uk

Prydau/preswyl	£ y pen	Nifer y lleoedd
Swper - Gwener	9.00	
Gwely a Brecwast - Nos Wener/Bore Sadwrn	38.00	
Byrbryd - Sadwrn	9.00	
Tê a Mefys - Sadwrn	Am ddim	
Derbyniad a Chinio'r Aduniad - Sadwrn	27.50	
Gwely a Brecwast - Nos Sadwrn/Bore Sul	38.00	
Byrbryd - Sul	11.50	
<b>GOFYNIAD ARBENNIG</b>		
<b>CYFANSWM</b>		

**Rydym yn bwriadu cynnig rhestr o bawb sy'n bresennol i bawb yn yr Aduniad. Ticiwch yma os NA FYNNWCH i'ch manylion gael eu cynnwys.**

Enw \_\_\_\_\_

Blwyddyn Graddio (os yn addas) \_\_\_\_\_

Cyfeiriad \_\_\_\_\_

Enw(au) o gwestai \_\_\_\_\_

Talaf drwy drosiad banc i – enw cyfrif: Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant;  
côd didoli: 20-18-74; rhif cyfrif: 30959693; cyfeirnod, "ACLI – [fy enw]"

NEU Rwy'n cynnwys sic am £ \_\_\_\_\_ yn daladwy i Brifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant.

***Os yn archebu Cinio'r Aduniad, cwblhewch y ffurflen drosodd, os gwelwch yn dda.***

***Dychweler erbyn Dydd Mercher, 8 Gorffennaf fan bellaf i: Dderbynfa Llanbedr-Pont-Steffan, Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant, Llanbedr-Pont-Steffan, Ceredigion SA48 7ED***

## BOOKING FORM

**(UNLESS PRE-BOOKED, PLEASE NOTE THAT ACCOMMODATION, THE REUNION DINNER, AND OTHER MEALS APART FROM SUNDAY LUNCH, WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE.)**

**Please indicate below (and send to Lampeter Reception at the College):**

- a) the number of places you require for the events you select  
 b) any special requests – for example for dietary needs, ground-floor accommodation, a family room (limited in number).  
 If you would like to book extra nights before or after the reunion, please contact lampeterreception@uwtsd.ac.uk, tel. 01570 422351 to check availability before paying. You can also contact Esther Weller (Chair) at: estherb16@yahoo.co.uk

Meals/accommodation	£ per head	No. of places
Dinner - Friday	9.00	
Bed & Breakfast - Friday night/Saturday morning	38.00	
Lunch - Saturday	9.00	
Strawberry Tea - Saturday	Free	
Reunion Reception and Dinner - Saturday	27.50	
Bed & Breakfast - Saturday night/Sunday morning	38.00	
Lunch - Sunday	11.50	
<b>SPECIAL REQUESTS</b>		
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		

**We propose to issue participants with a list of those attending this Reunion. Please tick here if you do NOT wish your details to be included.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Year of graduation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of any guests \_\_\_\_\_

I will make payment by bank transfer to – account name: University of Wales Trinity Saint David; sort code: 20-18-74; account number: 30959693; reference, “LSR [my name]”

**OR** I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

***If booking the Reunion Dinner please also complete and attach the form overleaf.***

***Please return by Wednesday, 8 July at the latest to: Lampeter Reception, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Lampeter, Ceredigion SA48 7ED***



**MENU CHOICES**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number in party \_\_\_\_\_

Please choose *one* option per person from each course by indicating the number in the box.

<b>Starters</b>	Number
Home-made carrot and ginger soup served with roll and butter (V)	
Prawn, celery and apple cocktail	
Creamy garlic mushrooms served with a toasted ciabatta	
<b>Main Courses</b>	
Fillet of salmon served in a spinach and white wine sauce	
Supreme of chicken stuffed with brie and bacon, served in a rich Madeira sauce	
Polenta and vegetable stack (V)	
<b>Sweets</b>	
Home-made strawberry and white chocolate cheesecake	
Home-made sticky toffee pudding with a rich toffee sauce and custard	
Strawberry Eton Mess	
<b>Tea or Coffee</b>	

A complimentary glass of wine or a soft drink is included.

*Please note any special dietary requirements* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_



Prifysgol Cymru  
Y Drindod Dewi Sant  
University of Wales  
Trinity Saint David

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**UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY SAINT DAVID**

To help us maintain the accuracy of our records, please keep this form until required then, when you change your address, return it to:

**Gemma Russell,**

University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Lampeter Campus  
SA48 7ED

Phone: (01570) 424776; email: [gemma.russell@uwtsd.ac.uk](mailto:gemma.russell@uwtsd.ac.uk)

Also though, please update your contact details at the following web address:  
<https://forms.uwtsd.ac.uk/view.php?id=193668>

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Year of graduation</b>	
<b>Old address</b>	
<b>New address</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>Email</b>	



**Prifysgol Cymru**  
Y Drindod Dewi Sant  
**University of Wales**  
Trinity Saint David

**LAMPETER SOCIETY  
ANNUAL DONATION  
STANDING ORDER  
MANDATE**

<b>To the Manager</b> [ <i>your bank</i> ]	
<b>Address of bank</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>Sort code</b>	
<b>Account number</b>	
<b>Account name</b>	
<p>Please pay <b>The Lampeter Society</b> the sum of £ .....</p> <p>(The minimum recommended payment is £10, but if you wish to be more generous, this would be gratefully received.)</p> <p><b>Date of first payment:</b> .....</p> <p>(Please allow four weeks from return of the form to the start date of your standing order.)</p> <p><b>Date of subsequent payments:</b> 1 March annually</p> <p><b>Iban no. for payments from abroad:</b> GB36 LOYD 3094 8500 0724 66</p>	
<b>Signed</b>	
<b>Date</b>	

**For Bank Use:** The Lampeter Society, c/o Lloyds Bank, 9 High Street, Lampeter SA48 7BQ  
(Sort Code: 30-94-85; Account number: 00072466).

**Reference:** The Lampeter Society – [*your name*]

<b>Additional information for Lampeter Society and UWTSD records</b>	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Telephone</b>	
<b>email</b>	
<b>Graduation year</b>	
<b>Profession/ occupation</b>	

***Please return this form to:***  
Gemma Russell, University of Wales Trinity Saint David,  
Lampeter Campus, SA48 7ED

LAMPETER SOCIETY LONDON BRANCH – ANNUAL DINNER 2020

Dear Lampeterian,

I should like to invite you to the Annual Dinner of the London Branch of the Lampeter Society. This event is open to all alumni, their friends, partners or anyone who feels an affinity with Lampeter. The dinner will be held at the National Liberal Club, Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2HE, on **Friday, 29 May 2020**. Please aim to arrive by 7.00pm to dine at 7.30pm.

As is usual, it is a little early to confirm who will address the dinner, but I am confident, as in years past, that an excellent candidate will step forward to entertain and enlighten us.

As the Head Chef selects only fresh produce, the menu is also yet to be confirmed but this is an indication of what to expect:

Pea, Bean and Mint Bruschetta  
----  
Roast Tarragon Lemon Chicken Breast with Seasonal Vegetables and Potatoes  
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White Chocolate & Passion Fruit Mousse  
----  
Coffee and Mints

A vegetarian option is also available. Please indicate this preference on the booking form below or by email. Should you have any other specific dietary requirements, these can be accommodated if you let me know in advance.

**The cost is £38 which represents excellent value for a Central London location of this quality.**

It is preferable if payment can be made by bank transfer to: University of Wales Trinity St David; sort code 30-94-85; account number 00072466; reference “**London [your surname]**”. Please follow this up with an email to advise me of payment and/or of any special requirements, and/or names of guests etc.

If you cannot pay by bank transfer, please return the booking form below, with a cheque made payable to Richard Haslam, to **29 Gilbert Street, Enfield, EN3 6PD**. Places for the dinner are limited, and in order to confirm numbers with the Club in sufficient time, I should be grateful if all bookings and payments could be completed by **Friday, 22 May, 2020**.

The regulations of the National Liberal Club require that gentlemen wear a lounge suit or similarly-tailored jacket, collared shirt and tie (jeans and trainers are not permitted). Ladies should be dressed in a similarly smart manner.

Please send all correspondence by email to **rhaslam@hotmail.com**.

Should you be unable to attend the dinner on this occasion but would like to be kept informed of future events, please contact me in order that we are able to keep a record of those interested in the Lampeter Society’s activities. If you know of anyone who may have such an interest, please pass on this information and encourage them to contact me. Further information is also available on the alumni pages of the University’s website and the Lampeter Society Facebook group. Do look us up and get in touch!

Yours sincerely,

Richard Haslam, Convener, London Branch (1994)

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**Booking Form – please complete and return to Richard Haslam, 29 Gilbert Street, Enfield, EN3 6PD**

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Name & address or email for confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve me \_\_\_\_\_ places at £38 each. I enclose a total payment of £\_\_\_\_\_, made payable to Richard Haslam.

Name/s of guest/s if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate here \_\_\_\_\_ if your preference is for the vegetarian option, or indicate in the space below if you have any other specific dietary preference or any other requirements.

**“OTHER TIMES, OTHER ‘MANORS’”\***



**‘Manor’ class locomotive – Lampeter, 1964 (for those who knew him, Rev. John MacDonald [aka ‘Father Mac’] is in the middle of the group)**



**‘Manor’ – Lampeter, October, 1963**



**‘Manor’ – Lampeter, 1964**

**Photographs by Rev ‘Kit’ Windle (1966).**

\*“Other times, other manners” – a late 16th century proverb (*Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, 2004, p. 629)

