

Rhif/No. LXXVII

Gaeaf/Winter
2020/21

the link

Cymdeithas
Llambed

The
Lampeter
Society



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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of *The Link* was designed by Jill Sweet (JS Typesetting Ltd., Porthcawl).

Images

The covers for this issue have a rugby theme, in recognition of the importance of the sport for UWTSD Lampeter Campus and to highlight, in 2022, the forthcoming 200th anniversary of its founding.

Front cover

The excellent photograph by Thomas Dobson (2018) – taken in March, 2018 – is of the Rugby Ball Memorial sculpture designed and created by Mark Sawyer, a technician at UWTSD, which was unveiled in 2016 to mark the 150th anniversary of the very first competitive rugby match in Wales in 1866 between St. David's College (as it was then) and Llandovery College. Mark said: "What makes the sculpture really special is that the...Bath stone used to create it came from the original Canterbury building on the Lampeter campus. The stone would have been standing at the same time that the first match was played..." (*The Carmarthenshire Herald*).

Back cover

The top picture was submitted by Ieuan Davies (1985) and shows the actual former rugby field where the match took place, discovered by him in the nearby village of Caio. He writes: "It just so happens that in September, 2020, I met with the rugby coach, Nathan Thomas of Llandovery College, and Dave Chaplin, the landowner at Caio, and beyond any reasonable doubt we've identified the site of *the* pitch where Welsh rugby was born."

The bottom image is of the UWTSD pavilion and playing fields on Pontfaen Road in Lampeter, courtesy of Betty Longbottom. On this site, the first ever Welsh rugby team (St David's College) played from the mid-1850s onwards.

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 16th century". Then, in the late 20th 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*, 2nd edition, revised, 2005, p.1832). Moreover, it seems to be a usage that befits the current gender-sensitive times.
3. Wherever there is a gloss by the editor, it appears simply as " – Ed."

EDITORIAL

Welcome to this Winter issue of *The Link* – but regrettably, it is the second time we have been restricted to an online / email version only. We are really sorry about this, but the rigours of the Covid-19 situation have left us no alternative. It is particularly disappointing to me as this is my first issue as Editor. It has been a challenge for me but I am fortunate to have had the continuing professional and technical support of our erstwhile Editor, Adrian Gaunt, as well as help and guidance from the Deputy Editor, Peter Bosley; our Chair, Esther Weller; the other Business Committee members; and from the former University Alumni Officer, Rhodri Thomas.

In such a momentously difficult year, and with new features included, it is not surprising that this edition focuses more on News and less on the other aspects which always form a part of this magazine. Nonetheless, during my tenure as Editor, *The Link* will continue to strive to 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.

In 2021, we fervently hope that the magazine will be able to be published in a printed format and that it will be possible for The Lampeter Society's annual Reunion to return to Llanbedr Pont Steffan. 2020 has been a challenging year for us all, due to the Coronavirus and the ensuing lockdown. In this issue, we find out how we have all coped – in the Chair's report below; in the message from the Provost of Carmarthen and Lampeter campuses, Gwilym Dyfri Jones (see p.4); and in the accounts of members' experiences of the Coronavirus lockdown, worldwide (see p.23).

We also get an update from the Provost on student numbers at the Lampeter Campus this academic year and continue with the popular series 'Alumni Updates' from Chris Deacy (1994) and 'The Lampeter Experience', where alumni reminisce about student life on the Lampeter Campus in decades past. In addition, there is an interesting article giving an introduction to Conti's Café and the Italian café culture in Wales, written by Esther Weller (1999) (see p.20).

In future editions, to mark the bicentenary of the University's Lampeter campus and the 85th anniversary of The Lampeter Society, we plan features on the:

- * history of rugby in Wales
- * history of the academic robes of Lampeter (by Nicholas Groves)
- * origins of The Lampeter Society
- * Italian café culture in Wales (following on from Esther's 'Introduction' in this issue)
- * cutting-edge academic research being carried out at the UWTSD Lampeter Campus
- * changing face of Lampeter Town

as well as providing profiles of more alumni of St David's College from the 19th Century.

Meanwhile, please keep on sending me your contributions for future editions – and above all, stay safe and well!

Brendan McSharry (1971);
brendan.mcsharry2@gmail.com

CHAIR'S REPORT

Well, I think we can safely say that 2020 was certainly a challenging year. As I wrote my Chair's Report at the end of 2019, I don't think anyone anticipated what 2020 had in store. Our hearts go out to everyone who has lost friends or family members over this last year. We also continue to show our support to students in Lampeter and across the whole of UWTSD whose studies and life at university have been severely affected. Let us hope that 2021 brings us all more stability, peace and reassurance.

Our plans this year, like so many others, were severely affected. The Business Committee continued to meet online throughout the year and

I should like to thank them all for their continued support and passion for helping to make the Lampeter Society the best it can be in bringing alumni together in these challenging times. In the wake of the pandemic, we were not able to hold elections to the Committee last year. We have therefore taken the decision to retain the current official roles of the committee until the AGM this year. I hope that you are in support of this decision.

I want to begin my report by sending our condolences to the friends and family of our friend and colleague, Steffan ap Dafydd. It was such a shock to learn of his sudden death just a

week after he attended our committee meeting in July. With his role of Convenor of the Swansea branch of the Lampeter Society, Steffan was a much-valued member of the Business Committee. He is greatly missed.

We were all disappointed that the annual Reunion had to be cancelled last year. All was not lost though, as in its place we held the first ever virtual one. We may not have been physically together but seeing so many familiar and new faces in the middle of a long period of lockdown certainly helped to lift spirits. We had some great sessions throughout the day, including a fascinating talk on the history of the college by Dr Alex Scott and an

update on the campus and future plans by the Provost, Gwilym Dyfri Jones. While we missed out on the opportunity to share a meal together, we finished the day in true Reunion style with a traditional 'pub' quiz! We are very much hoping that we shall be able to hold the Summer Reunion as normal this year though. The Business Committee has planned the weekend and we really hope the Covid situation will not require us to cancel it. We are going to start taking bookings and then keep our fingers crossed! Booking forms can be found towards the end of this issue of *The Link* and, as in recent years, there is also an electronic link which the University is encouraging us to use.

Following the success of our virtual day in July, we are going to be holding more sessions online in the future to complement our face-to-face events. Notwithstanding the pandemic, virtual events will help to reach out to a wider audience and will allow those members to participate for who travelling to Lampeter is just not possible or feasible. We are going to start with the Lampeter Society Lecture, 2021. I am hugely looking forward to our speaker this year – Pamela Petro, who graduated from Lampeter in 1985. In her own words, Pamela has “never been the same” since her time in Lampeter. An American, Pamela’s relationship with Wales has been punctuated by an intense feeling of *hiraeth*. In her forthcoming book, *The Long Field: A Memoir, Wales and the Presence of Absence*, Pamela writes of her first encounter with the Welsh landscape:

The first time in Lampeter that I walked past the edge of town, where the double yellow “no parking” lines ended and sheep pastures began, I found myself nodding, as if I were in agreement with the landscape. Its lucidity cut like a scalpel through mental images of all the other places I’d lived: New Jersey, Rhode Island, Washington DC, Cape Cod, France. It sliced through their forests and highways and towns and cities and clutter, peeling them away, down to the mental bedrock

beneath – a primary place of understanding where memory and concept conjoined. And that place looked like Wales. Why, I can’t tell you. It just did.

It should be a fascinating talk! (*For more information, including how to book a place, see the advert on p.22 – Ed.*)

Throughout last year – and this will continue to be our focus in 2021 – we have been busy with preparations for our activities to mark the bicentenary in 2022. The University will be publishing a complete calendar of events in due course, and ours will be included. We shall be keeping members regularly updated.

I should like to draw your attention to a few of them now though. Our ‘200 Lampeter Voices’ project is progressing well. I feel quite privileged to read some wonderful memories and reflections of life in Lampeter before they are published! We still have a long way to go to reach our target of capturing 200 ‘voices’ though so please do consider taking part.

We are also hoping to publish a high-quality coffee table album of photographs of the campus and life at Lampeter. If you have any which you would like to see included, we should love to see them.

The Lampeter Society is also organising a celebratory service in St David’s Cathedral on Saturday, 26 February, 2022. Please keep a note of this in your diaries as we should love to fill the cathedral for this very special event. We are looking at providing transport from Lampeter; we shall of course let you know final arrangements when we have them.

Our ‘200 Club’ is also going strong! We launched it as a way of raising funds – in the first instance primarily to pay for some of our bicentenary activities. Thank you to all our current members and well done to those who have won cash prizes throughout the year. Members can join at any time; registration forms together with the rules of the Club are found on p.xi of this edition.

You may remember that we launched the 2022 Lampeter Society bursary in 2019. Our initial aim is to fund two bursaries to the value of £1,000 each, to be given to two potential students from the University’s two social inclusion projects based in Newport and London. Thank you so much to alumni who have contributed to this fund. If anyone would like to make a donation to the Lampeter Society Bursary Fundraising Appeal and help us reach our target of £2,000, donations can be made at www.uwtsd.ac.uk/alumni/lampeter-alumni/donate-now/

We aim to publish our agreed calendar of events for 2022 in the Summer edition of *The Link*. In the meantime, if you would like any further information on any of the projects or activities mentioned, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally, I should like to welcome two new members to the Business Committee. Firstly, Nevil Williams joined us in the Summer of 2020 as the new Swansea Convenor. He has been a regular face at the Summer Reunions and has attended the annual St David’s day dinner at Swansea for many years. We welcome you to the Committee, Nevil.

Secondly, Brendan McSharry, who co-edited the Summer issue of *The Link* with his predecessor, Adrian Gaunt, and after that took over the reins; this Winter edition is his first as Editor. I know Brendan will share my gratitude to both Adrian and Peter Bosley for joining him in the editorial team and supporting him in his role. Welcome to the team, Brendan! I’m sure everyone will agree that you have produced an informative and engaging edition and I look forward to continuing to work with you.

On behalf of the Business Committee, I should like to wish you and your families a safe 2021. These difficult times will pass and I look forward to the day when we can all celebrate together.

Esther Weller (1999)
estherb16@yahoo.co.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY

AN UPDATE FROM THE PROVOST

Covid-19

Like organisations across the country and beyond, the University of Wales Trinity Saint David has had to adapt the way it works in response to COVID-19. Its Response and Recovery Plan is aligned to Welsh Government directives, as well as Public Health Wales, NHS Wales and higher education sector guidance and good practice.

We have been working hard to continue to offer an engaging and safe learning experience for all our students and have introduced a blended delivery approach combining online and on-campus learning. We have also reorganised our campuses to ensure that two-metre physical distancing can be maintained by providing one-way systems throughout our buildings and installing hygiene stations across our campuses. We have also made face coverings mandatory in our teaching and communal spaces.

All students and staff returning to campus have been required to complete an online module to ensure that they are fully aware of, and comply with, the University's coronavirus health and safety requirements. In addition, we register the attendance of staff and students on our campuses and are promoting the use of the NHS COVID App to assist the government's contact tracing efforts and have protocols in place should anyone become symptomatic.

We realise that this is a challenging time for students in particular and, through our Student Services team, have put in place a comprehensive range of support measures for them from online study help and mental health counselling to extending our bursary and hardship scheme.

The University is grateful to its student body for adhering to its health and safety requirements and to the staff who have been supporting them. The close collaboration between the University, its staff and students, and the Students' Union has ensured that, to date, not a single positive case of coronavirus has been recorded on the Lampeter Campus. Long may that continue, although we are not complacent and will continue our considerable efforts. We worked with local authorities and the Welsh Government to ensure that our students were able to return home safely for the Christmas holidays.

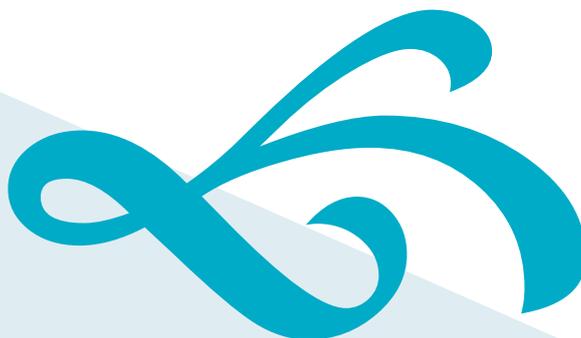
Recruitment

Despite these unprecedented times, UWTSD recorded an increase of 9% in its student intake this academic year. Programmes delivered from the Lampeter Campus attracted approximately 300 new students with the Foundation for Humanities, BA Celtic Studies, MA Ancient History and MTh Christian Theology programmes being amongst the most popular. The total number of students studying at Lampeter is 663, with 327 of these being on campus and the rest studying on distance learning programmes. The Humanities and Education Board recently confirmed plans to validate new online programmes for the 2021/22 academic year in BA Religion, Philosophy and Ethics, BA War, Conflict and Society, BA Bible and Theology, and MA Chinese Culture of Wellbeing and Health Management, whilst additional programmes linked to the proposed 'Canolfan Tir Glas' initiative – focussing on rural enterprise, sustainability and the food industry – are also in the pipeline.

Bicentenary Celebrations

As many of you will know, 2022 will mark the bicentenary of the foundation of the original St David's College, Lampeter, which forms the historic basis of the current University. It is therefore a huge milestone, not only in the history of the University but also for Wales. Under the guidance of the Chair of Council and the Vice Chancellor, a small working group – including Esther Weller, Chair of the Lampeter Society – has been established to draft a programme of events to celebrate the establishment of the oldest institution of higher education in Wales. The bicentenary year will offer an excellent opportunity to reaffirm the core values of the University and also to mark its direction of travel for the future.

Gwilym Dyfri Jones
November, 2020



FINANCIAL REPORT

THE LAMPETER SOCIETY – FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2019/2020

This is the first report to be presented on an April – March financial year, rather than August – July. The change has been made as a result of a suggestion at the 2019 AGM. It means that the information the report contains will be more up-to-date for presentation at the Society's Summer AGMs.

The Society began the year in a good financial position with balances of £27,058.23. Our principal source of steady income consists of the annual donations from alumni, which totalled £5,328 in this financial year. These donations have remained steady at around this level for a number of years. We are grateful for the support of our graduates – these funds enable us to aid the Lampeter Campus financially on a regular basis and to support alumni events.

The 2019 Reunion generated an income of £3,557 with costs to the Society of £2,152.95, giving a surplus of £1,404.05 for Society funds. Sales of ties and scarves (for which we are grateful to Richard Haslam) generated a further £1,166.34. Purchase of stocks of the ties and scarves during the financial year totalled £902.90 – a surplus of £263.44.

The statement also shows income of £76 relating to bookings for the 2020 London Dinner – this event had to be cancelled owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. Refunds were made after the end of the financial year and will appear in next year's accounts.

The Society makes regular annual grants to support the Library and the Chapel on the Lampeter campus; these totalled £1,500 in this financial year – £1,000 to the Library and £500 to the Chapel. We have also continued to fund the annual Lampeter Society Lecture, which raises our profile on the campus – the cost for this event was £309.20.

Expenses for hire of venues for meetings and committee members' travel during the year came to £1,331.17. This is higher than we would have wished, but the cost of meeting venues has risen steeply and members travel considerable distances to attend meetings. This cost should reduce significantly in subsequent financial years, as the pandemic has caused us to begin holding Committee meetings on Zoom.

The last three months have been quieter than normal with no Summer Reunion income and no major

payments to support events on the Lampeter Campus, which has been closed due to the pandemic – so there has been very little change in our financial situation. At the close of the financial year our funds totalled £27,699.35 – a modest increase on our balances at the start of the year.

As discussed at the 2019 AGM, we began moves during the year to deposit the bulk of our reserves in an interest-bearing account, rather than leaving our funds in the hands of the University. At the close of this financial period in March, 2020, the Covid-19 lockdown meant that these plans were inevitably delayed and will be carried forward to the next financial year.

It is the Committee's intention to continue supporting the Lampeter Campus in whatever way we can and we are currently investigating the possibility of financing a bursary to enable a student or students to study and live there.

My thanks go to everyone who has supported us in any way during this year.

Andrew Leach (1977)

LAMPETER SOCIETY

2022 BURSARY FUNDRAISING APPEAL

Our initial aim is to raise £2,000 to create two £1,000 Bicentenary Bursaries for potential students in the University's Social Inclusion projects in London and Newport. In the future, we would like to award a Lampeter Society Bursary for new students on an annual basis.

If you would like to support our appeal, please donate at

[University of Wales: Trinity Saint David – Donate now \(cafonline.org\)](https://cafonline.org)

Thank you!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Ieuan Davies (1985)

Great 'Link'!

I was reading through the latest issue and came across an invitation for suggestions for the bicentennial celebrations. I have recently been in contact with Nathan Thomas, the head rugby coach at Llandovery College, to see if we could ascertain the precise location of our first ever match against each other. We know that it was held in Caio in 1866 but we are not sure where in Caio it was held. I am researching this at the moment. [For the result, see 'Note from the Editor' on p.1 – Ed.] The plan is to hold a joint training session on this field in the near future when we are done with Covid-19 restrictions.

I was wondering if we could have a Lampeter College v Llandovery College match during the bicentenary celebrations to commemorate our links with each other? We could hold it at Lampeter Rugby Football Club's ground and also take advantage of

their new club house and facilities. This game could be a major event in the celebrations and reinforce our rugby history as the birthplace of Welsh rugby.

Would you forward this suggestion to the relevant people please? [We have done so and the Lampeter Society & UWTSO Lampeter Campus welcome this suggestion as part of the bicentenary celebrations in 2022 – Ed.]

PS: As soon as we are able to and as soon as I can track down the correct field and its owner for permission to use it, the training session in Caio with Llandovery College could go ahead. I shall keep you posted on this one.

If my idea of a rugby match between the two colleges as part of the bicentennial celebrations is approved then I will be more than happy to organise it; I am an Old Boy of both establishments and I have the necessary contacts.

From Carleton Rees Tarr (1962)

Thanks for this article on *The 'Second Alumnus'* – Prof. Arthur Barrett written by Kyle Thomason (2017) in the Summer, 2019 issue of *The Link*.

I have a connection with the Elphinstone College name. When I was a housemaster at the Wells House School in Malvern in 1968, I taught Henry Elphinstone, great-great-grandson of Lord Mountstuart Elphinstone, Lieutenant-Governor of Bombay and founder of Elphinstone College [where Prof. Barrett (1875) taught].

Henry's great-great-great-granduncle, Lord George Elphinstone, was an Admiral in Nelson's Naval fleet.

CORRIGENDUM

In the Summer, 2020 issue (LXXVI) of *The Link*, on page 15, column 3, paragraph 1, I used the wrong piece of copy when thanking the friends I made in my time at Lampeter. It should have read: "thank you in particular [in alphabetical order] John Baker, Peter Bosley, Richard Fenwick, Alan Foster, Bill Kenwright, John Morrison-Wells and Kit Windle."

Adrian Gaunt (1966)

JOIN OUR '200 CLUB'!

Our new '200 Club' is now up and running with cash prizes given out monthly! Each month, half of the proceeds will be split between three lucky winners and half will go to the Lampeter Society to help us fund our activities and events.

Further information, including the registration form, can be found on p.xi of this edition of The Link.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE LAMPETER CAMPUS

[Except where indicated, items are based on press releases submitted by Arwel Lloyd, Principal PR and Communications Officer, University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD hereinafter) – Ed.]

League Tables

► GUARDIAN LEAGUE TABLE RANKS UWTSD FIRST IN WALES IN EIGHT SUBJECTS

The University has been placed first in Wales in eight subjects and in the UK's top 15 in six subjects in the Guardian University League Table, 2021, published on 5 September, 2020.

The University Group, which includes the campuses of the University at Carmarthen, Lampeter and Swansea, as well as Coleg Sir Gar and Coleg Ceredigion, is positioned joint 56th overall out of the 121 featured institutions from across the UK and is second in the UK for the quality of feedback and assessment – a score given by final year students in the National Student Survey (NSS).

The Guardian ranks universities according to nine different measures. These include: how satisfied final year students are with their courses, teaching and feedback; spending per student; the staff/student ratio; graduate career prospects; the grades applicants need to get a place; and a value-added score that compares students' entry qualifications with their final degree results.

The subjects which are ranked first in Wales are: Art, Design & Crafts; Education; Fashion and Textiles; Film; Forensic Science and Archaeology; History; Mechanical Engineering; and Production and Photography. Art and Engineering: Mechanical is also ranked first in the UK for student satisfaction with teaching and for feedback.

Dr Mirjam Plantinga, the University's Associate Pro Vice Chancellor for Academic Experience, said:

UWTSD celebrates the news that we have achieved a solid performance in this year's Guardian University League Table. This...confirms the results of the Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2020, which saw the university win the main award in the 'Courses and Lecturers' category for the second year in succession. Our strong emphasis on personalised learning, small classes, student support, and working together with our students in close partnership has been crucial to achieving these results.



University News

► UWTSD'S ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY LECTURE SERIES PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED

UWTSD's Lampeter campus is an accredited branch of the Royal Institute of Philosophy, a charity which can trace its origins back to the 1920s. The Institute is dedicated to the advancement of philosophy in all its forms, in order to access the widest possible audience, not just academics and students of philosophy.

The Lampeter Royal Institute of Philosophy Lecture Series focuses on new, expansive and cutting-edge philosophy research. The first talk was by Dr Anneli Jefferson from Cardiff University on 3 November, 2020, where she answered the question, 'Can psychiatric diagnosis undermine agency?'

All events are free and open to the public as well as UWTSD students, alumni and staff, and anybody with an interest in this field is encouraged to join the discussions. They are held on Tuesday evenings between 6pm and 7.30pm. During the first semester each session will take place via Zoom and will, as usual, be followed by a Q & A session where there will be an opportunity to ask questions and have a further discussion.

2020–21 Lecture Series Programme from January, 2021

12 January

Dr Martyn Sampson, UWTSD, Lampeter. Online, Zoom
Topic: 'Epistemic Injustice and Mental Health'

26 January

Dr Paddy McQueen, Swansea University, on Campus
'Why We Should License Parents'

9 February

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

23 February

Jernej Markelj, Cardiff University, on Campus
'Deleuze and Guattari's Symptomatology of Power: Fascism as a Contagious Disease'

9 March

Prof Lisa Bortolotti, online, Zoom.
Topic TBA

23 March

Dr Anna Bortolan, Swansea University, on Campus
'Online Selves: Emotions, Narratives, and the Internet'

20 April

Dr Maria Balaska, University of Hertfordshire, on Campus.
Topic TBA

27 April

Dr Sophie Archer, Cardiff University, online, Zoom.
Topic TBA

Date and topic TBC

Professor David Cockburn, UWTSO, Lampeter

To join Zoom meetings

The details you need are:

<https://zoom.us/j/95316754126?pwd=ZUVxeEUydzdUNXZCYoRrSWdPVojkUT09>

▶ STUDENTS PRAISE UWTSO ONLINE SUMMER SCHOOL

During two weeks in August, Year 11 students from secondary schools across Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion had the chance to experience a taste of university-level study in an intensive online Chinese language and culture summer school.



Chinese language and culture summer school

The first of its kind, the online Summer School was delivered by the Confucius Institute at UWTSO and allowed school students to achieve credits through the University's Associate Faculty. Despite months of missed school due to the Covid-19 'lockdown', the students proved more than capable of tackling the challenges of learning to speak and write Mandarin Chinese within just a few days. They quickly acquired research skills and explored a whole range of culture topics from Traditional Chinese Medicine to comparing Welsh and Chinese medieval poetry.

Feedback about the course and the online learning format was excellent. One student commented:

Overall, a truly fantastic course and I would strongly recommend it to anyone looking to broaden their perspective and learn things critically and reflectively! A really interesting and potentially useful new skill to use and a perfect refresher from the 'colonised, canalised' one-dimensional way of learning many are used to.

The course came about from a collaboration between the Confucius Institute and the Seren organisation, a network of Welsh Government-funded regional hubs that helps students achieve their highest academic goals and aspirations. Seren Regional Hub Coordinator, Julian Dessent, commented:

The balance of rigour and support on the course has been exemplary. All of the students my colleague Bethan and I talked to felt they achieved far more on the course than they would have dreamt possible.... I am keen to build on this course with UWTSO in the near future.

For more information please contact Krystyna Krajewska (email: k.krajewska@uwtsd.ac.uk).

▶ AIR STEWARDESS TAKES DISTANCE LEARNING TO NEW HEIGHTS, GAINING AN MA IN ANCIENT RELIGIONS

Cabin crew member Annaliese Freeman has recently graduated with a Master's degree in [Ancient Religions](#) from UWTSO in Lampeter, despite having had to fit her studies around travelling between different continents.



Annaliese Freeman

Annaliese opted for this course as a way to progress her studies, having previously achieved a degree in Classics and Archaeology from the University of Kent. She was helped by the fact that it was easy to catch up with lectures and work via email and video chat. Her ambition is to specialise in ancient Egyptian religion and possibly become a lecturer or teacher, so she now hopes to apply for a PhD.

▶ GRANDMOTHER GAINS DEGREE FROM UWTSO LAMPETER, REALISING LIFELONG DREAM
Grandmother Paula Bollen has graduated from UWTSO in Lampeter with a [BA degree in the Archaeology of Egypt, Aegean and the Near East](#), realising a lifelong ambition to return to learning. She had not been able to pursue further studies when she was younger, having had her first child at 18. However, Paula did have a previous career in education: she was a family worker, qualified as a nursery nurse, and worked in nursery and school situations as well as at a

family centre. She had decided to leave the profession while her children were still young – she has a large family with two boys still at home aged 12 and 16, three grown-up girls and eight grandchildren. She decided to enrol at university after seeing an advertisement in the local paper.

As for her future and any career prospects, she says she completed the degree for herself, not for financial reasons or to pursue a career in archaeology; the sense of achievement is enough. She was awarded first class honours.

► UWTSO'S RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE RESEARCH CENTRE WELCOMES VISITING PROFESSOR FROM THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF BRASILIA

The Religious Experience Research Centre (RERC), based at UWTSO's Lampeter campus, is currently hosting Professor Marta Helena de Freitas from Brazil. Marta is a professor of Psychology of Religion at the Catholic University of Brasilia and is the Psychology and Religion Working Group Co-ordinator for the National Association of Research and Postgraduate Studies in Psychology (ANPEPP).

In collaboration with Professor Bettina Schmidt, Director of the RERC at UWTSO, she is currently conducting research entitled *Religiosity and Spirituality in Psychotherapy: an intercultural study based on the perception of clinical psychologists*. She is also writing a research article focusing on Sir Alister Hardy, founder of the Lampeter-based Research Centre, as well as other national and international publications in Brazil and beyond. Living and working in Lampeter has allowed Marta to conduct research directly at RERC and access historical documents about Sir Alister Hardy's life and work.

While her activities are currently restricted due to the Coronavirus outbreak, she contributes actively to online research seminars. She's also used the time to concentrate on her creative work and writes poems to reflect on her time in Wales. Speaking about her experience of living there during the Coronavirus pandemic, Professor Marta said:

Being based in Lampeter offers me an original, unique and very special experience of being able to study, research and write in the oldest academic institution in Wales and one of the oldest in the UK. After all, the University has been present in this town since 1822. People here are very welcoming and the town has many nice and pleasant cafes. In this small, quiet and inspiring town, I can live near the river and walk to the Campus where I have the honour to study at the RERC and also participate in some of the interdisciplinary seminars.

She has also contributed to a new book, *Spirituality and Wellbeing*, which was released recently and edited by UWTSO's Professor Bettina Schmidt and Jeff Leonardi. Discussing her contribution to the new book, she added:

The theme of Spirituality and Wellbeing is increasingly recognised as essential in contemporary society, especially in times of a pandemic.... My chapter...presents and discusses results from researches conducted with health and mental health professionals in Brazil, exploring how their perceptions and experiences are related to the relationships between religiosity, spirituality and physical and mental health.

Recent Publications and Podcasts

Books

► THE UWTSO LAMPETER CAMPUS HARMONY INSTITUTE AND SOPHIA CENTRE PRESS LAUNCH *THE HARMONY DEBATES* COLLECTION OF ESSAYS *The Harmony Debates: Exploring a practical philosophy for a sustainable future*, published by the Sophia Centre Press in partnership with the University and the Sustainable Food Trust, was launched on 22 October, 2020. It is edited by Dr Nicholas Campion, Associate Professor in Cosmology and Culture at the Lampeter Campus, with a foreword written by the University's Patron, HRH The Prince of Wales.

The book has 43 chapters written by 47 authors from diverse backgrounds, including John Sauven, head of Greenpeace UK; the scientist Rupert Sheldrake; Dame Ellen MacArthur, the fastest solo sailor to circumnavigate the globe; and the composer Sir John Eliot Gardiner, author of *The Suffolk Trilogy*. They all explore the concept of Harmony – the classical and traditional idea that everything is interconnected and ideally exists in a state of balance. Indeed, the word 'harmony' appears in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as an outcome no less than three times.

This anthology gathers together an interdisciplinary array of experts, academics and practitioners from agriculture, the arts, education, philosophy, religion, science, as well as business, environmental and community activism, to explore what 'harmony' means and how we can use it. How do we conduct business, educate children, protect the environment, resolve conflict and promote health and well-being in a world in which all things are fundamentally connected?

Nicholas Campion, Director of the University's Harmony Institute says:

We all live on one planet, and we share its resources, its water, land and air. As we have found out to our cost, climate change, nuclear leaks and virus pandemics do not respect national boundaries, social class, or ethnic divisions. To solve these problems, we need solutions which recognise complexity, acknowledge the interconnectedness of all things, and respect social justice.

The book is available in paperback, is 600 pages in length, and is priced at £25.

► UWTSD LECTURER HAS PAPER PUBLISHED IN NEW BOOK

Dr Rebekah Humphreys, a Philosophy lecturer at UWTSD, has had a paper published in a new book entitled *Climate Change Ethics and the Non-Human World*.

The book, published by Routledge, examines from different perspectives the moral significance of non-human members of the biotic community and their omission from climate ethics literature.

With diverse perspectives from both leading and emerging scholars of environmental ethics, geography, religious studies, conservation ecology, and environmental studies, this book will offer a valuable reading for students and scholars of these fields.

Climate Change Ethics and the Non-Human World is a multidisciplinary volume of international scholars that presents novel work on non-anthropocentric approaches to climate ethics. Written in an accessible style, the text incorporates sentientist, biocentrist, and ecocentrist perspectives on climate change.

Dr Humphreys's paper – 'Suffering, Sentientism and Sustainability: An Analysis of a Non-Anthropocentric Moral Framework for Climate Ethics' – features as one of the chapters in the book. Using the most up-to-date scientific research on the impacts of climate change, she examines different ethical frameworks for climate change negotiations, taking into account the dignity and interests of present and future human and nonhuman beings. She says:

The book as a whole is a multi-disciplinary volume of international scholars who are presenting novel work on non-anthropocentric responses to climate change....[My paper] examines a range of approaches, arguing for an egalitarian, biocentric ethic that considers individuals of all species to have value. It is fantastic news that this important book has finally been released.

Climate Change Ethics and the Non-Human World is edited by Brian G. Henning, a professor of philosophy and environmental studies at Gonzaga University, and Zack Walsh, a Research Associate at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Potsdam, Germany. The book is published by Routledge.

Podcasts

[Although the two podcasts which follow are printed in full because of their contemporary relevance, the views expressed in them do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial team of The Link].

► THE 'SPANISH' INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC OF 1918–1920 AND ITS IMPACT ON WALES

Given the present circumstances, it is perhaps inevitable that historians, and in particular those who spend their

career studying the Great War, would look for similarities between the Covid-19 virus and the influenza epidemic that caused such havoc across the world between 1918–1920. However, such an exercise is problematic; there are similarities, but to get an accurate picture of the nature of the influenza epidemic, you need to be fully aware of the context in which it happened.

In this podcast, Dr Lester Mason, eminent historian and lecturer at UWTSD in Lampeter, considers the impact of the Spanish Flu epidemic and whether we can learn anything from its devastating effect.

The influenza epidemic (influenza A virus subtype H1N1, to give its full name) lasted from January, 1918 to December, 1920, and reached a deadly peak in Wales during October and November, 1918. The label 'Spanish' is misleading. True, Spain suffered the full force of the epidemic, like many other European countries; however, the fact that the country was not at war, and was not compelled to impose wartime news restrictions, meant that early reporting on the virus tended to concentrate on Spain, coupled with the added attention given to the fate of the monarch, King Alphonso XIII, who had been struck down with the virus. The presence of wartime restrictions would have a lasting impact on how the virus was tackled and indeed on its legacy.

*There have been a number of theories put forward about the true origins of the virus, many of which speculate about the impact of the War and the increase in the number of army camps and barracks across the world, with further speculation connecting meat and poultry preparation and the army camps in Kansas USA (teeming with soldiers about to cross the Atlantic to fight in Western Europe). Some suggest the extensive Allied military training camp and medical facilities at Etaples on the French coast was a breeding ground for the virus. Whatever the true source, it cannot be denied that the massing together and movement of so many young men helped spread H1N1. In his 2006 publication *The War of the World*, Neil Ferguson claims that "one in every hundred American males between the ages of 25 and 34 fell victim to the Spanish flu lady" (pp.144–5). Other factors that were linked at the time to the spread of influenza included poverty, poor hygiene and overcrowding. These factors would have an impact on Wales, particularly on the working-class communities of the south Wales coalfields.*

The symptoms were alarming, particularly during the virulent second wave in the autumn of 1918 – the skin turned blue, the lungs filled with suffocating fluids, and there was bleeding from the nose and ears. It struck quickly and quietly, and death could occur within days, and, in some cases, hours. Counter to expectations, and supporting Ferguson's comments above, it was most virulent among young adults, taking a fearful toll on servicemen, many of who had survived combat only to succumb to H1N1. It is believed that a lifetime of acquiring immunities to such viruses had given more protection to the elderly.

This period, of course, predates the NHS, and there were no vaccines or anti-viral drugs to turn to, so any response to the virus did lack the medical sophistication we tend to take for granted today (at the time it was judged a bacterial infection and not a virus); but there are some parallels between then and reactions today to Covid 19. Restrictions on movement were imposed in 1918, including advice on the need to avoid sneezing and coughing in public, the boiling of handkerchiefs, the ventilation of bedrooms, and the avoidance of crowds. Some schools, cinemas and theatres were closed. At the heart of the response to the Spanish flu virus was the role of the Medical Officer of Health under the control of the local Councils, a far cry from the more centralised government response of today. However, in the early stages, its full impact was not realised because of poor communication, wartime restrictions on the sharing of information and news gathering, and the simple fact that, at a time when the death of young men in battle had become the norm, the toll taken by the H1N1 went unnoticed.

The impact in Wales was profound. According to the BBC website: 'How Spanish flu epidemic devastated Wales in 1918' (available at: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-45577611), it is estimated that between 8,750 and 11,400 people died in Wales from the virus. The worst impact came during the second wave in the autumn of 1918 when there was a spike in cases of over 20,000 in October / November. This came earlier in the Rhondda, when 144 deaths were recorded in July, 1918. The close-knit mining communities of South Wales, known for their neighbourliness, suffered disproportionately, as did the more deprived areas of Cardiff. However, rural Wales did not escape; the highest death rate in Wales occurred in Caernarvonshire, where some communities were overwhelmed, hampered by a shortage of doctors, as many from this profession were in uniform and serving abroad.

The 'Welsh Newspapers Online' website is a rich source of information and holds a variety of Welsh newspapers dating from 1804–1919. (<https://www.library.wales/information-for/press-and-media/press-releases/2013-press-releases/welsh-newspapers-online>). A simple entry into the search engine will display numerous articles on the epidemic from all parts of the country.

The legacy of the flu epidemic is a complex subject. As discussed above, the initial response was muted because of wartime restrictions, and ever since it has been viewed as the 'forgotten epidemic'. In his social history of Wales, entitled People, Places, and Passions, Russell Davies aptly states: "This contagion, which caused panic and fear on a scale not seen since the ravages of cholera in the mid-nineteenth century, killed more than 9,000 people in Wales. Yet there is almost no echo of a cough in the history books" (2015, p.15).

Limited news coverage during World War One, coupled with the close proximity to the conflict and the carnage of trench warfare and the war at sea, meant that the disease was deemed less significant, even if it claimed so many young citizens of all nations. This has also meant that, over

the years, the epidemic has not been given the attention it deserves. Perhaps the present Covid-19 crisis will lead historians to think again and re-assess the significance of the Spanish Influenza crisis of a century ago.

Whether we can learn anything about the 1918 virus that can help in our response to the challenge today is questionable, but there are similarities, including how epidemics appear in peaks and waves. Whatever the similarities, the epidemic of 1918–1920 was an event of historical significance and it surely deserves our full attention at this time.

► UNIVERSITIES, RACE AND SLAVERY: FROM LIVERPOOL TO LAMPETER

The 'Black Lives Matter' and 'Rhodes Must Fall' movements have brought renewed attention to the ongoing legacies of slavery, racism and colonialism in all aspects of society – including higher education.

Below, Dr Alexander Scott, Lecturer in [Modern History](#) at UWTSD in Lampeter, explores these contemporary issues and discusses the connections of cities, universities and prominent individuals to transatlantic slavery and abolitionism.

As a white, male academic, I have no experience or first-hand knowledge of the injustices and discrimination which are motivating 'Black Lives Matter' protests across the globe. Even so, my upbringing, education and professional career have been surrounded by the history and contemporary realities of racism and colonialism.

Coming from Liverpool, histories of empire and slavery are hard to ignore. Transatlantic slavery was Liverpool's original raison d'être, fuelling its rise from insignificant fishing village to become one of the world's richest cities during the Georgian and Victorian eras. From the late sixteenth century through to the abolition of the slave trade in 1807, around 1.3 million Africans were transported to the Americas aboard ships registered in Liverpool. This accounts for roughly 12% of the total number of slave voyages undertaken across the four-hundred-year chronology of transatlantic slavery. Liverpool was essentially the capital of the slave trade.

As a child, I have vivid memories of being taken to an exhibition on slavery at the Merseyside Maritime Museum. In particular, I recall seeing the Middle Passage exhibit, and getting frightened by a model of rabid dog which was part of display recreating a ship's interior.

Being born in 1980s Liverpool, I grew up in the metaphorical shadow of racial tension. My mother taught at primary schools in Toxteth, the south Liverpool district historically home to the majority of the city's black and minority ethnic population. This area was then synonymous with the 1981 disturbances which saw members of the local community fight back against police violence and racial discrimination. The 'riots' – or the 'uprising' as they are often known locally – were a recurrent feature of folk memory throughout my childhood.

In fact, the Maritime Museum display which scared me as a child was one of their indirect legacies. 'Transatlantic Slavery: Against Human Dignity,' a gallery opened in 1994, was created in response to a report detailing how racial discrimination was embedded in Liverpoolian society. Tellingly titled *Loosen the Shackles*, the 1989 Gifford Report cast light on both the extreme deprivation experienced by the African Caribbean community and its lack of representation in the city's public institutions.

The formative stages of my adult life were also spent in cities with connections to slavery. I went to university in Lancaster, *Britain's fourth-largest slave port*, and had a year abroad in St Louis, a city with a majority African American population which still bears *hallmarks of racial segregation*. During my time there, the University of Missouri St Louis put on bus trips for international students to go shopping at supermarkets in Ferguson, a settlement on the outskirts of the city. A few years later, Ferguson gained international notoriety when a police officer shot dead Michael Brown, an unarmed African American student.

As a postgraduate, I delved deeper into Liverpool's history of racism and imperialism. My PhD thesis examined how the city's museums thrived because of trading connections with British colonies, particularly those in West Africa. Another aspect of my research looked at the racial pseudoscience used to organise the museum's anthropological galleries in the early twentieth century.

Joining UWTSD in 2015 though, I might have expected my new place of work to be disconnected from histories of race and empire. Mid-Wales can seem remote from the major forces that have shaped modern history. But the longer I have spent in Lampeter, the more I have come to appreciate that the town and its university are entangled in wider historical trajectories. Research by *Chris Evans* and others has, for instance, teased out *links between mid-Wales's wool industry and transatlantic slavery*.

Superficially, the original St David's College, founded in 1822, can be viewed as having been on the 'right side' of these historical controversies. Its founder Thomas Burgess was a public supporter of emancipation. Also, prior to becoming Bishop of St Davids, Burgess published *Considerations on the Abolition of Slavery*, a 1788 pamphlet which dismantled theological arguments used by apologists of the slave trade.

Moreover, Burgess was friends with William Wilberforce, Hannah More, Henry Thornton and other members of the Clapham Sect, a set of evangelical reformers noted for their opposition to slavery. Indeed, Wilberforce and Thornton all became patrons of St David's College. Another key benefactor, John Scandrett Harford, who donated the land on which the University's main buildings still stand, was also a committed abolitionist.

So far so good. Yet this belies a more complicated picture.

Harford and his father-in-law Richard Hart Davis, the previous owner of Lampeter's Peterwell estate, were both

natives of Bristol, and their families' wealth derived in large part from transatlantic commerce. Whatever their political convictions, as Bristolians, Harford and Davis lived and worked in proximity to a crucial hub of the triangular slave trade.

Furthermore, both Harford and Davis *were members of the Society of Merchant Venturers* – an organisation that counted many slavers as fellows and which for several centuries has played an active role in Bristol's civic life. In 1895, the Merchant Venturers helped fund the erection of a statue dedicated to Edward Colston, an official for the Royal African Company and a major figure in the slave trade. In 2019, *the society obstructed efforts to have a new plaque placed besides Colston's statue*, the toppling of which on 7 June *is already an epochal moment in British history*.

Underlining his connectedness to transatlantic slavery, Harford had a close relationship with *Philip John Miles, a millionaire banker who owned sugar plantations in Jamaica and Trinidad*. The pair were partners in the Miles Harford bank, an institution into which subscriptions for the founding of the Lampeter college were deposited. Philip John Miles also followed Harford's example in combining business interests in Bristol and Wales, purchasing the Cardigan Priory estate in 1832.

If Miles and Harford's partnership represents a tangential link between the university and slave ownership, the figure of Thomas Phillips offers a concrete one.

Phillips, who also founded Llandovery College in Carmarthenshire, was a major benefactor of St David's College, endowing several scholarships and donating to it 20,000 books – *a contribution which marks one of the foundations of the University library's special collections*.

A learned and well-travelled surgeon for the British East India Company, Phillips's various business interests included ownership of the Camden Park plantation in St Vincent – a property for which he, like Miles and other slave owners, received compensation upon the abolition of slavery in 1836. Phillips's status as a slave owner has been downplayed in previous historiography – and in the University's own publicity. *As the entry on University College London's Legacies of Slave-ownership website points out*, no mention of Phillips having slave interests is included in his entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

Phillips's biography was written by Canon DT William Price, a former Lampeter lecturer and the writer of the authoritative history of St David's College, first published in 1977. Price's history opts not to discuss slavery or abolition.

More recent appraisals have also tended to adopt a defensive posture about Phillips. A catalogue written to mark an exhibition celebrating his life inferred that he was merely 'an absentee landlord' of the St Vincent plantation and that he "was solicitous of the welfare of his slaves before manumission [or 'affranchisement' – the act of freeing slaves by their owners – Ed.]"

Egregious as the notion of the 'good slave-owner' is in its own terms, this image of Phillips as relatively beneficent is not one borne out by recent research. [Nicholas Draper has noted that one quarter of Camden Park's enslaved population died between 1822 and 1825, and that the same proportion of casualties was recorded in 1825 to 1828.](#)

More work needs to be done to explicate Lampeter and the University's connections to slavery and empire. My research so far has only scratched the surface. [UWTSD's special collections](#) contain a treasure trove of documents relating to empire and slavery, including original versions of texts by abolitionists such as Olaudah Equiano and Granville Sharp. Nicky Hammond of the Roderic Bowen Library and Archives has begun to piece together the life stories of graduates who became missionaries in Britain's formal and informal empire – and our students make excellent use of the University archives in research projects on Wales, slavery and empire, including work by postgraduates Hilary Slack and Shemaraiah Bloomfield-Johnson.

Teaching modules such as 'Routes and Roots of the Black Atlantic: Cultural Histories of the African Diaspora' and 'Age of Empire: The Colonial Project and the Humanities' has given me the chance to discuss with undergraduates approaches to commemorating the colonial past. The most stimulating aspects of these modules is learning from students. I often find myself 'catching up' with their positions. This reflects the character of contemporary debates, which have been led by students, not academics. 'Rhodes Must Fall' began as a student movement [at the University of Cape Town](#), and its influence has since spread to campuses around the world.

However, there remains little room for complacency when addressing universities' contested pasts. They are part of the system of racism that 'Black Lives Matter' is protesting against. Various structural barriers hamper access to higher education by members of black and minority ethnic communities. They also hinder the career prospects of people of colour within academia.

This is particularly true of my own discipline.

In 2018, the Royal Historical Society published [a report highlighting the unrepresentativeness of history as an academic discipline](#). Its findings demonstrated that cohorts for history courses feature lower proportions of black and minority ethnic students (11.3%) than the overall UK undergraduate population (23.9%). The situation is exaggerated at postgraduate level, with just 8.6% of research students from BME backgrounds.

The problem is even more acute at the front of the lecture theatre. Academic historians are overwhelmingly white (93.7%). Only 0.5% of history staff identify as black. In effect, the chances of being taught by a lecturer of African heritage at UK universities are at best 1/200.

As [Meleisa Ono-George](#) has impressed, universities are "not site[s] of neutrality, separate from the historic and

embedded structures of inequality and power." Rather, they "played a central role historically within the colonial project and still today in creating and shoring up social inequalities."

'Black Lives Matter' and 'Rhodes Must Fall' call for more than tearing down statues or [changing the names of halls of residence](#). They insist upon [decolonising university curricula](#) and for greater representation of people of colour throughout the academy.

Universities are required to develop equality strategies to tackle systemic racism and historic injustices. These should have clearly defined, measurable actions. The University of Glasgow has pointed one way forward. In 2019, it established a programme of restorative justice based on the findings of a report into [historic benefactors' links to the slave trade](#).

Students will hold us to account on this. White historians doing self-regarding podcasts is nowhere near enough.

[**Editor's note:** This topic was also the subject of Dr Alexander Scott's talk given at The Lampeter Society's Virtual Reunion on 18 July, 2020.]

Awards

► ANTHROPOLOGY STUDENT WINS SAPIENS POETRY COMPETITION

MA student Susana Fabre has won the Sapiens poetry competition for her poem entitled *Blinded*.

Sapiens is an editorially independent magazine of the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research.

Susana, who is studying for an MA in Anthropology at UWTSD, is an artist and ethnohistorian who lives in Doha, Qatar. In her winning poem, she has tried to make anthropological sense of that uniquely effervescent place. She considers a city that is both visible and invisible. She says:

For the past eight years, I have had the opportunity to bear witness to the metamorphic stages of the construction of Doha, the capital of Qatar, a peninsular country wedded to the Arabian Peninsula. This city is an uncommon sight, more akin to the surrealness of dreams than to the flesh and concrete reality of urban centres. And, like dreams, with their contradictory nature, I have found my thoughts about the place hard to name, but easy to know. As an anthropologist studying our relationship to nature in a setting where it can seem evasive, I have searched for the underlying human impulses and dreams that have birthed this otherworldly place I now call home.

Dr Luci Attala, Course Director, said:

What a wonderful piece of writing! ... Anthropology at UWTSD encourages students to engage creatively

with different methods of expression, and, most importantly, we nurture the student to realise their role as an innovative researcher from the outset – regardless of their entry level.

Conferences

► UWTSD ACADEMIC PARTICIPATES IN GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY'S WEBINAR SERIES: 'Covid-19 and Muslim Religiosity'

In September, Gary R. Bunt (Professor of Islamic Studies, UWTSD) provided a live webinar for the Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies at George Mason University in Virginia, USA. This was based around ongoing research on Islam, Muslims and the internet – including the recent book *Hashtag Islam* (University of North Carolina Press, 2018). The presentation was entitled 'The "Allah Algorithm": Interpreting Islamic Influencers' Online Responses to COVID19' and was chaired by Maria Dakake, a professor at George Mason University. It was part of their 'COVID-19 and Muslim Religiosity' series.

The presentation focused on the ways in which diverse Islamic religious authorities have formulated online responses to the pandemic through the application of social media and provision of 'fatwa' religious advice. Case studies were presented of organisations and platforms making religious interpretations of social distancing and determining how ritual practice could be maintained through digital interfaces.

The presentation included discussion on religious symbolism and practice in the time of COVID-19, providing numerous examples of online content gathered since the start of the pandemic. There is some divergence in approaches, but the pandemic has also encouraged increased 'digitisation' of religious activities, including from previously reluctant platforms.

Following the presentation, there was an audience discussion, which included questions on the facilitation of a socially distanced hajj, and the sanctioning of social media use by religious scholars.

The event attracted participants from several US and other international institutions (including some UWTSD students). Findings from this research will feature in a forthcoming publication.

A video of the presentation is available here: vimeo.com/458726789. More information on Gary Bunt's research can be found at virtuallyislamic.com.

Research Update

► 'ASTONISHING' DISCOVERY OF MASSIVE PREHISTORIC CIRCLE NEAR STONEHENGE

What could be one of the largest prehistoric sites in the UK has been discovered near Stonehenge by a consortium of archaeologists led by the University of Bradford as

part of the 'Stonehenge Hidden Landscape Project', with the participation of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology; the Universities of Birmingham, St Andrews, and Warwick; the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (University of Glasgow); and, not least, geo-archaeologist and Quaternary Scientist Dr Martin Bates from UWTSD.

A massive two-kilometre wide ring of prehistoric pits up to ten metres across and five metres deep has been discovered around the 'superhenge' at Durrington Walls and the famous site at Woodhenge. The pit structures have been carbon dated to about 2500 BC and the archaeologists believe the circle marks a boundary around the massive henge at Durrington. It is thought that, along with an internal post line, it could have guided people towards the religious sites and warned others not to cross the boundary.

Dr Martin Bates's role in the project involved drilling holes in the features that non-invasive geophysical techniques had identified, enabling the team to recover samples for dating and examining associated environmental change. He commented:

When discovering features of this size in the past, antiquarians and earlier archaeologists would have applied relatively coarse methodologies, primarily excavation, to discover more. Today, we can be more cautious and sympathetic to the archaeology. Precision coring, guided by remote sensing – and a bit of luck – has allowed us to recover bone fragments close to the base of one of these features, and that has allowed us to date their initial infilling.

Researchers have identified up to 20 'shafts' in the ring but estimate there may have been more than 30 originally.

[Editor's Note: On page 15 of the Winter 2019/20 issue (no. LXXV) of *The Link*, it was reported that Dr. Bates had also been working with a team of researchers from Belgium and Britain who had discovered the first archaeological artefacts found during the search for a lost and vast prehistoric settlement landscape in the southern North Sea commonly called 'Doggerland']

Update: Students' Union (November, 2020)

The Lampeter Campus of UWTSD has risen to an unprecedented challenge this year and I am delighted to share with you what we have been up to in the Students' Union since June. Our primary focus was working with the University's lecturers and support staff to shape what our learning environment was going to look like this academic year.

Once we knew students were returning to on-site study, we set to work organising a new form of 'welcome week' that included a host of online activity as well as some

key in-person events. The latter were designed to allow students to make their new accommodation feel more like home and bond with those in their new household. These included: a Bob Ross-style painting session; potted plant adoption; and free decorations such as posters and liberation flags. By popular demand, we will see more of these art activities throughout the academic year!

We also hosted a 'Hall Wars' challenge day where our new students had the opportunity to take part in challenges inspired by hit TV shows of the 2000s including *Trapped* and *Jungle Run*. This gave them the opportunity of bonding as a household as well as winning some great prizes. In addition, we hosted a 'Sport and Society Takeover' where the existing clubs and societies put on events that gave new and returning students the opportunity to meet those who run our clubs, as well as to get out of halls for the day with COVID-secure activity.

Once our students were inducted, we set to work launching our campaign season. October was a busy month as we held Mental Health Awareness Week, targeting the impact of isolation and loneliness through a different theme every day such as 'Food and Mood', 'Busting Stigma' and 'Plan your Time'. Each offered resources and student-led content through blogs available on the union website.

We also launched a couple of my personal campaigns concerning physical accessibility to the campus to ensure it is fully accessible for the bicentenary celebrations, and accommodation education that aims to provide students with the resources they need to make informed decisions when it comes to private renting.

We are also delighted to share that we are renovating the Lampeter SU Bar, starting with a completely new flooring being laid throughout Old Bar.

I would like to take this opportunity to express how proud I am of the current student and staff population of the Lampeter Campus. They have risen to an unparalleled challenge and have taken the changes to their education in their stride. I look forward to seeing the work we will accomplish throughout this academic year and sharing it with you.

Tammy Bowie
UWTSD SU Lampeter Campus President

Update: The Chapel

One of the things that I love about being Chaplain to the Lampeter Campus is the sheer variety of people I come into contact with. Yes, they are mostly students (though I am increasingly in touch with the staff community), but their backgrounds, reasons for coming to Lampeter and what they want to do when they graduate are as varied as ever.

Ways of supporting them on their university journey is as varied as they are. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic,

attendance and engagement with the chaplaincy had been steadily growing both in chapel attendance and those wishing to see me for pastoral conversations. I've always tried to be out and about on campus as much as possible and my aim is to meet students on their terms rather than expecting them to come to an unknown person for help. In the past academic year, I've been training with the women's rugby team as well as umpiring for the netball team and it's been great to get to know a lot more students through the world of sport – many of whom have since come to chapel for services or seen me for pastoral help.

The University switched to online teaching and learning in March as a response to the pandemic and I haven't been able to be on campus since then. I immediately launched a series of online services that drew in more people than were coming to the services in Chapel before lockdown. We had a full online Holy Week programme culminating in a simplified form of the three-day celebration of Easter called the Triduum, which again was well-attended both by students and staff. Through the wonders of modern technology, we ran a series called 'Journeying with Jesus' where I invited speakers from all over the world to talk to the students about what it's like to have faith in Jesus today. This followed on naturally from the preaching I'd been doing about the life of Jesus.

This academic year has been run under strict social distancing regulations so I am still working online from home as only essential staff are allowed on campus. However, God is at work in the lives of the students and I have had several requests to run a Christian Basics Course and people asking for Bibles. I began The Alpha Course online earlier this term with the help of former Lampeter Chaplain, Archdeacon Mones Farah, as I had too many students to cope with alone. I'm excited to see students wanting to engage with the Christian faith – and as we're online, I can't put it down to the quality of the free food and drink on offer!

Some of you will know that I have also been licensed to cover the UWTSD Carmarthen Campus in addition to my responsibilities at Lampeter. The need for chaplaincy is growing at this particularly challenging time and the Diocese will be appointing two assistant chaplains to help me work across both campuses. My commitment to Lampeter remains as strong as ever. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support.

Revd Dr Emma Whittick
UWTSD Lampeter Campus Chaplain
emma.whittick@uwtsd.ac.uk
07988 741122

Update: The Roderick Bowen Library and Archives

The library is opening in phases, with students currently able to collect reserved books three afternoons a week or book an individual table if they prefer to work there. The

Archives and Special Collections is due to open in the next phase, but quite when that will be is dependent on the Covid-19 situation.

Our exhibitions have now moved online and there are several new ones. John Morgan Guy curated 'The Professor, his aunt (and a dog) go climbing', which is about the life of William Augustus Brevoort Coolidge, an American historian, theologian, and mountaineer who was, for a short period, a Professor at St David's College.

Another exhibition explores the early history of St David's College Dramatic Society and includes reviews from the College magazines, as well as some early photographs from the archives.

'A Tour around St David's College' is a nostalgic look at the history of some of the buildings on the campus, showcasing many photographs from our extensive collection.

The current online exhibition to mark Remembrance Day is 'St David's College, Toc H and the Knutsford Ordination School'. There are also several new Special Collection exhibitions online including 'William Gilpin and the Picturesque', 'Piranesi' and 'Conrad Gesner's *Historia Animalium* and *Fischbuch*', which features beautiful hand-coloured illustrations of fish, sea monsters and other mythical creatures.

These are all available at <https://uwtsd.ac.uk/library/special-collections/online-exhibitions/>. While we are still unable to access the archives and prepare new exhibitions, we plan to add our earlier ones to the online platform so that they are available for everyone.

Nicky Hammond
UWTSD Lampeter Campus Archivist

Update: UWTSD Pavilion and Playing Fields

On 5 August, 2020, the *Cambrian News* reported the unveiling of the UWTSD plans for a new Aldi supermarket and food village on the grounds of the Lampeter Campus sports pavilion and playing fields on Pontfaen Road in Lampeter. The proposal also includes, on the University's Lampeter Campus itself, the creation of a new food and rural enterprise academy to be named 'Canolfan Tir Glas'.

The discount chain Aldi and the University pledged to undertake a full programme of public consultation on these proposals before the end of 2020 that would be advertised locally as well as on the UWTSD website. So far, this programme of consultation has not begun. Critics of the scheme are quite certain that Lampeter does not need another supermarket in this difficult period which finds many Lampeter service outlets struggling to survive.

Only some 30% of the land will be used for the store and food village development, though Councillor Hag Harris (graduated 1974) commented that "they do seem to be trying to squeeze an awful lot on the site", as the plans include a:

- 1,300 square metre Aldi store
- car park
- food village
- restored rugby pitch
- renovated pavilion
- nature and a biodiversity area
- community recreation space.

Reaction from many University alumni was negative and led, soon after the news broke, to the launching of a petition against this development entitled 'Save UWTSD Lampeter' with the iconic picture of the College pavilion and playing fields (see the back cover) displayed on the front. To date, over 1,100 signatures have been collected. The petition accuses the University of deliberately running down the Lampeter campus since the merger with Trinity University College and Swansea Metropolitan University in 2010–12. It asserts that the merger "was not in the best interests of Lampeter (and) that Lampeter's assets have been systematically and deliberately liquidated and the funds diverted to Carmarthen and Swansea". It further claims that the College alumni, staff, the current student body and the people of Lampeter have no confidence in the UWTSD management. Strong words, though curiously, no specific mention was made of the University/Aldi plans for the College playing fields site and its future.

Dissenters to the petition point out that no clear and accurate examples of what has happened and/or is happening in support of each of the allegations have been provided, and there is no sure indication that a significant number of people in each group has knowledge of the allegations and supports them. Moreover, in the present tough business environment of the higher education sector in the UK, UWTSD is struggling to survive and is striving to become more efficient and effective. The dissenters argue that with finite resources, the University – and the Lampeter Campus in particular – must look to forging new partnerships in order to develop, and Aldi is a worthwhile partner.

It has to be said that in meetings with the Mayor of Lampeter 2019 – 2020, Rob Phillips (1999), and the Chair of The Lampeter Society, Esther Weller (1999), Vice Chancellor Medwin Hughes has been both positive and optimistic about the future of the Lampeter Campus.

The Lampeter College Pavilion and playing fields have not been used for some time and have inevitably fallen into disrepair, though recent restoration works carried out by the University on the grade II listed pavilion building have, to a limited extent, ameliorated this somewhat poor condition, as John Loaring (1967) reported in his excellent update on pages 17–18 of the Winter 2019/20 edition (no. LXXV) of *The Link*. In his article, John made mention of the fact that a relatively recent survey deemed the playing

fields themselves to be unfit for purpose and unsafe to play on. He suggested that the Lampeter Society could maybe support a fund-raising campaign amongst its members to raise funds for the development of the College Pavilion and playing fields. This would restore the birthplace of rugby in Wales so that today's students could carry on the fine tradition of rugby, football, hockey and cricket being played in Lampeter. Indeed, as John noted on the Lampeter Society Facebook page on 18 August, 2020, the pavilion itself was paid for by College students out of surplus contributions to the various College sports clubs in 1909.

John's suggestion was made a year ago and the situation has, of course, moved on since then. The current UWTSD-Aldi plan does offer a solution to the problem of restoration and reactivation of the playing fields and hence, on the face of it, has some merit. Most importantly, the pavilion and rugby pitch would be fully restored (an expensive undertaking at the best of times) in exchange for granting less than a third of the total space to the Aldi store and food village. Another advantage is the transformation of the Pontfaen site into an attractive, diverse space for use by the College and community.

However, it is important that the promised programme of public consultation on these new plans does take place soon and before any site development begins. The College and wider Lampeter community need to be consulted and have the opportunity to express their views.

Brendan McSharry (1971)

UPDATE: 'TRAWS LINK CYMRU'

Quite a lot has happened during lockdown with regard to the 'Traws Link Cymru' project. We have regular Zoom meetings with, among others, the Welsh Government and Transport for Wales. Ken Skates, the Minister for Economy and Transport, has finally woken up to the fact that there is an area called West Wales, where transport links are poor and which is desperately in need of inward investment, and late last year released a document entitled *A Railway for Wales* which, for the first time, referred to a new strategic rail corridor down the west of Wales. He has since written twice to the Transport Minister, Grant Shapps, to press the case for extra funding for Welsh railways, and has referred specifically to the Aberystwyth to Carmarthen line as one that he is giving serious consideration to reopening – hence our meeting with officials from his Department.

And the campaign has the full support of Plaid Cymru (reopening of the line is now Plaid policy and figures as such in their manifesto), as well as the Green Party, the Lib Dems and an increasing number of Labour politicians. Support from Plaid is crucial as there is a Senedd election coming up next year and the polls are predicting no clear majority for any party, the most likely outcome being a coalition between Labour and Plaid Cymru. So our political lobbying could well bear fruit there.

All in all, I feel that we are making steady progress. It was always going to be a big ask to get the railway reinstated, but I am surprised at how much we have achieved over the past six years or so, and people are now talking not about 'if' the railway will reopen, but 'when'.

Mike J.C. Walker, Emeritus Professor of Quaternary Science, UWTSD
[Sent via Peter Bosley (1967, 1977)]

ALUMNI UPDATES

In the Winter, 2019–20, edition (no. LXXV) of *The Link*, on pages 19–22, we approached alumni who in the years following their time in Lampeter proceeded to enjoy successful academic careers – though not necessarily in the subject in which they obtained their first degree. On that occasion, we looked at the careers of a number of graduates in Theology and Religious Studies and were able to track down seven former students who are now carrying out research and teaching in universities as far afield as Durham, Birmingham and Singapore. Now, we are delighted to present the achievements of a Geographer, Professor **Alison Goodrum**, and an English specialist, **Professor Neil Keeble**.

Alison Goodrum



Alison is Professor and Director of Research at Norwich University of the Arts, but she initially trained as a cultural geographer and graduated in Geography from Lampeter in 1996. Alison has, in her own words, "trodden a winding and slightly unusual academic path since", having obtained a PhD from Gloucestershire in 2001 and a Postdoc in Auckland in 2003. Alison then worked at Manchester Metropolitan University and Nottingham Trent.

Alison has been at NUA since 2017 where she is a fashion theorist, dress historian and cultural geographer. She did her PhD on constructions of Britishness in and through contemporary fashion, and in 2005 Bloomsbury published

her monograph *The National Fabric: Fashion, Britishness, Globalization*.

Alison is interested in the way present day fashion retailers make use of the past and much of her work has been focused on the fashion and dress of the Interwar period. In her current research she is examining the clothing worn by spectators at sporting events, and Alison is the 'go to' person if you want to know anything about hat-pins, millinery, rosettes and badges, as well as stains, smells and signs of wear, tear and decay!

For the next edition of *The Link* we would like to hear from you if, like Alison, you studied **Geography** at Lampeter and the experience kick-started your academic journey. Geography was a huge department during the decade I spent at Lampeter – or at least it was until around the year 2000 when it was disbanded, and it felt like the end of a very long and illustrious chapter in Lampeter's history. If you played a part in that history, we would be delighted to hear from you.

We will send out a call for other disciplines in future editions of *The Link* – but, as ever, we are happy for you to contact us with any suggestions you might have.

Neil Keeble

Professor Neil Keeble graduated from St. David's College (as it was then called) in 1966 when he received a first class degree in English. Neil writes:

That was, shall we say, a good while ago now. I remember travelling to the College by overnight steam train from London, much the most adventurous trip I had then undertaken, and one that took me, as it seemed, to another realm altogether. My first recollections are of the staff at the station speaking in Welsh, which rather floored me (such was my limited notion of what constituted the UK), and of Lampeter's extraordinary location in those (as I thought of them) Arthurian hills. The College itself was then, if memory serves, an institution of no more than a couple of hundred students: there were three of us in my final year honours course (outnumbered by the five members of staff in the English department!) who would meet in Professor Stanley Boorman's book-lined and smoke-filled room (have I invented that? I am sure he smoked a pipe) in his house in the High Street – pretty nearly ideal?

During my time, the future of the College, which had for a long time been doubtful, remained precarious. It was secured only by the determination and initiative of the Principal, J. R. Lloyd Thomas (he had interviewed me for admission as, I think, he met and assessed every applicant for a place at the College). After several failed applications for funding from the University Grants Committee, in 1961 he achieved the agreement of Cardiff University College (as it then was) to sponsor the College, which in turn secured UGC funding. It was through Lloyd Thomas, too, that the discussions were initiated that would lead in 1971 to Lampeter becoming a constituent college of the University of

*Wales. I knew something of these goings-on (Lloyd Thomas would report to the student body on the state of play and he later wrote the history of those times in his *Moth or Phoenix?* [1980]), but much more important to me was the fact that at the start of my final year the College for the first time admitted female students – 22 (or 25?) of them. The College's apprehensive prohibition of the mixing of the sexes in each other's rooms was happily ineffective and one of this intake, Jenny Bowers, would in 1968 become my wife. Two years ago, we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary – something much more important than my career began at Lampeter!*

I went from Lampeter to Oxford to work on a DPhil. There were not, in those days, strict time-limit regulations for completion of theses, and I was still working on mine when in 1969 we moved to Denmark, where I taught English literature for five years at the University of Aarhus. In 1974, thesis finally done, we moved to Stirling in Scotland, where I was successively Lecturer, Reader, Professor, Deputy Principal and, for the last seven years before my retirement in December, 2010, Senior Deputy Principal.

While these roles necessarily involved me in administrative and managerial duties, and I enjoyed teaching, I have managed to pursue an active research career too. My thesis was on the seventeenth-century Puritan divine and nonconformist leader Richard Baxter, and I subsequently extended my research interests into early modern English literary and religious history more widely, but with a focus on the Puritan tradition and nonconformity, several times circling back to Baxter. My publications in these areas include studies of Baxter – Richard Baxter: Puritan Man of Letters (1982), The Literary Culture of Nonconformity in later seventeenth-century England (1987) and of the Restoration – The Restoration: England in the 1660s (2002).

*With Geoffrey F. Nuttall, I compiled a two-volume Calendar of the Correspondence of Richard Baxter (1991). I have edited Baxter's Autobiography and Lucy Hutchinson's Memoirs of the Life of Colonel Hutchinson in *Everyman's Library* (1974 and 1995) as well as John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress in the World's Classics* (1984), works by Daniel Defoe in *Pickering & Chatto's Complete Works*, by Andrew Marvell, in *Yale University Press's Prose Works*, and (with Nicholas McDowell) by John Milton in *OUP's Complete Works*.*

I have also edited (solely or jointly) five collections of original essays on Bunyan, writing about the English Revolution – the 'Great Ejection' of 1662 (Settling the Peace of the Church: 1662 Revisited [2014]), and (with Tessa Whitehouse) eighteenth-century book history (Textual Transformations: Purposing and Repurposing Books from Richard Baxter to Samuel Taylor Coleridge [2018]) as well as an anthology illustrating The Cultural Identity of Seventeenth-Century Woman (1994).

My essays and articles include fourteen pieces for The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (of which I was an associate editor). Most recently, with John Coffey,

Tim Cooper and Tom Charlton, I have edited for OUP in five volumes the first scholarly edition of Baxter's autobiographical papers, Reliquiae Baxterianae (2020), based upon the folio published in 1696 and Baxter's own manuscript, of which much is still extant, chiefly in Dr Williams's Library, London, with some passages in the British Library.

I am a Fellow of the English Association, of the Royal Historical Society, and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and (above all!) in 2000 I was inducted as an Honorary Fellow of the University of Wales, Lampeter (as it then was).

When I stepped off that train at Lampeter station I had no idea at all of what lay ahead, nor of just how much I would owe to SDC.

It was a huge pleasure to have corresponded with Neil this year in order to find out about his great achievements – and I learned that he knows one of my colleagues at the University of Kent who previously worked in Stirling. Neil also told me that there are at least a couple of other Lampeter alumni at Stirling – Steve Burt, Professor of Marketing & Retail and former Deputy Principal, and Leigh Sparks, Professor of Retail Studies and Deputy Principal who did his PhD in Lampeter. As Neil pointed out – “Lampeter seems to be a recruiting ground for senior management!”

Chris Deacy (1994)

LAMPETER TOWN

Sad death of Gwilym Price

Many of you will have known Gwilym Price, who died at the age of 90 on 7 June, 2020. Gwilym's name will be familiar to former Lampeter students: he ran the furniture and homeware shop; he was Lampeter's undertaker; and was a well-known and respected local businessman who played a significant role in the community.



Gwilym Price's shop

He trained as a carpenter and after joining the RAF he took part in the Berlin Airlift in 1948. He built the shop on College Street in 1980 and in 2000 the family opened a new funeral parlour on Bridge Street, which featured in the S4C TV series *Traed Lan* in 2016. Gwilym was a JP, an active member of the British Legion and a singer who was proud of joining Vera Lynn on stage to sing *We'll Meet Again* while serving in the RAF.

Gwilym's funeral was held during the Covid-19 'lockdown' but hundreds of people lined the streets of Lampeter (at a social distance, as required) to pay their respects. He is survived by his wife Phyllis and his children Cerdin, Annwyl, Angharad and Eleri.

Rob Phillips (1999)

Reflections on the sad deaths of Ron Cutler and Noel Davies

Based on Facebook messages

Ron Cutler, the erstwhile SDC Students' Union Bar Manager, sadly died on 15 August, 2020, aged 84. Ron – I had the joy of working in the Union with you from very early on during my time at Lampeter and as such got to know you early on too. I graduated and getting to stay on as your assistant was one of my best experiences at Lampeter, learning the ropes from you to play my part in making the Union what it was.

I always treasured your advice and your stories! The day you handed me *Ron the Gnome* and walked out over the bridge at the back of the Union at the end of your last shift was one of the saddest ever for me, especially knowing I had such big shoes to fill. I was honoured to be able to keep in touch afterwards (although not as much as I would have liked) and particularly pleased you were able to be present at my wedding. Thank you. RIP.

Paul Lamb (1992)

I heard the sad news that **Noel Davies** had died aged 86 on Saturday, 27 June, 2020. Many will remember him as head porter at UWTSO Lampeter Campus, but he was also Mayor of Lampeter three times (1983–84, 1989–90 and 1995–96). His wife, Hazel, who died a few years ago, was also Mayor twice. His funeral was held on Monday, 6 July, and many people lined the funeral route through the town to pay their respects.

Rob Phillips (1999)

How very sad. **Noel Davies** was the first person who welcomed me to Lampeter as I got off the bus for the New Entrants' event and was a deciding factor in my going to Lampeter. I got to know him and Hazel very well. I attended his inauguration as Mayor and in fact he was a guest of honour at my 21st birthday party, which was 25 years earlier to the day on which he died. He was

a gentleman and a gentle man. May he rise in glory and take his place in heaven, perhaps doing an occasional shift on the pearly gates, making sure no one sneaks in who is undeserving.

James Deller (1995)

Conti's Café and the Italian Café Culture in Wales – An Introduction

In February, 2020, BBC Wales reported on the Welsh Italian café culture. Around the time of the Second World War, many Italians came to Wales to make a living, particularly in towns which were thriving because of the coal industry. In the 1930s and '40s, some 300 Italian cafés had established themselves in the South Wales valleys and beyond.



Courtesy of Rob Phillips



from Conti's Facebook page – reproduced with their kind permission

Known for their intimacy and, of course, great coffee and ice-cream, Italian cafés have traditionally played a central part in their communities, providing a constant and reassuring haven through life's ups and downs. They are part of our history, continuing to act as meeting places and focal points for community life.

However, many of them have declined over the years despite the boom in coffee-shop culture over the last decade. Today, only a handful of those original businesses survive. One which is still thriving though is Lampeter's very own Conti's Café.

It opened its doors in 1933 and has been a focal point for many generations of Lampeter locals and students ever since. Now in its fourth generation of proprietors, the café underwent a revamp after a major fire in 2016. The interior may have changed, but that community ethos, great customer service and – some would say – more importantly, their award-winning ice cream, is still going strong. In his review of Conti's, our experienced café critic, Jason Fawkes, notes: *"The coffee was the real thing without a doubt. It was a little strong for me, but not 'blunt instrument strong' like you sometimes get, and when carefully tamed by just enough milk, was excellent."*

These Italian cafés have been an important part of Welsh community life for a century. Let's hope they remain a fixture on our high streets for many generations to come.

Esther Weller (1999)

REPORTS – YEAR GROUP REUNIONS AND OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS, 2020–2021

REFLECTIONS – LAMPETER SOCIETY VIRTUAL REUNION, 2020

This year's Lampeter Society Reunion was virtual on account of the Coronavirus 'lockdown', and took place on a single day, 18 July, 2020. The virtual sessions were recorded and can be accessed on request to the University's Alumni Officer via email: lampeteralumni@uwtsd.ac.uk; they are also available on the Alumni Facebook page.

It was a great success, with over 40 people participating. Overleaf are three screenshots taken by Rhodri Thomas, the former Alumni Officer.

Below are some participants' reflections of the event.

SDC, as it is known to us (and others of a similar 'vintage'), has been a significant influence on our lives. We look forward to our annual pilgrimage to the old place for the Reunion, and, although neither of us has any Welsh ancestry, we always have a sense of coming home as we draw near to Lampeter. So it was with some disappointment that we realised the event could not happen this July (2020) as the country (and the world) put itself under restrictions to combat the Covid-19 pandemic. Then it was with delight that we learned of plans to hold a virtual Reunion. At the time of the country entering 'lockdown', we were blissfully unaware of Zoom. By the time of the virtual Reunion we had become adept at using this means of communication.



**CONSIDERATIONS
ON THE
ABOLITION OF SLAVERY
AND THE
SLAVE TRADE,
UPON
GROUNDS OF NATURAL, RELIGIOUS,
AND
POLITICAL DUTY.**

*Unhappy! Quis in reprobis inglorios proceres, — Pili, —
quod credis, ante et sine sacro lumine, quos, quod
Abraham, meritis soluta condidit.*
— QUERELAE DE Q. III. 23.

*Ne solis regionis, et gloriæ pariter Angliæ, contra te regis, —
non a tanto equitate cedere poterit, quod non
et fœdus, multitudine, fœdus, non.*
— QUERELAE DE Q. III. 24.

OXFORD:
per D. FRANCIS AND J. ROBERTS, J. AND J. MATTHEW,
AND GEORGE, WELLS, PATRICK, CHURCH, LONDON,
MDCCLXXXIX.

**Bishop Thomas Burgess (1756–1837),
Founder of St David's College**

Politygod Cymru
Welsh Church Party
Welsh members of Parliament

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
transforming Education; Transforming Lives

Chrome OS • 14m •
You're sharing your screen
Zoom is sharing your screen

00:16:21

Type here to search

ENG 14:46
26/01/2020

SERMON

00:20:35

00:13:05

We thought it was a brilliant idea and feel it worked out really well. We appreciated the variety of the components of the day and the fact that we were given time in between to prevent our becoming 'Zoomed-out'. Although not the same as meeting face-to-face, nevertheless it was good to be able to see everyone and reconnect. We have found that these remote meetings are a real blessing and wonder whether it would be possible to arrange a couple of Zoom alumni meetings, maybe for a half-day, in between the annual Reunions? – even, perhaps, including a facility to Zoom in to a face-to-face Reunion for those who are not able to make the journey to Lampeter?

Many thanks to Esther and Rhodri (and others behind the scenes) for putting the virtual Reunion together and co-ordinating the technicalities on the day.

Malcolm (1971) & Anthea [née Bloomer] (1970) Foy

The Virtual Reunion was a very good way to engage with alumni, especially those interested in the University's research outputs. Do you think this could become an annual event? Are the talks available online? [*It could be, as a series of talks, but in addition to and not in place of the annual physical event held every July – Ed.*]

Shirley Jamieson (1974)

I really enjoyed the Reunion and thought Esther and the organisers did a great job. The highlight for me was the Pub Quiz and watching the video montage with everyone else's reflections and memories of Lampeter, many of them echoing my own and bringing to mind a welcome ray of light to what has otherwise been, I know, a fairly grim year for all of us.

Scott Hibberson (1996)

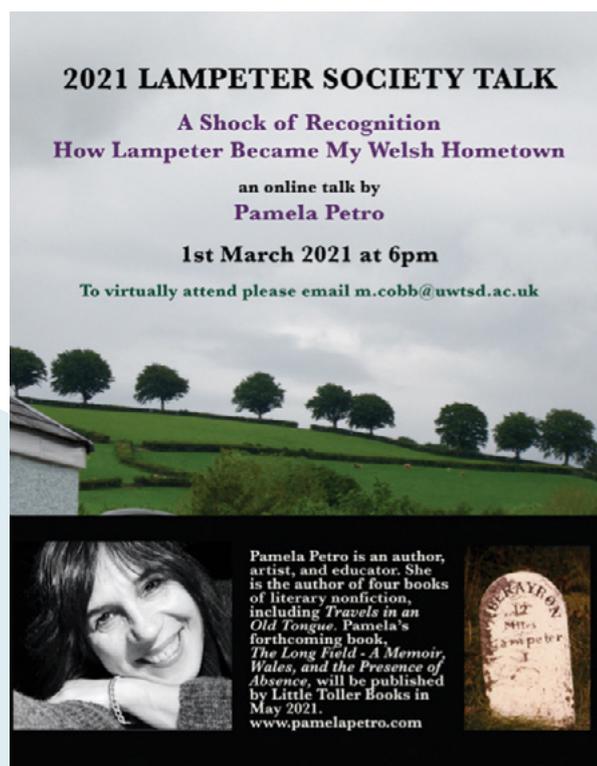
UPDATE – SEVERN-THAMES BRANCH

Peter Bosley is continuing his efforts to see if a Severn/Thames (M4 corridor) branch of the Lampeter Society can be established to facilitate alumni in that area keeping in touch. Please contact him by email: bosleypeter@yahoo.co.uk

NOTICE – POSTPONED 5TH 'OLD CODGERS' RUGBY MATCH

This now annual shindig when the classy old hands play the upstarts from the College will now take place (all being well) on Saturday, 17 April, 2021, at the town RFC. The kick-off will be at 2.30 pm. Each year's match supports a charitable cause and this time it will be Lexi, the daughter of former SDUC student Anthony Colcombe; she suffers from a rare condition which can cause multiple seizures on a daily basis. Please come along and shout your support!

Ieuan Davies (1985)



2021 LAMPETER SOCIETY TALK
A Shock of Recognition
How Lampeter Became My Welsh Hometown
an online talk by
Pamela Petro
1st March 2021 at 6pm
To virtually attend please email m.cobb@uwtsd.ac.uk

Pamela Petro is an author, artist, and educator. She is the author of four books of literary nonfiction, including *Travels in an Old Tongue*. Pamela's forthcoming book, *The Long Field - A Memoir, Wales, and the Presence of Absence*, will be published by Little Toller Books in May 2021. www.pamelapetro.com

NOTICE – ANNUAL LAMPETER SOCIETY-FUNDED LECTURE, 2021

FEATURES

MEMBERS' EXPERIENCES OF THE CORONAVIRUS 'LOCKDOWN' WORLDWIDE

Subject: The Abergavenny Irregulars

Date: 19 March, 2020

Thought I might try a Coronavirus newsletter.

Just been out travelling around Alton looking for paracetamol for my wife Nicole (she has been prescribed eight tablets a day for her arthritis ... operation scheduled for knee replacement in May very likely to be cancelled). Finally found pharmacy with some but was rationed to 32 tablets. Had the last box of cat food in Sainsbury's. No tissues, never seen antiseptic wipes or gel! Half the shelves in Waitrose empty! On the same journey around the shops, on behalf of Nicole's son (Kelsey) and his partner (Claire), managed to get 'Calpol' for Charley, their two-year-old daughter. Claire could find nothing in their part of Oxfordshire!

Invited round for a drink with younger neighbours last night ... sat 39 inches apart, no handshake or more friendly greeting. Didn't touch anything, took our own glasses... Felt rather adventurous but guilty all the same.

Hoping for drier weather tomorrow. Have in place two large raised beds in the garden, both now full of soil. Coming up time for a bit of planting. Walking, even around the village, is out because of Nicole's knee. And our utterly delightful pub, the centre of all village activities, is expecting to close for a month from the weekend. Life (we hope) but not as we know it.

Cheers and keep smiling – and I'm in touch.

Peter Bosley (1967/1977)



Lockdown Lucky – That's Me!

Before I tell you why I was lucky, let me tell you that when told I could write only 250 words, I realised I did not know 250 swearwords! Why swearwords? Because all others seemed inadequate to describe the sense of deprived, depressing imprisonment, staring at my four walls with permission only to go shopping – not even exercise until our P.M. said "take the dog for 'the necessary' but only on your street."

Now here I got lucky because my street goes straight into the mountains. No people, no Covid-19, no fears.



Marion Stuart

And then I was lucky because we were the first country in the world to beat the bug. But as we are not a recognised country, our success was not recognised. But I recognised I was lucky to be living here – in Northern Cyprus.

Lucky too to be in a place where local shops were bringing food packages to the ancient, infirm and 'locked down' families – all delivered to the doorstep – free groceries and free masks from the President of Turkey himself!

So I reckon, compared with all the rest of you, I was lucky. Still locked into the island, with quarantine for visitors – so no visitors. Tourism dead, economy challenged, but only five dead in total – and they were tourists who came at the beginning.

So lucky me is now just waiting for vaccination and travel to catch up on loved ones unseen for a year – and grateful to be alive to continue to hope.

Marion Stuart (1990)

Lockdown in New Zealand

New Zealand. 25 March, 2020. Level 4 'Lockdown'. Twizel – resident population 900; tourist population 20,000+. Today, 900. Absolute silence. Nearest cinema – five hours round drive. Nearest Chinese meal – same. Nearest hospital – same. Twizel pharmacist is heavily protected: she is the only one for hundreds of thousands of square miles. Ambulance: one with volunteers. Fire engine: one, with volunteers. Most of the population are old-school Kiwi, descended from settlers; they take it seriously and lock down hard. But we still have five cases, which is a huge number for NZ – because recently we were a tourist centre for visitors, mostly Chinese, to Mt. Cook. Now there is no-one, just us.



LAMPETER IN VICTORIAN FICTION

Readers of Alis Hawkins's new novel, *Those Who Know*, published in 2020 (the third in her Teifi Valley crime series, set in the mid-nineteenth century) will know of its references to Lampeter and the College – as it then was. One of the characters says that Lampeter stole the College from Llandewi Brefi, which was the original site for Bishop Burgess's planned college. This, of course, is true, John Scandrett Harford having given land in Lampeter for the College which obliged Burgess to rethink its location.

Lampeter had interesting appearances in novels in the nineteenth century. The first mention was in Rosina Bulwer Lytton's novel, *The World and his Wife; or, a Person of Consequence*, written in 1858. It was published in the same year in which, having divorced in the 1830s, Rosina publicly denounced her husband, Edward Bulwer Lytton (Lord Lytton), and was (in best Victorian melodrama style) confined to an asylum. In her novel, Rosina Bulwer Lytton refers to a parson as being like "a Yankee or a Methodist-parson [who] chose the more select and circumscribed sphere of spiritual humbug, and so had lately joined an Anglo section of the Lampeter brethren, or, as Mrs. Ray called them, the 'Lampighter brethren.'"

The Lampeter Brethren were actually the followers of Henry Prince, an eccentric Lampeter student, who later declared himself to be the son of God. There is more information on this extraordinary alumnus in C. Mander's *The Revd Prince and His Abode of Love* (1976). A year later, in *Redmarsh Rectory, A tale of life Unknown*, by Nona Maria Stevenson Bellairs, a young man is described as having "declined the drapery, and taken to the Church" and is training for the priesthood at Lampeter.

There were divergent views of Lampeter in novels. In 1860, Anne Beale published *Gladys the Reaper*, based on her life as governess to a clergyman's children near Llandeilo.

She referred to a young man who had gone to Lampeter rather than entering the Methodist ministry, and wrote that this might mean he would go to England and could end up as a bishop. Clearly Lampeter was thought to boost the careers of Welsh clergymen.

In contrast, in 1862, Edward Dutton Cook published 'The Trials of the Tredgolds' in serial form in the magazine *Temple Bar*. In it, a boy is offered tuition by a parson who says he can cope with Latin, but adds apologetically, "I can do that much for him, though I'm only a Lampeter man".

In 1863, Christiana Jane Douglas, the wife of an Anglican parson, wrote *The Browns and the Smiths*. Generally thought of as a Scottish novelist, Douglas included in her novel an account of "a younger son of a Welsh squire of decayed fortunes, and had been educated in retirement almost as great as that which was now his lot. In early life he had been sent to Lampeter College, where he had almost immediately formed an attachment to the lady who afterwards became his wife."

Lampeter gave its name to a number of people in Victorian novels. There is the Revd Lionel Lampeter in *A Dangerous Guest*, written by H. Jackson in 1870, and a man nicknamed 'Lamb Lampeter' in Edmund Hodgeson Yates's *Land at Last* of 1866. George MacDonald's *The Vicar's Daughter* of 1872 has a character called Bertha Lampeter and in 1893, a novel by Leslie Keith (a pseudonym for Grace Johnson), *Lisbeth*, which told the story of five Scottish women living in London, also features a character called Lampeter.

In 1878, another of Anne Beale's novels, *Rose Mervyn of Whitelake*, the mother of one boy in the book is described as "a woman of determination, she afterwards gained, by quiet resolution rather than influence, another advantage over husband and son, and managed that her idol, Llewellen, should go to Lampeter College... And so Llewellen went to Lampeter to prepare for ordination."

My wife and I are fine: we construct a time-table of alone time and meeting time – *Hello! Coffee!* Every day we walk for an hour by a beautiful lake; just sometimes, in the distance, we spot another couple. We wave. And that's pretty much it for human connection in rural NZ. Oh, and once a week we have a box of food delivered, to complement our stores. Whisky is holding out but we meet at 5 every afternoon for gin rummy and a glass – and damn, the wine is running out....

Loud rumbling outside as a freezer truck roars by on its way to the freezing works. It's 27 April and the 'lockdown' is over. New Zealand has zero cases. Good on yer, P.M Jacinda. *Kia kaha* (as they say in Maori – 'stay strong'), everyone – Stay Safe! [*A further lockdown and more cases of infection occurred between August and October in NZ – Ed.*]

Niall Washington-Jones (1969)

Besides these references, there were passing mentions of Lampeter. In John Ferrars's novel *Claud Brennan*, of 1893, the curate of a village was at college in Lampeter with the hero of the story, David Rees.

It seems remarkable that Lampeter was well enough known to get into Victorian novels. But these were the years of widespread interest in the Church, of the railway, and of serial novels which were bought in huge quantities. There was also a fashion for Welsh novelists, which was in decline by the Edwardian era. Nevertheless, Lampeter was better known perhaps then than now.

**William Gibson, BA (1980),
MA (1983), DLitt (2004)**

THE LAMPETER EXPERIENCE – THE 1970s

Editor's note. This is the second in the series that started in the Summer, 2020 issue of The Link, No. LXXVI, in which we are publishing a selection of unexpurgated (to the extent the law will allow!) alumni reminiscences of student life on the Lampeter campus in decades long past. This time, we feature the experiences of alumni in the 1970s. We would be particularly interested in hearing from anyone able to write some reminiscences from the 1940s or 1950s.

Trevor Larder's Experience in the Early 1970s: 1972–1976

[Most sadly, news of Trevor's premature death arrived after he had sent us this piece, which is published in his memory. An obituary appears on p.31 – Ed.]

The Road to Lampeter

Where did my road to Lampeter begin? I am no Jack Kerouac, but I shall attempt to explain my steps on that road to our esteemed alma mater. I was born in Hull, raised on council estates in the east of the

city, and left school in 1970 with two 'A'-levels (Geography and Geology) with less than average grades (not, at that time, including German, which, to my eternal shame, I failed!). As a consequence, the subject of university had never crossed my mind – or indeed anybody else's. Indeed, no-one in my family had ever been to one, and, despite the fact my parents were intelligent people and cared very much about my education, it was never seen as an option. 50 years ago this was very common and far fewer people went to University. In the 1960s, 5% of the population went, compared with almost 50% today, but by the early 1970s it was increasingly not just an option for the Public School elite.

And so it was that on leaving school I went to live and work in Germany. By the following Summer, by which time I knew something of the language, I was learning a profession and had no intention of not staying for the foreseeable future. Nonetheless, I returned to the UK on holiday and met up with an old school friend who was reading Geology at Leicester. We discussed his experiences of university life and the thought of trying it myself gradually developed in my mind.

One major problem of course, if I wished to read German, was my lacking an 'A'-Level in the subject! I visited my old school and discussed the possibilities with the headmaster, who was very positive, and I have always been extremely grateful to him for that. He very kindly offered to organise (and indeed pay for!) my re-sitting the exam the following Spring back at the school and gave me the necessary reading list, old exam papers etc. to aid my studies. I then went to the German department at Hull University to see about the possibility of reading the subject there, only to be told I would need 'O'-level Latin, which some universities required at that time for language studies.

Hull therefore was out of the question, so I put together a list of around a dozen potential universities that offered German and, on my return to Germany, wrote to each of them

explaining my situation. This assumed of course that I would pass the 'A'-level at the required grade, whatever that was. The list, of course, included Lampeter, which was the only one I had to look for on a map! The fact that I was living abroad and therefore could not attend interviews I assumed would be a problem, in addition to my existing dubious 'A'-level results. Therefore, of the dozen or so institutions approached, only five or six even bothered to answer my letter, all of them in the negative.

But there was one obvious exception. The Lampeter Admissions Officer, the much-admired Alistair Kenwright, wrote a very kind and positive letter which included the offer of a place providing I attained a 'B' grade in my resit. To my great surprise this was subsequently achieved, and I was on my way.

So in the autumn of 1972, I returned home from Germany and, having despatched my trunk via British Road Services well in advance, set out from Hull early one dull and wet October morning on the long rail journey to Lampeter. This consisted of seemingly innumerable changes at Sheffield, Birmingham, Cardiff, Swansea and Camarthen, where I boarded a little green bus run by Crosville. Unfortunately the rail line through to Lampeter and beyond, which must have been a very beautiful one, had long gone, thanks to Dr Beeching, so that final leg by bus felt interminable.

It was a dark and wet evening by the time I finally arrived at the College gates, where I received my room key at the Porters' Lodge. If my surname initial had been 'A' to 'D', I would probably have ended up in the somewhat primitive Terrapin Buildings, but as it was 'L', I made my way to Lloyd Thomas Hall, a modern and relatively new hall of residence. The small room, which was to be my home for the next nine months, contained a single bed, desk, chair, sink, shelves and a small wardrobe. I lay down on the bed, lit a cigarette and said out loud, "Larder, what the hell have you done?" (only I didn't use the word "hell"!)" What I had done was make the best decision of my life so

far, only I didn't know it at the time – I didn't know that I would adapt well to the academic life or that I would gain a good degree.

In addition to my many friends from, in and around Lampeter, I got to know, and have always been grateful to, a number of great people who would enhance the three years I was to spend at Lampeter. Some of them remain friends (although some, to my great sadness, are no longer with us) and my gratitude to them remains to this day.

Trevor J Larder (1976)

Nevil Williams's Experience in the Late 1970s: 1977–1980

My Memories of DP Davies and the Lampeter Christian Union

"Do you intend studying or having a good time?," asked Professor DP Davies in my interview at Lampeter in 1976.

"To study," I replied. I was attending the Llanelli Boys' Grammar School at the time. When I passed my 'A'-Levels in 1977, I was accepted at St David's University College Lampeter. Its motto, *Gair Duw Gorau Dysg* ('God's Word Is The Best Education') appeals to me because I am an Evangelical, one who takes the Bible literally.

I attended the Christian Union on Saturday evenings. Two of the speakers have remained in my mind. Firstly, there was Dr B.P. Jones of Caerleon College who had interviewed me a few years earlier. Secondly, there was Dr A. J. Monty White who was converted from atheism in 1964 when studying at Aberystwyth University; he gave us a talk on 'Creation'. The question-time became heated resulting in two modernists storming out of the room.

Some of my contemporaries in the Christian Union included the following interesting people:

Carl Cooper hailed from Wigan and, though an English man, he spoke

fluent Welsh. He used his linguistic skills on local and regional radio programmes. In 2002 he became Bishop of St. Davids and, since 2014, he has been Chief Executive of the Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations.

Gareth Edwards of Cardiff studied Geography and played full-back in the College rugby team. He acted as 'guardian' to the newcomers and had a strong, mature presence and influence over others, including me (he gave me a copy of *Portraits of Christ in the Tabernacle* by Theodre Epp). Gareth became a Christian Union Travelling Secretary and in this capacity went around universities conducting Missions and weekend Retreats for students. He was a Baptist minister in Haverfordwest before becoming an officer for the Christian Institute, Wales [now *The Cymru Institute for Contemporary Christianity in Cardiff – Ed.*].

Gail Dixon studied English, as far as I recall. After getting her degree, she was involved with Christian camp work in Tregaron. 'Horizons', a missionary organisation based in Llanelli, sent her to Europe and Africa. She is now Director with 'Nations', another missionary organisation, and a team leader of the international Christian singing festival, 'Celebration for the Nations', which was held in South Korea in 2015.

Michael Greed came to Lampeter in 1978. He was treasurer of the

Christian Union from 1979–80 and the Secretary from 1980–81. His joint honours degree in English and Theology proved advantageous when he joined the Wycliffe Bible Translators. He married his Finnish wife, Teija, in 1988. They joined the Tatar Bible Translation Project in 1993, publishing the New Testament in 2001 and the whole Bible in 2016. Currently, Michael is a Director of Communications for the Summer Institute of Linguistics.

As for me, I graduated in 1980. Llanelli was in rapid decline and employers were prejudiced against disabled people such as myself, in spite of their qualifications. Therefore, I had temporary employment in Carmarthen and Llanelli Libraries as an indexer in 1982 and 1984 respectively. However, in December, 1986, Llanelli Rural Council appointed me as an Information Clerk for their 'Heritage Scheme', which produced pamphlets on Llanelli's industrialisation. This Scheme helped me in writing my book, a tribute to my stepfather, *Eddie John and the Lost Community*.

Finally, I was recruited by the Inland Revenue in Llanelli in July, 1988, as an administrative assistant. I was transferred to Swansea in 2008 and left the Revenue in 2013 before formally taking retirement in October, 2018, when I became a volunteer chaplain in the Prince Philip Hospital, Llanelli, having previously been a presenter for its radio station.



Nevil Williams – third row up next to the handrail on the left

Nevil Williams (1980)
[Nevil is now the new Swansea Branch Convenor of The Lampeter Society – Ed.]

OBITUARIES

STEFFAN AP DAFYDD (1954–2020)



Editor's introduction: Sadly, Steffan ap Dafydd (1976/1991) passed away on 10 July, 2020, aged 66 years. He was a devoted family man, county councillor, teacher, community activist and a life-long campaigner for the Labour Party and the trade union movement. He was also a committed convenor of The Lampeter Society's Swansea branch and member of its Business Committee. Below are five tributes from his University friends and contemporaries collated by Susan Gandy (1979).

Steffan was Vice President Internal at St David's University College Students' Union, Lampeter, when I arrived there in 1975. I supported his campaign for President and was delighted when he won. However, in the Summer term, some of those who didn't like the result proposed a motion of no confidence in him as President-Elect.

The motion was debated in a packed Union Hall. As a shy boy, I had never imagined I would speak at a Union meeting but Steffan's cause inspired me to prepare a supporting speech, which, when called, I started to deliver standing at the back of the hall. However, part way through, a third-year student seated on a window sill (I can still see this scene now as if it were yesterday) shouted an obscenity at me – that got me a massive sympathy vote and I completed my speech to huge applause!

Steffan won the vote of course because he was in the right and fought his corner well. What I gained from this was the confidence and inspiration to get involved in the Students' Union. I went on to eventually succeed him as VPI and then, ultimately, as President, and I'm certain that that role gave me an advantage when applying for jobs and in my subsequent career.

I had many political (but never personal) arguments with Steffan, including up to the last time we met at the Cardiff reunion in 2015. I relished every one of them and wish he were still here to have another.

On just a very last note, obviously Steffan had no left arm. In my first year I was seated just down from him at breakfast in Lampeter and he had selected a boiled egg. I thought, "This is going to be interesting: how is he going to deal with it?" Of course, he just did the job, no issue or problem. I still can't do it myself.

Dave Beckett (1978)

Where to start? Where to end? It didn't start with a kiss, but there may have been a few along the way, wink, wink!

It actually started in October, 1975, and, truth to tell, 'it' has never ended, such is the enormity of the legacy which Steffan's demise bequeathed to those who were fortunate to know and love him (I chose the word 'demise' purposely, for Steffan would like that sort of word: part of his innate sense of humour!).

One of my earliest memories is of Steffan and his pal, Vince McKeown, placing a bet on 'Rag Trade' [*in the 1976 Grand National, he became only the second ever horse to beat Red Rum – Ed.*] and winning £9.70! This afforded many trips down to The Cwmman Tavern, usually to listen to the juke box – that is, if it had not broken down!

It was no surprise when, in 1976, Steffan announced that he was going to stand for the post of Student Union President, and even less of a surprise when it transpired that he had indeed won the election. He reigned (he would like that word, too) as SU President from July, 1976, until July, 1977.

Steffan was passionate about so many issues: the town of Maesteg where he lived, teaching, rugby, trade unions, the nineteenth-century hero Dic Penderyn, the Welsh language, BLM, disability rights, Welsh Labour, and the local night shelter at St Paul's – to name but a few.

At the time of Steffan's sudden demise, he was a dedicated Labour Councillor for the Aberafan Ward, Neath Port Talbot, serving his community and, as always, fighting for justice and fairness. Also, he gave of his time voluntarily, both as a tutor of Welsh and as a caseworker for the NUT. Again, these are just a few areas in which he was generous in sharing his skills and talents.

Steffan regularly invoked two of the people whom he respected enormously, namely his mother (Eileen Davies [née Hayes]) whom he clearly idolised, and the grandfather whom he never met, Hiram. It must have been no mean feat for Steffan's mother to raise a child who, at a very young age, lost an arm in a railway accident, yet he learned to swim, he played rugby and drove a car – nothing stopped Steffan; he refused to be defined by disability and expected no favours either. I clearly remember the death of his mother in May, 1977; the unexpected and unwelcome news reached Lampeter during The President's Dinner.

As for Hiram, he was awarded the DCM and Steffan made a trip to Mametz Wood [*a War Memorial to the Battle of the Somme – Ed.*], an experience which he found, understandably, very emotional.

Steffan was married four times, most recently to Linda in 2018, who became well known to and welcomed by the Lampeter crowd in Cardiff. In fact, just before his sudden and premature death, Steffan issued a vote of thanks on her behalf for all the birthday wishes people had sent her. He added: "Happy Birthday to my wife, my love." At the time of Steffan's demise, he and Linda had only been married for just under two years, sadly.

He had one son, Ioan, of whom he was immensely proud. Steffan once described him as being "very funny" and an "excellent impressionist." My own impression of Ioan is that he was passionate about music and rugby and talented in both areas, loving to watch the latter with the father whom he quite obviously adored. He provided Steffan with five grandchildren and one great grand-daughter who arrived just a little too late for Steffan to adore and cherish.

Steffan ... a lovely, caring man, a great teacher, an extraordinary gentleman ... sorely missed, always putting others first, kind, wonderful, thoughtful, patient, understanding ... some of the huge number of accolades which have been sent to me in honour of Steffan. An ex-pupil described him as 'a legend.'

On the day of his funeral – Monday, 3 August, 2020 – there was no shortage of people turning out on to the streets of Port Talbot to line the path of the cortège, paying their respects to the late, great Steffan ap Dafydd, our Lampeter legend. I was there too, on that beautiful, sunny day, with Dewi Roberts and Jon Griffiths, as Steffan arrived at Margam Crematorium. Myself, Dewi and Jon then retreated for a socially-distanced drink to toast his exemplary life and legacy.

To Steffan...

Sue Gandy (née Kearney) (1979)

My memories of Steffan from 1976 are not recorded anywhere – there's no email chain or list of SMS messages as we never wrote to each other. All we had back then were memories, in this case fond ones.

You couldn't miss Steffan, especially in the small, friendly environment that was Lampeter in those days. He had character; he spoke passionately about the issues that concerned him but he took people with him with his arguments. Unlike many politicians these days, he sought resolution, not conflict. He was always busy working for the student body but always had time to stop and listen if you had a problem.

I can't remember the last time I saw him, but 40 years later when in 2017 he popped up on social media, I think we were equally delighted to have found each other. Our lives had had many similar threads – both teachers and now both local councillors with very close political views. We never spoke again but the chain of communication was long and constant. I can look back on it now there is a record. It's not all politics; there's a thread of humour and lots about Wales and Welshness. When we were at Lampeter, Steffan encouraged me to learn Welsh; it's one of my greatest regrets that I never did so. He was still urging me this year, especially after years of research had revealed that a large part of my family was Welsh in origin.

Our last flurry was of different clips of the Welsh National Anthem being sung, mostly, but not exclusively, before rugby matches. I messaged him last in July with a clip from 1968 at the Arms Park; he never replied. The silence was deafening. It still is.

Ian Quance (1979)

Wnes i gyfarfod Steffan y tro cyntaf ym mis Medi 1971, pan ddaeth i'r Chweched Dosbarth yn Ysgol Gyfun Rhydfelen, ger Pontypridd. Buan y daethom yn ffrindiau da, ac yn aml yn treulio penwythnosau yng nghartefi'n gilydd. Roedd aros ym Maesteg, gyda'i phyllau glo yn dal yn brysur yn agoriad llygaid i fachgen o'r Brifddinas, gan fwynhau'r croeso gan deulu diwylliedig Steffan.

Yn Haf 1972 treuliodd Steff a minnau chwe wythnos hapus iawn yn gweithio i'r Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol yng Nghastell Penrhyn ger Bangor. Trin

y gerddi a'r coed yn ystod y dydd, a mwynhau 'uchafbwyntiau' Bangor gyda'r hwyr! Dau fachgen 17 oed yn byw mewn fflat mewn castell. Llauer o hwyl a gafwyd.

Ar ol blwyddyn symudais innau i'r Coleg yn Llambled, ac wrth gwrs un o'r bobl imi weld gyntaf oedd Steffan, a wnaeth bopeth i ddangos y Coleg, y safle, a'r ardal odidog sydd yn rhan annatod o astudio yn Llanbedr-Pont-Steffan. Bum yn gyfeillion agos yn y Coleg, ac yn mwynhau aml i ddadl wleidyddol, yntai yn Sosialydd brwd, a minnau ar yr ochr Genedlaetholgar.

Ar ol dyddiau coleg, gwelais Steff yn achlysurol, ond ar ol dechrau yr aduniadau, daeth yr holl gyfeillgarwch yn ol yn syth, a sioc enfawr oedd clywed am ei farwolaeth disymwth. Mae ei golled i'w deulu yn anferth, hefyd i'r gymdogaeth a garai gymaint. Cwsg yn dawel, hen gyfaill.

I first met Steffan in September 1971, when he came to the sixth form at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydfelen, near Pontypridd. We quickly became good friends, often staying in our respective homes. He lived in Maesteg which, with its coal mines still active, was an eye-opener for a lad from the Capital City, while enjoying the warm hospitality from Steffan's cultured family.

The summer of 1972 saw Steff and I at Penrhyn Castle, near Bangor, working for the National Trust for six weeks, tending the gardens and trees by day, and enjoying the 'highlights' of Bangor by night. Two 17-year old lads living in a flat in a Castle – what could possibly go wrong?

After a year away, I moved to Lampeter, and of course one of the first people I met was Steffan, who immediately made me feel welcome and showed me round the College Campus – and of course the beautiful environs which are such an important part of studying at Lampeter. We were great mates at College, often staying up till the early hours having lively, heated political discussions – Steff, a fervent socialist, and me, tending more towards nationalism.

After College days, we saw each other occasionally, but after the start of the SDUC Reunions, the old friendship rekindled, and we spoke many times about the old days.

It came as a great shock to hear of his sudden death. The loss to his family is immense, as it is to the community he loved and served so well. Sleep well, old friend.

Dewi Alban Roberts (1977)

I first encountered Steffan in 1975, sat across a refectory table in Lampeter.

Looking back, what strikes me is that I never thought of him as disabled, such was his personality – large and exuberant. Steffan talked. He talked with a passion, eyes alight, discussing things that he cared about – Wales, the Welsh language, rugby, social injustice, and more. Three years of friendship and fun followed.

Steffan became a very popular Student Union President at Lampeter. His passion for making the world a better place would never leave him; he went on to be active in Trade Unionism and latterly became a local Councillor.

After leaving Lampeter, we lost contact. It wasn't until we became 'friends' on Facebook that our friendship was rekindled. Steffan came over to Ross-on-Wye and over a drink we caught up with our news. A lot of water had certainly passed under the bridge! After a gap of thirty years, it felt as if we'd seen each other just the week before.

A meeting with Sue Gandy followed and this was the genesis of the SDUC biennial student reunions when around fifty alumni gather to reminisce and celebrate our Lampeter years.

Forty years on and Steffan's Lampeter contemporaries still looked up to him. He was always a focal point at our gatherings. He offered leadership and wisdom. Steffan cared for his friends. He asked questions and showed an interest, listening and making sure all was well.

Steffan is irreplaceable and will be greatly missed by so many.

Nigel White (1978)

PROFESSOR PETER BORSAY (1950–2020)



Colleagues and friends are sad to record the loss of Professor Peter Nigel Borsay, who died recently and whose funeral service was held on Wednesday, 25 November, 2020, at Oxford Crematorium, Headington, Oxford.

Peter was appointed to the History department at Lampeter in 1975. He initially stayed at the home of Mrs David, the widow of Professor David [a former Lecturer in History (see *The Link*, Winter, 2018/19, no. LXXIII, pp.28–29) – Ed.], at Minerva House in Bridge Street. Later he moved with Glynne Watkin and George Mair to Wern View, Cwmann.

Peter retired from being a full-time academic in the History and Welsh History Department at Aberystwyth University in 2018. He remained an Emeritus Professor there until his death. Before arriving in Aberystwyth, he had spent many happy and prosperous years actively writing and teaching in the History Department at Lampeter. He was part of the Departmental Management Team there and served as Head of Department in the late 1990s.

Hallmarks of his scholarship, based on meticulous and passionate archival research, include, *inter alia*, a study of the history of English towns in the 18th century and the interaction

between urban culture and society. His work shed new light on the development of the Early Modern town and the expansion in the provision of public leisure.

Despite decades of academic achievement and a plethora of publications, Peter Borsay struck many with his exceptional humility and his willingness to mentor others.

He was married to Professor Anne Borsay, a renowned medical historian who worked as a Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer and Reader at UWTSO between 1978 and 2002, where she gained a PhD in 1999. They had two daughters together: Clare and Sarah.

Students and colleagues alike remember Peter above all for his gentle, kind and generous nature and his good sense of humour. He will long be remembered with great affection.

Joan Colquhoun (1978)

JOHN EARL (1949–2020)



John in the Lake District in 1974

Anyone who read the article on page 28 of the Winter, 2019/2020 edition (no. LXXV) of *The Link*, ‘Travels in Wales – and the impossibility of avoiding Lampeter!’, would recognise both an author of great skill and someone with a heartfelt, genuine love of the College. John had intended to submit more articles about his College memories, but I am very sorry to report that he died in March, 2020, before they could be written.

He came to SDUC in 1969 and thoroughly enjoyed his time at Lampeter. He enthusiastically took part in many of the opportunities the College provided, whether it was sport, music, the film club, or exploration of this lovely part of the world. John was always an explorer, not just of places, but of ideas, history and the Arts.

His intellectual curiosity was matched by a strong moral compass. Students were in revolt those days and sit-ins were *de rigueur*. There was one such held outside the Bursar’s office in Old Building – I think it was in support of the College staff. I seem to remember that a photo of this rebellion was printed, rather surprisingly, in the next College prospectus, presumably in an attempt to look like other universities – and there he was, sat in the middle of those protesting students ... but he is the only one reading a book.

He carried this love of literature into a career in teaching, gained an M.Ed from Newcastle University and worked as Head of English in high schools in Northumberland for thirty-five years. His pupils were lucky to experience many things – enacting *Henry IV, Part One* on Humbleton Hill, where Harry Hotspur actually fought; trips to the Lake District to admire Wordsworth; hearing the many disparate voices of the tellers of Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* expertly evoked; and of course enjoying a variety of dramatic productions.

John had a great assortment of interests. He was an outdoors person who enjoyed sailing, walking, bird watching, and being a voluntary warden for the Northumberland National Park. When ill health forced an early retirement, he used this as

an opportunity for artistic pursuits and became a skilful painter and print maker. He volunteered at an art gallery in Newcastle and transformed the courtyard there with murals. Always a keen musician, he was still playing guitar, performing at the local folk club and singing with the community choir. Since childhood, when he travelled to school by train, he had been fascinated by the railway and became an active member of the Tanfeld Railway Society in the North East and the GWSR preserved railway in Gloucestershire, where he had responsibility for the superb station near our home in Winchcombe.

As mentioned before, he was a talented writer of natural grace. He often won competitions in the *Times Educational Supplement* and won a national competition on Radio 4 for a piece of nature writing. He was a published poet, edited railway journals and, together with Steve Huson, published a book for the Midland Railway Society, *Midland Retrospective*.

John and I met at college in 1969 and married thereafter. We had fifty very happy years together and were blessed with three children and four grandchildren. His calm, easy-going character, ready wit and knack for finding fun garnered him many friends from all aspects of his life. There were so many messages of sympathy and regret, but his funeral took place on 23 March, 2020, the first day of the Covid-19 ‘lockdown’, so only close family could be present. We intend to hold a thanksgiving service next year, when the current circumstances should hopefully have eased. Donations in his memory will go to Blood Cancer UK.

Patti Earl (1970)

GLANVILLE EVANS (1946–2020)

Born in Pontardawe in West Glamorgan, Glanville arrived at Lampeter in October, 1965, with a new acoustic guitar and a bright red bass one. He was a mainstay of several bands, including Dickens Group, The



The Big Squeeze rock band in May, 1967
L–R are: Jeff Jones, Keith Ainsworth, Nick Green (aka Billy Bean), David Young, Geoff Thomas, Glanville Evans

Big Squeeze, Major Thompson and lastly, Molloy, in which he played lead guitar.

After graduating in English and History in 1969, he worked in a variety of temporary jobs including at Port Talbot Steelworks and on the construction of a new section of the M4 around Swansea. He then became a civil servant, working as an IT specialist in the Vehicle Inspectorate Division of the DVLA in Swansea, where he became known as the man who could fix overnight backlogs.

From the early 1990s, he was a freelance IT consultant, working nationally, initially on Y2K compliance issues around the millennium.

Together with his passion for cars, Glanville maintained his love of music throughout his life. He met up – and played guitar – with a number of 1960s contemporaries at several Lampeter Reunions between 2012 and 2015.

He died on Sunday, 25 October, 2020, at home in Cwmrhydyceinw village near Swansea, aged 74.

He will be missed by Barbara (his companion) and his many friends.

[This colour publicity shot of *The Big Squeeze* rock band above was taken behind Old Building, just up the slope from the old Assembly Hall. This iconic photo appeared in the 2012 issue of *The Link Extra*, 2011, No. LXXV, page 24, in the obituary of fellow band member Geoff Thomas, who died in March, 2010 – Ed].

David Young (1969)

TREVOR LARDER (1952–2020)



It is with considerable sadness that I write of Trevor Larder's sudden death on 24 August, 2020, less than a month after his 68th birthday. The funeral was held in Bedford on 6 October and I had the privilege of speaking about the Lampeter part of his life and of our continuing friendship. Also present was Phil Jackson (1975), with whom Trevor shared digs at Mrs Evans's (Aunt of Mr Sam Jones, long-serving Accommodation Officer at the College).

Trev and I met 48 years ago in October, 1972. It was outside Carmarthen station on our way to Lampeter University as 'freshers'. As one does, I was practising my golf swing with a hockey stick. This caught Trev's eye and not being, in general, shy and retiring, he came across to chat. Neither of us knew then how that meeting would intimately weld our later histories – he was the only person to attend both my wedding and the funerals of each of my parents.

It became clear at my first hockey practice that the College XI needed a goalkeeper – preferably somebody large and able to kick. Trev came to mind. I asked him: he agreed, and we spent countless hours, with me shooting and him saving. Later he acted as my Vice-Captain for the '73–'74 season. Then, within 18 months, he had played for Cardiganshire, Home Welsh Under 21s, and represented the University of Wales at the British Universities Tournament at St Andrew's! In time, he joined Bedford H.C., played for many years, then

umpired for them and the Bedford University Ladies' sides.

Ever reliable, ever willing, Trev thrived on making a contribution, on being involved, on being part of a team and giving unstintingly of himself and his time. Lampeter suited him perfectly – a small community in which he was immediately a noted character.

We were also welcomed to the Aberaeron home of Mr and Mrs Davis. Glyn looked after our hockey pitch whilst Maggie cooked and served in the Refectory; both were nearing retirement. In 2003, Trev and I went back to Lampeter – my first visit since graduation year. Although we knew that Glyn had died, we had hoped to meet Maggie. When we learned that she too had passed away in a care home only a few weeks before, he was devastated – unwilling to speak for more than an hour. Trev cared deeply about friendship and reciprocating kindness.

Another example of this relates to our friendship group at Lampeter. Five of us (including three Geographers – Phil Jackson, Rich Smith and Terry Sutcliffe) spent much time together. On our 21st birthdays, we gave each other a tankard engraved with our names. His was cherished, and I know he felt keenly the sadness that we as a group had not kept in touch with each other over the years.

Indeed, soul, sentiment and sensitivity were deep within Trev. He was always the first to offer support. When I began to look after my mother in her old age, he offered me advice and later he helped me with the probate of her will. Nothing was too much trouble for him. Fluent in German and Flemish, his MSc at Cranfield University furthered his career in international transport logistics. Later, in semi-retirement, he acted as development officer in East Lindsey for the Lincolnshire Credit Union. (Trev's interview with County Linx Radio is online.)

Furthermore, while at Cranfield, he founded a cricket club as a joint venture between University and village. He was, much to his delight,

invited back annually to present 'caps' to new players. In retirement, he helped to exercise dogs for the blind and up until his death he was volunteering as a driver for the NHS: all so typical of him.

In 2020, the Covid-19 'lockdowns' prevented our watching Yorkshire v Kent at Headingley in May – that would have been a return to Leeds together, last visited when he helped me in the search for Postgrad accommodation. Sadly, all cricket was off, so for five months Trev and I 'Skyped' for a couple of hours or more, twice a week. We reminisced about our visit to Hull and Pearson Park when I had read to him some of Larkin's poem called *Going, Going*, which had resonated with something in his own view of contemporary England:

*First slum of Europe: a role
It won't be so hard to win
With a cast of crooks and tarts.
And that will be England gone.*

And as we talked of meals together, frequently I would be reminded of his extraordinary range of reference and memory for facts – not for nothing did he appear on television in *Mastermind* with Mario Lanza as his specialist subject. He was not averse, though, to both commenting on and exploiting my technological deficiencies, quietly looking up a fact on a split-screen to enjoy amazing me subsequently with his knowledge! Such deficiencies were again apparent when I declined to use the microphone at his funeral service, thereby preventing Helen Masson (1976) in France and others across the globe from hearing my brief tribute to Trev: "I rest my case, Butler," he would have said.

I hope, as Hardy wrote, that such "unadjusted fugitive impressions" have their value. Trev has a special place in my heart – my most staunch and long-standing friend. I will always cherish these memories, together with his integrity, loyalty, and steadfastness. As he so often said at the end of our recent chats – they were indeed "Happy Days!"

David Butler (1975)

MAKING BEQUESTS TO THE LAMPETER SOCIETY

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

Editor

MEMORABILIA

ANNIVERSARY ALE



Who else has a bottle of the UWL 175th Anniversary Ale – unopened?

Dave Clare (1971)

[Would members be interested in purchasing a commemorative 200th Anniversary Ale, if one were available? If so, let me know and we will investigate the possibility – Ed.]



Scarves

LAMPETER SCARVES AND TIES FOR SALE

As the Lampeter scarves and ties have proven 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 scarf costs £30.

Ties are black silk and have a double diagonal gold stripe with the St. David (in-his-niche) logo; they cost £15 each.

Postage costs are £3.10 for a scarf or £1.50 for a tie. A joint scarf and tie order is £3.10 as the ties do not weigh much. Two scarves are £4.50.

Please contact Richard Haslam (rhaslam@hotmail.com) for details and availability, because stock fluctuates. Once you



Ties

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

- Paid for some conservation work of two of the Library's treasures in the Special Collections – *The Austen Volumes*
- 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. [*The boards have reportedly been renovated by the Art department of Carmarthen or Swansea and presumably updated. We are checking the whereabouts with John Morgan-Guy, Hon. Research Fellow of the Roderic Bowen Library – Ed.*]

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 £20 – but if you wish to give more, 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 the Lampeter 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 2021 and 2022 on pp.i-iv – 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)

MEMBERSHIP OF THE LAMPETER SOCIETY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Chair / Reunion Co-ordinator: Esther Weller (1999)

Vice Chair: Chris Deacy (1994)

Treasurer: Andrew Leach (1977)

Secretary: Victoria Welsby (2004)

Editor of *The Link*: Brendan McSharry (1971)

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

Peter Bosley (1967/1977)

***The Link* – technical support:** Adrian Gaunt (1966)

UWTSD Liaison: Bill Fillery (1969)

London Convenor: Richard Haslam (1994)

Swansea Convenor: Nevil Williams (1980)

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fillerybill@gmail.com

rhaslam@hotmail.com

nevilwilliams1957@gmail.com

DATES FOR DIARIES, 2021 – 2022

2021

Monday, 1 March

Swansea branch meeting and lunch. Contact Nevil Williams at nevilwilliams1957@gmail.com

Monday, 1 March, 6 pm

Lampeter Society-sponsored Lecture (virtual, see p.22)

Saturday, 17 April

5th Rugby match – ‘Old Codgers’ v College rugby team, at the Lampeter RFC

Saturday, 8 May

May Ball (all alumni welcome) (TO BE CONFIRMED)

Friday, 28 May

Lampeter Society London Branch – Annual Dinner

Friday, 9 July

Lampeter Graduation

Friday, 23 – Sunday, 25 July

Lampeter Society Reunion, Lampeter

Saturday, 18 September

Reunion in Cardiff at The Park Plaza Hotel for 1970s’ graduates – but all alumni are welcome. Contact Susan Gandy (née Kearney) at susangandy@hotmail.com

2022

Saturday, 26 February

Commemoration Service for the 200th Anniversary of the University and the 85th Anniversary of the Lampeter Society – St Davids Cathedral.

Saturday, 23 April

6th Rugby match – ‘Old Codgers’ v College rugby team, at the Lampeter RFC

Friday, 22 – Monday, 25 July

Special four-day Lampeter Society Reunion, in Lampeter, to mark the bicentenary of the UWTSD Lampeter Campus.

REQUEST FOR COPY FOR FUTURE EDITIONS OF *THE LINK*

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

* **Summer, 2021 – Friday, 7 May, 2021**

* **Winter, 2021–22 – Friday, 19 November, 2021**

CALL FOR A VOLUNTEER TO UNDERTAKE A MARKETING ROLE ON THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Lampeter Society is keen to market itself more effectively in these difficult times. We have therefore decided to create a new voluntary Marketing role on the Business Committee. If you have had some experience of this function and are interested in taking up this exciting and challenging role, please contact us at lampetersociety@gmail.com.

The overall aim of the role will be to increase the reach and impact of The Lampeter Society and in particular to:

- 1. promote the Lampeter Society and UWTSD Lampeter Campus**
- 2. increase the number of actively subscribing Lampeter Society members**
- 3. raise the engagement level of active members.**

The volunteer in this role will work closely with the University's Lampeter Campus Alumni and Marketing & Communications offices.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Esther Weller (1999)

THANK YOU

My grateful thanks to the following with regard to this issue of *The Link*: all the contributors, for their hard work and for adhering to the copy deadline; the Deputy Editor, Peter Bosley; Adrian Gaunt, for technical support; Esther Weller (Chair) and Chris Deacy (Vice Chair) for their ongoing support; Jill Sweet for her excellent design work; and Rhodri Thomas for the sterling co-chairing of the Virtual Reunion.



FFURFLENNI / FORMS

ADUNIAD / REUNION, 2021

CYFFREDIN / GENERAL

ADUNIAD CYMDEITHAS LLAMBED, 2021 Gwener, 23 Gorffennaf – Sul, 25 Gorffennaf

RHAGLEN DRAFFT

Bwriedir i'r penwythnos hwn fod yn un ymlaciol, anffurfiol a phleserus i ddal i fyny gyda hen ffrindiau a chwrdd â phobl newydd. Mae'r rhaglen yn hollol hyblyg a gallwch ddewis cynifer neu gyn lleied o'r digwyddiadau a restrir isod ag y mynnwch – mae popeth yn wirfoddol. Wrth gwrs, mae croeso i chi ddod ag aelodau eraill o'ch teulu neu'ch ffrindiau gyda chi. (**Sylwch, oni bai eich wedi archebu ymlaen llaw, ni fydd llety, y cinio aduniad a phrydau bwyd eraill, ar wahân i ginio dydd Sul, ar gael.**)

PRIF DDIGWYDDIADAU

Gwener, 23 Gorffennaf

3.00 yp – 5.00 yp: Cofrestru – Cloriau, Adeilad Dewi Sant (wedi hynny gellir casglu allweddi o'r Dderbynfa). Lluniaeth ar gael.

Bydd cynllun eistedd ar gyfer Cinio'r Aduniad ar gael; gwnewch yn siŵr eich bod chi'n gofrestru ar gyfer sedd cyn i chi adael yr ardal gan y bydd hyn yn rhoi mwy o amser paratoi i'r staff arlwygo.

Byddwch hefyd yn gallu cofrestru i gymryd rhan yn y Prosiect 200 o Leisiau Llambled (gweler isod).

5.30 yp: Derbyniad Croeso – Caffi / Bar 1822

6.00 yp: Cinio – Neuadd Fwyta Lloyd Thomas

7.30 yp: Cwis Tafarn – Undeb y Myfyrwyr

8.45 yp: Andy White (digrifwr Brummie enwog – graddedig Llambled 1994) – Undeb y Myfyrwyr

Sadwrn, 24 Gorffennaf

8.00 yb – 9.00 yb: Brecwast – Neuadd Fwyta Lloyd Thomas

9.15 yb– 9.45 yb: Datganiad ay yr Organ – Capel. *Y Gwir Barchedig Dr Richard Fenwick, PhD (Cymru), MA (Cymru), BA (Llanbedr Pont Steffan 1966), MA (Coleg y Drindod Dulyn), MusB (Coleg y Drindod Dulyn), cyn Esgob St Helena yn Nhalaith Anglicanaidd De Affrica*

10.00 yb: Gwasanaeth blynyddol y Gymdeithas Llambled – Capel. *Pregethwr – Yr Hybarch Paul Mackness, BA (1996), Archddiacon Tyddewi*

(Mae croeso i chi gynnal y traddodiad o wisgo gwisg academiaidd)

11.00 yb: Coffi, te a biscedi – Cloriau, Adeilad Dewi Sant

11.15 yb: Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol y Gymdeithas Llambled – Darlithfa Cliff Tucker. Bydd diweddariadau gan BCDSS am y campws, rhaglen academiaidd ac ati.

1.00 yp: Cinio Anffurfiol – Neuadd Fwyta Lloyd Thomas

2.00 yp – 4.00 yp: Gweithgareddau Dewisol:

* cyfweiliadau ar gyfer y Prosiect 200 o Leisiau Llambled – Stiwdio Recordio. Erbyn 2022, y nod yw dal atgofion a phrofiadau o leiaf 200 o fyfyrwyr presennol a chyn fyfyrwyr [gweler The Link LXXXVI, Gaeaf 2020-21, t.xi, am fwy o fanylion].

* croquet (ar y lawnt y tu allan i'r Hen Adeilad – os bydd y tywydd yn caniatáu!)

* tenis bwrdd (Undeb y Myfyrwyr)

* pŵl (Undeb y Myfyrwyr)

* gemau bwrdd (Undeb y Myfyrwyr)

* amgueddfa (Hen Bothordy)

4.00 yp – 5.00 yp: Te Mefus – Cloriau, Adeilad Dewi Sant

6.45 yp: Llen grŵp – Camau wrth ymyl y llyfrgell (os bydd y tywydd yn caniatáu!)

7.00 yp: Derbyniad diodydd cyn-cinio – Bydd poteli o win ar gyfer Cinio'r Aduniad ar gael i'w prynu. Bydd tocynnau raffl ar werth am £1 yr un, gyda'r holl elw'n mynd i gronfeydd Cymdeithas Llambled.

7.30 yp: Cinio Aduniad – Neuadd Fwyta Lloyd Thomas

SIARADWR GWADD – Ian Marchant (gweler ei nodyn hunangofiannol yn The Link LXXXV ar d.24)

Gwisg smart achlysurol os gwelwch yn dda (ond mae gwisgo'n fwy ffurfiol yn gwbl dderbyniol os dymunwch!)

Ar ôl y cinio, bydd Undeb y Myfyrwyr ar agor tan yn hwyr, gyda disgo yn yr Estyniad.

Sul, 25 Gorffennaf

09.00 yb – 10.00 yb: Brecwast – Neuadd Fwyta Lloyd Thomas (i'r rhai sy'n gallu llusgo'u hunain allan o'r gwely!)

10.15 yb – 11.00 yb: Sesiwn holi ac ateb gyda Seren Llambled, Hag Harris (1974) – Llyfrgell y Sylfaenwyr

11.00 yb: Taith hamddenol i'r Falcondale. Cwrdd yn y Cloriau, Adeilad Dewi Sant

12.30 yp: Cinio Dydd Sul – Neuadd Fwyta Lloyd Thomas, a ffarwelio tan 2022.

HEFYD...yn unol â thraddodiadau Cristnogol Llambled, bydd gwasanaethau'n cael eu cynnal yng Nghapel Prifysgol Dewi Sant trwy gydol penwythos yr Aduniad – mae croeso i bawb.

RHAGLEN GWASANAETHAU CAPEL (Adeilad Dewi Sant) (GALL AMSEROEDD NEWID)	
Gwener 23 Gorffennaf 5.00 yp:	Gosber
Sadwrn 24 Gorffennaf 5.00 yp:	Offeren Catholig Rhufeinig gyda Fr John Pascoe (1967)
5.45 yp:	Gosber
Sul 25 Gorffennaf 11.00 yb:	Cymun Bendigaid

LAMPETER SOCIETY REUNION 2021

Friday, 23 July – Sunday, 25 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, 23 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, 24 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 p.xi, 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. 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 in *The Link* LXXV, Winter 2019-20, 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, 25 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 a Local Lampeter Luminary – Hag Harris (1974). 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 2022.

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.

PROGRAMME OF CHAPEL SERVICES (St David’s Building)	
<i>(TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)</i>	
Friday, 23 July, 5.00 pm:	Evensong
Saturday, 24 July, 5.00 pm:	Roman Catholic Mass with Fr John Pascoe (1967)
5.45 pm:	Evensong
Sunday, 25 July, 11.00 am:	Holy Communion

FFURFLEN ARCHEBU

(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 Y Swyddfa Cymhadledd 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 a lampeterreception@uwtsd.ac.uk, ffon 01570 422351 cyn i chi dalu. Gallwch hefyd gysylltu ag Esther Weller (Cadeirydd) ar estherb16@yahoo.co.uk
Fel arall gallwch archebu a thalu ar-lein gan ddefnyddio'r ddolen <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/cy/alumni/cymdeithas-llamed/>

Prydau/preswyl	£ y pen	Nifer y lleoedd
Derbyniad Croeso - Gwener	<i>Am ddim</i>	
Swper - Gwener	9.95	
Gwely a Brecwast - Nos Wener/Bore Sadwrn	38.00	
Byrbryd - Sadwrn	9.95	
Tê a Mefys - Sadwrn	<i>Am ddim</i>	
Derbyniad a Chinio'r Aduniad - Sadwrn	27.00	
Gwely a Brecwast - Nos Sadwrn/Bore Sul	38.00	
Byrbryd - Sul	10.25	
GOFYNIAD ARBENNIG		
CYFANSWM		

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;
c d trefn: 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 Gwener, 9 Gorffennaf fan bellaf i: Y Swyddfa Cynhadledd, 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).
Also, 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

Alternatively you can book and pay online using the following link <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/lampeter-society/>

Meals/accommodation	£ per head	No. of places
Welcome Reception - Friday	Free	
Dinner - Friday	9.95	
Bed & Breakfast - Friday night/Saturday morning	38.00	
Lunch - Saturday	9.95	
Strawberry Tea - Saturday	Free	
Reunion Reception and Dinner - Saturday	27.00	
Bed & Breakfast - Saturday night/Sunday morning	38.00	
Lunch - Sunday	10.25	
SPECIAL REQUESTS		
TOTAL COST		

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 [your 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 Friday, 9 July at the latest to: Lampeter Reception, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Lampeter, Ceredigion SA48 7ED



Enw _____

Nifer yn eich grŵp _____

Dewiswch *un* opsiwn am mhob gwrs am mhob person drwy nodi nifer yn y blwch.

Cwrs cyntaf	Nifer
Cawl moron a sinsir cartref gyda rhôl a menynt (Ll)	
Coctel corgimychiaid, seleri ac afal	
Madarch garlleg hufennog gyda ciabatta wedi'i dostio	
Prif Gwrs	
Ffiled eog mewn saws sbigoglys a gwin gwyn	
Brest cyw iâr wedi'i stwffio â brie a bacwn, a'i gweini mewn saws Madeira coeth	
Polenta a phentwr llysiau (Ll)	
Pwddin	
Cacen gaws gartref mefus a siocled gwyn	
Pwddin taffi gludlog cartref gyda saws taffi cyfoethog a chwstard	
Te neu Goffi Ffres gyda Mintys ar ôl Cinio	

Nodwch unrhyw anghenion diet arbennig _____

Enw _____

Cyfeiriad _____

Rhif ffôn _____

Cyfeiriad Ebost _____



MENU CHOICES

Form vi

Name _____

Number in party _____

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

Starters	Number
Home-made carrot and ginger soup served with a roll and butter (V)	
Prawn, celery and apple cocktail	
Creamy garlic mushrooms served with a toasted ciabatta	
Main Courses	
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)	
Sweets	
Home-made strawberry and white chocolate cheesecake	
Homemade sticky toffee pudding with a rich toffee sauce and custard	
Freshly brewed tea or coffee with After Dinner Mints	

Please note any special dietary requirements _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

Email address _____



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:

Matt Cowley,
University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Lampeter Campus
SA48 7ED
Phone: (01570) 422351; email: lampeteralumni@uwtsd.ac.uk

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

Name	
Year of graduation	
Old address	
New address	
Postcode	
Email	



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

**LAMPETER SOCIETY
ANNUAL DONATION
STANDING ORDER
MANDATE**

Form viii

To the Manager [<i>your bank</i>]	
Address of bank	
Postcode	
Sort code	
Account number	
Account name	
Please pay The Lampeter Society the sum of £ (The minimum recommended payment is £20, but if you wish to be more generous, this would be gratefully received.) Date of first payment: (Please allow four weeks from return of the form to the start date of your standing order.) Date of subsequent payments: 1 March annually Iban no. for payments from abroad: GB36 LOYD 3094 8500 0724 66	
Signed	
Date	

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 – [<i>your name</i>]
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<i>Additional information for Lampeter Society and UWTSD records</i>	
Name	
Telephone	
email	
Graduation year	
Profession/ occupation	

Please return this form to:
 Matt Cowley, University of Wales Trinity Saint David,
 Lampeter Campus, SA48 7ED

LAMPETER SOCIETY '200 CLUB'

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Lampeter Society 200 Club! We set it up to help us with our fundraising activities - our current priorities being the proposed events to celebrate the Bicentenary in 2022. Further information, including the registration form, is found below. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Esther Weller (Lampeter Society Chair) at estherb16@yahoo.co.uk

INFORMATION

* The Lampeter Society '200 Club' is a private lottery and is open to all graduates, staff and past students of the Lampeter Campus of the University of Wales Trinity St. David.

* You pay a monthly fee and each month three members will win a cash prize.

* Membership costs £12.00 per year (£1 a month) or *pro rata*, in advance, renewable on 1st July each year. For example, if you sign up to the 200 Club in March, you will pay £8 for membership until the following June. This buys you just **one** unique membership number, which will be entered into a monthly draw – the same number each time. However, further numbers can be purchased throughout the year and also paid for on a *pro rata* basis.

* The Lampeter Society Business Committee will inform you of your allocated number(s).

* The Prize Fund will depend on the number of entries. However, the percentage will remain the same: 50% of the money collected each month will be distributed as three cash prizes (as 25%, 15% and 10% of the prize fund respectively), whilst the other 50% will be allocated to the Lampeter Society. We shall use this in furtherance of our aim of supporting both the Lampeter campus and the whole range of university life there, as well as alumni activities that bring people together (such as the Annual Reunion).

* If you win, the money will be transferred to your bank or a cheque will be sent to your address. The names of the winners will be published in the Summer and Winter editions of *The Link*, unless you opt out.

* The prize draw takes place on the last Friday of each month and is drawn using the random number generator at random.org. The first draw took place on 30th July, 2020.

If you would like a chance of winning, please complete and sign the membership form overleaf and return it to Andrew Leach, Committee Treasurer, at ajpleach@gmail.com. You may either send a cheque to Andrew (address available on request) or, preferably, transfer the membership fee to our bank account, using your name as the reference:

Lampeter Society 200 Club
Account number: 20256668
Sort code: 30-94-85

LAMPETER SOCIETY '200 CLUB' – APPLICATION FORM 2021/2022

Name: _____

Postal address: _____

Email address: _____

How many numbers would you like to purchase? (at a cost of £12 per number, per year, or pro rata)

- ✓ I agree that if I wish to cancel my membership I will inform **the Lampeter Society Business Committee** of this decision.
- ✓ I understand that membership fees are non-refundable.

I give / do not give (delete as appropriate) the Lampeter Society Business Committee permission to publish my name in The Link.

Signature _____ Date _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT - AND GOOD LUCK!

LAMPETER SOCIETY LONDON BRANCH – ANNUAL DINNER, 2021

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, 28 May 2021**. 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

White Chocolate and 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: The Lampeter Society; 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, 21 May, 2021**.

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 so that we are able to keep a record of those interested in the Lampeter Society's activities. Also, 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)

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

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.

