

No. LXXI

March  
**2018**

# the link



The  
**Lampeter**  
Society

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**Llambled**



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# EDITORIAL

Welcome to the latest edition of The Link!

We are planning some changes to make your Newsletter more up-to-date. Hitherto, the full-colour Link Extra has only been available to those members attending the Reunion. From now on, it will be known as Link 2 and will be in black-and-white only but will be distributed to all members towards the end of June.

The University is undergoing many changes as, of course, it always has done. But the one constant across nearly 81 years has been The Lampeter Society. I feel enormously privileged to be able to put together another issue of The Link, which is invaluable in fostering a sense of community across the diverse age groups within the Society.

This edition has many points of focus but a crucial one is the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary this year of the first group of women graduates. Their entry into the College in 1965 revolutionised many facets of Lampeter life and hence it is fitting that it should be celebrated.

The fact that you are able to receive this Newsletter is only possible as a result of the hard work of a great number of people – not least the contributors, the Archivist, the design and print team, and the distributors. To all of those, my grateful thanks.

However, we should like to encourage even more participation by members of the Society, especially from those graduating over the last thirty years. We thus look forward to receiving contributions of the type indicated in the various sections marked with an \*. Get writing!

*Meanwhile, though, if anyone is able to give a more precise date for the two images on the front cover other than those mentioned in the note at the bottom of the Contents page, please let me know.*

Adrian Gaunt (1966)

# HONOUR ROLL OF FIRST WOMEN GRADUATES, 1968

Susan Aldridge  
Marie Beardsley  
Sally Carter  
Carol Clarkson  
Alison-Faith Hutchings  
Patricia Jones  
Christine Joyce  
Sharon Sotheran  
Jennifer Southgate  
Patricia Smith



This was taken from *The Cambrian News*, 12th July, 1968. However, the correct names, left to right, are: Sally Carter, Christine Joyce, Carol Clarkson, Alison-Faith Hutchings, Susan Aldridge, Sharon Sotheran and Jennifer Southgate. Three others received their degrees in absentia. (John Loaring, 1967)

[Source: Class List, 1968]

# MESSAGE FROM JEREMY SMITH (DEAN FOR THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & PERFORMING ARTS)

[The following Message is derived from emails to the Society by Dr Jeremy Smith in late 2017. –Ed.]

With the Michaelmas term just about over, and finally with a moment to breathe, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking everybody for their generous and gracious support over the last few months.

As ever, our academic and administrative staff in Lampeter have been outstanding in their dedication and hard work. Some of that work has included conference organisation, such as the two-day event to mark the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, arranged by Dr Alex Scott and Andy Bevan. Another was an exhibition (entitled ‘Layers of the Landscape’) of recent archaeological findings at Borth and their relationship to local folk lore and legend, organised by Erin Kavanagh and Dr Martin Bates, which was in situ in the cloisters for a significant amount of time. Furthermore, academic staff from Theology, led by Dr Catrin Williams, gave papers at a three-day conference on Interfaith dialogue at UNESCO, Paris, where we were jointly responsible for organising the second day of panels and papers. And just last week the Theology team were again busy helping to organise a one-day conference in Cardiff on the theme of peaceful co-existence; this was in association with the Muslim Council of Wales, the Knowledge Exchange Partnership and the King Abdullah University of Saudi Arabia.

Alongside these events we have run our regular series of Research Seminars and Lectures with prominent academics from across theUK, in addition to the astonishingly rich output of



research from our own academic staff with books over the last few months appearing from Dr Louise Steel and Dr Katharina Zinn, and from Dr Haeussler.

Also in the Michaelmas term, the College was fortunate to play host to several visits from Universities with an eye on exploring opportunities for partnership. One of these, Southern Utah University, we discovered has a rich collection of native American archaeology as well as a replica Globe theatre, which would be open for our students to access. The other, in central China, was Nanyang University which has a rich history and culture from ancient times, with whom we are working to develop partnerships in the area of Chinese literature, ethics, religion and cultural heritage.

The College has also been working closely with both the Strata Florida Trust and the St Padarn's Institute of the Church in Wales.

# THE LAMPETER SOCIETY, 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

By Peter Bosley (1967, 1977), Chair

I have a collection of Lampeter Society commemorative mugs, one of which celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Society in its current form, 1937 - 2007. This makes even more unforgivable my failure to remember that 2017 would thus be the 80th anniversary: only half-way through the Reunion did that thought come into my mind! I hope I shall still be attending the Society Reunion in 2027 to celebrate, in a more conscious way, the 90th Anniversary *[and, dear Chair, we hope you will be there even in 2037 for the 100th! – Ed.]*.

In 2017 the Society has undertaken its usual range of activities. The Business Committee has met three times, twice in Cheltenham, though the January 2018 meeting reverted to the Celtic Manor near Newport. On that occasion we were joined by Jacqui Weatherburn from UWTSd, who has been appointed with a responsibility to strengthen the University's alumni activities. In 2017 the Committee was reinforced by the membership of Esther Weller and Victoria Welsby, graduates from 1999 and 2004 respectively. Their work and their insights throughout the year have been extremely valuable to the Committee. It is invidious to highlight any one achievement but I must mention Esther's key role in setting up the 2018 Reunion, which seems to me to promise to be one of the most exciting we have had for years *[see the Notice about it from Esther on page 8 - Ed.]*

Esther and I also travelled to Lampeter; where, with Bill Fillery, we met Dr. Jeremy Smith, Dean for the Faculty of Humanities and Performing Arts; Jacqui Weatherburn, Director of Strategic Initiatives; and Kelly Williams, who manages the Reunion from the UWTSd side. It was on this occasion that we confirmed that the official opening of the Landscaped Garden was to be on St David's Day, 2018. Jeremy also invited the Society to consider ideas/activities to

On the social side, we again hosted the Town's Christmas Fayre, this year opened by the newly-elected MP for Ceredigion, Ben Lake, in addition to a Christmas party for students and two very successful friendship dinners with guests from the staff, Town, visiting University representatives and the student body.

Finally, two pieces of really exciting and related news have been confirmed. Firstly, I am pleased to announce that we have appointed a new Faculty Marketing Officer, who comes to us with a background and considerable experience in Alumni work at another University. This will allow us to really strengthen our Alumni engagement and support within the Marketing Team, and in marketing the wonderful Lampeter campus and the many opportunities it offers.

The second item of related news is that I am delighted to be able to report that early in

support the 200th Anniversary of the foundation of St David's College, celebrations for which will take place in 2022.

The Society has continued with its grants of money to support the Lampeter Campus and Lampeter students. The grant to the Chapel was suspended as Bill Fillery advised that as the Chapel funds are currently sound, it was not needed. Money has been allocated to the Library, as usual, and this year, additionally, we were able to respond rapidly to a request from Sarah Roberts, the Archivist, to buy David Watkin's *The Life and Work of C. R. Cockerell* – in the 'Studies in Architecture' series.

Additionally, the Society sponsored another Lampeter Society Lecture, which was given on Monday, 16 October, 2017, by Dr. Martin Crampin of the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies (CAWCS), which is part of the University of Wales. Because the relationship between CAWCS and the Faculty of Humanities on the Lampeter campus is becoming ever closer (in view of the forthcoming merger of the UW with UWTSd), it seemed appropriate to reflect this significant historical development in the choice of Dr. Crampin. This is particularly so perhaps given the subject of Dr Crampin's lecture, which was entitled 'Mystery Makers: Identifying the artists responsible for the stained glass at the Church of St Peter, Lampeter'.

Also, we have continued our support to the Students' Union for the updating of the Honours Boards.

The Illustrated History Boards (financed by the Society) which were sun-damaged and then left languishing have now been completely replaced and updated. I gather that this has been initiated and financed by the Hong Kong-based Chin Kung Multi-Cultural Education Foundation. They are expected

the new year we will be moving to appoint a dedicated Alumni Officer for Lampeter. This has been made possible through the much-appreciated support and assistance of Lampeter Alumna, Ms. Janet Dunlop. Her financial assistance has been instrumental in the development of this initiative, and we are extremely grateful for her generosity and ongoing engagement. Though still at an early stage of planning, the Officer will engage closely with the Lampeter Society and Alumni generally so as, for instance, to improve and grow our communications with existing and new alumni, organise a wider variety of events and re-connections, develop fundraising opportunities and to begin to organise and plan for the rapidly approaching 2022 bi-centennial celebrations of Lampeter.

Exciting times! I shall keep you posted on developments as the year unfolds.

to be placed in the Library or Canterbury Building. I regret their removal from Old Building, which to me is the centre of the College, but I am assured that the 'student footfall' there is less than in the other proposed locations.

A major project for Lampeter students (as well as staff) has been the Bore Forest Centre in Kenya's Coast province. Working with local people, the project aims to create a research and volunteering centre on climate change in tropical Africa. Its main goal is to protect tropical forest and encourage reforestation where trees have been cut down. The Society supported this venture with a grant and I understand considerable progress has been made.

The Lampeter Society prize in Archaeology for 2017 was awarded to Sophie Page. The John Ward prize was not awarded this year. A grant of £230 has also been given to the College Rugby club to assist with the expenses of its next tour.

As always, the major Society event is the annual Reunion and despite a small drop in numbers, this was a most enjoyable occasion in July. The London Dinner, organised as ever by Richard Haslam, was a great success too. These events and other Lampeter Alumni gatherings are covered in detail elsewhere in this edition of The Link.

Lastly, I should like to express my thanks to all members of the Business committee for their work throughout the year, and particularly to Adrian Gaunt who, as editor of The Link, produced a most successful issue in 2017. The current one too, as you can see, is a bumper edition!

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LAMPETER SOCIETY

Held on Saturday, 15 July, 2017, In The Cliff Tucker Theatre at 11.30 a.m.

PRESENT  
Esther Weller, Rosemary Davies, Alan Fairhurst, John Pascoe, Andrew Leach, John Baker, John Ward, Owen E. Jeffrey, Jen Cairnes, Jacqui Weatherborn (UWTSd), Bill Fillery, Ron Lloyd, John Lewington, Neville Williams, Owen L. Jeffrey, Kevin Gilbride, Brendan McSharry, Geoffrey Peek, Eileen Byren (UWTSd), Josh Whale (Students Union), Dr. Jeremy Smith (UWTSd), Peter Bosley (Chair), John Morrison-Wells (Secretary), Archdeacon Randolph Thomas.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE  
Adrian Gaunt, Martine Waltho, Richard Fenwick, Roger Brown, Frances (Pushka) and Barley Evans, Noel and Trish Hughes, Malcolm and Anthea Foy, Martin O'Callaghan, Rachel and Toby Whitty.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM, 16 JULY, 2016  
The minutes, published in the 2017 issue of The Link, were agreed as a true record - proposed by Bill Fillery and seconded by John Ward.

CHAIR'S REPORT  
Peter said that a number of Matters Arising from the previous AGM will be covered in this item.

It was hoped to compile the email addresses of all attendees and members of the Society; there is a supply of college scarves and ties which Richard Haslam has arranged - there will be a list at the dinner. Feedback forms: Esther Weller (1999) – Reunion Co-ordinator - will co-ordinate the replies and email a link to the form.

The Landscape Project: this has grown since last year. It is hoped there will be an opening ceremony in 2018. Dr Jeremy Smith has suggested St David's Day – 1 March. The suggestion is that the Project be named 'Harmony Garden' to reflect the Prince of Wales' writings, despite a Welsh name (Heddván Dewi Sant – St. David's Place of Peace) having been suggested at the 2016 Reunion.

The Business Committee had met three times at an hotel in Cheltenham. Esther Weller had volunteered to join the Committee and was duly recruited. There had been a successful meeting in Lampeter with Dr. Jeremy

Smith, Kyle Smith and Sian Poyer (all from UWTSd), Peter Bosley (Chair) and Andrew Leach (Treasurer).

Donations are to be made to the Library, the Students Union and the Chapel. Bill Fillery reported that the Chaplain, Rev. Dr Allan Barton, had returned to parish ministry after a period of ill health. The situation regarding the Chapel was in rather a state of turmoil and discussions were taking place amongst the Bishop, the Archdeacon and the Vice Chancellor to resolve issues. It is expected that the new person appointed might be a part-time chaplain, spending half a term on other diocesan duties. Bill suggested we suspend our donation this year as the Chapel Fund is in good order. This was agreed by the meeting, as was the suggestion that the equivalent amount of money be given to another cause.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
Andrew Leach presented his report and thanked Sian Poyer (of UWTSd Finance Department) for her support and help. Our finances follow the University's Financial Year - 1 August to 31 July. This means that the Reunion Accounts straddle two financial years. The accounts were accepted and grateful thanks given to Andrew.

UPDATE ON UWSTD  
*SU President, Lampeter Campus*  
*[Josh Whale graduated in 2013 in Ancient History and then studied for an MA which is ongoing. - Ed.]*

Josh reported that one of his main goals for the year is further improving the mental health and welfare services the Union can provide. He is hoping to re-introduce the Nightline service whereby a student with problems can contact a student volunteer anonymously. He also wished to explore the possibility of increasing access to Counsellors on campus and across UWSTD.

One of his main goals is to bring together UWSTD campuses instead of identifying as completely separate institutions.

In the past year the Union has undergone great change. For the past three years, the Old Bar and Extension, as well as day-time events, were run and funded by an entertainment company called VMS Live. This association was ended in December, 2016, across UWTSd; a period of uncertainty followed. It

was decided to keep the Bar open for a four-month period. Although the future is not yet clear, it is brighter than it was six months ago.

The Union has won some awards this year! The outgoing sabbatical officers won Officer Team of the Year and the NUS UK award for Education.

The Union is no longer in financial crisis and now has a stable structure in place, which means future officers and students will have a far better experience with their SU.

Finally, he stated that he looked forward to welcoming members to the SU Bar after the Dinner.

*Dr Jeremy Smith, Dean for the Faculty of Humanities and Performing Arts*  
The last month had been very busy with seventeen graduation ceremonies and associated events. A Heritage Career Day had been held ending with dinner in the Old Hall. Three Lampeter Student Experience weekends had been arranged. Three books had been published on research projects and there was one undergraduate author. Performing Arts had put on both 'Main House' (major end-of-year productions) and 'Touring Theatre' plays.

Jeremy drew attention to the Bore Project in an area of deforestation in Kenya which involved students from the Lampeter Campus. This has been the subject of a grant from the Lampeter Society.

A medieval day had been arranged with jousting, cooking and other events.

There had been several Field Trips - one to Sicily - and a Festival of Chinese Culture with particular reference to medicine. There were a number of Summer Schools planned in the Humanities including one on the works of Dylan Thomas. There had been an archaeology field trip with the Chinese students as well as an Inter-Faith Symposium on nineteenth-century issues, forming a link with Oxbridge, Edinburgh and Cardiff Universities.

Jeremy said that now was a ferociously difficult moment in Higher Education. Numbers were down 12% on last year. However, this was better than in other Welsh

Universities. Post Graduate numbers are holding strong though, with an increase in Ph.D. students, and there was a re-investment in distance learning - this included £1.2m in Inter-Faith Studies.

There were attempts to broaden the base of recruitment, particularly looking at markets beyond 18-year-olds.

Consideration was being given to restarting the Geography course; Celtic Studies was being introduced in Distance Learning mode; and there were plans for English Language Studies in China.

Dr Smith and Josh Whale were thanked for their reports. We looked forward to welcoming them to the Dinner.

**LAMPETER SOCIETY BUSINESS COMMITTEE OFFICERS**  
Peter said that those who were elected last year are willing to serve one more year – namely:  
**CHAIR** - Peter Bosley; **VICE CHAIR** - Victoria Welsby; **SECRETARY** - John Morrison-Wells; **TREASURER** - Andrew Leach. The meeting ratified these appointments after having been proposed by John Baker and seconded by Bill Fillery.

**THE LINK**  
Adrian Gaunt had agreed to continue as Editor, though there was hope that Dick

Powell from Cornwall would be willing to assist *[unfortunately, this failed to happen - Ed.]*.

Thanks were expressed to Adrian for the excellent production and layout of The Link *[which would not have been possible without the assistance of the Department of Technology Enhanced Learning, UWTSd, and Sarah Roberts of the Roderic Bowen Library and Archives, UWTSd – Ed.]*.

**A O B**  
Bill Fillery said that in the afternoon there was a croquet set available for anyone who might wish to play and the Lampeter Museum was open in the old Porters’ Lodge by the main gates. Bill also gave details of Sunday Services in local churches as there would not be one in the Chapel.

A Raffle would be held during the Dinner. Any prizes would be gratefully received.

It was suggested that THE LINK could be distributed by email.

John Ward asked about the dates of the Reunions and wondered if there was a more suitable weekend.

Dr Smith said that the History Boards donated by the Society were being renewed, brought up to date and then re-sited.

Ron Lloyd brought the state of the Pavilion on the sports field to the notice of the meeting. It was hoped that this could be restored.

Thanks were expressed to Archdeacon Randolph Thomas for his sermon and attendance at the Reunion.

Peter thanked all present for their contributions and attendance and declared the meeting closed.

The University President, Dr. Brinley Evans, replied – it was good to welcome him and Mrs Evans to the Dinner. Our Chair, Peter Bosley, presented a book token to John Pascoe who was, again, the first to send in his booking form! A raffle raised £200 for the Society, and Bill Fillery sold the last of the crested crockery, which brought in £30. It was a very good evening and ended with further celebrations in the Students’ Union.

Interspersed with the other events was the Reception in the cloisters on Friday evening, the Strawberry Tea on Saturday, and croquet on the front lawn. As always, there was a variety of events which tried to give everyone something enjoyable to attend. The really sad part of the weekend was the small number attending - only forty people at the Dinner. However, Esther Weller, our new Reunion Co-ordinator and a Lampeter graduate, is reviewing the arrangements and will be bringing forward some new ideas to the Business Committee for the 2018 Reunion.

Grateful thanks go to our Chair, Peter Bosley, and all involved in the weekend. It was very enjoyable, good to meet old friends and make new ones. The 2018 Reunion begins on Friday 13 July – book the date now! *[see the Notice on page 8 – Ed.]*

**ESTHER WELLER (1999)**  
I had never actually been to an official Lampeter reunion; for some reason I didn’t think I would enjoy it! How wrong I was! From the moment I saw the first road sign to Lampeter, I was excited. When I was a student, I remember that road sign always bringing a smile to my face; it still had the same effect 20 years later. This time, however, it was a different experience as I was bringing my husband and two young daughters. I was looking forward to linking my two separate lives and showing them a place which is so close to my heart. With the exception of an ice-cream stop in Conti’s, however, I don’t think the girls totally appreciated my dragging them around all the old haunts. I’ve realised for a while that my (some would say unhealthy) love of Spar is one of the peculiarities only a Lampeter person would appreciate; my children and husband tried but they just didn’t get it! *[See the item on p11 - Ed.]*

The weekend was wonderful. Being amongst people with a shared experience and love of Lampeter was quite moving. The university has gone through some challenging times, but listening to the Dean speak at the AGM about future developments was encouraging. The campus and town is continually changing (I’ll need to mentally prepare myself well in advance of my next visit with the realisation of Spar not being there!) but I believe the soul of Lampeter won’t change. Being back brought so many good memories. I came away from

the weekend feeling refreshed, happy and extremely grateful I was able to spend four great years living, working and studying there. It did take me a good few days to get back to reality but knowing that I would soon be back again helped me get through it!

As some of you know, I’m going to be organising future Lampeter Society Reunions. I am in my element with my new role! Thanks to everyone who has provided me with feedback from previous reunions and suggestions about future weekends. As you can see from the programme for this year’s reunion *[pages i-ii at the back of this issue - Ed.]*, I have incorporated some of your ideas and think it’s going to be an amazing weekend. Numbers for last year’s reunion were fairly low, so I urge everyone to spread the word about this year’s event and encourage as many of your contemporaries as possible to attend. I can’t wait to see you in July!

**VICTORIA WELSBY (2004)**  
2017 was my first Reunion since graduating in 2004. My decision to attend took place earlier in the year when I had contacted Richard Haslam, the London Convener, to ask about the annual London Dinner. And so it was with a little bit of trepidation that I found myself at the Liberal Club in London but Richard soon found me and introduced me to everyone. The meal itself was good and the company was great. I found the evening incredibly enjoyable and everyone was so welcoming that I was soon feeling relaxed. I was asked how interested I would be in getting involved with the Lampeter Society and whether I would be attending the annual Reunion. I gratefully accepted Richard’s offer of transport and booked my place.

Looking at the costs, I was happy to see that with accommodation, food and some events it was actually a very reasonably-priced weekend. I opted to stay in the University accommodation, more for nostalgia than comfort, and was happily placed in Lloyd Thomas Hall (my hall of residence for two years), not far away from my former rooms.

As I had anticipated, I was the youngest graduate there, but as some people brought along part/all of their families, I wasn’t actually the youngest attendee! As with the London Dinner, I found everyone I met to be welcoming and friendly and found a few others that were attending solo like myself, and even a few who were attending for the first time. Overall the sense of community that I remembered was still there in force, even though most of us were not students at the same time.

I had decided to take part in as many of the events as possible and found the talk on the Friday evening to be quite informative on

the campaign to bring back the railway to Lampeter - something that would have made a big impact on my own Uni days.

After speaking with a few of the other Society members, I offered my services as Vice Chair if there were no other volunteers. I missed the AGM as I went on a day trip to Aberystwyth.... and so it was that I found out later that I had indeed been voted in!

The main dinner on the Saturday night was super and was followed by a raffle. It ended with a few drinks down at the Union bar. Once this had closed, a few of us decided to head into town for some local night life. Overall, it was a really enjoyable evening.

For anyone considering attending, I would say put it off no longer! There are no obligations to attend any of the activities and they are spread out enough so that you can go off and do your own thing if you want to. I found that the differences in age and post-graduation experiences were a great aid to conversation and the main unifying element was that everyone there had a great fondness for the university and the time spent there.

I thoroughly enjoyed the whole weekend and look forward to attending again in 2018.

# FEEDBACK REPORT – EVALUATION OF THE ANNUAL REUNION, 2017

## Introduction

For this year’s Reunion, as well as paper copies of the evaluation form being available in the delegate packs, we thought we would try sending it out electronically a week later, giving delegates time to reflect on the weekend. We used Survey Monkey, allowing people to complete the form anonymously.

## Summary of points made by delegates

\* Attendees enjoyed being back in Lampeter, meeting old friends and mixing with graduates from different years.  
\* The date was convenient for everyone, but there was some discussion about moving the

# \* REFLECTIONS – ANNUAL REUNION

*[Please submit your own personal views on the 2018 Reunion for publication in 2019 - Ed.]*

**JOHN MORRISON-WELLS (1965)**  
It was Bastille Day....However, some Francophiles, rather than heading to the Sorbonne, turned towards West Wales and the university town of Lampeter. It was the weekend of the Annual Reunion of the Lampeter Society.

A varied programme had been arranged and as usual there was plenty of ‘free time’ for our own wanderings as well as the more formal events. When we arrived in the cloisters to collect our room keys and a Reunion pack, it was almost as if we had never been away! This year we were all housed in the Lloyd Thomas Hall and were therefore central for every activity.

I always think the Friday evening lecture can set the tone of the weekend - we were not disappointed. Dr Mike Walker gave us a

fascinating update on the progress being made on the reinstallation of a railway line between Aberystwyth and Carmarthen. The project is moving forward with many hurdles left but the Welsh Assembly and other interested parties are taking notice *[see the News item, p12 - Ed.]*

At the Annual General Meeting *[see Minutes on page 5-6 above – Ed.]*, Dr Jeremy Smith spoke of recent developments at the university and prospects for the new academic year. Unfortunately, applicant numbers are down - as in all Welsh universities. We also heard from Josh Whale, the President of the Lampeter Students’ Union, with a report of activities and hopes for the future.

At the Annual Commemoration Service in the Chapel (an important part of the weekend for some members), the preacher was Archdeacon Randolph Thomas, a member of the

University Council. Thanks go to Mrs Glynnis Morris who played the organ for us. The services were under the careful guidance of The Revd. Bill Fillery (1969). The Chaplain, The Revd. Dr. Allan Barton, had recently left Lampeter to return to parish ministry in West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Father John Pascoe (1967) said Mass for the Roman Catholic members present.

The Annual Dinner was held in the Lloyd Thomas Hall with the pre-dinner drinks taken outside in the pleasant evening sunshine. The arrangements were excellent and there were reminders on all the tables of the courses we had ordered! The speaker was Karl McCartney, a Lampeter graduate who had been MP for Lincoln until the last General Election. He entertained us well.



weekend to the beginning of the summer holidays to enable teachers to attend. The date of the 2018 Reunion has already been set (13 – 15 July) [see the Notice on page 8 - Ed.] but as a result of feedback, we may consider moving it to the following weekend for the 2019 Reunion. It appeared that attendees would still be able to attend on the new dates.

\* Reunion attendees stayed in Lloyd Thomas for the weekend. The accommodation was good and brought back a lot of memories!

\* Feedback regarding the catering was generally good. The Sunday lunch proved to be particularly popular. Having the Reunion Dinner in the Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall was an issue for some as it lacked ‘occasion’, and also the acoustics were poor. The helpfulness of the catering staff was particularly noted though.

\*When asked about activities during the weekend, generally attendees felt that the Reunion would benefit from more ‘lively’ social activities - though all of this year’s were well-attended, despite the typical Welsh weather putting a bit of a dampener on the croquet. Providing refreshment after people’s long journey would also prove popular.

## Conclusion

In general, everybody loved the opportunity to withdraw from their busy lives for the weekend and the chance to spend a couple of days in Lampeter; visiting old haunts and meeting old and new friends will, I’m sure, always make the reunion a very appealing weekend and one not to be missed! See you in July, 2018!

(Esther Weller, 1999)

# NOTICE – LAMPETER SOCIETY REUNION - 13-15 JULY, 2018

So...we have read, scrutinised and digested all the feedback and comments, both positive and negative, about the 2017 Reunion and have organised a fantastic weekend for 2018 as a result!

To kick off the event, Dr. Chris Deacy (1994) will be giving a talk entitled ‘Reclaiming the Past; why are we nostalgic about Lampeter?’ As we approach the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the university in 2022, Chris will be sharing his personal reasons for choosing to ‘look back’ and showing how his years spent in Lampeter continue to shape the way he thinks, writes, researches and teaches, as well as how they have set the benchmark for his friendships and relationships (not always in a good way!) after more than a quarter of a century. Following Chris’s talk, he will be inviting Reunion attendees to bring and share a piece of Lampeter nostalgia – an essay, photo, piece of SDC memorabilia or even a Trawscambria bus ticket! It will be a truly memorable interactive session.

We will also be launching the first Great Lampeter Treasure Hunt which will take you on a nostalgic tour around the town and campus. The Friday evening programme will end with a free barbecue and pub quiz in the Students’ Union - a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and test your knowledge about all things to do with Lampeter!

Events on the Saturday will see the different generations competing against each other in the first-ever ‘Lampeter Intergenerational Cup’! Come along and support your fellow graduates in this ‘friendly’ series of games and competitions.

On Saturday afternoon, there will be a memorial service to the late Frank Murphy (1971). Frank was a devout Roman Catholic and this service will be a fitting tribute to his life. His first-year roommate in 1968 was Malcolm Foy. An Anglican clergyman, Malcolm will be participating in the service which will be led by Fr John Pascoe (1967). The Roderic Bowen library will also be open during the afternoon for an opportunity to view the library as well as

the library archives. 2018 marks the 50th Anniversary of the first women graduates at Lampeter, and to mark the occasion, the Library will be compiling a special exhibition for the Reunion, drawn from the archives. To further celebrate the anniversary, we will be holding a small celebration during the pre-dinner reception on the Saturday - we are hoping that some of the original women graduates will be able to attend.....so watch this space! [We understand that at least one of the graduates will be there, and hopefully more – Ed.]

Ann Burgess (1973 – 1975) is our Guest Speaker for the Reunion Dinner. Ann is a Senior Policy Adviser with the British Council. Her work involves policy dialogue with overseas governments to develop leadership programmes for their policy-makers and head-teachers. Ann will, no doubt, give a fascinating talk on her work, and on her life at Lampeter.

This year, the University has developed an online booking system for the Reunion in order to reduce paper and speed up the process. We would encourage you therefore to print off the booking form at the following web address: <http://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/lampeter-society/>. However, the paper booking form is still available and if you would prefer this method, please complete the relevant forms at the back of this issue of The Link and return them to The Conference Office at the University.

I really hope you will be able to join us at this year’s Reunion. Catching up with old friends, visiting old haunts, engaging your competitive side in some intergenerational activities or just relishing the opportunity to relax for a weekend – whatever your reason for attending, it would be lovely to see you there!

(Esther Weller, 1999)

## \* LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[There are none this year but I look forward to publishing some in the future - possibly in Link 2 in June / July but certainly in the 2019 issue of The Link. Please send me your ruminations on anything relevant - maybe on this magazine and what you would like to see in it, reactions to articles published, your views about the Reunion, etc. etc. - Ed.]

## \* SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

2022 will be the bicentennial of the Foundation of the College – and also the 85th anniversary of the establishment of The Lampeter Society!

We would welcome suggestions as to possible ways of celebrating these two momentous events! Ideas received so far include:

\* inviting to the main celebrations / the Reunion Dinner HRH The Prince of Wales and the descendants of the other original families who contributed to the Foundation (such as those of Harford and Burgess)

\* a competition to win a free dinner at the Reunion

\* a free dinner for members attending the Reunion

\* the Reunion Dinner to be provided at cost.

[Keep the ideas flowing! - Ed.]

## \* LOGO COMPETITION

Entries are now open to design a logo for the Lampeter Society! It should have some link to Lampeter and the University. **Send your entries to [victoria@welsby.org](mailto:victoria@welsby.org) by the closing date - 1 June, 2018. Please note that by submitting an entry there is an implicit understanding that The Lampeter Society may use it for any appropriate purpose without further notification.**

Shortlisting will be undertaken by the Business Committee of the Society but the winner will be chosen by Society members attending the Lampeter Society Reunion on 13-15 July, 2018, where shortlisted entries will be able to be viewed and voted on.

First prize will be a paid-for meal at the Reunion dinner in 2019 - or later if the winner is unable to attend that year.

[Please submit your entries as soon as possible - Ed.]

Victoria Welsby (2004)

## \* NEWS

[Please submit your own items for publication in 2019 - Ed.]

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE LAMPETER CAMPUS, WITH EMMA EVANS

### ‘Lampeter Life’

The new, full-colour, campus newsletter was published for the first time. Highlights include:

\* Improved rankings in the University league tables.

\* Lord Elystan-Morgan receives Honorary Doctorate.

\* Five new ‘Professors of Practice’ appointed (to honour and recognise attainment of academic and/or professional distinction in those disciplines aligned with the strategic intentions of the university)

\* Harmony Conference - the second annual public conference entitled “What is the Relationship Between Harmony and Sustainability?” - was held, showcasing the thoughts of leading environmental commentators and activists.

\* Cliff Tucker Memorial Lecture - BBC broadcaster and author Huw Edwards was the guest speaker with the title of *Ar drywydd y ‘Ginshop’: Capeli’r Cymry yn Llundain* (‘On the Trail of the Ginshop: the Chapels of the London Welsh’).

\* Early in the year, Lucinda Walker submitted a paper to *Anthropology Now* and was swiftly informed that the article would be published in the April edition.

\* The new Academy of Sinology, based in Lampeter, opened its doors to the first cohort of students. It was established in July, 2016, as a joint institution between the Chin Kung Multicultural Educational Foundation and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, marking the beginning of a new era in the studies of ancient Chinese culture, values and ethics.

\*A major international archaeology publication was launched - *Exploring the Materiality of Foodstuffs* - by Dr Louise Steel and Dr Katharina Zinn, which was the output of a Wenner-Gren Foundation-funded workshop held on the campus in 2014.

\* The Medieval New Year was celebrated as hundreds of people attended the University’s first Medieval Day. The free public event was a day of ‘living history’ and included various re-enactments.

\* The Confucius Institute opened its doors to the community in Lampeter to celebrate Chinese New Year’s Day. Around 60 people of all ages attended.

\* The University recently celebrated its place in Wales’ rich rugby history as it launched its involvement with a new and innovative heritage ‘app’. To celebrate Wales’ ‘Year of Legends’, staff and students from the Lampeter campus have been working in partnership with Ceredigion and the Dyfi Biosphere Destination Partnerships to deliver a project that will bring the region’s stories, legends and folklore to a new and broader audience. The university’s input focuses on celebrating Lampeter’s place in rugby.

International Celtic Studies publication launched at UWTSd

Celtic Religions in The Roman Period: Personal, Local and Global by Dr Ralph Haeussler and Professor Anthony King is the output of a F.E.R.C.A.N. project (fontis epigraphici religionum Celticarum antiquarum) workshop which was held in Lampeter in 2014. This multi-authored book brings together new multi-disciplinary work on pre-Christian religion in the Celtic-speaking provinces of the Roman Empire.

UWTSd Anthropology students visit Zimbabwe

The idea of the cultural exchange programme is to give students the opportunity to live in a rural community village and participate in voluntary projects. ‘Love Zimbabwe’ is an independent, non-government charity, working directly with people in the Chinamhora community, near the capital Harare. The charity works in partnership with the community, identifying what they need to deal with the extreme poverty that they’re experiencing, and then help them through various sustainable projects. Fair Trade is also an important aspect of the charity’s work whereby they support individuals and groups to start their own businesses, making African arts and crafts.

UWTSd academic delivers keynote speech at the Natural History Museum

UWTSd academic, Dr Martin Bates, was one of the keynote speakers at this year’s Micropalaeontological Society Annual Conference held at the Natural History Museum. The conference theme was ‘Microfossils: A Deeper Understanding of Human History’ and was open to all aspects of micropalaeontology. The title of Dr Bates’ keynote speech was ‘Barriers, beaches and landscape change in Prehistoric Orkney: the contribution of microfossils’ which he presented jointly with Dr John Whittaker from the Natural History Museum.

‘Layers in the Landscape’ Winter Exhibition officially opened by Prof. Mererid Hopwood

In keeping with ‘Year of Legends’ and ‘Year of the Sea’, this exhibition showcases some of the work produced as part of ‘Layers in the Landscape’, which is an ongoing interdisciplinary project by Erin Kavanagh. Part of this research was funded by the Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF), including a short film documenting the ways in which participants from the arts, humanities and sciences worked together in response to the lost landscapes of Cardigan Bay.

UWTSd student publishes debut sci-fi novel

Laura James-Brownell’s debut sci-fi novel, Destroyers, was launched recently and is now available to download online. Currently in her second year of the four-year MArts Creative Writing degree at the University’s Lampeter Campus, the book is about a girl called Coral Hughes who lives in a world where almost everyone in the universe vanishes and an evil organisation tries to use the ensuing climate of terror to inflict their own horrific agenda.

UWTSd Anthropologists offer evidence to Parliamentary Inquiry into plastic packaging

Two anthropologists from the Lampeter campus were recently invited to give evidence to a Parliamentary inquiry into plastic packaging waste. Luci Attala, Senior Anthropology lecturer at UWTSd, along with Applied Anthropology finalist, Rosemary Northover, have written submissions to the inquiry drawing on their vast knowledge and experience of looking at how our behaviours shape our world.

Delegation from UWTSd plays prominent role at UNESCO International Conference on Peace

A delegation from the University participated in the UNESCO International Conference on Peace, which took place in Paris at the end of last month.

Lenin’s On Sale Again: 100 Years of the Russian Revolution

The University was pleased to welcome Rob Phillips from The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, to open an exhibition that will kickstart a month-long commemoration of the centenary of the Russian Revolution.

European Association of Chinese Studies Summer School hosted in Lampeter

The week-long Summer School was called ‘Hidden in Plain Sight: Materiality, Meaning and Accessibility of Chinese objects in local collections,’ and welcomed a series of guest lecturers who presented their research and conducted workshops.

UWTSd hosts Ethical Approaches to Peaceful Coexistence conference

A conference entitled ‘Ethical Approaches to Peaceful Coexistence’ held in Cardiff recently aimed to identify practical ways in which communities locally and globally can build on shared values. It was a collaboration between the University, the Muslim Council of Wales and the Saudi-based Knowledge Exchange Programme and was attended by 150 academics and faith practitioners from all over the UK, Europe, and the Middle East.

UWTSd and Nanyang Normal University, China, sign agreement

The University and Nanyang Normal University in China have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop cultural and educational initiatives between Wales and China through academic collaboration and exchange programmes.

League Tables

The University has had another successful year as we continue to move up in all the major league tables. The recent Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018 showed that the University has been ranked 16th overall in the UK for ‘Teaching Quality’ and third in Wales. [It was also the only Welsh University to be awarded a Bronze in the Teaching Excellence Framework of the same publication. Many congratulations to everyone involved! - Ed.]

These results come swiftly after the University was recently awarded its highest ever Student Satisfaction score in the National Student Survey 2017 (NSS). Satisfaction amongst final year undergraduates at the University has improved in two consecutive years to 85% from 79% two years ago. This improvement has seen UWTSd climb 44 places in the UK Universities NSS table and is testament to the hard work and quality of academic staff we have at the University.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW ALUMNI OFFICER

Gemma Russell – an alumna (2017) with a degree in Ancient History – has been newly appointed (part-time) as Alumni Engagement and Fundraising Officer for the Lampeter Campus of UWTSd. Her specific role is to improve communication and engagement between the campus and its alumni. The Society very much looks forward to working with her. Her contact details are: gemma.russell@uwtsd.ac.uk; tel. +44 (0)1570 424776. [Ed.]

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAPLAIN

Revd. Dr. Emma Whittick has been appointed to this post. A graduate from Aberystwyth, she holds a doctorate in Ionospheric Physics and was previously Huw Mosford’s Curate in Dafen, Carmarthenshire. More details will follow in Link 2. [Ed.]

MORE LEAGUE TABLE RESULTS

The Complete University Guide, 2018

The University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSd) has once again climbed the university league tables following the publication of The Complete University Guide, 2018 edition.

Up four places from last year, UWTSd scored particularly well in the ‘Student Satisfaction’ category which confirms the earlier announcement in Whatuni Student Choice Awards, 2017, which showed the University climbing 80 places to 43rd overall across the UK.

Significantly, The Complete University Guide statistics show that UWTSd was placed fifth overall throughout the UK for the points gained in the league table compared with the previous year, gaining 104 points and going from 397 to a 501 point total. This shows the real progress made and is testament to the huge amount of work being put in by staff across the campuses. UWTSd is certainly gaining ground and if we continue to progress at the level we’ve been doing over the last two years we’ll see the University climb this particular league table even further.

Importantly, today’s Guide ranks UWTSd first in Wales for Anthropology as well as for History of Art, Architecture & Design. On the ‘Student Satisfaction’ criterion, the University was ranked second in the UK for Social Work; third for Communication & Media; fifth for History of Art, Architecture & Design; seventh for Hospitality, Leisure, Recreation & Tourism; ninth for Creative Writing; tenth for Sports Science; and thirteenth for Business & Management Studies.

Hannah Epicheff (2012, 2014)

Environmental and Ethical Performance

Jason Harding (via Richard Haslam [1994]) reported that UWTSd is one of the highest scorers in the rankings of ‘green’ universities (Oxbridge, in contrast, is decidedly mid-table.) It came 12th out of 154 in the People & Planet’s University League – “the only comprehensive and independent league table of UK universities ranked by environmental and ethical performance....compiled annually by the UK’s largest student campaigning network, People & Planet.” https://peopleandplanet.org/university-league

\* PROPOSED IMMERSIVE LEARNING SYSTEM

The faculty has been planning an ‘Immersive Learning System’ for the last six months with a view to improving its teaching and significantly enhancing the student learning environment.

At the heart of the initiative is an alteration in the delivery pattern of lectures and seminars to a system known as the ‘immersive learning model’, or ‘block system’ of teaching. It currently exists in Performing Arts and Dance, and at a few other Universities, though is more established in Canada and the USA (Quest University, near Vancouver, is the one we have looked at and have been talking to - their President visited our University about a year ago). In essence, it is a change from studying three modules alongside each other each term, to studying them sequentially one module after the other in a short four-week block, with seven blocks per year. Students have one block free to do volunteering work, or placement in a school or museum or archive, or work on a community project etc. etc.)

In some respects this is a fairly small change (students will still study the same content, courses, modules, topics etc.) but the results from where this system is offered are remarkable in terms of student enjoyment, satisfaction and raising standards and results. For a small campus like Lampeter (and the size of the campus does allow us to do this), it provides the opportunity to offer a rather unique, fresh and attractive way of teaching that will differentiate us in a really good way from other, larger Universities. And Lampeter does best when it offers something different - indeed, it always has - and if that difference is a reputation for outstanding teaching innovation, then that is a very good thing for our future.

To give a little more information about this new development (which we hope to begin, if we don’t hit obstacles, from 2018), below is a link to a presentation delivered recently by Luci setting out the approach and evidence in favour of this approach. http://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/wales-nexus-conference-2016/immersive-education-a-model-and-rationale/

Dr. Jeremy Smith (Dean for the Faculty of Humanities and Performing Arts)

[There has been much debate about this - do please write to air your views - Ed.]

LAMPETER TOWN

“So near, so Spar.....” (including some memories taken from a Facebook thread)

The closure of Spar last year led to great trips down memory lane on the Lampeter Society Facebook page. Personally, I was relieved to see that my love of Spar was echoed by lots of other people. Perhaps it’s not such an unhealthy obsession as I have been led to believe...

Blue Lagoon cider, huge bottles of Lambrini, a random selection of videos, a ‘Jersey Girl’ poster on the window, own brand cigarettes, sausage rolls, and cheese and onion pasties from the hot counter as well as hot cooked chickens ready to go...For students of the late 1980s, 1990s and 2000s, Spar truly was a focal point of life in Lampeter. Open “‘til late”, it was the place to go for late night treats, emergency tea bags and a hot pasty.

I was lucky enough to work there for two years during my time at Lampeter. I enjoyed every minute of it! It was quite a social job and I found it great being able to work and socialise with local people and keep abreast of student life while working on the checkout! I even had two marriage proposals while working there! [Sorry, Dear Reader - you are now too late! - Ed.] I put it down to the attractive green tabard over the green and white overalls we had to wear for a uniform!

Along with Spar, the other main closure in Lampeter last year was the Black Lion pub. A few other businesses have closed in recent years, but it’s not all doom and gloom. A lot of new businesses have opened, and there are very few empty shops in the town. The town is changing, and although it pains me to say it, I’m sure it won’t be long before a new business moves into Spar’s vacant premises. For those coming to this year’s Reunion in July, look out for special Spar-themed questions in the Friday night quiz!

Esther Weller (1999)



# UPDATE: *TRAWS LINK CYMRU*

Mike Walker from UWTSO wrote saying that he will provide a full update next year since for the moment there is not much to report. Notwithstanding, he noted, firstly, that in last year's item relating to this subject, the Feasibility Study referred to "was not actually authorised by the Welsh Government until 2017 when the budget that had been agreed between Plaid Cymru and Labour was accepted by the Assembly and moreover the project was not referred to the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales in 2016, but will be once it is completed in 2018."

He also commented that "the Feasibility Study, which is being carried out by the engineering consultants Mott MacDonald under the aegis of Transport for Wales, is still ongoing", but despite it originally being anticipated that "the Report would be out before the end of 2017", it will not be published until early 2018.

Finally, the Traws Link Cymru group, "attended a formal workshop with Mott MacDonald and representatives from Transport Wales in early October" – but confidentiality agreements do not permit the publication of any details.

Watch this space in 2019 for more news!

Adrian Gaunt (1966)

# \* REPORTS - YEAR GROUP REUNIONS AND OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2017

*[Please submit reports on any special meet-ups you have - large or small - for publication in 2019 - Ed.]*

## 1970S REUNION - LAMPETER

Compared with our 10th anniversary reunion, 2017 was a somewhat staid affair, involving far fewer people, but many would say we were a select group! One great disappointment to us all was the news, when I tried to book the PDR for our Saturday night meal, that the room was no longer available for private functions. We were offered either the Lloyd Thomas dining room (Refectory) or the Old Hall (which would involve an extra charge) but for so few people either would have been too big, so neither was really an option. We therefore booked the Castle Green once again, and were not disappointed at the standard of the meal.

One major piece of news which I personally found shattering was shared by the manageress of the Black Lion, where most of us always stay. It was to close at the end of September, 2017, as Brains Breweries, the owners, found it uneconomic to run. We had, over the years, noticed deterioration in the state of the décor, but the Black is, and always has been, one of the focal points of Lampeter. To see it now, with a 'Closed' notice on the front door, is a sad, but hopefully not indicative, statement on the position of Lampeter as a vibrant University town.

Nearly everyone has a story to tell about 'The Black' – mine involves the dubious honour of being one of the few women banned for life back in the 70s. My crime? I happened to come into the bar one night in the company of Norrie Parmar who, unbeknownst to me, had previously insulted the manageress - a truly scary lady (who might well still be with us, so will remain anonymous). I think he had used the famous Winston Churchill/Bessie Braddock insult after he was refused service for being inebriated - "I may be drunk, Miss, but in the morning I will be sober and you will still be ugly."

Notwithstanding, as usual we all assembled in the Black Lion bar on the Friday night as people arrived (where on earth will we meet in 2018?). Many pints and bottles later, the vast majority staggered up to the residents' lounge where the empty evidence was left for all to see the next morning.

Saturdays tend to be days for gentle reminiscing, and some of us found ourselves at Penbryn beach, which is a National Trust haven. Others did the usual trip to Newquay or Aberaeron, or just wandered around College thinking about how much things have changed, and how much is still the same.

So....where will we be in August 2018? The Castle? Falcondale, if we can afford it? Wherever we choose, the venue will be posted on our Facebook page (Saint David's University College 1974 Lampeter and Friends) in plenty of time, for those who are interested in joining us.

Carol Jenkins (1975)

# 1970S REUNION - CARDIFF

It seems a long time now since the biennial September, 2017, Reunion of Lampeter 70s graduates took place at the Park Plaza Hotel in Cardiff. There was lunch and the opportunity to spend time catching-up and renewing old friendships. We also took time to remember those who had passed away, including the late Haydn Voyle, Lampeter graduate and an IT lecturer at Merthyr Tydfil College, who had bravely suffered a long illness (several Lampeter graduates had attended his funeral).

It was great to see so many people on such an enjoyable occasion; well over 50 former SDUC students and partners gathered (including 1960s interloper and Cardiff native, John Loaring, and 1975-76 Students' Union President, Bob Phelps). The challenge in many cases was to identify each other after the passing of about 40 years!

Organiser Gaynor Jenkins, assisted by previous organiser Sue Gandy, made sure that all went smoothly and we owe them many thanks for all their hard work. The enjoyment was palpable - so much so that a large contingent adjourned to a nearby hostelry to continue the celebrations after the lunch had finished!

The Lampeter Society had offered £200 towards the cost of the event but the organisers had asked the Society to make instead a donation to a charity supported by the University - the Wales Air Ambulance Charity was the beneficiary. We look forward to the next Reunion in 2019.

Steffan ap-Dafydd (1976; 1991) & Andrew Leach (1977)

## SWANSEA DINNER

As ever, the annual Swansea Branch Meeting and Dinner was held on the first Friday in March, 2017, at The Swansea Yacht Club, ably organised by Mrs Margaret McCloy and her team.

25 people attended to hear the guest speaker, Peter Wilkinson, accompanied by his wife, Tracy. Peter is a Lampeter graduate, a Fellow of the University, known to most of us as a Midshipman, though he was later a naval officer who progressed to the depths of commanding the Second Submarine Squadron, before being elevated above water to the post of a Vice-Admiral, a member of the General Staff, and later President of the Royal British Legion. He ably guided us through his activities at Lampeter, as well as his military career, with his usual wit and wisdom, but revealed no military secrets.

We all enjoyed the speech, the food and the evening.

**The 2018 Meeting and Lunch on 2 March which was to be held at the Grand Hotel, Swansea (adjacent to the city's railway station) with Rod Ashley [see Recent Publications, p. 24 - Ed.] as guest speaker, was postponed until 24 April owing to inclement weather.**

Steffan ap-Dafydd (1976; 1991) - Swansea Convener

# LONDON DINNER

Friday, 28 April, 2017, saw the London Branch of the Lampeter Society hold its annual dinner at the National Liberal Club overlooking the Thames. This was earlier than the more usual last week in May / first week in June slot to see if more people would be able to attend. Unfortunately, an unavoidable delay in the publication of The Link meant that some people did not receive the information in time to book.

Despite this setback, around twenty of us sat down for dinner, which was, as usual, of a high quality, and those of us who opted for the meaty option feasted on the menu below:

English Asparagus, Cheddar Cheese Brûlée  
Corn Fed Chicken with Wild Mushrooms and Leeks and Seasonal Vegetables  
Caramelized Apple Choux Bun followed by Coffee and Mints

The speaker was Dr Audsin Dhas, the Executive Dean and Head of TSD's London Campus (which opened in March, 2012, and focuses on teaching Management.) He gave an enlivening talk about the future direction of TSD in London and how the various courses in everything from 'cloud' computing to marketing and business administration were proving popular with students, which were growing in number each year. Dr Das also spoke encouragingly on the ties that were being forged or strengthened with many institutions overseas, particularly in the Middle East.

I hope I can speak for everyone who attended when I say that an enjoyable night was had by all. I look forward to seeing everyone again in 2018 - with, hopefully, some new faces too - at the National Liberal Club on Friday, 11 May [see the booking form on p. x - Ed.]

Richard Haslam (1994)"

# SOCCER REUNION

In the 1963/64 football season, the SDC soccer team swept all before them and won the Cardiganshire League (including a 10-0 defeat of Lampeter Town). Their triumphs were recorded in a booklet published by the Roderic Bowen Library.

On the 4 May, 2017, eight members of that original soccer squad had a reunion at The Old Fourpenny Hotel in Warwick. Those players - Rob Winn, Olly Nurton, Bob Perks, Mike Hickman, Alan Jenkins, John Wolfe, Dai Preece and John King - were joined by Rugby player Robin Davey, and Dennis Huggett who was the team's best supporter and photographer. It was great to meet up again - some for the first time in over 50 years - and to reminisce on old times, goals missed and scored, and to remember two players who are no longer with us. Hopefully, we will now meet on a regular basis (maybe even in Lampeter itself) and to get other members of the squad to come along. We have only failed to make a connection with Ken Davies, one of our star mid-fielders - so if anyone knows his whereabouts, please get in touch [\[email me - Ed.\]](#).

John Loaring (1967)



L-R: Mike Hickman, Rob Winn, John King, Alan Jenkins, John Wolfe, Olly Nurton



St David's College Football Club, 1963-64



L-R: Dai Preece, Olly Nurton, Rob Winn, Mike Hickman, Alan Jenkins, John Wolfe, John King

# FEATURES

## \* DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

*[Please submit your own descriptions of yourself or of other people you think should be included in this section in 2019 - Ed.]*

### Chris Deacy (1994)



Chris Deacy – now



Then: 1991 – Burgess Hall



1993 – Peterwell Terrace

Lampeter always seemed to be the place I was determined, if not destined, to go to after I finished my 'A' levels back in 1991. My sister had just graduated from SDUC and was coming back to start her MPhil, and it seemed the safest, securest, most welcoming of all the institutions I applied to through – as it was in those days – UCCA (which sounds like the reaction most people have when they discover they didn't get the grades they were hoping for).

However, Mrs. Bailey from school tried to dissuade anyone from going that far west as, she claimed, we were truncating our lives by choosing to spend the next three formative years in a town with just one set of traffic lights. She was of course talking rubbish, because as I soon discovered Lampeter didn't have one set of traffic lights. It didn't have any. Nor did it have any roundabouts. But it did make up for any highway deficiencies in the form of hills, and it was a failure to navigate at least one of those which resulted in my failing my first three driving tests (Lampeter had the reputation of being the easiest place in the country to pass one's test – which speaks volumes about my driving skills!), not to mention the slow-moving tractor (weren't they always?) that had the discourtesy to pull out in front of me somewhere around Llanybydder on, I think, test attempt number two.

What drew me to St. David's University College was the New Entrants' Conference (a sort of 'Open Day' lasting two days) in January 1991. I stayed there for a couple of nights on one of my first-ever trips away from home, and, while everyone else partied in the bar like it was, well, 1991, those more socially awkward amongst us made our way over to the TV lounge – well, there was a television and five chairs – next to the Refectory, where we watched a Gulf War Question Time special and chatted about how Iron Maiden had just come straight into the charts at no. 1. I took the chance to boast that my sister had not only met Bruce Dickinson, but had done so in Lampeter where he had visited the previous year because he managed a band that was performing in the Arts Hall.

That New Entrants' Conference was also where I was introduced to *Taxi Driver*. Like *A Clockwork Orange* and *The Exorcist*, which I also saw in the Arts Hall when I was in my first year, Lampeter made up for its geographical remoteness by showing a string of banned films that you'd have struggled to see elsewhere in the country, and I was so blown away by witnessing Travis Bickle saving the soul of a child prostitute that I proceeded to base my PhD around it – again at Lampeter – six or seven years later.

Lampeter weaved its magic on me, and still does more than a quarter of a century on. It had the best form of community in those pre-Facebook times. Indeed, we didn't need social media in those days as we always saw the same friends every day, in the town with, it sometimes seemed, more pubs than students. There was the King's Head, the Black Lion and the Railway Hotel (before it became a video rental outlet). And then there was the Quarry which

must have changed owners that year as it used to have a reputation for being the roughest bar in town, but we made friends with a middle-aged couple who, like no landlords before them in what had previously been called Bikers' Paradise, put Cliff and Whitney on the video jukebox and promised us that even if they couldn't serve a pint of John Smiths after midnight (even the infamous Lampeter lock-ins had their limits) there were more than enough Twirls and Pork Scratchings to soak up the six pints we'd already managed not to completely spill on the pool table.

Lampeter was certainly eclectic - so much so that nobody seemed to find it weird when, one evening in the Student Union disco, they stopped playing that Pink Floyd song in which the alarm bells go off and offered us instead Perry Como's 'Magic Moments'. Everyone thought about it for a few seconds, shrugged their shoulders and piled on to the dance floor. The Union was the only place where you could spend an evening with the likes of Edmund Estefan & The Mydroilin Sound Machine and Dim Disgo Heno, though we did also get Jools Holland, Doctor & The Medics and Kirsty MacColl in my first year.

I owe a great deal to Lampeter, so much so that the book I am working on at the moment is on religion and nostalgia, and I will be dedicating it to the many people who inspired me - not only in the ten years in total I spent at what became University of Wales, Lampeter, but who continue to do so in my thoughts, hopes and dreams. Dante had his Beatrice to accompany him as he journeyed through Hell. I met my Beatrice-figure 26 years ago and she sustained me during a bad marriage by helping me remember, in my imagination, that life had been better before and maybe could be once again.

Back to that New Ents conference... I missed the coach home. I think I probably knew then it was a sign that my life over the following decade was going to be like a Welsh version of Groundhog Day whereby, no matter how hard you try, you can never leave. In truth, I didn't want or need to try too hard. You can take the student out of Lampeter, but you can't take Lampeter out of the student. And from 13-15 July, 2018, neither wild horses nor those magic mushrooms that were allegedly cultivated on the hill behind Station Terrace will keep me away. Maybe I'll even be lucky enough to meet my Beatrice once again.

(Note: Chris Deacy is Reader in Theology & Religious Studies and Senior Tutor for the School of European Culture & Languages at the University of Kent. He has published in the area of religion and film and most recently wrote a book on Christmas for Oxford University Press. Chris did all of his degrees at Lampeter – BA Theology (1994), MA Death and Immortality (1996) and PhD Redemption and Film (1999). *[He is speaking about nostalgia at the Reunion on Friday, 13 July, in the Founders' Library. Don't miss it! - Ed.]*



## Pushka Evans (1974): Life After Lampeter

I arrived in Lampeter in 1971 (when St David’s College became St David’s University College – part of the University of Wales) and graduated in 1974. The place was fun, encouraging, enlightening. As a bonus, I met my future husband there (we married in 1977, celebrating our ruby wedding in 2017 [*see p20 below!* - Ed.].

On graduation, I felt somewhat bereft. However, I kept in touch with many graduates, staff and townsfolk, and joined the Lampeter Society. I served 10 years as LamSoc Vice-Chair, edited its magazine, The Link, for 16 years, and regularly attend reunions; in some ways I feel I didn’t really leave at all!

Just before finals I attended Civil Service exams and interviews in London. I didn’t want to work for the profit motive, so the Service seemed appropriate. I accepted a post in the Department of the Environment and became a Civil Servant – for nearly 37 years, during nearly all of which I worked on transport issues.

I started with inland waterways. Most British canals and river navigations are now important as amenities, but then there was also considerable commercial use - for example, Wedgewood still carried china by canal. It’s true, too, that there are more miles of canal in Birmingham than in Venice!

I then moved to pedestrian road safety. That was fun – for instance we produced road safety films and adverts, through which I met David Prowse (‘Darth Vader’ in the original *Star Wars* film) and comedy actress Irene Handl. *Dad’s Army* also did an advert for us. It was satisfying to see the continuing reductions in road casualties and to know that we were contributing to that.

Then I transferred to Domestic Shipping, getting to know famous shipping and ferry lines like P&O and Townsend Thoresen and having the opportunity to visit vessels in dry dock. While there, I assisted with the Honours system, handling files about seafarers with long and worthwhile careers, who had also done other things over and above the call of duty. It was an inspiration and was probably the reason I started doing voluntary work within the Department, such as helping at the ‘Transport Without Handicap’ conference on how best to overcome transport problems faced by people with disabilities.

I then moved to the Channel Tunnel Project (the ‘Chunnel’) – civil engineering on a gigantic scale. Both UK and French Governments were closely involved so everyone had to have a grasp of both languages. I’ve forgotten most of my French now but can still recall some technical terms such as ‘trottoir d’urgence’ (emergency walkway), ‘rameau de pistonment’ (piston relief ducts)! Eurotunnel financed the project and also repaid each government for expenditure of Parliamentary time etc. One of my responsibilities was receiving payments to the British government. Fortunately, even then, it was done electronically, rather than with suitcases full of cash!

I helped run the Anglo-French Intergovernmental Commission overseeing the project. I recorded progress weekly – and incidentally, the Brits did more tunnelling than the French! I visited tunnelling sites on both sides of the Channel (and under it!), saw tunnel boring machines, travelled the whole length of the service tunnel on a service vehicle and acted as a guinea-pig passenger during Eurostar and Shuttle trial services before public opening. I felt privileged to be a tiny cog within this enormous wheel of a project. There were celebrations when the Commission issued the first public operating

certificate: the project was a boon for industry and the public. However, construction is dangerous: a monument commemorates the 10 people who died building the Channel Tunnel.

Meanwhile, I continued with voluntary work for the Department. Once I was sent off with an aeroplane ticket and a teddy bear stuffed with artificial semtex explosive! Alert airport security caught me before I boarded the plane though. I quickly flashed my Transport ID once a large Special Branch officer was looming over me....

Then I moved on to London Underground’s Jubilee Line Extension project. This used engineering with which I’d become familiar, but was very different from the Chunnel - gas mains, water mains, archaeological remains etc. are not all well-mapped. Exciting times! There was also the risk that tunnelling might damage historic buildings. For instance, we were warned that tunnelling mustn’t cause the tower of Big Ben to move beyond a set (very small) number of centimeters. However, tests showed that it already moved more than that daily, depending on the tide and barometric pressure.... Again, I felt honoured to be involved with such a major project. Like the Chunnel, some of the work was extremely dangerous, but safety was so embedded that, happily, no-one died constructing it. We were all extremely proud of that.

I went on doing voluntary work for the Department at biennial Transport Research Laboratory Mobility Road Shows, showcasing technologies helping disabled people to travel. One year’s guest of honour was HRH Prince Charles. I knew he’d be shown everything and kept a careful eye on the main entrance to my marquee. I was working with wheelchair loans at the time. Adjusting wheelchair footrests for a customer – on all fours, wielding a large adjustable spanner and waggling my behind in the air as I wrestled with a recalcitrant nut – I saw the Prince walk in through the side entrance, which was partially blocked by (a) the wheelchair and (b) my rear end. Somewhat pink I leaped up and dragged the chair out of his way. Not one of my better moments!

After the Jubilee Line Extension, I was seconded to the Lord Chancellor’s Department, doing electoral work. I was amazed at how many ways there were to cheat at elections! I was issued with a personal Houses of Parliament pass (plus terrible photo!) and could come and go without security checks – once again, I felt very privileged. Nonetheless, vital though electoral matters are in a democracy, I felt less committed and passionate about them than about transport. So back I went.

I was now assigned to primary vehicle safety: engineering again! Whilst there I started running two in-house charity events annually, with agreement and support from the Department. It was while I was there, too, that – out of the blue – I received the OBE in 2007. (I’m ludicrously proud of it.) Prince Charles pinned on the medal at my investiture: a less embarrassing experience than the first time I met him....

I had appreciated my work - helping projects grow, briefing Ministers, serving the public - but in 2010 I accepted early retirement and relaxed. Goodness knows what exactly I’m doing nowadays, but time flashes by and I’m enjoying myself thoroughly!

## Bob Jackson (1966)



Professor Robert Jackson

Robert (Bob) Jackson studied at St David’s, Lampeter, from 1963 to 1966, taking Part Two in Theology after a Part One in Philosophy, Greek and Biblical Studies. He was a member of the Teifi Valley Jazzmen that included musicians such as Paul Erlam, Drew Lansborough and Dave Parkinson. He went on to Fitzwilliam College Cambridge to study for a PGCE, and then worked as a teacher at Nottingham High School from 1967 to 1971. After that, he joined the staff of Coventry College of Education and also completed an MA in Philosophy.

In 1978, he was appointed to the University of Warwick where he completed his PhD. In 1994, he founded and became Professor and Director of Warwick Religions and Education Research Unit. In 2006, the University of Wales, Lampeter, awarded Bob a higher doctorate (DLitt) for a collection of his publications. He retired from full-time work at Warwick in 2012, but continued part-time and was appointed as a visiting Professor at Stockholm University in 2016.

His work on religious diversity and education has been highly international, and he has been a major contributor to the human rights educational work of the Council of Europe since 2002. His latest book for that body, *Signposts: policy and practice for teaching about religions and non-religious worldviews in Intercultural Education*, has so far been translated into 12 languages.

He has particularly close ties with Norway and Sweden. In March, 2017, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, awarded him an honorary doctorate (Doc h.c.) as did the Norwegian School of Theology (MF) in October, 2017. Both were for his contributions to religious and intercultural education in Norway and internationally.

Bob continues to work as a jazz musician, playing with musicians in Norway and Sweden as well as with his own band, Spicy Jazz, in the UK.

## Brendan Mcsharry (1971)

### By way of introduction.....

I graduated from the Universities of Wales (then St David’s College Lampeter, University of Wales) in 1971 (BA English and History), then Exeter (PGCE) and Leeds (MA in Linguistics and ELT). I am a University of Cambridge CELTA and DELTA tutor and assessor, and an Associate Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing. In 1994, I was awarded an MBE for services to education and in 2012 an OBE for services to education and culture in Iraq.

## A life overseas

In the early 70s, I started work as an occupational training co-ordinator at the Department of Employment in London but from 1975 I began a career overseas that spanned some 41 years in cultural relations, education and training.

First I worked as a teacher of English as a Foreign Language in Sweden at the Folkuniversitetet Kursverksamheten, and thereafter in Italy for the British Council. From then on I served as an educational and cultural programme manager in the adult and aid development sectors, serving in 13 countries across 4 continents. I have also been a country director for the British Council in Yemen, Zambia, Bahrain, Iraq, Nepal and latterly Palestine.

Currently, I am the Director of the British Council in the Palestinian Territories and Levant Cluster Lead based in Jerusalem.

### Challenging times

I have enjoyed this career path but there have been some challenging times: coping with scud missiles in Iraq; the kidnapping of an expatriate member of staff and his family in Yemen; the evacuation of a teacher facing death threats in Thailand; a war in Gaza; and an earthquake in Nepal. Contrast this though with the rewarding moments: providing skills training for disadvantaged youth; linking UK schools, colleges and universities with those overseas; promoting disabled artists; facilitating postgraduate study in the UK for public sector personnel from developing countries; and convening international educational conferences.

### Lampeter made me

I grew up in North-West London, in a Roman Catholic community. When it was time to go to university, I consciously chose Lampeter as a location far away from big city life. This was one of the best decisions I ever made. My time in Lampeter (from 1968 to 1971) was formative, with the university getting me to open my mind, think critically, enjoy reading and learning, value diversity, value the past, and appreciate friendship. Lampeter also kept me fit through cross-country running (I was Captain of the Harriers Club for three years), which I kept up later on through marathon running - in Milan, Rome, Jakarta and Singapore, to name but a few.

I got to love Lampeter - the campus, Lampeter Town and the surrounding hills and valleys. Above all, I made some life-long friends there. This is why I have been coming to the Lampeter Society reunions for the past 22 years. However, I never learned Welsh nor any other tongue outside of English - not for want of trying, but being a hopeless language learner was a major constraint!

When I retire later this year, I plan to enrol on a part-time Masters course in Creative Writing at Trinity Saint David, Lampeter.

### China gave me a partner

In 2003, I was posted to Beijing as Director of the British Council examination services in Mainland China and Hong Kong. The job took me all over the country, visiting our 85 university test centre partners. It was in Beijing that I met my husband and love of my life, Daniel Feng. On returning to London in 2007, we settled down together and entered into civil partnership (2008) and marriage (2017). Sadly, our respective careers have kept us apart. Daniel now works in Stuttgart as a senior digital engineer and automotive electronics procurement manager, and I am in Jerusalem. However, on my retirement in September of this year, I will move to Stuttgart and we will live together again.



Linking Trinity Saint David with Palestinian Universities through HESPAL

I shall end this article with a pitch to my old alma mater.

Here in Palestine, the British Council aims to provide three million young Palestinians with access to the UK’s educational and cultural experience and expertise, developing their skills, providing positive pathways to employment, and supporting the creation of a more secure, open, prosperous, and equitable society that will be able to transform into the independent State of Palestine it will eventually become. One way of doing this is to build the research and teaching capacity of universities through the HESPAL (Higher Education Scholarships in Palestine) programme. This offers scholarships for Masters and PhD study in the UK for junior faculty staff. Various international foundations, governmental organisations and companies provide sponsorship to cover student living costs, whilst participating UK universities agree to waive the tuition fees. The scholars themselves cover their own travel and entry test/visa costs. **Would Trinity Saint David like to participate in the scheme alongside the existing 30 partner UK universities and thereby help the Palestinian people? [UWTSD - please email me – Ed.]**



Brendan McSharry in Bethlehem

THE ‘FIRST ALUMNUS’? – REVD. HOWELL PRICHARD (1827-1829/34)

A Biography of a Lampeter Student, the Revd. Howell Prichard (1806-1881)

Howell Prichard was born in 1805 in Trallong, Breconshire, to parents Howell Prichard and Elizabeth Powell. Howell Sr. was a farmer and had married Elizabeth Powell the previous year. Howell Jr. had six siblings; Elizabeth, Thomas, Elizabeth, William, Sarah and Rees.

Prior to his admission to Saint David’s College, Howell had attended Christ College, Brecon. He was one of the first students to enrol at Lampeter, joining the College on its opening day, 1 March, 1827, at

the age of 21. Many of his fellow students were also from farming backgrounds and the prospect of a life away from farming would have offered financial security, status and, for some, adventure. College rules were strict and some students were expelled; Howell himself was reprimanded in the Michaelmas term in 1828 for an unknown wrongdoing. Offences which could then lead to rustication included swearing, leaving the campus at night, drunkenness and repeated absence without leave.

Howell was ordained as a Deacon in the College Chapel in August, 1829, and was appointed Stipendiary Curate of Dulas, Hereford. The following year he sat for his clerical examinations but was rejected for his Priestly orders, more likely owing to an inadequacy in his knowledge of scripture, Latin or theology rather than for any poor conduct. Three years later he was appointed Stipendiary Curate of Llansantffraed and Llansbyddyd in the diocese of Saint David’s. In September, 1834, Howell successfully re-took his exams and he was ordained as a priest in the College Chapel and continued to carry out his Priestly duties at Llansbyddyd for the next ten years.

In the mid-1840s Howell’s life took a very different turn when he was appointed to the district of Montpelier, Jamaica. The Bishop of Jamaica had made requests in the Ecclesiastical Gazette for several vacant appointments on the Island and, on the recommendation of his Bishop, Howell was appointed a Curate there. One of his earliest duties in 1844 included the burial of the Reverend William Fraser in Falmouth, Trelawny; Fraser had served the church in Jamaica since 1806.

The district of Saint James, Montpellier, Jamaica, was originally a sugar plantation. It had changed hands several times since it had been settled by Captain Francis Sadler in the 1740s, and by 1840 the estate was owned by the de Walden family. Following the abolition of slavery, the estate, like many in the colonies, began to suffer financially. In 1848, the House of Commons ordered an investigation into the economic situation of the colonies, a decade after emancipation; in 1806 West Indian sugar had represented 55.1% of the North Atlantic market but by 1851 it had dropped to a mere 13%. The decline was exacerbated by the economic depression in Europe in 1846-7 which had had dramatic consequences for the Jamaican sugar industry. In the uncertain and fluctuating economic climate, Jamaican planters received less and less capital from British merchants and financiers which led to widespread bankruptcy. By the 1850s the estate at Montpellier had moved its production to cattle farming.

Howell Prichard played a significant role in the regeneration of the estate and island, as did many of the clerical appointees who arrived during 1830s-50s. Howell himself was brought over for “the relief of the destitute Irish and Scotts” affected by the abolition and economic downturn. The church was one of the pillars of the island during these hard times and it was noted by the Honourable Lord Walden that “The Clergy of the Church of England are acquiring daily more influence over the Negros, and certainly they are co-operating with the proprietors in encouraging industry”.



Montpelier Estate, Saint James’, Jamaica. From: A Picturesque Tour of the Island of Jamaica by James Hakewill, 1825. London: Hurst and Robinson.

In 1846, Howell married Mary Harriet Marrett, the youngest daughter of Captain Joseph Marrett of the Royal Navy, in Saint Michael’s Church, Swanswick, Jamaica. Just over a year later Mary gave birth to a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, and two years afterwards their second daughter, Louisa Gwenllian Sarah, was born. During this period Howell was involved with the foundation of a new church, the Chapel of Saint Paul’s Montpelier, which was attended by many of the townsfolk from Montego Bay and its outer districts. Howell, writing back to his local newspaper in Wales, the Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian, stated that the foundation “will be interesting to many of your readers”, of which he notes many were his friends and relatives. Howell goes on to state “that notwithstanding, . . . having lived many years in this tropical and very wasting climate [he] is in possession of the very best of health and spirits”.

By 1850 Howell was a well-established figure on the island of Jamaica and the Jamaican Almanac of 1851 noted he was also the bank manager for Saint James’ savings bank, not then uncommon for reverends and members of the church. He is also listed as an Island Curate working in Saint James. Howell kept himself informed of developments in his home county and country through his subscription to the Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian.

Having been one of the first students of the College, Howell was also one of its first graduates and in 1853 he returned to successfully take the examination for his Bachelor in Divinity Degree under the new charter of 1852. Howell did return to Jamaica but after a few years of ill health he eventually left the island and in 1859 he took up a curacy in Knockin, Shropshire.

The 1871 Census records that Howell’s family had been augmented by a third daughter, Howellina Powell Milner Prichard, who was born in 1864, while the local papers of that year reported his patronage of the Knockin Choral Society. In 1876 Howell was preferred to the living of Melverley in Shropshire where he lived for the next five years. Howell died in the April of 1881 at the age of 76 and was buried at Melverley Parish Church.

Kyle Thomason, MA Heritage Practice, UWTSD Lampeter, 2017

[Kyle graduated with a BA Joint Hons. in Medieval Studies & Archaeology in 2015 and was awarded an MA in Heritage Practice in 2017 - Ed.].

He writes:

“As regards to the context, the bios were an interesting tangent from the work I was doing for the RBLA. I was compiling a database of the students from the college since it first opened its doors in 1827. I wanted to create a place where information from a variety of different sources regarding former students could be obtained as the archive itself has very little available online regarding the history of the college and especially its students. As such I transcribed original documents into a single database which will hopefully be made into a website (Sarah Roberts is currently following this up) for anyone with an interest in the college, local history or family and genealogical work.

Through the transcriptions from the Tutor’s Register, Graduates Register and reading William Price’s history of the College, I came across a number of students who had gone abroad after their studies or in later life. This was often noted in the remarks column as simply Australia, USA or Bombay, for example. From this, along with conversations with Sarah and Peter (the former Archivist), I decided to follow up on the lives of these students and it took me all over the world. Using Ancestry, Newspapers, Journals, Publications, Books, Birth, Marriage, Death, Probate, Naturalization, Quarterly’s etc., I compiled several bios for the archives, though I was unable to finish all those I had found owing to my completing my degree and leaving Lampeter. There are probably more stories to find; I was only able to transcribe up to 1871/72 before leaving.”

\* MEMORIES OF FORMER STAFF BY ALUMNI

[Please submit memories of your own for publication in 2019 - Ed.]

Keith Hopwood

One of my more memorable lecturers from the Classics department from 2001-2004 was Keith Hopwood. I did not have many lectures with him so it was not until the second half of my second term that I had much contact. What always struck me was the depth of enthusiasm for his subject that seemed to pour out of him when he spoke and his love of reading. His reading lists were always twice the size of any others regardless of how many points the course was worth! I remember after receiving one particularly large list that was closer to a booklet, Keith turned round to the class and said that some of the books on the list would be useful in the examination, others helpful in life, and some would make us better people - and that it was up to us to work out which was which!

Another memory was on the trip to Pompeii in 2003. We had just reached the theatre when, much to our surprise and delight, Keith decided to treat us to an impromptu performance in Greek. We all took to the seats while Keith went down to the centre and started to perform an excerpt from a play. There were several tourists wandering round at the time who also stopped and watched transfixed for the moment as we were all given a glimpse back in time.

It was with great sadness that I learnt of his death a few years ago but I know his memory will live on in the students he taught.

(Victoria Welsby, 2004)

John Ryder

Dr Arthur John Ryder began his Lampeter career in the History Department in October, 1962, became Senior Lecturer in 1969 and Reader in 1976. He retired from Lampeter in 1980 but carried on lecturing for the Open University. History graduates from S.D.U.C. in the 1960s and the 1970s will remember him well – he lectured on the Modern World and he had a special interest in German History.

I want to write about him for two main reasons. Firstly, he tutored me and a fellow undergraduate for one of the option papers entitled “The History of the Soviet Union 1917-1940”. John Ryder was a committed Conservative – indeed he stood as a parliamentary candidate in the 1964 General election for Cardiganshire. However, he tutored this difficult subject in an objective and fair manner. Some ‘spice’ was added to our tutorials by the presence of my student colleague who was a Marxist! Lively discussions took place and, of course, there was strong disagreement over a whole range of issues - but there was no rancour. Everything was good-tempered and I certainly felt that I learnt a great deal from him.

Secondly, many years later, in the 1990s, I visited him in his London house together with another history graduate from the 1960s and the late Vernon Fletcher who, at that time, ran the Lampeter Society in London. We had a most convivial evening chatting away while drinking beer and nibbling peanuts and crisps. I will not risk having this contribution ‘spiked’ by giving details of our conversation but it covered the fortunes of College - the goings- 19



on in the Senior Common Room (or ‘the scrotum’ as it was called). Of course, History Department personnel figured in our conversation too.

It was interesting to hear him say how much he enjoyed his time teaching at the Open University. John was a very rounded person. He had been in the British Embassy in Berlin before the war and he had worked for the Allied Control Commission in post-war Germany. In addition, he had worked for the British Council.

Some years after our visit he died and it was a pleasant surprise when Vernon contacted me to say that John had left some books from his library to Lampeter Society members. I got a copy of Geoffrey Barraclough’s *The Origins of Modern Germany*. Now I am in my mid-sixties I am thinking about what to do with those history books which I acquired at Lampeter, since passing them on in the right way can make a difference.

John Ryder was a very good historian and a real gentleman.

Rob Rosset (1974)

J.R. Lloyd Thomas

Lloyd Thomas was a priest and not a bishop. From being the very fine Vicar of St John’s Canton, Cardiff, he went on to be the Dean of Monmouth (my old job). But he was only there for a year, and then the Archbishop (formerly Professor Edwin Morris at SDC) pushed him off to Lampeter to sort out a tremendous problem with funding. The move was a good one, and Lloyd Thomas saved the place - as he was to do several times.

During his term of office as Principal he was pushed to go forward to be a bishop a couple of times, but he apparently always refused because he felt that the greater need was at Lampeter.

Even so, he was made the Canon Chancellor of St David’s Cathedral, and was greatly honoured for all his work.

Richard Fenwick (1966)

I have the following personal memories:  
\* He would arrive at the last minute for chapel services through the door on the right by the altar which led to his office.

\* On one occasion when officiating at the Eucharist he prayed for ‘Timothy our Bishop’. Timothy Rees may have been an alumnus of SDC but he was only ever Bishop of Llandaff and died in 1939!

\* He was remarkably sensitive and supportive when the fiancée of a member of Burgess Hall discovered she was pregnant just before they were married!

\* I have two letters from him - one from 1970, when he starts a very chatty letter by saying, “How splendid of you to correct us so largely; I hereby appoint you official checker-up. Seriously.” And then he goes on to grumble about how things had got more difficult since Fred David died: “He had much of it in his head, but not enough on paper!”

The other letter in 1975 related to my BD. Because the Lampeter degrees had been suspended while I was completing the necessary requirement of being in priests’ orders for five years, there was a legal problem. He commented, “I would personally have no qualms at all about conferring the Lampeter BD on you at our next Degree Congregation” and then outlines the legal difficulties before ending, “Whatever the outcome I do not see the slightest difficulty in your proclaiming yourself a Lampeter BD and in your wearing our BD hood.” I also have a long letter from Alistair Kenwright on the same subject.

Bill Fillery (1969)

\* LOVE AT LAMPETER - NEW INSTALMENT

First, our heartiest congratulations to PUSHKA AND BARLEY EVANS who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary last September. Here’s the happy couple. ...  
[Both have contributed to this issue of *The Link*—see pages 16 and 26-27 – Ed.]



Pushka & Barley Evans

Now, last year, I looked at those first women students who arrived at Lampeter in 1965 and who went on to marry the boyfriends they had first met in College.

But what went on prior to 1965? What did the lonely ‘Coll boys’ do for female companionship and love before the arrival of female students? Well, of course, some were lucky enough to form friendships with some of the girls from Lampeter town and some of those relationships ended in marriage. The competition was always fierce not only from other students but also from the lads of Lampeter town.



Some of the lovely Lampeter Ladies – L-R: Mair Smith, Dawn Evans, Betty Timothy, Jean Griffiths, Shirley Pennington

From my time, I remember a number of students who married women from Lampeter. Doug Walmsley’s story is a very sorrowful one, unfortunately. I had an email in February from a contemporary of his in Thailand - David Weatherby (who was from the same school in Essex as Doug, Neil Keeble [see ‘Love at Lampeter’ in *The Link*, 2017, p14 - Ed.], Martin Tipple and David Holding [see *herein*, pp49-50 - Ed.]). The woman he married (though they later divorced) was Diana Ann Davies, a Lampeter College librarian. The ceremony took place in 1967, at Brondeifi Unitarian Chapel, Lampeter. Frankie Newte [see *article about him by Chris Staples* (1962) in *Link Extra*, 2017, pp5-6 - Ed.] was a guest at the wedding. Most sadly, Doug committed suicide in 1988 at the tender age of 42.

John Hughes was another who married a local girl. John, who hailed from Wrexham, was a bit of an enigma: senior scholar who got a ‘first’ in theology but, as we say in Wales, *uffern o foi* (hell of a boy!) He married Eirlys Owen in 1966 and they had a daughter. After graduating they moved to Durham where John became senior lecturer in theology. Unfortunately, this marriage also ended in divorce. John then married Vanessa, but sadly he died in his early 40s from leukaemia.



The Lit & Phil Society from 1966 – John Hughes is 3rd from the right.

However, not all ‘town and gown’ marriages ended unhappily, as John King will confirm. John was a star of the all-conquering SDC football team of 1964 and he still holds the record - which is unlikely ever to be beaten - for the number of goals (45!) scored in a season. He also represented the Welsh Universities’ tennis team in 1964 alongside his SDC playing partner, Olly Nurton.

John was in his first year in College when he attended the St Valentine’s Dance at the Victoria Hall on 8 February, 1963, with his student friends. Whilst ‘eyeing up’ the local talent, he noticed a young woman dancing with a very drunk local youth in wellington boots. In a gallant act, he eventually stepped in to ask her for a dance - and the rest is history. She turned out to be Dawn Jones, the daughter of the vicar of Silian, the Rev. Dewi Jones and his wife.

John and Dawn married on 17 August, 1968, in Silian Church, with the reception at the now sadly-closed Black Lion Hotel, Lampeter. The Best Man was Dick Tomsett, a fellow Rhondda man and SDC student. John went on to work for Barclays Bank and ended his banking career as Corporate Manager at their Blackwood, Gwent, branch. Dawn obtained a 2:1 honours degree from Swansea University in Welsh, and worked for many years in the Inland Revenue in Cardiff, where they live. They have two sons, Richard and Rhodri. Richard is a qualified golf professional and primary school teacher. He lives close by in Cardiff. Rhodri, the younger of the two boys, lives in Taunton, and he is a Consultant in Diabetes at Musgrove Park Hospital there. They each have two daughters ranging from seven years down to two years, and John and Dawn can’t see enough of them.

John plays golf at Llanishen Golf Club in Cardiff and still, at the tender age of 74, plays league table tennis for Rhiwbina in the Cardiff Table Tennis League. Dawn also plays golf at Llanishen, and both in their time have been Captains of their sections. They love travelling and in recent years have visited New Zealand twice, Australia, and last year New England in the fall. This year they will be celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary, and 50 extremely happy years of marriage.



John and Dawn King – 50 years of married bliss!

I am sure that there are many other examples of ‘Coll boys’ marrying ‘town girls’ – if you know of any, we’d love to hear from you.

Returning to my former theme of Lampeter students who married other Lampeter students, the second wave of female undergraduates in 1966 resulted in a number of marriages. Chris Warren married Viv Hurrey, although this sadly ended in divorce. Brian Curtis married Gillian Critchley, a marriage that is still going strong.

Michael Perkin and Bridget Shaw graduated in July, 1972. Michael read German, which involved a year abroad, so they were in the final year together. Bridget’s subject was Theology. They had started their relationship the previous Christmas, but decided to marry in haste because she was about to take a Teacher Training course after graduation. They had the banns called in St Peter’s Church and in her family Church in Greenford, where they married on 22 July, 1972. Michael had found a job in a small private school in Ealing, not far from Bridget’s home, and they rented a flat in West Ealing from a lovely Polish lady who asked if Bridget was to be a High Priestess, after hearing her degree subject.

They moved around the country in the following years, as Michael gained promotion. They lived in Hull and Liverpool before reaching Leek in 1984. By then their family was complete, with a son and two daughters. They all attended the local High School where their father taught and all included German, to some extent, in their degree subjects. All are married with offspring and two live locally.

By 2008, Michael decided to retire and Bridget followed his example in 2009. Since then, they have travelled the world, including the Antarctic Peninsula on a cruise ship twice, and more travelling is planned. They also make time to work on their somewhat challenging sloping garden - and entertaining their grandchildren when called upon to do so!



Michael & Bridget Perkin - and family!



Another couple who first met at Lampeter were Dick Powell and Ruth Ellam. Dick graduated in Theology in 1972 and went to teach in Cambridge having done his Cert. Ed. at Sidney Sussex College in 1974. Ruth graduated in English in 1973 and headed off to work in Liverpool libraries. But in 1975 they met up again at the wedding of fellow ex-students, Audrey Wheat and Colin Ellis (1973 & 1972), and six months later they themselves married, in St Andrew’s Church, Cambridge, and lived in that fine city for three years, Dick working at the Netherhall School whilst Ruth worked at the Cavendish Laboratory library.

Feeling the need for a more rural life-style, they moved to the far south-west of Cornwall, where Dick became Head of RE at Helston School. They then had two sons, Tom and Seth, who are now grown up and living in New Zealand and Vancouver respectively – down to good parenting, Dick always says!

Over the years Ruth worked in Cornish school libraries, and Dick moved on to become Head of 6th Form at Bodmin School, and then to the Culham Institute in Oxford, doing a research and project management job in RE there.

Both of them are now retired and spend time travelling (Vancouver is almost second home). Ruth has been actively engaged as secretary for the Porthleven Food Festival – one which has grown in importance on the food festival calendar since its inception. Dick has been an active town councillor and still maintains an interest in RE through his voluntary work as Trustee with St. Luke’s College Foundation, an endowed educational trust based at the University of Exeter.

Lampeter gave Dick and Ruth more than an education; it provided them with partners for life - 42 years now. Dick still remembers the first time they met and the happy time he persuaded Ruth to buy some rubbish *Teach Yourself Greek* books when she and her then boyfriend were visiting Greece for the first time. They have a lot to thank Lampeter for!



Dick Powell (1969-72); Ruth Ellam (1970-73)

So there we have just a few examples of those couples who found love and happiness in Lampeter.

*[There are many more – if you are one of them get in touch and let us know your story - Ed.].*

\* IN DAYS OF YORE

*[This section will feature your old pics of Lampeter Uni and town. Please submit with details of names of people and places and dates, where possible. Here are just a few to get you rummaging through those dusty albums! - Ed.]*



Train to Aberystwyth at Tregaron Station, 1964 [original courtesy of Kit Windle (1966), edited by Adrian Gaunt (1966)]



HRH The Duke of Edinburgh opening the new Library on 7 July, 1966. He is talking to David Harrison, then President of the Students' Union, and Christine Joyce, then Secretary of the Union. David is now Brigadier David Harrison JP DL and Christine is Mrs Harrison. Also in the picture are David Ryder (librarian), Group Captain Wiggins (bursar) and Prof C. D. Chandaman. The Duke was apparently the first royal to make a visit to the College and was Chancellor of the University of Wales at the time. [Research by John Loaring (1967) with Peter Bosley (1967; 1977) and Sarah Roberts, Archivist]



The Students' Union Committee, 1966-67. Back row, L-R: Tony Iball, David Harrison, the late Roger Humphris; front row, L-R: John Wolfe, Christine Joyce, James Morgan [Research by John Loaring (1967)]



New Street, Lampeter, 2004 [by Adrian Gaunt]



Victoria Hall, Lampeter, 2004 [by Adrian Gaunt]

JULIAN CAYO-EVANS



Lampeter - Julian Cayo Evans (right) - 1965

Your editor, while clearing out his garden shed, came across an old trunk (the very same one that travelled with him to St David’s College in 1963) in which, amongst other odds and ends, was a page from the Daily Mail for 8 November, 1965. The article, headlined “In Cardiganshire three men rehearse for revolution”, is accompanied by two photographs: one shows Julian Cayo Evans in uniform with a rifle over his shoulder; the other depicts three men in military uniform, one of whom could be Julian Cayo Evans carrying

his rifle, with all three nestling behind a barricade. A flag with the Welsh Dragon can be seen. This inspired some memories.....

The FWA came into being around 1963 with Cayo Evans proclaiming, “Pacifism has got the Welsh Nationalists nowhere. Violence is the only answer, even if it does include hurting innocent people.” The trigger for attitudes such as these was the building of the Tryweryn Dam to provide water for Liverpool and, possibly, the fairly imminent investiture of HRH Prince Charles as Prince of Wales. Sporadic burning of holiday homes also took place. It appears that the FWA rarely exceeded 20 active members and although links were claimed with the IRA this does not seem to have led to a supply of arms and explosives.

Cayo Evans’s key associates were Dennis Coslett and Gethin ap Iestyn. The three were convicted of conspiracy to cause explosions and other public order offences following a 53-day trial in 1969. Cayo Evans and Dennis Coslett spent 15 months in jail. Those of us in College in the 1960s waited in vain for bombs in the Post Office, attacks on trains, and holiday homes in flames. It didn’t happen and all we saw was FWA scrawled on bridges and official buildings.

Julian Cayo Evans was born near Lampeter in 1937. His father, John Cayo Evans, educated at St David’s College School and Aberystwyth and Oxford Universities, was Professor of Mathematics at St David’s College from 1922 and High Sheriff of Cardiganshire 1941-2. Julian Cayo Evans was educated at Millfield. In 1955 he started National Service in the South Wales Borderers and fought in the bitter Malaysian emergency. After a year at Cirencester Agricultural College, he returned to the family estates at Glandenys and became a successful breeder of Palomina and Appaloosa horses. A fine musician (in 2008, Anhrefn Records released a recording of Cayo Evans playing his accordion), a charismatic figure and a handsome man, Julian Cayo Evans died in 1995. In 2008 the Apollo Hotel in Cardiff was renamed the Cayo Arms.

Peter Bosley (1967; 1977)



# \* RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[Please submit details of any publications of which you are aware and which you think might be of interest to others - Ed.]

## Road Transport History Association Journal

### Lampeter sets the wheels in motion

How is Lampeter, not renowned for degrees in transport studies, linked to a society called the Road Transport History Association (RTHA)?

The Association started life as The Roads & Road Transport History Association, founded in 1992. It promotes, encourages and co-ordinates the study of the history of roads, road passenger transport and the carriage of goods. In 2005, the Association became a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Its Honorary President is Dr Bob McCloy (1956), who graduated from Lampeter in General Studies.



Dr Bob McCloy

Robert studied in Lampeter before progressing to Oxford University. Thereafter he had a stellar career in local government. A life-long transport enthusiast, on retirement Robert pursued his long-held passion for bus transport, completing a PhD at Swansea University and later moving to the city. As Chair of the RTHA, Robert oversaw its growth and developed strong links with his alma mater, including being part of the Council of SDUC and Trinity Saint David. After five years as Chair, Robert stood down in March, 2016, passing the baton to Rod Ashley (1974).



Rod Ashley

Rod is the current Chair. After graduating from Lampeter in English Literature, he was initially a school teacher, then a head of department in a College before becoming a lecturer in Education at Swansea University. In 1996, he established his own company and worked with organisations across the UK and Europe, including as Director of the Welsh Secondary Schools Association, a consultant to the European Commission, a member of the Council of BBC Wales, and Vice-Chair of the Royal Society of Arts (Cymru). Rod had always had an interest in motoring and transport and, whilst he has written many books on education and career management, in recent times he has moved into writing about motoring matters.



David Holding

The association’s Vice-Chair is David Holding (1966) who graduated in Latin. David joined the Tilling Association, which ran the state-owned English bus companies, as a management trainee with West Yorkshire Road Car in Harrogate. Training completed, David transferred to the Thames Valley company in Reading. In 1970, he joined Newcastle Polytechnic as a lecturer (later Senior Lecturer) in Transport Management, and when, in the late 1980s, the Polytechnic diversified into Travel and Tourism management teaching, David developed as his main research interest transport in sensitive areas such as National Parks. As a consequence, inter alia he became a board member of the Lake District National Park Authority and latterly Northern Regional Manager for the Confederation of Passenger Transport. He retired in 2013.

As an association with membership nudging 100, we cover everything to do with transport - history, economics, social trends, avenues of research, the preservation of artefacts etc.. Membership includes academics, transport professionals, enthusiasts and students. Our lively website (www.rtha.org.uk) provides valuable information on our work, events, publications and research interests. Our Journal is produced quarterly and is edited by Peter White, Emeritus

Professor of Transport at the University of Westminster; a recent contributor to it was Frances Evans OBE (latterly editor of the Lampeter Link), who outlined her recollections of road safety from a Whitehall civil service perspective [see her contribution to Distinguished Alumni on p.16 - Ed.].

Alumni of Lampeter are warmly invited to look at our website, find out about our activities and, if interested, join RTHA. The £20 membership fee includes four copies of the journal annually and discounted rates at our conferences.

Rod Ashley (1974)

## Rod Ashley [2016]: Wolfram Wars: Exposing The Secret Battle in Portugal, Dark River, Oakamoor, Stoke on Trent

Wolfram – also known as tungsten – is about more than electric light bulbs. Its more deadly claim to fame rests in its armour-piercing qualities. During WWII, Wolfram was in great demand with both the Allies and Axis powers, both of who scoured the globe for the precious material. Indeed, they deployed huge resources to secure supplies whilst simultaneously doing their best to sabotage and undermine each other.

The greatest beneficiary from these shadowy dealings was Portugal, a neutral country, under the control of the mercurial António de Oliveira Salazar. The sudden surge in demand created great wealth and bustling ‘gold rush towns’ deep in Portugal’s remote mountainous interior, but threatened to undermine Salazar’s grand vision for his country.

*Wolfram Wars* examines the role of that country in the wolfram trade, alongside the exploits of its British, American and German customers. Appealing to connoisseurs of WWII history, the book tells a story that offers adventure, intrigue and espionage, as well as providing a fascinating insight into this little-known but hugely important aspect of the war.

Adapted from *Western Mail*, 13 August, 2016

# PURSUIT

## \* EATING OUT - MY FAVOURITE WELSH RESTAURANTS

[The intention is to have a different reviewer each year – volunteers welcome! - Ed.]

I was born and lived in South Wales for the first five years of my life so contact with ‘eating places in Wales’ goes back a long way with me. I moved to Smethwick when I was five and thereafter there were many visits to Church Village, Cardiff, Bridgend, Barry, Porthcawl, to mention but a few, to see relatives and family friends.

We used to take my grandmother to a small restaurant in Llantwit Major called ‘The Farmhouse’, which as a small boy I thought was wonderful - good, plain, home-cooked meals, long before the days of Elizabeth David! This was a regular ‘haunt’ for us and we thought it rather special.

In 1961 I came to St David’s College, Lampeter, and it was not too long before I discovered the delights of the Dolaucothi Arms in Pumpsaint. When my mother or other relatives came to visit it was a must to go there! The owners were a Mr and Mrs Middleton and she was a superb cook. I have lost count of the number of times I visited there for Society Dinners, eating with friends, celebrating birthdays etc. You could send a menu to Mrs Middleton and she would provide a quite wonderful lunch or dinner. She would also very kindly supply any special wines you might choose. When they retired, their successors carried on the noble tradition. I stayed there when I came to Degree Day in 1965.

Fast forward now to more recent years when attendance at the annual Reunion has become a regular event. During the weekend, a ‘tradition’ has developed of visiting the Harbourmaster in Aberaeron, either for lunch or dinner. The hotel is situated just by the harbour and this gives it an extra ambience, especially on a balmy July evening. The food is excellent and there is a varied menu with a good deal of ‘locally sourced ingredients’ and excellent fish! It is always very busy as it is extremely popular with patrons from far and wide. Indeed the Harourmaster has been featured in the Welsh Tourist Board television commercials. It can be rather noisy but there is a table in a bow window called the *cwtch* [= ‘cubbyhole / cuddle’ - Ed.] which at one time was the entrance before a refurbishment of the establishment - and there is a sense of privacy and quietness there. The lunch menu has some suitable ‘small dishes’ and the Welsh Rarebit is highly recommended! The wines are of a ‘reasonable’ price and there is a good selection of beers etc..

I would say ‘The Harbourmaster’ is really my favourite Welsh restaurant. I am eternally grateful to Peter Bosley and Adrian Gaunt for introducing me to its delights. A few years ago while on holiday in the area my wife and I went for lunch and it lived up to expectations! Do visit there if you can; I hope you will not be disappointed!

John Morrison-Wells (1965)

# \* EATING IN - MY FAVOURITE WELSH DISH

[The intention is to have a different recipe each year – please submit your favourites! - Ed.]

## Pice ar y maen - Welsh cakes

These are a Welsh teatime treat passed on through generations and still as popular as ever. This particular recipe is from *Good Food Magazine*, March 2008.

**Preparation:** 10 minutes

**Cooking:** 6 minutes

**Makes:** 16

### Ingredients

225g plain flour  
85g caster sugar  
½ tsp mixed spice  
½ tsp baking powder  
50g butter  
50g lard, cut into small pieces, plus extra for frying  
50g currants  
1 egg  
splash milk

### Method

Tip the flour, sugar, mixed spice, baking powder and a pinch of salt into a bowl. Then, with your fingers, rub in the butter and lard until crumbly. Mix in the currants. Work the egg into the mixture until you have soft dough, adding a splash of milk if it seems a little dry – it should be the same consistency as shortcrust pastry.

Roll out the dough on a lightly floured work surface to the thickness of your little finger. Cut out rounds using a 6cm cutter, re-rolling any trimmings. Grease a flat griddle pan or heavy frying pan with lard, and place over a medium heat. Cook the Welsh cakes in batches, for about three minutes each side, until golden brown, crisp and cooked through. Delicious served warm with butter and jam, or simply sprinkled with caster sugar. Cakes will stay fresh in a tin for a week.

Esther Weller (1999)

# \* IMBIBING – LAMPETER PUBS OF THE EARLY 1970s

[We intend to have a different review in each issue - please send your sober contributions - Ed.]

A while ago a friend pointed me in the direction of a website on the history of pubs in Ceredigion (‘A Pint of History Please’) – needless to say he was a Lampeter graduate. It showed that, over the years, there have been somewhere in the region of twenty-five pubs, hotels and other watering holes in the town - not, I hasten to add, all at the same time.

Consumption of alcohol in Lampeter has had a florid history. When Bishop Thirlwall first visited the town in the late 1820s he found it to be a “one street township where almost every other house is licensed to sell refreshment”. When he commented on this, he was told that the many alehouses were for farmers on market day. Later it was said that almost every house on the High Street was either a tavern or a place of business. In addition, beer was brewed on unlicensed premises which, according to one commentator, were the ones most used by many of the townspeople. This was probably why one newspaper reported that when the town’s population was only 1,000, it had 25 alehouses.

My first drink in Lampeter was not taken in one of its numerous hostelrys (licensed or otherwise) but rather at the buffet of the railway station. I have no recollection of this as it happened in the early fifties when I was about two years old. My father would wander up there for the odd quiet pint and once, when ordering himself one, he pointed at my pram and said, “and one for him”. I was given a tiny glass, about the size of a thimble. My family left Lampeter when I was about three and I did not return until I entered College in 1971. By that time the station had closed although the line was still open.

In my first year, there were precious few Student Union facilities, and no bar, except for one in the refectory where you could get a drink to go with your meal. It was run along mess lines where you signed for drinks. All very well until the end of term when, counting up the financial damage for the previous ten weeks and working out a survival strategy, you were hit with the refectory bar bill. Very much a nail in the coffin (or coffers) if you used the facility liberally! If you wanted greater alcoholic solace then you had to find it in one of Lampeter’s pubs.

The first pub I visited was The Ivy Bush - for no better reason than that it was about the nearest to the College gates. When I first went there it was very much a locals’ pub although students were tolerated. The tenor of the place changed with a new landlord (Martin) who started about a month after term began. This was something of a baptism of fire for him as Rag Week took place only a few weeks after his arrival; he was faced with the prospect of being one of the stops in the three-legged beer race and also one of the designated establishments students would attempt to drink dry during the week. It soon became my favourite watering-hole and I must admit spending inordinately long periods there supping with locals, many of whom were like characters from the pages of Dylan Thomas, Brendan Behan or Tom Sharpe.

In my second year, when most students were farmed out to lodgings in the town, I found myself in Drover’s Road and about a twenty second walk from the back door of the Bush. On more than one occasion, after a late night of study, I could be found in the Bush at opening time in pyjamas and dressing gown having a bracer before another day steeped in academe.

A few doors down was the King’s Head which, during my time, was usually as quiet as a grave with much the same ambience. Across the road was The Plough which was most definitely the student hangout, particularly the back bar which had a decidedly bohemian air with seating, as I recall, taken from a bus. Those under a certain age may find it hard to believe that a small coaching inn with an arched entrance and a small courtyard ever existed as it is now just one of a row of shops. What it did sell, as John, the landlord was Polish, was Polish Pure Spirit. This firewater, which I think is still the strongest alcohol sold in this country, is 140º proof, making it twice as powerful as normal spirits. A couple of friends and I decided, after much thought, that perhaps we should try it. The main reason for our initial reluctance was not the effect it might have on our health and sanity but the not inconsiderable outlay! When a pint could be had for 11p (mind you, this was for Allbright which looked and tasted like second-hand dishwater), Polish was a whopping 35p. We bought one each and I felt no after-effects whatsoever, apart from ulcerated lips the following morning!

A little further down, and a place I didn’t often frequent, was the Royal Oak, which had a number of pleasant bars and, when Sam ran it, it was a delightful place to stay.

Another watering-hole that wasn’t hugely popular with students during my time was the Black Lion which, along with the Royal Oak and The Castle, were the town’s three hotels. Sadly, the Black Lion has recently closed whereas the Royal Oak, which had been closed for some while, has recently re-opened.

The Castle was of interest to me as my family had been friends with the landlord, Eddie. He was something of the black sheep of his family as his other two brothers were both bishops! Whenever Eddie felt a little distrait, my grandmother would often help out and it is more than likely that she served Dylan Thomas without realising it. Apparently, The Castle was his preferred pub when in Lampeter and he used the old middle bar, when it boasted three saloons, to do some writing. I met his daughter, Aeronwy, on a couple of occasions and she confirmed that he visited The Castle quite often and even wrote the screenplay for *Rebecca’s Daughters* there. This was all about the Rebecca Riots and many years later was made into a film starring Peter O’Toole.

The only other pub in the main part of town which, again, I did not visit very often, was The Castle Green on Bryn Road. My family relate the story of students in there just after the last war. The College was still run very much on Oxbridge lines with a curfew policed by the College “bullers” who, like their Oxbridge counterparts, dressed in dark suits and bowler hats. Bearing in mind that many of the students had fought during the war, they found some of the College rules, particularly the curfew, to be irksome at the very least. Being off the main street, it was felt that the Castle Green was a safe place to drink away from the College authorities. As a safeguard, however, one student always sat in the window seat as a lookout. If a buller was in sight the students would dive under a large table in the middle of the bar which had a cloth that came down to the floor. On entry, the buller would raise his hat and ask the landlord if there were any students on the premises to which the honest reply would be, “None that I can see”.

There were other pubs just on the outskirts of Lampeter but perhaps I should leave these until another occasion. Ah, pleasant, if slightly fuzzy, memories - and I even managed to get a degree at the end of it all!

Barley Evans (1974)

# MOTORING - CARS I HAVE KNOWN AND LOVED

[Please submit your entries for this section at high speed - Ed.]

## A student car in Lampeter

Why should a railway enthusiast need a car in Lampeter in the mid-60s? Well, infrequency of train services and the cost meant that travel by rail was restricted. Even when owning a car my journeys were normally conducted by hitch-hiking - cheaper again and often more reliable!

Notwithstanding, my Lampeter car was a 1954 Standard Eight, relatively modern in 1963 and cheapish - £90 - raised by selling my bicycle and my model railway. The very relevant registration was ODD 330.

My 1958 *Observers’ Book of Automobiles* tells me that the ‘Eight’ first appeared in 1953 with four cylinders (not sure if mine all worked at the same time), and had a capacity of 803cc with an output of 33bhp. *The Motor* magazine of 1953 noted it could hit 63 mph and 0-50 took 26.5 seconds. A claimed 43 mpg at 43 mph was also mentioned. This last might well have been achieved, especially in the races down from the top of the hill on the Llanwrda road with the engine switched off. On one occasion, very late at night, with no traffic and a following wind, I reached the bridge over the Teifi.

I arrived in College with the car after the Christmas vac in 1964. Proudly, I drove down to the Terrapins to show off my pride and joy. My friend and neighbour there, John Morrison-Wells, came out to be impressed. “Start her up”, he said. I jumped in, switched on and....nothing. Dead. Shame and embarrassment. Luckily, John who was more skilled than I, knew what to do when a starter motor jams. In gear, the car was vigorously rocked from side to side. She started.

ODD was certainly unusual. Yes, there were four doors but there was no boot lid. Access to the boot was through the split (very advanced!) back seats. With manoeuvring, there was just room to get one’s trunk in and still carry three passengers. The windows slid up and down (no winders) and after a few months slipped continuously and had to be wired up with pipe cleaners (thanks, John!).

And then there was the rust. On one journey, probably bored by the slow pace, a passenger started to lift the rather rotten carpet - there was no floor! It had all rusted away in the footwell. On another occasion while changing a wheel following a puncture, with the handbrake on and in gear with the wheels carefully chocked, I started to wind up the jack. I thought I was making excellent progress until I realised I wasn’t lifting the car at all. It was still four square on the road. The jack had just pushed through the jacking point into the car.



And she was slow, especially uphill. Various passengers claimed that they could walk up the hill faster than I could drive. I stopped, they got out, and I think they succeeded.

However, ODD made countless trips between Lampeter and Gloucestershire. Word got around and Gloucester's New Inn became a regular bus stop for students wishing to return to College. Our usual route was via Ross, Skenfrith and Abergavenny, then the A40 to Llanwrda, and finally over the hills to Lampeter. Each stage was 20 miles in length and each took about 30 minutes.

But ODD was wearing out, and in particular the engine was feeling the strain. A spectacular blow-up on the A38 south of Gloucester meant that she had to be replaced. So, after about 18 months, I was obliged to trade her in for a Minivan....at least I got £40 for her, together with enormous experience of keeping a worn-out car on the road!

PS  
A letter to *The Times* (4 November, 2017), responding to a letter from Bruce Parker (is this the Lampeter graduate, I wonder?), noted that the author used to cook salmon by wrapping the fish in foil and placing it on the engine of his Standard 8. After about an hour on tick-over, the fish was cooked! [*Sounds like a recipe for disaster?* - Ed.]

Peter Bosley (1967; 1977)

# OBITUARIES

## SAMUEL PETER ALMOND (2004)



Samuel Peter Almond

Samuel Peter Almond, born 23 June, 1983, studied Archaeology at Lampeter and graduated in 2004. He then took a master's degree in English teaching at Yale University. He was a member of the British Maritime Archaeological Society and the Royal Art Association. He was fluent in English, French, German, Russian, and Mandarin.

He went to China on an exchange visit and decided to stay. He taught at the Shandong Polytechnic University where he became Director of Studies. In 2015 he was awarded the Friendship Award by the Chinese Government for his contribution to the education and development of the Chinese people. ('The People's Republic of China Friendship Award' is China's highest award for "foreign experts who have made outstanding contributions to the country's economic and social progress").

Sam, who was unmarried, died of a heart attack on the 31 July, 2017, aged just 34.

John Loaring (1967)

## TONI BIANCHI (c.1973 & 1976)



Tony Bianchi [Credit – Jeff Morgan / Alamy]

Tony Bianchi, who died aged 65, was a Tynesider who became best known for his highly imaginative novels and stories written in Welsh.

Bianchi's books challenged the bearded orthodoxies of Welsh literature, and played with the traditional niceties in often unnerving ways. Above all, he was interested in the ordinary lives of elderly people, slipping poignantly out of kilter with the world around them, sometimes to the borders of derangement and even madness.

The breakdown of relationships between them and a younger generation was a special preoccupation of his that produced both hilarity and horror.

The first two of Bianchi's novels, *Exgyrn Bach* (2006) and *Pryfeta* (2007) - translated as *Daniel's Beetles* (2011) - explored with sensitivity and ingenuity the compromises experienced by elderly people in need of care.

His only novel in English, *Bumping* (2010), was about youth, age and obsession in North Shields, the town of his birth. "Bumping" has the secondary meaning of "lock-picking" on Tyneside and the novel dealt with such themes as home and place, the tyranny of random events and the delusions of old age.

That a proud Geordie could learn Welsh to such an immaculate standard as Bianchi did, and become part of the literary life of Wales, reflects well on the capacious character of the country's culture and its readiness to find room for an outsider as well as those steeped in the old tradition. Not only was he able to write prose in Welsh but he also mastered the devilishly complicated rules of the strict metres of Welsh poetry.

Tony Bianchi was born on April 5 1952 in North Shields. The only child of a policeman of Italian descent, he would later draw on the difficult relationship he had with his father in stories such as *Eric 'n' Ernie*, by which he is represented in the recent anthology *The Old Red Tongue* (2017). They are as minutely observed as anything in Alan Bennett's books.

Educated at a Catholic school on Tyneside, Bianchi acquired his expertise in Welsh while an undergraduate at St David's University College, Lampeter, where he read English and went on to write a doctoral thesis on Samuel Beckett.

His introduction to the native literature was thanks largely to a fellow student, a militant Welsh-speaker and pacifist activist whom he later married; he and Diana had two daughters, Heledd and Rhiannon, both named after figures in early Welsh literature, whom they raised to speak the language. "I fell in love with Welsh like you fall in love with a piece of music," said Bianchi, who was a gifted pianist.

Bianchi's first jobs were teaching English at Connah's Quay in Flintshire and then in Aberystwyth. After his appointment to the post of literature officer (English) at the Welsh Arts Council, the Bianchis settled in Cardiff where he lived for the rest of his life. On retirement as the Council's second literature director in 2002, he devoted his time to writing, becoming one of the most prolific of Welsh authors.

His collection of short stories, *Cyffesion Geordie oddi Cartref* (2011), whose title translates as *Confessions of a Geordie Away from Home*, enabled him to introduce the reader to his childhood friends and exorcise some of his demons, such as his violent father and the bullying he experienced during his school days.

Other stories veered towards fantasy though Welsh readers found them "difficult" on account of the complexity of their plots and technical language.

Undaunted, Bianchi persevered with his writing. *Chwilio am Sebastian Pierce* (2009), *Ras Olaf Harri Selwyn* (2012) - translated as *Harri Selwyn's Last Race* (2015), *Dwy Farwolaeth Endaf Rowlands* (2015) and *Sol a Lara* (2016) enticed their readers into the labyrinths of a well-stocked mind.

That there was a small but growing readership for books of this kind was borne out by the fact that *Sol a Lara* was awarded the Prose Medal at the National Eisteddfod in 2015 and was, by common assent, one of the more distinguished Welsh-language novels of the new century.

There was very little politics in Tony Bianchi's work, which was surprising given the Marxist causes he supported all his adult life. Nor did he deny or renounce his English nationality, despite speaking Welsh fluently like a native of Ceredigion.

He and Diana were founder members of the choir, 'Côr y Cochion' ('The Reds' Choir'), a choir with far-left political leanings. His marriage to Diana ended in divorce though. He is survived by their two daughters and his partner Ruth.

**Tony Bianchi, born April 5 1952, died July 2 2017**

(From *The Daily Telegraph*, 17 July, 2017)

Submitted by John Loaring (1967)

## NICOLE MANN (1999)



Nicole Mann passed away in October, 2017. She studied Theology at Lampeter 1996 - 1999 and then became Head of RE at a High School in Leeds.

(Esther Weller, 1999)

## DAVID WYN ROBERTS (1967)



David Wyn Roberts, who passed away on 13 May, 2017, graduated in English in 1967. Born on 15 December, 1944, in Wallasey, he attended Oldershaw Grammar School. There were actually three former Oldershaw pupils in Lampeter when he was there – Dave himself, Bob Kennedy and Peter Purland – all of whom played rugby for the College. Bob was a superb outside-half or centre, Peter a giant of a lock, and Dave a more-than-useful prop. Unfortunately, injury forced Dave to stop playing, but he took over and did a superb job as fixtures secretary.

After graduation, Dave went on to Newcastle University to take a teaching diploma. He returned to his home town of Wallasey in 1968 to teach and it was there that he met up with Jennifer Watkins, whom he had known through school days. They were engaged a year later and married in 1970 at St Luke’s Church, Wallasey. Shortly afterwards, he returned to the Newcastle area to take up a position as head of English at Walbottle School, before moving to a similar position at Dunston Comprehensive School.

The couple’s first son, John, was born in 1980, followed by Matthew in 1982 and then Simon in 1984, just as Dave was completing his Master’s degree in The History of Ideas. Tragically John lost his life in 2012. Matthew and his wife Karen gave Dave and Jen two grandchildren. Simon married an American, Rachel, and they currently live in Washington D.C.

Dave retired from teaching at the age of 53. His love of rugby continued and he was secretary of Ryton Rugby Club. He was also a keen Rotarian. 18 months before his death, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer which was found to have spread to his liver. He was admitted to Queen Elizabeth hospital following a fall, and died later that same day, aged 72.

(John Loaring, 1967)

## WENDY ROXBURY (c.1980)

Neil Butler has passed on the sad news that Wendy Roxbury has passed away due to breast cancer; I am ashamed to say I can’t recall which SDUC year Wendy was in but it was one of the two after ours, so her graduation was in 1980 or 1981. Wendy was outside my orbit but, as with all SDUC students in the small College at the time, we knew one another enough to say ‘hello’. She was a kind, gentle, mature and straightforward woman, possibly involved with the Christian Union or one of the religious groups, and she always struck me as someone to whom one could go for help if needed. Hailing from Leicestershire, we believe Wendy went back there after graduation, but details are hazy; I am not sure who her friends would have been. 57 is far too young to pass away; may God bless her. RIP.

Steve Jenkins (1979)

## MAKING BEQUESTS TO THE LAMPETER SOCIETY

Bequests are always most welcome and the Society would encourage all members to include us in your wills to ensure that we are able to continue providing a quality service to all alumni in the future.

## MEMORABILIA

### LAMPETER SCARVES, TIES AND CRICKET CAPS FOR SALE

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

Ties are black and gold with the St David logo (like the scarf) and cost £12.

Cricket caps are black and gold horizontal bands with the St David logo and cost £25.

Samples will be available at the July Reunion.

*Please confirm your interest to me as soon as possible, whether or not you intend to go to the Reunion, so I can place an order.*

Richard Haslam (1994)  
rhaslam@hotmail.com

### PAUL ANDREW’S BLAZER, BOATER & TIE

Overleaf are photographs of the St David’s College black-and-gold-striped blazer, tie and boater. These were on sale at the College Outfitters (presumably Daniel Davies Outfitters) on the High Street. Indeed, I bought the only remaining ready-made blazer still for sale in 1977, and the bespoke tailor there also created one for me from the last remaining piece of SDC cloth in 1979. I also acquired a stock of SDC hat-band ribbons for straw boaters.

My blazer, tie and boater have had regular wear in the Stewards’ Enclosure at Henley Royal Regatta since 1980, which I usually attend in either my 1953 R-Type Bentley or a friend’s 1930s Rolls-Royce, both a fitting complement for such an attractive College uniform on a summer’s day.

However, my sole surviving blazer (the other was given to a fellow undergraduate) is now a little too small for me, and I wonder whether any pre-1976 members of College might have one, in any size from 38”-40”, which they might be willing to sell? Additionally, should any member of the Lampeter Society wish to purchase a hat-band for a straw boater, I would welcome any enquiries (01524 262348).

Incidentally, quite a few years ago I donated a Lampeter Colours Blazer (the last one available at the College Outfitters) in black, green and gold stripes, to the Archive, together with a straw boater and SDC hat-band.

The three photographs below are:

1. Me, wearing my blazer, tie and boater in 1979, next to the old SDUC board.
2. My good self at Henley Royal Regatta, standing on the seat of the Rolls.
3. My blazer, tie and boater in all their glory.

There is also the cover of a book (4.), *Grande Bretagne*, published in France in 1987. This is a photographic study of the contrast between privilege and under-privilege in the UK (Eton College, Henley Royal Regatta and Royal Ascot on the one hand, and Welsh mining towns, travellers, Liverpool and run-down cities on the other). It’s a ridiculous over-simplification of course, but it sold very well. The cover is a scene from Henley in, I think, 1984, where I was again wearing the SDC blazer.

Paul Andrew (1979)



1.



2.



3.



4.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### A CHALLENGE!

Paul Andrew (1979) writes: In the early-mid 1990s, four Heads of Department (Religious Studies, History, Computing, and Modern Languages) at the independent school where I taught were SDC/SDUC graduates, which I suspect might be a record for any school.

*Does anyone know differently?*

*[Please reply to me in the form of a letter - Ed.]*

## DATES FOR DIARIES, 2018

**11 May** Lampeter Society London Branch Annual Dinner

**13-15 July** The Lampeter Society Reunion

## REQUEST FOR COPY FOR FUTURE EDITIONS OF THE LINK AND LINK 2

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

**\* Link 2, 2018** Friday, 11 May, 2018

**\* The Link, 2019** Friday, 11 January, 2019  
*(though this may be brought forward – I will write to all potential contributors to inform them during the Summer - Ed).*

**\* Link 2, 2019** Friday, 10 May, 2019

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE LAMPETER SOCIETY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

|                              |                                |                               |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Chair:</b>                | Peter Bosley (1967; 1977)      | [bosleypeter@yahoo.co.uk]     |
| <b>Vice Chair:</b>           | Victoria Welsby (2004)         | [victoria@welsby.org]         |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>            | Andrew Leach (1977)            | [ajpleach@gmail.com]          |
| <b>Secretary:</b>            | John Morrison-Wells (1965)     | [jmorrisonwells@gmail.com]    |
| <b>Editor of The Link:</b>   | Adrian Gaunt (1966)            | [adrian_gaunt_04@yahoo.co.uk] |
| <b>Reunion Co-ordinator:</b> | Esther Weller (1999)           | [estherb16@yahoo.co.uk]       |
| <b>London Convenor:</b>      | Richard Haslam (1994)          | [rhaslam@hotmail.com]         |
| <b>UWTSD Liaison:</b>        | Bill Fillery (1969)            | [fillerybill@gmail.com]       |
| <b>Swansea Liaison:</b>      | Steffan ap-Dafydd (1976; 1991) | [steffanap@msn.com]           |

As you can see from the above list, we would love to have further volunteers to share the work (and to lower the average age even further!) We meet three or four times a year, usually near Gloucester, and generally on Saturdays to enable those still working to attend.

*If you have any general queries about the Society, please write to us at: lampetersociety@gmail.com*

Peter Bosley (1967; 1977)

## THANK YOU

My grateful thanks to all the contributors to this edition of The Link – and for everyone adhering to the copy deadline; to our Chair, Peter Bosley, for all his support and editing assistance; and not least to the fantastic team at UWTSD – Eleri Benyon, Sarah Roberts, Darren Green, Kevin Evans and Jamie Kirkhouse.

I am now looking for items for this Summer’s Link 2 – please contribute generously by the absolute deadline – Friday, 11 May!

Adrian Gaunt (1966), Editor





# LAMPETER SOCIETY REUNION 2018

## FRIDAY, 13 JULY – SUNDAY, 15 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.

## MAIN EVENTS

### Friday, 13 July

**3.00 pm – 5.00 pm:** Registration - Cloisters of the St David’s Building. Thereafter keys can be collected from Reception. 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.

**5.45 pm – 7.15 pm:** Talk and interactive session - ‘Reclaiming the Past: Why are we nostalgic about Lampeter?’ Dr. Chris Deacy (1994, 1996, 1999) - Founders Library.

**7.30 pm:** Barbecue and pub quiz - Students’ Union. The first Great Lampeter Treasure Hunt will be launched here!

### Saturday, 14 July

**8.30 am – 9.30 am:** Breakfast - Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall.

**10.00 am:** Lampeter Society Annual Commemoration Service - Chapel (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.

**11.30 am:** Lampeter Intergenerational Cup – outdoor games and activities on the grass outside Old Building.

**1.00 pm:** Informal lunch - Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall.

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

**7.00 pm:** Pre-dinner drinks reception and celebration of the 50th Anniversary of women graduates at Lampeter. Group photo to be taken (venue to be announced). 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 or the Arts Block. GUEST SPEAKER – Ann Burgess (1973 - 1975). Ann is currently Leadership Development Consultant at the British Council in London. Smart casual wear please (but dressing more formally is perfectly acceptable if you wish!) After the dinner, the winners of the Great Lampeter Treasure Hunt, the Lampeter Intergenerational Cup and the Logo Competition will be announced and the Students’ Union will be open until late.

### Sunday, 15 July

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

**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 2019.

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

| PROGRAMME OF OPTIONAL CHAPEL SERVICES (St David’s Building) |  |
|---|--|
| Friday, 13 July   | 5.00 pm: Evensong  |
| Saturday, 14 July   | 2.00 pm: Memorial Service for Frank Murphy               |
|   | 3.30 pm: Roman Catholic Mass with Fr. John Pascoe (1967) |
|   | 4.15 pm: Evensong  |
| Sunday, 15 July   | 11.00 am: Holy Communion                                 |

Other special events will also be taking place.

| PROGRAMME OF SPECIAL EVENTS |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Saturday, 14 July           | 2.00 pm: <b>Presentation to the Library</b> of <i>The Life and Work of C.R. Cockerell</i> (a ‘Study in Architecture’) by David Watkin - a donation to the Special Collections by the Lampeter Society.   |
|                             | <b>2.00 – 3.00 pm: The Roderic Bowen Library and Archives will be open.</b><br>A special exhibition to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the First Women Graduates will be created especially for the Reunion weekend, compiled from the Roderic Bowen archives. |
|                             | <b>4.00 pm – 5.00 pm: Strawberry tea</b> - cloisters, St David’s Building.   |

**NOTE:** All Lampeter graduates and staff are automatically members of The Lampeter Society. However, please consider subscribing to us if you do not already do so – see the mandate on pages vii-viii. Subscribing members will receive a hard copy of the Society’s Newsletter, The Link.

# FFURFLEN ARCHEB CYMDEITHAS LLAMBED ADUNIAD BLYNYDDOL 13 – 15 GORFFENNAF 2018

Nodwch isod (a danfon at Y Swyddfa Cymhadledd yn y Coleg)

a) nifer y lleoedd a ddymunwch am weithgareddau NEU'r Sylfaen NEU'r Aduniad Llawn

b) unrhyw ofynion arbennig – fel anghenion bwyd NEU breswyl ychwanegol (@£38 y nos Gwely a Brecwast)

NEU os oes arnoch anabledd ag angen ystafell lawr llawr NEU pe hoffech ystafell teulu (mae ystafelloedd teulu yn gyfyngedig)

| Prydau/Preswyl   | £ y pen | Nifer |
|--|---------|-------|
| Gwely a Brecwast: Gwener 13 Gorffennaf, 2018                         | 38      |       |
| Gwely a Brecwast: Sadwrn 14 Gorffennaf, 2018                         | 38      |       |
| Derbyniad (Gwener)   | Am ddim |       |
| Barbeciw (Gwener)  | Am ddim |       |
| Byrbryd (Sadwrn)   | 9       |       |
| Derbyniad a Chinio'r Aduniad (Sadwrn)                                | 27      |       |
| Tê a Mefys   | Am ddim |       |
| Byrbryd (Sul)  | 10.25   |       |
| Aduniad Llawn (Gwely a Brecwast Gwener i Sul + popeth)               | 122.25  |       |
| Aduniad Sylfaenol (Gwely a Brecwast Gwener i Sul + Cionio'r Aduniad) | 103     |       |
| 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) of gwestai: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Talaf drwy drosiad banc (BACS) – i enw cyfrif Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant;  
côd trefn 20-18-41; rhif cyfrif 30959693; cyfeirnod “Aduniad Cymdeithas Llambled – [fy enw]

NEU

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

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

**Dychweler erbyn Dydd Gwener 15 Mehefin fan bellaf i: Y Swyddfa Cynhadledd, Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant, Llanbedr-Pont-Steffan, Ceredigion SA48 7ED.**

# BOOKING FORM LAMPETER SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION 13 – 15 JULY 2018

Please indicate below (and send to The Conference Centre at the College):

a) the number of places you require for selected events OR for the Core OR for the Full Reunion

b) any special requests – such as for dietary needs OR for extra accommodation (@£38 per night B&B) OR if you have a disability requiring ground-floor accommodation OR if you would like a family room (limited in number).

| Meals/accommodation                              | £ per head | No. of places |
|--|------------|---------------|
| Bed & Breakfast: Friday 13 July, 2018            | 38         |               |
| Bed & Breakfast: Saturday 14 July, 2018          | 38         |               |
| Reception (Friday)                               | Free       |               |
| Barbecue (Friday)                                | Free       |               |
| Lunch (Saturday)                                 | 9          |               |
| Reunion Dinner and Reception (Saturday)          | 27         |               |
| Strawberry Tea                                   | Free       |               |
| Lunch (Sunday)                                   | 10.25      |               |
| Full Reunion (B & B Fri to Sun + all events)     | 122.25     |               |
| Core Reunion (B & B Fri to Sun + Reunion dinner) | 103        |               |
| 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 guests: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I will make payment by bank transfer (BACS) – to account name University of Wales Trinity St. David;  
sort code 20-18-41; account number 30959693; reference “Lampeter Society Reunion – [my name]

OR

☐ I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ 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 15 June at the latest to: The Conference Centre, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Lampeter, Ceredigion SA48 7ED.**



# REUNION DINNER 2018 MENU CHOICES

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number in party** (this will help us create the table plan): \_\_\_\_\_

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

| Starters  | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| Homemade carrot and ginger soup (V)   |          |
| Prawn, crayfish and rocket salad, with a lime Marie Rose sauce and toasted ciabatta               |          |
| Main Courses  |          |
| Steamed cod fillet, with minted peas and bacon. Served with a butter sauce                        |          |
| Stuffed breast of chicken with leeks and Welsh cheese. Served with a white wine and spinach sauce |          |
| Stuffed aubergine roll, with roasted vegetables, walnuts and a tomato sauce (V)                   |          |
| Sweets  |          |
| Homemade chocolate and Bailey's cheesecake  |          |
| Sticky toffee pudding and toffee sauce  |          |
| Homemade 'fruits of the season' Eton Mess, with ice cream   |          |
| Freshly brewed tea or coffee with After Dinner Mints  |          |

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

# CINIO ADUNIAD 2018 DEWISIADAU BWYDLEN

**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 rhost a sinsir cartref (Ll)   |       |
| Salad corgimychiaid, cimwch yr afon a berwr y gerddi. Gyda saws Marie Rose a leim a ciabatta wedi'i dostio |       |
| Prif Gwrs  |       |
| Ffiled penfras wedi'i stemio, gyda phys, mintys a bacwn. Gweinir gyda saws menyn                           |       |
| Brest cyw iâr wedi'i stwffio â chennin a chaws o Gymru. Gweinir gyda saws gwin gwyn a sbigoglys            |       |
| Rholyn planhigyn wy wedi'i stwffio, gyda llysiau rhost, cnau Ffrengig a saws tomato (Ll)                   |       |
| Pwdin  |       |
| Cacen gaws gartref siocled a Baileys   |       |
| Pwdin taffi gludiog gyda saws taffi  |       |
| Eton Mess cartref gyda 'ffrwythau'r tymor' a hufen iâ  |       |
| Te neu Goffi Ffres gyda Mintys ar ôl Cinio   |       |

Nodwch unrhyw anghenion diet arbennig: \_\_\_\_\_

Enw: \_\_\_\_\_

Cyfeiriad: \_\_\_\_\_

Rhif ffôn: \_\_\_\_\_

Cyfeiriad Ebost: \_\_\_\_\_

LAMPETER SOCIETY

STANDING ORDER

MANDATE

|   |  |
|---|--|
| To the Manager<br>(your bank)   |  |
| Address of Bank   |  |
| Post Code   |  |
| Sort Code   |  |
| Account Number  |  |
| Account Name  |  |
| Please pay the University of Wales Trinity Saint David the sum of £ .....<br>(The minimum recommended payment is £10, but if you wish to be more generous this would be gratefully received.) |  |
| Date of first payment: .....<br>Please allow four weeks from return of the form to the start date of your standing order.   |  |
| Date of subsequent payments: 1 March annually   |  |
| Signed  |  |
| Date  |  |
| For Bank Use: University of Wales Trinity Saint David, c/o Barclays Bank, Harford Square, Lampeter, Ceredigion SA48 7HF (Sort code: 20-18-41; Account number: 30959693)                       |  |
| Reference: The Lampeter Society – [your name]   |  |
| giftaid it      [Opposite]  |  |
| Additional Information for Lampeter Society records:  |  |
| Name  |  |
| Telephone   |  |
| Email   |  |
| Graduation Year   |  |
| Profession/Occupation   |  |
| The Treasurer, Lampeter Society, Melrose Cottage,<br>Cheltenham Road, Painswick, Gloucestershire GL6 6SJ UK   |  |

CHARITY GIFT AID

DECLARATION

Giftaid it! Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.  
Gift Aid is reclaimed by UWTSD Lampeter Society from the tax you pay for the current tax year.  
Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money I have made to UWTSD Lampeter Society in the last four years (prior to this year) and treat all future subscriptions as Gift Aid donations.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Member’s details :

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name or initial(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Surname\_\_\_\_\_

Full home address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify UWTSD Lampeter Society if you:

- wish to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

EXISTING SUBSCRIBERS PLEASE NOTE: YOU NEED TO COMPLETE A NEW MANDATE FORM BEFORE THE SOCIETY CAN CLAIM GIFT AID ON YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS.



# CHANGE OF ADDRESS NEWID CYFEIRIAD

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

**Emma Evans**  
**University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Lampeter Campus**  
**SA48 7ED UK**

**Phone: (01570) 424891 Email: e.evans@uwtsd.ac.uk**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Year of graduation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Old address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Post Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

# LAMPETER SOCIETY LONDON BRANCH – ANNUAL DINNER 2018

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, 11 May, 2018. Please aim to arrive by 7pm to dine at 7.30pm.

This year I have great pleasure in announcing that we will again be addressed by Dr Jeremy Smith, Dean for the Faculty of Humanities and Performing Arts, who is returning to update us on how all the exciting initiatives he spoke of a few years ago are progressing and where the College is heading. The menu is yet to be confirmed as the catering manager selects fresh produce but below is an indicative one:

Cream of Soup of the Day  
--oOo--  
Roast Demi-Poussin with Herb Chipolatas and a Tarragon Jus with Seasonal Vegetables and Potatoes  
--oOo--  
Profiteroles with Chocolate Sauce  
--oOo--  
Coffee and Mints

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

The cost will, as in previous years, be £33, which I think represents excellent value for a Central London venue of this quality. Wine and other drinks can be purchased with cash on the night.

If you would like to attend, please return the booking form below along with a cheque (made payable to Richard Haslam) to the address indicated. Unfortunately, places for the dinner are limited and so in order to confirm with the Club in sufficient time, I should be grateful if all cheques could be sent to me by Friday, 4 May, 2018. If you do not have access to a chequebook, please contact me and we can arrange payment by bank transfer.

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

Please send all cheques and correspondence to: Richard Haslam, 29 Gilbert Street, Enfield, EN3 6PD, or 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 can keep a record. If you know of anyone else who may be interested to hear about the activities of the Lampeter Society, please pass on this information and encourage them to contact me. Further information is also available on the alumni pages on the University's website, various Facebook groups and a number of message boards and blogs. Do look us up!

Yours sincerely  
Richard Haslam  
Convener, London Branch (1994)

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

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

Please reserve me \_\_\_\_\_ places at £33 each. I enclose a total payment of £\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to Richard Haslam.

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

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

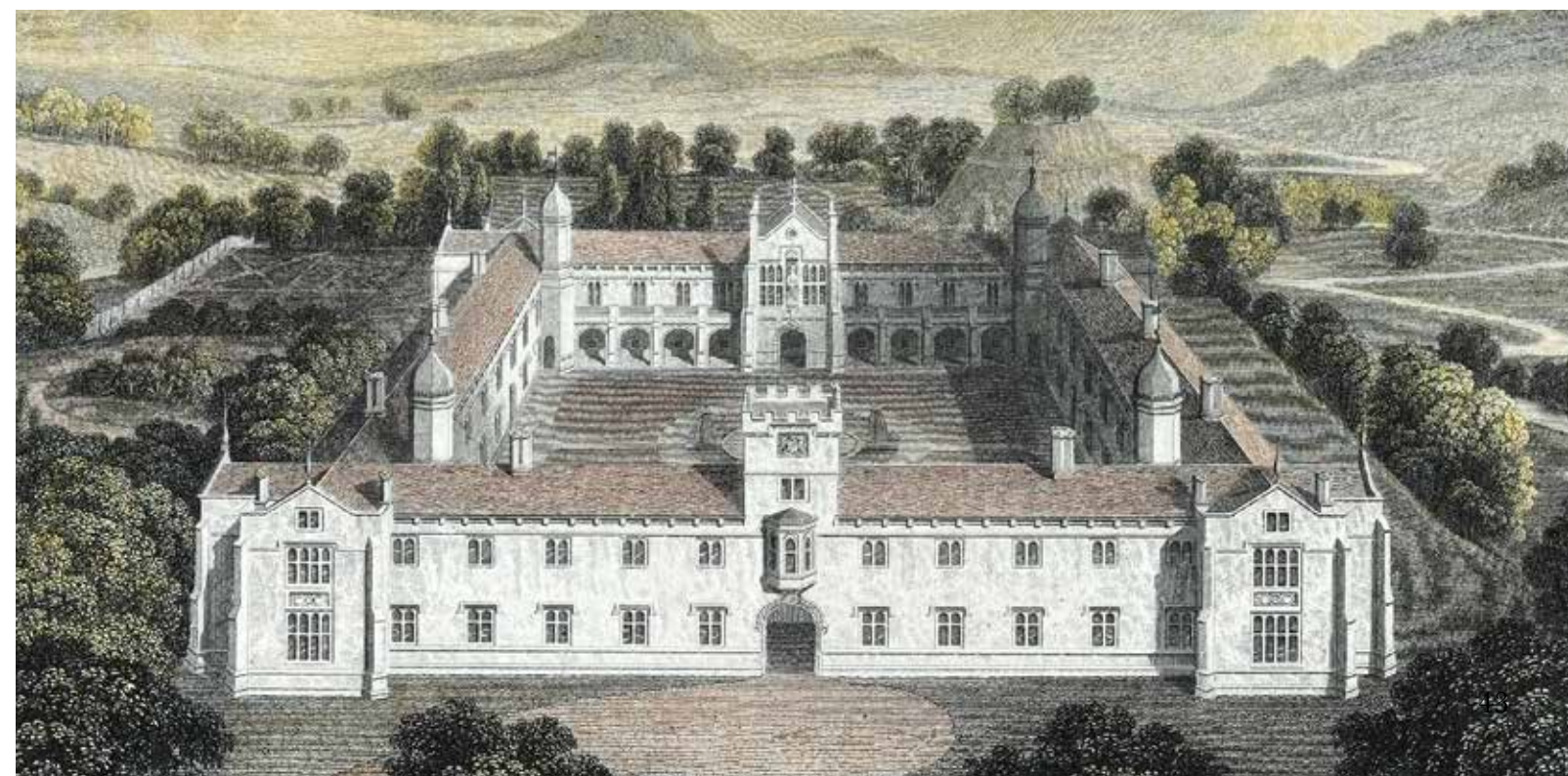
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extra

| 2017

The  
**Lampeter**  
Society

Cymdeithas  
**Llambled**





# STOP PRESS!!

## REUNION 2018

The next Lampeter Society Reunion will take place in Lampeter from 13 – 15 July, 2018.

The images on the front and back covers are both reproduced courtesy of Sarah Roberts and the Roderic Bowen Library and Archives, UWTSD.

The front cover shows Old Building, c. 1830, and is by the English engraver Charles John Smith (1803–1838). It is interesting to compare it with the two images of the same building discussed in Pushka Evans' article in this edition – View From The Dulais.

The image on the back is by Leonard Glynne Lewis. He was born on 27 February, 1894, in Pontypridd, where his parents ran the Central Homes Workhouse. Having attended school first at Pontypridd Boys Grammar School and then at Christ College Brecon, Leonard enrolled at Saint David's College in October, 1912, and was awarded the Phillips Scholarship in that same year. He was particularly active in the sporting life of the college and gained his colours for both the Rugby 1st XV and the Cricket 1st XI.

When war broke out in August, 1914, Leonard joined the Public Schools' Battalion and was later gazetted to the 18th Welch Regiment. He was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at the Battle of Cambrai on 20 October, 1917. He was killed in action at the age of 23 at Bourlon Wood on 24 November, 1917.

Second Lieutenant Leonard Glynne Lewis M.C. is commemorated on the Cambrai War Memorial at Louverval Military Cemetery, France. He is also remembered on the War Memorials of both the Christ College Brecon and Pontypridd Boys Grammar School as well as on the Saint David's College Roll of Honour.

This edition of The Link Extra was designed and printed by the Department of Technology Enhanced Learning, UWTSD.

## NEWS REPORTS

### SPONSORED LECTURE

A real first for the Society! The inaugural sponsored Lampeter Society Lecture took place on Monday, 15 February, 2017. The speaker was Professor Jane Cartwright and the title of her lecture was The Welsh Life of St. Ursula.

Professor Cartwright is based at UWTSD and has research interests in medieval Welsh history, literature and religion, particularly saints' cults and hagiography. She is currently working as Co-Investigator on a major AHRC-funded project on The Cult of Saints in Wales: Welsh-language Sources and their Transmission, based at the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies.

Her major publications include *Celtic Hagiography and Saints' Cults* and *Feminine Sanctity and Spirituality in Medieval Wales*. She has served as a Member of the Court of Governors of the National Library of Wales, continues to serve as a member of the AHRC's Peer Review College, and is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

### SWANSEA BRANCH DINNER

Tracey and Peter Wilkinson attended the Swansea Branch Annual Meeting and Dinner on Friday 3rd March, following a Service at St Mary's Church. Peter talked about his time at Lampeter, including meeting Tracey, and their lives - separately and together - as he pursued his career as a Royal Naval submariner, leading to his position on the British military General Staff. Offstage, later, he told us of the discipline and informality of life on a submarine.

Quirky fact: a Lampeter friend of Peter's, Frank Povey, is married to Svetlana, who once worked for Mr Alexander Kalashnikov - of AK47 fame! - for whom she was a translator. Frank and Svetlana live in the Brighton area.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of former Lampeter alumni who had passed away since our previous meeting. These included Haydn Voyle, whose funeral in Newport saw over a dozen of his friends present at the church. His coffin left for burial to the sound of Hawkwind's "Silver Machine", which drew great chuckles.

We would love to see more ex-Lampeter students join us on Friday, 2nd March, 2018. Contact [steffanap@msn.com](mailto:steffanap@msn.com) with the subject line Lampeter Dinner 2018.

Steffan Ap-Dafydd (1976; 1991), Swansea Convener

### BORÉ PROJECT UPDATE

As you may be aware, this year the Lampeter Society donated £750 to the reforestation project in Kenya with which the University students are closely involved. Further details can be found on the website - <http://archive.cynnalcymru.com/news/forest-project-update-bore-kenya>.

The letter below was emailed to us by [alex.katana2013@gmail.com](mailto:alex.katana2013@gmail.com).

Dear all - our donors and supporters. **Work has started on the Boré Forest Centre accommodation block!** The accommodation block started yesterday creating feelings of happiness in all our hearts. I, as the Project Manager at Boré on behalf of the BGU COMMITTEE, say thank you all for your great support and encouraging comments. Here at Boré, most of the people are Giriamas [*an ethnic group occupying the coastal strip – ed.*] and there is a local saying - *mwane mwane ra gonya nyoka* - which means "the scattering of snakes made them all be finished". This appropriately describes how the Giriamas people came together and united with the aim of doing one thing. I, too, wish to apply this saying to all our Supporters - if we come together with the aim of building this BORÉ FOREST CENTRE ACCOMMODATION BLOCK then our vision of receiving as visitors various investors, researchers and well-wishing tourists from all over the world will be successful. Your participation will be highly appreciated and prayed for.

Thanks abundantly.

# FEATURES

## VIEW FROM THE DULAIS

Many years ago<sup>1</sup>, the Lampeter Society commissioned the late Vernon Fletcher (grad. 1966, long-time London Convenor) to paint an image of the campus for the then University of Wales, Lampeter<sup>2</sup>.

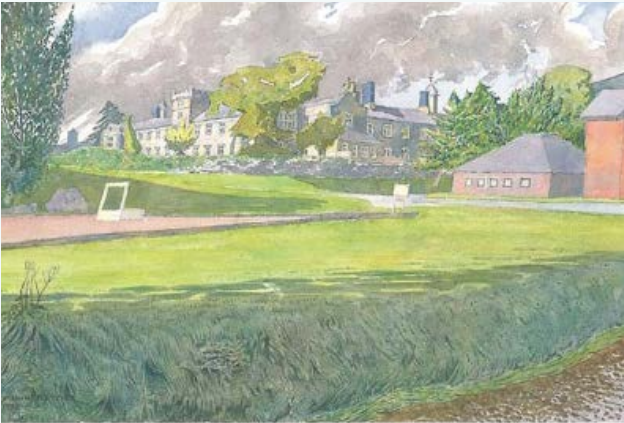
He chose a distant view of Old Building (St David’s Building) from the bottom of the valley, on the far side of the Dulais. The painting was duly presented to the institution<sup>3</sup>. Prints of the picture, and of details from it, have appeared on greetings cards, the front cover and interior of the Link, postcards and elsewhere. Framed copies of that picture (and indeed of other Lampeter images created by Vernon) have, over the years, raised a fair amount for Lampeter Society funds.

Recently, in an old publication, I came across a photograph of very nearly the same view, probably taken at around the same time. That view, nowadays, is considerably changed, since the taking up of the old (1970s) all-weather hockey pitch and the creation of the new landscaping.

However I was taken by the similarity of viewpoint and thought that readers might be interested to see the photographic image compared with the artistic one! [and with the front cover engraving by Charles John Smith, around 1830 – Ed.]

### Pushka Evans (1974)

1 I’m afraid I haven’t been able to verify an actual date.  
2 It may have been in honour of the 175th anniversary of the first intake of undergraduates, but again I haven’t been able to confirm that.  
3 Sadly I have no idea where it now hangs.



## SOME COMMENTS ON J. OGDEN’S ARTICLE - LLOYD THOMAS AND THE SAVAGE MARKERS

Adrian Gaunt, as editor of The Link and fellow Exonian (adopted), showed me James Ogden’s piece for inclusion in the recent March edition (‘Lloyd Thomas and the Savage Markers’), thinking it might be of interest to me because it deals with the Part One Examinations in 1963 and I was at the end of my first year at Lampeter at the time.

As a matter of fact I was unable to attend any of the June Part One Exams in 1963 - I was diagnosed with highly infectious scarlet fever by the GP just before the exams and Lampeter rushed me off back home so that there would not be an epidemic among students over the exam period! The result was that I had to take all of the Part One re- sit exams for Philosophy, English and French crammed together over about a week in September, at the rate of two per day I seem to recall (I didn’t pass them all, and couldn’t re-sit, since these were the re-sits, but was permitted to repeat the year, which I did, successfully, graduating in 1966). James Ogden was one of my teachers in 1962-63, before he left. I first met JR Lloyd Thomas when I went for interview aged 17, sat with him in his study with a cup of tea, and was shown to a room for the night complete with electric blanket, which he proudly demonstrated!

On to the article: I should emphasise that I don’t take issue with the general thrust of Mr Ogden’s article, which makes many compelling points, and ones I recognise as an erstwhile university lecturer myself, but I do think it worth making a few remarks by way of comment.

He starts by saying that it may be the right time to review the Revd. JR Lloyd Thomas’s remarks in his book *Moth or Phoenix?* on savage marking in the Part One Examinations of 1963. He doesn’t say why it might be timely, but



maybe this is obvious to others. The Examinations took place 53 years ago, JR Lloyd Thomas’s book was published 37 years ago, and its writer died 33 years ago.

A couple of points on quotations: I can’t judge the selected bits of quotation out of context, not having the book, but I can’t feel confident when quotation marks aren’t paired:

Problems would arise because “we now had a lengthy tail of junior lecturers, and it is sad but true that junior men mark stringently. In the event these “over zealous” juniors “were very conscious...”

Or when two bits of quotation are then conflated:

...he met with “obstinate professional pride” and “ridiculous” unwillingness to have marks questioned. Well, such ridiculous obstinacy...etc.

There do also seem to be errors of fact: his table shows no absentees for papers II and III, but I at least was absent from the June exams, as I mentioned earlier, and here he is only talking about those exams since he says that some examinees were referred, which couldn’t happen to those failing a September re-sit.

He also says that “arguably only a grade A at [A] level would normally have suggested suitability for Honours”. But at that time candidates entered the first year only as part of a General Degree; it was their performance in the Part One exams and their willingness to continue in one discipline that decided whether they could pursue Honours.

He mentions UCCA: it may be germane to observe that UCCA only existed then as a management board and played no part in processing applications for those applying in 1962, and so for those students taking the Part One exams at the end of their first year in 1963. As at 1962 one had to apply individually to various universities, as I indeed remember doing.

Alan Foster (1966)

# EMINENT FORMER MEMBERS OF STAFF AND GRADUATES

**THIS IS A NEW SECTION FOR WHICH WE WOULD LIKE SUGGESTIONS – AND PREFERABLY CONTRIBUTIONS – FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF THE LINK. THIS TIME, WE HAVE TWO PEOPLE WHOSE MEMORY WE SHOULD LIKE TO COMMEMORATE (FRANK NEWTE AND BOB SHARPE) - IN ADDITION TO ONE WE SHOULD LIKE TO HONOUR (BRUCE PARKER).**

## LAMPETER’S BLETCHLEY PARK CODE-BREAKER: FRANK RICHARD NEWTE – BASED ON A VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK

In many accounts of Bletchley Park code-breaking during the Second World War, it is assumed that the code-breakers were all Oxford and Cambridge recruits, like Alan Turing. Formerly the Government Code and Cypher School, Bletchley Park actually employed thousands of people.

What has not been widely known, until the publication of Asa Briggs’ *Secret Days: Code-Breaking in Bletchley Park* (Frontline Books, 2011) was that Lampeter contributed to this endeavour in the person of Frank Newte. Newte had been appointed to Lampeter in 1938 from Hertford College, Oxford, to assist Professor Harold Harris in teaching Classics. Newte had had a brilliant academic career at Oxford: he had matriculated in 1932 and obtained a first in the Classics Moderations in 1934 and then went on obtain a degree in Greats in 1936 and in Theology in 1937. In 1935 he won the highly prestigious Chancellor’s Prize tor Latin Verse. His verse (on Boudica) was recited in the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford and was published by Blackwell; today, because of this poem, he is credited with some of the most original translations of early fifth century Latin verse<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> C.D. Williams, *Boudica and Her Stories: Narrative Transformations of a Warrior Queen*, University of Delaware Press, 2009, pp. 68, 135; his verse includes the claim that Boadicea had scythes on her chariot wheels.



The second volume of William Price’s history of Lampeter claims that Frank Newte left St. David’s College in 1939 for war service in the Royal Artillery, where he became a Regimental Sergeant Major — somewhat implausibly given his slight build. This was the cover story that he told when he returned to Lampeter after the war.

Nevertheless, Newte appears in Briggs’s book, in which Briggs describes the various out-stations and off-shoots of Bletchley Park, which grew as code-breaking assumed greater importance in the war. One of these was the Shenley Road Military Camp, about half a mile from Bletchley Park itself, where Briggs and Newte were originally based. Briggs writes:

*My closest friend in the Camp was Frank Newte, who in civilian life was a lecturer at Lampeter. Jimmy Thirsk... remembered Newte when he was a corporal at Beaumanor, as ‘gentle and erudite’. In the mess he was not always gentle. I argued about politics with him at immense length —and passionately. He was the most right-wing friend that I have ever had. Our good relations only just survived the Labour victory at the general election of 1945. He thought that a country that had thrown out Churchill was not worth living in. I was saved only because he thought that my getting a fellowship at Oxford would take me straight into Paradise. Most of the warrant officers and sergeants in Bletchley Park shared my views, not his (103-4).*

A check with the Bletchley Park roll of honour reveals that Newte was not in the Royal Artillery at all. He was in the Army Intelligence Corps and attached to SIXTA. SIXTA was an acronym for Number 6 Intelligence School Traffic Analysis. In 1941, when Newte was assigned to it by the Intelligence Corps, SIXTA had a chequered past, having started as the Central Intelligence Section of the Intelligence Corps in 1940 with the role of identifying and decoding German signals. Its technical wing was charged with examining radio frequencies and call signs. Number 6 Intelligence School was opened in March, 1941, and concentrated on German radio techniques; it soon moved to Beaumanor, Leicestershire - which, from Briggs’ account, is where Newte served.

In May, 1942, it was agreed that SIXTA should move to Bletchley Park since its work was vital to the code-breakers in Huts 3 and 6 (the most famous code-breaking units) there. According to Tony Sale on codesandcipherers.org.uk, the work of SIXTA ‘became vital to the Hut 6 Enigma-breaking efforts.’ Moreover, the members of the group were all handpicked for their ability.

Briggs’s reference to Warrant Officers and Sergeants is explained by the fact that as a matter of policy the code-breakers were not permitted to become commissioned officers. It also explains how Newte achieved the rank of Regimental Sergeant-Major. The claim that Newte served in the Royal Artillery was, like the stories adopted by many Bletchley Park veterans, simply the cover he chose to explain his wartime secret work.

Newte returned to Lampeter from army service in early 1946 and, like all Bletchley Park staff, remained silent about

his role in the War. He remained a lecturer in Classics at Lampeter until he planned to retire at the end of 1977. As Lloyd Thomas made clear in *Moth or Phoenix* (p.104), this was especially heroic because Lampeter members of staff were paid significantly below the salary levels of staff in publicly-funded universities (by about £300 a year in 1960) - and he probably taught more classes than any other Classics lecturer in the country.

He served for a time as librarian but otherwise his service to the College and the country has passed largely unnoticed.

In his Annual Report for 1976-77, his last as Principal, Lloyd Thomas recorded the death of Frank Newte on 20 May, 1977, aged 64, and just a few months short of his fortieth year on the staff at Lampeter. Lloyd Thomas also noted that for his funeral the chapel was crammed with his former students and staff, and afterwards he was interred in St Peter’s Church. (Without any irony in the next sentence, Lloyd Thomas noted that the longest serving member of staff, the Manciple, Meurig Griffiths, had been awarded the Queen’s Silver Jubilee Medal.) It was left to Professor Norman Gully of the Classics Department, in his contribution to the Annual Report, to record Newte’s ‘devoted service, both as a teacher and as a Latin scholar’, commenting that he would ‘be remembered with affection and respect by a long line of students and members of staff.’

In fact, of course, great though the debt was that the College owed him, it was nothing compared to the debt he was owed by his country. For if, as historians now widely acknowledge, the work of Bletchley Park played a vital contribution to winning the war, and after 1943 in shortening it by perhaps as much as two years, the debt owed to Frank Newte as one of the code-breakers was quite simply to have contributed to the Victory of the Allies in 1945. That he went to his grave unacknowledged for his part in that Victory is a poignant testimony to Frank Newte.

Chris Staples (1962)

**BOB SHARPE**

The name was mentioned at one of the unofficial Reunion dinners in Lampeter in August, 2016. He never received an obituary in The Link but I was told by Craig Jamieson and Dr John Ryder that that he was very eminent and that his chair at Lampeter was a ‘personal chair’. Since then, I have found two obituaries in The Independent and The Guardian. The latter is reproduced below. It was written by David Cockburn and published on 24 April, 2006.

“Robert Augustus Sharpe, philosopher: born Penzance, Cornwall 19 July 1935; Assistant Lecturer in Philosophy, St David’s College, Lampeter (later University of Wales, Lampeter) 1964-65, Lecturer 1965-72, Senior Lecturer 1972-85, Professor 1985-97 (Emeritus); married 1959 Pam Peacock (one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1989), 1991 Lynne Evans; died Carmarthen 1 March 2006.

The philosopher R. A. Sharpe was most widely known through his work in aesthetics. His *Contemporary Aesthetics: A Philosophical Analysis* appeared in 1983, and The Philosophy of Music in 2004. In his *Music and Humanism* (2000), described by one reviewer as “a richly observed and highly insightful piece of writing that should be read by anybody seriously interested in the current state of musical aesthetics”, Sharpe examines the humanist conception of music as a language, stressing the fundamental connections between music and human life, and argues against the persistent tendency to underestimate the cognitive element in our response to music.

His deep commitment to the idea that our tastes in the arts can be more or less well-informed was closely linked with his anger at images that have come to dominate public thinking about education: for example, the image of pupils and students as “customers”. In a letter to The Independent (15 August 2001), he wrote, with characteristic passion:

*‘The dreadful thing about all this is that nobody will be surprised that such stupid and ill-considered twaddle comes from the Chairman of the Learning and Skills Council in an address to the Royal Society of Arts. The rock-bottom morale in education in this country is not only a product of the way that endless and pointless paper chases have interfered with teaching and learning; it is also a result of the way education seems to be run by people who have no understanding of the way education enriches lives or the way it can be a voyage of discovery, and who lack the wit to see the obvious objections to their view that education is just another form of business’.*

Alongside numerous other publications in aesthetics, ethics, the philosophy of science, psychoanalysis, and the philosophy of mind, in the last 10 years of his life Sharpe was increasingly concerned with what he regarded as the deeply corrupting effect that religious belief may have on morality. In his book *The Moral Case Against Religious Belief* (1997) he argues that some important virtues cease to be virtues at all when set in a religious context, and that, consequently, a religious life is, in many respects, not a good life to lead.

In another book on the same theme, on which he was working when he died, he writes that his tone in the earlier work had been more generous to believers than some might think appropriate “partly because I owed much to a Christian upbringing and because much of it I still value”. He adds that the sequel will be “much harsher” because “the intervening decade has brought home to us the terrible results of religious conviction”.

Born in 1935 in Penzance, Sharpe had a passionate interest in music from an early age and his career might have gone in that direction, but he studied English and Philosophy at Bristol University, where he was taught by Professor Stephan Körner, whose influence ensured that he stayed in Philosophy. Sharpe studied for a PhD at Birkbeck College, London, and in 1964 was appointed an Assistant Lecturer in Philosophy at St David’s College, Lampeter,

where he remained until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1997.

Sharpe played an enormously important role in the development of the Philosophy Department at Lampeter during his 33 years there. He was, above all, a wonderful teacher, whose transparent enthusiasm for the subject, utterly unassuming manner and endless patience inspired generations of students. The quality of his teaching was intimately connected with the compassion, passionate commitment, wide learning and humour that were embodied in all of his life and work.

A deep hostility to pomposity, unnecessary obscurity, and the technical expertise utterly disconnected from central human concerns that marks much contemporary philosophy, was combined with an enormous generosity of spirit and a wonderful sense of the ridiculous in a way that inspired deep affection.

Bob Sharpe ran music appreciation groups, which introduced many philosophy students and others to the wonderful music that was so central to his own life, and did his best to foster a greater appreciation of composers, such as Berlioz, whom he felt to be undervalued. A keen pianist all his life, he hugely enjoyed the extra time he was able to devote to playing once he retired from full-time teaching, continuing to widen his repertoire and refine his technique.

Other joys of retirement included long forest walks with the dozen or so dogs with which he and his second wife, Lynne, lived. Nature, and in particular animals, became increasingly important to him: an ability to find enormous joy in rolling in the grass with a litter of puppies and be startled by the intelligence of a hen or the rich emotional life of a dog went with a growing horror at the cruelty and callousness that mark so much of our treatment of other species.”

Robert Rosset (1974)

[*Note from Ed.*: Pushka Evans (1974) pointed out to me that the introductory item below about Robert Augustus Sharpe was published in the 2007 edition of The Link:

“Bob Sharpe died on St David’s Day 2006, at the age of 70. Born in Cornwall and brought up a strict Baptist, he took a degree in philosophy and English at Bristol and, after an MA there, a PhD from Birkbeck College and a two-year Fellowship at Reading University. He joined the then St David’s University College as an assistant lecturer, becoming Professor in 1985 and Professor Emeritus in 1997, continuing to teach after his early retirement.





An able contributor to issues in logic, philosophy of science and philosophy of mind, he will be remembered particularly for his work in aesthetics. He wrote Contemporary Aesthetics (1983) and Music and Humanism (2000).”]

**BRUCE PARKER**

He was educated at the renowned Elizabeth College in St. Peter Port, Guernsey, and graduated from Lampeter in 1963. He was a member of the winning team on University Challenge when representing the College during the early 1960s. He went on to even greater things. He is a former presenter of BBC1’s Antiques Roadshow; presented the BBC Regional news programme South Today for 35 years; and has been honoured with an MBE for his charity and community work in Hampshire and the Channel Islands. Moreover, he is Chairman of the Friends of Winchester Cathedral, of which he is a Trustee, and chairs the educational charities of Elizabeth College and its Gibson Fleming Scholarship Trust.

Carleton Rees Tarr (1962)

**OBITUARY**

**JOHN HOLLIMAN**

John Holliman (B.A. 1965, L.Th. 1967) sadly died of a brain tumour on 4 March this year. My wife and I are godparents of the eldest son. John was, of course, the Venerable J.J. Holliman, former Archdeacon of the Army and Deputy Chaplain-General.

Bill Fillery (1969)

**HILARY BOWEN**

We received word from Susan Hots (shotz15@icloud.com) in the Spring of the sad death of Hilary Bowen (1968-1971). She died in February 2016 but notification was delayed. Our condolences to her family and many friends.

