

CYFEILLION EGLWYS SANTES JULITTA

FRIENDS OF ST JULITTA'S CHURCH

Rhif Elusen Cofrestredig/Registered Charity Number 1068756

www.stjulittas.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Dear All,

The year started again with a very poorly attended but very successful AGM weekend. Karen and Jim Black a members of the Friends will give us a guided tour of the Trefriw historical village trail on the Saturday afternoon, bringing to life many unknown corners of Trefriw.

Sunday morning was spent in the churchyard and Ken Smith did a lot of the work to bring together the unveiling of the seat dedicated to John Disley on the Sunday afternoon was a lovely informal gathering – even the sun shone what more could we ask for?

We opened at Easter – an interesting time was spent by the four stewards that looked after the church, with one or two new contacts made.

The main exhibition in 2013 year was brought together by Roy – celebrating the links that Snowdonia had with the first ascent of Everest in 1953. We teamed up with the Museums service at Conwy County Borough Council to develop an exhibition to commemorate the Jubilee of the successful 1953 first ascent of Mount Everest,
Everest 1953, 60 Years On - The Eryri Connection



The east ridge of Mount Everest

Picture taken by Edmund Wigram on the 1935 Everest Reconnaissance Expedition; he is buried in Capel Curig.

2013 marked the sixtieth anniversary of the first successful attempt to climb Everest by Sir Edmund Hilary and Tenzing Norgay and the exhibition explored the fascinating connection between Snowdonia and the Himalaya.

We had thought that the connection between this famous expedition and the people of Snowdonia was underdeveloped and the project did bring out the links that existed sixty years previous. It also showed how important Snowdonia was for the training of the Everest team. It was to this area that the Everest mountaineers turned for their training Helyg, the Climbers Club centre in the Ogwen valley which was used as their base.

The deputy leader of the exhibition, Charles Evans, (*later Sir*), Welsh speaking, lived for many years in Capel Curig. In 1955 he lead the British expedition that

climbed Kangchenjunga, the third highest mountain in the world, 8,586m (28,169 ft), a mountain more difficult than Everest. Snowdonia provided two members of his team, Joe Brown, who climbed the mountain and John A. Jackson (who was the first reserve on Everest 1953, taking part in all the mountain training) and then became in 1958 the chief instructor, and in 1960 director of Plas y Brenin, the National Mountaineering Centre in Capel Curig.

It was quite a challenging bringing the whole together, one new dimension was working with the officers of Conwy County Bough Council, who we thank for generous funding. It opened at the church early May and was with us for 6 weeks. The outcome was an exhibition that toured Caernarfonshire, even being on display in the Welsh Office offices in Llandudno Junction. It closed on the 15th January 2014. Many thanks to all those that contributed, particularly the Jackson and the Wigram Families. It was a real privileged to have Mrs Eileen Jackson opening the exhibition, we are so lucky to have Eileen, Johnnie and Marianne as Friends.

At the exhibition a notice was put up asking "What is Your Everest Experience" Below is one that was written:

'The exhibition is both informative and interesting. The images are informative and reveal day to day facts, which can often be overlooked with the drama of the ascent. I found the connection between North wales and Everest interesting but not really unexpected, having some knowledge of how our mountains can create sudden climatic hardships'. Anon.

Again Richard Douglas Pennant, and the Penrhyn family, brought together a lovely evening of poetry and music in June, celebrating the birthday of the late Alice Douglas Pennant, buried in the churchyard. The evening concluded with a sit down buffet in the Tyn y Coed and the funds benefited by a sum exceeding £150.

The book sale early July, again saw us involved with the village face and added to our funds, many thanks to Patricia Hooson and her team of helpers, it was report that there was a shortage of male helpers, sorry to the ladies for this.

The rainy summer this year has not supported the grass cutting operations but we did largely manage to keep on top, mainly through the efforts of Barry Fox who is a real treasure when it comes to churchyard maintenance. As I said at the AGM Barry is the nearest person that we have that represents an Angel!

A fine weekend supported the efforts of the volunteers at the summer Exhibition opening weekend. On the Saturday we potted around sorting a few things out and cut some grass. A real treat was the contribution that Chris Harper has



made with his strimmer, he is well trained! Saturday rolled on into the Sunday – the day of the ‘BIG’ happening! The workers brought together a number of display panels from previous years exhibitions and we had an exhibition that was real success.

As it was advertised as a very low key ‘Informal Summer Exhibition’ so that is the way it happened. No official opening - just a social

gathering and picnic on Sunday 28th July; with loads of Strawberries and Cream and a glass or two of white wine. Of course we were 'officially' celebrating the fantastic job that Will Pierce has done in re-plastering the inside of the church - it really does look good! During the opening period we had a respectable through-put of visitors and show a fair profit on sales, St Julitta’s again put on a special show for Capel Curig.

The November Friday evening lecture had another respectable audience - thanks to all those who supporting it - I guess we made about 25, and the centre makes an excellent venue. I thought I would share a comment with you : *'Just a quick note to say that I enjoyed your talk in Capel Curig on Friday evening and I look forward to the summer exhibition. The exhibition on WW2 was the first of your exhibitions that I had visited and I was highly impressed by the content and the professionalism of the presentation. I picked up a number of points which were very useful to me. I also thought that your booklet was excellent and I've found it a most useful reference source. I'm sure that your WW1 exhibition will be equally good.'*

The sun shone on Saturday morning of our ‘medieval’ Thank You dinner and the church looked good!! Saturday evening was fun too and worked well, again (*amazingly?*) we broke a few rules but served up a fine meal by candlelight, brought together by *a few people having fun*. Sadly this year we could have coped with a few more persons than the ten that sat down, but they were the privileged ones, the food was scrumptious! If it happens next year TRY hard to keep the date open –

The Carol evening was again a great success, Alice put a huge amount of work into bring it together and the village turned out in force. It was nice to see

Father Clive there on his last visit before moving to the sunny part of the country. He will be missed in the parish.

The 2014 AGM was held at Plas y Brenin again on Saturday 22 March, we thank them very much for again allowing us to use their facility; everything is so perfect there - a lovely building, coffee to start, an excellent room with projection facilities, lunch at the bar - what more could we wish for! The AGM went OK; the meeting part was over in about 30 minutes. Frances and I put together a presentation on our plans so far for the summer Exhibition, The First World War – A Great War?

After lunch we set out to fill up the day; given all the rain we have had so far over the winter months I fore-saw that it would not be possible for it to rain on us during the afternoon walk, the skies will have run out of rain by then! And so it was. The visit to the church was fascinating, it had been restored in the same manner as St Julitta's about two years later, 1840, with box pews and a three storey pulpit. The walk, about 2+ miles down hill was not too taxing, with new things to see and plenty of interest, and the creamy tea at the end finished the afternoon off nicely. What more could anyone want? The evening will be spent at the Bryn Twrch, probably the most historic pub in the village.

Sunday should provide an opportunity to do a little at the church, and perhaps further research around the village for the exhibition.

On the Monday I had proposed that anyone with some time to spare comes along to the Bangor University Archives; three of us had a extremely interesting day. Gathering dust in the three archives in Caernarfonshire is a vast treasury of material dating from the First World War Period and we were able to uncover just a little of it.

At this time of remembrance of the First World War it is time that I mentioned Kate Williams in dispatches. Kate has put together our Web site and continually services it (when I get time to feed her materials to service it with!) at no cost to the Friends. She also audits the accounts and this year is doing some research for the exhibition – dealing with the section that looks at the Penrhyn Family and their involvement with the First World War. A fantastic contribution, - Thanks Kate.

It should be noted that I am calling 2013/4 has been the year of the research! Anyone want to join the band wagon? Many, Many thanks to the committee and everyone else who helped to make things buzz!

Best wishes

Harvey

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