

# CYFEILLION EGLWYS SANTES JULITTA

## FRIENDS OF ST JULITTA'S CHURCH

Rhif Elusen Cofrestredig/Registered Charity Number 1068756

### ANNUAL REPORT 2006 & FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER 12 NEWS

Dear All,

We again have had a year that has been packed with action at the church. Putting together the exhibition "Cerddi Arfon, Eryri – Poems of Arfon" was a challenge that we had not previously ventured into, but the reward of the finished product was worth all the hard work. The improved lighting using the generator was a great success. We have many people to thank for the successful results, Rod & Jan put in a tremendous amount of resource, and Conwy Council very generously awarded us a grant of £1000 towards the costs. A Report, written by Jan, taken from information in the visitor's book which was left in the church for the duration of the Exhibition is attached to this annual report. Very many thanks to all those that acted as stewards, I do hope it was an interesting experience (I know that sometimes it can be a little heavy) and that you will say yes again when I ask for help in 2006!

But many other things have happened during the year too. Shortly after the AGM 2005 we attended a reception in Llanwrst to recognise work that the Friends have carried out in renovating the church. The award as reported in last years Annual Report was presented by Conwy Valley Civic Society awards committee. This led to us having some good media coverage in the local press and we were featured in a substantial article in the Civic Trust for Wales Spring/Summer Journal, "About Wales".

We press on with our renovation of the church. The Get Stuck in Weekend 23/24/25 September was an extremely successful event, a very well supported affair; I do believe that the Ladies may well have out numbered the Gentlemen! We mainly cracked on with maintenance within the churchyard. Keeping the grass and other vegetation under control is challenging, and it could be said that we don't always win the battle. But this time the strimmer and lawn mower worked overtime; the skip, donated by the Snowdonia Society, was filled, more footpaths were cleared and at the end of our three days the site looked a picture. We improved the access through the main gate by setting in another step. We now have our Candle Holders fixed to the wall, and have purchased two fire extinguishers upping our safety provisions somewhat. The candle holders were designed for the church and are something that has been needed for sometime. Very many thanks to all those that contributed, to those that sent in donations to cover the cost of materials used and also those that worked away at all the very physical jobs that were tackled.

An interesting incident arose during the weekend. One of the jobs on the work to be done list was polishing the brass vases - Mrs Naomi Hughes took on this work, Woo! As she cleaned the two large ones that John Disley had donated to us, she noted that they were engraved to commemorate the death of a soldier in the First World War, Donald Alfred Harnet, who died on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1916 age 23 years. He was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Ltnt in the Buffs. Later research has uncovered that he died at

Guedecourt on the Somme, and is buried at Thiepval, - the research continues. It is nice to know that the vases have come to rest in our church.

Another great leap forward has been made by Mr Eddie Naylor who has completed and published the available Bishops Transcripts for the church, in a substantial booklet form, copies available from HL or at the church. Anyone researching their family history based on Capel will find it an extremely interesting, it is a full of totally unique information and statistics. Many thanks again.

Last year we spoke about pushing on with the publication of Evan's Book. Well we have pushed, hard, and got there! It is wonderful to confirm that the launch of the book will be on Friday evening May 19th at 7 30pm in the New Village Hall Capel Curig. The project has been on the agenda since 2002 (or was it 2001?) and the great leap forward was an anonymous donation of £1000. We then had a number of other fund raising events & by last year had pushed the total up to £2500. Our claim to Gift Aid triggered the move to go ahead. All the way though we have had 110% support from Llyr Griffiths and Robin Gwyndaf, the original authors. The book has been translated, revised with a new introduction and some additional pictures – it will be printed in full colour - we are having printed 1000 copies of the English version, and additional to the original proposal, we are printing 500 of the original welsh version, revised. It will sell for £6 95.

We resubmitted an application for grant aid to the CCW (they originally turned us down in 2003!) and they kindly offered the amount we had asked for; this will allow us to reprint in a revised form the original book in welsh. We will have the Evan exhibition in the Hall during that weekend, running over to the Monday. That's all the good news, the other side of the coin is that we now need to sell 1500 copies of the book, something that we hope you will all help us with. Shortly flyers, posters and invites to the launch will be winding their way to you! We will be inserting a flyer in the Snowdonia Society Journal and also the CCW magazine. I have thoughts of other publications in the future, as we are going to end up with a surplus on this project. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions please get in touch.

I guess one of the things that could be said of the church is that it has been the Year of the Churchyard. It all started by having Lady Arabella Ward's grave renovated; we do have a contact who will do this work, if anyone would like similar work done to a relatives grave please get in touch. Various other lesser jobs were done voluntarily and by the working weekend in September it seemed natural to continue the good work. Two bulk bags of grit have been spread on the paths and the poor lawn mower, donated sometime in the past, expired through over-work. (Roy amazingly is at this time delving into the depths of the web to find a replacement engine, and the prospects look rosy.) We are in the middle/advanced stage of planning the Churchyard Trail; a volunteer on this project would be very welcome.

I would like to expand disabled access within the church yard but I suspect the constraints to do this are too great. All this work has led us to produce a Churchyard Policy, I guess something that we should have had before we started, but then a lot of things have evolved in St Julitta's. Copies of this are available from the secretary. The area immediately around the church is now easily mowable; this should mean that it is always kept tidy and accessible.

Phase four has not leapt forward in 2005, probably because all the other things that have interfered. Progress on disabled toilet has been stationary, but it is

not forgotten. We do have the initial plans drawn up, and as again, I said last year the response to our idea so far suggests that it will probably be easier and cheaper to install one on the moon, little has come along to change my mind! But then this will not be a deterrent, perhaps a blue bird is just over the horizon. Another area that I would like to see progress is the replacement of the concrete slab floor by something more in keeping with a 14 century building. Ken continues to form dry stone walls out of the stone that lays about the site. But things are getting more difficult, he is running out of stone, and shortly will be seeking slaves to carry stone from the river to the wall – I know there will be lots of volunteers!

Always high up on our agenda when we are viewing the work achieved is the amount of help that we receive from so many people, truly The Friends of St Julitta's have many, many Friends. One that continually contributes and supports us and to whom we have a great deal to thank for are Plas Y Brenin, our neighbours in Capel Curig; and this year, being their 50<sup>th</sup> year of operation I would like to congratulate them and pay tribute to all they do for us – and of course for the village of Capel Curig. Bryn Roberts, who is services manager at the Brenin, also sits on our committee ensuring that we always have a very close contact with the centre. Many, many thanks to the Director and staff for all that you do for our little church.

Our events diary, put together by Jan, had its ups and downs. The Harp evening was poorly supported but the Guitar evening went down really well. Of course the village Carol evening was a lovely evening; very sadly Ann Roberts, a member of the Friends and daughter in law of Evan Roberts, passed away at this time so the evening was not a jolly affair. Capel Curig now has a posh Village Hall, the old school has been converted largely using Lottery monies. We are very supportive of this and feel that there is room for a great deal of cooperation in bringing social and cultural events to the village. We were able to out reach two of our exhibitions. The Mountaineering Exhibition was shown in Llanrwst in October, and Frances our treasurer, gave a lecture in support of the exhibition in the Alms Houses. The Evan Roberts Exhibition went to Llandudno at the same time, many thanks to Roy for setting both these up. During the season we made a taped recording about our work and the history of the church for Colwyn Link, another interesting involvement. Mrs Pamela Evans, who is a volunteer with Colwyn Link which is a talking newspaper for the blind, came along and made the recording.

In 2006 we hope we again have a number of events which will be well supported. We are this year (June) jointly with the Snowdonia Society presenting the Painters Challenge. The day gives the opportunity for the amateur painter/artist to work with a professional Artist available to help and advice.

My appeal last year for all the Friends to buy 5 tea towels each does not mean that we have now run out; remember how good they are, and what good presents they make and buy some more this year!

Well of course our Exhibition 2006 will figure largely in the things to be done in 2006. This year we are bringing the events together that link the Himalayas to Snowdonia, the provisional title is "**Eryri – The Himalayan Connection**" There seems to be plenty of support from the persons who will feature in it. I have collated all the important dates of happenings in the Himalayas and looked for Welsh connections; I expect that we have a certain amount of material readily available but much more needs to be researched. There were also a number of people in the

Climbers and Alpine Clubs who will have important material. We need to set up some correspondence with the National Library of Wales and the Royal Geographical Society; I expect we will need permission to print pictures from both. Please get in touch if you have anything to contribute.

Clearly the title needs the right content in it to draw people to the church, which should then be provided with an interesting display and a learning experience. The Exhibition will be bilingual and would run from about 29<sup>th</sup> July – 10<sup>th</sup> September (closed on Tuesdays) & 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

At this stage the format of the main display is still open for discussion, and I hope that we will be able to bring the broad outline together shortly. It may be possible to have an ancillary display of memorabilia associated with the mountaineers, perhaps associated pictures / photographs or other items will be brought together. I'm sure we can put together a pictorial display along the lines of previous exhibitions. We will hold a formal opening on 29<sup>th</sup> July at 3 30pm. On the evening we would again wish to promote a lecture at Plas Y Brenin. ***We are sure the exhibition will be a very memorable event for the village of Capel Curig, providing an attraction for both the residents of the area and the tourists that visit the area.***

The Federation of History Societies in Caernarfonshire, to which we are affiliated and Roy is the Chairman, will be holding their AGM on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April in Caernarfon. The programme which includes a talk given by Colonel Peter Crocker of the RWF Museum and includes a visit to the Museum sounds extremely interesting, details from Roy 01745 591676.

I trust that you feel that things have gone well in the last twelve months. I have been lax in circulating information, and will try harder in 2006 to keep you all informed of progress. But of course a good way to find out what is happening is to get involved! Hope to see you at the A.G.M. or one of our other functions, there are many more things that I could report on for you to read, the build up of the social history of the village being one of them. But please feel that this is YOUR group, we are relaxed, friendly, in it for the fun, and would so much like to see more of you, and by adopting hands on position you will learn all that is happening! I do look forward to the AGM and chatting about our project please come along if you can find some time!

Finally sincere thanks to the officers and the committee for their loyalty and outstanding contributions.

**Very best wishes**

Harvey 30 03 06

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Yn gweithio i achub Eglwys leiaf Eryri  
Working to Save Snowdonia's Smallest Church

