

CYFEILLION EGLWYS SANTES JULITTA FRIENDS OF ST JULITTA'S CHURCH

Rhif Elusen Cofrestredig/Registered Charity Number 1068756

ANNUAL REPORT 2008 & FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER 15 NEWSLETTER

Dear All,

How sad it is to have to report that Rod Hughes passed away peacefully on Thursday February 28th. In the end it was quite sudden (he and his family were being extremely positive and brave about the diagnosis), and we offer them all the support that we can. The service at Borth y Gest was lovely, the turn-out and the content of the service was a treat to be involved with.

We would not have the Friends of St Julitta's Church that we have today without the fantastic contribution and support that Rod contributed. Bethan, Rods daughter is continuing with her sponsorship project on behalf of 'Beating Bowel Cancer' National Charity. She will be walking the Great Wall, a very big challenge in May 2008 and the details are on the following webpage.

<http://www.justgiving.com/bethanhughes>.

Our Diary of Events flowed very well in 2007, many thanks to Jan for bringing it all together. The highlight, of course being the Exhibition in the summer. This was a 110% effort by those involved and Frances needs a pat on the back for producing the goods in the right place and at the right time. It was a brave move to go "Digital" and the results were worth all the time and worry. The exhibition is on display in the Church over the AGM weekend and later in April in Beddgelert.

Yes the Diary went really well – **the AGM weekend** set the scene. I managed to whip through the business side in under an hour, many thanks for the audience (congregation?) for being so well behaved - and then the Revd Father Clive Hillman entertained us with a very enlightened talk on the Reformation. Someone I know was so impressed that they went home and purchased Glanmor Williams *Renewal & Reformation, Wales 1415 – 1642*, so it was not only I that was impressed! Following lunch we then had some fun catching the train to Dolwyddelan and meeting Clive who gave us a guided tour of the ancient church of Dolwyddelan – and a fine church it is too. After this some of the party, who had the time available, walked back to Capel, following the route that the cleric would have taken when setting out to take a service in Capel; although he may have cheated a little by using a horse. Dinner in the evening rounded the day off in a relaxed way. Many thanks again to Plas y Brenin for providing us with a fine venue to hold the meeting,

On Sunday a gang set to in the churchyard moving things a stage further towards order, but we have a awful lot of stages to pass over before we get to the final curtain! The weather was fine and a good time was had by all – pleasantly bringing to a close another social gathering/occasion that the Friends of St Julitta's thrive on. Many thanks to those that contributed to its success.

The year 2007, has again been the **Year of the Churchyard**. We have been extremely lucky to be able to call on the services of the Snowdonia Society's Clear Up Group under the leadership of Bea Kelsall, who we thank very much for a great deal of hard work. We are even able to look forward to their next visit, on Wednesday 23rd April; please get in touch if you can join them. From our side the dreaded grass has continued to grow (surprise, surprise!) and we have continued to struggle to keep it in its place. The war has not been won, but we have not sounded the retreat either, and we enter 2008 in a better situation than we were in 2007.

One of the real things that put a buzz into putting together an exhibition is meeting so many interesting people, getting their contributions and in effect exploring the unknown. The 2007 exhibition "**Dyffryn Mymbyr – a Portrait of a Valley**" was a very special one in these respects. I must declare that in my ignorance I thought the valley from Plas y Brenin to the Pen y Gwryd Hotel was a very dull valley (despite owning Hafod y Gwynt it had not been my idea that we chose it as a subject); as I saw it a flat wasteland with little to offer the historian, a part of Snowdonia that in the past writers have generally swept through, and to go on to eagerly describe the wonders of Snowdon, a few miles up the road. But then we did have the evocative depiction of the Dyffryn Mymbyr farm in Thomas Firbank's 1930s classic book 'I Bought a Mountain'. Other than this, very little was published about the valley; our investigation led to the fact that there certainly was much more to Dyffryn Mymbyr than famous view along the valley towards the Snowdon Horseshoe. Frances and the team involved did an excellent job in expanding on this research, done many areas; research on the prehistory, the early residents, and their lives, together with the ecology and modern times. Many thanks to all again, especially Pierino Algieri for all the time and work involved (all freely given), for providing some wonderful photographs.

As an addition to the exhibition Frances agreed to give an **illustrated talk** on the subject in the Capel Curig village hall in November – as the exhibition had only told a part of the story. This too was a well attended event. The new village hall is an ideal venue for this type of evening, complete with digital projector and all the other fancy gadgetry that lecturers demand these days.

Again we had a lovely evening with **Jonathan Richards on the Classical Guitar** assisted by Charles Lawrie, in August; the support was very respectable, for a change the organiser was not embarrassed by the size of the audience! We look forward to a similar if not better turn-out in 2008.

Of course the **Village Candle-lite Carol evening** was a lovely evening well attended and organised by Peter Smith and his team. On the day The Revd. Clive

Hillman brought the evening together, again an evening to be remembered, thank you very much for the many contributions received.

In September I have a lovely event to report on. For sometime there had been a on-going debate on how we could put in the church a lasting **Memorial to Peter & Esme Kirby**. It was decided that the Esme Kirby Trust would sponsor an eisteddfod type chair, to be constructed by a very close friend of theirs, Mr Brian Pulley. It was a very grand afternoon in September when the presentation took place, what a perfect occasion – how Peter & Esme would have approved! We are extremely grateful to all involved, particularly Brian and Jane from the Pen y Gwryd. It is a fine memorial to two people that gave a great deal to both Capel Curig and Snowdonia and it is a fitting memorial to their life which was so involved in the area. We have placed it to the left of the altar, were it looks very well – I'm sure all the Friends and visitors to the church will approve.

The Churchyard Trail has moved on! Mike Cousins & Eileen Evans drafted out a initial plan and this has now been developed into a full colour 16 page booklet that will be launched on Sunday 6th April at 2pm. Yes the Churchyard Trail is the currant Good News. I am always surprised how much is involved in a comparatively small project. When I first thought of the idea, probably in about 2001, it seemed as though it could be literally planned and drawn up on the back of a cigarette packet. Let me assure everyone that in this case it was a fairly huge packet! But we have made it, perhaps with a few more grey hairs, but I do hope that everyone gives it full support, there is even a children's version; copies are available price £2 20 post free from the address at the end of this report. Our first edition is in English a Welsh edition will be published in August.

I know it's a daft statement to try to recruit a **Society Secretary** through an Annual Report, but as we need one, and I guess that when things get desperate, anything is worth trying! Yes we do need one – it could be said that someone has made a statement of interest; but I would not be unhappy if we had a list of candidates! Added to this we could do with a little (LOT!) membership growth, which in the real world means that we need a Membership Secretary too! I await the applications!

This year at the end of May – early June we are taking another major leap into the unknown. You will note from the Diary of Events that we are putting on an **Art Exhibition** – which again sounds like the back of a cigarette packet job but is again going to need a huge cigarette packet! We have applied for a grant to provide display materials; I wait with some anxiousness for the results of the application.(Good news £400 awarded early April).

I guess that most will know that this years 2008 summer exhibition will be titled **“The Quarries and Mines of Capel Curig”**; features that are not often associated with the village in our modern society but did provide employment for the local population for over 150 years. The group of 5 slate quarries, hidden away on the slopes of Moel Siabod are dominated by Rhos Quarry. Rhos employed up to 50 men and worked for over 100 years, closing eventually in the 1950's will provide the main subject matter. The exhibition will aim to bring to life varied

aspects of how the working environment changed over the years when the “industrial revolution” came to Capel Curig. Its geology, natural history, people, religion and art all will be examined, together with the effects on the environment at that time. The Exhibition will be opened by Dr Michael Lewis, a very prominent industrial archaeologist who will deliver a lecture in the evening at Plas y Brenin entitled “Monuments of the Slate Industry”.

I suppose I should not write that we have not made much impression on further renovation of the church – but I think that at present it does sit in its churchyard looking happy with itself – not as 10 years ago when sadness was the name of the game. We have still many challenges to go at, setting up the Art Exhibition, a storage unit, future floor replacement, the provision of a Toilet etc etc etc!

Evan’s Book has continued to sell; it is nice to report that we now have a return for the investment that we put into publishing the book. We still have lots of Tea Towels, why not push the boat out and send in an order. I am not sure whether Ken Smith will agree that it is good news that the National Trust have generously donated a further supply of stone, (Thank you Elfin!) but I am sure this will lead to a move to build stone walls where there are none at present will shortly take place.

Yes the in-tray is very full; in fact it has had a major overflow! The reams of material that were with me last year have grown. Family social history of Capel Curig is a huge field to get into. But I trust that you feel that things have gone well in the last twelve months and I thank all members for their support. I have again been lax in circulating information but please feel that this is YOUR group, we are relaxed, friendly, in it for the fun, perhaps to learn, contribute, 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 04 04 08

**YN GWEITHIO I ACHUB EGLWYS LEIAF ERYRI
WORKING TO SAVE SNOWDONIA'S SMALLEST CHURCH**