



Cymdeithas Treftadaeth Dyffryn Conwy

Conwy Valley Civic Society

Mis Medi/September

Editorial

This summer I can let summer go without a backward glance, thankful that our lane is still more or less intact and the stream, though frequently a raging torrent, has not actually flooded. The garden looks soggy and dejected apart from the phloxes. Why do they in particular like the storms I wonder? But, as I've said before I love September, and the New Year feel I always get at this time of year. So I shall sign up, yet again, for Welsh classes and, in anticipation of a bright new season of lectures for the Society, I am giving this Newsletter a new look.

Anne Ffowcs Williams

Good bye to the Gaches

We all hope Rosemary and Mike Gache will be very happy in their new home in Oswestry but we are certainly going to miss them both enormously. And not just in the Society. They have both done so much for the community as well that they will be much missed in many local areas. When I asked Nick Hamer his reaction to the Gaches move his initial remark was confusing. 'Mike? Oh, he's rubbish!' What Nick was actually talking about was the great work

Mike did on the local re-cycling project some years ago. This culminated in the publication of that remarkable book, 'Recyclopedia'. James Greenhalgh commented on an aspect of the Gaches for which I, as a Welsh learner, have enormous respect. He told me: 'Mike and Rosemary's greatest achievement in Wales has been not only to learn Welsh but to progress from learning to teaching the language. They have also done much good work for the Welsh language newspaper 'The Pentan'. Mike has also served on the CVCS committee, was Chairman for two years and a Vice Chairman for a further six years. In addition he was also helped Isoline with the programme, as well as entertaining us with his slide lectures of his walks along the Pilgrims' Ways in France and Spain.

Summer Outing

Another great evening on the good ship 'Queen Victoria' on August 9th. Thanks to new legislation the boat is no longer licensed to sell alcohol but that mattered not a wit since it turned out we were all a Birthday Party. Lesley Hughes was celebrating her birthday and Idris most generously brought along several bottles of champagne. There

was also a very large (and delicious) birthday cake. The rest of the catering was provided by The White House in Conwy to a high standard. The cruise took us out to the end of the Estuary, around the Marina and then up river until we stopped for supper. I hope our obvious enjoyment of the evening was thanks enough for Dilys Glynne who had organized the trip for us.

September Meeting

The programme for the new season is enclosed with this newsletter and I hope you will go through it marking all the dates at least until January. Most diaries go that far. However, I would like to draw your attention to this month's meeting in Eagles Hotel, Llanrwst. Tuesday, 18th September, 2007 at 7.30
"Roman Roads"

The speaker at will be David Hopewell. We make no apologies for going so far back in time because anything about the Romans does seem to appeal to members. And most of us spend a lot of time in our cars on roads. David's talk should certainly give us something to think about as we sit in traffic jams.

October Meeting

Paul Kay will lecture on The North Wales Landscape in Rowen Memorial Hall on Tuesday, 16th October.

SNOWDONIA

After the AGM and a brief but refreshing interval for wine and soft drinks generously provided by our President, members were treated to a visual and aural treat provided by Alan Pritchard, National Park Warden based at Ogwen. His opening shot, of the Park's Land Rover standing in several inches of snow in the middle of the as alongside Llyn Ogwen, could (with the exquisite Snowdon lily) well become a historic image, as global warming drastically reduces the amount and depth of snow and ice. (I was reminded of a visit to Ogwen from Bangor in the winter of, I think, 1939 or 1940, when my father threw a sizable stone down on to the ice to test its thickness: it was the stone which shattered.)

Alun Pritchard's talk and slides clearly showed the incomparable and priceless beauty of Snowdonia, and also the threats which it faces from the pressure of thousands of cars (parked nose to tail in the snow and ice on both sides of the AS at Ogwen, and also snaking down to the Llanberris Pass) and of tens of thousands of feet - the shot of people, mostly dressed in shorts and trainers, queuing on Crib Goch, will long stay in my memory, as my recollections of that particular route up Y Wyddfa are of having it almost to myself and, if you met

anyone else on the Carneddau, you thought it was crowded.

It seemed a bit incongruous to bring in stone by helicopter to repair the footpaths but, if you think about it, it is far less damaging than yomping it in on foot or by ATV. I wonder if the lads on their motor bikes took to heart the Warden's request to take their noisy and destructive machines elsewhere, or whether his words would have carried more weight if, like his American ranger counterpart, he had had a large hat and a revolver or two at his belt.

Thank you, Alan, for a delightful and challenging presentation.

Dylys Glynnne