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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of *The Link* was designed by Jill Sweet (JS Typesetting Ltd., Porthcawl) and printed by Sarah & Ashley Ward of Y Stiwdio Brint, Lampeter.

### IMAGES

The covers and double centrefold for this Spring, 2023 issue feature images of people and scenes taken by various alumni at the Lampeter Society's bicentenary Reunion held 22<sup>nd</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> July, 2022. They have been edited by our Photo Editor, Adrian Gaunt (1966).

#### *Front cover*

A panoramic shot of Lloyd Thomas Hall, Arts Block and the University's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary banner taken by Richard Haslam (1994).

#### *Back cover*

Photograph taken by Richard Haslam of the front exit of Old Building, flanked by stained glass panels produced at the University's Architectural Glass Centre in Swansea. The hummingbird panel was produced by glass artist Rodney Bender and the one depicting John the Baptist is in a style that was typical of the early 1960s – though, unfortunately, there is no name attributed to this work. The panel was an examination piece for the National Diploma in Design, which would have been submitted to the Royal College of Art for marking. My thanks to Nicky Hammond for obtaining the information on the stained-glass panels.

#### *Double centrefold*

A selection of images from the Lampeter Society's 2022 Reunion taken by Bill Fillery (1969), Richard Haslam, John Jennings (2006), Mark Thombs (1995), and Esther Weller (1999). On the fifth side is the group photo (courtesy of Richard Haslam) opposite recollections of the event by two of our alumni.

### PRIVACY POLICY OF *THE LINK*

1. Throughout, dates in brackets after names indicate year(s) of graduation. **Please note that it is our policy to include this/these after an individual's name and if anyone does not wish this to be indicated, then please let us know.**
2. As this magazine has a very limited circulation, the Editorial team will assume that everyone is agreeable to the publication of images in which they appear. **If any member of the University, past or present, does not agree with this, please let the Editor know as quickly as possible.**

### *EXPLICANDA*

1. In addition to its plural sense, the pronoun "they" is used throughout 'to refer to a person of unspecified sex' rather than "he or she" and similar forms. Even though not universally accepted, this usage dates back to 'at least the 16th century'. Then, in the late 20th century, it again became common 'as the traditional use of "he" to refer to a person of either sex came under scrutiny on the grounds of sexism' (*Oxford Dictionary of English*, 2nd edition, revised, 2005, p.1832). Moreover, it seems to be a usage that befits the current gender-sensitive times.
2. Wherever there is a gloss by the editor, it appears simply as '– Ed.'

# EDITORIAL

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Welcome to this, the Spring, 2023 issue of *The Link*, which has fewer pages than our bicentenary bumper one but especially noteworthy for all the fabulous photos it contains of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the University – some 140 all together, selected and edited from a pool of over 720 images by our very exceptional Photo Editor, Adrian Gaunt. I am sure you will join me in giving him a huge vote of thanks!

The principal feature of this edition is the special double centrefold with images from and reflections on the 2022 Lampeter Society Reunion that took place last July, when an incredible 210 members attended. Altogether, 61 amazing photos are shown of the people and places across the University campus and town involved in this special celebration, taken by alumni. This collage evokes the fun we all had and the atmosphere and nostalgia that we were privileged to soak up over this glorious long weekend!

Also featured are reports of other bicentenary events, in particular the commemoration of the laying of the University Foundation Stone, the Cardiff Reunion and the Commemorative Rugby Weekend.

You may also be interested in some old prints and photos of St David's College Lampeter, shown in the "Memorabilia" section of the magazine.

In the next, Summer 2023, issue we hope to feature more articles on Lampeter Town, Alumni Updates (this time in the field of Welsh / Welsh Studies) and a new instalment of our popular "Love at Lampeter" series.

Finally, I would like to announce that we plan to carry out an in-depth review of *The Link* magazine (with regard to its purpose, content, layout, style and mode of delivery) to ensure that it is fit for purpose and reflects the views and opinions of you, the readers. We shall in part draw on the very useful feedback you gave us in the "Link Evaluation" review forms at the last AGM of the Lampeter Society held in July, 2022.

I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2023!

**Brendan McSharry (1971)**  
[Brendan.mcsharry2@gmail.com](mailto:Brendan.mcsharry2@gmail.com)



200th Anniversary wine at the 2022 Reunion Dinner.  
Photograph by John Jennings (2006)

# CHAIR'S REPORT

Welcome to the Spring, 2023 edition of *The Link*.

This last year has been an extremely busy one for the Lampeter Society, as we worked with the University to commemorate the bicentenary of the founding of St. David's College. With dinners and concerts, two Cathedral services, poems, a specially commissioned beer, a talk by the great-great-great grandson of one of our founders, a heritage rugby match, and two published books, it's been an eventful time! We hope that there has been something for everyone to enjoy and celebrate.

Our annual summer Reunion was our key event, with 200 alumni gathering in Lampeter for a wonderful, emotional, extended weekend. It was really lovely to see so many new faces and to celebrate our 200<sup>th</sup> birthday with friends who share the bond that only studying in a place as special as Lampeter can develop. I'd like to thank everyone who helped to make the event so successful and a big 'thank you' to Sir Mark and Lady Harford who travelled to Lampeter to be our distinguished guests for the Reunion Dinner.

The celebrations ended at the beginning of December when the very first rugby game to be played in Wales was celebrated and marked by a fantastic weekend of events. Following a training session on the site of the very first game to be played in Wales and a dinner at which the renowned Selwyn Walters – former mayor of Lampeter and author of *The Fighting Parsons* – was an honoured guest, the commemorations centred around a heritage game between St David's College Lampeter Alumni and Llandovery College Alumni. I won't reveal who the victorious team was; I'll leave that to Ieuan Davies in his report on pages 25–28! Thank you, Ieuan, for making all the arrangements for the weekend; it was certainly one which will be remembered for a long time!

Our online shop is proving very popular. As well as our old favourites, it is home to both of our books published in 2022: *Eight Decades of Lampeter Voices* and Nicholas Groves's re-published *The Academic Robes of Saint David's College, Lampeter 1822 – 1971*. The former is a compilation of nearly 200 anecdotes from eight decades of life at the University in Lampeter and will hopefully become a wonderfully rich piece of Lampeter history. We held a superb Showcase for it at the Reunion, where we heard from several contributors to the volume. I think I speak for everyone who attended when I say that listening to Canon Ron Lloyd, one of our oldest graduates, talk about his time at the College, starting back in 1949, was a moment we were privileged to experience. Thank you so much, Ron, for returning for the Reunion and speaking to us so tenderly about your time in Lampeter. I don't think I was alone in shedding a tear or two listening to the testimonies and memories from all four speakers. Thank you to everyone who contributed both to the Showcase and the book itself. If you haven't yet bought a copy, I thoroughly recommend it – it's a fascinating read!

I wanted to update everyone on our Bursary Scheme. Unfortunately, we weren't able to give a bursary to anyone from the University's Social Inclusion project this year due to the knock-on effects of the pandemic. However, we have enough money in the fund to provide two bursaries so we will roll them over to 2023, when we should be able to identify some suitable candidates. Thank you so much to everybody who continues to support the fund, either directly or through our ever-popular "200 Club". The fund will stay open permanently so any contributions will always be gratefully received, and, as always, the registration form to join the "200 Club" can be found at the back of this edition of *The Link*.

Thanks to everyone who responded to my post on Facebook asking for suggestions about what our priority activities should be for 2023. At our business meeting in October, the Committee decided on two – the "Lampeter Advocacy" project and work on strengthening our relations with the town. The former will build on our proposed "200 Schools" project, which we had to shelve owing to the pandemic. We held an initial open meeting at the beginning of December to discuss it and will meet again in the New Year. We may be biased (*what, us?! – Ed.*) but we think there is no better place to study than the rural, quiet and close environment on offer. Julie Ann Thomason writes more on the aims of the project on page 20 of this edition of *The Link*.

If you would like to get involved or find out more about either of our projects, we'd love to hear from you. And of course, our annual Reunion will be one of the highlights of next year. We are very pleased that our guest of honour for the Reunion Dinner will be former Deputy Assistant Attorney General at the US Department of Justice, and constitutional lawyer, Professor Jeff Powell (1975). Jeff kindly ran a session for us in our series of virtual book-reading sessions earlier in 2022 and it was great to hear about his professional life in law and academia – a journey which began in the Theology Department at Lampeter!

We are also delighted that Dr. Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, has accepted our invitation to lead our annual Commemoration Service on the Saturday morning. The long-awaited Intergenerational Games will also be returning in 2023! It would be lovely to see some new faces, as well as Reunion regulars, next **14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July**. Once again, bookings can only be made and paid for online. We have included the programme and menu choices in

this edition for information only. The electronic link to make a booking will be circulated to all via email soon, and can also be found on page 49 of this issue.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Committee for their hard work in this bicentenary year, and in particular, Chris Deacy who stepped down from his role as Vice-Chair at the AGM in July. He was a huge support to all aspects of the Society and was a most respected member of the Committee;

his insights and experience were invaluable. Thank you, Chris.

I'd like to give a warm welcome to our new Vice-Chair, John Jennings. We are delighted that he has joined us. John has set up an *Instagram* account for the Lampeter Society (*lampetersoc*) so keep an eye out for that. You can read more from him and his vision for the Society on page 46.

If you would like more information about anything mentioned in this

issue of *The Link*, or would like to comment or make a more formal contribution to a future edition, do get in touch – we should love to hear from you!

*Cofion gorau,*  
Best wishes,  
Esther

**Esther Weller**  
**Chair, Lampeter Society**

[estherb16@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:estherb16@yahoo.co.uk)



“Still Life” – an image taken by Richard Haslam at the Food Fair during the Lampeter Reunion in July, 2022

# MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY

## AN UPDATE FROM THE PROVOST

The University's bicentenary celebrations have taken centre stage this year with particular highlights being the service at St David's Cathedral in May; the Lampeter Society Reunion in July; the procession through the town of Lampeter on 12<sup>th</sup> August – to commemorate the laying of the foundation stone; the unveiling of a peace bell on campus; and an Honorary Degree Ceremony in the presence of the University's Royal Patron, the then-HRH Prince of Wales. These events have been supplemented by regular professorial lectures held in the Founders' Library and the Old Hall along with various exhibitions in the library and online.

Other events included a gala concert at Lampeter's Arts Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> November followed a week later by a celebration of the historic contribution of St David's College to rugby in Wales, organised by the alumni of the Lampeter Campus and the Lampeter Society. Altogether it has been a very rewarding year, with the focus very much on celebrating the University's foundation as well as on its continued mission of transforming education and lives.

Earlier this year the University was delighted to welcome 37 students from St Vincent and the Grenadines to the Lampeter Campus. The students will be with us for three years and have brought so much joy and positivity to the campus. Their Prime Minister, the Honourable Dr Ralph Gonsalves, visited the campus in late September, when he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Law by the University at a special ceremony in the Old Hall. The students celebrated their islands' Independence Day on 27<sup>th</sup> October at a formal dinner hosted by the University at Lloyd Thomas Hall. In addition, we were pleased to welcome

postgraduate students from Ukraine who have received a bursary from the University to study the MA in Global Citizenship and Sustainable Leadership; one of the students is from Alfred Nobel University in Dnipro, a collaborative partner of the University.

"Canolfan Tir Glas" [*the new Food and Rural Enterprise Academy – Ed*] – the University's sustainability-focussed initiative at Lampeter – continues to gain momentum. An external grant of £0.5m has enabled the University to appoint four new members of staff as well as external consultants who will shortly deliver feasibility reports on the future development of new academic provision in Lampeter in areas such as food leadership, food security, rural enterprise and the development of low-carbon buildings with a focus on the use of home-grown timber. The University is also working with Ceredigion County Council to establish a community food hub in the town that will link closely with the proposed Wales Academy of Contemporary Food, which forms part of a recently submitted multi-million-pound application to the Mid Wales Growth Deal.

The Lampeter Campus is also re-establishing itself as a destination of choice for national conferences following the recent pandemic. The Aspen UK Leadership Seminar was held on the campus recently as was the Wales Real Food and Farming Conference on 23<sup>rd</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> November. A Town and Gown Christmas Fayre was held on campus this year on 10<sup>th</sup> December, an event that reinforces the excellent working relationship between the University and Lampeter Town Council.

Recruitment continues to be challenging within the context of undergraduate Humanities

programmes across the country and it is therefore not surprising that Lampeter also feels the impact. However, staff are working extremely hard, with the support of the student body, to promote the special and unique merits of this magnificent campus. A new marketing and student recruitment strategy includes the engagement of a media agency who are delivering a highly-targeted campaign to reach school-leavers across the UK. In addition, our student recruitment team is visiting fairs and recruitment events across the country, capturing contact details of prospective students and following up with invitations to our campus-based open days, taster days and experience weekends. In addition, the iHumanities initiative and postgraduate programmes continue to recruit well and academic members of staff have been successful in applying for significant research funding – such as The Digital Islam project funded through UK Research and Innovation and the €1.95 million "Portalis" project, a new cross-border, transdisciplinary pilot project that will explore the earliest connection between Ireland and Wales. In addition, new academic appointments have also been made recently in the areas of Modern History, Global Justice Studies, Ancient Chinese Literature and Business, and Islamic Studies.

Finally, may I thank you, the Lampeter alumni, for your backing throughout this very important year for the Lampeter Campus and I would particularly like to thank Esther Weller for her support during the bicentenary celebrations. I look forward to continuing our work with the Lampeter Society and wider alumni.

**Gwilym Dyfri Jones**  
November, 2022

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## From Llywela V. Harris (daughter of the late Professor Harris)

I write to send congratulations to you all on the excellent Bicentenary Edition of *The Link*. The Lampeter Society is kind enough to accept me as an Hon. Member, as was also my late sister, Elizabeth Rokkan, courtesy of my father, The Revd W. H. Harris, Professor of Welsh and Precentor of the College Chapel; St David's College was our home until his death in 1956.

What a splendid publication – I have read it from cover to cover, and was delighted to read in the “History of the Lampeter Society” article that my father was one of the three Lampeter graduates on the staff responsible for the drawing up of the constitution of the Society in 1936, which was then adopted in 1937, the year he was made a Canon of St Davids Cathedral, so marking our first visit “in residence” – and the rest is history.

It was such a pleasure and a privilege to attend the Bicentenary Celebration Service in the Cathedral in May, and I look forward to hearing more about the special bicentennial publications during the Cathedral Library's Week in October.

## From John Alan Paine (1962)

I had forgotten a book which I bought second-hand some years ago – *Welsh Country Upbringing* by D. Parry Jones (1912), published by Batsford in 1948. The author was born at the end of the 19th century and came to Lampeter, I would guess, around 1910–15. I have scanned a few pages from chapter 23 called “I enter college” – with photographs of the Old Building and of the chapel, and an engraving of the College by J G Smith c.1840. [*We will publish Jones's fascinating account of College life in the Summer, 2023 edition of The Link – Ed.*]

## JOIN OUR NEW “200 CLUB” YEAR! – 2023

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Our “200 Club” continues to grow, with cash prizes given out monthly! Each time, half of the proceeds are awarded to one lucky winner and half go to the Lampeter Society bursary scheme. Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Further information, including the registration form, can be found on pages x–xi of this edition of *The Link*.

**Thank you.**

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## THE LAMPETER SOCIETY – FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1/10/22–30/11/22

This is a brief summary of activity on our main account in the above period:

<b>Opening Balance</b> at 1/10/22	£2394.58	
<i>Income:</i>		
Donations	£530.00	
Payment for extra <i>Link</i> copies	£25.00	
Merchandise sold	£369.96	
Transfer from “200 Club”	£30.00	+£954.96
<i>Expenditure:</i>		
200 Club Prize	£30.00	–£30.00
<b>Closing Balance</b>	£3319.54	

### Notes to Financial Statement:

We received one generous donation in this period in addition to some annual standing orders. The merchandise income relates to sales through the UWTSD online shop.

**Andrew Leach (1977)**



Front of OB up the steps. Photograph by Mark Thombs (1995)

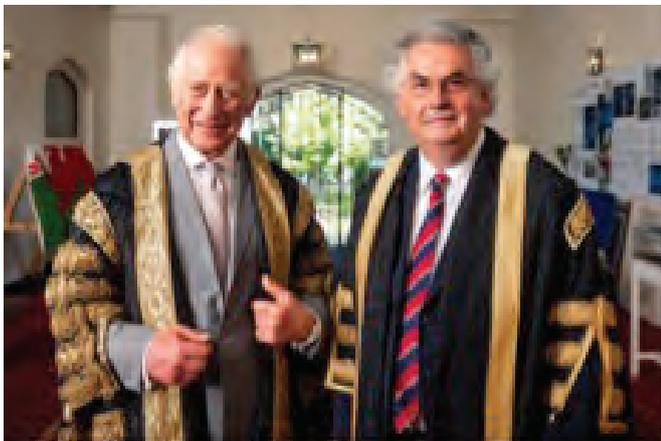
## SPOTLIGHT ON THE LAMPETER CAMPUS

[Except where indicated, items are based on press releases submitted by Arwel Lloyd, Principal PR and Communications Officer, University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD hereinafter), and the images are taken from them too – Ed.]

### UNIVERSITY NEWS ON NEW PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

#### ► ROYAL PATRON MARKS THE UNIVERSITY'S BICENTENARY

The UWTSD was delighted to welcome His Royal Highness, the then-Prince of Wales, now His Majesty King Charles III, to confer honorary degrees at a ceremony held at its Lampeter campus on Thursday, 7th July, 2022.



Prince Charles and Dr Medwin Hughes, DL, in the cloisters before the honorary degree award ceremony

During the visit, the Prince of Wales conferred honorary degrees upon four individuals for their outstanding contribution to their fields of expertise. Honorary doctorates were conferred on:

- Emma Jane Bolam, in recognition of her significant contribution to medical innovation and the production of the AstraZeneca vaccine
- Lord Griffiths of Burry Port, in recognition of a lifetime achievement of public service and of being an advocate for social inclusion and reform
- Ned Thomas, in recognition of his outstanding service to the promotion of the Welsh language and culture and enhancing the status and development of minority languages in Europe
- Patrick Holden, CBE, in recognition of his pioneering leadership in sustainable food production and organic farming.

In welcoming His Royal Highness to the University, Professor Medwin Hughes, DL, Vice-Chancellor, said:

*We were honoured to welcome His Royal Highness to the Lampeter campus to mark the University's bicentenary and to confer honorary degrees on four individuals who have shown outstanding and transformational leadership in their fields. The Prince has been a keen supporter of the University as Chancellor and Royal Patron who has also shown transformation leadership himself through his advocacy for environmental and social harmony. We are grateful to him for his continued patronage.*

During the event, students at the University's Wales Academy of Voice and Dramatic Arts performed a suite from *Gorau Awen Gwirionedd*, composed by Eilir Owen Griffiths with lyrics by Dr Grahame Davies. The work was commissioned by Professor Medwin Hughes, DL, Vice-Chancellor, to celebrate the University's bicentenary, which marks the establishment of St David's College in 1822. A special volume of the work, printed on 1954 handmade paper by the Gregynog Press, was presented to His Royal Highness by the Vice-Chancellor.



Thanksgiving service in the Chapel

His Royal Highness also had the opportunity to meet local school teachers, Caryl Davies and Heini Thomas from Ysgol y Dderi, Jan Jones of Ysgol Llanilar, Heulyn Roderick from Ysgol Bro Pedr, and Anwen Griffiths of Ysgol Gynradd Aberteifi, all of whom have been delivering a Harmony project which puts nature and sustainability at the heart of learning. This was devised by Richard Dunn and translated into Welsh as part of the University's "Canolfan Tir Glas" [the new Food and Rural Enterprise Academy – Ed.] initiative.

He also met with Cenio Elwin Lewis, the High Commissioner of St Vincent and the Grenadines, and



**Prince Charles meets with scholarship students from St Vincent and the Grenadines**

students from those Commonwealth islands who have received a scholarship to study at the University.

In addition, during his visit he met with Mr Mark Sawyer, a staff member and a heritage craftsman who made two plaques to be unveiled by The Prince of Wales during his visit. The first was to mark the refurbishment of the University Quadrangle through the generosity of The Venerable Master Chin Kung, and the second to commemorate the University's bicentenary.

### ► A SERVICE AND PROCESSION IN LAMPETER TO CELEBRATE 200 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN WALES



**The unveiling of the bicentenary memorial by the Bishop of St David's, The Right Revd Dr Joanna Penberthy, and Jeremy Miles, MS, Welsh Government Minister for Education & the Welsh Language – courtesy of the University's press office.**

The University held a service and procession to celebrate two hundred years of higher education in Wales on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2022.

The celebrations began with a service at St Peter's Church, Lampeter, followed by a procession through the town. The day marked exactly 200 years since the foundation stone for St David's College, Lampeter, was laid by

Bishop Thomas Burgess. Professor Medwin Hughes, DL, Vice-Chancellor, said:

*The service and the procession were a very special opportunity to celebrate the bicentenary. It was our pleasure to welcome amongst our guests for this joyous occasion Jeremy Miles, MS, Minister for Education and the Welsh Language, and the Bishop of St Davids, The Right Revd Dr Joanna Penberthy. The Bicentenary marks two centuries of continued higher education opportunities for the people of Wales and celebrates the contribution of our universities and colleges to that story.*

The service was led by The Revd Dr Emma Whittick, chaplain of the University in Lampeter, and the sermon was delivered by The Right Revd Dr Joanna Penberthy, Bishop of St Davids.

Following the service, and matching the proceedings in 1822, a procession travelled from the Church along the streets of Lampeter to the University Campus. There, a memorial was unveiled by the Bishop of St Davids and Jeremy Miles MS, Welsh Government Minister for Education and the Welsh Language. The Minister then opened the Gallery containing an exhibition of the history of the Lampeter campus including the original foundation stone.



**Thanksgiving service at St Peter's Church, Lampeter**

The Peace Bell was rung 20 times. This bell was commissioned by the University as a symbolic reinforcement of the commitment made 200 years ago to support the study of world religions and to mark how the University has, over the years, developed as an international centre for interfaith and intercultural dialogue. The bell is the only one of its kind in Wales and marks the University's commitment to the Welsh Government's values articulated in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015).

During the day, the book entitled *Treasures: Special Collections of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David*, edited by Professor John Morgan-Guy, was launched. It was commissioned by Professor Medwin Hughes as part of the bicentenary celebrations. It is fully illustrated



The procession progressing through Lampeter, taken by David Payne (1998)

and contains a selection of the many thousands of works held in the Roderic Bowen Library and Archive on the Lampeter campus. The Special Collections include over 35,000 printed works, 8 medieval manuscripts, around 100 post-medieval manuscripts, and 69 incunabula. These were mainly received through the generous donations of many benefactors, including Bishop Thomas Burgess. *Treasures* contains short essays by scholars whose knowledge and appreciation of the books in the Special Collections, which span over seven hundred years, is second to none and reveals the richness of what was once known as “the greatest little library in Wales”.

### ► THE PRIME MINISTER OF ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES VISITS THE LAMPETER CAMPUS

The University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) was delighted to welcome The Honourable Dr Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, to its campus in Lampeter.



The Vice Chancellor congratulates the Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines on his Honorary Doctor of Law, in the Founders' Library

During his visit, Dr Gonsalves was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Law at a special ceremony held on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September. He also met students from the Caribbean islands who have received a scholarship to study at the University. The scholarship scheme was agreed by Dr Ralph Gonsalves and Professor Medwin Hughes, DL, Vice-Chancellor of the University, as a result of discussions with His Majesty King Charles III (then HRH The Prince of Wales, the University's Royal Patron), following the volcanic eruption on St Vincent in April, 2021.

The 37 students are based at the Lampeter campus and are studying a range of programmes identified by their government as being beneficial to the future development of their country. These include History, International Development & Global Politics, as well as Early Childhood Education, Quantity Surveying and Civil Engineering.

Professor Medwin Hughes said:

*I'm delighted to welcome the Dr Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, to the University to be conferred an Honorary Doctor of Law.*

*This is his first visit to the University since we launched the scholarship scheme which provides opportunities for students to study programmes that will help build capacity and infrastructure in the islands following the volcanic eruption in 2021. Dr Gonsalves is a visionary leader and is a strong voice for his country on a global stage. He is a passionate advocate for sustainable development, prosperity, peace, and security. We are honoured to welcome him to the University and to Wales.*

In his address to the congregation, Gwilym Dyfri Jones, Provost of the Lampeter and Carmarthen campuses, said:

*It is my great honour and privilege to present Dr Ralph Gonsalves to receive the degree of Doctor of Law.*

*It has been quite a week for Dr Gonsalves. On Saturday he addressed the 77th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York and today, he is here in Lampeter in the heart of Wales.*

*During his address to the General Assembly, Dr Gonsalves emphasised that St Vincent and the Grenadines is committed to reconditioning the traditional narratives on security by bringing to the fore the particular vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States. As such, the islands continue to work tirelessly towards addressing the unique plight of such states, especially as it relates to the nuanced and unprecedented challenges posed by climate change.*

He concluded his address by emphasising the importance of continued partnership between all nations to ‘take care of yesterday’s heritage, to accommodate and reasonably



The Prime Minister and the students of St Vincent and the Grenadines, courtesy of the University press office.

address today's interests, and to pursue effectively, in peace and security, tomorrow's hopes.'

On receiving his award, Dr Gonsalves said:

*I want to thank the University of Wales Trinity Saint David and King Charles for their kindness and their generosity. The highest form of solidarity is he or she who gives from the little they possess, and you have given from your University a great deal from the little you possess.*

*The students, from all the reports, are all doing very well, and I'm very proud of them. I have confidence in them, and I'm pleased that they are excellent ambassadors for St Vincent and the Grenadines. These students will return home at the conclusion of their studies and will contribute further to the country's development.*

*This is a very touching moment for me, but this is just not about me because whatever we have accomplished, it's been accomplished in communion with our people, and this honour belongs to them – I am simply the medium of their extraordinary achievements especially in the field of education.*



The Prime Minister with members of the University Council in the OB quadrangle

Before departing Wales, Dr Gonsalves visited y Senedd where he met with Julie James, MS, Minister for Climate Change and Vaughan Gething, MS, Minister for Economy.

## ► NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AND ASPEN UK

The University is delighted to announce a new partnership with Aspen Institute UK [an independent charity supporting and inspiring leaders – Ed.]. The new association means Aspen UK will host its world-renowned leadership seminars at the University's Lampeter campus for the next three years.



Trademark of the new partnership between Aspen UK and UWTS D

These Seminars bring together leaders from across geographical and generational spectrums, and from across the corporate, political, creative, academic, and third sectors, to discuss, reflect, and debate. [The third sector, which includes charities, social enterprises and voluntary & community groups, is so called as it is neither the public sector nor private sector – Ed.] The seminars encourage leaders to address their own ideas and values, and to explore effective solutions to pressing social issues.

On formalising the partnership, Aspen UK CEO Penny Richards said:

*We're so delighted to be bringing our Aspen UK seminars to the University of Wales Trinity Saint David and to Lampeter. We strive to represent the whole of the UK in all we do – with our speakers, participants, fellows and partners, and this new relationship in Wales is a great manifestation of that. We know we will learn a lot from the University and from everyone connected with this partnership.*

The first seminar took place 13<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> October, 2022. As well as the formal seminar sessions, participants from across Wales and the whole of the UK enjoyed a programme of cultural events to showcase the best that Lampeter has to offer, curated by the University.

Gwilym Dyfri Jones, Provost of the University's Lampeter and Carmarthen campuses said:

*The University looks forward to working with Aspen UK and to hosting their world-renowned leadership seminars. We are delighted that Aspen UK has chosen to come to our Lampeter campus which will enable participants to benefit from the excellent teaching and learning facilities, as well as the unique campus environment. Lampeter is a very special place, and it is wonderful to welcome new students to the campus during our bicentenary year.*

## CONFERENCES

Dr Rowan Williams, Baron Williams of Oystermouth, former Archbishop of Canterbury, addressed delegates as the keynote speaker at this year's Alister Hardy Religious Experience Research Centre (RERC).



Dr Rowan Williams and Dr Medwin Hughes with RERC staff presenters during the conference

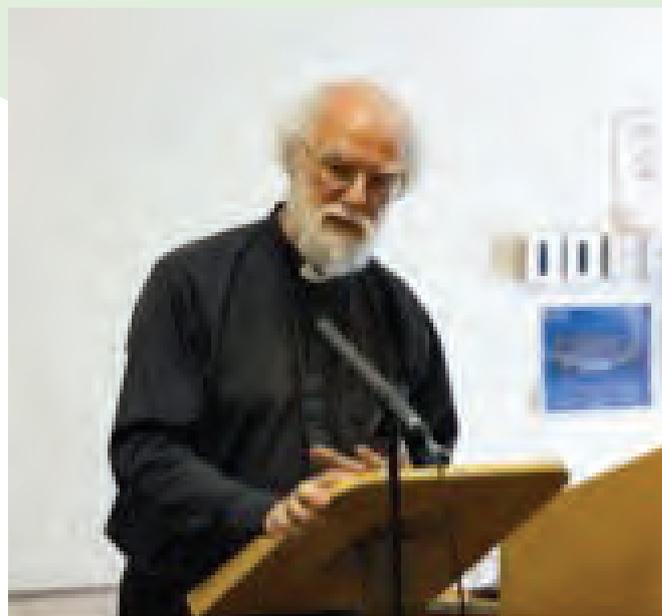
Supported by the Alister Hardy Trust and The Learned Society of Wales, this year's hybrid conference was entitled "Mystical Experiences: Past and Present" and was held at the University's Cliff Tucker Theatre, Lampeter. Up to 60 people attended the event in person with 50–90 people joining online at various points during the day.

Professor Bettina Schmidt, Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the RERC, said:

*We were delighted to welcome Dr Rowan Williams as our keynote speaker this year. He spoke about the important mystic Julian of Norwich and added a fascinating insight from his own unique perspective. He is one of the patrons of the Alister Hardy Trust and a great supporter.*

*The conference looked at mystical experiences in the past and present, and from different perspectives. In addition to a reflection of medieval mystics such as Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe, the conference looked at the way people with mystical experience are treated in a clinical context today. We also discussed the complexity of mystical experience during COVID-19. It really was a fascinating conference and discussion.*

The Alister Hardy Religious Experience Research Centre, sponsored by the Alister Hardy Trust, houses an archive



Archbishop Emeritus Dr Rowan Williams delivers his keynote address

with over 6,000 accounts of people from across the world who have had a spiritual or religious experience in church settings as well as in nature. Founded by Sir Alister Hardy in 1969 at Manchester College, Oxford, the RERC transferred to UWTSD's Lampeter campus in July, 2000. The Centre's aim is to study contemporary accounts of religious or spiritual experiences. Professor Bettina Schmidt, added:

*Fifty years ago – in 1969 – Hardy invited scholars to Oxford to discuss whether a scientific approach to the study of religious and spiritual experience was possible. Following this first symposium, he founded the Religious Experience Research Centre. Now, half a century on, academics continue to engage with the study of spiritual and religious experience, albeit with greater urgency in the context of progressive secularisation.*

Sir Alister Hardy was a renowned scientist and approached the complex field of religious and spiritual experiences in the same disciplined and scientific manner way as he approached natural science. Asking people to send him accounts of first-hand experiences with spiritual or religious powers, he established the RERC that has ever since been at the forefront of the academic study of religious experiences.

The Centre's members' research interests include health and spirituality; spiritual apprenticeships; religious notions of body and selfhood; mediumship and possession; cross-cultural approaches to near-death experiences; and shamanism. Their approaches vary from anthropology to religious studies and psychotherapy.

The Centre also publishes an online, open-access, peer-reviewed journal entitled *The Journal for the Study of Religious Experience* as well as offering an MRes in Religious Experience at the University.

## ► UNIVERSITY HOSTS THE 2022 WALES REAL FOOD & FARMING CONFERENCE AT LAMPETER

The Cynhadledd Gwir Fwyd a Ffermio Cymru – Wales Real Food and Farming Conference (WRFFC) – was established to explore sustainable food and farming, bringing together farmers and other food businesses, environmentalists and people involved in public health, food education, food sovereignty, and social justice.

The conference aims to open conversations and take positive steps about the future of food in our country, mapping out a sustainable 21st century food system for Wales and how we might begin to build it.

Inspired by the Oxford Real Farming Conference, the first Wales Real Food & Farming Conference was held at Aberystwyth in 2019, and this year the conference was held at the Lampeter campus 23<sup>rd</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> November. Organisers have been working with the University's new initiative project, "Canolfan Tir Glas", which is pioneering a new relationship between the University, the community and the food and farming sectors. The conference therefore is exploring how a new vision for food and society can be realised through local action.

A series of workshops and sessions took place on the first two days of the conference, and on the final day there was an opportunity to visit local projects in the area. Radio 4 Presenter Sheila Dillon took part as well as S4C's *Ffermio* presenter, Alun Elidyr, and Jon Gower, Patrick Holden and Carwyn Graves. Sessions were held on the new Sustainable Farming Scheme, school meals, local food partnerships, agroforestry, soil health, education, food poverty, entrepreneurship, and access to land.

[S4C, Sianel Pedwar Cymru, (Channel Four Wales), is a Welsh language free-to-air public broadcast television channel. Launched on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1982, it was the first one to be aimed specifically at a Welsh-speaking audience – Ed.]

Conference organiser Jane Powell said:

*These are challenging times, and so there is all the more reason to come together and share what we know. Food and farming are fundamental to our society, and we have a huge opportunity here to create an inspiring vision for our future. After two years online, we're thrilled to be running an event in person, and in Lampeter.*

Simon Wright, the University's Director of Food and Rural Economy adds:

*It's appropriate that the 2022 WRFFC is taking place in Lampeter, at the University's campus, as it continues to mark two hundred years as the birthplace of Higher Education in Wales.*

*I've been helping the University formulate its ideas around "Canolfan Tir Glas" and in particular the establishment of a new school of food (Academy of Contemporary Food Wales).*

*There is an imperative for action and this is going to be very much a case of building the road as we travel upon it. We need to consult, we need to plan, and we need to be strategic, but at the same time we want to start delivering and making a real difference on the ground, and this conference provided more detail on what that activity will look like and how it will evolve.*

The conference was sponsored by the University's "Canolfan Tir Glas", Organic Farmers & Growers CIC, Hybu Cig Cymru, Natural Resources Wales, Coed Cadw Woodland Trust, Garden Organic, Food Sense Wales, Soil Association Certification, and the Nature Friendly Farming Network.

Roger Kerr, Chief Executive of organic certifiers, Organic Farmers & Growers, said:

*We are very pleased to support the Wales Real Food and Farming Conference. As we face the current challenges, it is critical that we offer greater clarity to people about how the choices they make through the food products they buy can bring a positive contribution to help fight climate change and stop biodiversity loss. These are increasingly important considerations alongside the very real need to provide local food to the people of Wales.*

*Only by working collaboratively across Wales can we ensure the continued resilience and strength of the Welsh farming sector, while delivering a much more robust and sustainable food system.*

## RESEARCH UPDATE

### ► EXPERTS TO ASSESS DIGITAL IMPACT ON MUSLIM LIVES

Experts, including the University's Professor Gary Bunt, will seek to build a clearer picture of the way online platforms are affecting traditional structures within Islam across the continent.

Led by the Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World at the University of Edinburgh, the study team has been awarded almost €1.4million by the Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe (CHANSE) consortium to focus on the way digital technology is shaping European Muslims' views on a range of faith-related issues.

Researchers say that while digital platforms have strengthened ties among Europe's Muslim communities, this has widened inter-generational differences within



Shahjalal Jamia Masjid, Leeds (photo: G. Bunt)

these groups. Digital natives are, for instance, more likely than older generations to value YouTube as a source of Islamic knowledge over the local mosque or other traditional sites of religious learning.

The research team wants to deepen understanding of the creation, use and influence of so-called Online Islamic Environments (OIEs) in European contexts. The project will investigate the characteristics of contemporary OIEs and their effect on the social and religious practices of different Muslim populations in Europe.

The team will also examine how the Muslim populations in five countries – Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the UK – use digital platforms to share advice on issues related to Islam. They will explore how OIEs shape individual behaviours and beliefs in different national settings and how they interact with Muslim networks, policy makers and third sector organisations.

Professor Gary R. Bunt is a Co-Investigator for the “Digital Islam Across Europe” project, working specifically on aspects of UK Muslim online expression and its relationship across European contexts. This is alongside his other work on researching cyber-Islamic environments, including as Principal Investigator of the ESRC-funded “Digital British Islam” project. The CHANSE project includes the forthcoming appointment of a Post-Doctoral Researcher to be based at UWTSd. Professor Bunt is looking forward to working with the rest of the team. He commented:

*I'm delighted to be working with colleagues across the UK and Europe on this significant research project, which opens up new understandings of Muslim societies in diverse European contexts, especially in terms of their digital networking and utilisation. The project draws on aspects of my existing research on cyber-Islam, and it is good to see how this is being extended through granulated studies by academic partners in Poland, Spain, Sweden, Lithuania and the UK.*

## UPDATE: THE RODERIC BOWEN LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Well we've made it! This past year has been fun, exciting, challenging and certainly memorable. The bicentenary has raised the profile of the Special Collections and Archives, both within the University and with the wider public. Looking back, there are so many high points: we hosted a fascinating and varied series of lectures; completed our “200 Voices” biographical project; and mounted a great many exhibitions. The highlight of the year was the official launch at St Davids Cathedral of our book *Treasures* (available from all good bookshops!) We would like to thank everyone who participated in our events and helped to make it a wonderful year.



Professor John Morgan-Guy and Special Collections Librarian, Ruth Gooding, signing copies of *Treasures* at St Davids Cathedral. Photo by Aled Llywelyn

But we are not finished yet...We have produced a Special Collections 2023 calendar and some beautiful Christmas (2022) cards which are available via the online shop, where we will soon be selling printed volumes of our “200 Voices” biographies <https://shop.uwtsd.ac.uk/product-category/lampeter-campus/>

So what about next year (2023)? We will be starting a Special Collections & Archives blog written by ourselves and by guest bloggers. The first planned blogs include “The Dons in their Digs”, “Thomas Jefferys and the West-India atlas”, and “Rag Days at UWTSd”, so watch this space! We will also be taking part in an exciting collaborative exhibition on Gerald of Wales later in the year [*Gerald of Wales (c.1146–c.1223) was a Cambro-Norman priest and historian – Ed.*].

The library has invested in two museum-quality display cases for the Lampeter campus, which will enable us to show a wider range of items from the Special Collections and archives. The first planned display in these will be an exhibition written by Professor John Morgan-Guy about Principal Llewellyn Bebb and the college's Welsh library.

To celebrate Women's History Month in March we have two exhibitions planned. One will be on Hester Thrale Piozzi, a Welsh born diarist, patron of the arts and an invaluable source for Samuel Johnson and eighteenth-century English society. The second will explore the previously neglected early female supporters of, and subscribers to, St David's College.

Other planned exhibitions include George Edwards and *A natural history of uncommon birds*; the works of the famous surgeon Ambrose Parey; the French naval officer and explorer La Pérouse; the sporting history of St David's College; and the Welsh hydrographer Lewis Morris.

During this year we have been lucky enough to have several wonderful volunteers who have carried out research and helped with cataloguing. With their assistance, a scrapbook in the archives has been catalogued, revealing a treasure trove of ephemera including posters, menus, advertisements and music scores! Their help has also advanced the research into the College School, and we are hoping to be able to mount an exhibition in 2024. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Richard Morton for supplying the archives with photographs of the School, which had been sadly lacking. Volunteers are also engaged with a fascinating project researching the servants and domestic staff employed by St David's and Trinity Colleges.

We have had some wonderful donations and shared memories over the past year. These include a collection of student photographs from the 1950s; a charming watercolour of Canterbury Building by the English landscape artist Thomas Clough [1867–1943 – *Ed.*], donated by Llywela Harris; and a collection of *The Gownsmen* from Bill Fillery. Also, from Bill Gibson, a lovely framed lithograph of St David's College by J.D. Harding (which will soon be hanging in the Reading Room); a blind copy of a portrait of Bishop Burgess; a drawing and plan of St David's College by Charles Cockerell from the Royal Collection Trust; a drawing by John Scandrett Harford (below); and, most recently, a superb signed photograph of Principal Bebb [*Principal of SDC 1898–1915 – Ed.*]. I would also like to thank John Andrew (1984) for sharing some fascinating recollections from the 1980s.



View of the Temple of Neptune and the Basilica at Paestum – 1817 etching by John Scandrett Harford

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to ask that if anyone has squirreled away any copies of *The Gownsmen* or any other photographs or ephemera, particularly from the 1970s – 1990s that they no longer want, we would be very happy to find a new home for them.

Many thanks.

**Nicky Hammond (2009, 2011)**  
**UWTSD Lampeter Campus Archivist**

## ALUMNI UPDATES

Following on from the very successful Graduate Updates from Archaeology, we recently put out a call for former Classical Studies and Ancient History students at Lampeter to tell us what they have been up to in the years since graduating. Many of them have drawn on their degree in the careers they have gone on to pursue.

The alumni that follow, all of whom graduated in their undergraduate degrees in the early 1990s, have been inspired by their time at Lampeter – where the influence and inspiration of the late Keith Hopwood looms large – and have built on their degrees in various ways in the years since.

We will be issuing invitations to graduates from all of Lampeter's subjects and programmes for future editions of *The Link* and look forward to hearing from you if you want to be included. The next subject area to be featured in the Summer, 2023 edition will be **WELSH / WELSH STUDIES**.

We are keen to hear about what made your time at SDC, or SDUC, or UWL, or UWTSD so special and memorable. What stands out in your memory? Who were the lecturers who most inspired or influenced you? How did the skills you learned equip you (or not!) for what you have subsequently gone on to do in your lives?

**Dr Chris Deacy (1994, 1996, 1999)**  
**Reader & Head of Religious Studies Department,**  
**University of Kent**

## LYN(ETTE) BAILEY (1989–92)

I went to Lampeter in 1989 to study joint honours Classical Studies and Archaeology. After my first year I decided I wanted to continue with Ancient Greek and switched to Single Honours Classical Studies, graduating with a first in 1992. I was in the era when the Classics department was chaired by Geoffrey Eatough and included Tony Brothers, Keith Hopwood, Nigel Spivey and a semi-retired Ian Barton. I loved the course, especially Roman Religion and Greek and Roman Architecture, both taught by Tony Brothers. The Augustus course by Spivey gave me a lifelong interest in the Emperor. In my time there the department moved to the Bryn. It seemed a very long walk when going

to find out what degree result we had been awarded, as it was posted on the notice board there first.

I lived in Lloyd Thomas in my first year and OB in my final year. In my second year I was out on Llanfair Road in a house just past the Chapel. I was glad of the shortcut across the fields by the chapel to the campus for those 9am Friday lectures with Tony Brothers. He always seemed to notice if you weren't there!

I loved my time at Lampeter and studying Classics. I still have the chess board with the pieces representing Greek gods and goddesses, which I bought with the money from the Classics prize I was awarded. Memorable events included the Classics Society parties, although I have never been able to drink ouzo after that. I remember our Archaeology field trip in the first year. I was upset that I didn't get on the Dolaucothi Gold mine trip at the time but the weather was so bad when they went that it was mostly flooded out and I did visit it again a few years after on a return visit to Lampeter. Instead, I remember us climbing up to an Iron Age fort where it was so windy we couldn't hear a word the lecturer said, and visiting a stone circle which was so small it wasn't even viewable over the hedge! And then there was the field trip to Oxford to see the casts at the Ashmolean Museum for the Iconology of Art course. It was a long way but seemed worth it at the time even if we were then given pictures on the way back to comment on as exam revision practice!

I followed my degree with a Masters in Librarianship up the road in Aberystwyth. After that, I landed a job in an academic library in Northampton and then moved to a couple of Cambridge college libraries. In 2002 I was appointed as the Librarian at the Faculty of Classics Library, University of Cambridge, a place where I could combine my first degree and my librarianship. I must be enjoying it as I am still here 20 years later. I get to attend talks and deal with resources linked to the history and culture of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds, which still fascinate me. I also met Nigel Spivey again, as he moved here after his three years teaching at Lampeter.



Lyn Bailey at her graduation with Anthony Hopkins in 1992



Lyn Bailey climbing a fence on the Lampeter Campus

Keith Hopwood also popped in to say 'hello' when he was here on a research visit, trying as usual to finish his PhD. I was surprised he remembered me although he was unforgettable. I would say that I remember very little of my Ancient Greek now but it is useful to be able to recognise the letters of the alphabet and transliterate them for the catalogue records. So my degree is still getting some use!

## DAMON TRINGHAM (1992–97)

I studied Joint Honours Classics/Ancient History for my BA at Lampeter 1989–1992. I chose Lampeter because of its countryside location, old buildings and excellent Dark Ages courses. I loved that period so I was somewhat disappointed when, just as I could choose my courses for my second year, the lecturer who taught them retired and that type of course didn't return until after I was into my research degree.

I skipped the MA level and went straight to an MPhil, which was a challenge in terms of length of text! I had Keith Hopwood as my tutor, and he was excellent. We would spend many an hour ruminating about the ancient world – and modern Turkey! I finally submitted my thesis in the summer of 1997 – I recall typing my final corrections in his office at about two in the morning... with Keith sleeping on the floor amongst his towers of papers!

I then spent a month in Rome with an Aberystwyth project categorising photos before training for a TEFL qualification in Brighton for a few weeks, after which I flew to Finland – all in the same summer! I had never been as productive before – nor have I since.

I am now a university teacher at the University of Turku in the English Department of the School of Languages and Translation Studies. I teach mostly courses in translation but I have one large, compulsory course called "The Making of the Anglophone World" that covers more than 2,500 years (mostly c.500 BCE to c.1950) in 12 classes (plus set individual work).



Damon Tringham (on the far left) listening to Keith Hopwood giving a farewell reading performance in the Castle Green pub in May, 1996

Naturally, my Classics/Ancient History background is brilliant for the first 1500 years, my History courses help with the mediaeval and 19<sup>th</sup> century periods, but the rest is all me and my predecessor!

I began at the department in 2001 and got the position made permanent in 2007. As a bonus, it was an English lecturer in my department who recommended my now wife to go to Lampeter all those years ago – and I took over “The Making of the Anglophone World” when he retired.

I speak Finnish, manage a bit of Swedish (though I read it moderately well) and have two excellent, bilingual kids. I wouldn't mind having enough money for a summer cottage by the sea, but that's still some way off – and one has to have a dream, right?

Overall, life is good.

## SUSAN DEACY (1991–2001)

I guess I'm a curious case – I started with no formal background in Classics but I did have a love for myth and a route into ancient texts via RE at A-Level, which was really a Biblical Studies A-Level!

I picked Lampeter because I wanted to study English and Theology in a place where I could study some Classics too, and where there was a Myth course. There were very few places that fitted what I wanted – the best fit was Lampeter, especially as I was already intrigued by the place from studying Welsh history – and when I found out that one could actually still go there...

There were some formative moments in Classics classes including feeling totally at sea in early lectures that assumed some knowledge I did not have. I was at sea until I realised that being at sea I could float about quite happily in Lecture Room 4 when Keith Hopwood was giving the most extraordinary lectures I have ever been in – on Greek tragedy – and I was transported. There it all was: myth, religion, gender, drama, history, culture, etc.



Susan Deacy at Conti's Café in 1988 or 1989

He went all over the place – I still have the copy of the set texts I frantically annotated as he ranged across the plays. Anyway, I switched to Classics/Theology, which gave me an opportunity to do a connected degree basically in classical topics as my Theology modules were Classics cross-listed/ inter-departmental courses or New Testament modules. Fast forward and I stayed on – I didn't feel ready to move on; I loved the place in that lovely valley. I studied for an MPhil then converted that into a PhD when I discovered such a thing was possible.



Susan Deacy on her PhD graduation day with Keith Hopwood in 2001

I then started teaching – and my first lecture was in the room where Keith Hopwood had changed my life several years before that. Among the other lectures I gave was on Greek Homosexuality in the newly-opened Cliff Tucker lecture theatre [*named after Clifford Lewis Tucker (1934) – who was an industrialist, magistrate, campaigner for gay rights and benefactor to the University – Ed.*]. I realised literally just yesterday how appropriate that venue was. At the time there was an embarrassment about the CT and I didn't know why. There's more to find out... Anyway – what more to say? There was, I now realise, a lot of “neurodivergent” people attracted to Lampeter. I've very much kept in touch including as External Examiner (very weird being in that role in the place where one once studied) and I'm currently External Examiner for the Classics programme revalidations. I'm a Classicist, now a Professor Emerita plus Visiting Professor of Classics at Bristol, and Hon Fellow in Ancient History at Leicester. The place I worked for 18 years, Roehampton, is the place most like Lampeter outside Lampeter.

It was a curious, intense, exhausting place to be. I'm shocked at just how many people I was there with have gone on to become academics. My dream would be to be back in Lampeter, sitting before daydream windows in the library, and writing about classical myth and autism (what I do now chiefly) with coffee in Conti's... I'm also interested in 18th and 19th century classical receptions, as pioneered by Cockerell [*Architect Charles Robert Cockerell 1788–1863 – Ed.*]. It only dawned on me recently that the OB which I love was designed and built by him [*in 1827 – Ed.*]. I'd also love to research classical themes in the books in the Founders' Library – a totally missed opportunity not to have even looked at these while I lived there...

## GREG MUSSON (1998–2001)

During my time at Lampeter (1998–2001), I was beyond lucky to study Ancient History and Archaeology, with particular concentration on Ancient Rome. Before arriving, I had always enjoyed the subject but university enabled me to pursue it further. I never planned to use my university degree as a direct route into work – it was always just for the love of the subject. However, since leaving I have found ways of using my knowledge to enrich other people's interests in the topic.

On two separate occasions I have presented a talk on “Roman Gardens” to two local gardening clubs, combining elements of both literary and archaeological evidence. I was able to provide an overview of how gardens functioned in a variety of settings, both rural and urban, supplying an insight for a wider audience.

One particularly memorable occasion was on a cruise to the Holy Land. Our last stop was Naples, and a small group of us opted for a short trip to Pompeii. I, in a crazy moment, offered a walking tour of sorts if anyone was interested. With my knowledge gleaned from Uni and previous visits, I was able to give a three-hour tour and

managed not to lose a single person. Some considered this a miracle considering no maps of the site were available!

## LAMPETER TOWN

### CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND PRIORITIES FOR LAMPETER

Like many other towns and communities, the townsfolk of Lampeter are facing challenges this winter. We rely more than ever on the work of volunteers and those who offer support to others. We are fortunate in Lampeter to have an abundance of community-led initiatives and people who are willing to go that extra mile to help others. Charities such as the Food Bank and Family Centre remain busy and provide vital services to our community. Also, we have a new County Councillor – Ann Bowen-Morgan, who is a Lampeter resident and a fellow Town Councillor. Ann is working hard to deliver on her manifesto which includes reduced parking fees for the town and finding opportunities to improve businesses and work opportunities for our young people in particular.

The relationship between ‘Town and Gown’ continues to grow through events such as the University of Wales Trinity St. David and Town Council Christmas Fayre that took place on 10<sup>th</sup> December. A new “*Cwtch Cynnes*”



Lampeter High Street in June, 2021, by Bill Fillery (1969)

(“Warm Welcome Spaces”) project is being launched in November by the University as a place to be used by the public on the Lampeter campus.

As a Town Council we have been blessed to share the hospitality of students from St Vincent & the Grenadines and the Academy of Sinology in recent months. Lampeter has very much welcomed them into the town, along with several Ukrainian and Syrian families who are making Lampeter their home.

A priority for Lampeter Town Council must be to continue working with other initiatives, organisations and businesses. Workshops took place this November

and will do also in February, 2023, to look at “Branding and Identity” for Lampeter, to expand on our Place Plan [*Lampeter Place Plan 2019 – Ed.*] we have been working on, and forge ideas for a long term and sustainable future for the town. Thanks to local authority and external funding we are now able to take forward the first stages of a project to develop Lampeter Town free Wi-Fi, and we are at a consultation phase for development of a pump track for bikes and skateboarding. Along with our beautiful walks and scenery, I still feel lucky to call it home despite difficulties that being in a rural area can often present.

**Helen Thomas (1996)**  
**Maer y Dre/Mayor**



## 2023 BURSARY FUNDRAISING APPEAL

We're pleased to say that we have exceeded our target of raising £3,000. We will thus be offering a £1,500 bursary to two future students from the University's social inclusion project to start in September, 2023. More details will follow as soon as we have them, but a huge 'thank you' to everyone who has made this possible. We'll be continuing to offer the Lampeter Society bursary on an annual basis so the fundraising link will remain open.

Once again, thank you to everyone who has donated and helped to achieve our bicentenary fundraising goal.

If you would like to support our appeal, please donate at  
University of Wales Trinity Saint David – Donate now  
([cafonline.org](https://cafonline.org))

[www.uwtsd.ac.uk/alumni/lampeter-alumni/donate-now/](https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/alumni/lampeter-alumni/donate-now/)

Thank you!

# REPORTS – YEAR GROUP REUNIONS AND OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS, 2022/2023

## REVIEWS OF THE VIRTUAL BOOK-READING TALKS JUNE – AUGUST, 2022

### JUNE – “CREATIVE POETRY WORKSHOP: LAMPETER MOMENTS AND MEMORIES” – JULIE ANN THOMASON (1981)

A small group of us participated in a very interactive creative poetry workshop, skilfully led by Julie Ann Thomason. It was a magical experience in which we got to write our own poems, some of us for the first time, using our memories of Lampeter College days as a starting point.



The flyer for Julie's talk

We began by introducing ourselves and chatting a bit about our time at Lampeter and afterwards, which led us nicely to some stimulating guided memory activities that Julie facilitated superbly. This allowed us to capture a moment in the past and express it in word sounds that rhymed and carried rhythm, creating meaning and connecting us to our bodily sense of self, rather like simple Buddhist chants.

We were asked to think of our early days at Lampeter and to choose a place that had impacted us: room in Halls, the Hall itself, OB, library, lecture hall – wherever. It didn't matter if memory was hazy initially. In a sense we were recalling what the famous poet Seamus Heaney described

as a 'country of the mind': a mid-world between oneself and the places one has visited or lived in. This inner landscape lives in imagination and when recalled evokes an emotional as well as a visual response.'

Julie then invited us to answer a series of questions (though we didn't have to answer them all), as follows:

1. *What was the first thing you saw when you entered this place? How does it make you feel or think about?*
2. *What time of day is it and what does this mean to you?*
3. *You become aware of an object, man-made or natural. What is it? What does it remind you of? What colour is it?*
4. *What can you see or hear in the distance?*
5. *Can you smell anything? If so, what is it?*
6. *There is something that doesn't belong – what is it?*
7. *You see yourself in a mirror – what is your expression?*
8. *What are you wearing? What are you holding in your hands, if anything?*
9. *If you were a painter, what three colours would you choose to paint the scene?*
10. *What single detail do you think is most interesting / has stuck with you?*
11. *If there is a window, look out – what can you see?*
12. *It's 9 am – what are you doing? It is 12 noon – what are you doing? It's midnight – what are you doing?*

In the process of answering these questions, we compiled a list of words which we eventually shaped into poems. Below are some of our offerings:

#### From Julie

(The list of my Word hoard that I compiled at the workshop:

Rolling hills, sheep, greens, greys, battlements, paths and slopes, subsidence, slips, fabrics, wanderings, slate roofs, tiles, mirages of medieval knights, arches, whispers of OB, cooking, brewing, feelings, destiny, layers of memory, cacophony of chatting like twigs floating through the wind, hills of secrets, guided by the compass of memory, steam sliding, ancient secret mirrors, brothers and sisters of birds and trees, misty sky, winter cold, visiting day, memories, sadness and stillness visiting day, emptiness, a false window into yesterday, silent cohort of memories, mood of the landscape. Escape of the day, interludes of soft sun, community memory, power of the place, symbols of identity that inhabit, each place has a memory, touchstones of identity, written in water, soul of wind and spirit)

## **Moments and Memories**

*Layers of memory, linger and leak  
Cruising towards place of heart  
Centre of spirit and soul  
Arrival feels like home*

*Chill bitter winds slice through  
Interludes of gentle sunshine  
Clearing memory  
Stillness birthing sadness*

*Mirage of medieval knight  
Trots under archway  
Vanishes into fountain  
Set in square*

*Symbols of identity  
Once thronged with  
chatter like twigs  
Fleeing in the wind*

*Weaving wandering up steps  
Down slopes searching for sense  
At slipstream pace  
A sudden surprise a sighting*

*Integrated into landscape  
The collective of friends  
Creates sibling like sensation  
Forming forever bond*

*A window on yesterday  
Whispers scuttling words recalled  
Cacophony of chaos calmed by  
Rain haze and power of place*

### **From Anna Somerset (1986, 2013, 2015)**

***Dreaming of the land of the Demetae*** (the tribe who lived in West Wales thousands of years ago)

*Ejected from parental expectations  
To a private kingdom, land of the Demetae,  
where the pocket-sized sun  
shone my hair Goddess-gold.*

*Wondering, lounging long enough  
on the castle mound,  
that flanked y coleg  
could I tame dragons or sleeping knights?*

*Or magically attract the young men in my sight.  
Adonae, or Adonises in togas?  
now saved for posterity  
by my snapping hands*

*I'd like to snap them back  
for the sheets to billow  
for the pillow to be tossed  
for the man I held a torch for,  
not to be lost.*

## **From Brendan McSharry (1971)**

### ***Last days at Lampeter***

*I have graduated just  
and now return lonely to Garth House  
No more music or uncertain movement  
The lady vanishes and a quiet American calls me in my  
dreams*

*I count the 39 Steps to a new moment  
but cannot write reams*

After this fun and very motivating activity, we then talked about other poetry activities that could be done; about writing different kinds of poetry using varying rhymes, rhythms, meters and sounds; and how daunting the whole process could be at the beginning for some of us! Julie recommended the book *On Poetry* by Glyn Maxwell (2016), as an excellent guide to the writing of poetry and a defence of the art. It can help us understand why and how poetic technique matters.

Julie referred to her formative years in Spain, where she lived for 23 years, and to her recently published book, *The Possibilities of Pebbles: Poems on the Japanese Tea Ceremony*. She also talked about her poetry and personal development workshops that she runs in Edinburgh.

Anna, too, is a published poet (see her work in *St Christopher's Book of Poems*) and filmmaker.

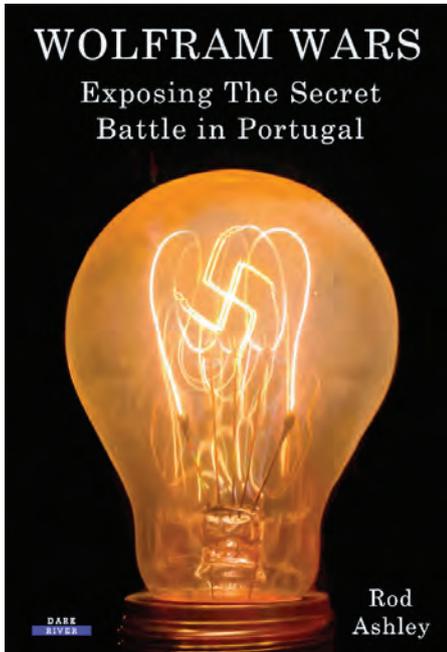
We look forward to a follow-up poetry workshop from Julie and other alumni poets in this series of Lampeter Society virtual book-reading talks. This creative poetry workshop was engaging and built up our confidence to produce poetry to describe landscapes and memories.

**Brendan McSharry (1971)**

## **JULY – “WOLFRAM WARS: EXPOSING THE SECRET BATTLE IN PORTUGAL” – ROD ASHLEY (1974)**

Last July, we were treated to a virtual book reading session by alumnus Rod Ashley who based his talk on his 2016 book, *Wolfram Wars: Exposing the Secret Battle in Portugal*. Through his presentation we learnt of the role Wolfram – also known as Tungsten – played in World War Two, and more specifically the role that Portugal played in the Wolfram trade during the conflict.

From Rod we learnt early on of the role of tungsten in general, including as the filaments in traditional light bulbs, the metal used in drill bits, mobile phones, ice skate blades and dart tips, as well as generally in electronics. In World War Two, Wolfram was in great demand on both sides due to the hardwearing nature of the metal. It was used in the armour of shells and bullets, armour plating and rocket



The flyer for Rod's talk

jet nozzles, some of which landed on London. (Wolfram is still used in rockets today – no other substance has been found to be as strong or durable.) The search for Wolfram, however, was not a good-natured one; both sides engaged in sabotage in order to secure supplies.

Between 1940 and 1944, Portugal became the key location in which Wolfram was mined. Prior to this, the element had generally come from China, Russia and Australia. However, everything changed with the outbreak of World War Two. The rise of fascism had led to a change in European politics and Germany was re-arming in preparation for war; Wolfram played a key part in ammunition and defence. As it sided with Japan, Germany could no longer obtain any Wolfram from China. In its present neutral state, Portugal became the only source of the metal, supplying both sides of the conflict.

As the war escalated, Wolfram became an almost precious commodity and the 'Wolfram Rush' began. A huge black market was established and espionage in Portugal, Lisbon in particular, became rife. Interestingly, the origins of James Bond came from Fleming's experience of the glamorous Lisbon nightlife around this time. Espionage took a number of different forms such as disguising Wolfram in food, short-weighting, hiding the metal, deceiving fellow miners, and secreting loads by mules through the mountains. Despite creating 'gold rush towns', the wealth brought into the country from the Wolfram trade was not felt by the general population, who were still encouraged to live their traditional way of life in agriculture and based on the Roman Catholic faith.

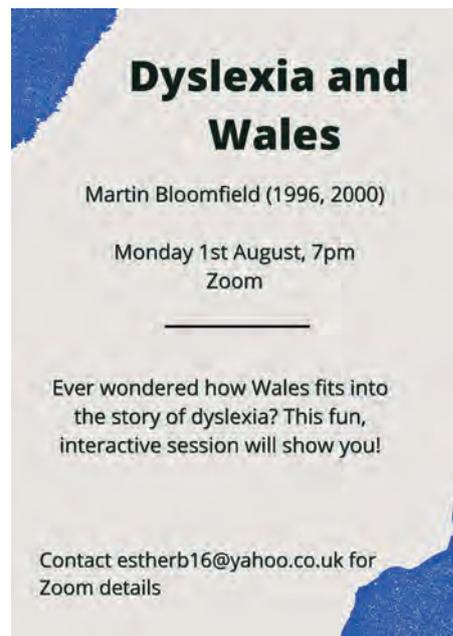
D-Day led to the decay of the thriving Wolfram mining communities and in the years since the Second World War, there has been much international interest in finding out what happened to the gold which had been sent to Portugal

in payment for Wolfram. The country at large, under the dictatorship of Salazar, had not benefitted and today there are thought to be many tons of gold "hidden" in the country as a result of the contentious trade.

Rod gave a fascinating account of this hugely important yet little known aspect of World War Two. A big thank you to him.

Esther Weller (1999)

## AUGUST – “DYSLEXIA AND WALES” – MARTIN BLOOMFIELD (1996, 2000)



The flyer for Martin's talk

In August, alumnus Dr Martin Bloomfield gave a fun, interactive session about “Dyslexia in Wales”. It was helped by the fact that one of our group worked as a professional educator with dyslexic students in Wales and could appreciate the problems they faced at school and the workplace.

Martin began by relating the challenges he faced as a dyslexic both at school and university.

He attended York Minster Song School, before going to a state grammar school that became a comprehensive during his time there. He hated school; although he worked very hard, he remembers his teachers thinking him lazy. He found that he did not comprehend what teachers wanted him to do, in the way they wanted him to do it. Twice he was held back a year. He struggled to get the qualifications he needed for university entrance and had to take an extra A-level at evening classes.

Bloomfield was twenty-two when he became an undergraduate student at St David's University College

to study philosophy. Lampeter's small size meant that Bloomfield was instantly recognizable as "the guy in the black and white shoes," aka "Dodgy Shoes." He was also active in the Fencing Society. Despite the remoteness of the situation, he learned there was a wide world accessible to him. Martin felt better supported in a place like Lampeter and its university college, with its rural environment and small close-knit community. He remembers mingling with international students a great deal there. By the end of his time at Lampeter, he refused to leave, staying there right through the holidays. Academically, he thrived on project and dissertation work that was continuously assessed. However, he still struggled with exams, getting thirds instead of firsts, though he did well enough to be able to stay on at Lampeter to do an MA in Philosophy (1999–2000). It was only towards the end of his time as a student at Lampeter that he was actually diagnosed as dyslexic.

Now, after 20 years in education and business training, Martin is a leading international consultant in business communication and inter-cultural skills development as well as founder-director of *Dyslexia Bytes* – a major dyslexia awareness resource website.

Martin then invited us to reflect on what we associated with dyslexia. We came up with an all-too familiar list, in which some items hold true, though by no means all. Namely, those who are dyslexic tend to:

- be slow at and avoid reading
- have difficulty in spelling
- make syntactic mistakes
- be more fluent in the spoken language
- be reluctant to put pen to paper
- have a feeling of anxiety, shame and low self-esteem
- appear lazy

– though this depends to an extent on the language background and personal circumstances of those with dyslexia. For example, native Welsh speakers who are dyslexic are less disadvantaged as Welsh is more phonetic than English.

What the group associated with dyslexic people accorded with observations from researchers on the subject, Martin said, and during a *PowerPoint* quiz that he gave us on the subject, it was revealed that 33% of the world population is dyslexic, whilst 10% and 20% are in the UK and Wales respectively.

The quiz and the associated research findings also revealed that people with dyslexia have higher analytical and mental techniques than those who are non-dyslexic, but if from a black, Asian or minority ethnic background, they tend to receive less educational support than their white peers. We also learned that many famous people were or are dyslexic, including Henry Ford, Bill Gates and George Washington.

All in all, this was a fun and highly informative session given by Martin, which we all very much appreciated.

**Brendan McSharry (1971)**

## REPORT ON THE CARDIFF REUNION, 9<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

A change of venue for this now well-established and very well-supported biennial event was forced upon us by our regular venue The Park Plaza needing to play Covid catch-up!

It still, largely, escapes me as to how I actually decided upon the current venue of Aberdare Hall, Cardiff. Suffice to say that my right-hand man, Steve Clarke (1978), was in immediate agreement!

The Hall was booked from 10 am until 4 pm... for lunch... on the Saturday – Steve dealt with the entire booking and managed the accounts! A complete contrast to the modernity of The Park Plaza, Aberdare Hall was built in 1893 and I knew, intuitively, that it was going to be a 'big hit'!

A beautiful day, weather-wise, though overshadowed by the very recent death of HM The Queen, was to be spent in this Grade II-listed, Gothic revival building, replete with its own accessible courtyard garden where substantial amounts of 'sherbets' were quaffed, convivially, in the afternoon sun. *[The venue was built as a female-only student hall of residence at Cardiff University and continues to be so up to this day – Ed.]*



**Cardiff reunion attendees waving from the steps outside Aberdare Hall**

Lunch was served in the original refectory, very much on a par with SDUC's Old Hall, which itself once functioned as a refectory, and a record 55 people attended. There were minimal formalities, as ever, but a toast to the late Queen was proposed by Steve, our unpaid and unsuspecting MC for the day!

A minute's silence was then duly observed.



**A grand lunch for Lampeter alumni inside the original Aberdare Hall refectory at Cardiff University, Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> September**

Many of us had gathered in Henry's Café Bar on the Friday afternoon from 4pm onwards expressly to provide a warm welcome for attendees unfamiliar with the traditional 'game plan!'

The same pattern followed at Henry's on the Saturday – the short 'trot' from Aberdare Hall to Henry's, via the elegant Civic Centre of Cardiff, providing a short, but very pleasant diversion.

The French graduates of 1979 joined me in welcoming our former French *assistante*, Laurence Robb, *née* Defrance. This was a major 'coup' as she is a wheelchair user, living with MS and all of its many and complex restrictions on her life.

Laurence met John Robb, Geography department lecturer, 1979/1980 and ...the rest is history! Many, many students remembered Laurence, especially her penchant for clay pipes (not those of the 'drain' variety, I might add!).

I also invited our attendees to pause, briefly, and remember three founding members of our illustrious band: Steffan ap Dafydd (1976, 1991), Gaynor Griffiths *née* Jenkins (1979) and Janet Ball (1978) who had, all three, died since our last gathering in September, 2019.

We remembered, too, Mary Kinoulty (1978) and Ian Pethybridge (1978), who have both had and continue to face huge health challenges; and then we looked forward to the future of many more get-togethers in Cardiff!

Of particular note this time round, was the number of attendees present who had graduated in the early 80s. All blended in totally seamlessly and were terrific fun, to boot.



First timers at the reunion, from the 1980s, from left to right: Roger Wells (1982), John Erian Jones (1982), Colin Wignall (1982), plus 'returner' Simon Gutteridge (1979) with his wife, Kim

Spring, 2024, will tentatively set the scene for our next Cardiff 'bash'! Meanwhile, any enquiries, etc., please email me – [susangandy@hotmail.com](mailto:susangandy@hotmail.com) – and myself and Steve will do our best to help. Everybody is welcome, in the widest sense of the word!

**Susan Gandy (*née* Kearney) (1979)**

## REPORT ON THE LAMPETER SOCIETY TALK, 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER: "SUCH HOODS AS SHALL BE APPROVED": THE ACADEMIC ROBES OF ST. DAVID'S COLLEGE" BY NICHOLAS GROVES

Nick Groves's informative talk in the Old Hall at Lampeter (as he pointed out, the scene of the first degree ceremony in 1853) discussed the three Lampeter hoods – the BD (black, lined purple, edged in white), BA (black, lined and edged in miniver), and the LD (black, edged in white) – and described their origins and uses. Nick has an encyclopaedic knowledge of academic dress so he was able to compare the Lampeter robes with those in existence elsewhere in 1853 (Oxford, Cambridge, Dublin, London and Durham) and showed some fascinating images of Lampeter scholars and graduates from the 1920s. He also showed us the gowns – and especially the unique BD gown which was later adopted by Leeds for its Masters degrees. In a fascinating speculation at the end, Nick suggested how the Lampeter robes might have been developed for the award of the whole range of degrees – one of the great "what-ifs" of Lampeter history. The talk was timed to coincide with the publication of the second and expanded edition of his guide to Lampeter academic dress, which is for sale through the Lampeter campus shop (see <https://shop.uwtsd.ac.uk/product-category/lampeter-campus/>)

**Professor William Gibson (1980, 1983, 2004)**



Nick Groves at his talk in the Old Dining Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2022. Photo taken by Eleri Beynon.

## REPORT – COMMEMORATIVE RUGBY WEEKEND, 2nd – 4th DECEMBER, 2022

*Editor's introduction: The images accompanying this report were taken by Dylan Jones (Clic Productions) and the family of Ieuan Davies (1985).*

After many months of planning and organising, the Old Codgers' bicentenary rugby weekend kicked off in a little village in Carmarthenshire. An unlikely venue you may think. Not at all. Although Caio is small, it is an enormous part of Welsh rugby history, for in 1866 it hosted the very first game of Rugby football played under agreed rules between two unconnected teams – St David's College, Lampeter, and Llandovery College.

It was arranged that the two colleges meet again at Caio on Friday, 2nd December, on the very field where rugby was born in Wales, to play a non-contact friendly to commemorate the momentous occasion back in 1866. The villagers had been extremely busy preparing the village and the pitch with flags, banners and bunting, and as the two squads walked down the road to the playing field, the villagers, supporters and guests who were lining the road, many dressed in Victorian clothing, enthusiastically sang an impromptu rendition of the Welsh National Anthem, which caused many a damp eye and brought a lump to many a throat. Thank you, Caio – the atmosphere was remarkable.

St David's College players dressed as closely as they could to the rugby kit of the period, all wearing long johns and a belt instead of shorts, and a few wearing fake and real moustaches, with one player sporting a deerstalker hat throughout the match and the referee authoritatively wearing a straw boater! Llandovery College played with great skill and were commended for their eagerness to play an open and expansive style of rugby. The result was a tie – four tries apiece with everyone a winner. After the match all who were present adjourned to the Brunant Arms, Caio, where the landlady put on a wonderful Welsh tea. What a way to start the weekend!

That evening, a bicentenary dinner was held at the refectory in St David's College where the alumni were joined by members of Llandovery College staff and players and also members of UWTSO staff, as well as heroes of the golden era of Welsh rugby, Gerald Davies and Roy Bergiers. The after-dinner speaker was local historian and author of *The Fighting Parsons* Selwyn Walters, who gave a wonderful speech on the history of St David's and its contribution to Welsh rugby through the ages. The alumni wish to thank UWTSO for their generosity in hosting the dinner which was followed by an 80s/90s disco in the Students Union bar, where celebrations went on into the night.

Saturday dawned with a promise of good weather and a well-manicured playing surface guaranteed by the groundsmen of Lampeter RFC. The first clash, a titanic struggle between the SDUC Old Codgers and the SDUC Old Boys, kicked off at 12 noon. As is tradition, the Old Codgers ran out to Dafydd Iwan's anthem *Yma o hyd*, with the Old Boys choosing to enter the fray to Thin Lizzy's *The boys are back in town*. Despite a determined and valiant effort, the Old Codgers were well beaten by an impressive Old Boys XV, many of whom were to play in the bicentenary match later on in the day. On this occasion, old age and treachery were no match for youth and enthusiasm. Thanks to all the players for an entertaining match and a worthy starter ahead of the afternoon's main course.

And so to the main event, the long-awaited bicentenary match between the two colleges who kicked off our beloved game in Wales in 1866 – St David's College vs Llandovery College. A large crowd had gathered at Lampeter RFC to see this historic rematch and they were in no way disappointed. St David's ran on to the pitch to AC//DC's *Back in black* (and amber) and Llandovery College opted to run on to Survivor's *Eye of the tiger*. Both sides opted for an expansive, free-running style of play from the onset and carried on in the same vein all through the match. The lead changed with regularity as both sides scored try after try and some sublime passages of play were witnessed by the avid supporters and onlookers.

In the end, St David's College were the victors, winning by 26 points to 19 in one of the most exciting, fast-flowing and lung-busting games of rugby witnessed by many of the supporters in years – it really was an 'old school' running rugby match. The players came off the pitch exhausted but proud to be part of Welsh rugby history. Congratulations to all who took part.

After the game, the players were treated to post-match food and drink at Lampeter RFC, courtesy of The Lampeter Society. The organisers would like to thank The Society for its generosity in sponsoring the post-match refreshments. Following on from the game, an evening of entertainment was organised at the Lampeter RFC. This included a charity auction of rugby and College-related memorabilia, which raised over £1,000 net for the Doddie Weir Foundation [*MY NAME'S DODDIE foundation launched in November 2017 by the late Doddie Weir, a former Scottish Rugby Union player, with the aim of finding a cure for Motor Neuron Disease – Ed.*]

As is tradition, a "Captains' Breakfast" was held in the Black Lion, Lampeter, at 9.30am to bring everyone together before we all departed on our separate ways. The author is pleased to report that judging by the number of sore heads at breakfast, everyone must have had an outstanding and legendary night!

To conclude, we should like to thank the good villagers of Caio for hosting us and giving us such a warm welcome. Also, a huge thanks to our good friends, event partners and occasional rivals, Llandovery College, for their support with the weekend's commemorations. We hope that they enjoyed the events as much as we did. We should also like to thank Lampeter RFC for hosting our event; they moved mountains to make

our date possible and then looked after us so well during the weekend. *Diolch o galon Clwb Rygbi Llambod*. We would like to thank the kit manufacturers, Ruck um Maul Sports, for manufacturing St David's College's kit as well as offering us a hefty discount, and the local businesses who sponsored St David's College rugby kit – namely the Black Lion, The Nag's Head and Conti's Café, as well as UWTSD Inspire.

It is well-documented that our College team was a founder member of the Wales Rugby Union and played our first game of rugby against Llandovery College in 1866, and in the years that have followed it is fair to say that our contributions to the game have shaped the history of Welsh rugby.

A few weeks ago, we met Llandovery College on the rugby pitch once again and both teams played an exciting brand of rugby in the true spirit of the game. Today's reality is that rugby at our College is all but finished owing to falling student numbers and limited appetite by the establishment to keep our historic team going. If it can be saved in some way and interest rekindled amongst the students, the Students Union, and the University, then that would be fantastic news. However, sadly, if this is not the case, then I think it fitting that we ended our 156-year history and played our last game against the same team who were our opponents in the first.

**Ieuan Davies (1985)**

#### **List of captions for the images overleaf.**

- 1 Caio – St David's College v Llandovery College – spectators dressed up for the occasion, as part of the historic re-enactment of the first ever game of rugby there
- 2 Caio -- Llandovery catch the ball
- 3 Caio – Llandovery scoring a try at the Caio training session
- 4 Lampeter RFC – SDC Old Boys v SDC Old Codgers – the teams clash in a tackle
- 5 Caio – a breakaway by St David's
- 6 Caio – a training session tackle in progress
- 7 Caio – a scrum between the Llandovery College & St David's College squads
- 8 Caio – the Llandovery College scrum-half gets the ball out swiftly from the breakdown
- 9 Lampeter RFC – Old Codgers vs Old Boys post-match
- 10 Lampeter RFC – the mighty Old Codgers' squad
- 11 Lampeter RFC – the Old Boys team that played the Old Codgers
- 12 Lampeter RFC – St David's College v Llandovery College – the Llandovery College team
- 13 Lampeter RFC – the St David's College squad
- 14 Lampeter RFC – after the final whistle, St David's College victorious!
- 15 Lampeter RFC – at the Celebration Dinner on Friday evening



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## REPORT ON THE “LAMPETER ADVOCACY” PROJECT

We held the inaugural meeting for the Lampeter Society’s new project entitled “Lampeter Advocacy” via Zoom on the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> December. All went well – it was a positive, thoughtful and generous occasion.

The aim of the project is to facilitate the creation of ambassadors for Lampeter from amongst the alumni, as was done with the erstwhile “200 Schools” project before Covid locked us down. We know that many already take on this role in an informal manner but the plan is to create a specific grassroots campaign that will grow and evolve with loving input from we Lampetarians. It is not just about spreading the word but also determining *how, why, when, where, who and to whom?*

The first stage is to identify Lampeter’s USPs, which I’d rather refer to as “special” rather than “selling” points, by asking ourselves the following key questions:

1. What, in your opinion, are Lampeter’s USPs?
2. What type of people do you think are best suited to benefit from the Lampeter experience?
3. Why did Lampeter suit you personally?

Opinions abound as to why Lampeter is not as we remember it, but I request that comments are respectful and constructive. Let us give the place back some of the love and nurture it gave us.

Please post your comments on Facebook or Twitter, or email them to the Editor at [Brendan.mcsharry2@gmail.com](mailto:Brendan.mcsharry2@gmail.com).

**Julie Ann Thomason (1981)**

## UPDATE: SEVERN-THAMES BRANCH

Peter Bosley is continuing his efforts to see if a Severn/Thames (M4 corridor) branch of the Lampeter Society can be established to facilitate alumni in that area keeping in touch. Please contact him by email: [bosleypeter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bosleypeter@yahoo.co.uk)

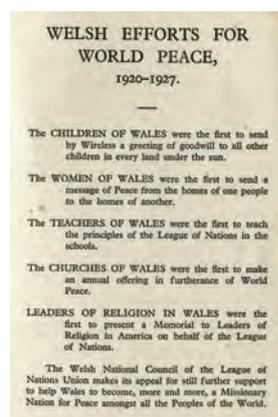
## NOTICE – ANNUAL LAMPETER SOCIETY LECTURE, 16<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2023

One hundred years ago in May, 1923, a “women’s peace conference for Wales” gathered in Aberystwyth to plan a campaign with the women of America to bolster the post-WW1 League of Nations – ‘to gift to the generations who come after us, the proud heritage of a warless world’. The Welsh Women’s Peace Appeal garnered 390,296 signatures, and was said by the New York Press to be

over seven miles long. Led by a woman from Llangeitho (seven miles north of Lampeter), this was one of many interwar peace campaigns involving thousands of people across Wales in pursuit of international co-operation. Churches, teachers, children,

trades unions, women, miners’ halls, war veterans, civil society movements – this was a generation of peacemakers whose dreams would be dashed by World War 2 yet would be realised in its aftermath with the creation of the United Nations – and the legacy of Wales’ Temple of Peace.

**LAMPETER SOCIETY LECTURE, 2023**  
**16<sup>th</sup> May:** UN International Day of Living Together in Peace  
Craig Owen – “Wales for Peace: from Llangeitho to the United Nations via a Temple of Peace”



**L:** Excerpt from Welsh League of Nations Union Report, 1927 – now displayed as a linen hanging in the vestibule of Wales’ Temple of Peace & Health

**R:** The Wales Temple of Peace & Health

Join us for the Lampeter Society Lecture, 2023, on the [UN International Day of Living Together in Peace](#), to retrace Wales’ remarkable Peace Heritage, and to consider reflections for the world of today.

*Craig Owen is Heritage Advisor for the Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA) at Wales’ Temple of Peace, and oversees the Temple’s Archives & Collections, heritage volunteering and community engagement projects, having previously headed up the “Wales for Peace” programme*



**Craig Owen outside The Temple of Peace in Cardiff**

*over the WW1 Centenary period, 2014–19. Prior to WCIA, since 2002 he worked in Wales' international sector, with Oxfam Cymru, WCVA and Wales Africa Community Links. Craig is currently researching an MPhil on "Welsh Internationalism" with Aberystwyth University, where he did his undergraduate degree in Geography & Geology 1994–97. Since first driving a shared minibus for the Aberystwyth and Lampeter LGBT Societies heading to Cardiff Pride in 1994, he has visited Lampeter many times over the years – and is delighted to be invited to return for the 2023 Lampeter Society lecture.*

The talk will be a hybrid event, taking place in Lampeter and on Zoom. If you would like to attend, please contact Matthew Cobb at [m.cobb@uwtsd.ac.uk](mailto:m.cobb@uwtsd.ac.uk)

**Esther Weller (1999)**

## **NOTICE – LAMPETER SOCIETY LONDON BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER, 2023**

The annual Lampeter Society London Branch Dinner will again be held at the National Liberal Club on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2023. Details can be found at the back of this magazine on page vii.

**In the double centrefold which follows are images and reflections  
on the 2022 bicentenary Lampeter Society Reunion, 22<sup>nd</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> July**







# REFLECTIONS ON THE LAMPETER SOCIETY REUNION, 2022

## FROM ROBERT ROSSET (1974)

Driving up to Lampeter along the A482 and passing through Pumsaint over the Afon Twrch, and then coming up to Cwmann with the height of Mynydd Pencarreg on my left, I was aware of a golden haze over the hills and, seemingly, in the sky too. It was a gorgeous summer evening. This was a good portent for the weekend that lay ahead.

So an early night on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, was followed by a very good breakfast on Saturday morning and on to one of the highlights of the weekend – the Lampeter Society Annual Commemoration Service in the Chapel with a profound message at its heart delivered by the Venerable Paul Mackness, BA (1996), Archdeacon of St. Davids - to wit, 'the only reality is change'... What a challenging thing it is too, sometimes almost overwhelmingly so. It was particularly moving to hear the names intoned of former students who had died since we last assembled for a Reunion in person. It was a long list.

Then, after tea and biscuits, we progressed into the Cliff Tucker Lecture Theatre for the Annual General Meeting of the Lampeter Society. Medwin Hughes, our Vice-Chancellor, gave us a secular version of the message we had heard earlier in chapel on 'the need for Lampeter to change' to flourish once again. It was delivered with passion and commitment and was well-received by the audience. By this time, I had managed to digest the complete list of those attending this special Reunion and in totting up the number reached 204 – impressive!

After an informal lunch there were opportunities to hear about "Eight decades of Lampeter Voices" and "Lampeter's other commemoration: 1852 and Lampeter's degrees".

Thereafter, crucially, I made certain that I attended both the Celebratory Strawberry Tea (which was delicious) and the group photo – a delightful experience enriched by the simple fact that it took a while to take. Here, for the first time during the Reunion, we all stood together cheek by jowl - and what an experience that was for all of us, as evidenced by the hubbub of conversation. We then broke up to prepare ourselves for the Reunion Dinner.

My contribution to our table was to offer a glass of champagne to everyone, which was gratefully accepted by most. A few were reluctant at first - I suspect that they were taken aback, but they were won over when I reminded them that this bicentenary was a one-off event. I wonder just how many of our graduates will rue the fact that they didn't attend our special celebration when they realise what a significant year this was in Lampeter's history. Medwin Hughes gave an excellent short speech and I recall toasting the College.

Our guest speaker was Sir Mark Harford, 4th Baronet of Falcondale. He is the great-great-great-great grandson of John Scandrett Harford, whose gift of land in 1820 enabled the founding of St. David's College by Bishop Thomas Burgess in 1822. Sir Mark talked about the close working relationship between the two men, from which so many good things flowed. Sir Mark was at the table right at the centre of the Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall and was addressing everyone from that location. A final point on the Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall itself from a 1970's graduate.....It is a pity that the portraits of Lampeter's historic Principals are no longer adorning the plain white walls. We used to be able to study them all while eating our meals.

Sunday began with a leisurely breakfast in a fairly empty Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall. This was hardly surprising given that the Students' Union had been open until late the night before with a disco in the Extension!

A most interesting event then took place in the Founders' Library where there was a Question-and-Answer session with Lampeter Luminary, Helen Thomas (1996), Mayor of Lampeter. We covered a lot of ground, and the event was most worthwhile in keeping us informed of the concerns and plans in Lampeter itself. The event ran on until nearly lunch time. However, coming out of this event, it was obvious that there was one big cancellation – there was to be no croquet on the lawn outside Old Building; it had been rained off. For me the rest of that Sunday passed uneventfully.

On Monday morning, I took a long walk all around College and after lunch began my

drive back to London. Realising I needed petrol I stopped at the garage and was served by Meurig Morgan's daughter. Fellow students of my generation all knew Meurig – we used his coaches quite extensively to get around in groups. For a Londoner, it is an experience to have somebody else fill up your car with petrol these days! I arrived home, full of memories of a well-organised, most enjoyable event.

## FROM SIÔN ROWLEY (1995)

When I arrived at Lampeter for the Bicentenary Reunion, it was the first time I had been back since 1998. I walked past the Porters' Lodge at the entrance to the campus on College Street when seeing the Old Building come into view stopped me in my tracks. As I stood looking at it, all the memories came back. I remembered walking past the Canterbury Building during my first week at Lampeter in October, 1992. My friend had turned and, pointing back to the Old Building, had said, 'Look at that – isn't it beautiful?' I had looked at it, shrugged, and walked on, not sharing his sense of wonder. But now, in 2022 I thought, yes, it is beautiful.

One of the best parts of the Reunion was hearing how graduates from different years and decades described SDUC. They seemed to feel the same way as I did about Lampeter. Over a pint in the Students' Union bar on Saturday evening, a graduate from the early 1980s said, 'Lampeter is burnt on to my heart.' I thought, 'You have just taken the words out of my mouth.'

A phrase I heard a lot over the weekend was, 'SDUC Forever.' Someone said it was carved into the concrete or wall outside the little room housing the washing machines at the side of Old Building. I went to find it on the Saturday as I didn't remember it as a student, but I couldn't see it anywhere. Maybe it had been covered over. It didn't matter though. As I reflected on my time in this small, now massive, yet impossible place, which sometimes seems to defy all reason, I realised 'SDUC Forever' doesn't need to be etched in stone.



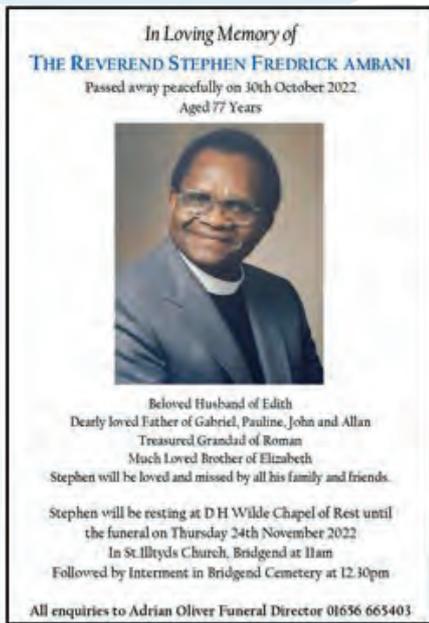






# OBITUARIES

## STEPHEN FREDERICK AMBANI (1945–2022)



From the funeral service leaflet, courtesy of the Ambani family.

The Revd Stephen Frederick Ambani (1990) sadly passed away in Llanelli on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2022. Following his funeral at St Illtyds Church, he was buried in Bridgend Cemetery on 24<sup>th</sup> November. He leaves behind his wife Edith, four children and a grandson.

Steve set forth from Kenya in 1987, where he had a wife and family and was already ordained, having promised to obey and serve. He had no money but an enormous faith that led his life. So off he went to Lampeter, as it was the place to go to study theology, persuading the Revd D.P. David Davis to honour the statement that “Lampeter takes anyone” (I know it to be true, for it took me – a mother with no A-levels!).

He became more than a student, but loved, respected, trusted and helped as he helped others. Numerous people applied to grant-making organisations to get the money for him to do his degree, stay alive and eventually to get his family over to Wales. There, Bishop George Noakes ensured that Steve was given a living down in the

valleys where he was accepted, loved and greatly missed when he reached retirement age. But that did not deter him from continuing to be loving and useful and helpful, as he ran a charity called Ty Ffrindiau [*Friends House in Bridgend – Ed.*] to help children in Kenya whose parents had died from Aids, ensuring they were educated and raised to play their part in Kenyan life.

Many of us believed that when Steve finished his degree he would return to Kenya and would become the next Bishop – and whenever that was mentioned to him he would reply quickly, and with a grin (a very broad grin): ‘No way – they murder the bishops!’

His sense of humour took a bit of understanding. The Chaplain of the day, the The Revd Christine Bonneywell (1980), saw several instances of that, but one in particular stands out. She says:

*Stephen's faith gave him strength and joy – and a wicked sense of humour! I remember vividly the time I introduced him to my parents. He completely flummoxed my father by asking him what my bride price was and whether I was more expensive because I was an older daughter. I think he was offering fifteen cows. My father's face was an absolute picture and my mother and I were desperately trying not to collapse in giggles!*

*When it occurred to my father what was happening, he had to sit down. I don't know if it was through disappointment that he wasn't getting me off his hands or because he was laughing so much. After that he always made sure that he met Stephen when he was visiting.*

Steve had several “wives” when at college – he gave them all a number, although I suspect we all had the same number. I was number two, but I think so were several others. Although Steve

would never ask for help, we “wives” (I think I was the oldest by far) felt he needed looking after. Because of having few funds, he didn't really eat properly, so without being patronising we did what we could to help him keep up his strength so that he could study.

One of his fellow students has admitted getting into trouble because of her generosity towards Steve to ensure he had sufficient food and ate properly. She told the tale of how she felt so sorry for him that she gave him her sandwich toaster. But it was not just his need for food and sustenance that drew her to help him – she had such respect for his strong faith, as did so many others.

I have a great number of fond memories of Steve, including when he performed the wedding ceremony for my daughter in the College chapel, and he certainly had a talent for making all ceremonies joyful. In fact, I can honestly say that Steve taught me more how to conduct a wedding ceremony than any official training, as my husband and I visited him in the valleys and witnessed first-hand his hospitality and sat in on a wedding ceremony of which the valleys may well have never seen the like before. He also combined his theological learning with his culture and faith and called me his ‘Numinous One’. Only theology students who had to study *Das Heilige* by Rudolph Otto would understand that fully.

He even brought his strong faith into the realms of sport. Mark Tobutt (1990), who was a fellow undergrad with Steve, tells the tale of the annual tug of war (which I half remember so I may have been involved as well):

*In 1989, I was part of the college football tug of war team taking part in rag week activities. The tugs took place over the river in front of the sports hall and we were drawn to play the college chapel. Easy, we thought. Steve was walking up and down*

*encouraging his chapel team and telling us footballers that they would win as they had God on their side. The chapel team won, but the thing about Steve was that in that tug of war he was so full of light that even though we big tough footballers had been beaten by “The God Squad”, we didn’t mind because of Steve’s big, beaming infectious smile and enthusiasm.*

As I said earlier, many students (and staff members) had stories to tell of Steve, but no one ever had a criticism of him, nor said an unkind word, about him, nor ever heard an unkind word from him. He was, as so many described, ‘such a lovely man, very spiritual and relied on God.’ Others, quoted by Julie Shopland (1990) said: ‘I remember his wonderful laugh, warm personality and the way that he demonstrated his faith by the way he lived his life’ (Paul Gossage, 1990); ‘Stephen was a wonderful, kind man, who was supportive and interested in understanding people (James Bebb, 1990).

Steve was no ordinary man/student/priest but shone like a bright star on campus from the light his faith shone into the world. There are many more in Steve’s life who could attest to his faith and that he was living proof that ‘faith without works is dead’. But, in my view, the one thing that Steve will not be doing is “Resting in peace” – one cannot imagine Steve doing nothing, or resting, but many will agree with me when I say that now he is even closer to his Lord, he is working even harder to do the will of the Father.

In the words of an old song: ‘Goodbye – it’s been good to know yer’.

**Marion Stuart (née Bromige)  
(1988, 1990)**

## **JIM CARPENTER (1944–2022)**

The thing I remember most about the late Jim Carpenter (1966) while we were at Lampeter was that he was



**Jim Carpenter at Lampeter – from his funeral service programme, courtesy John Loaring (1967)**

the most laid-back person I have ever met. I mean this in a very positive way and this characteristic appealed to me immediately.

Jim had a good sense of humour and I never, ever heard him criticising or putting anyone down. He was always great company.

Sadly, our paths only crossed twice since Lampeter days – at his wedding, and having dinner with him and his wife Jillian at the house of Keith Ainsworth (1967) in Accrington. The wedding was on the same day as the moon landing in 1969 and was such a happy event. We kept in touch from time to time on email and at Christmas time.

Jim never seemed to be in a hurry, especially on the rugby field. I well remember having to call him up to play lock forward in an away game at Builth Wells. He was always willing to help, but every time he just walked to the scrums and line-outs in order to catch his breath. We could hardly recognise each other as everyone was covered in mud after heavy rainfall the night before. I soon recognised Jim while he was sucking his orange. I said to him that I was sure he would prefer something in a glass. He nodded vigorously, but I had to tell him he would have to wait.

Jim studied French which meant that he had to spend a year in France as part of the course. He graduated in 1966 and lived in Brussels for a while and became involved in the travel business.

He is survived by his wife Jillian and his children Liz and Toby.

**John Cade (1968)**

## **PETER HOBLEY DAVISON (1926–2022)**

**A life well lived**



**Courtesy of The Guardian. Photograph by Hugh Davison, son of Professor Davison**

*In memoriam*

Professor Peter Davison OBE, PhD, DLitt, Hon D Arts (1926–16<sup>th</sup> August, 2022)

Many Lampeter alumni from the 1970s will remember Peter Davison with affection as well as respect from his time as Head of the English Department. Becoming a professor and approaching fifty, it might have been thought he had reached his prime – it was a prime he maintained and exceeded for another half-century.

Born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1926, by the age of 16 Peter was working at the renowned wartime Crown Film Unit in London. He later earned a PhD at the University of Sydney, became a Fellow at the Shakespeare Institute, then lecturer and senior lecturer at the University of Birmingham. The next step was to St David’s University College, as we will always think of it.

The 1970s were an arcadian era at Lampeter. The previous decade

seemed to linger on in our fragrant, bucolic setting. Student numbers were close to a thousand – big enough for the place to be busy yet small enough to feel cosy. The English Department was particularly dynamic, in good part due to Peter's rare battery of skills: ferocious intellect and knowledge; an understanding of the importance of textual studies to literature; a fascination with the relationship of text and film; and – as well as these – stupendous energy and an inspiring enthusiasm. We looked forward, especially, to his showings of classic documentaries such as *The War Game* (still banned at that time) [BBC pseudo-documentary film directed by Peter Watkins in 1966 – Ed.], followed by discussion of how words and images can manipulate public perception. He later set up a film studio for students in a disused chapel. During these years, he somehow found time to edit the Bibliographical Society's journal, *The Library*.

Peter moved on to other academic roles at the University of Kent and De Montfort University, as well as being Professor Emeritus at Glyndŵr University. The 1980s and 1990s, however, were dominated by a herculean effort to produce the 20-volume *Complete Works of George Orwell*, aided by his wife, Sheila, and Ian Angus. This magisterial project was completed over 17 years despite being abandoned six times by publishers while Orwell's publisher also changed hands eight times. Only through Peter's passion, relentless energy, and determination was it triumphantly brought to a conclusion, for which he was honoured with an OBE in 1999. Other books followed, contributing to the 115 which he wrote or edited in his long career. Also worthy of note are: the Bibliographical Society Gold Medal which he was awarded; being an Honorary Founding Member of the Orwell Society; and acting as Secretary of the Social and Economic Research Council, Secretary of the Albany (where he lived for many years) and Honorary Steward of Westminster Abbey.

Peter and I corresponded in later years, and I can report he was still firing on all cylinders. He was an

inspiration. We extend our sympathies to his family.

**Paul Morgan (1968)**

## ROBERT DIXON (1950–2022)



**Robert Dixon (1980) with Di Ripington (1981), soon to become Vaughan, on her wedding day in 1982**

Sadly, my dear friend and contemporary The Revd Robert Dixon died on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2022. He had until recently been serving at the parish church in Leigh, Wigan.

Robert arrived in Lampeter in the autumn of 1977, someone who (unlike me) had already lived a life in the outside world. My memory is hazy now, but I believe on one of those far-off days he told me that he had worked in advertising or the media – I am not sure which. He had, he said, had something of a “road to Damascus” moment when he felt that he should devote his life to something more meaningful and had hence decided to enter the priesthood if possible. I got the impression that he felt his professional life had, to that point, been rather shallow.

He took Theology of course, although what else I cannot now recall. We were Dewi Hostel fellows – he in no. 10, overlooking the back yard in a large room, and me in no. 8, not much bigger than a cupboard (but I loved it) overlooking College Street and the early morning milk tankers from

Felin Fach. Robert was tall, handsome, amusing and self-deprecating. He had, he said, something called ‘Dixon’s Luck’, such as the time in his years before his coming to Lampeter, when, in the throes of passion with a partner, he managed to kick over a large standard lamp and rather ruin the moment.

He also, as many of us did, rather rued the gender imbalance at SDUC – lots of hairy men doing geography and very few girls. Robert confessed that only one woman did he hold a candle for – and she was in a long relationship with another tall, good-looking fellow. Much to Robert’s surprise, however, the relationship ended and he had his opportunity. Resolving to wait a decent interval before plighting his troth – the poor girl must be upset, after all – he decided to pop round to see her in a day or so and offer his commiserations and possibly a coffee. Dixon’s Luck struck again: just before he had set a date to pay a call, he left Dewi to post a letter at the Post Office – only to meet his intended coming towards him, hand-in-hand with another girl.

Robert’s moment of heroism was to come, though. In May, 1979, Dewi residents took in a heavily pregnant but obviously underfed mother cat (a story in itself that must await another day). We took turns at providing food and accommodation in our rooms and could see that Tiddles (as she had become) was due any time. One evening, most of us decided that a visit to The Railway was overdue and made Robert Duty Midwife. ‘What do I do if she gives birth?’ he wailed – ‘Hot water and towels?’ I think he was only half-joking... I assured him that Tiddles probably knew exactly what to do – and she did. On our return she had produced seven kittens, although sadly one was stillborn and another died shortly afterwards. I think Robert had aged 10 years... Through a quirk of fate, one kitten came home with me to Bristol and Tigger was for several years a reminder of Robert’s short obstetric career.

After I left SDUC, Robert and I stayed in touch and we met in the autumn of 1980 when he invited his ex-Dewi

friends to stay for the weekend. I forget now where he was living at the time, other than I had to board a rail replacement bus to West Malling to begin my Sunday afternoon journey back to Bristol. The hope was that we would meet up every year at each other's homes on a rotational basis, but as many of us were still living at home, this proved impractical, and, sadly, this was the one and only occasion.

I met Robert for the next, and as it was to become, the last time in 1982 when Phil Francis was ordained in St. Davids Cathedral. Neil and I took our cycles on the train and stayed in the local Youth Hostel and mingled happily with our ex-SDUC friends in the summer sunshine. Robert and I stayed in touch with annual Christmas cards and newsletters and all-too-infrequent telephone calls. His health was never good – his stories of being airlifted to hospital in London by an RAF helicopter from Brawdy direct to a cleared Horse Guards' Parade will no doubt be told by others, as will the subsequent M4 dash in a Welsh ambulance for the same emergency treatment sometime later.

Robert was a good friend – sensible and mature, yet amusing and self-mocking – he must have made a fine parish priest. As someone said on hearing the news that he died on his birthday: 'So like Robert, no loose ends, everything neat and tidy.' He remains as I remember him at St. David's in 1982 – frozen in time, tall, smiling, enjoying the sun and the occasion.

Rest in peace dear friend, *nos da* as we would have said all those long years ago in Dewi.

**Steve Jenkins (1980)**

## ARTHUR PAUL GWYNN (1957–2022)

Arthur Paul Gwynn (1978) passed away peacefully on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2022, aged 64, after a period of illness. Formerly of Bryncoch, Neath, he moved to Crai, Brecon, in 1995. He



Arthur Gwynn with his sons Gareth and Andrew-John in the early 1990s, courtesy of Janet Gwynn (1979)

was a popular and highly successful Head of History, Head of VI Form and Assistant Head at St Joseph's Catholic Comprehensive School and Sixth Form Centre, Port Talbot, before retiring in 2015.

Arthur studied History at Lampeter from 1975 to 1978, and it was there that he met his future wife, Janet Hughes (1979) – yet another case amongst our alumni of "Love at Lampeter"!

Below are some moving tributes to Arthur from some of his family and contemporaries, which indicate just how remarkable a human being he was.

### From his son Gareth:

*Dad was a teacher from 1979 to 2015 and I honestly do not know anyone for whom their job was so integral to their personality – and I am aware I am saying that in front of a priest. Dad loved teaching – but took it all in his stride – even, in his youth, when he was given a particularly troublesome class who put a fish inside the minibus cassette player. He learnt an important lesson that day – a fish will go into a cassette player easily... But you can't pull it out.*

*He had a natural way of de-escalating a situation. A*

*friend reminded me of the time he walked into a classroom to find one pupil trying to throw another out of a first-floor window – which Dad stopped by calmly saying, 'Jonathan please put him down; we're not insured for that.'*

### From his son Andrew-John:

*Firstly, on behalf of the family I'd just like to thank you all for coming today to Dad's funeral service. The sheer volume of people here is a testament to how many lives Dad touched and impacted in his lifetime, and it fills us all with a great sense of pride to hear all the wonderful stories about him that have been shared with us over the last couple of weeks. He was taken from us far too soon and it's unimaginable to think he won't just be a phone call away when something goes wrong in the house or when Wales are playing really badly.*

*But I can't stand here and talk about Dad without mentioning Mum. They did absolutely everything together over the course of their marriage and we were lucky enough to celebrate their 40th anniversary just last year. What myself and Gareth became is because of all that they did together.*

### From Nigel White (1978):

*Arthur was a good friend to me and many fellow students at Lampeter. He was also dedicated to his study of history.*

*At one point I was struggling with my studies (The English Reformation – a period of history that I was not familiar with.) Arthur was generous in sharing his time and knowledge in helping me. I was, therefore, not surprised that he had a long and distinguished career as an inspirational teacher, imparting his knowledge and love of history, offering guidance to many pupils.*

### Stephen Kaczmarczyk (1978):

*One memorable night was when the four of us met up at Arthur's room to go for a drink. As we were about to head out, Arthur would always recite the following phrase: 'Right boys – are we ready to find danger and adventure in downtown Lampeter?' This phrase came from our first meeting as we walked back to the coach listening intently to the football results; we passed some local lads and one turned to the others and said those words. It was on one such night that Arthur pointed out a very pretty girl that had caught his eye – and that was of course Janet. They were perfect for each other and a few years later I had the privilege of being best man at their wedding.*

*After college, marriage, mortgages, careers and children make meeting up harder but when we did, especially when the four of us got back together in Lampeter, we slipped straight back into the old ways...even playing roller battery again.*



The Roller Battery Society, 2015, at the Cardiff Reunion  
L–R: Alek Sadowski; Steve Kaczmarczyk; Arthur Gwynn; Kelvin Wilson. Courtesy of Stephen Kaczmarczyk (1978)

*During Arthur's illness we kept in contact by text and just before Christmas the news looked positive. Kelvin, Alek and myself arranged to meet up in Lampeter the following April and if Arthur was not up to joining us we would pop down to visit him. Unfortunately that was not to be.*

### From Kelvin Wilson (1978):

*I met Arthur in the first term of our first year at Lampeter (1975). As he lived along the same corridor as I on the first floor of Lloyd Thomas Hall, we spent many hours drinking coffee (and other beverages), listening to music, and discussing history. We shared many experiences over the three years, including coping with a plastered leg and late-night appendicitis (which involved an ambulance dash to Carmarthen hospital) as well as numerous hunts for missing contact lenses.*

*Above all Arthur was an enthusiast – enthusiastic for sport, history, his friends, family, and his faith. I am certain that this enthusiasm was behind his subsequent successful teaching career.*

### Mike Conway (1979):

*I met Arthur on my first day at Lampeter in 1975.*

*My new neighbour in Neuadd Walker (Hugh Walker Hall), Paul Bridge, had introduced himself and we took a walk across campus, bumping into Arthur – a tall, Welsh guy in his ubiquitous cheesecloth shirt and flared jeans. We all decided to go up the hill. We walked through the woods into a clearing. A big bird appeared above us. Arthur excitedly announced to us two city boys that it was a kite. We stood in silent awe watching it circle around and around above our heads before veering away. 'It's f\*\*\*\*\*g off!' came the broad Lancashire accent, as Paul broke the magic moment. Arthur and I looked at one another and both burst out laughing. It was the start of a strong year-long friendship.*

*I remember Arthur's good sense of humour, and a diffidence that masked strong convictions when it came to his core values and beliefs. We moved in different circles in Year 2, and I spent*

*Arthur's third and final year in France as part of my language degree. We didn't reconnect until the year before his untimely death. It came as no surprise to learn that he had had a devoted and long career in education in his local community, typical of his values.*

*Lampeter forges strong bonds and deep memories in its alumni, and Arthur is sorely missed by all who knew him.*

Arthur was a part of a very tight-knit bunch of chaps at Lampeter, several of them having travelled considerable distances for his funeral back in March. May he rest in peace and rise again in glory!

Susan Gandy (née Kearney) (1979)

## MELVILLE K JONES (1940–2022)



Melville Jones celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2020, courtesy of Wendy Jones.

It is sad to announce that The Revd Canon Melville Kenneth Jones (1966) BA, Dip Theol., CPS, passed away on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2022. He is survived by his wife Wendy, his children and grandchildren.

Mel grew up in Aberdare, but later moved to Penarth, where his first job on leaving school was working for the Housing Department. It was also where he met his wife, Wendy.

Upon graduating from Burgess Hall in 1966, Mel went back to Aberdare as Curate, under the legendary Canon

Arthur [*Canon Charles Williams Arthur, Rector of Aberdare 1957–1980 – Ed.*]. After a Second Curacy in Caerau with Ely, Mel was appointed in 1972 to the Parish of St. John's, the Graig in Pontypridd, where he would stay for 17 years. He was also Chaplain to Dewi Sant Hospital, Rhydyfelin Hospital and Pontypridd Cottage Hospital. One of Mel's gifts was in liturgy, and St. John's became something of a beacon in the Diocese in terms of showing how things should be done. He not only encouraged the vocations of future priests, but also encouraged those of several musicians.

In 1989 Mel was asked to move to the Parish of Llantwit Fardre (Church Village), where he continued to apply his energies. He would stay there until his retirement in 2007, having been made an Honorary Canon of Llandaff Cathedral in 2004.

When the hospital site at Church Village was redeveloped, Mel and Wendy purchased a property on the new estate. Mel always said they had it a lot cheaper than the neighbouring houses because theirs was built on the site of the former hospital mortuary!

In retirement Mel's health was variable, but he did manage to celebrate his Golden Jubilee of Priesthood in St. Martin's Roath in 2017.

We send our love and prayers to Wendy and the family.

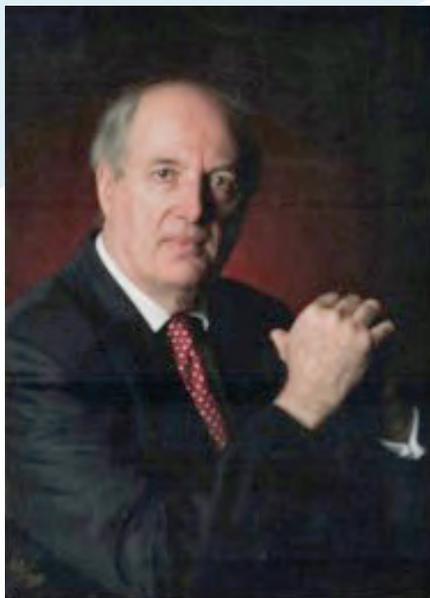
'Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord!' (Matthew 25:23).

My thanks to our mutual friend, The Revd David Jones, who contributed to this obituary.

**The late Chris Reaney (1982)**

## PETER DAVID LEE (1946–2022)

The Revd Dr Peter David Lee (Lampeter 2004, 2010) was born in Pembury, Kent, on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1946 and – as was relatively common at that post



**The Revd Dr Peter David Lee**

war time – he was an unwanted child so was placed in a typical Dickensian place called The Asylum for Fatherless Children near Croydon in Surrey. This institution was later known as Reedham.

Again, as was normal at that time, at age 15 he went into the armed forces to train as a cook in the Royal Air Force, based in Hereford, but he was discharged 18 months later because his deformed feet meant he was not fit for active service.

Jobs were plentiful at this time and he did a variety of work including cooking, being a croupier in various gambling establishments in London, and selling electrical goods. Then he was employed in a telephone exchange. For this, some training was required so he went to Canterbury Technical College and was inspired to take other subjects too. In January, 1971, he obtained five GCE passes in Biology, Mathematics, Chemistry, English Language, and Physics.

Working in the gambling dens of that time he met a lot of very rich and famous people including foreign kings and princes, pop stars and their managers, all of whom were keen to gamble their new-found millions from oil and pop music. Under the influences of that time (c.1968), he decided to pack his backpack and go to India, following in the footsteps of

The Beatles to the ashram [*a spiritual hermitage – Ed.*] of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. From there he travelled through India with a group of like-minded, long-haired friends of Jesus with whom he toured around India to various sites which, at that time, were of importance in the Hari Krishna movement, also going to the Golden Temple and the Taj Mahal.

He was part of Operation Mobilisation [*a Christian missionary organisation founded in 1957 by George Verwer – Ed.*] from 1974 and was converted to Christianity during the visit of the ferry ship M.V. Logos. He sailed with her for three months, eventually arriving in Singapore where he attended the South East Asia Union College. Here he trained as a missionary and served in Borneo, Indonesia and The Philippines, eventually obtaining a BA in Theology on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1977, followed by ordination into the Evangelical Church Alliance.

He was not wholeheartedly committed to the religious lifestyle in the Far East so he moved into marketing, selling a variety of products including encyclopaedias, insurance, clothing etc., and eventually set up his own company – Rattan Industries Pte Ltd, Singapore, with an import/export base in Kent. This was reasonably successful for a number of years but he also worked as an insurance salesman and continued to practise his childhood love of photography.

Another life-changing moment came in 2001 when he saw an MA course in Religion, Politics and International Relations advertised by the University of Wales, Lampeter. He completed this successfully and was awarded an MA on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2004. He then continued to a PhD which was successfully completed and awarded on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2010. During some of this period he lived in Cwrt Newydd and regularly attended various Welsh events, hoping to be able to learn some of the customs and language. He was also a member of the Aberystwyth Camera Club and was awarded the prestigious Associate of the Welsh Photographic Federation on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2004.

Peter then moved to California to work with a colleague from his Singapore days: together they created a health tourism insurance business focusing on new treatments for cancer patients. This was moderately successful, not least because of the high cost of health care in California; however, it came to an end with the death of his business partner.

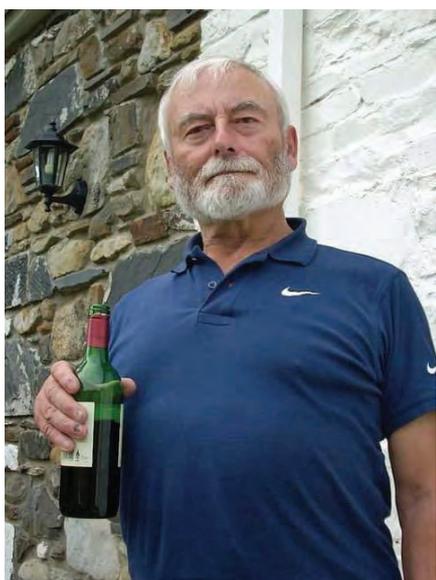
He then obtained teaching posts at Heald College, Liberty University, Antelope College and Columbia College. He also continued his work with The Boy Scouts of America and furthered his photographic skills, eventually publishing a full colour book of images of birds of California and their habitats. He was still teaching online for that group at the time of his death on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2022.

Peter is survived by his widow, Lesley, also a Lampeter graduate.

**Lesley Keates-Lee (1998, 2000)**

## JOHN MILES (1935–2022)

John Miles, who died on 19th December at the age of 87 leaving his daughter, Jayne Hughes and his son, Gary Miles, was a porter at the University before becoming the Lampeter Campus Sports Hall



John Miles (publication of this photograph was requested by his daughter as it 'sums him up beautifully')

manager. He retired from this post in 2001. Jayne writes:

*Even though his cremation will be a very simple and small affair, we plan to celebrate his life when we scatter his ashes in the sea at Aberaeron – we shall have beer and chips, with a chance to chat about him and to share our memories of him. He was a keen rower, so we plan to take a boat out to scatter him, with our eldest son playing the didgeridoo. Dad would be so impressed. Such a shame he has now gone.*

On Facebook she said: 'Those who knew him will remember he was a character and will be sorely missed.'

Martin Bloomfield (1996, 2000) noted, also on Facebook: 'I did know him and like to think I knew him well enough to call him a mate. He was sports hall manager when I ran the fencing club and was senior grad in the karate club.'

John is survived by his two children, Jayne and Gary.

**Brendan McSharry (1971)**

## DAVID PANKHURST (1988–2022)

Sadly, David Pankhurst (2013, 2019) passed away at his home in South



David at Lampeter in 2019, taken by Laura-Cait Driscoll

Luton on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2022. He was much loved and respected by his family and friends, and included below are some of the various tributes by them.

**David's brother, Dan:**

'We grew up in our Mum & Dad's flat at the foot of Farley Hill. A typical childhood: Nintendo games; racing Scalextric cars; Lego; cartoons; and the odd petty squabble over the aforementioned Nintendo games.

Like most brothers a few years apart, as kids we were yet to realise the close bond we would share much later on.

I was told to be protective of him, due to his having a prolonged spell in Great Ormond St. Hospital, after which he was left with one kidney. But this didn't stop him living life at his own pace, later on acquiring a taste for fine cigars, expensive whisky and obscure cheeses.

We know David enjoyed his time at university in Lampeter. It was a period in which both mum and I were always wondering if he was ok while he was away. Little did we know he had made lots of incredible friends that would be in his life forever – people of whom he told us many tales. I want to thank them all for looking after him.

After earning his degree and leaving university he went on to teach English in China [at the Zhengzhou Business University, Gongbyi – Ed.]. It was a job he loved. There too he was met with great support and warmth, making friendships that he cherished. Interacting with his students was something he enjoyed very much.

It was in one such exchange that he learned that "The Fast & The Furious" literally translates into Chinese as "The Speed & The Passion". Judging by the huge smile on his face when he told me this, you could tell he knew he was in the right job.

David was a man who would help you out of any jam. He was infinitely dependable and would go out of his way to look after anyone whom he physically had the means to help. He

was also a sensitive soul. So he had the best of both worlds, which enabled him to grow up into the legendary gentleman he would eventually become.

He grabbed life by the horns and got what he wanted out of it, working hard and fighting for what, and who, he loved most, never giving up, despite any setbacks, and rewarding himself by celebrating after each of his victories with impeccable, often ludicrous style. Surrounded by his dearest friends and closest family, he knew what was important in life.

I'll end with a quote from someone who fascinated David, explorer Earnest Shackleton:

*Life to me is the greatest of all games. The danger lies in treating it as a trivial game, a game to be taken lightly, and a game in which the rules don't matter much. The rules matter a great deal. The game has to be played fairly or it is no game at all. And even to win the game is not the chief end. The chief end is to win it honourably and splendidly.*

#### **David's friends:**

A good friend of his, Tom Tulley (2017), says:

*I don't honestly have a memory from my time in uni without Dave, from the day we met. They include, for instance....  
– hating each other if we were competing for the same woman  
– seeing him out at the Students' Union, always wearing the same rugby hoodie  
– going away to Rome with him and us skiving the group tours to go to restaurants and get drunk on red wine  
– us never missing a rugby social  
– getting him to play rugby when we were so desperate for people, even when his body was more broken than mine  
– and his ability to convince me to do stupid things by just tilting*

*his head up and saying every time, 'See? I know Tulley would do this.'*

Sam Gedrych (2019) and Alex Goodman (2014, 2019), David's Rugby Captains, say:

*David Pankhurst was always really dedicated and committed to supporting his friends. This was evident in every friendship group he had and every activity he was involved in. One example was when he attended a rugby match with the rest of the men's squad in which they faced a cup game against the University of Exeter. David wasn't starting that game as he was already severely injured just from being David. However, he watched his close friends struggle against a very impressive Exeter squad until the last quarter of the game. As you can imagine, Lampeter wasn't doing very well and Exeter had made it a difficult afternoon for everyone, so it would have been very easy for David to decide not to come on to save himself some embarrassment – and, quite frankly, a lot of pain.*

*But nonetheless, without any hesitation, he put on his jersey, tied up his laces and ran on to help his friends who were in need. David didn't care that there was a crowd of students going to watch him inevitably lose to another team. He wasn't there for the glory or the celebration of victory; he was there for us, his friends, his teammates. We could always depend on him. No matter how hurt he was or how much the odds were stacked against us, he would always be there for you when he needed him. In this case he was there for us. As he ran onto the pitch, he picked their best and biggest player, and hit that man so hard that it made the church bells ring in town. This truly was a David vs Goliath moment, but they both*

*lost as the big guy was taken off and David himself came off swiftly two minutes later, realising he had broken himself further.*

*That's the David we all came to love and cherish – as a friend, a teammate and a fellow fighting parson.*

#### **Myself:**

I met David in the first week, but it wasn't until the foam party did we become friends; he looked out for me, ensuring that I was having fun during an experience in which I was a fresher meeting a lot of new people. He stayed with me towards the end of the night and made sure I got home safely when all my friends had already gone to bed.

Throughout my time at university, he was a constant, someone who always knew if I needed to get stuff off my chest and someone who knew when to hand me a shot and just not say anything. We didn't always see eye to eye with some decisions, but we did "get" each other. There wasn't a rugby social he wasn't at, and would never miss the opportunity for a night out. He knew who my friends were and would let me know if he was looking after them on a night out, but always saying that he was being a gentleman (even though he was a big flirt). He was a constant friend to me and my partner whom he always called 'his rugby captain' and those memories of nights out, double dates, and rugby matches will always mean I remember him fondly, no matter how much we wound each other up. I suppose he became a bit like a big brother to me – someone who exasperated me but always protected me; there was always love there. He will be so unbelievably missed, especially at events like Old Boys where he came back and partied like he was a student all over again.

Rest in Peace David Pankhurst, taken way too early in life, but you've left so many amazing memories for so many of us during your six years at Lampeter.

**Lauren-Cait Driscoll (2018)**

## CHRIS REANEY (1960 – 2023)



Chris Reaney

We are sad to announce that The Revd Chris Reaney (1982) passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2023, in the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, after a short illness. He leaves behind his wife Beverly, who, like him, was a parish priest in the Cardiff area.

Chris graduated from Lampeter with a degree in Archaeology & Theology. During his time there, Chris was a member of the Chapel Choir and various student societies and represented the College as part of the 1981 *University Challenge* team (where they reached the semi-finals). Afterwards, he studied for the priesthood at St. Michael's Theological College, Llandaff, Cardiff, and was ordained into the Church in Wales in 1985 where he served as a vicar for some 37 years. He retired on redundancy terms as Priest-in-Charge of Troedrhiwgarth (Maesteg) near Bridgend in November, 2021.

A contemporary of his, Jane Griffiths (1982), commented on Facebook:

*Chris was in my year, we were in the same theology lectures, and he was always so kind and humorous. He came to the Reunion this summer (2022) and he hadn't changed – he still had the dry wit which made everyone smile.*

We at the Lampeter Society are particularly sad to lose Chris, as he had been the Secretary of the Society since May, 2021, and had been of enormous help to us all in that capacity. He took up this position because, in his own words, 'Lampeter is a unique place; it enters your soul and I am very pleased to be joining the Business Committee to help the Society promote the College and its uniqueness to future generations of students.' [Quoted from the article that appears on p.33 of the Summer, 2021 edition of *The Link* – Ed.]

May Chris rest in eternal peace. He will be sorely missed.

**Brendan McSharry (1971)**

## JOHN ROWLANDS (1947–2022)



Canon John Rowlands, courtesy of *The Church Times*

The Reverend Chancellor Canon John Henry Lewis Rowlands (1968), who died on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022, served the Church in Wales in a variety of posts for 45 years, including nine years as Warden of the Church's only theological college.

John was a Carmarthen boy, educated at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School; St David's College in Lampeter, where he read History; and Cambridge, where he read Theology at Magdalene College and trained for ordination at Westcott House. I think that it was Cambridge which made John what he was.

He was ordained in 1972 and served as Curate of Aberystwyth. At the end of July, 1976, he married Catryn. A few weeks later he went back to Lampeter

as the College's first Chaplain, when I was then a Lecturer there. He brought new life into the Chapel and he summed up his ministry on the campus as 'lurking with intent'. He was also Diocesan Youth Chaplain.

In 1979 John moved to work in St Michael's College in Llandaff, where he remained for 18 years. He also made important contributions to the Diocese and to the University Faculty of Theology. He left St Michael's in 1997 to serve in the parish of Whitchurch, probably the largest parish in population in the Diocese of Llandaff, if not in the Church in Wales, first as Vicar and then as Team Rector. He was also a member of the Chapter of Llandaff Cathedral, first as Canon from 1997 and then as Canon Chancellor from 2002 until his retirement in 2017, when he moved to live in New Quay in Ceredigion, where he assisted in local churches.

John had a real hinterland of other interests. In recent years, and especially when Covid ruled out meeting, John and I used to chat about once a month on the phone, often for a couple of hours. Every conversation began with something on the book he was reading – a different one every time. He had a superb library at the top of his home. Politics was another absorbing interest. Prime Minister's Questions was a regular weekly fixture (along with Choral Evensong on Radio 3). How John would have relished recent weeks with the Prime Minister's resignation and the contest for the party leadership! John also loved many sports, especially tennis and rugby, but there our interests differed.

He was a scholar who not only read books but also published them. His "big book", on Church, State, and Society 1827–1845, was published when he was Warden of St Michael's. Among the people discussed in it was John Henry Newman, to whom he had a special devotion – one John Henry to another John Henry. John was also a teacher, who during 18 years on the staff of St Michael's taught so many future priests, including four future bishops, one of them also a future archbishop.

He was a priest, a priest in the Catholic tradition, to his fingertips, sustained by the Eucharist and the Daily Office – but John was no ascetic. He loved the good things of life which God has given us – good food, a glass in his hand, and exciting holidays in faraway places, like Costa Rica in 2020 when Covid restrictions almost kept John and Catryn prisoners in that country. But throughout his life he never wavered in his priestly ministry.

He was, perhaps above all, a family man. We recall his partnership with Catryn and his huge love for, and great pride in, his children and grandchildren, with whom he usually conversed in Welsh. His family gave him that love and support which enabled him to do so much for his church.

John had been diagnosed with leukaemia, but he was responding well to treatment when he fell in hospital and suffered a brain haemorrhage. His funeral was held in New Quay on 19 July and what is mortal of him is buried in the churchyard of Llanina, right by the sea.

We pray that he may rest in peace and that light perpetual may shine upon him. *Heddwch i'w enaid.*

**Canon Dr William Price**  
(Author, formerly Senior Lecturer at the University's Lampeter Campus, and Rural Dean of Wem and Whitchurch)

## ALLEN M. SAMUELS (1943–2022)

Dr Allen M. Samuels sadly passed away on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2022, at the age of 79. He was a lecturer in English at the University from 1975 to 2000. As a former colleague of his, I wrote the following eulogy for him at his funeral, which took place on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December:

'I'm remembering 1975 and an "informal" evening for the staff of Lampeter English Department that is taking place at Professor Peter



Dr Allen Samuels at a recent poetry reading, courtesy of Peter Miles

Davison's house where were also staying the candidates for three new lectureships awaiting interview the next day.

It's my first sight of you, Allen. You're sitting at one end of the sofa telling jokes and anecdotes while other candidates seem very serious and very much in interview mode. You, as I was soon to find, and as you were soon doing, could command any room and its conversation from the least promising seated position. When, rather than discussing the roots of Literary Modernism, you started doing Eric Morecambe impressions (wagging your glasses), I concluded that, entertaining as you were, you would probably be a non-starter the next day. Or were you shrewdly playing to Peter Davison's passion for the illegitimate theatre, vaudeville and music hall? Or was that just you – Allen the flâneur, the song-and-dance man manqué, the cross between Marcel Proust, Groucho and Cab Calloway? Whichever, it worked.

Allen was the most socially adept person I have ever met. Previously unknown company never fazed him were they students, the ladies in Lampeter cafés, visiting academics, vice-chancellors, or whoever. He loved company and could call on such charm, wit, humour and

wide-ranging erudition as suited the occasion, but also commanded gravitas in professional situations. His Martini parties (an annual return for hospitality received) were legendary and literally intoxicating. At the end of Senior Common Room parties, Allen the raconteur would still be under the standard lamp in his armchair with a few shadowy figures draped on the arms or sitting on the floor beside him. When Anthony Hopkins was installed as an Honorary Fellow of the English Department, it was Allen who gave the laudatory address (inevitably referring to the fact that the silence of the lambs had *never* been heard in Lampeter). At dinner afterwards he told Hopkins how much he admired the actor's tie. 'Here, have it', said Hopkins and a tie exchange duly followed.

Allen's popularity as a teacher was undisputed. The loyalty he inspired among his students has been evident to the very end of his life. In literature, his enthusiasms were James Joyce, T.S.Eliot and Dickens (he published a book on *Bleak House*). His brilliance also flared in pronouncing on *The Wind in the Willows* and Mr Toad's motor cars. Most Lampeter graduates, however, will recall his course on Jewish-American literature. He and I had discussed attempting to reduce the number of students taking our courses and the huge workloads of consultations, essay and exam marking this involved. We vowed to each offer a course that nobody in Wales would want to take. Thus, was born Allen's 'Jewish-American Literature': the cunning plan misfired; Allen had more takers than ever.

Allen, we were colleagues and friends all your working life and spent more time in each other's offices than I care to admit, and electronic friends ever afterwards. I hope that deep down you knew the regard, admiration and affection that distinguished your Lampeter days.

**Peter Richard Miles**  
(English literature educator, author and formerly Senior Lecturer at the University's Lampeter Campus)

## ANGELA WALKER (1977–2022)

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Angela Walker (1998, 1999). She was well liked and respected by her contemporaries at the University of Wales, Lampeter. Many who graduated with her in 1998 paid tribute to her on *Facebook*, including Dee Dixon, Katherine Gnych, Carmel O'Mahoney Roberts and Emma Williams.

Emma wrote: 'Such sad news. She used to make me laugh so much behind the bar and in the rugby team – such a witty girl and a kind heart'; and Carmel O'Mahoney Roberts commented: 'Angela was so much fun, so lovely; she had a spirit that exuded love and positivity. She comforted me during a bereavement in my uni days.'

Over the years, after Lampeter, Angela carried on her study of archaeology and went on to get another Master's in Environmental Archaeology and



Here Angela is doing the thing she loved the most – getting her hands dirty on a dig out in the middle of nowhere. Circa 2006 (location either in Syria or Romania). Courtesy of the family.

Palaeoeconomy at Sheffield University. She also became an illustrator of flowers/seeds/plants for people's published books – she was amazing at drawing.

Angela travelled around the world visiting Romania and Syria on digs and also worked a lot around the UK doing fieldwork.

Angela started doing her PhD a couple of years back, but this is around the

time she fell ill and sadly this study had to be put on hold. She never wanted to stop learning and had been in education pretty much since leaving Lampeter.

Over the last 20 years, Angela worked as a researcher and archaeology tutor at the Universities of Hull and Sheffield and from 2016 worked for Headland Archaeology [*a good quality provider of archaeological services and heritage advice to the construction industry in the UK – Ed.*] and lived in Edinburgh, then transferred to Hereford. This is where she sadly passed away in late December. Angela was definitely not a home girl and loved to explore and move around. Angela specialised in charred and waterlogged plant remains and worked with the environmental team, post-excavation team, and field staff to ensure that all environmental samples were taken and recorded appropriately and that they received any treatment and specialist attention they needed.

**Amber Sanderson (née Walker)**

### OBITUARIES UPDATE

We have just received notice of the sad deaths of John Burkett Graham (1960) and Robert Smith (1991). Tributes to them will appear in the next edition of *The Link*. Editor.

## MAKING BEQUESTS TO THE LAMPETER SOCIETY

Bequests are always most welcome and members of the Business Committee would encourage all alumni to include the Society in their wills to ensure that in the future we are able to continue providing a quality service for the College, alumni and current students.

# MEMORABILIA

## THE NEW UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ONLINE SHOP

The University Online Shop has continued to grow and is now home to around eight types of merchandise relating to Lampeter, ranging from books and accessories to mementos of our University.

The classic black and gold scarves and ties of St David's University College have been a staple of the store and continue to be popular amongst our alumni.



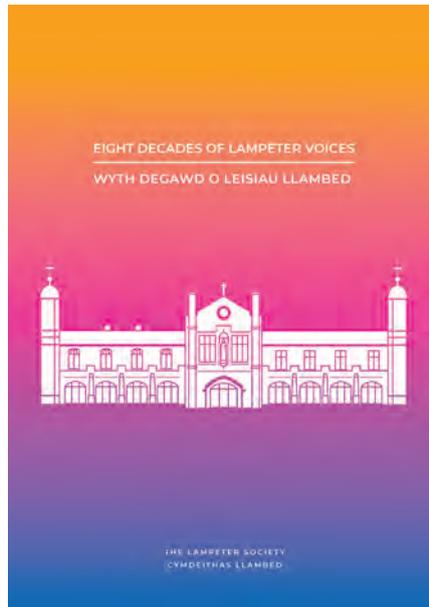
Scarves



Ties

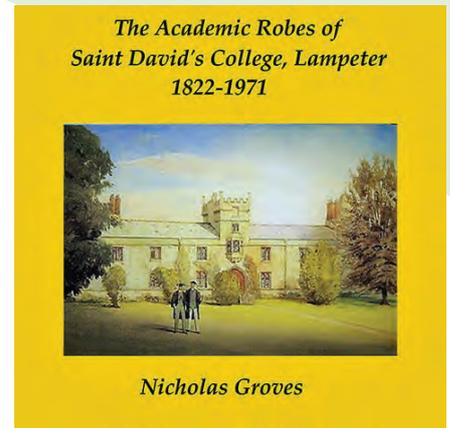
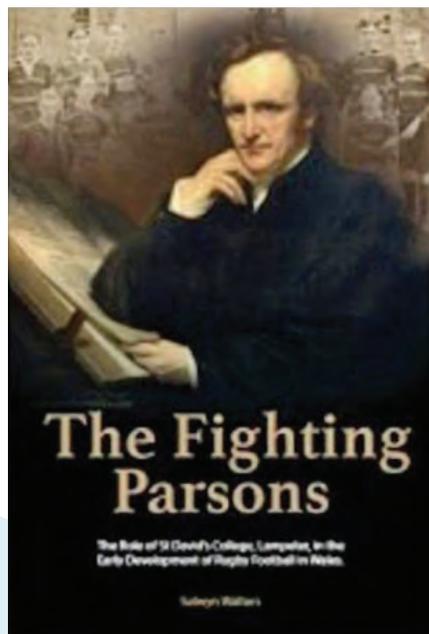
Also, The Lampeter Society was pleased to bring you their excellent *Eight Decades of Lampeter Voices* book this year to celebrate the bicentenary of the college. This provides a nostalgic look back at Lampeter through a series of

passionate accounts by both past and present students, offering tales of both humour and sentiment; it is currently in stock.



*Eight Decades of Lampeter Voices:*

Moreover, we have copies of Selwyn Walters' *The Fighting Parsons*, which investigates the history of rugby in Wales and the role that Lampeter played in it, and also Nick Groves'



*The Academic Robes of Lampeter*, which examines the history of SDUC's academic dress and its relation to that of other universities and colleges of the time.

Alongside these books, stunning prints of the University and the surrounding area by alumna Jessica Purser (2000) are also available. These come in a variety of sizes and styles, including prints of St David's Building, St David's Statue, the 1822 Weathervane, and the hill behind campus bathed in moonlight, all of which are perfect mementos of your time at Lampeter.

Below are samples of the prints.





Calendar – inside

## NOTICE – SALE OF PRINTED COPIES OF COVID LIMITED EDITIONS OF *THE LINK*

We are pleased to announce that printed copies of the Covid limited editions of *The Link* magazine, Summer 2020 and Winter 2020/21, are now available for purchase at a price of £3 each. Please contact the editor at [Brendan.mcsharry2@gmail.com](mailto:Brendan.mcsharry2@gmail.com) if you are interested in buying any of these.



Calendar – inside – month

## AN OLD PRINT AND A POSTCARD OF ST DAVID'S COLLEGE, LAMPETER (OLD BUILDING)

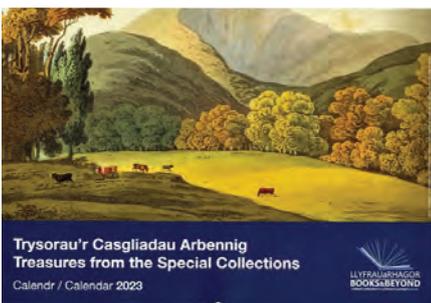


Henry Gastineau (1790–1876) – SDUC. Submitted by Alex Dalziel (1979) and Krysia Dalziel (née Olszowy) (1979)

This rather lovely painting is by Gastineau, the landscape painter and popular watercolourist. It was painted in about 1829 and appears as an illustration in *Wales Illustrated in a series of views comprising the picturesque scenery, towns, castles, seats of the nobility and gentry*, published in 1830. It was purchased by Alex and Krysia at the Cardiff Picture Framing Centre some time ago.

The Shop has also begun selling merchandise produced by the Roderic Bowen Library & Archives, most noticeably in the form of calendars and Christmas cards, both of which contain pictures of the various treasures that our archive contains, ranging from landscape sketches through to Medieval illuminations. All of these are available now – ready for the next festive season!

Below are samples of the cards and calendar.



Finally, as well as having a physical presence on the Carmarthen Campus, the Shop is also looking to expand to a similar site in Lampeter, which will likely be open a couple of times a week and will be based in and around the 1822 Café. Remember to follow us at “Lampeter Alumni” on Facebook to stay up to date with these developments.

Orders and payments can be made online using the following link: <https://shop.uwtsd.ac.uk/>

Clicking the Lampeter Campus tab on the University website will also take you to the Lampeter Society merchandise.

**Matt Cowley (2020, 2022)  
Alumni Officer at the University's  
Lampeter Campus**



Postcard picture of Old Building in the 1980s, also submitted by Alex & Kryisia Dalziel (1979)

Brendan McSharry (1971)

## IMAGES OF “SPRINGFIELD” HOUSE, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE VICE-PRINCIPAL’S HOUSE



Courtesy of UWTSO Special Collections and Archives.

This is a 1950s spring view of “Springfield” House, formerly known as Vice-Principal’s House, looking across the north courtyard to “Springfield” as it had now become, with the castle mound visible to the right. Essentially this was a Regency house, of which Lampeter had precious few, built in 1828. Notice the hood mouldings on the porch, the drip course and the glazing and casement arrangements, especially over the door, which mirror the iron window frames of Old Building – all these strongly suggest that Charles



Courtesy of UWTSO Special Collections and Archives.

Cockerell designed the House. The iron window frames were cast in the foundry at Carmarthen. One surprise is that the frontage is asymmetrical.

The photograph above is another 1950s view of “Springfield” but this time taken in the summer. The rear of the building appears to have been modified and reglazed – it has an additional basement storey, having been built into the hillside as would be its successor, Lloyd Thomas Hall. Professor Harold Arthur Harris (of Classics, 1933–1968) was resident at the time of the photograph although the figure standing on the wooden gallery outside the lounge does not look like him. Incidentally, during Wycliffe College’s occupancy, the lounge became a classroom. The castle mound appears in the background.

### Background note

When the College opened for students in 1827, the house was not yet ready for the Vice-Principal, The Revd Alfred Oliphant, and he had to make do with lodgings. It had cost £1,250 and was most probably designed by Cockerell. Until 1896 the four subsequent Vice-Principals

all lived in the house but when the Revd William Davey left to become chancellor and canon residentiary at St. Davids Cathedral, Hugh Walker took up residency. He was a lecturer in English and Philosophy, professor of both from 1890, and remained in the Vice-Principal’s house until his death in 1939.

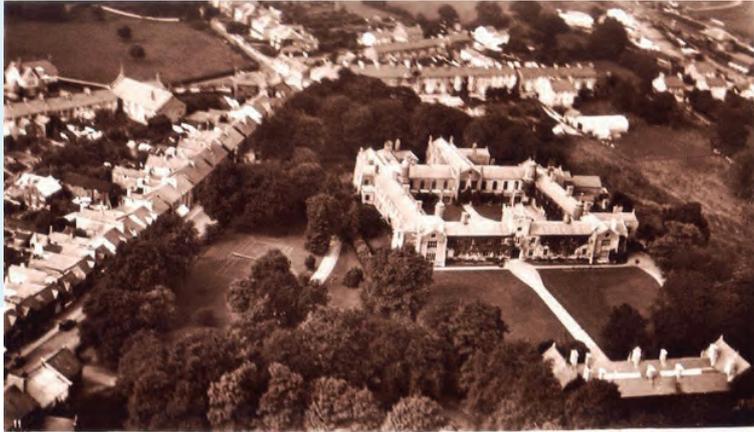
The house was not empty for long as Wycliffe College, the Gloucestershire public school, was evacuated from Stonehouse at the beginning of World War II and took over much of the College site, with the house being allocated to the Vice-Principal. Thereafter, it became known as “Springfield” and so remained until its final demolition in 1967. The school was to stay in Lampeter until the war ended in 1945 although Canterbury building continued as a home to Wycliffe’s junior school until July of the following year.

“Springfield” now became the home of Professor Harold A. Harris (Classics) who was to become the last resident. There is a considerable irony here in that it was Professor Harris who wrote to the Revd J. R. Lloyd Thomas in January 1953, inviting him to apply for the post of Principal of St. David’s College, and it was to be Lloyd Thomas who asked him to leave “Springfield” so that it could be demolished! Always a fair-minded man, Lloyd Thomas saw to it that Harris’s last two years on the staff were served as sabbaticals as some form of compensation for losing his much-loved home.

A final note about Wycliffe College: as a continuing recognition of the school’s stay in faraway Ceredigion, one of the school “houses” is named “Lampeter” – a day and boarding house for girls. As great supporters of women at Lampeter, Principal Lloyd Thomas and his wife, Betty, would have warmly approved of that.

J. Richard Morton (1975)

## AERIAL VIEW OF ST DAVID'S COLLEGE, LAMPETER



Aerial View, St David's College, Lampeter

Postcard image submitted by Richard Morton (1975).

Richard writes:

*Possibly the earliest aerial view of the College from before 1939. A postcard of J. Lemuel Rees, newsagents and a great deal more, in Bridge Street during my time in Lampeter. Old Canterbury is in the trees in the foreground across the lawns from Old Building. College Street is to the left and Station Terrace lies beyond the College with the station top right. Hidden by the trees is "Springfield" staff house and the College School.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

### THE LAMPETER SOCIETY

#### GENERAL

**Enjoyed your time at Lampeter? ... help us support the Lampeter Campus.**

The Lampeter Society exists to support the Lampeter Campus of the University and to act as a focus for alumni. All Lampeter graduates are automatically members of the Society and those who have donated to the Society receive a hard copy of the Society's full-colour, bi-annual magazine – *The Link*, copies of which are on the UWTSD website in the Lampeter Society section.

Our support is given financially or in any other appropriate way and covers the whole range of University life. In recent years we have:

- made annual donations to the Library and the Chapel
- donated the History of the College – a sequence of large, pictorial boards
- funded an annual Lampeter Society lecture
- bought a mobile bar for the campus catering team
- contributed towards the cost of the Harmony Garden
- subsidised a Rugby Club tour and kit for the Fencing Club
- purchased four volumes of John Donne's poetry for the Library as well as a book on C.R. Cockerell, the architect of Old Building
- Paid for some conservation work of two of the Library's treasures in the Special Collections – *The Austen Volumes*

- supported an international conference on "Globalism in the Ancient World", organised by the Department of Ancient History.

**However, all of these activities rely on the Society having sufficient funds available. It is thus reliant on donations made to it. Some graduates make one annually (the minimum requested is £20 – but if you wish to give more, this would be gratefully received). Such donations are essential to enable us to maintain the range of support we offer to the Lampeter Campus – please give generously.**

The Society's main event is the annual weekend Reunion which takes place in July on the Lampeter campus. It includes the AGM and the Reunion Dinner. Details are to be found on the University website, in this magazine, and on the Society's Facebook page. 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 take part in as many or as few of the events as you like. You are also welcome to bring along other family members or friends. *[See details of the events scheduled for 2023 on pages 54–55 – Ed.]*

Other reunions and meals take place in various parts of the country, when there are alumni willing to organise them. The Lampeter Society is always ready to support and publicise these events.

**Andrew Leach (1977)**

## INTRODUCING THE NEW VICE-CHAIR OF THE LAMPETER SOCIETY



John Jennings arriving for the bicentenary Reunion in Lampeter, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2022

Hello all. My name is John Jennings and I am the new Vice-Chair of the Lampeter Society. I graduated from Lampeter in 2006 then continued my studies at the Open University and the University of Edinburgh. Following brief stints in the print industry and the civil service, I have now been teaching Religious Education and Psychology in Edinburgh schools for over a decade. In the little spare time a teacher is afforded, I have been involved for many years in environmental campaigning. I was previously chair of the Association for the Teaching of RE in Scotland for two years and have also been heavily involved in advocacy for Alzheimer's disease research – a BBC documentary about

my family's involvement in research is due to be broadcast next year.

It is an honour to take over the Vice-Chair position from Chris Deacy, who filled the role so effectively. Speaking to members at reunions and online, there can be no denying that the Lampeter Society is full of very passionate people who feel an unbreakable bond to Lampeter. Many are understandably frustrated and upset that Lampeter is now unrecognisable from their own time at the College and feel helpless and sometimes angry in the face of such speed of change. I don't think it needs to be this way.

It is in the University's interests to have a sustainable plan for the future of Lampeter, and though some of their recent plans to make this a reality have not been met with universal approval amongst alumni, the senior management have made assurances that there will always be Higher Education delivered at Lampeter, which I think we should take in good faith. Their vision may not exactly match our own, but if we accept that we all want Lampeter not just to survive but thrive, co-operation remains the only choice, or we will be left out in the cold.

Where does that leave our Society? We are a crucial link to the College's past and have a vital role to play in its future. We can choose to snipe from the sidelines or accept that some change is inevitable and use our manifold skills and talents to help steer it through the latest of its many transformations. To do that, our voice must remain positive and relevant. We can keep an eye on the huge role the College has played in all of our lives in the past, whilst embracing the impact it can and will have on many lives to come. I'm excited to be part of that!

John Jennings (2006)

### VACANCY FOR SECRETARY

Owing to the sudden and most sad passing of Chris Reaney (see obituary on page 39), the Business committee of the Society needs a new secretary. It is not an onerous role – the main duty is to take the minutes at the meetings of the committee (four per year), write them up and distribute them.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Esther Weller (1999)

*The Link* launched a new feature in its Summer, 2022 bicentenary edition and set this question:

*Lector is moving (almost) which religious building?*

The answer is **Cloisters**. Well done to those of you that got it right!

Congratulations also to Yvonne Herbert (2017) for winning the Lampeter Society's recent "Quiz Night" game on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.

In each edition, we will be featuring a Lampeter-based question sent in by our readers. This will either be general knowledge in nature or cryptic.

If you would like to submit one or more questions, please email them to the editor. We look forward to receiving them!





## THE LAMPETER SOCIETY AND LAMPETER CAMPUS PROGRAMME OF EVENTS IN 2023

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Swansea branch meeting and lunch. Contact Nevil Williams at <a href="mailto:nevilwilliams1957@gmail.com">nevilwilliams1957@gmail.com</a> (TBC)
<b>16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Lampeter Society lecture (Founders' Library, 6pm)
<b>20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	May Ball (all alumni welcome)
<b>26<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Lampeter Society London branch annual dinner
<b>7<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Lampeter Graduation
<b>14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> JULY</b>	<b>LAMPETER SOCIETY REUNION</b>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	Lampeter Food Festival
<b>12<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Commemoration of the laying of the Foundation Stone
<b>18<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Celebration of the University's Founders' Day
<b>9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Lampeter Christmas Fayre

### REQUEST FOR COPY FOR FUTURE EDITIONS OF *THE LINK*

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

\* **Summer, 2023: Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2023**

\* **Winter, 2023/24 – Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2023**

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE LAMPETER SOCIETY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

<b>Chair / Reunion Coordinator:</b> Esther Weller (1999)	<a href="mailto:estherb16@yahoo.co.uk">estherb16@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Vice-Chair:</b> John Jennings (2006)	<a href="mailto:john@ilonline.co.uk">john@ilonline.co.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b> Andrew Leach (1977)	<a href="mailto:ajpleach@gmail.com">ajpleach@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b> [Vacant]	
<b>Editor of <i>The Link</i>:</b> Brendan McSharry (1971)	<a href="mailto:brendan.mcsharry2@gmail.com">brendan.mcsharry2@gmail.com</a>
<b>Deputy Editor of <i>The Link</i> / Severn-Thames Convenor:</b> Peter Bosley (1967/1977)	<a href="mailto:bosleypeter@yahoo.co.uk">bosleypeter@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Photo Editor:</b> Adrian Gaunt (1966)	<a href="mailto:adrian_gaunt_04@yahoo.co.uk">adrian_gaunt_04@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>UWTSD Liaison:</b> Bill Fillery (1969)	<a href="mailto:fillerybill@gmail.com">fillerybill@gmail.com</a>
<b>London Convenor:</b> Richard Haslam (1994)	<a href="mailto:rhaslam@hotmail.com">rhaslam@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Swansea Convenor:</b> Nevil Williams (1980)	<a href="mailto:nevilwilliams1957@gmail.com">nevilwilliams1957@gmail.com</a>

## THANK YOU

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**My grateful thanks to the following with regard to this issue of *The Link*: all the contributors, for their hard work and for adhering to the copy deadline; the Deputy Editor, Peter Bosley; Photo Editor, Adrian Gaunt, for providing great images; Esther Weller (Chair) and John Jennings (Vice-Chair) for their ongoing support; Jill Sweet for her excellent design work; Sarah and Ashley Ward of Y Stiwidio Brint for their exceptional printing; and Matt Cowley for his tireless Alumni Office liaison and distribution efforts.**

# FFURFLENNI / FORMS

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## ADUNIAD / REUNION, 2023

### NOTE: BOOKING ONLINE

The university are no longer accepting paper booking forms so all bookings need to be made and paid for on the link below:

<https://forms.uwtsd.ac.uk/view.php?id=527259>

**PLEASE NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR BOOKING 2023  
REUNION PLACES IS THURSDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> JULY, 2023**

## PRICES OF REUNION COMPONENTS

Welcome Reception – Friday	<i>Free</i>
Barbecue – Friday	<i>13.00</i>
Bed & Breakfast (single room) – Friday night/Saturday morning	<i>45.00</i>
Bed & Breakfast (double room) – Friday night/Saturday morning	<i>69.00</i>
Bed & Breakfast (family room) – Friday night/Saturday morning	<i>69.00</i>
Lunch – Saturday	<i>14.95</i>
Strawberry Tea – Saturday	<i>5.00</i>
Reunion Dinner – Saturday	<i>33.00</i>
Bed & Breakfast (single room) – Saturday night/Sunday morning	<i>45.00</i>
Bed & Breakfast (double room) – Saturday night/Sunday morning	<i>69.00</i>
Bed & Breakfast (family room) – Saturday night/Sunday morning	<i>69.00</i>
Lunch – Sunday	<i>18.95</i>

## ADUNIAD CYMDEITHAS LLAMBED, 2023 – RHAGLEN

### ADUNIAD CYMDEITHAS LLAMBED, 2023 Gwener 14 Gorffennaf – Sul 16 Gorffennaf

#### RHAGLEN

Bwriedir i'r penwythnos hwn fod yn un ymlaciol, anffurfiol a phleserus i ddal i fyny gyda hen ffrindiau a chwrdd â phobl newydd. Mae'r rhaglen yn hollol hyblyg a gallwch ddewis cynifer neu gyn lleied o'r digwyddiadau a restrir isod ag y mynnwch – mae popeth yn wirfoddol.

**(Sylwch, oni bai eich wedi archebu ymlaen llaw, ni fydd llety, cinio'r aduniad a phrydau bwyd eraill ar gael.)**

– – – PRIF DDIGWYDDIADAU – – –

#### GWENER, 14 GORFFENNAF

3.00 yp – 5.00 yp: Cofrestru	Cloriau, Adeilad Dewi Sant (wedi hynny gellir casglu allwedd i o'r Dderbynfa). <i>Bydd cynllun eistedd ar gyfer Cinio'r Aduniad ar gael; gwnewch yn siŵr eich bod chi'n gofrestru ar gyfer sedd cyn i chi adael yr ardal gan y bydd hyn yn rhoi mwy o amser paratoi i'r staff arlwy.</i>
5.30 yp: Derbyniad Croeso	Caffi / Bar 1822
6.00 yp: Gosber	Capel
6.30 yp: Barbeciw	Undeb y Myfyrwyr
7.30 yp: Cwis Tafarn	Undeb y Myfyrwyr

#### SADWRN, 15 GORFFENNAF

8.00 yb – 9.00 yb: Brecwast	Neuadd Fwyta Lloyd Thomas
9.15 yb– 9.45 yb: Datganiad ar yr Organ	Capel. <i>Organydd – Y Parch Canon Richard Hanford, Organydd yn Abaty Margam. Cyn Ganon Preswyl a Phrif Gantor yn Eglwys Gadeiriol Guildford wedyn Ficer yn Ewell yn Surrey (eglwys gyda thraddodiad cerddorol hir). Ysgolhaig Organ yn Nhŷ San Steffan yn wreiddiol, Rhydychen, ar ôl astudio'n gynt ym Mhrifysgol Rhydychen a Choleg y Drindod, Dilyn.</i>
10.00 yb: Gwasanaeth blynyddol y Gymdeithas Llambled	Capel. <i>Pregethwr – Y Gwir Barch Dr Rowan Williams, cyn Archesgob Caergaint</i> (Mae croeso i chi gynnal y traddodiad o wisgo gwisg academiaidd)
11.00 yb: Coffi, te a biscedi	Cloriau, Adeilad Dewi Sant
11.15 yb: Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol y Gymdeithas Llambled	Darlithfa Cliff Tucker. Bydd diweddariadau gan BCDDS am y campws, rhaglen academiaidd ac ati.
1.00 yp: Cinio Anffurfiol	Neuadd Fwyta Lloyd Thomas
2.00 yp: Gemau Rhwng Cenedlaethau	Lawnt y tu allan i'r Hen Adeilad
4.00 yp: Te Mefus	Cloriau, Adeilad Dewi Sant
5.00 yp: Gosber	Capel

6.45 yb: Llun grŵp	Ar y patio tu allan i Gaffi / Bar 1822
7.00 yb: Derbyniad diodydd cyn-cinio	Bydd poteli o win ar gyfer Cinio'r Aduniad ar gael i'w prynu. Bydd tocynnau raffl ar werth am £1 yr un, gyda'r holl elw'n mynd i gronfeydd Cymdeithas Llambled.
7.30 yb: Cinio Aduniad	Neuadd Fwyta Lloyd Thomas SIARADWR GWADD – Jeff Powell Cyn Ddirprwy Atwrnai Cyffredinol Cynorthwyol a Chyfreithiwr Cyfansoddiadol yn yr Unol Daleithiau <i>Gwisg smart achlysurol os gwelwch yn dda (ond mae gwisgo'n fwy ffurfiol yn gwbl dderbyniol os dymunwch!)</i> <i>Ar ôl y cinio, bydd Undeb y Myfyrwyr ar agor tan yn hwyr, gyda disgo yn yr Estyniad.</i>

## SUL, 16 GORFFENNAF

9.00 yb – 10.00 yb: Brecwast	Neuadd Fwyta Lloyd Thomas
10.00 yb	<i>Offeren Catholig Rufeinig yn Eglwys Our Lady of Mount Carmel gyda'r Tad Keith Evans</i>
10.15 yb – 11.15 yb: Sesiwn holi ac ateb gyda Seren Llambled <i>Rhys Bebb Jones (1982), Maer Llambled</i>	Llyfrgell y Sylfaenwyr
11.15 yb: Taith hamddenol i'r Falcondale	Cwrdd yn y Cloriau, Adeilad Dewi Sant
11.15 yb: Cymun	Capel
12.30 yb: Cinio Dydd Sul	Neuadd Fwyta Lloyd Thomas

# LAMPETER SOCIETY REUNION, 2023

## Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July

### PROGRAMME

The annual Lampeter Society Reunion is intended to be a relaxing, informal and enjoyable weekend for catching up with old friends, meeting new people, and celebrating all that Lampeter has to offer. 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.

**(Please note that unless pre-booked, accommodation, the Reunion dinner and other meals will *not* be available.)**

#### – – – MAIN EVENTS – – –

#### FRIDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> JULY

3.00 pm – 5.00 pm: Registration	Cloisters, St David's Building (thereafter keys can be collected from Reception). <i>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.</i>
5.30 pm: Welcome Reception	1822 Café / Bar
6.00 pm: Evensong	Chapel
6.30 pm: Barbecue	Students' Union
7.30 pm: Pub quiz	Students' Union

#### SATURDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> JULY

8.00 am – 9.00 am: Breakfast	Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall
9.15 – 9.45 am: Organ Recital	Chapel. <i>Organist – The Revd Canon Richard Hanford, Organist at Margam Abbey. Formerly, Residentiary Canon &amp; Precentor of Guildford Cathedral then Vicar of Ewell in Surrey (a church with a long musical tradition). Originally, Organ Scholar at St Stephen's House, Oxford, having previously studied at Oxford University &amp; Trinity College Dublin.</i>
10.00 am: Lampeter Society Annual Commemoration Service	Chapel. <i>Preacher – The Most Revd Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury</i> (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
11.15 am: Annual General Meeting of the Lampeter Society	Cliff Tucker Lecture Theatre. <i>There will be updates from UWTSO about the campus, academic programme etc.</i>
1.00 pm: Informal lunch	Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall
2.00 pm: Intergenerational Games	Lawn outside Old Building
4.00 pm: Strawberry tea	Cloisters
5.00 pm: Evensong	Chapel
6.45 pm: Group photo	Lloyd Thomas Hall, on the paved area outside the "1822 Bar".

7.00 pm: Pre-dinner drinks reception	1822 Café / Bar <i>Bottles of 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.</i>
7.30 pm: Reunion Dinner	Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall <i>GUEST SPEAKER – Jeff Powell (1975)</i> (former Deputy Assistant Attorney-General and constitutional lawyer of the United States) <i>Smart casual wear please (but dressing more formally is perfectly acceptable if you wish!)</i> <i>After the dinner, the Students' Union will be open until late, with a disco in the Extension.</i>

## SUNDAY, 16<sup>th</sup> JULY

9.00 am – 10.00 am: Breakfast	Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall
10.00 am	Roman Catholic mass at <i>Our Lady of Mount Carmel</i> church, with Father Keith Evans
10.15 am – 11.15 am: Question-and-Answer session with Local Lampeter Luminary Rhys Bebb Jones (1982), Mayor of Lampeter	Founders' Library
11.15 am: Holy Communion	Chapel
11.15 am: Leisurely walk to the Falcondale	Meet in the Cloisters, St David's Building
12.30 pm: Sunday lunch	Lloyd Thomas Dining Hall

### CINIO'R ADUNIAD, 2023 REUNION DINNER, 2023

#### Cwrs cyntaf – Starter

Cawl tomato rhost a phupur coch gyda rhòl a menyn (L)  
Roasted tomato and red pepper soup served with a roll and butter (V)

#### Prif Gwrs – Main Course

Ffiled eog wedi'i weini â broccoli tenderstem a saws Hollandaise  
Fillet of salmon served with tenderstem broccoli and Hollandaise sauce

Brest cyw iâr mewn saws gwin gwyn, pancetta, caws Cymreig a chennin. Wedi'i weini â llysiau'r haf  
Breast of chicken in a white wine, pancetta, Welsh cheese and leek sauce, served with seasonal vegetables

Parsel ffilo wedi'i weini â sgwash cnau menyn wedi'i rhostio, pupurau a betys (L)  
Filo parcel served with roasted butternut squash, peppers and beetroot (V)

#### Pwddin – Sweet

Cacen gaws mefus a siocled gwyn, wedi'i weini â hufen Chantilly  
Strawberry and white chocolate cheesecake served with Chantilly cream

Tarten siocled a charamel (D/G Fegan)  
Chocolate and caramel tart (G/F Vegan)

**Te neu Goffi Ffres gyda Mintys ar ôl Cinio**  
**Freshly brewed tea or coffee with After Dinner Mints**

**Bydd pawb sydd wedi archebu lle yn cael eu ehostio yn agosach at yr amser yn gofyn am eu dewisiadau bwydlen.**  
**Everyone who has booked will be emailed nearer the time for their menu choices.**

## LAMPETER SOCIETY LONDON BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER 2023

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, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2023**. Please aim to arrive by **7.00pm** to dine at **7.30pm**.

As is usual, it is a little early to confirm who will address the dinner, but I am confident, as in years past, that an excellent candidate will step forward to entertain and enlighten us.

As the Head Chef selects only fresh produce, the menu is also yet to be confirmed but this is an indication of what to expect:

Pea, Bean and Mint Bruschetta  
Roast Tarragon Lemon Chicken Breast with Seasonal Vegetables and Potatoes  
White Chocolate and Passion Fruit Mousse  
Coffee and Mints

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

**The cost is £48 which represents excellent value for a Central London location of this quality.**

It is preferable if payment can be made by bank transfer to: The Lampeter Society; sort code 30-94-85; account number 00072466; reference "**London [your surname]**". Please follow this up with an email to advise me of payment and/or of any special requirements, and/or names of guests etc.

If you cannot pay by bank transfer, please return the booking form below, with a cheque made payable to Richard Haslam, to **29 Gilbert Street, Enfield, EN3 6PD**. Places for the dinner are limited and in order to confirm numbers with the Club in sufficient time, I should be grateful if all bookings and payments could be completed by **Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2023**.

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

Please send all 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 are able to keep a record of those interested in the Lampeter Society's activities. Also, if you know of anyone who may have such an interest, please pass on this information and encourage them to contact me. Further information is also available on the alumni pages of the University's website and the Lampeter Society Facebook group. Do look us up and get in touch!

Yours sincerely,  
Richard Haslam, Convener, London Branch (1994)

### 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 £48 each. I enclose a total payment of £ \_\_\_\_\_, made payable to Richard Haslam.

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

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



## CYFFREDIN / GENERAL

### NEWID CYFEIRIAD / CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

Lampeter Alumni Office, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Lampeter Campus SA48 7ED  
Phone: (01570) 422351; email: [lampeteralumni@uwtsd.ac.uk](mailto:lampeteralumni@uwtsd.ac.uk)

Also though, please update your contact details at the following web address:

<https://forms.uwtsd.ac.uk/view.php?id=193668>

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Year of Graduation:</b>	
<b>Old Address:</b>	
<b>New Address:</b>	
<b>Postcode:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	

# LAMPETER SOCIETY ANNUAL DONATION STANDING ORDER MANDATE



<b>To the Manager</b> [ <i>your bank</i> ]	
<b>Address of bank</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>Sort code</b>	
<b>Account number</b>	
<b>Account name</b>	
<p>Please pay <b>The Lampeter Society</b> the sum of £ ..... (The minimum recommended payment is £20, but if you wish to be more generous, this would be gratefully received.)  <b>Date of first payment:</b> ..... (Please allow four weeks from return of the form to the start date of your standing order.)  <b>Date of subsequent payments:</b> 1 March annually  <b>Iban no. for payments from abroad:</b> GB36 LOYD 3094 8500 0724 66</p>	
<b>Signed</b>	
<b>Date</b>	
<p><b>For Bank Use:</b> The Lampeter Society, c/o Lloyds Bank, 9 High Street, Lampeter SA48 7BQ          (Sort Code: 30-94-85; Account number: 00072466).  <b>Reference:</b> <b>The Lampeter Society</b> – [<i>your name</i>]</p>	

**Additional information for Lampeter Society and UWTSO records:**

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Telephone</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Graduation year</b>	
<b>Profession/ occupation</b>	

**Please return this form to:** Lampeter Alumni Office, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Lampeter Campus, SA48 7ED



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Lampeter Society “200 Club”! We set it up to help us with our fundraising activities – most recently the Bicentenary celebration events in 2022. Further information, including the registration form, is found below. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Esther Weller (Lampeter Society Chair) at [estherb16@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:estherb16@yahoo.co.uk)

## INFORMATION

\* The Lampeter Society “200 Club” is a private lottery and is open to all graduates, staff and past students of the Lampeter Campus of the University of Wales Trinity St. David.

\* You pay a monthly fee and each month one member will win a cash prize.

\* Membership costs £12.00 per year (£1 a month) or pro rata, in advance, renewable on 1st July each year. For example, if you sign up to the “200 Club” in March, you will pay £8 for membership until the following June. This buys you just one unique membership number, which will be entered into a monthly draw – the same number each time. However, further numbers can be purchased throughout the year and also paid for on a pro rata basis.

\* The Lampeter Society Business Committee will inform you of your allocated number(s).

\* The prize fund will depend on the number of entries. However, the percentage will remain the same: 50% of the money collected each month will be distributed as one cash prize, whilst the other 50% will be allocated to the Lampeter Society. We shall use this in furtherance of our aim of supporting both the Lampeter campus and the whole range of university life there, as well as alumni activities that bring people together (such as the Annual Reunion).

\* If you win, the money will be transferred to your bank or a cheque will be sent to your address.

\* The prize draw takes place on the last Friday of each month and is drawn using the random number generator at [random.org](http://random.org). The winning number will be posted on Facebook.

## TO ENTER

If you would like a chance of winning, please complete and sign the membership form below and return it to Andrew Leach, Committee Treasurer, at [ajpleach@gmail.com](mailto:ajpleach@gmail.com). You may either send a cheque to Andrew (address available on request) or, preferably, transfer the membership fee to our bank account, using your name as the reference:

Lampeter Society 200 Club  
Account number: 20256668  
Sort code: 30-94-85

**Esther Weller (1999)**



**LAMPETER SOCIETY “200 CLUB” APPLICATION FORM 2022/2023**

Name:	
Postal Address:	
Email Address:	
How many numbers would you like to purchase? (at a cost of £12 per number, per year, or pro rata)	

- ✓ I agree that if I wish to cancel my membership I will inform **the Lampeter Society Business Committee** of this decision.
- ✓ I understand that membership fees are non-refundable.

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

