

# CYFEILLION EGLWYS SANTES JULITTA FRIENDS OF ST JULITTA'S CHURCH

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[www.stjulittas.org](http://www.stjulittas.org)

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2011**

Dear All,

I feel that now is not a bad time to review last years AGM. I sell it to everyone by saying it is one of the most important events of the year; the sales patter does not have a great deal of effect on response but fortunately I don't change my mind! Let me start off by thanking Plas y Brenin for hosting our meeting, a huge plus point in the management of the event. Itv was really nice to welcome Suryiah Evans, from the Conwy Valley Churches project and Mr & Mrs Ronnie Williamson, who were supporting us as Ronnie had been an evaquee in Capel Curig in the war years.

If we ignore the blips (there were some!) we had quite a jolly day. . Following the meeting we had a afternoon drive/ walk to visit St Mary's Church Caerhun & Llangelynin Church, John Shakespeare was our guide and gave us a very informative afternoon. The sun shone too! . The churches feature prominently in Hughes & North's book The Old Churches of Snowdonia and they lived up to there reputation. If you were not with us then again I would recommend the afternoon visit to all - make it a priority visit in 2012.

One of our members when sending in his apologies for the 2012 AGM added, 'I think you have had an excellent year; the summer exhibition was an outstanding success as were the other functions which were organised. Congratulations to all the hard working committee'. I am sure that those that supported our events would agree! Another remark was impressed by the range of activities that we covered in 2011 and in the there was some debate at the AGM that we were working our volunteers too hard! Let me quickly sum up the Diary of Events for 2011. We started the year off by hosting a meeting of the Wales branch of the Council for British Archaeology in Plas y Brenin, a afternoon full of interest for anyone interested in Snowdonia/local history. We opened the church over the Easter Weekend, a new feature and reasonably successful; not many visitors but those that came were grateful. The Spring exhibition was based on a exhibition brought together by The Conwy Valley Churches project; giving a historical background to all our neighbouring churches. a fascinating tale. We had a lovely day at Capel Curig carnival and made over £100 on the book stall, obviously brought about by the volunteers that run it, but also by all the members who donated books. Thank you everyone.

Whilst all the above was being organised a team was beavering away in the background sorting out the summer Exhibition titled The War Years in Snowdonia. My first contribution was sorting out the funding and for this; we must thank Conwy Bor. Council, Conwy Rural Partnership, the Welsh Assembly, Plas y Brenin and the Snowdonia National Park for financial support towards the project. I am pleased to report that we received grants for the exhibition and book. It was a bit of a bumpy road to get them but it is pleasing to note that we were awarded £4047 62p RPD/ the Conwy County Bor. Council.

Once work commenced on the ground it was an extremely interesting exercise; and again I would thank those both on the front stage and in the wings for a brilliant contribution – on top of which a huge number contributed with material that led to the build up of a extremely interesting story.

The idea of producing/writing an exhibition guide surfaced in the early days but it was not anticipated how it would grow. Originally a 28 page production it ended up with a rather cramped 64 page booklet which could have been double the size with more time and resource. Sadly we had to leave full sections of the research out because there was not enough space. Special thanks to Tony Rankin, Frances Richardson, Pierino Algieri, Peter Smith, Ken Smith, Wyn Jones and especially Trish Hooson who managed to uncover a huge amount of information of the evacuees to the area, and then had a serious accident that kept her away

from the exhibition. *'Get well soon Trish – we are missing you!'*



Full credits are listed in the booklet but twelve persons manned the 'front stage' and over 20 other contributed in allsorts of other ways with many local people adding their reminiscences to and the exhibition. Mr. Ronnie Williamson (*Ronnie, Bryn Engan*), who arrived in Capel Curig as an evacuee in 1940 opened the exhibition on a lovely sunny afternoon – weren't we lucky! The booklet is still on sale £3 50 from myself post free.

As well as the above we were able to have a lecture to support Exhibition in the evening of the opening day at Plas y Brenin, given by Mr. George Osborne, who gave tales about his and his sister's lives as evacuees.

Our summer programme continued with Jonathan Richards's annual classical guitar concert. As a sit here writing this piece I have sad thoughts that few people from Capel Curig have ever visited the church for this wonderful evening. I know that some are tone deaf but many others if they could try to escape from their 'firesides' would realise what a fantastic musician he is. Live music is very special, Jonathan makes it extra special!

We again had a lovely Thank You dinner at the end of November. Twenty one persons sat down to a lovely meal brought together by a number of volunteers. This year the Conwy Valley Churches Project had drawn to a close. We thank the very efficient director of the project Ms Suryiah Evans for her huge contribution. The wonderful group of churches dotted around the Conwy valley, are now better known to many people. St Julitta's has benefited greatly from this project. As a thank you for this, and all the other contributions we received from many other supporters we again promoted an evening which will bring us all together at a social gathering. Our church provides a wonderful venue for this and we were happy to welcome our special guests Sir Brian & Lady Regina Smith, long time supporters of the Friends of St Julitta's.



Dinner 2010

Finally the year came to an end with the Annual Capel Curig Carol Concert on 21st December 2011. Peter Smith writes 'This year we were blessed with good weather and no rain or snow or frost! The Concert was very well organised by Alice Douglas with the old timer Peter Smith advising from time to time in the background. Father Clive Hillman took the service and Geraldine Tundstall played the organ with the help of electricity from the generator! The

church was beautifully decorated by Alice and her helpers. Readings were done by Ann Jones and Ifor Efans and Jayne Wainwright sung a solo. Numerous children performed solos and played instruments all organised by Alice and Geraldine and Alice's daughter Hero introduced the solo performers. There are certainly some very fine young singers and musicians in the community. Mulled wine and mince pies (thanks to Plas y Brenin) were served after the concert. There were approximately 78 people in attendance and the collection raised £135.30 which was divided up between Capel Nant y Benglog, ST Mary Betws y Coed and the Friends of St Julitta's.'

To the above we must again thank the Snowdonia Society for their help and support with maintenance.

Sadly again we have to report bereavements in Capel Curig. A past supporter of our exhibitions Mr Ken Dwyer who was also a veteran Mountain rescue volunteer passed away during the year. Our sympathies are passed on to Anne & the family, Gareth and Carwyn. Another great loss to the village was the death of Mr Wyn Roberts, Tan y Braich. It is so very sad. I personally knew Wyn very well through the fell race that I organise, the route of which passed go over his land. The book that we hope to publish, Oes O Fyw ar y Mynydd was written by his late mother. Finally it has just been reported that Owen Wyn Owen died yesterday( 14<sup>th</sup> March). Owen and Capel Curig come in the same package deal; his contribution to the local history of the area was huge, he lived all his life in the village, his farther had been owner/ manager of the Rhos Slate Quarry Capel Curig and Owen was chairman of the local council for many years. I carry many happy memories of chatting to him, he will be sadly missed. Mrs Coddington a long standing member also passed away during the summer. I send our sympathies and condolences to their families.

Illness and hospital treatment too has been an issue. Trish Hooson, Jean Roscoe, Wyn Jones, Margaret Hinds have all called on the services of the National Health Service in 2011, I wish them all a 1000% recovery and trust they will soon be fit enough to get involved in the world around them.

I don't think I should say that the executive committee have been limping along over the last year because of not having a secretary but life would have been easier with one! **Any volunteers to fill the vacant position?** Viv Jones has retired as Membership Secretary Many y thanks Vi, may you have a very long and happy retirement! Brian Templar will move into her seat but we still do have two vacancies on the committee; please someone fill them! Kate William's has taken over the position of auditor and also continues to manage the web site – we again are very lucky to be able to call on this support, thanks so much Kate.

Again the support that Plas **y Brenin** gives us puts them at the top of my thanks list. They really are a very generous and supportive establishment, many thanks for their support. This year in a small way we were able to replay them a little. They have set up a small museum about the history of the Royal Hotel/Plas y Brenin. During the war years The Royal Hotel was requisitioned and became a live firing training camp for Sandhurst cadets; we featured this in our summer exhibition. I had asked Tony Rankin if he was able to paint a picture, for our exhibition, showing the front of the building with its war time garb showing. This he did. The painting shows the troops gathering outside the battle camp (Royal Hotel, Capel Curig) in 1943, waiting for transport to take them on a five day mountain warfare training expedition. A vehicle parked on the road is a Red Cross Ambulance, based at Betws y Coed, often in demand when accidents happened. We have had a copy made of the picture, and it is now framed and captioned in their exhibition.

We have a number of big projects on the agenda but need a whole number of factors to fall into place before things start moving on the ground. These include, in no particular order: 1 Insulation of Electricity 2 The replacement of the concrete floor 3 Extra storage. 4 Attention to the interior walls – Lime plaster & decorating. 5 Store for the generator. 6 Church yard maintenance, together with the installation of one or two seats. I guess that it could be said that we will be busy in 2012!

Item 6 is something that I hope the Friends will be able to help us with. This year being the Queens Jubilee year the committee think that one way that we can celebrate it by is the insulation of one or two teak or similar seats in the church yard. Being able to sit down and relax is something that I am sure many visitors will take advantage of. We wonder if we have any members or supporters who feel able to finance these, perhaps in remembrance of a relative or Friend? Please get in touch if you feel able to help, I would expect expressions of interest by early mid April.

It should be noted that we are about to adopted a new bilingual policy copies available fro the chairman. And please visit our Bilingual Web site, its good! Paul Rowlinson continues to maintain the translation work. It really is worth visiting, its up to date and informative.

With the appointment of our New membership secretary except action if you don't pay your subs! But growth in our membership could also be a good thing, and Brian will be working on this, the aim is a 10% grwth in 2012, that is only 15 new members, can you help Brian to achieve this? Our subs must be near being about the lowest of any group, and yet we have supporters who cannot take to huge plunge of joining our group.

Our plans/Diary of events for 2012 has been circulated widely. Make sure you have a copy of our **Events Diary** and note down the details. I am sure our summer exhibition is going to be a bumper one. The subject of the exhibition is **Snowdonia, water, water everywhere**. Most visitors to Snowdonia/ Capel Curig know all about the rain, but don't realise the social advantages of living in an area of high rainfall. Our exhibition will bring many unknown facts and features to the attention of the residents and visitors. The exhibition will be broader based than 2011 but will still feature the Capel Curig Community. We are going to produce a substantial booklet again on the subject that will act as a guide to the exhibition. If any feels they can help or wish to get involve please get in touch your contribution will be gratefully received.

We continue to sell a number of publications that we have. A sales form is on the web site and everything is avai8lable in the church. Anyone with any problems please get in touch. It is nice to report that we now have a return for the investment that we put into publishing the books. We still have lots of Tea Towels, why not push the boat out and send in an order. Our search for funding to publish the book, Oes O Fyw Ar Y Mynydd, written by Margaret Roberts, the farmer's wife from Tal y Briach, Dyffryn Ogwen in 1979 has also drawn a blank, but we do hope to be able to report more progress before the summer has passed. Moving away from the church the roof timbers of Dyffryn Mymbyr have now been dendro dated, giving a date of about 1550. Frances has now produced a social history of the house, please get in touch if you want one. But I trust that you feel that things have gone well in the last twelve months and I thank all members for their support. I have again been lax in circulating information but please feel that this is YOUR group, we are relaxed, friendly, in it for the fun, perhaps to learn, to contribute, we need your help!.

Finally sincere thanks to the officers and the committee for their loyalty, understanding and outstanding contributions. Particular thanks to John Disley who's loyalty is very much appreciated .

Best wishes for the forthcoming year.

Harvey 16 03 2012

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

