

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

*A local history and conservation group / Grŵp hanes a chadwraeth lleol*

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

[www.w1insnowdonia.org](http://www.w1insnowdonia.org)

**Llywydd/President Mr. John Disley CBE**

Rhif Elusen Cofrestredig/Registered Charity No 1068756

37 Stockleys Rd., Headington, Oxford, OX3 9RH

01865 750067 epost/email [harvey@richlloyd.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:harvey@richlloyd.fsnet.co.uk)

## **Annual Report 2014**

Dear All,

I would like to start off this report by thanking the five heroes who stewarded the church over the Easter 2014 weekend. The act of stewarding the church at Easter needs a special mention! I suppose we are not going to get too excited about the number of visitors but I think the unseasonable weather should take front stage. But sun shone on the righteous, yes the sun shone in Snowdonia at Easter 2014 a feature that I don't remember often happening in the past - but it was not warm in the church - days of yore bring thoughts to me about Easters in Snowdonia, when I ran the Youth Hostel, memories of lots of unhappy visitors, over-crowding and heavy rain and wind! But the weather 2014 even allowed me to drag myself up the south ridge of Snowdon, with Frances, whilst Ken did a wonderful job of painting all the windows outside with white undercoat paint.

The next section of this report is going to be devoted to all the helpers who did such wonderful things for St Julitta's in 2014. Society does not strangely promote volunteering seriously, small groups like St Julitta's do - volunteers are the lifeblood of so many charities. What a brilliant response we get - the summer exhibition was a fine example of collective volunteering; we had more than forty people involved in a whole number of ways, working together to produce outstanding results. But more of this later. At this stage thank you one and all for all the help, you provided results that many, many people enjoyed.

Help and support comes in many forms. Correspondence from our two members in Northern Ireland brought a pleasant surprise. Christie Colhoun and Rosemary his wife had collected four early postcards of the church, one dated 1905, about which I got quite excited. He not only gave them to us but also paid for the framing. Thank you Christie, visitors can now study them and note the changes that took place to the exterior of the church in the twentieth century.

Over the last two or so years we have been improving the lighting arrangements in the church. Everyone will know that we do not benefit from mains electricity. In the early days, we decided to purchase a generator and Roy Coppack after some research came up with a generator that has served us well. Roy too has served us well when maintenance was needed but after about ten years of service, our *Made in China* piece of high tech engineering decided to die. Fortunately, my overloaded garage revealed a spare which we have used successfully for the last couple of years.

In the mean time we have had the church electrically wired, this was done at the same time as the interior was plastered by an electrician, Dafydd Owen, who has lots of ancestors buried in the churchyard. At the same time it was thought that we should have some lights to the approach to the church, it is very dark outside St Julitta's on a winters night! Dafydd ran the cable within the church for this to be fitted later. Ken Smith now comes on the scene, as whilst browsing through a antique shop in deepest Peak District he spotted two Victorian lights suitable for our church – he was soon a proud owner of them – and also persuaded a friend to finance half the cost. A visit to the church now, when the generator is running, will see an antique lantern illuminating the front door.

The next stage of the saga presented bigger problems as we wish to fit lantern number two over the entrance gateway to illuminate the steps. To progress this we needed a team effort, so we brought in the heavy gang. Following a committee meeting a visit was made to the church to consider the problems of getting electricity from the church to the church gateway, which had to go underground. Chris Harper the engineer of the team come up with a number of the goods needed, such as a drill that would go through the 2ft. 6 inch thick stone wall and a breaker to break up the ground in order to dig the trench. I think the Good Lord supported our efforts in two ways, as it stayed dry (in March!) on the day, and Chris had some very good equipment. He set to, to drill a hole through the wall and amazingly the end of the drill appeared the other side of the wall - after a little persuasion the hole appeared where it should. And so the trench was dug through to the gateway, a job that I thought would normally take a week!

The digging in a churchyard produces thoughts of exciting artefacts but on this occasion we were out of luck. The only things of note were a bit of what I might call Buckley pottery, one or two big lumps of slate of questionable but unknown origin and a rather big slab of slate that still rests under the path. As darkness set in we had finished, the cable was in place to allow us to fix a light over the rather dangerous (at night) entrance; rarely had three and a half pensioners achieved so much in six hours! The next stage of the volunteer input is warming up and ready to go. Andrew Shorter a man of many skills, some of them artistic, has agreed to build a wrought iron arch over the gate to hang the second light. Work is now in progress and it should be in place by Easter. The final stage will be to have a very informal dedication of the arch to all those that served in the First World War from Capel Curig, a fitting end to our project.

The year 20124 has been a year of achievements for our group, a year working together and producing fine results. We have had a bumper exhibition year. Research the First World War, a Great War? in Capel Curig and the surrounding area was quite a challenge and but we wonderful support for all those involved – the booklet that was produced



alongside the exhibition was a great achievement. Starting from the base line of the war Memorial in Capel we built a story that certainly would have been lost without our researchers hard work. This year we extended the booklet to 64 pages, (twice the size of anything we had published previous) and I really do think we produced within its covers a great deal of important local history. To produce it bilingually was very much the icing on the cake! The presentation too was fine. In bringing the booklet together I very much thank both *Design 2 Print* Llandudno, an Jamie their designer for providing a service for beyond what any ordinary customer could expect. The same thanks I extend to Gareth at *Micrographics* Llandudno Junction who designed and printed the panels, a totally professional presentation. Of course I must also thank the National Lottery for a very generous grant, we just could not get off the ground without help of that nature. Note the attached appendix to this report for a few comments on our efforts. Copies of the booklet available from the above.

We had a really interesting November/ Autumn talk , 21st November when Mr Aled Owen, Cwm Penmachno, gave us a presentation on his plans to creating a week long walk walking route around Snowdonia visiting the main slate quarrying areas of Snowdonia. You will probably remember that we have researched the slate quarries of Capel Curig with our exhibition of 2008. The walk will pass through all of the grandest parts of Snowdonia and will be a fantastic walk for both residents and visitors, a very big learning experience for all those that explore it. It is one of those ideas that one wonders why it has not been thought of before. To contact him - [aledocwm@uwclub.net](mailto:aledocwm@uwclub.net)

On the following evening after the talk we held our 'Thank You' Dinner at the church, and again what fun it was - lots of fun but with a underlying level and challenge mixed in! Initially suggested as a Medieval Dinner as it was being held in a medieval building we thought we were are half way there. But the title **A Thank You Candlelit Dinner** is very relevant to our work. It does give us an opportunity to show appreciation to some of the volunteers who help to make St Julitta's the successful group that it is. Our hoped for 20 +guests, did not materialise – we always chose dates when all guests are busy doing other things. But it again was a totally formal informal gathering; luckily the did not turn down the job when it was offered. A lovely three course meal will allsorts of trimmings – it was so successful we intend to have another go in 2015.

In the world of volunteers, I have found a treasure and she is made of Gold! Kate Williams, luckily retired has done wonders for the Friends of St Julitta's as she does for other charitable groups. She is our Auditor and originally put together our web site, [www.stjulittas.org](http://www.stjulittas.org) Please look at it and let us know what you think about it. When the thought of bringing together the First World war Exhibition she answered my request for help in a super positive way and so we had an exhibition! Her latest escapade is tackling the jungle called Gift Aid; we should shortly be receiving four years Gift Aid from the tax authorities (no wonder Cameron is worried about how the country is going to pay its bills!) Many thanks Kate; I do hope it has been a bit of fun!

Again we are stepping off into a bumper AGM weekend, how much more fun it would be if we could get a few more people involved fro Capel Curig. The AGM also introduces our diary of events for the year.

A really nice group of people who have now visited the church on two different evenings are a choir from Mynydd Llandegai, Lleisiau'r Mynydd, (*Voices of the Mountains*). I was lucky enough to be able to attend their first evening, it was a lovely evening, Frances and I enjoyed the singing very much, we have not had a choir in the church before, and the acoustics seemed to suit the voices very well. It was a real joy to be there and the songs in their repertoire allowed the singers to harmonise beautifully - it is nice to think that music of this nature would have been heard in the church for something like 500 years. They have since returned, steward in charge Brian Templar reported 'a good evening, a happy group' and we have hopes of them revisiting in 2015. They replied to us, 'We had a lovely gathering last Monday and Brain had laid on refreshments and warmth! We would love to sing in the Church again to suit you '.

Also note in 2015 our candlelight Classical Guitar evening on Saturday 8th August - again an evening not to be missed! Jonathan Richards is a real friend to St Julitta's, we and Capel Curig are so lucky to have such loyal supporters. One continual problem is to get a live audience to live performances! Do we always put on events on dates that are inconvenient for local residents or is it that to gather together is not the thing to do? Who knows?!

The committee have decided to slightly change our public image. I and others have thought that our links to local history should be recognised within our title. It has been suggested that we include below our main title the words '*A local History and Conservation Group*', bilingually. This should give us some recognition to people that do not know our aims.

Congratulations to Frances our treasurer for getting her research on local history in Snowdonia recognised by a number of academic organisations. It is always good to get a little praise for hard labour, and her results are based on extra hard labour!

The 2015 AGM is upon us and again we get support from all quarters. Plas Y Brenin provide us with a unique venue, we thank them for this. Kathy Laws is very generous with her time when she agreed to come to speak to us – thank you Kathy. Of course, I especially appreciate those who support our AGM – we do set out to provide an interesting and enjoyable day, something which is different. I do hope we achieve our aims. The walk around Betws should be fun; I do hope we do not get lost!

With our AGM comes our new self starting generator to run the electrics at the church, which we think that lady stewards at the church will be very grateful!

Finally I had a note from a gentleman enquiring about the church. He emailed 'My wife and I long admired St. Julitta's Church and visited it many times. We found it a beautiful, inspirational and a very peaceful place'. In many ways, he says it all.

That more or less rounds things up. Many thanks again for the support, keep up the good work and I look forward to our next gathering together, maybe at Easter!

Best wishes

Harvey 19 03 2015

- Fantastic trip into history really inspiring.
- Brilliant! Long may your society continue with its work.
- Thank you, thoroughly enjoyed & appreciated all the hard work you have done.
- So good - I come again!
- Fantastic display of local history.
- Brings back so many memories.
- Another amazing exhibition.
- Your information has been beneficial to the young people who are using this to-marks the aim of that Gold expedition award.
- Amazing! I couldn't stop reading the little book.
- Fascinating, thank you.
- Excellent exhibition, very good accompanying booklet.

AND my favorite, perched in an orchard young lizard . . .

'I liked the flowers a lot and the medals. The expedition is really good and the enemies suit case is a good thing to put in the expedition.'