

INSIDE THIS ISSUE – NEWS FROM THE MANOR – HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND GRANT LATEST

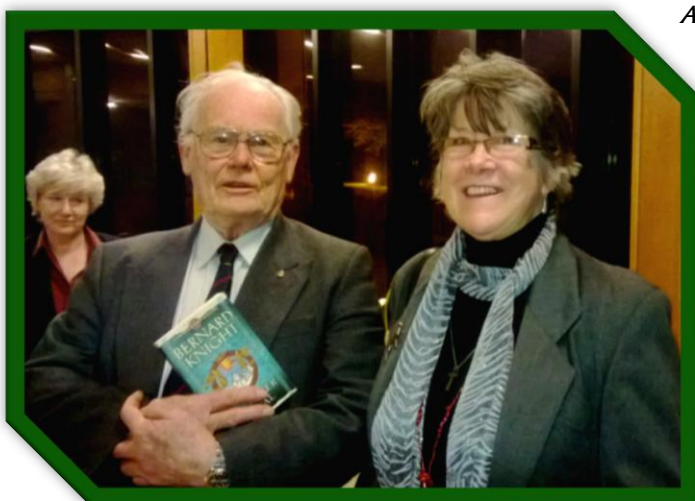
Forthcoming Friends Events

Thu 5 Sep	Highclere (Downton Abbey) Trip – <i>Pick up time to be confirmed</i>
Fri 27 – Sun 29 Sep	British Association of Friends of Museums (BAfM) Conference & AGM – <i>Every individual member of any Friends Group who are part of BAfM (which FOLF is) is entitled to attend this event which this year is being held in Aberdeen. Includes an interesting mixture of visits and talks plus a civic reception and gala dinner. The theme of the weekend is "Innovative ways of sharing our heritage". Full details can be found at www.bafm.org.uk.</i>
Wed 9 Oct – 7:00pm	AGM - <i>in the manor with Cawl in the café – final details to be confirmed (AGM)</i>

Professor Bernard Knight's Visit

Professor Bernard Knight recently gave a talk about his life and writing to the Friends of Llancaiach Fawr. 45 people attended a hugely enjoyable and informative evening. I asked Rose Williams (President of the Friends) to write a few words about the man and his talk.

"Prof. Bernard Knight CBE visited Llancaiach Fawr on 19th April and gave a talk about his distinguished life focusing mainly on his successful writing of more than thirty crime novels. He has also written twelve non-fiction books and a biography.



Born in Cardiff on 3rd May 1931 Professor Knight served in the Army Medical Corps in Malaya from 1956-59 before becoming a barrister in 1966. He also lectured in forensic science at several universities before becoming Home Office Pathologist from 1965-96. During this time he worked on several high-profile cases including the Fred West trial. Today he has the distinction of being Professor Emeritus at University of Wales having been made a CBE in 1993.

It was a pleasure to welcome Bernard Knight to the Friends evening and he did not disappoint. He spoke at length, about planning, plotting and publishing his novels, with great humour and detail. This gave all who were there a little insight into an author's work.

Professor Knight invited questions from the floor to round off a very interesting and entertaining evening. He proved to be a good orator and a really nice gentleman – humble and self-effacing about having achieved so much in his life – a lovely man and a lovely evening."

Membership Renewal

Your membership expires at the end of this month so if you wish to continue enjoying all the benefits of membership of the Friends please complete the attached renewal form and return it to our membership secretary (Louise)

News from the Manor

by Diane Walker (General Manager)

WE HAVE FINALLY GOT THE OFFICIAL 'PERMISSION TO START' OUR PROJECT FROM THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND... HURRAH!

The delay between the announcement of the grant for £943,000 in March this year and the actual clearance to get everything going has been caused by issues with the roof stone, which became clear after the grant was awarded. The cost of pennant stone - which is what the original roof covering was in the 16th century - went up massively from the original quote, which meant that we were short of about £100,000 for the scheme. Not surprisingly, this had to be resolved before we could start the project. We either had to find the money from elsewhere, review the building works to see if that amount could be saved from another part of the project or find an alternative roof covering. We thought that the Cadw inspector would insist on the pennant stone but as it turned out he is happier with slate because it weighs much less and he was concerned about the loading on the walls. The slate that Cadw have specified is from the Delabole Quarry in Cornwall and it has a lovely grey/blue/green sort of tinge to it. Importantly it has an uneven texture and it will be laid in what they call 'diminishing courses', which will give an added undulation to the roof. The ridge tiles will be grey and when it is all finished it will look fabulous. Critically though, the cost is in line with our original estimates for the replacement of the roof, which means that we can now, at long last, get everything underway!

The background work has mostly now been done to meet the conditions which have been set out for the planning and listed building consents such as the stays for the windows to prevent them from catching in the wind or where exactly the ironmongery for the new handrails will be fixed into the mortar joints of the wall. A few things remain, in particular we have to do an additional survey on the bats during the summer, but there is nothing too onerous. I am talking to our archaeological consultants too so that they can excavate the area where the external staircase tower will go before building work starts, to make sure that we don't damage anything historic.

The tender process for the builders gets underway in earnest in the last week of June. We have various legal and procurement processes to go through which will take time and, whereas we had hoped to start on the roof as soon as possible after the end of the bat breeding season from 1st September onwards, we may not now be able to get the contractors mobilised until late autumn/early winter. This isn't ideal, but as we will only have until the end of April 2014 to finish the roof and attic parts of the project before the start of the next breeding season, we are just going to have to put up with it! In fact an all expenses paid holiday for them to hang upside down in someone else's roof for a year or so would be a much simpler and cheaper option! I also have to officially apply for a licence to disturb our bats which Geri Thomas, our wildlife consultant, is helping me with.



The post of Outreach and Development Officer will hopefully be filled by the start of September. Their job will be to create and organise activities connected to the building works for visitors to get involved in. We will be keeping the manor open during the building works and just taking one floor out of circulation at a time, so visitors and school groups will have other things going on to entertain them and engage with - why and how we look after historic buildings. Key to this will be the role of the existing volunteers and the new ones we want to attract. The new person will also spend time in the community, telling people about what we do here and what we are trying to achieve in developing the manor and its interpretation and supporting the marketing of the manor, the facilities and our events. They will also act as the linchpin between us and the various learning partners that we will be working closely with to support the training of the next generation of builders and architects who will be looking after historic buildings in the future.

Gareth Jones, the Treasurer of the Friends and I have been working on fundraising plans for the furnishing of the attics. We are approaching trusts, foundations, businesses and individuals for the cost of turning the newly restored and floored empty attic rooms into the servants' quarters in 1645. We are creating a 'shopping catalogue' for the beds, mattresses, sheets, blankets, lanterns, candlesticks, chests and coffers and personal items that will make the rooms come alive and reflect the different servants and their lives. All the donations will be recorded in a leather-bound book that Lee Jessup, one of the historical interpreters, has made so that we have a permanent record of all the help we get.

We will be calling on members of the Friends to help staff a stall at the big events during the summer (WWII event on 3rd and 4th August, Kings Fair on 18th August and the Barking Mad Dog Show on 26th August) to raise interest in the project and persuade people to sponsor different parts of the attic furnishing plans. You have been warned!

We are also going to have a free Open Day in the manor on Sunday 22nd September where we will have traditional skills and crafts on show and activities to try out which will be the launch of the HLF project here and hopefully attract lots of new people to the Manor and get them involved in the project.

I look forward to seeing you over the summer and sharing more of this exciting project to develop the visitor experience of the manor.



Angela Has Left The Building!

All the Friends who have visited Llancaiach over the last 20 plus years will miss seeing Angela Murrell at the front desk. Angela surprised us all by announcing her retirement on 30th April and left on 31st May, not before we enjoyed a night out at The Hollybush Inn with all the staff in attendance except Ian the Chef who moonlights in the Hollybush in the evenings and weekends.

Angela has been part of the fabric of Llancaiach and the place does not seem the same without her, however, she is still continuing her role as Social Secretary of the Friends. So she will still be in attendance at our Social evenings and AGM's.

I know you will all join with her colleagues in Llancaiach and wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

17th Century Recipes by Anne Gibbard (Alicia Jessup)

'To Boile Chickins

take a good handfull of parselie, pick it small and a good handfull of gooseberries, and a pretie quantity of tyme, mince it small, and three large mace, and put these all together in a dish, and a little pepper, and salt and half a pint of white wine, and some broth that the chicken were boiled in, and a piece of sweet butter, and let it boile halfe an hower, and when the chickins are boiled inough, put that broth to them, and serve them; put some suger into it.'

SOURCE: Elinor Fettiplaces receipt book

Put the chicken in a large pan and cover with water, along with a carrot, onion, stick of celery, a couple of pepper corns and a sprig of thyme. Bring to the boil and simmer for between an hour and an hour and a half depending on the size of the bird (check that the bird is cooked thoroughly before serving).

Half an hour before the bird is done start the sauce, top and tail the gooseberries and chop them, finely chop the parsley and thyme and put them in a small pan with the wine and a couple of blades of mace. Add a cupful of chicken broth and simmer slowly until well-reduced, at the last minute add a good knob of butter and a little sugar to taste.

Serve on 'sippets', this means toasted bread, or if you don't fancy this you could serve it on a bed of rice. sprinkle with fresh parsley.



Wednesday, April 24, 2013

campaign



Jan Fitzgerald is one of nearly 200 ambassadors promoting the Valleys

Ambassador Jan ready to help boost Valleys tourism

A CAERPHILLY county volunteer is helping to boost tourism in the area as part of her role in a project designed to target local communities as well as outside visitors.

Jan Fitzgerald 70, from Ystrad Mynach, has worked as a volunteer in her county borough for 20 years, helping out at tourist attractions such as Llancaiach Fawr and the Winding House in New Tredegar.

Ms Fitzgerald has completed training through the Community Tourism Ambassador scheme to become one of nearly 200 ambassadors to promote the Valleys

as a tourist destination and to act as welcoming host as well as a source of local information.

Ms Fitzgerald said "The ambassador course gave me the skills to help draw more local people to their local attractions.

The places that I work with see people coming in from across the Valleys and I believe this is due to nostalgia.

"Whether it is former miners, who once worked at the colliery where the Winding House now stands, to remember a place they once worked or local children visiting during the school holidays," she concluded.

Dates for your Diary

For more details of all Llancaiach Fawr events, call the manor on 01443 412248, or go to www.llancaiachfawr.co.uk



Manor House Events

Wed 24 July	Pirates and Princesses – children's activity day (11am to 4pm)
Wed 31 July	Monsters and Magic – children's activity day (11am to 4pm)
Sat 3 & Sun 4 Aug	The Manor at War - 1944 – The battle for France and life on the home front (skirmishes, 1940s music, NAAFI refreshments and more) – Adults £10, Concessions £7, Family £25
Sat 3 Aug	1940s Dance – Live music from Ricky Hunter and 'All That Jazz' (7pm to 11pm) - £10
Wed 7 Aug	Superheroes – children's activity day (11am to 4pm)
Wed 14 Aug	Vampires and Faeries – children's activity day (11am to 4pm)
Sun 18 Aug	The Kings Fair – military re-enactment and falconry to entertain a king
Wed 21 Aug	Pirates and Princesses – children's activity day (11am to 4pm)
Mon 26 Aug	Barking Mad Dog Show – Adults £1, Concessions 50p
Sun 25 Aug – Sat 7 Sep	Art Exhibition – Bargoed and District Art Society – free entry
Sun 22 Sep	Traditional Trades and Creative Crafts – age old skills on display in and around the manor

GELLIGAER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk

A warm welcome is extended to Friends of Llancaiach Fawr and anyone else who wishes to come along to the monthly meetings held at Llancaiach Fawr (usually in The Barn) unless stated otherwise.



Wednesday 25 Sep 7:00 pm – David Cartwright – whose family lived and worked in Hughesovska (former name of Donetsk in Ukraine) named after John James Hughes from Merthyr Tydfil



Wednesday 30 Oct 7:00 pm – Mark Baker – History of Ruperra Castle

Recent Friends Purchases for the Manor House



Candle lantern and cooking pot



Physician's Uroscopy Jar



Clay Pot

Last Words – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

When I was growing up in Tunbridge Wells I was very confused about the names and times of meals. I being of working class stock had dinner in the middle of the day and tea in the evening. At the grammar school I attended I discovered that my friends – sons of accountants, doctors or bank managers - had their dinner in the evening and lunch (or luncheon if they were really posh) in the middle of the day. More confusingly the meals we had in the middle of the day at school were known as school dinners.

Looking at the origins of these words only adds to the confusion:

Breakfast – no confusion on this one – in use from the 15th century it is simply the first food of the day that you use to break your overnight enforced fast whilst asleep.

Lunch – when introduced at the end of the 16th century it meant a slice or hunk of food (from the Spanish lonja – a slice). Early in the 17th century the word morphed into luncheon and meant a snack (a small leap from a slice or hunk). By the beginning of the 19th century the word had been shortened back to lunch and extended in meaning to refer to any light meal.

Dinner – the word dinner originally comes from a Latin verb *disjunare* which means to “unfast” (*dis* meaning un and *jejunas* meaning fasting or hungry) so it actually referred to breakfast. It came into English through the old French word *desjeuner* which in modern French became *dejeuner* which originally meant breakfast but now means lunch – still confused? The word dinner has been used in English since the 13th century and has always meant the main meal of the day but at what time of the day that is taken has varied according to century, region and social class.