

# THE LINK

**EXTRA**

The newsletter of the  
Lampeter Society/Cymdeithas Llambed

**2014**





### LAST PASSENGER TRAIN OUT OF LAMPETER

**T**HIS PHOTO SHOWS the last passenger train going north to Aberystwyth Bill Callaghan (grad 1966) standing; Paul Symonds (grad 1967) leaning out of window. The home-made board on the back is currently in the possession of Kit Windle (grad 1966)!

Of course, having closed the line in the 1960s, considerable efforts are now being made to urge its reinstatement. Take a look at: [trawslinkcymru.org.uk](http://trawslinkcymru.org.uk)

### RECENT LAMPETER SOCIETY GIFTS

**L**AMSOC ASSISTANT TREASURER CHRIS WEBBER (grad 1960 & 2011) reports that the Society has recently organised and paid for:

- the refurbishment of the case made to house the original Lampeter Charter and Seal.



- a full-size reproduction of the Charter (about 10 feet long!)



- a bespoke case (with endorsement to the Lampeter Society) for the 15th century Lampeter Bible.

Chris also provided the photographs reproduced here.



He enthuses that the finished quality of the items (from the National Library of Wales) is very high, and advises that the total cost, including VAT, was £991.00, which represents good value for money. He feels sure that Sarah or Peter, Archivists in the Roderic Bowen Library would be happy to show the items to members of the Society at the Reunion or at other times.

The next task is to arrange for a frame for the Charter reproduction, and to agree its final site with the University authorities (at the moment the Library entrance Hall seems a favoured location).

Chris also advises that, in connection with the historical basis of Lampeter, and thereby of Trinity Saint David, the Society is currently trying to source a reproduction of a suitable portrait of King George IV. His Majesty was one of the two major benefactors of the foundation of St David's College (he gave £1,000 in 1822). It is hoped that, once obtained, the portrait could be displayed in a prominent position on the Lampeter campus.

## OBITUARY VENERABLE LESLIE WILLIAMS

**K**IT WINDLE (GRAD 1966) writes that Lampeter man the Venerable Leslie Williams (grad 1941) died, aged 94, in September 2013. Kit mentions that for many years Leslie Williams was Vicar of Barnston and Pensby on the Wirral, subsequently becoming Archdeacon of Chester.

Bill Fillery (grad. 1969) mentions that a peek at Leslie Williams' Crockford entry reveals a pretty full life. Following his time at Lampeter he spent two years at St Michael's, Llandaff, prior to ordination. He was then Curate of Aberdovey 1943-45; Minor Canon, Bangor Cathedral, 1945-48; Chaplain Royal Navy 1948-9; Curate at St. Mary Chester 1949-53; Vicar of Barnston, as Kit mentions, from 1953-84; Territorial Army Chaplain 1954-62; Rural Dean Wirral North, 65-75; Hon. Canon Chester Cathedral, 1972-75; Archdeacon of Chester 1975-88. He retired in 1988.

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## OBITUARY JOHN HURST

**T**HE FUNERAL OF JOHN HURST took place on Friday 9th May 2014, at Garsdon Church, SN16 9NJ.



15th October 1944 - 26th April 2014

John Hurst, originally from Exeter, studied English and History at Lampeter and graduated in 1969. He was a great all-round sportsman, playing centre-half or centre-forward for the College XI and was capped for the Welsh Universities side. He also played cricket for the College and was a member of the 1969 side which lost only one game all season, and that being the final of the UAU championship.

It was at Lampeter that he met his future wife, Daphne. They married in 1970 and had three children, Kathy, Suzy and Chris. Daphne sadly passed away in 2010.

John taught English at Headlands School in Swindon between 1973 and 1975, and was later Head of English at Kingsdown School from 1975 to 1984. He then moved to the newly-established New College in Swindon, where he worked until retirement in 2000.

John suffered a heart attack on Saturday 26th April shortly after watching his beloved Exeter City (for whom both he and his father had played) beat Scunthorpe United 2-0.

John Loaring (grad 1967).



*This illuminated letter is copied from the 1279 Latin Vulgate Bible once owned by Bishop Burgess, founder of St David's College (now Trinity Saint David's Lampeter campus).*

## OBITUARY PAT BEAVIS

**I**T IS WITH DEEP SADNESS that I have to write that Pat Beavis passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on 4th March this year.



6th February 1953 - 4th March 2014

The last few years of his life were not kind to him and he was suffering from a number of illnesses and ailments. It was not the life he envisioned whilst at Lampeter.

Following his graduation he worked for Lloyds brokers in the City before joining his soon-to-be wife, Yvonne, working with horses and riding stables, moving to North Yorkshire for a while in order to set up their own riding school, before moving back to London. He also rejoined Hayes Cricket Club, where he had been a member before Lampeter, and could again excel at a sport he had little chance of playing whilst in Wales.

Throughout his life, Lampeter always meant a great deal to Pat, the memories of what was an exciting time, the difference between the rural setting of the college and the life he knew before in London, and the friends he made there. Indeed, some of those friendships made in the early 1970s remained with him for the rest of his life. Yvonne has pointed out that Lampeter always meant a great deal to Pat, and that he felt his time there was the most important episode in his life.

I shall remember Pat as someone who could always see humour around him, even if most others were hard pushed at first to share that view. In the end we would all come around to seeing it his way. He was also very slow to take offence at anything that people he regarded as friends would say to him, often making a joke of it. Finally, even when things were going badly wrong for him, he never lost his optimism that things could and would get better.

He leaves three children, James, Jolene and Marcus.

Mick Manson (grad. 1976)

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## LAMPETER SOCIETY LONDON BRANCH CONVENOR

**M**ike (Barley) Evans (grad. 1974) stood in as temporary London Convenor – despite living in Cambridgeshire! – at the 30th May 2014 London Branch dinner at the National Liberal Club, as long-time Convenor Richard Haslam (grad. 1994) has sadly had to stand down. Barley recalled that Rich took up the London Convenor challenge when the late Vernon Fletcher (grad. 1962) retired from the post after 26 years. Vernon's was not an easy act to follow but Rich achieved that with enthusiasm and dedication for some 13 years, running the annual dinner plus other occasional events and, on Vernon's untimely death, commissioning a gavel in memory of Vernon, with which to bring London sessions to order, all this while playing a full part in the Society's Business Committee. All present recorded their thanks to Richard for his efforts over the years. A toast to Absent Friends included thoughts of Rich and Vernon – and also of Chris Webber.

## TULIP

LAMPETER GRADUATE (1984) M.M.Waltho has shared with us this wax etching tulip image which she created in memoriam for her late father, who loved Lampeter. Martine also has the distinction, this year, of being the first person to book up for the July Reunion!



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## REMINISCENCES

I WAS ADVISED TO GO TO ST DAVID'S COLLEGE, LAMPETER by my Vicar when other alternatives had proved negative. It was pre UCCA days. I was informed that I was accepted because of my testimonials.

I became a student at SDC on October 8th, 1959, General Election Day. I listened to the results during some of the following night; I hope I didn't keep my room-mate awake doing this. I was pleased that SDC was all-male at that time though I have changed my mind since as has SDC of course. I was not too pleased to be 'in digs' for my first two years which were not very good though the person with whom I shared was very pleasant indeed. We were not allowed into the pubs in town but this was later rescinded; though we were told that anyone who got drunk would be immediately rusticated. The students were also given a Director of Studies. I was lucky in that my Director was Frankie Newte who was not only very nice but was a good Director as well.

Things improved a lot while I was there both for me personally and for the College as a whole. In the third year I lived in College (in OB). I was Deputy Senior Scholar and had to deputise for the Senior Scholar when he was absent. The most important occasion was attending a dinner at which Edward Heath and Henry Brooke, both Cabinet Ministers, were present. This was to celebrate the 'link up' between Cardiff University and Lampeter for the purposes of Government Funding, for which the College was ineligible before this. I had to say the Grace which was a long one and was in Latin.\*I was prevailed upon by the Chairman of the Junior Common Room who was also present to report proceedings to the JCR.

There was a plethora of Societies; sporting, religious, political etc. For an extremely short time I was Secretary of one of the political societies. There was a Croquet Club, a sport which wore me out considerably. The Debating Society also suffered from my presence and I was prevailed upon to speak against the motion that 'this house wishes to break with tradition'. The motion was supported by one vote but I did manage to get in a reference to Charles 11 'who was Father of his people - or, at any rate, of most of them'. There was a Student newspaper known as 'Gownsmen' which was very enjoyable. At one stage there was a 'spoof' produced which, in a serious vein, criticised some aspects of African independence. This infuriated many of the student body who signed a Petition against it. The authors suffered condign punishment from the Authorities.

1961 saw the death of Danny Dawson, the very good Professor of History (had he been wounded at the Somme?). There was considerable anxiety among the student body (especially those studying History) as to who his successor might be. This proved to be C. D. Chandaman but was not finalised until after we had left. In the meantime we had to be content with various people who lectured to us. They were mostly from Cardiff University and were good.

It was a time of national importance (at least we thought so). An anti-apartheid March took place, which most of the students and two of the lecturers joined. It was one of the first in the country and set a precedent for countless others in the ensuing decades which were eventually successful. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament was supported by many of the students and the 1960s saw the first bid to join the European Union (then often known as the Common Market) and this also divided student opinion. South Africa left the Commonwealth (but was readmitted 33 years later). At virtually the same time, the Commonwealth Immigration Act was passed and Nigerian Independence came in 1960. It is interesting to note that many of these issues remain important today.

In short, my time at SDC was very enjoyable though I had to work extremely hard. Fortunately, there were few distractions in Town. I am still in touch with some of the student body, one of whom lives in Australia, one in Zimbabwe and one in Britain itself. My SDC experience was also important in that it enabled me to get further degrees and certificates in other Universities and to teach History in Kenya (5 years) and English in Indonesia (5 years), Vietnam (6 years) and Palestine (6 months: one had to be in the house by 10 o'clock pm), as well as in Britain, of course. I think that my decision to study at SDC was the best decision I have ever made and I still think this over half a century later.

Chris Staples History 1962

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## CHRIS WEBBER

THIS YEAR'S LONDON BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER speaker was to have been Chris Webber (grad. 1960 and 2011), the Society's Assistant Treasurer and Severnside Convenor. However, on Sunday 26th May, Chris very sadly died. As a mark of respect no attempt was made to find an alternative speaker for the occasion. Instead, a few words were said in his memory at the dinner. He was an indefatigable worker for the Lampeter Society. For example, as Assistant Treasurer, he set about improving our financial position. He also took on the post of Severnside Branch Convenor. In addition he spent time and energy researching and writing up historical issues relevant to the Society, and was very active on the Society's behalf in a myriad other ways. Indeed, the tangible results of some of his recent efforts are pictured earlier in this Link Extra. A full obituary will be prepared for issue in next year's Link. Meanwhile no doubt all members of the Society share in offering heartfelt condolences to his family.