

# LLANDEILO & DISTRICT CIVIC TRUST SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER AND UPDATE APRIL 2011

### Dr Lyn Davies to be our next Guest Speaker on 20 April

We are delighted that one of Llandeilo's favourite speakers has accepted our invitation to talk to us at our next public lecture on 20 April. Be sure to put it into your diary and remind others about it. Though known throughout Wales as a musician, a member of the Arts Council for Wales and on the Board of the National Library of Wales, Lyn is also a highly regarded historian and his lecture entitled **Patterns of Population and Culture in the Towy Valley** promises to be an interesting evening. Please don't miss it.

### PLANNING

Members may be aware of two significant new development proposals that have major implication for Llandeilo. The first of these is the proposal by Grwp Gwalia (a Swansea-based housing Association) to build nine flats and four houses on the land adjacent to the former Provisions Market in Carmarthen Street. Our Society has long had an interest in the future of this historic building and members may recall a public meeting held several years ago that resulted in outline proposals for its refurbishment prepared by the Welsh School of Architecture. However, Carmarthenshire County Council subsequently identified a joint venture consisting of Grwp Gwalia and Morgan's Hotel as their preference for developing of the site. Following the withdrawal of Morgan's Hotel, Grwp Gwalia have now made a formal planning application on their own.

Our Committee have expressed concern to the County Council regarding this proposal on the following grounds:

- 1- that the proposal as it stands will leave the Market Building as an empty shell while developing land around it. In our opinion this will make finding a sustainable economic use for the building even more difficult.
- 2- we echo the concerns of local residents that additional housing in this area will increase pressure on available parking.
- 3- the nature and scale of the development is not appropriate in this part of the Conservation Area and will have a detrimental impact on local historic character.

If you wish to learn more about the proposals, the planning application can be viewed on Carmarthenshire County Council's website – including detailed Design and Access Statement. Grwp Gwalia are also holding an exhibition in the Church Hall at St Teilo's on Tuesday 12 April between 3pm and 7pm; but **please be aware** that the representations of the old Provisions Market are **only** artist's impressions of what it **could** look like. The current plans do not as yet include another party to actually take on that building, so for the time being it would remain an empty shell.

### Sainsbury's Proposal

Members of the Committee also recently joined members of the Town Council to quiz representatives of Sainsbury's regarding the proposals to build a supermarket on the northern outskirts of the town. Of course this has the potential to make a significant impact on our town – both good and bad. We understand that the planning application will be submitted later this month. So that the Committee can formulate a response on behalf of the Society we are very keen to hear your views. Please use the enclosed response form and then send it in the enclosed addressed envelope, to the Secretary of the Llandeilo & District Civic Trust Society.

### The Kings's Bridge

This year sees the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction of the footbridge across the River Towy near the Railway Station. Sadly the structure (also known locally as the 'Swing Bridge') is in a poor state and needs urgent attention if it is to last another 100 years. The Town Council and County Council are considering funding options for its repair. Meanwhile our Civic Trust would like to hold an exhibition this September telling the story of the bridge through old photographs. This could present an important social history of the town as so many old photographs of the Bridge also include characters both past and present. Could you rummage through your photo albums and dig out any images that could contribute to the exhibition?

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**ADVANCE NOTICE** The AGM for our Civic Trust Society will be on Wednesday 6 July 2011. Our Guest Speaker will be JUDITH ALFREY, who is Head Of Regeneration and Conservation at CADW. Please put this date in your diary.