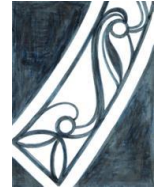




*Cymdeithas Hanes Lleol
Llandysul a'r Fro
Local History Society*



This will certainly be a different Christmas this year. So here are some examples of how Llandysul residents celebrated the festive season in the past.

The Society decorated a Christmas Tree again as part of the Church's Christmas Tree Festival. This year we used photographs of snowfalls in Llandysul and the area and we have included some of the photographs here as it won't be easy to see the tree in the church this year.

Wishing you all a Happy and Safe Christmas

Jane

Chairman

South Wales Daily News

17 February 1879

On Wednesday the children of Pontshan day school were given a treat by Captain and Miss Thomas, Llanfair. After parents and friends, all of whom were welcome and for whom there was ample provision, had finished tea, the distribution of the many prizes to the most successful at the day's examination, conducted by Captain Thomas and the Rev. Mr. Davies, the curate, was proceeded with. The school was very favourably reported on. After some recitations and excellent singing the splendid Christmas tree, towards which many eager eyes had been directed, was spoiled, and each child had a present to remember the happy day by. The selection of the prizes and presents was creditable to Miss Thomas's taste. Votes of thanks were enthusiastically carried to Captain Thomas and to Miss Thomas for their liberal treat, about which they had taken so much personal trouble. The Rev. Mr. Davies, and others who had assisted, were also heartily thanked. The day was most favourable.

Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard

15 December 1882

CHRISTMAS

The preparations that are being made at this place these days speaks that Christmas is close at hand, and all denominations look forward to the day with determination that Old Father Christmas should not pass by unnoticeable. A morning service will be at St. Tyssul Church, and a grand concert in connection with the church will be given in the evening at the National School-room. Meetings of the same nature will also be held by the Independents, the Unitarians, and the Baptists.

Weekly Mail

30 December 1882

Early on Christmas morning the fine peal of bells at the church rang forth their merry chimes. At ten o'clock there was a service and a suitable sermon was preached by the Rev. W.G. Jenkins. The chancel was most tastefully decorated with suitable designs prepared by Mrs. Thomas and Miss Jenkins, The Vicarage, and Miss Lizzie Thomas, Richmond House. The pulpit, reading desk, and lectern were neatly dressed by Mrs. Jones, Marble-villa, and the font by Miss Brown.

In the afternoon the Sunday School children and others, to the number of about 300, were provided with tea and cake. The tables were attended to by Mrs. Jenkins, the Vicarage, and family; Mrs. Jones, Tyssul Castle; Mrs. Jones, Marble-villa; Mrs. Amphlett, and others. Great praise is due to the vicar and his family for their liberality at this annual treat.

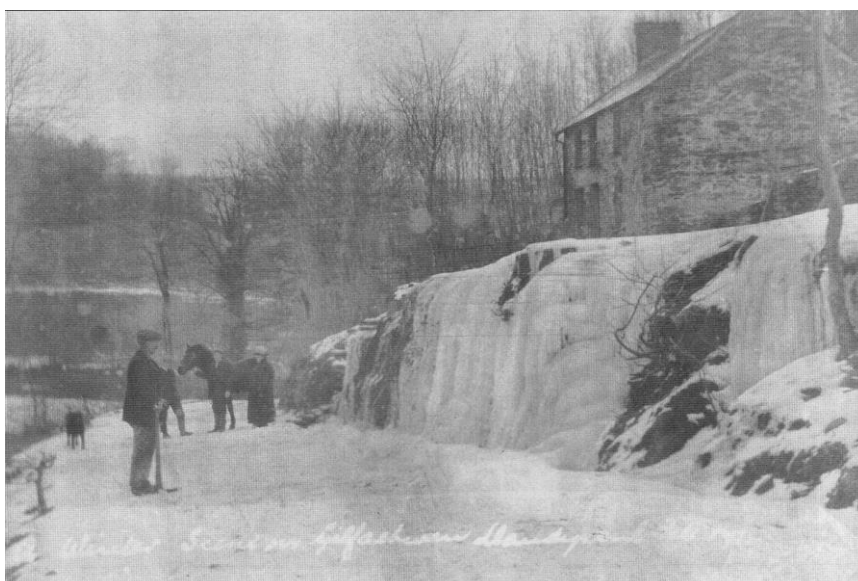
In the evening an entertainment, under the presidency of the vicar was given at the National Schoolroom, which also was very appropriately decorated for the occasion. The farces and some of the songs were well rendered.

Weekly Mail

30 December 1882

SCHOOL TREAT

On Friday week the members of the St. David's Church Sunday School were kindly invited to Waunifor by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd to partake of tea and cake etc. Tea being over, all resorted to another large room, where a grand Christmas Tree was fixed in the middle, decorated with all manner of fruit and toys. The evening was enjoyably spent in singing and delivering impromptu speeches, etc., in which the Vicar and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd heartily joined.



Ffinant, Gilfachwen, 1905

Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard

1 January 1892

CHRISTMAS

As Christmas day was one of the old fashioned type, the weather permitted people leaving their home to their respective destinations without the aid of mackintoshes and umbrellas. Nearly all the churches provided services of some kind or another.

South Wales Daily News

27 December 1893

Christmas Day passed off very quietly here. At Llwynrhydowen old chapel the choirs and Sunday-schools of Capel-y-fadfa and Llwynrhydowen held a joint festival. The united choir sang congregational tunes and the anthem "Teyrnasoedd y Ddaear." In the town the Congregationalists had a tea party and literary meeting at Seion, the Unitarians had similar meetings at the Porth Assembly-rooms, while the Church people celebrated Christmas by a morning service in the church, and a tea party and miscellaneous entertainment at the National Schoolroom.

Carmarthen Journal and South Wales Weekly Advertiser

29 December 1893

THE PARISH CHURCH AND CHRISTMAS

Early on Christmas morning the bells commenced ringing their peals to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the morning Devine service was held in the church.

In the afternoon a tea party took place at the National schoolroom, when the children were regaled with a copious supply of excellent tea and cake.

In the evening a grand entertainment was given in the schoolroom which was overcrowded on the occasion. The Chinese lanterns and Japanese parasols hanging from the ceilings added lustre to the environment of the stage, while the flags were extremely bright. The spectacle as a whole pleased the most fastidious critic and when the fairies arranged in the beautiful white garments appeared, counterfoiled by the dazzling gay colours of their king, the scene became very bewitching. ?Aye but at what cost? for many weeks the deft fingers of Mrs. Jenkins had been engaged cutting and trimming and toiling, while Mr. J. Paton Richards had been racking his brains for months in order to produce this "tout ensemble" which did great credit to the lady and gentleman, and was an honour to the little town.

The proceedings were commenced by Mr. W. Thomas and Family, who gave a capital instrumental selection. Mr. Thomas Evans and party followed, four of whom in turn gave a capital quartette. Mr. Evans also sang a comic song. Miss Mary Thomas rendered very sweetly "When the leaves begin to turn". Mr. James Phillips sang a song in his usual excellent style. the farce "A bad tempered husband" by members of the choir.... but the piece de resistance was a little operetta entitled "Santa Claus." It was adopted by Mr. Richards who introduced some songs of his own into it. The songs were sprightly and taking, the dialogue was witty, and the plot was interesting. The dresses were extremely charming, but it must be confessed that its success was marred by the turbulent behaviour of some young men in the rear of the building. It is scandalous that when gentlemen like Mr. Richards had been preparing for months in order to produce a capital spectacle, the whole should be spoiled except to a few persons in the front seats by a turbulent mob. Strong measures must henceforth be taken or these entertainments must collapse. A regular staff of "peacemen" should be placed here and there in the building. Furthermore after the building had been properly filled the doors should be shut. It is a pity some persons should be so selfish as to mar the pleasure of others. It is to be hoped that the managers will take precautionary measures ere the next concert which is close at hand.

South Wales Daily News

27 December 1895

Christmas morning was ushered in here by the pealing of the church bells. Divine service was held in the morning in one church. A tea party took place in the afternoon, and a literary and musical entertainment in the evening. Tea parties and concerts were held at Seion and Graig Chapels. At Llwynrhydowen the joint Sunday Schools and choirs of Capelyfadfa and Llwynrhydowen were catechised by the minister, while a similar service took place at Carmel, the minister officiating. A football match was played on the Dolgrogws Meadow between Spare-ribs (captain, B. Jones) and Llandyssul Town (captain, J. Jones). The town team won by 1 goal 1 try to nil.



Tom/Wynford. — Eira mawr Chwefror, 1982/Snow of February 1982.

Carmarthen Journal and South Wales Weekly Advertiser

11 January 1901

SION CHRISTMAS TEA AND ENTERTAINMENT

The annual Christmas tea party in connection with the Sion Congregational Chapel was partaken of in the spacious vestry adjoining.

The different tables were presided over by Mrs. Evans, The Shop; Mrs and Misses Phillips, Oswald Villa; Misses Jones, The Shop; Mrs Davies, Medical Hall; Mrs. Evans, King's Arms; Misses Lewis, Ponttwelly; Misses Oliver, Llwynffynon; Mrs. Evans, Tyssul Quarry; and Miss Jones, Pantolwen. After tea the children were presented with bags of sweets and oranges, the former very acceptable "kid consoler" were given by Messrs. B. Jones, Shop; J. Lewis, Ponttwelly, and T. Davies, A.P.S., Medical Hall; while Mr. J.J. Jones, stationmaster, supplied the latter.

In the evening, the pastor, the Rev. T. Pennant Phillips, presided over a delightful entertainment, when there was disposed of a lengthy programme, consisting of recitations, solos, duetts, and choral singing. All the items were much appreciated and applauded, thereby showing with much distinctiveness that they were of a high order.

Carmarthen Journal and South Wales Weekly Advertiser

20 December 1901

CHRISTMAS MARKET

This market was held on Wednesday, and was well attended. There were abundance of all kinds of poultry, which were eagerly bought at fair prices. The wholesale prices stood firm at 9½d per lb, and which the retail ranged as follows:- Turkeys, 10d to 11d per lb; geese, 10d. to 10½d per lb; ducks, 11d to 1s per lb; fowls, 8d per lb.

Welsh Gazette and West Wales Advertiser

25 December 1902

CHRISTMAS MARKET

The market was held on Thursday at the King's Head Hotel, King's Arms, and the Union Inn. There was a beautiful supply of all kinds of poultry, which was eagerly bought up. Prices ruled as follows:- Turkeys 10d to 10½d; geese 8½d to 9½d; ducks, 10d to 10½d; fowls, 8d to 9d.

Welsh Gazette and West Wales Advertiser

20 December 1906

A SUCCESSFUL ARTIST

Some time ago the Welsh Industries Association offered a prize for the best designs of Welsh Christmas cards. The prize was easily won by Miss Jones, of Gellifyharen, Llandyssul, who succeeded in striking off a number of exceedingly pretty designs, each card bearing a Welsh verse or motto. Miss Jones is acting as amanuensis to her aunt, "Allen Raine."



Carmarthen Weekly Reporter

28 December 1906

BURGLARY

On Wednesday night, of last week, Rhydowen shop, Llandyssul, was broken into, entrance being effected through a window. A few Christmas cakes, some chocolate and some tobacco were taken. The till was also tried, but fortunately the owner, Mr. Jones, had removed the money before he left the shop.

Carmarthen Journal and South Wales Weekly Advertiser

10 December 1909

DANCE

The Llandyssul Ball Society on Wednesday last week organised a highly successful dance at the Porth Assembly Rooms. The secretaries were Messrs. Dewi R. Jones, Ben Jones Davies, B.A., and Tom Evans, Porth Hotel. The catering had been entrusted to Messrs. Evans and Co., Porth Hotel. About 60 persons responded to the invitations, including representatives from Cardigan, Newcastle-Emlyn, and Lampeter, in addition to those from the immediate localities. The duties of M.C. were carried out by Mr. B. Jones-Davies and S.J. Down. Mr. A.R.T. Jones, Lampeter, interestingly gave an Indian Club display. The dance in every respect met with approved success.

Carmarthen Journal & South Wales Weekly Advertiser

9 December 1910

CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Markets and Fairs Committee have issued public notices to the effect that the Christmas fair and market is to be held at Llandyssul on Tuesday, December 20th, this year.



Staff Popty Fedwen yn cludo bara i Aweldeg, eira mawr Chwefror, 1982.
Snow of February 1982, delivering bread to Aweldeg from Fedwen Bakery.

Carmarthen Journal and South Wales Weekly Advertiser

9 January 1914

ENTERTAINMENT

The Porth Assembly Rooms were crowded on New Year's Night, the occasion being the annual musical and dramatic entertainment held in aid of the Graig (U.) Chapel Sunday School.

The various artistes acquitted themselves very well indeed, the quality of the music being of a high standard. The second portion of the programme was devoted to the dramatic, and here a different type of talent was seen, and it was talent too, for "it takes a wide man to make a fool" if such a quotation may be used without being misunderstood. "Twmi" and "Shon" elicited roars of laughter by their screamingly humorous acting. The programme was as follows:-

A Welsh Farce, entitled "Shan Gwraig Twmi'r Crydd."

Characters:-

Twmi (shoemaker), Mr. J.O. Lewis

Dai (Twmi's friend), Mr. J.O. Jones

Doctor, Mr. J.P. Lewis

Curate, Mr. R. Bowen

Small Boy, Mr. Daniel Lewis

Butcher, Mr. Edward Davies

Policeman, Mr. David Davies

Milkman, Mr. R. Bowen

Shan (Twmi's wife), Miss A.G. Evans

Mrs. Edwards (Shan's mother), Miss A.M. Evans

Mrs. Brown (a neighbour), Miss M. Jones

Mrs. Williams (a neighbour), Miss A.M. Evans

Small Girl, Miss Mally Evans.

Scene - Twm's Workshop and Parlour.

Finale, Hen Wlad fy Nhadau, Mr. Jenkins; God Save the King Miss Jones.

TEA AND CHRISTMAS TREE

On Wednesday last, Major Cass, D.S.O., J.P., of Dol'Illan, entertained the scholars of the Llandyssul National School, to a tea at the Schoolroom. This was followed by the distribution of toys taken from the Christmas Tree, among the little ones.

In the evening an entertainment was held, consisting of illustrations by means of the magic lantern, manipulated by P.C. Young.

The passing of a vote of thanks to Major Cass carried, unanimously and the singing of the National Anthem brought a highly successful function to its close. The philanthropy of Major Cass can never be too highly estimated for he has proved a veritable "Santa Claus" to all the village children



Carmarthen Journal and South Wales Weekly Advertiser

23 January 1914

THE CHURCH BELLS

A correspondent writes to say that the objection with regard to the Christmas bell-ringing is that the Vicar prohibited the ringers from continuing the old custom during the period between 2 and 4 a.m.; and that the signing of the letter in support of the Vicar, by the people's warden, cannot be accounted for, in view of the fact that the warden endeavoured to persuade the Vicar to allow the continuation of the time-honoured custom.

Carmarthen Journal and South Wales Weekly Advertiser

26 December 1919

Messrs. Thomas Jones and Sons conducted a sale of fat cattle at the Christmas Cattle Mart (Station Mart) on Thursday in last week. Prizes were offered for various classes of cattle. The judges were Messrs. T. Edwards, Dolmaen, Llanfihangel-ar-Arth, and Jack Thomas, Penybedd, Burry Port.





Johnny Jones outside Fountain Chip Shop



Mrs. Fanod Griffiths, Dol-Ilan, with children, Eiola and Meriel
in the very cold winter of 1963