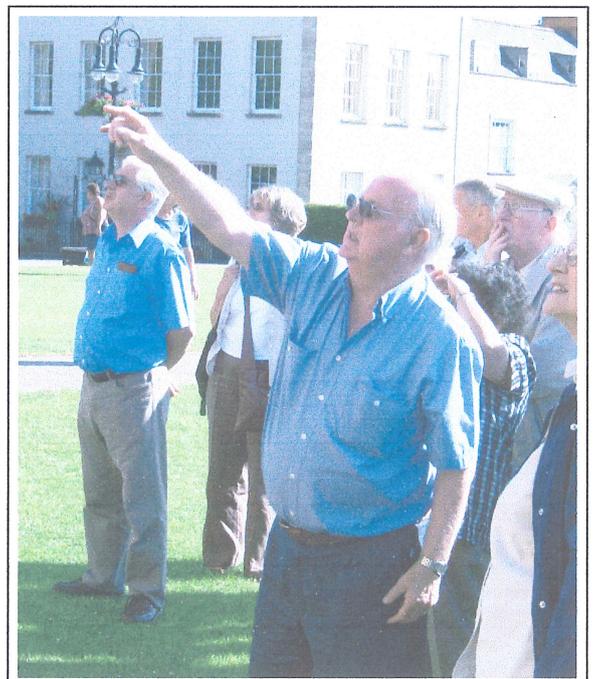
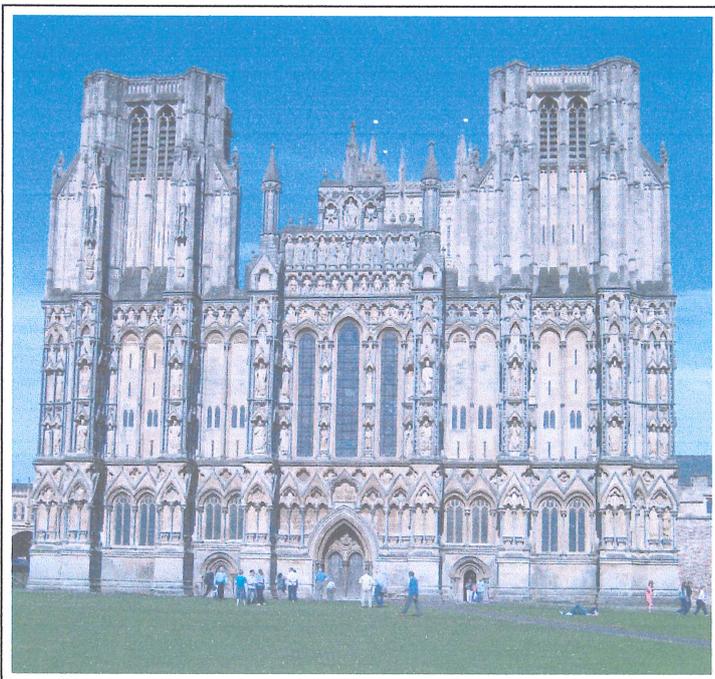




Abergavenny Local History Society

# NEWSLETTER No 22

## AUGUST 2006



**Wells cathedral and Arthur Peplow**

[www.abergavennyhistory.co.uk](http://www.abergavennyhistory.co.uk)  
Charity registration number 1098582

## 2006

Thurs. Mr. David Barnes.  
21st Sept. FROM THE BLACK MOUNTAINS -  
FARM HAND TO COLLIER.  
THE LIFE OF ALF GORDON.

Thurs. \* Dr. Julian Richards.  
19th Oct. MEET THE ANCESTORS.

Lecture kindly sponsored by the ABERGAVENNY CHRONICLE

Thurs. Dr. Derek Bissell.  
30th Nov. THE FIRST ROAD ATLAS..  
JOHN OGILBY, HIS MAPS AND  
SOME ROADS OF SOUTH WALES.

Mon. MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS DINNER.  
18th Dec. at the Priory Centre, Abergavenny

PLEASE BRING YOUR CARD WITH YOU TO ALL MEETINGS.

THE LECTURE MARKED WITH A \* WILL BE BY TICKET ONLY  
OBTAINABLE FROM THE BOROUGH THEATRE BOX OFFICE

THE SOCIETY MEETS AT THE BOROUGH THEATRE AT 7.30 PM.

SUBSCRIPTIONS £6 PER PERSON PAYABLE 1st MAY.

## 2007

Thurs. Prof. Chris Williams.  
25th Jan. POPULAR PROTEST AND  
CHARTISM c. 1780- 1850.

Thurs. Dr. Toby Driver.  
8th Feb. THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF  
SOUTH-EAST WALES FROM  
THE AIR.

Fri. QUIZ AND SUPPER  
9th March. at the Priory Centre, Abergavenny.

Thurs. Mr. Arthur Peplow.  
22nd March THE GOTHIC CATHEDRALS  
OF FRANCE.

Thurs. Dr. George Nash.  
12th April THE ARCHITECTURE OF  
DEATH: BURIALS IN THE  
NEOLITHIC AGE..

Thurs. 30th ANNUAL GENERAL  
17th May MEETING. Followed by:  
Mr. Frank Olding.  
LEPTIS MAGNA: THE GREAT  
ROMAN SITE IN LIBYA.

## ABERGAVENTNY MUSEUM NEW WEBSITE

[www.abergavennymuseum.co.uk](http://www.abergavennymuseum.co.uk)

In March 2006 Abergavenny Museum launched its website which is fully bilingual, enabling visitors to find out about us. Information includes how to find the museum, a history of the museum and castle, events and exhibitions coming up, further information on the collections and details about school workshops. Traffic to the site is increasing and currently a 'Google' search on 'Abergavenny Museum' lists it as the third most popular site when looking for websites about the museum. Please have a look at the site and let us know what you think. Do you think it is well laid out? Is there enough information? Is there something we have missed? Any comments will be gratefully received, [abergavennymuseum@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:abergavennymuseum@monmouthshire.gov.uk)



RACHAEL ROGERS



### ABERGAVENTNY MUSEUM Latest Exhibition The Monk of Llanthony: The Life of Father Ignatius

From 13<sup>th</sup> June until 13<sup>th</sup> September 2006, Abergavenny Museum is hosting an exhibition about Father Ignatius. He was a self styled Anglican monk who set up a monastery in the Llanthony Valley. Many documents, photographs and objects from the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust Archive are on display as part of this exhibition.

The museum is open Monday – Saturday 11-1, 2-5 and on Sundays from 2-5. For further information, please telephone 01873 854282 or visit [www.abergavennymuseum.co.uk](http://www.abergavennymuseum.co.uk)

In conjunction with the exhibition, tours of the Llanthony Valley have been organised. These will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Bookings are taken at Abergavenny Tourist Information Centre, in person, or by phone 01873 857588. For details visit [www.discovery.adventa.org.uk](http://www.discovery.adventa.org.uk)

### BASIL JONES LISTENING POSTS

At long last, after the inevitable technical hitches, there are now recordings on the listening posts in the Basil Jones Display at the Museum. Many of our visitors have stories to tell about the shop and we thought this would be a good opportunity to enhance further our most popular display. Visitors can now listen to Frank Olding talking about the importance of the collection and how the collection was transported from the shop and turned into a display, as well as hearing memories from people who used the shop. The facility is proving very popular.



Rachael Rogers

Museum Curator.

## Abergavenny Museum – International Work Placement

My name is Nozomi Shojima and I am from Japan. Since February I have been undertaking work experience at Abergavenny Museum. When I was on a museum studies course in Japan, I applied to International Internship Programs, which is designed for business and organizations that wish to gain insights from placements about business ideas and practices. Because I was really interested in how they manage the museum in the UK. I wanted to know the key to build up a successful museum, which is popular among the local population. Abergavenny Museum is therefore an ideal place to gain experience.

I am working with a costume collection. I usually spend my time in the storeroom to photograph and repack the items. It is interesting to scrutinize the items because British or Welsh costume in the 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> centuries is quite different to Japan and the museum has a lovely collection. I hope it will be exhibited someday. Occasionally, I am involved in everyday tasks such as assisting with school visits, events and so on. I was impressed by children's attitude; they are lively and looked as if they were enjoying themselves.

I am staying with a family during my placement in Abergavenny. They have been very kind to me. My first impression of the town was "What a beautiful town!" I particularly like the view from the castle. In addition, I have found the people are really nice. I used to take the English class once a week at Melville Theatre and I made some friends from the other European countries. The town is not a big city like London or Cardiff but it has everything a person needs. There is a market and shops, friendly people and beautiful landscapes. I am glad to be here and to work with Abergavenny museum. I am having a wonderful time.

Nozomi Shojima 4<sup>th</sup> July 2006

## THE VICTORIAN GARDEN, ABERGAVENNY CASTLE.



Visitors to the Castle grounds will, we hope, have noticed the Victorian Garden on the left hand side of the path up to the museum. The society, which has had responsibility for the garden since the 1980s, decided to replant the area, incorporating a Victorian theme. The castle grounds were set out in the 1880s as a "place of recreation' for the general public, with winding paths and circular flower beds". Plants from this era are relatively easy to maintain and are visually interesting throughout the year. In addition to funding from Abergavenny Local History Society and Abergavenny Museum, we have received grants from Rural Community Action, the Community Economic Development Scheme and Local Agenda 21. Paddy Beynon and Anne Morgan have been doing a wonderful job recreating the space as a genuine Victorian garden, with authentic period plants.



Christine Scott, another member of the Society, who has just retired from the committee, has provided the artwork for the information board that stands beside the yew tree. In addition to this we have installed an iron bench at



the bottom of the path. This was made by Downey Engineering of Pontrilas and is reminiscent of a Victorian style. We have also been working with Monmouthshire Youth Service on this project, whose very capable volunteers assisted with heavy digging recently. We are currently talking to further members of the Youth Service about providing an information leaflet. We hope that the area will be utilised by schools in future workshops as well as by visitors to the castle, whether they are garden enthusiasts or simply want somewhere to enjoy a quiet sit down. If you would like to find out more about the project, please speak to Anne or Paddy at one of the meetings or leave your contact details at the museum.

## RARE PLANTS FAIR, ABERGAVENNY CASTLE.

If you are feeling inspired by the article on the Victorian Garden, why not come to the Rare Plants Fair on Saturday 19th August, 11.00am - 4.00pm.

A unique opportunity for plant hunters and garden enthusiasts to source rare and unusual plants at reasonable prices. £4 payable on the gate. For more information on Rare Plants Fair go to [www.rareplantsfair.com](http://www.rareplantsfair.com)

## FAIR TRADE. SHOULD WE SUPPORT IT?

Several members of Abergavenny Local History Society have suggested that it should serve only Fairtrade coffee and tea at its lecture meetings.

The FAIRTRADE Mark is an independent consumer label which appears on products as an independent guarantee that disadvantaged producers in the developing world are getting a better deal. A Fairtrade steering group has been established in Abergavenny in order to achieve Fairtrade status for Abergavenny. To become a Fairtrade Town (or any other populated area), 5 goals must be met:

- The local council must pass a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and serve Fairtrade coffee and tea at its meetings and in offices and canteens.
- A range of Fairtrade products must be readily available in the area's shops and served in local cafés and catering establishments (targets are set in relation to population)
- Fairtrade products must be used by a number of local work places (estate agents, hairdressers etc) and community organisations (churches, schools etc)
- Attract media coverage and popular support for the campaign
- A local Fairtrade steering group must be convened to ensure continued commitment to Fairtrade Town status.

If as an individual you would like to get involved further then Fairtrade products can be purchased at both Oxfam and Waitrose in Abergavenny. To find out more about Abergavenny's Fairtrade Forum contact Katrina Gass on [katrinagass@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katrinagass@yahoo.co.uk).

## INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTIONS

Every now and again the Committee discusses the issue of subscriptions. So far they have been able to keep it to £6 per person per year. As you will all appreciate, this represents incredibly good value. However it seems likely that when it is discussed again during the Autumn they will need to agree an increase for next year. You will, of course, be kept informed of any decision the Committee makes on increasing the subscription, particularly as all those who pay by Standing Order would need to inform their bank well before next year's renewal date - 1 May 2007. In the mean time, you do not need to wait until the new lecture season to renew your membership for 2006- 7 as you can get your subscription (£6 per person only!) to the Membership Secretary Susan Smith at any time and she will post your card to you.

## A PERSONAL NOTE

Having given a number of votes of thanks on your behalf at meetings over the last six years as Chairman I wish to add my personal thanks to the Society's members and committees for what has been a very happy time. It has been both a pleasure and a privilege. Thankyou too for the reference books which I was given at the A.G.M. – Chambers Biographical Dictionary and the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations.

Quite early on I can remember our Newsletter Editor saying that 'this is far more than a society you know'. Now I can understand what he meant. Certainly there is a shared interest in things historical but, as with history, it is the people who really bring life to a society. Many have been members from the outset or soon after and there is a real family sense – supporting each other when it is needed and celebrating each other's successes too. I'm confident that the Society that Gwyn and the other founders built will continue to flourish and I wish Irena Morgan and the new Committee every success for the coming session. See you in September.

Richard Davies

