

## ROMAN BRIDGE

The good news is that with the involvement of the City's Conservation Department, the local councillor Linda Taylor-Lloyd and the Swansea Civic Society, the Clyne Valley Community Project Group, their consulting engineer Richard Fenton and contractors have completed the first phase of the works and confirmed that structurally the bridge was "good for another 100 years".

The remaining budget will now be applied to improving access and providing a suitable pedestrian surface to the bridge itself.



## OTHER ISSUES

The executive committee has been involved in:

- reviews and comments on new planning applications
- Swansea Built Heritage Group
- Palace Theatre Friends Group
- Northern quarter street scene
- Bay Film Studios – potential for a guided tour

## AUDREY TRIBE

Sadly, we report that Audrey Tribe died peacefully at home with her family in September. Swansea Civic Society owes a debt of gratitude to Audrey whose commitment to the Society as Membership Secretary was greatly appreciated. The death of a much loved friend and colleague has left us diminished, and in all matters to do with the Society we miss her lively and considered contributions.

We send our condolences to her family.

## MEMBERSHIP

Subscriptions for 2015 are due and have been kept at **£8 per year (£15 for couples)**.

Many thanks to those members who pay by direct debit. Please send cheques, made payable to 'Swansea Civic Society', to Tony Lamb at 60, Eaton Crescent, Swansea SA1 4QN.

## VOLUNTEERS

We would be delighted if you are willing to join the committee, act as membership secretary or volunteer to help on any matters of particular interest to you. Please email our secretary Eileen [eileencwalton@virginmedia.com](mailto:eileencwalton@virginmedia.com) if you can help. Many thanks.

# SWANSEA CIVIC SOCIETY

## Newsletter January 2015



## OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Swansea Civic Society is committed to working towards promoting a quality, attractive, safe and sustainable built environment.

We wish to encourage local pride in our city, from its industrial origins to the modern city it now is, aiming to encourage high standards of architecture and planning. The society is still playing an active role in engaging with current proposals and developments for the City and Bay, carefully scrutinising planning

applications and other proposals for significant change. We aim to be constructive in our proposals and responses to any planning or strategy documents that are produced for consultation and to keep our members updated on current proposals, sharing our views on on-going issues.

On the occasions where we believe an issue should be brought more clearly into the public domain we will take necessary steps to achieve that end.

### President

Professor Prys Morgan

### Vice President

Professor David Herbert

### Chair of the Executive

John Steevens

### Hon. Secretary

Eileen Walton

### Hon. Treasurer

Tony Lamb

### Newsletter Editor

Margaret Lamb

## THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Everyone who lives, works, visits or provides services within Swansea will be influenced by the LDP. The LDP Draft Proposals Map defines the precise boundaries of proposed development allocations and is now available on the Council's web-site with comments to be received by 16<sup>th</sup> January.

This is the last stage of the process before the City issues its final version. This means interested parties will have had to review the details over the Christmas break – good luck!

## CITY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT AND THE FUTURE OF THE CIVIC CENTRE

The Boulevard works are almost complete and our concerns have become a reality with two years of disruptions and delays experienced and the end result being a lot of money spent and a few rows of trees surrounded by expensive natural stone pavements and kerbs.

The Civic Society has contributed to the consultations on the City Centre and High Street proposals, but we remain concerned that cost effective and coordinated projects are being replaced by short term measures to use available



European funds or correcting previous mistakes.

The current budgetary cut backs are creating further compromises which are not being properly explained. We are seeking meetings to clarify these proposals and a public consultation (closing on 21<sup>st</sup> January) will permit your views to be expressed.

We may be able to cope without the Mansion House or even Plantasia but how do they intend

to replace the Civic Centre? What will we have to accept if this prime sea frontage is redeveloped?

Members of the executive committee have met the City's representative to gain a better understanding of the current situation following the recent announcement. It would appear that the initial marketing of the existing site is intended to explore longer term possibilities. We were advised that a closure and sale would only be made when a new facility within the heart of the city and with lower running costs was available to relocate the existing services. This will be a key feature of the City Centre Strategy following the recent "Review of Retail Capacity and Investment Potential and Strategy Report". We will continue to monitor and review the proposals."

## SAVE THE REC

The Swansea Civic Society continues its support for the campaign by the "Save the Rec." group, an off-shoot of the Swansea Sustainable Community Initiative. Legal advice has been sought and some varied responses received. The latest LDP consultation will give another opportunity to press the case.

## SWANSEA BAY TIDAL LAGOON UPDATE

The Panel of Examining Inspectors has now completed its examination which involved several weeks of hearings in Swansea with all interested parties, including the Civic Society Their findings and conclusions are to be sent to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in Westminster by the 10<sup>th</sup> March



2015 for his final decision. There would appear to be significant political support for this £850m private investment for Swansea, however the final issue to resolve may be the level of feed in tariff. If approved and agreed, construction will start almost immediately and take

## BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME

In recent months poets Dylan Thomas and Vernon Watkins have been recognised together with the Antarctic explorer Edgar Evans.



The Civic Society continues to support this project in order to draw attention to the contributions that these individuals have made to Swansea and the wider world. The next plaque to be unveiled will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> January for Sir William Grove, scientist and judge.

## HAFOD & MORFA COPPER WORKS

The first phase of clearance and stabilisation is now complete and well worth a visit. Community involvement is actively being sought by the Friends Group to progress their investigations and general clearing works.

