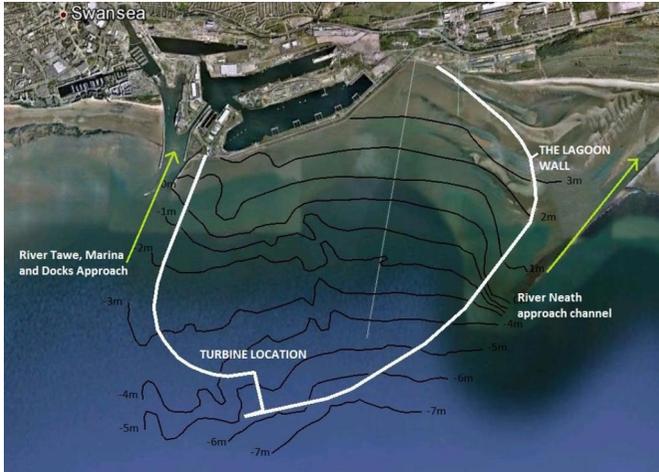


## SWANSEA BAY TIDAL LAGOON



are now being reviewed by the Planning Inspectorate. The Civic Society has registered as 'an interested party' in the planning process, not only to maintain an input in respect of the impact it will have upon the bay but also the considerable social, sporting and

We were fortunate in November of last year to have Tessa Blazey of the Tidal Lagoon (Swansea Bay) plc. give us a most informative illustrated talk on this project. With a possible private investment of £850m it was evident that this is a highly professional organisation. Their proposals have received a general level of local approval and

economic benefits a successful project will provide to Swansea. Recently there has been some press coverage of objections to the scheme. Before forming an opinion it is important to investigate fully the published impact studies and data which is the intended purpose of the planning process.

## BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME

Having recognised the musician Pete Ham, Griffith John the missionary to China, and the teacher, barrister and women's suffrage campaigner Emily Phipps, a plaque was unveiled on 3<sup>rd</sup> June to commemorate Gothic and romance novelist Ann Julia Hatton, who wrote under the pen name "Ann of Swansea".

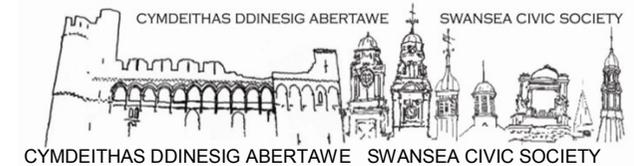
Future plaques are planned to commemorate the achievements of

the scientist and lawyer Sir William Grove, poets Vernon Watkins and of course Dylan Thomas in this his centenary year, and Edgar Evans.

The Civic Society continues to support this project to draw attention to the contributions that these individuals and many others have made to Swansea and the wider world, and who should not be forgotten.

## SWANSEA CIVIC SOCIETY

### Newsletter Summer 2014



### 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. We aim to keep our members updated on current proposals and to share 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

#### Membership Secretary

Audrey Tribe

#### Newsletter Editor

Margaret Lamb

### AGM

For those who were unable to attend last year's AGM, you missed a most informative and entertaining talk by Professor David Warner, retiring Deputy Provost of University of Wales Trinity St. David's, on the history and future of the college in Swansea.

The 2014 AGM will be held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 11am in meeting room 4 - 2.2.8 of the Civic Centre.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining the Executive Committee of the society please contact the Chair or Hon. Secretary.

## CONSERVATION AREAS

The City's Conservation staff are currently reviewing three of the many conservation areas in the city, with the intent of improving and extending their effectiveness within the planning process. Initially these are Ffynone, Morrision and Mumbles. The Civic Society raised its concerns regarding the intentions of a redevelopment of 93 Walter Road and 43 St James Crescent. This was subsequently refused and a new and more sympathetic proposal has recently been submitted for consideration. Objections have also been raised by the Society and the local residents regarding works to 28 Uplands Crescent. We await a formal response.

## THE ROMAN BRIDGE

Although not of Roman origins and more likely the remains of a mediaeval packhorse bridge, this Grade II listed structure has been classed as structurally unsafe by the City and a campaign hit the local press in March 2013 to get something done. The good news is that with the support of the



City's Conservation Department, the local councillor Linda Taylor-Lloyd and the Civic Society, the Clyne Valley Community Project group has stepped in and gained funding from a Landfill Tax Grant.

They have appointed a specialist consultant to design and manage necessary works.

Environmental constraints finalised costs will determine the completion date, but this familiar feature will now have a secure future.

## ROAD WORKS

In our last Newsletter we reported on the meeting of May 2012 with the City's Rowland Launchbury to discuss the City centre re-development and in particular the "Boulevard" works which were imminent.

Regrettably our concerns have become a reality with extensive disruptions and delays experienced with the effective 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 was also vociferous in its objections to the Kingsway road scheme, only now has the current administration succumbed to pressure (and most regrettably casualties) and consented to an internal review. If this strikes a note with you, come and support your Executive in our efforts to improve this City of ours.

## HAFOD & MORFA COPPER WORKS UPDATE

Specialist conservation contractors have completed the initial phase of clearance and stabilisation to the remaining features of this once extensive industrial complex.

Professor Huw Bowen recently led a group of interested parties in a fascinating walk around the area, which continues to expose new features. Look out for a publicised opening up of access to the public with a special event on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

While the City has been a key partner with the University in the project it is of regret that it is also about to commence work on the Morfa Distributor Road from New Cut Road to the Liberty Stadium. In part sited on top of the remnants of the Swansea Canal, this road will have a significant and detrimental impact on this historic site and will cut it in half.

## SAVE THE REC

Support has been given by the Society to the campaign by the 'Save the Rec' group, an off-shoot of the Swansea Sustainable Community Initiative, to register the remaining green space of the St. Helens Recreation Ground as a village green.

## CASTLE CINEMA



Members of your Executive met the City's David Owen to discuss amongst other matters, their concerns relating to

the recent planning application for the Castle Cinema. The proposal for this Grade II listed building, is to form a ground floor commercial space together with sixteen self-contained flats, retaining the classical styled stone façade. A formal letter has been submitted with a view to improving the details of the scheme and to identify the City's strategy for a visitor centre intended for the Castle grounds. The application has been called into the Planning committee and we await a response.

This would prevent any future efforts to redevelop the space in perpetuity. Regrettably the City has seen fit to attempt a counter to the registration. It is difficult to understand how the City's actions are in the best interest of the people of Swansea whom they represent.