



Rhif/No. 44

Ionawr/January – 2024

Save The Cinema



Our 1st meeting of 2024 was the annual film session.

The film viewed was "Save The Cinema" starring Samantha Morton and Jonathon Pryce. The story is based on the true story of a hairdresser named Liz Evans who saved the Lyric Theatre/Cinema in Carmarthen from demolition in the 1990s. The council were proposing to replace it with a shopping centre.

Liz was born in Carmarthen and founded the Carmarthen and District Youth Opera in 1979. She made the Lyric the base for the Youth Opera and was determined to keep the premises open. In her campaign to save the Lyric she lived in the building and even ran her hairdressing business there. In 1993 the cinema had been refused the film Jurassic Park so Liz wrote to Steven Spielberg. To her amazement Spielberg not only replied but arranged for The Lyric to hold the premiere of Jurassic Park at the same time as the London premiere. Tickets were £2.50 while the London tickets were £300. The event generated a great deal of publicity and ultimately led to the cinema being saved. A grant was also awarded by The Welsh Office to completely refurbish the theatre. The Lyric is still very much in use today for concerts and various productions. The Youth Opera still perform their annual show in February every year. This year they are performing Our House with the music of Madness.

Liz was the mother of the well known singer Wynne Evans, a principal of the Welsh National Opera and also famous from his role in the GoCompare advertisements. He appears in the film in a cameo role along with another Carmarthen boy, the comedian Rhod Gilbert.

Liz was awarded an MBE in recognition of her work with the Youth Opera. A fitting reward for the tremendous effort that Liz made over the years. She retired in 2004 but sadly died of pneumonia just a few months later. The town came to a standstill on the day of her funeral as hundreds lined the streets to pay their respects to an incredible woman.

In true Welsh fashion Liz is still remembered in Carmarthen as "Liz The Lyric".



Liz with the Mayor preparing for the premiere of Jurassic Park.

The A.G.M/ C.C.B
Annual General Meeting/ Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol

The AGM took place on 8th February. The agenda included the minutes of the last AGM which were presented by Roger. In future they will be emailed or mailed to members before the AGM.



We then had the Chairman's report where Beverley reported on the meetings and events that have taken place during the year. The programme for the coming year was then outlined. There will not be a meeting in March as the date would be very close to the St David's Day Celebration.

Chris presented the society's accounts in his Treasurer's Report. It was agreed to raise the membership fee to £18 in order to keep the annual account in profit. This raised the question about the timings of the meetings as in the coming year there will only be 3 evening meetings in the hall. Some members felt that afternoon meetings would not be conducive in attracting new members, particularly any who work during the day.

The final item on the agenda was the Election of Officers: All members of the committee are happy to continue in their current roles for the coming year; Beverley as Chair, Roger as Secretary, Chris as Treasurer, Sue W as Catering Manager and Sue H, Elizabeth and Tony as serving members of the committee.

With the formalities completed we then enjoyed a Fish & Chip lunch provided by Mother Kelly's in Petersfield. Trevor (the Manager) very generously included a variety of sauces and condiments as well as several extra portions of cod and chips. We had planned to have a Bingo session but time vanished all too quickly although it was a great opportunity to have a good chat.



Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant – St David's Day

The Annual Dinner will be held on 1st March 2024

At *The Red Lion, Chalton, PO8 0BG*

12noon for 12.30

More details to follow.

