

FIVE VILLAGES : DECEMBER 2012:

CYMEITHAS THOMAS PENNANT

**(Paul Brighton, Secretary/
Ysgrifennydd)**

Our main news from the Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant, apart from a very successful Pennant Lecture on 17th October 2012 in Holywell Library, given this year by Prof. Robin Jarvis of the University of the West of England on the theme of 'Thomas Pennant, Eighteenth-Century Tourist', was our A.G.M. held this year at Ysgol y Llan, Whitford, courtesy of the Headteacher, Kath Royles. We were also very grateful to two of our members, Mike and Sally Chinery, for opening up the school and for laying out facilities.

This year a goodly number of members attended the A.G.M. and we were especially delighted to welcome our President, Dr. Goronwy Wynne who has not been so well recently, but is now on the road to recovery. Gron, in his Presidential address, read out a passage from Pennant's *A History of the Parishes of Whiteford and Holywell*. Officer reports were given and our Chair, Norman Closs-Parry, in a detailed report, reminded us of the need for renewal of the Society's structure and organisation and the need to attract younger members. The A.G.M. also noted, with regret, the retirement of our Assistant Secretary, Meirion Griffith. Meirion has been a stalwart and minute-taker for the Society for over twenty years and in the words of one of his colleagues, 'the best minute-taker in Flintshire!' Meirion will be missed in the counsels of the officer group, though he remains a member of the Society.

Other officers gave their reports, including our indefatigable treasurer, Jim Maxwell, ably assisted by his newly-married daughter, Emma and our I.T. Coordinator, Ryan Jenner who has been very active with our service provider, Delwedd of Caernarfon. Ryan also oversees our 'Pennant Walks' project and is very involved with our Spring Tour programme. Reference was also made to the very successful Gwyl Pennant Festival Concert held in Whitford

Church on 16th June 2012. It was very well attended, the artistes and choir, Cor Glanaethwy of Bangor scintillating and our MC, Rhys Jones, as ever, his brilliant self. Of course, some lessons have been learnt and for our Educational and Cultural part of the festival, it is hoped to go into local primary schools, to talk about the life and work of Thomas Pennant.

Plans are also afoot for the rest of 2012 and into 2013. On **14th December 2012**, we have our annual Christmas Lunch, again this year at the Stamford Gate, Holywell. The cost is £17 per ticket and is open to all Society and non-Society members and friends (ring the Secretary, Paul Brighton 01352 712588). On **18th January 2013**, we have a general meeting of the Society, at **7.00pm in Pen Bryn Chapel, Whitford Street, Holywell** and the Guest Speaker will be the Historian and Five Villages Editor, Shaun Evans, who will address us on the history of the Mostyn family. All are welcome to attend and refreshments will be served. Also, following a very successful visit to the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies in Aberystwyth on 25th October 2012, our guest lecturer for the 17th Annual Pennant Lecture on **Thursday, 17th October 2013** will be Prof. Dafydd Johnston, who will lecture on the theme of 'Thomas Pennant as a Worthy Successor to Edward Lhwyd'. Please note the change of day to a Thursday, not Wednesday, though the venue remains **Holywell Library**. Finally, our Spring Tour for 2013, **Friday-Sunday, 3rd-5th May** will be to Lincoln and will include a visit to the Spalding Flower Festival. Again, the tour is open to Society and non-Society friends. For further information ring Ryan Jenner on 01745 561013 or e-mail rjarjenner@hotmail.com

Thus, we remain active in the Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant and are always glad to receive information and comments from readers of The Five Villages.

Thank You, Diolch yn Fawr.