



Cyfeillion Murluniau Brenda Chamberlain ar Enlli
The Friends of the Brenda Chamberlain Bardsey Murals

Newsletter VIII September 2022

Those of you who are members of the Bardsey Island Trust will be aware of the sad news that our lead conservator, Jane Foley, died last year at her home near Builth Wells, after a brave fight against cancer.



Her life had been an extraordinary one. At the age of 41 she changed its path by enrolling on the Conservation Studies Course at the City and Guilds of London Art School. Her first job was at the newly built reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London.

This was followed by an important move to the British Museum where she worked for five years in the Stone, Wall Painting and Mosaic Conservation Department. Here she became involved with the major touring exhibition *Cleopatra of Egypt: from history to myth*, which took her to Alexandria where she collaborated with Egyptian conservators.

This eventually led to her becoming head of conservation for the Amorium Excavation Project in Turkey.

She travelled with the Cleopatra exhibition to Chicago's Field Museum (named after its first major benefactor, Marshall Field) and there met her partner, Inez Litas, who had a Restoration Studio in Evanston. More projects in Chicago followed including conservation work on a German submarine, a dinosaur and modern and contemporary sculpture.

Jane was a renowned international conservator who, nevertheless valued her association with Bardsey and the Brenda Chamberlain murals and was able to say how proud she was to be involved with our project.



We all valued her work and dedication and owe her a lot. An obituary appeared in the 2022 Bardsey Yearbook which ended with Christine Evans's words - "She was a special person, so enthusiastic but with her feet firmly on the ground; wise, and kind."



It's worth googling, "Jane Foley obituary Chicago Sun-Times" to read an uplifting and inspirational account of Jane's too short a life.

Her partner Inez, who has been with the project since its inception, will continue the work. She hopes to go over to Bardsey soon to do some remedial work on the murals. While there she may meet the Trust's Conservation Architect, Elinor Gray-Williams.

Earlier in the year Elinor was supervising work on Carreg's roof. The slates from one wing were removed, battens were replaced and a new, concealed draining system, designed by Elinor, was installed underneath the coping stones. Carreg is a Grade II listed building and the hidden drains ensure that the character of the house is maintained.



Caroline Jones



Andy Jones

Some time ago Jane suggested that there should be a framed interpretation of the paint scrapings in the dining room, where we had hoped to find traces of Brenda's painting of a Breton woman. This has now been done and the large "paint excavations" themselves, where Inez removed four layers of paint, one at a time, have also been protected with a specially made frame.

Chwilio am y Llydawes



Y Llydawes

The Breton Woman

Ym mis Medi 2013, treuliodd Jane Foley a'i thîm – Inez Litas a Julia Vlcek – ddeg diwrnod ar y dasg enfawr i adfer y pedwar murlun gan Brenda Chamberlain sydd i'w gweld i fyny'r grisiau.

Yma yn y 'stafell fwyta, roedden ni wedi gobeithio dod o hyd i'r Llydawes - astudiaeth ar gyfer y llun Y Colomennod - o dan y paent ar y wal.

Tynnodd Inez bedair haen o baent, un ar y tro, ond, yn anffodus, er bod rhywfaint o bigment wedi ei ganfod, ni ddaeth unrhyw ddelwedd i'r golwg.



Y Colomennod

The Doves

Searching for the Breton Woman

In September 2013, Jane Foley and her team - Inez Litas and Julia Vlcek - spent ten days on the huge task of restoring the four Brenda Chamberlain murals which you can see upstairs. Here in the dining room, we had hoped to find the Breton Woman - a study for the picture,

The Doves - under the paint on the wall.

Inez removed four layers of paint, one at a time, but unfortunately, although some pigment was found, no image came to light.

