

# The past - our road to



Speaking at the curtain raiser to CPRW's 80th anniversary celebrations at Llangoed Hall, Dei Tomos, Vice President, reflects on the past and contemplates the future for CPRW.



**T**his year is a very special one for CPRW and this event marks the start of our 80th Anniversary celebrations. But this organisation is not suffering of dotage and old age, it's still very young at heart, very much alive and kicking, and still doing some important and necessary work.

In this day and age organisations like CPRW here in Wales and CPRE in England, as well as others, should belong to the past, every single inhabitant of this country and these islands should be proud of their country, its landscape, history and heritage, but unfortunately that is not the case; and since change whether we like it or not is a fact of life an organisation like ours; CPRW, is as necessary today as it was eighty years ago.

Of course, things are different now to what they were 80 years ago, the pressures are not the same, our concerns today possibly are greater than they have ever been. Eighty years ago the founding fathers were concerned about hideous advertising

and the marauding speculative builders, power lines and sporadic development, then there followed the depression and the Second World War, and dereliction in areas of the countryside, so different to today when every barn and sheepfold it seems is snapped up for enormous prices.

Greater threats followed, blanket forest smothered vast areas of our precious upland, which went very much hand in hand with a recession in farming and people leaving the countryside for the villages and towns. Then came the dam builders, flooding valleys and moving people, Llanwddyn had long gone followed by the Elan and Claerwen valleys to be followed by Tryweryn, Clywedog and Brienne; the Haven in Pembrokeshire was industrialised and road building, opencast mining and wind power added to our woes, and all these later developments at a time when there was far more interest in the countryside, with the economy changing, leisure time increasing, and more and more people being employed in the rural areas and involved with the environment and conservation.

Amongst all this change, CPRW, this small organisation, has stood, not against change per se, but against undesired wilful and utterly insensitive change that has led to great damage to parts of the Welsh countryside.

We live in an age of domination, once it was the JCB so very powerful compared to the pick and shovel and man's futile toil. Today the JCB is a mere toy

compared to the great earth movers and diggers that can change a landscape and obliterate a cherished spot in hours.

So today we still need to stand firm against such threats but we also need to work with the environment and landscape, and with other partners. We need to ensure that developments are of the appropriate scale, design and location and in harmony with their surroundings.

We need to influence change, to think of the 'long view' and not of the short material gain, and in a period of greater uncertainty than most of us remember, with frightening prospects from climate change, food and power shortage, we face a real challenge if we are to succeed in protecting what we, and we hope future generations, will cherish and enjoy.

**Snowdon Horseshoe from Capel Curig**



# the future

# 80

Having mentioned the past, and the present threats to our wonderful country, we have to face one question with some honesty at a time like this. What have we achieved in the past 80 years? It's a good question, and possibly not an easy one to answer, but the obvious counter question would be to ask how much worse it might have been without CPRW? I think we have walked an honourable path in changing peoples' ideas, in influencing decision makers, in lobbying for new legislation and guidance. On our own, and with others, we have done a great deal, in a national context and at local and grass roots, but there is still much to be done to protect and enhance this cherished land of ours.

With your help and determination we

can as transient stewards of our land ensure that others who follow can say that they (we) did some good, and like us today give thanks for those who stood and campaigned this last 80 years.



## Llwybr ddoe'n arwain at yfory

**Neges yr Is-lywydd, Dei Tomos, ar ddechrau'r dathliadau pen-blwydd yn Llangoed Hall.**

Yn ystod yr 80 mlynedd diwethaf, rwy'n credu ein bod wedi cerdded llwybr anrhydeddus wrth newid agweddau pobl, wrth ddylanwadu ar y rhai sy'n penderfynu, ac wrth bwysu am ddeddfau a chanllawiau newydd. Rydym wedi gwneud llawer, ond mae llawer rhagor i'w wneud.

Rydym wedi sefyll, nid yn erbyn newid ynddo'i hun, ond yn erbyn newid dieisiau ac ansensitif. Heddiw, rhaid i ni sicrhau fod datblygiadau'n addas o ran graddfa, cynllun a lleoliad ac yn gweddu i'r wlad o'u cwmpas.

Rhaid i ni feddwl yn y tymor hir ac nid yn nhermau elw tymor byr ac, mewn cyfnod sydd gyda'r mwyaf ansicr o fewn cof y rhan fwyaf ohonom, rydym yn wynebu her fawr i amddiffyn yr hyn yr ydym ni yn ei fwynhau ac y bydd cenedlaethau'r dyfodol, gobeithio, yn cael ei fwynhau hefyd.

Gyda'ch cymorth chi, gallwn ni, sy'n gofalu tros dro am y tir hwn, sicrhau y bydd y rhai sy'n ein dilyn yn diolch i ni, fel y diolchwn ninnau i'r rhai sydd wedi sefyll ac ymgyrchu yn ystod yr 80 mlynedd diwethaf.