

**Cymdeithas Hanesyddol Tyddewi a Phebidiog
St Davids and Dewisland Historical Society**

**Society Visit to the Museum of Scrimpinology, Llangwm
Jeff James**

Scrimpinology: “the study of scrimping and saving” (based on “scrimping – to be thrifty/ to economise”) ... not to be found in the Oxford Dictionary – at least not yet as far as I can tell! But Jeff (and Pat) have got this down to a fine art. After ‘scrimping & scraping’, as many young couples did before the coming of the ‘Throw Away Society’, Pat and Jeff now have the time to turn their ‘economising into an Art-Form!

Jeff started the collection, after retiring in 2002, acquiring items from antique shops, antique fairs, auctions, bric-a-brac stalls, etc., while other items have been donated by local residents who preferred their old items of interest to be seen by others, rather than stored in the attic (or thrown out!)

Items include military, household, agricultural, transport, mining (from the local Hook mine), electrical, tins, bottles, postcards, medical, photography, maritime, tools, a 1/4 scale signal box, a school section with 2 old desks from Llangwm school, and even some items from the old Empire Cinema at Milford Haven.

To make room for more items of interest, Jeff has also been selling his vintage cars, with the yellow ‘Bullnose’ Morris leaving the ‘stable’ early in 2018 The Museum is a treasure trove of memorabilia, a real trip down memory lane ... “Oh I remember that” was heard over and over again as everyone delighted in looking and handling objects remembered from their younger days.

The older you are, the more nostalgic it will be. museum@scrimpinology.co.uk



landscape! As well as boats drawn up by the quays, and on the banks of the river, there were numerous small coal mines with their winding-gear (actually bell-pits as the coal was easily accessible by surface mining), an incline to transport coal from the mines at Maddox Moor and a tramway from Freystrop to the quays at Little Milford. Amongst the items that had been ‘scrimped’ included those tackling ‘Communications through the Ages’ ... including examples of the ocean-floor cables linking the UK and N.America.

The Museum of Scrimpinology had a small café where tea, coffee and cake were available ... something that was not scrimped on!

Jeff James was enthusiastic in sharing his passion for preserving a little of our ‘social and cultural history’... sharing his enthusiasm for the eclectic range of items he had collected over the decades. He was especially knowledgeable on the technical side – and the visit was very interesting and often amusing ... including sharing information about the functioning of the local railways, carrying coal from Amroth. Near to Llangwm was one of the main ports for exporting coal from the Pembrokeshire Coalfield and what is now a muddy backwater was a thriving industrial

