



Gelligaer Times

Newsletter of the Gelligaer Historical Society

No 34

www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk

Summer 2015

Message from the Chair

The Society's successful 2014-2015 season ended with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June and I hope we will all enjoy some good summer weather before the 2015-2016 session starts.

As you can read elsewhere in this newsletter, the AGM, preceded by a delightful reception and presentation, accepted the reports of Chair and Treasurer, re-elected Society officers, appointed Judith Jones as Programme Secretary for 2016-2017 programme, endorsed a committee enlarged with two more volunteers and confirmed an interesting 2015-2016 programme.

Both Lewis School Pengam and Hengoed Primary School, the two schools with which GHS has worked most closely, have accepted the invitation to become Associate Members of GHS. Hopefully, this will work to the mutual advantage of the schools and GHS.

Society publications continue to sell well and the coming year will see the portfolio enhanced with the launch, in September 2015, of both *Gelligaer* Volume 22 and the fifth and final volume of Greg's *Gelligaer parish Farms and Families* project. In addition, plans are underway for *Gelligaer* Volume 23 *Great War 2016 Commemorative Journal* (please contact a Committee member or www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk if you have any potential contribution to that volume) as well as a history of Brithdir village.

In January 2016, Gelligaer Historical Society will celebrate the 10th anniversary of its newsletter *Gelligaer Times*, the brainchild of Terry McCarthy, then Chair of GHS and first editor of a newsletter that has proved such a positive voice for the Society. I am sure Terry is not alone in asking *where have those ten years gone?* The present editor, hoping for a special 10th anniversary issue of *Gelligaer Times*, will welcome any contributions and/or messages from readers, and the Society's committee will be pleased to hear of your ideas for the celebration following the January 2016 meeting.

While current group and individual Society research projects, including the WWI project, will continue, positive comments at the AGM open the way for further discussion about the Society's Diamond research project. Members are invited to submit ideas before further discussion at the December meeting, and it is intended that the chosen theme/topic be announced at AGM in 2016. After that, there will be just over 4 years for research before publication in 2021. I hope we will find a theme/topic that not only embraces the spirit of Gelligaer but also has the potential for all interested to become involved.

Best wishes for a good summer and I look forward to seeing you all again when we open the 2015-2016 season with a talk by Dr. Stuart Broomfield and the launch of the next journal.

Annie

Preliminary note of visit to *Firing Line Museum-The Museum of the Welsh Soldier*

Major Howard Smith has very kindly agreed to give a guided tour to members of the Society when they visit The Firing Line Museum, which is located within Cardiff Castle. The visit will take place on **Wednesday 9th September 2015 at 11 a.m.** The museum contains many interesting exhibits and has research rooms. This will be an excellent opportunity for members to find out more about the museum. Further details will be sent by e-mail to members because the number of places will be limited. However, if readers of this newsletter who are not members of the Society wish to join in on the visit they can register their interest by contacting any of the members of the committee or by e-mail to the Society's web site.



The Wider Community

The following section contains examples and details of the Society's wish to build on its existing involvement with other organisations or individuals. This extended function of the Society will be of mutual benefit to all involved; and should help organisations/individuals who currently do not have the opportunity to get their work into the public. This function will not be restricted to topics just within the old Parish of Gelligaer but may be available to anyone wishing to involve the Society in matters from areas that border on the old parish, for example New Tredegar. The working with schools is something that the Society is particularly keen to develop because it will ensure the Society exists for future generations.

HENGOED PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Society rounded off its successful 2014-15 season in fine fashion on the last Wednesday in June when members welcomed not only a large and enthusiastic Hengoed Primary School party (pupils, teachers, parents and friends), but also Chair of Gelligaer Community Council, Councillor Teresa Parry, to their meeting in Llancaiach Fawr.

After a short formal welcome by Annie Owen, Councillor Parry accepted the invitation to present the young pupils, Aiden Evans, Tommy Hunt, McKenzie Fudge, Lewis Lewis, Ceira Morgan and Caitlyn Jones, with commemorative medals, before they and their families enjoyed cake and squash. Society members had the opportunity to look at the pupils' project books based on their research on the coal industry and the former Penallta Colliery before settling down to enjoy their oral presentation. Parents and teachers were rightly proud of the six young pupils who took centre stage.



Pupils at the School



On a fact finding visit to Rhondda Heritage park

On behalf of the Society, Dr. Fred Holley, Life Member of GHS, presented each of the pupils with tokens of appreciation, and teacher, Mrs Claire Jones, accepted a commemorative plaque on behalf of the school. The Society thanks Gelligaer Community Council for the generous financial assistance towards the evening and is especially pleased that Councillor Parry found time in her busy schedule to come along to present the commemorative tokens to the pupils.



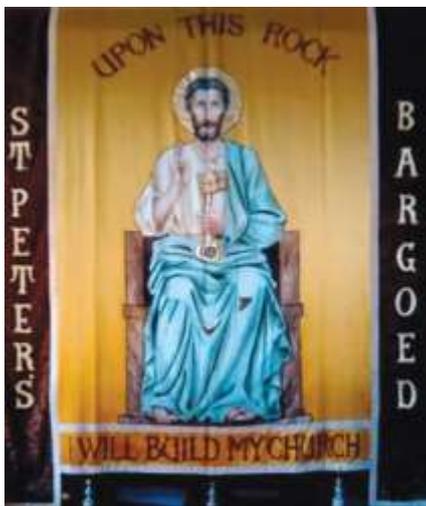
A POEM BY THE PUPILS

The miner digs for coal deep underground
Squashed in a cage he goes up and down
The cage is moved by the wheel that goes round and round
The pit pony pulls a cart of coal
Poor pony he has a long way to go
Don't forget the canary that found gas a long time ago
The coal mines of Wales are from the past
The miners worked hard, but it did not last
But we have remembered them in our class

LEWIS SCHOOL PENGAM

The Society has been asked by the school, and is pleased to help with advertising their Alumni site that is now up and running. Details of the link are <https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/lewispengam>

SAINT PETER'S CHURCH, BARGOED



The Parish will celebrate its centenary on SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2015 when Archbishop George Stack will celebrate Mass at 11 a.m.

The Peoples Collection Wales website has information about the parish, photos etc. at: <http://www.peoplescollection.wales/discover/query/st%20peter%27s>

An account of the opening in 1915 is available on The Tablet website at: <http://archive.thetablet.co.uk/article/11th-september-1915/24/news-from-the-dioceses>

For further details please contact Angela Williams "angelawilliams31mc@gmail.com"

Anyone wishing to find out more about the history of St. Peter's, Bargoed, may read an article by Terry McCarthy in Volume 14 of the Gelligaer Historical Society's Journal.



The Society's Stall at a book fair organized by Caerphilly History Society on 18th April 2015

(Photographs by Bill Smith)



A walk around Gelligaer village on 28th May 2015; organized by Caerphilly Council, when Society member Clive Andrewartha and two friends of the Society, Graham Oxlade and Mal Jones acted as guides and also put on a display at the Church Hall

Islwyn Comrades Association, Royal Welsh Blackwood Branch Centenary Commemoration of Gheluvelt

As the full report on this commemorative visit will appear, together, we hope with reports on other WW1 commemorative

activities and visits, in future issues of *Gelligaer Times* and/or *Gelligaer Volume 23, Great War edition 2016*, what follows are just a few brief points from the report sent to the Society by Sylvia Pitman

As with any successful activity, planning for this centenary commemorative visit started early. In 2012, Dennis Pitman and John Coleman met other Regimental Associations in London's Haig House and agreed to organise visits to the Battlefields. Back home, with meticulous attention to detail, they arranged transport, and liaised with municipal and museum authorities and landowners in Gheluvelt and, importantly, secured HLF funding to ensure the visit was open to all Comrades. Preparations complete, in October 2014, fifty people travelled by coach and Dover-Calais ferry to their base in Lille from where, they visited sites and honoured the brave men who experienced unbelievable horrors a century ago. At Ypres, BBC Wales interviewed Dennis Pitman (former South

Wales Borderer and now Chair of Islwyn Branch of Royal Welsh Regimental Association) and Col. Henry Cadogan (grandson of commander a century ago), and, at the recently rearranged Passchendaele Museum, they filmed the presentation of a memorial book with names of many men from the Blackwood area who fell in the conflict (see photographs in <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-29777599>). Thanks to careful planning and the help of local guide, Johan Claerhout, a long-time friend of the Branch, the visit ran smoothly and the group returned home having learned so much while paying respects to the fallen of the Great War.

The Society thanks Sylvia for this report and hopes that other local organisations and individuals will feel able to send reports and/or photographs of any WWI commemorative activities and visits for inclusion in future GHS publications.

The Society's website and Journals

The popularity of the society's journals has recently been demonstrated by Swansea University ordering back issues of the Journal that are still available and, furthermore, they have placed a standing order for any future publications by the society. The web site, which contains details of the publications, also attracted interest from Professor Gerry Rubin, Head of Law at the University of Kent. He ordered Volume 14 because it contained an article about a murderer by the name of Alfred Rouse who visited Penybryn, near Gelligaer after he had murdered a man in Northamptonshire in November 1930. Professor Rubin has exchanged emails with David Mills and he intends using some of the material provided by the Society in an academic law book he intends to publish. If any reader has information about Rouse and/or Ivy Jenkins, and her family, who lived at Penybryn then please contact David via the web site. Professor Rubin is also interested in the colliery/drift that was once run by the Jenkins family and which they called "The Old Mill Colliery". It was situated on the road (now closed to vehicles) which runs from Glyngaer to Penrhiwfelin Farm, Cefn Hengoed,

An example of the Society getting involved in a topic, which originates from outside the old Parish of Gelligaer is a query referred to David Mills by Steve Kings of Bargoed Library. John Watkins who lives in Argoed, near Blackwood had contacted Steve about a gravestone in the "old" cemetery at Bedwellty, which has some bars of music carved on the face of the stone. The stone is in memory of William Arthur Jones M.G.C., which John discovered is an acronym for Machine Gun Corps. William Arthur Jones was an organist at New Tredegar Methodist Church and died, in captivity, in 1918 Cologne, Germany. The music is the opening lines of a hymn tune "Rutherford". It is intended to publish the notes by John in *Gelligaer Volume 23, Great War Edition 2016*. If any readers have any more information about William Arthur Jones or have discovered any other gravestones with bars of music or any other unusual features then please contact David, via the Society's web site.

Gareth and Gill Jones have contacted Judith Jones, Vice Chair of the Society with a story of some ancestors who left Bedlinog for Patagonia with the intention of setting up a sheep farm. Unfortunately, they found Patagonia was tough going and eventually returned home. Patagonia has attracted some attention in the media recently so the Society would welcome any stories/details from readers about that country. Gareth and Gill's story will be published either in a future newsletter, or possibly, if more material is sent to the Society in a future Journal.

Gelligaer Journal Volume 22 – 2015

Wartime Wales – through the eyes of an evacuee by Graham Barnes
Violence in Bargoed. The riots of August 1911 by Stuart Broomfield

Herbert Gwyn "Bert" Turner by Roy Smith

Living With Ghosts by Dic Felstead

The Perrotts: A Gentry Family of Gelligaer by Sue Allen

Artie Moore – The Forgotten Spark by Leighton Smart

A brief history of film exhibition in Bargoed by Angela Evans

and

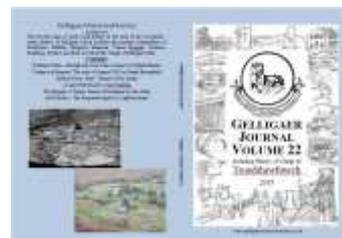
A History of the Village of Troedrhiwfurch by Annie Owen

[There may be additional content]

This will be launched at our next Meeting on Wednesday September 27

Copies will also be available at Ystrad Mynach Library on the Wednesday afternoon

Also The farms and their Families 1540-1840 – Volume 5 – Hengoed Hamlet and our other journals.



Austerity?

At the time of writing this short article, the word austerity seems to be in the news almost on a daily basis. The Greeks are doing battle with the European Union about the imposition of austerity measures in an effort to save the Greek economy. In the United Kingdom, there have been numerous marches and demonstrations about austerity measures being imposed by the Government. However, most readers will know that 1926 was an austere year because of the general strike. In the South Wales Coalfield there were soup kitchens in nearly every town to ensure that families had at least the basic amount of food; miners scavenged the coal tips in an effort to get coal on the fire in their homes. Nevertheless 1926 was not very bad for some people. In the Glamorgan Record Office is a file of papers containing the correspondence of Douglas Hann of Cascade House, Penpedairheol; although he always gave his postal address as "*Cascade House, Pengam Monmouthshire*". Hann was the Assistant General Manager of the Powell Duffryn Steam Coal Company Ltd, and also of the Rhymer Iron Company Ltd.

The letters in the file would be regarded as being mundane were it not for the fact that they were written during a period of hardship for most working men, the following are summaries of some of the letters:

May 1926 letter to Stewart Ltd. *Hair Specialist and Posticheurs*, Regent Street London ordering bottle of hair oil.

June 1926 Letter to W. H. Smith, Cardiff asking for a four weeks supply of the magazine "Fur and Feather".

14th July 1926 Letter to Chepstow Racecourse Company seeking to become a member. His letter concluded with "*I am a member of the Cardiff County Club*". That comment made sure he became a member of Chepstow Racecourse club, the reply he received pointed out that because he was a member of the Cardiff County Club there was no need for him to be nominated or seconded, it was an automatic right to become a Chepstow member.

29th July 1926 letter to Hobson Brothers, Bond Street, London saying he required some suits and asking to be informed when their representative was in the district.

11th August 1926 Letter from Hobson Brothers informing him they were making him two pairs of tennis trousers

19th August 1926 Letter to Witty and Wyatt (Cardiff Ltd) enclosing a cheque for £2-7s-6d for golf balls supplied.

Those were the days, for some.

David Mills

Party, Party

When World War 2 mercifully ground to a halt in May 1945, we had not long moved from a house off Penarth Road, Cardiff, where bombs fell around the General Station (now Cardiff Central) to the pleasant suburb of Victoria Park. As I had not started school, neither my parents nor I knew our neighbours. The rejoicing which rapidly followed the declaration of peace was celebrated with a street party. There was no need to hire a hall; no one in the street owned a car, in fact few people in the country owned cars, there were none to buy and petrol was tightly rationed and restricted to essential users. The party was therefore held in the middle of the street.

Residents brought out their dining tables and wallpaper pasting tables, chairs and white tablecloths. A motley collection of crockery and a jumble of ill-matching spoons completed the first act of the performance. As though by magic but actually by the skill, frugality and imagination of the women in the street, plates of sandwich- spread or lettuce and spam sandwiches appeared followed by jam sandwiches, scones, cakes made from dried egg, blancmange and jelly (made from gelatine, concentrated orange juice and saccharin) and carefully saved bottled fruit from family allotments. The most vivid memory I retain however, was not the food but the flags. From bottom drawers, trunks, cases and attics, Union flags, and 'Red Dusters' were brought out to flutter from every house, not a Welsh Dragon or a Saint George's flag in sight, only Union flags, some very faded, others still bright, saved since 1939 in tissue paper for this very occasion. Some were as big as bath towels, others as tiny as pocket handkerchiefs. Following the party the tables were cleared away for us to enjoy games in the street. The event to mark the end of the war in Europe finished with the singing of Auld Lang Syne and had broken the ice with our new neighbours but the joy was not unconstrained; one of our neighbours had a son, a prisoner of war in the Far East.

It was only a few months later, in August, 1945 when the Japanese and the Axis powers in the East surrendered to the Allies, and another street party was deemed appropriate. On this occasion someone decided that the children should come in fancy dress. As clothing was also rationed, all clothes were in short supply; fancy dress was going to be another challenge for the hard-pressed but innovative mothers.

From the 1920s to the late 1930s my dad had been in the Merchant Navy and had several times travelled to Japan from where he had brought back pretty china, embroidered pictures and a beautiful embroidered black silk kimono and scarf for my mother. In a rush of inspiration she decided to turn up an enormous hem on the kimono to provide me with my fancy dress. At the V.J party, in company with Charlie Chaplin, Carmen Miranda and other favourites of radio and film, I was the only child who went as a Japanese Geisha, but nobody seemed to mind, especially me as I got to wear such beautiful exotic clothes.

Eventually our neighbour's son returned from the P.O.W camp, looking like a bag of bones but over the months that followed in the care of his family he returned to full health and resumed his civilian life.

Iris Owens

A Retirement Project

Some readers are already aware that Brian Davies has retired from his position as the Curator of Pontypridd Museum. Brian has entertained the Society for many years with his interesting talks and will again be speaking to the Society on 30th March 2016.

It would be uncharacteristic of Brian if he did not set himself a project during his retirement. However, his project may come as something of a surprise, he has bought a wooden hulled boat with a steam engine (probably it should be described as a steam launch). At present, the vessel is at Nigel Brake's Penybryn Engineering workshop. On 8th July 2015, the engine had to undergo a safety test, and it passed; so quite soon the vessel will be transported to Cardiff Bay. Members of the Society hope Brian will spend many a happy hour sailing around the bay and the rivers that feed into it. Rumour has it that he may even venture out to sea

Brian in steam at the boiler test.

(Photo by David Mills)



Conference Notes

David Jones, the author of 'In Parenthesis' (1937)

Dr Toby Thacker gave an excellent talk about this author and poem. He explained that it was difficult to read, and understand. It could be interpreted as both an anti-war or pro-war text. David Jones served in the 1st World War and the poem reflected the experiences that he had suffered, although he wrote the poem some years after the War had ended. Dr Toby Thacker gave an interesting and enlightening assessment into the thinking behind the poem, the background of David Jones and how complex a person he appeared to be.

After listening to Dr Thacker's inspiring presentation, members of the audience were left with the desire to search more about this author and poem. It was a thoroughly enjoyable presentation

Susan Price

The 'troublesome question of the married women teachers' Aberdare 1908

Dr Sian Rhiannon Williams' talk evoked much interest and debate and served as a reminder to all how attitudes have changed since the beginning of the twentieth century.

It started with a little test, challenging preconceived ideas on the marital status of nineteenth century women teachers, before reference to Aberdare School Board's 1874 advertisement for Master and Mistress for Cwmbach Board Schools and the subsequent appointment of Mr and Mrs Keast to the posts.

The catalyst for the 'troublesome question' came in 1901 when the Board said women teachers were to resign their posts on marriage and existing married teachers were given seven years' notice to resign.

Setting it in its local and national context, Dr Williams carefully steered us through the 'troublesome question' from the Local Education Authority Resolution in February 1908. She drew attention to the dismissals, the cases taken up by NUT (including that of Mrs Keast appointed in 1874 and due to retire in 1909), the response of teachers' association, the press and LEA, and the fate of some of the teachers, to the end of sustentation grants in September 1909.

It was a significant question, one the National Union of Teachers (NUT) had to deal with without the comfort of any relevant precedent cases, and it left the local NUT and community divided. Although it was a question about women, extant sources generally reflect the voices of men.

The questions that followed bear testimony to the interest generated among delegates, not only drawing out more opinions on this episode but also bringing in comparisons and contrasts with other similar events in the wider area.

Glamorgan Ancestry

Barry Davies gave a very interesting and enjoyable talk. He spoke about *Glamorgan Ancestry*, a subject he has researched for nearly half a century, during which, amongst other work, he has revised G. T. Clark's Genealogies of Glamorgan. He described how he uses Glamorgan pedigrees as evidence for the early years of the Norman Conquest, and how the Welsh aristocracy contributed to the Welsh genetic make-up. Pre the Union, 1536, Welsh society was hierarchical and predominantly aristocratic. Professional bards wrote royal and aristocratic pedigrees and several of these survive. He described the collection and preservation of these documents, such as the Golden Grove manuscripts, copied in 1765 (copy in National Library). George Owen of Henllys, Pembrokeshire, collected as many as possible, his collection going to the College of Arms in 1828, where it remains, called the Protheroe Manuscripts. Barry explained that the problems caused by copying these documents, is the making and perpetuation of mistakes. The Welsh pedigrees were gathered together, in book form, in the 20th century by Bartrum, who recognised two Welsh kings, twenty uchelwyr families, and several Norman families.

He mentioned that the Welsh have always been obsessed with their heritage; but this was necessary in the past. Sometimes this was needed for legal reasons, such as proof of ownership of land. Barry asserted that pre-Norman Welsh history is really about the rest of Wales and not just the southeast. He described the pre-Norman administrative divisions and the royal families of the southeast, stating that the main connection was the marriage of Nest (daughter of Rhodri Mawr) with Owain ap Hywel. Because the Normans conquered, virtually unopposed, there is no documentation for this period and that the "twelve knights" is a 16th century version and now discredited.

To conclude he concentrated on Senghenydd, saying that Iestyn ap Gwrgant was the last of the Glamorgan royal family and, although there were many branches of his descendants in the male line (e.g. Lewis, the Van), only the Aberpergwm family survive. Einon ap Colly, Iestyn's Welsh successor, was not given Royal status.

Judith Jones

From Showmen to Businessmen - Cinema entrepreneurs in the South Wales valleys

Angela Evans, a member of the Gelligaer Historical Society, chose this subject as part of her PhD research. The Withers Family, of Bargoed, were a good example of showmen who turned entrepreneurs. Albert Withers had been involved in amateur dramatics as a young man and in 1906 purchased the West Bromwich Hippodrome and the Theatre Royal in Merthyr Tydfil. In 1907 he acquired the New Hall, Palace and Hanbury cinemas in Bargoed. Eventually Withers had 30 cinemas in South Wales and because of his desire to expand he became associated with the financier Julian Hodge.

In the early days, the entertainment in the variety halls included acts like Walford Bodie, 'the famous bloodless surgeon'. Others like Signor Bandoni and his one-man band had their acts interspersed with short films of melodramas, etc. Eventually, the cinema as a technical novelty, changed to entertainment and an art form. At the same time, the halls were rented out at low cost for charity concerts, eisteddfodau, lectures and so on. They became a vital part of Valley social life especially when more recreation time became available together with improved prosperity.

Cinema success was ensured by film selection that would appeal to local tastes. The smaller groups of entrepreneurs in South Wales, smaller than the Rank organization for example, were careful in this respect and their financial structure tended to reflect local involvement. Analysis shows that investment came from local tradesmen 36%, local professionals 19% and local merchants 13%. With the population of the County of Glamorgan rapidly increasing in the 19th and 20th centuries a ready and increasingly expanding market was available. Working Men's Institutes, which had libraries and newspaper rooms, also showed films especially where private halls were unavailable in the smaller communities.

Menna and Carwyn Hughes

What has Merthyr ever Done for us

It is difficult to hold an audience's attention after a whole day of presentations but Joe England, posing the question "*What has Merthyr ever done for us?*" had no difficulty. He is an Honorary Research Fellow at Swansea University. His intention was to concentrate on the years when Merthyr was at the cutting edge in industry and technology. The familiar impression of Merthyr in the industrial revolution is one of abject squalor, poverty, crime, and prostitution, most notably in the notorious area of the town then known by the name 'China'. Merthyr became a hotbed of working class political activism. However, this was also a Merthyr where a climate of intellectual curiosity resulted in a thriving Philosophical Society, a Merthyr where in the days of the great ironmaster families,

the Crawshays, the Guests and the Halls, innovation and investment were encouraged in every aspect of their business. Each family was inclined toward dynastic marriages, which increased both the expertise and the capital available for investment. Most people know of Trevithick's engine but Joe pointed out that people may be less aware of the "Dowlais method" of smelting; which was soon recognised as the best in the world. The capital and expertise, which allowed Merthyr iron to lay railways across America and Russia, also produced experts such as John Hughes, who was invited to the Ukraine to help develop an ironworks. So successful was he, that an entire city, Hughesovska (now Donetsk) was named after him.

Merthyr became the largest town in Wales, and its iron, steel, and coal helped to fire not just the industrial revolution in Wales, but also around the world. Merthyr ironworkers used their expertise to develop steelmaking processes in France and a host of other countries that were latterly developing their own iron and steel works. It was not just iron that Merthyr gave to the world, but people, knowledge, technology, and expertise. It was interesting and refreshing to have the spotlight turned onto a less familiar aspect of Merthyr's development, as was demonstrated by the number of questions after the talk.

Ceri Creffield

Talks 2015-2016

Wednesday September 30th Violence in Bargoed : the riots of August 1911 Stuart Broomfield

Our 2015 Journal will be launched at this meeting. This includes an article by Stuart on the riots.

Wednesday October 28th Industrial Merthyr Tydfil Huw Williams

Wednesday November 25th John Hodder Moggridge Pontllanfraith Local History Society Research Group

John Hodder Moggridge founded Blackwood as a model village. The research group have been researching him.

Wednesday December 9th Open evening

The evening will follow the same format as previous December meetings - Details have yet to be decided.

In 2010 the Society celebrated its 50th Anniversary, and to celebrate it decided to publish a book – Bargoed & Gilfach was duly published in November 2010. In 2020 the Society will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee and would like to publish another book. We will try to make a decision on what that book will be during this meeting, so please come along to have a say and help make the decision. If you have any suggestions please let us know beforehand.

11.00 am Wednesday January 27th Wartime profiteering as shown in Daily Sketch 1916 Iris Owens

Iris, a society member, has previously given us a talk on the 1920s Pontlottyn murder. There will be an opportunity for members and visitors to purchase lunch after the talk and the 10th birthday of Gelligaer Times will be celebrated.

Wednesday February 24th The Lost Gardens of Trelewis A Study in Garden History Graeme Moore

Graeme has worked on garden and landscape projects in England, Scotland and South Wales for over 30 years, applying his knowledge of garden history to restore humour and intelligence to the garden tradition.

Saturday March 19th Annual Conference Details to be announced.

Wednesday March 30th The Chartists in Llanfabon Brian Davies

Brian Davies, former Curator of Pontypridd Museum, is a well known and entertaining local speaker.

Wednesday April 27th [Nantgarw Pottery](#) Gwen Griffiths

Gwen Griffiths is a Friend and Trustee of Nantgarw China Works Museum.

Wednesday May 25th Keeping the Home Fires Burning Audrey Griffiths

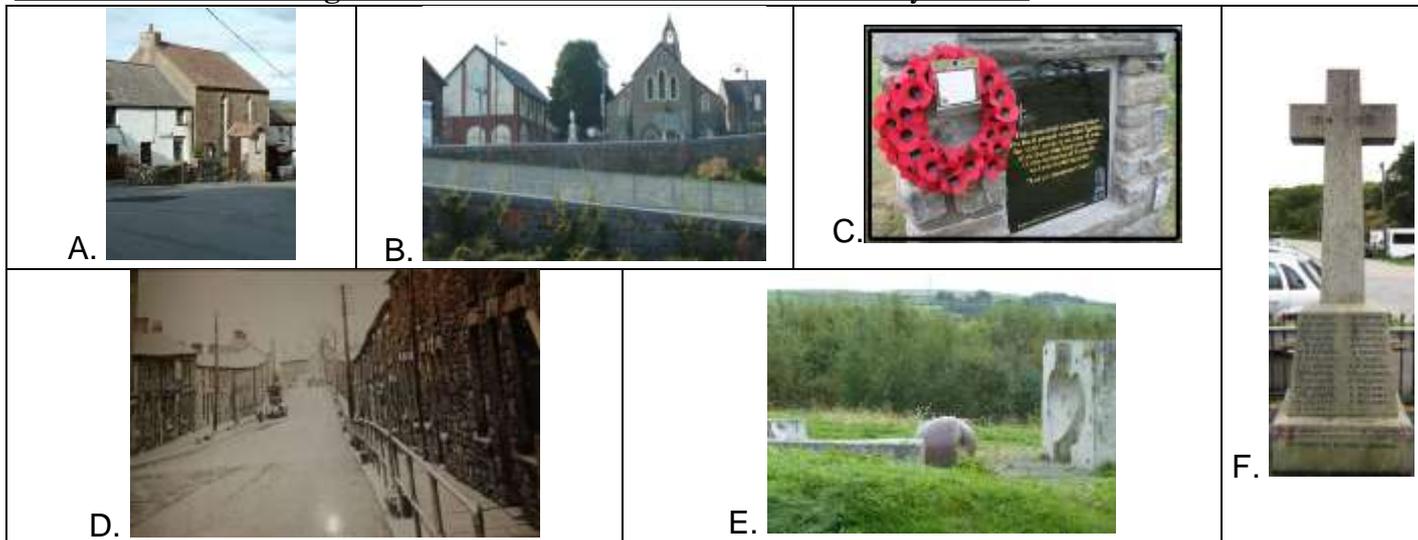
Audrey, a society member, is a well known local speaker. The talk will give a perspective on WW1 from those who remained at home.

Wednesday June 29th Annual General Meeting

Gelligaer Historical Society Officers 2015-2016

President Emeritus	Mr Islwyn Hughes	Treasurer	Mr Roy Smith
President	Miss Nesta Jones	Webmaster	Mr Greg Buick
Chair	Mrs Annie Owen	Programme Secretary	Mrs Judith Jones
Vicechair	Mrs Judith Jones		
Committee	Mrs Audrey Griffiths, Mrs Ann Pinch, Mr Bill Smith, Dr David Williams, Mrs Susan Price, Mr Clive Andrewartha,		
Auditor	Mrs Joanne Thomas		
Life Members	Dr Fred Holley, Mr Islwyn Hughes, Mr Terry McCarthy		

Photos From Old Gelligaer Council/Parish Area- Can You Identify Them?



Answers to pictures in Issue 33
A. Bargoed Workmen's Institute
D. Ystrad Fawr

B. Graig Fargoed Cemetery
E. St. Gwladys Primary School, North Bargoed

C. Parc Penallta
F. Gelligaer Church Hall