

# GELLIGAER TIMES

SEPTEMBER 2016



## Message from the Chair

2015-2016, another successful year for the Society, was rounded off with the AGM and, the following evening, launch of the Society's second WWI commemorative journal. Now, as the summer recess draws to a close, we look forward not only to the interesting programme Judith has prepared for 2016-2017, but also to continuing our researches on the WWI project and starting those for GHS Diamond project. As noted in the AGM report below, members present voted unanimously for an in-depth study of Gelligaer Parish in the pivotal era of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

GHS will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 and research for a publication will run from the present to December 2020 before the editors prepare the finished product. Committee members hope that GHS members and friends will feel able to be involved in this long-running project. I will send an email with more detailed information on the Diamond project to GHS members shortly. If you do not receive this email before the September meeting it will be because I do not have an email address for you, in which case it will be helpful if you are able to send your email contact details to [chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](mailto:chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk) so that I can contact you.

You will find the Society's 2016-2017 programme attached to the end of this newsletter. It will be appreciated if you can print and display it, perhaps in a local shop or on a public notice board in your community.

Look forward to seeing you at the Society meetings 2016-2017,

Best wishes from *Annie*.

## TRIBUTE TO IRIS OWENS

Gelligaer Historical Society opened its May meeting with a tribute of respect to departed merit, and the evening's talk was dedicated to the memory of Iris, a popular and active member of this Society.

The Society acknowledges Iris's varied and valuable contributions. As a committee member and as editor of the newsletter, Iris helped the Society move forward. Moreover, her talks, always so thoroughly prepared, were delivered in a style that both entertained and informed her audiences, while a number of GHS publications include the results of her diligent research. Whenever Iris acted as the public face of GHS, we knew she would do us proud, whether manning the stand at local events or proposing vote of thanks to guest speakers – roles she performed so well.

Society members cherish individual memories of Iris and have many different pictures etched on their memories. For some, it is the smile on her face and the warmth and sincerity of her well-chosen words when she proposed the vote of thanks to the speaker at the March meeting, while those who were at the April meeting, will recall sharing Iris's pride and enthusiasm for her new

publication. We admire her successes outside the Society, not only her mastery of the Welsh language but also her work in Llancaiach Fawr.

GHS is just one of many local groups privileged to have been part of Iris's life in recent years, and is now so much the poorer. The Society, planning a tangible memorial to Iris, has already received contributions from many members. If other members wish to contribute, please see GHS Treasurer or a committee member at the next Society meeting.

Iris, we remember you with fondness and with respect, and your varied contributions ensure that you remain a part of GHS.

### **Reports on monthly meetings January – May 2016.**

#### **JANUARY 2016**

Following the practice of recent years, the January meeting started at 11 a.m.. In spite of the heavy rain and strong wind that morning, a sizeable number came along to hear Iris Owens speak on *Profiteering in World War I*, a talk based on her collection of century-old *Daily Sketch*. Society members had previously had an insight into these newspapers when Iris brought them to the December 2014 meeting and Iris had been kind enough to lend them to some members to further their studies into World War I. Having broken her ankle in a nasty fall just a few weeks earlier, Iris was seated in a wheelchair. But this did not detract from the talk, well-prepared as always, and delivered in her usual superb style. The questions and comments that followed bore witness to the interest generated by the talk.

After the talk, most of the audience enjoyed lunch in the conservatory before returning to the Barn to celebrate the tenth anniversary of *Gelligaer Times*. After Annie introduced the celebration, Terry, first editor of the newsletter, outlined the early years of *Gelligaer Times*, giving an insight into the background to the first issue and describing his term as editor. GHS thanks Terry for travelling from his home in Peterborough to be present at this special occasion.

The photographs (by Nesta Williams) take up the story of the afternoon:

*Left to right Iris Owens (former editor) David Mills (current editor), Terry McCarthy (founder and first editor) and Nesta Jones, GHS President, who presented small tokens of gratitude to the editors of Gelligaer Times*



*The pristine celebration cake and then Terry trying to do something to it, much to Annie's amusement.*



## **FEBRUARY 2016**

Graeme Moore's talk, *The Lost Gardens of Trelewis*, illustrated by some local examples including the farm garden at Clwyd Trawscae, was well received and suggested lines of enquiry that few Society members had previously considered. For further information on the speaker, see <http://graememoore.com/>. At the end of the evening, Judith Jones, on behalf of the Society, asked Graeme to accept a small gift to deliver to his aunt, Amy Jenkins, a former secretary of the Society. Present Society members are acutely aware of the debt of gratitude owed to former officers and members who worked hard to create the Society we know today. A further note about Graeme appears later in this newsletter.

## **MARCH 2016**

With Brian Davies, former curator at Pontypridd Museum and good friend of longstanding to GHS, speaking, it is no surprise that the large audience was not disappointed. Brian fulfilled a long-standing promise to speak about the *Llanfagon Chartists*. He commenced by mentioning that in preparing for this talk he re-visited notes he had made 44 years ago when he was at university, where his professor was the well-known Gwyn Alf Williams. Brian spoke about the Chartist meetings at the *Colliers Arms* (now known as *The Rowan Tree*), Nelson. He mentioned the names of some local Chartists and emphasized that more research needs to be done especially in respect of Thomas Thomas of Llechwen farm, a quite prosperous farmer and landowner who seems to be one of the main Chartists in the Llanfagon area.

## **APRIL 2016**

Gwen Griffiths' talk, *Nantgarw China Works*, shed light on the history of the works, and, instead of concentrating on the high value Nantgarw antiques, Gwen explained the history of the works and the families who built the first works and later expanded them. She explained what had been done to preserve some of the old buildings which were in a sorry state of repair. For further details see <http://nantgarwchinaworksmuseum.co.uk/>.

## **MAY 2016**

The meeting opened with a tribute to Iris Owens before Audrey Griffiths' talk, *Keeping the Home Fires burning*, was dedicated to the memory of Iris.

The title of the talk is taken from Ivor Novello's patriotic wartime song. The talk, about a family from one of the mining valleys, focussed on a variety of experiences during the months between June 1915 and June 1916, as well as reflecting aspects of the contemporary world outside the family including unrest in the coal industry, suffragette activities and the carnage in France. It had a surprise ending.

## **CONFERENCE REPORTS**

The early Easter meant the 2016 conference date clashed with several other local events, including a Six Nations Rugby match in Cardiff. GHS committee thanks speakers, delegates and the staff of Llancaiach Fawr, who all helped ensure it was another successful conference. Thanks also to the members who contributed the following reports on the talks.

### ***World War 1 Chapel Memorials in Glamorgan : Dr Gethin Matthews, Swansea University***

Dr Matthews has concentrated his recent research on the experiences of the Welsh in the First World War and the impact of the conflict in Wales, leading to the subject of his talk. He spoke with enthusiasm as he described his current research, re-enforcing his knowledge with fascinating photographs of existing memorials showing the varied ideas which were used to extol the conflict while listing and praising the volunteers, including female nurses. These ideas were seen to become more flamboyant as the war progressed.

Using the written information and bordering illustrations found on the memorials, Dr Matthews was able to differentiate between memorials from rural and industrial areas, affluent and poorer areas, the prevalent age of the volunteers, their regiments and where they fought and died. If a chapel had no memorial he concluded that the minister did not wish to glorify war. The World War 1 Chapel Memorials, said Dr Matthews, were an important source of information and a link with the community the chapels served during these years. ***Ann Pinch***

Editor's note: *Gelligaer* Volume 23 carries an article by Dr Matthews on a local memorial. Dr Matthews will be pleased to hear from any reader with information on memorials [g.h.matthews@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:g.h.matthews@swansea.ac.uk).

### ***The Western – History and Myth : Dr S. McVeigh, Swansea University***

This talk was a departure from the usual character of the GHS conference, as it had no local or even Welsh focus, transporting us instead to the American West. Dr McVeigh's purpose was to illustrate the deliberate process by which the movement of white settlers into the West was transformed into the myth of the American West with which we are familiar today. The lively Q&A session which followed demonstrated that this myth has lost none of its fascination.

The late nineteenth century was an anxious one for the USA. With the Civil War behind it and the Frontier recently declared closed, it was time to turn from internal to international affairs and for America, not yet the global superpower it would become, to assess its position in the world. Dr McVeigh chose to focus on three men who were instrumental in constructing a national myth

from the country's recent history which helped to define the American character and which persists to this day.

Frederick Jackson Turner was an academic who promulgated the idea that the West had formed the American character. The generations who had rolled the frontier forward, bringing civilization to a savage wilderness, struggling against adversity, had abandoned any former European heritage, developing instead virtues of self-reliance, individuality, strength and democracy, becoming "American" in the process. The American Dream has its origins in the concept of the hard-working frontiersman making good on the piece of free land he has carved out for himself.

Theodore Roosevelt was an avid admirer of Turner's work. The two men corresponded and Roosevelt proved one of the greatest promoters of the Western myth. An Easterner by birth and education, Roosevelt, who had led a cavalry unit – The Rough Riders – in the Spanish-American War and who wrote regularly about his ranch in North Dakota, was in thrall to the Romantic, masculine ideal embodied by the cowboy. These former hooligans now became heroes with Roosevelt choosing to put himself forward as a cowboy - with all the attendant American virtues.

The third man was Buffalo Bill Cody. Forced to work from a young age by the death of his father, he was a Pony Express rider at fourteen, a Union scout in the Civil War, and later hunted buffalo to feed the workers on the Kansas Pacific Railroad. Myth began to run alongside reality when he became a hero of Dime Novels and began a stage career, playing himself for eleven years, whilst still working as a scout between seasons. His part in the Indian Wars, heavily embroidered, became the finale of his later Wild West Show. Half history, half spectacle, this show demonstrated a quest for authenticity, employing real Indians, real buffalo and the genuine Deadwood stage, alongside sensationalism and showmanship, although the programmes remained highly didactic.

These were just three men among many who helped imbue the myth of the West into American culture at a time when it was seeping into literature and film and informing the American view of themselves and their place in the world. Powerful as this myth has proved, it relies on entirely ignoring the contribution of women and black or other ethnic presences which we know to have been in the American West. It also depends on treating the indigenous peoples of the "empty" wilderness as savages, who exist only to provide opposition to the pioneering heroes. It ignores other aspects of American history – notably slavery and the Civil War – and the environmental destruction wrought by the settlers. Yet despite the challenge from revisionist historians, it has proved enduring and intoxicating, and we can see more than a trace of this in American politics and American popular culture today.

*Ceri Creffield*

### ***Sacred Mountains of South East Wales : Dr Edith Evans, G.G.A.T.***

Dr Edith Evans is well-known to Society members, having spoken to us on a number of occasions, led several walks on Gelligaer and Merthyr Common and even fed us during our Roman Day at Gelligaer!

She began her talk by saying that there are a series of ancient landscapes, sacred mountains in South Wales and different geological formations relate to their topography and geography. Starting in the west of the area, Dr Evans described Rhossili Down, Gower, illustrating Neolithic landscape

on lower slopes, then Bronze Age, and a series of cairns along the ridge. From Gray Hill, Monmouthshire which has similar geology, she also showed a series of cairns, again, mainly Bronze Age, and included pictures and description of an excavation by Cardiff University.

Turning to our local area, Dr Evans described some of the archaeology of Gelligaer Common which shows a concentration of Bronze Age cairns around the highest point, Cairn y Bugail, although there are earlier archaeological relics, e.g. to the south of the ridge is Maen Catwg which she believes may be a capstone of a Neolithic chambered tomb. Dr Evans then showed the land below Cairn y Bugail where there are several smaller cairn sites, possibly some kind of cemetery, and on the lower and flatter ground near Colly Uchaf Farm she described a series of smaller cairns – which are mirrored on the opposite (Merthyr) mountain. Describing a survey that she led on the Common (when several GHS members were involved), Dr Evans described how she had identified a new cup stone, and a return visit in lower light showed a series of smaller “cups” – recognised as “rock art”; our only example of this in situ. She mentioned the Rhoihi stone and although saying that she is not sure how this fits into the surrounding Bronze Age landscape, suggested the possibility that the entire site around the stone could be a cairn. The use of aerial photography was discussed, allowing Dr Evans to show the position of the main sites on maps. Unfortunately, very few excavations have been undertaken in our area. Dr Evans then showed examples from the Penderyn area, Cwm Cadlan, Cefn Sychbant and Mynydd y Glog.

Summing up, she said that the best way to see and understand these landscapes is to walk around and interact with them and suggested a walk which is being held by the BBNPA as part of its Geopark Festival on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

*Judith Jones*

### ***Industrial Merthyr : Huw Williams***

Again, Merthyr historian, Huw Williams needs no introduction to members as an enlightening and humorous speaker. He said that he could build this story based on previous talks of the day, how Merthyr Tydfil “had had the stuffing knocked out of it by WW1”, and how some of the areas of industrial Merthyr had comparisons with the “wild west”.

By 1830, Merthyr Tydfil was the largest industrial landscape and urban environment with tentacles spreading to Llancaiach. There had been the “big” houses and families, the Court House, Maerdy House, Troedyrhiw House, and then industrialisation 1760s onwards. Huw argued that all of the traditionally listed resources for industrialisation (iron ore, water, limestone etc) were also to be found elsewhere – so why did industry develop at Merthyr, and why then?

He described the first wave of rural migrants, working for five months then home for farm work with huge sums of money, £15/20, but about 1837 sees the end of this rural-urban migration. He continued, describing the change in culture, the language, working to a clock, a regular wage. Huw referred to the fact that initially each of the ironworks had its own mining town hugging the slopes and hence away from flooding and the stench, but later, during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the “posh” gradually moved higher, e.g. developing Thomastown.

Wilkins's books were discussed, Huw pointing out that the first edition had been written when Wilkins knew people who had actually been alive at the time of the recorded events, describing in detail a journey from Stourbridge. The period 1760-1830, Huw calls the New Iron Age. The town benefited from wars from the 1760s to the Crimean, and also provided bar rails to Europe and America – gaining fame too as the site of the first steam locomotive-hauled railway journey.

Bradshaw, the author of the guide, now well-known because of Michael Portillo's televised railway journeys, visited Merthyr Tydfil which he described, said Huw, as a fiery city, without management, no public buildings of note, no water, with much cholera and fever (although, ironically, he died of cholera in Norway). Yet Huw maintained that the kings and other European dignitaries visited Merthyr "to see how it was done".

Huw then briefly mentioned the iron master families both at Merthyr and in London and their lives, homes and building there. By the 1880s-1890s the success of industrialisation was coming to an end; the journeys north and south between Merthyr and the coast were too expensive, East Moors, Llanwern and Port Talbot taking over and all pretensions to grandeur disappeared with WW1 and the subsequent decline of Industrial Merthyr Tydfil. *Judith Jones*

Editor's note: The next conference is booked for March 25th 2017 in Llancaiach Fawr. Details will appear on [www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk)

### **Hidden Gardens**

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a short report on a talk delivered to the Society by Graeme Moore. After that talk some members expressed an interest in finding more gardens that are either lost or forgotten. It has been decided therefore to insert a note in this newsletter giving some pointers that may prompt readers to recall not only gardens that they knew, but also gardens that are extant. Graeme has kindly provided the following guidelines.

Look out for mention of gardens and orchards, the production, trade and consumption of fruit, vegetables and herbs and also garden structures such as walls, paths, steps, pools and fountains; also trees and shrubs. The slightest mention, or viewing of these things can lead to significant findings. This is a very wide ranging guideline but this is a wide ranging topic. There are of course the well-known formal gardens such as the period garden at Llancaiach and the garden at Maesruddud (Maes Manor, near Blackwood) but the garden villages of the early twentieth century produced countless lesser gardens and allotments that represent a gardening tradition stretching back for many years.

Any information, even if it may seem insignificant to you is well worth passing on to this Society.

### ***Place names of Glamorgan : Richard Morgan***

Historians in Glamorgan will be well aware that the county lacks an authoritative study of its place-names. There are many local studies and several general surveys in Glamorgan on particular themes but they vary considerably in their usefulness and quality. It is not an easy subject, of course, and some notions of the supposed meaning of particular place-names are very deep-rooted. Some antiquarians have compounded the matter by introducing dubious evidence and offering fanciful interpretations. I have compiled *Place-names of Glamorgan*, partly in order to provide a general source of reference and partly in the hope that it will encourage further research by both local and national historians. The publication has been peer-reviewed by leading place-name and local historians.

*Place-names of Glamorgan* examines more than 1,300 place-names in the old county and the present unitary authorities – including the whole of Caerphilly/Caerffili. Entries are arranged in dictionary format with preference given to English and anglicised forms - where particular places possess more than one name (usually Welsh and English) – and have appropriate cross-references, eg. ‘Mynwent y Crynwyr see Quakers Yard’. Each entry has the name with OS grid reference number, name of historic parish, a sample of historic spellings, and a concise analysis. The sources for historic forms will not be given but it is intended that these will be accessible on a free online website. This is now under negotiation. This will enable readers to follow up original sources referred to in the text.

Some of the place-names examined in *Place-names of Glamorgan* are of course in the Gelligaer area such as Capel Gwladus (first recorded in 1281) recalling a former chapel converted into a house before 1578; Gelligaer (recorded from 1254); Hengoed (from 1434); Penpedair-heol; Pontlotyn; and Troedrhiw’r-fuwch. Larger divisions such as commotes, cantrefs and lordships are also investigated as well as modern place-names which appeared in Glamorgan during industrialisation – the ubiquitous ‘-town’ names; villages named from houses, chapels and collieries (Penallta), and public houses. The publication will have a concise introduction, a glossary of common place-name elements and a bibliography.

*Place-names of Glamorgan* is now nearing completion and a publisher has been found. The volume will be in paperback, retailing at about £20. Publication is conditional upon obtaining the sum of £3,000 of which £1,000 has so far been promised and I am awaiting a decision on a second grant of £2,000. I also have to demonstrate to the publisher that a minimum of 150 individuals are likely to purchase copies in order to make it commercially viable. Individual members of Gelligaer Historical Society are welcome to contact me at [RMorgan2@virginmedia.com](mailto:RMorgan2@virginmedia.com) if they hope to purchase the book. No money is required and no personal details – names, addresses and email addresses - will be passed on to a third party. I will keep everyone up-to-date with developments.

*Richard Morgan is co-author of the Dictionary of the Place-names of Wales (2007, 2008) and author of place-name publications on Gwent, Breconshire, Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire. He is a former archivist at Glamorgan Archives, Cardiff.*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society’s AGM was held in June. Members present accepted the minutes of the previous AGM. The Chair reported that 2015-2016 had been another successful year for the Society, and the Treasurer’s report was accepted.

Officers elected were:

Chair: Annie Owen

Vice Chair Judith Jones

Treasurer: Roy Smith

Webmaster and Editor and publisher of *Gelligaer*: Greg Buick

Programme Secretary: Judith Jones

Conference Secretary: Judith Jones

Editor, *Gelligaer Times*: David Mills

It was further agreed that the following people continue in post:

Diane Walker, liaison with speakers

Clive Andrewartha as GHS representative on the Gelligaer Roman Fort Project

Enfys Hawthorn will help the treasurer at the September and October meetings

Susan Price and Ann Pinch take responsibility for the sales outlets in Ystrad Mynach and Bargoed

No one volunteered to undertake publicity for the Society but Mrs Owen explained that Rhys Evans had indicated he would like to become more involved in Society activities. It was

unanimously agreed that it is welcome news that young people want to become involved and that Mrs Owen be asked to speak to Rhys and explain what is involved and ask him to become Publicity officer.

Committee members: it was also unanimously agreed that Dr David Williams, Mrs Ann Pinch, Mrs Audrey Griffiths, Mr Bill Smith, Mrs Susan Price and Mr Clive Andrewartha be elected on to the committee.

Following the AGM, those present had a further chance to discuss the proposals for the Diamond Jubilee research project before voting unanimously for an in-depth study of Gelligaer Parish in the crucial era of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The title and form of the publication may change but this represents the area of research that will be undertaken. GHS members will receive an email on this shortly.

### Launch of Great War, edition 2, 2016 (*Gelligaer Journal* Volume 23)



On the evening following the AGM, GHS launched its second WWI commemorative journal at an event in Lewis School, Pengam in the presence of GHS members and friends. It was pleasing to welcome many of the contributors who submitted WWI-related articles: one travelled from Staffordshire, another from Sussex brought her great grandfather's medals, and a local contributor set up an impressive display of sources relating to her grandfather's wartime story. The handsome volume, complimenting that produced by GHS in 2014, would not have appeared without the research done by the contributors. The final product owes much to the proofreaders' careful attention to detail as well as to the painstaking work of Greg Buick in preparing it for the printer. The photo shows Greg Buick, on the extreme right, with Bill Smith who helped him man the bookstall.



The Society thanks its host, Lewis School Pengam (LSP), not only for the privilege of using such fine premises for this event, but also for the hospitality and the musical entertainment provided by their pupils during the reception. LSP Headmaster, Mr C. Parry, opened the formal part of the evening with words of welcome, before pupils performed the song about Alun Lewis that helped LSP win a Welsh Heritage Schools Award this year. After thanking LSP for the hospitality, welcoming the guests and contributors, Annie invited GHS member Audrey Griffiths to read an extract from one of the wartime letters home included in the new

publication. That was followed by Dic Felstead's poignant presentation relating to two former LSP pupils whose names appear on the school's war memorial.

This commemorative journal, *Gelligaer Great War Edition 2016* was formally launched by Dr Whitney Jones, founder member of GHS and a historian of note. It was an honour and a delight to have his company for the evening and we hope he enjoyed meeting up with long-standing Society members including Nesta Jones (President GHS) and Judith Jones as well as former Bargod Grammar Technical School pupils such as Menna Hughes, Ann Pinch and Susan Price.

As Caerphilly County Borough Council's Mayor was attending another WWI commemorative event, Deputy Mayor John Bevan found time in a busy schedule to attend and address the audience. Dr Stuart Broomfield spoke on behalf of the contributors, noting some of the links between several of the articles in the volume.

The formal part of the evening concluded with GHS President Nesta Jones presenting copies of the commemorative journal to Dr Whitney Jones (with thanks for launching the journal), Deputy Mayor John Bevan (receiving it on behalf of Madam Mayor) and the host, LSP (received by Mike Oliver, to whom GHS owes thanks for his part in helping to organise this successful event). The photograph on the right is of Dr Whitney Jones and Nesta Jones, they have a combined age of about 190, give or take a year.



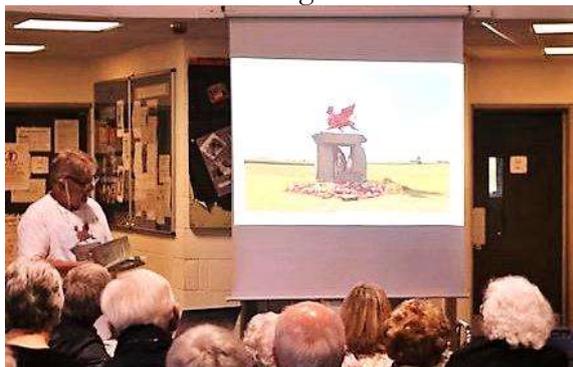
The formal part of the evening over, contributors collected their complimentary copies of this volume and sales of the journal exceeded expectations. There was ample time to browse the displays and chat before dispersing.

Thanks to GHS member Carwyn Hughes for the photographs recording this event.

The photographs below show, on the left, Lynda Osborne with sources relating to her grandfather's wartime experiences and, on the right, GHS member Audrey Griffiths preparing for her reading.



The next two photographs were taken during the presentations. That on the left is of Dic Felstead while on the right is Dr Stuart Broomfield.



## OLD WELSH NEWSPAPERS ON LINE

This website run by the National Library of Wales ([www.llgc.org.uk](http://www.llgc.org.uk)) has become invaluable to historians. More newspapers have been digitised in the last year or so and added to the site. It is easy to get side tracked when looking at old newspapers so care must be exercised because the hours seem to slip by, and the site should carry a warning about this!! When searching the site you need to remember that a variety of spellings should be tried, for example the earliest reference to *GELLYGAER* is in 1805 whereas the earliest reference to *GELLIGAER* is in 1814. By using one of the filters available you can narrow down the "hits". The following examples were found by using the filter named *illustration*.

**Cardian (Rhymney) and Bargoed and Caerphilly Obs**

**Grand Opera Week**  
AT THE  
**NEW HALL, BARGOED,**  
Commencing Monday, September 27th.  
WHEN THE  
**O'MARA OPERA COMPANY**  
Will produce the following:—  
MONDAY EVENING—Bucchi's LILY OF KILLARNEY.  
TUESDAY EVENING—Gounod's FAUST.  
WEDNESDAY EVENING—Bizet's CARMEN (By arrangement with the Trustees of the late Sir Augustus Harris).  
THURSDAY EVENING—Belli's THE BOHEMIAN GIRL.  
FRIDAY EVENING—Donizetti's LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR.  
SATURDAY EVENING, 1st House, at 6.30—Verdi's RIGOLETTO.  
SATURDAY EVENING, 2nd House, at 9.0, Wallace's MARIANA.  
Each Opera will be given in its entirety, with Two Distinct Sets of Principals.  
A SPECIAL TRAIN will leave RHYMNEY on SATURDAY EVENING at 6, in time for the First House.  
Seats may be booked by Telephone to No. 73, Bargoed.

S WEEKLY NEWS, SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1909.

### WEAK, WORN-OUT MEN.

**...A MESSAGE OF HOPE.**

MODERN business competition with all its attendant evils of hurry, worry, and over-work—is having a sad effect upon our constitution. The continual wear and tear of daily life induces feelings of exhaustion and weakness which an amount of ordinary declivity will exhaust before its time, and the hard-worked body overcome. The symptoms grow worse year by year, the vital force is and mind get worn-out and useless.

In some cases, profligate habits and excesses in living take the place of business competition and worry in depleting the system of its energy. An overworked condition of body and mind is generally preceded by such symptoms as weakness, nervousness, irritability, and a morbid condition of mind. When neglected the illness may develop into epilepsy, paralysis, and, in a few cases, temporary insanity. The only hope of improvement lies in the use of some remedy which will re-vitalize the worn-out nerve cells.

This can only be done by obtaining an increased supply of red blood, to replace the poor quality, and depleted, blood already in the body. To supply this is the essential purpose for which Dr. Slaters' Blood Tablets were invented. Each Tablet taken is at once blood-making substance added directly to the body. It does not depend upon your ability to digest them, as is the case with certain tonic preparations. Each Tablet taken, passes into the stomach, is there dissolved, and the rich blood-forming substances it contains pass directly into the blood, and are carried throughout the whole system. New blood is then built up, the worn-out cells are made, and the excessive vitality is again put on the high level of recovery.

**A TRUE TONIC & NERVE RESTORER.**

Dr. Slaters' Blood Tablets are the most powerful and reliable remedy for all cases of weakness, nervousness, and all other ailments of the blood. They are the only remedy which will re-vitalize the worn-out nerve cells, and restore the system to its normal state. They are the only remedy which will re-vitalize the worn-out nerve cells, and restore the system to its normal state. They are the only remedy which will re-vitalize the worn-out nerve cells, and restore the system to its normal state.

**Dr. Slaters' Blood Tablets**

DO NOT ACCEPT SUBSTITUTES.

### FOUR GENERATIONS AT **PONTLOTTYN.**



Above we have an interesting photograph of a family group at **Pontlottyn**. The names and ages are Mrs. Mary Bowen (37), Mrs. Elizabeth Saunders (65), Mrs. Maggie Isaac (31), and Miss Abbie Saunders (22).

The Welshman's Favourite.  
**MABON Sauce**  
 As good as its Name.  
 DON'T FAIL TO GET IT.  
 Manufacturers—BLANCH'S, St. Peter St., Cardiff.

**WORKMEN'S TOPICS.**



BY MABON, M.P.]

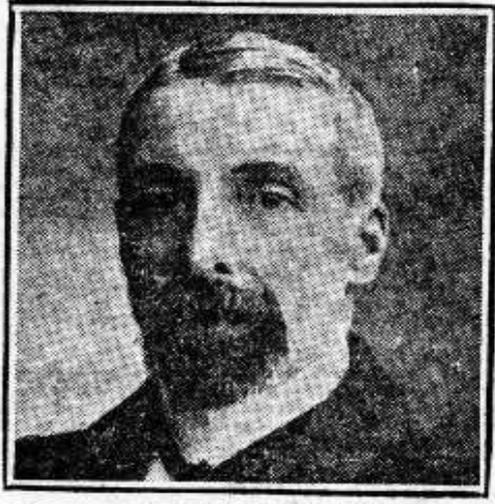
**Bills Before the House of Commons and Other Events.**

No less than three Government Bills were introduced during one sitting in the beginning of last week. One was to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act, of which I am now preparing a digest to place before the readers of this journal; the second was to amend the Truck Act, whilst the third was Mr Chaplin's Agricultural Rating Bill. The first two were read

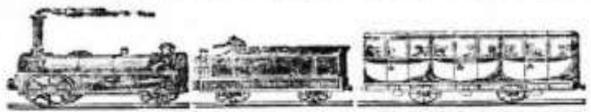
Honoured by the King



DR. TURNER (Deri).  
 (Photo, Burnicle, Newport.)



MR. EVAN OWEN (Deri).  
 (Photo, Eidan)



**TAFF BARGOED RAILWAY.**

(Incorporation of Company for making a Railway in the Valley of the Taff Bargoed to the Llancaiach Branch of the Taff Vale Railway.)

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,**

THAT application is intended to be made to Parliament in the next ensuing Session for an Act to make and maintain a Railway, or Railways, with all proper Stations, Works, and Conveniences connected therewith, and approaches thereto; to commence at or

WHERE IN GELLIGAER?

Thanks to GHS Life Member, Dr Fed Holley, for some of the following photographs.

A



B



C



D



E This may be difficult. To assist, but not too much, -L- - G- & -A- - O -, P - - - E - -  
- R - - O -



Answers to “Where in Gelligaer” in tenth anniversary issue of *Gelligaer Times*.  
A Tirphil, from New Tredegar,  
B Pontllytyn,  
C Hengoed Baptist Chapel  
D Stone from Capel Gwladys (Now inside St. Cattwg’s Gelligaer)  
D1 Bedlinog from Gelligaer Common  
E Ainon Chapel, Maes y Graig Street, Gilfach.

Editor’s note: The 2016-2017 programme is on the next page. It will be helpful if you are able to publicise the Society.  
And, I will be pleased to receive any material you can submit for possible inclusion in the next issue of *Gelligaer Times*.



# GELLIGAER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Studying the history and heritage of the area covered by the former Gelligaer parish and Gelligaer Urban District since 1961

## PROGRAMME : 2016-2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
September 28 <sup>th</sup> 2016	Brian Davies	The First Russian Colour Photographer
October 26 <sup>th</sup> 2016	Carwyn Hughes	Lloyd George's Army at Mametz Wood
November 30 <sup>th</sup> 2016	Peter Walker	When Dai became Tommy: the Welsh Tunnellers of WW1
December 14 <sup>th</sup> 2016	Open Evening	Informal evening, details to be announced
January 25 <sup>th</sup> 2017 <b>11.00 a.m. start</b>	Diane Walker	Developing the Past: Llancaiach Fawr
	There will be an opportunity for members and visitors to purchase lunch after the talk and afterwards Audrey Griffiths will tell a story with a difference, The Merthyr Rising.	
February 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2017	Ceinwen Statter	The Italians in South Wales
March 25 <sup>th</sup> 2017	Conference	Details to be announced – pre-booking necessary
March 29 <sup>th</sup> 2017	Dr. Stuart Broomfield and Gareth Williams	Sir Thomas Picton: Hero or Villain?
April 26 <sup>th</sup> 2017	Dr. Mark Baker	The Welsh Country House
May 31 <sup>st</sup> 2017	Bill Smith	Rhymney Ironworks
June 28 <sup>th</sup> 2017	A.G.M.	Short talk - details to be announced

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

**WHEN?** Last Wednesday most months (EXCEPT December [second Wednesday] and July and August [no monthly meeting])

**START TIME?** 7.00 p.m. (EXCEPT January when it is 11.00 a.m. start)

**WHERE?** Llancaiach Fawr [CF46 6ER]

Membership for 2016-2017 is £10.

Meetings are open to non-members (who are invited to contribute £2 on the evening)

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS** of GHS events, activities and publications visit [www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk) or follow GHS on Facebook or Twitter