



GELLIGAER TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE GELLIGAER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUGUST 2021 issue 57

DIAMOND JUBILEE

Good News !!!

On **Wednesday 29th September 2021** we will be able to return to our monthly meetings at Llancaiach Fawr which will enable **Dic Felstead** to start the Diamond Jubilee programme of talks focusing on the old parish of Gelligaer; his talk is entitled **The Pengam Pageant**.

The talk by Dic will start at 19.00 however an “informal” meeting will start at 18.20 when tea and coffee will be available, served by a member of staff at Llancaiach.

It may be that this will be a hybrid meeting which allows not just for attendance in person but also by Zoom. Arrangements are still in progress on the technical side of this plan and further details will be made available before the meeting. The Roll of Honour and the notice from 1950 regarding the celebrations of 300 years of the Baptist cause at Hengoed, which were in Bryn Seion chapel, Ysrad Mynach, will be brought to the meeting before they are deposited at Glamorgan Archives.

ANYONE WISHING TO PAY THEIR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO ON THE NIGHT . £10 OR £5 FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN EDUCATION.

Annual General Meeting

On Wednesday 30 June GHS held its online AGM. Reports and voting forms had been sent to members in advance.

The following officers were elected

Chair Annie Owen, Vice chair Judith Jones, Treasurer Roy Smith, and Webmaster Greg Buick, The committee for 2021-22 includes some new members.

Clive Andrewartha

Sandy Halliday

David Mills

Ann Pinch

Susan Price

Ian Williams

The AGM was followed by a talk delivered by Rhiannon Creffield entitled *Welsh Stereotypes in London at the time of the Civil War*, after which there was an interesting discussion. Those who missed the talk may like to read Rhiannon's article on the same theme in Gelligaer vol 22 (2015)

The Meeting concluded with Dr Elin Jones performing her first duty as the new President of Gelligaer Historical Society by launching GHS Diamond Jubilee year

GHS PRESIDENT Dr. ELIN JONES

The Society looks forward to Elin playing her part in the Society over the next five years. Some GHS members and readers of this newsletter have known Elin, who lives in Ystrad Mynach, for many years and will remember the interesting talks she has given at GHS monthly meetings and at its conference over the years. Elin, encouraged by her history teacher in Lewis Girls' School, Ystrad Mynach was among the student founder members who attended for many years meetings in the early 1960s at Bargoed Settlement. Things have changed since then, and we look forward to hearing Elin's views on how local history research, and publication, has moved on in the six decades since GHS came into being.

However, this is not her first Presidency (and possibly not her last!). Elin is Life President of Adferiad Recovery, a new charity which incorporates three charities working in the field of mental health and substance abuse (Hafal, CAIS and WCADA) having been Chair of Trustees of Hafal until September 2019. She is also president of Ystrad Mynach Boys' and Girls' Club, Chair of Merched y Wawr Cwm Rhymni and Chair of the Education Sub-Group of Our Chartist Heritage, Newport. Elin became a member of the Gorsedd of the National Eisteddfod at the Meifod Eisteddfod for 2015 as "Elin Gwyn o Hafal" in recognition of her work in history and in raising awareness of mental illness. In 2016 she was honorary president of the Abergavenny National Eisteddfod.

Elin has taken advantage of lockdown to write not one but two books! Following last year's unveiling of the information board in Gelligaer about Llywelyn Bren, she was commissioned to write a book about him for primary schools, to be illustrated by the cartoonist Picasso Griffiths. This book, produced in partnership with Greenhill Primary School, Ysgol Gynradd Penalltau and Llancaeath Primary School, is now nearing completion. She has also written a book for schools about the way the landscape of Wales reflects its history, and this - *Hanes yn y Tir/History Grounded* - will be published shortly by Gwasg Carreg Gwalch.

The committee of GHS also supported Elin's campaign to commemorate the centenary of the election of Morgan Jones as MP for the Caerphilly constituency - the first conscientious objector to be elected to Parliament. An information board outlining his life and achievements has now been installed in Morgan Jones Park, Caerphilly.

DIAMOND JUBILEE project

Work continues with the book detailing the history of old parish of Gelligaer in the nineteenth century. Editing the drafts submitted by members of GHS is proving to be a challenging task because so much detail has been discovered that the book would be a weighty tome. It is

intended that the details which must be edited out will be stored by GHS so that **all** the work will be available not just for the present readers of the book but for future generations.

Very soon the draft will be available to a team of proof-readers, but additional members would be more than welcome. If you wish to volunteer, please contact ??

The book will be available before Christmas and will make a great present !!

A sample of some photographs which may appear in the book:



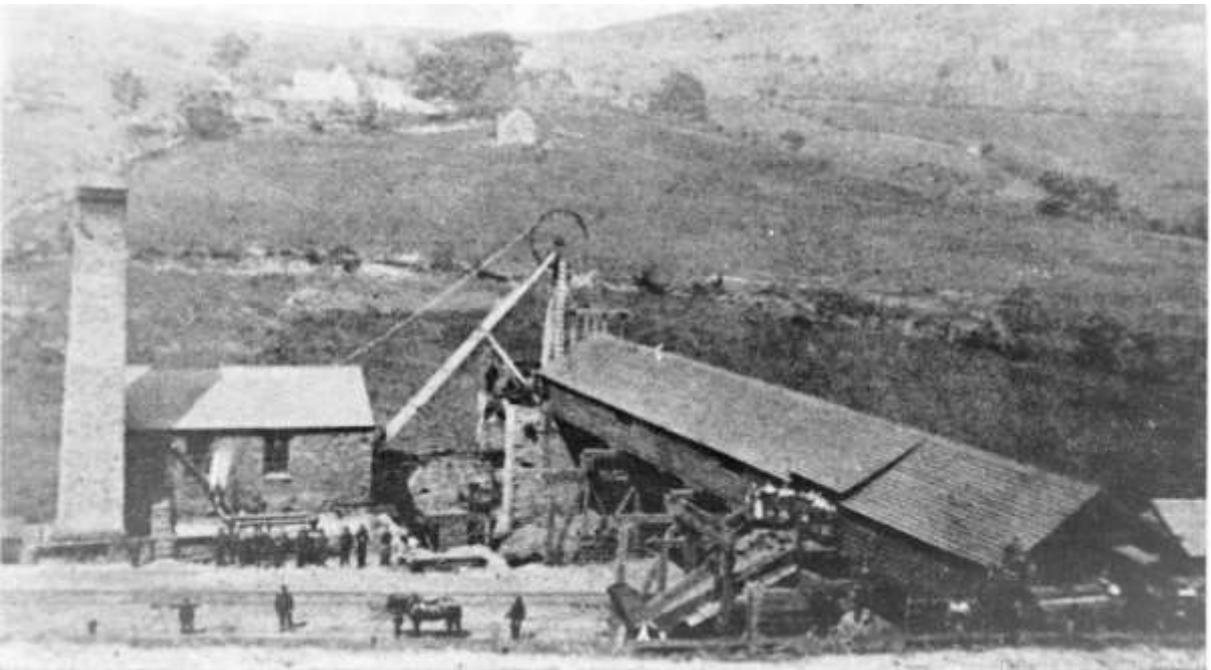
Butetown, built around 1830, a unique example of houses within the parish. Built as a “model village” to house workers at the Bute Iron Works. Photo by GHS student member, Leoni Jones.



Brithdir viewed from Coedymoeth Common



Hengoed/Maesycwmmmer viaduct constructed 1857, photograph taken by Leoni Jones from near the Coal Hole, Gellihaf.



Cilhaul colliery in the Darren valley, opened 1864. It was closed to allow for the sinking of Ogilvie colliery.

Bryn Seion, Ystrad Mynach

The last newsletter contained some details about the sad fact that this chapel has closed. Fortunately, access was allowed to view some of the items that remain, namely the Roll of Honour from the First World War and a notice advertising a series of preaching services for five days in June 1950 which marked the 300 years of the Baptist cause at Hengoed. Both items have now been removed for safe keeping and it is intended that they will be deposited at Glamorgan Archives. Details, and a photograph, of the Roll of Honour appear on the GHS website. This is a photograph, taken by Leoni Jones, of the notice advertising the meetings that took place.

TY-CWRDD, HENGOED
EGLWYS Y BEDYDDWYR

CYNHELIR

CYFARFODYDD
HANNER BLYNYDDOL

TR IGLWYS BOND

NOS SADWRN A'R SUL, MEHEFIN 3-4, 1950

STYNTLŷ - BRIGITH I

PARCH. L. E. VALENTINE, M.A.
PHOB.

Trefn y cofleuan - **NOS SADWRN** am 7 o'r gloch yn **MYN SEION** **PRYNHAWN** am 2.30 o'r gloch yn **MYN SEION**
BORE SUL am 10.30 am 10.30 **at HENGOED.** am 10.30 **NOS SUL** am 10.30 **at HENGOED.**

AN ENGLISH SERMON WILL BE DELIVERED ON SUNDAY EVENING
Cesglir Ymho Oedfa **CROESO CYTANWYBODAETH**

CYFARFODYDD DATHLU
TRI-CHAN MLWYDDIANT YR ACHOS 1650-1950
MEHEFIN 5, 6, 7, 1950

PRYNHAWN LLUN am 2 o'r gloch **CWRDD DATHLU** at HENGOED
 Cadeirydd - Mr. T. LONGVILLE BOWEN, Martyn Tysti (Llywydd Gymanfa Ddeddfau Morgannwg)
 Rhannau Arwainiol - Parch. J. IANELIN THOMAS, Pen-y-bont

NOS LLUN am 6 o'r gloch **OEDFA BREGETHU** at HENGOED
 Cadeirydd - Parch. W. B. THOMAS, Beorthwrd (Cadeirydd Gymanfa Morgannwg)
 Rhannau Arwainiol - Parch. R. VAL GRAN JONES, D. A., Aberbargoed
Pregethir gan y Parch. W. ARTHUR EDWARDS (am a diant yr Eglwys), Caerwyn, yn SAENEGU
 Parch. GWILYM MORRIS, Gwili Eifod, yn GYMRU G.

PRYNHAWN, DYDD MARWTH, MEHEFIN 6, am 2 o'r gloch at HENGOED
CWRDD HANESYDDOL
 Llywydd - S. PRICE DAVIES, F.R.E.S.A. (am a diant yr Eglwys), Bangor
 Rhannau Arwainiol - Parch. D. IRLWYN BENYON, Rhondda (Llywydd yr Eglwys), Caerwyn, yn SAENEGU
 Annerchir y Cefarlod gan y Parch. G. R. M. LLOYD, B.A., B.D., S.L.D., Rhondda, yn SAENEGU

NOS FAWRTH, am 6 o'r gloch **OEDFA PREGETHU** at HENGOED
 Cadeirydd - Parch. ISAIAH HOPKINS, B.A., Llanbrydych Rhannau Arwainiol - Parch. D. LLEW. MORRIS, Pen-y-bont
Pregethir gan y Brwd D. MERVYN HIMPURY, B.A., B.D. (am a diant yr Eglwys), a Choleg "Regentia Prof.", Rhondda
 (yn SAENEGU) at Parch. J. M. LEWIS, Treorci (yn GYMRU G.)

NOS FERCHER, am 6 o'r gloch **YR MYN SEION, Ystrad Mynach, cynhelir**
OEDFA BREGETHU
 Llywydd - Parch. J. GOMER JAMES, Talaronach Rhannau Arwainiol - Parch. L. A. JONES, Bangor
Pregethir gan y Parch. T. HAYDN NORGAN, B.A., B.C.E., Llanerch (yn Wladyswg yr Eglwys), yn GYMRU G.
 Parch. Dr. J. W. ROGERS, Rhydhampton (Llywydd Gymanfa Ddeddfau Morgannwg), yn SAENEGU

CESGLIR YMHOE OEDFA TUAG AT Y TREULIAU
ESTYNNIR CROESO CALON I BAWR, I YMUNO A NI YN Y DATHLIAD

The series of services started with Parch. L. E. Valentine, M. A. (The Reverend Lewis Edward Valentine, born 1893 died 1986). Whilst at university his studies were interrupted by WW1, he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and went to France where, in 1917, he was seriously

wounded during a gas attack. He was blind, deaf, and dumb for three months. In 1919 he returned to university. He was ordained as a minister at Tabernacl chapel, Llandudno in 1921, and was at a series of meetings in 1924 which led to the formation of Plaid Genedlaethol Cymru (The National Party of Wales). Valentine became the first president of the emerging Welsh Nationalist Party in 1926, he stood down after one year to enable Saunders Lewis to take over. He is perhaps best known for his part in setting fire to a bombing school at an RAF training camp on the Llyn Peninsula in 1936. He and his fellow activists, Saunders Lewis and D J Williams were found guilty at the Old Bailey and served nine months in Wormwood Scrubs.



Left to right Lewis Valentine, Saunders Lewis , and D J Williams

The following extract about Lewis Valentine is from <https://daibach-welldigger.blogspot.com/>

While in secular Wales today he tends to be remembered mostly for his part in the burning of Penyberth and for his involvement in the early days of Plaid Cymru, it should be for his work as a Baptist minister for which he should be honoured. Lewis Valentine became one of the greatest spiritual leaders of mid twentieth century Wales, possibly second only to the great Martyn Lloyd Jones, with whom he was a contemporary. He was unafraid to speak out against the indifference and unbelief that characterised the churches in the decades either side of the Second World War, and became a lone prophetic voice in the land, continuing to declare to Welsh people the urgent need to respond to the Gospel of Christ if Wales was to retain her identity, and if she was to play her part maintaining peace among the nations. It is to be hoped that the reviving of the breath of God upon the land for which he prayed will indeed in these days bring a renewing of the things which he held dear.

To have such a well-known and respected preacher as Lewis Valentine start the series of services demonstrates the importance of the cause at Hengoed. Other ministers who took part in the services were: J. Aneurin Thomas- Pontlottyn, W.B. Thomas- Berthllwyd, R. Vaughan Jones- Aberbargoed, Arthur Edwards- Caersws, Gwilym Morris- Cynwel Elfed, D. Islwyn

Beynon -Rhymney, G.R.M. Lloyd- Rhymney, Esaias Hopkins- Llanbradach, J.M. Lewis-Treorchy. Hayden Morgan-Bryn Seion, Dr. S. W .Hughes -Northampton, and Llew Morris.

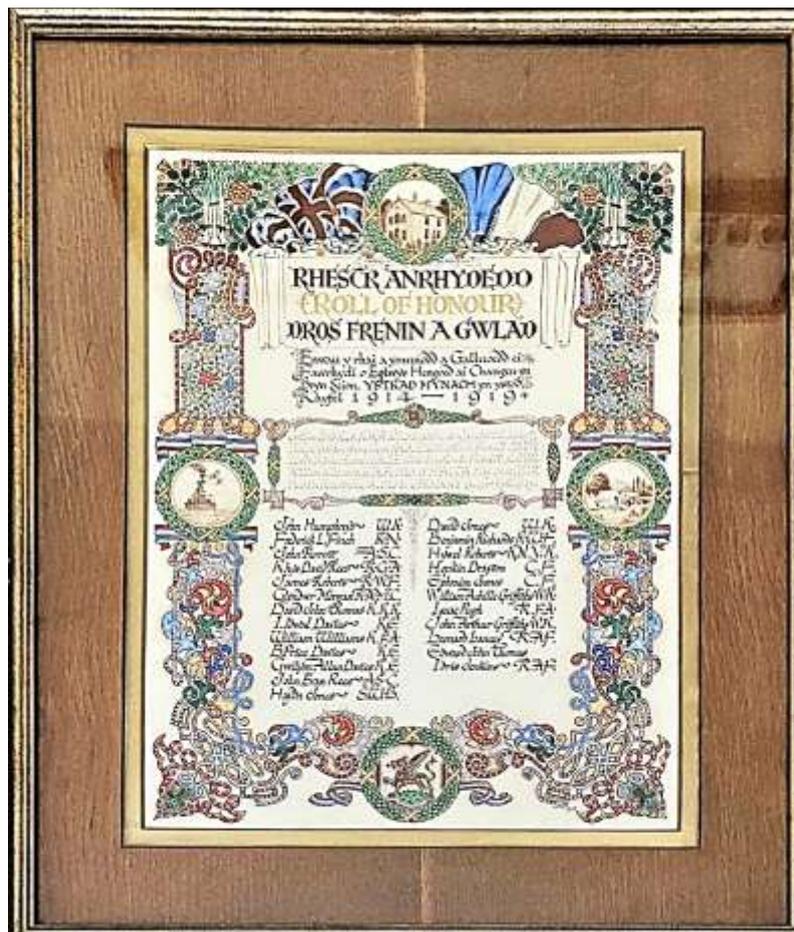
Almost at the bottom of the poster is the name D Mervyn Himbury B.A.,B.D. who was born in Ystrad Mynach in 1922. His parents were devout Anglicans, however after visiting his grandmother in Cardiganshire he became interested in the Baptist cause and at the age of just ten he refused to attend the Anglican Sunday School and decided to attend Baptist meetings at Hengoed. He attended Lewis School Pengam before going on to Cardiff University College. After completing his education, he became an ordained minister in 1950 and became well-known in the Baptist cause. Mervyn Himbury wrote several books and pamphlets mainly on the history of the Baptist movement, including the history of South Wales Baptist College 1807-1957, when he was Head of the Department of Church History at that college.

The Roll of Honour at Bryn Seion

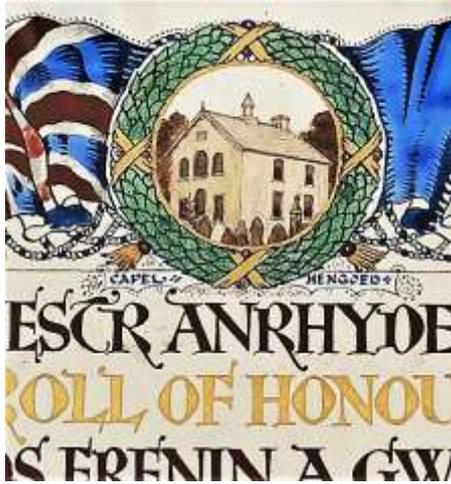
The following photographs were taken by Leoni Jones. Dr Gethin Matthews of Swansea University has also visited to take photographs and was particularly impressed by the imagery contained within the borders. He posted images on his twitter account and received “likes” plus favourable comments:

Intriguing imagery and inscription

A valuable beyond description artifact



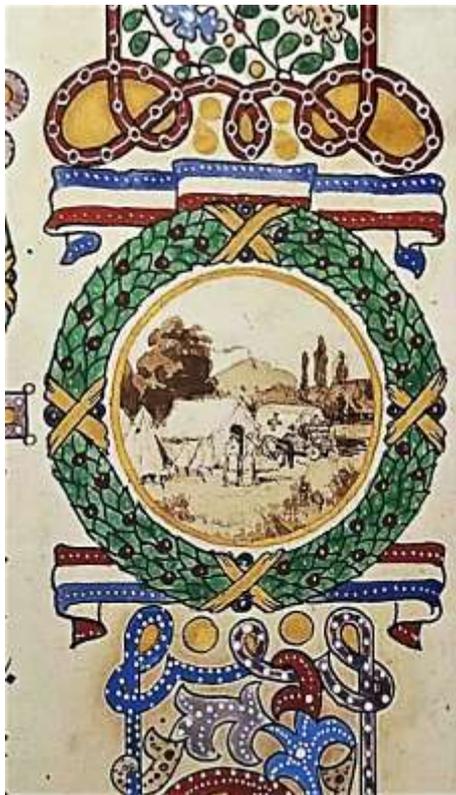
Close up photos of parts of the border



Hengoed Chapel



Y Ddraig Goch



A field hospital & ambulance



Battleship & Bi-plane

EVENTS

Chartist Convention

It is hoped that a near as possible event will be held this year on Saturday 6th November 2021 at Saint Woolos Cathedral, Newport, at present the capacity inside the building is 120 but hopefully that will increase by the Autumn. Further details will be advertised nearer the date.

In and around Merthyr

Follow this link <https://merthyrtidfilheritage.blogspot.com/2021/08/forthcoming-events-in-and-around.html>

Another link that readers may find useful is [Open Doors | Cadw \(gov.wales\)](#) This provides access to Cadw's Open Doors 2021 which details local events e.g., at Ruperra and Merthyr as well as other localities.

Update re Research Facilities

The following information is accurate at the time of writing

CCBC libraries services are listed on www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Libraries/Libraries-service-available-during-Covid-19

The following archives are open for pre-booked search room visitors. For details about opening times, guidance and procedures, contact the archive directly on the following:-

Glamorgan Archives [Visiting us - Glamorgan Archives \(glamarchives.gov.uk\)](http://www.glamarchives.gov.uk) or telephone: 029 2087 2200

Gwent Archives www.gwentarchives.gov.uk or telephone 01495 353363

National Library of Wales [Covid-19 Update | The National Library of Wales](#) or telephone 01970 632 933

The National Archives www.nationalarchives.gov.uk or [Visit us - The National Archives](#)

GLYNGAER PRIMARY SCHOOL

In May 2021, the classroom teacher and Year 6 pupils in Glyngaer Primary School contacted GHS, asking for help with their project centred on the relocation of the WWI memorial from Horeb Baptist Chapel, Gelligaer (now a private residence) to their school.

As part of its WWI project, GHS researched the names on the memorial (they are the same casualties as those named on the memorial in Gelligaer church, and results of GHS research appear on www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk). Glyngaer Year 6 pupils, aided by their classroom teacher, assistants and a visiting artist, Bill, hope to build on this by making contact with families of some of the casualties. They are very enthusiastic about their project which is intended to culminate before Remembrance Day 2021.

The pupils and I had a virtual meeting when I addressed the following questions prepared by the pupils:

1. How and why did your society begin?
2. What happens in the society – how does it work?
3. What is the most interesting thing you have found out?
4. How did you research the names on the Roll call from the church?
5. What are you working on now and future plans for the society?

It was a delight to meet the pupils and their teachers, and we look forward to further contact with the school.

Annie Owen

Morgan Jones' by-election marked in the park named after him *David Mills*

I am grateful to the Caerphilly Observer who agreed that many of the following quotes, which appeared in their on- line edition of 24th August 2021, could be used in this newsletter

On 24th August 2021 representatives from GHS attended the unveiling of an information board erected in Morgan Jones Park, Caerphilly. The board, which contains photos, and a short biography of Morgan Jones was unveiled by Mr Wayne David M.P. and Caerphilly County Borough Council's Deputy Leader Jamie Pritchard, who is a councillor for the Morgan Jones ward.



The information board

Cllr Pritchard said: “Throughout his life, Morgan Jones worked hard for the people of the Rhymney Valley and was always a proud Welshman. He deserves to be remembered by the people of Caerphilly and by everyone who uses this wonderful park which was named in his honour. Today is a poignant date to remember the life and contribution of Morgan Jones to his community and the socialist cause.”

In August 1921 a by-election was triggered by the death of Alfred Onions, who had been the Labour MP for Caerphilly since the constituency was created in 1918. Morgan Jones saw off competition from the Liberal Party, as well as the British Communist Party – which was contesting its first election in the UK and was buoyed by the Communist Revolution in Russia just four years earlier. He made history by becoming the first conscientious objector elected to Parliament – having previously been imprisoned for refusing to fight in the First World War. He was re-elected to Parliament six more times before his death in 1939, aged just 53.

His time in Westminster coincided with a tumultuous era in British history. With the First World War still fresh in the memory, the rise of fascism in Germany and the imminent threat posed by Adolf Hitler to the rest of Europe, war grew increasingly likely. Wayne David said the rise of Hitler gave Jones an “intellectual trauma”. He said: “He saw the First World War as a war between ruling classes that shouldn’t have included ordinary people. But he realised the only way to defeat fascism was for countries to work together. His pacifism gave way to support for fighting against evil. He was a man of principle and pragmatism. He was not prepared to see the horrors of fascism go unchallenged.”

Wayne David, who published a book about Morgan Jones in 2019, described him as “a man who always had strong principles” and said: “He was always someone who had his feet on the ground and put residents first.” He went on to say that Morgan Jones was deeply affected by non-conformity. His mother a Welsh Baptist believed that disagreements should never be resolved by force-the foundation of Jones’ profound pacifist beliefs. Refusing to fight in the First World War led to his imprisonment in the notorious Wormwood Scrubs where he endured solitary confinement, abuse and a diet of bread and water. This, Wayne David said, showed that Jones had strong principles and a “tremendous strength of character”. This all at a time when support for the war was strong.

Morgan Jones was raised in a small cottage, known as Rhos cottage which was on land forming part of Rhos yr yrfa, farm just north of Penpedairheol. It was on the southern boundary of Gelligaer common. Whilst in one sense it seems a remote spot today when he lived there Pentreporth coal level was just a short walk away to the east and not far to the south was Church colliery. Additionally, there was easy access to the tram road that was used to transport the coal from Pentreporth towards the crossroads at Penpedairheol.



Caerphilly MP Wayne David, Councillors Jamie Pritchard and Shayne Cook, and members of Gelligaer Historical Society.

New Publications

The Cynon Valley History Society has just published Volume XI of its journal of local history, *Old Aberdare*. All the articles in this edition are about events and people in the twentieth century. The topics included in the book are,

The Little Theatre: a century of drama.
 The Poet Alun Lewis' background at Cwmaman.
 Reuben Silverman, Aberdare Leader Cartoonist.
 Dr. Alistair Wilson: The way it used to be in Aberdare.
 Aberdare's Town Plan, 1957–1963.
 John Ewington, trade union pioneer.

Copies are available at the Cynon Valley Museum (open Thurs–Sat)
 or from the CVHS book sales officer Haydn Williams on 01685 879793,
 or at
haydnwilliams3@hotmail.com

This is the link to the entry on Alun Lewis in Dictionary of Welsh Biography [LEWIS, ALUN \(1915 - 1944\), poet | Dictionary of Welsh Biography](#)

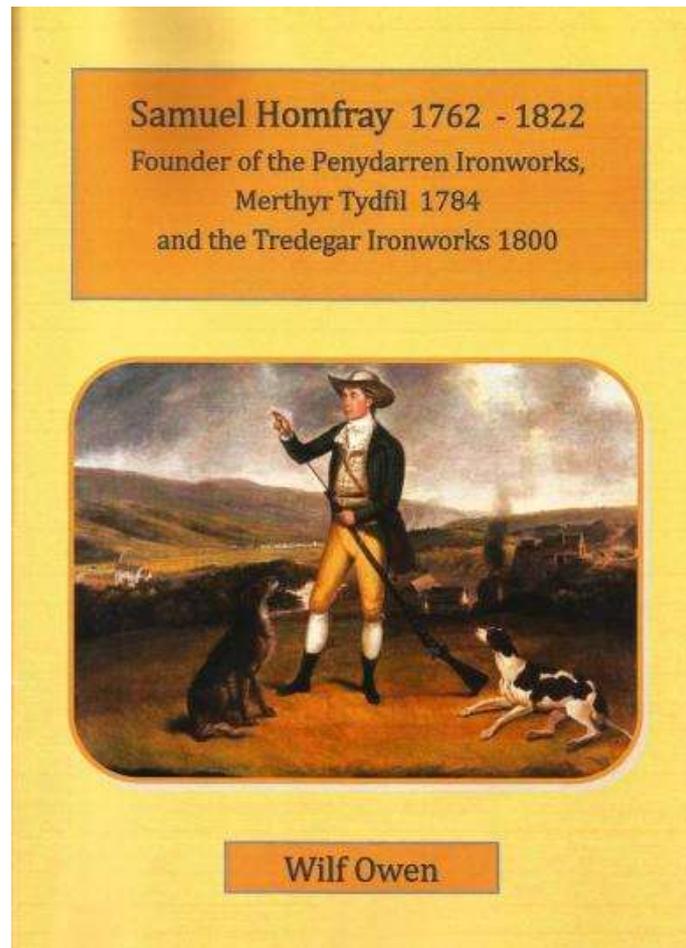
Alun Lewis has a local connection as he taught in Lewis School Pengam before joining the army in May 1940. Long-time readers of *Gelligaer Times* may recall an item in issue 35, the 10th anniversary issue in January 2016 about LSP's Alun Lewis Project. See [Alun Lewis | Celebrating 100 years of the greatest writer of the Second World War with Seren Books \(wordpress.com\)](#) for the Alun Lewis mural shown below.



Dr. John Pikoulis and illustrator Dan Peterson beside the Alun Lewis mural.

A recommendation by Keith Lewis-Jones

Local historian Wilf Owen's latest book, a biography of Samuel Homfray and a history of the Penydarren and Tredegar Ironworks, has just been published.



This excellent book (I have read it and thoroughly enjoyed it), is for sale at £5.00. If you would like a copy, please contact me via the e-mail address and I will pass on any orders.

Keith L Lewis-Jones merthyr.history@gmail.com

The night Bedlinog was bombed during World War 2. By *Carwyn Hughes*

During the night of Wednesday 31st of July 1940 a German bomb exploded near Colly Row, Bedlinog. There were no casualties and no structural damage to buildings, but some windows were blown in by the blast wave. . My grandparents, who lived in nearby Hylton Terrace, were unfortunate to have the plaster ceiling descend upon them in bed, so when they appeared from their bedroom they looked like a pair of white shrouded ghosts.

The bomb crater filled with water and is still visible near the village fishing pond and is even marked as a water feature on Ordnance Survey maps. Why Bedlinog was bombed has produced various opinions over the years - that the bomb was jettisoned and Bedlinog happened to be beneath it ; that the real target was Dowlais with its steel works and armament factories ; the valley railway could have been a strategic target, we shall probably never know. On the same night bombs were dropped on Barry Docks, Pontrhydyfen and Monmouth. A very large target area and seemingly unconnected with Bedlinog.

Within 'our' area Penpedairheol had a raid on 16th December 1940; Tredegar/ Rhymney on 20th February 1941 and Pengam on 5th August 1942. On the night of 29th August 1940 there were 24 raids on Glamorgan and 17 on the night of the 18th of January 1941. These were concentrated on the ports of Newport, Cardiff, and Swansea .

The University of York has produced a very detailed study and maps all places in the UK that were bombed during the Second World War. All sites , together with dates, casualties, etc, may be found on the massive spread sheet produced. The work is called *Bombing Britain : an air raid map*. It uses wartime intelligence reports housed in the National Archives.

The radar station on the Fox mountain Bedlinog. By *Carwyn Hughes*

Before the word RADAR was created the detection system was known as Radio Location. During the 1930s, with the threat of German invasion , scientists and engineers produced a detection system which was known as CH. This stood for Chain Home and referred to a chain of radar stations along the south and east coast of England and even in Pembrokeshire. The transmitters were aimed south and eastward. In the case of the station in Nolton Haven, Pembrokeshire, where I worked in 1956, south and westward into the Irish Sea. By overlapping these beams a triangulation fix would be obtained and aircraft controllers knew within 5 miles where there were enemy aircraft. I am sure readers will have seen *Battle of Britain* films showing such equipment. Although the CH system could detect enemy aircraft there were inherent problems. Because of the fixed beam and the curvature of the earth it was possible to fly beneath the radar beam. Other types of radar were produced to cover this issue and the radar site in Bedlinog did just that.

On one of few level sites on Gelligaer Common near Bedlinog the RAF had six buildings which were brick built and consisted in plan known as "Es" because their shape was similar to a capital E -but without the middle horizontal line. Inside were mobile radar transmitters and receivers, electrical generators, etc. The transmitters were aimed south and east and on a clear day one can easily see the tv aerials at Wenvoe and St Hilary. This low-level radar filled the void in the CH cover.

If one travels up through the village after a few hundred yards on the open Common, there is a flat area as shown by the photograph. The horizontal road shows how flat this area is and the other side of the road rises towards Carn Bugail.



The ghostly rectangular shapes are the foundations of the radar site. The white blobs are sheep , for an idea of scale there is a large lorry on the left. This photograph I obtained by panning down on a satellite image.



Below is a photograph of all that is left of what, at the time, was regarded as high tech. They are the concrete foundations which will eventually be covered by vegetation.



VIAE REGIAE

Viae Regiae, a volunteer-led project tracking John Leland's itinerary in Wales 1536-9, is part of a wider UK-based project to record the condition and development of highways (both roads and navigable waterways) in England and Wales between 1530 and 1680. There is more information on the website - <https://viaeregiae.org/> and associated Wiki pages - https://viaeregiae.org/wiki/Main_Page I attended the project's initial Zoom meeting in March 2021, but, due to the workload associated with the preparation of GHS Diamond Jubilee publication in autumn 2021, I could not commit to active participation in the Viae Regiae project.

The Viae Regiae project is progressing well, and the members are currently reviewing Christopher Saxton maps to try to identify landmarks/places (see extract from the Glamorgan map below). Having worked on the easier ones, they are now tackling the more challenging, and contacted me in an attempt to locate Terestent, set out in Saxton's map lying east of Gelligaer, on the Monmouthshire side of the Rhymney river. Needless to say, I turned to those with superior knowledge of the area and the sources, namely David Mills and Greg Buick, who have come up with some answers which I have passed on to the project.

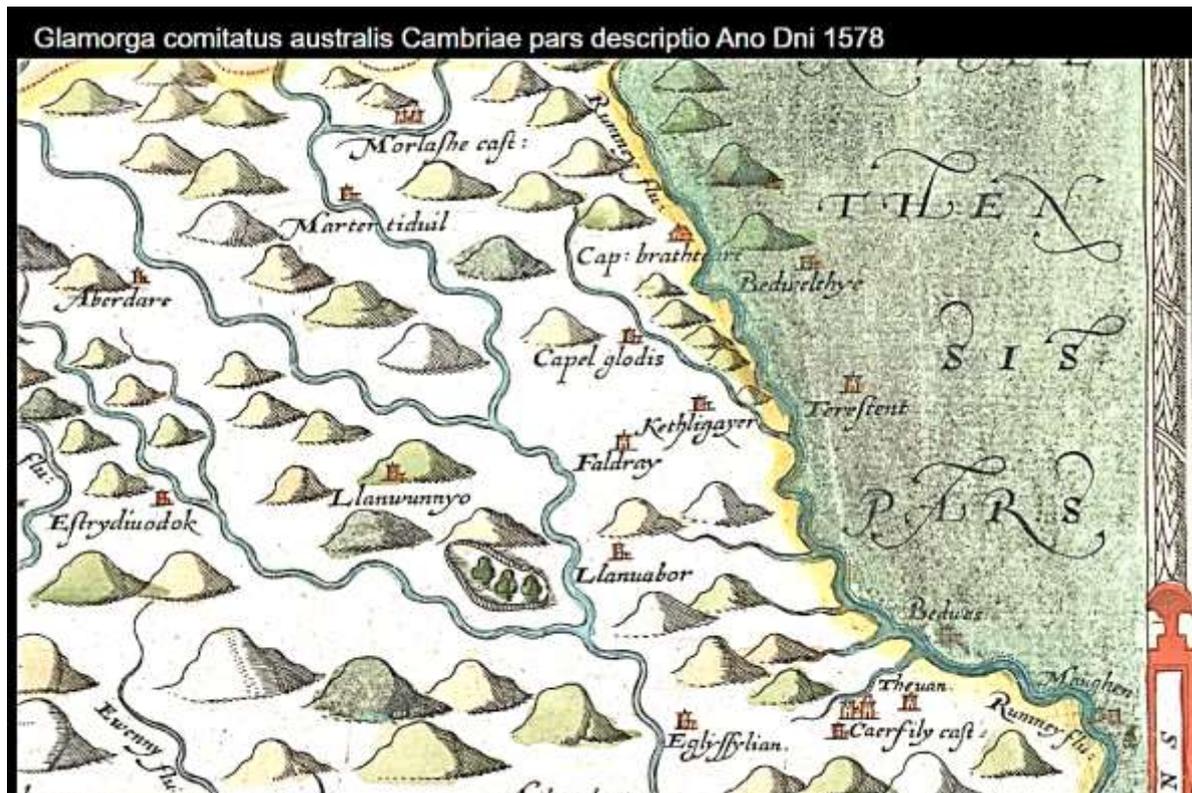
On **Bedwellty parish tithes award**, David and Greg pointed to **Tir Extent**, 16½ acres (parcels 1544-8) occupied by Edmund Williams Esq, and part of the estate of Sir Charles Morgan, bart. But, as this is north of Bedwellty church, it is several miles north of where Terestent is shown on the map.

And a more promising reference is that in **survey (Maughan) with other manors 1667-1678**, National Library of Wales, Tredegar Park MSS vol X p3642 MSS/167, AMS /3, NRA 28351 Morgan, p.119 Maughan Demesne Tenants there with Rents and duties vizt:

	Leaseholders		£	S	d	capons	Herriots
13	Eleanor Rees	for a parcel of lands called Cae Tir Stent payeth yearly - & 8 Welsh hoops of coale	0	5	0	0	5s

This looks as if it refers to Terestent, but, to date, no one appears to have researched back and forward from this source. And, currently, members of Gelligaer Historical Society are too busy with the preparation of a publication to mark the Society's Diamond Jubilee 2021-22 to do so. However, after quite a lot of discussion, but not backed up by detailed research, the consensus of opinion is that Terestent probably marks PENLLWYN SARPH, home of the Bedwellty branch of the Morgan family. Although, it may have been Rhos Newydd (later the Plas).

Annie Owen



On the map, and just to the left of *Kethligayer*, is a feature *Faldray*. The icon used to mark its position is the same as the one used for *Terestent*. Those icons are slightly different from the icons used to depict churches. The map is of such a large scale that it is not possible to pinpoint Faldray but it looks to be somewhere near Llancaiach Fawr. Greg Buick has done some research on the name, but further research may reveal more. One reference thus far discovered is in *The Hollinshead Texts (1577 Volume 1 page 58)*. Amongst the comments are brief descriptions of the streams that feed into the Rhymney river. One such stream is described as *from between the Faldraie and Lanuabor* [Llanfabon] Further references are in documents relating to land that form part of the Hanbury collection held at Gwent Archives. In 1507 there is a document relating to a land transaction which mentions *Tir y ffalledre*. One possible explanation is that the words are Ffald y dre, Ffald meaning a pound or enclosure and y dre (dref) meaning village or settlement.

CORONERS AND STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES

As research into the nineteenth century history of Gelligaer parish throws up many newspaper references to both the coroners and stipendiary magistrates, the following may be of some use to researchers.

CORONER -- ancient and important office, appointment by writ of Lord Chancellor, (see *GELLIGAER TIMES* 51 (January 2021)

Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian (13 May 1848 page 2, and 20 May 1848 page 3) carried reports on the death and funeral of coroner, **WILLIAM DAVIES**.

GEORGE OVERTON was appointed in his place, and his obituary in *Cardiff Times* 5 May 1883 page 8, sheds light on his career as coroner:

THOMAS WILLIAMS, coroner in succession to George Overton (*Weekly Mail* 26 May 1883 page 2)

RHYS JENKYN RHYS, coroner in succession to Thomas Williams (*South Wales Echo* 24 June 1886 page 4)

STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES : MERTHYR TYDFIL AND ABERDARE

In the nineteenth century, qualified lawyers in receipt of a stipend were appointed to deal with the increasing volume of cases brought before the courts in new industrial areas. Contemporary press reports show many Gelligaer people appeared before successive Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare stipendiary magistrates listed below. (NB the post of stipendiary magistrate was abolished in England and Wales in August 2000.)

- *Merthyr Historian* Vol 4 The Magistrates and Courts of Merthyr Tydfil 1600-1977 by H. Watkins

Henry Austin Bruce (1815-95)

- Called to bar 1837, soon after coal developments on his family's Cynon valley lands.
- **Stipendiary magistrate 1847-54**
- Industrialist and politician
- 1852-68 Liberal MP for Merthyr
- 1869 became MP for Renfrewshire
- Home Secretary 1868-73 for Gladstone
- Later Lord Aberdare

John Coke Fowler (1816-99)

- **Stipendiary magistrate 1854-72**
- After 19 years, transferred to Swansea 1872
- Obituary *Western Mail* 18 December 1899 page 7
- *Merthyr Historian* Vol 21 John Coke Fowler, 1815-1899, Merthyr Tydfil Stipendiary Magistrate, 1853- 1872 by T. F. Holley
- *Merthyr Historian* Vol 22 Lecture by J. C. Fowler, Esq., Stipendiary Magistrate, 1872 'Civilisation in South Wales - Transcribed

Albert de Rutzen

- **Stipendiary magistrate 1872-76)**
- Formerly of South Wales Circuit, *County Observer and Mons Central Advertiser* 27 July 1872 page 5
- See *Merthyr Historian* volume 22
- *Merthyr Historian* Vol 22 Albert de Rutzen: Merthyr Tydfil's Stipendiary Magistrate 1872-1876 by Huw William

John Bishop

- **Stipendiary magistrate 1876-86**
- Appointed to succeed Albert de Rutzen *South Wales Daily News* 3 August 1876 page 6

Walter Meyrick North (1846-1900)

- **Stipendiary magistrate 1886-1900**
- *South Wales Echo* 23 January 1886 page 4
- Died in office.
- *Merthyr Historian* Vol 25 Merthyr Tydfil's Stipendiary Magistracy and Walter Meyrick North (1886-1900): A Case Study by Huw Williams

Sir Thomas Marchant Williams (1845-1914)

- **Stipendiary magistrate from 1900**
- *Merthyr Historian* Vol 8 In Search of Thomas Marchant Williams, 1845-1914 by Huw Williams
- *Merthyr Historian* Vol 17 Sir Thomas Marchant Williams & the Revival – Transcribed

Readers of Gelligaer Times may find it useful to know that Merthyr Tydfil Historical Society's website (mths.co.uk) includes lists of the contents of all issues of *Merthyr Historian*

Adverts

Editor's Note: from time to time interesting and often amusing adverts from old newspapers have appeared in this newsletter. I wish to point out that the advert below has nothing to do with GHS member Dr. David Williams of Bargoed.

Are Your Gums White?



It seems a trivial question: but if your Gums are pale and bloodless you should look to the matter. Pale lips and gums, even more than pale cheeks, bloodshot eyes; and finger nails that lack their natural and wholesome pinkness, show the condition of the blood.

If your blood is not abundant, rich, and red, you are Anæmic. Languor, shortness of breath (especially when climbing a hill or a staircase), indigestion, biliousness, inability to derive benefit from food, and liability to catch cold in the slightest draught are

SIGNS OF ANÆMIA.



Increasing pallor and debility, gradual break-up of the health, decline of vitality, a cough, blood-spitting, and eventually consumption are the ultimate effects to be dreaded if you do not take means of precaution. White, bloodless gums are an early sign—look at your gums. Pale, bloodshot linings to the eyelids are another sign; pull down your eyelid. Then decide whether you need medicine. If you do,

**Dr. Williams' Pink Pills
for Pale People**

are the medicine you need: and don't be persuaded to neglect this warning: for if you are Anæmic, your state of health is not to be trifled with.

Above all, avoid substitutes and purgatives: one is as bad as the other.