

GELLIGAER TIMES

Newsletter of Gelligaer Historical Society

Spring 2019 issue 40

Editor David Mills



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I hope readers are well and ready to enjoy getting out and about now we have come to the longer days, and, hopefully, warmer weather.

This issue of *Gelligaer Times* has been delayed but we hope that now it appears, readers will find it informative and interesting. This is the last issue to be edited by David Mills (until we can persuade him to return as editor).

The Society thanks him for his efforts over the years. GHS committee will be pleased to hear from any reader who would like to put their name forward as editor at the AGM.

During the past year, the Society launched its third and final WWI commemorative journal which marked the closure of the Society's WWI project. The database of names on local war memorials will remain on the Society website for some time and if and when any additional information comes to light, it will be added. However, the main research focus has shifted to the **Society's Diamond project** – a study of the parish in the nineteenth century. A number of people are working on several aspects of life and work in various parts of the parish but more volunteer researchers will be welcome. Perhaps David Mills' note on **USEFUL WEBSITES** elsewhere in this newsletter will inspire some new researchers.

The Society has received a communication about Dan Snow's WW2 project and the poster is included at the end of this newsletter. If you have memories of life in WW2 or if you know a relative, friend or neighbour who has, please visit the website and think about contributing to this project. GHS committee will be pleased to help you as necessary. (Contact chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk).

As I have been asked about websites with information on local events that may interest GHS members, they are included under the heading **FORTHCOMING EVENTS** elsewhere in this newsletter. If you find something of interest and go to an event organised by another body, it will be appreciated if you are able to take information about GHS events, activities and publications.

Hope to see you at GHS events in the not-too-distant future,

Best wishes

Annie

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7pm on Wednesday, 27th June 2018 at Llancaiach Fawr, Nelson

Chair, Mrs Annie Owen, welcomed everyone (agenda attached).

Apologies for absence and list of members present as on register.

Mrs Owen presented the **minutes** of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th June 2017 on a PowerPoint presentation. It was then proposed by Mr Roy Smith, seconded by Mr David Mills that they be accepted as a true record; everyone was in agreement.

Matters Arising: None

Officers' Reports:

a. Chair read her written report (to be filed with Minutes).

b. Chair presented a PowerPoint presentation of the treasurer's report (to be filed with Minutes). It was then proposed by Miss Pat Davies and seconded by Mr Greg Buick that these be accepted by the Society. This was agreed unanimously.

Election of Officers and Committee - Dr. David Williams took the chair:

Officers

Chair: Mrs Annie Owen - proposed by Mr Greg Buick and seconded by Miss Pat Davies, agreed unanimously

Vice chair: Mrs Judith Jones - proposed by Mr Greg Buick, seconded by Miss Marion Jones, agreed unanimously

Treasurer: Mr Roy Smith - proposed by Mrs Enfy's Hawthorn and seconded by Mrs Ann Pinch, agreed unanimously.

Webmaster: Mr Greg Buick, proposed by Mrs Audrey Griffiths, seconded by Miss Nesta Jones, agreed unanimously.

Committee: Mrs Owen then took the chair and explained that any of those not present but listed below have already indicated their agreement to continuing in post. Ms Diane Walker proposed and Mr David Mills seconded the suggestion that the existing committee - Dr. David Williams, Mrs Ann Pinch, Mrs Audrey Griffiths, Mr Bill Smith, Mrs Susan Price and Mr Clive Andrewartha be returned. This was agreed unanimously.

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

- Editor and publisher of *Gelligaer*: Mr Greg Buick
- Programme, conference and minute secretary: Mrs Judith Jones
- Watching brief over developments in and around Gelligaer including Cemetery extension and, added recently, Horeb Chapel alterations: Mr Clive Andrewartha
- Ms Diane Walker will liaise with speakers
- Mrs Enfy's Hawthorn will help the treasurer at the September and October meetings
- Mrs Susan Price and Mrs Ann Pinch take responsibility for the sales outlets in Ystrad Mynach and Bargoed
- Editor, *Gelligaer Times*: Mr David Mills has indicated that he will edit vol. 40 but then resigns the post. However, there were no proposals and no volunteers for the position.
- No one volunteered to undertake publicity for the Society. Following a suggestion by Mrs Griffiths, Mrs Owen asked that anyone who uses Facebook or Twitter advertises GHS events there (Mrs Owen already does this on the GHS pages).

2018-2019 Programme of Events: Mrs Owen showed the next programme of monthly meetings on a PowerPoint presentation. September – December 2018 talks have been finalised and the programme for the year will be emailed to all members and entered onto the Society's website when dates and titles have been finalised for 2019.

The conference will be held 23rd March 2019

Mrs Christine Findlay has given a painting of Pierhead, Emporium, Bargoed by well-known local artist, Olwen Hughes, to GHS. This had been collected by Mr David Mills who presented it to Dr. Fred Holley who accepted it on behalf of the Society.

The chair then presented Life Membership of the Society to President, Miss Nesta Jones. Mrs Owen described Miss Jones's commitment to and work for the Society over a long period of time.

The business of the meeting was followed by a talk about the development of (the) Blackwood by Mr David Mills.

GHS MEETINGS 2018-2019

Judith Jones prepared another interesting programme for members and visitors to enjoy. It is pleasing to see so many current members of the Society giving talks, a sign of the strength in-depth within the Society.

September – The programme opened with another visit by Brian Davies, former curator at Pontypridd Museum and, for many years, a good friend to this Society. His talk, *The Welsh paintings of Julius Ibbetson*, was well-received by an audience that included some new Society members.

October – Peter Walker's talk *Engineer Jack, soldier, arsonist and engineer*, originally booked for February 2018 but cancelled due to inclement weather (*Beast from the East*) did not disappoint the sizeable audience who learned some surprising new information and connections.

November – Members and visitors heard another fact-filled talk with much explanation when Lyn Pask gave his illustrated talk on *The Huts near Rhinw Syr Dafydd, Oakdale*. It was clear in the question/comment session that followed that it had evoked memories of similar dwellings in other local communities.

December – Attendance at the December meetings has doubled since it was decided to make them into social events with short talks, raffles and seasonal refreshments and it was pleasing to note the large number who congregated in Llancaiach's Conservatory this year to hear:-

- David Mills speak on his latest research project, William Davies, a Blackwood Chartist. See book review elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Audrey Griffiths speak on Cardiff Bay, an area she knew well as it changed from The Docks into The Bay.

With her usual efficiency, Judith Jones ran the members-only (won by Brian Jarrett) and open raffles. Thanks to those who donated prizes, as well as everyone else who contributed to a successful evening.

GHS also takes this opportunity to thank Diane Walker and her staff at Llancaiach Fawr, not only for ensuring the refreshments had a distinctly Christmas flavour, but also for their efforts accommodating our needs throughout the year.

January – Following the practice of recent years, this was a daytime meeting. Roy Smith's talk on *Boxing's Phar Lap (Billy Thomas of Deri)* attracted not only members of the late boxer's family but also a Deri representation. Many of those present enjoyed conversation over lunch in the Conservatory before Audrey Griffiths gave a fascinating talk *Looking around Wales, Life as a tour guide, The matter of Wales*.

February – Dr Elin Jones, an historian and Chair of Hafal, the largest mental health charity in Wales, gave a talk entitled *Not quite like you and me now*. In this talk she showed how mental illness has been portrayed through the centuries, and how attitudes have changed in the last 150 years - from Dr William Price to the first National Poet of Wales.

March – Just days after the Conference (see report elsewhere in this newsletter), Joe England's talk *Merthyr Tydfil in the nineteenth century* attracted several new visitors. Having published much on industrial politics and on history, Joe's most recent work (published 2017) is *Merthyr, The Crucible of Modern Wales*.

April 24 – Unfortunately, Les James was not well enough to give his talk on the Chartist Zephaniah Williams, but his fellow researchers, David Mills, Sue Allen and Sarah Richards, did a first-class job at very short notice to give the interested audience a flavour of the research undertaken. In fact Sarah was not aware of the problem until she alighted from the train at Ystrad Mynach about 45 minutes before the meeting. GHS sends Les best wishes for a return to health, and hopes that he will be able to come along to give the talk next year.

The remaining talks booked for 2018-2019 are:-

May 29 – The first of the annual Gelligaer parish talks discussed at 2018 AGM – Annie Owen's talk on Pantywaun, a lost community.

June 26 – GHS AGM, followed by Dr Stuart Broomfield speaking on *Dramatis personae* in the story of Llewelyn Bren – their fortunes and fate. (N.B. funding is now available for the commemorative plaque to Llewelyn Bren in Gelligaer.)

2019 CONFERENCE REPORT

Thanks to everyone concerned for another successful conference held on Saturday 23 March 2019 at Llancaiach Fawr. Readers may like to note that Llancaiach Fawr has been booked for a similar event on **Saturday March 21 2020**.

For those unable to attend the 2019 event, the following reports give a flavour of the talks.

Lord Protector Williams? Oliver Cromwell and Wales

Dr. Lloyd Bowen, Cardiff University

The 2019 Gelligaer Historical Society Conference was opened with a talk by Dr Lloyd Bowen - a lecturer in Early Modern History at Cardiff University.

Dr Bowen proceeded to explain to us Cromwell's strong links to Wales. He began with Cromwell's Welsh family links. His family tree shows a Morgan Williams from Cardiff married Thomas Cromwell's sister and the name was later changed to Williams Cromwell and later to Cromwell alias Williams, indeed there are documents with the name ' Oliver Cromwell alias Williams '. Further evidence of his Welsh ancestry is clear in Welsh symbols on Cromwell's seal and flags of the Protectorate.

Dr Bowen went on to discuss Cromwell's interest in Welsh religion from the time of The Long Parliament when he presented a petition on behalf of Welsh Puritans who were being harassed by Catholics. He continued to support the Puritans and encouraged the Puritan Revival in Wales.

He became a Welsh landowner when he was given lands which had belonged to Welsh Catholics who had supported the Royalist cause. On these estates he employed stewards who had been involved with The Commission for the Propagation of the Gospel in Wales- men who shared his religious ideals and the eradication of Popery.

Dr Bowen's talk was both entertaining and educating as shown by the questions and discussion which followed his talk.

Ann Pinch

Lady Llanofor's international friends:

Indian nabobs, Polish princes and German scholars in Wales

Dr. Marion Loeffler, Cardiff University

Dr Marion Loeffler gave an interesting and informative talk about how Lady Llanofor came to befriend, encourage and entice wealthy, intelligent and aristocratic men from Europe and beyond to attend the Abergavenny Cymreigyddion Eisteddfodau between 1834-1853 and in so doing raise the profile of the Eisteddfod within the aristocratic circles of Britain during the Victorian Era. A whole page of the London Illustrated News on 22nd October 1845 had been devoted to the Eisteddfod.

Some of these men competed at the Eisteddfod, whilst others just attended and spoke a few words of Welsh.

The Indian nabobs:- Chundermohun Chatterjee and his uncle Dwarganauth Tagore attended in 1842 and 1845 respectively, both were given a very warm welcome. (A nabob is a high caste wealthy Indian businessman)

Prince Wladyslaw Czartoryski, a Polish Prince, Diplomat and political figure was another attendee. European Scholars Georg Sauerwein (aka Girenas) and Dr Friedrich Carl Meyer were intellectuals who could speak and write in Welsh. Georg Sauerwein was a linguist and poet who lived in Wales between 1852-1860, whilst Carl Meyer had won an essay competition at the Eisteddfod in 1842. Carl Meyer then travelled around Wales in 1844-1845.

Other notable scholars were Professor Maximilian Muller and Professor Lepsius (London) of which there was no time for a detailed account to be given. (These European scholars were referred to as Breton Cousins)

How had Lady Llanofer managed to know/find out about all these intellectual men? Well, her sister Frances had married Baron Christian Bunsen:- a liberal Prussian diplomat, scholar and theologian who had many contacts in Europe and beyond. This was an exceedingly well delivered talk which hopefully inspired and fired the curiosity/imagination of those present to research/find out a little more about Lady Llanofer, and the European/ International connections that she brought to Wales during the Victorian Era.

Susan Price

Collecting Welsh Place Names/Casglu Enwau Lleoedd Cymru
Dr. James January-McCann, RCAHMW

The List of Historic Welsh Place Names was established by the Senedd in 2016 as a result of concerns and debate regarding the changing, for various reasons, of established place names which often have an historic meaning. Dai Lloyd A.M. had promoted a private member's bill which effectively sought to outlaw the changing of place names but this failed because of concerns with regard to the infringement of property rights. The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 was a compromise and requires anyone who proposes to change a name to get in touch with their local authority. Should the name change go ahead then the new and old names are recorded on an historic place names list.

Dr. January-McCann gave an overview of the effects of the legislation with regard to local authorities in Wales and added that, although the four Welsh archaeological trusts are involved, Natural Resources Wales are not at present. The List is available on line (historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk), the blog being updated about once a month. One of the most important parts is the help page, including vocabulary elements, and it is proposed that sound bites also be included to help with pronunciation. A map can also be consulted based on modern and 1900 Ordnance Survey mapping, showing county and parish boundaries. This is colour coded, but some colours require amendment due to time constraints prior to the launch in May 2017. It gives the earliest spellings of names and the various forms over the centuries and Dr. January-McCann mentioned the multitude of sources being used by his team (primarily student interns).

The earliest sources used are in Greek, others being mediaeval, monastic charters, maps, the Book of Llandaf, particular mention being made of William Dafydd's List of Parishes in Wales (compiled circa. 1570) and Edward Llyud's "The Parochialia" of 1699. The researchers are currently going through some 900,000 field names. The Cymru 1900 project, a digitised O.S. map, has now been rolled out to cover the whole of the U.K. as GB 1900.

Dr. January-McCann concluded by stating that it is hoped to eventually include all names such as those of houses, water courses, collieries and mine shafts.

Clive Andrewartha

Visualising South Wales's Synagogues: An Architectural and Social History
Dr. Cai Parry-Jones, JHASW

This talk was given as part of current research project of Jewish History Association of South Wales funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, and Jewish Historical Society of England.



Dr Parry-Jones covered a subject which was, to me at least, relatively unknown, despite being an important element of Welsh history over the last two-hundred and fifty years or so.

Much has been written about the Anglo-Jewish experience, but this does not tell the whole story, neglecting the diversity of Jewish history in Wales and Scotland. As a religious and cultural communal space, midway between public and private, the synagogue is an essential element of the Jewish community and its character in Wales differs significantly from that in England.

In Wales, the first purpose-built synagogue Wales was completed in 1818 in Swansea for a community which was already fifty years old; thirty people had worshipped in a temporary synagogue behind Wind Street in the 1770s. This was typical of the small impermanent synagogues of the time. Other examples in Merthyr and Cardiff were also self-effacing, tucked away and set back from the street. As a rule, before dedicated synagogues began to be built, existing buildings were called into service. Smaller Jewish communities, such as Aberdare and Tonypandy, made use of terraced houses. In Bridgend the council chamber was used, whereas in Ebbw Vale a chapel was converted. This demonstrates a certain pragmatism in avoiding fixed definitions or places but adapting to the local context.

As the Jewish communities grew, larger synagogues were constructed, such as Swansea's Goat Street in 1859 (a year after the Jewish Relief Act) but it was only really after Jews in the UK were granted full civil rights in the 1870s that the boom in synagogue-building began. Several factors determined the need for new places of worship. For instance, the Jewish population swelled with an influx of Eastern European refugees. Also, the Jews of the prosperous Middle Class preferred a separate space to these impoverished and more recent immigrants. The linear geography of Wales too, whereby travel between towns in different valleys may be difficult, encouraged a large number of local synagogues. Hence in the next forty to fifty years, synagogues sprang up all over the South Wales valleys.

When a new synagogue was built, it was usually built by Gentiles in those areas where the two faiths mixed. Interestingly there was little attempt to make the synagogues look different; they were very chapel-like in form and decoration. A case in point would be Merthyr Tydfil's Church Street synagogue, although this was unusually elaborate in the Gothic revival style, intended to emphasise prosperity. This approach was in stark contrast to the synagogues of England where a sense of otherness was expressed through exotic, oriental architectural features, such as onion domes. The plurality of the Welsh religious environment, with its many non-conformist sects, eliminated the need to set the synagogue aside as consciously other. This is an architecture of an assimilated people, their religious spaces now accepted in plain sight. Racist attacks were relatively rare (albeit not unknown) in Wales and there are newspaper reports of Christians being present in synagogues and synagogues hosting cross-faith gatherings such as eisteddfodau.

Inside, most synagogues were orthodox, gender-segregated with a ladies' balcony and a central, East-facing bimah. One exception was the synagogue in Cathedral Road, Cardiff, which was more like the English synagogues, with a basilica-like structure, two neo-Norman towers and a central arch, largely a symbol of Middle-Class aspirations and arrival. It is no coincidence that this was designed by an architect better known for his London buildings.

The mid-twentieth century brought a decrease in the Jewish population and the decline of the synagogue. The rear of the Cathedral Road synagogue was demolished, and the building now houses offices. Other synagogues were converted into houses or, like the synagogue in Merches Place, Cardiff, became secular buildings. The Jewish museum of Wales has plans for Merthyr's great Church Street synagogue.

However, the history of these buildings teaches us that it is wrong to use an Anglo-Jewish model alone to predicate the British Jewish experience. The Welsh environment made a difference. Diversity and variety were largely eliminated from the design of synagogues and local Christian styles were employed instead. This represents a certain level of integration into Welsh society and a more relaxed view of Jewish identity. In considering the experience of the Jews in Britain, therefore, it is important that their history in other parts of the UK should be included.

Further reading can be found at:

<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/discover/query/JHASW>

Ceri Creffield

**BARGOED EMPORIUM,
PAINTING BY RHYMNEY-BORN ARTIST, OLWEN HUGHES (1980)**

In 2018, this large painting was gifted to Gelligaer Historical Society by Mrs Christine Findlay, whose grandmother had worked in Bargoed Emporium about a century ago. GHS member David Mills met Christine in Cardiff and accepted the painting which was formally received, on behalf of the Society, by GHS life member, Dr Fred Holley, on the evening of the Society AGM in June.

Eager to find a suitable venue in Bargoed where this painting could be displayed, GHS approached Bargoed Town Council based in Town Hall (former Police Court) on Hanbury Road, and, in February 2019, Bargoed Town Council agreed to display the painting.

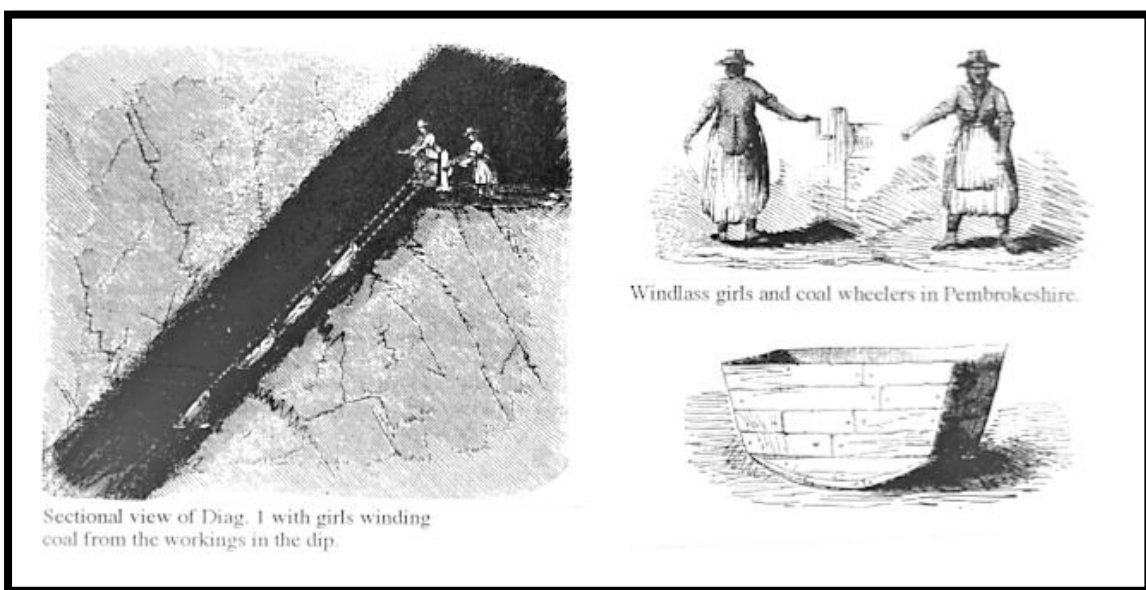
Town Clerk, Helen Williams, arranged a meeting in Bargoed Town Hall when Councillors Reginald Carroll and Vivienne Stephens received the painting from Annie Owen (GHS Chair) and Judith Jones (GHS Vice-chair). Photograph (courtesy Helen Williams) shows Reginald Carroll and Annie Owen.

For information on the history of Griffith William Davies and his shop, Bargoed Emporium, see *Bargoed and Gilfach a local history* (Gelligaer Historical Society, 2011).



**CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION 1842
BY ROBERT HUGH FRANKS
COMMONLY KNOWN AS 'THE FRANKS' COMMISSION**

Extracts from this report have been used by historians over the years to illustrate the appalling working conditions in mines and iron works in South Wales where children were employed during the 1830s/40s. However, the report is not just about the atrocious working conditions. It starts with a comprehensive index which makes it easy to pinpoint a colliery, or iron works, and covers many topics associated with the coal and iron industries such as the nature of employment which include terms such as *a booker-on*, *windlass women*, *tip women*, *grease boy* and *pullers up* as well as the more well-known Colliers and Puddlers. These jobs are described in the report which also contains some excellent illustrations, an example appears below.



The evidence given by children is reported under the name of the colliery or iron works where they were employed. Some of the evidence relates to the dreaded “truck” or Company shop system, this evidence was taken mainly from adults or persons concerned with both industries, some of whom were independent shop keepers or landlords who gave evidence that the truck system had a deleterious effect on their businesses. Additionally, there is a chapter on the moral conditions that prevailed at the time together with the average rate of wages. The report is more comprehensive than its title suggests.

The places of work are listed under districts/areas. The *Merthyr Tydvil, Lower District* contains the *Top Hill Colliery, Llancafach Colliery parish of Gelligaer* as well as *Place Level Colliery and Hengoed Colliery in the parishes of Gelligaer and Bedwellty*. The Place or Plas Colliery was on the east bank of the river Rhymney and near the present-day road bridge at Pengam. Listed under collieries in Monmouthshire is *Carn Gethin Colliery in the parish of Gelligaer* which was of course in the old county of Glamorganshire. Hence, the index cannot be taken at face value and care needs to be taken before quoting from it.

Carn Gethin Colliery was situated on the western side of the Rhymney valley, just below Carn Gethin farm-which once stood opposite the present-day primary school at Cefn Hengoed. It was one of the earliest and largest collieries in the area. In its early days it had the distinction of being a colliery in Glamorganshire whose coal was sent to Newport, in Monmouthshire. The company shop was in Monmouthshire at Pontaberpengam (present day Pengam and near The Smith’s Arms). In the early days and for many years after it was owned by the father and son partnership of Rosser and Lewis Thomas, who were two of the very few coal owners who were actually “locals” and lived near their mines; many coal owners were absentees and their mines were run by contractors.

The Frank’s report should prove to be an invaluable source for members of the Society who intend contributing to the Diamond Jubilee Project.

David Mills

RECRUITING AGENT BADGE-MONMOUTHSHIRE 1915 by David Mills

Amongst some of the possessions in my late grand-mother’s house, at Aberbargoed, were medals and letters relating to her brother William John Haskoll. Prior to the outbreak of World War 1 she lived with her parents and brother at Tynwydd Cottage, Bedwellty. He had been very active in the Army territorial/volunteers and won awards/ medals for his marksmanship with a rifle. A photograph of the reverse of one his medals is pictured on the right. It reads *H Co 1st Batt. Mon.Regt. Anthony Cup-Sgt W J Haskoll 1910*

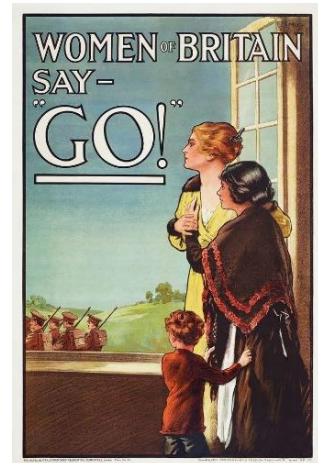


Also, amongst the collection was a badge, a photograph appears on the left.

At first, I assumed it was my grand-mother’s because I had read newspaper accounts of how she had been very active in selling War Bonds. Like her brother she had been involved with the local branch (Aberbargoed) of the St. John Ambulance. However, I thought, probably because of a misconception on my part, that the role of recruiting agent would not have been undertaken by females, I began to think it may have been her brother’s because of his involvement with the Army Volunteers. Having looked on the internet, and particularly at eBay, I discovered several badges from WW1 which were for Recruiting **Officers**, rather than Agents and they were often associated with a regiment whose name or insignia appeared on the badges. That caused me to re-think; this badge was probably for a civilian.



Added to this was the fact that W. J. Haskoll arrived in France on 13th February 1915, hence he would have been away from his home before that date and therefore unlikely that he would have been involved with recruitment in 1915. He died of his wounds in a hospital at Boulogne on 25th May 1915. Having made a few enquiries of dealers who specialise in medals and military insignia, none of whom had seen a similar badge, I returned to my original idea that the badge may well have been my grand-mother's. This view was reinforced when I discovered, on the internet, the poster which appears on the right. Although this did not place any official role on females it was clearly designed by the Government to involve women in the recruitment of men (husbands, sons, brothers and boy-friends) into the armed forces. A good example of this voluntary role can be found in an article by Annie Owen *The Lindsay family of Ystrad Fawr* which appears in the journal of the Gelligaer Historical Society Volume 25-*Great War Edition 3 2018*. She wrote about Mrs Lindsay , wife of Colonel Henry Edzell Morgan Lindsay. There is a quote from *The Monmouth Guardian* of 20th November 1914 which carried a report about a recruiting meeting at the *Kinema, Hengoed*. Mrs Lindsay concluded her speech *by asking whether it was the mothers who were keeping back their sons*. Ultimately, she lost three sons who were killed whilst on active service.



However, that leaves an unanswered question regarding the badge- Agent for what organisation? I mentioned my grand-mother had been involved in selling War Bonds, but the word Recruiting does not seem to fit in with that role. Additionally, she had been a staunch member of the St. John Ambulance, but one would expect that that the badge would have at least contained the insignia of that organisation should she had been involved in encouraging people to join. If anyone has seen a similar Recruiting Agent badge or can offer any suggestions about it then please contact me via the Gelligaer .Historical Society web-site www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk.or, chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk.

David Mills

HAYDN CARLYLE PHILLIPS - THE FORGOTTEN SOLDIER REMEMBERED

Paul Williams

Haydn died over one hundred years ago and until recently had been forgotten. His family long gone and not being officially recognised by the Commonwealth War Grave Commission as his death had not notified to them after the Great War. His story is told in 2018 WWI commemorative *Gelligaer* volume 25.



Of the 46 Old Boys who had died during this conflict, Paul noticed that Haydn Carlyle Phillips was not recognised on the CWGC site or indeed by any local war memorials except the one at the School.(photographed on the right)

His grave was sadly neglected, and no one had visited him for a long time. A former pupil of Lewis School, Pengam, Paul Williams, started to research Lewis School Pengam's War Dead from the Great War of 1914-18.



Haydn was buried in St Catwg's Church in Gelligaer. Despite a few attempts to locate the grave in 2014 Paul was unsuccessful until 4 years later in 2018 the grave was located thanks to help from Greg of GHS. With the help of Mike Oliver, History Teacher at Lewis School Pengam some restoration work was carried out and current pupils from the School were enlisted to help clean up the grave. Meanwhile Paul and Mike were looking at ways in which the memory of Haydn Carlyle Phillips could be remembered.



Despite the efforts and big improvement to the grave it was felt that it was still not a fitting tribute to a young man who had given his life for his country. Paul and Mike decided to look into the costs of a professional restoration. They also discussed the possibility of a formal rededication service at the Church when the restoration work was finished.

The grave was removed early in September 2018 by ME Damsell Stone Masons and taken away to start the restoration work. The restored grave was put back together in early November 2018 and a rededication service was held on Friday 9 November.

The Stone Masons had done a remarkable job on Haydn's grave and it looked as it did over 100 years ago when it was first erected. After a couple of hours hard work the grave was finally reinstated.



On 9 November 2018 a formal rededication service was held at St Catwg Church, Gelligaer. The service was conducted by Reverend Gary Powell who spoke about Haydn. Paul Williams gave the eulogy before two current LSP pupils performed a beautiful duet, Eric Clapton's *Tears in Heaven*. On Haydn's grave is an image of a musical score for *O Rest In The Lord* and a recording of this was played during the ceremony. This was followed by current LSP Head Master, Christopher Parry reading a very moving letter written by former pupil, Private David John Jones, while serving at the front during WWI, and sent to Arthur Wright, Senior Science Master at the School. It was a very moving account of the daily dangers these young men faced.

The service in the Church was followed by a blessing of the grave and the playing of the Last Post. The event was well attended including current teachers and Head Master of the School, current pupils, former pupils, the British Legion, a distant relative of Haydn's who had travelled from Blackpool to be there, representatives from the Stone Masons and Funeral Directors who had carried out the restoration and Welsh Assembly Member Hefin David. Rhys Williams from *Caerphilly Observer* was also in attendance and wrote the feature that appeared in the paper.

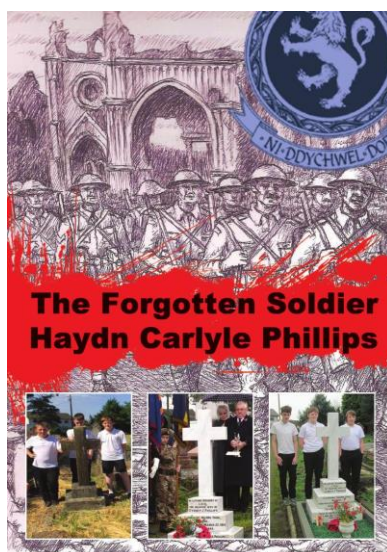


The service at the graveside in St Catwg's Church

The service was held on 9 November 2018 and on Sunday 11 November (Remembrance Sunday and the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1) Reverend Gary Powell read out Haydn's name along with that of all the other local soldiers who died in World War 1. This was the first time in 100 years that Haydn had been recognised along with his fallen Comrades. His name will be read out at all Remembrance services in future.

The efforts to get Haydn recognised by the Commonwealth War Graves commission is still ongoing but Mike Oliver is ensuring that Haydn will be remembered by all future LSP pupils and all local junior schools. Mike is in the process of producing a book which will be used as a project for all these pupils to be involved in for years to come.

Thus, Haydn is no longer The Forgotten Soldier.



LAUNCH OF 2018 WWI COMMEMORATIVE *GELLIGAER* VOLUME 25

Later on the morning of 9 November, Society members and friends assembled in Board Room, Lewis School, Pengam for the formal launch of *Gelligaer* volume 25, 2018, the Society's third and final WWI commemorative journal. The audience, including some contributors and relatives of local heroes mentioned in the volume, heard Dr Elin Jones, a founder student member and now honorary member of this Society, recount some of her family's wartime experiences before she formally launched the journal. The journal has proved popular and the few remaining copies are available at £5 (plus if required p&p) per copy via www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk or at GHS meetings and in local outlets such as local libraries.

The contents reflect a variety of war experiences linked to the local area:-

- I went to Ypres to unveiling of Menin Gate by Royston Smith
- Wartime work with Scottish Women's Hospital by Annie Owen
- Trefor Lewis: Private 24946 SWB by Jen Prichard
- Three great aunts in the World War I era by Marlene Chard-Shaw
- Memorial to Corporal Thomas John Lewis by Royston Smith
- Samuel Weeks 1890 –1915 by Pauline Moore
- The Forgotten Soldier by Paul Williams
- Ewart Edmund Lewis (1890-1918) by Coastlands LHG and GHS
- Private David John Fear by Royston Smith
- Local communities and Belgian refugees by Annie Owen
- GKN Fochriw Pits Memorial Plaque
- Powell Duffryn Officials' Roll of Honour 1914-1918
- The Lindsay family of Ystrad Fawr by Annie Owen
- The Famous Old Ball Court on the Square by Kevin Dicks
- The year when everything changed by Audrey Griffith
- Lewis Lore
- Schneidemuhl Prisoner of War Camp by Royston Smith
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission graves in Gelligaer Parish
- Peace by Annie Owen

USEFUL WEBSITES

We now inhabit a digital age and readers will already be aware of numerous websites that are useful tools in the box for historians. The GHS website contains links to some sites, but because of the plethora of sites it is almost impossible to provide a definitive list. New sites become available on a regular basis and even tried and trusted ones continue to add/amend the information they contain. Changes to the format of sites is also a common feature, this can sometimes cause initial confusion. The purpose of this note is to suggest sites that may prove to be of use. However, it is not definitive so if any reader can recommend any that are not listed and share their experiences of other sites then please contact our webmaster.

The GHS website provides a link to the National Library of Wales. On that site are several links to categories that should prove to be of use to anyone wishing to carry out research. One link is to Welsh Wills on line, there are not just digitised copies of Wills but also supporting documents where available e.g. inventories. These can be of use for a multitude of reasons apart from the obvious one such as the wealth or lack of wealth of the deceased. An inventory for a farmer will give a useful indication of the type of farming being carried on. The Will itself is also useful when trying to work out a pedigree of a certain family.

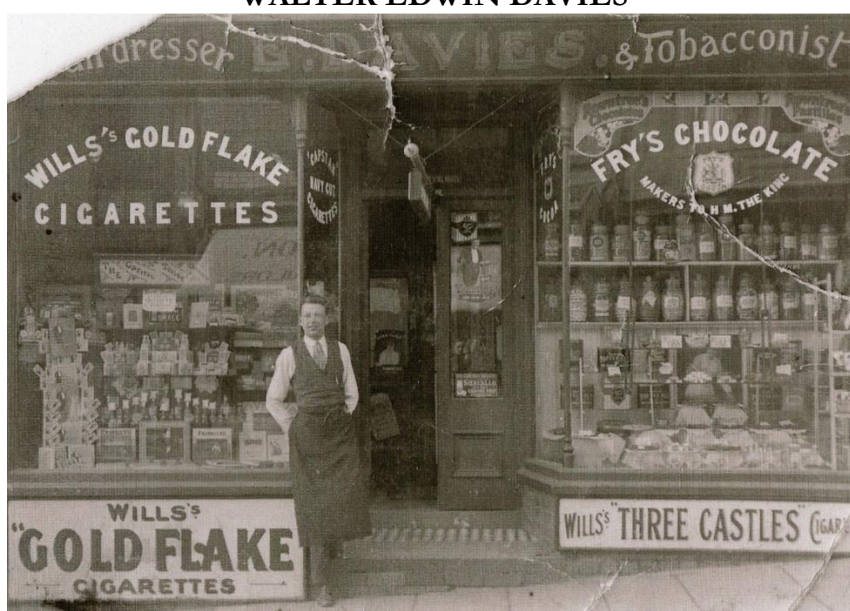
The screen shot below is from Welsh Newspapers on line and obtained by searching GELLYGAER. However, had GELLIGAER been searched this example would not have appeared.



The Welsh Newspapers and Welsh Journals that are on the National Library website have filters which enable researchers to narrow the field thus reducing the number of entries disclosed. As an example, filters allow researchers to restrict the search to years, months and days as well as categories such as advertisements or general news.

Many public libraries allow visitors to have free access to the internet where many web-sites can be used, *Find my Past* and *Ancestry* are two sites that specialise in providing details for genealogy. However, their use is not restricted to genealogy because using those sites can unlock several records that will help researchers in a variety of ways. Census returns provide details which can be used to demonstrate the growth of a town or village over the decades. From 1851 onwards census returns show an individual's place of origin and occupation.

WALTER EDWIN DAVIES



This photograph, sent to GHS by a reader of *Gelligaer Times*, shows Walter Edwin Davies outside his hairdresser's shop which his family think was in Bargoed. He set up his business after returning from Canada with his parents (possibly about 1912). He later served in Royal Army Service Corps. **Can anyone shed any further light on Walter Edwin Davies, his family and his hairdressing business?**

FOUND AMONG OLD FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS



GHS received this photograph found among inherited family photographs. As the family does not know why it was amongst the collection and cannot recognise the people, place and occasion, GHS has been asked to help.

Please contact www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk or chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk if you can shed any light on the photograph.

BOOK REVIEWS by Annie Owen

***William Davies* by David Mills, 2018**

Based on his careful and detailed research and drawing on his knowledge and understanding of the legal system, David Mills has produced a highly readable short volume (in A4 format) about William Davies (1818-90) the son of a prosperous Blackwood shopkeeper. William had been an ardent Chartist and friend of the Chartist leader, John Frost. Following the tragic march on Newport on 3rd and 4th November 1839 William was arrested on 21st November and charged with High Treason, but at the initial hearing the charge was substituted for conspiracy and riot. Significantly he had not taken part in the march. William was committed for trial but released on bail. Shortly afterwards he became Queen's Evidence. His written evidence survives, it was the only evidence that the prosecutors were able to obtain about the secret meeting that took place in Blackwood when the attack on Newport was finalised. He was a vital witness and due to give evidence against John Frost, but then disappeared-only to emerge nearly 12 months later. However, the Attorney General refused to press the charges against him. He was a fortunate young

man. A couple of years later he went onto marry one of Frost's daughters. David's book will satisfy the appetites of those present at his captivating talk at GHS meeting in December 2018 as it guides the reader through the story.

***Once Upon a Time in Merthyr Tydfil The Birth and Growth of an Industrial Town* by Wilf and Mary Owen, 2018**

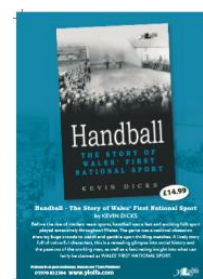
This interesting short volume (in A4 format) offers a different perspective on the early growth of the iron industry which turned a small sparsely-populated community surrounded by poor-quality farmland into a great iron centre and the largest town in Wales. There is much on Shropshire but technological and financial influences from elsewhere are not ignored. The illustrations include pictures of key people and places as well as maps and diagrams to explain how, in an era of technological change, the River Severn enabled dynamic Shropshire ironmasters and entrepreneurs make their mark on the growth of Merthyr Tydfil.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

From time-to-time, GHS is informed of events and activities relating to history and heritage as well as performing arts. These are frequently announced at GHS monthly meetings but readers who seek up-to-date information and contact details are advised to check the following websites for details:-

- <http://www.merthyr-history.com/> (a blog, *The Melting Pot*, about heritage and culture of Merthyr)
- <http://merthirtydfilheritage.blogspot.com/2013/10/forthcoming-events.html> (includes calendar of events in Merthyr Tydfil and surrounding area)
- Merthyr Tydfil Historical Society <http://www.mths.co.uk/> (includes calendar of events for that Society as well as others in Rhymney, Merthyr and Cynon Valleys)
- <https://vanguardcaerphilly.org/> (United Reformed Church, Vanguard Centre, Van Road URC, Caerphilly – contact 02920 866578 or [Hello@VanguardCaerphilly.co.uk](mailto>Hello@VanguardCaerphilly.co.uk) -- lunchtime and evening concerts)
- <https://glamarchives.gov.uk/> (Glamorgan Archives --- host some interesting talks)
- <http://www.gwentarchives.gov.uk/> -- host some interesting talks and short courses.

During June 2019, Kevin Dicks will have a display on handball in the cabinet in Ystrad Mynach library. Readers of *Gelligaer Times* may recall that issue 38 (summer 2017) carried a review of this book which is still available (20% discount if bought in his wife's shop, *Head Over Heels* in Nelson). Kevin gave an informative talk on handball at GHS December 2017 meeting.



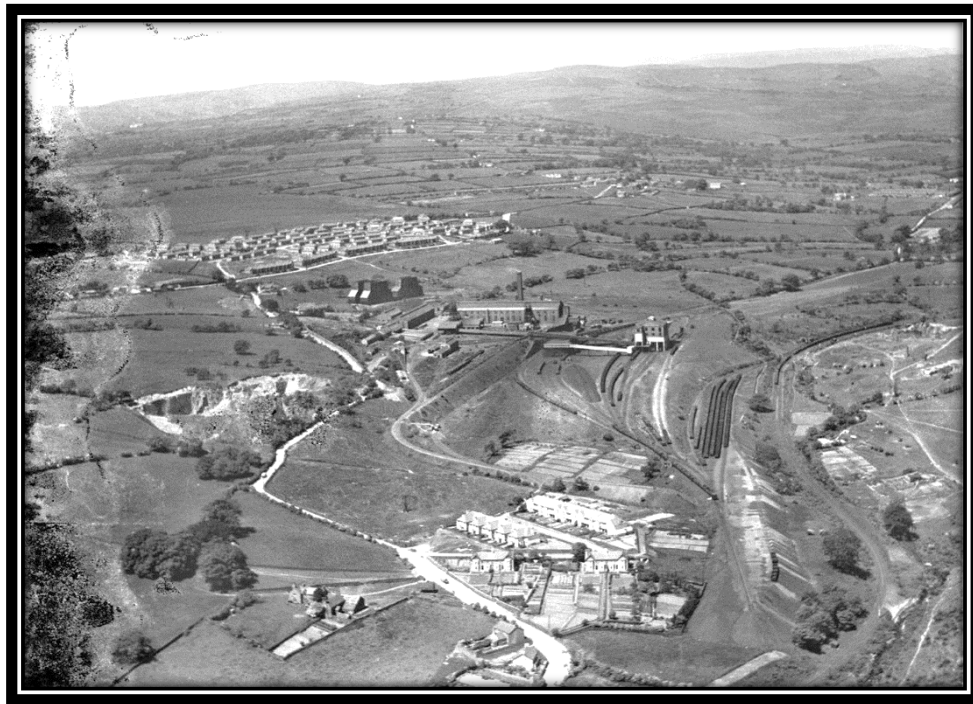
Risca Library is hosting a photographic exhibition on the life of the Labour MP, and Cabinet Member, Vernon Hartshorn (1872-1931). The exhibition tells the story of the man who worked in several pits in the Risca area before eventually becoming a union leader and finally an MP and government minister. He was the first collier to rise to high government office. He was born in Pont-Y-Waun and this is very much a local boy made good story - a local man who attempted to make lives better for others and inspired the likes of Aneurin Bevan.

The story is told through photos, letters and newspaper articles. The exhibition has been put together by the South Wales Miners Museum and is displayed on boards throughout the ground floor of the library. The exhibition might be of interest to groups studying local history, mining or those trying to better workers' rights during the first 30 years of the last century.

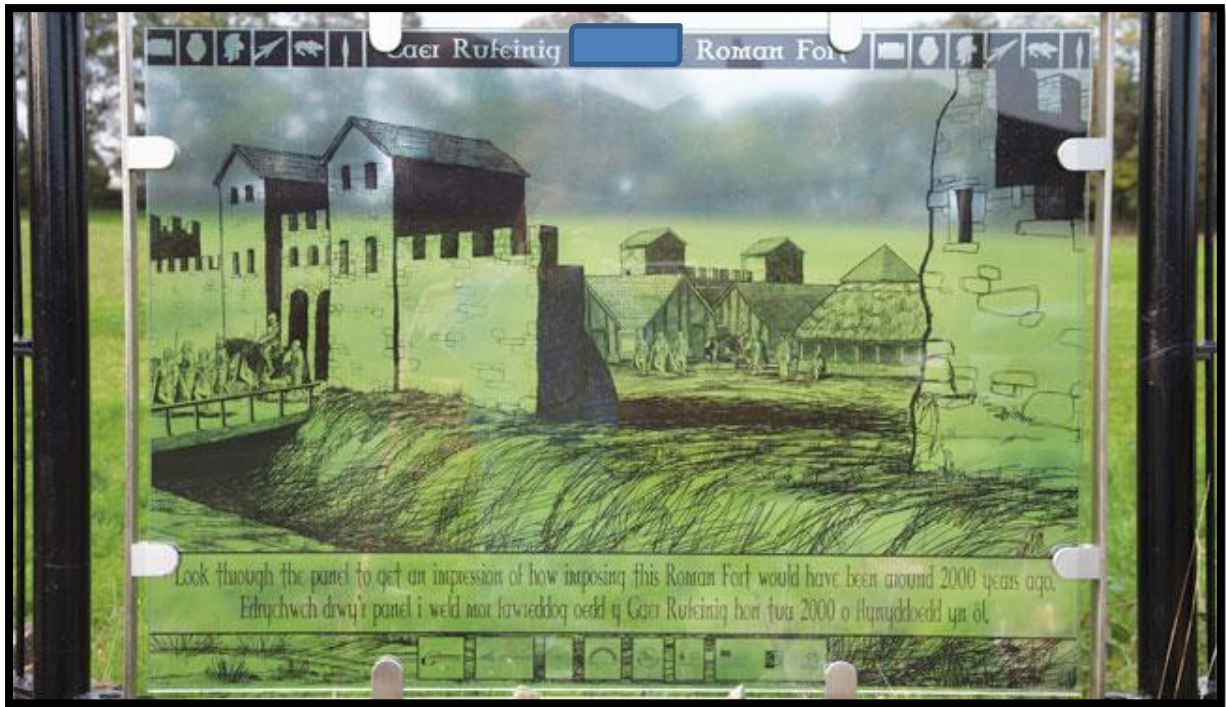
The exhibition will be in the library until June 13th when it leaves for the hallowed halls of the Houses of Parliament.

WHERE IN GELLIGAER

A



B



C



D



E



AND FINALLY, POINTS WILL BE AWARDED IF YOU CAN NAME THE MAN
PUSHING THE WHEEL BARROW



WHAT IS THIS?

Photograph sent in by a reader.



WARGEN

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO LIVED THROUGH WORLD WAR 2?

**MILLIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN SERVED
AND LIVED THROUGH WW2, BUT SADLY
NOW ONLY A HANDFUL SURVIVE.**

World War 2 touched the lives of every man, woman and child in all the major combatant nations and yet soon the memories of those people will be gone forever.



WARGEN was founded by broadcaster and historian, **Dan Snow**, and author and broadcaster, **James Holland**, and aims to record the memories of as many of these survivors as possible. They remain crucially important witnesses to the most cataclysmic war the world has ever known.

If you have a relative or friend that is willing to be interviewed and recorded, please get in touch via email with the WarGen volunteer below for further information.

Your WarGen contact:
shane@wargen.org

WWW.WARGEN.ORG