



# ***GELLIGAER TIMES***

## **NEWSLETTER OF GELLIGAER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Issue No. 48      October 2020

### **MESSAGE TO READERS OF GELLIGAER TIMES FROM GHS CHAIR**

In the first sentence of my August message I wrote *as the country gradually moves out of lockdown*. Unfortunately, things have moved in a different direction since then: Caerphilly County Borough went into lockdown early in September; its neighbours soon followed; and, at the time of writing, the whole of Wales is in lockdown.

In the absence of a newsletter editor, this newsletter, with

- some **news**
- a number of **extracts from nineteenth century newspapers**
- an illustrated essay on **whinchats and stonechats**,
- a newspaper extract on the **work of railway booking-clerks**
- and a Supplement on the theme of **World War I**

has been prepared by GHS committee. I hope it has something to interest you, and, perhaps, some of you will respond with comments and/or questions, or even indicate that you would like to edit a future issue. If so, please contact [chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](mailto:chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk) or [www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk)

### **NEWS**

At the time of writing, Welsh Government COVID 19 Regulations **do NOT allow meetings such as those of GHS**. GHS Officers and Committee will continue to review the situation in the light of developments, and update GHS website [www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk) and issue a newsletter when face-to-face meetings can be resumed.

You may like to keep up-to-date with the position in Llancaiach Fawr and with Welsh Government COVID 19 Regulations by checking their websites:

<https://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/llancaiachfawr/content/welcome-llancaiach-fawr>

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus>

**ZOOM TALKS – a number of organisations, history groups and others, have organised zoom talks in place of the usual meetings.**

**What is the opinion of GHS members about GHS delivering talks via Zoom?**

**Please contact**

**[chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](mailto:chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk) or [www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk)**

**with your views, and whether or not you are likely to attend such a session.**

**And a date for your diary** – we hope that the situation will have improved by March 2021 as Llancaiach Fawr has reserved **Saturday 20 March 2021** for the conference that was postponed in March 2020. We will see how things develop and, hopefully, booking forms will be available in January 2021. Thank you to those who left their fee in GHS. You will be contacted in January 2021.

As announced in August's *Gelligaer Times*, ***Gelligaer Volume 27*** was published in September. In spite of the fact that we do not have our normal outlets (GHS meetings, local libraries and retailers), there has been considerable interest in the journal. **GHS members (2019-20, and any new members 2020-21) who wish to have a copy posted to them, please send your postal**

address (including post code) to GHS website [www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk) or [chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](mailto:chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk)

Please note, page 120, the sub-heading five lines from the bottom of the page, should read **The move to Church Farm, Mynyddislwyn**

If you wish to make a **payment to GHS**, you can

- Post cheque to the Treasurer (who will send the address to those who ask)
- BACs payment (Treasurer will supply GHS bank details to those who ask)
- Set up a direct debit/standing order (Treasurer will supply details to those who ask)

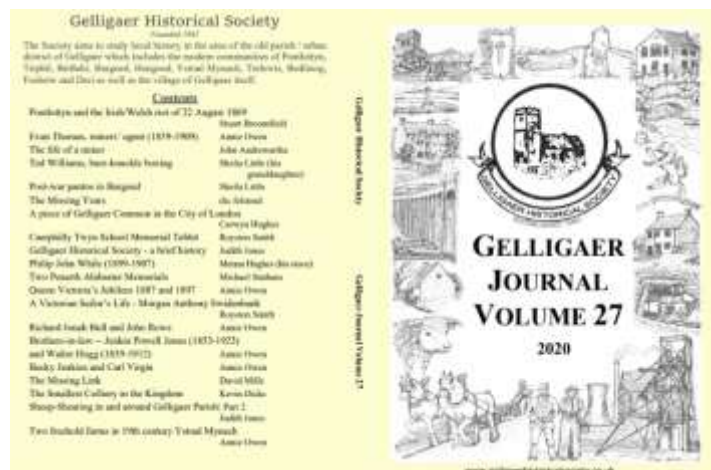
**RESEARCH** -- a useful link to online resources for Welsh history created by Professor Martin Johnes, Swansea University <https://martinjohnes.com/2020/03/19/digital-resources-on-welsh-history-1847-1947/>

**REMINDER** -- Deadline for submissions for the Diamond Jubilee publication is 31 December 2020.

GHS continues to receive a variety of **QUERIES RELATING TO THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF GELLIGAER PARISH AND NEIGHBOURING AREAS**. One recent query was about Evan Davies. Born in Fochriw in 1906, he attended the local school and was a pupil in the Park Crescent school in Bargoed when it changed from Higher Elementary to Secondary in 1920. After studying in U.C.W. Aberystwyth, he played an important part in W.E.A. and Labour movement in the Ystrad Mynach and Hengoed area in the 1930s and 1940s, before moving to Neath where he was Divisional Education Executive Officer. His wife was a member of the Everson family of Ystrad Mynach. If anyone can shed any light on his time in Ystrad Mynach and Hengoed, please contact [chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](mailto:chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk)

**PUBLICATIONS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO YOU** **If any readers have information about any publications that may be of interest to *Gelligaer Times* readers, please send details so they can be included in a future newsletter.**

As you can see from this cover of GHS journal *Gelligaer* Volume 27, it includes a variety of articles. Contributors hope that you will find something of interest in it. And, after you have read it, if you think you can contribute to a future journal, please get in touch. Copies are available via [www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk)



***Medieval Welsh Genealogy An Introduction and Textual Study*** by Dr Ben Guy, a Junior Research Fellow at Robinson College, Cambridge (Published by Boydell Press, April 2020).

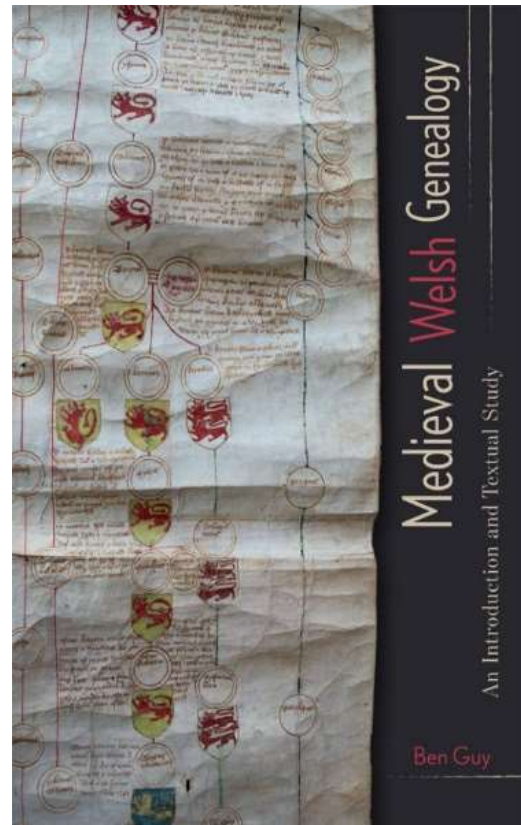
This is the first in-depth investigation of the genealogies of medieval Wales, bringing out their full significance.

Genealogy was a central element of life in medieval Wales. It was the force that held society together and the framework for all political action. For these reasons, genealogical writing in medieval Wales, as elsewhere in Europe, became a fundamental tool for representing and manipulating perceptions of the socio-political order across historical and literary time. From its beginnings within an early medieval Insular genre of genealogical writing, Welsh genealogy developed across the Middle Ages as a unique and pervasive phenomenon.

This book provides the first integrated study of and comprehensive introduction to genealogy in medieval Wales, setting it in the context of genealogical writing from Ireland, England and beyond, and tracing its evolution from the eighth to the sixteenth century. The three most important collections of secular genealogies are carefully analysed and their composition is considered in relation to medieval Welsh politics. Particular attention is devoted to the pedigrees of the kings and princes of Gwynedd, which were subject to many intricate alterations over time. The book also

includes fresh critical editions of the most significant extant collections of secular genealogy.

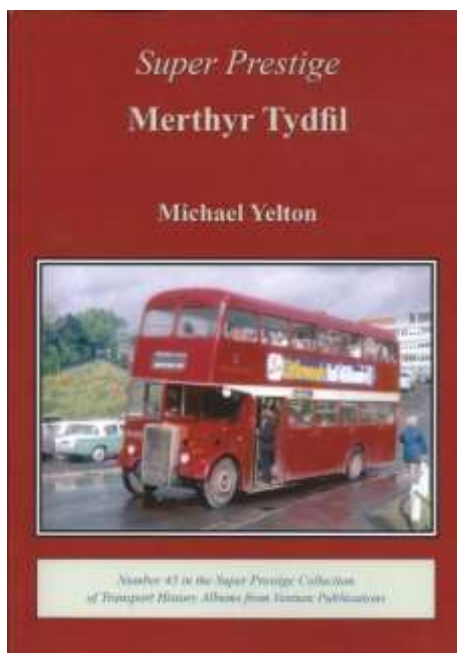
For further details see <https://boydellandbrewer.com/medieval-welsh-genealogy.html> and <https://boydellandbrewer.com/blog/medieval-history-and-literature/medieval-welsh-genealogy/>



***Merthyr Tydfil, Super Prestige Collection of Transport History Albums number 43*** by

Michael Yelton, recently published by Venture Publications.

Michael Yelton completes his study of Welsh Municipal operators with his seventh book, a very detailed account of Merthyr Tydfil Corporation's omnibus operations, including the operation of trams and buses run in Merthyr before Merthyr's omnibus operation was set up. Unlike other smaller South Wales municipalities, explored in previous volumes, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council started running buses while there were still trams in the town which were owned and operated by an outside private company. The trams already ran on the two most lucrative routes when the Council began running buses and it took 15 years before the local authority was able to purchase the tramway undertaking and to replace the trams with buses. This 154-page book includes a full fleet list and is well illustrated throughout with both black & white and colour photographs and maps to help bring this story to life. You can purchase



the book through <https://www.mdsbooks.co.uk/vpl/super-prestige-43-merthyr-tydfil.html>

## PRESS RELEASE

### Pen & Sword Books Ltd

Emily Robinson, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2AS  
Tel: +44 Website: [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk)  
Email: [emily.robinson@pen-and-sword.co.uk](mailto:emily.robinson@pen-and-sword.co.uk)

## Lady Charlotte Guest

The Exceptional Life of a Female Industrialist

Author: Victoria Owens

### Highlights

- The fascinating story about how a pioneering Victorian businesswoman came to head the largest ironworks in the world.
- Original research - uses Charlotte's previously unpublished manuscript journals in the National Library of Wales, and the Dowlais Iron Company papers in Glamorgan Records Office.
- An important contribution to the history of the industrial revolution and engineering history, Victorian history, Welsh history and women's history.

When impoverished aristocrat Lady Charlotte Bertie married wealthy Welsh ironmaster John Guest of Dowlais in 1833, her relatives looked on with dismay. Yet despite their vast difference of background and age, over their nineteen-year long marriage, husband and wife enjoyed great happiness and much adventure. There would be ten children and while John built up an immense commercial empire, Charlotte championed Welsh culture.

Crucially, she taught herself John's business from the inside. Over the years, she made the keenest observation of iron production, the fluctuations of the trade and the engineering innovations that touched upon its developments. When John died in 1852, she was therefore uniquely well-placed to succeed him as head of the works - a remarkable position for a Victorian woman. Not only did she endeavour to introduce reforms, but also - rather to her dismay - had to weather a potentially destructive strike.

But success came at a price. With her star to all sight in the ascendant, Lady Charlotte suddenly chose to abandon all, leave Wales and marry her sons' tutor. This book traces the ardent, creative years of her first marriage, explores her determination - widowed - to preserve John's legacy, and observes her growing devotion to the scholarly Charles Schreiber.

### About the Author

Winner of the inaugural 2009 Jane Austen short story competition, Victoria Owens is a published writer of fiction and non-fiction. Her novel 'Drawn to Perfection' was published by Hookline in 2013; Amberley Publishing brought out her study 'James Brindley and the Duke of Bridgewater - Canal Visionaries' in 2015; and her 'Aqueducts and Viaducts of Britain' appeared in March 2019.

Being interested in engineering history, Owens's investigation of the industrial heritage of South Wales led her to encounter Lady Charlotte in her role as Iron Master of Dowlais, and she was determined to write about her.



### NEW BOOK RELEASE

RRP: £25

ISBN: 9781526768810

224 PAGES · HARDBACK

PUBLISHED: SEPTEMBER

2020

PEN & SWORD HISTORY



To purchase <https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Lady-Charlotte-Guest-Hardback/p/18000#dowlais-iron-company>, [#josiah-john-guest](https://www.instagram.com/josiah-john-guest), [#lady-charlotte-guest](https://www.instagram.com/lady-charlotte-guest)

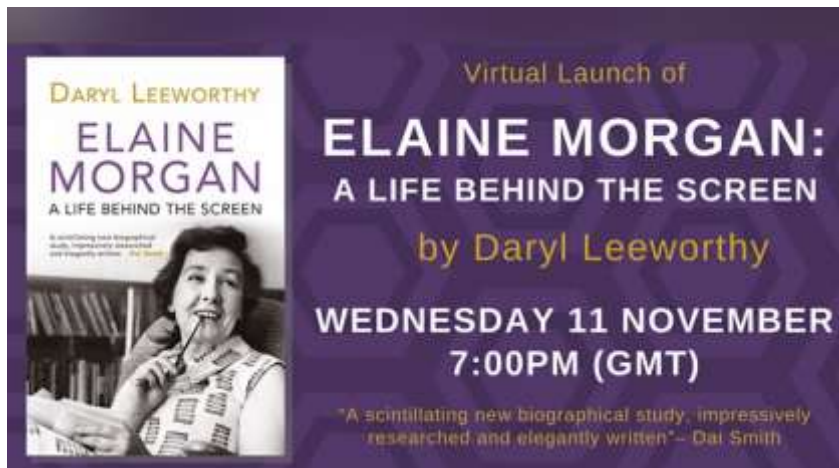
And **BLOGS, A MODERN TYPE OF PUBLICATION**, that may interest you:-

<https://naturewithnev.blogspot.com/> is an interesting blog in which Neville describes some of flora and fauna he sees on his regular outings in south east Wales. Neville has been a good friend to GHS for many years and readers may recall him leading an interesting nature trail during the Society's successful Heritage Day at Hengoed Baptist Chapel on Saturday 25 May 2013. (see Neville's article on whinchats and stonechats on Gelligaer Common below)

<http://www.merthyr-history.com/> takes you to *The Melting Pot*, a blog about the heritage and culture of Merthyr Tydfil. Among the many fascinating articles are some that overlap with the history of Gelligaer parish.

**Readers, please contact GHS Committee with details of other interesting blogs.**

## EVENTS that might interest you



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/launch-of-elaine-morgan-a-life-behind-the-screen-tickets-125898462691>

This is the link for you to book your tickets to the virtual launch. You may recall the last GHS meeting (February 2020) when Daryl Leeworthy spoke on *The Life and Times of Elaine Morgan*.

This year's **Annual Newport Chartist Convention** has been moved forward from its usual Autumn date to provide a **virtual convention that will go world wide** with lectures given 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> **December 2020** and then made available on Youtube.

## SOME NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS

selected from <https://newspapers.library.wales/> by David Mills

*Williams v. Jones.*—Mr. Serjeant Ludlow for plaintiff, and Mr. Serjeant Talford for defendants.—This was an action brought by the plaintiff, Mrs. Williams, against Mr. Jones, to recover two years' rent, due for a certain portion of land. It appeared that, in the latter part of 1833, the defendant was proprietor of a place called Hengoed Colliery, the coal from which was usually conveyed down a road, to a place known by the name of Jenny Tips, where it was tipped over from small trams into larger ones below, which stood in a place adjoining the regular tramroad. The road in question was stopped up by the Sirhowy Company, and the defendant, in order to bring his coal to market, took a width of land lying in the direction wanted, belonging to the plaintiff, for the purpose of making a road in lieu of the one stopped. An agreement was drawn up, and signed by both parties, in which the defendant was to give 10l. per year for such right of road, through the plaintiff's land, a proviso however being introduced, specifying that if the defendant should be prevented from bringing his coal, the agreement should be null and void. The road was begun, but never finished, in consequence of the Tredegar Company purchasing Hengoed Colliery. Mr. Serjeant Talford cross-examined the plaintiff's witnesses, in order to prove that the defendant had been prevented, by notice or otherwise, from completing the road, and proceeded to address the jury for the defence, arguing that the defendant had not received a farthing benefit from the land in question, nor had the plaintiff sustained a farthing damage. The Learned Serjeant said, in the event of the wall at the Jenny Tips being pulled down, which he was instructed to say was threatened to be done, the road would have been of no service to his client, he was proceeding, but was stopped by the Judge, who said he thought the defendant's case was tipped up—it was not enough that the defendant should receive a notice, he must have been actually prevented, to establish a sufficient defence to entitle him to a verdict. The case was stopped, and the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, two years' rent, 20l.

It is interesting to note that Hengoed Colliery was in operation at such an early date.

Can any readers identify the *place known by the name of Jenny Tips* mentioned in this extract from a report on Monmouthshire Lent Assizes in *The Cambrian* 9 April 1836 (page 4).

**NARROW ESCAPE.**—On Tuesday evening last, Mr. Edward Price, woollen manufactory, Gelligare, Mr. Richards, Ystrad Mill, Mr. Thomas Jones, maltster, Bedwas, and Mrs. Thomas Thomas, landlady of the Cooper's Arms, proceeded in a four-wheel carriage to the Railway Tavern, Lanfabon, for the sake of a little relaxation from business; and after indulging themselves in the Temple of Bacchus for some time, while coming back, driving rather furiously, opposite the Collier's Arms, the hind wheel of the vehicle gave way, and a terrible crash ensued. Happily the parties all escaped unhurt with only slight bruises. They were obliged to walk home.

One wonders whether the incident described in this extract from *Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian* 24 July 1847 (page 3) was the consequence of over indulgence in the Temple of Bacchus.

and none at Merthyr and Dowlais.  
Q. How long have you been governor at the gaol?—A. Two years and a half.  
Q. So that your experience in these districts comes down to a recent date?—A. Yes.  
Q. You have travelled the districts at all times of the year?—A. Yes.  
Q. Were you ever at Rhymney on "turnbook" day?—A. Yes.  
Q. And seen a large crowd there early in the morning?—A. I have never been there in the morning.  
Q. Have you ever been able to compare the conduct of the men with regard to getting drunk in districts where there are the company's shops and where there are none?—A. I don't think there is much difference. There is neither more nor less; they are pretty much on a par.  
Q. Take Dowlais with Rhymney—in which place are the men most in the habit of getting drunk?—A. Well, if there is any difference, I should say it is at Pontlottyn.  
Q. What has been the crowd you have seen outside the company's shop at Rhymney?—A. I have seen 100 people waiting outside and in.  
Q. What is your opinion about the shops?—A. The provident and respectable population complain of the truck system, and to the improvident I believe it is a very great boon. I have known instances where men, having gone away from the shop, became ragged and half starved and deplorable, and have afterwards been well fed and clothed with the goods they have got at the shop.

This, taken from *Western Mail* 4 October 1870 (page 3), is an extract from the report on the sixth day of The Truck Commission at Cardiff. The answers in this section are those of Henry Wrenn, Governor of County Gaol at Cardiff, formerly Superintendent of Police in Merthyr, Aberdare, Dowlais and Rhymney, who selected Pontlottyn as the place in which the men were most in the habit of getting drunk.

## BARGOED.

**OPENING A NEW IRON CHURCH.**—The opening of the new iron church just erected here took place yesterday. The weather was very unfavourable. There was, however, a large attendance at the services. At 9 a.m. the holy communion was celebrated by the Rev G. C. F. Harries, the rector. At 10.30 a.m. there was a morning service; at 3.30 p.m. the Litany was recited, and at 6 p.m. a Welsh evening service was held, sermons being preached by the Venerable Archdeacon De Winton, of Brecon; the Rev E. Tuberville Williams, rector of Caldicott; and the Rev W. Evans, vicar of Rhydney. At the special service, at 1 p.m., the foundation stone of the chancel of the new church was laid by Miss Richards, Plas Newydd, and an address was delivered by the Right Rev the Lord Bishop of Llandaff. The cost of the works at present contemplated will be about £1,500, of which about £600 have been already collected. A site has been given by Mr E. K. Wingfield, of Barrington Park, and Miss Richards, of Plas Newydd, upon which Zion church has been erected. The population of this place (about 1,000 persons) is composed chiefly of colliers, miners, and a few farmers. The room that has been used hitherto has become too small for the Sunday evening congregations.

This extract from *South Wales Daily News* 19 April 1876 (page 6) sheds light on St. Gwladys Church, Bargoed. For further information on the history of local Anglicanism, see *Bargoed and Gilfach a local history*, GHS Golden Jubilee publication (2011) pp190-192

This extract from *South Wales Daily News* 15 December 1877 (page 3) refers to some of the new roads being constructed in the parish.

## HENGOED.

**HIGHWAY BOARD.**—The monthly meeting was held on Thursday. Present—Messrs L. D. Rees, L. Evans, W. Beddoe, and the Rev A. Davies. The new road between Penheol Adam and Wingfield pit was reported as progressing favourably, and a cheque for £100 was drawn for the contractors. Plans of the new roads between Tir Phil and Bargoed and Bedlinog and Merthyr were approved. The Clerk is to write, asking for the land and stones from the owners through whose land the roads pass. The Chairman stated that E. D. Williams would take 3d per cubic yard for stones. It was decided to examine the fence, &c., on an old road from Deri to Capel-y-Beithdyr. A committee was appointed to examine the boundary lines of Merthyr and Gellygaer parishes, between Vochriw and the Downais Top Station, in connection with the Merthyr Board.

## MERTHYR RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Mr R. H. Rhys presided at the monthly meeting of this authority, held at the Workhouse on Saturday. The other members present were Messrs L. D. Rees, W. D. Lewis, D. E. Williams, W. Beddoe, and Lewis Evans.—For the construction of a drain at Bedlinog, three tenders were received, viz., from Thomas Harris, Cwm-felin, at £18 10s; Pearson and Williams, £17; and John Mathews, £17. The tender of the latter was accepted.—In the report of the Gelligaer Parochial Committee it was stated that the surveyor was instructed to write and ask the Bargoed Gas and Water Company when they would be able to supply Bargoed with water. The reply stated that the company intended laying pipes down over the Rhydney Railway, but they found this impracticable, and had adjourned the matter until the new road from Bargoed to Tir-phil was made. If the authority thought they could not wait, the directors of the company would consider whether they could not make some temporary arrangement. The subject came up subsequently upon a report by the medical officer as to the outbreak of fever at Bargoed. The water of the spring at back of Calvaria-row he condemned as impure, and the water obtained near Brook's, Hanbury-road, was so liable to be fouled that it should not be used. The water yielded by a spring in a copse on Gilfach Farm, near the high road, is pure and abundant, and might be brought at a small expense to the Hanbury-road and Calvaria-row. The water from a spout near

the high road, is pure and abundant, and might be brought at a small expense to the Hanbury-road and Calvaria-row. The water from a spout near Heol Ddu Isaf farm is not sufficiently pure to be used for domestic purposes. The abundant supplies of pure water which permanently flow from under the hillock above Wingfield-road, might, with great advantage, and cheaply, be made a source of supply for the occupants of the two roads, and of those who live in Charles-town. The Medical Officer recommended that the surveyor prepare and lay before the board a plan and estimate, showing how water might best be supplied to those of the 160 houses at Bargoed which needed it. The suggestion was adopted, and the surveyor instructed accordingly.—In a lengthy report, the medical officer dealt with the outbreak of fever, and showed how it originated and progressed. There had been 15 cases, and 12 of the sick persons resided or visited or visited sick persons in Wingfield and Heol Ddu-roads, and three lived in Hanbury-road. Fourteen of the 15 persons had recovered, the only fatal case being that of Mr Maynard Harrison. As to the origin, he had already expressed his belief that the persons resident in Wingfield-row derived the infection of typhoid fever from a lad who visited there for a few hours, and who himself had fever at his own home the next day.—In reply to the Chairman, the Medical Officer said he was certain the fever spread from the boy referred to, as persons affected therewith were then suffering in the house from which he came in Cwmyfog.—A report by the Medical Officer as to the drainage of the Board Schools at Bargoed was read, and referred to the Gelligaer School Board. This was all the business of interest.

This extract from *South Wales Daily News* 9 December 1878 (page 4) offers an insight into local public health issues of the time.

Mr BEDDOE, another member of the board whose career had been held forth by the chairman as an example of how an indomitable will, combined with energy and perseverance, could lift a man from a very humble life to the highest position and society in the neighbourhood, speaking in the vernacular, addressed his remarks principally to the children. He exhorted them to be foremost in everything that was good and beneficial to themselves and their neighbours, to be punctual, regular, and neat when at school, and always obedient to their superiors.

This is an extract from the report on the opening of Bontnewydd (Trelewis) Board School in *South Wales Daily News* 3 November 1881 (page 3)

This extract from *Cardiff Times* 18 February 1882 (page 2) reminds us of the importance of the activities in the parish's rural community in the later nineteenth century.

**HENGOED.**  
**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.**—The meeting of this association was held on Tuesday evening at the Cross Keys, Hengoed. Mr Lewis, Pontnewydd, took the chair, and there were also present Messrs Jones, Edwards, Evans, Rees, Perrott, L. D. Rees, Pritchard, Williams, Mathias, &c. It was decided to hold the ploughing match on Tuesday, the 7th of March, on the lands of Mr D. Thomas, Rhos, Gellygaer. The last year's programme was adopted, with slight alterations. The special committee presented their report, which was adopted. After several matters were discussed, the meeting broke up.

**GELLYGAER.**  
**REJOICINGS.**—On Thursday afternoon there was much rejoicing at Cefn Llwyna in celebration of the striking of the Mynyddislwyn seam of coal in the Wingfield Colliery, which has been recently taken to by Mr Edward Beddoe, colliery proprietor, Holly House, Nelson. The piece of coal lies at the foot of the Gellygaer Mountain, near the old Gwladys Pit, above New Rhos Drift. To commemorate the event, Mr Beddoe gave a treat to the residents of the district, when upwards of 1,300 partook of the good things provided. In the evening there was an open-air concert. Mr W. C. Beddoe presided.

This extract from *South Wales Daily News* 13 August 1887 (page 3) includes the names of several long-forgotten local collieries, as well as that of the Beddoe family.

This interesting extract (a report on a quoits match) from *South Wales Echo* 25 July 1891 (page 3) adds much to our knowledge and understanding of local life in the late nineteenth century. Presumably the precise time of departure (10.38 p.m.) relates to the time of the last train home from the nearby Hengoed Railway Station.

On Wednesday Wharton played their annual match with Hengoed, on the ground of the latter, resulting in favour of the home team by 20. Afterwards the visiting friends were entertained at the Hengoed Junction Hotel by the Hengoed members. After a convivial evening, the Wharton club left for home at 10.38 p.m., and by their enthusiastic cheers showed how well they enjoyed their outing. Hengoed plays the return match at Cardiff on August 12th. Appended is the score:—  
Hengoed (21 yds)—F. E. Adams, (capt), 21; W. Edwards, 17; E. Edwards, 21; T. Morgan, 13; D. Jones, 21; total, 95. Wharton—T. Stepney, 8; O. R. Clarke (captain), 21; J. Elliott, 14; A. Crocker, 21; W. Harford, 4; total, 68. Hengoed (13 yds)—W. Jones, 13; W. Smith, 21; H. Edwards, 14; T. Jones, Carngethin, 12; total, 60. Wharton—L. Wolney, 21; E. Spencer, 2; A. E. Paddon, 21; T. Llewellyn, 21; total, 65.



## THERE'S ALWAYS TIME FOR A CHAT

Neville Davies

Recently I was on Gelligaer Common hoping to see some early winter thrushes but to no avail. As always, on a late sunny afternoon the common looked beautiful, with cattle going about their business of grazing amongst the gorse and bracken, buzzards squabbling with crows and ravens sharing the thermals with the magnificent red kite - now a daily feature here.

On this one particular afternoon I noticed that the numbers of resident Stonechats were more prolific, with five pairs seen on the circular route I took. But one bird caught my eye as it flew into a small group of low Silver Birch. After a few minutes it showed itself, and I was pleased to see a striking male whinchat, no doubt feeding up ready for its return migration to Africa. It was nice to see two species of 'chats' on the same day, so let's learn a little more about them.

**THE WHINCHAT** (photograph copyright Neville Davies)



The Whinchat is a summer visitor to the UK, breeding in the uplands. Its scientific name *Saxicola rubetra* means '*small rock dweller*' in reference to its habitat. Rubetra is a Latin term for '*small bird*'. The English name is derived from 'whin' (the common gorse) and 'chat' referring to its calls. Both sexes show the distinctive white supercilium (eye stripe) even from a long distance and can be a good identification feature to rule out a Stonechat straight away. The female lacks the black face mask of the male. The song is a long series of fluty and scratchy phrases with the call a harsh '*tzec tzec*'. They are slightly larger than the Stonechat, with a wingspan of 21 - 24 cm (18 - 21 in the Stonechat) and a weight of 14 - 22g (13 - 18g in the Stonechat). Open grassland and scrub (particularly where there are hay meadows) and bracken on hillsides form their habitat. The nest consists of a cup of leaves and grasses on the ground where 4 - 7 glossy, pale-blue eggs are laid. Food consists mainly of invertebrates and seeds.

Smaller than the robin, the adult male has a black-brown head with a long, broad white eye stripe reaching the nape with a similar white border to the cheek. The back is a dark brown with heavy blackish streaking with the rump a paler rufous tinge. The wing coverts are black with a white bar extending to the tertials. The flight feathers are a brown-black with white bases to the outer primaries. The tail is black with white sides to the base. The underbody is a soft warm orange which gives the bird an overall very pretty appearance. Juveniles also show the characteristic eye stripe.

I particularly enjoy watching Whinchats during the breeding season as they are very energetic and always bunding about amongst the Bracken tops. The 'tzec' call usually gives away their presence but when perched on top of a Bracken frond and calling, sometimes they can literally be staring you in the face. It's all part of the fun.

**THE STONECHAT** (photograph copyright Neville Davies)



The genus name *Saxicola torquata* comes from two Latin words, saxum meaning rock and incolla meaning inhabitant. The Stonechat is a resident species here and doing well. Having a dark head and no eye stripe they can instantly be told apart from a Whinchat even from a distance. They prefer areas with substantial cover and Gelligaer Common has many thick pockets of gorse which they seem to like, however they will tolerate many kinds of habitats. The call is longer than that of the Whinchat, being a drawn out 'tchackk'. The nest is

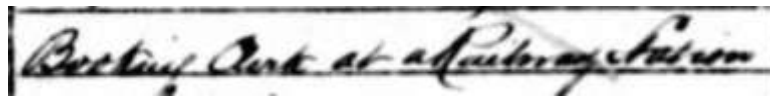
hidden near to the ground and consists of a loose cup of dry stems and leaves lined with feathers and wool - with the abundance of Sheep on the common there is no shortage of loose wool to choose from. 4-6 glossy pale-blue to greenish-blue eggs are laid and food consists of invertebrates with seeds in the winter. Surprisingly though, they will take tiny common lizards too.

The adult male has a dark brown head and throat with isolated white patches on the sides of the neck. The mantle and scapulars are a dark brown with a white rump streaked blackish. The closed wings show white on the coverts and the breast and flanks are a soft orange which shades into a greyish-white on the lower belly. The under wings are dark. The juvenile is greyer and heavily spotted. The wings are shorter and rounder than those of the Whinchat and the legs and bill are a dark grey-brown.

For me, I like watching the Stonechat as they flit from bush to bush. Usually the male is seen first but the female is never too far away. It is comical watching the male diving into the cover of the Gorse, and as you wait for it to re-emerge, it does so quite a few yards away, never where you think it will show again. The Whinchats should have all gone now but look out for them when they return usually in late April. The Stonechats, however, you can enjoy all year round.

**Article written by Neville Davies** *the author of five books including the Birds of the Caerphilly Basin and Birdwatching on Mallorca, and also writes a weekly wildlife column for the Majorca Daily Bulletin. Coupled with leading private and group walks to look at nature and delivering power point presentations on plants and fungi, birds and animals and trips abroad, Neville is busy with local birdwatching and finding unusual fungi (a recent article on his blog site includes two rare local species). Neville can be contacted on the following options:*

**wildmajorca@gmail.com naturewithnev.blogspot.com @ecology\_cymru**



Taken from the entry for 17-year-old Edward Edmunds in the 1881 census return, this heading reads **Booking Clerk at a Railway Station**. Living in the family home in Penallta Road, Ystrad Mynach, Edward Edmunds may have considered himself fortunate to have such a job rather than one that involved heavy, and often dangerous, manual labour. The following extract from *Western Mail*, Saturday 10 November 2001, gives some insight into the work of railway booking clerks in the nineteenth century.

### **RAILWAYS: Reminder of an age when booking a journey took 10 to 15 minutes**

#### **Elaborate tickets of past tell a story**

**(by Jeffrey Muse, of Bonhams in Wales)**

*They may be small and insignificant but whenever travelling as a passenger on a train it is imperative to carry a valid ticket.*

*Because so many people have tried to travel for nothing down the years, the railway companies have had to conceive more and more complicated schemes to thwart them, and many have proved troublesome and extremely time-consuming.*

*When trains were still an event rather than an insignificant part of everyday life as now, passengers had to put aside 10 to 15 minutes to allow plenty of time just to buy a ticket. The procedure was detailed and meticulous as the booking-clerk would enter the name of each passenger in his ledger, before providing a large paper ticket upon which was written, in beautiful copperplate script, the name of the agent, the ticket number and the date and time of the train.*

*By the mid-1830s the ledger was replaced by a more detailed ticket with provision for this information to be entered down the right-hand side, which was then handed to the passenger and the booking clerk retained the counterfoil filled with identical information.*

*In an endeavour to further prevent larceny or fraud it was quite normal for the back of the tickets to be inscribed with a warning similar to this: NOTICE – No gratuity allowed to be taken by any Guard, Porter, or other Servant of the Company. Smoking in the First Class Carriages is strictly prohibited.*

*Smoking was not prevented in either second or third-class carriages. Being open to the air, the passengers were getting their fair share of smoke from the engine without bothering about a neighbour's smelly pipe.*

*Thomas Edmondson (1792-1851) invented the little pasteboard ticket in 1837, which revolutionised the whole industry. He was a clerk on the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway and the first tickets to be issued carried the company name, the stations covered by the fare and the class of the passenger. Both date and serial number were entered by hand, with correspondingly identical ledger entries, until, later in 1837 a dating press was invented and a year later an automatic numbering press was introduced.*

*By 1850 tickets were all-print versions with colour or design indicating the class of travel. Booking clerks were still kept busy, having to enter details of each ticket sold and also filling out a way-bill for each train, with corresponding stations on the route, each passenger's name and their class.*

*First to go in cost-cutting operations was the price of the fare on the ticket, but this was made compulsory by law in 1890 so companies once more had to price each journey.*

*Edmondson also invented a ticket rack for each different fare and class of journey, which proved essential as there were so many different tariffs available, with half-price offers for children, excursions and at certain times of the week.*

*Special tickets for clergymen, MPs, pets and so on, also needed a special compartment. Rarest of all are the railway passes, which were often very pretty and highly decorative. Also elusive are staff passes which usually had to be handed in at the end of the work period.*

## SUPPLEMENT --- WORLD WAR I

As Remembrance Sunday 2020 events in the local area will be smaller than usual, this supplement focuses on the theme of **WORLD WAR I** as GHS remembers some of the local heroes of that, and other, conflicts.

### **WILLIAM MORGAN, DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL**

#### **Rifleman 497 1<sup>st</sup> Monmouthshire Regiment and Sapper 137614 Royal Engineers**

Like many other local men, William Morgan's mining skills determined his work, and he is included among the local tunnellers in Peter Walker's article, *Gelligaer Tunnellers*, in *Gelligaer* volume 23 (2016). What follows is some additional material uncovered by Roy Smith, GHS member and proud historian of Brithdir village.

William Morgan joined the Monmouthshire Regiment on 13 April 1908 for 4 years and attended the annual summer camps up to and including 1912, when he re-engaged for a further 4 years as a rifleman. He was a resident of Charles Street, Brithdir, when he enlisted for war service at the outbreak of war, and, the following day he said goodbye to wife, Bertha, and infant son, Ivor, and set off to join his unit. Initially he served with the Monmouthshire Regiment as part of Welsh Border Brigade in the Welsh Division. Moved on mobilisation to Pembroke Dock, he went to Oswestry on 10 August, and, by the end of the month, to Northampton. In December he was at Bury St Edmunds, and, in January 1915, he was moved to Cambridge, before sailing for France in February. He was soon attached to the Royal Engineers 172nd Tunnelling Company in the field, with the British Expeditionary Force in France as his mining skills were highly valued within the tunnelling companies. After the successful explosion of the bomb under Hill 60 he stayed with the Royal Engineers.



The citation for his D.C.M., appearing in *Supplement to London Gazette* on 15 September, 1915, is quoted in the article mentioned above.

Not surprisingly, the cramped and damp conditions he and other tunnellers operated in, affected their health. On 8 July 1918, William Morgan appeared before a Civilian Medical Board at Chatham and, on 26 July 1918, was discharged. He was issued with the Silver War Badge & Certificate number 461208.



On 26 August 1921 he received the Victory Medal and British War Medal.

### WWI COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE IN ST. GWLADYS CHURCH, BARGOED

This photograph (reproduced courtesy GHS member, Roy Smith) shows the WWI commemorative plaque in St. Gwladys Church, Bargoed.



Information about some of the names listed appears on GHS website, but, unfortunately, the identity of some is unclear.

**A. BURRELL** – the Burrell family hailed from Scotland and arrived in the Rhymney valley sometime between the birth of William (about 1880) and Alexander, in 1891 in New Tredegar, and the family moved to Bargoed before daughter Marion was born about 1895. It is clear from contemporary newspaper reports that at least some members of the family worshipped in St. Gwladys Church. Sadly, oldest son, **Henry** (Lance Corporal 23200, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, of North Road, Bargoed), was killed in action on 4 October 1915, and, *Pioneer* 18 December 1915, reported on a memorial service in St. Gwladys Church. He is commemorated on the memorial plaque in Gelligaer church. But this memorial in St. Gwladys Church shows A. not H. Burrell, and so may have commemorated, not

Henry, but one of his siblings, two of whom had the initial A, (viz. his brother, Archibald, and half-brother, Alexander). Yet the evidence studied to date suggests that neither of these were WWI casualties.

The former, **Archibald Cameron Burrell**, born in Scotland on 17 January 1876, was listed as a carpenter in the family home in New Tredegar when the 1891 census was taken. His whereabouts in 1901 are unclear but he was a carpenter, boarding in Kensington, London, at the time of the 1911 census. Aged 40, he attested for war service on 12 April 1916, and his service records include:

| INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY RECRUIT. |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Name and Address of next-of-kin  | <i>Mr Archibald Burrell, 22 Greenfield Street, Bargoed, Mon.</i> |
| Relationship                     | <i>Father</i>  |

yet a death announcement in *Highland News* 1 June 1912, read thus:

**At 77 Greenfield Street Bargoed, Wales, on the 21st May, aged 65 years, Archibald Marshall Burrell, son of the late Henry Burrell, Port-William.**

suggesting that either, he had not kept in touch with his family in Bargoed, or he did not wish to name any one else as next-of-kin. He served in Army Service Corps (service number 168209) before, discharged with a disability in 1917, he returned to life in London. His medal card shows he was awarded the Victory and British medals. He was an unmarried carpenter living in 33 Portland Road, Kensington, when the 1939 Register was compiled, and his was probably the death registered in Kensington in March quarter 1951. Thus, he is not the A. Burrell on this plaque. **Alexander Mackintosh Burrell**, born in New Tredegar about 1891, was the sole sibling in the family home, 77 Greenfield Street, Bargoed, when the 1911 census was taken, and, like many of his contemporaries, was a coal miner. Sources studied to date suggest that he continued to work as a coal miner during the war and, it is likely that his was the death registered in Merthyr Tydfil registration district in December quarter 1931. Thus, he is not the A. Burrell on this plaque. GHS will be pleased to hear from any reader who can shed light on the identity of A. Burrell.

**B. J. GREENHOUSE** – the following is taken from GHS website [www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk) and GHS will be pleased to hear from anyone who can add more information.

*Bertram James Greenhouse.*

*Rifleman C/912 King's Royal Rifle Corps "D" Coy, 16th Bn.*

*Died November 30 1917 aged 22.*

*Commemorated XII. B. 9 Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium.*

*Son of William Thomas and Margaret Greenhouse (29 South Street, Bargoed).*

**J. JONES** – in the absence of any indication to the contrary, it is assumed this is the J. Jones named on Bargoed and Gilfach war memorial. The following is taken from GHS website [www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk) and GHS will be pleased to hear from anyone who can add more information.

*James Jones.*

*Company Serjeant Major 13445 South Wales Borderers 4th Battalion.*

*Died August 9 1915, aged 43.*

*Grave II. B. 4. Hill 60 Cemetery, Turkey.*

*Husband of Guinevere Jones (24 Heolddu Road, Bargoed).*

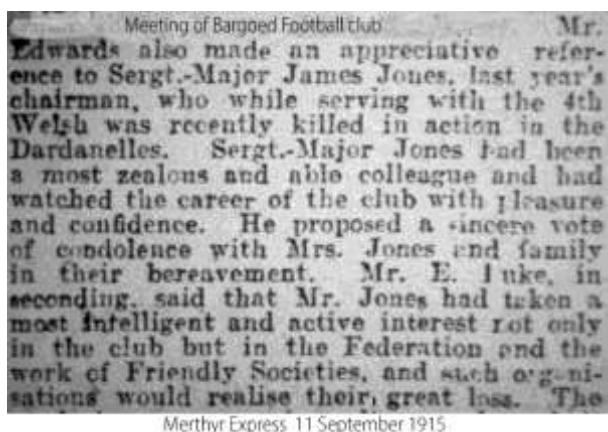
*James Jones was born in Penbow, Monmouthshire in 1872, and, aged 18, he*

*enlisted in South Wales Borderers. Further research may provide details of his military career.*

*It is likely that his marriage was the marriage registered in Newport registration district in March quarter 1903. When the 1911 census was taken, he was a coal pit sinker, living with his wife, Guinevere, née Williams, together with five children under 8 years old, at 57 Ruth Street, Bargoed.*

**BARGOED ATHLETE'S DEATH IN THE DARDANELLES.**—It is officially reported that Sergeant James Jones, Bargoed, of the 4th Welsh Regiment, has been killed in action in the Dardanelles. Sergt. Jones leaves a widow and 7 children. Prior to the war he was chairman of the Bargoed Town A.F.C., and was very popular in the district.

Pioneer 11 September 1915



*It is not known at what date he re-enlisted at Brecon, but he was posted to the Balkans 19 July 1915. THE HISTORY OF THE SOUTH WALES BORDERERS, page 159, describes his final action on 9 August 1915 this:*

*This attack, pivoting on the right and swinging round to its left, went splendidly. It swept through the bushes in front of "C"'s line, clearing them of Turks and killing many. Company Sergeant Major Jones, a splendid N.C.O., of the best type of old soldier, was killed in the charge, but it had relieved the situation.*

**G. C. KNIGHT** -- this is the G. C. Knight named on Bargoed and Gilfach war memorial. The following is taken from GHS website [www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk) and GHS will be pleased to hear from anyone who can add more information.

*George Cornelius Knight.*

*Serjeant 13285 Royal Fusiliers 25th Battalion.*

*Died January 4 1917, aged 40.*

*Grave III. A. 3. Dar es Salaam (Upanga Road) Cemetery, Tanzania.*

*Son of Charles and Naomi Knight and husband of Ethel Louise Knight of 'Wordsley', Gwerthonor Place, Gilfach. Born at Wordsley, Stourbridge, Worcs.*

**W. LLOYD** – In the absence of evidence to the contrary, this is assumed to be the W. B. Lloyd named on Bargoed and Gilfach war memorial. The following is taken from GHS website [www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk) and GHS will be pleased to hear from anyone who can add more information.

*William Benjamin Lloyd.*

*Second Lieutenant Northamptonshire Regiment, 3rd Battalion.*

*Died August 10 1917, aged 22.*

*Commemorated Panel 43 and 45, Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium.*

*Son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Lloyd, of "Fair View," Gilfach, Bargoed.*

**B. ROGERS** – In the absence of evidence to the contrary, this is assumed to be the J. B. Rogers named on Bargoed and Gilfach war memorial. The following is taken from GHS website [www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk) and GHS will be pleased to hear from anyone who can add more information.

*John Benjamin Rogers*

*Private 21560 Royal Welsh Fusiliers 15th Battalion*

*Killed in action July 10 1916, aged 27*

*Pier and Face 4A Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.*

*Son of John and Mary Jane Rogers (58 Park Road, Bargoed)*

**H. WALTERS** – Sources studied to date have not identified H. Walters, who may have belonged to the same family as D. J. Walters, named on Bargoed and Gilfach war memorial but not identified by GHS research to date. GHS will be pleased to hear from anyone who is able to shed some light on these names.

**H. TROTMAN** – The Trotman (sometimes Tratman in sources) family arrived in the Rhymney valley prior to the 1881 census when they were in Cwmsyfiog. They crossed the river, and the family home was in Brithdir when the 1891 and 1901 censuses were taken. By the time of the 1911 census, Herbert (known as Bert) was in a household headed by his brother, George, in 20 Capel Street, Bargoed. Sources studied to date have not made it clear whether or not the Corporal G. Trotman listed on Brithdir war memorial belonged to this family.

This medal card shows that Bert Trotman enlisted at Brecon early in the war, and entered the theatre of war on 31 August 1914. Such early enlistment suggests he may have seen previous service. He was killed in action in September 1915 and is listed on Commonwealth War Graves Commission website <https://www.cwgc.org/> as: *Private Herbert Trotman*  
*Service Number: 10912*  
*Regiment South Wales Borderers 1st Battalion*  
*Date of Death 26 September 1915*  
*Commemorated at Loos Memorial Panel 52.*  
*France*



DEATH OF PTE. TROTMAN IN ACTION.—News has been received in Bargoed that Pte. Bert Trotman, of 20 Capel Street, Bargoed, has been killed in action during the last big advance in France. He belonged to the S.W.B., and has been at the front since the commencement of the war. Deceased was 26 years of age.

(Merthyr) Pioneer 9 October 1915

He was the youngest of the ten children born to George Trotman and his wife Elizabeth, and, while successive census returns provide the names of his older siblings (born from 1873 onwards) this extract from the register of soldiers' effects, sheds some light on the next generation.

|         |                         |   |    |    |                                |
|---------|-------------------------|---|----|----|--------------------------------|
| 7-2-16  | Mrs Elizabeth           | 7 | 19 | 9  | Sally & Ben & Susan of 14 Doot |
|         | Hephn: No 16740         |   | =  | 2  | 4                              |
|         | Pte George Henry Lewis  |   | =  | 2  | 4                              |
|         | Heere: Mr Edith Rolko   |   | =  | 2  | 4                              |
|         | Hephn: Evans            |   | =  | 2  | 4                              |
|         | Sister of Hephn & Lewis |   | =  | 15 | 9                              |
|         |                         |   |    |    | For Hephn & Lewis of Doot      |
| 10-2-20 | Mrs Elizabeth           | 3 | 10 | -  |                                |
| 11-6-20 | Edward C. Price         |   |    |    |                                |

His older brother, George (1880-1922), having married widow Annie, née Thomas, on 30 May 1914, enlisted on 25 June 1916, but was not called up until 1918, presumably because he was a coal miner. Having joined the Royal Field Artillery on 16 August 1918, he was transferred to Army Reserve Class P on 26 October, and discharged on 27 January 1919. He was living in 9 Chapel Street, Aberbargoed (home of this parents-in-law and their widowed daughter and her two children at the time of the 1911 census) when, in 1920 and suffering tuberculosis, he applied for a pension, but the record states *No grounds for award*.

#### PTE. BERT TROTMAN'S STORY.

In our last issue we recorded the death in action of Pte. Albert (Bert) Trotman, of the S.W.B., a young man well known in this town whose widowed mother resides in Capel Street. After 12 months' thrilling experiences at the front in France, Pte. Trotman was recently home on five days' leave. On his return to the front he was killed in the great drive.

On September 22nd, a few days before the great attack, he wrote his last letter to his mother. He said he was quite well as the time. "Dear mother," he added, "I am writing now because I don't know when I will have a chance again. They have started the bombardment for the big attack. It is nothing but one roar, but it is nothing to what we are going to give them! We are going to send ten times as many shells at them, and if it is a success, I hope the next time I write we will be a lot nearer Berlin. Everybody seems to think it will be a success. . . . I will tell you a bit about myself. I have been in the trenches since I came from home. I have not had a shave, have only once washed, and have not taken my boots off, so I can tell you I am looking well, and I wish you could see me now. . . . We have got to be ready for the big attack, so I must wish myself the best of luck, and if I have it as have always had, I shall be alright. . . . The 'doings' may not start for a week yet. We have some stuff here for them: the same as they used on our chaps."

Monmouth Guardian and Bargoed & Caerphilly Observer 22 October 1915

**E. WILLIAMS** – – In the absence of evidence to the contrary, this is assumed to be the E. Williams named on Bargoed and Gilfach war memorial. The following is taken from GHS website [www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk) and GHS will be pleased to hear from anyone who can add more information.

*Edwin Williams*

*Private 54375 Royal Welsh Fusiliers 19th Battalion*

*Died of wounds December 30 1917, aged 21.*

*Grave V, A, 21. St. Aubert British Cemetery, Nord, France.*

*Son of Israel and Margaret Williams (8 South Street, Bargoed)*



### GATHERING THE JEWELS

The website <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/> has a rich and varied collection of sources from museums, archives, libraries and private collections that combine to preserve and celebrate the country's history of Wales and to tell the story of the people of Wales.

John Pope, of Bargoed Police Station, Sergeant 18097 of Gloucestershire Regiment who died on 25 March 1918 is listed on Glamorgan Constabulary's WWI roll of honour, the header of which is shown here, and can be viewed in full at <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/7371>



**P.C. POPE, PONTLOTTYN,  
KILLED IN ACTION.**

News has been received of the death in action of Sergeant J. Pope, who was attached to the Gloucester Regiment. Sergeant Pope was a constable in the Glamorgan Constabulary and stationed at Pontlottyn. When war broke out, he joined the Army in the first months of the conflict, and has been in France about two years. He was, prior to the big offensive of the 21st March, 1918, a Sergeant-major Instructor at a school behind the lines in France. He leaves a wife and one child, who reside at 19, School-street, Pontlottyn. When a constable, he was very popular at Pontlottyn and Bargoed.

Both John Pope and P.C. Robert Thomas of Bargoed were among the 134 volunteers from Glamorgan County Constabulary. John Pope's name does not appear on Bargoed and Gilfach war memorial but it is on that in Pontlottyn, and he is commemorated on panels 40 and 41 Pozieres Memorial, France.

This extract from *Merthyr Express* 17 May 1918 sheds some light on his family and his work. John Pope was born in rural Somerset, and further research may shed light on when he joined Glamorgan Constabulary. He married Lily May Tucker in 1915, and their daughter, Marguerite Monica, was born in 1916. Sadly, his widow was left to raise a daughter who never knew her father.

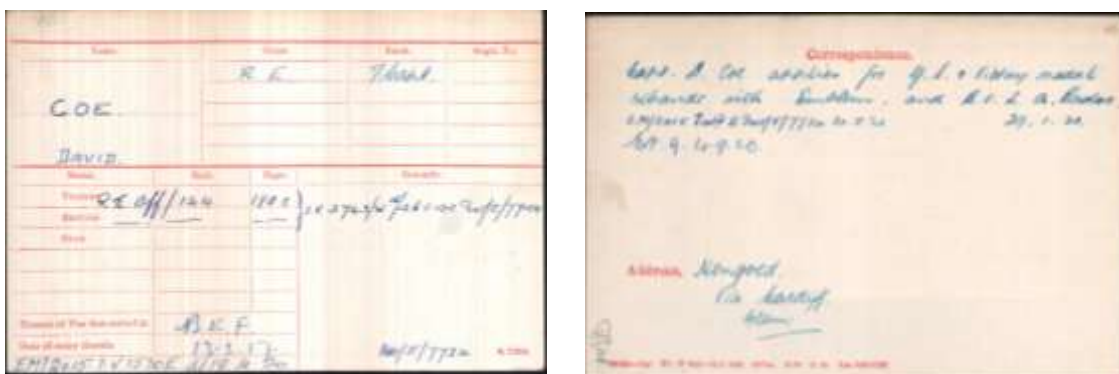
### DAVID COE (1863-1932)

Oldest of the large family of children born to Durham-born colliery agent, James Coe, and his wife, Annie (a native of the Cynon valley), David was born in the Cynon valley in 1863. He was in the family home at the time of the 1871 and 1881 censuses, but had left before that of 1891 when he was a draughtsman, lodging in 175 Commercial Road, Newport. The family moved to the Rhymney valley: at the time of the 1901 census they were in *Brynawel*, Hanbury Road, Bargoed, and a decade later, his widowed mother headed the household in an eight-roomed dwelling, *The Bungalow*, Hengoed. David's whereabouts at the times of the 1901 and 1911 censuses are uncertain, but he may have been working overseas. *Merthyr Express*, 16 June 1917, reported:



Lieut, David Coe, Royal Engineers, has been promoted to a captaincy, Capt. D. Coe was educated at Lewis's School, Pengam. Prior to the war he was supervising railway construction in Mexico. His home is the Bungalow, Hengoed.

His medal card, reproduced below, sheds some light on his wartime service.



David Coe had travelled abroad for work, and, in his retirement, he also travelled. He and his unmarried sister, Isabel, were listed among the first class passengers on *Kaisar-I-Hind* (Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company) that left London, bound for Bombay, on 17 February 1927. Their destination was Gibraltar, one of the stopping-off points on the journey. He was listed among the first class British passengers on board *Asturias* (Royal Mail Steam Packet Company) that arrived, from Buenos Aires, at Southampton, on 9 August 1929. He died, on 22 February 1932, at Palma Mallorca, Spain. Probate records show his address as *Vale View*, Graig Row, Hengoed. Probate was granted to his unmarried sister, Isabel Gertrude Coe, and solicitor, William David Robert Lewis. His estate was valued £9,050 1s 11d. At the time of the 1939 Register, Isabel was the sole occupant of *Vale View*, and it was her home to her death, on 28 March 1946. Probate records show her estate was valued at £17,466 5s 8d.

### GEORGE EVERETT

Under the heading MILITARY JOTTINGS, *Merthyr Express* of 30 October 1915 reported the following:

*The numerous friends of Corol. George Everett, of the Welsh Guards, will regret to hear that he is now lying wounded in a hospital at Oxford. He was wounded in the back, arm and thigh at the great fight in which the Welsh Guards took part at Hill 70. Corpl. Everett is an old soldier, having served through the Boer War with the Queen's medal with five bars, also the King's medal with two bars. He rejoined again when the Welsh Guards were formed, and he was made corporal. His many friends wish him a speedy recovery.*

On 5 February 1916 *Merthyr Express* reported on his welcome home thus:

*WELCOME HOME – Thursday evening week an enthusiastic welcome home had been prepared for Corporal George Everett, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Welsh Guards, who was returning home from Oxford, where he had been in a hospital after being severely wounded at the Battle of Loos. The Fochriw Brass Band met the train, and the village was gaily decorated with bunting, but Corporal Everett did not arrive until a later train that evening. Corporal Everett is an old soldier, and served through the South African War with the Essex Regiment. He also served through the East African Expedition. He joined the Welsh Guards just after its formation and was made Corporal. He fought through the Battle of Loos up to Hill 70, with the Welsh Guards, and had retired to a reserve trench for a short rest. Corporal Everett and four others occupied a cellar, but they were no sooner settled down than an high-explosive shell burst, completely demolishing the building, and burying the five men. Corp. Everett was the only man to be extricated alive, though he was suffering severe injuries to arms, ribs, and other parts of the body, and was unconscious for some time afterwards. He has had to undergo five operations at Boulogne and Oxford Hospitals. His many friends wish him a speedy recovery.*

Sources suggest that he was Arthur George Everett (surname spelled in various ways, including Everitt, in sources). If correctly identified, he was born 6 June 1880 in Fordham, Essex, and was youngest of the large family born to farm labourer, Thomas Everett, and his wife, Elizabeth. He

was in the family home in Fordham when the 1891 census was taken. Aged 18, and like one of his older brothers, Frank, he joined the Essex Regiment, serving as Private 5125. It is not clear when members of the Everett family first arrived in the Fochriw area, but his sister, Susannah, was there prior to the 1891 census being taken. His records for Section D Army Reserve, dated 13 June 1910, show that he was a collier of Brook House, Fochriw, whose address on discharge would be Glyn Terrace, Fochriw; his father was living in Aelybryn, Fochriw; and brother, Frank, was in Hill Row, Pentwyn. When the 1939 Register was compiled, Arthur George Everett was in the same household, 32 New Road, Deri, as his older sister, Susannah, widow of Samuel Way.

### **BARGOED AND GILFACH WAR MEMORIAL**

As noted in *Bargoed and Gilfach a local history* (published to mark GHS's Golden Jubilee, 2011), in the 1920s, Bargoed and Gilfach War Memorial Committee opted for a comprehensive inscription, a decision that earned the approval of the contemporary press and, presumably, of the majority of the local people of the time. The war memorial was placed in Trafalgar Square, Bargoed, where it remained for several decades before being moved to a site in Bargoed Park. Early in the twenty-first century, when the war memorial was moved to the north Bargoed position it occupies at the time of writing, plaques bearing the names of some local casualties were fixed to the war memorial. GHS was not invited to contribute to researching the names of casualties, and, as the information on the Society's database on names on local war memorials shows, some names were not included. One such person whose name should be on the war memorial is that of **George Davies (1880-1916)**, son of Howell Davies and his wife, Margaret, who had moved from their native Breconshire to Bargoed 1872-6.

Under a headline, *Killed in Action, Aberdare Leader* 19 August 1916, reported thus:

*Private George Davies, aged 35, a bomb-thrower in the South Wales Borderers, who was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Howell Davies, Cardiff Road, Bargoed. He was known among footballers as "Chummy." He was some years ago a prominent member of the Aberbargoed and Bargoed Rugby football clubs. Prior to the war he worked at Aberdare as a miner.*

George, born in Bargoed in 1880, was in the family home at the time of successive censuses, in Wingfield Road, Greenfield Street, and, by the time of the 1911 census, in 26 Gilfach Street. George, like his father and brothers, worked as a coalminer. It is not clear when he started work in Aberdare, but that was where he enlisted for war service. Although the newspaper reporter described him as a private, he was Lance Corporal 39700 in Welsh Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. He died on 28 July 1916 and was buried in grave I. C. 31 in Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, France.

### **GHS WWI PROJECT**

GHS WWI project included the publication of three WWI-commemorative issues of *Gelligaer* (volumes 21, 23 and 25), as well as research into the names on local war memorials recorded on the database on the Society's website

<http://www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk/index.php/wwi-memorials-2>

The project closed in 2018 but GHS will be pleased to receive relevant information or photographs to fill in gaps.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF GHS.  
IF YOU HAVE COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS ON THIS NEWSLETTER  
SUPPLEMENT, OR HAVE SOME INTERESTING FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS OR  
STORIES FOR INCLUSION IN A FUTURE SUPPLEMENT**

**PLEASE CONTACT [www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk) or  
[chairmen@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk](mailto:chairmen@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk)**