



GELLIGAER TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF
THE GELLIGAER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue number 56 JUNE 2021

A POLITE REMINDER

**THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE, VIA ZOOM, ON
WEDNESDAY 30TH JUNE 2021 AT 18:40. (CHECK IN STARTS AT 18:30)**

THEN

AT 19:00 RHIANNON CREFFIELD WILL GIVE A TALK:

Welsh Stereotypes in London at the time of the Civil War

**THE NOTICE AND PAPERWORK FOR THE AGM HAS BEEN SENT TO MEMBERS
FOR WHOM WE HOLD EMAIL ADDRESSES. IF ANY MEMBER HAS NOT
RECEIVED THE EMAIL, PLEASE CONTACT**

chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk or www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk

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Bryn Seion, Ystrad Mynach

The nineteenth century story of the local Baptist chapel at Hengoed and schoolroom at Clawr yr Ystrad (near Royal Oak Hotel, Ystrad Mynach) will be included in GHS's forthcoming Diamond Jubilee publication. As Ystrad Mynach's Bryn Seion Baptist chapel, an early twentieth century building, lies outside the scope of that book, the following notes are included here, and, hopefully, will inspire someone to research Bryn Seion's history 1905-2021 and submit the results for publication in *Gelligaer*, the society's journal.

Following the 1904-5 religious revival and the sinking of Penallta Colliery, Ystrad Mynach's Welsh Baptists, anticipating both a growing congregation and competition for flat, centrally placed building sites in the community, took a large building plot on what became Lisburn Road. The plot, like that on which Clawr yr Ystrad was erected, belonged to Lewis Lewis of Bedwlwyn, whose family had a long association with Hengoed Baptist Chapel.



It was reported in *Bargoed Journal* that Gelligaer District Council approved the plans for the new chapel and vestry (issue of 8 July 1905) and that builder J. Lloyd completed the vestry (shown in this photograph), for a congregation in excess of 200, at cost of £700 (issue of 14 December 1905).

The photograph below, taken from Google maps, looking south, shows the vestry on the west side of the sizeable plot on which they intended to build their large chapel as soon as possible. However, two world wars separated by a period of depression, and followed by a different social and economic outlook, meant that never happened.



Bryn Seion's first minister was Revd Richard Evans (1854-1949), a native of Cardiganshire. He proved popular with the Hengoed congregation when he was called from Pontypool Baptist College to assist Hengoed's ailing pastor, Revd Richard Williams. Ordained in 1878, he became Hengoed's pastor on the death of Revd Williams. He lived in the Baptist manse on Bedwlwyn Road until the early 1920s when he moved to another chapel property in Pengam Road.

Dwindling membership at Bryn Seion leads to its closure in June 2021, and local people will be interested to see what happens to the premises when they pass to the control of the Baptist Union. G.H.S. members Clive Andrewartha and David Mills recently visited the chapel during one of the "clear out" sessions and took photographs of some of the items that remain, but only for the time being, the building must be emptied. These are two pages from the Trustees' minute book.

A list of Deeds, deposited in the Safe at Hengoed Chapel, belonging to Hengoed Church.

I Deeds relating to Meeting House and Grave-yard at Hengoed.

1. 1777. Old Trust Deed.
 2. 1862, April 11. Lease, Rees to Edwards.
 3. 1862. April 12. Trust Deed, Edwards to Trustees.
 4. 1886 May 19. Appointment of New Trustees
 5. 1909 Oct 19. Appointment of New Trustees.
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II New Burial Ground at Hengoed

1. 1886, Aug 11. Lease, Llewellyn & Thomas to Morgans.
 2. 1886. Sept 13. Trust Deed, Morgans to Trustees
 3. 1909. Oct 19. Appointment of New Trustees.
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III Houses for Benefit of Minister & Congregation at Bedwyn etc

1. 1855, Aug 20. Lease, Lewis Lewis to Llewellyn Jenkins.
 2. 1855, Oct 19. Trust Deed, Llewellyn Jenkins to Trustees
 3. 1886, May 19. Appointment of New Trustees
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(3)

IV Deeds relating to a piece of land, part of Bengoed Hall Farm.

1. 1871. June 1. Lease. Perrott to Waters
2. 1909. Oct 19. Appointment of New Trustees

V Deeds relating to a piece of land, part of Redwlyn Farm & Bryn Seion Chapel.

1. 1909. ^{Dec 20.} Lease. Lewis to Edmunds.
2. 1909. Dec 21. Trust Deed.

January 4. 1921.

R. Evans.

October 14. 1926. Appointment of New Trustees

June 27. 1926. War Loan certificates for £600.

" " Insurance Policies

" 28. Copies of the Wills of William & Leah Lewis

" " Correspondence from Charity Com. & other Papers.

The above Deeds have been deposited at Barclay's Bank
June 27/29. by order of the Trustees. R. Evans.

The above mentioned Deeds have been received by me from the custody of the Rev R. Evans, also the Communion Service, consisting of Three Cups & one Plate are in my custody.

January 23. 1923.

Gwilym Morris

Copied from Church Minute Book. Pages 275 & 276.

The following photograph shows an inscribed stone which is embedded in a wall of the porch at Bryn Seion.



Dr. Elin Jones has kindly provided a translation from the Welsh and also sent the photographs of Graddfa farmhouse.

This stone was placed in memory of the Reverend Morgan John Rees (Rhys) a member of the Hengoed Church and founder of the first Sunday School in Wales at the Graddfa

Anyone wishing to find out more about Morgan John Rhys can read an article entitled A Political Reformer by the late Nesta Jones which appears in *Gelligaer Volume 15 2005*.





While Bryn Seion served Ystrad Mynach's Welsh-speaking Baptists, their English brethren opened their small, simple red-brick place of worship (shown in this photograph taken from Google maps) just yards away in Lower Central Street in September 1915.



ZOOM Meeting in May

The planned presentation by Brian Davies about the statues at Cardiff City Hall failed to take place because of technical difficulties, despite there being a successful “dummy run” earlier in the evening. Strenuous efforts were made by Sandy to get things resolved, but after some “small talk” between participants Annie Owen decided to step into the breach and spoke about Holy Trinity Church, Ystrad Mynach. Following a query by one of the participants David Mills spoke about the location of Fleur de Lis brewery and promised to write something about it in the next newsletter. Dr Elin Jones then mentioned proposals to erect commemorative information boards about Morgan Jones, a Gelligaer man, who became the first conscientious objector (WW1) to become a Member of Parliament. The proposal was to site the boards at Bargoed Park and Morgan Jones Park, Caerphilly. Despite the disappointment of not having Brian’s talk, several members later said it had been an enjoyable evening.

EVENTS and INFORMATION

GHS Programme of talks, September 2021–June 2022, Diamond Jubilee year. Dates to be confirmed later.

You may remember that I hoped that these could all be based on local themes, and I thank Society members for making this possible.

Dr Stuart Broomfield – *The development of Pontlottyn in the nineteenth century as the main industrial centre in the parish of Gelligaer.*

Greg Buick – Gelligaer parish Ratebooks or 19thC Coal Mines (topic/title to be confirmed).

Dic Felstead – *The Pengam pageant 1913: Views from the Tilting Yard.*

Dr Elin Jones – *Gelligaer or Gelligâr or Gelligær? Some features of the local dialect..*

Judith Jones – Gelligaer parish agricultural societies and fairs (title to be confirmed).

Chris Jones-Jenkins – *The Journey to Gelligaer 1300.*

Terry McCarthy – *Secret Fuel for the Grand Fleet – Jellicoe Special Coal trains.*

David Mills - Gethin Thomas’ work (title to be confirmed).

Annie Owen - *Ruddle Davies and Ystrad Mynach.*

Carwyn and Menna Hughes have kindly agreed to speak at the December meeting, and, as usual, we will have at least two shorter talks. Carwyn’s title is *Bedlinog and the Ystrad Mynach-Dowlais Railway*; Menna has yet to decide on her topic(s).

I also hope to arrange a talk relating to archaeology in the parish.

And (being a pessimist), if we are unable to meet at Llancaiach (or somewhere) and Zoom talks must continue, I intend trying to put on some extra talks during the winter months, perhaps one with more short talks. I hope, however, that I am wrong and that we will be able to meet.

Judith Jones

The Jewish History Association of South Wales invite those interested to their summer series of free online talks, three separate talks in July, with the first on Friday 2nd July at 11am.

'Lionel Elton: The Life and Times of an Eccentric Welsh Jewish Atheist'

Lionel was born in Grangetown, Cardiff in 1933. He will be talking about his ancestry which stretches back to Poland and Odessa, through to his family emigrating and what life was like growing up in Wales. Lionel is also a very accomplished musician and will be performing some pieces on the clarinet. So, grab a beverage and a biscuit and join us for your elevenses!

Please register for Lionel's talk at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82934261708?pwd=NjI2QlU3QmUxSEp4bVB4L1doSIF2Zz09>

At the end of each talk there will be a Q&A session where we can answer any questions you have about our speakers.

Rev. Gwilym Davies CBE 1879–1955
by Carwyn Hughes

In last month's newsletter I outlined how Rev Davies became the founder of the Goodwill Message from the children of Wales to the children of the world which is broadcast every May 18th. Born in Commercial Street, Bedlinog, he moved with his family to Llangadog where his father, also a minister, continued his Baptist ministry. Gwilym became a pupil at Llandeilo Grammar School, then went on to the Midlands Baptist College in Northampton. After winning the Page Scholarship, he continued his studies at Jesus College, Oxford.

In 1906, he became the Baptist minister in Broadhaven, Pembrokeshire. Tragically, during that first year of his ministry, he lost both his wife and baby son. In later years he was a minister in Carmarthen, Abergavenny and Llandrindod Wells, before, at the latter place, retiring from pastoral duties in 1922. After this date, he devoted his time to the Welsh Council of the League of Nations of which he was the Director until 1945.

From the 1920s, he was a prolific traveller (especially to Geneva), writer to journals, and newspapers, and became a regular broadcaster. During the war he produced a draft constitution for an international organisation which was influential in the future development of UNESCO. His work brought him into contact with British and foreign politicians and government ministers. He was the co-founder of the Welsh branch of the League of Nations until its dissolution in 1945. Then he helped form the Welsh UNESCO Committee. In addition, he helped set up the Welsh School of Social Service, an area of work in which he was interested.

He died in January 1955, and the next day The Times headed his obituary with 'The Rev G Davies, A worker for world peace'.

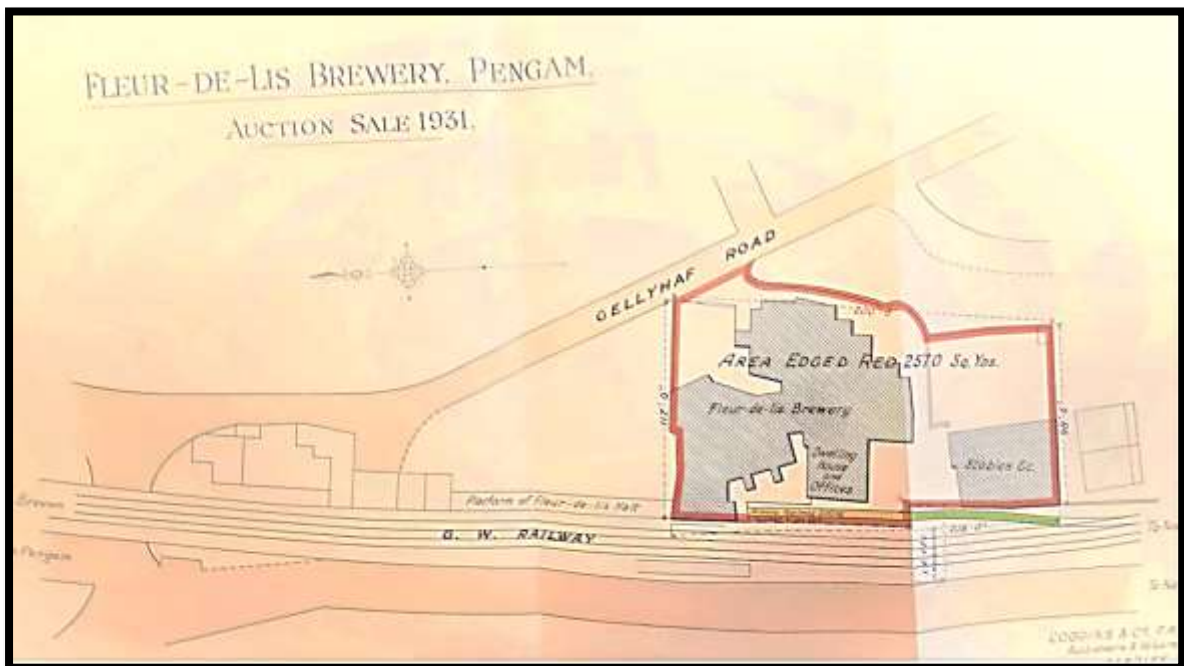
His personal papers, notes, correspondence, etc, are to be found at the National Library of Wales where they are archived in 12 boxes.

Fleur de Lis Brewery. by David Mills

During the informal chat that took place at May's Zoom meeting, I promised to put something in this newsletter about the Brewery that was in Fleur de Lis for many years. The original Brewery was held under a lease for 99 years, or for 3 lives, granted in 1825 by John Hodder Moggridge to Miss Anthony.



The Anthony family maintained their links to the Brewery for decades, which I intend to research. A more detailed plan of the brewery appears below. It is interesting to note how close it was to the railway.



Before I started looking for more references to the Anthony family, I stumbled upon interesting, and somewhat unexpected information about the brewery on a website detailing the history of breweries.

[http://breweryhistory.com/wiki/index.php?title=Anthony, Birrell, Pearce %26 Co Ltd](http://breweryhistory.com/wiki/index.php?title=Anthony,_Birrell,_Pearce_%26_Co_Ltd)

The following details are from that site

Anthony, Birrell, Pearce & Co Ltd, Fleur-de-Lys Brewery, 61 Clare Road, Cardiff, South Glamorgan.

The photograph on the left is on Clare Road, Grangetown, Cardiff. The photograph on the right is on a side road, and is the rear of the premises



Registered 4th January 1898 to acquire the business carried on at the existing brewery, and the Severn Side Brewery, Wick, as Anthony, Birrell, Pearce & Co.

*Also brewed at the **Fleur-de-Lys Brewery near Maes-y-Cwmmmer, Gwent.***

The present-day use of the old brewery is somewhat different as is shown in the photograph I took a few months ago. It is now a Hindu temple,



I wondered how the Cardiff link came about and recently discovered newspaper references that help solve the question. *Western Mail* of 30th December 1881 reported that pieces of beef had been delivered to the aged of Fleur de Lis by Mr H Anthony of The Fleur de Lis Brewery and Castle Brewery, Cardiff. Another account in *Weekly Mail* of 14th June 1844 reported that Miss Anthony of Fleur de Lis House, Roath, Cardiff had generously replaced the old harmonium at the Mission Church, Fleur de Lis, with a new one. My research into the Anthony family will continue, but at some time in the future !

A LOST AND FOUND QUILL

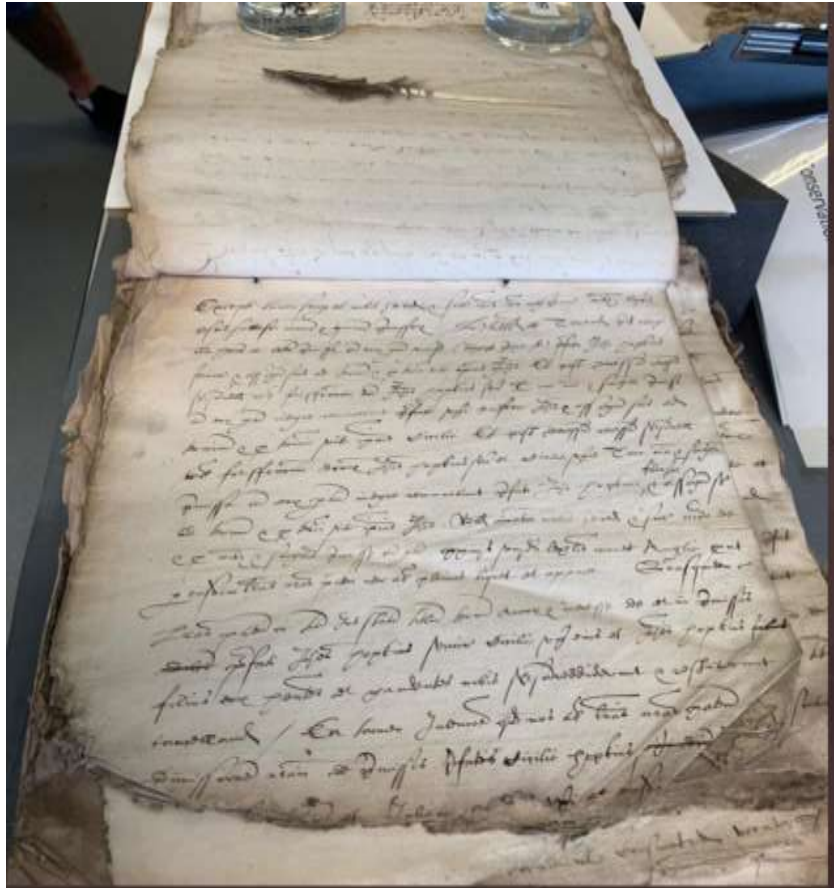
This news item is based on The National Archive's Tweet of 17 June 2021

My quill! My quill! Where is my quill? Perhaps this shout tore through Elizabeth I's crown lease drafting office halting the scribes bent over their parchments.

Some four and a half centuries later, this imaginary situation was mirrored in the reign of a second Elizabeth when, in

June 2021, staff in The National Archives collection care department turned another page of the delicate document, E380/4part1, and, much to their amazement, saw this.

It is likely that the quill, which still had ink on it, had been there for a long time, perhaps since the reign of Elizabeth I, as it has left a clear indentation in the opposite page. The quill will be encapsulated and, because it is part of the



document's history, will be kept with the document for ever more.

A local song – by Judith Jones

Below are some verses from a song (there are 12 in total) which have been transcribed from the hand-written copy of the late Geraint Ingram of Bryncoch Farm, Bargoed. Both he and Jenkin “Shinc” Miles of Gilfachmaen Uchaf Farm, Trelewis, used to sing this, and their own compositions based on local farmers and events, at Gelligaer and District Sheep Shearing Society dinners.

It was also one of the folk songs collected and recorded in the 1960s by Walter Haydn Davies MA, and the Society would appreciate hearing from you if you have a copy of W.H. Davies' record which you are prepared to lend to us.

A Pontypridd Miner in search of his Wife

In Pontypridd I dwell it's the truth I'm going to tell,
For on Wednesday you all know it's market day.
When me and my jam tart for the market made a start,
But by George I think she's bolted clean away.

Into the New Inn I did pop, just to have a little drop,
As the day it happened to be very dry,
But when I looked around she was nowhere to be found,
And it seems that my old Dutch has done a gay.

I have hunted everywhere in the Rhondda I declare,
Treherbert, Ystrad, Tonypandy, Porth,
Dinas-Hafod, Llwynypia, Ferndale, Mardy, Ynyshir,
When I had to look a further to the north.

So I set off through the dale, til I got to Merthyr Vale,
Aberfan, Mount Pleasant and to Troedyrhiw
Cilfynydd, Coed Penmaen, it filled my heart with pain,
I was mad I hardly knew what I should do.

So I made a sudden dash over the hill to Mountain Ash,
Penrhiwciber, Abercynon, Ynysybwl.
Then to Nelson I did pop, Quaker's Yard I made a stop,
For Cwmfelin through Treharris I did pull.

So all around the western valleys, down Abercarn, Risca Town,
Blackwood, Newbridge, Crumlin too as well.
I walked five miles to Pontypool and I hunted Cwmbran like a fool,
How I managed to reach Newport I can't tell.

Next to Cardiff I did steer, when I met a butty there,
To Barry, Newbridge down the Swansea Road,
I called at Aberavon, Neath, told them all about my grief,
When I started back to find my own abode.

Cwm y Capel and Maesteg, on the Garw made a raid,
Cross to Gilfach, Ogmores Vale, Ton-y-Bridgend.
In Llantrissant, yes this town, where I parted my last brawd,
When a butty there turned out to be my friend.

When he lent me a piece of chalk so I need not walk,
To Pontypridd, the town of many a charm,
With the judge of my surprise, when she dazzled both my eyes,
For my wife was boozing in the Butcher's Arms.

HELP PLEASE

Can anyone identify the location and any of the people in this photograph?



It looks as if this photograph of clergy (presumably Anglican) and laymen was taken outside a church door, probably locally, but can anyone name the place of worship? To date, only one person has been identified, viz John Edwards (1856-1935), standing third from left in back row. He lived in Darran valley for most of his life. Not only was he a member of the first generation of working class men able to vote in parliamentary and local council elections, he was also actively involved in local politics, and his contribution to life in Darran valley in the twentieth century is worthy of further study. John Edwards also appears in this photograph (front row seated third from left) showing GUDC councillors and officials in 1929. Are any *Gelligaer Times* readers able to name the other people shown in this photograph taken outside GUDC offices in Hengoed?

