



GELLIGAER TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF

GELLIGAER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUGUST 2022 number 64

MESSAGE FROM EDITOR

Now that the Society's Diamond Jubilee celebrations have ended, we look forward to the next symbolic event, namely our 65th anniversary, which is traditionally known as Blue Sapphire. Possibly another project to celebrate our reaching what used to be retiring age and an old age pension?

Some of the items included in this newsletter are:

- A message from our new Chair
- Note of GHS Annual General Meeting
- GHS news
- Tributes to the late Professor Emeritus Gwynedd O. Pierce M.A. and Graham Oxlade
- Recent publications
- News from other History/Heritage organisations
- The last page is the GHS programme for 2022 - 2023

I hope you find something of interest in this newsletter. I will be pleased to receive your feedback as well as ideas for items to include in future issues. Please send comments and contributions to www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk or chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk.

David Mills Editor

Message to readers of *Gelligaer Times* from GHS Chair

I thank all of you who were at the AGM in June for supporting my election as chair and I hope that I can justify your faith in me. I have a hard act to follow! Mrs Annie Owen retired as chair of GHS in our June AGM after twelve years in the position, she has returned home to live in Montgomeryshire. I'm sure you will all join me in thanking Annie for all she has done for the Society and in sending her our best wishes for this next phase of her life. Our president, at the AGM Dr. Elin Jones, paid tribute to Annie's achievements on our behalf, but I want to add a brief personal thank you.

I have known of Annie for many years during her long professional life at Heolddu Comprehensive School where she first taught and then became head of the history department, and was also responsible for the school timetable during the 1990s. Annie had studied for her first degree (BA [hons] in history) at University College of Wales Aberystwyth, and later attained an MA in local history at Cardiff University where she subsequently successfully completed several other courses in their Extra Mural Dept. While she was Chair of GHS, Annie was awarded two Cardiff University prizes. In March 2014 her essay on 'Concrete Poetry and Landscape Art in the area studied by GHS' submitted during a course 'Creative Writing in the Museum' earned the Patricia Clark Memorial Prize and, three years later, she became the second GHS member (the first being Roy Smith in 2002) to be awarded the Elsie Pritchard Prize. This award was for an essay 'Legends and Folk Tales of the Rhymney Valley' submitted during an online course 'The Otherworld and Alternate Realities.' I only really got to know Annie when she began coming to GHS, and then more so since I became vice chair. I've enjoyed working with her, admiring the time, the expertise and the professionalism with which she has approached all Society matters, behind the scenes as well as, of course, being the main public face of GHS. However, I know that Montgomeryshire is not a long way away geographically, and especially so in our digital age, so I look

forward to many years of Annie's continued involvement in GHS, in our publications, seeing her at conferences and monthly meetings when possible and, of course, in front of us at some of those meetings, giving entertaining and valuable talks.

We have organised a walk with Cardiff Archaeology Society on Saturday 3 September. This will be led by Dr. Edith Evans of GGAT and start at Gelligaer village before going to sites on Gelligaer and Merthyr Common. We will be driving between sites! We also hope to have a guided walk around Gelligaer village and fort site on another occasion. Our programme of monthly talks has been confirmed (printed at the end of this newsletter) and will soon be available on the GHS website. The first meeting of the season will be on 28 September when Dic Felstead will be speaking on the topic, *Poets exploding like bombs, Caerphilly verse and the Spanish Civil War*. This meeting, starting at 7 pm in Llancaiach Fawr Manor House, will also see the launch of *Gelligaer* vol. 28. We still hope to organise a conference in Spring 2023 and are considering a half-day Saturday meeting later in 2023 on the subject of Coal.

I hope that you will be interested in the events described above and be able to come along to them. Please contact GHS website for further details of the above – or to give ideas for future activities or talks. I look forward to seeing you in September and I thank you for your support for Gelligaer Historical Society; I hope this support will continue for many years.

Best wishes, Judith

GHS NEWS

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 29 June 2022 GHS President, Dr. Elin Jones, presided over the meeting at Llancaiach Fawr while a few members attended via their Zoom screens. The minutes of the online AGM held on 30 June 2021 together with GHS Chair's report on 2021-22, GHS Diamond Jubilee year, had been sent to members in advance of the meeting, and GHS Treasurer presented his report at the meeting; both reports were accepted.

The following officers were elected

Chair Judith Jones

Vice chair David Mills

Treasurer Roy Smith

Webmaster Greg Buick

The meeting elected the committee for 2022-23:

Clive Andrewartha

Sandy Halliday

Sue Price

Ann Pinch

Ian Williams

William Smith

Kathryn Benson Dugdale

A year ago, GHS AGM concluded with Dr Elin Jones, performing her first duty as GHS President, launching the Diamond Jubilee year. In spite of difficulties arising from the pandemic restrictions, it proved a successful year, at this AGM she officially closed the Diamond Jubilee year.

Dr Elin Jones then thanked outgoing Chair, Annie Owen, for all her diligence and commitment to the Society during her term in office as Chair. She praised her vision in developing the work of the Society, in organising the celebrations of the Golden and Diamond Jubilees, and in overseeing the production of so many excellent publications during her term of office. She went on to say Annie had also researched and published extensively as well as overseeing the work of others, and ensured that the Society's publications met her high standards. Dr Jones reminded members of the history of the Society, which she joined in 1963, and the on-going support of the Local Authority. She emphasised the role the Society plays in raising the profile of the history of our community and praised the dedication of the Society's members and officers in ensuring that the Society

continues to flourish after so many years and the challenges of the recent pandemic. Finally, our President announced that it was the wish of the Society to offer Annie life membership. Elin handed over to the newly-elected Chair and Vice Chair. After a break for refreshments the audience heard a fascinating talk by our President Dr Elin Jones entitled *Elizabeth Miles: an Entrepreneur in Crinoline?*

GHS CONFERENCE – you will recall that the 2020 conference was postponed and plans to re-arrange it during 2021 and early 2022 were thwarted. Some preliminary details about the costs of running the event next year have been obtained and are under consideration. This newsletter and GHS website will keep you informed.

GHS STAND AT CHARTIST CONVENTION -- Following the success of the 2021 event, the organisers have arranged the event for **Saturday 5 November 2022 at St. Woolos Cathedral, Newport**. GHS has reserved a stand at the event and hopes GHS members will be able to attend the event. Further details will be advertised nearer the date.

DOCTOR CHARLES REIDY MRCS, MRCP

A few months ago, the Society received an email from Fiona Marshall, the granddaughter of Dr Charles Reidy who practiced in Bargoed from 1901 until his death in 1931. She has visited Bargoed as part of her research when preparing his biography. The Society has been in contact with Fiona and she has kindly agreed that her work can be published in our journal *Gelligaer* due out in September 2022.



This is a photograph which forms part of an illuminated address presented to Dr Reidy in 1902. It may be just an illustrative drawing. However, if anyone can recognise the colliery then both Fiona and the Society would be grateful to receive any information or suggestions.

ADAM UCHAF FARM

Situated to the east of the northern end of Heol Adam, Gelligaer and bordering the Gelligaer and Merthyr Common is the farm known as Adam Uchaf (or locally Adam Ucha). The photograph below, taken circa 1900, of the farmhouse has kindly been provided by Lynda Main who now lives in Australia but still regards Gelligaer as her home. Lynda had posted the photograph on a Facebook page and after contacting her she agreed for it to be put in this newsletter. Her great grandfather, Morgan Price, is the young boy standing to the left of the porch. He later married Florence Weeks and at one time they lived at the now demolished old school house in Gelligaer village. Later they moved to live at Ty Catwg, Church Road, Gelligaer.



Greg Buick's book *Parish of Gelligaer-The Farms and Their Families 1540-1840 Volume 2* details the history of this farm. It is also mentioned in the Society's recently published book *Parish of Gelligaer in the Nineteenth Century*. In the chapter relating to the coal industry are references to coal being mined beneath the farm, probably the first agreement to mine coal was in 1839 when the Tredegar estate let the coal rights to William and Robert Thomas of Newport. Various coal merchants extracted coal from beneath the farm until 1888 and from then until 1929 the tenant of the farm was allowed to take coal for himself and sell what he did not require to his neighbours, for this privilege he paid £10 per annum. When I informed Lynda about this, she replied that her great grandfather, Morgan Price, had in fact at one time carried on business as a local coal merchant.

I am grateful to Lynda for providing these details which are part of the jigsaw, and so helps us understand the varied nature of the village at Gelligaer.

David Mills

New cup-marked stones on Mynydd Eglwysilan by Dr Edith Evans

Back in March 2019, the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust was contacted by a Mr Martin Hutchinson, very excited about a discovery he had made on Mynydd Eglwysilan. He sent us a series of photographs of a cup-marked stone he had found at Ffos yr Haidal and was very keen for someone to visit the site. We did what

we always do when there's possible rock art in question – we forwarded them to Dr George Nash, a leading expert who some of the members of GHS will remember visited the area in 2012 to look at the cup-marked stones that had been discovered on Gelligaer Common. He thought that this new example looked genuine. But before anyone could go out and examine it, Martin Hutchinson sent in more photographs, this time of another cup-marked stone a couple of hundred yards from the first!

A visit was definitely called for. Sue Hill and Richard Roberts went out to record them for the Trust, whilst George Nash made a separate visit with Martin Hutchinson, afterwards George Nash gave them his expert approval. The result is that the regional Historic Environment is the richer by two new entries. Both of them have multiple cup-marks, like Maen Cattwg just north of Gelligaer village.

The first stone, Ffos yr Haidal 1 (PRN 05908s) stands alone with the cup-marked surface flush with the ground at NGR ST 1089 9224, in a little hollow under a slight escarpment a little way to the north-east of the pair of scheduled Bronze Age cairns known as Carneddi Llwydion. Its full size, and therefore its exact shape is obscured by the turf that grows over the edges, so it's not possible to tell either whether it's just a patch of the underlying Pennant Sandstone bedrock or whether it's a separate boulder stuck in the ground. The exposed area is roughly oval and measures c 1.5x1.0m. On the exposed surface there are at least 35 cup-marks of varying size and depth and a number of shallow grooves. Many, but not all, of the grooves cut into or connect up with the cup-marks, but no particular pattern can be made out of all these marks.

The second stone, Ffos-yr-Haidal 2 (PRN 05909s) stands on the top of the escarpment at ST 10802 92444, close to a jumble of natural boulders. Like the first stone it's nearly flush with the ground, although its surface is less flat and rather more of the edges are overgrown with turf. The visible surface of this stone is about the same size and is vaguely semi-circular. It has at least 10 cup-marks on it, though it's difficult to be sure of the count as the surface is rougher. They don't form any recognisable pattern here either.

Both of these stones appear in a chapter I've written for a book on British rock art edited by George, with a colleague Aron Mazel. This is currently in a queue at the publishers, but we hope it appear this year, or failing that, in 2023. Meanwhile, do go and visit them. Is one of them the stone Clive Andrewartha was shown a photograph of, many years ago? Martin Hutchinson is sure that it isn't, so if he's right there's at least another cup-marked stone still to be found on Eglwysilan Common!

EDITORS NOTE - Clive Andrewartha recalls seeing a photograph of a cup marked stone taken by the late Derek Packer of Ystrad Mynach, it may have been shown at a talk that Derek Packer gave to GHS, but Clive is not absolutely sure on this point. He also recalls being told (by Derek) that the stone was covered by the fern. After looking at the photographs below, and the lack of fern it may well be that, as suggested above, there is another stone.



The location of the stones on Ffos yr Haidal. Stone 1 is on the low ground the other side of the trackway; Stone 2 is among the boulders at the top of the escarpment



Stone no.1. You can get an even better idea of it from the 3D model pages of the GGAT website. The scale is 20cm.



Stone no.2. The scale is 1m marked in 20cm division

MORE FROM CASCADE HOUSE

The owners of Cascade House have uncovered fragments of a “mystery” stone whilst tidying up a wall that had collapsed. Amongst the rubble they found two pieces of what, on the face of it, appears to be a broken headstone. Photographs of the pieces appear below. The first one, even though damaged and with letters missing, clearly shows “lies the body” and the name “Perrott”. The second one contains “nde” which in all probability is “under”. The letter W appears below it, but does not help identify the stone simply because there were generations of William Perrotts. In the forthcoming *Gelligaer* 28 will be an article by Jane Owen and GHS member Sue Allen about one of the Perrott who was a dissolute character.



TRIBUTES

Professor Emeritus Gwynedd O. Pierce, M.A. (1921-2022)

Historians and others across Wales and beyond were saddened to learn of the recent death of Professor Emeritus Gwynedd O. Pierce in his 101st year. A native of Caernarvon, he studied in Bangor before being appointed lecturer in the then University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire after the Second World War, and spending the rest of his life in Glamorgan. Many readers of *Gelligaer Times* will know of his work on Welsh place-names (onomastics and toponymy) including *Place-Names in Glamorgan* (Merton Priory Press 2002) with its references to place-names such as Pwll Rhas las, Bedlinog, Gelliargwellt and Penalltau across the length and breadth of GHS's area of study, as well as a section on the parish name that opens with *Most people will automatically regard this name as that of the large village and parish in the northern uplands of Glamorgan, the centre of the old commote of Senghennydd Uwch Caeach. It denotes the location of a grove near the site of a Roman auxiliary fort on the road from Cardiff to Brecon*

Professor Pierce was an active member of Glamorgan History Society and South Wales Record Society, having served both in various roles, including President. Glamorgan History Society's *Morgannwg LXV* 2021 carried a tribute by Professor Emeritus Prys Morgan, Chairman of Glamorgan History Society Council, in which he congratulated Professor Pierce on reaching his hundredth birthday, and recording his commitment to the Society and his deep involvement in the study of place names in Wales.

Readers may well be interested in Professor Pierce's work *Under the eaves. Some Place names in the Rhymni Valley* area which appeared in *Morgannwg* Vol. 36 January 1992. This can be read by visiting Welsh Journals on line. The following quotes from that work may well persuade you to read the whole article. The spelling and derivation of Welsh place names can sometimes cause considerable debate, so if any reader, after having read *Under the eaves*, wishes to send comment to the editor which can be inserted in *Gelligaer Times* then please do so.

Quotes:

*Under the Eaves' is a translation of an editorial title, Dan y Bargod, given to a well-known cywydd by the celebrated fourteenth-century Welsh poet Dafydd ap Gwilym. Some measure of justification for its use yet again on this occasion, therefore, would seem to be called for. In the poem, the poet stands locked out in pouring rain, cold and shivering, outside the house of Morfudd, the favourite object of his affection. He pleads for the warmth and comfort which can be found within its walls and complains, Ami yw'r rheydr or **bargawd**, Ermyg nwyf, ar y mau gnawd, which may be rendered in English 'Ceaseless are the torrents that flow from the eaves (**bargawd**) upon my flesh'.*

*That is the current meaning of the word **bargawd**, its modern form being **bargod**, and it refers to that part of the roof of a house which projects outwards a short distance to overhang the walls. At the same time, it could be said that it is this projection which determines the outer limits of the house. Indeed, Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru gives 'edge, border, marches' as a further meaning of **bargod**, with a quotation from Lewis Glyn Cothi's eulogy to Sion Havard of Pont Wilym, near Brecon, where he refers to the time Panfo'r Gwyddelod ym margod Môn, 'when the Irish were within the confines of Mon'.*

*What is particularly appropriate on this occasion, however, is that the earliest recorded example of the word occurs in a document of twelfth-century origin which happens to refer to natural features in this neighbourhood where the National Eisteddfod is being held this year. In the document, the monks of Margam Abbey are granted land in Senghennydd to the west of this place where we meet today, beyond Cefn y Brithdir the other side of the Rhymni, and between that river and the Taf. The word occurs as part of the names of two rivers, **Bargod Taf and Bargod***

Vale-Graham Oxlade

It is with sadness that I report that Graham who, whilst not a member, was a good friend of Gelligaer Historical Society, died recently. Graham was originally from High Wycombe (and not London as he was always keen to point out!) but had lived in south Wales for many years. He had a passion for history and archaeology and was an experienced archaeologist, having worked on many digs, including the Roman legionary site at Caerleon. He was rarely without his trowel, toothbrush (used to clean any objects he unearthed) and a magnifying glass and had a gift for identifying artefacts, particularly those from the Roman period. An expert on coins, he was always keen to help in their identification, purely for the pleasure it gave him. He will be remembered by many of us for his work with schoolchildren, as when, as part of the Gelligaer Roman Forts project, dressed in the uniform of a Roman auxiliary soldier, he had a group of children marching on the lawn of the Rectory which is the site of the parade ground of the Roman fort, Gelligaer II. He taught the children some rudimentary marching orders in Latin, not an entire success as they veered off in different directions.

His many friends will miss his company, enthusiasm and knowledge greatly and our thoughts go out to Sara and Graham's family at this time. I understand that there is to be no funeral but that a celebration of Graham's life will be held at Llancaiach Fawr at a date to be determined.

Clive Andrewartha

How Black was my Valley?

Possibly with wistful nostalgia some readers may well remember the large tips of waste which were the result of coal being mined. They were, after all, places where children would go to climb and play and possibly take part in the hazardous pastime of hanging on the aerial “buckets” that took the coal from the colliery to the site of the tip.

The next few photographs will hopefully bring back memories for some readers. For other readers they may be seeing them for the first time. No matter what is read in this newsletter, or seen in these photographs, it is difficult for those who did not see the tips to appreciate the impact they had on the local communities.



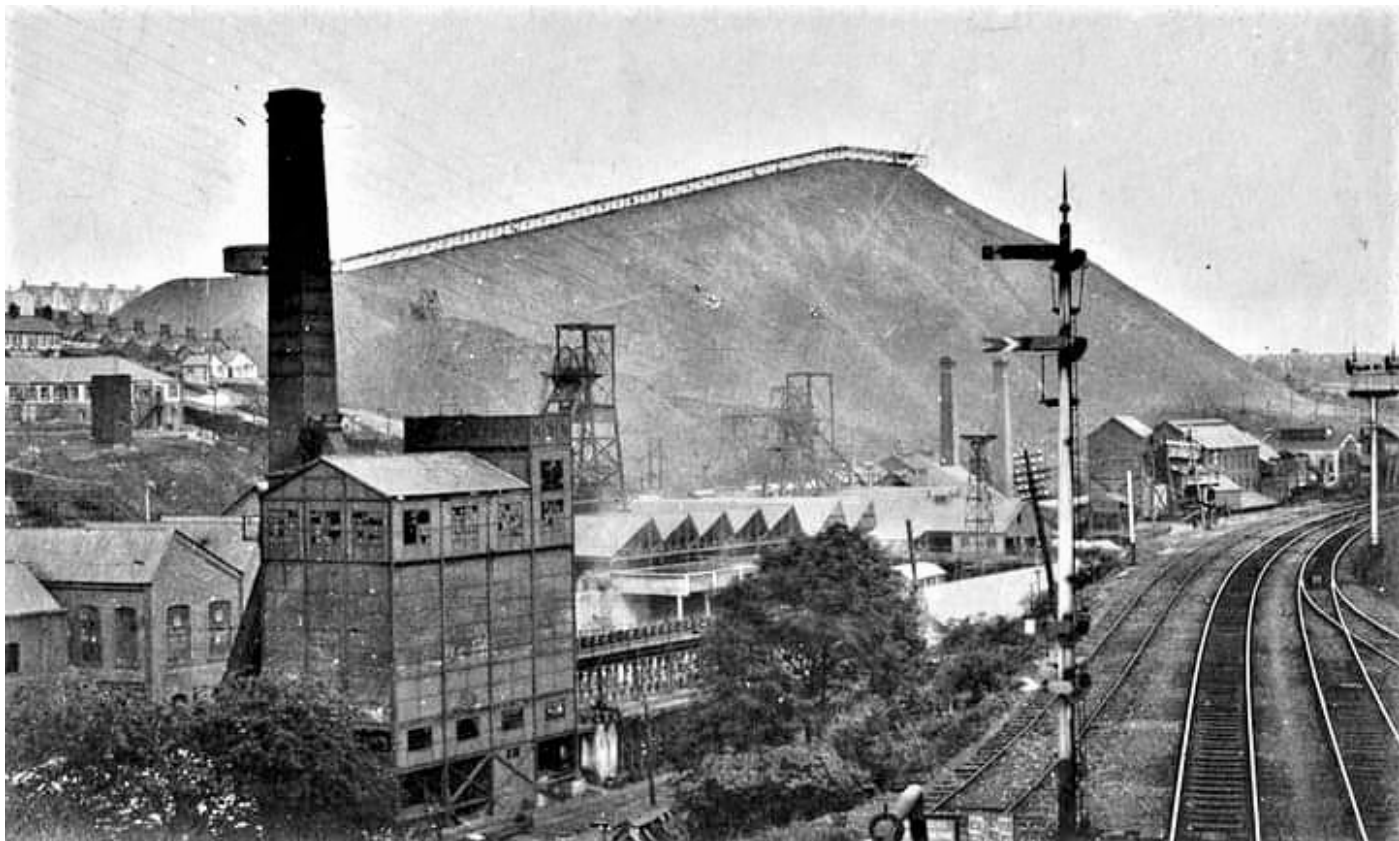
Depending on your opinion this is either the infamous or famous “Bargoed” tip. Bargoed Colliery was the largest in the Rhymney valley, in 1903 it employed 1943 miners so it is not surprising that their efforts produced a large amount of waste that needed to be deposited somewhere. The web site *Coflein* comments *Aberbargoed had the largest man-made wastes tip in Europe*. Despite the tip being then known as Bargoed, strictly the Coflein comment is correct. The tip was solely on the eastern side of the Rhymney River and hence in the former county of Monmouthshire. When the “Bargoed” tip reached its capacity, another tip was started, again in Monmouthshire. The red arrow at the top right-hand corner of the photograph points to the start of the “new” tip which started circa 1947 and grew until the demise of Bargoed colliery. By that time, it had expanded almost to the wall that surrounds the graveyard at Bedwellty church.

In the middle foreground, at the bottom of the photograph, is Bedwellty Grammar School. It has been demolished and modern houses are now on the site. To the left of the Grammar School and in the left-hand corner is the cluster of buildings that were Gwaelod y Waun farm. The Bedwellty tithe apportionment (1845) shows the owners of the farm as Sir Charles Morgan and Edmund Howells (lessee) the latter is shown as the occupier of its 222 acres. The fields extended from the Rhymney River eastwards almost as far as Bedwellty church. The Tredegar estate records contain a lease dated February 1784.



Gwaelod y Waun Farm house

The substantial farm house and out buildings have been demolished which is a shame because the barns and outbuildings were well built and befitting such a large farm. They may well have been older than the house which had a late Victorian appearance. Although the photograph is somewhat faded, in the background are the rows of terraced houses in Bargoed which provide a stark contrast to the rural surroundings near the farm.



Nearly all the photographs of Bargoed tip, like the one above, seem to have been taken from the Bargoed side of the valley. If anyone has a photograph taken from the Aberbargoed side then please submit it for publication. There were houses in Pengam Road and Commercial Street, Aberbargoed whose rear gardens were within feet of the base of the tip. Logically the sun would have set earlier in those houses!



It was not just the colliery waste that created the grime that impacted on the inhabitants. These photographs are of the coke ovens at Bargoed colliery. There were at least eighty-six ovens, some records give a figure of one hundred and fifty. The ovens were situated alongside the Bargoed to Cardiff railway.



A short distance to the north of Bargoed this photograph shows the settlements of Brithdir (on the left) and in the foreground Cwmsyfiog (on the right). In the centre of the photograph white smoke can be seen rising from Elliott's colliery, New Tredegar. The coal waste from that colliery was transported via aerial ropeways to sites further up the valley sides to the east and west so they are not visible. However, some coal waste was deposited on the sides of the railway tracks which can be seen either side of the river. This meant that black coal dust ended up in the river and for many years the river ran black, the demise of the coal industry and environmental work eventually led to the river water becoming clear once more

LANCE CORPORAL HAYDN CARLYLE PHILLIPS (1896-1919)

Paul Williams's article *The Forgotten Soldier* (*Gelligaer* 25 2018) concluded with *At the time of writing we await the response to an appeal presented to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Appeal Panel to get Haydn the recognition he deserves.* In June 2022, GHS was pleased to hear from Paul that CWGC have added Cpl Haydn Carlyle Phillips to its official list of War Dead. GHS congratulates Paul not only on this successful appeal and for inspiring the work on refurbishing the grave, as reported in *Gelligaer Times* 40, and now awaits news of his efforts to see the name of Lance Corporal H.C. Phillips alongside those of fellow WWI casualties inside the church.

ARE YOU A DIRECT BLOOD RELATIVE OF JAMES GLYNARTH WILLIAMS (1895-1919)?

Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) wants to make contact with direct blood relatives of some casualties on their database. Included in the list is **Casualty ID 75464350, Service number 58434, Private James Glynarth Williams of South Wales Borderers, who died 14 January 1919.** The reason for contact is that recent research has shown that Private Williams was buried in Gelligaer. CWGC is in the process of producing a special memorial to commemorate him as it is not possible to mark his actual grave.

James G. Williams No. 640.	Tredegar	Jan 18	23 Years	7. H. Downey Parish.
-------------------------------	----------	--------	-------------	-------------------------

This extract from the parish burial register shows he was from Trelewis. Born about 1895/6, he was son of James Williams and his wife Sarah, and, together with his siblings, was in the family home at the time of the 1901 and 1911 censuses (4 Fald Cottages in 1901 and 3 Railway Street in 1911). The latter shows that like his father he was a miner. Further research may shed light on when and where he enlisted for war service and on his service career. He died less than seven months after his discharge which, according to pension records, was on 27 June 1918. His name appears on the memorial that was placed in Trelewis church, and it is possible that the name transcribed as J.C. Williams on Trelewis war memorial should read J.G. Williams.

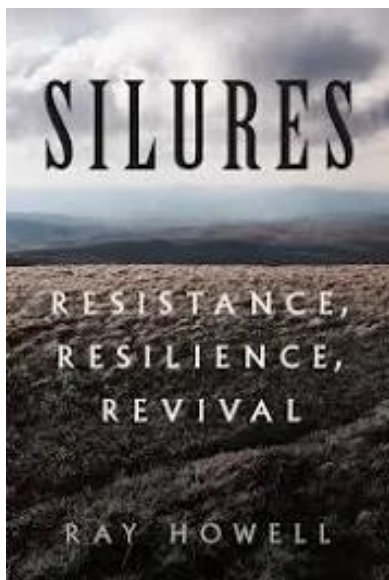
RECENT PUBLICATIONS



Our History, Our Book - Llywelyn Bren, a new and exciting educational resource that fits with the new curriculum based on local history, was launched on the morning of Tuesday 5 July at Llancaiach Fawr Manor. Developed by Cwm a Mynydd Rural Development Programme for Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent and Gelligaer Historical Society, it tells the story of Llywelyn Bren, a medieval Prince of Senghenydd, who stood up to the might of the Normans who controlled the land, so saving his people from starvation. His actions meant that he was executed at Cardiff Castle. The photograph of Dr Elin Jones is reproduced courtesy of Roy Smith.

For long Llywelyn Bren has been a forgotten local hero, but in recent years, GHS member Dr. Stuart Broomfield and Dr Elin Jones (GHS President) have worked to remedy this. Dr. Stuart Broomfield's article *Remembering Llywelyn Bren* appeared in *Gelligaer* 26 (2019) while, as reported in *Gelligaer Times* issue 42, Dr. Elin Jones ensured Llewelyn Bren was commemorated on an information board on Gelligaer Square. This book, written by Dr Elin Jones, and illustrated by 'Picasso' Griffiths, aims to take the story to local schoolchildren. Pupils in three local schools were engaged in workshops to develop how the book should read and look and the result is this wonderful new volume that will take the story into local schools.

Silures - Resistance, Resilience, Revival by Ray Howell



Readers of this newsletter may well have heard Professor Ray Howell speak to this Society on occasions during the past. His latest publication is a follow up to *Searching for the Silures: An Iron Age Tribe in South East-Wales*. The following is a media quote which aptly describes his latest work:

Ray's lectures on field trips when he and I were colleagues at Newport were always entertaining and scholarly, a happy combination that hooked students of all kinds of backgrounds. His book, crammed with knowledge and peppered with trenchant, often hilarious anecdotes exemplifies this approach
 Miranda Aldhouse Green - *Current Archaeology Magazine*

The comments about his trenchant and hilarious anecdotes resonate well with the talks he has delivered to this Society.

NEWS FROM OTHER HISTORY/HERITAGE GROUPS

Protecting Historic Environment

Dr Edith Evans of Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) has drawn the Society's attention to an announcement made by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) which has been made in conjunction with the four police forces in Wales. There is a stark warning - once it's gone it cannot be returned. Most readers probably have some knowledge of damage being caused to our heritage sites such as theft and arson, the police are also keen to know about other crimes such as illegal metal detecting (nighthawking) and off roading on archaeological sites, please follow this link:

[Wales Leads the Way with Heritage Crime Drive](#)

Welsh Assembly have produced a Bill which seeks to consolidate numerous pieces of existing legislation, such as the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 and The Listed Buildings Act. Over the years layers of legislation have been created which make it difficult for people to interpret. It is not possible to give many details in this newsletter but anyone who has an interest in our historic environment can follow this link:

[Historic Environment \(Wales\) Bill pages on the Cadw website](#)

Merthyr Tydfil Historical Society -- you can keep up-to-date with the lecture programme by visiting [MTHSprogram.pdf](#) or, go to <https://merthyrttydfilheritage.blogspot.com/2021/09/forthcoming-events-in-and-around.html> for more up-to-date information on MTHS's meetings as well as those of other similar groups in Taff and Cynon valleys, and including GHS.

EVENTS

Chartist Convention – Saturday 5 November 2022 at St. Woolos Cathedral, Newport – details of the programme not yet available.

Glamorgan History Society Autumn Day school -- Saturday 5 November 2022 at Heronston Hotel, Bridgend talks on the theme *Plague, fever and epidemics*: -

Dr Dave Hale (University of South Wales) *Popular reaction to plague and epidemics in medieval Wales*

Dr Alun Withey (University of Exeter) *Early modern medical remedies and some Glamorgan practitioners*

Dr Bill Bytheway (formerly Swansea University) *The outbreak of poliomyelitis in Swansea in 1938*

Contact [Glamorgan History Society - Cymdeithas Hanes Morgannwg](#) or Judith Jones for details nearer the date.

Cromwell Association is organising a study day at St Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff on 15 October 2022 on *Wales and the Welsh in the Civil Wars of the 1640'*. Attendance is open to non-members. A small discount is offered to Glamorgan History Society members. The programme together with online booking is available from

<http://www.olivercromwell.org/wordpress/study-day-2022/>



GELLIGAER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Studying the history and heritage of the area covered by
the former Gelligaer parish and Gelligaer Urban District since 1961
PROGRAMME: 2022-2023

2022		
28 September	Dic Felstead	<i>Poets exploding like bombs: Caerphilly verse and the Spanish Civil War</i>
26 October	Prof. Madeleine Gray	<i>Lewis James, Curate of Bedwellty – 1633-68</i>
30 November	Dr. Daryl Leeworthy	<i>Looking for Gwyn Thomas: Episodes from a Literary Life</i>
14 December	David Mills	<i>The Brewer-Williams donations to the museums at Newport, Cardiff and St. Fagans</i>
2023		
25 January	An 11am start and, as usual, we will have two lectures, one before and one after lunch which can be purchased at Llancaiach Fawr. Dr. Victoria Owens will be speaking on <i>Lady Charlotte Guest at Dowlais</i> , and Brian Jarrett on <i>Lost Villages of the Darran Valley</i>	
22 February	Dr. Stephanie Ward	<i>Working Class Women's Politics in the Interwar Period</i>
29 March	Clive Thomas	<i>The Landscape of Slate</i>
March	GHS hopes to hold its annual conference	
26 April	Roy Smith	Title to be confirmed
31 May	Dr. Stuart Broomfield	<i>Senghenydd in the thirteenth century</i>
28 June	A.G.M.	
	Judith Jones	<i>Mapping Gelligaer Parish</i>

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

WHEN? Last Wednesday most months (**EXCEPT December (date varies), and July and August, when there are no monthly meetings**)

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

WHERE? Llancaiach Fawr (**CF46 6ER**)

Membership for 2022-2023 is £10 (students, £5).

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

FOR FURTHER DETAILS of GHS events, activities and publications visit
www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk or follow GHS on Facebook or Twitter