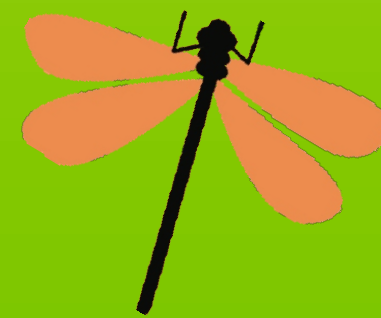


Pontneddfechan



Wallace made many trips to Pontneddfechan showing his brother John the array waterfalls in the area now commonly known as Waterfall Country. He once compared the impressive Sgwd Gwladys Waterfall to one of the natural wonders of the world, Niagara falls, though on a far smaller scale! Wallace made many references to the beauty of the Vale of Neath and mentioned that he had one of his most memorable times in the area whilst visiting Pontneddfechan, having stayed the night in one of the caves finding no hostelry to accommodate him nearby!



Life after Neath

While at Neath in March 1848 Wallace was visited by his friend and entomologist Henry Bates who he had met while teaching in Leicester

Just one month later, having decided to expand their knowledge of plant and animal life, the pair left for the Amazon, returning to England in 1852 after four years of exploration. Later in the year he travelled to Singapore where he documented over 8,500 species of insects!

Throughout his life Wallace produced numerous books and papers, gave lectures and continued to learn and discover. He was the epitome of the keen Victorian naturalist, explorer, biologist and philanthropist.

In 1908 his greatest accolade was granted with the Order of Merit, the highest civil distinction bestowed in Britain.

Alfred Russel Wallace died on the 7th of November 1913 and is buried in Broadstone, near Bournemouth.

In Westminster Abbey there is a memorial medallion dedicated to him, it stands between Charles Darwin and Sir Isaac Newton, correctly placed amid the great scientists of the age.

Want to know more about Wallace, his life and works?

www.visitnpt.co.uk/alfredrusselwallace
www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online



*Excerpts taken from the autobiography of
Alfred Russel Wallace, My Life, 1903*

