



GELLIGAER

TIMES

AUGUST 2023 NUMBER 69

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GELLIGAER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Editor's note

You will see that this newsletter includes a gallery of photographs, some of which have not seen the light of day for many years. There are, of course, a number of books that have been published over the years containing photographs from the past relating to the townships and villages in our area. However, I am sure that many more still lay "hidden". The Society is always happy to receive old photographs, even if they may seem innocuous; oftentimes, especially in ones that are of landscapes, it is possible to pick out a feature that has now disappeared. Please have a rummage and send anything you may find to gelligaerhs.photos@gmail.com

FINALLY- This edition contains a translation of one of the articles, into Welsh, thanks to our President, Dr Elin Jones. As far as I am aware this is the first time (and hopefully it will not be the last) that we have provided this facility.

David Mills

In this edition you will find the following: -

Reports on our monthly talks

AGM 2022-2023

The late Anne Jenkins

St. Catwg's Gelligaer-unlocking churches

Bargoed versus Llanidloes Bowls match 2023

Opencast mining at Pant y Waun

An update from the Darren Valley History Group

Celebrating rural development in Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent

Dathlu datblygiadau gwledig yng Nghaerffili a Blaenau Gwent

Review of an article in Gwent Local History Journal

Gallery of photographs

Gelligaer Historical Society Programme 2023-2024

Monthly Talks reported by Ann Pinch

Wednesday April 24th 2023 Roy Smith

George “Honey Boy” Evans

A man born to a poor family in Pontlottyn in 1870 was the subject of Roy’s talk tonight; a talk beginning in south Wales and followed a life which covered nearly all the states in the USA.

George Evans and his family emigrated to America when he was five and his early career was as a newspaper reporter, but after being encouraged to enter the entertainment industry he became a star vaudeville performer, a comedian, entertainer, musician and composer who was adored by audiences from coast to coast. He composed famous songs -such as ‘The Good old Summertime’- and became known as *George Honey Boy Evans* because of his song *Honey Boy*. His songs were developed into musical dramas which he and his troupe of Honey Boy Minstrels performed all over the country. All this made him a very wealthy man and some of this wealth he used to promote baseball, a sport which he loved and played very well.

Despite leaving Wales at such an early age he could still speak Welsh and promoted the movement of a St. David’s Society in many cities where he performed. From 1914 he suffered with ill health and in 1915 the *Fun Maker* died in Baltimore.

Our thanks to Roy for a remarkably interesting talk which had obviously been well researched and entailed correspondence across the USA.

Wednesday May 31st 2023 David Mills

The Story of the Donations by Mr and Mrs Brewer -Williams to Newport, Cardiff and St Fagans Museums

Speaking about a local family with the surname of Williams, who lived at Maesruddud House near Blackwood, David explained how they made their early fortune from inherited farms around Pontlottyn and in the parish of Bedwellty. Later the family diversified into coal mining. With all this income, plus rents from other properties they owned, the family became one of the wealthiest families in the area. Their investments expanded all over the world and at one time Llewellyn Brewer, who took the additional surname of Williams in 1907, had financial links to a prestigious London jeweller with royal patronage.

Llewellyn Brewer-Williams donated various gifts to museums, although he always pointed out that the loans or gifts were also from his wife Etienne. From 1922, nearly 1000 items were donated to Newport Museum and Art Gallery, Cardiff Museum received 40 and St Fagans 97. These varied from day-to-day items such as cups and saucers and even a door knocker to an eclectic collection of valuable paintings, including some Turner sketches which are some of the most prized items at Newport.

The family lived on the Maesruddud House, near Blackwood (later altered slightly and now known as Maes Manor) and this, in 1934, was offered to a local miner’s organization, as a convalescent home for miners and their families. Blackwood Miner’s Institute benefited from the family’s wealth through a donation of books for the library.

In 1960 Mrs Etienne Brewer-Williams died leaving an estate of £5 million pounds at today's value and the Maesruddud Estate came to an end.

David's considerable research and obvious interest in his subject resulted in an informative, successful evening.

Wednesday 28th June 2023 Rhian Diggins Senior Archivist

Safeguarding 850 years of History. An Introduction to Glamorgan Archives

This was the last meeting of the society's 2022-2023 season which has been highly successful.

Explaining that the archives are based in a new, purpose-built building in Cardiff Retail Park Mrs Diggins emphasised that a warm welcome would be extended to all who wished to visit- and from the details about the archives she went on to expound such a visit would be very worthwhile.

Covering six districts in south Wales the archivists at Cardiff collect and preserve documents, accepting donations both large and small, all of which have to be kept at a suitable temperature for safe storage. Prior to storage all items have to be checked for any infection/infestation and treated to stop the danger of such hazards spreading. Cleaning has to be done carefully to retain even the faintest pencil marks. Books are digitally measured and boxes made to size, coded and filed before being stored somewhere in the 15 kilometres of floor to ceiling shelves.

We were shown interesting examples of the type of material available-records from schools, Local Authority, National Coal Board and various photographs-to name but a few of the archived documents which would inspire interest, aid in research and help keep history alive.

Workshops are arranged for various groups in varied activities. Using the Archives is free, with the building open Tuesday/Wednesday /Thursday although it is advisable to telephone first. An entertaining, educating talk which was given in an enthusiastic manner showing Mrs Diggins' enjoyment of her work.

Telephone number 02920872299

www.glamarchives.gov.uk

2023 AGM and message from the chairman

Following the fascinating last talk of our 2022-2023 session on 28th June, Gelligaer Historical Society held its AGM at Llancaiach Fawr and via Zoom. Members accepted the 2022 AGM Minutes and the annual reports of Chairman and Treasurer before Chairman, Judith Jones, asked those present to endorse the decision of officers and committee members to recommend giving Honorary Membership to Greg Buick in view of his longstanding membership and work on several fronts for the Society. All present approved this. Chairman, Judith Jones, thanked everyone and then stood down. President, Dr. Elin Jones took over the election for chairman. Judith Jones was re-elected as were the other existing Society officers, and members present also endorsed the election of the previous committee with the addition of Kate Wynne.

Gelligaer Historical Society Officers, committee and volunteers 2023 - 2024

President Dr. Elin Jones

Officers

Chairman: Judith Jones,

Vice-chairman: David Mills

Treasurer: Roy Smith

Committee members

Clive Andrewartha

Kathryn Benson-Dugdale

Sandy Halliday

Ann Pinch

Webmaster: Greg Buick

Susan Price

Bill Smith

Ian Williams

Kate Wynne

Existing volunteers were also approved:

Gelligaer Times editor - David Mills

Peoples' Collections Wales co-ordinators - David Mills, Greg Buick and Sandy Halliday

Programme secretary - Judith Jones

Minute secretary - Susan Price

Watching brief over developments in and around Gelligaer Village, including Gelligaer Fort, cemetery extension and Horeb Chapel - Clive Andrewartha

Technical support, Zoom and meetings - Sandy Halliday

James Dugdale works with Sandy Halliday on all technical support for meetings.

Enfys Hawthorn will help the treasurer when required.

Ann Pinch and Susan Price take responsibility for book sales outlets in Ystrad Mynach and Bargoed.

Ann Pinch reports monthly talks for the newsletter.

In addition, Lois Roberts volunteered to take over the formatting, printing and publishing of a journal in 2024; Brian Jarrett, the publicity for the Society and Kathryn Benson-Dugdale, the 2024 conference.

I want to thank all officers, committee members and those in volunteer roles for their work and support throughout the year, and also thank all other GHS members for their support of our Society – and of me – and wish you all a happy and healthy summer. I hope to see you all at Llancaiach or on Zoom on September 27th when Dr. Stuart Broomfield will be giving a talk on the subject of *The Cantref of Senghenydd in the Thirteenth Century* and we will launch *Gelligaer vol.29*.

Judith Jones

The late Anne Jenkins, Llwyngolau Cottage, Heol Adam, Gelligaer.

Members of GHS and some readers of this newsletter will already know that Anne's funeral service took place on Tuesday 25th July 2023 at Mount Pleasant Chapel, Maesycwmmmer before being interred at Gelligaer cemetery alongside her late husband Phil. Anne attended many of our meetings over the years and her husband Phil was treasurer of the Society in the 1980s. Anne was always interested in local history and her knowledge of local families knew no bounds. She was especially interested in the history of Llwyngolau cottage and spent many hours trying to establish facts about it. When she attended our meetings, she made copious notes and inevitably asked the speakers some searching questions.

Saint Catwg's, Gelligaer

On the weekends of 3rd-4th and 10th-11 June 2023 this ancient church was open for visitors as part of the Churches Unlocked Festival 2023 (south Wales)

Members of the Society attended on both weekends and were able to assist with queries from visitors. The Saturday openings were called "History and family Genealogy" days when the church registers were made available and proved to be a popular feature. Mal Jones, a well-known local metal detectorist also attended and had some of his finds on display. Parishioners also provided something very popular; tea/coffee and a variety of home-made cakes.

One parishioner, Christine James, brought along a number of photographs, taken some years ago, of wall paintings that are no longer visible for various reasons, including being covered by white wash. A copy of one photograph, which features below, has now been sent to Professor Madeline Gray, Professor Emerita of Ecclesiastical History, University of South Wales, who was sufficiently interested to suggest that she visits the church; this will hopefully take place in August. If you examine the photograph closely you will see two feet and what looks like a sword handle. If any reader of this newsletter has recollections of seeing the wall paintings, then please contact me at gelligaerhs.photos@gmail.com



David Mills

Bargoed Welfare Bowls Club versus Llanidloes Bowls Club on 29th April 2023

Readers may think it is somewhat unusual to have a report on a recent sporting event appear in a newsletter of a historical society. However, in this report there are links to the past and hopefully to the future, history in the making? *Gelligaer 28 2022* contains an article about Dr. Reidy of Bargoed; it was written by his granddaughter Fiona Marshall, who lives in Llanidloes. Fiona's research revealed that in 1928 Dr. Reidy presented a silver cup to the Bargoed Bowls Club. The club will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2026 and Dr. Reidy, as the club's first president, should figure in what will be written about its history. Unfortunately, the cup he presented to the club was destroyed in one of the two fires that occurred at the clubhouse. Fiona, and her husband John, thought it would be an opportunity to restore the Reidy cup, or some other type of trophy and visited Bargoed club where they received a warm welcome. That resulted in Bargoed travelling to Llanidloes to play a pre-season match which both clubs hope will become an annual fixture. The photographs below were kindly provided by Bargoed Welfare Bowling Club



A study of intense concentration by both teams



Inside the Llanidloes clubhouse Fiona and John Marshall were presented with a Bargoed Welfare Bowling Club shirt

The members of Bargoed Welfare Bowls Club are keen to write about its history in order that they may celebrate their 100th anniversary in style. As mentioned previously two fires have destroyed many of their records and artifacts. They would greatly appreciate any help from members of Gelligaer Historical Society, or any readers of this newsletter. If you are able to help in any way, please contact gelligaerhs.photos@gmail.com, or speak to any member of the Society who can contact me.

David Mills

The opencast mining at Pant y Waun.

Following on from the talk to the Society about the lost villages of the Darren Valley by Brian Jarrett I thought an explanation of opencast mining would help our understanding of how, and why, the village of Pant y Waun was destroyed.

Opencast mining certainly destroys, some say changes, the landscape. Recent television images from Germany showed opposition to this method of coal extraction and the destruction of a village. From the photographs which I took at Pant y Waun in 1959 when I worked there, one can see deep trenches were excavated, the coal was extracted and the trenches were then backfilled. Eventually the whole area was landscaped and I think that the result enhanced the environment. My visits to the site, prior to mining, showed a village surrounded by spoil heaps, the village resembled an oasis.

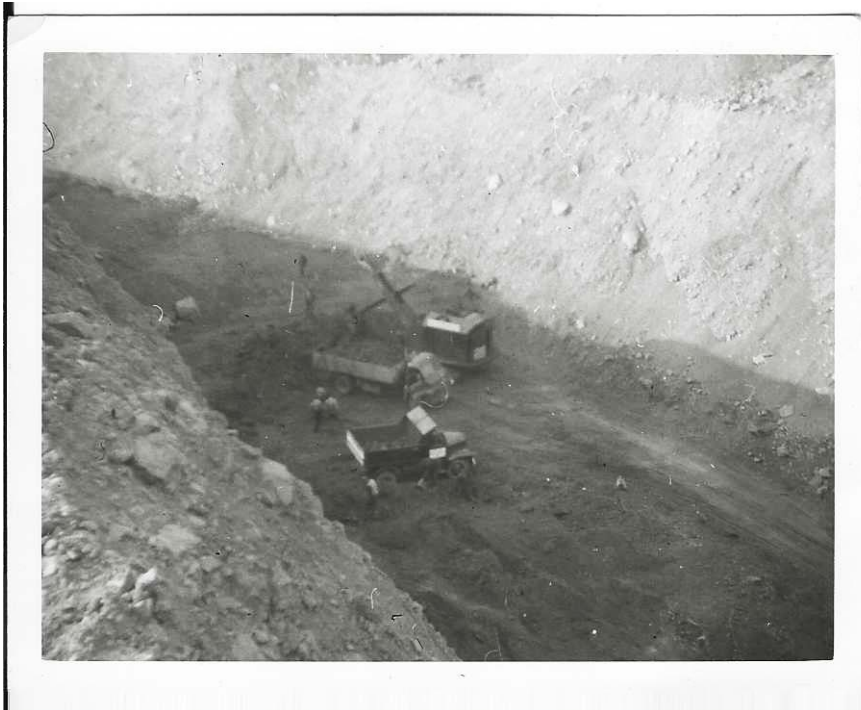
Many of us probably had relatives who had worked in the traditional deep mines like Bargoed and Taff Merthyr. The miners descended a shaft which on average was about 500 plus yards in depth and mined the coal seams which the shafts had cut through. At Pant y Waun the coal seams were at or close to the surface and were therefore cheaper to exploit.

The structural geology of the South Wales Coalfield is bowl shaped and was formed when the European Alps were being pushed northward. Pant y Waun is on the northern edge of this bowl and the reason that the industrial revolution and the development of the coal and iron industry in this greater Merthyr area developed was because coal, iron ores, limestone and water for steam engines were all close at hand. When, open casting commenced the below ground workings of former mines were exposed. A favoured mining technique, called pillar and stall, showed blocks of unmined coal left to help support the strata. These blocks of coal were entirely removed.

There were two sites at Pant y Waun and the photographs were taken at the Royal Arms site. The public house was still in operation during the time that I was employed there and was socially favoured by some of the workforce. There was a two shift system which was known, at that time, as the 'continental system' and was 7am to 7pm and 7pm to 7am. The Tuesday day shift was devoted to servicing and repairing equipment and machinery. Importantly it was the time when the engineers surveyed the site. This had to be completed before operations recommenced for safety reasons. In addition, the shot firers drilled holes in the exposed coal seams ready for the controlled explosions which loosened the coal making it easier to excavate. For the next few days, the civil engineers worked on their surveying results and calculated just how much rock, above the coal seams, had been excavated. The contract at that time required the removal of 50,000 cubic yards, about the same value in tons. Anything above that figure was a bonus and pay scales would be increased pro rata.



In the above photo a trench is being excavated by a large dragline and the debris piled onto a



previously excavated area. The aim was to expose the coal seam which was then excavated and the lorries carried the excavated coal to the screening plant at Cwm Bargoed. This facility has been considerably up graded to deal with the coal extracted from the Ffos y Fran site.

Eventually, at Pant y Waun, because the seams dipped toward the south, the cost of extraction increased to the point where mining became uneconomic and ceased. Although deep and opencast mining has removed many millions of tons from beneath South Wales there still remain many millions of tons below the surface. Whether this coal will be exploited depends much upon political and economic policies of government.

Ffos y Fran.



This site is quite different to the ones that were at Pant y Waun and is essentially a very large hole, the largest in the United Kingdom. Excavation commenced in the centre and extended to the planned boundaries. The thick dark lines are the coal seams and, in the centre, they have been totally removed.

Readers are aware that this site is to be closed and then the whole area will be landscaped.

Carwyn Hughes

An update from the Darran Valley History Group

If you read our previous item in *Gelligaer Times* 66, December 2022, you will remember that, early last year, the Darran Valley History Group installed an information board near the place where the tiny village of Penybank once stood. The village was between Deri and Fochriw and had only two short streets, one each side of the Newport to Brecon railway line, which is now a popular cycle way and footpath through the Cwm Darran Country Park.

Many regular visitors were surprised to find that they'd passed the spot many times without realising that there was once a village there. Some of the former residents made the journey to see the information board, too, and to remember good times in the friendly hamlet when they were young. Although the information board is only about 400 yards from the park's visitor centre, those who are now not quite as spritely sometimes found that the walk up and back a little too much these days. Our answer was to place a bench right alongside the board so that visitors could take a break and look at the valley view before the journey back. The History Group received funds from the local Wind Turbine Grant Scheme and bought a seat made from

recycled plastics, a little taller than usual and especially designed to make life easier for people who might be less supple than they once were.

On Wednesday 24th May 2023, the bench was unveiled by pupils from Deri and Fochriw schools, helped by Mary Button, Chair of the History Group, and Councillor Mike Adams, the new Mayor of Caerphilly Borough.



The group at the new bench-courtesy of Brian Jarrett

After the ceremony, the children from Deri read a short history of the village, and Fochriw school performed a poem they had written, before returning to the visitor centre to see a display of old pictures of the 'Lost Village' of Penybank. The children from both schools were kindly treated to drinks and cakes by Sue, who runs the café in the visitor centre. She also allowed us to put up a display of old pictures of Penybank. Sue's café is well worth a visit if you're ever passing.

This year, almost on the anniversary of the information board launch, the weather was warm and dry. Last year, the weather was so wet that Deri school couldn't take part. The village was demolished in the 1960s following a damaging earth tremor caused by mining subsidence.

Brian Jarrett

Celebrating Rural Development in Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent

Responding to an invitation from Phill Loveless, Rural Development Officer at CCBC, a few GHS members attended at Llancaiach Fawr on Thursday, 25 May for a “celebration of the people and projects that have made the Welsh Governments Rural Communities Programme [Cwm a Mynydd] in Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent a success”.

Phill pointed out that funding for the programme was obtained from Ariennir Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru - Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig 2014-2020 ar y cyd gan Gronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu Gwledig a Llywodraeth Cymru, the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (RDP) is jointly funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.

The “informal and informative” question and answer sessions led by Harri Evans and Kevin Eadon-Davies involved guest speakers who described their projects; one developed by GHS president, Dr. Elin Jones who has a long-time interest in local mediaeval lord, Llewelyn Bren. Elin, with illustrator, caricaturist, “Picasso” (Graham) Griffiths (pictured on the left below), has recently produced a beautiful bi-lingual book for young children about the life and importance of Llewelyn Bren. In this she explains the background to the production of the book which involved working with schools, Ysgol Gymraeg Penalltau and Llancaeath and Greenhill Primary Schools





Elin has previously worked with Chris Jones-Jenkins, F.S.A., GHS member and former treasurer, in 2020 to produce and install an information board at Gelligaer Village.



At the end of the morning's proceedings, Phill Loveless presented Elin with Chris's original artwork of "Gelligaer 1300", Chris's interpretation of the landscape of Gelligaer Village around the time of Llewelyn Bren. He has also been involved in creating a variety of illustrations and the end of May saw the launch of "The Welsh Marcher Lordships II – South-West", which

included some of his drawings and continued his themed cover illustrations with one of Cilgerran Castle.

Judith Jones



Dathlu datblygiadau gwledig yng Nghaerffili a Blaenau Gwent.

Derbyniodd rhai aelodau Cymdeithas Hanes Gelligaer (CHG) wahoddiad Phill Loveless, Swyddog Datblygiad Gwledig CBSC, i Lancaeath Fawr ar Ddydd Iau, Mai 25 i “ddathlu’r bobl a’r prosiectau a gyfrannodd at lwyddiant Cynllun Cymunedau Gwledig [Cwm a Mynydd] Llywodraeth Cymru yng Nghaerffili a Blaenau Gwent”.

Arweiniodd Harri Evans a Kevin Eadon- Davies sesiynau cwestiwn ac ateb “anffurfiol a llawn gwybodaeth” gyda siaradwyr gwadd a ddisgrifiodd eu prosiectau. Datblygwyd un o’r rhain gan Dr. Elin Jones, Llywydd CHG, sydd wedi ymddiddori ers blynyddoedd yn hanes yr arglwydd canol-oesol lleol, Llewelyn Bren. Yn ddiweddar mae Elin (uchod), wedi gweithio gyda’r arlunydd a digrifluniwr, “Picasso” (Graham) Griffiths ar lyfr lluniau hardd dwyieithog ar gyfer plant ifanc am hanes a phwysigrwydd Llewelyn Bren. Ynndo mae’n esbonio cefndir cynhyrchu’r llyfr a’r ffordd y cydweithiwyd gydag ysgolion lleol Ysgol Gymraeg Penalltau ac ysgolion cynradd Llancaeath a Greenhill.

Mae Elin wedi gweithio yn y gorffennol gyda Chris Jones- Jenkins, aelod a chyn-drysorydd CHG, pan cynhyrchwyd a gosodwyd bwrdd gwybodaeth ym mhentref Gelligaer yn 2020. Ar ddiwedd trafodaethau’r bore, cyflwynodd Phill Loveless ddarn o arlunwaith gwreiddiol Chris i Elin. Mae’r llun yn dehongli tirwedd “Gelligaer 1300”, adeg Llewelyn Bren. Mae Chris Jones- Jenkins yn *enwog am ei luniau manwl a hardd sy’n portreadu adeiladau a thirwedd yn y gorffennol* ac ar ddiwedd mis Mai lansiodd y llyfr “The Welsh Marcher Lordships II –

South- West”, sy’n cynnwys rhai o’i luniau. Gwaith Chris hefyd yw’r llun trawiadol o Gastell Cilgerran sydd ar glawr y llyfr.

Bydd y drydedd gyfrol, “The Welsh Marcher Lordships III - South- East”, yr olaf yn y gyfres hon gan Logaston Press, o ddiddordeb arbennig i aelodau, ac yn ôl Chris fe fydd llun o Gastell Grysmwnt ar y clawr.

Dr. Elin Jones

Book Review

THE STORY BEHIND THE BREWER-WILLIAMS COLLECTION AT NEWPORT MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY, by David Mills, *Gwent Local History Journal* number 133 (2023), pp.41-55 is the journal of Gwent County History Council which is published twice yearly.

Over the years, David Mills, long-standing GHS member and currently the Society’s vice-chairman and newsletter editor, has published much about the history of the Williams family and Maesruddud, the family home from at least the sixteenth century. While most of his earlier works were the result of his research among documents in Gwent Archives, this article, amply illustrated and with endnotes, relies more on files in Newport Museum and Art Gallery, as well as some in National Museum Wales.

In order to tell the story of the Brewer-Williams collection, David recounts the necessary biographical details about Llewellyn Brewer-Williams (1865-1945), the only son of Tom Llewellyn Brewer and his wife Mary. Oxford-educated, he was called to the bar in 1897, but such was his inherited wealth that he did not need to work for a living. He inherited his father’s Newport home, Dan y Graig, Christchurch, and, as his mother was the only child of Edmund Williams of Maesruddud to marry and have children, he also gained the material wealth of the Williams of Maesruddud family. He favoured life in London over that in south Wales and, especially before his marriage to Etienne Dunbar (1879-1960) in 1909, he spent much time in his apartment in Vigo Street, London. David quotes a 1908 press report about Llewellyn Brewer-Williams as High Sheriff for Monmouthshire and questions some of the statements made about the family history. He also explores some aspects of Llewellyn Brewer-Williams’s private life, including his dealings with London jeweller Willie Bertolle, his secretive provision for his mentally ill step-daughter and his financial support of a female identified as MB, described by David as *part of another story* and which we hope to read in future.

Llewellyn Brewer-Williams’s letter dated 1 August 1922 is the first in a series of correspondence relating to the items making up the collection in Newport Museum and Art Gallery. Over time, the collection comprised a wide variety of artwork, china and furniture, much of it inherited by Llewellyn Brewer-Williams, but also including items that he and Etienne purchased, possibly for investment purposes or because they appreciated them aesthetically. Some of the most prized by Newport Museum and Art gallery are the sketches by or in the style of J.M.W. Turner, possibly purchased from a dealer based near the Vigo Street apartment. Llewellyn and Etienne Brewer-Williams generally avoided publicity. Initially, the collection was *on loan from both him and his wife*, but the widowed Etienne’s letter, dated 2 April 1946, to the curator shows that *she gave everything which was on loan to the museum absolutely. Her only stipulation being that there was to be no publicity about the gifts*. In the same year it was agreed that a few items were returned to Maesruddud. The collection in National Museum Cardiff includes some portraits and other items donated in 1931

by Llewellyn and Etienne Brewer-Williams, as well as a painting purchased from the collection in Newport Museum and Art Gallery, and some further gifts made by widow Etienne in the late 1940s. In 1931, the couple also gifted a number of household items to what is now St. Fagans National Museum of History.

GHS members will recall David's fascinating talk on this subject given to the Society's May 2023 meeting as well as his many other illuminating and entertaining talks over the years. Through articles like this and talks to various other groups, David is one of a number of GHS members to promote GHS beyond the confines of Gelligaer parish. His published work about the Williams family of Maesruddud includes:

Bedwellty Revisited (2011)

The Williams family of Maesruddud (Blackwood, 2013)

Annie Owen

A GALLERY OF PHOTOGRAHS

Could this be Billy Hughes? He also had Ice Cream vans in the summer months, his base was at Fleur de Lys but he ventured into other villages.

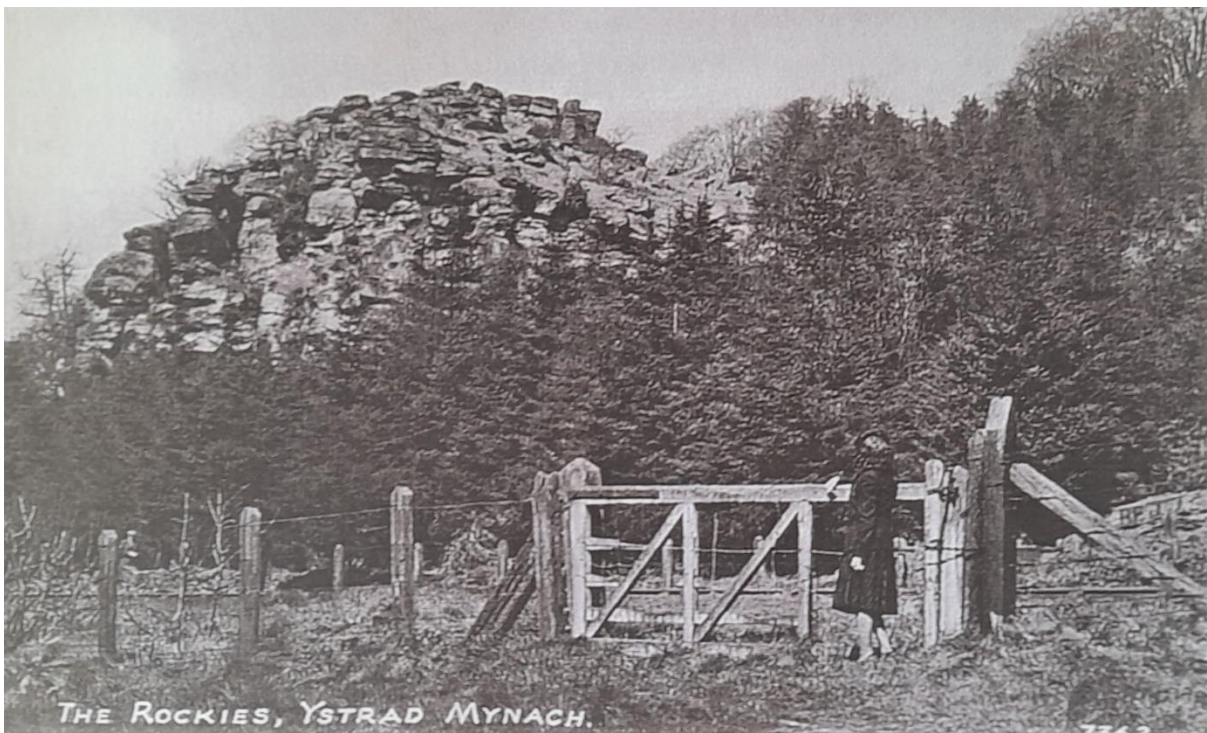




The old bridge-Ystrad Mynach



Ystrad Fawr



Penallta Rocks before the trees took over, although the rocks are still visible in 2023



Nazareth Chapel, Glanynant-recognize anyone?



The following photos were in the possession of the Society's late President-Islywn Hughes



Gelligaer Bowls Club 1948



Gelligaer Cricket 1950s



The demolition of Bargoed Colliery



The demolition of Bargoed Colliery



GELLIGAER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Studying the history and heritage of the area covered by the former Gelligaer parish and Gelligaer Urban District since 1961

PROGRAMME: 2023 – 2024

September 27 2023	Dr. Stuart Broomfield	<i>The Cantref of Senghenydd in the Thirteenth Century</i>
October 25	Prof. Maddy Gray	<i>The Commonplace Book of John Gwin of Llangwm</i>
November 29	Neil Hempstead	<i>From siege to revolution, from engineer to author – the man who helped change the modern-day landscape of Gelligaer parish.</i>
December 13	Dr. Elin Jones	<i>Evan Rees: collier boy and Archdruid, 1850 – 1923</i>
January 31 2024 11.00 a.m. start	Dr. Edith Evans	<i>Prehistoric Rock Art on our Doorstep</i>
	Lunch can be purchased at Llancaiach Fawr	
	Colin Thomas	<i>Putting Welsh History on Television</i>
February 28	Jeff Childs	<i>The Steel, Sheet and Tinplate Industries of Pontardawe and District</i>
March 23	GHS hopes to hold its annual conference	
March 27	David Mills	<i>When Chartism came to Blackwood and Nelson</i>
April 24	Dr. Stuart Broomfield	<i>The Home Guard during the Second World War</i>
May 29	Lyn Pask	<i>“Steam Pie and a Coke Please” - How four Italian families came from Bardi to Blackwood</i>
June 26	A.G.M. and	
	Roy Smith	<i>The Battle of Jutland "Memorial Park" Bringing History to the Surface</i>

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

WHEN? Last Wednesday most months (**EXCEPT December [varies] and July and August [no monthly meetings]**)

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

WHERE? Llancaiach Fawr (CF46 6ER)

Membership subscription for 2023 - 2024 is £10 (students, £5)

Meetings are open to non-members (£2 contribution to the Society)

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