

“Merthyr Express” 28 June 1902

King's Illness: Postponement of the Coronation The coronation of the new king, Edward VII, has been postponed owing to the king's illness, and will now take place on August 9th, 1902.

“Merthyr Express” 5 July 1902

Coronation Festivities at Fochriw Despite the postponement of the Coronation, coronation festivities went ahead in the village. On Thursday, a procession was formed at 1:30p.m., and was headed by the Fochriw Brass Band. Fochriw and Penybanc scholars took part, and it was followed by tea at the Fochriw schools. The costumes of numerous countries were worn by the children. Every child received a commemorative mug. On Thursday night, a coronation bonfire was lit on Pentwyn mountain by Mrs. J. H. Jones. During Thursday and Friday, Coronation Sports were held. Events: Two miles bicycle race - 1. W. Payne, 2. D. Lawrence; Half mile bicycle race - 1. T. G. Davies, 2. W. Edwards; 440 yards foot race - 1. W. E. Jones, 2. J. Edwards; 100 yards foot race - 1. R. Pugh, 2. W. E. Jones. Mr. J H Jones was manager of the committee, Dr. Eleazer Davies was treasurer, and Mr. Evan Evans was secretary.

“Merthyr Express” 16 August 1902

Coronation Edward VII was crowned on Saturday last.

“Merthyr Express” 1 November 1902

Roman Villa A Roman villa has been excavated at Penyardren.

14 May 1910 The Late King Touching references were made last Sunday at Carmel Congregational Chapel, St. Mary's Church, and Pentwyn Church, to the death of the late King, and deep and sincere sympathy was expressed with Queen Alexandra and the Royal family in their great sorrow. At Nazareth Chapel, the preacher described the late King as the King of Peace, and as one of the greatest of rulers, always tactful and wise.

28 May 1910 Public Memorial Service to the Late King A public memorial service was held at Carmel Chapel on Friday, when the Fochriw Ambulance Brigade, headed by the Fochriw Brass Band, and followed by the general public, marched to the chapel. Funeral marches were played by the band, under the direction of Mr. Mantle. Rev. Isaac Roderick presided at the chapel, and said that they had come to mourn one of the greatest monarchs to sit on the British throne. The King had a great regard for Wales. He visited her Eisteddfodau, her universities, and other national institutions in the land. Councillor John Jones said that King Edward came to the throne during the South African war, when the nations of Europe were pointing their fingers at the British flag; but the King, with his tact and wisdom, united all the nations of Europe in the bond of love and peace. Dr. Eleazer Davies said King Edward's interest in the welfare of his subjects was very wide. He was Sovereign Head of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem - a department of which was the St. John Ambulance Association. During his late Majesty's reign, the Association made great strides. His Majesty took great interest in the health of his people. His interest and example were very far-reaching, and now we mourned for the King who was in full sympathy with his subjects' welfare. Rev. Moses S. Young also spoke. The “Dead March” was played by the band, and Mr. Thomas Walters played an appropriate funeral march on the organ at the close. A collection in aid of the widows and orphans in the Whitehaven disaster was made, and a substantial sum realised.

1 July 1911 Coronation Day at Fochriw: Making the Children Happy Coronation Day was celebrated with much enthusiastic loyalty in the little village of Fochriw. The weather was not all that was desired, rain falling heavily through the day.

Nevertheless, an elaborate programme of events was carried out, which included processions of the Sunday school children of the various denominations, teas, sports and fireworks. Luckily the weather cleared up for the processions. The village was gaily decorated with flags, bunting, etc. The three Non-conformist schools - Carmel, Nazareth, and Noddfa - paraded the streets of the village, headed by the Fochriw brass band. The procession started from Carmel chapel, picking up the other schools en route. The procession was a very large one. The children presented a brilliant spectacle, and all seemed in jovial spirit. Appropriate music was played by the band.

1 July 1911 Coronation Sports Excellent sports were arranged by the the Fochriw Ambulance Brigade, the following Committee being responsible: Messrs. George Thomas (chairman), Simon Cole, David Cole, Thomas Jenkins, Harry Hughes. The secretarial duties were carried out by Mr. Joshua Evans, and the treasurer was Mr. James Jones. The Committee also had charge of the fireworks, there being a very fine display. They were fired by Messrs. Tom Jones, Edward Lewis and Daniel Jenkins. Some of the fireworks were set off on Friday evening. Balloons were also sent up. The heats of the chief races were set off at 10 o'clock in the morning. The following is a list of the events and winners: Half-mile cycle handicap - 1. Daniel Jones; 2. Sydney Wright. 120 yards foot handicap: 1. Jenkin Williams; 2. Llewellyn Rees. Quarter-mile cycle scratch: 1. D. Jenkins; 2. Herbert White. 440 yards foot handicap: 1. W. Thomas; 2. W. J. Thomas. 100 yards foot race, boys under 16: 1. W. A. Jones; 2. E. Prosser. Football competitions: Distance kicking with Soccer ball - Wm. Evans; Goal kicking with Rugby ball - Llewellyn Jones; Cricket ball throwing - Llew Rees. Skipping competitions: girls under 16: 1. E. M. Thomas; 2. Myfanwy Evans. Officials: handicappers:- Messrs. Aneurin Jenkins and W. J. Payne; starter: Mr. Joseph Shankland; judges: racing - Messrs. A. Jones and Jesse Williams; football - Messrs. T. H. Llewellyn and Evan Jones; cricket ball throwing - Messrs. J. D. Jones and D. L. Evans; skipping - Mr. Harry Hughes. Dr. Davies and Mr. David Cole had charge of all items for children under 9 years of age. The Ambulance Brigade and Committee deserve praise for the excellent programme arranged, and the very able manner in which it was carried out.

27 April 1912 'Titanic' Memorial Service A memorial service for those who lost their lives on the Titanic was held at Noddfa Baptist Chapel on Sunday evening. Rev. M. S. Young preached a touching sermon from Isaiah 24, v.14: 'They shall lift up their voice; they shall sing for the Majesty of the Lord. They shall cry aloud from the sea.' 'Nearer my God to Thee' was sung with much feeling. The Dead March was also played. Miss Hilda Phillips was at the organ, and the violinists were Miss Irene Brown and Mr. Sydney Phillips.

3 May 1913 An Invention We have received specifications of the new acetylene gas generator which has been invented and constructed by Mr. Jas. Williams, 12, Glen View, Pentwyn. The machine has no mechanism, therefore cannot get out of order. All intricacies and complications are abolished. It is extremely simple. It works automatically and gives no trouble. The machine may be charged or discharged once a fortnight if needed. The automatic lubricator operates according to as many burners as are lighted. The machine can be charged with carbide without the least interference to the light. No fluctuations, no danger, no waste, no corrosion, no plant house required, as the machine, capable of supplying ten lights, is so small, it could be easily covered with an empty barrel. The inventor has his own method of purification which gives a clear, steady, large white flame.

28 March 1914 Parliament Mr. John Ward declared in the House of Commons, amid wild Radical and Labour cheering, that the people must be allowed to make the laws of the country without interference from the King or the Army.

29 April 1922 Lecture At Carmel Chapel (kindly lent), a lecture entitled "Abraham Lincoln," was given by Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., in aid of the Russian Famine Relief Fund. The chairman was Mr. John Jones, who gave a very appropriate opening address. Mr. Jones' lecture was brimful of interest. The audience was delighted for two hours, and much appreciated what proved one of the finest addresses given in the village. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer on the motion of Mr. Walter Jones, seconded by Mr. E.M. Davies.

26 May 1923 Mr. Winston Churchill is on the short list of Liberal candidates for the Caerphilly Constituency.

10 May 1924 Italy Signor Mussolini, the Italian Premier, has laid the first stone of the new town in Italy which is to be called Mussolinia.

2 July 1927 Total Eclipse Hundreds of people from around the districts assembled on the high mountain tops, which were such excellent points for witnessing the eclipse in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

15 October 1927 Weevils Six thousand weevils in cold storage have been shipped to New Zealand this year to be used in preventing the spread of gorse in that country.

7 April 1928 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children A well-attended meeting was held at the Church hall on Thursday evening. The chairman was the Vicar, and the speaker was Mr. F. T. Groves of the Society's Central Office.

2 February 1929 Whist Drive Under the auspices of the N.S.P.C.C. a whist drive and dance took place at the Old Library on Thursday last, and was well attended. Mr. C. Ballard was the M.C. Prizewinners at whist: Ladies: 1. Mr. Windor Morgan, 2. Mr. George Cole; Gentleman: 1. Mr. W. A. Jones, 2. Mr. W. J. Davies. Secretarial duties were ably carried out by Miss Bessie Ballard.

8 March 1930 N.S.P.C.C. A meeting in connection with the above was held at the Old Reading Room on Wednesday evening last, when Mr. Simon Lewis presided. Mr. F. T. Groves of the Central Office, gave an interesting addresses on the aims of the society, and the work done by it locally and nationally during the past years. The local committee was formed two years ago.

24 May 1930 Whist Drive A very successful whist drive was held at the Old Library under the auspices of the local branch of the N.S.P.C.C. and was well attended. The M.C. was Mr. William Howells. Prize winners: Ladies: 1. Mrs. Syl. Jenkins, 2. Miss G. Parry; Gents: 1. Mr. Crad Thomas, 2. Mr. Bertie Cumpstone. The energetic secretary is Miss B. Ballard.