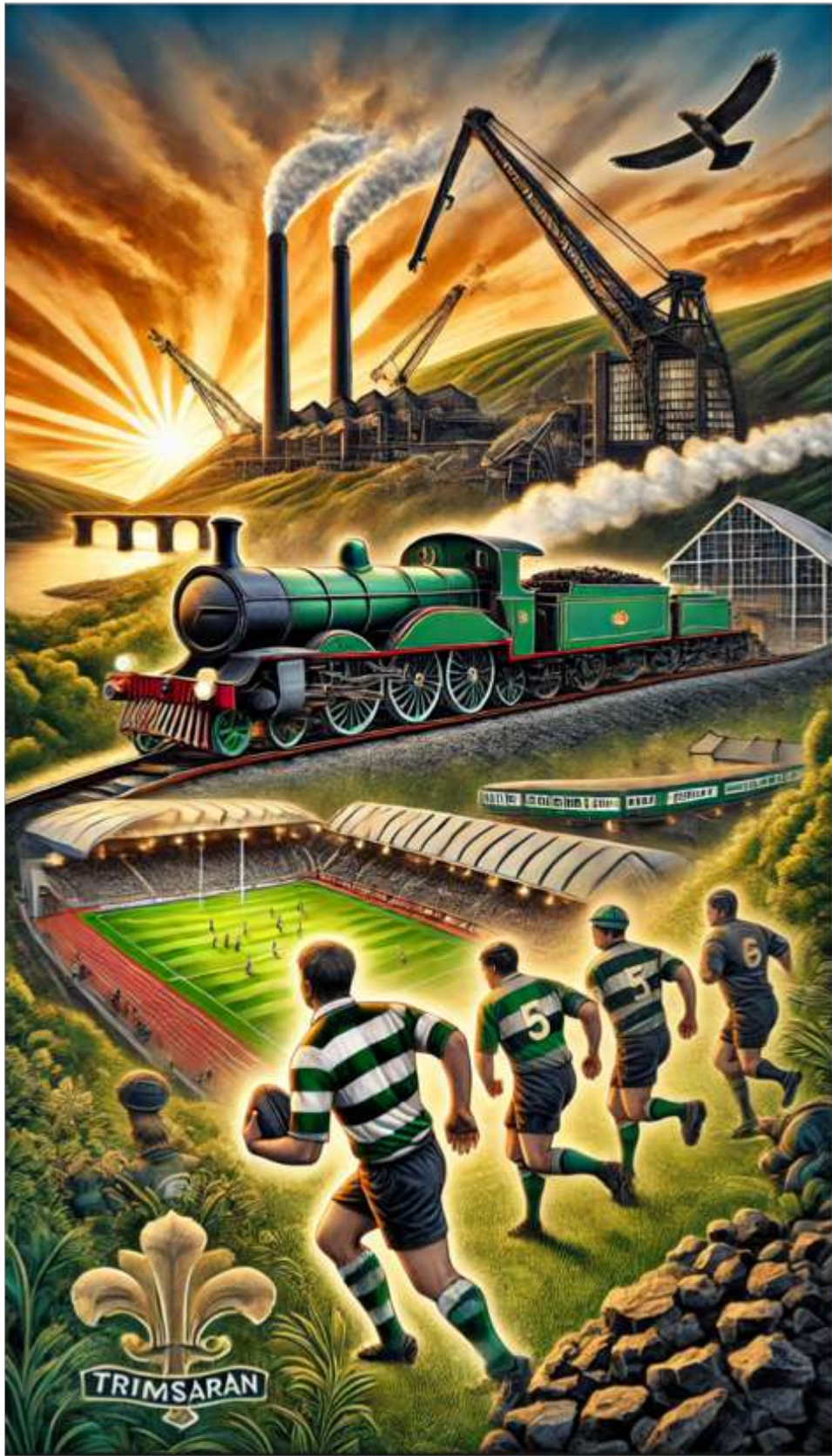


*Trimsaran (TRIM)*



Trimsaran, located in the Gwendraeth Valley of Wales, played a role in the Industrial Revolution, although its significance was relatively modest compared to larger industrial centres. Here's a breakdown of Trimsaran's role:

- 1. Coal Mining:** Trimsaran, like many areas in the Gwendraeth Valley, had coal mines. Coal was a crucial resource during the Industrial Revolution, powering steam engines in factories and locomotives for transportation. The coal mines in Trimsaran contributed to the region's coal production.
- 2. Transportation:** Trimsaran's proximity to the coast and its coal mines made it an essential location for transportation infrastructure. The construction of railways and canals in the Gwendraeth Valley helped transport coal and other goods more efficiently, connecting Trimsaran to larger industrial hubs.
- 3. Agricultural and Industrial Link:** Trimsaran also served as a link between the agricultural and industrial sectors. It supplied agricultural products to support the growing urban populations in industrial areas, contributing to the overall economic growth during the era.
- 4. Local Industry:** While not a major industrial hub itself, Trimsaran likely had some small-scale local industries, such as coal processing or cottage industries, that provided employment and contributed to the local economy.

In summary, Trimsaran's role in the Industrial Revolution was primarily centered around coal mining, transportation, and supporting industries. While it may not have been as prominent as some other industrial centres, it played its part in the broader industrialization of the Gwendraeth Valley and Wales during this transformative period.

Burry Port, Kidwelly, and Trimsaran, all located in the Gwendraeth Valley of Wales, played interconnected roles in the development of the Industrial Revolution in the region.

### **Calvinistic Methodists**

The Methodist movement and the expansion of their chapels had a significant influence on Trimsaran during the Industrial Revolution. Here are some keyways in which their presence impacted the community:

**Spiritual and Moral Guidance:** During profound social and economic transformations, the Methodist movement in Trimsaran emerged as a guiding force, providing spiritual and moral direction. As industrialization presented both challenges and opportunities, Methodist chapels became sanctuaries—offering solace, fostering a sense of community, and grounding residents in moral values.

**Community Cohesion:** Transcending their role as places of worship, Methodist chapels in Trimsaran evolved into vibrant community hubs. Beyond religious

ceremonies, these chapels served as vital centres for social interaction and support. The palpable sense of belonging and camaraderie within the chapel community played a pivotal role in fortifying social bonds amid the dynamic shifts of the industrial era.

**Education and Literacy:** The commitment of Methodism to education manifested in the establishment of Sunday schools and literacy programs in Trimsaran. This focus on education held particular significance during the Industrial Revolution, empowering individuals with the knowledge and skills essential for navigating the evolving employment landscape.

**Charitable Activities:** Attuned to the challenges of their time, Methodist chapels in Trimsaran actively engaged in charitable endeavours. From aiding the impoverished to advocating for workers' rights, the Methodist community stood as a beacon of support. In an era marked by harsh working conditions, they championed improved treatment and enhanced living conditions for laborers.

**Temperance Movement:** A distinctive feature of many Methodist congregations was their involvement in the temperance movement, advocating for sobriety and reduced alcohol consumption. This advocacy was particularly relevant in an industrial setting where excessive drinking posed societal challenges and familial disruptions.

**Ethical Business Practices:** The influence of the Methodist movement extended to business practices, emphasizing ethical conduct in trade and commerce. Adherents in Trimsaran, inspired by the movement's principles, engaged in business dealings marked by honesty, fairness, and integrity, contributing to a more ethical economic environment.

**Legacy and Cultural Impact:** The enduring legacy of the Methodist movement is etched into the fabric of Trimsaran and kindred communities. The chapels, erected during this transformative period, stand as enduring cultural and historical landmarks, testifying to the lasting impact of Methodism on the region's identity.

In summary, the Methodist movement, and the expansion of their chapels in Trimsaran during the Industrial Revolution played a multifaceted role. They provided spiritual guidance, fostered community cohesion, promoted education and literacy, supported charitable activities, advocated for workers' rights and temperance, and influenced ethical business practices. These contributions helped shape the social and moral fabric of Trimsaran during a time of profound change and industrialization.

## Trimsaran and its Religious Heritage.

Noddfa Welsh Baptist Church was built in 1879 in the Arts & Crafts style with a gable entry plan.



Baptist churches are a part of the Protestant Christian tradition and are known for their belief in adult baptism and the autonomy of individual congregations. The term "Baptist" is derived from their practice of baptizing believers only and not infants.

The history of a specific Baptist church, such as Noddfa Baptist Church in Trimsaran, would likely involve the local community and its religious development.

Remember that the history of a church is often intertwined with the history of the local community, and exploring both aspects can provide a richer understanding of Noddfa Baptist Church and its role in Trimsaran's history.

Memorials: - <https://tinyurl.com/Noddfa-Memorials>

## Sardis Welsh Independent Chapel Bryncaerau Trimsaran



Sardis Independent Chapel in Trimsaran, Carmarthenshire, has a rich history dating back to its initial construction in 1831, with a subsequent rebuilding in 1874. The present chapel, crafted in 1874, showcases the Simple Gothic style of the gable entry type, a prevalent architectural trend in 19th-century Welsh chapel construction. Gable entry chapels, characterized by a prominent gable end facing the road, often incorporate Gothic Revival features such as pointed arches and other distinctive Gothic elements.

Understanding the historical context of Sardis Independent Chapel involves considering several common practices associated with independent chapels in Wales during the 19th century:

The chapel's present structure, dating back to 1874, is a splendid representation of the Simple Gothic style, specifically the gable entry type. This architectural design, widely embraced in 19th-century Welsh chapels, is characterized by a commanding gable end facing the road. The chapel features distinct elements in harmony with the principles of the Gothic Revival, adding to its architectural significance.

### **Rebuilding in 1874:**

The decision to embark on a reconstruction project in 1874 was likely prompted by several factors. These could include the growth of the congregation, the need for

repairs or expansion, or evolving architectural preferences. During this period, it was not uncommon for chapels to undergo transformation to adapt to the changing needs of the community, reflecting a dynamic period of development.

### **Denomination and Independence:**

The term "Independent" holds historical significance, indicating the chapel's affiliation with the Independent or Congregationalist tradition. Independent chapels operated as autonomous congregations, distinct from a formal hierarchical structure. This autonomy played a pivotal role in shaping the religious and cultural landscape of Welsh communities throughout the 19th century, making Carmel Chapel an integral part of this vibrant heritage.

This combination of architectural evolution and denominational independence reflects the dynamic history of Sardis Independent Chapel, highlighting its significance in both religious and cultural contexts within the community of Trimsaran.

Memorials: - <https://tinyurl.com/Sardis-Memorials>

## Tabernacle Chapel (Welsh Calvinistic Methodist) Trimsaran



"The History of Cwm Gwendraeth Methodism and the District" Extract from the Book" In a historical excerpt from the book and delve into the fascinating account of the establishment of Methodism in Cwm Gwendraeth and the surrounding district.

Here are the edited passages:

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In a piece published in the 'Guardian,' we learn of a Grand Eisteddfod held at Kidwelly Castle. The music critic for the event was Mr. Mountainous, the Secretary was Mr. Morgan of Farm y Garreg, and the Treasurer was Mr. D.L. Anthony from Penlan. Impressively, the eisteddfod committee contributed over £30 towards the 'building fund' of the new Chapel in Trimsaran.

On April 30th, 1874, the 'Guardian' published a notice regarding 'Tenders' for the construction of a chapel in Trimsaran. The notice was in effect for a period of 6 weeks. Here's the notice: 'Tender wanted for the construction of a chapel in Trimsaran; plans and specifications available for viewing with Rev. D.G. Owen in Kidwelly. Tenders to be sent to T. Morgan of Horeb, Llanelly!'

Trimsaran experienced significant growth following the opening of Coal Works and Iron Works, leading to the establishment of a Calvinist Methodist congregation in the

area about eighteen months prior. To commemorate this growth, Mr. Combe, the coal works manager, hosted a tea event for the children of the Sabbath school. The tea was served on the lawn in front of his house and was orchestrated with great care by Miss Combe and other ladies from Kidwelly. After about a hundred children had enjoyed their tea, they expressed their gratitude to Mr. and Miss Combe through Rev. D.G. Owen of Kidwelly, who conveyed their thanks on behalf of the children. Mr. Combe was delighted with the children's enjoyment and expressed his hope that it would not be their last meeting. The children had a wonderful time, and books were distributed to them by Mr. D. Nicholas of Kidwelly.

While the exact date of the foundation stone laying remains somewhat unclear, it is likely that it occurred on July 28th, 1874. The honour of placing the foundation stone fell to Mrs. P. Daniels, the wife of Mr. Daniels, the manager of the coal works at Llandyry House. The ceremony was presided over by Mr. T. Morgan of Horeb, and it commenced with Rev. D.G. Owen invoking good fortune by leading the assembly in the familiar hymn 'Setting up a Tent in the land of Chosen.' Subsequently, the prayer of dedication was delivered by Rev. T. James of Llanelli. An English address was delivered by Rev. Joseph Evans of Carmarthen before inviting Mrs. P. Daniels to lay the foundation stone. In a brief address on behalf of his wife, Mr. Daniels expressed his pleasure in witnessing the construction of two chapels and a school near the works, and he expressed his hope that the village would experience moral and spiritual improvement as a result. The audience thanked him for the honour and extended their appreciation to his wife.

Other addresses were also given by Rev. O. Edwards, B.A. of Llanelli, J. Davies of Llanelli, J. Griffiths of Ferryside, D.G. Owen of Kidwelly, W.D. Williams of Penclawdd, and Mr. Stephens of Brynamman.

Following the meeting, a delightful meal was hosted at Llandyry House by Mrs. Daniels. The first contractor selected for the project was Mr. Richard Morgan.

Continuing our exploration of the history of Cwm Gwendraeth Methodism and the district, we recount the events that transpired in the aftermath of an accident and the various efforts made to fund the construction of Tabernacle Chapel in Trimsaran.

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Tragedy struck on April 6th, 1875, when the scaffold unexpectedly collapsed, injuring five men, two of them severely. Mr. Morgan, the contractor, suffered a broken leg, while a young man sustained a broken arm. This unfortunate incident brought

construction to a temporary halt. The responsibility of overseeing the project was undertaken by the Reverend John Griffiths of Ferryside.

The architectural planning for Tabernacle Chapel was entrusted to Mr. G. Morgan of Carmarthen.

To raise funds for the construction of the chapel, numerous concerts and Eisteddfods were organized in the area. On October 16th, 1874, a concert was held in Morfa, Kidwelly, in support of the Tabernacle's 'building fund.' The event was chaired by Mr. J. Dudley Thomas, and featured performances by 'Eos Morlais,' Miss M.A. Lewis, Harriet Jones, Mrs. D.C. Davies from Carmarthen, and the Glee Party from Kidwelly, led by Mr. J. Anthony.

On October 20th, another concert took place at Tabernacle Baptist Chapel in Burry Port, once again in aid of the 'building fund' for Tabernacle in Trimsaran. Mr. J.K. Hand presided over this event, with contributions from 'Eos Morlais,' Miss Morgan, Mrs. Williams, Mr. D. Thomas, Miss Randell, and the 'Glee Party' from Capel Newydd. The successful arrangement of this concert was attributed to the efforts of Mr. T. Morgan of Horeb.

On March 7th, 1876, an Eisteddfod was organized in Trimsaran. The event was chaired by Mr. L. Williams, the manager of the coal works, and led by Mr. D.T. Morris from Ferryside. Literary criticism was provided by Mr. D. Richards and Mr. T. Williams, with Mr. W.T. Res serving as the music critic. Following the Eisteddfod, a concert was held, raising £15 for the 'building fund.'

A significant milestone occurred on March 26th and 27th, 1876, when Tabernacle Chapel was officially opened. A notice in the 'Guardian' read, "A very neatly furnished and moderately large chapel called Tabernacle, built at the cost of £1,100 to meet the requirements of the Calvinistic Methodists, was opened at Trimsaran on Sunday and Monday, 26th and 27th March 1876." The opening services were conducted with great solemnity. Sunday morning began with a prayer meeting, followed by sermons delivered by Rev. D.G. Owen of Kidwelly and Rev. John Griffiths of Ferryside. In the afternoon, Rev. T. James, M.A. of Llanelli, and Rev. T. James of Hendre preached, and in the evening, Rev. D.G. Owen of Kidwelly and Rev. T. James of Llanelli delivered sermons. The following day, Monday, included morning sermons by Rev. John Evans of Llanelli and Rev. E. Edmunds of Swansea, and afternoon sermons by Rev. D.C. Lewis of Llandyfaelog and Rev. J. Lewis of Carmarthen, who preached in English. The evening concluded with sermons by Rev. J. Lewis of Carmarthen and Rev. E. Edmunds of Swansea. The afternoon services were inaugurated by Rev. W.C. Jenkins of Sunday Chapel, Kidwelly, and in the evening by Rev. H. Curry of Kidwelly. The opening celebrations had already raised as much as £100.

On August 12th, 1876, a 'De Party' was organized for the Sunday School children in the field adjacent to the Chapel, known as the Institute Field. Nearly a hundred children attended this joyful event.

In 1876, following the successful 'De Party' for Sunday School children, a series of delightful events unfolded. After tea, the choir, under the guidance of Mr. Phil. Phillips from Trillum, filled the air with beautiful songs. Mr. Tom Phillips also lent his talents to sing triads and anthems. The musical interlude was followed by spirited sports and games for the children, which continued until eight o'clock, leaving everyone in high spirits. To conclude the festivities, sweets were distributed to all, with the entire event overseen by the attentive care of Rev. J. Griffiths of Ferryside, Mr. L. Williams, the manager of the works, and Mr. Phil. Phillips.

The year 1877 marked the annual meetings of the Chapel, which took place on the Sunday and Monday of December 16th and 17th. Preachers included Rev. W.D. Williams of Penclawdd, Mr. D. Jones of Casllwchwr, J. Lewis of Carmarthen, and E. Jones of Llanpumsaint, a probationary minister of the Church. In each service, collections were taken for the 'building fund.'

The first minister of the Church was Rev. Edward Jones, who resided at Clun farm for a brief period while working as a shepherd. After a period of fluctuations, Rev. D. Geler Owen of Kidwelly assumed the pastorate of Tabernacle Chapel. The elders of the Church from its inception included Mr. David Williams, John Phillips, Charles Lloyd, John Jenkins, John Morris, Thomas Beynon, Thomas Jenkins, David Lloyd, David Jones Williams, and John Morgan.

Under the leadership of Rev. Geler Owen, the Church flourished. In 1907, an organ worth £50 was acquired for the Chapel. The following year, in 1908, a beautiful and practical vestry, valued at £350, was constructed. The builders responsible for this project were Mr. David Williams and Mr. David Tom Williams. The vestry was inaugurated on Easter Sunday, April 19th, 1908, with sermons delivered by Reverend W.W. Lewis of Carmarthen and Mr. Jones of Trefeca College. By this point, most of the debt incurred had been paid off. The Chapel had been a significant financial burden on the monthly meeting's 'fund' for an extended period, but the cost and effort had ultimately culminated in success. These achievements were highlighted in the Church's report for 1908:

- Number of complete members: 101
- Number of attendees, including members and children: 200
- Total Sunday School attendance: 120
- Conclusion to the Ministry: £40-3s-11d

During the period from 1908 to 1919, historical records are scarce, leaving a gap in our knowledge. During this time, Rev. Geler Owen had to step away from his role as a shepherd due to illness. Then, in October 1919, the pastoral duties were undertaken by the Reverend Richard Lloyd.

The Minister's Induction Meeting was conducted on Tuesday, November 25th, 1919, in the afternoon and evening. It was presided over by Rev. Thomas Jones of Rhostyllen, with the presence of D. Geler Owen, E.J. Herbert, D.E. Jones, B.A., J. Owen Jones, H. Pryse Jones, Mr. Jones of Rheboth, Mr. Williams of Carway, and Mr. Jones of Kidwelly, among others. Rev. Richard Lloyd was the minister at the time, and the names of the elders in the Church included Mr. David Williams of New Houses, Mr. David Tom Williams of Gwynfryn, Mr. Thomas Jenkins of Pleasant View, Mr. Thomas Morris of London House, Mr. Thomas Beynon of Hip Farm, and Mr. John Phillips of Riverside.

Rev. Lloyd diligently recorded various church events, including the baptism of children, receptions into communion, marriages, and burials in the churchyard. Due to space constraints, only the most significant events were noted in the minutes.

One notable event occurred on December 25th, 1919, when a girls' choir led by Mr. Thomas Jenkins presented a recital of the cantata 'Hosanna the children.' This was followed by a second recital in January 1920, which became a tradition in the years that followed. Some of the songs performed during these recitals included 'Shepherds of Bethlehem,' 'Rejoice in the Lord,' 'Twelfth Mass,' and 'The City of God.'

In 1924, there was a change in the Christmas customs, with a shift from carol singing to a Christmas concert. Mr. T.J. Jenkins' sons organized a concert, presided over by Dr. Harvey and Rev. G. Lewis, B.A.

By 1929, a different conductor, Mr. Haydn Thomas A.T.C.L., was leading the Christmas concert. During this event, the song 'Ymgom yr Adar' was performed, accompanied by Mr. T.J. Jenkins.

This period marked a time of change and adaptation in the traditions and activities of Tabernacle Chapel, reflecting the evolving interests and talents of its congregation.

On September 26th, 1920, Tabernacle Chapel selected new elders to serve. The chosen elders were Mr. Archie Griffiths, David Jenkins, William Lodwick, Benjamin Lloyd, Thomas Gomer Lloyd, and David Thomas. Notably, Mr. Benjamin Lloyd declined the role of elder. The list of officers for the Church in January 1921 was as follows:

- Elders: Mr. Thomas Beynon, Mr. John Phillips

- Secretary of the Seats: Mr. David Tom Williams
- Secretary of the Church: Mr. Thomas Jenkins
- Leader of the Gan (Choir): Mr. Thomas Morris
- Treasurer: Mr. David Thomas
- Service Order Inspector: Mr. William Lodwick
- Collections Secretary: Mr. David Jenkins
- Caretaker of the Sacraments: Mr. Thomas Gomer Lloyd
- Caretaker for Ministry Envelopes: Mr. Archie Griffiths
- Cemetery Inspector: Mr. John Lloyd

Additional officers included Mr. Haydn Thomas, the Organist, and for the Sunday School, Mr. Thomas Williams served as Inspector, Mr. Sidney Lewis Williams as Secretary, and Mr. Sidney Griffiths as Treasurer.

One of the significant entries during this period was a tragic accident that occurred on April 26th, 1923, at Trimsaran Colliery. The incident involved a serious accident when the shackles broke, causing the "Spake" to plummet far below the surface. In just a few seconds, ten lives were lost, and fifty individuals sustained injuries. Two members of Tabernacle Chapel, Mr. William Jenkins of 'Derlwyn' (aged 44) and Mr. David Tom Davies, son of William and Sarah Davies of New Houses (aged 19), lost their lives in this tragic event. This catastrophe cast a heavy cloud of grief and sadness over the entire community, as many homes were deeply affected.

On January 27th, 1924, a Savings Bank was established in collaboration with the Sunday School. The Sunday School officers appointed included Mr. David Charles Lloyd as Secretary, Mr. Gwilym Morris as Treasurer, and Mr. T. Jenkins and Sidney Griffiths as Trustees.

Another notable event was the departure of Mr. Joseph John Joseph, 'Tŷ r Onên,' to the United States of America on May 9th, 1927. A Departure Meeting was held at Tabernacle Chapel, presided over by the Shepherd, with speeches delivered by Thomas Jenkins, David Thomas, David Evans, Archie Griffiths, and William Reynolds. In the evening, a lecture on the text 'The Commandment of Zion' was given by Rev. Robert Ellis of Tycroes. On the following Sunday, Rev. Robert Ellis preached in the morning and evening, and Rev. Morgan Jones of Saron Furnes preached in the afternoon. A special service was held on Monday night, featuring preaching by Rev. D. Rees Jones and Idwal Jones.

In 1931, the Education Committee in Carmarthen requested the use of the vestry and furniture for a daily class. A daily class was conducted in Tabernacle Chapel for an extended period, with a rental fee of 15 shillings per week.

Another significant transition occurred in 1934 when Mr. D.T. Williams stepped down from his role as the Church secretary after serving for 32 years. He was succeeded by Mr. Hector Jenkins.

On May 19th, 1935, a decision was made to hold a service, marking another important chapter in the history of Tabernacle Chapel.

In January 1938, a fund was initiated to acquire a new organ for the Chapel. This fund was collected over the course of several years.

A significant turning point in the history of Tabernacle Chapel occurred in June 1939 when a unanimous decision was made to "call" a new Shepherd. The Church had been without a shepherd for nine years. On July 4th, Mr. William Edwards of Pembrey, representing the Kidwelly District and Presbytery of South Carmarthen, visited to discuss the Church's choice for a new shepherd. A pastoral committee was formed. On December 31st, 1939, it was decided to trial four preachers and present their names before the Church. These four preachers were Mr. E.J. Evans, J.M. Mathias, O.J. Evans, and Edward Harris. Edward Harris received the "call" to minister at Tabernacle in March 1940, and founding meetings were held on September 19th, 1940.

The meetings were presided over by Rev. D.E. Jones, B.A., of Pembrey, and included various sessions. In one session, the history of the Church was presented by Mr. A.J. Griffiths of Tegfan, the history of the call was presented by Mr. T.G. Lloyd of Doncen, and Mr. David Evans of Pantglas, Manordeilo, represented Talsarn Church. On behalf of North Merlin Presbytery, the Rev. Evan Williams, M.A., B.D., and Mr. David Evans of Pantglas, Manordeilo, were present. Mr. Glanfrwd Harry represented the students, and Mr. Ivor Evans of Llanstephen and Rev. W.H. Williams of Llandyfaelog represented Carmarthen South Presbytery. Representatives from various churches and districts also contributed to the proceedings.

A significant service took place on Thursday night, including a sermon by Rev. J.C. Lloyd of Llanstephen Blaenannerch, and the ordination of Mr. Edward Harris. Moving forward to 1942, a request from Mr. Hector Jenkins for release from his position as Secretary was granted, and Mr. T.G. Lloyd was selected to assume the role.

The culmination of years of effort to collect funds for the 'Organ Fund' was realized in 1949 when a new pipe organ was acquired for Tabernacle Chapel. The organ's inauguration featured an excellent recital by Mr. D.J. Evans of Llanelli.

In 1951, new elders were chosen, including W.E. Charles,

Daniel Evans (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/261215204/daniel-evans>) ,

Thomas John Jenkins (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/232790372/thomas-john-jenkins>) ,

David Charles Lloyd, and J.J. Thomas. Additionally, Mr. Sidney Griffith stepped down as Treasurer, with

Mr. John Jenkin Thomas ( <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/260852044/john-jenkin-thomas>) taking his place.

These developments reflect the ongoing growth and evolution of Tabernacle Chapel in Trimsaran.

In 1952, a decision was made to paint and beautify Tabernacle Chapel. The opening meetings of the Chapel in October 1952 included the task of opening the door, which was entrusted to Mr. David Thomas. The festival featured a sermon preached by Rev. D.R. Beynon and Rev. L. Jones.

In 1955, a request was received from the B.B.C. to record the singing at the Sanctuary, which took place in July. The broadcast was later aired in August.

The need for additional elders arose in 1961, leading to the selection of five new elders in July: Mr. Lennard Evans,

Gwilym Griffiths

(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/261215477/gwilym-dickens-griffiths>)

Rees John (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/259742158/rees-john>)

Haydn Thomas, and Sidney Lewis Williams. On December 1st, 1963, Mr. T.G. Lloyd retired as Secretary of the Chapel, and

Mr. Howell Wynn Jenkins

(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/261215670/howell-wynn-jenkins>) took his place as Secretary, while.

Mr. Samuel Lloyd

(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/248681696/samuel-lloyd>) assumed the role of Publications Secretary.

Mr. Thomas Gomer Lloyd

(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/252740678/thomas-gomer-lloyd>)

continued as Publications Secretary, a position he had held since 1929, and had served as General Secretary since 1942.

In 1966, during the Christmas season, Mr. Haydn Thomas A.T.C.L., who had faithfully served as the organist for approximately 50 years, retired.

Mrs. B.M. Harries was chosen as the new organist of the Chapel, and Mrs. Heather Killa became the Sub-organist.

During the summer of 1967, the Chapel was equipped with a new heater, enhancing the comfort of the congregation. In March 1968, new elders were chosen, including Messrs. Ronald Davies, Wynn Jenkins, James Williams, and Cyril Phillips. Among them, only

Mr. Cyril Phillips (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/231154558/cyril-phillips>) accepted the call. Consequently, in March 1969, more elders were chosen: Messrs. Hywel Daniels,

Daniel John Lodwick (

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/259835869/david-john-lodwick>) and

Joseph Lloyd (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/245221005/joseph-lloyd>)

In April 1970, Mr. Hywel Daniels took on the role of Treasurer of the Church following the passing of

Mr. John Jenkin Thomas

(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/260852044/john-jenkin-thomas>)

who had served as Treasurer for 19 years.

In December 1972, a testimonial was offered to

Mr. Thomas John Jenkins

(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/232790372/thomas-john-jenkins>)

for his dedicated service as a song leader for 37 years, and

Miss Olive Eynon (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/261189371/olive-virginia-eynon>) was selected to succeed him.

Tragedy struck in March 1975 with the sudden and unexpected passing of the beloved minister, Rev. Edward Harris, B.A., B.D., who had faithfully served the Chapel for 35 years. Mr. Harris had eagerly anticipated the Chapel's Centenary in 1976 and had started summarizing the Church's history, but unfortunately, he did not live to see his wish fulfilled. His loss was deeply felt in the community, where he was widely respected for his service and commitment to the Chapel.

The passing of the beloved minister, Rev. Edward Harris, marked a sombre period for Tabernacle Chapel in 1975. Due to a shortage of ministers, a joint arrangement was made involving Tabernacle Chapel, Pontiets, and Soar, Pontyberem. A pastoral committee was established to oversee the three Churches. In response to the need for a new minister, a call was extended to Mr. William John Ambrose (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/225734103/william-john-ambrose>) who was completing his studies at college.

The founding meetings for Mr. Ambrose's induction at Tabernacle Chapel in Trimsaran took place on Wednesday, October 26th, 1977. The meetings were presided over by Rev. Samuel Davies of Carmarthen. Several ministers and individuals participated in the proceedings, including Rev. Gwyn Davies Jones, Rev. Richard Hughes, Rev. Wyndham Williams, B.A. B.D., Rev. Gareth Davies, and Rev. Dan Davies, B.A. Other participants included Messrs. Dyfrig Jones, Elwyn Evans, W.O. Williams,

Samuel Lloyd (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/225734103/william-john-ambrose>)

Kenneth Treharne (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/225734760/kenneth-cyril-treharne>) and

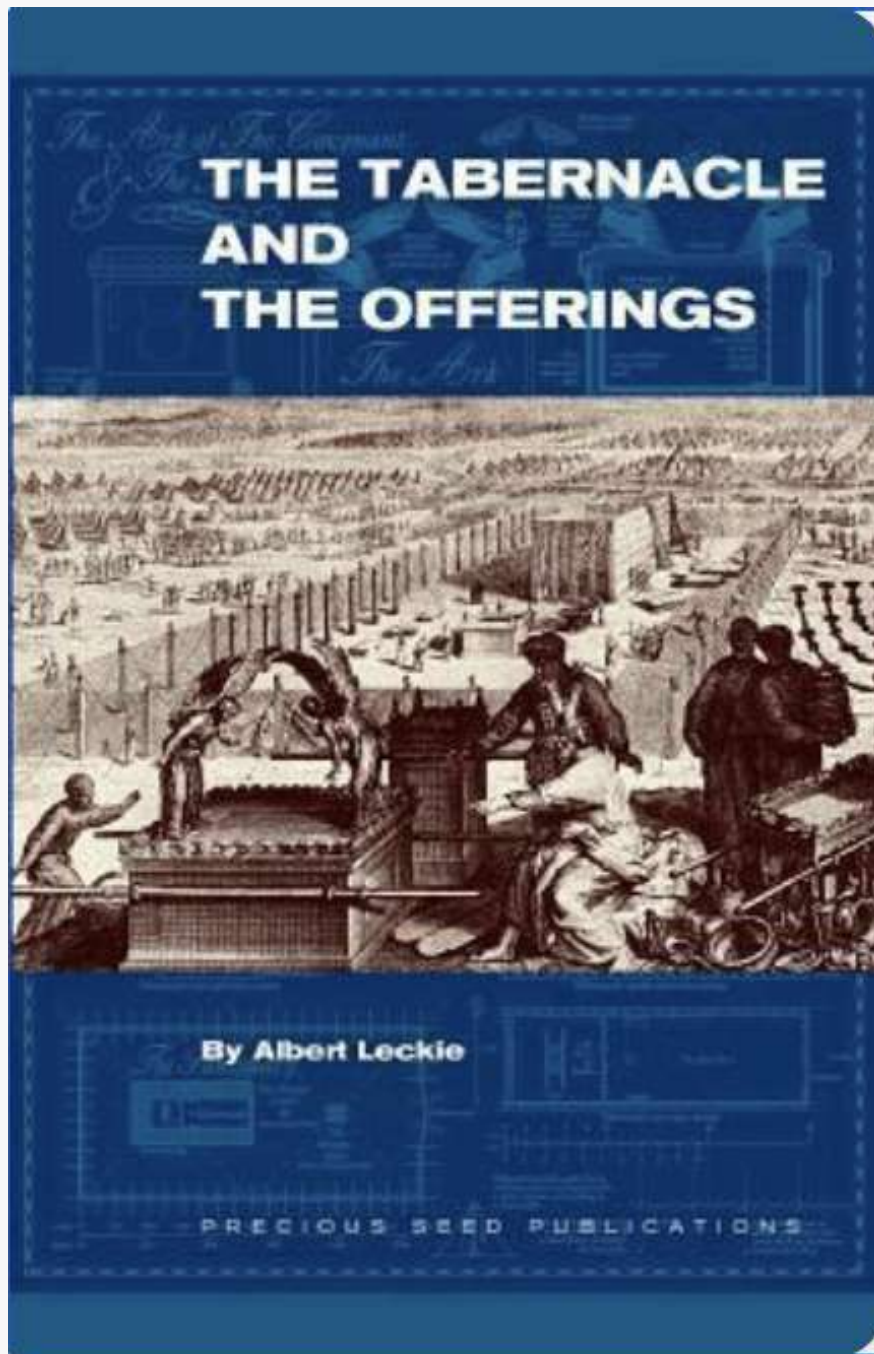
Goronwy Jones (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/260185757/goronwy-jones>)

The evening session featured a sermon by Rev. T. Arwyn Thomas of Haverfordwest. In the same year, Mr. Ambrose was ordained at Leytonstone, London.

In the following year, new elders were chosen for Tabernacle Chapel. The individuals selected to serve as elders were Messrs. Alun Killa, David Daniels, Meirion Davies, and

John Williams. Mr. John Williams accepted the call to serve as an elder. These appointments and the induction of Rev. W. J. Ambrose reflect the ongoing commitment of the congregation to the Chapel's spiritual leadership and growth.

The Tabernacle was also preached at by Albert Leckie who wrote "The Tabernacle and the Offerings" for nearly thirty years. Mr. Leckie conducted the Trimsaran Bible Readings in southwest Wales. These were held in August each year and proved to be helpful to many believers in their understanding of a wide range of truth. In 1980 the Readings were devoted to the study of the tabernacle. Tape recordings of these Bible Readings have become available within the last few years. These have been transcribed and edited into a form suitable for publication and this book is the result. An edited transcript of ministry given elsewhere by Mr. Leckie on the Levitical offerings has also been included. This book contains many glorious themes of truth in respect of the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ that will remind an older generation of the rich ministry enjoyed from our brother and establish younger believers in the faith once for all delivered to us.



Memorials: - <https://tinyurl.com/Tabernacle-Memorials>

## **The Llandyry Church Cemetery.**

Llandyry Church, steeped in the annals of medieval history, stands as a testament to the spiritual legacy of times long past. The exact origin of its dedication remains veiled in the mists of time, lending an air of mystery to its venerable presence. Nestled within an irregularly shaped churchyard, this hallowed edifice maintains a profound connection with the nearby remnants of Llandyry Chapel, a mere 60 meters to the south-east. The echoes of devotion still reverberate through this chapel of ease once a spiritual refuge and known to have provided solace until at least 1888.

This architectural masterpiece is not merely a building; it's a living relic, bearing the distinction of a Grade II listing. Fashioned from limestone rubble adorned with the elegance of bath stone dressings, its form embraces a cruciform layout that exudes an aura of significance. The very arrangement of its structure tells a story — a two-bayed chancel, a resplendent five-bayed nave, the welcoming enclave of a south porch, a modest single-bayed vestry (nestled north of the chancel's western bay), and the sentinel-like presence of a west bellcote.

Elements of antiquity intertwine with the fabric of this church, whispering tales of bygone eras. The chancel, nave, and transepts stand as testaments to medieval craftsmanship. The chancel and nave, their origins veiled in the mists of the thirteenth to fourteenth centuries, evoke a sense of reverence. The transepts, added with the passage of time during the fifteenth or sixteenth century, bear the weight of centuries in their stone walls.

A journey through its sacred confines reveals hidden treasures. A simple yet enigmatic square aumbry nestled north of the altar hints at its medieval origins. An ancient northern side window bears witness to the passage of countless seasons. The two-light east window opening, though evoking medieval whispers, wears the visage of 1876. The south door, adorned with a two-centred surround, possibly an echo of restored medieval craftsmanship, beckons the faithful with an air of solemnity.

Restoration, a testament to the dedication of those who came before, weaves another chapter into the narrative. Around 1850, the hands of Mason and Elkington, overseers of the Bury Port Copper Works, brought renewal to these hallowed stones. Yet, the mists of history were not content, and 1876 saw the addition of the vestry and the south porch, as well as a renewal of the roof's embrace. The side wall windows, a dance between single and double lancets, emerged during this period, etching their mark into the architecture. The

bellcote, its tale traced to that era undeniably present by 1898, may have been a silent witness to these restorative endeavours. Within the nave, the stalls, pews, and wainscot dado, each with its own story, stand as living witnesses to the care bestowed upon this sacred abode.

The march of time continued, as did the legacy of devotion. The octagonal font, a symbol of spiritual rebirth, found its place in the embrace of the late nineteenth to early twentieth century. A modernity of sorts, manifested in the mid-twentieth century, introduced the unobtrusive comfort of a hot water system, a juxtaposition of contemporary convenience against the backdrop of tradition.

The narrative of Llandry Church expands even into the twentieth century, as the west end of the nave stretched its reach in 1907. Here, a three-light traceried west window took its place, a beacon of illumination both metaphorical and literal. The oak altar table, born of the post-war year of 1946, and the oak pulpit, a creation etched in the annals of 1966, stand as markers of evolving reverence and the unending march of time.

The building's design is also unique, with the choir and sanctuary is known as a weeping Chancel slightly offset at an angle, symbolizing Christ's head tilted to one side on the cross.

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The Llandry Cemetery is a place of beauty, where the natural world meets the man-made where the past and present unite a common purpose.



Llandyry Church, while specific historical records for the church are limited, we can piece together a general history of the church based on available information and the architectural features mentioned in the previous text.

1. **Medieval Origins:** Llandyry Church has medieval origins, with parts of the building believed to date back to the 13th or 14th century. The church's core fabric from this period likely includes the chancel and nave. These structures may have served the local community as a place of worship for centuries.
2. **Transept Additions:** During the 15th or 16th century, it is believed that the north and south transepts were added to the church. These additions expanded the church's layout and architectural significance.
3. **Restorations:** Over the centuries, the church underwent several restorations to maintain and improve its condition. Notably, in the mid-19th century (around 1850), the church underwent restoration work, likely carried out by Mason & Elkington, managers of the Copper Works at Burry Port. This restoration was necessary due to the church's deteriorating state.
4. **1876 Restoration:** A more significant restoration occurred in 1876. During this period, the church underwent extensive changes and renovations. These included the addition of a vestry and south porch, changes to the church's windows, roof and floor renovations, and the installation of underfloor heating flues.
5. **20th Century Alterations:** In the mid-20th century, a hot water system was installed in the church, indicating efforts to modernize its facilities for the congregation's comfort.
6. **Listing as Grade II:** The church was designated as Grade II listed in 2002, indicating its historical and architectural significance.

While specific historical events and anecdotes about Llandyry Church may be scarce, its enduring presence and architectural evolution over the centuries provide valuable insights into the local religious and community history of the area. The church continues to stand as a historical and cultural landmark in Llandyry, serving as a place of worship and a testament to the region's heritage.

What an incredible journey this has turned out to be! I've been immersed in a world of discovery and connection, all centered around a local gem – the Llandyry church. It's a place where generations of my family have found their final resting spots. A personal mission to uncover these ties has led me down an unexpected path.

As I've frequented the church in my pursuit to locate and document each family member's grave, fate threw me a chance meeting with a remarkable individual – Declan Owens, the Llandyry Church Warden. Conversations flowed, and I learned that he was deeply involved in a project to meticulously document all those laid to rest in the church cemetery. The dedication to this endeavour was evident in the beautifully maintained grounds that cradled the history of countless souls.

Eager to contribute, I eagerly delved into their existing documentation plan. However, it soon became clear that this system was not as comprehensive and up to date as it needed to be, especially with the constant addition of new graves. Recognizing an opportunity to lend my expertise, I proposed a more efficient approach to memorial documentation.

In the span of just a week, I crafted a new system. Armed with a Word document and grid reference numbers, I meticulously recorded each memorial's details, capturing their essence through photographs of the weathered gravestones. Then, a seamless transition to modern technology occurred as I harnessed the power of Google Lens to transcribe the scanned text information onto the Findagrave Cemetery site. This dynamic duo of Word and Lens, further enriched by Google Translate, bridged the language gap, allowing a wider audience to appreciate the inscriptions, many of which were in Welsh.

This endeavour has sparked an unexpected joy within me. Beyond the act of documentation, it's the harmonious fusion of tradition and technology that fuels my enthusiasm. My system guarantees accuracy, with any discrepancies promptly rectified and preserved. The magnitude of completing this feat is not lost on me; a swell of pride accompanies each entry made.

Although the task ahead is formidable and demanding, I embrace every step with open arms. Yet, I yearn for a local ally, someone well-versed in the intricacies of the app, who could expedite the process. Currently, my routine includes on-site visits to acquire GPS coordinates, ensuring seamless integration with the larger project's framework.

The potential impact of this collective effort is deeply stirring. The preservation of the church's history feels like a sacred duty, and I'm humbled to play a part. With unwavering dedication, I press on, anticipating the day when this project reaches its culmination. In my record-keeping, I've also thoughtfully logged the locations of unmarked graves, providing reference points for the future.

Today has been especially profound. My collaboration with Declan Owens in the Llandyry Cemetery memorial documentation has yielded rich rewards. Simultaneously, my exploration of ancestral roots through Findagrave has illuminated a new dimension of my heritage. This venture is not without its challenges; time and weather have left some memorials nearly illegible. In a remarkable twist of fate, I embarked on a mission to restore their stories.

One particularly weathered memorial, cloaked in layers of lichen and moss, caught my attention. Armed with a specialized cleaner, I dedicated myself to revealing its hidden inscription. After meticulous efforts, Edward, and Elizabeth Frater's memorial (Plot PW-C8) names emerged. Their stories, intertwined with the history of this place, stand as a testament to the power of perseverance and the enduring spirit of remembrance, humbled to discover the location of his burial in Italy.

I felt compelled to preserve this important connection between Edward, Elizabeth, and their beloved son, Leonard, on Findagrave. It seemed fitting to pay tribute to their memory and ensure that others could also find solace in their story.

It is from this inscription I found on their memorial stone led me on a journey of discovery to find out who their son Leonard Frater was who was killed in action in Italy on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1943. This is what I found and his memorial in Italy.

IN MEMORY OF  
OUR DEAR PARENTS  
EDWARD FRATER  
DIED 29TH DEC 1957  
AGED 68.  
AND ELIZABETH FRATER  
DIED 10TH MAY 1963  
AGED 68  
ALSO OF THEIR SON LEONARD  
KILLED IN ACTION ITALY 29TH NOV 1943



From the poignant inscription I uncovered on their memorial stone, a new chapter of discovery unfolded before me – one that would lead me to Leonard Frater, the son of Edward and Elizabeth Frater. Leonard's story, intertwined with the indelible mark of sacrifice, stirred my curiosity. The name etched onto that stone held within it a tale of courage and duty that resonated through time.

Leonard Frater, a Fusilier bearing the service number 14200801, stood among the ranks of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers' 6th Battalion. As history unfolded, this battalion played a role in the sweeping North African campaign and later became part of the forces that ventured into Italy, a land embroiled in war.

It was amidst these unforgiving battlegrounds that Leonard's fate was sealed. On the 29th of November 1943, during a daring assault on a ridge that cast its shadow over the Sangro River, tragedy struck. Artillery fire, an indiscriminate messenger of destruction, claimed Leonard's life at the tender age of 20. His youth belied the weight of the responsibilities he bore and the courage he exhibited.

Leonard found his final resting place in the Sangro River War Cemetery in Italy, a solemn testament to the countless lives altered by the tumultuous events of that time. The inscription on his gravestone captures the essence of his sacrifice – a fusilier in the ranks of The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, cut down on the 29th of November 1943 at the age of 20.



Each letter etched into the stone becomes a thread connecting the past to the present, and the sacrifice of a young life to the enduring memory of those who fought for freedom.

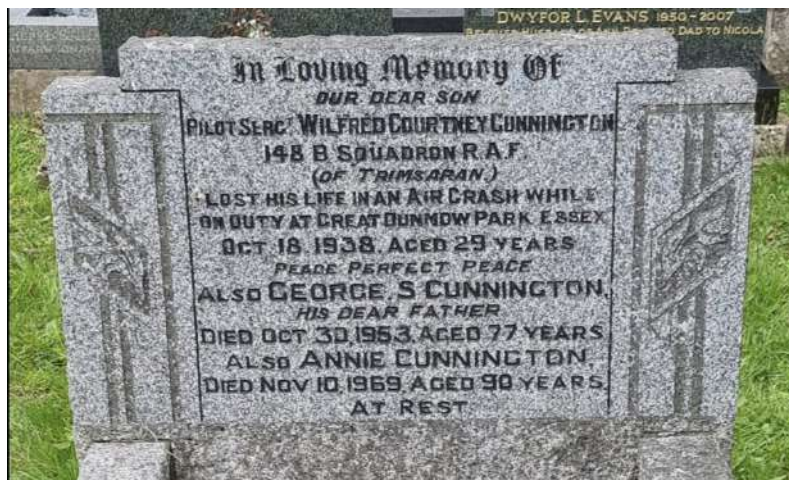
As we stand before Leonard's memorial, I'm reminded of the intricate tapestry of history, woven from the threads of countless lives like his. Each name represents a story, a family, and a legacy. Leonard's legacy is one of bravery and selflessness, a reminder that the echoes of war are not just dates and battles, but the lives of individuals who should never be forgotten.

With each day more family history is discovered before I came onto the grave of George & Annie Cunnington with an inscription that mention their son Wilfred Courtney Cunnington with the mention on the headstone of his fate in the WW2.

As the days unfold, the tapestry of family history continues to reveal its intricate threads, each thread representing a story waiting to be told. And in this journey of discovery, I stumbled upon the grave of George and Annie Cunnington (Plot PN-J4), bearing an inscription that spoke of their beloved son, Pilot Sergeant Wilfred Courtney Cunnington, whose fate was intertwined with the tumultuous times of World War II.

The headstone, a silent sentinel of memories, bore witness to Wilfred's sacrifice. It read:

"In Loving Memory of OUR DEAR SON PILOT SERG WILFRED COURTNEY CUNNINGTON 148 B SQUADRON RAF (OF TRIMSARAN) LOST HIS LIFE IN AN AIR CRASH WHILE ON DUTY AT GREAT DUNNOW PARK ESSEX OCT 18, 1938, AGED 29 YEARS PEACE PERFECT PEACE"



Driven by the desire to uncover the story behind this brave soul, I delved into the annals of history. The narrative that unfolded painted a picture of dedication and tragedy. Pilot Sergeant Wilfred Courtney Cunnington, a member of the esteemed 148 Squadron of the RAF, found himself in the cockpit of a Vickers Wellesley Mk. I, identified by the serial number K7716.



Tragedy struck on the 18th of October 1938, as two aircraft, including Wilfred's Wellesley K7716, met in a devastating mid-air collision. The other aircraft involved, Wellesley K7714, was also from the same 148 Squadron. The collision occurred over the skies of Great Dunmow, Essex. In an instant, lives were forever altered, and the fate of those aboard the ill-fated K7716 was sealed.

The crew of K7716 included:

- Sgt Reginald Prosser (aged 24)
- Sgt Wilfred Courtney Cunnington (aged 29)
- Act Sgt James Crane Irwin (aged 31)

All three valiant individuals lost their lives that day, their spirits forever imprinted on the pages of history. Their sacrifices stand as a testament to the risks and challenges faced by those who took to the skies in service of their nation.

Wilfred Courtney Cunnington, a Pilot Sergeant who had embarked on his duties with bravery and determination, now rests in eternal peace, his memory enshrined in the hearts of those who remember. His age, 29, is a stark reminder of the youthfulness that war often claimed, a poignant reminder that every life cut short was a world of potential and dreams.

As I stand before his memorial, I reflect on the profound impact that a few lines of text can have, capturing the essence of a life and its untimely end. Wilfred's story joins the tapestry of history, a thread woven with the threads of countless others who made the ultimate sacrifice for a greater cause. Their legacy lives on, as does the gratitude of generations who will never forget their sacrifice.

With each passing day, the journey through history brings new chapters to light, unveiling stories that have weathered the sands of time. Among the markers of remembrance, the memorial headstone of Nathaniel and Eliza Hancock (Plot PN-K8) stood as a silent testament to a family's enduring love and sacrifice, with an inscription that echoed through the years:



"PEACE IN LOVING MEMORY OF NATHANIEL HANCOCK DIED JAN. 8. 1937 AGED 59 YEARS. EVER IN OUR THOUGHTS, ALSO HIS DEAR WIFE ELIZA HANCOCK DIED SEPT. 23, 1955: AGED 76 ALSO OF THEIR SON RICHARD GEORGE HANCOCK B.S.M.-RA DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE 1939-1945 EVER REMEMBERED"

This inscription held a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by this family during a time of global turmoil. The mention of their son, Richard George Hancock, who died on active service, ignited a spark of curiosity, driving me to uncover more about his story.

And so, the journey of discovery led me to the remarkable story of Warrant Officer Class II (Battery Serjeant-Major) Richard George Hancock. His service, marked by dedication and courage, unfolded against the backdrop of World War II. Tragically, his life was cut short on the 14th of November 1942, in the sands of Egypt, amidst the fierce battles of El Alamein.

The scroll that commemorates his sacrifice reads:

"This scroll commemorates Battery Serjeant-Major R. G. Hancock Royal Regiment of Artillery held in honour as one who served King and Country in the world war of 1939-1945 and gave his life to save mankind from tyranny. May his sacrifice help to bring the peace and freedom for which he died."

Richard George Hancock's role in the struggle against tyranny is a testament to his bravery and selflessness. He stands as a symbol of all those who served, whose sacrifices paved the path to a better future. The battles

he fought were not just on distant lands; they were the embodiment of a collective effort to preserve freedom and humanity.

As I reflect on his story, I am reminded of the interconnectedness of history and how the lives of individuals intertwine with the greater narrative. The inscription on the headstone and the scroll of commemoration stands as a bridge between the past and the present, ensuring that Richard George Hancock's memory endures, and his sacrifice continues to inspire. May his legacy be a beacon of hope, reminding us of the price paid for the peace and freedom we hold dear.

I chanced upon an inconspicuous headstone, Plot (PF-C6) which soon revealed itself to be a poignant memorial that held a deeper narrative.



IN MEMORY OF  
PRYCE LLOYD  
DIED NOV 26: 1917  
AGED 70 YEARS  
ALSO GRIFFITH HIS SON THIS SON  
KILLED IN ACTION IN FRANCE  
MARCH 28, 1918, AGED 28 YEARS

This solemn inscription piqued my curiosity, prompting me to delve further into the story of Pryce Lloyd's cherished son, Griffith. It became evident that Griffith was not laid to rest here, and my curiosity drove me to uncover more details. As I delved deeper, this is what I uncovered.

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This is for the memory of Griffith Lloyd, Private, 307171, Lancashire Fusiliers.

Griffith Lloyd, the cherished son of Pryce and Ellen Lloyd. A life intertwined with the land, both Griffith and his father served as Gamekeepers at Trimsaran, residing at the Keeper's Lodge before the world was plunged into conflict.

Answering the call of duty, Griffith enlisted in Kidwelly, joining the ranks of the 2/8th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers. This valiant unit was affiliated with the 197 Brigade, a crucial part of the 66th (2nd East Lancs.) Division. Their journey led them to the Western Front, a theatre of sacrifice and valour, which they reached by the 16th of March 1917. From there, they ventured to the shores of Flanders.

As the seasons shifted, September of 1917 found them stationed in Ypres, where they steadfastly participated in the harrowing Battle of Poelcapelle. With determination, they then marched southward to the Somme, a name etched in history. On the fateful 21st of March 1918, the tumultuous tempest of the German Spring Offensive swept upon them at the Battle of St Quentin. Undaunted, they held their ground, and in the subsequent westward movement, they engaged in the Actions at the Somme Crossings—a chapter where destiny would unfold for Griffith.



In the crucible of battle, Griffith sustained wounds that would ultimately claim his life. Aged just 28, he passed away on the 28th of March 1918. His final resting place is Namps-Au-Val British Cemetery, France—an eternal abode where his bravery and sacrifice remain forever enshrined.

In humble tribute, we honour Griffith Lloyd, his unwavering courage, and the legacy he bestowed upon history. May his memory be a beacon of inspiration for generations to come.

This marked another chapter in the history of this cemetery.

This another sad story which made me think of my family and what I would feel if this had happened to me. I was recording the details of a memorial stone of Mary Anthony (Plot PE2-D1) and took in the enormity of what I saw before me on the inscription.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
DAVID  
SON OF DAVID & MARY ANTHONY  
OF AQUEDUCT IN THIS PARISH WHO DIED  
NOV 8, 1880, AGED 6 MONTHS  
MARY ANTHONY  
APRIL 27, 1884, AGED 29 YEARS  
ALSO MARY DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE  
BORN APRIL 27th, 1884, DIED APRIL 21st, 1901.

Indeed, the inscriptions on the memorial stones hold within them stories of heartbreak, loss, and the fragility of life. As you stood before the memorial stone of Mary Anthony, the weight of the narrative etched into the cold stone must have been palpable – a testament to the profound grief that can touch a family's life.

In the span of these few lines, a tale of tragedy and loss is woven, a tapestry of lives cut short, and hearts left shattered. The dates, the ages, and the relationships carved into the stone carry the weight of entire lifetimes condensed into a few words. The stark reality of Mary Anthony's story is heart-wrenching.

To lose a son at only 6 months old, to pass away at such a tender age of 29, and then, a cruel twist of fate, to bring a daughter into the world on the same day she herself would depart – it's a narrative that encapsulates the harshness of life's uncertainties. The story of Mary Anthony and her daughter Mary is a poignant reminder of the delicate balance between life and mortality, the fleeting nature of our existence.

Standing before that stone, the realization must have hit you with a wave of empathy and reflection. It's moments like these that make us pause and ponder our own lives, the lives of our loved ones, and the profound vulnerability that accompanies our journey through this world. Such stories bridge the gap between history and personal experience, making us realize that while time marches on, the emotions and the essence of human experience remain timeless.

As we contemplate the stories etched into these stones, may they inspire us to cherish the moments we have, to hold our loved ones a little closer, and to find meaning and purpose in the face of life's uncertainties. The vulnerability that you sensed in those inscriptions reminds us of the

importance of compassion and understanding – for each life, no matter how brief, carries its own weight and significance in the grand tapestry of existence.

I've been dedicating my time and effort to meticulously record the cemetery memorials at Llandyry Church. This journey, undertaken in collaboration with the church warden, has been a profound and humbling experience. Today, I'm thrilled to share my reflections on this endeavour, hoping that you will find it as moving to read as I found it to live.

The process of documenting these memorials has been nothing short of overwhelming in the most touching way. Each gravestone represents a life – a story waiting to be uncovered, shared, and remembered. As I've walked among these silent sentinels, the weight of history has settled upon my shoulders, inviting me to honour the lives that once thrived within these hallowed grounds.

The gravestones are more than markers; they are windows into the past. The names, dates, and inscriptions etched into the stone reveal glimpses of triumphs and tribulations, joys, and sorrows. Every name is a thread in the rich tapestry of our shared human experience. The names may be weathered, but they still speak to us, reminding us of the lives once lived and the connections that endure beyond time.

Through this project, I've come to realize the deeply personal nature of remembrance. The act of preserving these memories is a gift to those who came before us and to the generations that will follow. It's a way of saying, "Your stories matter. Your existence is not forgotten." In this age of fleeting digital interactions, there's something sacred about the permanence of these inscriptions, standing as a testament to the lives they represent.

As I reflect on the countless hours spent amidst the stones, my heart is full of humility. The enormity of history and the tapestry of humanity that resides within this churchyard have left an indelible mark on my soul. It's a reminder that life is precious, fragile, and ultimately fleeting. The stories that these stones hold is a reminder to live with purpose, to cherish our moments, and to leave a legacy worth remembering.

So here it is, my attempt to put into words the emotions that have swelled within me during this journey. I invite you to read, to share in this experience, and to join me in honouring the lives that have contributed to the fabric of this community. I hope my words capture even a fraction of the awe and reverence I've felt in the presence of these memorials.

Thank you for being a part of this journey with me. I believe that these stories, these lives, and these moments of remembrance are worth every effort, and I invite you to explore this shared history with me.

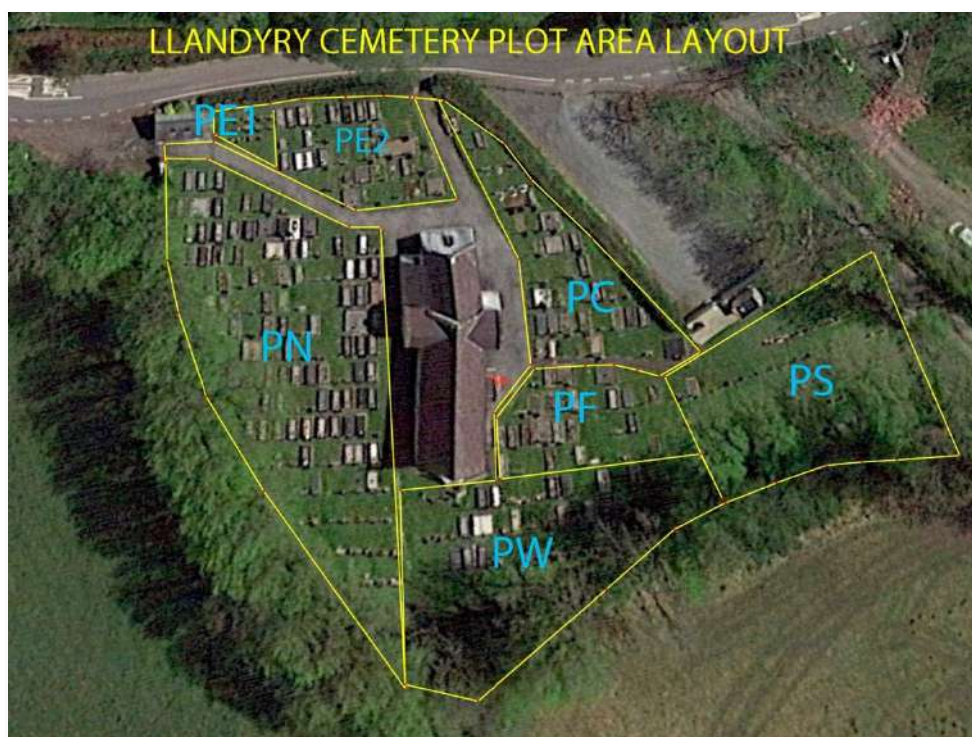
With heartfelt gratitude,

Graham Tudor Emmanuel

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Acknowledgments: We extend our sincere gratitude to Coflein for providing valuable insights into the history of Llandry Church. Additionally, we would like to thank [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) for offering the necessary tools to preserve pertinent data and facilitating our information-gathering process. Your contributions have greatly enriched the content and quality of this project.

*Llandry Cemetery Memorial Plot Layout Location*



Memorials: - <https://tinyurl.com/Llandry-Memorials>

## ***Carmel Welsh Independent Chapel Pembrey***

Carmel Welsh Independent Chapel in Pembrey stands as a testament to its enduring history, having evolved through multiple phases of construction and expansion. Initially built in 1828, the chapel underwent its first extension in 1829, reflecting the growing needs of its congregation.

A significant reconstruction took place in 1882, ushering in a new era for Carmel Chapel. This phase likely involved either the complete rebuilding of the structure or a substantial renovation, aligning the chapel with the architectural trends of the late 19th century.

As the community continued to thrive, the chapel experienced another enlargement in 1929. This expansion not only accommodated the increasing congregation but also embraced the architectural styles of the early 20th century. The chapel's design during this period followed the Simple Round-Headed and Sub-Classical style, characterized by rounded arches and classical elements.

The current chapel, dated 1929, stands as the culmination of these historical transformations. It features the distinctive gable entry type, a design that emphasizes a prominent gable at the entrance. Today, Carmel Welsh Independent Chapel is not only a place of worship but also a living testament to the architectural and cultural heritage of the Pembrey community.

While the chapel is physically closer to Pembrey, its accessibility made it a popular choice for the residents of Trimsaran and Pen y Mynydd. The proximity of the chapel to both communities facilitated its extensive use for a range of events, including weddings, funerals, and religious meetings.



<https://tinyurl.com/Carmel-Memorials>

## *Gwendraeth Valley Railway*

The Gwendraeth Valley Railway left an indelible mark on the mining industry in the Gwendraeth Valley throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. Its impact was multifaceted and instrumental in shaping the economic and cultural landscape of the region.

The primary function of the Gwendraeth Valley Railway was to streamline the transportation of coal from the valley's numerous collieries to coastal ports for export. This strategic railway significantly reduced both the cost and time associated with moving coal, thereby enhancing the economic viability of mining operations.

The existence of a reliable railway system spurred the expansion of mining activities in the Gwendraeth Valley. Mining companies, buoyed by the improved transportation infrastructure, became more willing to invest in new collieries and increase production.

Connecting the Gwendraeth Valley to coastal ports like Burry Port, Kidwelly, and Llanelli, the railway facilitated the export of coal to national and international markets. This increased export capacity played a pivotal role in the valley's coal industry, providing access to a broader customer base.

The construction and operation of the railway created employment opportunities for residents. From laying tracks to staffing railway stations and maintenance crews, the railway industry became a significant source of jobs in the valley.

Beyond its role in coal export, the railway also streamlined the importation of essential resources needed for mining operations. This included machinery, timber for support structures, and other vital supplies, further supporting the growth of the mining industry.

The Gwendraeth Valley Railway provided a competitive advantage to the local coal industry. Its efficiency in transporting coal to markets surpassed that of other regions, making the valley's coal an attractive choice for buyers.

In addition to its economic impact, the construction and maintenance of the railway infrastructure contributed to overall development in the valley. This included the building of bridges, tunnels, and the railway itself, enhancing connectivity within the region.

The legacy of the Gwendraeth Valley Railway persists in the cultural and historical identity of the region. Railway stations, tracks, and associated structures stand as tangible reminders of the valley's industrial heritage, contributing to a narrative that transcends time.

In summary, the Gwendraeth Valley Railway played a crucial role in the Gwendraeth Valley's mining industry by improving coal transportation, expanding mining operations, increasing export capacity, creating job opportunities, providing access to resources, offering a competitive advantage, contributing to infrastructure development, and leaving a lasting cultural impact. It was an essential component of the region's industrial landscape during the height of the coal mining era.

### **The History of Trimsaran Brickworks & Adjacent Trimsaran Coal Mine.**

The history of Trimsaran Brickworks is closely intertwined with the adjacent Trimsaran coal mine, forming a rich tapestry of industrial development in the region.



The story begins with the Trimsaran coal mine, established in 1860 and initially owned by Williams, Smith & Co. This marked the early stages of mining operations in Trimsaran, likely providing the initial impetus for industrial growth in the area. By 1865, ownership transitioned to the Banking Co., a shift often driven by financial and operational considerations common in the coal mining industry.

In 1875, a pivotal change occurred as the Trimsaran Coal & Iron Co. assumed ownership of the mine. This transformation suggested a broadened focus, possibly incorporating iron-related activities alongside coal mining. Such diversification was a strategic response to the changing industrial landscape of the time.

Further alterations in ownership, particularly the transition to the Trimsaran Colliery Co. in 1880, potentially indicated strategic moves or management shifts to enhance efficiency and productivity in coal extraction.

The subsequent transformation into Trimsaran Colliery Co. Ltd in 1885-1896 marked a significant step, perhaps driven by a need for increased capital and broader stakeholder involvement.

By the early 20th century, the coal mine underwent another restructuring, emerging as Trimsaran Co. Ltd between 1900-1905. This evolution may have been a response to evolving business strategies, economic conditions, or technological advancements in the mining sector during that era.

During the same period, around 1900, the 'Trimsaran Brick Co' became a prominent presence at the Trimsaran Upper Colliery. The coal mine and the brickworks likely operated in

proximity, sharing resources and potentially a labour force. The brickworks capitalized on the availability of raw materials such as coal, essential for the firing process in brick production.

The symbiotic relationship between the coal mine and brickworks is evident as the colliery operations merged into the NCB while the brickworks continued under the management of the 'British Anthracite Co.' This transition, accompanied by the eventual closure of the brickworks in 1967, marked the end of an era, signifying a shift in the industrial landscape.

The legacy of Trimsaran Brickworks endures a testament to its vital role in the region's industrial heritage. The integration of these historical narratives illuminates the interconnectedness of coal mining and brick production, providing a holistic view of the industrial evolution that shaped Trimsaran. Rich historical records, including photographs, maps, and employee documentation, stand as witnesses to this remarkable industrial journey.

### *Trimsaran Brickworks Production Flow*

In the industrial dance of creation that was the Trimsaran Brickworks, the raw symphony of production began in the quarry, nestled between the brickworks and the Plas. Here, a quartet of workers diligently blasted rock under the watchful eye of Elvet Phillips, the maestro of detonation.

The stones, liberated from the quarry's grip, embarked on a subterranean journey beneath the Plas Road, riding in drams to their next destination—the crusher. This mechanical maw, a formidable amalgamation of a large bowl and a heavy wheel, tirelessly churned the stones into a powdery embrace of dry clay.

The metamorphosed clay then found itself in the arms of a mixer, where water became the alchemist's touch, crafting the perfect potion. The concoction, now clay in its rebirth, was ushered into moulds where compression bestowed upon it the distinctive Trimsaran Brick shape—9 inches long, 4 inches wide, and 2 inches deep.

Some bricks were blessed with a touch of artistry, as coloured sand cascaded upon them, painting the external face in vibrant hues.

Barrows patiently waited to cradle the moulded bricks, ferrying them to the kiln's chamber. Two kilns, each adorned with its chimney stack, stood sentinel with a total of 32 chambers, ready to embrace the bricks for their fiery ordeal.

As each chamber reached its zenith of fullness, a ritualistic bricking-up occurred, leaving a solitary peephole to witness the impending transformation. The inferno within, stoked by small coal from above, rendered the kiln a crucible of metamorphosis. The glass sentinel atop the brick stack attested to the furnace's mastery, its melted form confirming the temperature's ascent to the sacred 1000 degrees Celsius.

A meticulous 21-day choreography of preheating, baking, and cooling followed, an elaborate ballet performed by the kiln. The heat, once unleashed upon the first eight chambers, pirouetted to the next, leaving behind a trail of perfectly fired bricks.

The unveiling of the chamber's contents marked the climax, as bricks, now sculpted by the kiln's fiery hand, were paraded on barrows to await their next journey. From railway trucks to lorries, the bricks embarked on a terrestrial odyssey to the coal yard, ready to be handballed onto building sites.

Amidst this choreographed chaos, the hardy Trimsaran brick emerged, christened as an engineering marvel. No whisper of automation graced this industrious saga; instead, every stage bore the indelible mark of human hands.

In the shadow of closure in 1967, the once-thriving brickyard left behind memories, embodied in photographs capturing the bygone days—the maps of 1904 and 1914, the faces of employees in 1962, and frozen moments from 1955.

As the dust of time settled over Cwm y Rhyfel, a landscape defined by Plas, Brickworks, and Upper Drift, the two cottages, Cwm y Rhyfel Cottages 1 and 2, stood as silent witnesses to an era when bricks were more than mere building blocks—they were the tangible echoes of an industrial symphony.

### *The Legacy*

The legacy of the 'Trimsaran Brick Co' at the Trimsaran Upper Colliery, dating back to 1900, endured through various iterations, initially known as the 'Trimsaran Colliery and Brickworks Co' in 1915. A subsequent transition saw the colliery operations integrated into the NCB, while the brickworks retained its autonomy under the management of the 'British Anthracite Co,' ultimately ceasing operations in 1967.

In its heyday, Trimsaran Brickworks stood as a pivotal industrial cornerstone deeply embedded in the local heritage. The intricate dance of production unfolded with the extraction of stones from the Quarry strategically positioned between the brickworks and the Plas. Guided by Elvet Phillips, locally esteemed as Elvet y Godian, a skilled team of four employed blasting techniques to ensure the stones were precisely sized for the impending crusher.

Transported underneath the Plas Road, the stones were carefully loaded into drams before meeting the embrace of the crusher—a formidable amalgamation of a large bowl and a heavy wheel. This meticulous grinding process transformed the stones into dry powdered clay, a fundamental ingredient in the subsequent alchemy of brick production.

The dry powdered clay underwent a ritualistic union with water, with a precise water-to-clay ratio serving as a linchpin in achieving the desired final product. The resulting clay mixture found its purpose in moulds, where compression bestowed upon it the iconic dimensions of a Trimsaran Brick: 9 inches in length, 4 inches in width, and 2 inches in depth.

Craftsmanship reached its zenith as coloured sand could be blasted onto the bricks, creating an external finish adorned with a spectrum of hues. The moulded bricks, now works of art, embarked on a journey to the kiln chamber, a critical juncture in the production process featuring 16 chambers in each of the two kilns—a total of 32 chambers. This orchestration allowed for the firing of an impressive 15,000 bricks per chamber.

The kiln chambers, meticulously arranged, facilitated the passage of hot air to ensure an even distribution of heat during the firing process. Once sealed, the chambers underwent a transformative journey, reaching temperatures of approximately 1000°C. A glass bottle atop the brick stack acted as a sentinel, melting at 900°C to signal the correct temperature attainment.

The firing process, sustained by the meticulous addition of small coal, extended over an exhaustive 21-day period. Post-firing, the bricks were handled with the utmost care, delicately loaded onto barrows, and transported to railway trucks (later lorries) for distribution. Every stage of this manual process bore the imprint of dedicated craftsmanship.

These bricks, reaching construction sites, found purpose in two distinct types: Face bricks for visible areas and common bricks for plastered surfaces. The Trimsaran brick, celebrated for its exceptional hardness, held the prestigious title of an engineering brick—a testament to industrial craftsmanship.

The closure of the brickyard in 1967 marked the end of an era, leaving behind a legacy that reverberated through the local area. CWM Y RHYFEL, encompassing Plas, Brickworks, and the upper drift, stood as a testament to historical importance.

Adding a human touch to this industrial landscape were two cottages near the brickworks, named Cwm y Rhyfel Cottages 1 and 2. These cottages contributed to the historical narrative of Trimsaran Brickworks, further enriched by a wealth of historical records, including photographs, maps, and employee documentation, providing a glimpse into the evolution and profound history of this industrial powerhouse.

Nestled in the annals of time, Trimsaran emerges as a place with a rich historical tapestry woven with threads of mining, industry, and ancient settlements. The mining

saga in Trimsaran traces its roots back to the 1600s, where the first echoes of coal extraction resonated in Carway. By the 1760s, the burgeoning mining activities prompted the creation of Kymer's Canal, a vital lifeline transporting coal and culm to Kidwelly harbour. The pulse of the village quickened, reaching its zenith in 1931 when over 700 hands toiled in the mines, shaping Trimsaran into a thriving community.

Around 1900, the brickworks joined this industrious symphony, laying the foundation for the village's houses. Concurrently, a small steelwork nestled in the rail yard, adding another note to the harmonious melody of industry. The c19 witnessed the rise of three chapels, architectural hymns to the village's growth.

The mining landscape underwent a transformative shift in 1931, as the Jackson Open Cast replaced drift mines. In the 1990s, Wimpey delved deeper into the earth, extracting another layer of history. Amidst the coal-laden soil, whispers of an ancient past surfaced—three Iron Age defended enclosures dating back 2,000 years, silent witnesses to the eons that unfolded in Trimsaran.

Tracing back to the 14th century, three settlements, Muddlescum, Cilferi, and Ciltrhedin, adorned the landscape. While Ciltrhedin and Muddlescum endured the sands of time, Cilferi succumbed to the Open Cast's relentless advance.

In the pages of history, Griffith Dwnn of Muddlescum left an indelible mark, fighting in Agincourt in 1415 before ascending to the esteemed role of Receiver of Kidwelly in 1427 and County Sheriff in 1432. His lineage, the Mansel family, found their abode in the Plas Trimsaran during the 18th century. The illustrious walls of the Plas once hosted John Wesley, who marvelled at its "few large, handsome rooms" before succumbing to the upheaval of the Open Cast.

Spudder's Bridge, a relic from the 14th century with later alterations, weaves another strand into Trimsaran's narrative. In the 1840s, the toll house adjacent to the bridge witnessed tumult as Rebecca rioters, champions of protest, against turnpike roads and tolls, left their mark on history. The toll house, a silent witness to rebellion, stands as a testament to a bygone era when the tolls exacted more than a financial price—an old lady's life lost in the echoes of protest.

Trimsaran, a palimpsest of epochs, invites exploration into its layers—mining, industry, ancient settlements, and the resilient spirit of a village etched into the very fabric of time.

Reminders of Trimsaran Past.



The Bird in Hand Pub



Star Inn & Trimsaran School



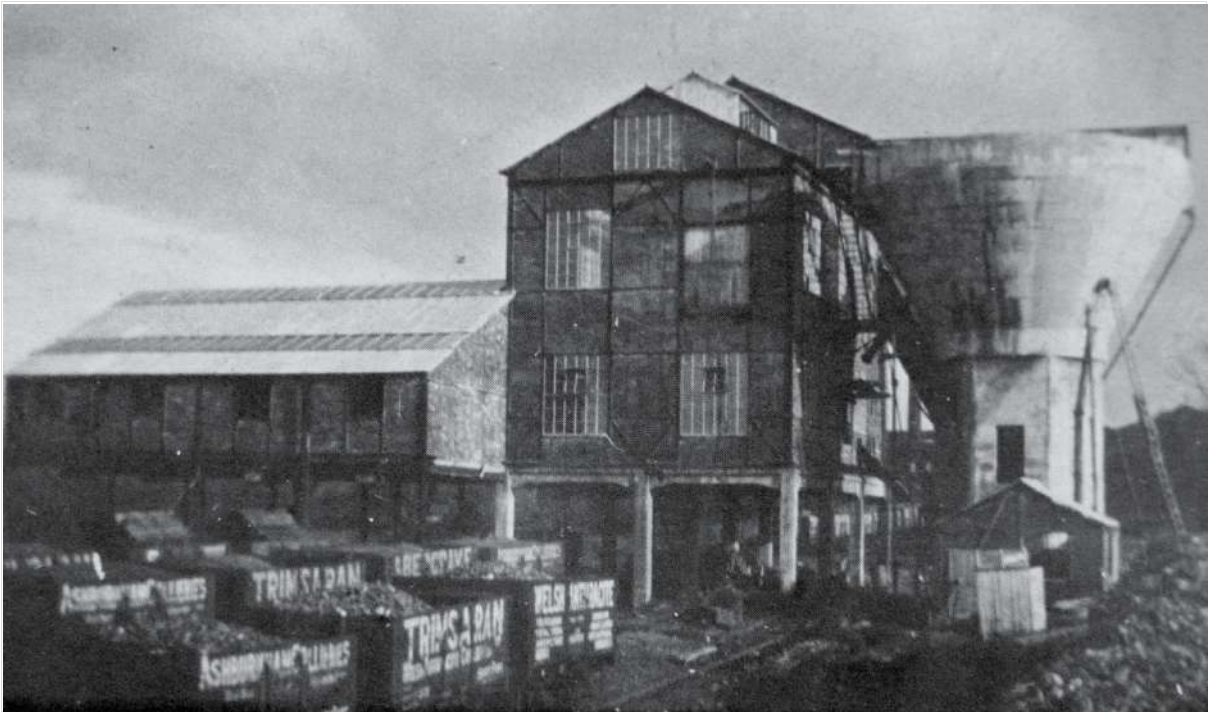
Trimsaran School



Trimsaran Coal Yard & Weigh Bridge



*The Miners Arms*



*The Coal Washery*

# The Sale of the Plas Trimsaran.

## Trimaran Steam Coal Colliery and Iron Works

Report by Mr. Brooke Ridgway Smith, Mining Surveyor

To: John Hollingworth, Esq., and others negotiating the purchase of the works and fixed plant, and lease of mineral ground.

Printed by: Waterlow and Sons, London

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### 1. Preliminary Remarks

Trimaran is located within the parish of Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, at the western edge of the Carmarthenshire coal basin, close to transport links. The estate spans **750 acres** and includes **Anthracite coal, iron ore, and fire clay**. The property features well-established infrastructure, including collieries, iron works, and a fire-brick establishment. Despite some historical mining activities, most mineral deposits remain untapped.

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### 2. Property Overview

- **Collieries:** Multiple coal veins across the estate.
  - **Iron Works:** Includes two blast furnaces with a production capacity of 50 tons of pig iron per week.
  - **Fire Brick Facility:** Operational to produce bricks.
  - **Steam Engines:** Used for pumping water and powering mining operations.
  - **Railways:** A few miles of well-maintained tracks and tramways for mineral transport.
  - **Offices & Shop:** On-site administrative and retail spaces.
  - **Housing:** 28 workers' cottages, manager's house, and ancillary structures.
- 

### 3. Mineral Resources and Geological Features

- **Coal Veins:**
  - The estate contains **20+ coal veins** within a mile-and-a-half radius, with an aggregate thickness of 57 feet, estimated at **20 million tons**.
  - Veins include **semi-bituminous to anthracitic** coal, ideal for **iron smelting** and as **steam fuel**.
- **Iron Ore:**
  - The iron ore on the estate averages **34% iron**, with a **100-inch-thick course** of black band iron.
  - The reputation for **Trimaran Iron** is well-established.

### **Quality:**

- The anthracitic coal is particularly desirable for **smelting** due to its high carbon content, making it smokeless and efficient for industrial applications.
- 

## **4. Mining Operations and Infrastructure**

- **Iron Works:**
    - Two blast furnaces, a modern blast engine, refinery, and two cupolas for remelting.
  - **Water Supply:**
    - Ponds providing water for blast engines and furnaces.
  - **Transportation:**
    - **2-3 miles of railways and tramways** connecting to the nearby harbor of Kidwelly, as well as the harbors of Pembrey and Burry Port.
  - **Housing and Facilities:**
    - Well-established housing for workers and a manager's house. Ancillary structures include offices, workshops, and a shop.
  - **Moveable Equipment:**
    - Cranes, wagons, underground trams, safety lamps, miners' tools, office furniture, and casting tools—all present on-site.
- 

## **5. Key Considerations for Future Operations**

- **Mineral Abundance:**
    - The estate holds significant reserves of coal and iron ore, with most resources remaining untapped.
  - **Quality of Resources:**
    - The **anthracitic coal** is smokeless, high in carbon, and suitable for industrial processes, particularly iron smelting.
  - **Ease of Extraction:**
    - The existing infrastructure, including tunnels, pits, and hydraulic systems, is well-maintained, offering a solid foundation for further extraction and operations.
  - **Further Recommendations:**
    - Continue operations at the **New Inn Level** to access the southern veins.
    - Extend the New Inn Level to reach additional unworked veins.
-

## 6. Principal Veins of Coal on the Trimaran Estate

The following coal veins are identified on the estate:

1. Carway
2. Culla Vein
3. Rider
4. Vangog
5. Waunhir Double (2 feet)
6. King's Vein
7. Two-Foot
8. Yard Seam
9. Big Vein
10. Small Vein
11. Green
12. Greygog
13. Mole
14. Drap
15. Wainfynonne
16. Quarry
17. Golden
18. Upper Mountain
19. Bankog
20. Dythel

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## 7. Conclusion

Trimaran offers significant potential for coal and iron production. Its **high-quality anthracitic coal** and established **iron ore deposits**, combined with excellent proximity to transportation routes, position the estate as an industrial asset. With careful management and further exploration of untapped mineral reserves, Trimaran could be a highly profitable operation.

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## 8. Future Considerations: Price and Negotiations

The price for the sale of Trimaran should take into account the estate's **past operational history**, the **substantial remaining reserves**, and the **existing infrastructure**. The potential for future operations and profitability should influence the terms, and it is recommended to **revisit the terms** if negotiations proceed.

**Total Thickness:** 57 feet

In addition to these veins, there are other coal seams beneath Trimaran that do not crop out on the estate. One of these is a second 9-foot vein located approximately 20 fathoms deep at

the northern edge of the property. However, lower vein outcrops are not shown on the plan and are not enumerated here.

### **Geological Characteristics**

The coal measures dip from north to south at a gradient of 1 in 3 to 1 in 4, with an average seam length of about one mile east to west. The coal is exceptionally carbon-rich, exceeding 90% carbon, with a specific gravity of approximately one ton per cubic yard.

### **Estimated Coal Reserves**

The estate holds an estimated 20 million tons of coal, a substantial reserve. This coal is excellent for iron smelting and has been historically used for various purposes, including:

- Shipment to France for ironworks at Marquis Mining.
- Steam fuel for various works in London (as documented in the June 1855 edition of the *Mining Journal*).
- Lime burning for the construction of London Bridge, using Trimaran small coal.

### **Costs and Revenue**

- **Extraction Cost (Pit Bank):** ~2s. 6d. per ton (excluding rent and capital interest).
  - **Transport to Harbour and Shipping:** 1s. 8d. per ton.
  - **Proposed Royalty Rent:** 6d. per ton.
  - **Total Cost:** 4s. 8d. per ton.
  - **Selling Price ("through and through"):** 7s. 6d. per ton.
- 

## **Iron and Fire-Brick Production**

### **Iron Resources**

Ironstone accompanies the coal seams, lying either above or below them, with an aggregate thickness of ~100 inches. The ore averages 34% iron content, superior to typical argillaceous ores of Wales.

### **Notable Uses of Trimaran Iron:**

- Castings for weighing machines, cranes, foundation plates, and wagon wheels.
- Heavy castings for Swansea swivel bridges, made partly from Trimaran iron.

### **Production Costs:**

- **Making Iron (including all expenses and Royalty Rent):** ~£3 per ton.
- **Selling Price (Anthracite Iron):** £4 10s. to £5 per ton (free on board).
- **Estimated Average Revenue (including castings):** £4 15s. per ton.
- **Profit Margin:** ~35s. per ton.

## Fire-Brick Production

The firebrick works cater to the estate's needs and external markets. Features include:

- A kiln capable of producing ~500,000 bricks annually.
- Rollers powered by a 21-foot water wheel, with drying and tempering sheds.

### Key Attributes:

- High resistance to intense heat, suitable for furnace linings and metallurgical uses.
- Historical sales to copper and tin works in Neath, Swansea, Llanelly, Carmarthen, and France.

### Expansion Potential:

Demand in Carmarthenshire and nearby counties could support annual sales of ~3 million bricks, with a profit of ~10s. per thousand.

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## Mining Operations and Levels

### Drainage Levels

The coal and mine drainage systems consist of:

1. **St. Leger Level:** Draining the eastern part of the estate.
2. **New Inn Level:** A secondary drainage system.
3. **Cadean Pit Drainage:** Limited to the Yard Vein.

### Mining Techniques

- **Eastern Section:** Older workings primarily accessed via slants, supported by St. Leger Level drainage. Key veins worked include the Yard, Green, Greygog, and Big Veins.
- **Western Section:** Coal raised via pits, supported by water wheels and small steam engines.

### Notable Geological Feature

A fault or "roll" near the estate's centre divides it into eastern and western sections, influencing mining strategies and levels.

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## Summary: The Trimaran Estate

The **Trimaran estate** boasts abundant reserves of **coal** and **ironstone**, supported by extensive infrastructure for mining and fire-brick production. Its high-quality resources and strong potential for profitability make it a valuable asset for industrial operations. Below is a

detailed overview of the estate's current condition, historical workings, challenges, and prospects.

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## Coal Workings Overview

### St. Legor Level (Eastern Side)

- Driven westward to drain coal and mines.
- Stonework at the mouth lies ~40 feet above the valley floor.
- Extends 100–150 yards along veins, worked primarily in upper measures (deepest point: Grey Gog Vein, ~45 fathoms below level).
- Level is typically dry but difficult to keep free of water.
- Development lacks systematic planning; drifts are poorly aligned with coal cleavage planes.

### New Inn Level (Western Side)

- Driven in a southerly direction, intersecting Grey Gog, Big Vein, and Mole Vein.
  - Water depth at the time of inspection: ~5 feet.
  - Workings extend ~200 yards but are currently stalled.
  - Offers potential access to deeper reserves not reached by the St. Legor Level.
- 

## Mining Infrastructure and Observations

- Historical workings display a **haphazard development approach**, driven by a sole focus on coal extraction at minimal cost.
- Lack of systematic planning:
  - Slants, pits, and levels cross each other at random angles.
  - Slants often cut across cleavage planes, wasting resources.
  - Examples:
    - **Grey Gog Vein:** Parallel slants cut vein into square pillars.
    - **Big Vein:** Three slants intersect, forming irregular patterns.
    - **Green Vein:** Slant correctly aligned with coal structure.

### Major Historical Operations

- Coal was raised using water wheels and accessed through various slants and levels.
- Eastern reserves, including Yard, Green, Unskilful, Grey Gog, and Big Veins, were heavily worked to depths of 120 yards.
- Previous operators lacked geological understanding, leading to inefficiency, and wasted resources.

### Challenges in Workings

- Poor alignment with geological features caused inefficiency.

- High costs of raising and transporting coal (7s. 6d. to 10s. per ton) suggest unprofitable operations.
  - Transportation difficulties to the harbour likely compounded expenses.
- 

## Key Resources and Reserves

- The **eastern side** contains significant historical workings, with some areas exhausted before current lessees took over.
- The **New Inn Level** offers untapped potential, accessing coal 12 yards deeper than the St. Legor Level.
- Geological sections indicate **eight additional veins** south of the Grey Gog Vein, accessible via future developments.

## Potential Reserves

- Up to **500,000 tons of unwatered coal** remain above the two levels in the eastern portion.
  - Beyond the fault ("roll"), no major dislocations of stratification have been observed, suggesting the possibility of recovering additional coal.
- 

## Future Recommendations

1. **Systematic Planning:**
    - Develop a coherent strategy to align future workings with coal seams and cleavage planes.
    - Drive a drift southerly for 500 yards to intercept the Big Vein and establish connections to Green and Grey Gog Seams.
  2. **New Developments:**
    - Extend the New Inn Level to access additional veins.
    - Drive a cross-drift to maximize connectivity and efficiency.
  3. **Improved Infrastructure:**
    - Modernize mining techniques to reduce waste and optimize resource extraction.
    - Establish better drainage systems to address water-related challenges.
- 

## Conclusion

The Trimaran estate holds substantial untapped resources with significant potential for profitable mining operations. By addressing historical inefficiencies and adopting a systematic approach, the estate could leverage its **remaining coal reserves** and its **strategic infrastructure** to become a major industrial asset. Modernized methods and a clear development plan will be essential to unlocking this potential.

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## The New Inn Level and Repairs

The **New Inn Level** should ideally have been extended towards the Mole Vein. If this extension were completed to intersect with the eight southern veins, it could potentially unwater an additional **million tons of coal**. While the accompanying ironstone is generally extracted along with the coal, this discussion focuses more on the coal itself, as ironstone is not as readily distinguished or consistently named.

The condition of the underground levels, particularly regarding their state of repair or damage due to disuse, is critical. Regarding the **upper (St. Leger's) Level**, it is primarily used as a waterway (850 out of 1,000 yards). For this purpose, it remains nearly as effective as during the period of active mining. However, the **Lower (New Inn) Level** is more significant and requires extensive repairs, particularly in sections driven through coal or soft ground.

### Current Condition of the New Inn Level

- The first **1,000 yards** of the New Inn Level, driven through stony and relatively firm ground, occasionally includes unnecessary arches but generally remains in good condition.
- The next **150 yards**, following the Big Vein, are in poor condition due to the vein's notoriously unstable roof. This section likely requires reconstruction in more stable strata.
- The level then transitions into sound ground before reaching the **Grey Gog Vein**, where it follows the vein's course for nearly **300 yards**. While the Grey Gog has a firmer roof, it is uncertain how much repair will be needed without a detailed underground survey.

In total, along the **1,800-yard stretch** of the New Inn Level, only two segments (at the Big Vein and Grey Gog Vein) are driven in coal and are expected to need extensive repairs. However, the drift between these points, being constructed in sturdy rock, provides a permanent and reliable pathway.

### The Cadean Pit

The **Cadean Pit**, sunk to a depth of **54 fathoms** on the Yard Vein (25 fathoms deeper than the New Inn Level), was intended to facilitate drainage through pumping. From this deep level, coal has been worked along the Yard Vein to the western boundary and about **600 yards eastward**. However, apart from a small cut to the "Two Foot" mine, no cross-drifts have been made to other veins on this level.

### Rich Resources and Future Potential

Accompanying the coal veins is a significant quantity of rich ironstone. However, to secure a steady supply of iron ore, it would be necessary to reopen the **Glanmorlais** and **Two-Foot Levels** and take measures to work the coal and mine above these levels. Deciding the best course of action for these operations requires careful inspection and detailed analysis of the underground workings.

## Summary of Resources

1. **Coal Reserves:** The property contains an immense abundance of coal, situated near ports, enabling economical extraction and shipping. With proper planning, it is estimated that a daily supply of **1,000 tons of coal for 50 years** could be achieved.
2. **Coal Quality:** Some upper veins in the transition series are described as "free-burning" anthracites, once considered unsuitable for malting but now highly valued as a **steam fuel**.
3. **Iron Ore:** The iron produced from the associated ore is of excellent quality and can be manufactured cost-effectively. The reserves are sufficient to supply the existing number of furnaces for **100 years**.
4. **Proximity to Ports:** The property's location offers a significant advantage for back-carriage and mixing local ores with richer seaborne ores from Lancashire or Cornwall, a common practice among Welsh ironworks.

The potential exists for creating large-scale establishments, comparable to those in Merthyr. There is sufficient local ore, and nearby sources have proven valuable, as evidenced by:

- **Carmarthenshire iron ore** (calcined) being sold in Dudley for **28 shillings per ton**.
- Iron ore from Trimaran being sent to Staffordshire and sold for **23 shillings per ton**.

The property also contains fire brick works, adding to its value and operational potential.

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## Historical Background and Financial Considerations

The value and proposed terms for acquiring the property must take into account its history and current condition. The works have been idle for some time, and while the infrastructure remains largely intact, it cannot be valued as if it were an active concern.

### History of the Estate

1. **Initial Lease (1841):** The estate, initially undeveloped for ironworks, was leased to **Messrs. Beynon and MacDougall** for mining rights. They also leased **200 acres of surface land at 20s per acre per annum** for constructing furnaces and other facilities.
2. **Investment and Challenges (1841–1844):**
  - Messrs. Beynon expended **£27,000** on the property but exhausted their capital.
  - Interest on borrowed funds, combined with falling iron prices (iron cost **56s/ton** to produce but sold at **52s 6d/ton**), led to the cessation of operations in 1844.
3. **New Ownership (1845):** The works were taken over by **Messrs. Norton, Upperton, and Stone**, who:
  - Installed the **great blast engine** (120 HP, costing £24,000).
  - Built cottages and additional infrastructure, investing **£13,000**.
  - Despite significant investment, their lack of experience in the iron trade and poor financial management led to inefficiencies.

By 1851, following the death of Mr. Norton (senior partner), the partnership dissolved, operations ceased, and the lease was surrendered.

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## Critique of Proposed Valuation Terms

The proposed valuation of the property based on historical outlay is problematic. While the total investment exceeds **£40,000**, much of it was poorly directed:

- **Overinvestment in infrastructure:** For example, the blast engine was overpowered relative to operational needs, and railroads were designed for heavier traffic than required.
- **Inefficiencies:** Decisions lacked oversight, leading to wasteful expenses and costly mistakes, particularly in underground works.

Given these circumstances, it is inappropriate to base the property's value solely on past outlay. The disuse of the works and the errors of previous operators must be factored into the valuation.

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## Recommendations and Advantages

Despite past challenges, the property has significant advantages:

1. **Resource Abundance:** Ample coal and iron reserves can sustain large-scale operations for decades.
2. **Strategic Location:** Proximity to ports facilitates economical shipping and competitive pricing.
3. **Infrastructure:** Existing surface works and machinery, though idle, remain in good condition and can be quickly reactivated.

To realize the full potential of the property, the following actions are recommended:

- Reopen the Glanmorlais and Two-Foot Levels for sustained iron production.
- Increase mining activity to meet the estimated daily coal demand of **1,000 tons**.
- Invest in repairs and modernization where necessary, avoiding the mistakes of past operators.

If approached strategically, the Trimaran estate offers an exceptional opportunity for establishing extensive and profitable mining and ironworking operations.

## Proposed Lease Terms and Valuation

The current proposal involves granting a new **60-year lease** for all the mineral property, adhering to the royalties mentioned earlier, and includes:

- **200 acres of surface land**, leased at **20s per acre per annum** (for maiden ground).

- Payment for previous outlay, with a **minimum sum of £30,000 reserved**.

## Comparison to Other Properties

Supporters of these terms argue they are reasonable based on similar leases:

1. The **Gwendraeth Iron Works** (further up the Trimaran Valley) had a **£25,000 premium** paid before any expenditure on development.
2. A significantly higher premium was paid for part of the mineral property of the **Ystalyfera Works** in the Swansea Valley.
3. The **Bryn Amman Works**, similar in scale and function to Trimaran, reportedly cost over **£40,000** to establish and operate.

However, these comparisons are not entirely apt. The above examples were all "going concerns," while Trimaran has been idle and lacks the momentum associated with operational sites. Its prestige as a favourable investment has been diminished due to two unsuccessful attempts at operation.

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## Historical Context and Outlay Analysis

### Lease History

1. **Initial Lease (1841)**: Granted to Messrs. Beynon and MacDougall for the mineral rights under the entire property. Additionally, **200 acres of surface land** were leased at **20s per acre per annum** for constructing furnaces and related works.
2. **Early Investments and Challenges**:
  - By 1844, Messrs. Beynon had invested **£27,000**, but their capital was exhausted. Falling iron prices (iron costing **56s/ton** to produce but selling for **52s 6d/ton**) compounded their financial difficulties, leading to the cessation of operations.
3. **New Operators (1845)**: Messrs. Norton, Upperton, and Stone took over, investing **£13,000** in infrastructure:
  - Erected a **blast engine** (120 HP, costing £24,000).
  - Built cottages and made other improvements.
  - Despite these efforts, poor financial management and lack of experience led to the venture's failure.

By 1851, following Mr. Norton's death, the partnership dissolved, and the lease was surrendered to the lessor.

### Total Outlay and Its Usefulness

The combined investments by previous operators amount to **£40,000**, but questions arise regarding how much of this sum was wisely spent:

- **Oversized Infrastructure**: For example, the blast engine was overpowered for the site's needs, and railroads were built to handle traffic far heavier than anticipated.

- **Inefficient Expenditures:** Lack of oversight and expertise resulted in costly errors and unnecessary expenditures, particularly in underground works.

Considering the deterioration and losses over time, it is reasonable to estimate the property's current value as significantly less than the total outlay.

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## Suggested Valuation Framework

Given these circumstances, the valuation should not be based solely on historical expenditure. A more practical approach would be to negotiate a "lump sum" for the property, including:

- Surface works and infrastructure (e.g., weighing machines, barges, wagons, cranes, implements).
- Moveable assets cataloged in the schedule attached to this report.

A reasonable valuation range would be:

- **£20,000 minimum**, based on depreciation and past inefficiencies.
  - **£30,000 maximum**, considering the infrastructure and resources in place.
  - **£25,000 as a likely negotiated figure**, balancing potential with past performance.
- 

## Unique Advantages of Trimaran

1. **Existing Infrastructure:** The works and facilities, while dormant, are already constructed and available for immediate use.
2. **Abundant Resources:** The site holds vast reserves of coal and iron ore, capable of supporting long-term operations.
3. **Proximity to Ports:** Ensures economical transport and competitive pricing for coal and iron products.

To observe a comparable operation, stakeholders are advised to visit the **Bryn Amman Iron Works** at Bryn Amman, near Llanelli. These anthracite ironworks, similar in scale to Trimaran, have operated successfully for years, producing **6,000 tons of iron annually** through good and bad economic periods.

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## Conclusion and Recommendations

Despite its history of failed ventures, the Trimaran estate holds significant potential for future operations, given its:

- Resource abundance.
- Existing infrastructure.
- Strategic location near ports.

However, careful consideration of valuation terms is essential, with a focus on balancing past outlay with realistic expectations for future profitability. A starting negotiation point of **£25,000** is recommended to reflect both the estate's strengths and its historical challenges.

## **New and Emerging Opportunities: The Bessemer Process**

A critical new feature has arisen regarding **Anthracite properties**. Traditionally, the "puddling" process required for converting pig iron into malleable iron has relied exclusively on **Bituminous coal**. Consequently, the manufacture of **bar iron** and **railway iron** has been confined to bituminous coal districts.

However, the introduction of the **Bessemer process** for producing malleable iron has garnered widespread attention across the country. Should this process be successfully implemented, the strategic location of **Trimaran** for bar iron and rail manufacturing would **significantly increase its value**.

## **Estimated Capital Requirements and Profitability**

### **Capital Required**

To produce and sell annually:

- **100,000 tons of coal**
- **5,000 tons of iron**
- **3,000,000 fire bricks**

The following additional capital is estimated as necessary (beyond the cost of the existing works):

<b>Category</b>	<b>Cost</b>
New works and to replace dilapidations	£3,500
Addition to carrying stock	£2,500
Floating capital and sundries	£9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£15,000</b>

### **Estimated Annual Profit**

The potential annual profit, based on the above outlay and a maximum price of £30,000 for the works, is outlined below:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Net Profit</b>
Sale of 100,000 tons of coal	£14,166 (at 2s. 10d./ton)
Sale of 5,000 tons of iron	£9,250 (at £1 15s./ton)
Sale of 3,000,000 fire bricks	£1,500 (at 10s./thousand)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£24,916</b>

#### **Deductions:**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Interest on £45,000 capital (5%)	£2,250
Management and agencies	£1,000
<b>Total Deductions</b>	<b>£3,250</b>

#### **Net Profit Per Annum:**

**£21,666**

If operations commenced with only one furnace running, a reduced capital investment of approximately **£5,000** would suffice. However, this would result in a significantly lower rate of profit.

### **Inventory of Substantial Erected Structures and Moveable Plant**

#### **Furnace Yard:**

- **2 blast furnaces** with cast house.
- **1 blast engine** with regulator.
- **3 hot air stoves** (plus 3 additional new pipes).
- **1 cupola** and **1 refinery**.
- Miscellaneous iron trucks, trams, scales, weights, winches, flooring plates, and a large cast iron foundry crane.

#### **Colliery and Iron Mine Works:**

- Pumping and winding engines (1 complete, 1 with new boiler).
- Tank, foundations, and multiple weighing and balance machines.
- Extensive transport equipment, including:
  - **22 railway wagons.**
  - **14 iron ½-ton trams.**
  - **3 wooden tip wagons.**
  - Incline plane machine, iron plates, and wire ropes.

### Canal:

- **3 large canal boats** and **12 smaller boats**.
- Iron components for canal operations.

### Brick Yard:

- Pair of iron rollers, brick moulds, a 21-foot water wheel, kiln stoves, and iron flooring plates.

### Blacksmiths' Shop:

- Multiple sets of smiths' tools, large blow bellows, and lifting jacks.

### Offices:

- Desks, iron safes, cupboards, brass cocks, taps, and screws.

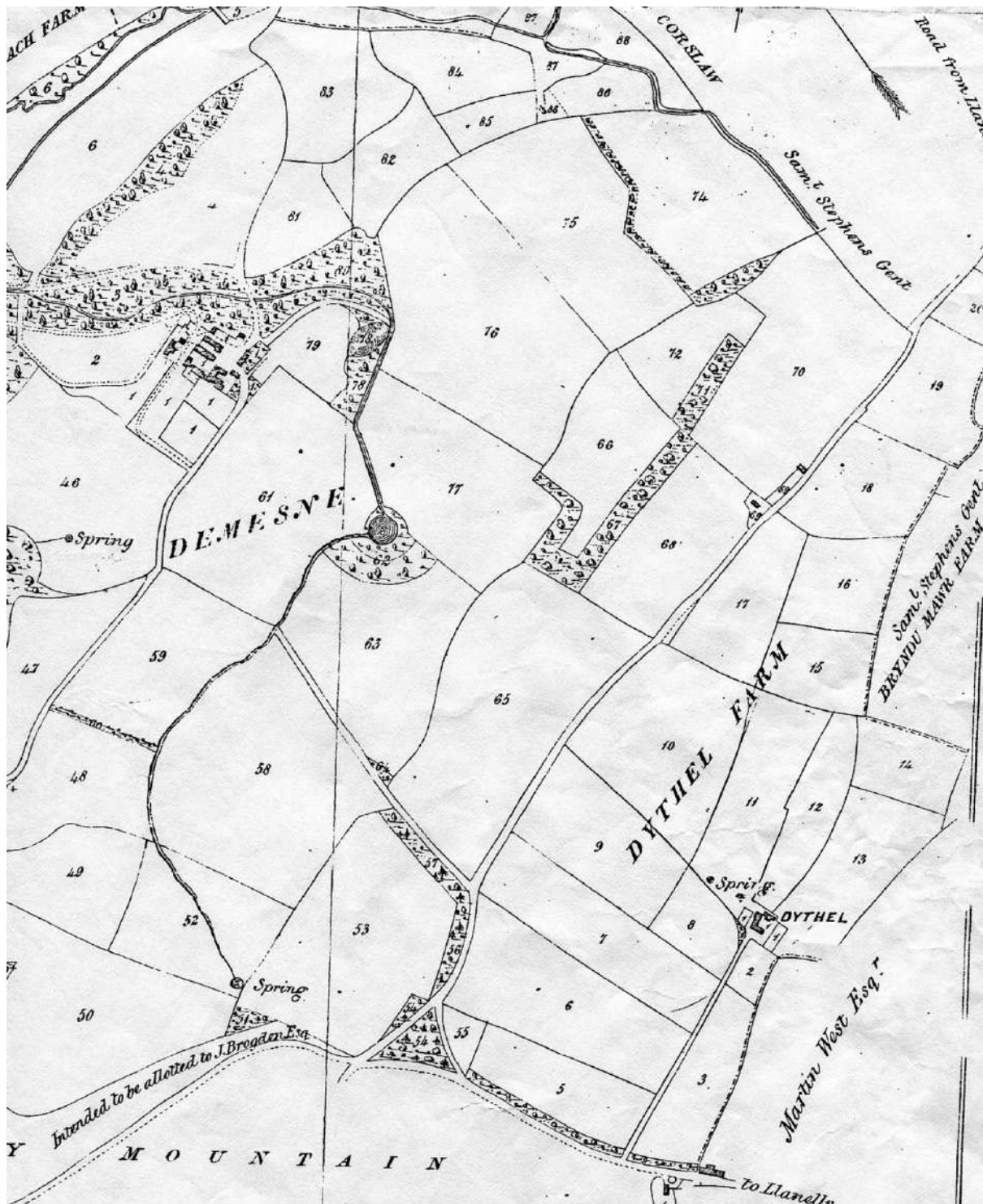
### Residential and Support Facilities:

- **28 cottages** for workers.
- **1 clerk's house**.
- Provision house, shop, and related fixtures.

### Railroads:

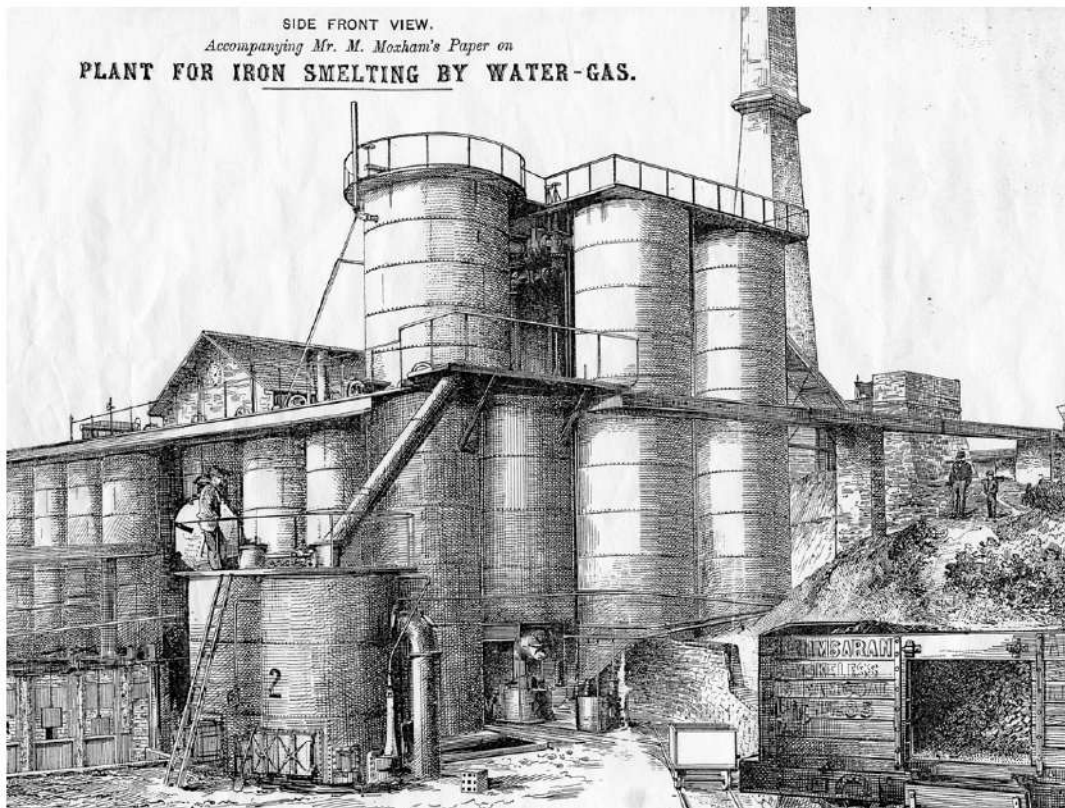
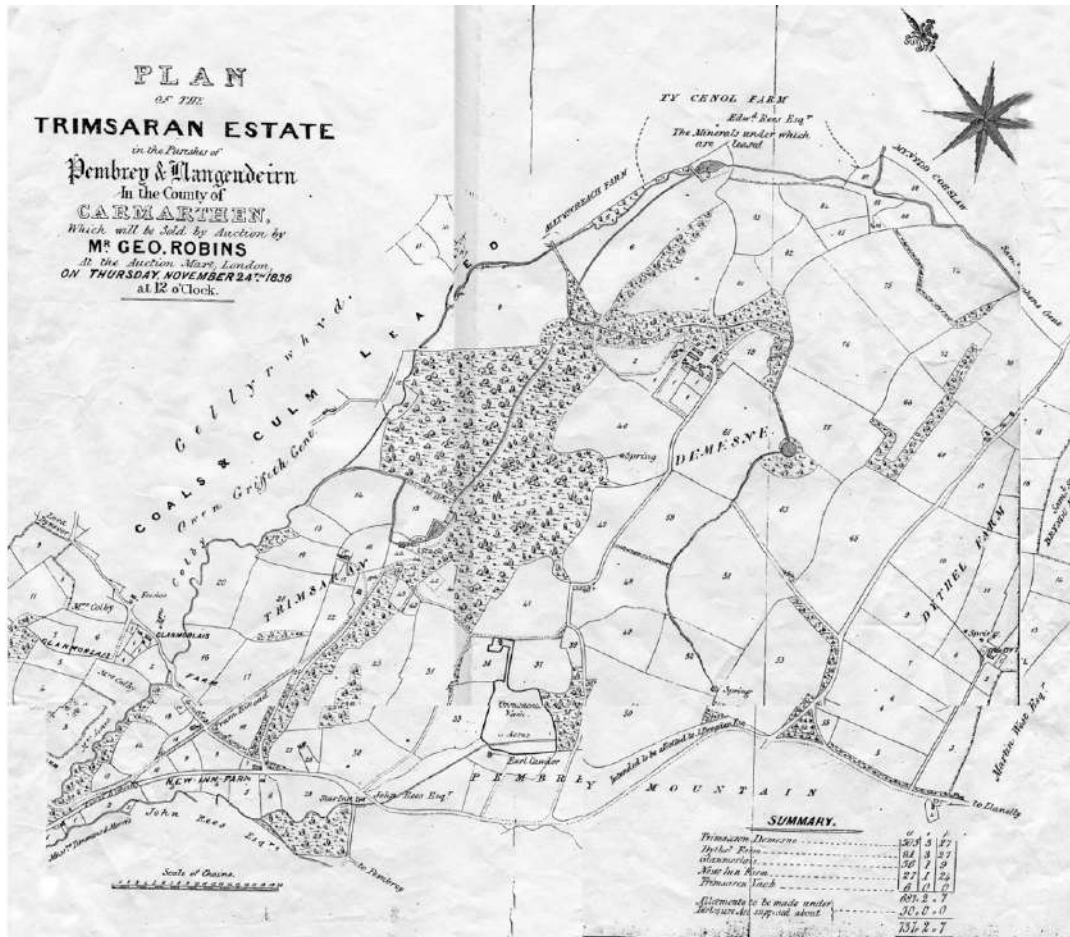
- **2–3 miles of railways and tramroads**, incorporating wrought iron and cast iron components.

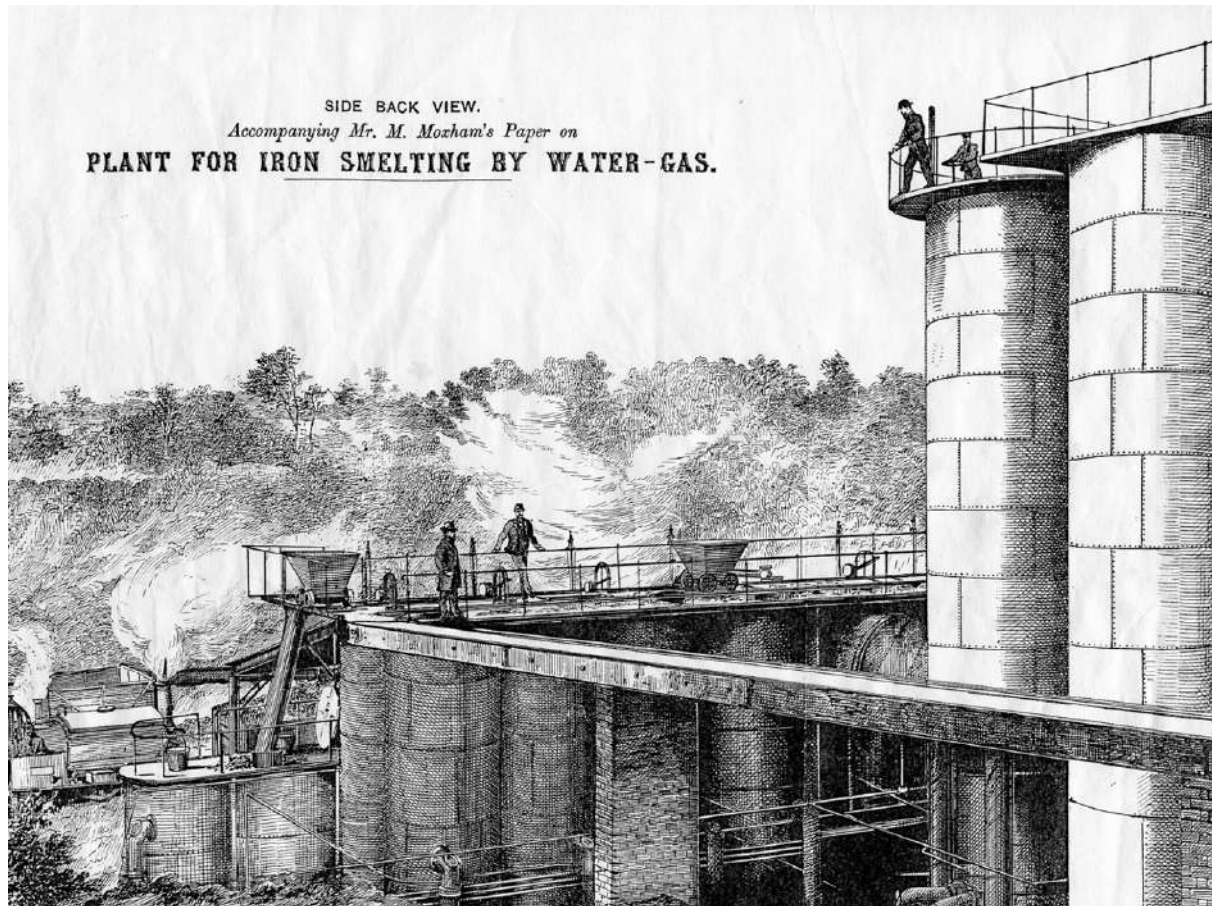




**SUMMARY.**

Trimsaran Demesne	505	3	27
Dythel Farm	91	3	27
Glanmorlais	50	1	9
Newe Inn Farm	27	1	24
Trimsaran Vach	6	0	0
	689	2	7
Allotments to be made under Inclosure Act supposed about	50	0	0
	739	2	7





## Conclusion

The Trimaran estate offers significant infrastructure and resources, along with promising profitability, particularly if the **Bessemer process** enhances the site's value for iron manufacturing. The existing structures and equipment further support efficient operation, while the estate's strategic location strengthens its long-term potential.

Careful investment and experienced management could yield substantial annual profits, estimated at **£21,666** under optimal conditions. With its abundant resources, ready infrastructure, and emerging opportunities in anthracite iron production, Trimaran presents a compelling case for revitalization.

## **"Remembering the Valour and Sacrifice of Trimsaran in Two World Wars"**

The village of Trimsaran, in the Gwendraeth Valley, bore witness to the profound impact of both World Wars on its sons. The coal mining industry, integral to the village's history, reached its zenith with the onset of the Great War. The exploits of heroic men from Trimsaran are eternally commemorated on the village War Memorial, housed within the former Miners Welfare Hall, a testament to the sacrifices made in the pursuit of freedom.

I would also like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of the West Wales War Memorial Project in preserving the memory of individuals like the men listed below.

### **The Great War, 1914-1918:**

**Sidney Cobb, Private, 2219, Leicestershire Yeomanry:** Sidney Cobb, born in Stevenage, hailed from a family entrenched in a life connected to nature, with his father working as a Gamekeeper. By 1911, the family had moved to Dunvant, eventually settling in Keeper's Lodge, Trimsaran during the war. Sidney enlisted at Melton Mowbray into the 1/1st Battalion, Leicestershire Yeomanry. In May 1915, he joined his battalion in France, attached to the 7th Cavalry Brigade, 3rd Cavalry Division. The Battle of Loos marked Sidney's entry into the harrowing theatre of war, and tragically, on January 21, 1916, amidst the cold of the Loos sector, Sidney laid down his life at the age of 30. His sacrifice is commemorated on the Loos Memorial in France, although his name is absent from the Trimsaran Memorial.

**Samuel Ivor Dunn, Private, 32486, Devonshire Regiment:** Born in Trimsaran in 1900, Samuel Ivor Dunn was the son of Charles and Elizabeth Ann Dunn. The family later moved to Sheffield, where Samuel's father took up work as a labourer in a Steelwork's. Enlisting at Sheffield into the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, Samuel was subsequently transferred to the 5th Battalion, Devonshire Regiment, part of the 185 Brigade, 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division. His journey on the Western Front saw him involved in various operations, including the Battle of Arras and the Battle of Cambrai. Samuel met his end during the Battle of the Canal Du Nord on September 27, 1918, at the tender age of 18. His final resting place is in Lowrie Cemetery, Havrincourt, France, and like Sidney Cobb, Samuel's name is not inscribed on the Trimsaran Memorial.

### **Ivor Emanuel, Lance Corporal, 275, Welsh Guards:**

Ivor Emanuel, a native of Trimsaran, epitomized the spirit of sacrifice that coursed through the veins of the village. Born to John and Mary Emanuel, Ivor married Prudence P. Richards in 1915, creating a foundation of love that would sustain him through the turbulent times ahead. Enlisting initially with the Grenadier Guards at Llanelli, he later transferred to the newly formed Welsh Guards on February 26, 1915.

The 1st Battalion of the Welsh Guards, to which Ivor belonged, landed at Havre on August 18, 1915. Attached to the 3rd Guards Brigade, Guards Division, this unit made history as it was formed in France in the same month. The baptism by fire for Ivor and his comrades came during the Battle of Loos on September 25, 1915, a pivotal engagement in the Great

War. Tragically, just two days later, on September 27, 1915, Ivor Emanuel paid the ultimate price for his courage, losing his life at the tender age of 23. His sacrifice is eternally commemorated on the Loos Memorial in France, a poignant reminder of the cost of freedom.

#### **Charles Harries, Private, 17003, Royal Welsh Fusiliers:**

Charles Harries, hailing from Rosehill, Waunyclyn, Trimsaran, demonstrated a resilience that transcended physical setbacks. The son of David and Elizabeth Harries, Charles first attempted to join the South Wales Borderers in September 1914. However, a seemingly mundane obstacle—lack of teeth—led to his discharge within three weeks. Undeterred, Charles displayed unwavering determination, promptly re-enlisting, this time with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Posted to France on February 2, 1915, Charles joined the 1st Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, attached to the 22 Brigade, 7th Division in Flanders. His first taste of major action occurred in March 1915 at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, followed by engagements at Aubers Ridge and Festubert in May. Tragically, during the Battle of Festubert on May 21, 1915, Charles Harries fell in action at the age of 27. His memory lives on, commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Richebourg L'Avoue, France, a testament to his bravery and the sacrifices made by the men of Trimsaran in the pursuit of a better world.

#### **Charles Harries, Private, 17003, Royal Welsh Fusiliers:**

Charles Harries' story is a testament to his unyielding spirit and determination. Born to David and Elizabeth Harries of Rosehill, Waunyclyn, Trimsaran, Charles initially attempted to join the South Wales Borderers, enlisting on September 2, 1914. However, fate dealt him an unexpected setback, as within three weeks, he was discharged due to being deemed physically unfit for service—his lack of teeth cited as the reason.

Undeterred by this initial setback, Charles exemplified resilience by promptly re-enlisting, this time with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Posted to France on February 2, 1915, he became a part of the 1st Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, attached to the 22 Brigade, 7th Division in Flanders. Charles faced his first major action in March 1915 at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, followed by engagements at the Battle of Aubers Ridge and Festubert in May. Tragically, during the Battle of Festubert on May 21, 1915, Charles Harries lost his life in the line of duty at the age of 27. His memory endures, commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Richebourg L'Avoue, France, a lasting tribute to his courage and sacrifice.

#### **Griffith Lloyd, Private, 307171, Lancashire Fusiliers:**

Griffith Lloyd's journey from Cileen, Flint, to the battlefields of World War I paints a picture of dedication and service. Born to Pryce and Ellen Lloyd, Griffith and his father served as Gamekeepers at Trimsaran, residing at the Keeper's Lodge prior to the war. Enlisting at Kidwelly into the 2/8th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, attached to the 197 Brigade, 66th (2nd East Lancs.) Division, Griffith embarked on a path marked by duty and sacrifice.

The division moved to the Western Front by March 16, 1917, and subsequently to the Flanders Coast. In September 1917, they participated in the Battle of Poelcapelle near Ypres before moving south to the Somme. The German Spring Offensive of March 21, 1918, found the division engaged in the Battle of St Quentin, followed by actions at the Somme Crossings. It was during these intense encounters that Griffith sustained wounds.

Tragically, Griffith Lloyd succumbed to his wounds on March 28, 1918, at the age of 28. His final resting place is Namps-Au-Val British Cemetery in France, a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by the men of Trimsaran in the crucible of war. Griffith's legacy lives on as a symbol of the resilience and courage exhibited by those who answered the call of duty during challenging times.

#### **John Elias Morris, Private, 80265, Welsh Regiment:**

In the annals of Trimsaran's sacrifice, John Elias Morris stands as a poignant example of the toll exacted by the Great War. Born to David and Mary Morris of Bryn Golen, Waun-y-clyn, Trimsaran, the Morris family had their roots in Kidwelly before the war's upheavals. John enlisted at Carmarthen into the Monmouth Regiment, later joining the 14th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, part of the revered 38th (Welsh) Division.

This division had already etched its mark in history, having been in France since December 1915, fighting at Mametz Wood in 1916 and Ypres in 1917. By late 1918, John found himself on the front lines, joining his comrades as they pushed across the River Acre in the great offensive of August 21, 1918. The ensuing days witnessed the relentless rollback of German lines, marking a pivotal phase in the war. The division's journey continued towards the Hindenburg Line, engaging in battles like Havrincourt, Epehy, and the breach of the Canal du Nord.

During the Battle of the Sambre, John Elias Morris, at just 19 years old, suffered wounds that would prove fatal. His brave spirit succumbed to the harsh realities of war on November 10, 1918, just a day before the Armistice. He found his final resting place in Caudry British Cemetery, France, a silent witness to the sacrifices made by a generation.

#### **William Leslie Shenton, Acting Sergeant, 18731, Royal Welsh Fusiliers:**

William Leslie Shenton's journey began far from Trimsaran, in Luton, Bedfordshire, in 1899. By 1911, he had found a home at Brickmakers Cottage, Trimsaran, under the care of his uncle and Aunt, William, and Mary Smith. Enlisting at Kidwelly into the 16th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, attached to the 38th (Welsh) Division, William embarked on a path that led him to the front lines of the Western Front.

The division had made its mark at Mametz Wood and endured the brutalities of war. William's story took a tragic turn on July 31, 1917, during the Battle of Pilckem Ridge. His sacrifice is forever commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial in Belgium, a testament to the enduring memory of those who gave their lives for a cause greater than

themselves. William Leslie Shenton, an acting sergeant, left an indelible mark on the pages of Trimsaran's history, a brave soul forever remembered in the echoes of sacrifice.

#### **William Bowen, Fusilier:**

This soldier's identity remains shrouded in mystery, a poignant reminder of the countless unnamed heroes who served and sacrificed during times of conflict. The absence of specific details underscores the challenge of piecing together the stories of those who gave their all for the greater good.

#### **Phillip Clarke, Private:**

The lack of identifiable information leaves a void in the narrative of Private Phillip Clarke. His story, like many others, is lost to the passage of time, a poignant symbol of the sacrifices made by countless individuals whose names may remain unknown but whose contributions are forever etched in the collective memory of the nation.

#### **William George Cunnington, Sergeant (Pilot), 740754, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve:**

William George Cunnington's tale unfolds against the backdrop of the skies during World War II. Serving as a Sergeant (Pilot) with 607 Squadron, his journey began in the early stages of the conflict, flying Hawker Hurricanes over France during the Battle of France and later in the Battle of Britain. Transferring to 261 Squadron, dedicated to the defence of Malta, William faced the perils of aerial combat.

His final mission, on November 16, 1940, ended with his failure to return, marking him as one of the fallen. Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey, William George Cunnington's sacrifice is a testament to the courage and valour exhibited by the airmen who fought to protect freedom in the skies.

#### **William Dennis Dixon, Sergeant (Air Gunner), 1835971, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve:**

The skies of World War II claimed another hero in the form of Sergeant William Dennis Dixon. Serving as an air gunner with 50 Squadron, Royal Air Force, he flew aboard the Avro Lancaster III during a mission over Mailly-le-Camp. Shot down on May 3, 1944, the Lancaster, bearing the serial number LM480, crashed near St. Mesmin.

Among the seven men who lost their lives in the crash, William was buried alongside his comrades in St. Mesmin New Communal Cemetery, France. His story, intertwined with the horrors of war, reflects the sacrifices made by the aircrew who faced the dangers of the night skies.

#### **William Samuel Gwyn Edwards, Gunner, 933179, Royal Artillery:**

Gunner William Samuel Gwyn Edwards, son of Thomas and Lily Edwards of Trimsaran, served with the 9th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, part of the 20th Indian Division.

Deployed to Assam, Burma, and Indo China, the division distinguished itself during the Defence of the Imphal plain in the spring and summer of 1944.

On June 11, 1944, William lost his life in the service of his country. Buried in Imphal War Cemetery, India, his sacrifice remains unacknowledged on the Trimsaran Memorial, highlighting the often-overlooked contributions of those who served in distant theatres of war.

#### **Victor Emanuel, Sergeant, 563099, Royal Air Force:**

Victor Emanuel's story intertwines with family legacy and sacrifice. Born to Thomas and Florence Emily Elizabeth Emanuel of Myneddygarreg, Victor's father, a Royal Marines veteran of World War I, witnessed the horrors of conflict. Tragically, Victor's uncle, Ivor Emanuel, fell at Loos in 1915. The echoes of service and sacrifice reverberated through the family.

Victor himself married Eileen Muriel Hages in Wiltshire in 1938 while stationed locally with the Royal Air Force. As war loomed, he served with 61 Squadron, RAF, a bomber squadron equipped with the Handley Page Hampden. The squadron participated in historic events, including the first bombing raid on a German land target, striking Hornum on March 19, 1940.

On April 15, 1940, Victor, part of the crew of Hampden Mk1, Serial L4113, embarked on a mission to lay mines in the Elbe estuary. Tragically, the aircraft failed to return, and Victor, along with his fellow crewmen, was presumed lost at sea. Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, Victor Emanuel's sacrifice, though not locally acknowledged, is etched in the history of those who served in the RAF during the tumultuous days of World War II.

#### **Keri Evans, Lance Corporal, 23343324, Royal Military Police:**

Keri Evans, born on August 6, 1934, was the son of Alwyn and Katherine M. Evans of Maesybryn, Trimsaran. Serving as a Lance Corporal with the Royal Military Police, Keri met a tragic end in a motor accident in Germany on June 20, 1958. His Jeep crash claimed his life, and at the age of 23, Keri was laid to rest in Sardis Congregational Chapel yard, a solemn return to his Welsh roots.

#### **Richard Lewis Evans, Fusilier, 4197438, Royal Welch Fusiliers:**

Richard Lewis Evans, son of James and Hannah Evans of Kidwelly, served with the 1st Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers. The battalion played a pivotal role in the Dunkirk evacuation in May 1940 before being dispatched to the Far East, participating in campaigns in India and Burma.

On May 5, 1944, in the heart of the Burma campaign, Richard lost his life at the age of 26. His final resting place is the Kohima War Cemetery in Burma, a poignant tribute to his

sacrifice in a theatre of war far from home. Richard Lewis Evans, like so many others, remains eternally remembered for his service and commitment in the defence of freedom.

#### **Russell Fokes, Rifleman, 5338931, Rifle Brigade:**

Russell Fokes, born on January 7, 1918, to Stanley Theodore Fokes and Florence Fokes (nee Lewis) of Trimaran, embarked on a journey that would take him far from his Welsh home. Working as a tin shearer in Slough prior to the war, he enlisted soon after its outbreak. Russell became a Rifleman in the 1st Battalion, Rifle Brigade, a unit with a rich history and a key role in various campaigns.

The battalion underwent significant transformations, participating in the North African Campaign and the invasion of Italy before being recalled to England in January 1944 for preparations leading to the Normandy Landings. Russell landed on the Normandy beaches on June 6, 1944, part of the battalion engaged in breaking out from the beachhead. His life was cut short during heavy fighting near Falaise on July 29, 1944. Originally buried in Mondeville, he was later reinterred in Ranville War Cemetery, France. Russell Fokes, at 26 years old, stands as a symbol of sacrifice in the fight for liberation.

#### **Leonard Frater, Fusilier, 14200801, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers:**

Leonard Frater, a Fusilier with the 6th Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, played his part in the North African campaign and the invasion of Italy. His life met a tragic end on November 29, 1943, during an assault on a ridge overlooking the Sangro River. At just 20 years old, Leonard was laid to rest in Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy, a poignant testament to the sacrifices made during the Italian campaign.

#### **Osmond Glyndwr Guest, Rifleman, 4208565, Cameronians:**

Osmond Glyndwr Guest, a Rifleman with the 1st Battalion, Cameronians, became part of the legendary Chindits, a force that played a crucial role in taking the fight to the Japanese in Burma. His service in the Far East included the defence of India. Tragically, Osmond's life was cut short in India on June 17, 1943, at the young age of 20. He found his final resting place in Kirkee War Cemetery, India, a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made in the theatre of war far from home.

#### **John James Hurley, Private, 33298, Welch Regiment:**

John James Hurley's life unfolded amidst the trials of war and personal loss. Born on April 9, 1899, and adopted by Ada Thompson after the death of his widowed mother, he served during the Great War. After marrying Susan Booth in 1920, they made their home in Trimaran, where John worked as a builder's labourer. Likely a member of the Territorial Army, he re-enlisted into the Welch Regiment soon after the outbreak of World War II.

Tragically, John died on active service in Cheshire on December 9, 1941, at the age of 44. He was laid to rest in Chester (Overleigh) Cemetery, alongside his wife Susan, who had passed

away in Llanelli in 1940 at the age of 37. Despite his service and sacrifice, John James Hurley is not commemorated on the Trimaran War Memorial, a poignant reminder of the personal toll war exacts on individuals and their families.

**Joseph Vincent Hutchings, Captain, 184115, Somerset Light Infantry:**

Captain Joseph Vincent Hutchings, son of William and Miriam Hutchings of Cloverdale, Trimsaran, served with the Somerset Light Infantry. His life was dedicated to the service of his country, and he paid the ultimate sacrifice on June 9, 1944, at the age of 32. Captain Hutchings found his final resting place in Trimaran (Sardis) Independent Chapel yard, a hallowed ground where the community honours his memory and the sacrifices made by local heroes.

**Evan Esmond James, Craftsman, 23338702, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers:**

Evan Esmond James, born on July 27, 1936, served with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Tragically, on May 1, 1957, Evan was one of 35 people on board a Vickers Viking aircraft at Blackbushe Airport destined for Libya. The aircraft encountered engine failure on take-off and crashed while attempting to land. Evan, just 20 years old, lost his life in the accident. His body was brought home and laid to rest at Tabernacle Chapel Trimsaran. The crash was attributed, possibly harshly, to the failure of the pilot to maintain a safe altitude following the engine failure.

**Oliver Jones, Private, 3963311, Welch Regiment:**

Oliver Jones, son of William and Margaret Jones, and husband of Gladwen Jones of Burry Port, served with the 4th Battalion, Welch Regiment, the Carmarthenshire Territorial Battalion. He tragically lost his life at sea during training on July 2, 1940, at the age of 36. Oliver is commemorated on the Brookwood Memorial in Surrey, a solemn tribute to those lost during wartime training.

**William John Lloyd, Able Seaman, C/JX 198531, Royal Navy:**

Aboard H.M.S. Curacoa, a Ceres group C-class light cruiser, William John Lloyd served with the Royal Navy during World War II. Tragically, on October 2, 1942, while escorting the RMS Queen Mary, the cruiser was involved in a collision, leading to its sinking and the loss of over 200 lives. William, aged 25, is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial in Kent.

**Alun Rees, Sergeant, 1316996, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve:**

Serving with 9 Squadron, Royal Air Force, Alun Rees, son of Thomas John and Lily Rees of Trimaran, was a Sergeant in a heavy bomber squadron equipped with the Avro Lancaster I. He lost his life during a raid on January 14, 1943, at the age of 19. Alun is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey.

**Robert Charles Santley, Flight Sergeant, 566738, Royal Air Force:**

Born in 1917, Robert Charles Santley served as a pilot with 253 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Engaging in the Battle of Britain and convoy patrols, he was tragically killed on August 27, 1942. Robert is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey.

**Bernard William Susans, Fusilier, 3970325, Royal Welch Fusiliers:**

Bernard William Susans, son of Bertram and Valentine Ada Beatrice Susans, served with the 1st Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers. Engaged in the Battle of Kohima, he lost his life on May 28, 1944, at the age of 21. Bernard is commemorated on the Rangoon Memorial in Myanmar. His sacrifice is remembered as part of the global struggle against the Axis powers during World War II.

**Rees Owen Thomas, Private, 3971772, Welch Regiment:**

Rees Owen Thomas, son of William and Margaretta Thomas, hailed from Trimaran and served with the 2nd Battalion, Welch Regiment. Engaged in the Burma campaign, Rees lost his life in India on April 30, 1941, at the age of 28. His final resting place is in Kirkee War Cemetery, India, a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made during the global conflict.

**Evan Gethin John Williams, Greaser, Merchant Navy:**

Evan Gethin John Williams, son of William and Elizabeth Williams, served in the Merchant Navy aboard the M.V. Tower Grange. Unfortunately, on November 18, 1942, the ship fell victim to a German submarine, U-154, torpedoed and sunk about 200 miles East of Cayenne. Evan, a mere 16 years old, was among the six men lost in the sinking. His memory lives on at the Tower Hill Memorial in London.

**Ivor Verdon Willyeo, Sapper, 2074896, Royal Engineers:**

Ivor Verdon Willyeo, born in 1916, was the son of James Edwin Willyeo and Lavinia Willyeo (nee Curtis). In 1940, he married Phyllis Gwenllian Calford of Brynawel, Trimaran. Ivor, a bomb disposal expert with 10 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers, lost his life in action at Barrow-in-Furness on March 10, 1944, likely while carrying out bomb disposal work. The remains of the 27-year-old were laid to rest in St. John's Churchyard, Skewen. His widow, Phyllis, sadly passed away in 1946, also at the age of 27. Although not named on the Trimaran Memorial, Ivor's service and sacrifice are remembered.

<https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/1751632>

*In Memorial to the Miners of Trimsaran who lost their lives.*

1832	Heol Trimsaran	John Morris	?
	Cae'r Drysi Brynlas	Unknown	Boy
1881	Trimsaran	Joseph Lewis	19
1884	Unknown	John Griffiths	24
1886	Unknown	David John	26
		Thomas Jones	36
		William Daniels	19
1890	Unknown	Thomas (Twm) Howells	?
1896	Waunhir	William Lawrence	39
1901	Unknown	William J John	36
1904	Waunhir	Hannah Jane Griffiths	16
1907	Waunhir Slant	Benjamin Davies	34
		David Davies	23
		Albert Liley	19
		Arthur Llewellyn Price	16
		David Lodwig	24
		John Rees	19
1909	Caeduan	Edward Andrew Dark	33
		David Sparry	16
		Owen Thomas	30
		John Williams	16
1910	Bryndlas	Willie Jones	16
		Thomas Davies	?
1913	Caeduan	David Morris	48
1914	Caeduan	Richard Jones	58
		Johnny Gale	19
1916	Trimsaran	David Daniels	36
	Caeduan	Charles William Howe	29
1917	Trimsaran	Thomas Rees	17
	Trimsaran	Sydney Charles Lloyd	17
1918	Waunhir	John Gravelle	?
1919	Waunhir	Henry Thomas	24
	Trimsaran	John Williams	48
	Trimsaran	Charles Lloyd	59
1923	Caeduan	David Tom Davies	19
		Morgan W Davies	35
		Thomas John	70
		William Jenkins	44
		H. H. Harry	24
		Harold Probert	15
		William John Rees	28
		Thomas Rogers	20
		Sidney Williams	25
		Thomas Williams	47
1927	Trimsaran	William Ford	14

1929	Trimsaran	George Latimer Evans	?
1931	Caeduan	Arthur Horace Manning	?
1932	Trimsaran	William David Williams	25
1933		Thomas Williams	?
		John Edward Clarke	23
1934	Upper Colliery	William John Thomas	19
		Ernest George Probert	32
1935	Trimsaran	Fredrick Green	33
1940	Trimsaran	Tom Davies Carpenter	?
		Harry Howells	?
1941	Trimsaran	Dan Morgan	?
1949	Trimsaran	James Bowen	25
1951	Trimsaran	Thomas Williams	32
1957	Sir John Jackson	Oswyn James Owen	?
1960	Sir John Jackson	Michael O'Neill	?
1963	Sir John Jackson	Peter Desmond Daniels	19

### **Losses at other Works**

1908	Carway	Archibald Jenkins	?
1933	Carway Gower Slant	Thomas Williams	64
1935	Ponthenry	Roydon Beynon	16
1938	Carway	Gwyn Davies	28
1944	Carway	James Owen	?
1955	Pentremawr	David Morgan	35
1958	Carway	Royston Pierce Jenkins	29
1964	Penygroes Site	Joseph Pritchard	64
1973	Cynheidre	Frank Evans	?

<https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/1751540>

### **Extract from Hanes Tabernacle 1872-1979 the mining disaster of 26 April 1923**

Treasurer: Mr. Sidney Griffiths One of the next recorded events was the incident on April 26th, 1923. On this date, a serious accident occurred at the Trimsaran Colliery Caeduan. When the men were returning to the surface from their work, the shackles broke, and the 'spake' (the lift cage) plummeted to the bottom, causing the men with it, and in a few seconds, ten lives were lost, and half a hundred were injured.

The following Editorial from The Daily Mail the 27 April 1923 day after the tragedy which has been re-edited.

## RUNAWAY TRUCKS IN MINE: TRAGIC ACCIDENT CLAIMS NINE LIVES

A devastating incident occurred at Trimaran Colliery, near Llanelly, in the Welsh anthracite coalfield, resulting in the loss of nine lives and numerous injuries. The morning shift had just concluded, and a string of trains carrying miners and tools was ascending the 1,400-yard-deep drift when tragedy struck.

As the trams ascended about 300 yards, a link in a shackle snapped, causing five trains to rapidly descend the drift. The runaway trains careened wildly for a distance before derailing and piling up in a chaotic scene. Seven miners lost their lives on the spot, while two succumbed to their injuries on the way to the hospital. Approximately five miners sustained severe injuries, and around 20 others were less seriously hurt.

The cries of the injured and the loud crash attracted the attention of miners awaiting their turn at the bottom of the drift. They rushed to the scene and initiated rescue efforts. Despite swift action, it took hours to disentangle everyone from the wreckage. The injured were promptly transported to Llanelly hospital for treatment.

The victims of this tragic incident are:

David Tom Davies. 19 - Single

Morgan W Davies. 35

Thomas John. 70 – Married with grown up family

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/237649478/thomas-john>

William Jenkins. 44 - Married with four children, an under Manager

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/260854093/william-jenkins>

Harold Herbert Parry 24 - Single

Harold Probert. 15 - Teenager

William John Rees. 28 - Single

Thomas Rogers. 20 – Single

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/262491523/thomas-rogers#add-to-vc>

Sidney Williams. 25 – Married with one child

Thomas Williams. 47 – Married with grown up family

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/262034940/thomas-williams>

*Trimsaran, a village of remarkable character and resilience, has woven an extraordinary tapestry of history. From the echoes of its industrial past to the indelible marks left by generations of inhabitants, this community stands as a testament to strength, adaptability, and shared heritage. The legacy of Trimsaran, imprinted in the hearts of those who have called it home, resonates with the stories of hard work, unity, and the enduring spirit that has shaped the lives of its people. As we explore the rich history of this village, we celebrate the enduring legacy it has bequeathed to all who have been fortunate to be a part of its narrative.*

### **A New Chapter for Trimsaran Rugby Club: Honouring the Past, Embracing the Future**

*As Trimsaran Rugby Club stands at the threshold of a new era, the move from the historic old clubhouse—formerly the Star Inn at the junction of Heol Llanelli and Waun y Clun—marks more than just a change in venue. It symbolizes a new beginning, one that builds upon the rich legacy forged over more than a century of dedication, resilience, and community spirit.*



*Founded in 1910, Trimsaran Rugby Club emerged from humble beginnings, reflecting the passion for rugby in this small Welsh village. The early years saw players and supporters unite around their love for the sport, even as the world faced the tumultuous challenges of two world wars. During these defining moments in global and local history, the club remained a pillar of the community, fostering camaraderie and pride amidst adversity.*

*The Star Inn, which served as the club's headquarters for decades, was more than just a building. It was the beating heart of Trimsaran rugby, where plans were made, strategies discussed, and victories celebrated. Yet, as the club grew and evolved, the need for a new space became clear—a place that could accommodate the aspirations of a thriving rugby community while honouring its storied past.*

*Today, under the guidance of a dedicated committee, Trimsaran Rugby Club is poised to reach new heights. The move to a new clubhouse represents a commitment to progress, to providing state-of-the-art facilities for players and supporters, and to ensuring the club remains a cornerstone of Trimsaran life for generations to come. It's a vision of growth grounded in the values that have always defined the club: teamwork, determination, and a deep respect for its roots.*

*As we embrace this exciting future, it is essential to remember the journey that brought us here. From its foundation in 1910 to the triumphs and trials of the decades that followed, Trimsaran Rugby Club's history is filled with stories of extraordinary individuals whose contributions have shaped its identity. From the dedicated players who donned the club's*

*colours to the volunteers and supporters who kept its spirit alive, each has left an indelible mark.*



*Jack Morgans, Elwyn Gravell, Lem Williams, Raymond Jones*

*This new chapter is not just about looking forward—it is about carrying forward the legacy of those who built Trimsaran Rugby Club into what it is today. Their commitment to the sport and to their community is an enduring source of inspiration. As the club forges ahead, it does so with the weight of history at its back and the promise of a bright future ahead.*



*Together, with its new facilities and a renewed sense of purpose, Trimsaran Rugby Club will continue to nurture talent, foster community pride, and inspire future generations to carry the torch of this remarkable institution.*



### Trimsaran R.F.C 1st XV Captains by Season

Season	Captain(s)	Season	Captain(s)
1925-26	No Records	1968-69	Vivian Evans
1926-27	No Records	1969-70	Gwynfor Morris
1927-28	Bill Bailey	1970-71	Devlin Evans
1928-29	William J. Williams	1971-72	John Gravell
1929-30	William J. Williams, David J. Williams	1972-73	Elis Evans
1930-31	Percy Jones	1973-74	Adrian Pritchard
1931-32	Mansel Lloyd	1974-75	Elis Evans
1932-33	Albert Williams	1975-76	Alan Bathgate
1933-34	Albert Williams	1976-77	Meirion Davies
1934-35	Howell Brace	1977-78	Meirion Davies
1935-36	Viv Evans	1978-79	Meirion Davies, Baden Jones
1936-37	William Howells	1979-80	Baden Jones
1937-38	Charles Williams	1980-81	Stewart Jones
1938-39	Charles Williams	1981-82	Elis Evans
1939-40	War Years	1982-83	Stewart Jones
1940-41	War Years	1983-84	Kevin Gravell
1941-42	War Years	1984-85	Kevin Gravell
1942-43	War Years	1985-86	Kevin Boyd
1943-44	War Years	1986-87	Kevin Boyd
1944-45	War Years	1987-88	Will Evans
1945-46	War Years	1988-89	Paul Lloyd
1946-47	Charles Williams	1989-90	Carl Bridgewater
1947-48	Charles Williams	1990-91	Paul Lloyd
1948-49	Howell John Phillips	1991-92	Paul Lloyd
1949-50	Myrddyn Williams	1992-93	Peter Owens
1950-51	Aeron Rees	1993-94	Peter Jones
1951-52	Ken Rees	1994-95	David Lewis
1952-53	Ken Rees	1995-96	Paul Lloyd
1953-54	Lem Williams	1996-97	Carl Bridgewater
1954-55	No Home Ground	1997-98	Lyn Gravell
1955-56	No Home Ground	1998-99	Sean Lloyd
1956-57	No Home Ground	1999-00	Sean Lloyd
1957-58	No Home Ground	2000-01	Sean Lloyd
1958-59	Hywel Millot	2001-02	Craig Ryan
1959-60	Frank Williams	2002-03	Nick Francis, Craig Ryan
1960-61	Dudley Howells	2003-04	Nick Francis
1961-62	P.C. David Rees	2004-05	Ioan Jones
1962-63	P.C. David Rees	2005-06	Ioan Jones
1963-64	Len Davies	2006-07	Ioan Jones
1964-65	Len Davies	2007-08	Ioan Jones
1965-66	Devlin Evans	2008-09	Ryan Edwards
1966-67	Devlin Evans	2009-10	Ioan Jones
1967-68	Vivian Evans	2010-11	Ioan Jones

## Insights from Trimsaran R.F.C 1st XV Captains (1925-2023)

### 1. Historical Trends and Early Records

- **Early Years (1925-1933):** The first few seasons lack records for captains (1925-1927). This may reflect limited documentation or organizational challenges during those years. The earliest recorded captain, Bill Bailey (1927-28), marks the start of preserved data, with a notable transition to consistent leadership.
- **Family Ties and Local Heroes:** The Williams surname appears frequently in the early years (e.g., William J. Williams, David J. Williams, Albert Williams). This might suggest that family ties or certain local families had strong influences on the club's development.

### 2. Impact of Global Events

- **War Years (1939-1946):** World War II disrupted regular club activities, as reflected in the "War Years" designation for several seasons. This hiatus likely represents the club's contribution to wartime efforts and reduced opportunities for regular play.
- **Post-war years** saw Charles Williams leading the club (1946-48), perhaps as a stabilizing figure after the disruptions.

### 3. Periods of Transition

- **No Home Ground (1954-1958):** During this period, the lack of a home ground is noted, which likely impacted the club's stability. Captains are not documented for this era, suggesting logistical challenges overshadowed formal leadership appointments.
- **Revitalization (Late 1950s-1960s):** The resumption of documented leadership from 1958 (Hywel Millot) signals a revival. This period also saw recurring captains like P.C. David Rees and Len Davies, emphasizing leadership consistency.

### 4. Frequent and Long-serving Captains

- Some captains served multiple consecutive seasons, highlighting their leadership:
  - Albert Williams (1932-34), Ken Rees (1951-53), Meirion Davies (1976-79), and Paul Lloyd (1988-96).
  - Repeated leadership suggests these figures were respected, reliable, and influential within the club.
- Joan Jones (2004-08) and Ryan Edwards (2015-20) reflect more recent examples of multi-season captains, underscoring stability in modern times.

### 5. Era of Shared Leadership

- Several seasons had dual captains, such as William J. Williams and David J. Williams (1929-30) or Nick Francis and Craig Ryan (2002-03). This likely reflects either transitional phases or collaborative leadership approaches in managing team dynamics.

## 6. Modern Developments

- Expanded Leadership Pool: From 2000 onwards, there appears to be greater diversity in captains' names, perhaps indicative of a more inclusive selection process.
- Consistency with Ioan Jones: In the mid-2000s, Ioan Jones emerges as a key figure, leading for five seasons, showcasing enduring commitment.
- Recent Captains: The alternation between figures like Ryan Edwards and Lee Bates in the 2010s reflects a balance between stability and fresh leadership.

## 7. Patterns in Surnames

- Certain surnames recur across decades (e.g., Williams, Evans, Jones), suggesting either strong family traditions in the club or the dominance of common local surnames.

## 8. Documentary Gaps

- Several seasons, especially in the early years and during transitional phases (e.g., the "No Home Ground" era), are missing captain records. This highlights the importance of robust historical documentation to preserve the club's rich legacy.

## 9. Leadership Legacy

- The club's history showcases a legacy of dedicated leadership, resilience through challenging times (e.g., wars and logistical issues), and a strong sense of community, with many captains serving multiple terms or being tied to influential local families.

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## Conclusion

The data reflects Trimsaran R.F.C's rich history, shaped by committed individuals, global events, and community ties. Despite challenges like wars and periods without a home ground, the club has consistently found leaders to guide it. As the club continues, preserving and celebrating these traditions will remain vital to its identity.

## TRIMSARAN R.F.C



It is believed that rugby was first played in Trimsaran in 1910. An outside half of outstanding ability, Will Morgan, who played in 1912, was unable to become well-known because no regular games were organized.

Neighbourhood teams who had "open dates" contacted Trimsaran, and games were arranged on "away" pitches. Since Trimsaran had no recognised ground or committee until 1920, all games were arranged in this fashion.

Trimsaran Rugby Club was founded in 1920 by Mr. David Charles Lloyd of Preswylfa. Mr. Lloyd acted as both Secretary and Fixture Secretary until he was joined by Mr. Bryn Jenkins, who took over the duties as Secretary. The committee at the time included:

- Mr. Dai Rees (Aberavon)
- Mr. Tom Jones (London)
- Mr. Rhys Rees (Cefn)

The coach and trainer was Mr. Harry Millett.

A pitch at Maes Tomos, Bryncaerau, was adopted during the first season, and games were played against teams such as:

- Burry Port (All Blacks)
- Burry Port (Scarlets)
- Llanelli Excelsiors
- Felinfoel
- Carway
- Laugharne
- Kidwelly
- Pontyberem
- Emlyn Quins (Penygroes)

To be considered for selection, players had to own their own jerseys—black and red with yellow hoops—which cost eight shillings, as well as the rest of their kit. Due to the scarcity of money, expenses for away matches were met by the players and supporters, who travelled to the venues by buses or charabancs owned by Sam Eynon or James Hughes.

Arrangements for changing varied but usually took place at:

- The Miner's Arms
- Siop Sara (now the Laurels)
- The ambulance hut in the park
- Annie Kate's shop in Bryncaerau
- The Star Hotel

Changing at the upstairs room in the Workingmen's Club was short-lived, as players made themselves unpopular when water used for cleaning dripped through the ceiling onto the bar below!

Facilities were primitive, with bathing carried out in three or four wooden or zinc-coated steel baths. It was no surprise there was a rush to bathe early, as being last meant washing in very muddy water indeed!

Names from this early period include:

Fullbacks:

- W. J. Williams
- Harry 'Bach' Williams

Three-quarters:

- Johnny Thomas
- Dai Morgan
- Willie Davies
- Tom Davies
- Thomas J. Saddler
- David John Emmanuel
- Elvet Charles (Carway)
- Tom Rogers (Glenstony)
- Tom Phillips ('Nips')

Halfbacks:

- David John Williams
- Alf Thomas
- Stan Jenkins
- Harry Baldwin

Forwards:

- W. E. Charles
- Tudor Thomas
- Ivor Rees
- Trevor Rees
- Will Gravell
- Jack Rogers (Glenstony)
- Stan Jones
- Elvet John
- Jack Morgan
- Stan Lodwig (Carway)
- Tom John (Aqueduct)

Moving on to the 1920s and 1930s, notable names included:

- Ivor Emmanuel
- Joe Lloyd
- Bill Bailey
- Mansel Lloyd
- Dai Williams
- Emlyn Phillips
- Harry Saddler
- D. J. Williams
- Mel Griffiths
- W. H. Charles
- Cec Davies
- Russell Davies
- D. Bennett
- J. Bennett
- C. Charles
- Hughie Daniels
- Emlyn Jones
- Percy Jones
- W. J. Protheroe
- Will John
- D. Jenkins
- Jack Davies
- Evan Davies
- Fred Cunnington
- Reg Cottington

Memorable committee members included:

- W. W. Jones
- Dan Morgan
- Olwyn Francis
- D. Bennett
- D. Williams
- Will Walker

- David Charles Lloyd
- David John Davies
- Tom Hughes
- John Hughes

A quote from a local newspaper on December 22, 1921, read:

"At a Llanelly League Executive Meeting, teams looking for fixtures for this and next season were asked to contact Mr. D. C. Lloyd, Preswylfa, Trimsaran. Names of teams added to the fixture list were: Pontyberem, Tumble, Llanelly Quins, Carmarthen Quins, Furnace, Cefneithin, Bynea, Pottery Juniors, Drefach, Halfway, Copperworks, and White Stars."

Unfortunately, no photographs of these teams are available, as they would have been much too expensive to purchase.

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### 1922-23 Season

During the 1922-23 season, when Culla Field became the venue for home games, Trimsaran Rugby Club decided to play in the Llanelly District League for points and to compete for the Llanelly R.F.C. Challenge Cup. By the end of the season, they were in third position in the League Table, having played 11 games, won 6, drawn 0, and lost 5. They scored 33 points and conceded 50. Trimsaran were pleased with their performance in the semi-final against Felinfoel, despite losing 3-0 at Pontyberem.

Press notices about Trimsaran at the time were favourable. On October 6, 1923, it was reported:

"David John Williams of Trimsaran R.F.C. was chosen to assist the Llanelly Second XV against the Llanelly and District League XV, a team which also included Willie Gravelle of Trimsaran. Both players gave a splendid account of themselves."

However, during subsequent seasons, the press's enthusiasm waned, except for one observation noting that Trimsaran had been fined 15 shillings for failing to fulfil two fixtures with Halfway.

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### A Barren Period and Revival

Trimsaran Rugby Club seemed to enter a barren period from 1924 onwards. To reignite interest, a game was arranged on November 26, 1926, against Kidwelly ex-schoolboys at Pen-y-Mynydd. Trimsaran lost 5-0.

After this match, little was heard about the club until March 1, 1928, when a local newspaper announced that a rugby football team had been reformed in Trimsaran. They were fortunate to secure a first-class ground known as Cae Pant, an ideal field for football or cricket due to its flat and dry conditions.

From 1928 to 1931, Trimsaran Rugby Team enjoyed their most successful years, playing regularly at home and away against strong opponents in league and cup competitions. However, there is no record of trophies being won during this period.

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### The 1930s and Decline

During the 1930s, money in Trimsaran, as elsewhere, became scarce. No league or cup competitions were entered, and interest in the game faltered once again. To maintain enthusiasm, games were arranged between local teams such as Pinged, Five Roads, and Carway, as well as between village districts:

- "Y Wern-y-Clun" (Skull and Bone Crackers)
- "Bryncarnau" (Gwyr-y-Brwyn)
- "Pen-y-Mynydd"

Matches were played on Cae Dythel and Cae Ffald.

### 1936-1939: A Period of Renewal and Excitement

In 1936, things began to improve for Trimsaran Rugby Club, thanks to the hard and dedicated work of the committee, who secured fixtures, and the enthusiasm of the players, who were prepared to meet their own expenses.

On 23rd March 1933, a newspaper congratulated Mr. W. J. Griffiths, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Griffiths of 'Golygfa Deg,' on winning his football colours at Lampeter College. The article stated:

"He played his first game with the College XV last week against Cardiff College and distinguished himself by scoring the first try."

W. J., as he was popularly known, captained the Llanely County Team for two years.

Further quotes from the same period include:

- 16th February 1933:  
"Congratulations are extended to Percy Davies B.Sc., second son of Mr. Tom Davies M.E., Manager of Trimsaran Group of Collieries, on being appointed Liaison Officer on behalf of the English Electric Company, Staffordshire. On Friday last, Percy played for the County, and whilst stationed at Stafford, has been a prominent member of the Stafford Rugby Team. He is currently the captain and has, on several occasions, represented Staffordshire in County games."
  - 12th March 1931:  
"A meeting was called at the Institute, Trimsaran, to consider forming a cricket eleven to play in the coming season."
-

## 1937-38 Season

A complete rugby fixture list was prepared for the 1937-38 season, which included teams such as:

- Tycroes
- Narberth
- Cefneithin
- Ystradgynlais
- Dynevor Stars
- Morfa Rangers
- West End Ammanford

Trimsaran R.F.C. looked toward a future filled with exciting fixtures. On Christmas Day 1937, the village team played a pre-Christmas lunch match against a team called 'Old Boys.' After lunch, the team travelled away to Tenby, where, unsurprisingly, they lost 25-0!

On 13th February 1937, Stanley Brower, a local boy, was selected to play for the West Wales Schoolboys against Monmouth Schoolboys.



### STALWARTS OF SEASON 1937

*(Back row):* H. Pinn, B. Bailey, R. Pinn, V. McHugh, R. Wilde, I. Hughes, P. Jones, E. Evans, M. Lloyd, I. Lewis, R. Griffiths, M. Griffiths. *(Middle row):* D. Davies, A. Jones, B. Davies, V. Griffiths, C. Williams. *(Front row):* L. Rosser, T. Williams, D. Evans, W. Rees, D. W. Davies.

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## Challenges in County Team Formation

On 15th September 1938, at a meeting of the Llanely and District Supporters Club, it was agreed to abandon the idea of forming a County team. Thirty-one clubs had received circulars regarding this, but only seven replied: Tumble, Felinfoel, Bynea, Llanely Quins, Burry Port, Llandeilo, and Trimsaran.

Leuan Lodwick, grandson of S. Eynon, played in the final trial for the Welsh Schoolboys at Neath on 6th February 1938. Later that year, on 10th December, Leuan captained the Llanelly County School team at Cardigan and scored a splendid try. Despite this, it was considered farcical that the selection committee did not pick him for the Second Trial.

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#### Notable Players and Matches

- Howell J. Phillips of Trimsaran R.F.C. was selected to play for the Llanelly and District League against the Pembrokeshire League on 26th February 1939.
- The first Trimsaran player ever selected for this important match was Reg Thomas of Bryncaerau, who led the pack. He was ably supported by H. J. Phillips of Trimsaran. The Llanelly District side beat Ammanford 6-0.
- On Easter Tuesday, Llanelly District played against Pembrokeshire District, and once again, H. J. Phillips represented the Llanelly District XV.

On 26th April 1938, a charity match took place between the W. H. Clement XV and the Trimsaran & District team. Local sportsmen were delighted by the sporting gesture of W. H. Clement, the Llanelly and Wales wing three-quarter, who selected a strong team to play against Trimsaran & District.

This game was a charity match held in aid of nine-year-old Master Glyn Williams, son of Mr. David Williams of Wern-y-Clun, Trimsaran, who was undergoing treatment at Glen-Ely Hospital, Cardiff. In reply, Trimsaran selected a strong side and received assistance from two rugby stalwarts:

- Haydn Rees of Kidwelly
- Benny Gravell of Carway, who played for the Carmarthen Quins.

#### A Memorable Match and the Post-War Years

One of the spectators recalled that the match was a delightful game to watch, one of the finest ever seen on Culla ground. The crowd eagerly awaited the final whistle, which confirmed a victory for W. H. Clement's team, 3-0.

W. H. Clement himself did not play in this game, as he had been chosen to tour South Africa with the British Lions. As a token of respect after the game, he was presented with a clock by Mr. David Evans of the Coast Inn, who at the time was a Justice of the Peace. This information was shared by W. J. Bailey, who had played in the game at the age of 40.

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#### World War II and Post-War Rugby Revival

With the outbreak of World War II, rugby activities were interrupted. Even after the war, no records appear until 1946.

During the 1946-47 season, Trimsaran entered competitions for both the Cup and the League. Although the team performed well, they did not quite succeed in qualifying for the 'Top Four' playoffs. At that time, there were no separate sections, only one league.

A game still remembered by those who were there was the Cup Final against Cefneithin, held at Tumble in April 1947. The final score, Cefneithin 8 - Trimsaran 7, was not a true reflection of the game. At halftime, the teams were level at 3 points each. In the second half, Vic Morgan dropped a goal, putting Trimsaran ahead 7-3. However, a few minutes before the end, a controversial kick at goal occurred. The ball dropped under the crossbar; one touch judge raised his flag while the other kept his down. The referee, Cy Davies, gave the benefit of the doubt to Cefneithin, finalizing the score at 8-7.

The winners of the cup were granted eligibility for WRU membership, and Cefneithin was admitted. Since that time, Trimsaran has made every effort to become WRU members, but this accolade has eluded them. Likewise, the cup itself remained elusive until Trimsaran defeated Pontyates W Trimsaran Rugby Club 9-6 in 1969.

While the Cup may have proved elusive, many other trophies came Trimsaran's way. The League Championship Shield and the All Winners Cup were won three consecutive times in 1948, 1949, and 1950.

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#### 1948-49 Season

The 1948-49 season was particularly successful, with the record reading:

- Played: 32
  - Won: 23
  - Lost: 5
  - Drawn: 4
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#### Challenges and New Beginnings

In the 1953-54 season, Trimsaran suffered a significant setback when they lost the Culla Ground to an open-cast mining site. No other ground was available for three years, until the Welfare Park pitch was developed.

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#### September 11th, 1947: Early Highlights of the Season

At the start of the 1947 season, several Trimsaran players caught the attention of selectors. Ior Lloyd, Charles Williams, and Myrddin Williams were selected to play for the District against the Scarlets at Stradey Park, with Ossie Williams named as a reserve.

Trimsaran was also fortunate to have players representing the Scarlets, including:

- Ivor Lloyd (Wing)
- Evan Rees (Full-back)
- Jack Morgan (Centre)
- Myrddin Williams (Forward)
- Charles Williams (Hooker)

Charles Williams played for the Scarlets for two seasons. On January 8th, 1948, the Mercury newspaper praised him, stating:

"Local rugby followers are delighted to hear that Evan Rees has given such satisfaction to the Llanelly RFC committee while playing full-back for the club."

The report also noted that Charles Williams justified his inclusion in the pack.

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### The Next Generation of Players

Selectors did not overlook the schoolboys of the village. Bryan Thomas, Peter Evans, and Wyn Jenkins participated in the Welsh Schools Trial at Ammanford. Ellie Griffiths, meanwhile, became a valuable member of the Cardiff University team.

### Youth Rugby and Promising Talents: 1947-1951

In November 1947, Bryan Thomas of Bryncoch was chosen to captain the Llanelly and District Schoolboys Rugby Team. Playing alongside him was Peter Evans of Norlais Terrace.

A quote from the Llanelly Mercury on March 18th, 1948, highlights Bryan's remarkable talent:

"John Bryan Thomas of Bryncoch, Trimsaran, is a young rugby player of tremendous promise. He first played for the Llanelly and District Schoolboys and then progressed to the schools XV, playing against England at Leicester. He also featured in the Llanelly team during the 'Dewar Shield' final. He is the current captain of the Llanelly and District Junior Schoolboys and played for Wales against England on Saturday, March 13th, 1948. Bryan holds the unique record of having represented Wales at two junior levels: under 14 and under 15."

Bryan went on to achieve further accolades, playing for the Wales Senior Group at Secondary Schools level and for the Welsh A.T.C. XV during the period of 1948-51.

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### The Story of Les Williams

Another notable figure from Trimsaran was Les Williams, who was praised in the Llanelly Mercury on March 27th, 1947:

"Les Williams, the Llanelly and Wales three-quarter, hails from Trimsaran, where he is very popular because of his excellent work for Trimsaran R.F.C. and the local Boys' Club."

During World War II, Les served in the Royal Navy and was a regular member of the Royal Navy XV. After the war, Llanelly RFC was delighted to have him join their ranks. Between 1945 and 1947, Les faced the touring New Zealand Kiwis four times:

- For the Scarlets on October 30th,
- For the Royal Navy on December 15th,
- For Wales on January 5th,
- For the Combined Services on January 12th.

Les Williams played for Wales three times in the 1946-47 season, also representing the Royal Navy against the Army. During that season, he participated in three Welsh trials and played on the wing against England and Scotland, and at centre against France. Unfortunately, the match against Ireland was postponed.

Les was a crowd favourite, known for his clean and fair play. Sadly, for Llanelly, Les accepted a job outside the area and joined Cardiff RFC, where he continued to earn international honours, bringing his total to seven caps.

In 1949, Les transitioned to professional rugby, joining Hunslet Rugby League Club. Even in the Rugby League, he upheld his stellar reputation, representing Wales in the professional code.

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### The Role of the Boys' Club in Trimsaran Rugby

The Boys' Club became a central part of village life, fostering a love for rugby and producing talented players. Among those who gained recognition at the County level were Ronnie Rowlands, Tony Lloyd, Graham Jones, Peter Evans, Gareth Davies, Lemond James, and Keith Morris.

Another rugby hub in Trimsaran was the A.T.C. (Air Training Corps), which also nurtured talented players. Notable names include Ray James, Peter Evans, and Thomas Kere, who represented the Welsh A.T.C. They were awarded blazer badges instead of caps to commemorate their achievements.

In one memorable county match involving the Boys' Club, 13 members of Trimsaran Boys' Club played for the Carmarthenshire side against Glamorganshire.

The Boys' Club's record of trophies is a testament to its success during this time:

- 1948-49: Senior and Junior Shield
- 1949-50: Senior and Junior Shield
- 1950-51: Intermediate and Junior Shield

It is also noteworthy that junior players often represented the senior team, demonstrating the depth of talent being developed in the village.

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At this time, rugby in Trimsaran seemed set for a bright future, with the Boys' Club and other local efforts laying a strong foundation for the sport in the community.

#### The Playing Record for the Village XV

- Played: 38
- Won: 30
- Lost: 6
- Drawn: 2
- Points Scored: 416
- Points Against: 108

This successful run continued until 1954, when the Club had to relinquish the Culle Ground to the National Coal Board (NCB) for open-cast mining operations. Despite efforts to continue by playing only away games, this proved unsustainable due to the high cost of transport. Sadly, the Club was forced to disband, even at a time when it was considering forming a second XV due to the growing number of players.

Many Trimsaran players found opportunities with other clubs, which benefited from Trimsaran's misfortune by recruiting their talent.

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#### Trimsaran Players Shine on the National Stage

In April 1951, during an A.T.C. International match between Wales and Scotland, three members of the Trimsaran A.T.C. were selected to play: Roy James, Peter Evans, and Bryan Thomas. All three performed exceptionally well, with Roy James and Peter Evans each scoring a try, and Bryan Thomas successfully converting.

Other noteworthy players from this period include:

- Ronnie Rowlande – Welsh Boys' Club (1948-49)
- Tony Lloyd – Welsh Boys' Club (1950-51)
- Graham Jones (Ty Llwyd) – Welsh Boys' Club (1951-52)
- Peter Evans – Welsh Boys' Club (1951-52)
- Gareth Davies – Two Welsh Boys' Club caps (1952-53)
- Esmond Davies – Welsh Boys' Club (1953-54)
- Keith Morris – Welsh Boys' Club (1953-54)
- Roy James – Welsh A.T.C. (two caps, 1949-51)
- Thomas Rees – Welsh A.T.C. (1949-50)
- Peter Evans – Welsh A.T.C. (1949-50)

With such a wealth of talent, it's no surprise that Trimsaran Boys' Club enjoyed great success during this time. In the 1948-49 season, they won both the Junior and Senior Shields. In the 1950-51 season, they added the Junior and International Shields to their collection.

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## Achievements and Tragedies

The local press, on January 4th, 1951, reported:

"Congratulations to John Bryan Thomas of the Trimsaran Boys' Club on being chosen for Wales to play against England in Neath. This is a notable achievement for Bryan, who has now won three caps at different levels for Wales. He is a fine hooker and has a bright future in the game."

Unfortunately, on January 9th, 1950, the village mourned the tragic loss of one of its most promising young players, Ronnie Rowlands, who died in a fatal train accident at Pont-Henry.

Despite this tragic event, rugby in Trimsaran continued to thrive for a time. The Senior XV won the Llanelly League Championship Shield and the Lady Howard Challenge Cup during the seasons of 1948-49, 1950-51, and 1952.

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## The Decline of Rugby in Trimsaran

This period of success was cut short in 1954 when the NCB claimed the Culla Field for open-cast mining operations. With no alternative pitch offered, Trimsaran Rugby Club was forced to accept the situation and disband.

Although this marked the end of an era for Trimsaran Rugby Club, the contributions, and achievements of its players during this golden period remain an enduring source of pride for the village.

January 18th, 1951

Bryan Thomas had the honour of representing Wales in the Schools International Game at Neath, excelling in the position of Hooker.

While a pupil at Llanelly Grammar School, Bryan was further honoured with a School Cap as the best athlete, international footballer, or all-round sportsman. These caps were not easily earned, making it a significant achievement for the young Bryan Thomas.

Mr. Alec Jenkins of the Royal Navy also made waves, playing for the Devonport Services Rugby XV. He performed exceptionally well in a match between the Services XV and Plymouth Police.

Bryan Thomas was back in the news when he travelled to Biarritz to play for the Welsh Secondary Schools against the French team.

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## The Late Mr. Gwyn Jenkins

One of the most well-known figures in Trimsaran rugby was the late Mr. Gwyn Jenkins. His passion for the game was unparalleled, and his greatest joy was donning the jersey and playing his heart out. His rugby travels took him far and wide, and he is reputed to have played for many renowned clubs.

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### Annual General Meeting – July 19th, 1957

At the AGM held at the Star Hotel, Mr. Howell J. Phillips was elected Chairman, and Mr. Keri Davies was appointed Treasurer. A total of 23 members were present, and 13 were elected to the Committee. The biggest challenge at this time, now that the field issue had been resolved, was funding and how to secure it.

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### Re-Establishing the Team

This was a challenging period to re-establish a team, as many Trimsaran players had spent several seasons playing for other clubs. Nevertheless, they rallied together, and after some memorable trials in September, a team was fielded under the captaincy of Len Williams to face old rivals Tumble. Although Trimsaran lost by 36 points in the first match, they triumphed in the return fixture with a score of 5–0. Edryd and Gareth Davies made it a family affair, with Edryd scoring the try and Gareth converting it.

At the next AGM on August 13th, 1958, Howell J. Phillips and Keri Davies were re-elected to their respective positions. Frank Williams was appointed as Secretary, and Dudley Howells took on the role of Fixture Secretary. The Committee continued to number 13 members, and Dr. Joseph Harvey was elected Club President.

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### Fundraising and Logistics

To address financial challenges, the cost of transportation to away matches was shared equally between players and supporters. The cost of washing jerseys, initially set at ten shillings, was another expense borne by the Club.

To generate funds, the Rugby, Soccer, and Cricket Clubs of the village collaborated to run a weekly tote. The profits were distributed according to ticket sales, and the venture was deemed a success. By February 1959, there was enough money to cover free transport to away matches.



**SEASON 1959/60**

*(Back row):* H. J. Phillips, L. Davies, V. Evans, K. Williams, L. Williams, A. Jenkins, G. Harries, D. Evans, R. Morgans, D. Rees, E. Gravelle. *(Middle row):* R. Howells, D. Howells, P.C. Rees *(Captain)*, T. Tillman, K. Williams, C. Phillips. *(Front row):* M. Davies, Howell Richards.

A new set of jerseys cost £32 for 15 players at the time. There was also an attempt in November 1958 to form a second XV due to the number of players available, but this plan did not materialize.

An insurance policy was introduced to cover players, providing £3 per week in case of injury.

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#### Notable Achievements

In the 1960-61 season, the team reached the semi-final of the Llanelly District Challenge Cup.

Changing rooms were constructed behind the Welfare Hall, marking another step in the Club's development. However, by this time, the cost of washing a set of jerseys had risen to £1.

#### 1963-64 Season

In 1963-64, it was decided to introduce an annual award for the Best Player and Clubman of the previous season. The Clubman of the Year was Ken Edwards.

At this time, serious consideration was being given to building a clubhouse near the 'Bird in Hand.'

This season was notable for the honours won in district competitions. Trimsaran Rugby Club claimed the League Championship Play-Off, narrowly lost in the final of the Challenge Cup, but redeemed themselves by winning the All-Winners Play-Off Cup. As a reward for these achievements, the Club was awarded £46.15.0 by the Llanelli District Supporters Club.

The record for the 1963-64 season reads:

- Played: 34
  - Won: 29
  - Lost: 3
  - Drawn: 2
  - Points For: 429
  - Points Against: 103
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#### 1964-65 Season

During this season, Messrs. Tom Hughes and Cyril Phillips were made Life Members of the Club in recognition of their long and dedicated service as players, committee members, and officials. Len Williams was voted Clubman of the Year, while the honour of Player of the Year went to Len Davies (Captain).

Trimsaran also achieved success in the Sevens Tournament at Pontiets, though they were unlucky to lose in the semi-final of the Challenge Cup. At this time, no definite site had been decided upon for the proposed clubhouse.

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#### 1965-66 Season

Devlyn Evans became captain of the team for the season, while Wyn Jenkins was appointed Chairman. Basil David, an ex-secretary, was elected Secretary of the Llanelli District Junior Rugby Union.

Two players, Vivien Evans, and Gwynfor Morris were selected to play for the Llanelli District XV at Glynneath. Later, Gwynfor was chosen to represent the Welsh Junior XV against the Midlands XV at Bridgend on April 12th. Clyde Jones was voted Clubman of the Year, and Gwynfor Morris was named Player of the Year.

At the Annual General Meeting on July 1st, 1966, it was revealed that the Club was in debt by £459.0.0. Despite this, plans to establish a Youth XV went ahead, with £20.0.0 raised by interested parties. The parent Club subsidized this effort, and a set of jerseys was purchased for £54.0.0. The Youth XV played its first game against Porthonwl.

The decision regarding the location of the clubhouse remained unresolved, though the most popular suggestion was adopting the Star Hotel and renaming it Trimsaran Rugby Club.

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#### 1966-67 Season

During this season, Devlyn Evans was re-appointed captain. Alewyn Jenkins was capped by the Welsh Junior Union.

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#### 1967-68 Season

Early in the 1967-68 season, Trimsaran Rugby Club was fined £1.0.0 for failing to attend Llanelli District meetings.

The League record for this season was:

- Played: 12
- Won: 11
- Drawn: 1
- Lost: 0
- Points For: 196
- Points Against: 45

The Club earned 23 league points out of a possible 24.

In the Top Four League Play-Off, Trimsaran defeated Furnace with a score of 5–3 but ultimately lost in the final.

On March 19th, 1968, Felinfoel Brewery accepted Trimsaran Rugby Club as tenants the question of a Clubhouse had been settled!

Vivian Evans played for the Welsh Junior Union XV against Coventry District R.U. XV, and on April 16th, 1968, Michael Rowlands won three caps at under 15 Welsh Schools. The Scarlets XV at Stradey invited Devlyn Evans to play for them, and his brother Vivian had the

honour of being elected player of the Year for Trimsaran. The Clubmen of the Year won Allen Jones.

In the 1968-69 season, it was decided to form Club Youth V for the coming season, and to join the Llanelly District Youth Rugby Union. The senior side was insured for 445 and the youth for £19.

Vivian Evans and Alan Williams play for the Llanelly District Rugby Union XV against Swanton and District, and against Pembroke XV. Gwynfor Morris was reserve for both games.

On January 19th, 1969, Trimsaran on took another great stride in their rugby career. Trimsaran Harlequins played against Pontyberem second XV and won 173. This was a notable start, and they drew in their next match against Felinfoel record XV 3 points each.

The Club was warned that the second XV won not incurred, but the term continued to play occasionally until the end of the season, when their record stood-

Played 10

Won 5

Lost 4

Drawn 1

Points for 150

Point against. 100

The First teams-

Played 29

Won 19

Lost 8

Drawn 2

Points for 317

Points against. 156

Neither term lost at home.

The Clubmen of the Year was Elwyn Gravelle, and Howard Davies was voted Player of the Year. At the end of the season, the Club purchased two Debenture tickets for the North Stand at the National Ground for £50.00 each.

In 1969/70 a full fixture agreed were ready for the three terms, and it was agreed that the second XV should compete in the League for points, and the first XV would play in the Challenge Cup Competition and in friendly games against W.R.U. clubs. 4. Club and blazer badge design was approved and a charity match in aid of Mike Reynolds was played against Phil Bennett XV. Trimsaran lost 25-12

On 15th, January, Ivor Briley was honoured by being invited to play for Llanelli District Rugby Union XV against Pembroke District.

For the first time in rugby history Trimsaran won the Llanelli R.F.C. Challenge Cup. To reach the final, Trimsaran beat Furnace, Ammon Quine, Pen-y-Bone and Pontiets in the final to win 9-6.

At Kidwelly, playing for all Winners' Cup, Trimsaran won 19-6.

In this memorable season of successful rugby, the captain of the team was Gwynfor Morris, the elected Clubman and Player of the Year, were John Evans and John Gravell.

In 1970/71 Derek Quinnell entered the annals of Trimsaran rugby history. Derek and his family had lived in the village before moving to Pump Heol in the 1960's.

Derek had already made a name for himself by playing for the Llanelli Youth XV and had been capped for Wales at this level.

His style of rugby with the Scarlets had already attracted the attention of the selectors, but before he donned the Welsh jersey at Cardiff Arms Park, Derek had been on his way to New Zealand in the British Lions party. This was a heady beginning to what would prove a long and successful rugby career.

Other local boys were successful in being chosen for the Llanelli and District R.U. XV. They were Adrian Pritchard, Vivian Evans, Alun Williams, and Paul Thomas. The club won the district seven-a-side tournament and went on to represent Llanelli District at the Welsh Districts Tournament at Trimsaran but were beaten by Bryncoch.

In the 1971-72 season, Trimsaran reached the final of the Challenge Cup, only to be beaten by Pontypool 16-9. The first Llanelli tour was made to the Midlands, Salford, and Warrington.

It was decided to make a new award for the Club's Best Sportsman and Best Youth Player. These awards were won by:

- Best Sportsman: David Latham
- Best Player: Alun Williams
- Youth Player: Peter Evans
- Clubman: Jack Morgan

In the 1972-73 season, Trimsaran were again successful in winning the District Seven-a-side Tournament and represented Llanelli in the Welsh District Sevens at Maesteg. On 12th May 1973, Paul Thomas was chosen Player of the Year. The Clubman and Sportsman of the Year awards went to David Latham and Alun Williams.

In the 1973-74 season, a competition for the "Welsh Brewers Challenge Cup" was introduced, and Trimsaran decided to enter. They got off to an excellent start and reached the fourth round by beating Tycroes, Llanpumsaint, Whitchurch, and losing to Llanelli (away) by 15-10. Keith Thomas was picked for Llanelli District XV against Neath and Monmouth. Awards for the season were:

- Player: Bryan Morgan
- Clubman: Adrian Pritchard
- Sportsman: Elwyn Evans

In the 1974-75 season, David James, Paul Ryan, and Ian Bathgate were selected for the Llanelli District XV. Ellis Evans was captain of the team, which played magnificently against Pontypridd in the first round of the Welsh Brewers' Cup to win 34-7. Fairwater came next and was beaten 18-12 after extra time. St. Joseph's proved to be a difficult team to beat, and Trimsaran narrowly missed victory by 15-14. (17 points were lost by failure at goal kicks.) St. Joseph's advanced to victory, only to lose narrowly to Girling of Cumbernauld in the Final at the National Stadium.

Phil Bennett once again kindly brought a team to play Trimsaran to mark the opening of an extension at the Clubhouse. Phil's team contained ten internationals, and Gwilym Trchame, President of the Welsh Junior Union, opened the Clubhouse. It was a very proud day for Trimsaran Rugby Club.

Player of the Year was Ian Bathgate  
Clubman of the Year was Ian Jones  
Sportsman of the Year was George Pritchard

In the 1975-76 season, the captain was Alun Bathgate, and his team reached the third round of the 'Welsh Brewers Cup,' only to lose to Caldicot (away) by 43-3.

Suddenly, Len Davies, a popular player and Club fixture secretary for many years, became critically ill. A special charity match was played against the Llanelli District XV to raise money for an appeal fund set up for Len.

The Club went on a rather unsuccessful tour of Cheshire, where they lost both games they played. The Youth XV performed better, winning the games they played on tour.

- Player of the Year: Stewart Williams
- Clubman of the Year: Geraint Griffiths
- Sportsman of the Year: Clive Evans
- Youth Player of the Year: Colin O'Brien

Meirion Davies, who had begun his playing career with the Club, decided to return to where it all started. During his rugby career, Meirion had played for London Welsh, Cardiff, and Llanelli. His brother, Lyn, who had played for Hampshire and other first-class clubs such as Llanelli R.F.C., made himself available to Trimsaran R.F.C. Bryan Williams, who had joined the R.F.C., also returned to play for Trimsaran. Alun Thomas, an ex-Trimsaran player who had played for Llanelli and Aberavon, moved to Moseley, where he became a regular member of the first XV and represented the North Midlands when they won the John Player Challenge Cup.

Special Notes:

The Trimsaran Club steward had played for Derby and Lincolnshire while in the army.

The 1976-77 season proved to be a very successful one, thanks to the multi-talented team. Trimsaran easily won the 'Llanelli District Challenge Cup' by beating Carmarthen Druids at Kidwelly 16-6. In the competition, they scored an unbelievable 157 points, conceding only 27. To demonstrate just how superior they were, Trimsaran went on to win the 'Winners' Cup' by beating Pontypridd by a record score of 37-13 at Stradey Park.

As if this wasn't enough, Trimsaran also won the district 'Sevens' tournament at Pontypridd, defeating Llandovery in the final by 43 points to nil.

In the 1980-81 season, the senior XV had a mediocre season and were knocked out of the Brewers' Cup in the first round by Mynydd Bach, a district team, by 19 points. Despite this, the team had a strong record in the District League Championship:

- Played: 12
- Won: 10
- Lost: 2
- Drawn: 0
- Points For: 171
- Points Against: 71



This was the first time the second XV of a Llanelli and District Club had won a trophy in any of the district competitions.

The Youth XV had a highly successful season, winning 24 games and losing 3. They scored 76 tries and their points totalled 470, with only 94 against. They had a late start to the season as they were not allowed to play during the opening weeks due to the Club including a schoolboy in one of the previous season's Cup matches without the permission of the District Youth Committee. However, they proved themselves to be a formidable unit, winning their 'Zone,' and they were successful in the play-off against Furry Fort, with the final score being 16-4.

In the Llanelli and District Cup semi-final, the Youth team lost to Carmarthen by 9-6. However, in the 'Winners Buckley Cup,' they succeeded in beating Burry Port 10-3. In the Welsh 'Esso Cup,' they achieved memorable victories against Furnace, Cornelly, Crumlin, and Cross Keys before being defeated by Newport in the semi-final 9-7.

Players who represented the District XV during the season were Peter Owen, Jonathan Davies, Steven Riordan, Paul Lloyd, Gareth Jones, Men Griffiths, and Gerald Bowen. Peter Owen captained the team on three occasions, and Jonathan Davies was selected as a reserve for the final Welsh Youth trial.

At the end of the season, Boden Jones, the first XV Vice-Captain, toured Germany with the Welsh Districts Rugby Union team and led the Llanelli District team that lost to Cardiff District in the final of the Howells Cup.

During the 1981-82 season, the senior team displayed a great deal of skill in the pre-season Seven-a-side competitions and were awarded the 'Lyndhurst Cup' at the Aberaeron Sevens, for the best second-class team of the competition. They defeated a London team, The Voyagers, and performed well against Swansea before being narrowly defeated in the closing minutes. This was the first time for a Welsh District team to achieve this award.

This season proved to be one of the most successful in the history of the Club, with the Senior XV winning both the Llanelli and District Challenge Cup and the Lady Howard all Winners' Cup. Unfortunately, they were defeated by Rumney 13-9 in the fourth round of the Welsh Brewers' Cup.

Jonathan Davies was selected to play for Neath against Pontypridd, Gloucester, Pontypool, Swansea, and Cardiff during the latter part of the season and represented the Welsh Districts team in their match against North Wales before their successful tour of Germany.

Shaun Kenny, a pupil at Graig Comprehensive School, represented the Welsh Secondary Schools on five occasions. Shaun played for the Youth team, who narrowly lost to Kidwelly 6-3 in the final of the Llanelli and District Youth Cup after defeating Burry Port, Carmarthen Athletic, and Llanelli in earlier rounds.

Although they were losing finalists to Burry Port in the District G Sevens Tournament at Carmarthen, they avenged this defeat in the Burry Port Memorial Sevens by beating the same team 22-12 in the final.

## Trimsaran Rugby Club Notable Players.

Bill Bailey (1927)



In 1927, Bill Bailey became the first recorded captain of Trimsaran Rugby Club, a title that symbolizes not just leadership but a turning point in the club's early history. While rugby had been played in Trimsaran since 1910, Bailey's role as captain was the first documented instance of the club's growing structure and organization.

Rugby in Trimsaran during the early 20th century was more than just a sport—it reflected the community's resilience and unity, particularly in the wake of World War I. For Bailey to be recognized as the club's leader during this formative period speaks volumes about his character, dedication, and influence within the local rugby scene.

While specific details about Bailey's playing career and potential representation at higher levels remain elusive, his captaincy in 1927 marks a significant chapter in Trimsaran's rugby story. As captain, Bailey would have been responsible not only for rallying his teammates on the field but also for fostering the sense of camaraderie and pride that defines Trimsaran Rugby Club to this day.

Bailey's legacy lies in his role as a pioneer. His tenure as captain came at a time when rugby was gaining prominence in Welsh society, providing a sense of identity and purpose to communities. Trimsaran, a small but passionate village, needed leaders like Bill Bailey to set the tone for the club's development, ensuring that rugby remained a central part of its cultural and social fabric.

The fact that Bill Bailey's captaincy is still remembered today highlights his importance in Trimsaran's rugby history. He laid the groundwork for the generations of players and leaders who followed, from local stalwarts to international stars who brought glory to the club.

Although there is no record of Bailey earning a cap for Wales or playing at the national level, his contribution at the grassroots level is equally significant. Grassroots leaders like Bailey are the unsung heroes of rugby, whose efforts ensure that the sport thrives at its foundational levels, nurturing talent, and uniting communities.

Today, as we reflect on Trimsaran Rugby Club's storied history, we honour figures like Bill Bailey who carried the torch in its early days. Their dedication and vision continue to inspire those who don the club's jersey, ensuring that Trimsaran's rugby legacy endures.

## Les Williams

(William Leslie Thomas Williams (1922-2006))

Les Williams, born William Leslie Thomas Williams on May 10, 1922, in Mynydd-y-Garreg, Wales, was a remarkable dual-code rugby international whose career spanned both rugby union and rugby league. A product of the close-knit rugby community in Trimsaran, Les was celebrated for his athleticism, versatility, and fair play, leaving an enduring legacy in the annals of Welsh rugby history.

Les's rugby journey began in Trimsaran, where his talent first gained recognition. His early contributions to Trimsaran RFC and the local Boys' Club were celebrated in the Llanelly Mercury on March 27, 1947, which praised him as a popular and hardworking player. During World War II, Les served in the Royal Navy, where he was a regular member of the Royal Navy XV. His time in the military honed his skills and prepared him for a stellar rugby career post-war.

After the war, Les joined Llanelli RFC (then known as Llanelly RFC) in 1945, where his dynamic style of play earned him widespread admiration. Between 1945 and 1947, Les faced the touring New Zealand Kiwis in four memorable encounters: for Llanelli on October 30, for the Royal Navy on December 15, for Wales on January 5, and for the Combined Services on January 12. These performances showcased his adaptability and skill, further solidifying his reputation as a rugby standout.

Les earned three caps for Wales during the 1946-47 season, representing his country with distinction. He played on the wing against England and Scotland and at centre against France, displaying his versatility in multiple positions. Unfortunately, the scheduled match against Ireland that season was postponed. Beyond his international appearances, Les also participated in three Welsh trials and represented the Royal Navy against the Army, further demonstrating his value as a player.

Les's crowd-pleasing performances and clean, fair style of play endeared him to fans. Despite his successes with Llanelli, Les accepted a job outside the area in 1947 and subsequently joined Cardiff RFC. At Cardiff, he continued to excel, earning additional international honours, and bringing his total caps for Wales to seven.

In 1949, Les transitioned to professional rugby league, joining Hunslet Rugby League Club. As a professional, he upheld his stellar reputation, representing Wales in the rugby league code and scoring 116 tries during his time at Hunslet. His performances on the league field further demonstrated his incredible talent and adaptability across both codes of rugby.

Les Williams's career is a testament to his dedication, skill, and sportsmanship. From his humble beginnings in Trimsaran to representing Wales and achieving success in professional rugby league, his story remains an inspiration. Known for his clean play and ability to excel in every rugby challenge, Les left an indelible mark on the sport and the communities he represented.

## Derek Quinnell



In the 1970-71 season, Derek Quinnell etched his name into the rich history of Trimsaran Rugby Club. A product of the village's close-knit rugby community, Derek and his family had lived in Trimsaran before relocating to Pump Heol in the 1960s. Despite moving, Derek's roots in Trimsaran remained significant, and his journey became a source of immense pride for the club and its supporters.

Derek had already showcased his talent with the Llanelli Youth XV and earned caps for Wales at the youth level, signalling his potential to ascend to the pinnacle of the sport. His performances with the Scarlets highlighted his dynamic playing style and natural leadership, qualities that soon caught the attention of national selectors.

Before he wore the iconic Welsh jersey at Cardiff Arms Park, Derek achieved the rare honour of being selected for the British Lions' tour to New Zealand. This milestone not only underscored his individual brilliance but also reflected the strength of the rugby tradition fostered in Trimsaran. His inclusion in such a prestigious squad brought global attention to the village and inspired future generations of players from Trimsaran to aspire to similar heights.

Derek's success became a symbol of what could be achieved through dedication, skill, and a deep connection to one's roots. His journey from Trimsaran to the world stage reinforced the club's reputation as a cradle of rugby talent, further instilling a sense of pride and ambition within the community.

Over the years, Derek Quinnell's influence has endured as a shining example of what Trimsaran Rugby Club can achieve. His achievements remind all who follow in his footsteps of the importance of perseverance, community, and the love of the game that defines Welsh rugby.

## Johnathan Davies



Jonathan Davies, born on October 24, 1962, in Trimsaran, Wales, is one of rugby's most celebrated figures, known for his remarkable versatility and skill in both rugby union and rugby league. His journey from a small Welsh village to international stardom is a testament to his talent, dedication, and love for the sport.

Davies' passion for rugby was nurtured in Trimsaran, a village with a rich rugby tradition. He began his career at Trimsaran RFC, showcasing exceptional talent from a young age. His performances quickly drew attention, leading to his move to Neath RFC in 1982. As a fly-half, Davies demonstrated a unique ability to read the game, combining tactical intelligence with dazzling footwork and a pinpoint kicking game.

In 1985, he joined Llanelli RFC, one of Wales's premier rugby clubs. His time at Llanelli solidified his reputation as a world-class player. That same year, he made his debut for the Wales national rugby union team in a match against England during the Five Nations Championship. Despite Wales's struggles during this period, Davies' brilliance shone through, earning him admiration from fans and critics alike.

In 1989, at the peak of his rugby union career, Davies made the bold decision to switch codes, signing with Widnes in rugby league. The move was partly motivated by financial considerations, as professional opportunities in rugby league far exceeded those in the then-amateur rugby union.

Davies adapted seamlessly to rugby league, a testament to his athleticism and skill. He played for Widnes and later Warrington, dazzling fans with his speed, agility, and tactical acumen. His contributions to both clubs were immense, and he became a central figure in rugby league's golden era.

Davies also represented the Wales and Great Britain rugby league teams, earning plaudits for his performances on the international stage. His ability to excel in both codes of rugby is a rare achievement, further cementing his legacy.

In 1995, with rugby union turning professional, Davies returned to his first love. He rejoined Llanelli RFC and was once again called up to represent Wales. His return brought experience

and leadership to the team, and he remained a vital player for both club and country until his retirement in 1997.

Following his retirement, Davies transitioned to a successful career in broadcasting. As a commentator and pundit, he became a familiar voice to rugby fans, offering insightful analysis and sharing his deep understanding of the game. His contributions to the sport off the field have been as impactful as his playing days.

Davies' legacy extends beyond his accolades and achievements. He is an inspiration to aspiring rugby players, particularly those from small communities like Trimsaran. In 1995, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his services to sport, a fitting recognition of his extraordinary career.

Jonathan Davies' journey from Trimsaran to the pinnacle of rugby in both union and league is a story of talent, determination, and passion. His ability to transcend the traditional boundaries of the sport makes him a true rugby legend. Whether dazzling fans on the field or enlightening audiences as a broadcaster, Davies' influence on rugby is profound and enduring.

### Nigel Davies



Nigel Davies, born on March 29, 1965, in Waun y Clun, Trimsaran, Wales, is a distinguished figure in rugby union, celebrated for his remarkable contributions both on and off the field. A gifted centre with a natural flair for the game, Davies enjoyed a stellar playing career before transitioning into a successful coaching role, leaving an enduring legacy in the sport.

Hailing from the rugby-rich village of Trimsaran, Davies grew up immersed in the sport. His journey began at Trimsaran RFC, where his talent was evident from a young age. His performances at the local level quickly caught the eye of scouts, leading to his move to Llanelli RFC in 1982. Over the years, Llanelli would become the stage for some of Davies' most memorable performances.

During his time at Llanelli RFC, Davies made an astounding 498 appearances, scoring 115 tries. His combination of tactical awareness, precision in passing, and strong defensive abilities made him a standout player. Whether orchestrating attacks or thwarting opponents,

Davies brought a level of finesse and determination that earned him the admiration of fans and teammates alike.

Davies' prowess at the club level earned him a call-up to the Wales national team in 1987. Over the next decade, he earned 29 caps, representing his country with distinction. Playing during a challenging period for Welsh rugby, Davies was often a stabilising force, bringing consistency and leadership to the team. His ability to excel against some of the world's toughest opposition showcased his skill and resilience.

Following his retirement as a player, Davies turned to coaching, where his deep understanding of the game proved invaluable. He began his coaching journey with Llanelli Scarlets, helping to develop the next generation of talent. His expertise soon caught the attention of the Wales national team, where he served as a coach, contributing to the squad's tactical and technical growth.

In 2008, Davies took on the role of head coach at Gloucester Rugby, a position he held until 2014. Under his guidance, the team experienced significant development, reflecting his ability to inspire and innovate. Throughout his coaching career, Davies was known for his analytical approach and commitment to fostering a positive team culture.

Nigel Davies' contributions to rugby extend far beyond his playing and coaching statistics. He remains a source of inspiration to aspiring players, particularly those from smaller communities like Trimsaran. His career demonstrates that with talent, determination, and passion, it is possible to achieve greatness on the international stage.

In recognition of his impact on the sport, Davies has been celebrated as both a player and a mentor. His dedication to rugby continues to resonate, and his legacy serves as a reminder of the enduring power of the game to unite and inspire.

Garan Evans



Garan Evans, born on February 16, 1973, in Trimsaran, Wales, is a former rugby union player who made a lasting impression as a reliable and skilled fullback. Evans' career is a testament to his dedication, consistency, and love for the game, which took him from local beginnings to the international stage.

Growing up in the rugby-centric village of Trimsaran, Evans was immersed in the sport from a young age. He began his playing career with Trimsaran RFC, where he quickly gained recognition for his natural talent and tactical understanding of the game. His performances for the local club opened the door to greater opportunities, and he soon joined Llanelli RFC.

Evans became a stalwart for Llanelli RFC, making 254 appearances during his time with the club. Renowned for his dependability and composure under pressure, he excelled in the fullback position, a role that demands precision in kicking, strong defensive capabilities, and an ability to counterattack effectively. His ability to read the game and make crucial interventions earned him the respect of teammates, coaches, and fans alike.

Evans' domestic performances did not go unnoticed, and he was selected to represent the Wales national rugby union team. Between 1998 and 2003, he earned four caps for his country. While his opportunities on the international stage were limited due to strong competition for the fullback position, Evans made the most of every appearance, showcasing the same reliability and skill that defined his club career.

Beyond his playing abilities, Evans was recognized as a model professional, respected for his work ethic and sportsmanship. He remained a key figure for Llanelli RFC throughout his career, contributing to the club's success and helping to uphold its proud rugby tradition.

Garan Evans' journey from Trimsaran to the heights of Welsh rugby exemplifies the opportunities the sport provides for players from small communities. His career serves as an inspiration to young athletes, demonstrating that dedication and hard work can lead to success at the highest levels of the game.

Although Evans retired from professional rugby, his legacy endures, particularly in his home region of Trimsaran, where his achievements continue to inspire future generations. His story is a proud chapter in Welsh rugby history, highlighting the enduring talent and passion that the country produces.

The remarkable careers of Jonathan Davies, Nigel Davies, and Garan Evans all share a common beginning in the close-knit community of Trimsaran. This small Welsh village, steeped in rugby tradition, played an instrumental role in nurturing their talents and instilling in them a love for the game.

From Trimsaran RFC to the heights of international rugby, each player carried the spirit and values of their hometown with them. Their achievements underscore the importance of grassroots rugby and the profound impact it can have on the sport's global stage. Together, they embody the legacy of Trimsaran's contribution to Welsh rugby history, inspiring generations to come.

## **"Trimsaran (Trim) : A Legacy of Resilience, Faith, and Community"**

As we reflect on Trimsaran's captivating history, we uncover a village shaped by its industrial roots, spiritual resilience, and communal strength. From the coal mines that once fuelled its economy and defined its landscape to the religious institutions that offered solace and guidance, Trimsaran's journey is one of transformation and perseverance.

The industrial boom that once pulsed through the Gwendraeth Valley brought prosperity and purpose to Trimsaran. Generations of families toiled in the mines, their labour building not just an economy but a shared identity deeply tied to the land. However, the eventual decline of the mining industry left a void, forever altering the village's trajectory. The physical scars of its industrial past remain as poignant reminders of a bygone era, while the spirit of resilience forged during those years continues to define its people.

Faith also played a crucial role in shaping Trimsaran's character. Churches and chapels stood as pillars of hope and unity, offering comfort during the hardships of industrial labor and the anguish of wartime loss. These institutions became gathering places, where values were reinforced, and the bonds of community were strengthened.

In this tapestry of history, the Trimsaran Rugby Club, founded in 1910, emerges as a living symbol of the village's enduring spirit. Through changing times, it has remained a hub of togetherness and pride. As the mines closed and chapels faded in prominence, the rugby club carried forward the torch of community, uniting generations in shared passion and tradition.

Today, Trimsaran stands as a village that honours its past while looking to the future. Its story is one of adaptation, where industrial might gave way to communal strength, and faith and sport bridged the gap between eras. Trimsaran is not just a place—it is a testament to resilience, a village proud of its heritage and ready to embrace the chapters yet to be written.

Graham T Emmanuel 2025