



GELLIGAER TIMES
NEWSLETTER OF GELLIGAER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MAY 2022 number 63
DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR



QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE ISSUE

Platinum is used to celebrate a 70th anniversary because of its rarity, strength, and endurance. Amongst the few previous monarchs who have celebrated a platinum jubilee are:

Louis XIV of France (14 May 1643 to 1713) and Johann II Prince of Lichtenstein (12 November 1858 to 1928)

The Royal Mint has produced a few coins to celebrate, and remember, the event including a 50p piece and a quarter ounce 999.9 proof standard gold coin.



MESSAGE FROM EDITOR

This newsletter includes:

- ❖ GHS news
- ❖ Cascade House Looking Backward and Forward
- ❖ Leftovers
- ❖ News from other history/heritage groups
- ❖ Supplement - Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee 2022
- ❖ Glimpses of local life in the 1950s as shown in selected newspaper extracts

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

David Mills Editor

GHS NEWS

GHS APRIL MEETING was held in Llancaiach Fawr and on Zoom, 7 p.m. Wednesday 27 April. The talk, by David Mills, was entitled *D. Gethin Thomas, Founder member of the society and first editor of 'Gelligaer'*

GHS MAY MEETING, 7 p.m. start in Llancaiach Fawr and on Zoom on Wednesday 25 May for Greg Buick's talk on *Gelligaer parish ratebooks, 1856-1910. A record of houses, coal mines, pubs and farms 1856-1900.* After the talk, there will be tea/coffee and the opportunity for some social time as well as a chance to browse GHS publications.

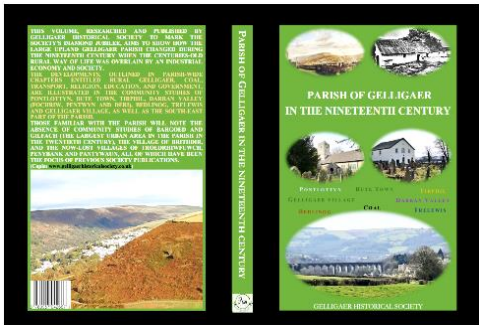
IF YOU WISH TO JOIN BY ZOOM, AND YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE ZOOM LINK 24 HOURS BEFORE THE START OF THE MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT GHS THEN.

GHS AGM and JUNE MEETING, 7 p.m. start in Llancaiach Fawr and on Zoom on Wednesday 29 June for AGM, followed by a tea/coffee break before a talk by Dr. Elin Jones entitled *Elizabeth Miles: An Entrepreneur in a Crinoline?*

NOTICE OF THE AGM WILL BE EMAILED TO GHS MEMBERS. IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE EMAIL BY 14 JUNE 2022, PLEASE CONTACT chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk IF YOU WISH TO JOIN BY ZOOM, AND YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE ZOOM LINK 24 HOURS BEFORE THE START OF THE MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT GHS THEN.

GHS CONFERENCE – may be held in September/October 2022. This newsletter and GHS website will keep you informed.

GHS'S DIAMOND JUBILEE PUBLICATION continues to attract attention both locally and further afield. *Morgannwg* (the journal of Glamorgan History) LXV (2021) carried the reviews that appeared in *Gelligaer Times* 60 and 61. For copies of the volume, please see www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk and they are available for purchase at GHS meetings as well as several local outlets such as Bargoed and Ystrad Mynach Libraries, Ashburne shop Ystrad Mynach and Occasions card shop, Bargoed



UPDATE ON GHS PUBLICATIONS – *Gelligaer 27* was published in September 2020, and number 28 is planned for 2022. Thanks to those members who have already submitted articles for inclusion in volume 28. Anyone else interested in contributing to volume 28, please contact www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk or chairman@gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk or speak to a member of GHS committee.

UPDATE ON GHS AND PEOPLE'S COLLECTION WALES [A People's Story of Wales | Peoples Collection Wales](http://www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk). The Society now holds an account on this website. Any member of the Society who would like to discuss this or wishes to send material to be added to GHS archives should in the first instance contact gelligaerhs.photos@gmail.com. The Society's more recent newsletters are uploaded to the site but, there are only two photographs. **There is room for many more items so please send them in.**

PUBLICITY – GHS had a full-page feature in *Caerphilly Third Sector Bulletin* April 2022. This monthly publication started in January 2022 and aims to provide its readers with a roundup of the latest news, information and funding relating to third sector activities in Wales in general and Caerphilly County Borough in particular. The third sector in Wales is every organisation and community group that provides a service or undertakes a project on a not-for-profit basis. Through their collective work such charity, voluntary and community groups, cooperatives or social enterprises contribute around £3.8 billion each year to the Welsh economy, and third sector activity helps to create social capital, improve well-being and build economic and social resilience.

BARGOED SETTLEMENT

Newsletter 62 contained details and a link to an article about the Society that appeared in the *Caerphilly Observer*. Rhys Williams, the reporter who wrote that article has sent the following link which readers may find of interest: <https://caerphilly.observer/news/974981/last-educational-settlement-in-south-wales-remembered-at-bargoed-library/>. Some further comments about the Bargoed Settlement are to be found in J Elfed Davies's work *Educational Settlements in South Wales with special reference to Merthyr Tudful*, which appears in *Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorian 1970 (part 2)* and can be found on [Welsh Journals - Home \(library.wales\)](http://Welsh Journals - Home (library.wales)).

Readers who are familiar with the sister websites of Welsh newspapers and title awards may have noticed that Welsh Journals appears at the top of the results when a name is searched in the newspapers. The following are examples of what can be found on Welsh Journals:

When searching the word “Pengam” one reference is to *Morgannwg -transactions of The Glamorgan Local History Society* Vol. 4 January 1960 p.78. In the article *Recent archaeological excavation and discovery in Glamorgan* mention is made of a polished adze of Graig Lwyd stone found by the late Mr. R. W. Walters in a field east of Pengam (Glam) station.

A search for “Rhymney” produces among many references an article in *National Library Wales Journal* July 1999. The article is *Rhymney Egyptian revival images and Interpretation of the Bute Ironworks, Glamorgan 1824-1844*. There are some interesting descriptions and illustrations of the Egyptian style furnaces at the ironworks.

GHS TALKS TO OTHER GROUPS – in the pre-pandemic era, GHS members accepted numerous invitations to give talks to other groups. Now, as society learns to live with the situation, those invitations have resumed, including some to give talks in local libraries and other history groups. Future issues of *Gelligaer Times* and/or GHS website www.gelligaerhistoricalsociety.co.uk will carry information about the talks.

CASCADE HOUSE-LOOKING BACKWARD AND FORWARD

In *Gelligaer* Vol. II, 1965, D. Gethin Thomas wrote a short article *Cascade and the Perrott Family*, it was only three pages long, with one page being devoted to a pedigree of “Perrot (Herefordshire) family - early 16th Century”. Despite its brevity the article contains sufficient details to encourage further research. In fact, in one instance, he positively encouraged this by writing:

There were a confusing number of Johns and Williams among the Perrotts in the records of the 19th century and to sort them out would require a painstaking genealogical probe of the family in those years.

Fifty years after Gethin Thomas wrote those words GHS member Sue Allen, after painstaking research, produced a detailed article in *Gelligaer* Vol 22 (2015) - *The Perrotts - A gentry family of Gelligaer*. However, Sue with the assistance of Jane Owen, has now produced a biography of William Perrott (1799-1850) which will appear in *Gelligaer 28* due to be published later this year. Without giving too much away William Perrott was a dissolute character, with alcohol featuring heavily in his life-and death.

In another paragraph Gethin described the Perrott estate as comprising of *Cascade, Berthllanlwyd and Rhos yr Urddafa* farms and *Hengoed Hall*. Anyone wishing to read the detailed history of those farms can consult *Parish of Gelligaer - The farms and their families 1540-1840. Vol 5 - Hengoed Hamlet* written by GHS member Greg Buick. He traces the Perrott ownership of Cascade back to will of Edward Lewis in 1715, whereby it was bequeathed to *John Parrott son of Gregory Parrot of Pedweiltee*. At that time, it was described as Tir Thomas John Evan (who was the tenant). The first reference found to the farm being called Cascade appears in the land tax of 1804.

Finally, Gethin concludes his article with:

Although the house is of substantial size there is little remaining in its rural surroundings of some twenty acres to associate it with its former role of a leisurely country gentleman’s estate. But enough are left - a barn with the inscription “John Perrott”, 1838”, various utility buildings and pigscotes, and the site of a former foxhound kennels - to convey a picture of a way of life now long gone.

The photograph shows CASCADE HOUSE 2021. The current owners of Cascade House have already done a considerable amount of research on their property, but there is room for much more to be done. They would be particularly pleased to see any old photographs of the house, gardens, and outbuildings; they would also be grateful if anyone can share any memories they may have of the house and previous occupants.



LEFTOVERS

Gelligaer Times 60 started publishing some *leftovers*, things that were not included in GHS Diamond publication, but the editing team thought may interest you. So here are a few more.

These two newspaper extracts are from *The Cambrian*: the advertisement for MERTHYR RACES appeared on the front page of the issue of 17 July 1819 while that about the celebrations in *Hare and Hounds* was in publication of 30 March 1822 page 3

MERTHYR RACES.

ON TUESDAY, the 20th JULY instant, will be RUN FOR, on CEFN GELLYGARE, near the Wain, a SILVER CUP; 3-yr. olds to carry 6st. 4lb.; 4-yr. olds 7st. 7lb.; 5 yr. olds 8st. 3lb.; 6-yr. olds 8st. 11lb.; aged 9st.—Mares and Geldings allowed 3lb.—Two-mile heats.

A SWEEPSTAKES, for all ages; 3-yr. olds 6st. 4lb.; 4-yr. olds 7st. 7lb.; 5-yr. olds 8st. 3lb.; 6-yr. olds 8st. 11lb.; aged 9st.—The winner of the Cup to carry 5lb. extra.—Mares and Geldings allowed 3lb.—Two miles.

There will also be PONY RACING.

WM. MEYRICK, Esq. } Stewards.
SAML. HOMFRAY, Jun. Esq. }
JOHN TREHARNE, Clerk of the Course.

Merthyr, July 5, 1819.

All Horses to be entered on or before the 17th inst. at the Castle-mn, Merthyr, or double at the post. Entrance for the Cup, 5s. and £1 1s. for the Sweepstakes. Running to commence at one o'clock precisely.

On Monday, the 11th inst. several gentlemen, with the respectable tenantry of Sir Chas. Morgan, Bart. met at the Hare and Hounds, Gellygare, and appeared to vie with each other in their ardour to testify honest and unfeigned regard to Thomas Prothero, Esq. Agent for the worthy House of Tredgar, on the occasion of the successful issue of his late trial against John Frost. Great praise is due to Mr. Evans, the landlord, for providing on the occasion some foaming and cheering *cwiro*. After several toasts were drunk, and some melodious airs played on the Welsh harp, the company dispersed highly pleased with their entertainment.

The Hare and Hounds mentioned above was situated on the southeast boundary of Gelligaer and Merthyr Common. There is still a building on the site but whether it is the original one is not known. It can be found by driving up Hospital Road, Penpedairheol, go beyond the old hospital as far as a cattle grid and the cottage is on the right. The illustrations below are of two of the characters mentioned in the newspaper report



On the left John Frost, a Newport draper and Chartist leader, on the right his nemesis, Thomas Prothero, a Newport lawyer who owned coal mines in the parish of Gelligaer.

NEWS FROM OTHER HISTORY/HERITAGE GROUPS

Merthyr Tydfil Historical Society -- you can keep up-to-date with the lecture programme by visiting [MTHSprogram.pdf](#) or, go to <https://merthyrttydfilheritage.blogspot.com/2021/09/forthcoming-events-in-and-around.html> for more up-to-date information on MTHS's meetings as well as those of other similar groups in Taff and Cynon valleys, and including GHS meetings and details of Dic Penderyn Society's day school on 21 May 2022.

Talk by Victoria Owens entitled **Lady Charlotte Guest: The Exceptional Life of a Female Industrialist** at **Cyfarthfa Castle** on **21 May 2022 at 2pm**. Tickets £2.00 each, advance booking is essential on this link [2022-05-21-lady-charlotte-guest-the-exceptional-life-of-a-female-industrialist](#).

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – you can visit [BGHF Home - BGHF \(blaenau-gwent-heritage-forum.co.uk\)](http://BGHF Home - BGHF (blaenau-gwent-heritage-forum.co.uk)) for details of their publications, talks and autumn 2022 Heritage Day.

Darran Valley History Group unveiled a new information board about the valley's *lost village*, Penybank on the morning of 11 May 2022. GHS was represented at the event. The board is placed near the former site of the village. Children from Fochriw and Deri schools participated, and there was an interesting exhibition of old pictures in Parc Cwm Darran café.

PENYBANK
...GONE BUT NOT
FORGOTTEN !

For more information on the lost village of Penybank see *Gelligaer 24* (2017) and, for more recent research on the coal industry in the area, see *PARISH OF GELLIGAER IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY*, GHS (2021) page 68.

Brian Jarrett has kindly provided a report and some photographs of the event which appear below:

Gone, but not Forgotten!

Compared to the venerable Gelligaer Historical Society, the Darran Valley History group is but a babe in arms.

The DVHG came into being in late 2008, as it was felt that too much local history, specific to the valley, was in danger of being lost as older generations slipped away. The impetus was the approaching centenary of the 1909 Darran Colliery Disaster in October 2009, and the erection of a stone pillar with a bronze plaque carrying the names of the twenty-seven victims was the group's first project.

This was followed by the erection of a memorial in Fochriw to all from the village who had lost their lives in combat or in the area's many pits. Deri had never had a war memorial either, and a major DVHG scheme saw the names of the fallen added to the monument already in village's Memorial Garden.

Last year it was suggested that Penybank - one of the valley's two 'lost villages' - would be completely forgotten if no action was taken, so it was agreed that an information board should be placed near the site of the long-demolished hamlet. A cycle way & footpath following the old Brecon and Newport railway runs through Parc Cwm Darran and right through where Penybank stood, and we were given permission to place our interpretation panel there where walkers and cyclists could stop and read a brief history of the village. Although Penybank consisted of only two streets - Chapel Row and Stoney Houses - there was also an isolation hospital (later converted into houses), a pub, Siloh Baptist Chapel and a very successful village school.

There weren't any useable photographs of the village, but there was a painting by Deri artist Wayne Evans, based on a poor old photo and some memories of his father David, who was born in Penybank. We used that as the centre-piece of the plaque and added a potted history in Welsh and English of the village from its beginnings as a few huts in the 1840s to bulldozers flattening the remaining buildings in the 1960s following a minor earthquake.

The history we compiled drew heavily on an article in *Gelligaer* vol. 24, 2017, by Annie Owen, to whom we are very grateful. Group chairman, Mary Button, presided over the unveiling of the information panel, and an exhibition of some old photographs & maps which took place at Parc Cwm Darran café on a very rainy Wednesday 11th May, when a small group of pupils from Fochriw school took part in the ceremony and Brian Jarrett read a short history of the settlement. Despite the heavy rain, many people came to the event, several of whom had grown up in or had lived at Penybank.

Brian Jarrett

May 2022



Carto Cymru - The Wales Map Symposium 2022

A ZOOM event held by National Library of Wales RCAHMW on 20 May 2022 (first talk 10.30am, last talk 3.30pm). This year's symposium **Mapping in Megabytes** will look at how computer-generated mapping is changing the way maps are produced, used and preserved, and what this means for those who hold this information and make it available to the public. A Welsh and English language event, with simultaneous translation for presentations in Welsh. Please follow this link to obtain the programme and details on how to obtain a ticket

<https://blog.library.wales/carto-cymru-the-wales-map-symposium-2022-mapping-in-megabytes/>

**SUPPLEMENT – QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE
appears on the following pages**



IN 2022, AFTER SEVENTY YEARS' SERVICE HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN BECAME THE FIRST BRITISH MONARCH TO CELEBRATE A PLATINUM JUBILEE

1952

2022

THEN AND NOW 1952 AND 2022

Much of society and culture has changed a great deal during this seventy-year reign. What photographs, memories and stories would you use in the boxes to illustrate these changes?

THE ACCESSION

The sudden death of George VI was announced at 10.45 a.m. on Wednesday 6 February 1952

The King, who retired last night in his usual health, passed peacefully away in his sleep at Sandringham early this morning.

On 7 February, *Western Mail's* front page reported the royal death alongside portraits of George VI, his Queen, and the new Queen. At the time, the new Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were at the Royal Lodge, Nyeri, Kenya, as part of a Commonwealth tour and *Western Mail* announced *it was expected that the Royal Aircraft [bringing them back to London] would arrive at London Airport, a week after the King, standing bareheaded on the wind-swept aerodrome, waved her Godspeed on her journey.*

Thus began a reign that was to last longer than that of any other British monarch

Extracts from *Merthyr Express* 9th February 1952

FROM KOREA—Mr. and Mrs. S. Cox, Bedw-road, Bedlinog, received very interesting examples of the leaflets and Xmas cards from their son, Pte. Stanley Cox who is serving in Korea, and which were dropped from the air by the Chinese People's Volunteers with an attempt to break their morale. One of the pamphlets is in a form of letter sent from home to a soldier in Korea, and to the reader it seems fictitious. The cards, with their simple verses and photographs comparing the comfort of home and the drudgery of war are hopelessly weak in their appeal. Mr. Cox will be pleased to show these examples to anyone.



TRELEWIS

WHIST DRIVE.—A whist drive was held at the Church Hall on Monday, under the auspices of St. Mary's Church. The M.C. was Mr. Fred Selwyn, and the winners were: Ladies, 1 Mrs. L. Storey, 2 Mrs. F. Garrett; gents, 1 Mr. Francis G. Jones, 2 Mr. Trevor Williams.

EBENEZER Y.P.S.—Miss Betty Jones presided over Ebenezer Y.P.S. on Monday, when a lantern lecture on "My Visit to Russia" was given by Mr. W. J. Saunders, M.A., headmaster of Bargoed Technical School. He was thanked by Mr. Gwyn Evans and Miss Gladys Thomas. Clem Watkins was the projectionist.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE.—Mrs. T. Jenkins presided over Trinity branch of the Women's League, and also led the devotions. Mrs. B. Jones read a portion of Scripture; a solo was rendered by Mrs. M. Davies; duets by Mrs. D. Jones and Mrs. L. Piazzyca, Miss Richards and Mrs. M. Davies, and papers were given by Mrs. W. Tovey, Mrs. O. Thomas, Mrs. H. Small and Mrs. L. Piazzyca. The accompanist was Mrs. O. Thomas.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY.—Trinity Y.P.S. met on Monday, when an address was given by Mrs. Chedwyn Davies, of Nelson, on "Nicknames and their meanings." A portion of Scripture was read by Barbara Symmonds; a solo was sung by Miss Mair Walters, and a recitation given by Ann Cotter. The devotions were led by the pastor (Rev. T. Jenkins), who also presided. Votes of thanks were moved by Mrs. J. Symmonds and Mrs. Selwyn Davies. The programme was arranged by Mrs. J. Symmonds.

R.A.O.B. SUPPER.—On Monday at the Ffaldenach Inn the Calach Newydd Lodge members entertained their wives and friends to supper. Bro. T. J. Jones (R.O.B.) presided over a concert, and the following contributed to the programme: Bro. Fred Richards, C.P., Merthyr; J. C. Osborne, R.O.B., Nelson; R. Owen, C.P., B. Evans, K.O.M., Abercynon; L. Batten, S. Chilcott, K.O.M., Merthyr Vale; J. Evans and W. Davies, C.P. The accompanist was Bro. Bert Bevan, C.P. A vote of thanks to the organisers was moved by Bro. S. Davies, K.O.M., seconded by Bro. H. Bazeley, C.P.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA.—On Thursday the adult choir of Trinity English Baptist Church, under the conductorship of Mr. J. C. Osborne, gave an excellent performance of the Christmas cantata, "Glad Tidings." Mr. E. T. Evans (Midland Bank) presided, and was introduced by the pastor, the Rev. T. Jenkins. Supporting artistes were Miss Margaret Edwards, Quakers' Yard (soprano), Miss Brookes Church, Cefn Forest (contralto), Mr. Alun Barnes, Nelson (bass), and Mr. W. H. Richards, Trelewis (tenor). The accompanists were Miss Vera Ashman and Mr. Peter Bees, Nelson. Mr. E. H. Foscock (church secretary) thanked the conductor, choir and artistes.

LATE MR. J. A. LEWIS.—The death occurred on Wednesday week of Mr. James Albert Lewis, The Cottage, Aged 55. Mr. Lewis met with a serious accident three weeks ago at the Deep Navigation Colliery, where he was engaged as an official. He was taken to Cardiff Royal Infirmary, and was brought home on the Wednesday, and died in a few hours. Mr. Lewis was a native of Trelewis, but had lived locally for

THE CORONATION

of Queen Elizabeth II 2nd June 1953 in
Westminster Abbey

2nd June was a day of typical British weather ... it rained! But that did not stop the planned celebrations, processions and street parties carrying on up and down the country

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

Front cover reproduced courtesy GHS member Susan Price

BARGOED INSPECTOR ON CORONATION DUTY

Police Inspector George Colett, of Bargoed, will be among members of the Glamorgan Constabulary who will be on duty on the Coronation route, in June.

Others from the "F" Division (Ystrad Mynach) on duty will be: Police Constables Ivor Lumber, Treconydd; W. Shiers, Deri; D. Scopes, Ystrad Mynach; S. Hook, Bargoed; R. Vincent, Caerphilly; S. Green, Abertridwr; L. Price, Bargoed; and W. Davies, Ystrad Mynach.



Extract from *Merthyr Express* 2 May 1953 page 2

FIRST CORONATION TO BE TELEVISED

The coronation of Elizabeth II was a landmark in television history. It was watched by more than 20 million people in the UK and by millions more around the world. As most people did not have a television then, family, friends and neighbours gathered in homes that did. One GHS member remembers his father buying a television for the Coronation. Some village halls and community centres hired a television for the day so that local people could watch the Coronation



The first Lind-Bush TV sets as available in 1953, at the National Media Museum. The Bush's nine-inch screen is similar in

Sash not crown.—Instead of being invested with a crown. "Miss Hengoed" (Mrs. Betty Dunn) received a silken sash endorsed "Miss Hengoed" from Mrs. D. J. Owen at the Coronation concert at Hengoed.

HENGOED CORONATION CONCERT
Extract from *Western Mail* 6 June 1953 page 5

BARGOED STREET TEAS Extract from *Western Mail* 3 June 1953, page 4. Does anyone know which Bargoed street won the competition for the best decorated street?

Street teas are being held throughout Bargoed to-day and a competition for the best decorated street is being judged.

CORONATION AND BIRTHDAY HONOURS 1953

Among the honours were (Two local people were awarded B.E.M. in the Coronation and Birthday Honours 1953:

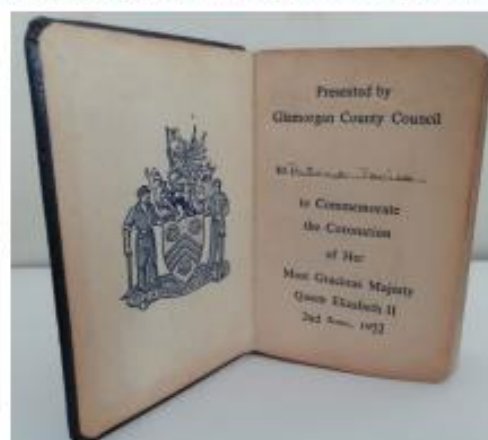
- Sgt. Edward Thomas Chapman, Mon Regt (T.A.), of Pontllytyn, who had previously gained VC for his action near Dortmund-Ems Canal just over a month before the end of the war
- Hilda Hall, Aberbargoed, for her services to the National Savings Movement.

CORONATION TESTAMENTS

Children were presented with New Testaments. Does your family have one?



New Testaments received by two local brothers; the older brother, then a pupil in Lewis School Pengam, receiving the Welsh version



This, reproduced courtesy GHS member Pat Davies, shows the inscription page inside a Coronation Testament

1953 CORONATION MEMORABILIA

China mug and cup and saucer set, photographs reproduced courtesy GHS member Pat Davies



THE CORONATION IN ITS HISTORICAL CONTEXT

People had lived through some grim decades since the outbreak of war in 1914. By the early 1950s there were some chinks of colour and hope and the 1953 Coronation was one of these.

THE GRIM DECADES

- 1914-18 FIRST WORLD WAR
- 1919-39 INTER-WAR ECONOMIC DEPRESSION
- 1939-45 SECOND WORLD WAR
- POST 1945 WARTIME LEGACIES

The grim decades are summed up in the background of this photograph of a happy baby in her pram outside the family home in Wood Street, Bargoed, during World War Two.

- On the skyline, Bargoed Tip, a reminder of the coal industry which had peaked in South Wales Coalfield in 1913
- Bargoed and Gilfach war memorial, then sited on Bargoed Square, is a reminder of World War I
- World War II air raid shelter is also visible

Photograph reproduced courtesy GHS member Dr. E.D.G. Williams



1939 NATIONAL REGISTER AND IDENTITY CARDS

From 1939, every man, woman and child had to carry an identity card at all times. The cards included the name, sex, age, occupation, address, marital status and membership of Forces or Civil Defence Services.

On 21 February 1952, it ceased to be necessary to carry an identity card. The 1939 National Registration Act was repealed on 22 May 1952.

This photograph of the cover of an identity card is reproduced courtesy GHS member Pat Davies.

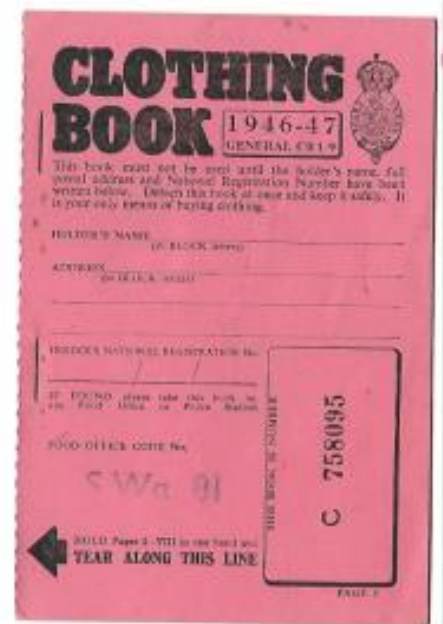
WARTIME RATIONING

During the war people got used to food, clothing, furniture and petrol rationing, and it did not stop suddenly when the war ended.

CLOTHING COUPONS

The increased wartime demand for fabric put pressure on Britain's textile and clothing industry and clothes rationing was announced on 1 June 1941. During clothes rationing, people paid for clothes with money and coupons. The number of coupons per person decreased as the war went on, reaching the lowest 1945-46. Rationing encouraged *Make Do and Mend*. Clothes rationing lasted to March 1949.

Photograph of CLOTHING BOOK of Catherine Richards reproduced courtesy GHS member Susan Price



WARTIME PETROL RATIONING

Petrol was rationed at the outbreak of the war, and in 1942 it was only available for essential use and with a special permit. Petrol was available for private use when the war finished but it remained on ration to 1950.

Petrol was rationed again 1956-7, and during the 1973 oil crisis coupons were produced and distributed but rationing was avoided.

These copies of petrol coupons are reproduced courtesy GHS member Dr E.D.G. Williams



CHINKS OF COLOUR AND HOPE

- Wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten on Thursday 20 November 1947 at Westminster Abbey
- Post-war economic, social and political reform, including Butler Education Act 1944 and start of National Health Service 1948
- Caerphilly hosted National Eisteddfod August 1950
- Festival of Britain, a national exhibition and fair in London, a showpiece of British science and technology, attracted millions of visitors in summer 1951
- Coronation 2 June 1953 at Westminster Abbey
- End of wartime restrictions

1947 AND 1951



From front page *Merthyr Express* 22 November 1947

Photograph of glass commemorating Festival of Britain, reproduced courtesy GHS member Pat Davies



NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD CAERPHILLY 1950



Above, extract from front page *Western Mail* 8 August 1950. Photographs (left) reproduced courtesy GHS member Susan Price who is the small child shown with family and friends in Caerphilly in 1950. The Gorsedd Stones form the background to one photograph while Caerphilly Castle is the background to the other. Forty years later, she was a member of Rhymney's National Eisteddfod Choir.

POST-1944 EDUCATION: *THE 11 plus*

The 1944 Butler Education Act laid the basis for the country's post-war secondary education system. Children like the girls shown in this photograph sat the examination popularly known as the *11 plus* to determine whether,

on leaving their primary school, they should attend a grammar, technical or secondary modern school until they reached at least the new school-leaving age of 15.

Photograph of Bargoed South Girls' School's 1950 scholarship class reproduced courtesy GHS member Marion Jones who, together with GHS member Pat Davies, is among the girls photographed



SOON AFTER THE CORONATION, QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH TOURED THE COUNTRY

On the afternoon of 9 July, they were in Pontypridd. Among the local dignitaries presented to the Queen was GUDC chairman, George Towyn Richards of Pontlottyn. Do you know of anyone who went to Pontypridd that day, perhaps with a ticket for the bandstand enclosure, or to view events from another vantage point?

ROYAL TOURNAMENT AT EARL'S COURT

Do you know of anyone who took advantage of this, advertised among the *CHEAP RAIL TRIPS* in *Merthyr Express* 6 June 1953 page 13?

CORONATION DECORATIONS ROYAL TOURNAMENT at Earl's Court (June 10—27). SATURDAY, JUNE 13 and EACH TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY To LONDON (Paddington)

MERTHYR 6.40 a.m. (35/6), Pentrebach 6.45 (35/-), Troedyrhiw 6.49 (3/-),
Merthyr Vale 6.54 (34/6), Quakers' Yard L.L. 7.0 (34/-), ABERDARE L.L. 6.45 (3/-),
Aberaman 6.48 (35/-), Mountain Ash (Oxford Street) 6.54, (34/6), Penrhiwce
L.L. 6.58 (34/3), Abercynon 7.6 a.m. (33/9), RHYMNEY 6.35 a.m. (3/-),
Pontlottyn 6.40 (35/-), Tirphil 6.46 (34/6), Brithdir 6.50 (34/3), Bargoed
(34/-), Pengam (Glam.) 7.4 (33/9), Hengoed L.L. 7.9 (33/3), Ystrad Mynach
7.13 (33/3), Llanbradach 7.9 7.19 (32/6), Caerphilly 7.17, 7.27 (32/-), Llan
7.25, 7.34 a.m. (31/3).

For details of additional train service on Wednesdays, see handbills.

GLIMPSES OF LOCAL LIFE IN 1950s AS SHOWN IN SELECTED NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS

Merthyr Express 18 March 1950 page 7
**GREAT PUBLIC REVIVAL AND DIVINE
 HEALING CAMPAIGN
 PONTLOTTYN**

GREAT PUBLIC REVIVAL AND DIVINE HEALING CAMPAIGN

to be held in

THE MAYFIELD DANCE HALL
 Pontlottyn Square, Pontlottyn, Glam.

commencing

MONDAY, MARCH 20th, 7.15 p.m.

Then continuing each WEEK NIGHT at 7.15 p.m. (Holidays
 excepted); and each SUNDAY at 8 p.m. with an AFTER
 CHURCH BALLY at 9 p.m. Special Divine Healing service
 Thursday afternoon at 7 p.m., conducted by

Rev. P. S. BREWSTER and PARTY

also

Rev. Alexander Tee, from Scotland

Featuring - COMMUNITY HYMN SINGING
 SINGING BY THE MALE VOICE PARTY

The sick will be attended and prayed for during these
 services. ALL SEATS FREE to the GENERAL PUBLIC

FOCHRIW

NODDFA SISTERHOOD.—Miss Edna E. Jones presided over the Sisterhood meeting on Thursday last. The Scripture was read by Mrs. E. Lawrence, and Mrs. S. G. Parry offered prayer. The speaker was Mrs. I. Trollope, of Pontlottyn, who gave a paper on the 103rd Psalm. She was thanked by Mrs. Mantle and Mrs. Lawrence. A vote of sympathy was extended to Mrs. A. Ballard, on the death of Mr. Ballard. Mrs. Dilys Edwards was organist.

S.S. ANNIVERSARY.—A children's Sunday School anniversary service was held at Noddfa Baptist Church on Sunday evening. Miss Edna E. Jones presided. Mr. D. J. Thomas was the organist. The following children took part: Howard Pearce, Margaret Morris, Irene Games, Herbert Jones, Rosemary Jones, Willie Edwards, Phyllis Jones, Delphine Chapman, Ann Morris, Peter Morgan, Lyn Williams, Philip Jones, Jennette Burrows, Margaret Morgan, Lorna Williams, Jill Parry, Joyce Evans, Ann Ballard, Keith Walters, Windsor Ballard, Shirley Thomas, Dawn Games, Eunice Jones and Margaret Jones.

Merthyr Express 1 July 1950 page 4
 IN FOCHRIW AS IN MANY OTHER
 COMMUNITIES, THE CHAPEL PLAYED AN
 IMPORTANT PART IN THE LIVES OF
 CHAPEL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Merthyr Express 22 July 1950 page 16
 THE COUNTRY WAS SLOWLY RETURNING
 TO PRE-WAR LIFE

BARGOED HALL "LIBERATED"

One of the best halls in the Rhymney Valley, St. Gwladys' Church Hall, Bargoed, which has been vacated by the Ministry of Food, is soon expected to be the hub of social activity as it used to be in pre-war days.

A great deal of work renovating and adapting the premises is necessary before it will be in full swing, but the church members are eager to go ahead developing the social side of their activities.

Since the outbreak of the war this social work has been carried on in the basement rooms of the hall. The locality will welcome the return of a fine hall to its former use.

After more than ten years' "occupation" of the main hall, the Food Office has removed to one of the basement rooms.

Merthyr Express 1 July 1950 page 6
 LUXURY COACHES

CYRIL DAVIES (PONTLOTTYN) LTD.
 MOTOR COACH PROPRIETORS

Luxury Coaches
 at Reasonable Charges
 for
PRIVATE PARTIES

Tel.
 Pontlottyn
 19



**BARGOED AND RHYMNEY VALLEY
EDUCATIONAL SETTLEMENT**

A FOUR DAYS'

**COMPETITIVE - EXHIBITION
of Arts, Crafts and Domestic Science**

(Under the auspices of the Gellinger Urban District
Council's Festival of Skills Committee)

will be held at the

WORKMEN'S INSTITUTE, BARGOED

To be opened at 3.0 p.m. on

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7th, 1951

by

SIR BEN BOWEN THOMAS, M.A.

(Permanent Secretary, Welsh Department, Ministry of Education)

157 CLASSES in

Dressmaking : Art Needlework : Quilting,
Needlework, Feltwork, Leatherwork, Knitting,
Crochetting, Rug-making, Weaving, Plastics,
Woodwork, Metalwork, Painting, Designing,
Photography, Jam-making, Cake-making,
Pastry-making and Fruit Preserving.

UNIQUE ATTRACTION

**EXHIBITION of 160 ORIGINAL
LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTS of EXHIBITS
shown in the 1851 London Exhibition**

These Rare and Beautiful Prints cannot be seen
elsewhere. The Prints will be offered for sale
during the Exhibition. Do not miss this oppor-
tunity of obtaining a rare and beautiful work
of Art.

SALE OF WORK STALL

Refreshments at Moderate Charges
Non-Competitive Exhibits

EXHIBITION open—

Wednesday, March 7th, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Thursday, March 8th, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday, March 9th, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 10th, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

ADMISSION : 1/- CHILDREN : 6d.

Merthyr Express

3 March 1951 page 10

BARGOED AND
RHYMNEY VALLEY
EDUCATIONAL
SETTLEMENT
A FOUR-DAY
COMPETITIVE
EXHIBITION IN
BARGOED
WORKMEN'S
INSTITUTE

Merthyr Express 29 December 1951 page 9 ANNUAL PRIZES AT BARGOED SCHOOL

**ANNUAL PRIZES AT
BARGOED SCHOOL**

**TWO AWARDS GO TO DERI
PUPIL**

Governors of Bargoed Grammar and Secondary Schools, meeting on Wednesday, were told by the Headmaster of the Grammar School (Mr. E. J. Saunders, M.A.) that the two prizes, valued at £10 each and given annually by the School's Past Students' Association in memory of the students who died in the last war, had been awarded this year to Miss Margaret Davies, Ystrad Mynach, and Miss Barbara Collins, Deri.

"Both students," stated Mr. Saunders, "are now taking degree courses at the University College, Aberystwyth. The prizes are granted to those who have excelled not only on the academic side of school life but who have also been outstanding in general activities associated with a grammar school."

Mr. Saunders stated that the third memorial prize, in memory of Flight Lieut. James Evans, for the student with the best academic record for the year had also been awarded to Miss Barbara Collins. "This prize," added Mr. Saunders, "is provided by the family of the late Mr. Evans."

Mr. Saunders reported there was a decline in the number of pupils in the upper school due, he stated, to the steadily increasing number leaving on attaining the age of 15 years. "This is having a very adverse effect on the upper school and staffing," said Mr. Saunders, who added that unless the numbers were up by next term the staff would have to be reduced by one or even two teachers.

The Clerk (Mr. D. W. Davies, B.A.) reported that with reference to the decision of the Education Committee to prohibit the furnishing to the Press of any information contained in the examination results list, the committee had, on further consideration, decided that Clerks of Governors be authorised, on request to supply a list in alphabetical order of the names of those pupils who, on the results of the entrance examination, had been offered a place at Grammar Schools.

On the motion of County Coun. W. J. Kedward, J.P., who presided it was decided to forward letters to Ald. Tom Evans, J.P., expressing the hope he would have a speedy recovery after his operation and to Coun. Richard Williams who has been ill for several months, also expressing the hope he would soon be much better in health.

NOTE THE DATE:
GELLYGAER Y.F. SHOW, ETC.,
AT YSTRAD FAWR,
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21st,
1.0 p.m.
Gen. Sec., Mr. F. BOSLEY,
TWYN FANW, YSTRAD MYNACH.

Bargoed & District Agricultural Society ANNUAL SHOW, HEOLDDU FARM, BARGOED, THURSDAY, AUGUST 14th.

Classes for Shires, Colliery Horses, Ponies, Children's Riding, Open Jumping, Grade "C" Jumping, Galloways, Shorthorn, Friesian, Ayrshire and Hereford Cattle, Welsh Mountain, Lowland Sheep and Pig Classes. **GRAND HORTICULTURAL SHOW. GRAND DOG SHOW.**

Schedules can be obtained—
T. B. HUGHES and W. MADLEY,
27, Cardiff Road, Bargoed.
Dog Show Schedules—
Mrs. D. S. THOMAS,
Hill View, Maesycwimmer, Mon.

Gelligaer Urban District Council

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK OF WORKS.

APPPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of Clerk of Works in connection with the Council's Housing Programme, at a salary of £545 per annum. The appointment is not permanent but is for at least three years.

The appointment will be subject to (1) the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1957; (2) successfully passing a medical examination, and (3) termination by one month's notice on either side.

Applicants must be thoroughly experienced in the supervision of Housing Schemes, including setting out and the measurement of work.

Applications, stating age, experience, present and past appointments and the names and addresses of two persons to whom reference may be made, must be received by me not later than Wednesday, 28th January, 1953.

Canvassing in any form will disqualify.

D. W. C. MOROAN, Clerk.
Council Offices, Bargoed, Glam.
12th January, 1953.

Member Express 17 January 1953 page 2
APPOINTMENT OF CLERK OF WORKS
GUDC HOUSING PROGRAMME

Member Express 19 December 1953 page 13
MINING SOCIETY

BARGOED MINING SOCIETY'S PROGRESS

THIRD MEETING ADDRESSED

Interest taken by young students, and the progress of Bargoed Mining and Technical Institute Mining Society, were points mentioned by Mr. D. O. Corfield, M.I.M.E., No. 5 area general manager, who presided at the society's third meeting, at the Grammar School, Bargoed, on Friday last.

A lecture on the "Double extraction at Elliot Colliery" was given by Mr. A. E. H. Cox, M.I.M.E., No. 5 area production manager.

After a discussion, a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. H. Monte, M.E. and seconded by I. J. Tucker, A.M.I.M.E.

The chairman was introduced by the president, Mr. J. M. Carthew, M.I.M.E., No. 5 area group agent.

Reference was made at the meeting to the recent death of one of the society's members, Mr. T. Harris.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, January 8, 1954, at 7 p.m. when Mr. Lister Walker, M.I.M.E., No. 4 area production manager, will speak. The chairman will be Mr. Stanley Williams.

Member Express 27 June 1953 page 11
CAFÉ BALLROOM

CAFÉ BALLROOM :: BARGOED
TUESDAY, JUNE 23rd, 1953

Europe's Greatest Trumpeter, with Radio's most exciting Band Personal Appearance of

FREDDY RANDALL ★ ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ ★ and his ALL STARS

Featuring—ARCHE SEMPLÉ, DAVE FRASER, LEN HASTINGS
The Pathophone Recording Favorites

Direct from Radio success in the B.B.C. Series —
"Show Band Show," "Fats Club," "The Forties Show"

Low Price :: Limited Seats :: Admission by Ticket—5/-
Dancing 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. At Pay Box (right of Dance)—4/-

Special Terms for organised Coach Parties.

Western Mail 29 June 1954 page 5

IN THE 1950s MANY HOUSEWIVES WERE EAGER TO BUY ELECTRICAL DOMESTIC APPLIANCES FOR THE FIRST TIME

ELECTROLUX STOCKIST :
S. V. MATTHEWS
BEECH RADIO,
YSTRAD MYNACH
and BARGOED.
Tel.: HENGOED 154.

THE Welsh Amateur Swimming and Diving Championships opened at Bargoed Baths yesterday, the first time the championships have ever been held in the Welsh mining valleys. The chairman of Gelligaer Urban Council (Mrs. S. L. Williams) performed the opening ceremony of the three-day event.

Western Mail 27 August 1954 page 8

300 SWIMMERS BID FOR WELSH TITLES AT BARGOED

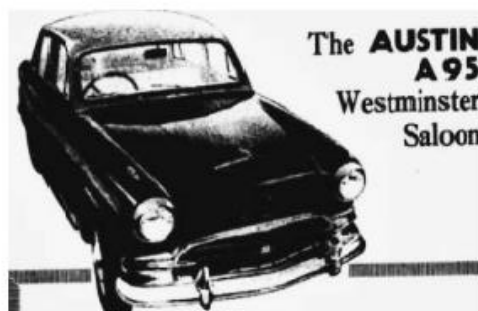
Western Mail 23 August 1958 page 2
ANNUAL HORSE SHOW

BARGOED PARK, BARGOED.
(By kind permission Q.U.D. Council)
ANNUAL HORSE SHOW
on **SATURDAY, AUGUST 30th**
at **THE PARK, BARGOED.**
CLASSES FOR: WELSH MOUNTAIN PONIES, CHILDREN'S RIDING PONIES
ADULT & JUVENILE JUMPING, GALLOWAY RACES.
Schedules from Secretary: T. B. HUGHES, 27, Bargoed Rd., BARGOED.

Western Mail 28 November 1958 page 10

MOST FAMILIES DID NOT HAVE A CAR IN THE 1950s

YOUR NEW AUSTIN AT
STAN HUGHES
Reliance Motors, BARGOED, Glam.
Telephone 2200
THE LOWEST PRICED USED CARS IN WALES



Strong Bargoed
Following a convincing win at Merthyr last night Bargoed have selected a strong side for Saturday's away game at Cilfynydd.
Bargoed: M. Hughes; W. Price. H. Morgan. B. Humphreys. B. Rowlands; H. Probert. L. Griffiths (capt.); P. Thomas. D. Hurd. J. Ridley. R. Thorne, J. Arthur. K. Tomlin. D. Bishop. R. Brookman.

Western Mail 17 September 1959 page 14

BARGOED XV
SELECTED TO PLAY AGAINST CILFYNYDD

It is hoped that these extracts have given you a flavour of local life in the 1950s

You can read more newspapers on microfilm in some local libraries or on websites such as that of British Newspaper Archive and, for newspapers of Wales 1804-1919 see [Welsh Newspapers Online - Home \(library.wales\)](http://Welsh Newspapers Online - Home (library.wales))



Gelligaer Farmers Hunt meet at the bottom of Wood Street, Bargoed in the 1950s