



Registered Charity No 1059537

**Annual General Meeting
Saturday 25TH March 2023**

AGENDA & REPORTS

2pm Online via Zoom Video Conferencing

Followed by a Talk: Britain's Railway History for Family Historians – Richard Marks

1. Introduction and Welcome by the Chairman, Mrs Sue Hamer
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of last Meeting and any Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Finance Team Report - available separately
6. Membership Report
7. ARC Report
8. Projects Report
9. Events Report
10. Journal Report
11. Website Report
12. Branch Reports:
 - 13.1 Aberdare & Cynon Valley
 - 13.2 Bridgend
 - 13.3 Cardiff
 - 13.4 Merthyr
 - 13.5 Pontypridd and Rhondda
 - 13.6 Swansea
 - 13.7 Online Branch Report
13. Appointment of Independent Examiner
14. Election of Officers and Committee Members
15. Confirmation of Branch Trustees
16. Date of next AGM – TBA.

3. **Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Glamorgan Family History Society held online via Zoom at 2 pm on Saturday 26 March 2022**

The AGM commenced at 2.00 pm followed at 3 pm with a talk by Graham Owen on the History and Work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Society Officers present: Michael Jones (Chairman), Sue Hamer (Vice Chairman), Jane Jones (Secretary), Ian Black, Jean Fowlds and Nancy Thomas (Executive Committee Members).

Branch Trustees present: Bridgend, Sue Tiller; Cardiff & Vale, Merthyr Tydfil, Carolyn Jacob; Swansea, Jeff Coleman.

Sue Hamer acted as Meeting Host with Jeff Coleman, Jane Graves and Jeremy Konsbruck as Co- Hosts and Vote Counters. There were 42 members present.

1. **Chairman's Welcome:** The main business - the formal AGM - commenced with a warm welcome to the members from the Chairman, Michael (Meic) Jones in both Welsh and English. He then handed over to Sue Hamer as Meeting host.

1.1 Sue Hamer confirmed the procedure for voting ie, to use either a Voting Card, YES written on a piece of paper, the hand symbol in 'Reactions' on Zoom or raise a hand.

1.2 Reports for the period to the end of the previous financial year 31 August 2021 together with Branch AGMs had been uploaded to the website by 15 March. Updates would be given where relevant for each item on the Agenda and questions asked on each report. If members had not had time or had been unable to download the reports or if a more detailed response was needed that was not possible during the meeting, then questions could be sent in and a response would be circulated via the monthly Newsletter and the next journal.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from: Creighton Sims (Pontypridd Branch), Pat Rees (Aberdare Branch), Elaine Romain (Finance), Hazel James, Neil Gazzard, Sue Maguire and Karen Prior.

3. **Minutes of the last AGM (6 March 2021) and Matters Arising:**

3.1 There were no amendments to the previous minutes. Proposed they were a true record: Nick Davey, Seconded: Anouska Osborne, 28 members agreed that the Minutes were a true record, the rest abstained. There were no objections.

3.2 Matters Arising – There were no Matters Arising from these Minutes.

4. **Chairman's Report/Secretary's Report** – Meic & Jane Jones – Report submitted no further updates.

5. **Statutory Financial Report** – Report submitted - Sue Hamer thanked the Finance Team of Ian Black, Elaine Romain, Steve Reis and Independent Examiner – Guy Bevan. There was still a vacancy for Treasurer but it was hoped that Steve Reis would become Assistant Treasurer following his election as a Trustee this year and then Treasurer at the next AGM since in order to be a Society Officer two years membership was a requirement under the Constitution.

5.1 The Statutory Report and Accounts: Sue Hamer summarised the Financial Report. Despite another difficult year, due to the continued closure of the Resource Centre at Aberkenfig and non-attendance at fairs, income had been down but so had expenditure in the form of travel expenses etc. Membership numbers had kept up well so the accounts showed a surplus. This was in the main due to the provision of online events and talks. Sue Hamer proposed a vote of thanks to the Cardiff Branch Committee for organising these which had proved so popular with members near and far.

5.2 Members were asked for any questions. None were raised. Those present were then asked to approve the Accounts (for the year ended 31 August 2021).

Proposed: Anouska Osborne, Seconded: Jane Graves. The financial report and accounts were approved by a majority of the members present (30). Once the Financial Report was signed by the Chairman, Meic Jones, they would be uploaded to the Charities Commission

website and circulated to all members with the June journal.

5.3 Jane Graves proposed a vote of thanks for all those involved in producing the Annual Accounts.

6. **Membership Report** – Submitted. Sue Hamer thanked the Membership Team of Nancy Thomas and Jane Jenkins and in particular Sue Tiller, Data Manager, who unfortunately was having to step down from her role. A number of other members had also been trained to help process membership subscriptions during the busy period January to March and in particular the large volume that were paid via standing order in January which required to be manually added to the database and website. The method requiring the least administration is to pay directly via the website. An advertisement for Membership Secretary/Data Manager will be placed in the June journal and Newsletters. It was not anticipated that there would be a need to raise membership subscriptions in the short term but due to increasing costs such as the ARC rental and electricity then it may need to be considered in the future

7. **ARC Report** – Submitted. Nancy Thomas The ARC of course had been closed since March 2020 but volunteers had been calling in to process publications and check that everything was OK. A Team meeting will be called shortly in order to decide on a date for re-opening (bookings only). Nancy also thanked Alan Thomas for his work in converting publications to downloads which was ongoing.

8. **Projects Report** - Submitted – Nancy Thomas – no questions. Branches had continued to work on projects throughout the pandemic with a new project at Merthyr under way.

9. Events Report

9.1 No report this year since no face to face events had been possible. The online events report is included within Cardiff & Vale Branch Report.

9.2 Annual Merthyr Fair 2022 - although Meic and Jane Jones had been keen to have a Fair at Merthyr this year there were too many unknowns to make planning possible e.g., the number of volunteers and exhibitors available. Meic Jones commented that currently Merthyr Leisure Centre was still being used as a Vaccination Centre until the end of July which would not allowing sufficient time for an event to be organised and so plans will now be made for a Fair in 2023.

10. **Journal Report** – Submitted. Jean Fowlds thanked members for sending in a wide variety of material again this year some short snippets others needing to be serialised. Quite often members send in material for a theme once they have seen it published. Jean requested items for the next Journal with the theme of 'mining'. Closing Date: 20 April.

11. **Website** – Submitted. Despite reminders and adverts in the Journal and Newsletter we still have a vacancy for a Website Manager to take on the development of the website. Members could be trained to update parts of the website such as Events and an online training session was being planned to take place in April/May. Anyone interested in taking part in this training to get in touch.

12. Branch Reports

12.1 Aberdare & Cynon Valley – Pat Rees had sent in her apologies. Aberdare Branch had returned to face to face meetings at Cynon Valley Museum.

12.2 Bridgend – Nancy Thomas. Submitted. Face to face meetings to restart in May with a Brickwall session.

12.3.1 Cardiff & Vale - Jane Graves reported that Jeremy Konsbruck had been proposed as Branch Trustee at the last Committee Meeting. Branch members had been notified and no objections had been received. A history walk around Cardiff and a visit to the Cardiff Reform Synagogue had been arranged. It was not anticipated that there would be a return to Insole Court until the Autumn.

12.3.2 Online Branch – Sue Hamer gave details of plans for an Online Branch and requested volunteers to set up, organise and administer the Branch. The first meeting of the Online Branch Committee to be circulated via Newsletter in April.

12.4 Merthyr Tydfil - Carolyn Jacob submitted – no further comments.

12.5 Pontypridd and Rhondda - Submitted. Meic Jones commented that Pontypridd Museum had just reopened so it was hoped to return to meetings in May.

12.6 Swansea – Jeff Coleman. Report had been submitted by Cherry King. New Chairman Janet Neilson. Still looking for new premises. Walks planned for the Spring and Summer. Janet Neilson had presented a talk on Zoom in February on the Swansea Hebrew Congregation which was very well attended but no further online talks had been arranged. There was no current desire to return to face to face meetings.

13. **Appointment of Auditor:** Guy Bevan had agreed to act as Independent Examiner for the forthcoming financial year. Proposed: Nick Davey, Seconded: Sue MacKay. Agreed by a majority (31) of the members present.

14. **Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members/Trustees:**

14.1 Nominations had been received as follows:

Chairman: Sue Hamer

Vice Chairman: Nancy Thomas,

Secretary: Jane Jones

Executive Committee Members: Ian Black, Jean Fowlds, Meic Jones and Steve Reis.

14.2 **Nominations:** Sue Hamer commented that nominations had been received by 1 January and postal votes were accepted until 8 March. It was suggested that the voting be done 'en bloc'. Proposed: Annouska Osborne, Seconded: Jane Graves. The above Trustees were duly elected by a majority (28) of the members present. Sixteen postal votes confirming the above had also been received.

14.3 There was still a vacancy for one Executive Committee member. Anyone wishing to join the committee could attend Committee Meetings in the first instance as a Guest or Observer, before being co-opted to the Committee and finally putting themselves forward for election at the following AGM.

14.4 Sue Hamer thanked those stepping down this year for their hard work for the Society.

15. **Branch Representatives:**

15.1 Sue Hamer explained that the following representatives, had been elected by their branches and so just needed to be confirmed at the AGM.

15.2 As mentioned in the Cardiff & Vale Branch report Jeremy Konsbruck had been proposed and elected as Cardiff & Vale Branch Trustee at the last Branch Committee Meeting. Branch Members had been notified and there were no objections.

16.3 Proposed: Meic Jones, Seconded: Jane Jenkins. A vote was then taken and the following Branch Trustees were confirmed (28).

Aberdare & Cynon:	Pat Rees
Bridgend:	Sue Tiller
Cardiff & Vale:	Jeremy Konsbruck
Merthyr Tydfil:	Carolyn Jacob
Pontypridd & Rhondda:	Creighton Sims
Swansea:	Jeff Coleman

17. **Questions:** Before the final item on the Agenda Sue Hamer asked if anyone wanted to comment or ask any questions.

17.1 Sue MacKay gave details of correspondence that had occurred as a result of her talk in December on researching in South Africa. After her Zoom talk she had been contacted by a member who lived in Bolton who had a relative in South Africa that had rescued some diaries, 11 written during WW1 which had been sent to the Imperial War Museum and 2 very fragile ones written by a Frontier Officer in the 1870s were being transcribed and photographed and would be uploaded to the EGGSA website the originals going to the National Archives at Kew. Sue stated that the saving of these diaries was as a result of the Glamorgan online meetings

It was requested that details about these diaries would be made available in the Journal.

18. **Date & Time of Next AGM** – This will be confirmed once the dates for next year's Six Nations Fixtures are available. The AGM is usually held on the weekend where there are no rugby matches.

Sue Hamer thanked everyone for attending. There would be a short 'comfort' break before Graham Owen's talk.

Meeting closed at 14.40 GMT.

REPORTS

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

First, I would like to thank our Society Officers, Executive and Branch Committees, ARC and other volunteers for keeping the Society running during the pandemic and in providing a wide range of activities both face to face and online when possible. All Branches have now restarted face to face meetings and we have a new Online Branch that enables members worldwide to meet up and contribute to the talks and discussions, members old and new experienced and beginners have taken the opportunity to be part of the Society.

The challenge that faces us in 2023/2024, together with many other Charities, is to continue to provide all these opportunities with a dwindling number of volunteers. As has been highlighted in the journal the current Society Officers and Committee members have been covering more than one role and we did reach a situation after Xmas where we were struggling to keep going when more than one of our committee members had had bereavements and other family commitments. The ideal would be to have at least two people covering any role to cover for these eventualities but at the moment one person to cover each role would be nice!

In 2024 we celebrate our 50th Anniversary and we are starting to look at events to mark this occasion. However, we will also be without all of our Society Officers so volunteers are desperately needed to come forwards this year to start to learn the roles. We have been without a Treasurer since 2019 and our Vice Chairman, Nancy Thomas, is taking a break this year. In 2024 both myself and Jane Jones our Secretary are due to finish due to the five consecutive year rule in our Constitution. A number of Societies have had to be wound up this year due to a lack of volunteers not due to financial problems.

We will need to discuss increasing our membership subscription this year due to the rising printing and postage costs. Information will be included in the September 2023 journal ready for amendments to be made to Standing Orders.

So, if you only take one message away from today it is we need your help to enable to Society to continue for the next 50 years.

Sue Hamer
chairman@glamfhs.org.uk

5. FINANCE TEAM REPORT – see separate document

6. MEMBERSHIP

Membership numbers have reduced this year this, along with the expected increase in some costs including the ARC rent and postage, which has continued to increase over the past few years (we are keeping the Journal page size down to 60 pages which with the envelope gives a total weight of 98g in order to keep the cost of the journal postage at the lowest rate, however the June journal which includes the Society accounts is over this weight - so is always a more expensive edition) has partly contributed to a deficit this year. The Financial Report includes a summary of our income and expenditure on page 3 and a later outline of the effect these changes have had on the final figures. In light of this an increase in membership fees will need to be agreed this year by the Executive Committee.

We continue to have a small number of members who have not increased their fees in the past, these along with anyone forgetting to change their standing order once the change is implemented would mean they would therefore not receive a full year's quota of paper copies for the subsequent year, unless they pay an additional amount. An increase in the subscription fee will need to be decided by 20 July, i.e., at the June EC Meeting to go into the September journal which includes the SO form. It is envisioned that the new online branch would pay the full rate as members get two meetings a month, but this will also need to be discussed at the next EC Meeting. We last increased subscriptions 5 years ago in 2017.

Nancy Thomas/Sue Tiller
Membership@glamfhs.org.uk

7. ABERKENFIG RESOURCE CENTRE (ARC) REPORT

The ARC has slowly been getting back to normal over this last year. In June 2022 it was re-opened for visitors on a booking only basis. These bookings were available at any time to suit the visitors, provided two volunteers were available. Numbers allowed at any one time initially remained restricted. This system was taken up by a number of people, with some visitors from abroad. In September of 2022 it is planned to re-open with open access for the last Wednesday of the month.

In January 2022 a new committee took over the management of the Aberkenfig and District Public Memorial and Welfare Association. The previous arrangement of joint meetings will continue to review the lease agreement, as the lease is only in place to 2025. Meanwhile the sub group of the ARC team continues to review the function and purpose of the ARC.

Team meetings continue to be conducted via Zoom video conferencing and this is useful to progress work and to maintain contact with the volunteers.

In July a small group of volunteers started meeting regularly to push ahead with some of the initiatives needed to improve the facilities on offer. The main focus of this work has been the re-organisation of the publication's library. The aim is to be able to offer a full set of booklets to be available as a reference aid for visitors. It is hoped that this can be completed by the spring of 2023.

GDPR [Data Protection] compliance is just about complete and when the publications library is completed a full cross check of holdings will be carried out. The Publication sales booklet remains on hold until GDPR updates are completed and more work is completed in creating downloadable publications from the booklet stock.

Work to develop a database of Fiche holdings remains on hold. Although surplus Fiche stock has been identified and may be disposed of later in the year.

Work is continuing to offer the publications as downloads, the CD stock is now completed and conversion of the M.I stock has commenced.

During the year the ARC received a book donation. This was from Gareth Hick's whose Collection was available on www.genuki.org.uk these are being held as a separate resource within the ARC.

The team have been unable to support various open days and Fairs due to Covid19 restrictions.

Projects have continued to be managed mainly by the Branches, although with Covid19 and the very slow return of volunteers many Branches have been limited in the work they have been able to complete.

Merthyr Tydfil Branch has continued with the transcribing of the Merthyr Express Obituaries and it is hoped to launch a second CD/Download in the Spring of 2023 to cover the years 1910 – 1919 as well as WW1 Casualties List. This will complement the CD 1: which covered 1900 – 1909.

ARC Team
arc2@glamfhs.org.uk

8. PROJECTS

Projects, like many other activities has been severely affected by the Covid-19 events. However, some branches are starting to bounce back and an update of activities will be included in the individual reports. We would welcome interest from any members who would like to be involved with helping with projects or would feel able to take a lead in this role.

Nancy Thomas
projects@glamfhs.org.uk

9. EVENTS REPORT

GFHS events have been on hold since 2020 due to Covid-19. The Society has participated in a number of On-Line events with members participating in question and answer sessions. These have been popular with a wide variety of areas being explored

The Pontypridd and Rhondda Branch are considering a local Fair in the summer of 2023 with the wider Society busy planning events for 2024 to mark the 50th Anniversary

Jane Jones
events@glamfhs.org.uk

10. JOURNAL REPORT

A year when it seems we could relax a little after the trials of the previous 3 years, and start looking forward to new challenges now that we are more free to go out and seek records and visit the places of our family antecedents.

The journal stories have reflected that; **MARCH** started with an article on the 1921 census, then recently released, by Sue Hamer, and some genealogy tips, always welcome. That edition also had reminders of International Women's Day in the story about Elizabeth Nugent, described as just an ordinary wife and mother, but so much more than that. St David too got a mention of course, and the front cover displayed a wonderful scene of daffodils *en masse*, always such a cheerful emblem of early Spring.

JUNE's edition had asked for mining stories, and it became a problem to sort out what to include and what to leave out or hold onto for future editions. I did not want to concentrate on pit disasters, of which there were many of course, small and mighty, all devastating to the families and communities involved. In highlighting the Parc Slip disaster there was some criticism on why others were not included, but my idea was to look at other mining-related aspects of the industry, not just the disasters- the health and safety, the lamps, the horses, the Bevin Boys, the memorials and so on, so this huge subject will be brought along again in the near future. A topical reminder was included in this issue of the connections between South Wales and the Ukraine, provided with a reference to the Hughesovska files in the Glamorgan Archives.

SEPTEMBER was hoping for articles about families who had left the rural places of Wales to come to the industrial areas for work, as many of our ancestors did, including my own; regrettably I never asked the questions when I was a child, and now cannot as they have all passed on. There must be many more with the same set of circumstances. Nevertheless, we had some fascinating stories about a family leaving Caldey island for Dowlais, and items about the tradesmen (and women) who set up business in these booming towns.

DECEMBER brought about some Christmas-related items- a story on one man's family Christmas which will resonate with many and some very old Christmas recipes. Also included were some items about the formation of the Glamorgan constabulary, which may have some more material for future editions.

MARCH 2023 brings the year full circle and Spring once more brings daffodils and St David, and a reminder that February 23rd is the 300th anniversary of the birth of Richard Price, a citizen of Wales and the world, one of the foremost polymaths and intellectuals of the Enlightenment period. Other important events are marked, and some accounts of women's heroism and courage.

Throughout the year the journals have given up-to-date news and reviews of events in the various societies in the area, as well as news of anything that members would find interesting. Letters and queries raised have been printed as well as book reviews of works that the editor thinks might appeal.

JUNE 2023 is looking hopeful with some really interesting material in the pipeline, and I look forward to a healthy future for the journal- obviously, as ever, please forward any suggestions that might make it better!

Jean Fowlds, editor@glamfhs.org.uk

11. WEBSITE REPORT

A new Committee to look at the development of the Website has met online via Zoom a few times during the past year. Discussions included the addition of a places of worship database and members interests function. Training also took place during the quieter summer period, as regards membership administration, to enable members of the Committee to have access to the administrative areas of the Website. Progress however has stalled due to the need for a volunteer to come forwards to become Website Manager. Volunteers do not need to be local to South Wales to take on this role.

website@glamfhs.org.uk

12. BRANCH REPORTS

12.1 ABERDARE & CYNON VALLEY

The Branch AGM was held on the 13th October 2022

The present committee agreed and were voted in to remain in their current positions as follows:

Chairman -Haydn Pugh

Treasurer - Martine Williams

Secretary- Pat Rees

Social - Haydn Williams

Projects - Pat Rees

Robert Lake was appointed as Vice chairman. Pat Rees voted in as Branch Representative on E C Committee. After our AGM Mervyn Pugh gave us a talk on his "Family History Journey"

Aberdare/Cynon Valley Branch, meet on the second Thursday afternoon 2-4pm each month in the Cynon Valley Museum. We have guest speakers bi-monthly with research help sessions on alternative months. During our research sessions we will be holding talks on what local research material is available locally e.g. within Aberdare Library.

November we were treated to a fascinating talk by Peter C Jones on fingerprint identification. January 2023 Huw Williams gave us an interesting talk on the old rivalry between Aberdare and Merthyr Tydfil. March, we have Ann Watts as our guest speaker her talk will be based on Aberdare/ Cynon Valley famous people. A full programme of events is in place for up-coming months with a varied speaker programme.

Our project work has been on hold due to member's ill-health, we are always keen to welcome any new members to join our project team.

*Pat Rees
aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk*

12.2 BRIDGEND

This has once again been a different year for everyone and I hope we find you keeping safe and well.

We recommenced face-to-face meetings in May of this year, not knowing if any of our regular members would return. In reality numbers attending meetings have been very low and I certainly hope this situation will improve over the coming months. Although, the winter period is often difficult for many members with the cold and dark nights. It is some comfort to know we are not alone and many of the other branches are having similar attendance issues.

Prior to our reopening for meetings the committee was meeting occasionally via Zoom video conferencing. This has proved useful to keep in touch and I know some members have been attending the Cardiff Branch Zoom meetings and Coffee & Chat sessions. With this in mind we are trialing a hybrid of actual meetings and Zoom meetings in an effort to reach more members. We ask that you bear with us during this time and certainly during the darker colder winter months consider taking the option of joining us via Zoom if you cannot attend in person.

Since April 2022 the committee have been offering monthly research sessions in local libraries. These have proved popular and will continue during the coming year. These are offered in addition to the ARC now opening on a monthly basis.

We have not subscribed to the local free newspapers/magazines due to the costs and hope that our Mailchimp, FB and Society website messages are reaching as many people as possible. I ask if you are on local FB pages for your area that you share our posts about meetings as widely as possible.

In October 2021 we changed bank account after being notified that HSBC were introducing charges of £6 per month. As a small charity this was unacceptable and a change was made to Nat West.

Along with many other groups, we are looking at our costs. Fees for meeting room hire have increased as have speaker charges. It appears if we want interesting and competent speakers, we will need to meet their fees. We have also been exploring the best possible days/time & venues for our meetings. Any comments/suggestions on these points would be very welcome.

Once again, we have circulated the nomination forms widely prior to our meeting and sincerely hope we can entice a Treasurer to join our ranks. The post has been shared between three of the committee for some time and a dedicated person for the role would be most welcome.

Election of Officers 2022-2023:

Nominations were received from the following members and there being no other nominations or objections these members were voted on as the coming year's committee.

Chair:	Nancy Thomas
Secretary:	Vicky Salmon
Treasurer/s:	ST / LK / NT
Programme Manager:	Paul Jones
Membership:	Sue Tiller
Library:	Liz Krolzig
Committee 1:	Mari Morgan
Committee 2:	Penny Williams

*Nancy Thomas
bridgend@glamfhs.org.uk*

12.3 CARDIFF & VALE

Cardiff & Vale Branch organised the twice monthly online meetings for the Society until July 2022. The Online Branch then took over from September 2022.

Two walking tours were organised during the Summer one in the Centre of Cardiff the other around Cathays Cemetery as well as a visit to the Cardiff Reformed Synagogue.

The branch AGM was held via Zoom on Tuesday 04 October 2022 followed by a talk by Jeff Childs on "The Peterloo Massacre", August 1819. The Treasurer (Stephen Fairhurst) and Trustee (Jeremy Konsbruck) agreed to continue in post for another year. There were no nominations for other officer roles on the committee. Two committee members – Sue Hamer and Jane Graves – have stood down and one new member – Judith Thomas – agreed to join the committee following the AGM. There are currently eight committee members (including the branch treasurer and trustee).

The branch resumed face-to-face meetings in November on a monthly basis on Tuesday afternoons at Glamorgan Archives. Some branch members – including some committee members – are unable to attend afternoon meetings. We will be asking members who attend the meeting in November to volunteer to help with organising future meetings if they wish these to continue. It is hoped that branch members who are unable to attend in person will continue to benefit from the talks offered by the new online branch.

cardiff@glamfhs.org.uk

12.4 MERTHYR

The Merthyr Tydfil Branch has continued to meet in Soar, the Welsh Centre, a popular venue for many Merthyr Tydfil Societies to hold afternoon meetings, and we had well attended talks of a high standard. However, due to reports of a new Covid outbreak the January meeting was cancelled and the talk postponed. The February lecture was a fascinating talk by local historian, Clive Thomas, discussing his own family tree and family reasons for travelling to South Wales for work. In March Carl Llewellyn gave a wonderful talk on the Italians of South Wales. It was an excellent afternoon with a well-illustrated talk and the presence of members of the Italian community who had stories to tell made it all come alive. In April we were back again to our intended January subject and Dr Daryl Leeworthy could at last deliver his highly interesting and informative talk on 'How to Research Minorities'. The audience was entertained and also learnt a great deal. In 2022 the Merthyr Tydfil Branch was involved a number of interesting enquiries, as well as other family history projects. We discovered information on Angus Lewis, whose photographs featured in the excellent book, 'Six Railways to Merthyr: The Angus Lewis Photographs' edited by John Hodge. We were also roped in to assist in a local history conference being held in the Labour Club, Merthyr Tydfil in May. There was also a very welcome visit by two Americans whose ancestors, according to their written account, had been born in Merthyr in the 1680s.

Barrie Jones gave an excellent talk in May on the nature of the Black Death, which made us glad that we had our vaccinations and did not live through that pandemic. In June we had an interesting guided walk around an historical area of central Merthyr Tydfil despite the rain. Lisa Powell gave a very informative talk on 'Social Unrest in Wales prior to WWI' in July. Originally, she was to give this talk in July 2020 and I am glad that we didn't miss out on it. We do not have an August meeting, although members still meet up in Soar for a chat.

Our A.G.M. in October did not involve any change of committee members. The decision was made to continue as we are and to hold our meetings of the second Tuesday of each month at 2pm in Soar. We are continuing to work on the obituaries in the Merthyr Express and Michael Donovan is hard at work and making good progress with the indexing of all death notices in the Merthyr Express.

Members of the Merthyr Tydfil Branch have a friendly relationship with the Gelligaer Historical Society and in August we were invited to attend a course on recording graveyards with the Gelligaer Society. Six of us did join up with Gelligaer, although the course had to be postponed until November, which is not such a great month to spend outdoors in a cemetery. The excellent course was given by Dr Edith Evans in St Catwg's Community Centre and the nearby St Catwg's Cemetery. The cemetery was absolutely amazing, surprisingly large with a huge range of different memorials and stones in English and Welsh. This course has resulted in plans for 2023 which include getting together with volunteers interested in the local history of Vaynor and recording the stones in Vaynor Cemetery.

*Carolyn Jacob
merthyhr@glamfhs.org.uk*

12.5 PONTYPRIDD & RHONDDA

Like mostly everyone else the Pontypridd & Rhondda Branch was affected by the Covid-19 restrictions. However, added to this was the closure of the Pontypridd Museum due to flood damage in January 2020. Considerable renovations have taken place and its reopening was delayed unto the middle of 2022. Alternative venues for meetings were explored without success.

In June 2022 at last we were able to restart our meetings in Pontypridd Museum. Our speaker was David Maddox who spoke on the Voices of the Valley Women 1900 – 1918.

In July Keith Jones gave a very interesting talk on the Glamorganshire Canal.

There was no meeting in August but in September Dean Powell came and gave a very entertaining talk on the History of Llantrisant.

In October Alan James came to tell us about his grandmother's life, accompanied by a recording of her memories. She had been quite a good age when he recorded her but she was as bright as a button and remembered so much, particularly her school days.

The talk was followed by our AGM and the committee was elected as follows:

Chairman	Meic Jones
Vice Chair	Neil Gazzard
Treasurer	Creighton Sims
Secretary	Jane Jones
Committee Members	Jan Johnson
	Deborah Cooke
	Eira Morgan
	Angela Hughes
	John Phillipa
	Ryland Williams

Jane Jones
rhondda@glamfhs.org.uk

12.6 SWANSEA

At the beginning of 2022 our usual meeting places in the Civic Centre and the Library were still unavailable due to Covid restrictions, and finding a new venue which met our requirements proved problematic.

We held several meetings via Zoom. Sue Hamer inspired us to extend our research when she spoke to us about using online newspapers, a resource which is probably underused by many of us. Janet Neilson gave us a comprehensive talk on the history of Judaism in the Swansea Hebrew community.

In early summer Janet initiated something new for our branch by arranging to lead two history afternoon walks around Swansea. The first concerning Blue Plaques and the second around the Sketty district. Unfortunately, both were poorly attended.

Our branch AGM was held in October, once again via Zoom. Janet Neilson resigned as Chairperson but agreed to be our Representative on the Executive Committee following the resignation of Jeff Coleman. Julie Edmunds took over from Michael Cox as our treasurer. No one stood for election as Chairperson or as Programme/Speaker Secretary. Branch Secretary and Committee members remained as of the previous year.

The Branch AGM was followed by a Zoom talk entitled 'The lost industrial village of Foxhole' by Lynn Nedin. Lynn's research on the Foxhole area of Swansea proved very interesting. The people who lived in this area were heavily involved in the industries which filled the Swansea valley. Most of the inhabitants of Foxhole were employed in the Copper smelting works.

In the autumn, due to lack of volunteers, we were unable to man a table at the newly resumed History Day at the Maritime Museum or at the Book Fair in the Royal institution. These events are important in promoting the activities of the GFHS to the general public and are opportunities missed.

The Discovery Room at the Library became available again in November and we held a research and help session open to all. We are able to make use of the Library's access to 'Ancestry' and 'Find my Past'. These sessions will continue to March.

From April through to July we have accepted an offer from West Glamorgan Archives to hold our monthly branch meetings within the archives on a Tuesday afternoon between 2 - 4 pm. The archive staff will give a short talk or introduce us to resources which may be unfamiliar. In the remaining time members can make use of the computers and other resources. We hope this initiative will prove popular.

Janet Neilson & Cherry King, swansea@glamfhs.org.uk

12.7 ONLINE BRANCH

The Glamorgan Family History Online Branch was formed to carry on delivering the online meetings that were originally organised by the Cardiff and Vale branch during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Cardiff and Vale branch surveyed their members and decided to return to face to face meetings from September 2022. The Online meetings have provided a real opportunity for members far and near to enjoy a wide range of presentations, advance their research, or just chip in with interesting facts!

The first Online Branch committee meeting was held online in April 2022 and its membership is from around the UK and the USA.

It was decided to continue to offer two online sessions a month where possible due to public holidays, and no meetings during August. The monthly speaker session was moved from a Tuesday to a Thursday evening and would be held on either the first or second Thursday of the month. The 'Coffee and Chat' session would be held on either the third or fourth week of the month. The online events would continue to be delivered via Zoom and advertised in the Society's Mailchimp newsletter, on the Society's website, Eventbrite and the Cardiff and Vale Twitter account. The number of Eventbrite and Twitter followers continues to increase.

In addition to planning the online speaker programme the committee is investigating organising a Virtual Fair/Online Event to replace the Annual Fair and/or to celebrate the Society's 50th Anniversary in 2024.

*Jane Graves,
arlein@glamfhs.org.uk*

13 Appointment of Independent Examiner

14 Election of Officers and Committee Members

2023/2024 Nominations Received:

Elected Officers:

Chairman:	<i>Sue Hamer</i>
Vice Chairman:	<i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Vacant</i>
Secretary:	<i>Jane Jones</i>

Executive Committee Members (5): *Ian Black, Jean Fowlds & Meic Jones, Penny Williams & 1 Vacancy*

15 Confirmation of Branch Trustees (elected at Branch AGMs):

Aberdare & Cynon Valley:	<i>Pat Rees</i>
Bridgend:	<i>Sue Tiller</i>
Cardiff:	<i>Jeremy Konsbruck</i>
Merthyr:	<i>Carolyn Jacob</i>
Pontypridd & Rhondda:	<i>Eira Morgan</i>
Swansea:	<i>Janet Neilson</i>

16 Date of next AGM – TBA.