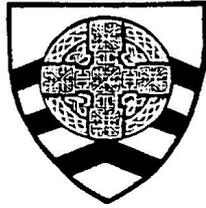


APPENDIX 1



GLAMORGAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY CYMDEITHAS HANES TEULUOL MORGANNWG

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2 MARCH 2019

REPORTS FROM SOCIETY OFFICERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND BRANCHES

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

All the branches have been working hard, despite problems, especially lack of volunteers, which is a general thing with all societies.

We took part in the Eisteddfod in August for the first time ever. As it was held in Cardiff Bay we had many visitors from all over. A successful week, with many opportunities to make ourselves known.

Our Family History Fair in October went well, despite bad weather, resulting in fewer exhibitors and visitors. I would like to thank everyone who battled through.

We have attended various Fairs but can't attend as many as we would like because of the usual problem – Lack of Volunteers.

Membership is around 1360 at the moment with people joining all the time. Many send requests via Facebook, which is excellent. I would like to thank Nancy and Sue T for all their work in keeping up with all the work it entails.

Our Resource Centre continues to work with a faithful hard working group, who spend their time helping researchers with their family history, but as always we need more helpers so we keep trying to persuade others to come along.

I am very appreciative of all the help I have received during my time of being chairman. Thanks to you all.

Meic Jones, Chairman

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

As usual the Society has attended a number of Family History Fairs, both local and national, and we are very grateful for those volunteers who represented us at these events. We are always made most welcome.

As you will already know we had a stand at the Eisteddfod which was held in Cardiff Bay. A successful week but tiring. Thanks to all who helped, especially our Chairman, Mike Jones, who was there every day, and loved every minute!

Our Fair in Merthyr was accompanied by dreadful weather in the form of Storm Callum, so we were down on both exhibitors and visitors. But many battled through and we are very grateful to all who supported the event. Unfortunately, Joanne had a bump on the head and had to go to hospital. But she bravely returned afterwards to help out.

Membership is around 1360 at present, but we have people joining all the time, and of course renewals started on 1st March. I have seen many new requests from people on Facebook wanting to

join us, so that is good news. Many thanks to Nancy and Sue T who work very hard keeping up with all the applications all that goes with them. Like many things in the Society we lack volunteers so if there is anyone who would be willing to help, please let us know. At this time of year it is busier than normal, so offers of help would be much appreciated.

I receive many e-mails and phone calls from people regarding research, most of which I pass on to others, in the appropriate areas. I am grateful to those who help by answering the queries, with excellent information. Also I am very appreciative of all the help I have been given by other members, when I have a problem. Thanks for all your support.

Jane Jones, Secretary

6. TREASURER'S REPORT/ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS - SEE APPENDIX 2

7. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Membership team have continued to work well together, I would like to thank Nancy, Sue H and Jane Jenkins for their help in this regard.

Overall membership currently stands at 1354 [as of 4th February 2019]. The membership team continues to have a busy time since the launch of the new website we have had over 250 new members since its launch, who we hope are enjoying using the resources. We are also finding that members are also renewing their membership via the Website.

We still have a considerable number who are still underpaying, although the new automatic reminders does seem to be helping with some of these. To address those members who have not changed their standing orders for some considerable time we are now restricting the number of journals members received to correspond with the payment made. For example, if a member only paid the old amount of £10 their journals will finish with the December issue and if they have paid less, as quite a few have, their journals will finish in September.

We have been working closely with the web site manager since its launch in November 2017. There is a new automatic system for new and renewals to the membership. The membership section of the website appears to be working well.

Membership Team

8. ABERKENFIG RESOURCE CENTRE [ARC] REPORT

The Aberkenfig Resource Centre [ARC] continues to provide the central holding point for the society's resources. A management team meets, normally monthly, to guide and support its functions.

During this year the ARC continues to open on Wednesday's and visitor numbers have reduced to some degree. We are very short on volunteers to help at the ARC, to the point that we have tried splitting the rota to AM & PM, however this has also proved difficult to maintain. It is with reluctance that from this month we are moving to only opening the ARC in the mornings on the Wednesdays it is scheduled to open. The opening times are advertised in the March Journal as 10:30 – 1pm with the last Wednesday still being closed for administration. Should groups or individuals approach us for opening at other times such requests will be considered on an individual basis and will be dependent on sufficient volunteers being available.

Recruiting new and encouraging past volunteers to return is a priority for this year. A more structured training system is in place, with some training in the basics of researching and helping visitors being available, it is hoped this will help in our recruitment campaign.

A major project this year has been the re-pricing of the society's booklet holdings. This has now been completed and inhouse work is needed to prepare them for use and to be accessible on the new web site.

We continue to need help in managing publication orders, it really does need to be someone local to the area. Also needed are researchers to help with emailed look up requests, typing up a card index

file and many smaller initiatives. Again, training and support will be offered to anyone who could spare a few hours.

The closed day at the end of each month proves to be very beneficial to catch up on admin issues, meetings for projects, membership etc. unfortunately due to the low numbers of volunteers this work is slowly encroaching on to other open days.

Should anyone feel they may have a few hours to help or would like more information about the ARC, our training or any particular role please contact anyone at today's event or email us at arc@glamfhs.org.uk

ARC Management Team

9. PROJECT REPORT

The Project Officer stepped down at last year's AGM. She has however still been available to assist as necessary. This update is a brief review of events in this last year.

ARC: The resource centre continues to be a central hub for the society's activities. As such a number of initiatives have been ongoing.

- Repricing of the publications
- Inventory of the Fiche holdings
- Review of booklet stock for researchers
- I.T. maintenance

Branches: The Branches continue to be active and each have a Project Officer identified who helps take initiatives forward. It is expected that each branch report will update the AGM on their activities.

Nancy Thomas

10. EVENTS REPORT

We attended various fairs again in 2018, the National Library in Aberystwyth, Rhondda Heritage Park, SWAG Fair, and Oxford. Dyfed didn't have a fair in 2018, but will have in 2019.

For the first time ever we had a stand at the National Eisteddfod as it was being held in Cardiff. It was arranged by our Chairman, Mike Jones, and he attended for the whole week, ably helped on different days by Sue, Nick, Nancy, Mavis, Trish, Deborah, David, Peter, Karen and Anona. Also Menna from the National Library helped on the Monday as she was visiting her sister in Penarth. As it was held in the Bay it was open to all so there was a lot of interest from the public which it doesn't generally have. We even had visitors from overseas who were visiting Wales. Fortunately the weather wasn't too bad so everyone survived, although it was tiring.

In October at our Fair in Merthyr, as everyone will know by now, we were hampered by Storm Callum which prevented some exhibitors and visitors from attending. However many battled through and overall it was a success as usual.

We are very grateful to everyone who helped in the setting up the night before, as there is always a lot to do. The staff members at the centre were very helpful in bringing out the tables and chairs ready for us to arrange.

As usual, the first tea and coffee, for exhibitors only, was served in the hall, with a free Welsh cake which went down very well, as they always are.

This year's Fair is on October 12th and I have had some replies so far. Hopefully we will not have last year's horrendous weather!

It would be appreciated if we could have a lot more help from members, especially on the night before with the preparation.

Date	Venue	Attending
April 26/27	Family Tree Live, London	Sue H
May 11th	National Library Aberystwyth	Pontypridd/Rhondda
May 11th	Swansea Historical	Swansea branch
June 7 th /8th	Genealogy Show NEC Birmingham	Sue H
July 6th	South West FH Show, Bristol	
Sept 7th	Dyfed, Carmarthen	Merthyr branch
Sept 28th	Bristol & Avon	
Oct 5th	Oxford FHS, Woodstock	Sue H
Oct 12th	Glam FHS Merthyr	All

Jane Jones, Events Coordinator

11. Journal Report

The journal relies on its contributors and correspondents to keep it alive and vibrant, and this past year has been no exception. 2018 was a 'good' year for anniversaries, so in asking for WW1 stories, and family history of Suffragism in South Wales, and also the founding of the RAF, we had an excellent response. The 'Railway' topic set for this March edition produced tales equally of joy, sadness, and glimpses of times now past. Throughout the year we were also reminded of how complicated and time-consuming, but also how fascinating and addictive, researching one's family could be; therefore, many congratulations and thanks to all who took the time to write in. A special note of thanks should go to Rhian Diggins and the Glamorgan Archives volunteers, for their knowledgeable articles which have set the background to the topics we have set.

One plea I have, which is that so many of you have stories to be told, so please put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard, and let us have them! Be assured that every article is read, and if it cannot 'fit' the theme of the current magazine, it will be used as soon as possible in the ensuing editions and you will be informed of its progress.

Let us hope 2019-20 proves to be as fruitful, so keep writing!

We send out approximately 1200 journals each quarter worldwide and our paper copies are still favoured by the majority of our members. Included with this are approximately 100 exchange journals. We have in the past exchanged paper copies of our journal with other family history societies which were then made available at our Branch Meetings and at Aberkenfig. We are currently undertaking a review of the paper copies received as many societies have either withdrawn from this scheme or are now only exchanging an electronic copy of their magazine. A new section has been created in the Members Only Area of the website where copies of these e-journals can be viewed. Members need to log in to view these e-magazines.

<https://www.glamfhs.org.uk/exchange-journals>

We are now looking for a volunteer to act as the online exchange journal coordinator both sending out email copies to other societies and acting as the focal point to receive their copies. This new resource will provide our members with additional online resources.

I should also like to thank other members of the team: Sue Tiller, our Data Manager, who administers the Mailing and Exchange Journals lists and to Pete Spencer who each quarter updates the online journal index.

A reminder that the deadline dates for the submission of journal articles are:

March Issue	20 th Jan	June Issue	20 th April
September issue	20 th July	December Issue	20 th Oct

Forthcoming themes: June 2019 - General, September - Migration to Glamorgan

If anyone has any ideas for themes for 2020 please get in touch.

Jean Fowlds & Sue Hamer, editor@glamfhs.org.uk

12. WEBSITE REPORT

18 months has now passed since the launch of our new website in November 2017 but due to other commitments progress on adding additional material to our Members Only Area has been delayed.

Our Marriage Index was added to the Members Only Area in January 2019 to join our three Burial Indexes. Our Baptisms Index will be added shortly. With thanks to Stephen Fairhurst, Cardiff Branch, who has helped to edit the index prior to upload.

The Society has a vast wealth of material which could be accessed online by our members worldwide via the website but additional volunteers are needed to prepare and edit the material. The more volunteers we have contributing the quicker we can get the resources online. Volunteers do not need to be local to South Wales to help with the website.

Thank you to Theresa Holland, a volunteer that lives near Swindon, who is our Memorial Inscriptions Look Up volunteer. Once members find an item in our Memorial Inscriptions Index Theresa sends them the full inscription from our publications.

An 'Exchange Journals' section has now been created ready for journals from other Societies, who take part in this scheme to be uploaded. A volunteer to act as online exchange journal coordinator is needed to administer the sending and receiving of the e-journals. The first e-journal has been added this week from the Wales-New Zealand Family History Society.

A 'Beginners' Help Section' has also been added to the Public Area giving guidance on starting to research family history in Glamorgan.

The website is an important part of the Society's marketing and needs frequent updating with News, Events and Resources. Access to our Indexes is proving very popular with our current members. Many members that have lapsed have rejoined in order to gain access to the online material and so the momentum must be continued.

If anyone has any thoughts on additional material that could be added please get in touch.

*Sue Hamer,
website@glamfhs.org.uk*

13.1 ABERDARE & CYNON VALLEY BRANCH REPORT

Meetings:

March 2018: Research & Projects (R&P),

Sept: branch AGM;

April: discussion;

Oct: Gareth Thomas; guest speaker

May: Anne Watts; guest speaker

Nov: ? R&P?

June & July: R&P;

Dec & Jan: no meeting;

August: no meeting;

Feb : cancelled due to inclement weather

As a result of February's cancelled meeting we have not been able to feed back to members the EC suggestions regarding the possibility of introducing an admittance charge to branch meetings.

Guest speakers: This year's speakers have been Anne Watts and Gareth Thomas. Both these evenings were very popular and received a high attendance.

We have had several research & projects evenings and have also restarted the daytime meetings in Aberdare Library. These are held 2pm-4pm on the second Thursday.

We have acquired a wifi dongle to enable internet access in the research meetings.

Numbers are still small at both daytime and evening meetings but we have been encouraged by new members and visitors. We are still without a Chair but have appointed a Secretary.

Our projects consist of putting the finishing touches to the Aberdare Leader Obituaries project; the baptism records for Bethel Chapel, Hirwaun; and the ongoing Aberdare Cemetery project. This latter is now transcribing volume 3 of the Burials Register with burials from October 1860 to January 1880 having been added to the Society's Master Database.

GFHS Master Database

In addition to the Aberdare Cemetery project, recent additions to the Master Database have been Tabernacle Marriages (Aberdare); Llanharan MIs, Llansamlet MIs and the completion of Aberffwd MIs (Mountain Ash); Oystermouth Girls & Plas arl Infants school admissions. Ancient Parishes and Unitary Authorities are now included in all tables to help users in filtering the results of searches.

Investigations are being made into the setting up of Family research workshops, to encourage new branch members, with the hope that this will increase attendance at our meetings and research afternoons.

Pat Rees, aberdare@glamfhs.org.uk

13.2 BRIDGEND BRANCH REPORT

The branch membership numbers have remained at 150, with 20 being the usual and up to 30 members attending the monthly meetings. During the year 2017–2018 a January social night for members and quiz hosted by Roy was once again a success. Our annual June trip to Ty Ardd in Bridgend was undertaken, and a big thank you to John Dunkley Williams for his help and expertise, we also have had a varied speaker programme.

Open days attended this year were Bridgend Awareness Day at Carnegie House in Bridgend, Rhondda Heritage Park Family History Day and the Society Fair in October. Liz, Paul and Vicky have represented the branch at these events.

Projects have once again taken a back seat due to limited volunteers, although the Coity and Bridgend folders are ongoing with Aberkenfig being recently completed and will be used at fairs and branch meetings

A 'brickwalls' scheme is still available to members.

A mailchimp e-mail is sent monthly to local members to notify them of forthcoming meetings and events.

Once again, an appeal for volunteers to aid meetings, suggestions for speakers for meetings, or any visits/activities that would interest members is always welcomed.

As no one came forward for the role of treasurer the finance post has been undertaken by three members of the committee. The accounts have been scrutinised and verified.

The committee was reinstated on block for the forthcoming year, with the exception of Kerry Davies who was not present at the meeting.

Since the Branch AGM meetings have continued and the members card with information on speakers has been circulated to all those attending the monthly meetings. The January 2019 social was once again a success, although attendance numbers were a little lower than normal.

Nancy Thomas, Bridgend Branch Chair

13.3 CARDIFF & VALE BRANCH REPORT

Reflecting over the previous year's activities it appears that the members of the Cardiff and Vale branch have had a busy twelve months.

Activities

Members have been involved in the following activities:-

- Planning and delivering the Heritage Day at Insole Court (June 2018)
- Branch stand at the Glamorgan Family History Society Fair (October 2018)
- Providing beginners workshop on 'Introduction to Family History' sessions at Insole Court (October 2018) and also at Rhiwbina Library (February 2019)
- Providing 'Further steps in Family History' sessions at Insole Court (March 2019)
- Monthly free advice sessions at Cardiff Central Library Hub
- Ask the expert sessions at Glamorgan Archives
- Visit to Cathays Branch & Heritage Library followed by Cardiff University Specials Collection (January 2019)

In prelude to the Heritage Day, a branch Twitter account was set up @Cardiff_GFHS The account is used to advertise the meetings and other family history or resources.

Speaker programme

A colour tri-fold speaker for the Cardiff programme was created to hand out to members and non-members at events and meetings.

Speakers have included:-

- Rosie James, Cardiff Council Parks Service, who gave a fabulous talk on the history of '**Parc Cefn Onn**'. Rosie is always keen to receive photographs of the parc – just not the ones illustrating the rhododendrons blooms, so if you have something with more panoramic views please get in touch.
- Keith Jones shared the harrowing account of '**A Lingering fear: The story of Pontypridd Union**'. It was a sobering to hear how much worse life in the workhouse was compared to serving time in prison with a smaller food allocation and longer working hours.
- Just before the story broke on the BBC News in May, Jeremy Sparkes shared his remarkable account of '**Tracing and restoring a family war memorial**'. What an extraordinary journey from identifying a family member from a WWI photograph to the rededication of a marble memorial stone.
- The ladies may have all worn hats in their police mug shots as shown in Elizabeth Belcham's beautifully illustrated talk '**Swansea's 'Bad Girls': Crime and Prostitution, 1870-1914**' but there is no doubt life was hard on the streets.
- '**Local underused resources**' with Katherine Whittington (Cathays Branch & Heritage Library) and Lisa Tallis (Cardiff University Specials Collection) shared details of the fabulous collections that are available for people to use.
- Bill Caiman spoke on '**The Welsh Regiment: before, during and after WW1**' and included information on how to find family members who served.
- Stephen Rowson revisited the branch and shared his passionate research on '**The Glamorganshire Canal**' which was a fabulously illustrated talk. Construction began in 1790 of the 25 mile canal which included 50 locks to navigate the 'fall' of over 510 feet.
- Branch member Ted Richards shared his knowledge of poisons with two different talks '**Poisons**' and '**Death by poison: An unfortunate end to Welsh sporting legend Norman Biggs**'

Our September meeting was an update from Nick Davey on the three current branch projects; Bute documents in Box 25; Cardiff Burgage Rolls; and The Manor of Llantrisant.

Branch AGM

The October branch AGM and subsequent EGM brought a number of changes to the committee. These included a new committee member, a new branch Treasurer, Deputy Branch Chair and a Chair. As the year closes the committee comprises of:-

Jane Graves – Branch Chair and Programme Co-ordinator

Sue Hamer – Deputy Branch Chair

Treasurer – Stephen Fairhurst

Committee members – Diane Brook (projects coordinator), Ann Konsbruck, Graham Read and Ted Richards.

Nick Davey – Co-opted member

Thanks to Doug Knight for all of his contributions to the committee in the past few years.

Sully branch

The Sully group continues to meet on the third Thursday of the month and is led by Sue Hamer.

Activities

- Two members attended the 'Secret Lives' Family History Conference in Leicestershire
- Progress has been made on completing another section of the older memorial inscriptions at Barry (Merthyr Dyfan) Cemetery
- Visit to Glamorgan Archives – Manorial & estates records (March 2019)

Programme

- Research update and beginners sessions
- Migration records
- Captain Foster buried at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery – George Gamble
- Tracing Welsh family history
- Military Records.

Jane Graves, Cardiff Branch Chair

13.4 MERTHYR BRANCH REPORT

The Annual General Meeting of the Merthyr Tydfil Branch brought few changes and the Branch continues to have its meetings in Soar, the Welsh Centre at 2pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

I write this with reluctance as it is such a dreadful thing, perhaps you know already, after our January meeting Joan, our treasurer, discovered her daughter dead in a chair. A heart attack. She would now like to resign as treasurer.

In January we had an interesting lecture by Edwyn Parry relating to the Jewish Community of Wales. In February our talk was to be:- Margaret Watts-Hughes, a vocalist and scientist from Dowlais - Chris Parry, Cyfarthfa Castle Museum

However, there are serious flu bugs going around and he was not able to recover in time to deliver the talk. We are going to find a new date.

Members of our branch are going to attend the Gelligaer Conference again this year on 23rd March. We have become addicted to it and would recommend it to anyone with a love of Welsh history.

Below is an e-mail I received from Joe England of the Merthyr Tydfil Heritage Trust

At the Heritage Forum in November one of workshop sessions provoked some people to ask about family histories. That is, stories of families that came to Merthyr. At the recent Heritage Forum meeting I wondered whether the Family History group had gathered stories that could be written up? You and Suzanne are both writers and there may be others. It would be really interesting to have stories of families that illustrated where they came from, the work done, the number of children, where they lived, etc. I know that many family histories do not have that detail but others may. Do you think it an idea worth pursuing? I'd be happy to discuss it with you.

Best wishes, Joe

I think that the Glamorgan Journal does a good job of printing such stories. Does anyone have any thoughts on this?

Carolyn Jacob, Merthyr Branch Chair

13.5 PONTYPRIDD AND RHONDDA BRANCH

We have had a number of speakers over the past year on a variety of topics but attendance has been down on previous years. One problem may be with parking as a Keep Fit class uses the room next to ours. At every meeting we hold a raffle, and provide refreshments, which gives members a chance to converse with the speaker, and chat with other members.

We represented the Society at Fairs in the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, the SWAG Fair in Swindon Steam Museum and the Rhondda Heritage Park. As well as the Glam FHS Fair in Merthyr. As per usual Mike, David, Creighton, Deborah and Jane were busy the night before, setting up the tables, chairs and laying the electric cables, with help from Joanne. On the actual day, David and Deborah were busy all day with enquiries. Jan and Linda took charge of the raffle and tombola and had a successful day, despite the dreadful weather.

We were back at the Rhondda Heritage Park on May 19th. Most of the other branches came but unfortunately Prince Harry and Meghan decided to get married on the same day and didn't tell us, so attendance was very poor. However those people who did come were pleased with the results.

At our branch AGM in October we had a poor attendance once again even though we booked Margaret Southgate of the Guild of One-Name Studies to speak after the AGM. However, most of the committee members were returned unopposed, with David Shewring becoming our Vice- Chairman, Chairman - Mike Jones, Secretary - Jane Jones, Treasurer - Creighton Sims, Projects Officer - Deborah Cooke, and Library - Jan Johnson.

Meic Jones, Pontypridd & Rhondda Branch Chairman

13.6 SWANSEA BRANCH REPORT

Over the last year, following feedback from our members, the nature of our meetings has changed somewhat. It seemed to be the opinion that additional guidance with research would be welcome. This wasn't possible to any great extent at our monthly meetings if guest speakers were attending, due to time limitations. As a consequence of this we decided that we would hold research sessions in Swansea Central Library on alternate months. This would provide an opportunity for members to research using the Society's Database and the library's computers, with access to the Internet and free use of 'Find my Past' and 'Ancestry'. Sessions have been held in the Discovery Room at the library on Thursday evenings from 6–7.45pm. Members of the public and those wishing guidance on how to begin their family history were also invited to attend. We have helped several beginners, some of whom we hope may become new members and been able to progress research for others. Several members who are at work during the day have also welcomed the chance to make use of the computers during these evening sessions.

We have been fortunate to have had excellent speakers who have interested and informed us over the year. We are always grateful for their input. Most recently, at the end of last year Gerald Gabb spoke to us about an earlier Swansea and we are looking forward to the publication of his latest book. In January Mr Kim Collis, West Glamorgan Archivist, took us all to the depths in County Hall on a tour of the Strongroom. It was interesting to see how all the volumes and artefacts are stored and how our requests for registers etc are dealt with and returned to the correct place. Some sympathy for the staff who have to work there was expressed! Kim has become a regular speaker every January. He keeps us informed of Archive news and any likely changes which are planned for the future.

The loyal transcription team continues to work away on a Thursday morning. Over the last year we are mostly occupied with transcribing school admission registers. Some of these have already been published by the society. The latest to be completed is the Hafod Copperworks register, whilst Kilvey Copperworks register has been transcribed and is now awaiting checking.

Last October, despite terrible weather and threats of flooding we were relieved to arrive at the Open Day in Merthyr intact. We dealt with several enquiries particularly related to our branch and it is always good to chat to the public, to members of our other branches and to stall holders too. Fortunately, the journey back home was much less traumatic.

We had a very enjoyable day at the Bookfair at the Royal Institution ('The Old Museum') last Autumn. We sold a number of society publications. Books in which family history could be recorded were very

popular, a sign that many of us are realising the importance of providing an easily accessible version of our family history for our descendants to read in the future perhaps?

We also attended the Family and Local History Day at the Waterfront Museum in May. This event will be held again this year on Saturday, May 11th and we plan to be there.

We look forward to the year ahead and the hope that more members will come forward to help in the running of the branch.

Cherry King
Swansea Branch Secretary