

# CYLCHGRAWN HANES TEULUOEDD DYFED

Cyfrwl 14 Rhif 7  
Rhagfyr 2022



## DYFED FAMILY HISTORY JOURNAL

Volume 14 Number 7  
December 2022

# Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Dyfed Family History Society

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 513347

President **The Right Reverend Joanna S. Penberthy** M.A., M.th.  
*Llymydd* The Bishop of St Davids.

Chairman **Position vacant (tba)**  
*Cadeirydd*

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### **Pembrokeshire County Archivist**

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Pembrokeshire, SA61 2PE.

### **The Representative of the NLW**

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## \* TRUSTEES

In accordance with the Charity Commission's regulations  
all of the elected Officers are the Trustees of the Society.

**Please quote your membership number in any correspondence.**

Work on the **April Journal** will begin as soon as this one finishes  
but the deadline for copy is **15 February 2023**.

It is sad to think that in the last journal we were celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, only now to be mourning her passing on the 8<sup>th</sup> September. Like many who have only ever known a Queen as our monarch, it is going to take some time getting used to having a King, but it is a historic time to live through and include in our family history. Now we have to look forward to the Coronation of King Charles III on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at Westminster Abbey.

The feedback received from our Anniversary edition has been positive, thank you to all of you who sent emails to me. I will try to include “snippets” from the archive copies in the next few journals. Can I still ask for you all to consider writing something for the journal as it is only your contributions that enables its production?

Have you ever considered submitting a part of your family tree (Birth Brief) to the Journal (obviously not more than 4/5 generations) in the hope that another member is linked or can help with an inevitable brick wall?

The “small token of our appreciation” for the founder members that were mentioned in the last issue have been posted and I am hoping that you have all received them (despite the postal strikes).

Our AGM in April 2023 (date to be confirmed) in Carmarthen, will be the first face to face one we have had in 3 years, it would be lovely to see as many local members as possible who can make it. Further details will be in the April journal, Facebook page and website.

The past few years we have held this meeting on Zoom which has enabled many non-Dyfed based UK and overseas members to attend, who would not normally have the chance, but hopefully with the introduction of our new Online Discussion Group those members will still be able to participate “in person” in the Society. I would like to offer my congratulations to Rosaleen Boardman, David Cuffley and Gareth Morgan for putting together the first “Online Discussion Group Meeting” on Monday 24 October; we had 30+ attendees, several from the USA. Another is planned for 24 November and hopefully will continue monthly after that (but maybe not on Christmas Eve!)

*Editor*



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# Branch Meetings and Other Events

(The venues for branch events are listed inside the back cover, unless otherwise stated)

## Cardigan Branch

06 Dec Christmas Lunch at Cardigan Golf Club 12.30  
(please contact secretary)

## Carmarthen Branch

Please check on the website for future events

## Haverfordwest Branch

Meetings will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month in the Green Room, Leisure Centre, Haverfordwest 7–9pm. Pembrokeshire Archive visits will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday.

14 Dec Afternoon at the Archives 1–4pm  
17 Jan to be confirmed 7–9pm Green Room  
21 Feb to be confirmed 7–9pm Green Room  
08 Mar Afternoon at the Archives 1–4pm  
18 Apr to be confirmed 7–9pm Green Room

## Llanelli Branch

16 Jan Bruce Wallace – One house, three lives  
20 Feb Debra John – An Edwardian Maid (Start 2pm)  
20 Mar Margaret Davies – Her Family History

## London Branch

Please check on the website for future events

## Upper Towy Valley Branch

Held at Our Lady Catholic Church Hall, College View, Llandovery  
(unless otherwise stated)

25 Jan Members' Interests Meeting  
22 Feb Terry Norman – "What's in a Name? History of the Dinewfws in Ammanford and District Street Names"

### **Explore Your Archive!**

Dec 6 Carmarthenshire Archives, 9 St Peter's Street, Carmarthen  
14:00–16:30

Further details are given at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/explore-your-archive-carmarthenshire-archives-tickets-452768882917>

Please note that this is a free event but spaces are limited to 30 people.

### **Online Discussion Group**

Monthly – date and times may vary so look on our Facebook page and Website Events and Society Spotlight for information.

24 Nov 7pm (GMT) via Zoom please contact [online@dyfedfhs.org.uk](mailto:online@dyfedfhs.org.uk) for joining instructions

### **Dyfed Family History Society AGM**

22 April 11am–3pm Carmarthen Library, 9 St Peter's Street, Carmarthen

### **Where to find out about other Genealogical Events:**

Family History Federation

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events>

GENEVA (GENeological Events and Activities – run on behalf of GENUKI and the FHF) <http://www.geneva.weald.org.uk/doku.php>

## **April 1990 Vol. 3 No 6**

It was noted that “Most of the stationary we now use is of the re-cycled kind, so Dyfed was the first Welsh Society to ‘go green’ and we are still trying to maintain that now with the use of compostable packaging.”

We used to sell back issues of the journal, and we still do have quite a few of the older issues and many of the newer issues – anyone who has missing copies who would like any please let me know and we will be happy to provide them free so long as you will cover the postal costs if it is more than one copy – Editor

## Your Journal Needs You!

This issue of the journal was very difficult to put together due to the lack of submitted content. It must be stressed that unless the members contribute it is impossible for me, as Editor, to fill the 64 pages that makes up the journal.

I do sometimes have large articles which would fill 10–15 pages of the journal, but I don't think that would be very interesting for you the reader. Therefore, I try hard to keep articles to a maximum of 5–6 pages (I know sometimes with inclusion of pictures this might run over!).

I would like to include a lot more shorter articles but can only achieve this if you send them to me! They do not need to be complex pieces of text – just a short story of one member of your family tree that had an interesting tale to tell or how you broke down a brick wall or a photo that had some significance to your research.

Please help me to continue to produce the journal that everyone says they enjoy receiving, without your input I cannot do that.

Editor



# Family Trees aka Birth Briefs

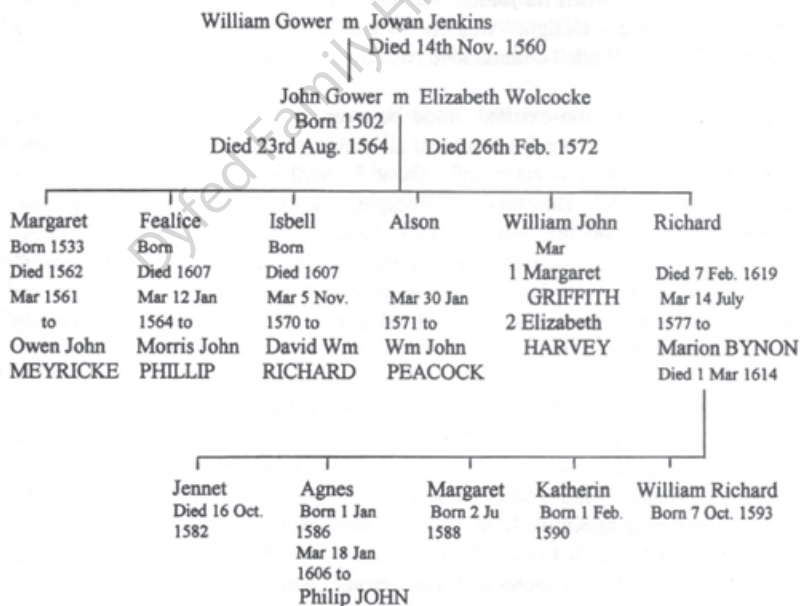
The Society used to regularly publish these in the journal, there are some rules “Birth briefs – when submitted should be accompanied by a relevant article 500–1500 words, only 5 generations”. The example below obviously got through the net! But it would be nice to have more of these and a place to store them on the website with an index – perhaps a future project?

## THE GOWERS OF ST ISHMAEL’S, CARMARTHENSHIRE

### 16th and 17th CENTURIES

As far as records go, the Gowers resided in the parish of St. Ishmael’s in the first half of the 16th century. Great credit must be paid to the incumbents of the Parish Church who not only wrote in a clear hand but also managed to preserve the records without mutilation. They stand out as being some of the best in the land.

Therefore, it may be of interest to read the following family chart which has quite astonishing details considering the distance of time.



Mabel Davies (600) The Parlour, Betton Court, Betton Strange, Shrewsbury, SY5 6HZ

## Online Discussion Group

The Dyfed Family History Society is offering its members the opportunity to join its new Online Discussion Group. The aim of this group is to provide support and encouragement for people researching their West Wales roots including family members who emigrated elsewhere. We want to create a friendly “community” type group where we can learn from each other and discuss topics that cover our discoveries and family research methods.

We held our first meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup> and were really pleased to have over 30 participants, in what turned out to be a global get together. Members “zoomed in” from Kansas and Arizona USA as well as various corners of the British Isles. Many thanks to David Cuffley whose short talk ‘Kevin Bacon Family History Laboratory: 6 degrees of separation’ led us to ferret out unknown connections between those of us present. Also, thanks to Gareth Morgan for providing IT backup.

We welcome feedback and would be pleased to receive suggestions (via the email address below) for future topics for discussion and/or offers to give short presentations.

Our next get together via Zoom is on 24<sup>th</sup> November @ 7pm UK time. Please register with your full name and membership number via our new dedicated online email [online@dyfedfhs.org.uk](mailto:online@dyfedfhs.org.uk). We look forward to seeing you from wherever in the world you are.

*Rosaleen Boardman (6495)*

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## Family History Federation

Have you checked out the resources available on this site? There are many which might be worth looking at, including The Really Useful Podcast introduced by Joe Saunders with many expert guests.

It is in its second series with Episode 1 being “Beginning Your Family History”.

‘Every family historian has a story about how they got into family history. We share our experiences of starting out with this great hobby and share tips for others who are just beginning’.

Joe is joined by Mish Holman, Kelly Cornwell, Jane Hough and Andrew Martin.

The first series had 6 episodes: Newspapers, One-Place Studies, Social Media, On Line Events, Young People and Occupations.

You will find the link below:

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/podcast>

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## Website How To – number 2

### HOW TO READ OUR JOURNAL ON AN IPAD

1. You must be logged on to your membership account.
2. Click on Resources – Journal Archive.

#### **From SAFARI**

3. Select the Journal you wish to read and wait for it to open.
  - a. At the top of the screen, tap on the share icon (it looks like a square with an arrow pointing up).
  - b. Click on the application you use to read pdf documents (usually Books, Blureader, Documents – you might have to scroll right and use the More button to find it).
  - c. Look for “Books” and tap that, it should download and open on your screen.

#### **From CHROME**

3. Tap on the journal that you want to read
  - a. A small box pops up at the bottom of the screen with a blue down arrow and the word ‘Download’. Click on the word ‘Download’.
  - b. Click on the application you use to read pdf documents (usually Books, Blureader, Documents).
  - c. This will open the journal in your chosen application.

Happy reading!

# Dyfed Family History Society 1982–2022

## A look back – Part I

WHILST LOOKING back over the 40 years of journals, I extracted a few highlights of the Society and have included them here – hope you enjoy!

The first edition of our journal was published in Autumn 1982 and consisted of 38 pages; the editor was Sheila Rowlands. The logo of our society is based on a motif of the Nevern Cross designed by Lynne Davies. The society was inaugurated on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1982 and had 130 members in its first two months. Our first chairman was Bill Phillips, the secretary was David Lewis, and the treasurer was David May. Our first honorary member was Maureen Patch, the Dyfed County archivist. The journal contained the names and address of our first 123 members and included names with which most long-term members are familiar, examples are John and Sheila Rowlands, Stephen Jones, Owen Bushell, Vera Lowe, Brian Swann, Rosalie Lilwall and Moira Evans. We had one member overseas (Dublin).

The second edition showed that our membership had risen to 167, including one from Washington state USA and one from Sydney Australia.

By the spring of 1983 we had become a charity, this enabled the society to claim what is now called Gift Aid.

In winter 1985 we issued membership number 500 and in August 1989 membership number 1,000 was issued to a member in Canada. I don't believe we have details of how many of those members were still current.

In April 1990 the society bought a new electronic typewriter to help the editor, Sue Passmore, to produce the journal. We also announced that we are the first FHS in Wales to “go green” as most of our stationery is recycled.

April 1991, we announced our first price increase when membership rose from £5 to £6, they also rose the following April to £8.

The Aberystwyth branch closed in 1992 and a new branch was formed in Cardigan.

A request was made in April 1992 to form a Computer User Group, 11 members subsequently expressed an interest.

Transcribing the 1881 census was completed by August 1993.



The AGM 1994 was held in St Peter's Hall Carmarthen and the speaker was Canon Wyn Evans Head of Theology at Trinity College Carmarthen.

In April 1994 the journal published a review of a computer programme called Brothers Keeper which cost £50. The reviewer, Mike Flude, recommended shopping around first.

The August journal 1994 welcomed the Upper Towy Branch.

*Colin Potter (5576)*  
*General Secretary*

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## Discoveries unearthed from the storeroom

MOST OF YOU will not know of our “storeroom” in Carmarthen, but it has been a bit neglected in the last few years and we have decided that it is an expense we cannot retain so we are cataloguing it – a long process.

A few of the “discoveries” we have unearthed so far are:

1. Pembrokeshire (and others) Quaker Records

Transcribed by Freda Woollard 1988

Marriage Bonds – West Wales and Gower 1798

Marriages 1700–1816

Strays 1700–1816

Deaths and Burials 1736–1742

Emigrants to Pennsylvania

Members Attending Monthly Meetings

Sufferings 1736

2. The Charles Family Lineage by Tom Charles of Belmont, California who kindly donated a copy to the Society in 1995

3. The Isitts and related families by Paul A R Newbury

4. Other data on CD and on Fiche, not yet digitised.

These records will be digitised and uploaded to the Resources area of the website soon. As we find more “treasures” we will update you.

## Letters to the Editor

I REALLY ENJOYED the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary journal; it brought back many good memories of my active involvement in the Society. In 1997 the chairman, Tom Evans, asked me to develop a website. Initially it only had six pages stored on the West Wales website stating the aims of the Society, its constitution, the advantages of membership, and how to join. All contact addresses were postal with landline telephone numbers. My first task, as membership secretary, was to transfer the existing Society records onto relational databases of members addresses, subscriptions, research interests, and offices held. Then to document procedures to create and maintain these and to produce statistics and reports for the committee and journal. On completion I was able to pass this on to John James in 1999 so that I could concentrate on our website.

My objective was to create an attractive home page using the Society logo of the 'Celtic Key' with coloured text and images. As you will have seen, from copies of the old cover of the journal, it was in monochrome and lacked definition. I scanned the logo into my PC and used a vector smoothing program to 'join the pixels' and superimposed this onto a coloured outline of Wales to indicate the location of Dyfed (see attached image). Access to subsidiary pages was by titled button images. I was fortunate to obtain the domain name of [dyfedfhs.org.uk](http://dyfedfhs.org.uk) on a new server, with post-boxes for officer's e-mails, and thus could develop the content.



I was still responsible for members interests so I created a 'members only' area for these, an index to journal articles, fiche for sale, and a message routine for 'help wanted'. This meant that as well as using the HTML mark-up language, I had to learn JavaScript and to program in PERL. Us old ones can do it if we try! At regular intervals I sent a questionnaire to members, who had e-mail addresses, to determine what they needed and what they could provide. By 2002 we had uploaded 2,000 stray records, 838 photos of churches and chapels, and over 4,000 members interests and marriages. This shows what membership of a Society can do if they get involved. So, if you are thinking of volunteering for office, just do it as I did; it will give you great personal satisfaction and enjoyment.

***John Hughes (1946)***

Dear Ms Cate Hobbs,

HOW MUCH I have enjoyed leafing through the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal!

You will see from my membership number (408) I have been member of the Society for a very long time – but not quite a founder member! It was lovely to see the names of early ‘Holders of Office’ who made me so welcome, even though, at the time I was not living in Wales. One of my family names is Rowlands, and I compared notes often with John Rowlands, and was sad when they moved away. Another member who gave me so much information, and assistance, was John E. Hughes. He helped me enormously and I was able to add a little information to his work about my side of things.

One of his ‘treaties’ is about the Rowlands of Cwrt-y-Cwm, in Llanychaiarn, and on the cover is a photo of the chapel at Blaenplywf. My 3xgreat grandfather, William Rowlands, Cwrt-y-Cwm, 1778–1859, was largely responsible for the early beginnings of the Calvinistic /Methodist cause in this area, and also of Capel Goshen, on the edge of the river, both of which, very sadly, have been very recently closed.

You mention in today’s Journal that you have a few copies of John’s book. Are they still available, and if so may I purchase a copy?

***Judith Russill (408)***

*(There are still some copies of John’s book available for sale – Editor)*

Dear Cate,

I WANT TO SAY ‘Thank you’ for the fascinating Journal you prepared for the Society’s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I was especially interested to see the photograph of the 1988 Committee. Mr Peter Dawkins-Palmer – a ‘sideways’ relative of mine – did extensive research into our ‘Palmer’ family, along with another ‘sideways’ cousin, Mr Allan Palmer. I was not fortunate enough to meet Peter, but was lucky to get to know Allan, who shared a deal of his family history research with me. Their work helped me in my task of preparing a book about our ancestors. The title of my book is, ‘Our Lighthouse Family: Thomas Palmer of Dale, and his Descendants.’ I will gladly send a memory stick containing the digital version of the book to anyone who may be interested.

***Sheila Lewis (265561)***

***Email: sheilalewis48@mail.com***

# Archive News

CEREDIGION ARCHIVES has enjoyed welcoming increasing numbers of researchers and volunteers back to the office during 2022.

It's no longer necessary to book before you visit although researchers may find it better to have their documents ready waiting for them when they arrive, so please feel free to let us know you're planning to visit us.

We're still taking some precautions like providing sanitiser at the door, keeping the place well ventilated (wear a vest on colder days please!) and we still have Perspex screens. But none of those should detract from the research experience!

We have been participating in the Welsh Government's "Summer of Fun" introducing youngsters to aspects of the archival collections via a "History Hunt" through Aberystwyth and a competition to colour in John Speed's map of the county (not the original!).

We also went to the National Eisteddfod, held this year in historic Tregaron – although we didn't have our own stall, we managed to distribute loads of copies of our lovely free booklet about early maps "Look Closely: Cardiganshire Surveyed". Copies are still available if anyone would like one.

We are gearing up for this year's Explore Your Archives and have hired the Aberystwyth Bandstand for a week of archival-related displays, talks and activities – we hope to see you there, so watch out for details on our social media accounts and website!

Ancestry is visiting us to film the parish registers, which should make the online experience of family historians even better.

Meanwhile all the usual business of a record office goes on, with many new collections arriving, a pleasing number of volunteers offering their services and – in consequence – new collections being catalogued and made available on a regular basis.

***Helen M C Palmer***

*Archifydd y Sir, Rheolwr Gnybodaeth a Chofnodion  
County Archivist, Information and Records Manager*

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## Archive Wales Search is now available

Archives Wales Search enables users to search the catalogues of archival records held in repositories throughout Wales using data from the Archives Hub.

See: <https://www.library.wales/index.php?id=7977> The site is hosted by the National Library of Wales.

For other news across the sector in Wales please see: <https://archives.wales/>

### 1921 Census

We understand that, although the 1921 Census is now part of subscription this does not extend to access via Archives and Libraries, the exception being at the National Library of Wales.

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## Updated Memorial Inscriptions on the Website

### Pembrokeshire

Ambleston	Bethel Calvinistic Methodist Chapel
Llandewi Velfrey	Bethel Chapel
Llandissilio	Rhydwylym New Burial Ground
Llanfyrnach	Hermon Chapel – updated & photos
New Moat	St Nicholas Church Penffordd C.M. Chapel Llysyfran – St Meilyr Church
Rudbaxton	Crundale United Reform Church Bethlehem Baptist Chapel
Spittal	Salem English Baptist Chapel Zion's Hill Congregational Chapel
Mynachlogddu	Bethel Chapel with New Graveyard 1952 St Dogmael's Church – small number headstones only
Narberth	Bethesda Chapel

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## Donated to the Society

A COPY OF THE New Testament (in Welsh) has been donated to the Society which contains the birth details of the EVANS family:

John Evans born 11 July 1863 at Penrhiw Nr Pencader

Anne Joshua born 9 April 1862 at Blanywain Nr Llanpipsunt

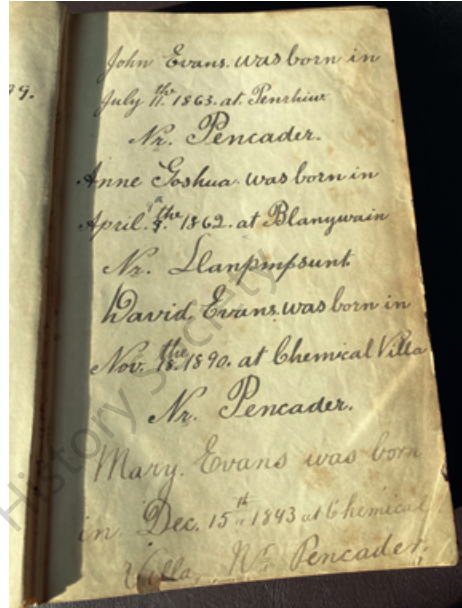
Marriage John and Anne Evans 1889 (Registered in Newcastle Emlyn)

David Evans born 18 November 1890 at Chemical Villa, Nr Pencader

Mary Evans born 15 December 1893 at Chemical Villa, Nr Pencader

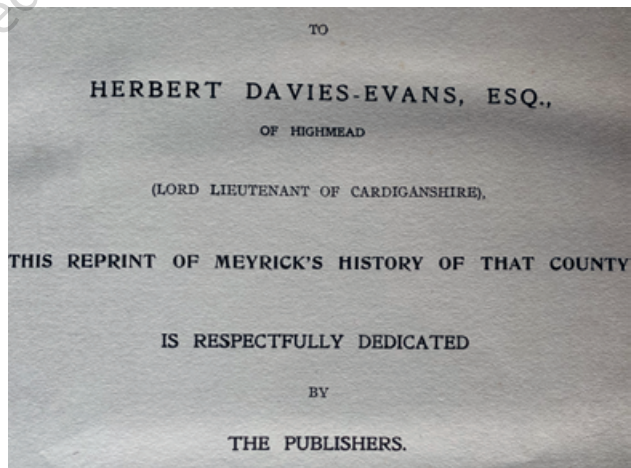
Hannah Evans born 16 April 1896 at Chemical Villa, Nr Pencader

If this is your family and you want the bible, please get in touch with the Secretary.



One of the actual entries in the bible

We have also received a copy of the "History of Cardiganshire" compiled by Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick, it is dedicated by the publishers to Herbert Davies-Evans Esq. of Highmead, Lord Lieutenant of Cardiganshire, printed in 1907. Handwritten inside the front cover is



J Morgan, Eglwysrwr. This book was donated by Fiona Gordon (3359) of Shrewsbury. We are currently looking for a suitable home for this donation.



**Herbert Davies-Evans Esq.**

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## April 1999 Vol 6 No. 6

### **“NEWS FROM THE CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHIVES**

There had been considerable concern over the future of the Carmarthenshire Archives during the past months but now the news is good.

The Records Office at County Hall, Carmarthen has seen many lows and highs over the last two years, from a threat of closure to a successful lottery application... The grant will enable the office to move to part of the old Ysgol Bro Myrddin site in Carmarthen. This should take place sometime in 1999 and will mean a fairly long closure period. ...”

We know that this wasn't the end of the problems for the archives but hopefully with the opening of the new Archives building in July this year all this will be a thing of the past (excuse the pun).

### **DEC 2001 – EXTRACT FROM THE CHAIRMAN (ELIN WILLIAMS) REPORT**

“I am pleased in my first report as Chairman to say that the Carmarthen Record Office has now reopened for business after the recent disastrous flooding, thankfully no documents were lost!”

### **AUGUST 2022 VOL 14 NO. 6**

The new Archive building opened in Carmarthen Library July 2022.



## Phillipps of Cilsant and Llanfyrnach

In a previous article (Vol 13.7 Dec 2019) on the Devonalds of Graig (Llanfyrnach), I came across a Mary Phillipps who was the wife of Thomas Devonald in the seventeenth century. According to a tree drawn up by Major Francis Jones<sup>1</sup> [1] she was descended from Owain Phillipps, Lord of Cilsant, a son of Sir Thomas Phillipps of Picton, Mary's father being a John Phillipps. This was my motivation for looking into the family, using such resources as I could find.

Cilsant is itself an ancient title, tracing the progenitors of the Phillipps family back to Cadifor Fawr, including Sir Aaron Phillips the Crusader, and Meredith Phillips. This was the heritage of Thomas Phillipps, who was squire to the body of Henry VII, gained renown and a knighthood in the service of Henry VIII, and acquired Picton by marriage to Jan (/Jane/Sian) Dwnn, an heiress of the Wogan family. Sir Thomas and his wife Jan had many children, the eldest, John, inheriting Picton and its environs, while Owain retained the older title of Lord of Cilsant. This would seem to imply that Owain was the second son, however neither Dwnn [2] nor the Golden Grove book [3] place him as second. George Owen of Henllys however says he was the fourth and youngest son of Sir Thomas [4].

Be that as it may, Owain Phillipps, Lord of Cilsant, married twice. He had a large family by his first wife, Sioned (Janett) v. Lewys ap Thomas ap John, and a further family with his second wife, Catherine (Katrin) v. John Thomas ap Harry of Carmarthen. The GG pedigrees are not easy to assimilate, with large and complex patterns of descendants, presented with a need for making best use of the space available on a page. The first name John, occurs in both branches (a total of five), but after process of elimination, Mary's father was found to be John Bowen Phillipps, probably the eldest son of Owen's second marriage. John Bowen Phillipps married three times, but his only recorded offspring are two daughters from his second wife Anes Morgan. Mary Phillipps, the elder of the two, married Thomas Devonald of Graig, the starting point of this enquiry.

A closer examination of the Golden Grove pedigree [page D856] may help, although not straightforward to interpret. By his first wife, Sioned, Owain Phillipps Lord of Cilsant fathered the following:

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<sup>1</sup> The handwriting of this has been queried as not that of Major Jones, however the document at the NLW is recorded with the Marion Thomas Deeds [GB 0210 MARMAS] as "a Pedigree compiled by Major Francis Jones, of the Devonald and Morse Families of Llanfyrnach and the associated family of Skeel of Trewylim, Pembrokeshire".



Catherine, David Ph. of Cilsant, Inon (Eion) of Cardigan (of whom more anon), Thomas Ph. of Llangan, William, Phillip, John Ph. Tew, and Griffith Ph.

By his second wife, Catherine or Katrin v. John Thomas ap Harri of Carmarthen, Owain had firstly 6 daughters, John Bowen Phillipps is the first male descendant shown on this side, with just two daughters of his own – Mary who married Thomas Dyvnaid (alternative spellings of the surname abound), and Jane, who married Lewis Phe John Rees of Llanvernach. After John Bowen Phillipps, two more daughters of Owain are shown, then we have John Phillipps of Blaentâf, who married Elizabeth daughter of John Garnons, then Fabian, and two more sons, Ievan and Thomas, the last two being half-siblings.

The Blaentâf line continues with the children of John and Elizabeth: four sons – Harry of Blaentâf, Richard, Hector and Owen Phillipps, who married a daughter of Griffith Lloyd. This Owen had three sons – John, Mathias and David, and three daughters – Margaret m. John Thomas James of Lletty Ffwlburt, Elizabeth m. firstly John Morgan, and secondly Morgan Thomas of Penrhydel(?), and Ursula, third daughter of John and Elizabeth of Blaentâf, who married James John, fidler (sic). [3]

What of the locations involved? *Cilsant*, in the parish of Llanwinio, formerly a Lordship under Cadifor Fawr of Blaen Cuch, is now a pleasant-looking farmhouse and outbuildings, like so many sites which have previously held importance in the community. It is probable that the original house (perhaps fortified) was adjacent to the present dwelling. [7]

The British Listed Buildings website tells us:

“Gentry house of the C18. Recorded as one of the principal medieval estates of West Wales, in the same family for 650 years. Llwh Llawen Fawr is the first recorded, in the C11, Lewis Glyn Cothi addressed elegies to owners in the C15, and the family adopted the name Philipps in the C16, the last, William Philipps dying in 1747. John Williams Esq was resident 1748–61, thereafter it was tenanted. It may be that the old house adjoined the present one which looks of the later C18 as in 1861 a visitor recorded that most of the old mansion had been pulled down except for an outbuilding called the Old Kitchen said to have been a chapel...”

*Blaentâf* may originally have been a lesser holding in the Cilsant Lordship before John (Bowen) Phillipps build his mansion around 1580. It was located in the parish of Llanfyrnach, the location now known as Blaentâf Cottages, close

to the river Tâf, on a modern map adjacent to the old railway line which ran from Whitland to Crymmych, and on to Cardigan. The railway would not have been there in John Phillipps' time. After several generations no more is heard of the house of Blaentâf, but traces of a courtyard have been found in the vicinity. It is likely that the house was dismantled and the lands subsumed into one of the larger estates nearby. [7]

Dates are difficult to pin down, neither Dwnn nor Golden Grove give any clues. Looking on the internet, there is much inconsistency, however Sir Thomas Phillipps of Picton is accepted as having died in or around 1520 [Dic. of Welsh Biography]

Owen Phillipps, Lord of Cilsant, was most likely born in Kidwelly in 1505, though one site says he was born at Picton Castle. He died in 1606 (again dates vary, but the more reliable sources I have found online refer to Picton Castle archives and other documents),<sup>2</sup> which would put him at 101 years old – unlikely, but not impossible! His place of death was most likely the parish of Clydey, North Pembrokeshire, as given by the paigeramsey website, citing his will of 1606, though Cilsant Castle is also suggested.

He is also recorded as being of Plas Llanstephan. His father, Sir Thomas Phillipps, had held high office in Llanstephan and Haverfordwest, so Owen could well have been involved although it was the eldest son, John who succeeded Sir Thomas as Steward of Llanstephan and Oysterlowe, and Coroner and Escheator of Pembrokeshire and the Lordship of Haverfordwest.

[He is not to be confused with Owen ap Philip born in Swansea in 1456, son of Philip Price, who married Elizabeth Stonebridge and died in 1544. Sir Simon Phillipps of Devonshire and others were the issue of this marriage.]

Moving on to the next generation, George Owen [4] writing in about 1603–04 says that “Blaen Tave is the mansion house of John Bowen Phillipps, and by him built about xxxii yeares past.” So if Blaentâf were built around 1570, we could assume that it was John Bowen Phillipps who was the custodian of Thomas Devonald (see below).

There is an interesting document, dated 1585, between George Owen of Henllys and John Phellippes of Llanfyrnach ar Daf, gent., summarised in the

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<sup>2</sup> <https://paigeramsey.com/familytree/1137.htm>; and <https://geni.com/people/Sir-Owen-Phillips>

record as follows: “Grant of the custody of Thomas Dovenallt, nephew<sup>3</sup> and heir of Richard Dovenallt now deceased... etc.”

So Thomas Devonald was under age when he inherited, and John Phellippes (or Phillipps) was appointed as his guardian until he came of age. It is still not quite certain which of the John Phillipps’ is nominated, perhaps John Bowen Phillipps, father of Mary, but the younger John Phillipps is known to have lived in Llanfyrnach. It could have been either. Two further documents of 1592 and 1593 imply that by then Thomas Devonald had come of age and was dealing with his own affairs, but this is no help with the Phillipps’s.

Further there is a letter dated 1615 from John Phillipps of Llanvernagh, gent., to the Right Honourable Ralph, Lord Eure, Lord President and Lord Lieutenant of the County of Pembroke, pleading for restitution of certain funds intended for bridge-building, for the poor, for maimed soldiers and for injured seamen, which never reached their intended beneficiaries, but remained in the pockets of various officials: he names and castigates some well known figures of the day. This letter is lengthy, and makes interesting reading [8]. Clearly a man with a social conscience.

Having started this search with a plethora of John Phillipps’s, it is now down to two. We are left with the questions (a) are the references to John Ph. of Llanfyrnach the same as John of Blaentâf? (b) Could John Bowen Phillipps (the elder) have built Blaentâf, then left or transferred it to his younger brother? (c) Is there another location in Llanfyrnach which could have been the residence of either?

So far we have no other evidence such as wills which could throw any further light.

In conclusion, this can by no means be a complete history: the events are too long ago, sparsely spaced, and the names are too numerous to consider, but its interest lies in the focus on a minor branch of a family with ancient roots, but still retaining a dignity of place and heritage. Their status might be described as “bonheddwyr” in Welsh, or in English: “minor gentry” or “yeomen” (though neither term is adequate), landholders in lesser portions than their forefathers, and with some authority in their district.

My thanks go to Bettye Kirkwood, who introduced me to this intriguing

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<sup>3</sup> A mistranslation of the Latin “nepos” = grandson.

family, and has supplied me with much of the resource material, and her thoughts along the way.

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  - [7] Francis Jones: Historic Houses of Pembrokeshire and their Families (1996), and later edition: Historic Pembrokeshire Homes and their Families (2001), ed. Caroline Charles Jones.
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# The Bateman Family of Pembrokeshire

## Part I of 3

### Foreword by Bill Griffiths (803)

*“Most family historians are able to labour back using census returns and parish registers without difficulty through the 19<sup>th</sup> century but are then confronted with a paucity of information in earlier centuries to be revealed in wills, deeds, land-tax assessments, and secondary sources hidden in local history books. Above all, they must make assumptions. A widower buried in 1830 aged 70 must have had parents in 1760 and at least one wife too. In Wales it is probable the subjects have common patronymic surnames which makes research difficult. Anne MACKINTOSH managed to trace the ‘pannwr’ EVANS family of millers at Penglyn Mill in Minwear back to their origins in Haverfordwest and the BATEMAN clan of Quakers, Aldermen, Mayors and merchants. She has achieved this without leaving her home in North Island of New Zealand; revealing a world in which the local politicians were fighting a pandemic, an English parliament crippling them with tax, plus a civil war and appalling religious discrimination. She has created this splendid piece of historical research without visiting a library or an archive office and that is truly amazing.”*

My 8x great grandparents William BATEMAN (bc 1638–1690), known as “The Elder”, and his wife Sarah Elizabeth BATEMAN (bc 1640–1688) were prominent and relatively wealthy merchants of fine cloths in Wales “a fiercely individual and ancient land” where “its people have an unshakeable pride in their heritage”. (34) He was also “one of the chief Quakers of Pembrokeshire”. (2 p17)

The BATEMAN family was well known and respected in Haverfordwest Town and County in Pembrokeshire throughout the centuries and, being civic minded, they also contributed to its growth and progress. Thought to have been established in and around Haverfordwest from as early as the 1500s, (1) it is believed that their beginnings originated in Hynybrwch (Honeyborough) some 7 miles south of Haverfordwest. (18 19) Ancient deeds make frequent mention of Honeyborough from about 1500, or earlier, of the possession by the BATEMANs. After approximately 200 years there were other owners until about 1780 when “it presented extensive ruins of very massive buildings, that to destroy required no small labour”. (8)

It appears, thus far, that Jenkin /Jenkin BATMAN / BATEMAN of Honeyborough (bc 1450 Johnston, Rhos, Pembrokeshire), was the progenitor of my BATEMAN family line. (19) William BATEMAN’s forebears were also prominent merchants with his great grandfather Richard BATEMAN, Alderman in 1579 then Mayor, building the Haverfordwest Quay in 1583 (8). William’s grandfather John BATEMAN (1550–1624), also a Mayor of Haverfordwest, had the quay rebuilt in 1616 (8, 43 p225) when 290 people volunteered to repair it which saved the town £8 9s. (42 p12,) John also bought Honeyhook and Wallis from Thomas BOWEN of Trefloyne 12 March 1602/03 (41, 3).

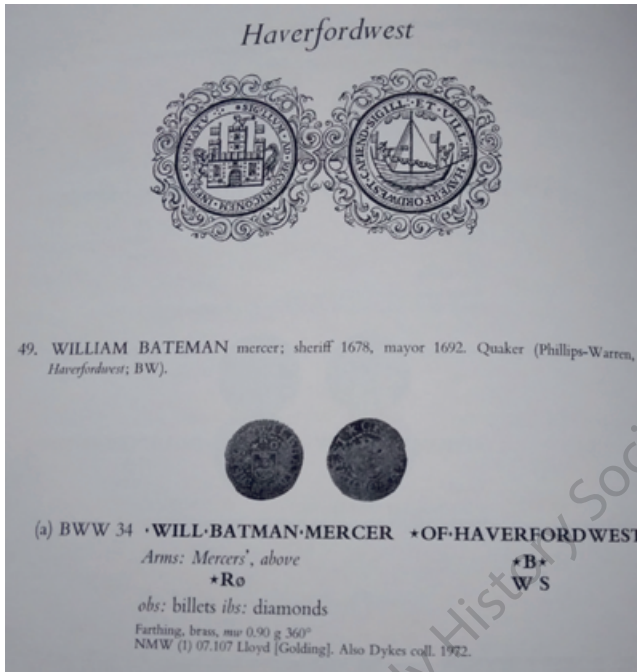
Henry VIII (reigned 1509–1547) created Haverfordwest (name derived from ‘western goat ford’ (10) as a separate county and town in 1534 under the Second Act of Union. (27) The majority of this market town comprises the old parishes of St Mary, St Martin and St Thomas and lies on the west bank of the upper reaches of the West Cleddau River. Ships of up to forty tons could sail on an incoming tide mooring at a busy Haverfordwest Quay. Consequently, it became a vital port as it enabled merchants to import and export goods particularly from Bristol. (4) In the late 1600’s Haverfordwest was described as “A very fair, Populous, and Trading Town, having a very convenient Key for Ships of Burthen.” It had a “strong Castle, a Priory”, “a very good Free Grammar School, a Charity School for Boys & Girls, & an Alms House for poor People.” It also

had “lately established a Custom House for all Goods exported & imported in the Town.” (49, 50)

The family lived in High Street in the thirty-acre Parish of St Mary, which ascends steeply from the river to the Church which apparently was built at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. (9) I suspect they lived near the lower end of the street and within proximity of the Friends’ Meeting House in Quay Street. During Roman settlement the town had formerly existed within the Haverfordwest castle walls. Thereafter dwellings were built on steep streets outside the castle; “narrow and dirty as to be seriously dangerous” as described by Barber on a visit in 1802. (1) Another description was “highly inconvenient if not dangerous for carriages and more so as the streets are very ill paved. There are some good houses especially in the upper part; but the irregularity of the avenues and narrowness of all but one or two streets houses piled confusedly upon one another, the lower windows of some looking down upon the roofs of others render it intricate and unsightly on the entrance.” (28) A feature of Haverfordwest was that it was one of the “largest and abundant” (29) markets in Wales particularly in fish, corn, horses and cattle. Flemish weavers in villages in South Pembrokeshire undoubtedly contributed to the wealth of the county and would later contribute to the rise of the BATEMANS, as mercers i.e. traders in fine cloths and other cloths. Much of the wool, cloth and other trade from Haverfordwest was with Bristol, particularly with Puritan merchants from Bristol as strong links were kept with Parliamentary Bristol during the Civil War from 1642–1649. (1)

William BATEMAN, known as a ‘gentleman’ (42 intro) and as a merchant / mercer of some note, was one of few traders in Haverfordwest who could issue trade tokens, which would facilitate purchases from his shop. In England and Wales traders and merchants issued their own pennies, halfpenny and farthings between 1648–72 because national government would not provide this essential means of exchange. (40)

Haverfordwest has 12 known token issuers, the most for Wales showing the population of the country before the industrial revolution. William Bateman issued his own trader tokens in the 1660s and three different varieties of farthings are known, all very rare. They date from the 1660s and carry the arms of the mercer’s company on the obverse. William’s tokens show the arms of his mercer’s company on the front, that is he must have sold fabrics, silks, woollen goods, braid, buttons etc. (37)



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Between 1605 and 1750 the office of mayor of the town was filled thirteen times, and the office of sheriff of the town and county also thirteen times, by a BATEMAN. (38 p248) No other name appears so often in the lists of mayors and sheriffs. It was said that some of the magistrates 'formerly adherent to Charles Stuart' had 'an enmity against' William, who was Sherriff in 1678 (38), because he had been 'all along well-affected to the honest party'. (The Puritans/Parliamentarians) (2)

A Roundhead supporter, when most of the gentry were Royalist, William, his wife and family were involved in attempts to keep Haverfordwest protected and out of harm's way as much as possible during the English Civil War. Early in the war, in 1643, Mayor Richard BATEMAN and members of the town council entertained both Royalist and Parliamentary Commanders at different times to stop them attacking Haverfordwest. (3)

Following the execution of Charles I in 1649, the Parliament demanded rates from Haverfordwest. As there were "no more than 200 houses in the town with



2/3 of the inhabitants very poor due to the drastic decline in the cloth industry” the Mayor Richard BATEMAN wrote to request a reduction in rates. (4)

The Civil War also brought with it increased religious intolerance. In 1651 William BATEMAN, “mercator and burgess of long standing” (5) attended a meeting at St Thomas Green in Haverfordwest to express his dissatisfaction with the tone of services at St Thomas.

In October 1651 the Bubonic plague reached Pembrokeshire, brought in on a market day by sailors from an infected ship lying in Milford Haven. The plague “attacked the town of Haverfordwest in particular”. (6) Initially 207 people died in the first nine months (48 p228) but those numbers increased. By 1652 the mortality rate was over 400 (1, 43 p225), the situation was so dire “that the common council felt the strain of managing the affairs of the community in exceptional circumstances”. (42 p12) The town was also “greatly impoverished as a result of military occupation and burdensome taxation.” (42 p15)

The Mayor and Aldermen requested Justices of the Peace for the County to seek and collect ‘voluntary’ provisions and financial relief for Haverfordwest and the villages to the south and east including Honeyborough until the “pestilence” was over. (38) Disbursements “towards the relief of the sick and needy of the town” (42 p113) amounted to just under £50.00 which included money and the value of food stuffs such as bread, cheese, wheat etc. (42 p112)

On 15 November 1652 a letter was written to Edward Martine at the sign of the Golden Pestle and Mortar, Westminster from the Mayor and aldermen, including William BATEMAN, about army levies of “£553 5s demanded from the town due since the 25 December last” (42 p126). They were concerned about the town’s circumstances and requested “the stay of any further warrant”. This was followed by a letter to the Committee for the Army at the old Palace, Westminster: “the writers once more make known the sad conditions of this town” and that earlier assessments had “impoverished this town to make further payment” as “many of the ablest paymasters and others are since dead, leaving a great charge of children on the town, most of the inhabitants not having the ability to find themselves bread” They requested that the “order be given that the said twelve months be abated”. (42 p127)

During this time of the plague 1651–3 a ‘pest house’ was set up in Haverfordwest for the poorer victims of the plague who were isolated and cared for by the town. This was locked and “watched day and night by the common council”. (42 p15). William and Sarah’s stable in lower High Street (38) was



used as a makeshift isolation hospital, sometimes called a ‘cleansing house’, to take the overflow of convalescent patients from the pest house and some others when the plague was at its height. (42 p16) The town paid for repairs costing £2 10s 6d (42 p113) to William for the use of his stable “in the lower part of the town” (48 p229) for a cleansing house.

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*(Parts 2 & 3 to follow in the next couple of issues of the journal)*

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Special thanks to others who have assisted me in my research, including very grateful thanks to Bill Griffiths of Pembroke, Simon Hancock and Deborah Tilley and her Honey Harfat History Group of Haverfordwest.

## The Williams, the Watts and Nonconformity

About twelve years ago I had published in this journal an article entitled "Have I got the right Williams family". I am now reasonably certain that I have, at least as far back as my 3 x great grandfather; and various gaps have been filled. My grandmother ELIZA WILLIAMS was born at Eglwyswrw in 1886 and what has recently fascinated me is the strong non-conformist element in both her father's and mother's families.

Eliza's parents were THOMAS GWYNNE WILLIAMS (1862–1932) born at Nevern and SARAH née



WATTS (1865–1935) born at Meline. I knew already that both of them, and some of their children, were buried at Brynberian Chapel as I had been able to visit there and see the group of family graves.

Thomas' parents were THOMAS WILLIAMS (1836–1894) born at Bayvil and MARGARET née GWYNNE (1837–1918) born at Meline. I was delighted to discover a transcription of their gravestone on the Dyfed Family History Society site (a great resource – many thanks!) and to find that they were buried at Penuel Cemaes Baptist Chapel, Nevern together with one of their children.

“Er serchus gof am THOMAS WILLIAMS Penywaun o'r Plwyf hwn bu farw Mai 10 1894 yn 58 oed Hefyd am MARGARET ei wraig bu farw Tach 9 1918 yn 82 oed Hefyd am ELLEN eu merch bu farw Tach 21 1883 yn 3 ml oed”

It was the previous generation about which I was uncertain but I am now fairly confident that Thomas parents' were JAMES WILLIAMS (c1814–1879) and MARGARET RICHARDS (c1811–1894) who were married at Bayvil in 1833. I cannot find any burial details for these two but in 1881, after her husband's death, Margaret was, I believe living at Penuel Cottage, Nevern and described as a 'Chapel Keeper'. Am I right in assuming this would be caretaker for Penuel Cemaes Baptist Church? If so in 1891 daughter Rachel, (living with her mother in 1881 and described as a charwoman), was now the caretaker and the two of them were still at Penuel Cottage. Margaret's place of death in 1894 was given as Penuel, Nevern.

I can trace the family of Eliza's mother SARAH WATTS back to DAVID WATTS (died 1774) of Penparceithin, Manordeifi. Two of his grandchildren seem to have strong links with the Welsh Calvinist Methodist Church at Blaenannerch which I understand was associated with the Welsh Revivals of 1859 and 1905. HANNAH THOMAS (born 1792 Llandygwydd, mother MARGARET née WATTS) married DAVID EVANS in 1818 and their children were baptised at Blaenannerch Chapel between about 1820 and 1832. Meanwhile her cousin JAMES WATTS (1782–1853, father JOHN WATTS) had children baptised there between about 1813 and 1827.

James, his wife Elizabeth and son David were all buried there (inscription on Dyfed FHS site), also his son William and his wife. What I also found interesting from family trees and other information on Ancestry was that James' three youngest sons EBENEZER (1821–1867), EVAN (1823–1908) and JEREMIAH (1827–1917) emigrated to America and were seen as amongst the

earliest pioneer settlers and were also involved in the Welsh Church there, Evan in particular is referred to as 'Elder Evan Watts'.

JOHN WATTS (1754–1830) son of David married twice and my 3 x great grandfather EBENEZER (1807–1840) was born of the second marriage. He had a daughter who died and three sons. His second son JOHN (1833–1921) was my 2 x great grandfather and I believe he and his wife ELIZA were buried at Brynberian Chapel though I have not found a gravestone for them. However it is in relation to the youngest son that I have some queries.

DAVID WATTS (1839–1920) was born at Cilgerran and married MARIAH GEORGE in 1865. They had three daughters, MARY born 1866, SARAH born 1871 and ELIZABETH born 1879. It was when checking an entry for the early death of Elizabeth that I came across what was, to me, a very unusual entry in the parish burial records for Moylgrove.

1890	Elizabeth Watts No. 652.	Cilgerran	January 9 <sup>th</sup> 1890	10 420	David Watts person having charge of funeral.
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I had only previously seen the names of ordained ministers in the right hand column headed "By whom the ceremony was performed". Looking at other burial entries for Moylgrove, I found there were many that were similar, some looking like family relatives, others with different surnames. The entry for the burial of David's wife in 1884 has "Dd Watts, her husband" in that column.

I assume that these were Nonconformist burials but wonder if this was because the local vicar declined to perform the ceremony on those who worshipped elsewhere or if it was a mutually agreed arrangement accepting the differences between the churches.

Having shown this to experienced family historians in my own area none had seen entries like this previously and are as interested as me in any story behind this. By chance I noticed that on the same page as a burial of my great uncle at Newport Pembrokeshire there was an entry where the named person was the Baptist minister. I wondered whether this was a practice particular to this area of Pembrokeshire or whether it is more widespread.

I was also interested to read on Moylgrove Village website about the Tithe Wars there when Nonconformists did not want to pay tithes to the church and had livestock seized. In 1871 David Watts was described as a farmer of four

acres of land but in 1881 he was described as a general labourer, perhaps he fell on hard times or could this be connected with the Tithe Wars?

I would be interested to hear from anyone who can answer my various queries or who has any other information about these families.

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## Lewis Family Photographs

My Great Grandfather, Daniel Lewis, was born August 25, 1821, to David and Hannah nee Walters Lewis. David moved on to Hannah's family farm, a place which is now, I believe, Llethryd Barns, a local Bed and Breakfast with a Swansea address.

Daniel was the first-born son, following the birth of his sister, Mary. After Daniel came Evan, and Henry. Mother Hannah died when Daniel was 10. His father married again, a Mary Richard, and moved away from the Walters farm. Daniel, though, was left to help his Walters grandparents who were Daniel and Mary Walters, they had at least one son, Evan, who was not of maturity at that time.

Daniel left Wales for America when he was 21. He began working in the logging industry in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Sometime later, he travelled to Hudson, Wisconsin. There he acquired land and met his future wife. Daniel and Catherine Walsh, originally from County Carlow Ireland, were married in 1859. They built their home, Sylvan Ridge, over some years, at a spot about halfway between Burchardt and Boardman, Wisconsin, about 10 miles from Hudson, in the Midwest of the U.S.A.

Daniel and Catherine had 6 children, Hannah, Margaret, Evan Walter, David James, Mary Frances, and Elizabeth Jane. Of these six children, only two had children. Hannah Lewis, born in 1860, married James Durning and had five children, Anne, Katherine, Marie, John, and Gwendolyn Hannah. Mary Frances Lewis, born in 1873, married John James Stephens of Erin Corners, Wisconsin, in 1906. They had two daughters, Elizabeth Stephens, 1907 and Mary Esther Stephens, 1911. Elizabeth died from a ruptured appendix in 1922. Mary Esther died, at the age of 99 and eight months, in 2010.

Mary Esther was my mother. She married Gerald Eugene McKay in 1936 and they had six children. Patrick, Kathleen, Geraldine, Jane, John, and Mary Frances. Patrick died at birth. The remaining children, my siblings and I, now own Sylvan Ridge, in a limited partnership. We have many letters, photos, and items of interest from our Welsh family. Much of the collection has been given to the Wisconsin Historical Society and is housed in the library archives at the University of Wisconsin in River Falls, WI. Included in our collection are photos that we cannot identify. I am writing to you now with the intention of sharing our information with you and your society. I am also wondering if someone might be of help in identifying the photos we have.

## Further details of the Lewis Family in Wales

### Daniel's sister Mary:

Mary Lewis (1819–1903) married a David Thomas (1809–1881), and they lived over their grocery store at 8 Westend Road in Llanelli. Mary and David Thomas had 8 children, though only three lived to adulthood.



**This could be: Mary Thomas, David Thomas, and their daughters Mary Ann and Claudia. Or, perhaps, Henry Lewis, Daniel's brother, and his family?]**

Mary Ann Thomas (1847–1919) married John Forsdike (1846–1887) and they had 9 children born from (1868–1883). They lived both in Llanelli and Cardiff, apparently. Some of these children were mentioned in the first *Who's Who in Wales*, which was edited by Arthur Butler Phillips Mee.

Claudia Thomas (Jan 1857–Apr 1938) married Arthur Butler Phillips Mee (21 Oct 1860–15 Jan 1926).

Arthur Mee and Claudia did not have children. Arthur was a noted Astronomer/Writer/Essayist and reporter for the *Western Mail*. He is not to be confused with the Arthur Henry Mee, who wrote *The Children's Encyclopaedia*. Arthur and Claudia lived in Cardiff and are buried there.





**This could be some of the Forsdike children. Or possibly some of the Thomas children that did not survive**



**This could be Arthur Mee and Claudia Thomas Mee**

Eleazer Thomas (1859–8 Aug 1880) the youngest child of Mary and David Thomas, was a Merchant Marine. He had not yet married when he was lost at sea.

#### **Daniel's brothers:**

Evan Lewis also moved to North America. He married three times. He lived in Canada, and Ohio, and Kansas in the U.S. He had children that corresponded with their cousins in Wisconsin into the early 1900s.

Henry Lewis married a Mary Howell. They ran the Cross Keys Inn in Llanelli and had some children. I think two daughters, but I am not sure. The Cross Keys Inn is now known as The Lemon Tree.



**Daniel Lewis to our left. Possibly Evan Lewis, his brother, on the right. Young man unknown**

David Lewis, Daniel's father, married Mary Richard after the death of his wife Hannah. They had a son, Thomas (Oct 1850–23 Nov 1897) who married Lucy Morgan (1853–1922). David and his wife Mary are buried in a cemetery in Llanelli.

The photos attached are from our Welsh family in Wales. I have incomplete information or just guesses as to who the people in some of the pictures are.

These are the unknown photographs:



**Mary McKay (6477)**

**Email: [2019welshdragon@gmail.com](mailto:2019welshdragon@gmail.com)**



## From Caldey Island to Dowlais

In 1838 Benjamin Oriel, his wife Elizabeth and their children, Mary and William, moved from Crunwre to Caldey Island. Benjamin worked as a carpenter for Thomas Kynaston who had bought the island in 1798 from the Earl of Warwick.

While living on Caldey eight more children were born to Benjamin and Elizabeth, now known as Betsy: John b. 1839, Jane b. 1845, David b. 1840, Thomas b. 1848, Anne b. 1841, Benjamin b. 1849, Elizabeth b. 1843, Sarah b. 1852.

These children spent their childhood on this beautiful island attending the Island's small school. From an article published in a newspaper following the death of their father, Benjamin we learn that he 'taught the children to read and write, conducted Sunday School and Services and was looked up to by all as a kind of temporal as well as spiritual father. He gained the high regard of Mr. Kynaston by moral character and integrity that never stooped to deceit or sham'.

However, nearing the end of childhood the children would need to consider the next stage in their lives. As in all families each child would have individual ideas as to how and where they could use their own specific skills. But what opportunities were there on Caldey Island itself?

One son, David, under his father's tutelage eventually became Farm Bailiff on the Island. Another son, William, also benefitted from skills learned from his father, which gave him the opportunity to become a carpenter and ply his trade on the island. Father Benjamin was also heavily involved with the school and from the 1871 census we know that daughter Sarah was teaching in the small island school.

The limited opportunity for employment on Caldey and locally, particularly for the sons, meant that employment had to be sought further afield. The 1861 census tells us that John was employed as a tailor and living with John & Mary Jenkins in Charlotte Street, Merthyr Tydfil! So why did John Oriel seek work in Merthyr Tydfil? This was a part of Wales where there would be plenty of work as during the mid-eighteenth century owing to the proximity of coal supplies and a river system there were four Iron Works in the area.

The people working in this industrial area required many services, including clothes and for this reason, possibly, John Oriel decided to learn the art of tailoring. By 1871 he was running his own tailoring business in Berry Street, Dowlais. This success in the art of tailoring enabled John to help other family

members to leave Caldey including his younger brother, Benjamin whose occupation in the 1891 census was Journeyman/shoemaker but eventually Benjamin moved from Dowlais to Bath becoming ordained as a Baptist Minister. Over the years John Oriel provided accommodation and apprenticeships for a cousin William and two nephews James Williams and Thomas Oriel.

As I have already mentioned John Oriel's sister, Sarah remained on Caldey, teaching in the local school. During this time she married John King who had come to work on Caldey with James Hawksley when he bought the island in 1867. However we learn that by 1891 Sarah, John and their children were also living in Dowlais where John was employed as a 'Coal Weigher Manager' in the local colliery.

Can there possibly be two communities so different than Caldey Island and Dowlais? **Caldey Island** a rural community where probably everybody knew everybody else and **Dowlais** a bustling industrial town occupied by workers from so many different places. Two places so far apart, not only in distance but in many other ways. These days it is not unusual to seek employment elsewhere. We have all done it but how much easier it has been with speedy transport links and modern technology.

Having researched this branch of the Oriel family over many years I have reached the conclusion that while growing up on Caldey Island the children would have enjoyed a close family life in which they would have been prepared and encouraged to follow their chosen way for the future.

In Dowlais as in most towns there were chapels at which newcomers, especially regular worshippers, would be eagerly welcomed.

“What the Welsh needed was a temporary place of refuge, where once a week or so they could have a little cultural renewal, speak the Welsh language again, sing the familiar hymn tunes and alleviate a little of the hiraeth i.e. that is longing for the homeland, which is a natural effect of leaving home” (p.48 from Family History to Community History, edited by W.T.R. Pryce)

***Kathleen Rees (5873)***

***Email: [kerees@btinternet.com](mailto:kerees@btinternet.com)***

#### **References:**

1. From Family History to Community History-edited by W.T.R. Pryce volume 2 Studying Family & Community History, Cambridge University Press for the Open University.
2. Caldey-Roscoe Howells, Gomer Press 1984
3. Ancestry.com

# Celebrating the first 12 months of [www.hanesabergrwaun.org.uk](http://www.hanesabergrwaun.org.uk)



In January 2022 the long-held ambition of Fishguard and District Local History Group was realised – with the launch of a community website to celebrate and record the history of this far flung corner of West Wales.

Firstly, a little background on our group – since 2008 we have met regularly to share and record the history of Fishguard and Goodwick and the surrounding area. With guidance from the National Library of Wales regarding scanning and recording metadata, over the years a digital database of over 1500 images has been amassed. While these images have been shared via exhibitions in the town library and illustrated talks to local groups, our ultimate goal was to establish a website.

Following successful grant applications to the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Fund, Strumble Masonic Lodge, Community Fund Wales, and the Postcode Lottery (Wales), we were able to instruct a web designer in the Autumn of 2021 and in January 2022 we had our official launch. It was important that the website was “friendly”, not just for users but also for us as editors, as we are not IT experienced. The website uses Wordpress which is a widely supported open-source platform which is straightforward for non techies to use. It is also future proofed in that the data can be easily migrated to another like-minded site should this ever prove necessary.

The website was primarily intended to serve Fishguard and Goodwick but with contributions coming in from all around the local area, these are included

too. Although not fully bilingual, many of the posts are uploaded in both Welsh and English.

There are four subject areas, Neighbourhoods, People, Places and Topics all of which have sub categories where related posts are grouped. Regular visitors to the site however are inclined to head straight to the **What's New** tab to view the most recent articles.

The site is fully searchable by name, specific date or period and also has the benefit of an interactive map. The search button is proving very useful in directing someone to a particular post which may be of specific interest to them. Recent additions to the site include material from the Last Invasion Trust which tells the story of the last invasion of Britain in 1797 and also a wonderful collection of photographs made available by the former editor of the now defunct County Echo. There is also a fascinating collection of early photographs of St Davids taken by a local photographer in around 1890. The development of the port of Fishguard and the influence of the arrival of the railway upon the twin towns is also well documented.

Anyone can contribute with an image or story just by selecting the contribute button which will take you through the simple process. All contributions have to be “approved” by the webmaster but once uploaded you will receive an automated email advising that your post can be viewed. There is also an opportunity to comment on any article – if perhaps you recognise a face or have a memory of an event.

Currently there are in excess of 1100 individual posts with over 3500 images and this number is growing daily. We have found that since the website launched, we have been offered collections of images and documents, some gifted, others just on loan, which we have been able to digitise and upload. Where appropriate, original documents have been deposited in Pembrokeshire County Archives.

We were recently sent a photo of a large group gathered outside of Tabor Chapel in Dinas which was taken in 1949. Thanks to the sterling efforts of a local lady who has been a long time member of Tabor, we have been able to identify all 81 faces and in many instances even know the names of the houses they lived in. Such information is priceless and highlights the value in recording information while such memories are still available.



The website is self-funding and does not include any advertisements relying instead on donations via the website to fund its annual hosting and maintenance costs.

We were delighted back in April 2022 to be invited to participate in the UKWebarchive project which is a collaboration between the National Library of Wales, National Library of Scotland and the Bodleian Library in Oxford. The project aims to regularly back up the data on selected regional and community websites to ensure its longevity. Should a website close at a future date, the data it had previously collected will therefore still be available to view through the UKWebarchive site.

So, if you have any connection to this part of North Pembrokeshire, take a look at our site [www.hanesabergwaun.org.uk](http://www.hanesabergwaun.org.uk) we are sure you will find something to interest you!

***Hilary Roscoe***

***Chair of Fishguard and District Local History Group***

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## Help Needed

### **Shops and tradesmen, Stepney Street, Llanelli 1900–1910**

I HAVE BEEN searching for some years for information and especially pictures, of shops and traders in Stepney Street Llanelli, from around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, but excluding the popular information available online and in various Memories of Llanelli books. I am particularly interested in clock and watchmakers and jewellery shops in Stepney Street, and especially No 43, D.IMR & Co, managed at various times by Xaver Ganz, Mortimer Hancocks, and Irdan Riechaelieu. Also, the Grand Hotel, formerly known as the Grand Commercial Temperance Hotel, and its staff, and a fruiterer, based at 110 Station Road, around that time. I would willingly scan and safely return any photographs and of course, cover costs.

**Barry Watts (3264094997)**  
[bazouteast@gmail.com](mailto:bazouteast@gmail.com)

MY HUSBAND and I own Menai in St David's, Pembrokeshire. It has previously been a chemist, private school, and a hotel. I am writing to ask if you have or know of any old photography of the inside of the house. It was originally built in 1846 for a druggist called Ebenezer Williams and has been known as Cross House. The hotel next door to our right is now known as Cross House Hotel.

We would really appreciate any information especially photos of inside the house when it was one of these previous establishments.

**Caroline & David Bermingham**  
[Email: crbenjamin4@gmail.com](mailto:crbenjamin4@gmail.com)

MY YOUNG ancestors came from Dewisland, Pembrokeshire. I have hit a brick wall with my 3x great grandfather Thomas Young bc 1781. The earliest record I have is March 1804, when he married Dorothy Jenkins (Llanrhian 1776–8/12/1855) in St Isells Roche where he was described as 'from this parish'. When he died, he was buried 18/5/1859 in Llanrhian Parish Church. I have found Dorothy's parents George Jenkins (c1770) (1748–1770) and Dorothy S

Wilkins (1781–1842), grandparents William Jenkins (c1750) and Elinor Allen and great grandfather William Jenkins (c1725) all born in Llanrhian, but I have not been able to trace Thomas further back. Also, my grandfather James Jubilee Young was born in May 1887 in The Farmers Arms, Maenclochog where his father (another Thomas) was the publican. The PH, opposite St. Mary's Church, closed voluntarily in the 1920s and later became the village police house. It was demolished and a house built on the site. Does anybody know where I can find a picture of The Farmers Arms, either as PH or police house? Any help gratefully accepted.

**Owain Rhodri Young (46256)**

Email: rhodri.young@gmail.com

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## Searching for my Welsh roots

MY THIRD Great Grandfather William Lewis (1759–1839) was living and working as a Tailor in Frome Somerset in 1816 it was there on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1816 that he met and married Rachel Plaice who was a widow. William would then have been aged 61.

Thinking that William could have been married earlier I managed to find William Lewis who married a Betty Hinks in Frome on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 1797 I also found a death for Betty Lewis on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1797.

William had one son with Rachel – Samuel born in Frome in 1819 who also became a Tailor – it's interesting that we had so many Tailors in my Lewis family.

William and his family eventually moved to Bath from Frome some time in the 1830s as the woollen industry there started to decline the family being fortunate in finding plenty of work there for Tailors.

My aim is to try and find through DNA my Welsh roots having had my DNA taken by Ancestry in 2016 and assuming my possible connection with Hinks name is correct I have found 5 8<sup>th</sup> very distant cousins from a Lewis/Hinks family in the Pontypridd/Carmarthen area of Wales. I realise that I have set myself a difficult task but my aim is to perhaps find at least closer cousins.

It is interesting to see when you look back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century in the Carmarthenshire area of Wales just how many Tailors there were working there. Any help would be most appreciated.

**Mike Lewis (49755)**

Email: mikelewis2376@gmail.com



I RECENTLY discovered what I believe to be a family headstone located at Old Road Cemetery, Llanelli. It appeared on the “Find A Grave” website. It is for a W H Samuel. There are 3 potential gentlemen that could fit the name. My gentleman, a great-uncle, William Henry Samuel, was born in Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil, on 22 November 1865, and died in Llanelli in 1924, aged 58. According to the 1911 Census – Elizabeth Mary, Evan Henry Stanford, Blodwen, Margaret Jane, Esther Annie, and Gwenllian. He also had a daughter by an earlier marriage – Hannah Jane. I have yet to follow through on any of these lines. Maybe, one of your members has a link to the family and can confirm, or otherwise, the pedigree of the W H Samuel in this cemetery plot.



Samuel is my mother’s maiden name. Her mother was a Williams by birth. However, I do not have a Gertrude Williams in that family line. So, who is/was the Gertrude Williams also mentioned on the headstone?

If anyone can clarify these matters or needs to discuss – I can, initially, be contacted via my email address below.

I have recently returned from the NLW at Aberystwyth and was unable to trace any media report of his death. I believe he had been a Liberal Town Councillor and, later, moved his allegiance to the Labour Party. Consequently, I am surprised that there is not even a small mention of his passing. Minor dignitaries frequently made the pages of the press.

Many thanks,

Ieuan Jones

Email: [ieuan29@btinternet.com](mailto:ieuan29@btinternet.com)



## Please help me find my Granddad!

FOR YEARS I have been successfully researching my family both maternal, paternal, and also my wife's family. Paternally, I can trace the Cornish Mitchell/Furze line back with certainty to 1704 and possibly back to 1570. Maternally, via my Lancastrian Grandmother to 1676 and with my wife's German/Polish family back to 1722. I have a wealth of information concerning all sides of the family and in the process exploded several family 'myths and legends' such as, "No, Grandma Furze did not go the South Africa to nurse the wounded in the Boer War. She went to help her son who was accused of murder." My big problem is my Maternal Welsh Grandfather WILLIAM DAVIES who was born, as far as I can determine, on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1872.

### FACTS

I knew this man. He died on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1958 at the War Memorial Hospital Rhyl and was buried in Atherton Lancashire. He married my Grandmother MARGARET ALICE BARR (formerly HOWCROFT) on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1899 in St John the Baptist Church, Atherton and gave his father's name as BENJAMIN DAVIES. Both he and his father are listed as being 'Colliers.'

In the 1901 census he gives his place of birth as Wales and in 1911 as SW Cardiganshire. However according to the 1921 census it would appear that either his mother took a holiday shortly before his birth or someone (presumably his wife, my Grandmother) told 'Porkies' to the Enumerator because he is listed as being born in Liverpool.

At the baptism in 1899 of his eldest child EMILY DAVIES in St Anne's Church Atherton he states that is middle name is FREDERICK but at her marriage to JOHN FOULDS in 1924 he suddenly has a middle name of ALFRED.

### FAMILY STORIES

He told me he was born in South Wales and that from the farm where they lived breeding pit ponies, you could see the glow from a blast furnace from over the hill. He said that when he was 11 years old he was made an orphan and went to America to be with his elder brother who was employed in moving houses. (Literally with a team of horse). He told me that when he came back from America he worked as a coal miner in the Lancashire coalfield and married my grandmother, a widow. He spent all his working life as a coal miner in the Atherton/Wigan area, raised seven daughters and retired, possibly 1930 to Rhyl, initially to keep a boarding house in River Street but then to Bynhyfryd Avenue

where he died in 1958. He said that he only spoke Welsh at home until he went to America but when in Rhyl said, “English is far easier”.

The family told me that when he reached the age of retirement (?1937?) he discovered that no record existed of his birth and that the ‘Pension People’ only validated his claim by reference to the boat which “took him to America”. I was also told by my mother that he had an older sister and, “We think he was born during a thunderstorm and his mother came from Scotland.”

A cousin of mine has a different memory. She said that she had been told he emigrated to Canada and worked as a Lumberjack. Another cousin also told me that when his wife, my grandmother was in a temper, a regular occurrence, she would call him “ALF”.

So, the enigma is of William (Frederick or Arthur) Davies, father Benjamin Davies, born in Wales, SW Cardiganshire or Liverpool, in probably 1872, who was orphaned aged c11 years and went to live with his brother in America (or was it Canada) Welsh speaker, returned to Lancashire, not his homeland of Wales, where he had no relatives and no contacts despite the fact that he had relatives on the American Continent. (Incidentally, he could also count up to 10 in ancient Brythonic-Celtic. I know because he taught me... Ram, Tam, Tethera etc.)

## **RESULTS SO FAR**

WILLIAM DAVIES’ so far discounted for numerous reasons are (From Carmarthenshire) one living in Spite Llanglydwen, one in Blaennantyyffin Betws, another in Llandilfawr. “Best fit” of the Carmarthen bunch is WILLIAM DAVIES born 1868 of Llandilo Carmarthen. Father BENJAMIN born 1832 Pengarreg Carmarthen and mother CATHERINE born 1827(?) Llanddwibrefi Cardigan. However, father was a garden labourer not a collier. This is a good fit because we have an older couple with one child. If they died there would have been no one to look after the child and he could possibly have been shipped off to live with an elder brother. The only problem is the date of birth is wrong. Another “Good Fit” was an 8 year old William from the 1881 Census living in Llanfihangel ar Arth with a Mother ELEANOR. Going back 10 years to the 1871 census it is possible that this ELINOR was living in Llangeler and her husband BENJAMIN was working away in Aberdare!

I have recently changed tack and been concentrating on BENJAMIN. The 1851 census has a BENJAMIN DAVIES (31) living with SOPHIA DAVIES (32)

living in Moilgrove. He is a Blacksmith but no children are listed. The 1861 census has a BENJAMIN and SOPHIA with approx. appropriate ages and he is listed again as a Blacksmith but now living in Cwmperralltelbwr St Dogmells with children WILLIAM (16) MARY (14) SARAH (12) BENJAMIN (10) MARGARET (8) JOHN (6) and DAVID (4). Then again there is a SOPHIA DAVIES (68) listed in 1881 living in Kilrhedin with daughters HANNAH (35) and PHEBE (32) and a 9 year old WILLIAM. This child is of the correct age but this SOPHIA is too old to be his mother, so more than likely isn't "MY WILLIAM."

Sorry about my 'scatter gun' approach, but I'm now desperate to find Granddad and please excuse the incorrect spellings of place names I'm simply transcribing the name allocated on the census returns by the enumerator.

Diolch yn fawr iawn.

Tony Mitchell (57285)  
Email: [tonymitch@talktalk.net](mailto:tonymitch@talktalk.net)

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## Shipwreck in Tenby Harbour 1794

I AM TRYING to find the obituary, coroner's report, newspaper article, (Tenby Chronicle?) or any piece of news, about a wreck that happened at Tenby Harbour, in about March of 1794. Most of what I looked at was in the Welsh language, so no help there.

My ancestor, Elizabeth Rodda (nee Stephens) drowned off Tenby Harbour while crossing to visit her father George Stephens, on the Ship "Endeavor", captained by Capt. Lewis, together with two children Hephzibah and Ebenezer. Apparently, she and the children were buried at Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire on April 13, 1794. I would like a look up of the gravesite, too. Any help would be much appreciated.

Her father watched the wreck being battered about by the waves with no hope of rescue. I can imagine his shock, misery, and emotional state at being unable to help, the poor man.

Moira Mark (94686)  
Email: [moiram469@gmail.com](mailto:moiram469@gmail.com)

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## Members Interests

*(This list contains the details of new members interests added since the April journal was printed)*

Member	Surname	Forenames	Occupation	Place	County	Country	Event	From	To
3192	Rees	David	Blacksmith	Cold Blow	Pembr			1766	1850
3192	Rees	David	Carpenter/ undertaker	Templeton	Pembr	Wales		1837	1913
5023	Brazell	Oliver		Pwll	Carma				
6359	Jones	David	Labourer	Llandysul	Cer			1815	1870
6359	Davies	Mary		Llangeler	Carm			1815	1860
19649				Cynghordy	Carma	Capel Gosen		1844	Present
26321	Thomas	Daniel Owen	Marker Toll Collector	Cardigan	Cardi	Wales		1881	1914
26321	Hughes	Rowland	Lead miner	Gwnnws	Cardi			1800	1853
28417	Morris	David		Carmarthen		Wales	Census	1790	1841
32489	Lewis	Henry		Llanddarog	Llana	Wales	Birth	1796	1857
34437	Davies		Gentleman		Cardi	UK		1600	1900
34437	Williams		Gentleman	Cwmigwaelneth	Cardi	UK		1600	1800
34437	Jones		Gentleman	Morfa	Penbr			1600	1900
34575	Morris	Thomas	Farm labourer	Trelech/Meidrim	Carma	Wales	Living	1850	1925
34713	Laugharne	William		Hubberston	Pembr	Wales		1780	1837
37331	Evans	John	Miner	Llandilo	Carma	Wales	Birth	1844	1848
39133	Jones	Joseph	Printer	Llanelly	Carma	Wales		1881	1960
42151	Tudor/Tew	John	Farmer	Roch	Pembr			1750	1834

42151	Harry	Elizabeth		Roch	Pembr			1750	
42151	Gibby	Mary		St Brides/ Wiston	Pembr			1802	1873
42151	Gibby	Richard		Wiston	Pembr			1720	1803
42151	Lloyd	John	Shoemaker	Newport	Pembr			1809	
42151	Jenkins	Esther		Moylegrove	Pembr			1777	
42246	Rogers	Thomas		Llanboidy	Carma			1760	1835
42246	Rogers	Dinah		Llanboidy	Carma			1760	1860
42246	Rogers	William		Llanboidy	Carma			1810	1870
43176	Lloyd	Thomas	Railway Worker	Llanidloes/Tenby	Mont		Wales	1859	1871
43315	Lloyd	George	Husbandman	Machongle	Pembs		Wales		1747
44366	Rogers	William	Labourer/ 81st Foot	Jefferyston	Pembr		Wales	1790	
44857	Elliston	James	Miller	Wiston	Pembr		Born Suffolk?	1790	1843
44857	Gibbon	Joseph/ Griffiths	Blacksmiths	Llandissilo/ Haverfordwest	Pembr			1700	1853
44857	Richards	Joshua	Quarryman	Carew/Tenby	Pembr			1821	1896
44857	Griffiths	Benjamin	Fisherman	Tenby	Pembr			1776	1852
44857	Jones	Samuel	Mason/ Innkeeper	Lamb Inn Llangeler	Carma			1859	1924
48852	Williams	Margaret	Gwraig fferm	Ffarmers	Sir G		Cymru		
51825	Blaithwayt	Susan	(Wife)	Narberth	Pembs		Wales	1815	1860
54796	Evans	Evan		Llanarthney	Carma		Wales	1836	1887
54796	Humphreys	Sophia		Llanarthney	Carma		Wales	1841	1887
55486	Davies	David	Master Mariners	New Quay	Cardi			1840	1970

55486	Elizabeth	Thomas	Wife	Llandyfriog	Cered		1820	1855
55486	Thomas	David	Agricultural Lab	Llandyfriog	Cardi		1777	1855
55515	Evans	John	Carpenter	Abergwilli	Carma	Wales	1796	
56131	Williams	Jason	Gardener	Stackpole	Pembr	Wales	1834	1928
56585	Griffiths	David	Stonemason	Llanfihangel ar Arth	Carma	Wales	1785	1795
56585	Griffiths	David	Stonemason	Pembroke	Pembr	Wales	1814	
56585	Griffiths	David	Stonemason	Pembroke	Pembr	Wales	1866	
56585	Bryant	Harriet		Pembroke	Pembr	Wales	1785	1795
56585	Bryant	Harriet		Pembroke	Pembr	Wales	1814	
56585	Griffiths	Harriet		Monkton	Pembr	Wales	1870	
56585	Griffiths	James		Pembroke	Pembr	Wales	1815	
56585	Griffiths	James		Pembroke	Pembr	Wales	1888	
56585	Griffiths	William	Tailor	Pembroke	Pembr	Wales	1818	
56585	Bryant	William Henry		Pembroke	Pembr	Wales	1780	1790
56585	Williams	William	Tailor	Pembroke	Pembr	Wales	1823	
56585	Griffiths	George		Pembroke	Pembr	Wales	1816	
56585	Griffiths	Hannah		Pembroke	Pembr	Wales	1818	
57285	Davies	William	Miner		Cardi		1872	1900
59152	Richards	George	Collier /Platelayer	Saundersfoot			1843	1922
63461	Thomas	Thomas	Farmer	Llwynronen (nr Trapp)	Carma	Wales	1780	
63461	Thomas	Anne	Farmer	Dany Castell (nr Trapp)	Carma	Wales		1830
63461	Jones	Jacob	Farmer	Penhill Farm (nr Trapp)	Carma	Wales	1785	

67836	Thomas	Lewis	Minister/ farmer	Llandoverly?	Carma	Wales	Any	1830	1893
72229	James	James	Agricultural Lab	Llandissilio	Pembr	Wales	Birth	1837	
72229	Lewis	Mary		Cenarth	Pembr	Wales	Birth	1838	1909
72229	Davies	Elizabeth		Cenarth	Pembr	Wales	Birth	1816	
72229	Rees	John	Labourer	Dinas	Pembr	Wales	Birth	1820	
82966	Cole	Tom	Retired	Tremain	Cered	Wales			1972
87259	Evans	John	Ag Labourer	Brawdy/Penycwm	Pembs	Wales	All	1887	1941
87259	Harries	Sarah Ellen		Hayscastle	Pembs	UK	All	1894	1968
87259	Harries	James	Ag Labourer	Camrose/Brawdy	Pembs	UK	All	1856	1943
87259	Harries	James	Shoe Maker	Camrose	Pembs	UK	All	1819	1892
87259	Davies	William	Stone Mason	Brawdy	Pembs	UK	All	1850	
87259	Beynon	Phebe		Brawdy/Knaweston	Pembs	UK	All	1853	1898
87259	Oakley	Martha		St Davids	Pembs	UK	All	1816	
87259	Jenkins	William James	Labourer	Brawdy	Pembs	UK	All	1890	1947
87259	Waters	James	Farmer/Labourer	Freystrop/Spittal	Pembs	UK	All	1802	1882
87259	Reynolds	George		Mathry/Hayscastle	Pembs	UK	All	1785	1859
87259	Griffith	Amy		Brawdy/Hayscastle	Pembs	UK	All	1811	1884
88519	Charles	John	Farmer/ Postmaster	Roch	Pembr	Wales		1803	1872
92264	Llewellyn	Joseph		Carmarthen				1888	1965
94686	Stephens	George	Blacksmith	Pwllcrochan	Pembr			1650	1799
99547	Griffiths	David	Mason	Pembroke St Mary	Pembr	UK		1811	1851



## Around the Branches

Some branches are beginning to meet again,  
and some continuing on Zoom.  
Please check with your local branches, DFHS  
Facebook page or DFHS website for updates.



# CARDIGAN

## **Solitary Thoughts a Talk by Richard Ireland 5th September 2022**

OUR SPEAKER this evening was Richard Ireland who gave us an insight into methods of both physical and psychological punishments and attempts to reform prisoners in a talk entitled Solitary Thoughts.

Richard began by inviting us to reflect on our own experiences of 'imprisonment' during lockdown, which for many people living on their own amounted to a term of solitary confinement. We know the psychological damage that was done and the ill-effects that many people felt from the lack of social interaction so this was a useful starting point to the talk. Nevertheless, as Richard pointed out, throughout history some people have chosen the solitary life or even to live in voluntary solitary confinement perhaps in order to find a deeper spiritual understanding or for some other reason. Some examples of these are monks and nuns whose legal status in the Middle Ages was that of a dead person. This may be where the expression 'the walking dead' originates from. Another example is the anchorites who were literally walled up with only a space left for food to be passed through to them. The expression 'the hole in the wall' may have originated from this. Perhaps the idea for the later use of isolation to reform prisoners was inspired by the lives of these people.

Until the 18<sup>th</sup> Century punishment for those who committed a crime was largely physical. There were the stocks and pillories, whipping, branding and hanging. In 1777 the book *The State of The Prison* was published and physical punishment began to be phased out and replaced by being sentenced to time spent in prison. In 1815 the death penalty could be imposed for 215 crimes but this number was gradually reduced. Transportation was also used as a convenient way to dispose of the problem of the criminal population, firstly to the American colonies until American Independence, and later to Australia until 1857. Eventually it became clear that sending away criminals could not go



on indefinitely and the 1779 Penitentiary Act was passed with the intention of making prisons a place to reform prisoners and to make them penitent so that they would not reoffend. As physical punishment had been phased out isolation was used as part of the armoury of prisons to punish and reform inmates.

In 1834 William Crawford submitted a report on the working of the American prison system to the House of Commons. The idea of using isolation came from Pennsylvania where the use of separate cells for prisoners had been introduced. During a period of solitary confinement the only person a prisoner was allowed to speak to was the prison chaplain so religion was also used as a tool to reform the criminal and the combination of the two was believed to be effective. The Reverend Whitworth Russell was the Inspector of Prisons and supported this idea. As well as isolation in their cells when prisoners took exercise they were forced to keep six feet apart by holding onto ropes and were made to keep silent. (When we were allowed out during lockdown we had to stay two metres apart). Men wore the 'Pentonville cap' and women wore heavy veils which prevented them from seeing each other's faces or making eye contact. Even during religious services the prisoners were confined in stalls with high sides so that they could only see the minister. Not surprisingly many prisoners became distressed and mentally ill. Evidence of psychological damage began to emerge and Charles Dickens wrote about the torture and agony inflicted on prisoners. In spite of this, the system of separation was maintained but limited in length to a maximum of nine months while the silent system was used in smaller prisons which could not bear the expense of maintaining separate cells.

In 1865 all prisons were forced by an Act of Parliament to provide separate cells for prisoners or lose their license. Government loans were made available but Cardigan Prison refused to comply with the new legislation and so prisoners were sent to Carmarthen instead and Cardigan prison was eventually demolished.

We may look back at the prison system of isolation and solitary confinement and judge it to be cruel, inhumane and lacking in any possibility to succeed in its aim of reforming prisoners but the reality is that it is still used in closed prisons in the UK today.

### **Branch Meeting 3rd October 2022**

The meeting was held in the Archive room at Cardigan Castle and was centred round member's personal research. Seven members attended the meeting which was lively and informative.

Each member had a preferred way of storing, sharing and retrieving information and records, some using computer files others preferring to print and store information in folders. Some members use Family Tree Maker and find this a useful tool, some had handwritten their family tree on large sheets of paper.

During the evening we looked at the site Newspapers Online and tried out some searches using family names, with a varied degree of success.

One member had brought along a handwritten ledger inherited from an ancestor which dated back to 1892. The value of these handwritten documents is priceless as they often contain a wealth of information about family members, their financial circumstances, lifestyle, and life events. It is also tremendously exciting to see and hold papers and artefacts which give a very real sense of being a link with past generations even though we have never met the people to whom they belonged.

Two members have been busy recording grave stones in Cilgerran and adding them to the Monumental Inscriptions records. They described their efforts in overcoming ivy, moss and general ageing of the gravestones in order to be able to read and record the details, all the while being careful not to disturb or damage them. They also have to be inventive sometimes as the inscriptions may be worn and difficult to read. Using cameras to capture light from different angles and chalk (which is cleaned off afterwards) can reveal details otherwise impossible to read.

The next meeting will also be about research with opportunities for a hands-on evening with advice and support from the experienced members available.

*Fiona Thomas (34437)*

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## CARMARTHEN

ON SEPTEMBER 28th we had an interesting talk by Mr Andrew Padfield on Carmarthen Night Life.

Street Pastors are volunteers from local Churches who look after vulnerable people in the night time economy. They patrol in teams from 10pm to 4am. They can support vulnerable people in different situations: Giving out flip-flops to young women who may have lost their shoes! bottles of water, blankets to people at risk of exposure and hypothermia, talking to people who are lonely,

stressed or despondent, arranging taxis to take home people who have drunk too much or contacting the parents to come and collect them.

An excellent talk which everyone enjoyed.

*Eric Davies (3000)*

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## LLANELLI

IN JULY we welcomed Peter Stopp to give us a Power Point presentation on Griffith Jones and his circulating schools in Carmarthenshire

Griffith Jones was born 1683 in Penboyr and was educated in Carmarthen Grammar School. He was made the rector of Llanddowror by his benefactor Sir John Phillips of Picton Castle.

In 1731 Griffith Jones started the circulating schools with financial help from Sir John and Madam Bevan. Most of the population of Wales could neither read nor write so they were unable to read their Bible and find Salvation, most of the teaching was done by reading from the Bible.

The schools would stay at a location for approximately three months before moving on to the next village. They even did some of the teaching during the evening for those who had to work during the day.

Griffith Jones was also a well renown preacher and people flocked from all over Wales to hear him. He died in Madam Bevan's home in 1755.

In September we were joined by Marita Aitken who spoke to us of her family history. She was born in London to a white mother and an African American father. As a toddler she was abandoned by her mother and taken into care. She was adopted by a nice family and had a happy childhood.

When she married, she moved to Bristol where she worked for the police and also for the court service. She and her husband decided to have a less stressful life, so they took on a public house in Llansteffan, Carmarthenshire.

She was contacted by a man who said he was her half-brother, and he could prove it. After this Marita delved into her own family history and found that her mother had been born in Abergwlli. She has done a great deal of research and found that she goes back to the Vaughan's and many other old Carmarthenshire families. When she started on the American side of her family, she found that

she even has Red Indian blood. Strangely many of the staff and customers of the pub in Llansteffan turned out to be relations!

In October Mr Tony Waters came to speak to us about the Welsh connection to the Titanic. He had been researching about the disaster ever since he saw the film starring Kenneth Moore many many years ago!

The Titanic was built by Harland & Woolfe under Lord Pirrie. The money was put up John Pierpointe Morgan, who's family originated in Carmarthen. The designer was Thomas Andrew. At the time there was a coal strike so many ships were unable to travel.

The Titanic was launched 31 May 1911 but didn't set sail for another year. Two thirds of the coal on board was Welsh, some coming from pits in Bynea. All the silverware on all the ships was provided by the Elkington company, later of Burry Port.

It eventually set sail on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1912 with 2,207 on board. O W Samuel & W C Foley were crew members from Swansea. There were also some Welsh passengers. The youngest on board was a babe in arms named Melvina Dean. Mr Waters was able to interview her in her later life. We were able to hear the film he made. Many were saved, but many more drowned and if their bodies were recovered, they were buried in Nova Scotia.

*Chris Davies (79)*

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## HAVERFORDWEST

MEMBERS LOCAL to Haverfordwest and from further afield are delighted that we have been able to meet in person once again. The final Wednesday of September saw us take over the Search Room for the afternoon at the County Archives. The staff are keen to encourage the public back into the service and to rediscover the delights of handling and using real documents. In addition, they are a font of knowledge just waiting to be tapped. Members had an opportunity to see what goes on 'behind the scenes' and we were shown how carefully this precious source material is kept and preserved. So successful was this visit that we are now planning to repeat this 'Afternoon at the Archives' regularly throughout the year, with the next occasion on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

For the foreseeable future, our preferred evening meeting room in the Archives building is not available, so we will be meeting in The Green Room at Haverfordwest Leisure Centre on St Thomas's Green. These meetings will be on the third Tuesday of the month, beginning at 7 p.m. and we extend a welcome to friends old and new. In November we will be joined by the renowned local historian, Dr Simon Hancock.

*Vaughan Everett (6384)*

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## UPPER TOWY VALLEY

WE HAVE had a busy summer and autumn at the Upper Towy Valley Branch.

At the Heritage Centre we have continued to have many visitors at the Family History Research Room and have created several displays. In July we had a motorbike display featuring a green 1950s Francis-Barnett motorbike for Llandoverly Motorbike Weekend, with which we won second prize, continuing with a country shed display including tools, chickens, and mice!



We celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the Dyfed Family History Society with examples of our work and activities and put on a display of shearing and spinning for the Llandoverly Sheep Festival – a very successful weekend with over 600 visitors to the Heritage Centre.

We also displayed our tribute to mark the passing of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and celebrated the Urdd Eisteddfod coming to Llandoverly by displaying our banner in the parade.

In October about twenty of us met again



**Founder member Moira Evans**

with Hugh Davies for a guided tour of another area of Llandoverly, starting at Castle Street. This entrance to the castle has existed since the castle was built in the twelfth century, with another entrance at the other side next to the Bear. There were no homes here until after 1532 when the castle was destroyed, and its stones were used to build them. The residents of the castle did not support Henry VIII's divorce from Catherine of Aragon and his marriage to Anne Boleyn, and because of this opposition, in 1531 Rhys ap Gruffydd was hanged, drawn, and quartered. His cousin, Hywel ap Rhys destroyed the castle rather than allow King Henry to take it.

§The footpath around the castle from Castle Street is said to be the path taken by Vicar Prichard on his way to Church, passing the mill in Bridge Street. The first house in Castle Street is Auction House, owned by a family of auctioneers, and further along the grey-gabled house used to be a Wesleyan Chapel. Author and historian A. T. Arber-Cooke wrote in 1975 that there was still, in living memory, one of the old cottages built of stones from the castle, behind Number 6, Castle Street. At Number 15 lived the poet William Saunders, who lived from 1806 to 1851 and is buried in Llandingat Church. There were public houses here too – on the left-hand side was the Fountain Inn, and opposite, at Number 4, was the Rock and Castle. At the end of the Street was the Curriers' Arms, where there used to be a public well. It still has its wide front door for farmers to be able to take their horses through to the stables, and a small window to serve outside customers from behind the bar. At the back of White Hall is a courtyard, with the old steps going up to the storeroom.

Hugh showed us the houses across the main road which were built in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. One of the older buildings is Number 3 – Glan Bawddwr. The river went through Market Square and diverted through King's Road. The Dyfri would originally have flowed straight down Castle Street and surrounded the castle as a moat, Bawddwr meaning Foul Water.



Castle Street

At the crossroads at the top of Water Street is an old building dating from 1700 surrounded by two fields. Until recently one of the old gas lights existed here. Bucklands was one of the few houses with a cellar because of the flooding in the area. The cottage used to be a barn, then a house.

At the next house in Queen Street the Independents of Salem first met, from 1792 to 97, and from then until 1804 the Methodists of Tabernacle met here. The house was demolished, and the chapel built but some original walls of the house are still there. Nearby were orchards and two public houses – The Volunteers' Arms and The Oak. Number 20 was originally two cottages and still has two front doors. Ebenezer Chapel was built in 1844 and next to it was Mafeking Cottage. Meetings used to be held in houses in Stone Street from 1807 – there were properties each side of the Chapel, one bearing the name Baptist Villa. The Chapel was extended in 1806.

The shop nearby was one property with farm buildings where cattle were kept. The graveyard has many old graves including those of Baptist families from the Blue Bell and White Swan. Opposite the Chapel is Orchard Street. There was a barn here in the 1960s which was said to have been here when Vicar Prichard leased the land. The cottages at Gelly Deg, King's Arms Street and Cross Lane Street were demolished in the 1960s to build a new housing estate. The older parts of Orchard Street are at the bottom where the cottages are smaller than at the top end. The first house was another inn, The Farmers' Arms. The room at the back of the building, though not a cellar, was much lower than the rooms at the front.

Berllan Coch has an archway leading to Berllan Brewery, kept by the Morgans who moved to Stone Street and the Royal Oak public house opened here. Number 20 has an elaborate Victorian door, but the houses further along had lower roofs and were less elaborate. At the top end of the street was another archway leading to other properties where there used to be large gardens. The land from Prospect House by the Memorial Chapel was the orchard of the Neuadd on High Street, where Vicar Prichard's parents lived, and from Waterloo Street on was all Neuadd land. The end building at Orchard Street was The Crown.

Hugh now took us along High Street and gave us the history of the houses there. The wife of the poet William Saunders came to live at Number 46 after his death. Number 52, Bryntirion, was an 18th century home, one of the older properties, as was next door Britannia House, which was probably an inn.



Other public houses here were The King's Arms, The Swan, and The George. Some houses had to be demolished because of the bend in the river here, which affected the foundations. The original road was at a much lower level and there was much flooding. More houses were demolished for the new bridge in the 1990s.

Opposite was the Tannery. The old house was demolished but the old outbuildings remained. From the bridge the road crossed to a level below what is now the main road. Opposite Bridge Place houses had existed on both sides of the river. The road turned to the right then joined the Roman road to Trecastell – this was the main Brecon Road until the Turnpike Trusts improved the route. The course of the river has been straightened on the left-hand side and in 2003 flood defences were put in after Dolau Brân flooded in the 1990s.

In front of the Tanners' Hall was a footpath going to the Brân and its two bridges, the Corsica and the Ffwlbart. With its large chimneys, Neuadd, where the Pritchard family lived in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, had servants' rooms in the top floor. Cattle sales were held here before the Mart was established. Neuadd was one of the main farms, like White Hall, Cerrig and Pentre. The other side of the bridge was Felindre land.

Vicar Prichard, 1579–1644, clergyman and poet, lived first at Neuadd, then in the early 1600s built a mansion house next to Neuadd. It was turned into alms houses after 1792 and finally demolished in the 20<sup>th</sup> century after having been used as a grain store. Neuadd became the Neuadd Arms. A petition to keep Vicar Prichard's house was unsuccessful and the front wall was taken down. It fell into a dangerous state and was demolished in 1947. A wall with a fireplace is the only part left of Vicar Rhys Prichard's mansion.

Several properties were built next to the mansion, with others going up along Waterloo Street, as well as another public house on the site of the Hall. The Assembly Rooms were built in 1896. At Waterloo Bridge there was a mill and a smithy. Rhys Prichard wrote of a public house called The Mill.

A prosperous business of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was Roberts' Jubilee Stores, 1897, being merchants of flour, corn, seed, hay and manure as well as a general ironmonger.

Next to Jubilee Stores at Number 29 was The Falcon, and at Number 25, Green Hall, with two false windows because there was a partition inside. Royston House, though early Victorian, retains the Georgian symmetrical style. Along a lane at the side is a house which may have been a mill. Opposite



were The Bull's Head, The Wheatsheaf and The Towy Bridge, built on Neuadd land.

Two older properties were The Barley Mow which later became a shop, and The Blue Bell. Its frontage was Victorian, but the interior was a lot older with a passage with slabs on the floor which was to take horses through. Next to the Chapel was Jenkins'



**T Roberts' Jubilee Stores**

Boot and Shoe Factory, which used to be two public houses. There was a row of small public houses here, including The Black Horse and The Rose and Crown. During renovations, after the rendering was removed, it could be seen that the houses were originally much lower. Further along were The George IV, The Masons' Arms and The Star and Garter.

During 1886 and '87 the Memorial Chapel to William Williams, Pantycelyn, was built. With the opening of the railway, many from other areas came to Llandovery to work, and this Chapel was opened for English speakers. Across the road from the Memorial Church Plas y Dderwen's false windows can be seen – at the top and on the first floor, with curtains and a lathe and plaster wall behind. In the small adjoining building there was a tailor's shop.

Near the Memorial Church is the much older Prospect House, once called Castell yr Esgob. Its frontage has now changed. In front of this house there was a building called Chancellor's House. In 1820, the Bishop came to stay, and the Bishop's Chancellor was able to stay in the front house, hence its name. When Prospect House was built, there were no properties opposite, thus there was an attractive prospect from its windows.

Further down is Bristol House, and on the gateway of Lloyd's Bank is a memorial to David Jones of Blaenos, born in 1758. He was High Sheriff of Carmarthenshire in 1823. Opposite was the Sun Inn, with the Pharmacy next door. Penygawse – head of the causeway – was built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Here the Dyfri flowed through to the Brân. When diverted through Market

Square it became the Bawddwr. Next door was built later. Originally the houses here were called Miners' Row. The house here now was originally two houses, Albert House and Tre Barthen. At The Three Horseshoes the Bawddwr ran under the houses to Stone Street. Opposite the Market Hall was The Lamb.

Until the 1820s the main road went through Market Square. It was not until the visit of George IV, who, travelling through the town, carried straight on – after this the road was known as King's Road and became the main thoroughfare. At one time there were about seventy public houses in Llandovery. Their demise started with the coming of the railway and the change in the way of life of the drovers, who became cattle dealers.

We had now come full circle and ended our walk with coffee and cake at The King's Head. Our grateful thanks to Hugh for once again giving us an enjoyable afternoon and sharing with us so many interesting aspects of the history of Llandovery.

In October we travelled to Yorkshire for a delightful holiday in Harrogate, also visiting York, Whitby and Thirsk, returning to prepare the Remembrance Day display at the Heritage Centre, which is now closed for the winter. We also celebrated the season with our Christmas dinner, held at the King's Head Hotel in Llandovery. We are looking forward to beginning our monthly meetings once again, to be held at the Catholic Church Hall, starting in January when we will hold a Members' Research Evening, a chance for us all to meet once again after three years.

*Moiria C. L. Evans (39)*

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**Ladies of the Upper Towy Valley Branch during the Sheep Festival**



Sheep Festival display



40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary display

## LONDON

THE ANNUAL London Branch visit to Aberystwyth resumed this year, after two years' suspension due to Covid. The staff at the National Library welcomed our group like old friends. In comparison with previous visits, there were very few other readers at the Library, and we were disappointed that the restaurant no longer offers hot meals. Nevertheless, we managed to get a good deal of research done, and a good time was had by all. We had the impression that there are now fewer visitors doing personal family history research, rather than academic or commissioned research

*Anna Brueton (1806)*

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## New Members

This list contains the details of new members who joined since the April journal was printed.

Member Number	Member Name	Address	Email Address
76153	Mrs Norma Boulwood	Llanblethian Cowbridge Vale of Glamorgan Wales	normab2@me.com
61734	Mr Ashley Burland	Herrington Sunderland Tyne Wear UK	aburland@aol.com
38119	Mrs Eirian Davies	Llanllwch Carmarthen Carmarthenshire Wales	eiriandai@hotmail.co.uk
44366	Mr David Turner	Sidcup Kent UK	david.turner03@hotmail.co.uk
32768	Mr Stephen George	Newcastle Staffordshire UK	stephengorge@hotmail.co.uk
36635	Mr Nigel Thomas	Cwmcarn, Newport Gwent UK	nigel.thomas19@hotmail.co.uk
68817	Ms S.M. Coomey	Gorseion Swansea Wales	smcoomey@gamil.com
58237	Ms Barbara Ockenden	Parnell Auckland New Zealand 1052.	
38696	Mr Kelvin Williams	Llangennech Llanelli Sir Gaerfyrddin UK	kjw34@talktalk.net
42246	Ms Claire Rogers	Kettering Northamptonshire UK	clairerog@live.com
24431	Mrs Catherine Khan	Langland Swansea Wales	cathy@freshaccounting.uk
49528	Mr Greg Evans	Los Altos 94024 United States	evansfive@sbcglobal.net
17598	Mrs Susan Downes	Thornhill Cardiff S Glam Wales	
92922	Ms Angela James	St Clears Carmarthenshire UK	Angkjames8@gmail.com
13194	Miss Karen Ann Morgan	Ffair Rhos Ystrad Meurig Ceredigion Wales	
79714	Rhian Tilley	Caerdydd Wales	cymraes35@hotmail.com
38232	Sian Evans	Heol y Llan Llangadog Sir Gaerfyrddin Wales	mick.sian@hotmail.co.uk
28993	Mrs Ann Vodden	Tadley Hants UK RG26 3SX	annvodden@btinternet.com
69723	Mrs Penelope Harris	Bassaleg Newport Wales	Penelope123harris@gmail.com

26919	Mrs Kimberley Hallan Ashwood-Jones	Carmarthen Sir Gaerfyrddin UK	ashwood45@hotmail.com
76766	Ms Clare Frances	Skerty Swansea West Glamorgan UK	clarecuba@gmail.com
88519	Mrs Catherine Coxill	Knighton Powys Wales	catherinemcoxill@gmail.com
32489	Mr clive lewis	Abercynon Mountain Ash RCT UK	clive5646@gmail.com
88862	Mr Allan Eldred	Saundersfoot Pembrokeshire Wales	
85683	Mrs Kathy Marriage	Frimley Camberley Surrey UK	KathyMarriage@kbcs.co.uk
82132	Mrs Sarah Rees	Ammanford Carmarthenshire Wales	
59152	Mr Derek Richards	Glencarse Perth Perth & Kinross UK	
75359	Vicki George	Orange New South Wales Australia	
75652	Mr Geraint Roberts	Barry Vale of Glamorgan Wales	geraint.roberts@talktalk.net
18419	Mr William Harold Jones	Glanaman Amanford Carmarthenshire Wales	harold.jones@zen.co.uk
23859	Howard Irwin	Escondido CA USA	howardirwin@hotmail.com
87161	Mrs Julie Brough	Tunbridge Wells Kent UK	jueb1962@gmail.com
89919	Nicola MacIntyre	Toronto Ontario Canada	cobrown2000@yahoo.ca
87259	Mr Martyn Gowland	Mount Barker South Australia Australia	martyr.gowland@gmail.com
52638	Miss Denise Owen	Llanybydder CARMs Wales	deniseo66@gmail.com
73493	Ms Anne Mackintosh	Judea Tauranga Bay of Plenty New Zealand	amacys@gmail.com
49755	Mr Michael Frederick Lewis	Southdown Bath N.E. Somerset UK	mikelewis2376@gmail.com
31387	Mr David Oliver Vincent Johns	Goodwick Pembrokeshire Wales	
82135	Steven Partridge	Winchester UK	compo10170@gmail.com
57783	Mrs Sherri Beer	Loughor Swansea UK	
18145	Mrs Kimberley Lawson	Bowscar Penrith UK	Kimberleylawson@icloud.com
94686	Moira Mark	Butte Montana USA USA	moiram469@gmail.com

45446	Mrs Catherine O'Brien	Roath Park Cardiff Wales UK	catherine.obrien@ntlworld.com
63467	Mr William Thomas	Barry Vale of Glamorgan UK	
15159	Lisa Guindon	Redlands CA USA	lvquindon@gmail.com

## Obituary

*Membership No.*

30

*Name*

Mrs Helen Mosey

*Joined*

1982

### Helen Mosey 1946–2022

Sadly, Helen died a few days before the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal was distributed. She was born Helen McIntyre in Manchester in 1946 into a large Catholic family. She was a very clever girl and studied German at Liverpool University. She even lived in Germany for a while.

She moved to Wales where she married Gareth Mosey in 1972. They had three children and three grandchildren.

Helen joined Dyfed Family History Society at the very start and loved researching her family. Anyone who has read the last journal will see how many jobs she undertook for the Society. She has not had very good health for many years and so was unable to attend meetings in the last few years.

Apart from researching she was an avid reader and spoke many languages. She also took A level exams – just for fun!

**Chris Davies (79)**

# Branch Meetings

Branches organise regular meetings to which all members and the public are invited. Meetings usually take place at the times and venues below, but check with the named contact.

## Cardigan Aberteifi

The first Monday in each month at 7.30pm  
Tower Room, Cardigan Castle.

Contact Mrs. Alma Stanford - Tel. 01239 831310. Email: [cardigan@dyfedfhs.org.uk](mailto:cardigan@dyfedfhs.org.uk)

## Carmarthen CAERFYRDDIN

The last Wednesday in each month at 7.30pm  
Spilman Hotel, Spilman Street, Carmarthen.

Contact Mr. Eric Davies - Tel. 01554 891241. Email: [carmarthen@dyfedfhs.org.uk](mailto:carmarthen@dyfedfhs.org.uk)

## Haverfordwest Hwlffordd

Temporarily the second Wednesday or third Tuesday in each month  
Please check Facebook, Website Events or with the secretary for details.  
Contact Mr Vaughan Everett - Tel. 07837 039150.

Email: [haverfordwest@dyfedfhs.org.uk](mailto:haverfordwest@dyfedfhs.org.uk)

## Llanelli

The third Monday in each month from 6pm to 8pm  
(Speaker at 6.30pm)

Llanelli Library at Vaughan Street, Llanelli SA15 3AS.

Contact Mrs. Linda Martin - Tel. 01267 267039. Email: [llanelli@dyfedfhs.org.uk](mailto:llanelli@dyfedfhs.org.uk)

## London Llundain

On four Saturdays each year at 2 pm

The Kwanglim Room, Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 4AU.

Contact Mrs. Anna Brueton - Tel. 0207 9230302. Email: [london@dyfedfhs.org.uk](mailto:london@dyfedfhs.org.uk)

## Upper Towy Valley Cwm Tywi Uchaf

The fourth Wednesday in each month at 7.15pm

Our Lady Catholic Church Hall, College View, Llandovery

Contact Miss Moira Evans - Tel. 01269 592278.

Email: [uppertowyvalley@dyfedfhs.org.uk](mailto:uppertowyvalley@dyfedfhs.org.uk)



# Contacts

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## **Matters relating to the Management Committee and the AGM**

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25 Milton Meadows, Milton, Tenby, Pembrokeshire, SA70 8PL  
secretary@dyfedfhs.org.uk

## **Matters relating to membership**

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Cherry Gate, Tubbs Lane, Highclere, Newbury RG20 9PR  
membership@dyfedfhs.org.uk  
Contact the Membership Secretary for contact detail of other members.

## **Matters relating to the journal (articles, photographs, letters, help needed, advertising)**

Editor: Ms Cate Hobbs.  
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editor@dyfedfhs.org.uk

## **Matters relating to the website**

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webmaster@dyfedfhs.org.uk

## **Matters relating to Memorial Inscriptions**

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