

Gwenllian Morgan

Gwenllian Morgan was born and raised on a small farm called Beili-Helyg, at the foot of the Cadlan Mountain, in the year 1865. Her parents were Jenkin and Catherine Morgan (nee Richards). It is thought that Gwenllian was named after her father's mother who lived in the nearby farm of Glynperfydd. She was the eldest of six children.

Gwenllian left home at a young age, as many young girls did at that time. She found herself a position working at Clemenston, which is at Wick near Bridgend, a long way from Penderyn in those days. The census return shows her occupation as a Dairy Maid, along with her sister Anne, who joined her at a later date.

Gwenllian must have been good at her job because in October 1886 she was entered into an International butter making contest, held at the Agricultural Hall in London. Gwenllian got through to the final six, and the Judges decided that Gwen be appointed the winner for the "general excellence" of her butter making. And it is said that she received her winner's

medal from Queen Victoria. The following day Gwen received a request to make butter for the Lord Mayor of London, and before she left London she had also received an invitation to go to Jersey to teach butter-making. This she accepted.

On her return to Wales she married an Englishman, and soon after emigrated to America to farm their own homestead

Gwilym Harri

Gwilym Harri a well known local bard was born at Garwdyla, the son of Harry and Mary and grandson of Sion Llewellyn, also a famous poet. After marrying Ann he moved to Llwyn Onn farm. Gwilym was not set out to be a

farmer, he was more interested in poetry.

He went to live at Pontprenllwyd, in a cottage near the river, there he spent most of his time weaving and writing poetry. Many of his poems being of a religious nature. At one stage he became so poor that the bard Iolo Morgannwg petitioned on his behalf to the Cambrian Society of Gwent to receive one of their gratuities. During his lifetime Gwilym Harri published two collections of poems, 'Yr Awen Resymol' in 1828 and 'A Nodd Awen' in 1835. These were republished by his great-grandsons in 1910.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday April 17th: Mr & Mrs Clive Hopkins - Patagonia
Wednesday May 15th: A.G.M. followed by Mr Gwyn Morgan
Wednesday June 19th: Lowrie Jenkins - To be announced

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chair	Mrs Celia Morgan
Vice Chair	Mr Mike Pugh
Secretary	Mrs Kathleen Forward
Treasurer	Mrs Nita Williams
Members	Mrs Dilys Jones
	Mr Bruce Davies
	Mr Alan Llewellyn
	Mrs Caroline Lawless
Co-opted	Mrs Joyce Morgan
	Mrs Debbie Smart



2013 so far:

January

Despite the cold wintery conditions, our first meeting of 2013 held back



in January was well attended with over forty members and guests. We were thoroughly entertained with an interested talk given by local celebrity and BBC broadcaster Mr Roy Noble. Roy's talk entitled 'Back to the Future' started with his childhood in his home village of Brynmanan and travelled through time taking in along the way Ystradfellte and Penderyn. Nine new members joined our society, taking our membership up to fifty.



The evening concluded with everyone socialising with tea and cakes. A raffle was held making £40 and prizes

were won by Joyce Morgan, Phil Parcell and Geraint Davies.

February

Our speaker in February was our very own Neil Thomas. Neil gave an interesting and thorough talk on the Ysguborfawr Estate and in particular the character known as 'Shoni Sguborfawr'. It was obvious to everyone present that Neil had done a



tremendous amount of research on these topics, and we all thank him for his efforts. The meeting was the best attended yet, with over 50 members and guests attending. Well done Neil. February raffle winners were: Hilary Cuss, Rob Tay and Alan Llewellyn

March

Thirty members and guests saw another of our society members give a talk in March. On this occasion it was Colin Davies. Colin gave a talk entitled 'Singing

in the Choir'. The talk began with Colin reminiscing his younger days singing with the famous



Cwmbach Choir and the Choir's connection with the world famous American singer Paul Robson. To every-one's amusement Colin even managed to get his audience singing. A great evening was had by all, the raffle made £46 and prizes were won by Mandy Pugh, and Mr & Mrs Davies (Gelli)

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The Drovers

For many years Drovers have passed through the village of Penderyn. Cattle would be driven through on the way to Brecon and from there to London or other parts of England. The drovers would travel from West Wales collecting cattle from farms on their way to sell at various fairs. They say that the average walking time with a herd of cattle was two miles per hour. The cattle would be have shoes fitted to them, not horse shoes because the cows hoofs are a different shape to horses. If they were driving pigs they would put tar on their feet, geese were treated in the same way. Sometimes they would make little stilts and then tied them on the geese. Having shod the cows they could either walk along the roads or over the mountains. If they knew there was a toll gate they would walk them over the mountain to avoid the payments. The Red Lion was most probably a drovers inn. When the drovers came to Penderyn, the head drovers would sleep in the inn and the other drovers slept the under the hedges. Once they

arrived at their destination the cattle would be sold and payment would be made in gold sovereigns. This would cause them a problem because on the return journey there would be people waiting for them along their route to rob them. The answer to this problem was to disguise themselves, they would dress as monks, woman and all kind of things to avoid being robbed or murdered. One such person would have been Gwilym Williams Celia's great great grandfather. Gwilym farmed Pencae in Penderyn and Heolrhydings in Ystrad-fellte. Gwilym had two drovers and his wife would not allow them in the house so they slept in the farm out buildings at Pencae. The following is an extract of information that has been passed down through the generations. Before he went pig buying Gwilym would make great preparations. He would prepare the *cart llusg*, a cart with only front wheels and a long body, the very end would drag the floor. He raided the dairy for food, cheese, butter, bread and anything else he could find to feed him and his drovers on the way to Carmarthen,

Pembrokeshire, and Cardigan. During the night they would sleep in hedges at the side of the road, but the hedges were not comfortable for Gwilym, he had travelled the road many times and knew of places where he could sleep in comfort and where there was good grass to feed the horse.

Once the men got close to the borders of counties of Carmarthen, Pembroke and Cardigan word quickly spread, and all the pigs and pig's cots were put ready for the sale. When the buying of the pigs was finished two big holes were dug opposite each other, one filled with melted tar and the other with sand. The pigs were driven through the melted tar and then the sand, therefore protecting their feet for the long trek home.

Gwilym sold many of the pigs on the homeward journey. Large numbers were brought back to Pencae, the fields were full of pigs and from a distance they looked like a flock of sheep. He slaughtered all of pigs and salted them. The influx of families seeking work in the nearby towns and villages created a good market for the bacon.

Scrapbook

Colin Davies our speaker in March, had a verity of books on display, one of which was a scrapbook which was compiled by Colin's father-in-law the late Mr Dilwyn Roderick, former headmaster of Penderyn School. A number of members showed interest in this little booklet. Colin's wife Mrs Mena Davies has kindly given the society permission to reproduce this booklet and all proceeds of the sale to go towards society funds. We thank Mrs Davies for this very kind gesture. The booklet has a number of articles relating to the village together with some photographs. The book will be printed to order, if anyone is interested in purchasing one please let Celia know, the cost hasn't been finalised but will be in the region of around £3 to £4.

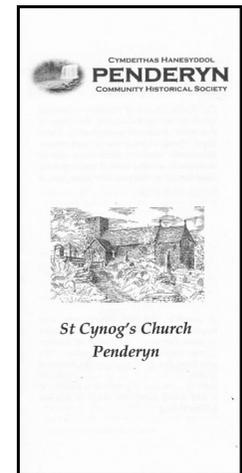
Web Site Update

We have been busy working on our web site with the help of Richard Noble. We just need to add the finishing touches to enable us to go 'live'. Hopefully this can be completed by the end of May. The web site will include a members page where members will be able to access the societies photographs. It is hoped that eventually the web site will include recordings of some of the talks given by speakers in our meetings. We will keep you informed of the progress.

Red Lion on Television Historical Leaflets

Did you see the Red Lion on television? During the past couple of months the Red Lion has been featured a number of times on TV. During the bad weather the landlord, Keith James was interviewed on channel 4 news, regarding the adverse weather conditions and if it had any effect on his trade. Then the pub was heavily featured in BBC Wales trailers for the Six Nations Rugby. A series of three adverts for the six nations rugby featuring the Red Lion were broadcast during the run up to the games. The clips for the six nations can be found on You Tube by putting a search in for 'six nations Italy trailer'. The Red Lion was also recently featured in a promotional music video.

We are in the process of producing a series of Historical Information Leaflets, the first four are currently being printed.



These are: 'St Cynog's Church Penderyn', 'Penderyn Chapels', 'Public Houses' and 'Notable People' and will be available in the near future.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to our Newsletter, if you wish to contribute please let us know

