



**Web Site Update**

It was hoped that the website would go live at the end of May, but due to some other commitments it has been put on hold for the moment. If anyone would like to write an article for site please contact Celia. The article can be anything to do with the history of Penderyn, the more information we have the better.

**Local Hero's**

Following on from the Valleys Ambassador's we were asked if we could supply a list of 'Local Hero's' who we thought had made some kind of impact either locally or nationally. We submitted four people who we thought were worthy of a mention, Lewis Lewis, David Wynne, Richard Bell M.P. And Dr. Alice Evans. Some of you may not have heard or know anything about these people so in the next newsletter I will give you all the information I can about them and tell you what they have achieved for them to be include in this list.

**Open Doors**

The Society is again taking

part in this event this year. We will be holding a guided walk around the village led by Gwyn Morgan. It will start at the Red Lion car park at 2 p.m. The walk will take about one hour and will take you down Church Road to Pontpren, up to the Lamb Village and back to the car park. On the way Gwyn will be pointing out things of interest and giving you some history of the village. It's free to join in but please book in advance if you intend to join the walk. Please note that there is a very step climb back up to the car park. There will be

some photographs on display in the Red Lion afterwards.

**102 Years Old**

Local resident, Mrs. Sal Palfrey celebrated her 102nd



birthday on July 4th, what an achievement.

Congratulations from the society.

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

*Wednesday July 17th: Jill Evans*  
*Saturday August 17th: Buffett Red Lion*  
*Wednesday September 18th: Visit to Llwyn Coch*

**YOUR COMMITTEE**

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Chair</b>              | Mrs Celia Morgan     |
| <b>Secretary</b>          | Mrs Kathleen Forward |
| <b>Treasurer</b>          | Mrs Margaret Thomas  |
| <b>Membership Sec.</b>    | Mrs Joyce Morgan     |
| <b>Projects/Publicity</b> | Mrs. Wendy Donovan   |
| <b>Members</b>            | Mrs Caroline Lawless |
|                           | Mr Alan Llewellyn    |
|                           | Mrs. Debbie Smart    |

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting took place at the Community Centre in May and was very well attended. A number of committee members stood down from their posts, namely, Dilys, Mike, Nita and Bruce, I'm sure we would all like to thank them for the hard work that they put in to enable the society to be where it is today.



Our new committee is detailed on page 4 of this newsletter.

**AMBASSADOR TRAINING**

As you may be aware the Historical Society has three members belonging to The Valleys Ambassador's scheme.



This scheme was set up to promote the valleys. In June the three members, Joyce, Nita and Celia were thrown into the deep end. A training day was held at the Red Lion with about 20 Ambassador's plus co-ordinators and training advisors. attending The course title was Belief in the Valleys which was aimed at promoting the religious side of tourism and to encourage tourists to visit the many churches and chapels that the valleys have to offer. The morning was spent discussing this topic. We were lucky enough to have good weather. And after lunch Nita and Celia took the group over the road to



**HIRWAUN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Thirty five years ago in June the Hirwaun Historical Society was formed and to mark the occasion a couple of our members were invited down to the launch of their website to celebrate the occasion. Hirwaun Society have in the past produced two DVD's of photographs selling nearly a thousand copies between them. They also produce calendars every year. The website is has a lot of information, and can be accessed at:

[www.Hirwaunhistorical.org.uk](http://www.Hirwaunhistorical.org.uk)

**N.L.W. NEWS**

It has been reported to us that the three DVD's submitted to the National Library of Wales by the previous society were destroyed in the recent fire at the Library. Mr Tim Howells has been informed.

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## SPEAKERS

### April

Our Speakers in April were Clive and Eleri Hopkins, who live in Swansea. Mr & Mrs Hopkins gave an interesting talk about their visit to Patagonia. Clive spoke about the places that they visited supported with some photographs. Eleri, a retired school teacher gave us some of the history of Patagonia and



### June

June saw the return of Lowri Jenkins from St. Fagan's National History Museum. Lowri a very popular speaker last year and also proved to be one this year. Although on the night there were a number of technical problems she overcame this and gave a fascinating talk on the history of women and presented a selection of sound recordings and photographs that had been collected over the years. These included recordings of women talking about all aspects of life. Lowri also showed a book of Welsh recipes, included in the book was one by a lady from Penderyn known locally as Bopa Sis.

We were grateful that Lowri made this trip up to speak to us and wish her all the best.



spoke in great detail about the ship Minnesota transporting some of the first immigrants there. A lot of research had gone into this talk and this was shown in the questions afterwards. We are extremely grateful to Clive and Eleri for travelling all the way up from Swansea to speak to us.

### May

May saw the return of the double act Gwyn and Joyce. Gwyn spoke about entries from a diary which belonged to Eva Dunn. This diary belonged to Marj Lazlo who very kindly gave it to Gwyn. It was a fascinating look into the years gone by and he was of course helped by Joyce.

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

## Major Francis Cyril Powell MC DCM

The church of St. Cynog's is situated on a hill above the village of Penderyn and is surrounded by a vast circular graveyard, with beautiful views of the surrounding area.

Walking around the graveyard it is interesting to read the many memorials that are there, one such memorial is that of Major Francis Cyril Powell, MC, DCM. The inscription reads:



*To the loving memory of*

*Major Francis Cyril Powell MC DCM*

*Lord Strathcona's Horse RC*

*Who was killed at Calgary by a fall from his horse*

*September 30th 1936 aged 47*

*He was the younger son of*

*William Peter Powell of Hirwain*

Reading this inscription you realise that he had a connection with the area, but it makes you wonder what else there is to learn about this person.

He was in fact the son of Wm. Powell Contractor of Hirwaun. Born in Swansea in 1888, he was educated at Malvern College and then moved on to Sandhurst. He was a 2nd Lieutenant in the Welch Regiment during the years 1907 to 1909 and he served with his regiment in South Africa. He then emigrated to Canada to take up ranching in the Kamloops District. In 1910 he joined the 31st British Columbia Horse Regiment and later transferred to the Lord Strathcona's Horse. In 1912 he returned home from Canada and married Edith Pollard in London, and then both returned to Canada.

During the first World War whilst holding the rank of Signal Corporal he won the Distinguished Cross Medal at Festubert for gallantry under shell fire. In August 1915 he was promoted to Sergeant and in April, 1917, Lieutenant. He served as Adjutant and was awarded the Military Cross. In 1920 he was promoted to Captain and in 1935 to Major.

In September 1936 he went on horseback to inspect his troupes, then made his way back to barracks. But the horse returned without a rider. A search was organized and Major Powell was found unconscious, and died a few hours later.

He was given a military funeral in Canada and his ashes brought back by his wife and young daughter to be buried in the family vault at Penderyn.

Thanks to Donna Darago Canada for additional research.