

Jenkin Howell

Jenkin Howell was born in 1836 to John and Gwen Howell of Wernlas farm. He had very little schooling and when he was young tried a variety of different trades. Later in life he



became a printer opening his own works and he published many Welsh books together with the newspaper "Y Gweithiwr Cymreig" which he owned and edited. He was an authority on local history and a lot of his work was published.

David Wynne

David William Thomas was born in 1900 at Nantmoch Uchaf Farm Penderyn., the son of Phillip and Elizabeth Thomas. When he was twelve months old the family moved to Llanfabon. On leaving school he went to work down the mines. David learned to play the piano and soon found his love for music. He applied for a Glamorgan County Scholarship and was accepted. He enrolled at the University College in Cardiff, and studied full time. While at Cardiff he became enthusiastic about composing. He went on to become a music teacher at Pengam and he also taught at the Cardiff College of Music and Drama. He later went on to be a well known Welsh composer using the name of David Wynne.



Penderyn's Notable People

Penderyn's Notable People is produced by
Penderyn Community Historical Society
Who meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month
(except August and December)
At Penderyn Community Centre at 7.00pm
Everyone welcome.
Admission:- Members: Free Visitors/Guests: £1.50

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.

Dewi Cynon

David Davies or Dewi Cynon as he was more commonly known was born in a small cottage in the woods below Bodwigiad, in 1854. He was originally known for being a singer and conducting choirs at the local chapel, he became the postmaster at Penderyn, he became interested in literature and



entered competitions in local Eisteddfods where he won many prizes for his essay writing. Perhaps he was more famously known as the author of "Hanes Plwyf Penderyn" (the History of Penderyn Parish), he wrote two editions, one in 1908 and the other in 1924. Dewi Cynon died in 1938.

Richard Bell MP

Richard Bell was born in Pontpren in 1859. He was the son of Charles and Ann Bell and grandson to Richard Bell the warrener of Pantmawr, Ystradfellte. His father Charles was a quarryman who later became a policeman and the family moved to Merthyr Tydfil where his father was stationed. Richard's first job was an office boy at Cyfarthfa Iron works. He later joined the employment of the Great Western



Railway where he joined the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. He later transferred to Swansea and as there was no branch of the ASRS he soon established one. He was a high profile Trade Unionist and became the General secretary of ASRS. In 1900 Richard Bell was elected as the first Labour MP for the Borough of Derby. Richard Bell died on 1st May 1930.