

Secretary's Statement – January 2024

January 2024, blimey, where did the time go? It's not that long ago I posted a statement as to the state of our society but quite a lot has happened in the meantime. We sadly lost our treasurer of many years [John Child] after a bout of ill health. John was more than a treasurer, he was also the link to the Social Club where we hold our meetings, making sure the room was set up ready for our meetings and also ensuring our voice was heard in their committee meetings.

We were very lucky in that one of our new members was also more than happy to become treasurer so a big thank you to Geof Andrews. Geof has changed the money side of the society, who would have thought that you would be able to pay your membership using your bank card, ditto paying speakers, no more cheques to be signed by two members of the committee, one click and it's gone into the speakers bank account. It's also thanks to Geof we have a new laptop and projector which he managed to source. Add to that a new P.A. system [plus microphones} and we are ready to go.

Ill health has dogged a few of our members and to all we wish a speedy recovery. Our membership seems to have slipped in the last few months but hopefully it will recover. If every member brings one new person to the society, it will make a big difference.

2024 is also a very important year for the society as it will be our 50th anniversary. The first meeting called to suggest forming a society was early in 1974. The Brynmawr Historical Society was founded on Wednesday, 6th March 1974 at 7.30pm at Brynmawr County Primary School, Clydach Street, Brynmawr, Breconshire when eleven like-minded people met and agreed that a historical society be formed. The name originally chosen was the North East Blaenau Gwent Historical Society though it was eventually changed to its current form. It was agreed that it would be Historical to enable the society to discuss subjects on a local, national and international level. Looking back on the society's achievements shows how important the society had become and may it continue for many years.

We have been aware that several Historical Societies in Gwent have closed their doors for good, mostly due to declining numbers. We look at our society as a place where you can meet and have a natter [not during the talks], meet up with like minded people, a safe environment to meet and quite simply relax and learn something new. We are grateful to the Social Club in that we can use their lounge area after the lectures to comment on what we heard and make an opinion and of course gossip.

Your friendly neighbourhood secretary.