

BRYNMAWR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS UPDATE

March 2017

www.brynmawrhistoricalsociety.org.uk

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Following our A.G.M. held on Wednesday, January the following officers and committee members were elected:

OFFICERS

CHAIRPERSON 2017

Merryl Caleb

Vice Chairperson

Hywel Axford

Secretary

Eifion Lloyd Davies

Treasurer

John Child

Committee Members are as follows:

Ann Axford

Nicholas Beswick

Roy Fowler

John Hill

David Morgan

Plus two auditors

Current Auditors:

June Evans

Carol Morgan

Following the A.G.M. Mike Edwards gave an entertaining talk on the Welsh Language in Herefordshire. A big thank you to Mike.

The News Update will be available on our web site: www.brynmawrhistoricalsociety.org.uk

There will also be some "hard copies" printed to those who do not favour the use of computers.

Many thanks to Cliff Hendy who over the years has sent some entertaining snippets to the News Update office like this one following:-

Please keep them coming Cliff.

Gallantry Rewarded. The inhabitants of Brynmawr will be pleased to understand that a townsman, Joseph Jackson was recently presented at the port of New York with a gold medal by President Taft for the rescue under dangerous circumstances of the master and four members of the crew of an American sloop. Young Jackson, who is twenty years of age, is the son of Mr and Mrs A Jackson, drapers and outfitters, Station Road, and at the time of the rescue was on board the British steamer "Brieka". It was while on a voyage from Naples to New York that a vessel was sighted flying signals of distress and not withstanding a heavy sea was running at the time, Jackson and three companions manned a boat and effected the rescue of the distressed seamen just in the nick of time as in less than a quarter of an hour after the men had been taken off, the vessel disappeared from sight. After leaving school, young Jackson joined the British Navy serving on H. M. S. "Impregnable", "Inconstant". Hogue" and "Cornwallis" and afterwards joined the mercantile marine.

President Taft was the 27th president of the U.S.A. between 1909 and 1913.

Nicholas Beswick looked up the type of medal that Jackson was presented with, you can see a similar one at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lifesaving_Medal

Sadly our speaker for the February meeting, David Harrison was unable to attend as he had recently had some serious surgery. We wish David a speedy recovery.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY. 2017 DAY VISIT

Luncheon Club. Wednesday, April 27th 2017.

This will be a "Mystery Tour" in the footsteps of Owain Glyndwr.

The Society's Luncheon Club have been organising jaunts that are very popular with the members. We leave Brynmawr mid-morning for a coach ride to a suitable venue for lunch. We incorporate a historical theme to the day (we are a Historical Society) and in the afternoon we usually stop somewhere for tea/coffee and a sticky bun, then home by late afternoon.

This year, we will be following in the footsteps of Owain Glyndwr, whom many regard as the last Welsh born Prince of Wales, (many regard him as **the** last Prince of Wales).

Owain Glyndwr was born in Glyndyfrdwy in North East Wales in 1359. Most associate him with mainly North Wales, especially Machynlleth where he held his parliament. Owain's late life was probably spent not 20 miles away and this is what we will be following. He died possibly in 1415 according to one of his followers. There are of course many places that claim to be the last resting place of the Prince and some claim that he's not dead but like King Arthur just waiting for the call to save Wales yet again.

The Luncheon Club will be on Wednesday, April 26th. If you wish to join us please give your names to our treasurer (John Child) or reply to this e-mail. The cost of the coach will depend on the number travelling and you pay for your own meal at the Stockton Cross. A copy of their menu will be sent separately, please make your choice and either reply to this e-mail or let our treasurer know at the next meeting.

Our final port of call will be Oakchurch Farm Shop and Garden Centre for tea/coffee. They sell just about everything so you may want to be prepared with a shopping bag and list. Go on line to:

<http://www.oakchurch.net/>

Some of you will have heard the talk on "Quoits in Brynmawr" or have read it on our website. One puzzle that was not solved is where was the Quoits pitch? While researching a completely different topic I came across this snippet of information:

The Quoits Club has been again formed for the coming season. Dr. Bevan is the president and Mr. Fessemeyer secretary. The playing ground, at the rear of the Capital and Counties Bank, has been put in order and a good season is anticipated. Arrangements have been made for matches with Hereford Cup Club, and a contest with Cheltenham is also talked of. The members of the Hereford Club have forwarded a splendid photo of themselves to the members of the Brynmawr Club, accompanied by a letter, in the course of which they speak in glowing terms of the enjoyable times the two clubs have had together in past seasons.

The Capital & Counties Bank became Lloyds Bank on King Street. The pitch would have been behind the bank in what is also called Griffin Mews. Many suggest that Quoits was very much a working class sport but a look at the officers of the club would say otherwise.

As you may well know, Brynmawr once had a brewery, but did you know there were two in the town in 1859. There was Thomas Jenkins & Co, Brynmawr Brewery and Evan Griffith Williams of Brynmawr, (he was also brewing in the town in 1845). Where the breweries were sited is uncertain though there was one on the end of Clarence Street opposite The Clarence public house at one time.

In 1859 there were 49 retailers of beer listed in the directory for Brynmawr and 23 Inns and Public Houses which must have kept both breweries very busy.

Next issue of the Newsletter will be in May.

...and finally, if you have any news for the Update then please e-mail them or hand them to the secretary at the next meeting.