



CYMDEITHAS HANES CWM DULAIS CWM DULAIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter – Cylchlythyr

April 2022

Precis of Recent Talk “*A Walk through Gower*”

We were treated to an unusual approach in the talk last week by Gary Gregor who very helpfully stood in for Colin Wheldon-James who was indisposed. We wish him well soon.

Gary spoke of a wide-ranging group of people who had connections or associations with the area of Gower from Mumbles to Rhossilli. He recalled his walks along that coast route and recollections of people and places of note on the way. He started with Sir John Morris, normally linked with Morriston town, of course, but did you know that he was involved in the development of the Mumbles Railway (early horse drawn version) or Alfred Sisley, the impressionist artist, born in Paris to British parents who painted around Langland and Caswell Bay while staying at the former Osborne Hotel. On a more academic note, Thomas Bowdler was mentioned. He is the chap who “bowdlerised” Shakespeare i.e., he was perhaps an early day Mrs Whitehouse, removing any “dubious” scenes or phrases from the poet’s works! Born near Bath he lived latterly in Brynmill at a house called the Rhyddings and was buried in Oystermouth Church grave yard.

At Langland was the old Union Rest Home built originally by one of the Crawshay family. While passing through Pwll Du Bay he recited the stories of Caesar’s Hole and Giant’s Grave where tales of shipwrecks and shady goings on occurred. Vernon Watkins poet and compatriot of Dylan Thomas apparently enjoyed quiet moments seeking inspiration along the coast near Hunt’s Bay and Deepslade. His wife still lives in the area.

Edward VII when Prince of Wales visited Oxwich and Penrice castles in his time. Penrice manor house the most recent edifice was, through family connections, closely associated with early photography the names of Fox-Talbot, Dillwyn-Llewellyn and others took and self-processed some stunning photos in those early days. Having viewed the Worm (really a dragon) at Rhossilli our speaker then quietly closed his tour and caught the bus home.

Thank you again, Gary.

1921 Census

Have you looked at the latest Census online? It is supported by *Findmypast* in association with the National Archives. While initial access is free any subsequent documentation you wish to request is chargeable. Of course, you must sign up with the obligatory email address and password to access the system.

However, once started you can discover numerous details illustrating a snapshot of life at that time including where folks lived (including a map display), who they lived with, marital status, birthplace, ages, details of employment and employer. With this additional information, it is more informative than its predecessors.

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Farm properties in Dulais Valley

At our last meeting a couple of people asked me about Farm records for the Valley. As part of the archive, I have a computer Excel file entitled **Heritage Sites – Farms and Large Houses**. It lists such properties with a short description alongside. A small sample is shown below.

Table 1 Extract from Heritage Sites – Farms and Large Houses

Village	Farm name	Map series	OS Grid Ref	Description
Crynant	Gelli Galed	25" OS Map No: 9.6	SN785051	A large farmhouse on the top of March Hywel built around 1630 with later extensions during the 18th and 19th century. The last resident of Gelli Galed was Bill Gates who lived there alone until the 1960s when he moved down to the village. Today Gelli Galed is a ruin.
Crynant	Tyn-y-graig Mansion	25" OS Map No: 9.10	SN789041	On early OS maps there is no large house only the farm and cottages. The two cottages were joined together in the 1920s by David Bevan to form the mansion house. Today the estate is broken up and the buildings separately owned. It comprises of the large house, the farm with boarding kennels and fish ponds and the cottages.
Crynant	Pen Graig Farm			Now a ruin it was originally a stone farmhouse. It has been uninhabited for over 300 years.

If my memory serves me correctly the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth also have some farm records online in addition to their Tithe maps and associated Apportionments.

At present, I am finding my way through these sites myself but if I can help let me know.
