

Kenfig News



April 2006

Society Programme For 2006/2007

Date	Event	Speaker
16th May 2006	A History Of Newton	Mr Dil Taylor
5th July 2006	The National Waterfront Museum Swansea	Depart Pyle Leisure Centre 6pm
18th July 2006	The Beautiful Bridge	Mr Brian Davies
15th Aug 2006	No Meeting	
19th Sep 2006	16th Century Wreck on Margam Beach	Dr Mark Redknapp
17th Oct. 2006	The Mansel -Talbots of Margam and Penrice	Mr John Adams
21st Nov 2006	Members Evening	
19th Dec 2006	Christmas Dinner	The Prince of Wales
16th Jan 2007	Porthcawl Pavilion	Mr Keith Morgan
20th Feb 2007	The Glamorgan Portway	Mr Barrie Griffiths
20th Mar 2007	The Royal Ordinance Factory, Bridgend	Mr Joe Ludlow
17th Apr 2007	A.G.M.	

Time Trekker

Members will undoubtedly remember the long series of articles on local history by Barrie Griffiths which appeared in Property News over a number of years.

It has been decided the the Society should publish a selection of the articles in a book, suitably illustrated with photographs. It is envisaged that this would be in a large (A4) format and consideration is currently being given to using colour for some of the pictures. If this is the case, then we would be thinking in terms of applying for some grant funding to cover the cost. It is hoped that it would be published towards the end of the summer.

Cyril James has taken a series of photographs some of which will appear in the book and some examples of these appear in this edition of the Newsletter.

Anything To Contribute?

The Editor is always happy to receive contributions to the Newsletter. Contact Terry Robbins on 01656 782351 or email - terry.robbins@virgin.net.

This year's programme has an emphasis on the local area. With only one exception all the talks are on subjects of immediate local interest. The one exception is the talk by Brian Davies on the subject of the bridge at Pontypridd, which this year celebrates its 200th anniversary. Mr Davies has talked to the Society before, and an interesting evening is anticipated.

One departure in this year's programme is that the Committee has decided not to have a meeting in August. This meeting is not always well attended, and there are usually problems finding a speaker. The evening trip this year is to the new Waterfront Museum in Swansea. Note the date of 5th July, since the museum is only open in the evenings on the first Wednesday in the month. Admission is free and a coach will be arranged. Again two of our members will be giving talks; Barrie Griffiths on Roman Roads and Keith Morgan on the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

There are three new speakers. Mr Dil Taylor a native of Newton and a resident of Porthcawl will talk to us on the history of Newton and Mr John Adams of Baglan will talk on the history of the Mansel and Talbot families and their connections with Margam and Penrice. Then in March Mr Joe Ludlow will talk about the Bridgend Ordinance Factory during WWII, which will bring back memories for some older members.

Finally in September Dr Mark Redknapp from the National Museum will talk to the Society about a 16th century shipwreck on Margam Sands.



Heol Sheet looking down towards North Cornelly. The probable course of the the Roman road through the area.

Heol Sheet

The name Heol Sheet has always seemed to be a bit of a puzzle to me, and I've never been given a convincing explanation of its derivation and meaning.

In the early 1990's there was a regular Monday feature in the back page of the Western Mail, by Professor Gwynedd Pierce, called "Ditectif Geiriau" which traced the meanings of Welsh words, particularly those appearing in Welsh place names. On one occasion he dealt with the name Tir Shet, which was the name of a farm near Pontardawe. He traced the name back through various documents and the earliest form he found was Ty'r Cheate, which appeared in a will of 1613. There followed over the years a wide variety of spellings, but he believed that this early version provided the clue to the origin of the name, which he believed came from the Middle English word "escheate".

This word came from Old French and referred to the process of returning land to the king or the local lord on the death of the owner, when there were no heirs. In parts of Wales, in the middle ages, such land would sometimes become common land, or land belonging to

the community. However that might have been, there was a tendency among ordinary people to consider that such land had no owner and was therefore freely available.

He went on to point out that this word was one of many appearing in Welsh place names, which were in fact legal names referring to the conditions under which a piece of land was held. In this respect he quoted an example from the Neath area, of Cwrt Sart. In this case the element "sart" derives from the English word "assart", which was land that had been acquired by "assarting" or clearing away woodland.

So could "escheate" also be the origin of our Heol Sheet, or perhaps more correctly Heol Sheat, and could it refer to the road that runs through the land that had once fallen forfeit to the Crown or reverted to become common land when the owner died without a heir?

Any comments welcomed !

A.G.M. - A Crisis!

The AGM of the Society is being held on Tuesday 18th April and it finds the organisation in a certain degree of disarray. Although we continue to organise a full programme of talks and other activities and meetings continue to be well attended, there are serious problems as far as the administration of the Society is concerned.

A glance at the make-up of the committee clearly shows the problems which we have. We have no chairperson or vice-chairman and up to now we have been singularly unsuccessful in finding anyone to fill these posts. The way we have arranged things over the last ten years or so is for a vice-chairperson to be appointed for a period of two years at the same time as the chairperson starts their two year term. At the end of two years the vice chairperson takes over as chairperson and a new vice is elected.

Up to now this has worked very well but now we find ourselves with both posts vacant. This means that we have no one to chair meetings or to introduce speakers at Society meetings. More importantly we have no one to officially represent the Society with regard to outside organisations. This creates serious difficulties, particularly with regard to the Charity Commission to whom we have to make an annual return to retain our charitable status. A similar situation will arise when applying for grants, as, for example we intending to do with regard to the Time Trekker publication. An organisation without a chairperson is not going to create a very good impression with those allocating such funds.

In any case according to our constitution we should have both of these posts filled. As you can see over the page, we have a full and interesting programme for 2006/7. However, unless this problem can be solved we must seriously consider winding-up the Society at the 2007 AGM.

All the committee give up a lot of their time doing all sorts of things for the Society such as organising speakers, taking care of the finances, creating and marketing Society publications, giving talks to and liaising with local organisations and producing Newsletters. It is unfair to also ask them to take up the responsibilities of a chairperson as well.

So please give a thought to standing for one of these posts. You only commit yourself to a two year appointment but it could make all the difference to the future of the Society

Kenfig Society Committee 2005/6

Chairperson	Vacant
Vice-Chairperson	Vacant
Treasurer	Brain James
Secretary	Paul Sidey
Publications Secretary	Jenny Patterson
Programme Secretary	Terry Robbins
Dig Liaison	Dennis Jones
Committee Members	Sandra Harris; Ken Williams; Cyril James;



Cattle in Kenfig Pool

PHOTO Cyril James