

Kenfig News



September 2006

Society Programme For Sept 2006 To April 2007

Date	Event	Speaker
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.	

Maudlam Mensa Slabs Off To St Fagans.

Some of parishioners and visitors to St Mary Magdalene Church in Maudlam will remember two large slabs resting in the corner of the porch.

In his book "The Buried City of Kenfig", written about the end of the 19th C, Thomas Gray relates how he was astonished to find these two stones being used to form part of the path to the west door and describes the stones in detail suggesting that these pre-Reformation slabs came from the church lost in the buried town of Kenfig. He spoke to the churchwarden, Mr Lipscomb, who had the slabs taken up and placed inside the church, probably to the porch where they remained for about 100 years. It was very difficult to move them without lifting equipment. One weighed about three-quarters of a ton (15 cwts) and the other more than half a ton (about 11 cwts). A safe home was sought for them at various locations including the stones museum at Margam and Ewenny Priory during renovations there but without success.

When the path to the west door was modified to facilitate wheelchair access a few years ago, opportunity was taken to move them to a space on the north side of the churchyard. They came to the notice of Mr Gerallt Nash of the National Folk Museum of Wales who sought them for the church from Llandeilo Tal-y-bont being transferred to St Fagans. Permission was granted as the architects, in their Quinquennial Report, recommended that they be stored under cover. Here was an opportunity for them to be cared for by professionals and available for public viewing. They were removed on Tuesday 30th May 2006 and are now installed in St Fagans.

Ken Williams



The Village, Pyle.

A view of Pyle Village about a hundred years ago. This picture was taken from near the Cross and looking south towards Stormy. There seems to be no street lighting and in spite of this being the main road to Cardiff there is little to be seen on it except what appears to be some horse manure in the foreground and two figures walking in the whose walk along the road is uninterrupted by any traffic. Just as well judging by the absence of any pavements!

It must have looked much like this when the crash reported on Page 2 occurred.

Anything To Contribute?

The Editor is always happy to receive contributions to the Newsletter. Contact Terry Robbins on 01656 782351

or email - terryterry37@tiscali.co.uk

1906 News Items from 100 Years Ago

1906 was quite a year for big news. Not only did Mount Vesuvius erupt in April, but on the other side of the world, there was a devastating earthquake, followed by a fire, which destroyed the biggest part of the city.

This year also saw in America the arrival on the scene of what must be one of our most popular foods, In February, JH and WK Kellogg founded the Battle Creek Toasted Cornflake Company, which eventually became the WK Kellogg breakfast cereal company.

Also in America, and Orville and Wilbur Wright were granted a patent for their flying machine.

In Britain, the ill-fated Cunard liner, The Lusitania was launched in June and in September, made a record-breaking crossing of the Atlantic on her maiden voyage in September. Her's was a short career however, as she was torpedoed and sunk by a German U boat in 1915. 1,200 lives were lost, including some Americans and this was partly instrumental in bringing America into the war.

More locally, we find in October, the headline

"Motor Car Smash At Pyle Acrobat's Unrehearsed Performance"

On Sunday, a motor car coming from Cowbridge had its steering fail and when the chauffeur it turned turtle over the fence near Pyle railway bridge, almost breaking into two pieces. The chauffeur was thrown over the fence and badly shaken. The passenger, an acrobat named Fred Lyons, was thrown 10 or 12 yards, without serious injury. He was appearing at the Empire, Swansea that week and subsequently swore he would not go in another car for a £1000.

Mr Lyons had been driving Swansea in a trap. He met the driver at Cowbridge and being offered had left the horse and trap there.

In November there was an account of a Kenfig Hill Parish Council meeting. At the meeting, there were complaints that boys were throwing stones at the street lamps.

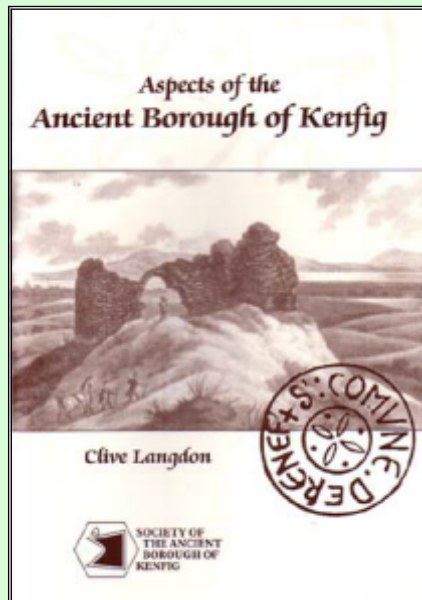
These were paraffin lamps on poles. The light that gave was very dim and there had been complaints about their inadequacy. One correspondent said that people walking after dark walked into the poles, and had to strike a match to see what the obstruction was.

Dennis Jones

Aspects of the Ancient Borough of Kenfig

A booklet with the above title has been recently published by Mr Clive Langford,

It is a pot pourri of events, facts and stories concerning Kenfig and covers a period of over a millennium. In addition, it also contains a selection of over 20 very interesting black and white photographs of the area.



Amongst its contents are chapters on local court proceedings and meetings of burgesses in the 18th and early 19th century. There is also an account of the shops which once existed in Maudlam and Ton Kenfig.

Another chapter deals with the wreck of the San Tampa and also

lists about sixty other wrecks which occurred in the area between 1583 and 1967. There is an interesting section on the wages being paid to workers in various jobs in the year 1783, which helps to put in perspective what it was like to be around at that time.

The cost of the publication was generously supported by the Kenfig Trustees, which means that the Society has some copies available at the nominal price of £1.00 and copies can be purchased at Society meetings

Society Membership

Quite a number of members have not renewed their membership, These renewals were due last March and anyone who has not yet done so is urged to do so as soon as possible. For this purpose a membership form is included below.. If you want to maintain your newsletter intact then just include the necessary information on a separate piece of paper.

The Kenfig Society Application for Membership

Name _____
Address _____
Post Code _____
Telephone _____
Email _____

Members Fees	Full £6
Tick as required	Concessionary £3
	Family £8

Cheques made payable to The Kenfig Society and the completed application form should be sent to :-

**Mr Brian M. James,
4, Glan-y-Llyn,
Broadlands,
North Cornelly,
Bridgend, CF33 4EF**