

# Kenfig News



January 2007

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## Society Programme For Jan To April 2007

Date	Event	Speaker
16th Jan 2007	The Glamorgan Portway	Mr Barrie Griffiths
20th Feb 2007	Porthcawl Pavilion	Mr Keith Morgan
20th Mar 2007	The Royal Ordinance Factory, Bridgend	Mr Joe Ludlow
17th Apr 2007	A.G.M.	

We are coming to the end of our 2006/2007 session and it should be noted that the January and February talks have had to be interchanged, with Barrie Griffiths giving his talk on Roman Roads in January and Keith Morgan will be giving his talk in February.

If we are going to put together a programme for 2007/2008 and if members have any suggestions for speakers, we would be very happy to hear from you.

## A.G.M. - Still A Crisis!

The AGM of the Society is being held on Tuesday 17th April and it finds the Society in the same unsatisfactory situation as it was in a year ago. We still have no chairperson or vice-chairman and during the last 12 months, we have been singularly unsuccessful in finding anyone to fill these posts. The way things have been arranged for many years 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. This means it has been easy for someone new to take over as vice-chair and have two years before becoming the chairman.

Up until two years ago, this has worked very well but now neither post is filled and 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 also creates difficulties with regard to our status as a registered charity and an organisation without a chairperson does not create a very good impression when dealing with other organisations. Also according to our constitution we should have both of these posts filled.

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. The Committee therefore feels that unless this problem can be solved we must seriously consider winding-up the Society at the 2007 AGM.

**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**

## Something 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](mailto:terryterry37@tiscali.co.uk)

## Unexploded Bomb at Nature Reserve

On Wed. 3rd January there was a bomb alert at the Nature Reserve, following the discovery by a member of the public of what appeared to be an old bomb. The police were informed and they in turn contacted the Bomb Disposal Team who quickly arrived on the scene.

They identified the device as being a 2 inch smoke mortar bomb of World War II vintage. Graham Holmes of the Nature Reserve Staff explained that the team used plastic explosives to create a fairly spectacular controlled explosion to dispose of the item in question.

He went on to say that this was the third item of this kind discovered in the same general area over the last few years, a reminder that as well as medieval relics, there are probably a large number of more recent and perhaps more lethal artefacts hidden in the dunes. The excavation team needs to keep a careful eye open!

Members are probably aware of the extension being built at the Reserve Centre. Graham tells me that this work is due to finish in time for a re-opening of the Reserve Centre in March



An interesting photograph taken a little while ago by Bill Richardson, showing some of the old mechanisms still existing in Llanmihangel Mill

## The Kenfig Coronation Celebrations



Mrs Christine Williams, now of Neath but formerly of Pyle and previously Kenfig, recently donated to the Society a Souvenir Programme of events held in "Ye Anciente Borough of Kenfig" to mark the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953. As well as giving details of the events organised to mark the day the programme includes a brief history of the Borough, a map of the area, and photographs of the main "sights" of the area

As a prelude to the big day an United Church

Service had been held at Maudlam church on the previous Sunday, but it was on Tues. 2<sup>nd</sup> June, that actual ceremony itself took place at Westminster Abbey. The Kenfig events got under way at 2.30 that day, with celebratory teas at Kenfig Town Hall; "The New Hall, Maudlam"; the Primary School in North Cornelly and the School Room at South Cornelly. At 5 o'clock everyone then met up at "Maudlam Football Field" for a sport's event with 22 races in which everyone could participate, with prizes in every category. There was even a "walking race" for "couples over 45"!

At 10 pm, everyone was invited to gather at "The Twmpath" – a mound on Mont Mound believed to have been the site of a former windmill - where there was a bonfire and a firework display which closed with the singing of "God Save the Queen".

At our recent "Members Night" meeting, Ken Williams talked briefly about the programme, and this resulted in a lot of reminiscences and discussion, particularly among older members of the Society who remembered the event. A reminder perhaps that some of us are now not just interested in local history, but actually very much part of it.

Members interested in obtaining a CD copy of the programme, should contact **Terry Robbins on 01656 782351.**

Barrie Griffiths

## Kenfig Chronicles Project

Members will be aware that during the course of the past 18 months our Society has been involved in setting up a project involving local schools and aimed at encouraging the children to take an interest in the history of the area. Earlier this year the Community Opportunities Group (COG) who initiated this project submitted an application for a Heritage Lottery Grant of £58,000 to make this project (which will be spread over 2 years) a reality. Early in October we received the news that this bid has been successful, and the project will now get under way in January 2007.

During the first year every school will create their own heritage trail, and will find out as much as they can about historic sites along its route. Part of this will involve speaking to people who can remember local communities as they were in their youth – the further back the better! This is one area where older members of our Society will be of immense assistance. Are you prepared to sit down with a group of school children and talk to them about the village you knew as a child? This will not be a "formal" talk – they will have the questions, all you have to do is sit down with them and supply the answers.

As we get older we often complain that the young have no interest in our stories of the past – that is now set to change! Anyone who would like to participate or wishes to know more please contact Barrie Griffiths, either at one of our meetings or by phone (01656 - 743945).

Barrie Griffiths

## Society Membership

If there are still members who have not renewed their membership, now is your opportunity. If you renew your membership now, it will be valid until the end of March 2008. For this purpose a membership form is included below.

### The Kenfig Society Application for Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Members Fees Full £6

Concessionary £3

Family £8

Tick as appropriate

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



## The Last Laugh

He's utterly convinced that he's being exiled to St Helens, poor devil