

KENFIG NEWS



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Society Programme For 2008-2009

Date	Event	Speaker
2008		
20th May	The History Of Aberdulais Falls	Roger Sellick
17th Jun	Visit to Aberdulais Falls	*
22nd July	Christopher Williams Maesteg Painter	Gwyn Petty
21st Aug.	No Meeting	
16th Sept.	Historic Buildings Of Wales	Mike Anthony
16th Oct.	Members Evening	
20th Nov	Water Everywhere.	Bruce Hawkins
18th Dec.	Christmas Dinner ???	Prince Of Wales ??
2009		
20th Jan	Medieval Kenfig The Norman Conquest	Barrie Griffiths
17th Feb	To be arranged	Keith Morgan
17th Mar	To be arranged	
21st Apr	A.G.M.	

March 2008 Meeting

The subject of the talk at the March meeting will be "Ivor Novello and His Music", and will be given by Mr Howard Mortimore of Baglan.

This will be a little different from our usual talks, in that it will be a case of words and music, as Mr Mortimore will be bringing along recordings the famous Welsh composer's music.

Something To Contribute?

The Editor is always happy to receive contributions to the Newsletter. If you have any material suitable for inclusion or any queries about the Society, Terry Robbins on 01656 782351 or email - terryterry37@tiscali.co.uk.

For more information about the Society, visit our web site at www.kenfigsociety.org

The programme of talks and events for 2008 - 2009 has now been prepared and I hope it will appeal to members. Most of the speakers will be familiar, but I'm sure that their talks will prove as interesting as ever.

Our evening trip this year will be a visit to **Aberdulais Falls near Neath in June**. This has been an industrial site since the early days of the Industrial Revolution and there are still many interesting remains still to be seen there. The site is currently run the National Trust and I'm sure that we will find our visit of greater interest because of the fact that the **May talk by Roger Sellick** will be about the history of the site.

July sees a talk by Gwyn Petty who is well known to most people. He will talk about Christopher Williams, who was a painter of considerable fame from the Llynfi valley. In **September we have a talk by Mike Anthony on historical buildings**. Mike has talked previously about medieval pottery, and he was of considerable assistance to us in helping with the identification of pottery found during the Dig at the castle. He will have some interesting things to say about the process and implications of making buildings "listed". The October meeting will be our usual **Members' Evening** and we hope once again to invite **Mr Ken Maund** to come and talk to us about the **Bro Cynffig** project.

Everyone seemed to enjoy **Bruce Hawkins'** talk on Global Warming last year and so he is returning to give the follow-up talk called, rather ominously, "**Water Everywhere**". January and February 2009, (time certainly marches on!) sees two of our "regulars", **Barrie Griffiths** and **Keith Morgan** speaking to us. Barrie will be talking about Kenfig and the Normans, which is Part 2 of his "History of Kenfig Series." The subject of Keith's talk is to be arranged but we can assume as always that it will be stimulating and interesting.

A **Christmas Dinner** has been "penciled-in" for December. Last Christmas we had a very nice dinner at the "Prince", but only about two dozen members attended. This has led the Committee to the conclusion that perhaps members do not wish to have a dinner, or perhaps they would like a dinner but not at the "Prince", or perhaps they would prefer it to be held at some other time, such as St David's day.

The Committee has decided therefore, to canvass members about this, and attached to this Newsletter, you should find a questionnaire seeking your preferences, If you could complete it and return it by the March meeting, then we will be able to decide what members would prefer and so enable us to make the necessary arrangements.

Terry Robbins

Kenfig Society Officers 2007/8

President & Chairman	Ted Davies CBE,JP
Vice Chairman	Teresa Robbins
Treasurer	Brian James
Minutes Secretary	Paul Sidey
Publications Secretary	Conall Boyle
Programme Secretary	Terry Robbins
Archivist/Librarian	Keith & Janis Edger

Committee Members

Barrie Griffiths; Ken Williams; Sandra Harries;
Jenny Patterson; Dennis Jones; Cyril James,

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The renewal of Society membership becomes due in April. This applies to all those who last renewed their membership before 1st January 2008.

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 - or handed in at the next Society meeting

THE FOUNDING OF THE PATAGONIAN WELSH COLONY, 1865

At a time when many Welsh men and women longed to escape the Anglicisation of their country, a yearning emerged to start life again in one or other of the countries of the New World. In an era of great migratory movements from Europe to the Americas, Africa and Australasia, the Welsh founded colonies in a number of countries, including the USA, Brazil and Argentina. They hoped to live in communities independent of the host nation, and in comparative isolation speak their mother tongue, and maintain their religious practises and customs. Parents longed to bring up their children, untouched by worldly ways, to learn and put into practice the values that they held dear.

After a frustrating attempt to establish such communities in the USA, Welsh patriots focussed on a remote part of the Americas to try again, Patagonia.

Careful preparations were made; the proposed location was visited and approved. Would-be emigrants were sought and found. The background planning was worked through and put into effect. The sailing ship "Mimosa" was hastily fitted out for the voyage. The passengers assembled in Liverpool for their departure. They sailed on 28th May 1865 while one of their leaders sang these brave words:-

"Creator of the Earth, Ruler of the Universe
and our Mighty Lord,

Guard us always; be the protecting strength of
the Welsh across the world on land or sea

We have found a better land in a distant South
ern place, Patagonia.

We shall live there, in peace and with no fear of
betrayal or the sword,

And there the Welshman shall be king. God be
praised."

Over 150 colonists were crowded on board the "Mimosa", and the voyage took exactly 2 months. They reached New Bay, Patagonia without touching land. By then, five young children had died and two had been born, and a couple had been married.

Megan Berry



The photograph shows some of the Mimosa passengers 25 years on. Thomas Harry, born in Tranch (Stormy) in 1847 is the 5th from the left standing. He married in 1877 and had 4 children.

Two of his children died of smallpox in 1896. Thomas's first son was named David. David's daughter Edna married Egryn Williams. Edna and Egryn's grandson Dafydd Williams still lives in Patagonia and has recently written a book about the Welsh in Patagonia, unfortunately for us the book is written in Spanish.

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