

Kenfig News



May 2008

Vol. 18 No. 2

Programme For Spring/Summer 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	

Forthcoming Meetings



The Aberdulais Falls Site in the C17th

Our 2008/2009 programme starts in May with a talk by Roger Sellick about the history of the various mills, factories and workshops which have existed at the site of the Aberdulais Falls in the Neath Valley. Roger has given us a couple of talks in the past; notably about the SS Great Britain, prior to our visit to Bristol to see the ship in 1999 and this talk should provide an ideal introduction to the subject prior to our visit there in June (see below)

Christopher Williams - Local Painter



Farm at Kenfig painted by Christopher Williams.

In June the lecture will be given by Gwyn Petty, a "regular" with the Society for many years, who can always be relied upon to provide us with an entertaining and in-

formative talk. He will be talking about the life and work of the painter Christopher Williams, who was born in Maesteg and enjoyed considerable fame as a painter in the early C19th.

Coincidentally, a recent item in the Western Mail, (20/3/2008), reported the discovery of a painting by Williams at Margam College. The discovery was of particular relevance to our Society as the painting depicted "A Farm At Kenfig" and indeed was a picture of Kenfig Farm painted during the 1920's

Please note.

Monthly meetings will now start at 7.15 instead of 7-30

Society AGM, April 2008

At the April Annual General Meeting, A moment of silence was observed in memory of our late president Ted Davies. The chair was taken by Terry Robbins, who in her review of the year reported that it had been a another successful year for the Society, with an interesting selection of talks which had been well supported by members.

Brian James reported that membership now stood at 69, and the current bank balance stood at £1920, which was considered satisfactory.

Conall Boyle reported on the sale of booklets. Sales had amounted to a healthy £1013 and as well as Time Trekker 3 other booklets had been re-printed. Keith and Janis Edger reported on the Society Archive. All the books and magazines had been catalogued, and catalogues of our holdings were available to members, as well as facilities for borrowing material.

As a result of the passing away of Ted Davies, Teresa Robbins automatically became the Chairperson, and Sandra Harris was appointed Vice Chairperson. Ted Davies's death also led to a vacancy for a president and Ken Williams was appointed to this position.

All the other officers and Committee members were were unanimously re-elected. However, there were still a couple of vacancies left on the Committee and members were encouraged to consider taking up these places

Society Visit to Aberdulais Falls

Our June meeting will be a visit to Aberdulais Falls in the Neath Valley. A coach will leave the Pyle Leisure Centre car park at 6pm sharp. The coach will be free but there will be a collection for the driver.

The site belongs to the National Trust and Trust members will be entitled to free entry, so remember to bring your NT card.

Non-members will pay the reduced Group Entry fee which will be £3.40 per head.

People wishing to go on trip should sign the list which will be available at the at the May meeting, or **phone Terry Robbins on 782351 or Brian James on 741364**

Kenfig Society Officers 2008/2009

President	Ken Williams
Chairperson	Teresa Robbins
Vice Chairperson	Sandra Harris
Treasurer	Brian James
Minutes Secretary	Vacant
Publications Secretary	Conall Boyle
Programme Secretary	Terry Robbins
Archivist/Librarian	Keith & Janis Edger
Committee Members	
Barrie Griffiths; Dennis Jones; Cyril James,	

Society Membership

The renewal of Society membership became 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 Tillamook, high and dry on Kenfig Sands, January 1947

Ted Davies

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing away of Edwin Davies CBE, JP, known to just about everyone in the area as "Ted". His death was a great loss to his family, his friends and to all the many organisations, in which even at the age of 93 he continued to play an active part.



Ted looking very smart, as always, on board the "SS Great Britain" during a Society trip to Bristol.

He had been President of our Society for many years and he will be sadly missed. He was eager to support the Society in any way he could and was always ready with advice

especially in our dealings with statutory bodies. A faithful and regular attender at Society functions who was always ready with questions for the speakers and when called upon to provide a vote of thanks, he could always be relied upon to provide some relevant, succinct and usually amusing comment or anecdote.

Although a native of the Swansea valley, he lived most of his life in Kenfig and his love for the area, its people, its history and its future was evident in all he said or did. He will be sadly missed in the Society and it is hoped that we can in the Society devise some fitting memorial to him.

The Tillamook

Last year a memorial in the form of part of the propeller of the "Tillamook" was unveiled in the car park of The Prince. John Blundell, one of our members has given the Society a set of black and white photographs, which he took in the winter of 1946/47. The ship's propeller had ceased to function with the result that the ship drifted aground onto Kenfig Sands.

The ship had been delivering crude oil to Llandarcy Refinery and was an American "Liberty" ship. It was very similar in design to the Sam Tampa, which was sunk with tragic consequences to both its crew and that of the Mumbles lifeboat, very close to the same spot the following winter.

After many weeks aground on the sands, the ship was eventually towed off early in 1947.

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