

Kenfig News



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Barrie Griffiths

Last year we all suffered a great loss with the passing away of Barrie Griffiths. We as a society will miss him for all the work he did for us and for all the enthusiasm he managed to instil in us.

Barrie had started his work on local history long before the Kenfig Society was formed in 1989, and he had done quite a lot of work with Haydn Reynolds on the mills of Kenfig and

had written a definitive paper on the Sturmys of Stormy Down. This work established him as a local historian of some repute.

He came to the Society with a lot of knowledge of how an historical society should be run. His connections with other historians and societies in the area made sure the Kenfig Society got off to a successful start.

Perhaps the two greatest achievements of the Society have

been the booklets we have published and the dig we carried out at the castle.

These were linked activities because the funds needed for the Dig came from the sale of booklets and it was Barrie who realised this and played such a big part in their production. Since 1991, the Society produced 32 booklets and Barrie was the author of 19 of them.

Over the last 20 years he has become a household name as far as local history is concerned and there's not a history society in the area to which he hasn't spoken and for many he was an annual fixture.

He was an excellent front-man for the Society; if there was an open day or an exhibition Barrie would be there fronting the operation eager to chat to visitors, interested in what they had to say and nearly always able to help them with their queries and problems.

He was a great ambassador for the Society. When the Cynffig Chronicles project was set up, he was very happy to



2009 Christmas Dinner

The Society held its Christmas Dinner on December 18th at the Fairways Hotel in Porthcawl. It was something of a last minute arrangement because there was a certain amount of dissatisfaction with the dinner we held in 2008 and it was initially assumed that that there would be insufficient support for a 2009 dinner.

However, after sounding out opinion at the November meeting, it was decided to hold a dinner at the Fairways, which was a great success. The food was excellent, 30 members attended, we had a pleasant room all to ourselves and there was a raffle and a quiz. Hopefully we will be able to hold another one this year.

Forthcoming Meetings

This the time of the year when I have to put together a programme of events for the Society year starting in May 2010. We don't usually meet in August, we would hope to have a dinner in December and in June we try to organise a short evening trip. Even with the AGM in April, I still have to find 8 speakers. Barrie is no longer with us and that makes it that much harder. So if any members have any suggestions for speakers, I'd glad to hear from you - perhaps there is someone who has already spoken to us whom you particularly enjoyed and would like to invite back?

For a start, I think we will organise a film show of our photograph archive (see over the page) and it has been suggested that our evening visit should be to the Porthcawl lifeboat station

take on the job of liaising between the schools and the Society and derived and gave a great deal of pleasure from talking to the school children. On occasions when the media turned-up he was more than happy to be the Society spokesman and became something of a celebrity as a result.

When people got in touch with the Society with some query, which none of us knew the answer to, we could always say "Well I don't but I know a man who probably does", and pass them on to Barrie, who usually did know.

Barrie always had health problems and all that he achieved was in spite of him being regularly laid low by migraine. In spite of this, we remember him above all for his laugh, his enthusiasm, and his friendliness and lots of good tales

Additional copies of this Newsletter and of most back issues can be obtained from the Society's web site. Log on at www.kenfigsociety.org and click the "Newsletter" tab. You will also find a lot of useful information, pictures and short article on the history of Kenfig.

Kenfig Society Officers 2009/2010

President	Ken Williams
Chairperson	Teresa Robbins
Vice Chairperson	Sandra Harries
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Programme Secretary	Terry Robbins
Archivist/Librarian	Keith & Janis Edger
Committee Members	
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Old Photograph Archive

Over the years the Society has acquired a collection of photographs which now number between 2 and 3000 and which fall into three main categories.

- There is a section related to Society activities over the last 20 years
- Various advertisements programmes and letters relevant to the history of the locality.
- A collection of mostly black & white pictures of the area taken over the last 150 years.

The first two groups are mostly well documented, but there are many of the older ones which are difficult to identify. Indeed some of these may never be identified as older members of the community pass-on. As a group dedicated to the study of local history this ought to be one of our main concerns and we are looking for ways of doing this.

Most of these pictures have been stored on the Society's computer and a series of slide-shows are being set-up to enable the pictures to be easily displayed, but we need to think of ways to showing these to members of the community who may be able to help with identification. We can obviously make a start by dedicating one or more of our monthly meetings do doing this. We could also try to go and talk to various organisations in our area, like the W.I. , the Shout Group etc.

Some of the pictures are shown on this page.



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 call Terry Robbins on 01656 782351 or by email at -terryterry37@tiscali.co.uk.