

# KENFIG NEWS



April 2011

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## Society Programme 2011 - 2012

2011		
17th May	Society AGM for 2010-2011	
21st June	Ruperra Castle	Pat Jones-Jenkins
19th July	Swansea's Industrial Past	Dr Edith Evans GGAT
17th August	No Meeting	
20th Sept.	Ben's Kingdom	Mr John Mason
18th October	Wicked Women	Mr Bruce Hawkins
15th Nov	The Swansea and Mumbles Railway	Mr Dick Hunt
2012		
17th January	Restoration of St Teilo's Church	Sara Hughes, St Fagans
21st February	The Angel Story - an exercise in family history	Keith Morgan
20th March	History Through Everyday Artefacts	Mr Walter Jones
17th April	Annual General Meeting	

be a somewhat lighter subject in "Wicked Women" - but we must wait and see!

**Dick Hunt** of Porthcawl has talked to us previously on the subject of local railways. This time he moves a little further abroad to talk about the Swansea and Mumbles Railway. There are not so many people about now, who can now recall it, although I travelled on it daily for the last 3 years of its existence and have many happy memories of it

Several years ago, we had a talk about moving the ancient church of St Teilo from near Pontarddulais to the Museum of Welsh Life at St Fagan's. Much has happened since then and in January 2012, **Sara Hughes** who is employed at the museum will be relating the story of the whole exciting project.

February has been over the years the regular "**Keith Morgan Slot**" and this session Keith will be talking about some research he has been doing into the Angel family, antecedents of his late wife's family.

We finish the season with a return visit of **Mr Walter Jones** of Tonyrefail who is himself an ex-member of staff at St. Fagans. He has a wide interest in and knowledge of the history and culture of Wales and will be talking about History Through Everyday Artefacts

## Speakers For 2011-2012

We have once again managed to draw-up what we hope will be an interesting and informative series of talks for the 2011/2012 session. Because of the refurbishment work going on at the Life Centre we have been unable to have a room to hold our AGM in April as we normally would do. This has meant postponing the AGM until May 17th when it will replace what would have been our first talk.

The first talk of the season will now be on 21st June and



Ruperra Castle sketch by Nearle c.1820

will be about Ruperra Castle which is a fine old building not far from Caerffili. It has been sadly neglected over the years and a movement is now afoot to try to halt the decay and to restore part of it at least to its former glory. **Pat Jones**

**Jenkins** is a member of the Society and is active in the

July sees the return of a familiar face in the form of **Dr Edith Evans** of the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust. We depend on the Trust for a regular supply of speakers and I'm sure we will not be disappointed in this talk about **Swansea's Industrial Past**.

There will be no meeting in August, but September will see the autumn session start with a talk full of local interest by **John Mason of Cefn**, who has recently written a book about Ben the hermit/recluse who lived for many years on and around Sker Beach.

**Bruce Hawkins** has talked to us on several previous occasions, mainly about the effects of global warming. This time (in October) he has chosen what appears to



The restored interior of St Teilo's Church

## Kenfig Society Officers 2010-2011

<b>President</b>	<b>Ken Williams</b>
<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Sandra Harries</b>
<b>Vice Chairperson</b>	<b>Conal Boyle</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Brian James</b>
<b>Minutes Secretary</b>	<b>Teresa Robbins</b>
<b>Publications Secretary</b>	<b>Conall Boyle</b>
<b>Programme Secretary</b>	<b>Terry Robbins</b>
<b>Newsletters &amp; Web Site</b>	<b>Terry Robbins</b>
<b>Photography</b>	<b>Cyril James</b>
<b>Dig Director</b>	<b>Dennis Jones;</b>

## Kenfig Society AGM 2010-2011

As reported on page 1, we were not able to hold our AGM in April, as scheduled and it will now be held on 17th May.

There will be a number of issues to be discussed there about the present state and the future prospects of the Society. The Society has been in existence for over 20 years and over that time, members have passed away or moved on to live elsewhere or have become too old to participate in our activities. As a result, not only has membership declined, but it has also aged and it has been difficult form a proper committee to run the society. At present we have a committee of 7 people who between them fill 10 different posts. Clearly, if we can't get more active participation in running the Society then the future doesn't look promising.

The other and perhaps more pressing problem is finance. I don't want to dwell upon this aspect which will be dealt with in more detail by the treasurer at the AGM . Suffice it to say that with the reduced income from membership and the increase in the cost of speakers, rents etc, our financial reserves are slowly but very surely disappearing.

### 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 [terryrobbins@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:terryrobbins@hotmail.co.uk)

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](http://www.kenfigsociety.org) and click the "Newsletter" tab. You will also find a lot of useful information, pictures of the Kenfig area and short articles on aspects of the history of Kenfig.

## Time Team At Kenfig ??

Representatives of the Time Team television programme recently visited the Kenfig Nature reserve to explore the feasibility of making a programme which would in all likelihood involve some kind of excavation in the vicinity of the castle. The Society were represented Ken Williams and Keith Edger who affirmed our willingness to participate in the project. There are however many problems to be overcome such the castle being a designated ancient monument and the whole being a National Nature Reserve. We hope that these problems will be overcome and that the Society will be involved in the work, which could well revitalise the activities of our "Dig Team".

## Web Site Developments

Members may be interested to know that it is now possible to purchase any of our booklets that are currently in print directly online using PayPal. At the moment we are offering to supply these booklets post free. Although perhaps of no great import to our local members, it should prove of great benefit to our overseas members. Visit our site at [www.kenfigsociety.org](http://www.kenfigsociety.org)

Members who are interested in the history of Glamorgan will be pleased to know that nearly all the volumes of Morgannwg, the annual publication of the Glamorgan History Society are now available in a searchable form on-line. It can be most easily accessed via the Glamorgan History Society web site at [www.glamorganhistory.org](http://www.glamorganhistory.org)

## Publications

Plans are nearly complete to publish the first part of Barrie Griffiths' "magnum opus". Barrie left behind the manuscript containing all the information that he had collected over the years on the history of Kenfig. It is likely that this will eventually be published in seven volumes and volume one covering the period from the Norman invasion to the abandonment of the town of Kenfig should appear in the summer.

This is a major undertaking and these will be properly bound paperback books rather than the booklets which we have produced in the past. Conall Boyle has been the driving force in getting the project project thus far and a lot more remains to be



John Mason's Book, Ben's Kingdom..Ben will be the subject of our Septemeber talk, given by John

For more information about the Society, visit our web site at [www.kenfigsociety.org](http://www.kenfigsociety.org)