GOWERTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Formerly known as

'GOWERTON LIBRARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'

Meeting held at Gowerton Library Monday 13th Jan 2020 10.30am

PRESENT:	Elaine Howell	Sian Pritchard
Peter Pritchard	Pearl Hill	Sue Jones Cllr
Dave Wootton	Paula Wootton	Ros Holt
Diane Cherry	Jan Noakes	Tony Rowlands
Marion Morris	Terry Townend	Glenys Phillips
Margaret Cross	Terry Nicholls	Linda Nicholls
Pat Hood-Williams	Vivienne Allen	Wendy Heywood
Kay Bamforth	Barbara Woodward	Viv Davies
Billy Johns	Mandy Talbot	

APOLOGIES:	Pam Morgan	Rose Atkin
Eirlys Evans	Janet Leary	

MINUTES: The minutes were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: Elaine commented that there was more information than first thought in the meeting talking about the Shaws. Thanks to Pearl for her information about the Clague-Taylors. Billy Johns said he used to deliver meat there.

A.O.B: Sue introduced us to Anne Robinson's 'replacement'. Her name is Joanne Edwards and she is the Local Area Co-ordinator; Community led. She can work with groups or individuals and can be contacted on 07810506173 or Joanne.Edwards@swansea.gov.uk . Pete has had an e-mail via the Website regarding the exact location of the Trafle mill. Griffiths was the family name and Mr Hubert Griffiths is tracing an ancestor of his who he believes was the miller in1779! Apparently, Trafle mill was the main source of drinking water for the village.

Elaine had realised that January 21st 2020 was the 115th anniversary of the Elba disaster and she brought her notes in including the newspaper cuttings from the time which were profoundly moving. She also had a copy from 1927 of colliery disasters in Wales form the last 90 years i.e. from 1837 to 1927, but bizarrely of the 3,508 miners who lost their lives the 12 from Elba do not seem to be included! Pete confirmed that the Elba video made by the pupils of Tregŵyr Junior School can be viewed via our website.
Glenys proposed a vote of thanks to Ros and Tony Holt for their work in the upkeep of the Memorial garden in St John's Church.
Paula's grandfather, David Brenton was the lamp-holder on that fateful night and the disaster was blamed initially on him and then on the youngest boy for having matches in his pocket.
Viv proposed hiring a brush cutter (man with a machine) in order to clear the way to the stack which is all that is left of the colliery but the idea was vetoed for the time being at least. Terry and Linda have offered to walk the route and see how badly overgrown and dangerous it is now. They will report back in the February meeting hopefully.

Margaret Cross brought in a newspaper cutting from April 1989 with a report about her son Neil and another boy Christopher Bond, both from 2nd Lliw Valley, Gowerton who had been selected to represent the Scouts and Cubs from the Lliw Valley District to be part of a Guard of Honour for Her Majesty the Queen during her visit to County Hall. She also brought in a copy of the official invitation that Neil received.

Speakers for future meetings this year were proposed and discussed. Rose has a friend who would love to talk to the group about the history of Llanelli at a cost of £35.There is also another lady, Debra John who does character sketches from various historical periods and different areas who charges £45 per talk. Sian will contact both and make arrangements as necessary.

The meeting closed at 12pm

Next meeting Monday 10th Feb at 10.30

AGENDA:

1) Apologies
2) Minutes
3) Matters arising
4) Membership update
5) Website update
6) AOB

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Meeting held at Gowerton Library Monday 10th Feb 2020 10.30am

PRESENT:	Elaine Howell	Sian Pritchard
Pearl Hill	Sue Jones Cllr	Jan Noakes
Terry Townend	Glenys Phillips	Pam Morgan
Margaret Cross	Terry Nicholls	Linda Nicholls
Pat Hood-Williams	Vivienne Allen	Wendy Heywood
Barbara Woodward	Viv Davies	Sue Charles-Phillips
Billy Johns	Rhiannon	Claire

APOLOGIES:	Peter Pritchard	Rose Atkin
Eirlys Evans	Kay Bamforth	Ros Holt
Marion Morris	Ceri Morgan	Tony Rowlands

MINUTES: The minutes were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: Terry and Linda Nicholls had promised to attempt to walk to the site of the Elba Colliery and see if it could be made accessible for others to walk there. Unfortunately, although they said they had had a lovely walk, in spite of the mud, they couldn't find the colliery site at all. However, they did manage to walk to the rear of Alltwen farm through the woods. Terry did some further research by visiting the Miners' Library at Hendrefoilan. He has borrowed a book by D. Howells on the disaster which is available for loan to anyone who wishes to consult it. He particularly liked the description of Colonel Wright who drove down after the disaster in "his steam-powered car".

SPEAKERS: Robin Campbell is booked to speak on the history of Horse-racing in the area in our March meeting. Julia Evans (friend of Rose) has been booked for our May meeting and will give us a talk on the History of Llanelli. Debra John has been booked for Tuesday evening 28th April at 7pm. GLHS will fund the talk initially with a view to recouping the cost by selling tickets. It will be advertised through the Library, but tickets cannot be sold by the staff for administrative reasons. Debra John has various subjects to speak on and Sian was asked to obtain a full list from her in order that it can be put to the vote in the next meeting. A talk about the shops in Gorseinon was also proposed.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: Sian asked various members to update their membership details in order that she can send out minutes.

WEBSITE UPDATE: Unfortunately, Pete was unable to attend so there was no website update. However, there are various new items and photographs on it and all are welcome to access it.

AOB: Show and tell. Terry T. fetched in a 'Wanted' poster for the murderer of Stanley James in 1972. He also talked about the building of Gowerton Police Station and Tabernacle Chapel. They were built at the same time by Joseph Thomas. Pam asked everybody to write to/e-mail Swansea City Council regarding the proposed building of 42 houses on the Home Farm site at the rear of Singleton Park (where the dogs' home used to be). She recommended not just

saying ‘we object’ but giving cause to keep it mentioning the building with the thatched roof, and the Tudor house which was removed in bits from Castle Gardens (I hope I’ve got this right!). She is hoping an alternative use can be found for the site. Let your imaginations run wild. Terry N said that Hendrefoilan house is a wonderful work of architecture and is worth saving. This prompted a discussion on the merits of saving old buildings for their historical/architectural value against selling them to a developer for as much as possible to promote education.
Sian has reconstructed the montage of the art-work done by Phyllis Duckfield celebrating the Investiture of Prince Charles in1969. Unfortunately, it is not possible to roll it up to store it which had been the original idea. It measures 3ft by 4ft 2ins and really needs to be kept flat but not spread on the bed in the spare room! To this end Sian looked into different ways of preserving it and after hearing all the options it was unanimously agreed to contact Glamorgan Archives, Cardiff to preserve it. The cost had been quoted as £40, but it would be waived if the Archives could be custodians of the poster which of course would also solve our problem of what to do with it!

The meeting closed at 11.30 next meeting Monday March 9th.

AGENDA:

1) Apologies
2) Minutes
3) Matters Arising
4) Speaker: Mr Robin Campbell

GOWERTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Formerly known as

'GOWERTON LIBRARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'

Meeting held at Gowerton Library Monday 9th March 2020 10.30am

PRESENT:	Elaine Howell	Sian Pritchard
Pearl Hill	Peter Pritchard	Sue Jones Cllr
Pam Morgan	Rose Atkin	Billy Johns
Terry Townend	Kay Bamforth	Ros Holt
Margaret Cross	Linda Nicholls	Tony Rowlands
Vivienne Allen	Wendy Heywood	Marion Morris
Barbara Woodward	Viv Davies	

APOLOGIES:	Diane Cherry	Terry Nicholls
Eirlys Evans	Pat Hood-Williams	Glenys Phillips
Ceri Morgan	Paula Wootton	Dave Wootton

MINUTES: The minutes were not read

MATTERS ARISING: .Pearl pointed out that it wasn't Phyllis Duckfield who had drawn the poster, it was her mother Margaret. The poster has been taken to Cardiff to the Glamorgan Archive site (very impressive; well worth a visit, but if you do go take ID) and encapsulated. Unfortunately, they wouldn't keep it for us as we have a depository here in Swansea. Therefore Pete has paid the £40 in cash and we have bought it back. I will get it to Swansea Archives asap.

SPEAKERS: Robin gave us an interesting talk on the history of the racecourses in Swansea. He brought copies of his books with him and even gave us song! He kindly didn't charge us the usual £25 for the talk. Our next talk is scheduled for May 11th. Don't forget that the Library is hosting Debra John on Tuesday 28th April at 7pm. Please give your name to Pam if you intend coming as numbers will be limited.

AGM: Our AGM will be on Monday 20th April. Please bring your subscription with you! Agenda will be published shortly