

GOWERTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Formerly known as

‘GOWERTON LIBRARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY’

Meeting held at Gowerton Primary School Monday 12th Sept 2022
10.30am

PRESENT:

Elaine Howell	Sian Pritchard
Pam Morgan	Margaret Cross
Pearl Hill	Sue Jones
Janet Leary	Linda Nicholls
Terry Nicholls	Terry Townend
Barbara Woodward	Wendy Davidge

APOLOGIES:

Peter Pritchard	Pat Hood-Williams
Vivienne Allen	Wendy Heywood
Dave Wootton	Viv Davies

MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting of March 2020 were not read.

WELCOME Mr Ian Ashton deputy-head of the school welcomed us Elaine thanked him for allowing us to meet in the school. He also said that we were welcome to tea or coffee and biscuits, all of which were laid out in readiness. Although Mr Ashton said that there would not be a charge for this, we decided to continue contributing 50p per cup which would be donated to the school at the close of each meeting.

SECRETARY'S/TREASURER'S REPORTS Siân spoke first and said it was good to be all back together again, but apologised that due to moving house and various other factors she didn't have all the paperwork from the last time of meeting as it was still packed up. Pam said the finances were in good shape and we currently have around £600 in the bank, although there are some debts as yet unpaid, but it will still leave us with a bank balance of £500 or so.

PLACE OF MEETINGS/VENUE It has been decided that we will continue to meet in Gowerton Primary School for this year at least, as long as the room is still available to us. Although the place has some drawbacks; distance from bus stop/only available during term time etc it is too good an opportunity to miss with an ideal space and possible links with future generations a bonus.

LOOKING FORWARD/MEMBERS' WISHES FOR THE FUTURE

Having decided to meet in the school when possible it was first confirmed that as far as we know it is available on Oct 10th, Nov 14th, and Dec 12th, although it is possible that the room may be required due to Christmas celebrations. It was decided to think about having a trip somewhere on this date and the same for future dates next year.

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS: Siân asked all those present to fill in new GDPR forms as the old ones were now out of date and not applicable Anyone not present will be asked to fill in the same at our next meeting. Pam took an interim £5.00 subs from those present; everyone else can pay at our October meeting.

USE OF LOCAL HISTORY MATERIAL AT GOWERTON LIBRARY:

The family of the late J Hywel Rees donated books, maps and miscellaneous other items to Gowerton Library in the hope that they would be of use there. Pam and Siân have both had a look at the collection and Pam has done a most noble job of itemising the books etc which is attached at the end of these minutes. Unfortunately, due to very limited storage in Gowerton, most of it will be transferred to Swansea Archive. However, Pat is happy for it to stay at Gowerton until our next meeting in October. After that it will only be available in Swansea archives, so if you wish to view it without having to go into town, please do so soon!

AOB Various places were suggested for trips/days out in the future. These include the Mansion House, the Royal Mint at Llantrisant, the National Miners' Memorial at Senghenydd, the Glyn Vivian Art Gallery, Dylan Thomas's house in Uplands, Carmarthen Town and Swansea Archives.

Debra Johns had been booked as a speaker for Spring 2020 which of course never happened. It is proposed that maybe she could come now, if she is still performing. Siân is to try and contact her and then give her name to Mr Ashton as well. Pam Morgan has kindly volunteered to give a talk on November 14th about WW1.

Terry Townend and others had noted that the History board near the surgery we supplied a few years ago has been vandalised. Terry Nicholls has volunteered to see if he can repair it and has also volunteered to do some remedial work on the others by cleaning and re-oiling or varnishing as required.

The meeting closed at 11.30 when we all had tea and coffee. Next meeting Monday October 10th

AGENDA: will follow

GOWERTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Meeting held at Gowerton Primary School Monday 10th Oct 2022
10.30am

PRESENT:

Elaine Howell	Siân Pritchard
Pam Morgan	Kay Bamforth
Pearl Hill	Ros Holt
Linda Nicholls	Terry Nicholls
Glenys Phillips	Terry Townend
Barbara Woodward	Pat Hood-Williams

APOLOGIES:

Peter Pritchard	Viv Davies
Vivienne Allen	Wendy Heywood
Dave Wootton	Sue Jones

ADJUNCT: Before the meeting officially started, Mr Davies, caretaker of the school informed us of the fire regulations and the exit to be used. Also, Mr Ashton asked to bring two members of staff who had been to Sicily as an ‘exchange’ for ideas regarding learning, to come in and speak to the meeting after the main business was concluded and before the ‘show and tell’.

MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting of March 2020 were read. Elaine asked to include a vote of thanks to Sue Jones for acting as liaison between GLHS and the school.

MATTERS ARISING . Pam has looked into details for going to Senghenydd. It is promising but too small on its own; the whole thing would take a max of two hours. To justify the cost of hiring a bus she proposed that if we go we could combine it with a visit to Caerphilly castle which also gives us the possibility of having lunch in a restaurant overlooking the castle itself. The idea was enthused over but put on hold until the spring/summer. Terry Nichols is waiting on Pam to give him the details regarding the upkeep of the panels before he starts on remedial work.

TREASURER’S REPORTS: Pam collected further subs. New bank balance is over £600.

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS: Siân asked all those present who were absent last time to fill in new GDPR forms. Pam took an interim £5.00 subs from those who had not paid at the last meeting.

USE OF LOCAL HISTORY MATERIAL AT GOWERTON LIBRARY:

Pat has added some of the items of the late Hywel Rees to the local history collection at Gowerton Library. The rest of it will be sent to Swansea archives where it will be available to view if you take a trip to town! Elaine believes Pat will be convinced to keep it there for longer.

AOB. Siân has spoken to Mr Ashton and he is happy for the school children to listen to any of our talks that may be appropriate for them. Thus, Pam’s talk on WW1 will not include the guns (or other items of

heavy artillery) but will focus on the nurses during that time. Hopefully, Siân will manage to sort out other speakers, including Debra Johns for the future.

The two teachers, Miss Corfield and Miss Morgan came in to talk about their visit to Sicily. Apparently, during lockdown, the pupils had been tasked with discovering more about the history of local buildings, monuments, people living there etc. When they returned to school their findings were recorded onto audio tape (or the digital version which escaped me!) and then incorporated as a history trail which visitors could download as an app and listen to on their phones as they went around the town. They came to ask us for our help with their project.

SHOW AND TELL: Terry Townend came armed with various posters and old photographs. However, the general consensus of opinion is a request to him to write on the reverse of the photographs what/who they are and maybe a date please.

Elaine had a mug from the centenary of the Junior School when it was on Mount St. The mug was printed with 'Gower Road' which was the original name for the village.

Pam fetched in the rope hauling pulley on which she has done a lot of remedial work and will return to its former home in Gowerton Library. Pearl gave an interesting anecdote about it. She informed us that her majesty the late Queen Elizabeth actually touched it. Pearl remembers Donald Howells donating it to the library years before and borrowing it back for the day when, in 1999, the Queen visited North Gower. Apparently during her time on the Gower Mr Howells had the opportunity of showing her the pulley wheel and explaining where and how it had been used and she actually touched it! For those who

are interested, there are photographs of the Queen (unfortunately not with the pulley) on Selwyn's face-book page.

The meeting closed at 11.50 when we all had tea and coffee. Next meeting: Monday November 14th when Pam will give us her talk on Nurses during WW1.

GOWERTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Meeting held at Gowerton Primary School Monday 14th Nov 2022
10.30am

PRESENT:

Elaine Howell	Siân Pritchard
Pam Morgan	Kay Bamforth
Pearl Hill	Ros Holt
Linda Nicholls	Terry Nicholls
Glenys Phillips	Terry Townend
Barbara Woodward	Pat Hood-Williams
Dave Wootton	Marion Morris

APOLOGIES:

Peter Pritchard

WELCOME: Elaine welcomed everybody, and particularly to Viv Davies and Dave Wootton who had not been to a meeting in the school before.

MATTERS ARISING: Pam Morgan gave Terry Nicholls the instructions on cleaning the History panels as given her by the Council. Terry Nicholls arranged with Cllr Sue Jones to store them in her garage to dry out. He will then clean them before putting them back in place. Sue kindly offered to pay all expenses incurred from her Community Fund.

TREASURER'S REPORTS: Funds today stand at £681.48 in Bank and £17.90 cash in hand. Total £699.38.

AOB. Elaine said that she would guide a talk on the Sterry Road retailers in the next meeting. Everyone please contribute their memories.

Talk on Medical Care in WW1 by Pam Morgan: Pam gave us a super talk on the Nurses and nursing during WW1. We all learned about the injuries that the nurses had to deal with. We also learned of the indiscriminate submarine attacks on Red Cross ships which resulted in the deaths of so many nursing staff as well as their sick and injured patients.

After the talk there was a general discussion on wartime memories followed by tea or coffee.

Elaine extended a vote of thanks to Pam for an interesting talk.

The meeting closed at 11.50 Next meeting is Monday 12th December when Elaine will give us a talk on walking along Sterry Road years ago. Pam is planning on bringing a plan of Sterry Road in order to be able to identify each property and record it for posterity.

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AGENDA: DECEMBER 12TH 2022

Apologies

Minutes

Matters Arising

AOB

Talk by Elaine with contributions from all members

REMINDER:

As we were leaving the school after our last meeting Mr Ashton gave us each a bag to fill with unwanted clothes. Please remember to bring the bags (filled or not) back on Monday. Please also note that the bags must not include books/ ornaments/ bric-a-brac etc.