

GOWERTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Formerly known as

‘GOWERTON LIBRARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY’

Meeting held at Gowerton Primary School Monday 9th January 2023
10.30am

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Elaine Howell	Siân Pritchard
Pam Morgan	Kay Bamforth	Margaret Cross
Pearl Hill	Wendy Davidge	Linda Nicholls
Terry Nicholls	Sue Jones	Glenys Phillips
Terry Townend	Jean Payne	Barbara Woodward
Pat Hood-Williams	Paula Wootton	Dave Wootton
Tony Rowlands		

<u>APOLOGIES:</u>	Peter Pritchard	Marion Morris
Viv Davies		

WELCOME: Elaine welcomed back Tony Rowlands who had not been to a meeting in the school before.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising

AOB. There was no other business

Talk on Walking Sterry Road: Elaine gave us an informative and anecdotal talk on her memories of walking along the length of Sterry Road during her childhood and as a teenager. We enjoyed learning

about the shops most of which no longer exist. Anecdotes included tales of a parrot and an elephant as well as the local ‘characters’ of the village.

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

The meeting closed at 11.50. Next meeting is Monday 13th February when we will be pleased to welcome Debra John for a fee of £50.

REMINDER:

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

GOWERTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Formerly known as

‘GOWERTON LIBRARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY’

Meeting held at Gowerton Primary School Monday 13th February 2023 at 10.30am

PRESENT:

Elaine Howell	Siân Pritchard
Pam Morgan	Peter Pritchard
Pearl Hill	Wendy Davidge
Linda Nicholls	Sue Jones
Glenys Phillips	Barbara Woodward
Sue Jones	Pat Hood-Williams
Dave Wootton	Paula Wootton
Janet Leary	Marion Morris
Alan Nicholls	

Talk by Debra John ‘Saints and Sinners’: Debra told us the story of Pedws Ffowc who had been cursed by somebody putting her name into St Elia’s well. We followed her journey through mid-Wales along the Pilgrims’ route via Tregaron where we heard of some of the exploits of Twm Sion Cati, then through other villages with other characters, until she reached her destination. It was fascinating to listen to her characterisation and the descriptions of the people and places. Elaine thanked her for a thoroughly enjoyable performance.

AOB Our meeting continued after the talk. Pam has researched funding for a day trip, but the cost will be prohibitive as the cheapest she could find was £400. We decided that the best option would be to stay local, probably Swansea. The Glyn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea Museum and the Waterfront Museum all give guided and ‘behind the scenes’ tours, but none of them are open on a Monday!

Suggestions were made for other talks which can be discussed at a later date.

The meeting closed at 11.50. Next meeting is Monday 13th March.

AGENDA:

- Apologies
- Minutes
- Matters Arising
- AGM –
- School Project
- Thank you
- Excursions
- Library
- AOB

GOWERTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Formerly known as

‘GOWERTON LIBRARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY’

Meeting held at Gowerton Primary School Monday 13th March 2023
at 10.30am

PRESENT:

Elaine Howell	Siân Pritchard
Pam Morgan	Pearl Hill
Wendy Davidge	Terry Nicholls
Sue Jones	Terry Townend
Barbara Woodward	Dave Wootton
Marion Morris	Ros Holt
Eryl Williams	Jean Payne

APOLOGIES:

Peter Pritchard Pat Hood-Williams

Kay Bamforth note: Kay sent her apologies because she and her daughter were going out for breakfast to celebrate her birthday. GLHS sends its best wishes for a lovely birthday and a hope for a good recovery with ongoing illness.

MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of February 13th were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

AGM: Having proposed to hold this in April, upon reflection it was deemed a better idea to hold it at the start of the school year, in

September, as by that time we would have been running for a whole year post-covid. After further discussion Dave Wootton proposed that the **AGM be held in October**, but the Treasurer Pam Morgan asked that **Subscriptions of £10 per member** would be due and should be paid up in **September!** This was seconded by Sue Jones and subsequently carried unanimously.

SCHOOL CYNEFIN PROJECT: Elaine confirmed that various members, including herself, would be leaving the meeting promptly at close of business to talk to individual classes regarding the history of various parts of the village. Terry Townend had already spoken to the year 2 pupils in Miss Zarafonitis' class and we were delighted to welcome the boys from the class who paraded into our meeting as newly appointed constables, complete with helmets! Well done to Aiden, who was pleased to show us his painting which had won him first prize of a Teddy Bear in full police uniform.

THANK YOU: A special thank you was extended to Terry Nicholls and also to Linda for their splendid efforts in restoring the History panels. It was felt that they had gone above and beyond the call of duty expected of a volunteer. The same warm thanks were extended to our beloved councillor Sue Jones who has stored these panels in her garage and is arranging for them to be reinstated in their original locations.

EXCURSIONS: It was agreed that the cost of a coach was prohibitive and we would limit our 'trips' to places which could be reached by public transport; i.e. Swansea/Lanelli areas. As time was running short, it was left to those who were not involved in the Cynefin project

to make some sort of workable proposal for the May meeting to have ready for us at our next meeting in April.

LIBRARY: GLHS wish Mrs Pat Perkins a happy retirement and are pleased to welcome Mr Stephen Jeacock as new manager of Gowerton Library. Steve has confirmed that there are now no restrictions in force due to covid and so the library is willing to have us back should we wish to go. It was decided that the school had been very accommodating and we would be pleased to continue in our present location during school term times when parking is a severe issue near the library, but when the school is not able to offer us a room during holidays etc we would be delighted to use the facilities at the library once again. We now feel that we have the best of all options and a big thank you to both Mr Ashton who is proving himself invaluable and now to Steve as well.

The business part of the meeting as such closed at 11.10am to allow the members who had kindly agreed to talk to classes to leave. The rest of the group stayed to enjoy an informal chat over tea and coffee.

AGENDA: The agenda for our meeting on **APRIL 17TH** is as follows:

Apologies

Minutes

Matters Arising

Excursion for May

AOB

Talk by Alan Jones (Daj)

GOWERTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Formerly known as

'GOWERTON LIBRARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'

Meeting held at Gowerton Primary School Monday 17th April 2023 at 10.30am

PRESENT:

Elaine Howell	Siân Pritchard
Pam Morgan	Kay Bamforth
Pearl Hill	Margaret Cross
Linda Nicholls	Viv Davies
Barbara Woodward	Ros Holt
	Glenys Phillips
	Terry Townend
	Dave Wootton

APOLOGIES:

Peter Pritchard	Pat Hood-Williams
Sue Jones	Marion Morris
Jean Payne	Tony Rowlands
	Terry Nicholls

MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of March 13th were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

EXCURSIONS: Pam Morgan has done a most noble job of arranging our May excursion to the Glyn Vivian Art Gallery for a behind the scenes tour. Those who expressed an interest will meet at the main entrance to the Glyn Vivian at 10.45. Hopefully, there will be an emphasis on the work relating specifically to Gowerton as she has requested.

AOB: The June meeting will be 'Show and Tell'. Everybody is welcome to participate. Remember there will be no formal meeting at the school in May. Next meeting at the school will be on June 12th.

The business part of the meeting as such closed at 11.am. There followed a most informative talk by Alan Jones (Daj) about the Tawe and its industrial and social history. It was accompanied by a power-point slide show showing some fascinating photographs of the river and the surrounding area. Many thanks to Daj and Janet who came with him.

GOWERTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Formerly known as

‘GOWERTON LIBRARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY’

Meeting held at Gowerton Primary School Monday 12th June 2023 at 10.30am

PRESENT:

Elaine Howell	Siân Pritchard
Pam Morgan	Margaret Cross
Pearl Hill	Wendy Davidge
Sue Jones	Terry Townend
Barbara Woodward	Dave Wootton
Janet Leary	Tony Rowlands
Eryl Williams	

APOLOGIES:

Peter Pritchard	Pat Hood-Williams
Ros Holt	Linda Nicholls
Terry Nicholls	

ADJUNCT: Mr Ashton, Lisa Corfield and Karen Morgan came in at the start of the meeting to show us the ‘finished article’ on the Cynefin project. We are invited to the ‘Grand Opening’ of this event which is to be on Monday 3rd July at 10am.

MINUTES: There were no minutes to read as our May meeting was a trip to the Glyn Vivian Art Gallery and *Behind the Scenes* Tour.

MATTERS ARISING: Thanks to Pam Morgan for exemplary work in organising this trip and the meal that followed.

AOB: A query was raised regarding our August meeting as obviously the school is closed. We have the possibility of another outing or of having a meeting in the library. Siân will contact Steve to check that the library will be able to accommodate us on the 14th August. Elaine is to contact Rob Knight (?) to ask if he would be able to give us a talk about his mother who was a philanthropist and artist. Siân will also ask her neighbour who is a Swansea historian and folk musician if he will be available to talk to us sometime maybe in the autumn. There being no other business the meeting continued with Show and Tell.

SHOW and TELL: Elaine started the show with mementoes of the Coronations from 2023, 1953 and even from 1937. She shared memories of bonfires to mark the occasion on Alltwen Farm and Cefn Gorwydd Farm. Other members also shared their memories of the Coronation in 1957 and other events.

IMPORTANT: Please remember that July’s meeting is on the first Monday ie **3RD JULY starting at 10am.**

GOWERTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Formerly known as

‘GOWERTON LIBRARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY’

Meeting held at Gowerton Library Monday 14th August 2023 at 10.30am

PRESENT:

Elaine Howell	Siân Pritchard
Pam Morgan	Kay Bamforth
Pam Morgan	Margaret Cross
Pearl Hill	Viv Davies
Pearl Hill	Pat Hood-Williams
Glenys Phillips	Terry Townend
Glenys Phillips	Paula Wootton
Dave Wootton	Jean Payne

APOLOGIES:

Peter Pritchard	Barbara Woodward
-----------------	------------------

Elaine thanked Steve for welcoming us back into the Library

MINUTES: There were no matters arising from the minutes.

THANK YOU: Elaine started by thanking all the people involved with the restoration and re-installation of the information panel. Pam went on to explain how Sue had stored the panel in her garage leaving her no room to put anything else in it for months! She also thanked Terry N for his help and advice and explained how (as normal) the newly repaired panel and its legs were a different size to the original and so new ground works had to be carried at a cost to us of £120 which was annoying but has not broken the bank!

GRANT FORM: Elaine invited Viv to tell the meeting about the grant form, but Viv explained that she had passed the form on to Siân, who explained that the form had not been completed due to the fact that although we had a Constitution and a bank account we did not hold a safe-guarding policy, an equal-opportunities policy etc! Siân also explained that in spite of being unable to download the form in the first instance she had contacted the council who had obligingly sent it out in a different format. However, although she had spent time filling in the first dozen pages or so, she realised that we were not going to be able to fulfil all the criteria, so she gave up on it. For the future, it is well to note that any application for grant monies would need to be accompanied by written permission from the land-owner, at least two quotes and, if necessary, planning permission before we send in an application form!

AGM: It was confirmed that the AGM is to be held in October. Please remember that according to our Constitution the agenda needs to be published in advance, so please let Elaine, Pam or Siân know in our September meeting or as soon as possible afterwards, if there's anything you wish to be on it. Nominations can also be received then from anybody wishing to put themselves forward for Chair, Secretary or Treasurer. Siân is to ring Huw Williams (speaker) to rearrange talk.

TALK: Janet Leary then did a most interesting talk about Winnie Knight, previous occupant of the house on Cefn Styllle known as Cefn Goleu Park. She explained how she had first met Winnie and how they had become friends. She had kindly brought in some of her paintings, including one of Heidelberg in Germany which was of great interest to us all, but particularly to Steve (Librarian) because he

GOWERTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Formerly known as

‘GOWERTON LIBRARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY’

Meeting held at Primary School Mon 11th Sept 2023 at 10.30am

PRESENT:

Elaine Howell	Siân Pritchard
Pam Morgan	Kay Bamforth
Pearl Hill	Marion Morris
Glenys Phillips	Terry Townend
Dave Wootton	Jean Payne

APOLOGIES:

Peter Pritchard	Ros Holt
Terry Nicholls	Linda Nicholls
Pat Hood-Williams	Margaret Cross
Viv Davies	Eryl Williams

We began the meeting with a moment of quiet to remember Tony Rowlands who sadly passed away over the summer.

MINUTES: There was one amendment to the Minutes of August 's meeting; Terry Townend gave apologies but was not there in person.

MATTERS ARISING: Elaine started by thanking Steve for welcoming us back into our original home. Pearl advised us that the library had been unable to open one particular Tuesday in August due to staff shortage. We all expressed concern and will subsequently try to use the library as often as possible. We were all in agreement that the Crofty Inn would be nice for a lunch out, probably for Christmas.

Enquiries will be made! Due to the AGM being in October, the talk by Huw Williams is now rescheduled for our November meeting.

COLLECTION OF SUBS: Those present paid their subs and have filled in new GDPR forms. Others will need to pay at the AGM.

AGM: Please let Elaine, Pam or Siân know as soon as possible if there's anything you wish to be on the agenda. Nominations can also be received for Chair, Secretary or Treasurer.

AOB: It was noted that CKs has closed and with that, so has the Post Office. Speculation is ripe as to whether or not there will subsequently be a post office in Gowerton and if so where. Trips were discussed and an extra visit to Swansea Archive was proposed, and another trip on the Copper Jack together with a visit to the new Penderyn Brewery. It was also proposed that we could visit Swansea Museum even though it no longer home to the mummy! Various people were suggested who may be happy to come in and give us a talk, but some may need convincing! Pearl came up with an excellent idea that each member could write a short memoir about the village from their point of view and this was generally enthused about. She suggested that 500 words may be a good start, but obviously people are free to write as much or as little as they feel able to manage.

The meeting closed at 11.40. The school provided tea and coffee for those who wanted it. Next meeting is the AGM Monday 9th October 10.30 at the school. All welcome, but only paid up members will be able to vote on any matters arising.

GOWERTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Formerly known as

‘GOWERTON LIBRARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY’

Meeting held at Primary School Mon 13th Nov 2023 at 10.30am

PRESENT:

Elaine Howell	Siân Pritchard
Pam Morgan	Wendy Davidge
Pearl Hill	Margaret Cross
Glenys Phillips	Marion Morris
Dave Wootton	Barbara Woodward
Ros Holt	Terry Townend
Janet Leary	Paula Wootton
Eryl Williams	Jean Payne
	Viv Davies
	Pat Hood-Williams
	Sue Jones
	Linda Nicholls
	Terry Nicholls

APOLOGIES:

Peter Pritchard

MINUTES: No minutes from October; AGM has been postponed to December 10th.

MATTERS ARISING: Enquiries have been made regarding the Crofty Inn and they are willing to open for us in January, but we have to book in advance. Therefore, please be prepared to give a definite yes/no at the AGM in December.

AGM: The agenda for the AGM is attached.

AOB: Sue Jones has a poster of the Rechabites which was donated by John and Philip Morris of Gowerton. The poster shows a picture of

Brother Robert H. Phillips and the Rechabites of Gowerton. Robert H Phillips was the maternal grandfather of Philip and John Morris of Gorwydd Road. It is hoped that the society can have it framed in order for it to hang on the wall in the Rechabite Hall, but it is feared that if we do not have a proper ceremony it may never be on public display. It is important for this to be preserved as a part of the twentieth century religious history of Gowerton. For information on the Rechabites, Brother Robert H. Phillips and the reasons behind the presentation please check the website.

TALK BY HUW WILLIAMS: We were then treated to a most entertaining talk by Mr Huw Williams who told us stories of his teaching days and a wonderful series of local anecdotes. We all learnt a lot, particularly about the geology of the coal fields using the acronym ASH!

The meeting closed at 11.40. The school provided tea and coffee for those who wanted it. Next meeting is the AGM Monday 11th December 10.30 at the school. All welcome, but only paid up members will be able to vote on any matters arising.

could remember going there! We all enjoyed her talk and Siân is to contact the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery to enquire if they hold any of her paintings. Elaine thanked her for bringing the paintings in for us to see. Although Winnie passed away some years ago, her son still lives at the lodge and another of her family now own the Crofty Inn. It was then proposed that we have a 'trip' to the Crofty inn and have lunch one day!

The meeting closed at 11.50 and we were invited to have tea and coffee which was kindly supplied by the Library.

AGENDA:

Apologies
Minutes
Matters Arising
Collection of Subs
Agenda for AGM
AOB

GOWERTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Formerly known as

‘GOWERTON LIBRARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY’

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at Gowerton Primary School Monday 11th December 2023 at 10.30am

PRESENT:

Elaine Howell	Siân Pritchard
Pam Morgan	Peter Pritchard
Pearl Hill	Marion Morris
Glenys Phillips	Terry Townend
Dave Wootton	Viv Davies
Sue Jones	Linda Nicholls

APOLOGIES:

Kay Bamforth	Ros Holt
Terry Nicholls	Jean Payne

MINUTES: The minutes from Nov were agreed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: Elaine has rung Mrs Bolchover and she has agreed in principle to the money from the old Gowerton Archive Group being used for the framing of the Rechabite Poster donated by Philip and John Morris which will then be formerly presented to the Rechabite Hall with all due ceremony. Mrs Bolchover will be contacted again early in the New Year and asked to arrange a meeting of the relevant members of the old Archive Group to agree this in full. A vote of thanks was given to Elaine for her efforts so far.

AGM: The constitution was agreed unanimously with two conditions: that we agree the change of name and we include the word ‘educational’ in the Aims of the society

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT: Elaine gave us an excellent report covering the whole of the last year and a bit. She began by saying that meeting in the school had turned out to be advantageous in many ways as we have established wider links with the community. We have grown in number and we have a good relationship with the school itself. We have maintained our link with Gowerton Library but we have helped the school with their Cynefin project. We visited the Glyn Vivian Art Gallery and had a wonderful few hours looking around at the exhibits and a ‘behind the scenes’ tour. This was followed by lunch in Swansea. We have had 3 speakers over the year; Debra John, Daj Jones and Huw Williams. Elaine gave us a talk about the retailers in Gowerton and literally ‘walked’ us down memory lane. Pam gave us a talk on the nurses of World War one. Elaine concluded by extending a vote of thanks to Pam, Sue Jones and Terry Nicholls for their efforts in the restoration of the information panels in the village.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Pam presented the accounts from the last AGM which covered the period 1.April.2019 until 31.March.20 and from then until 31.August.2023 which was a mammoth task. As at 31 August 2023 assets are: cash in hand £27.20 and cash in bank £826.48, therefore the total carried forward is £853.68. These are society funds and can be used at our discretion. There was a general agreement that more information panels would be a good idea for the future.

Dave Wootton proposed that maybe we could fund a class or two from the school to go aboard the Copper Jack Community Boat. The boat will take up to 40 people. The normal fee is £150 which DW proposes is paid by GLHS. However, it was noted that the school would have to fund its own transport. Sue Jones asked to be excused from the discussion as she is a school governor. This proposal was supported unanimously and we will approach the school with the idea in the New Year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Under the terms of the Constitution the officers stood down but were re-elected en masse. Elaine Howell will continue as Chair for the coming year, Pam Morgan as Treasurer and Siân Pritchard as Secretary. Peter Pritchard will continue to keep the website up to date.

AOB: Elaine asked if it was possible for Pete to give a demonstration of the website in order that members can use it with confidence. Pete has agreed to do this in the New Year, possibly January weather permitting or otherwise in March or April. The school is happy for us to use the computer and the big screen.

Pam proposed a vote of thanks to Elaine for her hard work during the last year and keeping us on track during the meetings.

Meal in the Crofty Inn: Glenys proposed that, as the school will be closed for half-term holiday when we are due to meet in February, we go out for a meal at the Crofty Inn on this day. As the Crofty Inn is usually shut on a Monday we must ensure we are a goodly number going in order for them to justify paying the staff. Final numbers must be given and a deposit paid in our January meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.40. Tea or coffee and mini Christmas cakes were enjoyed afterwards. Next meeting is at the school on Monday January 8th 2024!!

GOWERTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Formerly known as

‘GOWERTON LIBRARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY’

Meeting held at Gowerton Primary School Monday 3rd July 2023 at 10.00am

PRESENT:

Peter Pritchard	Siân Pritchard
Pam Morgan	Kay Bamforth
Pearl Hill	Margaret Cross
Sue Jones	Viv Davies
Paula Wootton	Wendy Davidge
Eryl Williams	Terry Townend
	Jean Payne
	Pat Hood-Williams

APOLOGIES:

Elaine Howells Barbara Woodward

CYNEFIN PROJECT: We were greeted bilingually by four members of the top year in the school and shown into the community room where we met with Mr Ashton, Mrs Corfield, Mrs Morgan and various other dignitaries. We were then escorted into the school hall and seated at tables.

The same four members of the school were stood on the stage and welcomed us and introduced each of the dignitaries who also spoke in turn.

After the speeches we were served by some of the younger pupils with tea, coffee and cakes. After we had eaten the pupils themselves showed us how to scan the QR codes and we could listen to the

pupils' voices describing the various buildings and points of interest in Gowerton.

AOB: No formal meeting was held as we were all too busy being entertained by some of the pupils. A most enjoyable morning was had by everybody.

NEXT MEETING: I have had an email from Steve confirming that he will be happy to invite us back into our original 'home' and so our next meeting will be on Monday August 14th at 10.30 am in **Gowerton Library**. Looking forward to seeing everybody there.

AGENDA:

Apologies
Minutes
Matters Arising
Thank yous
Grant form
AGM confirmation and Agenda
Talk by Janet Leary