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How can you help!

We are looking for people to get involved with the project by providing:

- * Old photographs of the village.
- * Their memories of the village.
- * War records of their relatives.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2916966968347470>

Latest Timeline Team News:



In total there were 5 articles added to the Gwrachtimeline website since the last newsletter. They ranged from, The Drought of 1976, to a few personnel memories of the village.

If you haven't read the articles from Peter Ricketts MBE, Graham Hall and Mary Anne Aubrey yet, I would highly recommend that you do so.

You will be able to read about how Cwm Boyle got its name, how Mary Ann Aubrey aunt got home to Deri Fach, and many stories from Peter Ricketts about his time growing up in the village in the 50's, and 60'.

With regard to the next articles for the website:

At the moment I am working on the history of Ynys Las, and the Lady most closely associated with Ynys Las, Mary Jane Williams who lived there and is famous for compiling the book "Ancient National Airs of Gwent and Morgannwg".

Team News:

We have managed to get the team meeting back on track after a two years absence due to Covid restrictions.

Leighton has kindly compiled our constitution for the team, which sets out the rules we will follow as a team.

I am in the process of setting up a Community Bank account for the team, we will need this to enable us to look for funding for any projects we undertake.

"If anyone would like to contribute an article on the history or their memories of the village, then please let us know, we would be very grateful for your contribution".

Project update:

Back at the start of July we met with Kate, the representative of Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm, and Carys who coordinates all the funding project for NPT to discuss our proposals for the Spitfire Pilot memorial project, and to understand what we would need to do to apply for funding for the project. ***(The pilot James Day lost his life when he crashed his Spitfire on Craig y Glyn in 1941, on a training exercise).***

They were both very positive towards the project and gave us a lot of good advice on how to approach the project. We will produce an action plan incorporating all their ideas so that the project will run smoothly.

The first step will be to get permission from Natural Resources Wales for permission to use the land that the memorials will sit on. Unfortunately we hit a bit of a snag as they are not considering any new projects for the next 12 weeks as they are reviewing their processes. A slight hiccup but one which we will overcome.



There are a number of geographical features on Craig y Llyn that may not be known to the people of the village now. Some of the names are shown on the Ordnance Survey maps and others are colloquial names for the features.

It would be shame if these names were lost in the mist of time, so below I have listed the names and their English translation of the ones I know of.

It is suprising to me the these names have found their way into a number of articles on the Gwrachtimeline website, so hopefully they will not be lost, but perhaps we should make a special article to save these names and their history.

Did you know for instance, there is a large rock on the top of Craig y Llyn called **“Dwy’n Farwel,”**

“on the highest point there was a large stone named colloquially, as Dwy’n Farwel where coffins were rested on, it means in english as “I’m saying goodbye.” (To my home) it is thought that was the last time the deceased would see their home”.

“Fennaun Arthur” or Arthurs well, a boundary point between Llyn Fawr and Rhondda Fawr.

By Blaengwrach Farm there is a place called **“Plas Arthur”**, and sometimes **“Stafell Arthur”**, where there is a stone on which Arthur Sant used to preach.

The escarpment on Craig y Llyn, above Llyn Fawr and Llyn Fach, was known as **“Talcen y Byd”**, in English, “Forehead of the World”.

The highest point in Glamorgan is on Graig y Llyn and is called **“Carn Moesau”**, translated it means, “Pile or Heap of Morals”. I wonder where the name came from?

Beside the mountain track **“Cefn Ffordd”** between Blaengwrach and Glyncorrwg is a place called **“Carn yr Offeiriad”**, which was a way marker for the priests who would travel between St Mary’s church in Blaengwrach and St John the Baptists church in Glyncorrwg.

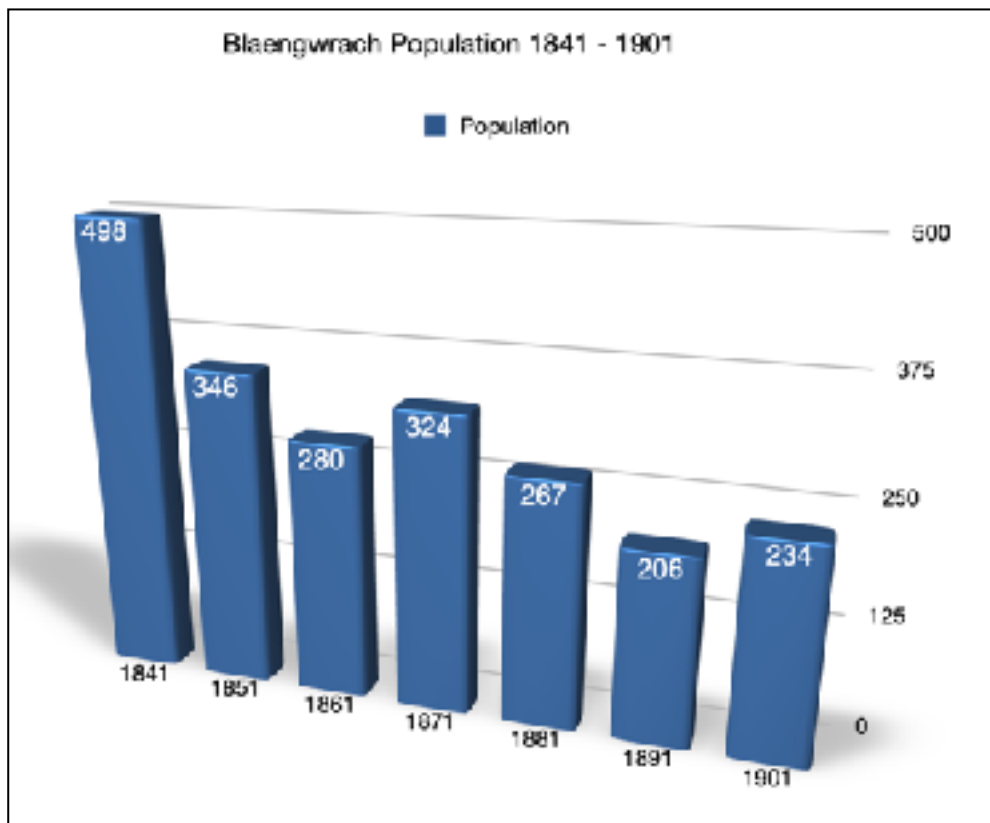
“Cwar Ffeiriad” is a quarry which the priest Fferiad Coch, the “Red Priest” and the horse he was riding fell over in a heavy mist, the priest survived but the horse didn’t. The site of this quarry is not known.

“Ffordd y Ffeiriad”, Way or Route of the Priests, is the route between St John the Baptist church in Glyncorrwg and St. Mary’s church in Blaengwrach, which was used by the priests in Glyncorrwg to carry out services in the chapel of rest in Blaengwrach. Wouldn’t it be great if we could get this route named on the Ordnance Survey maps!

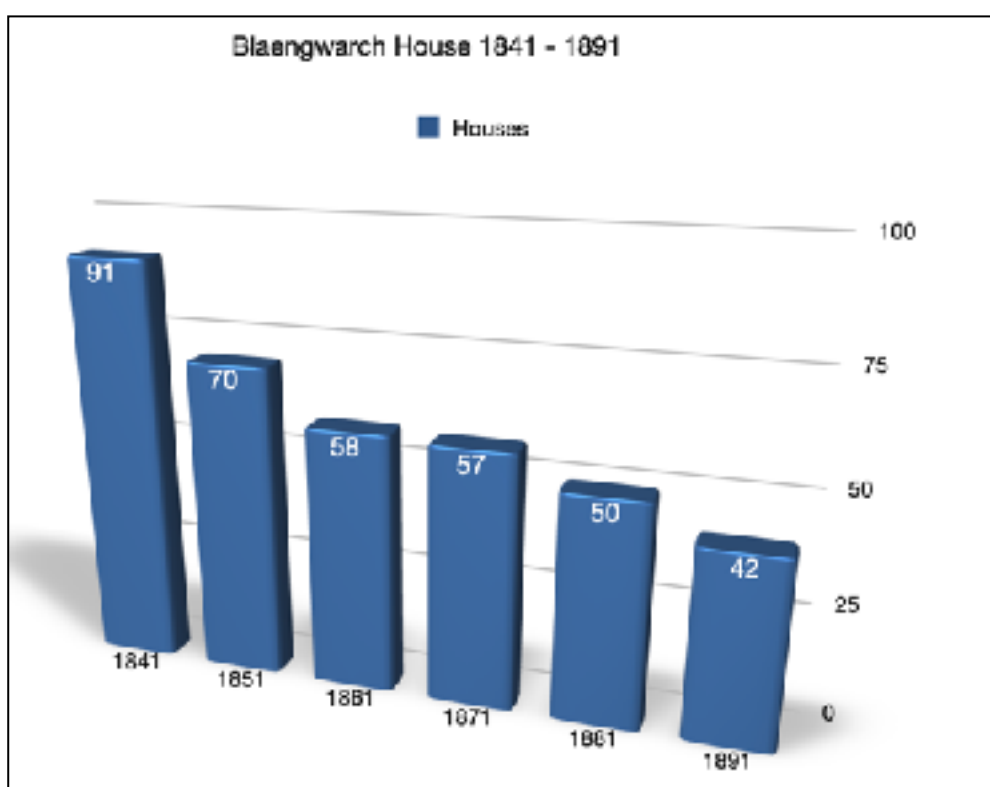
“The Olchfa”, translated as “The Sheep-dip”, this sheep-dip is situated between the right hand corner of Craig y Glyn and Mynydd Resolven. It is a place of special importance for me as I spend many an hour paddling in the stream next to the Olchfa.

Taken from the census data from the 19th century you can see in the graphs below the Population of Blaengwrach and the number of houses in the hamlet. As you can see Blaengwrach saw a reduction of the population from 498 to 234 and a similar reduction in housing from 91 to 42 houses from 1841 to 1901, roughly speaking, by just over half.

Was this the result of the completion of the railway line, the closure of the Venallt Ironworks, and reduction in output of the mines?



A note in the 1861 census says the decrease in population is attributed to the stoppage of two blast furnaces at the Venallt Ironworks and the suspension of colliery and mining operations.



Call to Arms:

We are calling out to the people of the village to give us their ideas on what projects we could work on in 2023. Your ideas should somehow have some historical significance for the village.

Also can you let us know what subjects you would like us to cover in future articles in the Gwrach Timeline website.

- ***One idea I have would be to look at “Pigeon Racing” in the village which at one time was a very popular pastime. So if you have any information on the history of Pigeon Racing in the village please get in touch.***

What would you like to see captured in future articles?

You can contact us either on our Facebook page or on the email for the website, links below:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2916966968347470>

<https://gwrachtimeline.co.uk/contact>