



In this Newsletter

Page 1 ~ Latest Timeline News.

Page 2 ~ Projects for 2022.

Page 3 ~ Memories of W. J. Benjamin.

Page 4 ~ Interesting stuff.

Website link below

<https://gwrachtimeline.co.uk>

Here is the website link so you can find the site easily.

Get Involved

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

- * old photos of the village
- * their memories of the village
- * War records of their relatives
- * history of associations, e.g. scouts, cubs, cadets, marching bands etc.

Latest Timeline Team News:

At last, after two years in lockdown, we have been able to have our third Timeline Team meeting. It took place last week on Thursday night in the Boxing Club. Here are the main points coming out of the meeting.

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We will create a dedicated Face Book page for the activities of the Timeline Team. We encourage everyone interested in the history of the village to join this site.



## Here is the link:

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

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We will also endeavour to carry out three projects for 2022.

The projects are:

(see page 2)

(Con't from page 1, the 3 projects are:)

1. Walk to Glyncorrwg:

To organise a walk from St Mary's church to Glyncorrwg church on the path Ffordd y Ffeiriad (The way of the Priest) to commemorate all the people from the village who had to travel from the Blaengwrach to Glyncorrwg to attend religious services there in the 17 c.



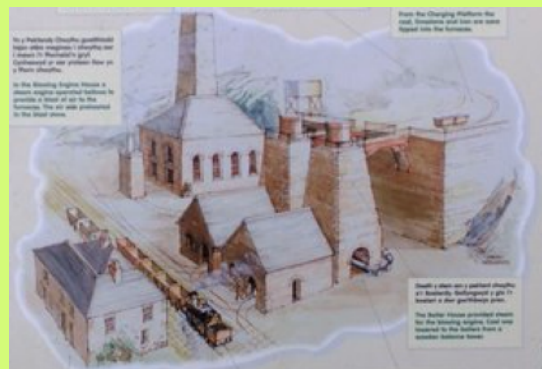
2. Spitfire pilot:

To raise a monument on Craig y Llyn and in the Park, to the World War Two Spitfire pilot who lost his life on the mountain during a training exercise.



3. Visit historic places:

To organise walks around the village to visit the local historical sites.



Latest Timeline Article:

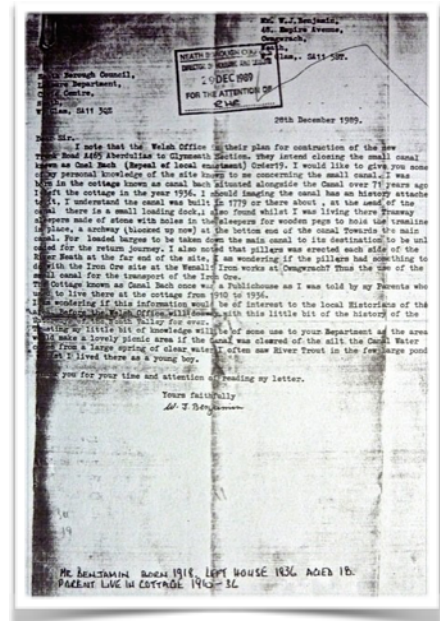
The last article to be included into the Gwrachtimeline website, was a letter which held the memories of William J. Benjamin about his time living, along with his parents, on the banks of Cnel Bach, a branch of the Neath Canal by Maes Gwyn.

In 1989 the “Missing Link” road was about to be made, running from the end of the dual carriageway at Aberdulias to join the dual carriageway at Glynneath. This meant that Cnel Bch would have to be built over and lost to time.

Mr Benjamin was so concerned that he wrote a letter to Neath Borough Council on the 26th December 1989 letting them know of his memories of living there, so that they would not be lost.

By the time he was living there the Neath canal was coming to the end of it's life and the little branch of the canal (Cnel Bach) had probably finished many years earlier on the arrival of the Vale of Neath railway.

He also mentioned that the house he lived in, shown below, that his parents told him was once a Public House.



Cnel Bach info:

The short branch canal Cnel Bach was built in 1817 to connect the Neath canal with the termination of the Blaengwrach tramroad, which crossed the river adjacent to the branch canal.

It was from Cnel Bach that 10 barges full of coal from the local collieries left to join the procession for the opening of the Tennant Canal in 1824.





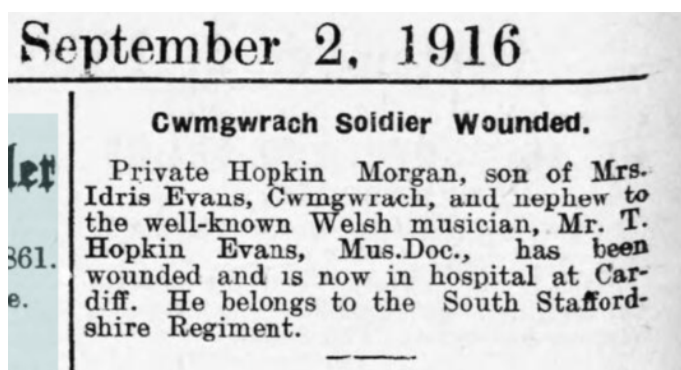
Did you know? The escarpment on Craig y Llyn, above Llyn Fawr and Llyn Fach, was known as Talcen y Byd, in English Forehead of the World.

A series of articles by the Rev. John Griffiths in the Rhondda Leader in 1906 explains the history of Talcen y Byd. In the articles he mentions a few places associated with King Arthur. He mentions "Fennaun Arthur" or Arthurs well, a boundary point between Llyn Fawr and Rhondda Fawr, and at Blaengwrach farm he mentions:

*"That is not all. My **Blaengwrach** informant says that a place by **Blaengwrach Farm** is called **Plas Arthur**, and sometimes **Stafell Arthur**, where there is a stone on which **"Arthur Sant"** used to preach".*

If the above has whetted your appetite for more, then please follow the link below:

http://www.kimkat.org/amryw/I_testunau/sion_prys_110_talcen-y-byd_1906_0088e.htm



Did you know? The famous writer

B. L. Coombes lived in the village for a short time. He originally came from Hereford, moved to Treharris for a short time, then to Resolven where he married a local girl and lived in number 10 New Inn Place. From there he moved to the small gatekeepers house by the old Rheola Aluminium works.

In 1941 he moved again, this time to live at Ynys-gron farm a little further up the valley from Tal William's bungalow. From there in 1944, he moved for the last time to Nantfyfedwen Farm, Onllwyn.

He was a prestigious writer with his most famous book being "These Poor Hands" which is an autobiography of a miner working in South Wales. You will recognise a lot of places he talks about in his books and short stories. He also contributed a weekly column in the Neath Guardian for over 25 years, with an estimated 10,600,000 words written.

