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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:

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we have managed to get the monthly meeting back up and running. This enables us to move things forward a lot quicker, especially with the projects we are working on. More on that below.

With regard to the next articles for the website:

Here are a few things I am working on at the moment:

- * The history of Ynys Las cottage.
- * The history of Maria Jane Williams, who lived at Ynys Las for many years.
- * The history of the Venallt Ironworks.



“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”.

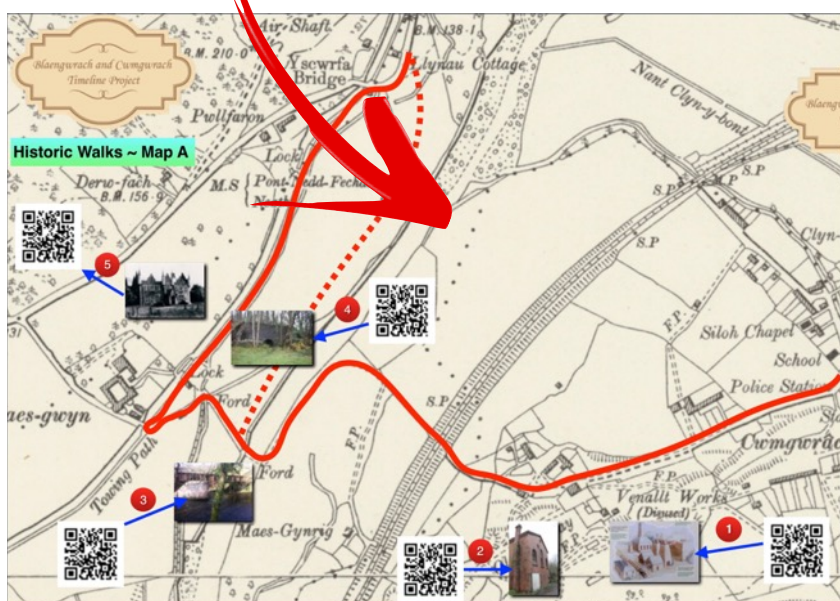
Project update:

Village Walks:

We will be in a position shortly to start running some historical walks around the village. The first of which will be to visit the Venallt Ironworks, the Power house, Maes Gwyn and the Lime Kiln. I created a map of the walk for you to see. The intention will be to create short historical videos of each place we visit which you will be able to access through scanning in a QR code on your iPhones which will take you to the relevant video. I have uploaded the first video on the Venallt Ironworks onto the website, here is the address:

<https://gwrachtimeline.co.uk/venallt-ironworks>

Map example:



Ffordd y Ffeiriad walk:

A few of the team met in April to inspect the first part of the walk, we went from the Cemetery on the top of Parish Road to the Ford above the farm Blaengwrach Fawr. The purpose of the walk was to check that the road was intact and safely walkable.

I have also been in touch with a history group in Glyncorrwg to ask them if they knew if the path their side of Craig y Llyn was also safe and walkable. One of the group said he would check the path out for us.

Monument to Spitfire Pilot:

To progress with the monument to the crashed Spitfire Pilot, we met with Rubin Eynon last Tuesday (31.05) to discuss ideas for the design of the monument. Rubin is a very successful local artist who has many statues commissioned and I am sure he will provide us with some excellent design ideas. I have shown opposite his statue of King Arthur that is situated at Tintagel.

The next steps for the team to progress this project will be to:

- * open a Bank account,
- * write a constitution
- * seek funding for the project and
- * decide on the location of the monument.

This is a very challenging, but exciting project, and one that we will see a very impressive result.

We will keep you informed on progress.



In talking to the people of Glyncorrwg I found out some **“interesting stuff”** about the connections between the villages of Blaengwrach and Cwmgwrach a few centuries ago.

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) He thought that was the last time the deceased would see their home”.

There are many people from Blaengwrach buried in the churchyard of St John the Baptist's church:

Millie Ellis Thomas say's *“Until around 1900, people from Blaengwrach and district were buried at Glyncorrwg churchyard. They were carried over this route by the mourners, taking turns with the coffin. My great grandfather as verger kept personal records indicating where they came from. As well as Blaengwrach are places such as Canal Bach, Maesmarchog, Blaencleirch, Venallt, Maesgwyn etc.”.*

There was also the story by **Heulwen Reese** about her Great Grandmother:

“My great grandmother, Elizabeth Catherine Peters rode over the mountain to get married to my great grandfather William Davies on Dec 3rd 1863. I have a copy of the marriage certificate in front of me. It says marriage solemnized at Blaengwrach Chapel in the parish of Glyncorrwg in Glamorgan”.

Heulwen sent me the marriage certificate mentioned above, and I have added the certificate and her story to the article on St. Mary's church.

The last story was not to have a happy ending as the groom William Davies was killed in a colliery accident 3 years later, leaving this wife and three children. On the positive side Elizabeth married again to a Charles Thomas, who is the Great Grandfather of Millie Ellis Thomas who is also mentioned above,