



## Competition

Above you can see the winning badge design by Denny Sandeman which has now been taken from the original sketch provided by Denny and made into a digitised format. A bit more work required before it's finally completed.

## 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 News:

I hope you all saw the latest article about the Cwmgwrach Minorities Jazz Band. A big thank you to Diane Aveyard-Davies for coordinating the memories of the band for inclusion in the article, along with a big thanks to all the other members who contributed to the article as well. I have also found a number of Neath Guardian newspaper reports about the band and these have been included under another link. Hopefully they will be able to organise a 50th year anniversary later in the year to celebrate the formation of the band.

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The 4 films we received via Glyn Davies have been digitised by David Sack of Saturn Films 1969 over the course of the last few weeks. But, due to the age of the films the quality was not the best, but David has worked hard over the last few weeks, and bought some new equipment as well, in order to get the best quality possible. I'm looking forward to seeing the results.

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I have also had a further half a dozen VHS tapes from Glyn Davies, so as soon as we finish digitising the first lot we will start the second lot. There's a film about the Golden Jubilee street party in Heol Nedd in 2002 and the opening of the new Rugby field by David Richards along with a few other Bit's and Bobs.

We also received a DVD from Enid James of the 1966 Cwmgwrach Scouts carnival which was taken by Mal Brake. We will be able to add this to the website once I have asked Mal for permission to share it.

## Village Timeline:



The village timeline is filling up nicely, although again there is a long way to go before we get all the events and dates which make up the development of the village. Even at this early stage you can start to see how the village grew, with most of the development taking place in the 20th Century,

before that, time seemed to go at a much slower rate. The oldest events we have included so far are the building of St Mary's church and the Unitarian chapel in the 1770's, *up to the right behind the rugby club*, the newest event included to date is the opening of the latest bridge into the village which happened at the start of the year.

## How did people get about before the roads we know were built:



One of the targets of the Timeline Team is to make the history of the village as visual as possible. To this end we have created a "Google My Map" of the old tracks and historic places within a 10 mile radius of the village, a screen shot of the map can be seen on the left.

You will be able to see the route of Sarn Helen the old Roman road, along with Cefn Ffordd which runs on the top of Craig Y Llyn, St Iltyd Way, Celtic Way, the Foel between Dinas Rock and Penderyn Church (*if you walk 20 paces further it will take you to the door of The Red Lion, which Mike Hughes and myself used to walk to on a regular basis on a Sunday morning back in the day*)

The map also shows the historical sites within 10 miles of the village, you will be able to see Roman sites, Bronze Age sites, Iron Age sites and we will add Standing Stone sites and whatever historical interesting site we can find to the map as well.

If you click on the little symbols shown in the map, you will also be able to see, photos, an explanation of the site and the Ordnance Survey position of the site.

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One of the more interesting tracks for the village is the route between St Mary's Church and the church at Glyncoirwg. In the 17th century it was compulsory to attend church in your local parish on a Sunday or you would be liable for a fine. As St Mary's didn't exist then, the people of the village had to walk or travel on horseback to Glyncoirwg every Sunday to worship, as you can imagine a very tiring and timely task. Once St Mary's was built then the priest for Glyncoirwg would travel to St Mary's to hold the service.

So over time a route was formed between Blaengwrach and Glyncoirwg called Ffordd Y Ffeiriad (Route of the Priest), unfortunately the actual route has now been lost to time. I have shown a possible route on the map, but I will need to investigate further to see if we can pin point the actual route. If you have any information on the possible route taken then please get in touch.

### Last but not least:



**If you would like to contribute in any way, please let us know.**

- So if you would like to record your memories of growing up in the village, or going to school, or participating in any of the village associations, then please let us know.
- If you have any old photos, documents or memorabilia of the village, get in touch and we can scan the photos, documents, memorabilia in, and you can have them back.
- Also your relatives memories of the village can be gathered and saved on the website, get your children involved in interviewing Granny and Grandad and capturing their memories.