

In the magazine:

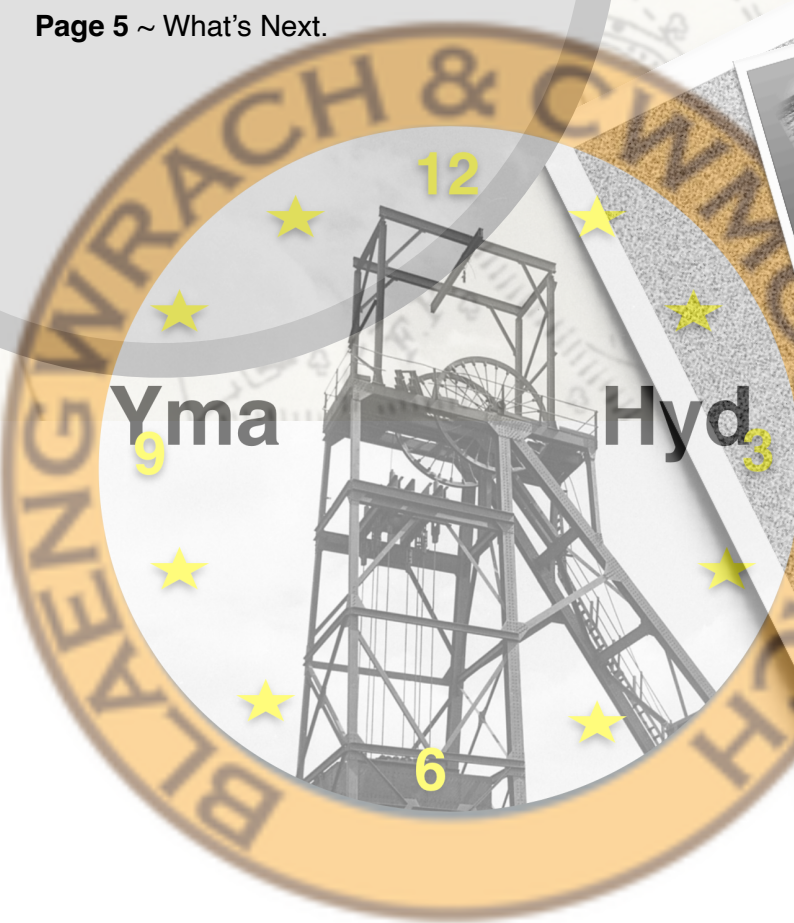
Page 1 ~ Front cover.

Page 2 ~ Reflections of a Bygone Age book. New members and Neath Antiquarian Society.

Page 3 ~ Thank you to Niamh, Meg and Maureen.

Page 4 ~ Heritage week in November.

Page 5 ~ What's Next.



How can you help!

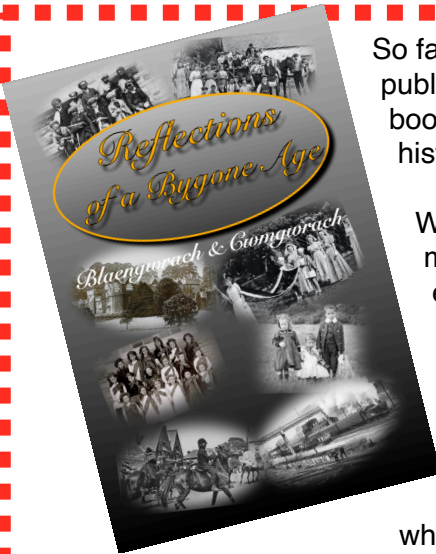
We are looking for people to get involved with the project by providing:

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



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

Sale of Reflections of a Bygone Age book:



So far we have sold over half of the "Reflections of a Bygone Age" books we published back in April 2025. We would like to thank everyone who has bought a book so far and would encourage others to buy what is an excellent book on the history of the village at the "value for money" price of £10.

We are hoping to sell the book around the Christmas period as they would make ideal stocking fillers or presents to friends and relatives. So keep an eye out on our Facebook page for details on how you can buy the book.

The book is a hard back book of 200 pages and contains over 350 photographs and explanations. There are 15 sections including a Timeline of village events from 1576 to the present day. Other sections cover Then and Now photographs, Social activities, Carnival photographs, Sport, Landscapes, Newspaper stories and the traditional industrial photographs which include the Canal, Railway, Mining and Farming, with each section having **"A Brief History"** of the section.

Welcome to our new Facebook members:



I would just like to say please feel free to use the page by including any historical photos or memories you have of the village. It's a two way page where we can both put relevant historical information in.

You may have noticed I have been including old articles on the Facebook page for the new members to see.

I hope they enjoy reading these articles.

I have also been including **"On this Day"** articles on our Facebook page which have appeared on the **Neath Antiquarian Society (NAS)** Facebook page. Some recent example are shown below:

ON THIS WEEK: On 6th July 1923, the actress Margaret Phillips was born in Cwmgwrach.

ON THIS DAY: On 23rd September 1851, the Vale of Neath Railway opened.

ON THIS DAY: Neath Fair Day on September 11th, 1908, some Aberpergwm and Pwllfaron colliers took the day off and went to the Neath September Fair, as they had always done, but ended up in front of the Neath Magistrates.

(This article led to many comments and shares on their site, it reached slightly less than 23,000 Facebook users and gathered 280 likes or loves, it was shared 42 times and the post was saved 10 times. About 90% of the people who saw the post were not previous followers of NAS Facebook. In that sense it was successful. They also gained some new followers as a result of the article.)

I have recently become a member of NAS and hope to build some strong links with them in the future.

A massive **well done** to Niamh, Megan, Maureen and all the other helpers who made the **80th VE Day celebrations** and **Party in the Park** such a success. I can't wait to see what they have planned for next year.

MAY
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HISTORICAL SHOWCASE III

Welfare Hall, Cwmgwrach.

11am (set up) - 12pm Start, 3pm (pack up)

"Take a trip down memory lane"

The **Gwrach Timeline Team** in conjunction with **Niamh Chammings** and **Megan Winter** would like to invite everyone in the village to the **80th VE Day celebrations**, and to bring along your **World War II** historical: **Artefacts, Photos, Documents**,

PARTY IN THE PARK

SATURDAY 2ND AUGUST
CWMGWRACH WELFARE PARK

12pm - 7pm

LIVE MUSIC • BAR • FOOD VENDORS • CRAFT STALLS
 FACEPAINTING • BOUNCY CASTLE • ICECREAM VAN
 FREE GAMES



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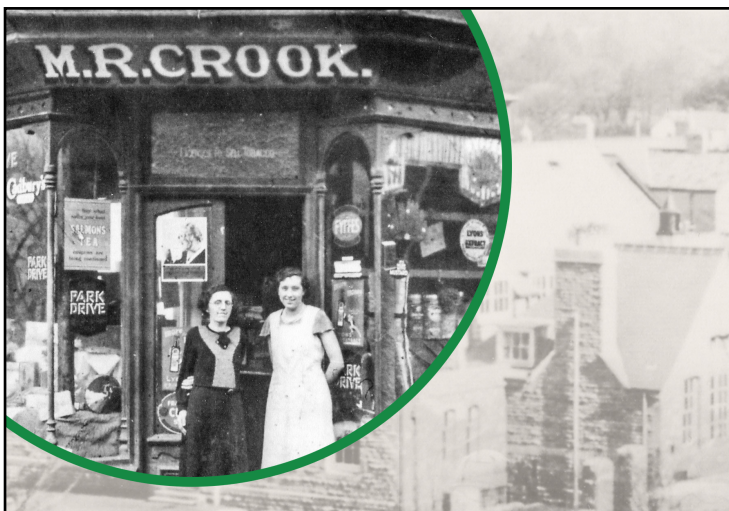
THE TRUST



COMING SOON

The Glynneath and Cwmgwrach History Group are putting on a **Heritage Week** of events, from Saturday, the 1st of November, to Sunday, the 9th of November, at various sites in Glynneath and Blaengwrach.

I have include the Flyer and Programme of Events below.



Cyfres o arddangosfeydd, sgysiau, cerddoriaeth a digwyddiadau yn dathlu cymunedau, hanes a threftadaeth Glyn-Nedd a'r ardaloedd cyfagos.

A series of exhibitions, talks, music and events celebrating the communities, history and heritage of Glynneath and the surrounding areas.

Mae Cymdeithas Hanesyddol Glyn-nedd a Chwmgwrach yn cyfarfod ar ddydd Mercher cyntaf y mis Mai-Medi ym Methania. Croeso i bawb. Mae aelodaeth flynyddol ar gael neu £2 yr ymweliad.

The Glynneath and Cwmgwrach Historical Society meet 1st Weds of the month May-Sept at Bethania. All are welcome. Annual membership available or £2 per visit.

Wythnos Treftadaeth Glyn-Nedd

1-9 Tachwedd/November 2025

Glynneath Heritage Week



Produced by the Glynneath and
Cwmgwrach Historical Society
gandchistsoc@gmail.com



It promises to be a fantastic event and I would encourage anyone with an appreciation of the history of the Upper Neath Valley to get yourself along. The first event takes place on the Saturday, the 1st of November, in the Glynneath Library from 11am to 2pm, will be an opening Launch by Max Boyce followed by a Presentation and Performance of Maria Jane Williams life story and a performance of some of the music she captured in her famous book.

Maria Jane William's lived at Ynys Las and was a well known figure in the village for many years.

Programme of Events:

Wythnos Treftadaeth, Glyn-Nedd 1af - 9fed Tachwedd 2025 Lleoliadau: Canolfan Gymunedol Bethania, Llyfrgell, Sant Cadoc Aberpergwm, Eglwys y Santes Fair Blaenngwrach		
Dydd Sadwrn 1af Llyfrgell	11yb 2yp	Lansiad yr Arddangosfa gan Max Boyce Cyflwyniad a Pherfformiad: Maria Jane and her Music, Mike Edwards
Dydd Sul 2il Sant Cadoc	12yb-4yp 2yp	Diwrnod Agored yr Eglwys Cyflwyniad: Williamses of Aberpergwm Elizabeth Belcham
Dydd Llun 3ydd Eglwys y Santes Fair	10yb-4yp 2yp	Dydd Agored yr Eglwys Cyflwyniad: Y Teulu Williams Aberpergwm Elizabeth Belcham Atgofion a Choffi (Siopau a Siopa)
Llyfrgell	10-12yp 2-4yp	
Bethania	10yb-4yp	Arddangosfa
Dydd Mawrth 4ydd Llyfrgell	2yp	Cyflwyniad (Ddwyeithog) Pa beth yw Enw? Trefor Jones Arddangosfa
Bethania	10yb-4yp	
Dydd Mercher 5ydd Bethania	10yb-4yp 2.30yp	Arddangosfa Cyflwyniad: Arwrn Colledig, Darganfyddiadau'r Gofeb Mike Fuller
Dydd Iau 6oed Bethania Llyfrgell	10yb-4yp 10yb-1yp 2yp	Arddangosfa Atgofion a Choffi (Pobl) Perfformiad: Pethau Dirgel, Storiâu a Chewdlau Gwerin Debra John
Dydd Gwener 7fed Bethania	10yb-4yp 11yb 2yp	Arddangosfa Coal Town Coffee - Cysylltiadau â Chwm-Nedd Sgwrs: Dynion Lleol a Ddaeth i'r Brig Jenkin Jones, David Thomas, John Jones
Dydd Sadwrn 8fed Bethania	10yb-4yp 2yb-4yp	Arddangosfa Adnabod Eich Mamgu? - Enwi'r bobl yn y lluniau.
Dydd Sul 9fed Bethania	10yb-4yp 10yb-4yp 3.30yp	Arddangosfa 'Dod a Dangos' Pethau Chwilyfrydig Digwyddiad Cloi

Heritage Week, Glynneath 1st - 9th November 2025 Venues: Bethania Community Centre, Library, St Cadoc's Aberpergwm, St Mary's Blaenngwrach		
Saturday 1st Library	11am 2pm	Exhibition Launch by Max Boyce Talk & Performance Maria Jane and her Music, Mike Edwards
Sunday 2nd St Cadoc's	12am-4pm 2pm	Church Open Day Talk: Williamses of Aberpergwm Elizabeth Belcham
Monday 3rd St Mary's	10am-4pm 2pm	Church Open Day Talk: The Williams Family of Aberpergwm, Elizabeth Belcham Reminiscences & Coffee (Shops & Shopping)
Library	10-12am 2-4pm 10am-4pm	Exhibition Display
Bethania		
Tuesday 4th Library Bethania	2pm 10am-4pm	Talk (bilingual) What's in a Name? Trefor Jones Exhibition Display
Wednesday 5th Bethania	10am-4pm 2.30pm	Exhibition Display Talk: Fallen Heroes, Cenotaph Discoveries Mike Fuller
Thursday 6th Bethania Library	10am-4pm 10am-1pm 2pm	Exhibition Display Reminiscences & Coffee (People) Performance: What Lurks Be-Neath Folk Tales and Legends, Debra John
Friday 7th Bethania	10am-4pm 11am 2pm	Exhibition Display Coal Town Coffee - Links with Glynneath Talk: Local Men Made Good Jenkin Jones, David Thomas, John Jones
Saturday 8th Bethania	10am-4pm 2pm-4pm	Exhibition Display Is That Your Gran?- Name the people in the photos.
Sunday 9th Bethania	10am-4pm 10am-4pm 3.30pm	Exhibition Display 'Bring and Show' Memorabilia Closing Event

So what can we expect next from the Gwrach Timeline Team, I hear you ask:

Since releasing the book *Reflections of a Bygone Age* I have had time to add a few articles to our website.

The first was about the finding of the Llyn Fawr Hoard, where I also contacted the Museum of Wales to ask permission to use some of the photographs of the articles found in the hoard, I also contacted the Rhondda Cynon Taff Libraries to again ask permission to use some of their photos of the work carried out in deepening the Llyn Fawr lake turning it into a reservoir for the Rhondda valley which led to the finding of the hoard in the lake.

The second article was writing by David Crick on his memories of working at the Venallt Colliery. This article created many comments on our history Facebook page and led to us gathering many names of the people who worked at the colliery.

The third article "Tales of the Craig Nedd Riverbank" was written by myself about my memories of growing up on the banks of the river and all the things we got up to.

A future article will be a Virtual Museum, which will hopefully capture all the Historical Artefacts to be found in the village. See below for an example of how it could look.

Virtual Museum

A list of historical artefacts to be found in Blaengwrach and Cwmgwrach. If you have something of historical value to the village then please let us know.

Item	Description	Location	Link
	A Eisteddfod Chair won by Mrs Annie Davies (Bardic name Nedd Wen) at the Gwynedd Eisteddfod in 1937.	Blaengwrach Primary school.	
	A Eisteddfod Chair won by Mrs Annie Davies (Bardic name Nedd Wen) at the <u>Pumsaint</u> Eisteddfod in 1937.	<u>Cwmnedd</u> Welsh Primary school	
	£1000 was stolen from a draw in this chair over 250 years ago (C. 1775). The money was kept in the locked draw at Dryslwyn Farm, Llandeilo when the manservant of the house forced the lock and absconded with the money. Along with the arm chair there are four other chairs of the same pattern.	Unknown, last heard of held by Mrs M. Leyshon of <u>Glanavon</u> , High Street, Cwmgwrach.	Newspaper cutting.
	Blaengwrach Council School Sports shield that was contested for by various schools in the Neath Valley. The shield was presented by the Cwmgwrach Welfare Association in 1934.	Blaengwarch Primary school.	