

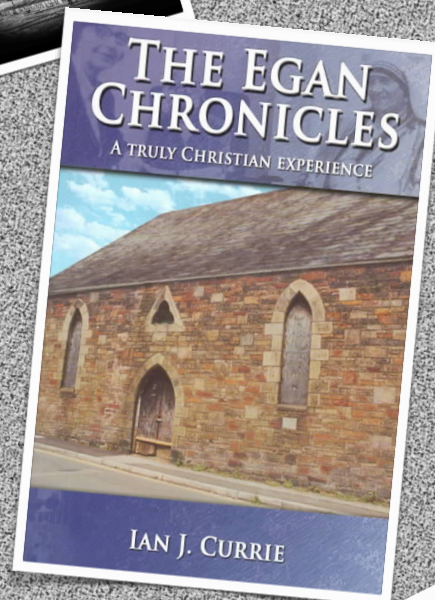
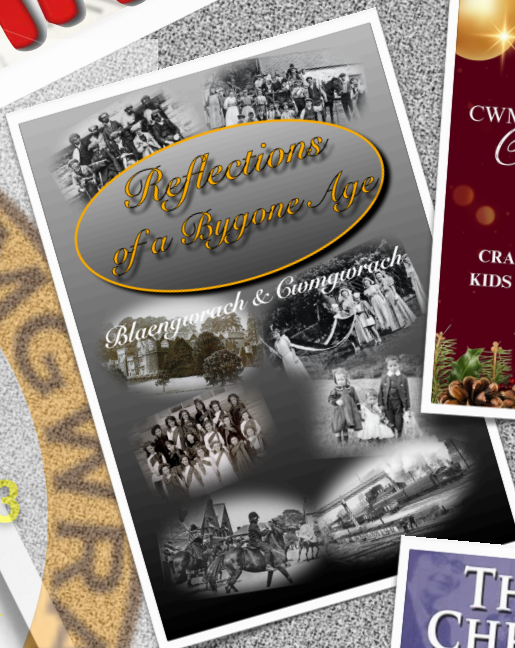
In the magazine:

Page 1 ~ Front cover.

Page 2 ~ "Reflections of a Bygone Age" book on sale at Christmas Fete

Page 3, 4, 5 ~ A look back on 2025

Page 6 ~ What next / Call to Arms



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:



With over 250 "Reflections of a Bygone Age" books sold to date, we are now looking to put a big push on sales in the lead up to Christmas.

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.

The book would make ideal Christmas present for *Friends and Family*.

We are all looking forward to the Cwmgwrach Community Fete on the 13th December in the Welfare Hall, see the poster opposite for details.

We will be selling our book, *"Reflections of a Bygone Age"* at the fete, if you haven't already bought a copy now would be an ideal time to buy one for the price of **£10**, and remember they also make a great Christmas gift for *Friends and Family*, so we hope to see you there on the night.

The Fete is now behind us and what a night it was, a huge well done to the organisers. See a selection of photos below of the people involved and the stalls there on the night.





A retrospective look back on **2025**

It's that time of year again when we all think back on the past year, what were the main achievements, what didn't go so well and making plans for the coming year.

The Gwrach Timeline Team is no different from anyone's else, so let's look back on our achievements together, because at the end of the day we do what we do for your enjoyment.

The start of the year so us spending many hours compiling our history book ***"Reflections of a Bygone Age"*** and believe me when I tell you it isn't as easy as it seems. For me the devil is in the detail, you have to get that right first. So we had to first work out what the size of the book would be, along with the best Font and size to use so that you can get all the information in and still be able to read it easily. We eventually went for a New Times Roman font at 11 point size. (Cont.)

Then you have to consider where the photograph and comments are positioned on the page. I was manually doing this at first until 6 months later I found out you can actually position the photo and comment on the page by typing in the size and position you want it placed on the page, this made life a lot easier as I was spending a lot of time positioning and re-arranging each photo and comment individually.

The team met every month where we would discuss the progress of the book and sort out any issues or questions. So in our monthly meetings we agreed on the section / chapters of the book, what photographs to use, trying not to duplicate as much as possible photographs that had been used in Glyn's previous books. Another mistake I made was not taking into consideration the other books available on the village, e.g. Ian Currie book, the rugby and school centenary books. So I had to check that I was not duplicating photographs from these books, although I must admit there was some duplication if it was essential for our book.

As the book was progressing we set up a Bank account for the team and Leighton took on the task of obtaining funding from the Selar fund. So a big thank you to Leighton and the Selar fund, we couldn't have produced the book without the funding.

Also in parallel I visited our chosen supplier Gomer in Llandysul to understand the process of manufacturing a book and to see what type of book we could produce for a reasonable cost. The team agreed we would like to have a hard backed book, so this was also discussed with Gomer. We eventually had a quote from Gomer for 500 hard backed books of 200 pages for what we thought was a reasonable price, that price was what we eventually are selling the book for.

We were originally planning to have the book ready for release for Christmas 2024, unfortunately that date came and went, until early in 2025 I thought we were in a good position to send the book to be published. How wrong was I, it became clear on reviewing the comments with the team that my understanding of grammar had faded since I had left school over 55 years ago. My use of commas, capitals and sentence structure were abysmal, and all the comments had to be checked and changed accordingly, which took a few months until we are all satisfied with the final result and which you can see in the book today.

I think one of the regrets I have with the publishing of the book was that Glyn Davies didn't get to see the finished result. He would ring me every few weeks or so, I can still hear his voice "***Glyn Davies here***" asking me when the book would be published. Unfortunately he passed away a week before the book was published. RIP Glyn, you served the village proudly.

So far we have sold over 250 books, so we still have 250 books still to sell. So get in touch if you would like a copy, they also make great Christmas or Birthday gifts for friends and family.

As you can imagine the production of the book has taken up most of the first part of the year, The only other event we participated in was the VE Day celebrations organised by the **Cwmgwrach Village Community Event** team and what a fantastic job they made of it. Below you can see some of the photographs of the day and the boards we prepared for the event.



With regard to article published over the year, we haven't done so bad. Here is a list of the subjects we have input into the website in **2025**:

- * In February we included the burial records of Blaengwarch people buried in St John the Baptist's church in Glyncorrwg.
- * July saw the inclusion of the article on the finding of the Llyn Fawr Hoard.
- * In July David Crick gave us his memories of working in the Venallt colliery.
- * In September I included my memories of growing up on the banks of the River Neath.
- * Then in November we included a piece written by Ian Currie on the life of Eileen Egan when she lived in the village and what she went on to achieve in her lifetime.

In the Cwmgwrach Fete on Saturday the 13th of December, I got talking to a number of families who had either moved back to the village to live, or who have recently moved to the village.

In talking to them it was quite clear that they were very interested in the history of the village, but on further questioning I realised they did not know we had a History Website for the village.

So if any of the newcomers are reading this, you can find the website at the following address:

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

What next for the Gwrach Timeline History Team:

As it stands at the moment, the team is trying to set up presentation evenings. We have bought a projector screen and I have borrowed my sons projector, so sometime in the new year we will let you know when we will have our first presentation.

We will continue to write articles for the website and I would encourage people to let us know your memories of the village. If you would like to write something let us know and perhaps we can help.

We have no plans at the moment for any events in 2026 but we will definitely be supporting the *Cwmgwrach Village Community Events* in anything they plan to do.

CALL TO ARMS

We have created a huge list of potential areas we can work on, far too much for our small band of three people to work on, so if you would like to get involved please let us know.

