

DERI



All meetings at Canolfan Beulah at 7.30pm
Rhiwbina Civic Society Programme

19th July: Cyfarthfa Castle and the Crawshay Family – Christopher Parry

4th August: Special afternoon visit to Nantgarw China Works and Museum (please reserve places with Roger Wright)

20th September: The Amazing Transporter Bridge – David Hando

18th October: Rhiwbina – an Urban Village or just another City Suburb? – Ritchie Wood

15th November: AGM and talk - The Roman Conquest of Wales – Sarah Boyce

13th December: Christmas quiz plus drinks and nibbles.

For further information, please see our website or Facebook page –
or phone 07811 509490.

RCS Celebration

As we have mentioned elsewhere, the Society will be 25 years old in September.

To celebrate this milestone, we're mounting an exhibition of 'Rhiwbina Worthies' and hoping to hold an Anniversary Tea in Bethany Baptist Church on Saturday 10th September.

While detailed arrangements are yet to be finalised, we anticipate that the event will be by ticket only (at an estimated charge of £5.00 per person), and numbers will be limited. Please put the date in your diaries, and help us mark this important occasion with enthusiasm!

We will email members about tickets for this event.

RHIWBINA

TŪM PLISMONA YN Y GYMDOGAETH
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM
EICH SWYDDOGION LLEOL
YOUR LOCAL OFFICERS



PC Lee Powell
07825 504179
Lee.Powell2@south-wales.police.uk



PCSO Nicola Richards
07805 301322
Nicola.Richards4@south-wales.police.uk



PCSO Lesley Hilditch
07584 771124
Lesley.Hilditch@south-wales.police.uk

WHY CHANGE THE NAME?



Rhiwbina Civic Society will be 25 years old in September of this year.

For most of that time, the Society has been active in the area with activities which have included exhibitions, walks and local campaigning. However, in latter years, the Society seems to have gone into decline – with fewer members, an aging membership and an apparent lack of enthusiasm on the part of that general membership to become involved in anything which might mean more than one evening a month's commitment. The Executive Committee, too, is aging, and finding it difficult to drum up the enthusiasm needed for practical projects when it is felt that there is neither interest nor encouragement from the membership.

Meanwhile, other groups have identified areas of activity which once were the preserve of the Society: a Keep Rhiwbina Tidy group does exactly that; the Village Events group keeps community spirit and participation going, and the Friends of Rhiwbina Library make sure that optimum use is made of this most valuable amenity.

The Executive Committee therefore feels that now is an ideal time to consider just what Rhiwbina Civic Society is for and how it functions; and importantly, to address the problem of recruiting and welcoming younger members and giving them something they can feel a part of.

After much discussion, a change of name has been proposed. It was felt that perhaps the 'Civic' bit of the Society's name was off-putting, suggesting an organisation concerned with the rather dry and uninteresting aspects of planning restrictions, conservation of buildings and objection to anything resembling progress. A new name would reflect a much wider remit, covering multiple aspects of life and living in a modern city suburb with an interesting history.

With this in view, the Committee has suggested changing the name of the Society to **The Rhiwbina Society**.

Our Constitution states that the main purposes of the Society are:

- to promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit;
- to educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area of benefit;
and
- to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of public interest in the area of benefit.

The proposed change of name would not affect these purposes, and would enable a widening of the Society's activities to include such actions as:

- working with other local organisations to improve the natural amenities and appearance of the area;
- promoting good environmental practice within the area; *and*
- ensuring that everybody has access to a good quality pedestrian infrastructure.

The Executive Committee would very much welcome your views on the proposal and any ideas you may have to encourage the recruitment of new and younger members.

Lyn Owen - Secretary & Treasurer

A CAPITAL SEASON

As some of you will know, I spend my Saturdays (and plenty of other days) watching football in all parts of Wales.

But in mid-May, as the 2021-22 football season entered its final, hectic few weeks of title deciders, cup finals and play-offs, that a thought struck me: a lot of the key games I was watching this month involved Cardiff teams.

And as I began to list the local clubs and their achievements during 2021-22, it became clear how strong local football in the city is right now, with north Cardiff figuring prominently.

At the top level of the men's game, we had Cyncoed-based Cardiff Met University reaching the final of a national cup.

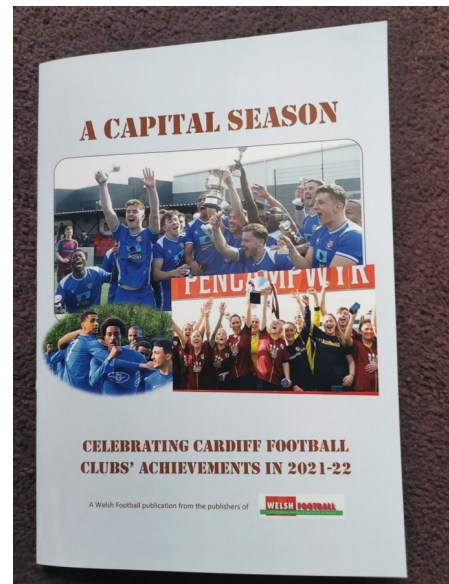
Another north Cardiff club, Cardiff Draconians, had exceeded all expectations on their debut in the third tier, finishing fourth in the Ardal SW and reaching the league cup final. (The Dracs are in fact one of the nearest local clubs to Rhiwbina and have created a fine little ground at Lydstep Park in Gabalfa – if you haven't been down for a game, I can thoroughly recommend it).

Among the roll of honour there are other nearby clubs: Cardiff Corinthians, Cardiff's most historic club, and one with a strong Rhiwbina connection, won the South Wales Alliance League's cup competition, and Tongwynlais (based just the other side of Coryton roundabout) won the Cardiff & District League and battled through the play-offs to earn promotion to the South Wales Alliance. Cardiff Wanderers (a women's team also based in Tongwynlais) had a hugely successful season at senior and junior levels.

Sadly, all this success passed largely without comment or recognition. Press coverage of grassroots football has declined to practically nil, and a few initial attempts to interest local media in running an article or feature received not a flicker of interest. So I decided to do it myself.

The result is "A Capital Season", a slim, all colour booklet that I hope captures this fine moment in the city's sporting story. If any readers are interested, I have copies available at just £2.50 each.

David Collins
welshfootball@gmail.com)



Recent Meetings by Roger Wright

March 2022

The meeting in March was a bit of a landmark as we returned to face-to-face meetings at Canolfan Beulah after a series of meetings on Zoom. We were pleased to have about 30 attendees. Firstly, we took the opportunity to hold a short AGM which all went smoothly.

Afterwards Richard Britton gave a talk called 'Cardiff – Newtown – Little Ireland'.

The areas known as Newtown and Adamsdown were the first significant areas of housing that developed outside of Cardiff's old town boundaries in the early nineteenth century. In the years following the Great Famine of Ireland of 1845 hundreds of Irish families began to arrive in Cardiff, They were generally housed in Newtown, which had been purposely expanded by the Marquess of Bute to house construction workers for Cardiff's new docks. Newtown was an area of about one square mile including Tyndall Street, Ellen Street and Rosemary Street. Thus, Newtown became known as 'Little Ireland'.

A notable resident was Jim Driscoll, a famous Welsh boxer, born in Newtown in 1880.

Four languages were commonly used: Irish, Welsh, English and Latin.

By the 1930s, Newtown had already deteriorated to slum conditions. Eventually, in 1966 the houses were compulsorily purchased and in 1970 the houses were demolished.

Many of the residents moved to areas such as Fairwater and Pentreban. If you come across people with surnames such as Murphy, O'Brien and O'Connor, they may have ancestors from Newtown!

A Newtown Memorial Garden has been created, opened in 2005.

April 2022

In April the society's annual lunch was held at Caffé Fach in Heol Llanishen Fach. A good time was had by all.

Recent Meetings by Roger Wright continued

May 2022

Mario Greening gave us a talk called 'Cardiff's first international airport'. With some very eye-catching visual aids Mario traced the development of aviation and Cardiff's involvement in it.

It all started with an area of boggy farmland in Splott where an Ernest Willows first constructed dirigible airships. The destinations of his demonstration flights included London and Paris. He later owned a factory in Westgate Street before construction was transferred to other parts of the country. He died in 1926 and his name lives on with Willows High School and a pub in City Road.

Another site for flying was Ely Racecourse where flying displays attracted large numbers of people. The French were also very much involved at this time.

The inter-war years were a golden period for air travel with streamlined metal monoplanes taking part in air races. There was the Schneider Trophy and the King's Cup Air Race. Large flying boats were also developed which provided an air of luxury travel for the super rich. A flying club was opened in Wenvoe in 1931.

Airlines began to be formed: Instone Airline and Railway Air Services were two examples. Flights were offered to the general public – the trip to Weston Super Mare from Cardiff was particularly popular when the pubs were closed in Wales on Sundays!

In 1946 Splott aka Pengam was closed and a large Rover factory was built – hence the existing Rover Way.

In the 1950s there were even scheduled helicopter flights - from Cardiff to Liverpool via Wrexham – but they did not last for long.

From 1954 RAF Rhoose became the main centre of aviation activity leading to the airport we have today.

June 2022

'The Housemaid's Tale'

The speaker arrived, slightly before time, and presented herself to the 'greeter'. Quietly spoken, she asked if there was somewhere she could change. A few moments later, she emerged completely transformed from a 21st century woman into an Edwardian housemaid.

It was June 2022, with a world in turmoil and equality for all in the headlines. But Debra John took us back to an era when those above stairs knew not only their own place in society, but the place of those below them in the hierarchy. Even within the 'downstairs' set, there was an order of seniority, underlined by gender discrimination in pay and uniform. Debra's description of the goings on below stairs was both entertaining and an eye-opener, delivered in the lilting accents and idiom of rural Wales.

We heard how footmen were the top of the tree, in both pay and prestige. Next were the housekeeper, ladies' maid and cook, strict disciplinarians within their own realms. Housemaids were the backbones of the running of the house, always busy, always there when needed, but never seen if they could help it, by those they served. Last of all were the 'tweenies' – apprentice housemaids, who did the most menial of tasks for very little thanks, except a roof over the head and enough food to keep hunger at bay.

For the 20 or so members who attended, it was a most enlightening evening. It was a pity there were not more present to show their hearty appreciation to Debra as she reverted to the 21st century to answer our various questions.