



The Rhiwbina Society

Newsletter

April 2026

Our programme for the next few months of 2026 is as follows:

21 April: *The Man Who Built Portmeirion* Martyn Swain

19 May: *The Early Story and History of Beulah* Nigel Lewis

16 June: *History Like Your Teacher Never Taught You* Phil Carradice

21 July: *My Life in Films* Harley Jones

August There is no meeting this month. Look out for details of our annual visit to a local place in interest.

15 Sept: *The Cardiff Railway* Bob Price

Meetings are held in Canolfan Beulah, Beulah Road,
Rhiwbina, CF14 6AX, starting at 7.30 pm.
Admission is £2 for members and £4 for non-members.

For further information, please visit our website:

www.therhiwbinasociety.org

Follow us on X/Twitter and Facebook – or phone 07811 509490.

If you weren't there, this is what you missed!

Roger Wright reports on the last few meetings

IN JANUARY we were treated to an illustrated talk on *The Welsh Red Kite* by Alan Oliver. He started with an introduction to the bird itself – it has a long history, even being mentioned in writings by Chaucer and Shakespeare. He continued by explaining how it came so close to extinction – ordinary people were given monetary rewards for capturing them (



and other wildlife such as rabbits and hedgehogs).

The red kite's survival can be put down to the efforts of a small community in mid-Wales to protect the bird. It has now become the most successful wildlife reintroduction programme ever. Kites can now be seen in great numbers at various feeding stations across the country.



AT OUR FEBRUARY MEETING, Sian Meinir, the opera singer, gave us a presentation called *A Pilgrimage of Song*

Sian Meinir was born in Cheshire and raised in Gwynedd in a musical household. She is a graduate of Bangor University and the Royal Academy of Music.

She was a member of the Royal Opera House Chorus in Covent Garden before joining the Welsh National Opera Chorus in 2003. She delighted the small audience with a number of operatic and traditional songs.

Outside her WNO commitments, Sian is an Eisteddfod Chair Poet, translates songs for the National Eisteddfod, and is a vocal tutor and a national adjudicator.

IN MARCH, Peter Smith gave us a talk called *A Postcard from Rhiwbina*, based on his collection of postcards, providing a visual record of street scenes of Rhiwbina over the years. Many of the postcards in this presentation were published by three businesses trading in the village.

A postcard was a quick and cheap method of communication and some of the messages written on the reverse of the cards were also included. The use of postcards has been in decline for many years.



...and finally

Just now and then, a remnant of times past comes into view, if only for a short while.

This bit of an old field wall was revealed by the clearance of overgrowing shrubs and trees. It's alongside the golf course on Rhiwbina Hill, adjacent to the



entrance to the footpath used by many dog walkers.

Those who were present at Peter Smith's talk may remember him showing a view of the same wall further up the road.

A hidden gem like this reminds us of the rural nature of what is now largely a built-up suburb of Cardiff.