

# DERI



All meetings at Canolfan Beulah at 7.30pm  
**Rhiwbina Civic Society 2022 Programme**

**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.

**A reminder for members from our Membership Secretary Mrs Elizabeth May**

As we approach the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', we remember that it is in October that membership subscriptions are due.

We would like to thank those of you who pay by Standing Order, as this gives us a certain amount of stability each year.

You will shortly be receiving AGM papers, either by email or by post, and we've enclosed a Membership Form for those who prefer to pay by cheque, cash or by Bank Transfer.

We have not increased the amount of the annual subscription for some years, but if you feel able to add a small donation we would be very grateful. We would also like to thank those of you who have donated in past years.

Obviously, the costs of running the Society are increasing year by year. We try to book speakers for our monthly meetings on subjects which we feel will interest you, so even an extra pound at the door will help to cover the costs incurred on the night.



The Society visited Nantgarw Pottery Museum in August. See the report by Roger of this visit on page four.



Beulah Road is currently a through route for 44 tonne trucks following a diversion to avoid Caerphilly Road railway bridge which is to be strengthened by Transport for Wales.

Following a zoom meeting, residents voiced their concerns about increased traffic and congestion, our local Councillors are looking into it.

## Look up at the Trees

Rhiwbina is often described as a leafy suburb of Cardiff. Green surroundings encourage people to work and invest in them and develop a sense of local pride; and we are lucky here to have several such public spaces - Caedelyn Park, Parc y Pentre, Hill Snook Park – all precious places to walk, relax and unwind.

They say that trees are the lungs of our towns and cities and as I approach Beulah Road where I live I am sure my heart rate slows down as I regard the beautiful mature trees running the length of the road. Many of these trees are covered by Tree Preservation Orders listed by Cardiff City Council in 1976 and comprise oaks, ash, beech, Scots pine, sycamore and many more varieties – and some of these species can live for over 400 years. There were over 50 trees back then afforded preservation in Beulah Road alone, and more elsewhere in Rhiwbina; regrettably however, many of these trees have been lost over the years.



In these anxious days of global warming it is good to be aware of the importance of our trees as they absorb noise and pollution, capture carbon and release oxygen back to us. During a recent extremely hot summer they offered us shelter, reducing temperatures in our cities by a much as seven degrees – and in winter they can help to prevent flooding by absorbing water into their root systems. Trees are

important habitats too for nature; *Little Green Space\** says that 'a single oak can support over 2000 species of birds, insects, fungus and lichen'.



We take our surroundings very much for granted as we go about our daily tasks, but we should look again at the trees in our environment appreciating their beauty and their importance to us and all the other creatures who make their homes in them.

**Vivienne Jones**

<http://www.littlegreenspace.org.uk>



## Out and About by Lyn Owen



And there it was – gone!

We are sad to report the demise of yet another mature Rhiwbina tree. This mature ash tree had succumbed to the dreaded Ash die-back disease, and was felled back to hedge level. There is a chance that the remaining trunk will sprout again, but it will be many years before the original height is attained.



## Society Programme for 2023

**17 January: Edging the City – A Journey round the Border of Cardiff - Peter Finch**

**21 February: The Story of Wales in a Hundred Objects – Andrew Green**

**21 March: Getting Cardiff Cycling: Pedal Power and Cardiff Cycle City - Paul Streets and Sian Donovan**

**18 April: Newport Wetlands: A Hidden Gem - Daniel Suge of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)**

**16 May: Tales from Wales – Storytelling including Welsh myths and legends – Debra John**

**18 June: Coed Caerdydd – expanding our tree canopy – Christopher Engel**

Meetings are held in the Canolfan Beulah starting at 7.30 pm. For further information, please see our website or Facebook page – or phone 07811 509490.

Roger Wright

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## Correspondence

Hi everyone, I'm a trainee journalist at Cardiff University and will be covering Rhiwbina for our online publication The Cardiffian this year. I'm looking to get to know the area, so feel free to drop a message or an email at [samedwardspcs@outlook.com](mailto:samedwardspcs@outlook.com) if there's anything in particular you think I should know (eg. Upcoming events, ongoing stories/issues etc).

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Sam Edwards

## Summary of Recent Meetings

### July 2022

At our meeting in July, Chris Parry gave us a talk about Cyfarthfa Castle and the Crawshay family. Chris explained how Merthyr Tydfil became a big industrial centre in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries based on four large iron-works: Dowlais, Plymouth, Cyfarthfa and Penydarren all in a two-mile square. These attracted a large number of employees so that Merthyr became one of the most populated areas of Wales.

Several generations of the Crawshay family developed the business – even though they weren't always the best of friends! Richard Crawshay used innovative techniques to manufacture the strongest wrought iron which was exported around the world.

In 1824-25 William Crawshay built the castle as a comfortable place to live in away from the industrial centre. Much later, the local council bought the castle and turned it into a school, museum and art gallery, much of which can be visited today.



### August 2022

In August we do not usually hold an indoor meeting, so fourteen of us went on a trip to the Nantgarw China Works. It is one of the most important industrial heritage sites in Wales, a nationally significant museum, a historically renowned porcelain factory and a thriving centre for contemporary ceramics.

We started off with refreshments before being given an introductory talk about the history of Nantgarw by Charles Fountain, the Works director. There followed a guided tour of the site. We learnt how between 1813 and 1820 William Billingsley created the finest porcelain ever made. The incredibly fine, white and translucent porcelain was decorated by the finest experts of the age for royalty and aristocracy. However, manufactur-

ing problems resulted in production lasting only four years.

In later years the factory continued as a pottery under the Pardoe family producing earthenware flower pots, teapots, stoneware bottled and clay smoking pipes.

Despite William Billingsley's original recipe being lost with his death (nothing was written down at the time out of fear of it being copied), the application of modern-day technology means the legendary porcelain can now be produced again.

### September 2022

At our September meeting Jeff Grosvenor gave us a fascinating presentation on the Newport Transporter Bridge. It was opened in 1906 and was constructed to ease congestion of the original Newport Bridge, whilst enabling direct access to the newly opened steel works on the eastern bank of the River Usk.

The ingenious design by Ferdinand Arnodin used a combination of bridge and ferry, with a gondola suspended above the river enabling (sometimes tall) shipping to pass freely beneath it.

The bridge is important because of its unique architectural and industrial heritage. Jeff also showed us examples of other transporter bridges around the world.

Currently the bridge in Newport is undergoing a major refurbishment including the construction of an impressive visitor centre. Keep a watch out for when it reopens in about two years' time.

Views expressed by contributors are their own and not necessarily endorsed by the Society.

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