



ISSUE 76

May 2022

Editorial



When I started compiling this edition I didn't think we had many articles and events. How wrong I was! Much for you to look forward to including our first article in Welsh on my watch. Enjoy.

Hanes is published every 3 months. The next edition is to be published August 1st 2022. Please email any articles or information about events etc. with the heading "HANES" to alan.j.nicholls@btinternet.com by July 30th 2022.

Introducing The Forum

ABERGAVANNY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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BRECKNOCK SOCIETY AND MUSEUM FRIENDS

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BRECON LIBRARY

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BRECONSHIRE LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Alison Noble – Secretary
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BUILT WELLS & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

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CHRIST COLLEGE ARCHIVE

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Contact: Clive Ralph
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CUSOP HISTORY GROUP

<http://cusophistory.wix.com/cusop>

HAY HISTORY GROUP

Contact: Peter Ford
Tel. 01497820676
email: pcford1@hotmail.com
www.Hayhistorygroup.co.uk
www.haytours.co.uk

**HEREFORDSHIRE FHS and POWYS
FHS**

email: philbufton@hotmail.com
3, Cagebrook Avenue, Hunderton,
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**LLANGAMMARCH WELLS LOCAL
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**LLANWRTYD & DISTRICT HERITAGE
& ARTS CENTRE**

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email: r.w.thomas@talk21.com
www.llanwrtydhistorygroup.com

LLYN SYFADDAN HISTORY GROUP

Contact: Roger Reese
email: roreese2013@gmail.com

POWYS COUNTY ARCHIVE OFFICE

email: archives@powys.gov.uk
www.powys.gov.uk/archives
Tel. 01597 826088

**REGIMENTAL MUSEUM OF THE
ROYAL WELSH**

Contact: Richard Davies / Celia Green
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**TALGARTH AND DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**Y GAER – BRECON LIBRARY &
BRECKNOCK MUSEUM**

Tel: 01874623346

**YSTRADGYNLAIS DISTRICT HISTORY
AND LANGUAGE SOCIETY**

Contact: John Owens
johnowens38@talktalk.net

NEWS AND EVENTS

Brecknock Forum

Sacred Places – exploring the rich history of places of worship in the landscape of Breconshire

The first publication produced by members of Brecknock History Forum is now available.

After much hard work by 13 contributor groups and individuals, the **Sacred Places** book has now been published. There are 100 sites listed ranging from prehistoric stone circles through ‘unimproved’ Medieval churches to Victorian chapels. Many of the sites will have special activities during Brecknock History Month in September – full details will be in the next edition of Hanes available in August.

Copies of the Sacred Places book are available from local outlets across the county cost £5.00.

During History Month in September many events will be arranged at Sacred Places. The details will be published in a small booklet which will be available as for previous History Festival publicity.

Brecknock Society and Museum Friends

5th. to 8th May The Vaughan Association Conference. Vaughan 400th Birthday Commemoration Event . (See website for info).

Volume 52 (2021) of Brycheiniog, the journal of the Brecknock Society and Museum Friends, has been published and is available to purchase:

<https://brecknocksociety.co.uk/resources/brycheiniog/>.

Celebrating Tretower Court and Castle



Nearly 100 years ago, the Brecknock Society saved the world-renowned Tretower Court from collapse, if not complete destruction. Recently, the Society has commemorated its achievement of raising funds to purchase the Court, after which it was handed it over to the government for a programme of repair and restoration.

On the evening of Friday April 1st, a large audience at Theatr Brycheiniog in Brecon was treated to a fascinating public lecture, under the title 'A Pretty Castle and a Fair Place', by Dr David Robinson, who has himself had many years of close contact with both Tretower Court and Castle and who has written the current beautifully-illustrated guide-book. In the course of his lecture he traced the colourful histories of successive owners, the Picard, Herbert and Vaughan families. He also gave a lively account of the various eminent archaeologists, such as Cyril Fox and Raleigh Radford, who worked on site, and of their, often controversial, theories of conservation and reconstruction. There has been much debate over the origin and use of various main features of the Court – such as the north range with its long timber-framed balcony. It is dendrochronology (the dating of oak timbers from the width of their growth rings) that has provided much of the important recent evidence. Thus this has provided a firm mid-fifteenth century date for the west range with its Great Hall.

This was the 24th Sir John Lloyd Lecture, in a series which has become known as one of the premier public lectures in Wales. It was introduced by Dr John Gibbs, Chairman of the Brecknock Society, who referred to the fact that it was Sir John Lloyd, the first secretary of the Society, who had played a key role both in the initiative to save Tretower Court and in the founding and development of the Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery.

After the lecture, Dr Robinson was thanked on behalf of all present by Mr Nigel Clubb and a retiring collection was taken for the educational work of the Society.

On the following morning, a group of Brecknock Society members was treated to a special tour of Tretower Court and Castle under the stimulating leadership of Dr Robinson, together with lively support provided Mr Ian Andrews, Lead Custodian. At the Castle, members were encouraged to identify details in the walls that indicated the various periods of construction, and in the Court to look at features such as the way in which the timber-framed balcony continues along only part of the west range. There were also discussions about the patterns of use of the large kitchen, and the 'pros and cons' of the current decoration and 'fitting out' of the Great Hall. From this first-hand experience, everyone gained new insights and understanding.

Memorial service to Henry Vaughan

There is no annual memorial service to Henry Vaughan at Llansantffraed Church, this year as the church has not reopened for services following Covid lockdown. The Brecknock Society is organising a short wreath-laying event with the Vaughan Association at Henry Vaughan's grave on Saturday 7th May at 3.00pm which is open to all-comers. Llansantffraed Church will also be open to visitors before and after the wreath-laying.

Vaughan Conference 2022

Varieties of ABSENCE

HENRY VAUGHAN'S POETICS OF LOSS

DR ROWAN WILLIAMS

A PUBLIC LECTURE AT BRECON CATHEDRAL ON

FRIDAY 6TH MAY AT 7.30PM.

TICKETS £10, OR £7 CONCESSIONS,
ON THE DOOR (CASH ONLY PLEASE)

INCLUDING A GLASS OF WINE AFTER THE LECTURE

Bright Shoots of everlastingness

POETRY, SPIRITUALITY & THE NATURAL WORLD

A CONFERENCE TO CELEBRATE THE WORK OF THE SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY POETS,
HENRY VAUGHAN AND GEORGE HERBERT, AND THE
OCCULT PHILOSOPHER AND ALCHEMIST, THOMAS VAUGHAN

5-8 MAY, 2022, IN BRECON, WALES, U.K.

PLENARY SPEAKERS: DR ROWAN WILLIAMS, PROF DONALD DICKSON,
DR HOLLY FAITH NELSON AND REV CANON MARK OAKLEY.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, INCLUDING THE PROGRAMME, REGISTRATION,
AND ADVICE ON ACCOMMODATION, PLEASE VISIT

WWW.VAUGHANASSOCIATION.ORG

"His Lute, His Fancy, & His Flights."

A CONCERT OF SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY MUSIC FOR LUTE AND VOICE.

PERFORMED BY MELISMATA:

EMILY OWEN (SOPRANO) AND JAMES BRAMLEY (LUTE)

SATURDAY 7TH MAY AT 8PM.
IN THE PLOUGH CHAPEL, BRECON
TICKETS £10, OR £7 CONCESSIONS,
ON THE DOOR (CASH ONLY PLEASE)

Builth Wells & District Heritage Society

Our monthly meetings continue to be very successful.

13th May 2022 we look forward to the return of Dr Mike Williams whose subject is Prehistoric Belief in Wales. Visitors are most welcome at Wesley Church, Garth Road at 7.30pm. We have recently purchased audio equipment that will enhance our meetings.

10th June 2022 we welcome Dr Colin Hughes whose subject is Mid-Wales Cattle Drivers.

9th September 2022 Amanda Rosewarne is coming to talk about the Royal Welsh Museum.

24th September 2022 we have a coach trip to the National Memorial Arboretum. If you would like to join us please contact Sue for details on: sue_morrison@hotmail.com

Work at the Heritage Centre in Builth Wells High Street continues with new donations, exhibits and items for sale. Research continues into our various projects including local heroes and uncovering details of the lives of the casualties of WW1.

Rob and Mal have recently signed contracts to produce a new Builth book for Amberley Publishing, (part of the Harpur Collins group). It should be available for sale around Easter 2023. It's title is Builth Wells History Tour and will comprise 96 pages of text and illustrations in colour. It will be priced at £7.99.

Please call in to our Heritage Centre when visiting Builth Wells, it is open daily between 10am and 1pm.

Hay History Group

Hay Literature Festival

26th May - 5th June 2022
The Festival is back at Hay this year after two virtual events. There are a huge number of events including many history themed talks and walks. Have a look on Hayfestival.org

HowTheLightGetsIn Hay 2022

2nd - 5th June 2022
A mind bending festival of Philosophy and much more returns to Hay after two years. Have a look on howthelightgetsin.org

Hay Castle

Tom True, the new Executive Director of Hay Castle, is settling into the role, and is more excited than ever by the opportunities that Hay Castle will bring to the community. He is overjoyed that, beginning in May, the castle doors will open to everyone, and will be able to welcome you all back to enjoy the results of the renovation work, which are truly spectacular.



Tom says: "Now that the finishing tape for the building works is in sight, we can look more clearly at future challenges. What do we exist to do?"

Why is this important? How will we enrich the lives of our community if we succeed?

Our aim is to share our passion for the unique heritage of Hay - its history, its people, and its territory - with as many people as possible. We are devoted to delivering experiences that are full of wonder, creating encounters with beautiful things and sharing activities that are lots of fun. We hope that these new cultural, educational, and social opportunities will connect people to their creativity and to each other, provide an antidote to the pressures of modern life, and proudly celebrate this wonderful town."

These aspirations are only possible with the generosity and support of the ever-growing family of volunteers. Over the past fortnight, our new staff has come on board. Amongst our team of local stars is Helen Furnell, our new Volunteer Coordinator helen.furnell@haycastletrust.org.

Llanwrtyd and District Heritage & Arts Centre

On 2nd April James Davies, Major of Llanwrtyd, officially opened the Llanwrtyd Heritage Trail which is now available around the town. This comprises a 1 mile Town Walk and a

2 mile Town & Country Walk, well signposted, with leaflets available at the Centre and locally.

Saturday 7th May 2022 There will be a Heritage Centre Coffee Morning to be held at the local Victoria Hall. This will be open between 10.30 a.m. and 12.00, to include sales of books, toys, various items.

From 28 April 2022 NEW START ART, a group of 4 friends (Ann Page, Gorica Bulcock, Sue Reah and Val Fowler) will have displays at the upstairs and downstairs Art Gallery. Their work will include various subjects including paintings, totes, patchwork, cushions and aprons. These are all items of very high quality from our local artists.

14th May 2022 there will be a classical guitar concert with Chris Roberts, accompanied by Ben Robertson, an evening of Celtic and European classical and folk music. Tickets are available for £8.00 with the event commencing at 8.00 p.m.

Contact:

rwthomas93@gmail.com

<http://history-arts-wales.org.uk>

National Library of Wales

Online Events at The National Library of Wales - Most of our public events

will continue to be held online for the time being. Full details of the programme can be found on:

<https://www.library.wales/events>

If you have missed any of our online

events a selection of these are available to view on the NLW

Youtube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3UEYg-BdHW9PGdnn8stM1_Ro9quByp1j

**Mon 20th June 2022 - c.800–c.1800
Welsh Manuscripts Conference**



This conference will be held jointly by the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies and the National Library of Wales to celebrate the publication of *A Repertory of Welsh Manuscripts and Scribes, c.800-c.1800* by Daniel Huws.

The plenary speakers will be Ceridwen Lloyd-Morgan, Bernard Meehan, and Paul Russell. In addition over thirty sectional papers will be delivered on aspects of manuscripts of Welsh provenance, including their construction, palaeography, scribes, patrons and collectors, textual studies and digital presentation.

Full programme details can be found on the [Welsh Manuscripts](#) website.

Mortimer History Society

Diary of Events

Saturday 14th May 2022

Murder, Mayhem and Marriage:

The Mortimers and the Welsh Princes

A one-day Conference held jointly with the Radnorshire Society.

Dr Euryn Roberts on *Wales at the time of the Conquest*

Dr David Stephenson on *The Mortimers and the Rulers of Rhwng Gwy a Hafren*

Dr Rhun Emlyn on *The Mortimers and Llywelyn ab Iorwerth*

Dr Sophie Ambler on *Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, Simon de Montfort and Roger Mortimer*

Prof. Gruffydd Aled Williams on *A "Notorious Association": Owain Glyndwr and Sir Edmund Mortimer*

See website for more information and booking:

<https://mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk/events/>

Powys Family History Society

We have continued to present our monthly meetings via the Zoom platform, as we have been doing throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, eventually we may well go back to physical meetings in the Brecon, Montgomery and Radnor groups, the Zoom presentations will continue

alongside the group meetings. This is because having Zoom presentations means that not only are we able to invite international speakers, but we also have attendees who are based outside the United Kingdom in the main, which is a shame the more local attendees do not attend in quantities I would like or expect.

Our latest speaker Helen Baggott, gave an excellent illustrated presentation entitled "Empress of Ireland, Canada's Titanic."

The link gets sent out in our Monthly Newsletter.

See the full list of Zoom Meetings on our website under the Meetings tab.
<https://www.powysfhs.org.uk/wordpress/meetings/>

We again now able to continue our Monumental Inscription recording and publications, our most recent being the Talgarth Chapels and Llanelieu, St Ellyw Parish Church. All our publications are available on our webshop.

<https://www.powysfhs.org.uk/wordpress/shop/>

Our Next Zoom Meeting is:

Tuesday 10th May 2022 – Jackie Depelle – Researching House History

<https://www.facebook.com/PowysFamilyHistorySociety/>

y Gaer – Brecon Library & Brecknock Museum

Josef Herman: refugee artist who made his home in Ystradgynlais

In response to the ongoing refugee crisis in the world and particularly the Ukraine invasion this year here is the story of Josef Herman who found a home in the warmth of the Ystradgynlais community for 11 years.

Artist Josef Herman (1911-2000) fled persecution in 1930s Europe before finding a haven in Ystradgynlais. He is renowned for sketches and paintings of real people, particularly Welsh miners, using a bold, distinctive style with simplified shapes and vivid colours.

The y Gaer museum art collection contains numerous works by Herman, including drawings, watercolours, and oil paintings.

Herman was born to a poor Jewish family in Warsaw in 1911. He left school aged 12, becoming an apprentice typesetter, then an artist. In 1938, aged 27, he fled Poland for Belgium due to mounting anti-Semitism, later moving to France and then to Glasgow in 1940. In 1942 he discovered his whole family had been killed by the Nazis in the Holocaust. He continued painting and in 1943 he held his first London exhibition, with L.S. Lowry.

Herman visited Ystradgynlais on holiday in 1944. He was later quoted as saying: "I stayed here because I found all I required. I arrived here a stranger for a fortnight; the fortnight became 11 years." Ystradgynlais provided a welcoming and inspiring home for Herman after six unsettled years moving across Europe. He put down roots and became part of the tight-knit local community, where he was known fondly as 'Joe Bach'.

In Ystradgynlais Herman was inspired by the people, by the strong sense of community in the town, and by a way of life that he respected and wanted to honour. Miners from nearby collieries became his subjects, shown as powerful, heavy-set men to reflect the dangers of their work. His style was bold and distinctive, involving strong shapes with minimal detail. His figures were monumental, conveying outer and inner strength.

Although frequently dark, his paintings contain a warm glow. Herman achieved this by underpainting with bright, light colour, before building up gradually with darker tones so that the picture radiates from within.

One painting held in the Brecknock Museum collection is "Pen-y-Bont Inn", which shows in the background the Tawe Bridge. Herman had previously watched miners crossing this bridge against a glowing sky, a significant moment for him. "For a split second their heads appeared

against the full body of the sun, as against a yellow disc – the whole image was not unlike that of an icon depicting the saints with their haloes... The magnificence of the scene overwhelmed me."

By the 1950s Herman was a major figure in contemporary British art and his mural "Miners" featured prominently in the 1951 Festival of Britain. He said, "I think it is one of my key pictures and the most important one I did in Wales." In 1981 Herman was awarded an OBE for services to British Art and he was elected to the Royal Academy of Arts in 1990.

For 11 years he was part of a local valleys community, becoming a respected recorder of the Welsh mining communities of post-war Britain and illustrating an important part of our history."

NEWS FROM Y GAER

New Acquisition

A glass photograph gifted by Llangynidr History Society.

The subject is Thomas Thomas of High Meadow, Llangynidr (1827-1918), the image was taken at the Great Exhibition of 1851 at the Crystal Palace London. He attended the Baptist Sunday School in 1836 and learned arithmetic and to read and write. His family carried on living in the area found a few more generations with one branch moving

to Cardiff and on to America.



Volunteer Object of the Month

This month, Libby Rees has chosen the painting 'Brecon Cathedral' by Sam Garratt.

It's interesting, when doing a volunteer stint in the portico, to notice which exhibits attract most attention. The tray of moths and the fortune-telling machine are favourites. 'Lest we forget', the sinking of the Lusitania, always intrigues - visitors want to find out about the ship, the story of how it sank and why the painting came to be in Brecon. Not so many people look at another painting, now displayed between the portico doors and the staff room, but which used to hang above the desk.

It's an interior of Brecon Cathedral by Sam Garratt, painted in 1923. This

couldn't be more of a contrast to the tragedy and chaos of the Lusitania scene.

The artist has taken a symmetrical view down the nave, centred on the light of the east window. The composition is ordered by the regular verticals of the columns and windows and grounded by the repeated horizontal pattern made by the rows of pews. All is still, quiet, balanced, and peaceful. There's no action or

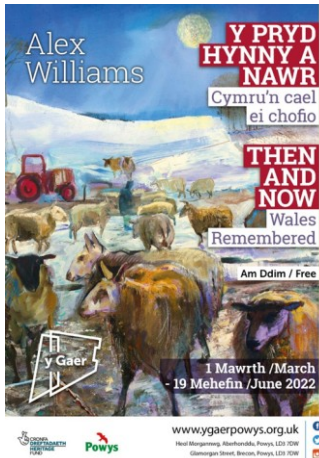


drama here to draw the visitor's eye, but the serenity is attractive, and it repays a second look.

Volunteering

We are always looking for new volunteers in a variety of roles. For further information, please contact Volunteer Co-ordinator Steph Dempsey at ygaervolunteers@powys.gov.uk or 10874 624121.

Current Exhibition



Alex Williams: *THEN AND NOW: Wales Remembered* which runs from 1st March to 19th June 2022.

<https://www.alexwilliams.net/>

*Ystradgynlais district
heritage & language
society*

Trychineb Llungwyn 1904 ar y Mynydd Du.

Bore Llungwyn 23ain o fis Mai 1904 ydoedd pan fentrodd tri llanc o Blwyf Ystradgynlais, pen uchaf Cwm Tawe, i gerdded i bysgota ar Llyn-y-Fan Fach. Cymry Cymraeg oedd y tri, Lewis Davies, Ynys Uchaf. Ystradgynlais, yn 17 oed, David John Morgan y Bwllfa, Caerlan, yn 16 oed, a David James Gibbs o Abewgiedd, Cwmgiedd, yn 16 oed.

Saith milltir, ar ehediad brân, yw Llyn-y-Fan Fach o Gwmgiedd, ac ar

fore'r Llungwyn gadawodd David James Gibbs ei gartref yn Abergiedd am chwech o'r gloch gan gerdded gyda'r gamlas nes cyfarfod â Lewis Davies ger Ynys Uchaf. Ymlaen wedyn nes cyrraedd gyda David John Morgan ger Gwesty'r Castell yng Nghaerlan ac ymlaen am fynydd y Garth a Chribart.

Wedi croesi'r mynydd fe aethant lawr hyd at Nant Ceiliog a'i chroesi cyn mynd ymhellach mewn i'r mynydd. Digon llwydddaidd oedd y tywydd yn ystod y bore, ac fe gwmpodd glaw mân hwnt ag yma ar eu ffordd hyd at Fan Brycheiniog. Fe eisteddwyd yno am y tro cyntaf ers y bore, er fod eu bwyd wedi gwlychu gyda'r glaw mân. Ar ôl cerdded agos i dwy filltir ymhellach, fe ddaethant at Nant Sawdde y gwyddant oedd yn llifo o Llyn-y-Fan Fach.

Yno o'u blaen oedd dau ddyn o Gwmgiedd ac yr oeddynt yn eu hadnabod, Phillip Hopton, a Lewis Michael. (Tad-cu Arwel Michael, "Y King Fisher" galwyd ef lleol – oherwydd ei ddawn pysgota!)

Cynghorwyd y bechgyn fod y tywydd am waethygu ac iddynt ddechrau am adref ac anghofio am bysgota. Ond pysgota ymlaen wnaethant, ac erbyn tri o'r gloch y prynhawn, pan eisteddodd y bechgyn i orffwys a thamaid i fwyta, fe sylweddolwyd nad oedd dynion Cwmgiedd i'w gweld ac fe ddechreuant deimlo'n anesmwyth.

Dyna ddiwedd ar y pysgota ac fe ddechreuant ar eu ffordd adref, ffordd serth a hir hyd at Bwa'r Llyn, a saith milltir caled oddi yno tros y Mynydd Du am adref. Wedi cyrraedd Bwa'r

Llyn, gwelwyd fod y niwl yn cau o'u hamgylch, ac roeddynt yn meddwl eu bod yn agos i darddiadau tair afon sef y Twrch, Gwys, a'r Giedd, cwteri bychain ar lethrau uchaf y Bannau. Roeddent wedi gwlychu at y croen a'r niwl yn gwaethgu ac yn cau o'i amgylch. Ymlaen a hwy, yn ddi-gyfeiriad, ar goll mewn cell o niwl, oer, digyfaddawd. Y Mynydd Du.

Fe ddaethant at nant oedd yn llifo'n gyflym, fe neidiodd David James Gibbs trosti, gan gerdded ymlaen yn meddwl fod ei gyfeillion yn dilyn. Cafodd fraw pan edrychodd tu ôl a sylwi nad oedd ei gyfeillion i'w gweld yn unman. Gwaeddodd a chwibanodd yn ofer, ac fe benderfynodd gerdded ymlaen gan obeithio ei fod yn anelu am Gwmtwrch. Ni fedrwn ond ddychmygu beth oedd yn mynd trwy feddwl crwt un ar bymtheg oed ym moelydd creulon, anghysbell y Mynydd Du.

Wedi gwlychu at ei groen, a gyda milltiroedd ar ôl eto cyn cyrraedd ei gartrefyn Abergiedd, gofynnodd iddo'i hun os oedd wedi cerdded mewn cylch diarwybod? Ym mha le oedd y llwybr fe ddaethant arno yn y bore? Roedd yn sicr ei fod wedi croesi ef yn ddiarwybod yn y niwl. Yn sydyn dyma afon o'i flaen, fe ddilynodd ef am agos i ganllath yn erbyn y llif dŵr, cyn sylweddoli ei fod yn gwneud y peth anghywir, ac fe drodd yn ôl gyda'r llif. Fe gadwodd gyda'r afon wedyn rhag ofn iddo golli ei ffordd unwaith yn rhagor, gan obeithio mai am Gwmtwrch yr oedd yn anelu.

Llifodd yr afon yn serth dros Sgydau (*Rhaeadrau*) hwnt ag yma, ac araf

oedd siwrnau David lawr trwy'r geunant wyllt. Wrth agosâu at wely'r cwm fe welodd nad Cwmtwrch oedd ef wedi gyrraedd, ond Glyntawe, ardal lle bu'n hel cnau yn y gorffennol. Bron llefain mewn gollyngdod, sylweddolodd mai Afon Haffes a'i achubodd o'r mynydd. Fe gerddodd yn agos i Bum milldir ers colli ei gyfeillion.

Adroddodd ei brofiad erchyll i'r Ffermwr a'i wraig yn Fferm Carreg Haffes a buont garedig iawn wrtho. Gofynwyd iddo aros yno tros nos yn y fferm, ond roedd eisisu mynd adref arno, rhag ofn bod ei gyfeillion wedi cyrraedd adref a'i rhieni gofidio amdano.

Erbyn iddo adael Carreg Haffes roedd yn chwech o'r gloch gyda bron i saith milltir eto cyn cyrraedd adref. Nid oedd gwasanaethau bysiau yr ardal hynny wrth gwrs, na chyfle i ffonio. Cerddodd heibio Castell Craig-y-nos, ac erbyn iddo gyrraedd y gamlas ger Gwesty'r Castell Caerlan, ni ddaeth yw feddwl, ohewydd blinder, i alw heibio cartref Lewis Davies yn yr Ynys Uchaf.

Fe gyraeddodd David James Gibbs adref yn Abergiedd erbyn hanner awr wedi deg, ac roedd ei rhieni wedi gofidio yn enfawr, ac roedd ei dad ar fynd allan i chwilio amdano. Cafodd y bachgen bryd o ddaod gan ei rhiedi, ond fe newidiwyd eu hagwedd tuag ato pan sylwyd ar a cyflwr truenus yr oedd y bachgen ynddo. Gwnaeth ei fam swper iddo, ond methodd a'i fwyta. Fe ymolchodd ac aeth i'r gwely am noswaith anesmwyth Ddi-gwsg.

Yn agos i bedwar o'r gloch y bore

dyma dwrw curo ar y drws Abergiedd. Tad Lewis Davies, a thad David John Morgan oedd yno, yn gofyn os oedd David Gibbs wedi cyrraedd adref? Nid oedd son am eu bechgyn hwy, a 'doedd gan David Gibbs ddim syniad ble oedden nhw wedi eu gwahanu, na beth oedd wedi digwydd i'w gyfeillion.

Ar fore Mawrth y 24ain o Fai, pan ddeallwyd fod David John Morgan, a Lewis Davies heb gyrraedd adref o'r Mynydd Du, fe gauwyd gweithfeydd glo Abercraf ac Ystradgynlais i'r glowyr gael chwilio am y bechgyn. Bernir fod dros fil ag hanner yn chwilio'r mynydd mewn tywydd garw. Dywedodd un glowr eu bod llaw yn law, bron filltir o led yn chwilio am y bechgyn mewn tywydd ofnadwy.

Yn hwyrach yn ystod y dydd Mawrth, fe gyrhaeddodd Lewis Davies yntau, allan o'r mynydd ar ffin ogleddol fferm Y Ddorwen, sydd ar lethr gorllewinol Llwyncwnstabl, hynny oedd uwch Afon Twrch. Fe gwmpodd wrth ochr y ffermdy gan fetu mynd ymhellach. Pan daeth Griffith Rees, y ffermwr, ar draws y bachgen anymwybodol, cludwyd ef i'r tŷ a'i ddodi yn y gwely.

Pan oedd yr achubwyr yn agos i amaethdy'r Ddorwen, galwyd hwy mewn, ac yno, er llawenydd iddynt, dyna lle'r oedd un o'r bechgyn, sef Lewis Davies. Dyna'r tro cyntaf i Griffidd Rees darganfod pwy oedd y bachgen yn ei gwely. Digon tebyg, oni bai am dynerwch, a gofal caredig ac amserol Griffith Rees a'i wraig, buasai Lewis Davied gorffen ei yrfa yno.

Yn y cyfamser darganfyddiad trist

wnaeth carfan arall achubwyr, sef Lewis Jones o fferm Caemawr Cwmgiedd, William Griffiths a'i frawd Tomos o fferm Penparc Cwmgiedd, a Thomas Williams o fferm Fforchorllwyn Cwmgiedd. Roeddynt yn Nesàu at darddiad Afon Twrch, ar lethr Fan Brycheiniog. Fe ddaethant yno o hyd i gorff David John Morgan yn gorwedd ar wastad ei gefn gyda'i ddwy lygad yn agored. Yn ei logell roedd dau swllt wyth ceiniog a dimmai a phamffled bychan "Hanes Iesu" ac yn ei ymyl roedd basged fechan gyda brithyll ynddo.

Cyn hir aeth y newyddion trist ar led drwy'r ardal, ac fe welwyd tyrfaedd yn ymgasglu ar lethr y Fan. Ar ôl codi math o elor wely, gwelwyd yr orymdaith yn cychwyn i'w gartref yn agos i chwe milltir i ffwrdd. Wedi cyrraedd at lan Afon Giedd, fe ddewiwyd cant o ddynion i gludo corff y bachgen adref i'r Bwllfa Caerlan.

David John Morgan oedd y ieuangaf o'r bechgyn ac fe'i claddwyd yn Mynwent Capel yr Annibynwyr Tŷ'n y Coed, Penycae, Tawe Uchaf. Ar ddydd Sadwrn 28ain Mai 1904.

Arwel Michael.

Ysgrifennodd Watkin Hezekiah Williams.(1844–1905) yr emyn “O’r Niwl i’r Nef” oherwydd y drychineb. Fe ddodwyd cerddoriaeth iddo gan Mr D.E,Williams o Dreforys, Cwm Tawe.

O’r Niwl i’r Nef

Rwy’n mynd fy nhad a mam,
I wlad na ddof yn ôl,
‘Rol teithio llawer cam
Dros lawer bryn a dôl.
Rwyf wedi blino’n lân,
Fy nerth sydd yn Gwanhau.
Mae afon o fy mlaen,
A niwl o’m cylch yn cau.
Tuhwnt i’r Mynydd Du,
Rwyn gweld rhyw hyfryd wlad,
Athuag atti hi
Rwyn mynd, fy Mam a Nhad.

Rwyf wedi colli’m ffordd.
Fy ffryndiau sydd ar goll,
A minnau yn y nos
Yn chwillio am danynt oll.
Ond nid oes un a ddaw
I’m cwrdd yr ochr hyn,
Ond mae yr ochr draw
Yn llawn o engyl gwyn.
Ac fel yn dweud i gyd,
Na chaf fi unrhyw gam,
Rwy’n mynd i’r bythol fyd,
Ffarwel, fy nhad a mam.

Mae afon o fy mlaen,
Rwy’n clywed swm y don;
Rwyn gweld y rhai sy’n byw
Tuhwnt i’r ffrydiau hon.
Mae melus un yn dod,
‘Rol o ludded maith.
A minnau’n teimlo fod
Gorffwysfa ar ben y daith.

I Groesi’r ochr draw,
Nid oed ond megis cam,
Rwy’n mynd i’r byd a ddaw,
Ffarwel, ffarwel fy Mam.

Wadcyn Wyn.