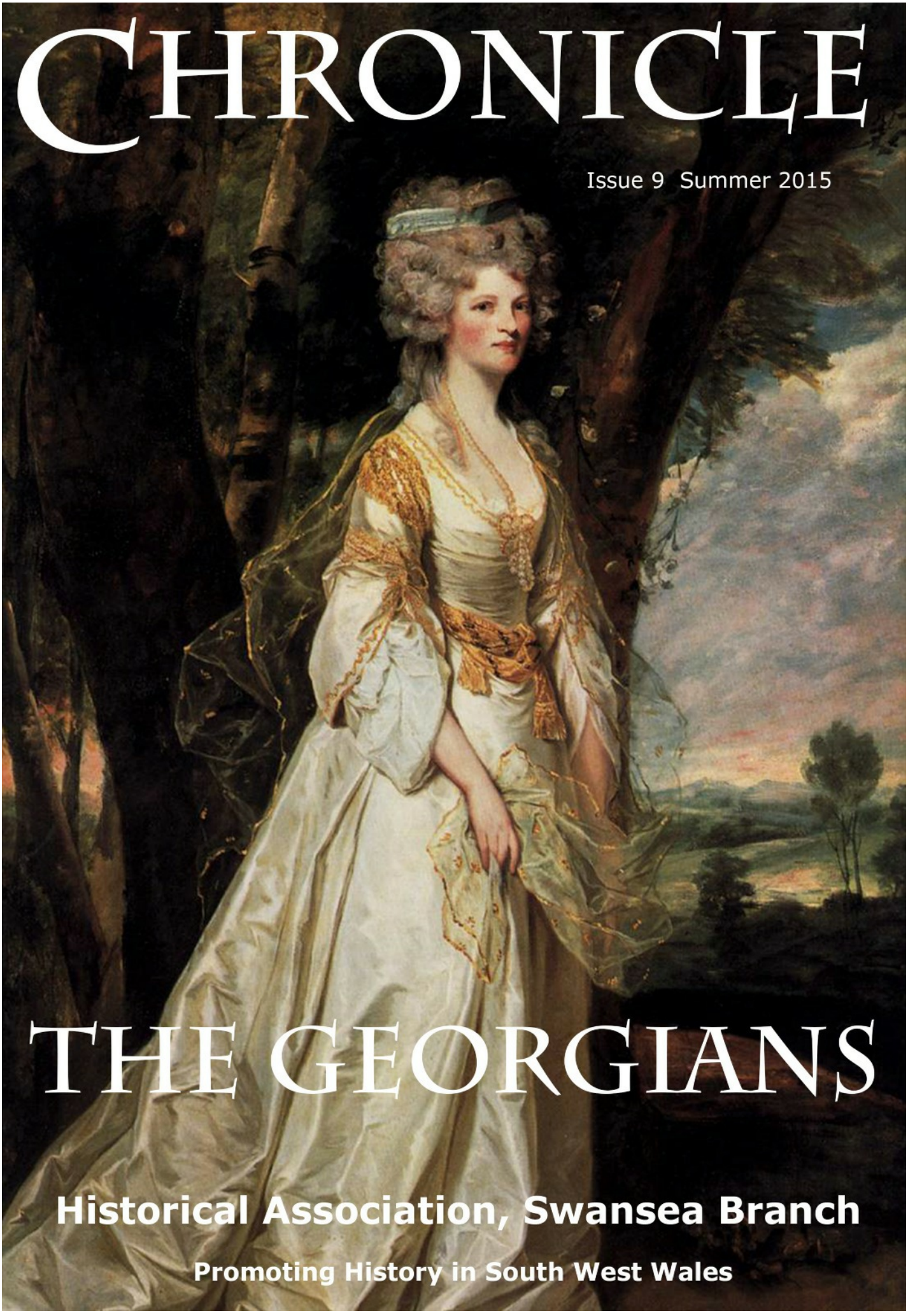
CHRONICLE

Issue 9 Summer 2015



THE GEORGIANS

Historical Association, Swansea Branch

Promoting History in South West Wales

Issue 9 Summer 2015

The 18th century Georgians

Contents

Man is born free, yet everywhere he is in fetters.

Jean-Jaques Rousseau 1762

Sweet disorder in her dress, kindles in
Clothes a wantonness.
Robert Herrick

Oil painting by
Nicolas Largilliere

Madame de Pompadour

From the Editor

Margaret McCloy

The 18th century what a great time to live in London…

that is, if you were wealthy and a gentleman.

Mornings could be spent in the fashionable new coffee bars talking to the intelligentsia discussing the new architectural studies by William Kent, based on Italian Palladian houses,seen by Lord Burlington. In Italy. Or marvel at Sheraton's latest designs in elegant furniture. Maybe make a trip to New Bond Street and enjoy an afternoon drink in the King's Arms discussing the theatre in the company of artists and actors. Maybe meet the actor David Garrick or Lavinia Fenton who is playing Polly Peachum in *The Beggars Opera* at the Haymarket Theatre. Pay a little extra for admission and you could sit on the stage with the players. There you might ogle and leer at the actresses pressed closely to you whilst showing off to society your velvet coat, fine brocade waistcoat and your latest lavender scented, white powdered wig. You needed to make the most of this, as at the end of the century powdered wigs went out of fashion, the government putting a tax on hair powder, a guinea a year. Scandalous.

If you were really grand, you might become a member of the Kit Kat club where you could eat mutton pies with Whig politicians, poets and playwrights. You might even get your portrait painted by Godfrey Kneller.

Outdoors you might go to hear John Wesley preach to a gathered crowd of thousands. Staying indoors, there was plenty of accomplished writing to read; whether a new Gothic tale by Horace Walpole, *The Times* or Dr Johnson's, *A Dictionary of the English Language.* Quite a few hours of reading.

Evenings were for dining and listening to music, perhaps the latest works from Mozart and Haydn.With luck, you may be invited to Handel's house in Brook Street in Mayfair, to hear parts of the Messiah that he is composing.

But life for a gentleman was not just about theatre and music, there were more urgent, important things to discuss. This was a century when things were daily being invented. The fire extinguisher, the piano, the diving bell, the flush toilet and an improved steam engine were just a few of the inventions which with the spinning jenny , the flying shuttle and the seed drill, paved the way for the Industrial Revolution.

Joseph Wright the Derbyshire artist captured the spirit of the age using as subjects for his paintings the solar system and scientific instruments. This was an age when there was a move from religious sources of authority to a move towards science and lucid thought.

Nowadays we may sit and gossip in coffee bars, listen to Handel on our mobiles and belong to dozens of clubs. You don't have to be a gentleman to enjoy these pleasures. But oh, to have lived in the age of enlightenment.

A (new) Chairman Looks Forward

In the first few months of my chairmanship I seem to have missed more committee meetings and talks than I have attended, largely because of travel commitments. I am distressed to report that in my absences the branch has continued to function admirably. My esteemed predecessor has done such a good job of setting the ship of state on its course that his successor's best strategy has emerged as keeping his head down!
The branch's excellent programme of monthly talks at the National Waterfront Museum is the mainstay of our activities. It has been said that the many local history societies in and around Swansea put on talks, while the HA puts on lectures. This is no bad thing. The lectures ae usually delivered by professionals in their fields, experts often confined to academic campuses, with all their difficulties of access and sometimes forbidding barriers to the general public. Thanks to the Museum we bring our lecturers to the public, and as John Law noted in the last Chronicle the public responds.

The highly successful programme of Outreach talks (yes, we do talks as well) now outnumbers the monthly lectures by a comfortable margin. We have enjoyed the hospitality of many local history and other organisations. There are surprises everywhere. I shall not soon forget the reaction at St Thomas Historical Association when I showed a slide of the last White Rock Ferryman. Three ladies in the front row claimed him as great grandfather or great great uncle! In the Afan Valley when I had finished presenting Buffalo Bill in Swansea a gentleman showed the audience a series of superb sketches he had made of Colonel Cody and other Western characters.

he national Historical Association has its roots in education and provides a wide range of first rate resources for schools and colleges. The reincarnated branch has had little or no success in reaching schools until this year. Now we have completed the Schools Essay Competition with a respectable entry and two worthy winners. The next initiative is a History Posters Competition for primary schools, for which we anticipate equal success. Many thanks to new members Richard Lewis and Richard Hall for proposing these initiatives and seeing them through. During my chairmanship I will continue to promote the Special Interest Groups. The SIGs are separate from the branch committee, with none of the trappings of committee membership.

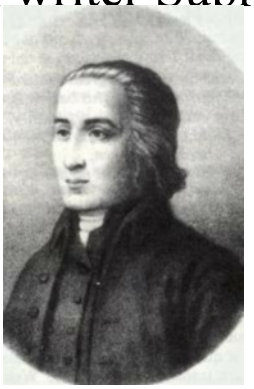
A SIG may be set up by any branch members to promote a project, research, or activity. The branch committee will lend
its support and advice (which may or may not be heeded). If funds are needed the SIG will be helped to make a proposal. SIGS so far include Swansea Castle, Heart of Wales Line, Sketty Hall, White Rock, and possibly some I have not heard of yet. There is no obligation on a SIG to have a constitution, officers or particular structure. The key is that its members have a dream and a goal. Enthusiasm is worth more than volumes of minutes. If the project does not work out – well, nothing has been lost but time. Quietly put it to one side and think of something else. There will be no post mortems, no enquiries. Talk to me or any committee member to get going with your own SIG.

17th October 2015 marks the tenth anniversary of the opening of the National Waterfront Museum. In the words of a well-known rugby fan, "I was there!" Gareth Edwards and Rhodri Morgan opened the Museum with a flourish (one spoke more than the other). I have lost count of the number of cups of coffee that have kept me going me going through so many meetings. I echo John Law's thanks to the museum for their boundless generosity and support. We all look forward to our relationship continuing into the next decade.

John Ashley, chairman of the Historical Association, Swansea branch

William Williams, Pantycelyn

1717-1791 'Hymn writer Supreme'



William Williams was born early in 1717 at the farmhouse of Cefncoed in the parish of Llanfair ar y bryn in the county of Carmarthen to John Williams aged 61, an honest and respected farmer and his wife Dorothy, aged 28. Not far away was the market town of Llandovery. When Dorothy inherited her family farm of 'Pantycelyn' she moved there: it was to be William's mark of identity.

In 1737 William proceeded to the Nonconformist Academy at Llwynllwyd near Hay which had a branch at Chancefield near Talgarth: there he would have been instructed in Theology, Mathematics, Hebrew, Greek, Latin and a grounding in Science. His original intention was to become a physician: there was a strong tradition in the neighbourhood. His interest in medicine remained with him, but in 1737 or 1738, on the way back from Chancefield he heard the young schoolmaster/preacher Howell Harris exhorting in Talgarth churchyard in front of the church door.. It was the turning point in William's life and thoughts of medicine began to disappear and he decided to seek Holy Orders in the Established Church. He was ordained deacon in 1740 but due to his particular 'enthusiasm' he was refused full 'orders'. There was growing contact between him and other Methodist leaders in Wales- Howell Harris and Daniel Rowland and, even further afield, George Whitefield. William's reputation among Methodists grew though he was to remain a member of the Established Church to the end. (It was not until 1811 that Welsh Methodism seceded from the Established church). He was to serve the Methodist cause with relentless energy, passion, devotion and talent.

At the age of 32 he married Mary Francis of Llanfynydd and later of Llansawel: she bore him eight children. She was his faithful companion and offered him great stability and support. Such stability was essential to combat the schisms within religious life.

William died in his chair on 11 January 1791: the 111,800 miles which he had journeyed during his life time, preaching the Gospel, were over. So were the hours of poetic and prose composition in Welsh and English. In his travels he demonstrated notable usiness acumen- selling tea and his books on the way.

William Williams was buried in Llandovery. *The Gentleman's Magazine,* printed in London's Fleet Street, was to note his passing in the section entitled *'Obituary of considerable Persons'.* The hundreds of Welsh hymns and those he composed in English were to conquer minds and souls the world over. 'Guide me , O thou great Jehovah' and 'Be still, my soul, love and behold the Victim on the tree' were to whisper the name 'Pantycelyn' far, far beyond the farmstead on the outskirts of Llandovery.

Dr R. Brinley Jones

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim though this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

Arglwydd, arwain drwy'r anialwch
Fi, bererin gwael ei wedd
Nad oes ynof nerth na bywyd,
Fel yn gorwedd yn y bedd:
Hollalluog, hollalluog,
Ydyw'r un a'm cwyd I'r lan
Ydyw'r un a'm cwyd I'r lan

Venice,
the Biennale and Wales

The Venetian Biennale

An exhibition dedicated to the visual arts held every other year was launched by King Umberto I of Italy in April 1895. As with other cultural festivals, the aims were not 'purely' cultural. Civic pride, attracting visitors and boosting the local economy were also important. In the case of Venice - relatively recently a part of the Kingdom of Italy (1866) - the intention to promote the city within the new kingdom and to offset perceptions of decline, also entered the equation.
There was also, perhaps inevitably, some tension - as is the case with many such festivals - between the appeal to the international a
The Biennale also came to reflect the condition of the city and of Italy. Prospering in the belle époque before the First World War, interest waned as Venice came close to one of the most savage fronts between the Allies and the Central Powers. Reviving in the twenties and thirties (still under royal patronage) it was encouraged, though not controlled by, the Fascist regime. Mussolini cut a considerable dash when he visited the 19th Biennale in 1934 unlike his gauche guest of honour, Adolf Hitler.

After the war the Biennale recovered, still engaging cultural interests while promoting the city of Venice. In the last few exhibitions, Scotland and Wales have been represented as part of 'Official Collateral Events'. Diversifying in terms of 'art' forms: dance, music, video, film and - inevitably - 'installations' are now commonplace, though these can be blended into some kind of artistic moulinex- with plants added for effect! Installations were certainly present at the 2015 British Pavilion.
The representative artist, Sarah Lucas, claimed some association with the John Soane's Museum, but it is doubtful Sir John would have recognised her interpretation of 'Concrete', 'Yellow' and other themes, or her placing of lit 'Fags', in various upturned orifices - and her creation of a cat out of 'wire, tights and fluff' would puzzle and challenge the most faithful of feline devotees.

The Dutch entry calmed this reviewer with delicately framed objects 'from Nature'. The same calming effect was created by Helen Spears, the Welsh contributor, commissioned by the Arts Council of Wales. '…The Rest is Smoke' was apparently inspired by Mantegna's last painting of St Sebastian, and while I did not detect explicit references to either the artist or the subject, the images in a variety of form and media were certainly thought provoking. I would have liked further explanation of the claimed 'response' between 'local and familiar landscapes of Wales' and 'the wider context of Venice', as it would have been both illuminating and appropriate.

Even if some events and presentations failed to impress and the costs of the whole enterprise could probably bail out the Greek economy with change to spare for a light lunch, the Biennale is still worth visiting. It offers a good deal of well-produced, bilingual, information on Venice in general and on the Biennale in particular.

The Giardini are very attractive and some of the earliest pavilions are interesting in historical architectural terms; I am thinking, in particular, of the striking tsarist Russian pavilion. The wider region of Castello also rewards exploration, including, for example, the first cathedral of Venice, S. Pietro, and a fascinating naval museum.

There are striking monuments, the 'Colonna Rostrata', a complex celebration of Italy's eventual naval history over Austria in 1918 and 'La Partigiana', a moving, half-submerged, memorial to opponents of Fascism and German occupation. Finally, within walking distance you can find the work of artists like Carpaccio (1460-1525), an artist who really could master the video camera.

John Easton Law

What's happening in Swansea Marina?

Coast Cafe Marina 9am - 8pm later if weather permits! Independent, contemporary,coffee shop and wine bar in the heart of the marina, by Trafalgar Bridge, opposite side of SA1 from the J shed, Plenty of outside seating where you can enjoy the stunning view while you try something to

Opening soon… The Swigg Wine bar next to the Waterfront Museum

And Il Faro in the old lighthouse by the fishing boats

Gallinis waterfront restaurant overlooking Swansea marina serves classic Italian food combined with very friendly service. Pasta and bread made in house. Specialities include fresh seafood, shark, lobster and other freshly caught fish. Fisherman's Quay, Swansea Marina

01792 456285 for bookings Coffee and pastries 10.30-4.30

Quay3 bar and restaurant is located at the entrance to the marina next to the Meridian Tower. An industrial vintage themed split bar and restaurant. Breakfast served 8.30 -11am, lunch 12 -3pm, and dinner 6.45 - 9.pm. The venue opens Tuesday -Thursday 8.30 - 11, Friday, Saturday 8.30 -1pm for coffee, cakes and drinks. 01792 462251 for bookings.

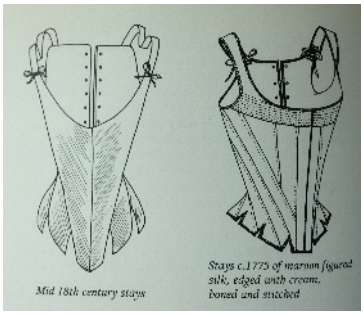
18th Century Underwear illustrated by Jean Webber

As we read in the last issue of Chronicle, in the 1960s women burnt their bras as a way to protest for equal rights. In the 18th century they probably could never conceive of having equal rights and they certainly had no bras to burn. Gentlewomen did not wear knickers either until the end of the 18th century, they were only worn by prostitutes.

Underwear or lingerie for women was very complicated in the 18th century and involved many different layers. First piece of clothing to be put on was the shift or chemise, a long cotton or linen shirt that ended just below the knee. Over the shift was placed a petticoat, with a long, full skirt. Next were worn stays which were laced tightly at the back to aid posture and uplift the bust.

The stay maker was thought to be an important person, the most famous being a man named Cosins. As Elizabeth Ewing wrote in her book *Fashion in Underwear* stays were worn all through the century, stiff and heavily boned, they were also worn by fashionable men and young children'. Once the stays were firmly laced, a second petticoat was added.

Nearly an hour was required for all of this preparation and help was needed. The wealthy lady would have a ladies maid to dress her but poorer folk would have to rely on the family to help pull the stays very tight at the back. Over all of this, hoops and panniers, cage like structures made of linen and whalebone, were attached around the waist to give the illusion of a tiny waist. Stockings finished off the underwear or 'small clothes' as they were referred to. These were made of silk, wool or cotton and were tied above the knee with a satin ribbon or a leather strap.



Elizabeth Ewing also commented that stays were thought to be of the utmost importance and charities existed to provide them for the poor. The expression 'loose women' referred to prostitutes who left their stays undone.

With the Age of Enlightenment and the invention of the cotton gin and spinning jenny, the attainability of cotton meant that underwear could be bought from shops instead of having to be home made.

Men's underwear was simpler, they wore a knee length linen shift under their breeches and like the women did not wear pants underneath. Their silk or cotton stockings were also held up above the knee with garters.

In romantic scenes in the costume dramas on TV, the clothes look beautiful and reflect the period. What is not realistic for the 18th century is how easily clothes were pulled off and ripped apart in amorous scenes. In reality it would have taken a long time to take off a lady's underwear which is why in erotic drawings of the period, ladies are usually still clad in most of their clothes.

Happiness is the sublime moment when you get out of your corsets at night.
Joyce Grenfell.

Whigs and wigs

'Whig 'as a verb, meant to move along quickly , probably how it came to be applied to Scottish cattle rustlers and horse thieves and then to the Presbyterian Covenanters. Probably it was a shortened form of 'whigamore' a horse drover. This became' Whigs', a name which was used abusively of the 'Whigs' by their Tory rivals.

The Whig Bible was another name for the Placemaker's Bible as many Whigs were 'Placemen'. This was a name given to those members of the House of Commons who held 'places' or offices of profit under the crown. Places were abolished by reforms starting in 1782.

When the Whigs had given up being horse rustlers, and become the name for a respectable political party that advocated personal freedom and were strong supporters of the idea that the king governed at the people's consent. They had open-mindedness about nonconformist Protestants or as they were called 'dissenters'. The leader of the Whigs was Robert Walpole, the first prime minister and also the longest serving in British History. They were also the party interested in financial matters and were supporters of the Hanoverians who were on the throne from 1714 to 1760, enjoying control of power until the reign of George 111 when they were replaced by the Tories.

At that time, fashionable men wore powdered wigs in a distinctive white. The powder was made from finely ground starch that was scented with lavender or other floral scents. The coronation of George 111 in 1761 was attended by men wearing many elaborate and preposterous forms of wigs. There were 30 to 40 different styles to choose from. There were plenty of 'bigwigs' around to scold you. So much so, that William Hogarth, the artist, satirised the occasion in his engraving '*Five Orders of Periwigs'*. Women did not wear wigs but supplemented their hairstyle with hair pieces in large elaborate concoctions powdered grey or bluish grey.

In 1795 the British Government imposed a tax on hair powder of one guinea a year. Not surprisingly, the fashion soon changed. After this tax came into being, hair powder was mainly used by older, more old-fashioned men. Wigs became smaller and they were adopted by some professions as part of their costume. Wigs worn by barristers in the present time are in the style of the late 18th century. They may well have given you a good 'wigging' when they heard of your misdemeanours.

The Whig party slowly became the Liberal Party (the term was first used officially in 1868) and came about with a union of Whigs and free trade Tory followers of Robert Peel.

Joan Arthur

Richard "Dick" Turpin (1705-1739)

English highwayman whose notorious life of crime led to his execution in York aged just 34. Turpin may have followed his father's profession as a butcher early in life, but,instead he joined a gang of deer thieves and, later, became a poacher, burglar, horse thief and murderer. He is also known for a fictional 200-mile (320 km) overnight ride from London to York on his horse Black Bess.

Beau Nash (1674-1761)

Born Richard Nash, Beau Nash was born in Swansea. He attended Jesus College, Oxford, served as an army officer, and was then called to the bar as a barrister, but made little of either career. In 1704, he became Master of Ceremonies in the newly fashionable spa town of Bath playing a leading role in making Bath the most fashionable resort in 18th-century England. A notorious gambler, whose debts forced him to move in with one of his most devoted mistresses, Juliana Popjoy. Upon his death, Popjoy apparently became so distraught that she moved into a large hollowed-out tree, only being persuaded move back into more conventional accommodation as she was about to die. Although the Corporation of the city funded an elaborate funeral for Nash, he was buried in an unmarked paupers grave. Swansea residents with long memories may remember Beau Nash House the building where Yates's Wine Bar is now (south end of Castle Square).

Robert Walpole (1676-1745)

In 1735, Queen Caroline made Walpole a gift of 10 Downing Street.

Mary Wollstonecraft (1759 – 1797)

English writer, philosopher, and early advocate of women's rights. Best known for A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792), in which she argues that women are not naturally inferior to men, but appear to be only because they lack education. She suggests that both men and women should be treated as rational beings and imagines a social order founded on reason. Her daughter Fanny Imlay died of an overdose in Swansea's Mackworth hotel in Wine Street (now demolished) and is buried in St. John's Church in High Street.

Jane Austen (1775 – 1817)

English novelist whose works of romantic fiction, set among the landed gentry, earned her a place as one of the most widely read writers in English. Her realism, biting irony and social commentary as well as her acclaimed plots have gained her historical importance among scholars and critics of English literature.

Living her entire life as part of a close-knit family located on the lower fringes of the English landed gentry she was educated primarily by her father and older brothers and became a keen observer of the social manners of her class.

Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716 –1783)

Commonly known as 'Capability', Brown was an English landscape architect. He is remembered as "the last of the great English 18th century artists", and often credited as "England's greatest gardener". He designed over 170 parks, many of which still endure. His influence was so great that the contributions to the English garden made by his predecessors Charles Bridgeman and William Kent are often overlooked; even Kent's apologist Horace Walpole allowed that Kent had been followed by "a very able master". In 1764 he became Master gardener at Hampton Court palace. His gardens may still be visited at Blenheim Palace, Warwick Castle, Harewood House, Milton Abbas and there are still traces to be found at Kew gardens.

George I (1660 – 1727)

King of Great Britain and Ireland from 1714 until his death in 1727, and ruler of the Duchy and Electorate of Brunswick-Lüneburg (Hanover) in the Holy Roman Empire from 1698. At the age of 54, after the death of Queen Anne of Great Britain, George ascended the British throne as the first monarch of the House of Hanover.

Although over fifty Roman Catholics bore closer blood relationships to Anne, the Act of Settlement 1701 prohibited Catholics from inheriting the British throne; George was Anne's closest living Protestant relative. In reaction, Jacobites attempted to depose George and replace him with Anne's Catholic half-brother, James Francis Edward Stuart, but their attempts failed.

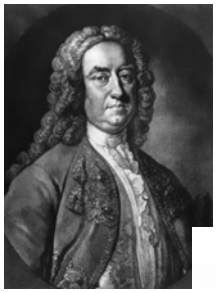
Dick Turpin

Highway man

Died 1739

Hogarth The Distrest Poet

Beau Nash
Celebrated Georgian Dandy
Born in Swansea



In 18th century, Swansea was known as 'Bath by the Sea'.

Mary Wollstonecroft

'Women are not naturally inferior to men, but appear to be only because they lack education.

George 1

The first king to live in Buckingham Palace

I have made a profit of a thousand per cent

- and I am satisfied.

Robert Walpole 1720

'It isn't what we say or think that defines us but what we do.'

Jane Austin

Pride and

Poverty is no disgrace, but it is damned annoying. Pitt the Younger

'Capability 'Brown

Nicknamed because he always told his clients that 'their gardens had great capabilities'.

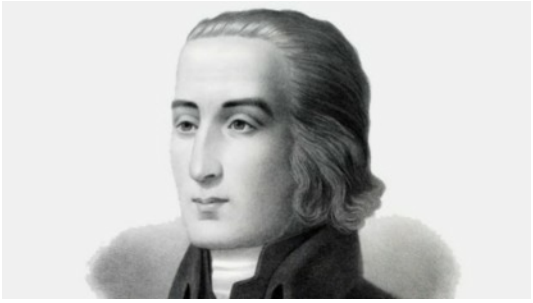
Howell Harris:
Pioneer in Spirit and Action

Harris began to expound Bible passages to individuals and then several people at a time and soon people brought people and the numbers became larger. He moved further afield and travelled on horseback taking with him a portable pulpit. He would travel by night as well as by day and preach several times a day and frequently in the open air. As he rose to speak the words came to him and the extemporary exhortation was his normal method. During the next few years he would travel 6000 miles a year in all weathers.

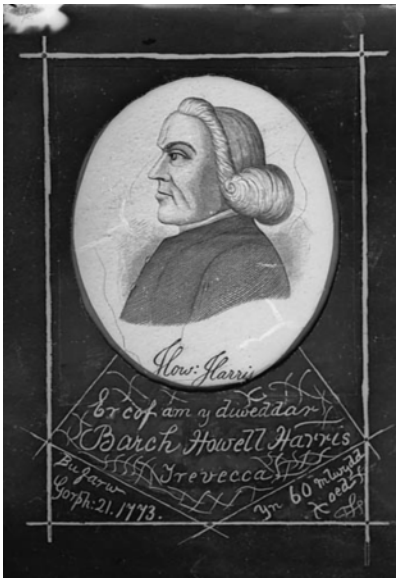
The life of Howell Harris was transformed at the age of 21 by a sequence of inner searching and religious experiences. He was set ablaze with unrelenting energy and enterprise in a compelling desire to make the evangelical Christian message available to as many people as possible. The spirit and influence of revival was at work, beginning a movement in Wales that was known as Methodism.

Harris was born in Trefeca near Talgarth in 1714. He was part of a talented and ambitious family and was educated at the Dissenting Academy in Llwyn-llwyd, near Llanigon. His father died when he was 17 years of age and he had to leave the Academy but soon found successful employment as a school master.

The story of his spiritual quest at this time and its outcome are pivotal to an understanding of the enduring sense of cause and purpose in what he was about. Harris was at the Palm Sunday service at Talgarth in 1735 when the parishioners were asked to seriously examine themselves before taking communion on Easter Day. When it came to that service he was deeply distressed in spirit and found no consolation. The inward struggle and uncertainty continued until the Whit Sunday service on 24th May. There he fixed his mind and spirit on the bleeding of Christ on the cross. "Strength was given me. I was receiving pardon on account of that blood.....I went home leaping for joy." He described a further experience that took place during a quiet devotional time in the bell tower of



the Llangasty church on 18th June where he felt his heart melting like wax before fire and his love for God his Saviour was full and abounding.



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As he rose to speak the words came to him and the extemporary exhortation was his normal method.

During the next few years he would travel 6000 miles a year in all weathers. He would be welcomed by those who longed for his words but also receive resentment and calculated hostility by others. He also had the vision and concern to consolidate the response to his preaching by bringing people into groups for fellowship and faith growth. Much of his time was spent visiting these groups developing local leadership. A movement had been established. He never intended it to become a separate church and chapel building over this wide area of activity was never envisaged by him.

In 1737 he met Daniel Rowland, curate in Langeitho, who was also engaged in a revival ministry. Rowland was a forthright and compelling preacher and the consolidation of the two men was to help establish a Methodist movement to grow in identity as it was growing numerically. In the same year Howell Davies was converted under Harris's preaching and became an active co-worker establishing society meetings between Talgarth and Builth Wells. Davies was to be ordained and helped to spread the movement from within the Established Church in Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion. William Williams, Pantycelyn, whilst travelling home past Talgarth Churchyard in 1738 heard Harris preaching and was converted. He was ordained deacon in 174 but was strongly criticised for his Methodist involvement. This contributed to his resignation from the Established Church after which he became totally active in the Methodist cause.

In 1739 Harris began to make frequent visits to London and was welcomed by John Wesley and George Whitfield. He shared a Calvinistic theological position with Whitfield and deputised for him by frequently preaching in the Tabernacle in Moorfields. In 1743 Howell's prominence was recognised at a large gathering of leaders of the geographical groups that represented the Methodist movement in Wales. He was given the title 'General Superintendent or Father for all the work in Wales'.

His relationship with Daniel Rowland had been splattered with acrimony and disagreement for some time when in 1750 there came a total breakdown. This was partly on theological grounds but also because Harris was the target for much personal criticism. The majority sided with Rowland and Harris was left with a depleted following. What came out of this situation says much for the resourcefulness of Howell Harris. His association with the Moravians in London had put a strong idea into his mind. This was given life in the form a Christian residential community engaged in agriculture, craft industries, worship and instruction, situated in Trefeca.

Participants would hold all things in common and be self sufficient with a bakery, shared meals and all adhering to a daily time table. After renovation work and new buildings the Teula (or Family) was established and housed in July 1752. Three years later there were 250 members, men, women and children some living in farms on the estate.

Much as the Teula was dear to him Harris felt he should do his best for the defence of the country at the time of Seven Years War and he and 24 members of the Teula joined the Breconshire Militia in 1759. They were part of the contingency measure to resist a possible French invasion and the unit spent time in Torrington, Bideford and Yarmouth and did not return for over three years. In 1763 Harris resumed itinerant preaching after the beginning of the Llangeitho revival which occurred under the leadership of Daniel Rowland and this marked a measure of rapprochement between the two.

Harris had first met Selina, Countess of Huntingdon in London in 1739. For her Trefica seemed an ideal situation for the project she had in mind to create a seminary for preachers who would minister in England and Wales under her auspices, especially if Harris would give some oversight and contribute to its devotional programme. She leased Trefica Isaf farmhouse making significant alterations and it was opened in 1768 with accommodation for 20 students.

Howell Harris died in 1773 and was buried with his wife near the altar in Talgarth church. Countess Selina estimated that 20,000 people were present at his funeral and recorded that there was much preaching and that holy communion was administered.

David James

CALVINISTIC METHODIST COLLEGE , TREVECCA

Acknowledgement: My thanks to the **Howell Harris Museum** for providing me with information for this article .Visits can be made Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm to the museum at Coleg Trefeca near Talgarth, Brecon, LD3 0PP

It is advisable to telephone before making a visit: 01847 711423

Branch News

Please note that the President of the HA lecture on 19th September will start at 10.30am. **The subject will be:'**

John Toland- friend of Sophia of Hanover, Heretic and Forger

Sponsors **have been very generous , so far we have £320 this year towards producing the 'Chronicle' which almost covers the cost of the printing of the 4 issues.**

Swansea Tidal Lagoon

The controversial £1 Billion project to generate green energy from a tidal lagoon has been granted planning consent by Amber Rudd, the energy Secretary. Sited in Swansea Bay the development involves a six mile horseshoe shaped sea wall with turbines strategically placed to harness the power of the tides. A projected up and running date has been set for 2018. The project has been praised by the government but has raised fears amongst environmentalists that it would upset the delicate aquatic eco system of the bay as well as provide poor value for money and result in increasing energy costs for householders.

Vernon Watkins, famous poet and Bletchley Park codebreaker was honoured in Swansea last month. The plaque was unveiled by his wife. The plaque is sited on the wall of what was Lloyds bank in St Helen's Road, Brynmill.

A Blue Plaque was unveiled in July, to **Lewis Dillwyn,** Cambrian Pottery's distinguished former owner and noted botanist. The plaque was sited outside Sketty Hall.

Tiny Dinosaur found in Wales….

A dinosaur fossil believed to be a distant cousin of Tyrannosaurus rex has been found in Wales. Described as 'the find of a lifetime' it was discovered after storms caused a cliff fall on Lavernock beach near Penarth in the Vale of Glamorgan in 2014 by fossil-hunting brothers Nick and Rob Hanigan. The find was examined by palaeontologists from the Universities of Manchester, Portsmouth and the National Museum of Wales who concluded it lived in the early part of the Jurassic Period.

A new section of cycle path *is set to be constructed along Swansea's Fabian Way to provide a key transport link between the new University campus and the city.The new campus is set to open in September this year and Swansea Council has successfully bid for local transport grant from the Welsh Government to help fund the creation of the new cycle path to encourage the use of cycles rather than cars travelling each way between the campus and the city.*

British Government's Response to the French Revolution

The British Government's first reaction to revolution in France was that it must be a good thing. After all it would reduce French competitive aspirations in a burgeoning world trade. However, the guillotining of Louis XVI in 1793 changed this perception. London itself had suffered a week of riots in 1780 with many believing that there would be a bloody revolution unless there was reform of the parliamentary franchise.

In 1782 the British government was reorganized into separate departments and an establishment of twelve informers for London. This was seen to be inadequate, so John Reeves, a law clerk, was sent to Paris in 1783 to study the French policing system. In 1784 he drafted a Police Bill – defeated in Parliament due to the City of London's resistance to any diminution of its traditional rights, but by 1792 the government recognised that the revolution was not going to be confined to France and was in danger of crossing the channel.
It then amended the Police Bill to exclude the City and this time it passed. This Act was based on the creation of stipendiary magistrates, acknowledged to be government magistrates. Until then there had been no daytime patrols anywhere, not even on the streets of London, and the few night patrols were in reality just a continuation of the runners with their blue coats and red waistcoats.
The British Isles, in stark contrast to the continent, had considerable freedom from regulation before 1792: freedom of speech, no restriction on the publication of reforming ideas, no passports required to enter of leave the country.

Louis XIV of France (1638-1715) began the problem. With his desire to be like a sun-king God of ancient Egypt, he built the imposing palace of Versailles, insisted on the nobility living at court and formed a formidable police force with which he was able not only to deal with criminals but also to control social, political and economic activities.
Every movement of the educated classes and all derogatory comments made against the King, ministers or the police was recorded. Louis XIV advanced the system of police control; revolt became inevitable.

In England, ever increasing numbers of French emigres forced an Alien Act to be passed.

It was unprecedented, not least by the fact that the clauses were drawn up by the former lieutenant general of police in Lyon, Claude Rey.
He was called to Paris in 1789 as an aide and confidante of Louis XVI and sent first to his émigré brothers, and then, by them to London. Under émigré influence the most important of Rey's former staff, Etienne Quidor Duperray, was also called to London. Duperray corroborated this saying that he and Rey were employed by Henry Dundas the Home Secretary, to perfect the surveillance of their countrymen.

Their salaries were covered by parliament's allocation for 'French refugees' as it was (and still is) illegal to employ foreign nationals in government offices. The evidence for Rey's employment is clear; with British accounts for the time he paid agents in France, and, Joseph Le Clerc de Noisy stating that Rey had enabled the British government to deport 1200 foreigners. This presupposes that Rey had brought at least a section of the Paris police registers with him to form a basis for the Alien Office registers.
Although the first Home Office 'Abstract of Reports on Foreigners', 20 September 1792, cannot provide any records, as before the Alien Act, deportations could be made under the Crown prerogative, forbidding foreigners entering or residing in the kingdom.

Again, due to the émigrés suggesting that the Corresponding Societies had been infiltrated by large numbers of violent revolutionaries, so were revolutionary rather than reforming in character, government went even further. In 1795 the Seditious Meetings Act was passed providing that any meeting had to be sanctioned by a magistrate, while the Riot Act could be invoked if a meeting was considered to be seditious. We know that émigrés promoted this too, because in the parliamentary debate, the Solicitor General, *Sir John Mitford, quoted Antoine Dandré's words: 'the active persevering spirit of the few would always triumph over the peaceable and inactive disposition of the more numerous class of the community.'*

We are taught to believe that Robert Peel inaugurated the first police force in England by the Act of 1829, but that act was called 'An Act for the Reform of the Metropolitan Police.' Needing refining to avoid the initial secret aspect, it became the police that we know, divided into separate county or city areas. The Alien Office was not affected by Peel's reforms and the clerks were still paid out of the secret service vote until 1836 when the remaining Assistant Clerk was placed on the Home Office establishment as 'Clerk to Aliens Dept'. The Alien Act, revised in accord with peace in 1802, was repealed in 1872, only to make way for another.

However the secret service that became MI5 was developed from the original metropolitan police, while foreign activities transformed into the nascent MI6.

Elizabeth Sparrow

*The Swansea Branch is very grateful to the Chronicle's generous supporters***.**

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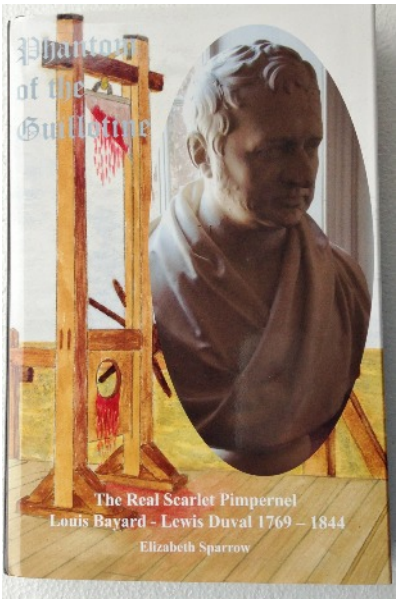
Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it. **Edmund Burke**

History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon.

Napoleon Bonaparte

Reviews



Phantom of the Guillotine

The Real Scarlet Pimpernel

Louis Bayard - Lewis Duval

1769 - 1844

There are two chapters on the run up and aftermath of Waterloo with important information on Wellington's diplomacy and intelligence network that almost no-one is aware of.
Also chapters on Wellington's connection with Bayard and his, the Duke's ,diplomacy that won the peace in a fortnight after Waterloo.

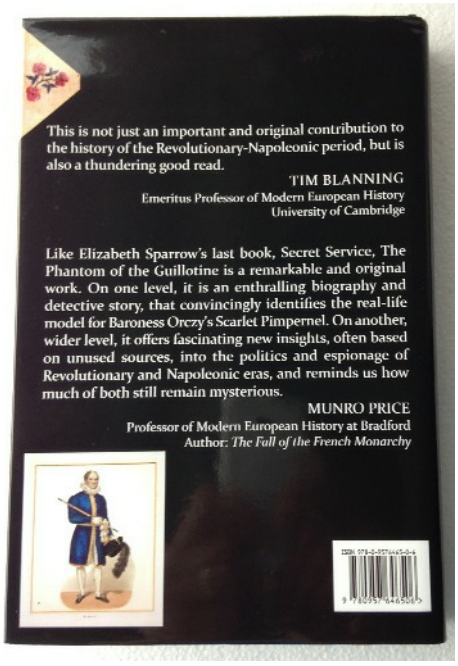
By Elizabeth Sparrow

A tale of the murky world of espionage and the life of intrigue lived by Louis Bayard at the time of the French revolution and the Napoleonic eras.

This thrilling book, from original documents, tells of the life led by him when he abandoned the military for the secret life of a spy. In England he was known as Louis Duval, a barrister at Lincoln Inn.

This is an exciting book to read and crammed full of facts about a principal agent who worked for the British government to promote the restoration of the French monarchy. It asks the question,

'Was he the Scarlet Pimpernel?'



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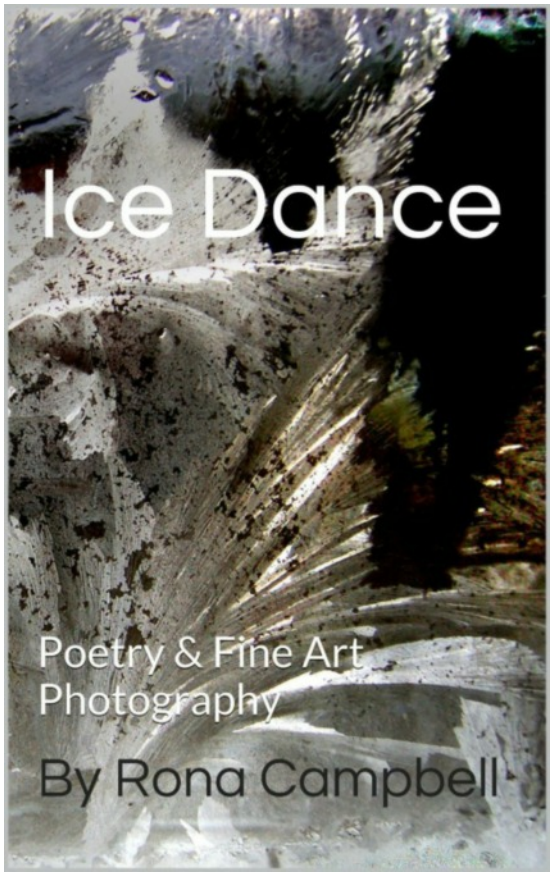

This book of Poetry and Fine Art Photography is available to download to your Kindle , tablet or phone from Amazon. Priced £7.13

Obsession

The hush, the slush of wheels,

then the distant sound of a

voice, '*don't touch the brakes*.'

Four tyres track the road,

in the snow's slush.

like a snail's trail

My past and present

are mirrored in my rear,

Entrails make me aware of

my passing…

Promising prospects but…

It was a memorable occasion. In part, a moment to celebrate Swansea's opportunity to play a critical role in the Swansea Bay Region; in part, to attend for the first time, for this guest, UW Trinity Saint David's occupation of the splendidly-restored former central library in Alexandra Road..

An invited audience listened on June 25 in rapt attention as Matthew Taylor, the Royal Society of Arts' chief executive, delivered a thoughtful message about Swansea [and the region] and the future. His starting point was the need for ambition: to strive and even risk failure; secondly, to 'mind the gap' between past achievement, including a pioneering Mumbles Railway, and Copperopolis, and a future with tidal lagoon, engineering and design excellence of its two universities, and the city's central area's reconstruction. All this, imaginatively handled, could prompt a wider renaissance, attracting people and making a tangible impact upon the lives of all. However collaboration of agencies was essential. Elsewhere, success was achieved when key actors deliberately qualified their individual goals to pursue a united vision. Notwithstanding, a top-down approach would not suffice: residents and communities *must* be involved.

Matthew offered a salutary concluding judgement*: 'The great thing about Swansea with its proud history, its amazing scenery, its big plans, its innovative institutions, is that all the ingredients are pretty much there. Sometimes though it still feels that the recipe to mix them into something really special hasn't quite been found…'* Food for thought?

Robert McCloy

Joseph Tregelles Price:
Quaker Iron Master, Engineer and Philanthropist

Next to a bus stop bay at Neath Abbey stands a reputedly haunted house called Ty Mawr. Attached to the house is a barely visible plaque to one of Neath's greatest adopted sons, Joseph Tregelles Price (1784 - 1854) a Quaker of Cornish stock. His mother Anna was of the Tregelles family, Quaker merchants in Cornwall who were linked through marriage to the powerful Fox family of Falmouth, ships' agents and important adventurers in the Cornish mines.

In 1791 the Fox, Price, and Tregelles families were the main investors in the Quaker partnership that founded the Perran foundry near Falmouth that was set up to manufacture engineering parts for the Cornish mines. In 1792 the same partners leased land at Neath Abbey close by the river Clydach. Here an ironworks was built with two furnaces to supply the Perran foundry with pig iron.

The Price family moved to Neath in 1799 when the father Peter Price (1739 - 1821) became the manager of the Neath Abbey Iron Works. With his foundry and engineering expertise, Peter Price was able to develop the Neath Abbey ironworks from a bulk pig-iron producer to a precision engineering establishment. Soon the making of machine parts and castings began to be concentrated at Neath Abbey, a development which then graduated to the making of complete steam engines.

This transition was helped by the partnership's Cornish connections and the first engines made at Neath Abbey were of the high pressure design patented by Richard Trevithick. The Price family also had interests in coal mining and copper smelting in the Neath locality and in iron working at Aberpergwm.
The Neath Abbey Iron Works, remnants of whose blast furnaces, forge and foundry can still be seen, was taken over by Joseph Tregelles Price and his brother in 1818.

For a long period the firm enjoyed a high reputation for its manufacture of all manner of machinery, marine and stationary engines, pumps and boilers. Some of the world's largest pumping engines were built at these ironworks for the Cornish mines. It also met the local need for engines in the growing South Wales coal and iron industries. In 1842 the works built its first iron ship, the first iron vessel launched in Wales.
The Neath Abbey Iron Works was a unique engineering establishment, being the only British works to build marine, stationary, and locomotive engines along with iron ships. It produced the cast iron rails for the Stockton and Darlington Railway and George Stephenson visited Neath Abbey to see the rails being produced. Sir Benjamin Baker of Forth Bridge fame served his apprenticeship here. Joseph Tregelles Price was not only its manager over this period but was also an experienced engineer who took out two patents in the 1830s for improvements to boilers and steam engines. Engines produced at Neath Abbey continued in use a century and more after their manufacture.

Joseph's father Peter opened the first free school in the area for the children of Neath Abbey and the mother Anna Price (née Tregelles) (1759 - 1846) was also active in charitable works and promulgating the benefits of peace.

Like his parents, Jospeh Tregelles Price was a man with a strong social conscience. True to his Quaker principles, Price refused to allow any weapons of war to be produced in his iron works. He was an active promoter of the international Peace Society - a forerunner of the League of Nations - which was formed in 1816 and became its first President.

In June 1843 an international peace conference was held in London and Price played an important part as the chairman of one of the sessions. The work of this Society broadened in the 1840s beyond the propagation of non-resistance on religious grounds into involvement with the anti-corn law campaign. Price was also a patron of the Anti-Slavery Movement.

He is also remembered for his intervention in the case of Richard Lewis known as 'Dic Penderyn' who was sentenced to death for his part in the Merthyr Rising of 1831. Convinced of his innocence, Price obtained a brief stay of execution from the Home Secretary, Lord Melbourne, but was unable to save the man. (At the time of writing, Ann Clwyd MP is petitioning the House of Commons to have Richard Lewis aka Dic Penderyn pardoned.).

Joseph Tregelles Price died unmarried on 25 December in 1854 and he is buried in the grounds of the Friends Meeting House at Neath. An obituary in The Cambrian, 28 Dec 1854 commented that:

'Mr Price has been familiar to the public of South Wales during very many years as a leading man of business and an indefatigable philanthropist. His character was one of singular energy, cool discrimination and inflexible integrity. Few men could be so greatly missed in his own immediate neighbourhood; but his loss will be felt not only in the religious community of which he was a member, but in various associations for benevolent objects and moral progress'.

Price's reputation was also summed up by a Quaker poet in the following manner:

Joseph Price, Joseph Price,
Thou are mighty precise,
Methought t'other night in a dream
That thou really walked
Slept, ate, drank and talked,
And prayed every Sunday by steam.

Diaries of Edward Pease, 390)

After his death the Neath Abbey Iron Works was carried on by his nephew, Henry Price, and manufacturing continued until 1875 when it closed.

Jeffrey L Griffiths

Contributors

Dr Brinley Jones CBE, FSA President of the University of Wales Trinity St David

Jean Webber Fashion Artist and illustrator of 'Fashion in Underwear'.

Rev. David James Former Naval padre and 'green beret 'commando.

Jeff Griffiths Was educated at Emmanuel Grammar School in Swansea and studied history at Aberystwyth University. He spent most o f his working life with the National Foundation for Educational Research.

Dr Robert McCloy Formerly a Director of Education and Chief Executive of Kingston upon Thames. Author of 'Travels in the Valleys': A Study of Road Passenger Services in the Half Century Since the First War.

Elizabeth Sparrow Author and authority on Anglo-French reaction to the French Revolution.

Dr John Law Reader in dept of History and Classics at Swansea University. His more recent publications include studies of the Venetian state in the early Renaissance and of the early Medici 'regime' in Florence.

Extract from the prize winning essay from Rhian Jessie Davies

A gyflawnodd Hitler yr hyn oedd eisiau? Concwset heb danio dryll.

Ym Medi 1938 cynhaliwyd Cytundeb Munich rhwng y pedwar pw^er Chamberlain, Daladier, Mussolini a Hitler, ynglyn a rhoi'r Sudetenland i'r Natsiaid ar yr amod na fyddai Hitler yn hawlio fwy o dir. Byddai concwest I Hitler yn galluogi iddo ennill rheolaeth dros fwy o dir gyda'r defnydd o rym. Mae dau farn hanesyddol ynglyn a'r gytundeb yma. Credai'r hanesydd Ian Kershaw na chyflaynodd Hitler ei amcanion, gan weld Munich yn 'meaningless, and…no great cause for celebration.' Ar y llaw arall cawn ddadl William Shirer, a chredai ei fod yn lwyddiant i Hitler am iddo gael yr hyn oedd e eisiau heb danio dryll a thrais.

Dogfen 1. (Ffynhonnell Swddogol)

'*Dechreuaf trwy ddweud yr hyn y mae pawb am ei anwybyddu a'i anghofio, ond sy'n rhaid ei Ddweud serch hynny, sef ein bod ni wedi dioddef gorchfygiad llwyr a bod Ffrainc wedi dioddef yn fwy na ni. Mae popeth ar ben. Y dawel, yn alarus, yn unig a drylliedig, mae Tsiecoslofacia yn llithro i'r tywyllwch. Dyma'r llymaid cyntaf, a rhagflas yn unig o'r cwpan chwerw a gynigir I ni flwyddyn ar ol blwyddyn oni bai ein bod, trwy ymdrech eithafol I adfer ein cryfder moesol a'n grym milwrol, yn codi eto a sefyll yn gadarn dros ryddid fel gwnaethom mewn oesau a fu.'*

(Winston Churchill, AS o'r meinciau cefn, mewn araith gerbron Ty'r Cyffredin- 5 Hydref 1938)

Extract from the prize winning essay from Gwen Marged Jones

'Ym Munich cyflawnodd Hitler yr hyn yr oedd eisiau - concwest heb danio dryll'.

Yn oriau cynnar 29fed 0 Fedi 1938 arwyddwyd Cytundeb Munich lle welwyd y Sudetenland yn cael ei rhoi I'r Natsiaid. Gwelodd Chamberlain Munich fel 'heddwch yn ein hamser', gwelodd Daladier y gytundeb fel 'hollow victory', ond i Mussolini, roedd hyn yn gam mawr tuag at ffurfio cynghrair ffasgaidd gyda'r Almaen. Er hyn, mae hyn a^ olyga'r gytundeb i'r Fuhrer yn fater o drafodaeth i haneswyr hyd heddiw. Rhaid ystyried; a wnaeth Hitler gyflawni yr hyn yr oedd e eisiau yn Munich heb danio dryll? Oedd e'n syml eisau meddiannu'r Sudetenland yn unig gan weld Munich fel concwest, neu oedd yr amcan yn un fwy sinistr fel yr amlinellir yn Mein Kampf a Hossbach-sefdinistrio'r wladwriaeth Tsiec a gwneud rhyfel yn fwy bosibl yn erbyn y pwerau gorllewinol?

Mae rhai 'intentionalists', gan gynnwys Ian Kershaw, yn credu bod Hitler yn dymuno cael rhyfel uwchlaw unrhyw beth arall, ac nad oedd yn fodlon gyda chanlyniad y gytundeb; 'and for him Munich was no great cause for celebration'. Mae'r barn arall, sef y rhai sy'n tanysgrifio i'r ysgol 'oportiwnydd' yn credu fod Hitler wedi cyflawni yr hyn oedd e eisiau yn Munich, sef concwest heb danio dryll ;' at Munich Hitler gained what he wanted and achieved a conquest without firing a shot', caiff y farn yma ei hyrwyddo gan William Shirer.

Edrychaf gyntaf ar ddadl Ian kershaw, mai 'bloody voctory' oedd bwriad Hitler. Credai bod Hitler eisiau rhyfel I ddinistrio Tsiecoslofacia yn gyfan gwbl, ac nid 'settled negotiation' ar rhan ei wlad fel credai rhai

School's essay competition

Richard Lewis has worked hard organising the first HA Swansea Branch School Essay Prize that was started this year. Entries submitted were of a high standard, but by far the best were two entries from Ysgol Uwchradd, Llanfylin High School, near Welshpool.

The £100 prize was divided between Gwen Marged Jones and Rhian Jessie Davies. Both entries were written in the Welsh language.

The two winners are shown in the photo with their History teacher Meinir Lewis Jones, Richard Lewis from the Historical Association and Head Teacher Mike Jones.

The Editor would like to say that any spelling mistakes in the Welsh essays from the girls ,have been solely made by her.

The competition will be held again next year when we hope many more schools will enter student 's essays.

HA Swansea Branch Programme 2015

Talks on Saturdays at 11.00, National Waterfront Museum, Ocean Room

15th August Colin Weldon James

Dr Joseph Parry: A Welshman of Note

19th September Professor Justin Champion

President of the Historical Association

John Toland, friend of Sophia of Hanover,

Heretic and Forger 10.30 start**

Also 'Patagonia day' 12.4pm Joint promotion by the Waterfront Museum and the branch

10th October 10-4 pm

Local History…Live!

The Swansea Branch's Local History Fair

17th October Dr John Alban FHA

The Anniversary Lecture

The Agincourt Campaign

21st November John White

The Gallipoli Campaign

19th December Professor John France

Armies of World War One

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