



Roath Local History Society

Bringing History to Your Doorstep - since 1978



March 2021

Dear R.L.H.S. Members,

Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus! Happy Saint David's Day!

On this auspicious day, I thought I'd look into some of the facts, traditions and legends, surrounding the life of David; who has been the patron saint of Wales, since the 12th. century. Apparently, much of what is known stems from a latin document, written 500 years after David's lifetime, by the then bishop's son, *Rhygyfarch*. In the Middle Ages, the shrine at Saint David's became an important place of pilgrimage and much embellished.



The flag of St David

- David's birth, circa 500 CE, resulted from the rape of a nun.
- Born of 'noble' blood, he was a grandson to Ceredig ap Cunedda, founder king of Ceredigion and the son of Sant, prince of Powys.
- His place of birth was a stormy, cliff top, alongside (what is now), a spectacular stretch of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.
- David's mum, the nun, Non, was canonised and a simple chapel and curative, holy well became established on the sea-cliff, where Non had given birth.
- Today the ruins of St. Non's Chapel are managed by Cadw, and the spot remains a place of pilgrimage.
- David was educated at Hen Fynyw monastery and became a missionary monk, spreading Christianity.
- He established many religious communities in Wales, Brittany and southwest England, with links to Glastonbury Abbey.
- In life, David was teetotal, vegetarian, scholarly and humble.
- The order provided food and lodgings for travellers and looked after the poor.
- Known as Aquaticus or Dewi Ddyfrwr (the water drinker); as a self-imposed penance he might stand up to his neck in a cold water lake, reciting Scripture. Also, at key moments in his life, springs purportedly appeared.
- At his foundation, on the far western tip of Pembrokeshire he and his monks led simple, studious, ascetic lives; choosing to manually plough the fields, in preference to using oxen.

- At the Synod of Brevi, Cardiganshire in 550 CE, David was named Archbishop of Wales.
- David was a renowned and popular preacher, miracles attributed to David include:
- At Llandewi Brefi, the ground beneath his feet rose up, enabling a large crowd to see and hear him. This miracle was marked by a white dove settling on his shoulder, symbolic of the holy spirit.
- Restoring the sight of his tutor, St. Paulinus, by making the sign of the cross.
- Bringing a dead child back to life, by shedding tears on his face.



- St David is thought to have made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where he was consecrated bishop. Reputedly, he brought back a stone that now sits in an altar at St Davids Cathedral.
- Built on the site of his original monastery, St Davids Cathedral is the most ancient cathedral settlement in Britain.
- During the Middle Ages, David's shrine was so important Pope Callistus II decreed that when calculating indulgences, two pilgrimages to St. David's Cathedral counted as one pilgrimage to Rome, with three counting as a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.
- Vikings regularly raided the cathedral but the shrine was finally stripped of its jewels during the 16th Century Reformation.



St David's, the smallest city in the U.K.



Leeks
cennin



Daffodil
cennin Pedwr

- David is the greatest figure from the Welsh Age of Saints and the only native-born patron saint in Britain and Ireland.
- It is alleged that in battle with the Saxons, David advised his soldiers to distinguish themselves from the enemy, by wearing one of the leeks that were conveniently growing in the surrounding fields, in their hats. Thus establishing, a Welsh national emblem.
- 1st. March, St. David's Day, commemorates the day of David's death.
- His last words were:

Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.

“It's the little things that count” is a sentiment still commonly expressed today.

Last month the **R.L.H.S. Committee** met by zoom to consider future plans for the Society. Obviously, we all long for things to go back to normal, but sensibly, need to remain extremely cautious. Accordingly, this summer, we aim to adapt our programme to offer 4, outdoor, meetings in July. These will take the form of socially safe, history walks. We chose to wait until July, as it is when all the over 50's (the bulk of our Members), should be thoroughly jabbed!

Likewise, next season's indoor lecture programme is going to be compiled by **Alan Knight**, with a selection of adaptable Speakers (any suggestions you might have, for good speakers and topics, are very welcome). The idea is that, should we find ourselves unable to meet in person, we will be able to fulfil our programme, by asking our Speakers to deliver their talks online.

With this eventuality in mind, I'd like to encourage more of you to engage with zoom. Currently, just over a fifth of our total Membership has been attending our (really excellent), lectures.

Geraint and myself are more than happy to help you achieve this, on a one-to-one basis. So far, by a combination of telephone calls and joint computer sessions, several Members, have already been enabled to download zoom and confidently join-in with us.

Just ring (**029 2048 2658**), or send an e-mail to arrange a time to practice.



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Thursday, 11th. March at 19.00

Landowners of Roath from the Normans to the twentieth century

presented by Jeff Childs

An account of various landowners who have held sway in Roath, whether in a parochial or manorial context, from earliest recorded times. The talk will encompass landownership, landed estates and the areas where their principal domains lay. Sources for the study of landownership will also be described.

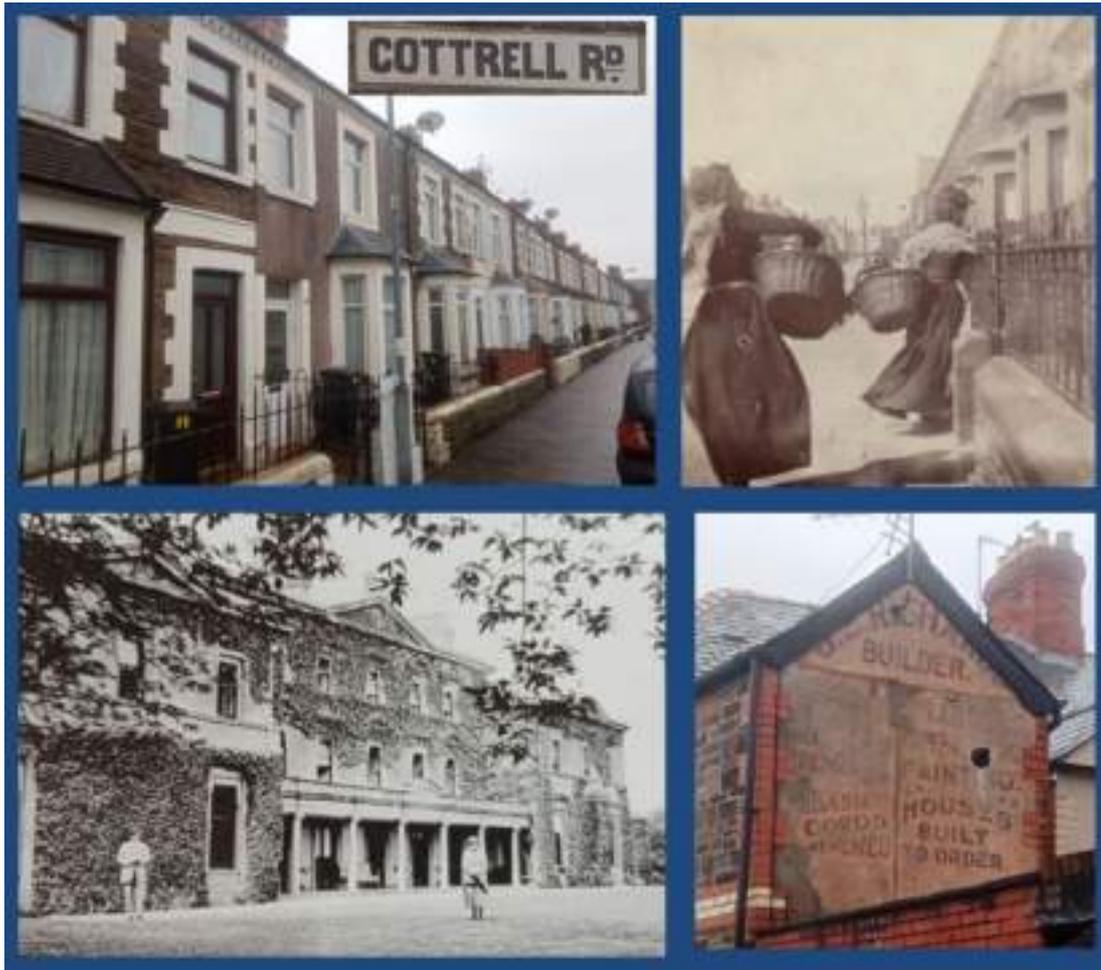
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82540288509?pwd=Qi9qZ3diK3hhMkhZby9CZEpWM2pJdz09>

Meeting ID: 825 4028 8509

Passcode: Augustus

NEWS FROM CHAIRMAN TED

Lockdown is still upon us as I write this and so I've been continuing my 'Street of the Day' project, visiting a street in the old Parish of Roath, taking some pictures and investigating the history of the street. I've become particularly interested in where the names of the streets derive from. For many of the streets, the names have some sort of link to the owner of the land in the 1800s. I'm therefore particularly looking forward to this month's Zoom talk from Jeff Childs regarding the Landowners of Roath.



Street names tend to be clumped together. So for instance in Pen-y-lan we seem to have the stations of West London: Earl's Court, Baron's Court, Hampton Court, Ravenscourt, Turnham Green. We also have the roads named after the cathedral/abbey towns of Dorchester, Winchester, Colchester and Melrose. There are battle streets including Waterloo, Blenheim and Balaclava in which the land owner Lord Tredegar himself fought in. The streets built on land belonging to the Marquess of Bute I think are named not just after family members but others associated with the work of the Bute estate e.g. Shirley Road after Lewis Vincent Shirley, the solicitor for both the Marquess of Bute and the Mackintosh estate. In fact Lewis Shirley went to live at Plasnewydd (Mackintosh Institute) and died there.

MY TWO GREAT UNCLES *by Alan Knight*

WALTER PINKARD 23120 1891- 1916

Walter Pinkard was born in Cardiff on 10th. November 1891 at 47 Adeline Street in Roath. He was the son of Walter Pinkard Senior and Mary Donoghan and was one of ten children. They subsequently lived at 37 Janet Street Roath, 34 Tenby Street and 287 Moorland Road, Splott Cardiff. Walter attended the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Splott, Cardiff.

He went to Moorland Road Mixed School in Splott but in the 1901 Census, at the age of eleven, he was living at St Andrews Truant Industrial School for boys, Dinas Powys, on the outskirts of Cardiff, which in the 1920s became Bryn-y-Don School. In 1933 it became an Approved School. It is now Hebron Hall Christian Centre. Walter worked as a coal miner in the Neath Valley and on the 1911 Census, at the age of 21, was lodging at 19 Norton Terrace, Glyncoed Neath.

Walter enlisted in the 16th. Battalion (Cardiff) of the Welsh Regiment in November 1914, as Private 23120. He died on the 7th. of July 1916 during shell fire on his machine gun at Mametz Wood, north of the town of Albert in the Somme, Northern France. He is buried between Caterpillar Wood and Mametz Wood. The wood was on raised ground with machine guns positioned along its edge. The Welsh soldiers had to cover open ground to attack the German position and were cut down as they did so.



Walter's name is recorded on Column A7 of the Thiepval War Memorial, among those of the Welsh Regiment lost in battle.

His is one of 72,205 names on the Memorial.

Walter married Catherine Kiell in the third quarter of 1914, with whom he had a son, Walter John, born in the third quarter of 1915. The child died in the second quarter of 1919. Catherine never remarried but in the early 1920s fostered a child, Clarence Gay, who remained with her throughout his childhood. He had been born in Bideford and was illegitimate. He later changed his name by deed poll to Pinkard and died in 2005. He married Georgina (Brenda) Chivers in 1950.

I actually met Brenda at Dalton Street Luncheon Club, and said we could be related, as my paternal Grandmother's maiden name was Pinkard. Brenda then told me the story of her husband's upbringing.

The Welsh Memorial of Mametz

Six days after the capture of the village, Mametz Wood was still in the hands of the Germans. The Welsh Division attacked from the east on 7th. July 1916, and after advancing slowly and uncertainly, it occupied the wood almost completely by 11th. July. Exhausted, it evacuated the sector after losing 4000 men, including 600 dead and 600 missing.

The Memorial, a dragon - the Welsh national symbol - was inaugurated on 11th. July 1987.



FRANK PINKARD 22919 1889-1915

Frank Pinkard was born November 1889 at 47 Adeline Street Splott Cardiff. He was the son of Walter Pinkard Senior and Mary Donoghan, one of ten siblings. Frank, was two years older than Walter, but as a consequence of the Great War, they perished just 10 months apart.

By 1911 Frank had moved to 1 Fora Street Barry, and worked as a railway waggon repairer.

Private Frank Pinkard 22919, of the 2nd. Battalion of the Welsh Regiment, was killed on the 25th. September 1915 at the age of 26 at the Battle of Loos-en-Gohelle, Northern France. His death is recorded on Panel 77-78 of the Loos memorial, Dud Corner Cemetery, north of Arras. The name 'Dud' came from the large number of unexploded shells found when the area was cleared to create the cemetery, after the end of WWI. It is the final resting place of over 1,800 servicemen, of which over 1,100 remain unidentified. Over half of the identified burials date from the Battle of Loos.

The battlefield was a coal mining area, very flat with large coal tips. The German defences were embedded on the elevated coal tips and the British were entrenched on the flat ground. As the British went over the trenches they were killed by machine guns. After a great loss of life, the British held this position until the end of the war.



Dud Corner Cemetery
and the Loos Memorial
Loos-en-Gohelle, France



St Saviour's Church & War Memorial
Splott, Cardiff, Wales
Walter and Frank Pinkard are both named

THURSDAY, 8th. APRIL @ 19.00



Captain George Auger
the Cardiff Giant
the **Tallest** Man on Earth

Speaker: **Ted Richards**

The talk will trace the life of George Auger from his birth in Cardiff, his upbringing in London and his time in America; finishing with his sad early death just prior to embarking on a career in Hollywood. The photograph with Harold Lloyd was probably intended to promote the film he didn't live to make - 'Why Worry?'. How the research into George Auger was carried out will also be touched upon.

Links, Meeting ID and Passcode in the R.L.H.S. April E-Newsletter

April's talk is from our **Chair, Ted Richards**, who grew up in the Roath area in the 60s and 70s. He trained as a chemist and then a toxicologist and spent much of his career in the Midlands working in regulatory affairs in the chemical industry. He developed an interest in genealogy when tracing his own family tree; the hard way, before things appeared online. On returning to Cardiff some 40 years after leaving, he happened upon the Roath Local History Society website and the rest as they say is history. Amateur local history research is now very much his hobby, as is maintaining the Society's website.

Our old friend, **Tim O'Shea** (who grew up at Inverness Place), has been in touch with the following enquiry:

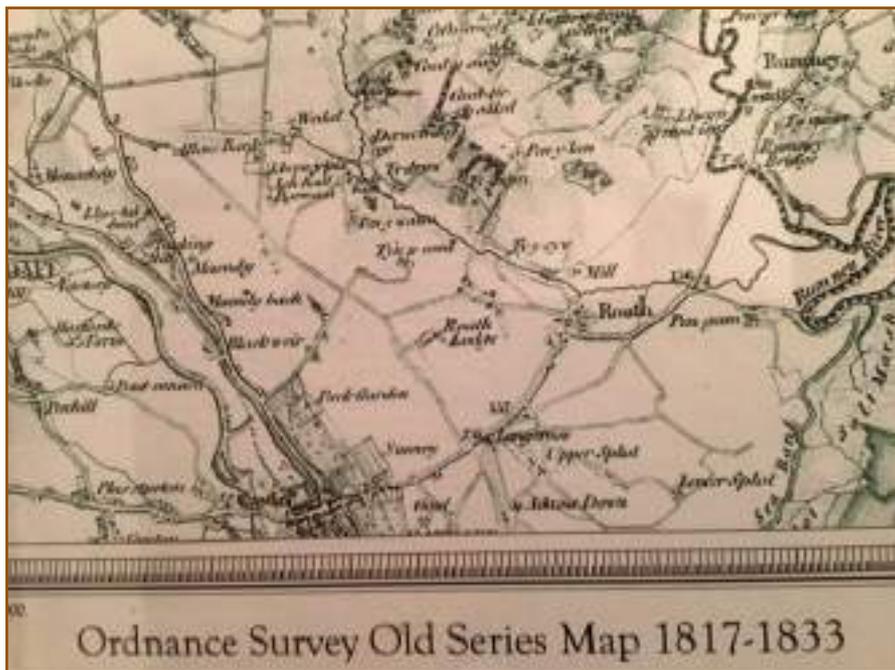
I've nearly finished my autobiography but I still need to confirm one of my earliest memories.

I know that the use of barrage balloons finished in August 1944 but I seem to remember seeing them being occasionally flown over Cardiff when I was about 6 or 7 (1948/49) presumably from the Barrage Balloon Squadron site near the Roath Power Station.

It would be very much appreciated if you could let me know if anyone can confirm whether this is correct, or just a figment of my imagination.

Please let me know, if you can add to this recollection and I'll pass it on to Tim.

Meanwhile, **Deanne Pickstone** was intrigued by the conundrum of the stone circle, in last month's E-Newsletter. The plot thickens as she dons her deerstalker, to suggest the following:



*With regard to **John Roberts's** mystery ruins of 1840, I remembered I had a copy of*

The Ordnance Survey Old Series Map 1817-1833

It clearly shows Roath Lodge not far from Roath and Roath Mill.

Based on the fact 'Lodge' usually indicates an entrance to an estate, I have three theories:

Theory one:

It was originally the entrance to The old Rath estate. We know from Rice Merrick that in Elizabethan times "Rath Court was an old fortified and moated place, now in ruins". Could Roath Lodge have been perhaps a guardhouse in earlier times?

Theory two:

When the Williams family built the present Roath Court they erected Roath Lodge as an entrance, but it was later abandoned and was a ruin by 1840.

Theory three:

*It was the entrance to the old Roath Mill.
Can anyone shed more light on Roath Lodge?*

BREAKING NEWS!

MALCOLM RANSON, R.L.H.S. Research Convenor

Local historians who have made significant voluntary contributions to the local history of their own areas and more widely, are publicly honoured by the **British Association for Local History** with a BALH Award for Personal Achievement

As **Roath Local History Society** is affiliated with BALH, **Malcolm**, on behalf of the **R.L.H.S. Committee** has been able to nominate **Jeff Childs**. Jeff joined our Society in 1978, our founding year; serving on the R.L.H.S. Committee for most of the intervening period. In fact, Jeff only stepped down *this* January and has *twice*, been both our Honorary Secretary and Chairman.

Jeff is author of three seminal publications on Roath Local History; but has wide interests in the history of South Wales generally. This resulted in his nomination being supported by the **Glamorgan History Society** and the **Swansea Valley History Society**.

We have just heard that “following the recent meeting of BALH Trustees, it is with pleasure that I am writing to tell you that Jeffrey Childs is to receive a

2021 BALH Award for Personal Achievement in Local History

Thank you for sending in the nomination, it is clearly a well-justified award”.

A presentation will be made on

Local History Day on Saturday 12 June 2021

As things are this will be an on-line event via video conferencing and we hope to be able to give you further details in due course.

Best wishes to all,

Elizabeth Morgan, R.L.H.S. Honorary Secretary.

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