



# Roath Local History Society

*Bringing History to Your Doorstep - since 1978*



September, 2021

**Dear R.L.H.S. Members,**

I've lots of exciting news to impart this month! Firstly, we intend resuming our indoor meetings, with our first meeting taking place in one week's time, on **Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September**. We have changed our customary slot to the second *Wednesday* of the month because, we have also changed venues. In future, we will be part of the community of **St. Edward's Church Music & Arts Centre, CF23 5DE** (at the junction of *Westville & Blenheim Road* - still a *Roath Central* address!).



St Edward's Church in the  
Parish of Roath  
[stedward.roath.org.uk](http://stedward.roath.org.uk)

We shall be meeting in the church itself, which benefits from good acoustics, plus the advantage of a wired-in sound system and hearing loop. The church is also warm, yet lofty and well ventilated. Of course, Covid-19 is still with us, and the R.L.H.S. Committee is being super-cautious as we move forward.

**Geraint** has conducted a **Covid-19 Risk Assessment**; based on which, the Society has drafted its own Covid Protocols, appertaining to meeting in person.

## R.L.H.S. INDOOR MEETINGS • COVID PROTOCOLS

- Members who are feeling unwell, exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19, or who are known to have been exposed to COVID-19, are asked not to attend.
- Hand Sanitiser to be used on entering the building.
- All attendees must register their Name and Contact Details (*securely deleted after 21 days*).
- Members are asked to wear masks throughout the meeting, if able to do so (excepting those Exempt from the guidance; Speakers; and Attendees who are seated and passively listening to Lectures).
- Queuing on Entry, Departure, W/C etc. to be appropriately distanced.
- Members are asked to keep a safe distance from other attendees, leaving spare chairs between 'bubbles' where possible.
- Members asked to remain in their own chairs and not circulate for the duration of the talk.
- Exit via the Vestry door, unless using disabled access.

We will not longer be offering refreshments at our meetings; although it is hoped that we may be able to reintroduce them, on an occasional basis, sometime in the future.

Our first meeting will start with the AGM. As we cannot distribute paperwork, please find the AGENDA below, with the MINUTES of our last AGM (September 2019), contained in the PDF accompanying this E-Newsletter.

**The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting to be held on  
Wednesday, 8th. September, 2021  
at St. Edward's Church  
*Church of St. Edward the Confessor*  
Westville Road, Roath, Cardiff. CF23 5DE  
starting at 7.30 p.m.  
AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome. Housekeeping. Announcements**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. To receive and approve the minutes of the last AGM**
- 4. Matters arising (other than covered by this Agenda)**
- 5. Chairman's Address and Website Report**
- 6. Honorary Secretary's Report**
- 7. Programme and Events Organiser Report**
- 8. Honorary Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts**
- 9. Proposed amendment to the Constitution - identifying the roles of  
Membership Secretary • Website Manager • Research Organiser  
• R.L.H.S. Honorary Life President**

**APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

*Three-year term*

**Chair**

**Vice-Chair**

**Honorary Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Programme & Events Organiser**

**Membership Secretary**

**Website Manager**

**Research Organiser**

**Honorary Auditor**

**APPOINTMENT OF  
COMMITTEE**

*Annual term*

**Re-standing:**

**Gareth Brown**

**Graeme Brown**

**Carol Ball**

**Carole Underwood**

**Geraint Denison-Kurg**

**Jenni Phillips**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

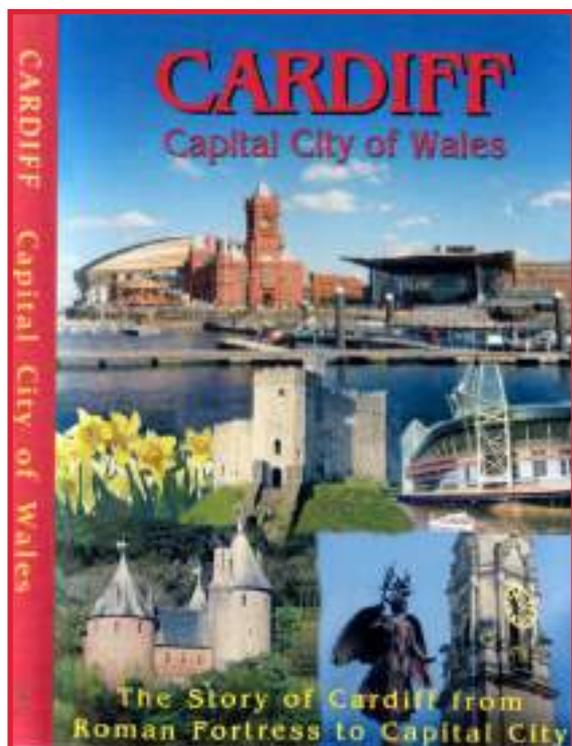
**Presentation of Hon. Life Membership to Jeff Childs and Martin Sheldon**

## NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

Now the size of our Society has grown so markedly; it's important we maintain an enthusiastic Committee, prepared to share responsibility for its smooth running. This year, many officers will have come to the end of their three-year term (some having gone on for much longer!).

Committee Meeting discussions, have identified essential areas of responsibility, that we propose become new Offices. Across the Committee, there is an element of volunteers proposing to wear 'different hats', and several of our current committee, will be standing for vacant posts. However, with his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday approaching, **Malcolm Ranson**, like **Jeff Childs** and **Martin Sheldon** will be standing down. It is therefore vital we have new Members joining our Committee. Please let us know if you are prepared to stand. Alternatively, on the night, we can take nominations from the floor.

After the AGM, the evening will proceed with **Alan Knight** showing the following DVD, played through the church sound system:



The story of how Cardiff grew from a Roman Fort guarding the bridge over the River Taff, to the Capital City of Wales, is both spectacular and fascinating.

Cardiff may be Europe's youngest Capital City but it is full of Heritage. It was the Normans, who arrived in around 1080, who began the town we see today, they built the Keep at the centre of the castle and a walled town around it.

Cardiff remained a small fishing town until the dawn of the Victorian Era, when the export of Iron & Coal made it the busiest port in the world. The World's first million pound contract was signed at the Coal Exchange in the Docks. Today the stunning white Portland stone Civic Centre is a lasting legacy of the great wealth that came from Coal.

Wales may have ceased to be an Independent Nation in 1282, but its rich literary tradition, its around sense of heritage, and the ancient Celtic language have survived through to the present day.

**Cymru am Byth**

### FOOTNOTE FROM CHAIR, TED RICHARDS

My tenure as Chairman draws to a close with the forthcoming AGM. Thank you all for supporting the Society and to the hard-working members of the Committee. Before the pandemic hit our numbers were burgeoning. I was impressed by the shift to on-line meetings though realise it wasn't for everybody. I'm glad to say that it appears the time has now come to resume our meetings in-person.

The upcoming season sees us have a change in venue. We will now be meeting at St Edward's church and on a Wednesday rather than a Thursday.

In the meantime I am hoping to continue to serve the Society in the role of **Website Manager**, spreading the word of the interesting history of Roath.

Feel free to [visit the website](#) and keep up to date with what's happening.

And please continue to feel free to submit articles for publication.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The final draft of our 2021 - 2022 brochure has just been approved. I'm glad to say, all our Speakers are still on board - some having been put on hold since 2019; when the entire world went pear-shaped.

Our printers, **reebrooks print media**, tells me the run should be ready to collect at the end of this week. I've already printed the envelopes and enclosed an A4 **Membership Renewal Form** for each of you, ready to post out with the Programme. Some local Members will even find their envelopes being delivered by hand. **Carol Ball, Ted, Graeme, Julian** and myself, are on standby to again embrace the tradition of fresh air, exercise and a saving of 66p per second-class stamp to the Society - just one small example of the fun things a Committee Member can be part of!

This year, the Programme and subsequent Membership Renewals have, of necessity, been left to the last minute. I would be very grateful if you could help me make up for lost time and return the form and remittances a.s.a.p. You can either put them through my letterbox; do the business online (not forgetting to complete, scan and send the Membership Form); or hand them in at our first meeting - there will be a red basket waiting on reception as you come in. Membership Cards will be issued as a receipt, and will be available to pick-up in person, from our October meeting on.

Following the last of our summer visits, to **St. Margaret's Parish Church, Deanne Pickstone** mentioned, that there was once a very large **Victorian Drinking Fountain** in the middle of the traffic island opposite the church. She distinctly remembered seeing it as a child, but hadn't been able to find a picture of it since. We were both delighted when I came across this site, which tells the whole story: <http://www.cardiffparks.org.uk/fountains/samuel/stmargarets.shtml>



R.L.H.S. is not the only organisation, looking to cautiously start back up. September is the month of **Open Doors - Wales**' annual contribution to the **European Heritage Days** initiative. Heritage organisations, private owners, local authorities and others open their doors, or offer activities to the public free of charge.

Because of the need to control numbers and ensure a viable flow of visitors, most sites and events, now require booking in advance (even complimentary tickets).

To find a Open Doors list of **Cadw** and **Non-Cadw**:

<https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/whats-on/find-a-cadw-event>

## RUPERRA CASTLE PRESERVATION TRUST



**OPEN DOORS DAY:  
SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER**

**1PM - 5PM** based at the

**Old Barn,**

**Ruperra Home Farm NP10 8GG**

*by kind permission of Anthony Rees*

- 1.00 Guests Arrive
- 1 - 5pm Marcher Stuarts stands / Booking for slots for Archery practice and for Walks
- 1 - 3.45pm Tea served by the Rudry Ladies
- 1.30pm Chair's Welcome followed by Archery display.
- 2.15 Walks in groups to Castle / Marcher Stuarts music and Archery practice
- 3.45 Address by historian Paul Busby  
*"The Morgan family and their influence on the landscape around Ruperra"*
- 4.15 Musketry Demonstration

Book your free ticket at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ruperra-castle-open-doors-registration-168259648137>



Do you remember  
**Ladd's Dispensing Chemist**  
at 219, City Road?

I know I was fascinated by the large, pointy-topped, glass jars of coloured water, along with all the other trappings of a Victorian Pharmacy.

After a fire gutted the shop, they moved to modern premises, across the road at number 180.

## The Jewish History Association of South Wales

Website: <https://www.jhasw.com/>

### JHASW Cardiff Jewish Heritage Trail

Your members may be interested to know that the Jewish History Association of South Wales (JHASW) has created a series of heritage trails following the story of Cardiff's Jewish communities. The trails can be followed at home on your computer or by visiting the actual sites, though many of the earlier ones are unfortunately no longer there. You can view the trail at <https://www.jhasw.com/heritage-trails>. There is also a Welsh version at <https://www.jhasw.com/llwybrau-treftadaeth>.

The trail is in three parts, reflecting the origins of the community in the centre of Cardiff and Bute Street, the subsequent movement of the community westwards in the later 19th century, and then northwards to Roath, Penylan and Cyncoed in the 20th century. The trails include links to our collections and audio excerpts from oral histories on People's Collection Wales. Five of our popular before and after videos are also included. Sources are given for those who want to explore this history more. Although some will be familiar, perhaps with a new perspective, we hope that the trail will bring back nostalgic memories and also offer much that is unfamiliar.

As the Heritage Trail Co-ordinator, I will be talking about the trail's creation, in a free Zoom talk on

12 September at 14:00. You can register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqcOysrTgsHtWUtyILWmHuuHynCgcZTFgL>

(This talk is a part of B'nai B'rith UK 's Jewish Heritage Days programme of events, which can be viewed at <https://www.bnaibrithuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2nd-edition-Heritage-booklet-17.8.21.pdf>.)

The trail was funded as part of a project which also includes:

- researching the names on the Cardiff Reform Synagogue Memorial Tablet to preserve a permanent record of their lives;
- researching Jewish history with the Rhondda Cynon Taf museums; and
- creating a toolkit to help others preserve their heritage.

The project was led by Klavdija Erzen and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Jewish Historical Society of England, Cardiff University, and the Jewish Memorial Council.

**Mike Hawkins, Trail Coordinator**

R.L.H.S. was recently contacted by [Marcia Petravicius](#) from Encinitas, California:



My father **Frank R. Marczynski** was a Captain of an Army Truck Company billeted in Cardiff in June 1944, prior to being shipped to France. Unfortunately the photo he took, doesn't give much to go on other than the sign and what looks like a colored cut glass panel above the entrance. I would be ecstatic if any of your members would have an idea where this might be.

I am working on a book for my family, so that my young grand nieces and nephews can appreciate an ancestor, they never knew. Like so many men who served in WWII, my Dad never wanted to discuss his experiences and I am so sorry that I never pressed him about where he had been and what he had experienced. So now I am challenged to retrace his steps based a few hand notes scrawled across the pictures in his album. Thank you in advance for any thoughts or assistance you might provide.

When I saw the image, I recognised the frontage as typical of the 1900's shop fronts in suburban Cardiff. Furthermore, the adverts in the window refer to Raleigh, a British bicycle manufacturer and Humber Ltd. a British manufacturer of bicycles, motorcycles and motor vehicles; so calling it 'Humber' Dance Hall was probably army humour.

If any one can give more insight into the life and times of the Americans in Cardiff, prior to the D-Day landings, please let Marcia know, through our Society.

*If you are quick registering, you can still experience:*

Plus ça change: Traces of Old Cardiff *with* Geraint Denison-Kurg

**TUESDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER @ 14.30**



Despite the best efforts of town planners in recent years to confine all traces of old Cardiff's faded gentility to the waste paper basket, the town centre is littered with reminders of its long history since the time of the Romans. This gentle amble will trace some of the remnants of this rich and varied history, starting at the reconstructed West Gate of the borough by the castle. Broadly tracking the old town walls, as they were at the time of John Speed's map in 1610, different aspects from Cardiff's Viking, mediaeval, early modern, Georgian and Victorian past will be revealed and discussed. The walk will end outside the new Theatre Royal on Wood Street, in the looming shadow of new Broadcasting House's tawdry modernity.

 Meeting Point: Castle Street, outside the front entrance to the castle.

 Finishing in Wood Street.

 Approximate Duration: 1 ¼ hours

I'm so looking forward to us meeting again in person, albeit in masks, socially distanced and without a cup of tea! I'm sure our comfortable new venue and the quality of the Speakers, will soon transport us to another place in time.

Very best wishes,

**Elizabeth Morgan.**

**R.L.H.S. Honorary Secretary.**

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**R.L.H.S. Web Site: [www.roathlocalhistorysociety.org](http://www.roathlocalhistorysociety.org)**