



Roath Local History Society

Bringing History to Your Doorstep - since 1978

Past Programmes

Summer Programme 2022

Wednesday, 8th June St. Edeyrn's Church, Llanedeyrn and its Historic Setting

Wednesday, 15th June Tour of Nantgarw China Works Museum

Wednesday, 22nd June The Llandaff Walk – a guided tour of the medieval city, within a city

Wednesday, 29th June Bristol Zoo Gardens

Wednesday, 13th July Hereford and its Cathedral

Lecture Programme 2021/22

Wednesday, Sept 8th

Annual General Meeting followed by a viewing of the DVD – **Cardiff: Capital City of Wales** The story of how Cardiff grew from a Roman Fort guarding the bridge over the River Taff, to the Capital City of Wales.

Wednesday, Oct 13th

Roath Street Names – Ted Richards.

The history of the origin of some of the street names in the parish of Roath. followed by a reading from **Forbidden Love** by **Julie Griffin Pritchard**

Wednesday, Nov 10th

Cardiff's Edwardian Parks – Rosie James.

How parks for public enjoyment evolved.

Wednesday, Dec 8th

Cardiff Rugby Fans 1999-2019 – John Briggs, Freelance Photographer. Capturing the street carnival of Match Days.

Wednesday, Jan 12th

The Lost Houses of Cardiff – Matthew Williams.

Considers the boom in 'gentleman' houses', long since demolished.

Wednesday, Feb 9th

The Herbert Family – Barry Davies.

Evaluates the lasting impact of the dynasty on S.E. Wales.

Tuesday, Mar 29th

Pengam Airport – Mario Greening.

The very early days of aviation in Cardiff.

Wednesday, Apr 13th

Ruperra Castle – Pat Jones-Jenkins.

1626, Sir Thomas Morgan of Machen builds an unique 'pageant castle'

Wednesday, May 11th

Peterloo Massacre – Jeff Childs.

Four years after Waterloo, the cavalry charged Manchester civilians.

Wednesday, June 1st (via Zoom)

Mistress Blanche, Queen Elizabeth I's Confidante & the Bacton Altar Cloth – Mrs Ruth Richardson.

Summer Historic Walks & Visits July 2021

1st. July - A Walk in the Park, Peter Finch

8th. July - Insole Court, Alun Salisbury

15th. July - Cathays Cemetery

22nd. July - Traces of Old Cardiff, Geraint Denison-Kurg

29th. July - St. Margaret's Church, Jean Rose

Lecture Programme 2020/21

Held via Zoom due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Wednesday, 9th December at 19.30

Rachel Knight - the Life of a Coroner

Rachel is a criminal barrister who works part-time for both the Crown Prosecution Service and, as an Assistant Coroner, for the Coronial Area of South Wales Central.

Thursday, 14th January at 7pm

Jennifer Phillips - Roath Rules

Henry, Charles and Davy Rule were a trio of seafaring brothers who came to live in Roath in the nineteenth century. This talk will look at their ancestral connection with a village in Pembrokeshire, family adventures at sea (including a connection to the Titanic) and what became of their descendants in Cardiff, among them a patient at Whitchurch Hospital, an eminent neurosurgeon, losses in both World Wars and a continuing family connection with Roath.

Thursday, 11th February at 7pm

Malcolm Ranson - History of Llanederyn

Thursday, 11 March at 7pm

Jeff Childs - Landowners of Roath from the Normans to the twentieth century.

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.

Thursday, April 8th at 7pm

Ted Richards - Captain George Auger, the Cardiff Giant, the tallest man on earth.

The billboards for the Barnum and Bailey Circus in America in the early 1900s advertised Captain George Auger as the World's Tallest Man. Whether he was or not is open to conjecture but he was certainly up there among the tallest. 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 talk will also touch on how the research into George Auger was carried out.

Thursday 13th May at 7pm

Dr Andrew Hignell - Early Sport in Cardiff

The talk looks at recreational activity in the vicinity of Kingsway and St. John's Church, before 1875. Also, the development of the Arms Park and the reasons why the Marquess of Bute was keen to promote sporting activity in the heart of the town. References include the playing of fives, handball, bull-baiting, bare-knuckle boxing and cricket.

Thursday 11th Jun at 7pm

Griff Harries - The World Whistled their Melodies

The story of some Welsh composers.

Summer Field Trips 2020

Cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Lecture Programme 2019/20

Thursday 12th. SEPTEMBER, 2019

AGM followed by **A Short History of The Society** by Peter Gillard and **Some Streets of Roath** - Introduced by Malcolm Ranson, the R.L.H.S. Research Forum will share their findings in a Group Presentation, based on the study of some Roath streets. The streets selected reflect the contributors particular interests or connections.

Thursday 10th. OCTOBER, 2019

The Story and History of Flat Holm Island

Mr Peter Sampson, Chairman and Island Tour Guide of **The Flat Holm Society**, will speak from the perspective of the charity, dedicated to help protect the island's wildlife and historic environment. flatholmsociety.org.uk

Thursday 14th. NOVEMBER, 2019

The History of Welsh Public Libraries

Susanna Thomas & Caroline Noall, will give an overview of the Public Library Service, throughout its history, to the present day. Under discussion will be: the first public library in the UK, how the Libraries Act came about, where Cardiff's first libraries were and Andrew Carnegie's gift to Cardiff.

Thursday 12th. DECEMBER, 2019

King of all Balloons

Mark Davies, an Oxford local historian discusses his biography of **James Sadler** (1753-1828), an Oxford pastry cook who in 1784, became the first Englishman to fly. In 1810, Sadler was also the first to fly across Welsh soil, as he crossed (but landed in), the Bristol Channel.

Thursday 9th. JANUARY, 2020

Tracing and restoring a family war memorial

R.L.H.S. Member **Jeremy Sparkes** unravels a family history trail concerning his great uncle, **2nd Lt Vivian Llewellyn, Royal Welsh Fusiliers**. A working-class lad from Cathays, killed in action just days before the Armistice. Six months later, a costly marble memorial tablet was erected to his memory. *How was it afforded and what happened to it?*

Thursday 13th. FEBRUARY, 2020

The Incredible Life of Dr William Price

Dean Powell tells the story of Dr Price, one of the most flamboyant and eccentric characters in Welsh history. Chartist, surgeon, heretic, archdruid and pioneer of cremation. An original

thinker he created an embryonic national health service, masterminded the first Museum of Welsh Life, launched Wales's first cooperative society and was exiled to France as a political activist - *all this and more!*

The remainder of the 2019/20 Lecture Programme was cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Summer Field Trips 2019

Thursday, 6th. June:

Merthyr Town Centre.

A guided walk around Merthyr led by the charismatic historian, Huw Williams, with afternoon tea to finish. Cost £10.00, inclusive of VEST transport and afternoon tea. Mini-buses leave St. Andrew's URC at 12.30 (estimated return - 17.00).

Thursday, 13th. June:

Cardiff Reform Synagogue, Moira Terrace, Cardiff. CF24 OJ.

We will be welcomed by R.L.H.S. Member, Stanley Soffa, who this year was awarded the BEM in the Queen's New Year's Honours list - For services to community cohesion, combating anti-semitism and the Jewish community in Cardiff. This evening visit also includes a talk on "The History of the Jewish Community of Cardiff", beginning at 19.30. Free on-street parking in Howard Gardens.

Wednesday, 19th. June:

Cardiff Masonic Hall, 8, Guildford Street, Cardiff. CF10 2HL

Mr Naunton Liles will guide us around this fascinating Victorian complex, founded in 1893 and centred around three Masonic temples. He will outline its history and how it functions today. Tour begins at 14.00.

Thursday, 27th. June:

Maindy Barracks, Whitchurch Road, Cardiff. CF14 3YE.

John Dart, retired Sergeant Major of The Welch Regiment, will put us through our paces at this military installation, built in 1877. Look lively, you're in the army now! Tour begins at 14.00.

Thursday, 4th. July:

Pierhead Building & Norwegian Church, Cardiff Bay

At the Pierhead Building, Alan Knight will give an historical introduction, before we engage with the various exhibitions for ourselves. This will be followed by a leisurely stroll along the waterfront, for refreshments at a second landmark building - the Norwegian Church. Meet at 14.00 at the Pierhead Building.

Wednesday, 10th. July:

Tewkesbury Abbey.

The VEST mini-buses will arrive & depart from the Abbey. Leaving at 16.00 gives ample time to see something of both the Abbey and the town. Entry to the Abbey is free but visitors are asked to leave a donation. Mini-buses leave St. Andrew's URC at 10.00 (estimated return - 17.00). Cost: £9.00.

Lecture Programme 2018/19

THURSDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2018

AGM

followed at 8.30 by

Ralph Hancock, Roath's Royal Gardener and 3-times Chelsea Gold Medal Winner.

Bob Priddle, Senior Horticultural Lecturer, shares the little-known achievements of innovative Garden Designer, **Ralph Hancock** – born at 20, Keppoch Street, on 2nd. July, 1893.

THURSDAY 11th OCTOBER 2018

The Cruel Streets Revisited.

John Wake, retired Police Officer & Author, will discuss Cardiff's Lawless Past, it's Growth, it's Characters, it's Murders, and it's Mean Streets – from the viewpoint of Cardiff's poorest and most vulnerable citizens.

Thursday 8th November 2018

Cardiff Naturalists' Society, 150 years of Nature and Conservation.

Andy Kendall, Geologist and the 'Nats' 113th. President, will reference four venerable, past Presidents, with direct links to Roath; as he outlines the history, and achievements of this august society.

Thursday 13th December 2018

Some Early Cardiff Socialists.

Dr. Martin Wright, Lecturer in History, at Cardiff University and author of "Wales and Socialism: Political Culture and National Identity Before the Great War"; will be speaking on the socialist movement in Cardiff, in the 1890's and it's many colourful characters.

Thursday 10th January 2019

Death by poison: An unfortunate end to Welsh sporting legend Norman Biggs.

Ted Richards's talk looks at the Biggs family of "Oldwell", Penylan. In particular Norman, who played both rugby for Wales, and cricket for Glamorgan, before entering the military.

Thursday 14th February 2019

Some old photographs of Roath.

Ted Richards, Chairman, took us on a journey through old Roath.

Thursday 14th March 2019

History of Merthyr.

Huw Williams, Joint-Editor of the "Merthyr Historian" and author of "Merthyr Then and Now, will give a presentation on the "Iron Heritage Town" of Merthyr Tydfil.

Thursday 11th April 2019

Angels in the Line of Fire

Rosemary Chaloner considers the indispensable role of women working in war zones; through the development of the nursing service. The period covered shows how Florence

Nightingale's experience, in the Crimean War, provided a cornerstone for establishing the professional and voluntary nursing services, that rapidly developed in response to World War 1.

Thursday 9th May 2019

The family-owned businesses, that established Roath as Cardiff's premier, suburban shopping area.

Mike Collins, grandson of the founders of **Collins Drapers**, considers the retail development of Albany and Wellfield Road and the great changes that took place, after World War II.

Summer Field Trips 2018

Thursday 7th. June 2018

ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH in WALES

115 Splott Road, Cardiff. CF24 2BW

Originally part of the Parish of Roath, this is a fine 1887-8, Grade II Listed building. Architects G F Bodley & T Garner's design, was influenced by the C15th church of St Mary's, Tenby.

<https://churchofstsaviourcardiff.weebly.com>

Thursday 14th. June 2018

NEWPORT SHIP & NATIONAL ROMAN LEGION MUSEUM

After visiting the **Newport Ship Restoration Site**, we will go on to **Caerleon**. There we can explore for ourselves, the museum, bath house and numerous Roman sites and remains - plus grab a cuppa!

<http://www.newport.gov.uk/heritage/Newport-Ship>

<https://museum.wales/roman/>

Thursday 21st. June 2018

ST. FAGANS NATIONAL MUSEUM of HISTORY

<http://museum.wales/stfagans>

Thursday 28th. June 2018

CATHAYS BRANCH & HERITAGE LIBRARY

Fairoak Road, Cathays, CF24 4PW

An introductory tour of the layout and resources, including the local history archive, by a member of staff.

Thursday 5th. July 2018

HIGHFIELDS CHURCH

Highfields Church, Monthermer Road, Cathays, Cardiff. CF24 4QW

<http://highfieldschurch.org.uk>

Thursday 12th. July 2018:

CYFARTHFA CASTLE MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Cyfarthfa Park, Brecon Road, Merthyr Tydfil. CF47 8RE

<http://www.cyfarthfa.com>

40th Anniversary Lecture Programme 2017-2018

Thursday, 14th. September 2017

AGM followed by a video presentation from **Mr Alan Knight**, on **Old Splott**.

Thursday, 12th. October 2017

Mr Gavin Jones, Project Manager, from Natural Resources Wales, will give an illustrated presentation on the **Flood Prevention Scheme**, currently under construction, in our Roath Parks and Gardens.

Thursday, 9th. November 2017

Mr Viv Giles, will speak on **The Roll of Honour of the Mackintosh Institute**, based on his research into members of the Institute, who gave their lives in World War One.

Thursday, 14th. December 2017

Mrs Jean Rose, lecturer and author of **“Cardiff Churches Through Time”**, will give an illustrated presentation on “The Churches of Roath”.

Thursday, 11th. January 2018

Mr Rhys David will talk about his book **Tell Mum Not to Worry**, based on letters home and reminiscences of Cardiff, by a teenaged soldier, (later to become his father).

Thursday, 8th. February 2018

Mr Richard Britton, historian and former senior guide at Cardiff Castle, will recount the story of **Lady Gwendolen**, wife of the third Marquess of Bute.

Thursday, 8th. March 2018

Mr Paul Busby, National Trust Historian at Tredegar House, is returning with another insight into the lives of the gentry, with a presentation entitled, **Mansions of the Morgans: Tredegar, Ruperra and Machen**.

Thursday, 12th. April 2018

Mr Jeff Childs, local historian, lecturer and author, who joined R.L.H.S. in it's founding year, illustrates **The Growth and Urban Development of Roath**.

Thursday, 10th. May 2018

Dr Phil Carradice, Welsh writer and broadcaster, is welcomed back, to give an illustrated presentation, entitled **A Ragged School for Ragged Children**; which recounts the provisions made to give poor and destitute children an education.

Summer Visits 2017

Thursday, 1st. June 2017:

St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church

St. Peters Street, Cardiff. CF24 3BA

Guided by the eminent Cardiff Historian Mr. Sean Cleary.

<http://www.stpeters-roath.co.uk>

Thursday, 8th. June 2017

The Senedd, the National Assembly for Wales

Harbour Drive, Cardiff. CF99 1NA

Invited by Jenny Rathbone AM, The Senedd & how NAFW functions.

<http://www.assembly.wales>

Thursday, 15th. June 2017:

National Museum Wales Collections Centre

Parc Nantgarw, CF15 7QT.

Staff will share with us "The Care of Collections and Conservation".

<http://www.museum.wales/collections-centre>

Thursday, 22nd. June 2017:

Saint John the Baptist Church, Cardiff

St. John Street, Cardiff. CF10 1GJ

A guided tour of this rare survivor of mediaeval Cardiff from the Priest in Charge, The Rev. Canon Dr. Sarah Rowland Jones.

http://www.cardiffstjohnncityparish.org.uk/Parish_history.htm

Thursday, 29th. June 2017:

Cardiff Crown Court

Law Courts, Cathays Park, Cardiff. CF10 3PG

Gain privileged insight into CCC, before the important work of the day begins.

<https://courtribunalfinder.service.gov.uk/courts/cardiff-crown-court>

Thursday, 06th. July 2017:

Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Cardiff

4, Merches Place, Grangetown, Cardiff. CF11 6RD

A cultural visit to the first and largest Hindu Temple in Wales. *Dress code.

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

Thursday, 13th. July 2017:

Big Pit National Coal Museum

Blaenafon, Pontypool. NP4 9XP

A day out to Big Pit and the Gilchrist-Thomas Iron Works.

<https://museum.wales/bigpit>

Lecture Programme 2016/17

John Brigg - Memories of old Cardiff,

Dr Phil Carradice - Cardiff and the Vale in the First World War

Paul Busby from Tredegar House on - Godfrey Charles Morgan, Lord Tredegar.

Alan Thorne - Cardiff and Penarth Ships and their contribution to the Spanish Civil War

Rev Lionel Fanthorpe - **The Story of Croglin Hall.**

Steve Rowson - **The Glamorganshire Canal**

Jeff Childs - **Roath in the 17th and 18th Century.**

Summer Visits 2016

Peter Finch's **Death Row**

St.Margaret's Church guided history walk

Parkminster Church tour with quiz

A tour of the facilities at the **Welsh Institute of Sport,**

A return visit to **The Cardiff Story Musuem,**

A gallery and collection tour at **The Butetown History and Arts Centre**

A visit to **The Evolution of Wales** permanent exhibition at the **National Museum**

Lecture Programme 2015/16

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10

Annual General Meeting (note 7p.m. start) 7.45 p.m. Martin Sheldon, former Librarian at Penylan Library will present an illustrated talk on **The Urban Development of Roath**

THURSDAY OCTOBER 8

A History of Howells School. Joan Hamilton - Jones, former Head of English at Howells will trace the history of the school, from early days to the present.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12

Where Cardiff Edges the Estuary. Peter Finch, author, historian and lecturer pays us a very welcome return to give a talk based on his latest book.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 10

The Kemys-Tynte Family is the subject of a talk by Malcolm Ranson, following extensive research on this important dynasty.

THURSDAY JANUARY 14

The Development of Rugby in 19th century Cardiff and Roath. Writer and sports historian Gwyn Prescott will present this talk which is of interest to all rugby fans.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11

History of Roath — the First 500 Years is the theme that Jeff Childs will present, looking at the beginnings in the late Norman period and the fascinating feudal system that

administered the old manor of Roath. This will reflect aspects of Jeffs book Roath, 1000 Years of HISTORY

THURSDAY MARCH 10

A History of Albany Road School. Wil Howlett, Acting Headmaster, will trace the origins and history of the School. Many members met Wil on our visit earlier in the year

THURSDAY APRIL 14

Cathays Cemetery — a World Tour. Gordon Hindess of Friends of Cathays Cemetery will give an illustrated presentation on the famous people and events connected with this Victorian cemetery.

Summer Trips 2015

Talk on the **Tabernacle** on Penywain Road

Albany School

A behind-the-scenes look in **St Davids Hall.**

Guides on using the **STACS Library Resource Information System**

The Bute **Park Restoration Project**

A guided history walk down **City Road.**

Winter Programme 2014/5

Thursday September 11

AGM and Members Evening (note; 7pm start)

Thursday October 9

Dr Andrew Richardson. **“The Life and Times of John Batchelor”**

Thursday November 13

Glen Booker. **“G.I. Brides of Wales, Cardiff and Roath”**

Thursday December 11

Alun Salisbury **“The Silvertown to Durango Narrow Gauge Railway”**

Thursday January 8

Richard Britton. **“Districts and Suburbs of Cardiff”**

Thursday February 12

John Prior-Morris **“The Insoles of Llandaff”**

Thursday March 12

Joan Hamilton-Jones. **“A History of Howells School, Llandaff”**

Thursday April 9

Peter Gillard. **“A History of Cardiff’s Parks”**

Summer Programme 2014

Thursday June 5th

The Cricket Museum at the Swalec Stadium, Sophia Gardens.

Andrew Hignell, Curator, will show us around the Museum, followed by a tour of the Stadium and afternoon tea. (£5.00 Charge) Entrance: turn left past the front of the Welsh Institute for Sport building. 2p.m. start.

Thursday June 12th

“Chapter Arts Centre”

We visit one of Cardiff’s leading centres for the arts, in Romilly Crescent, Canton. 2pm. start. (Allow plenty of time — parking difficult)

Thursday June 19th

“Nofit State Circus”.

We certainly have something different this time with a visit to the main rehearsal area of one of Cardiff’s premier arts groups and view the restoration of the beautiful church where they are based in Four Elms Road, Roath. 2pm. start

Thursday June 26th.

”Penarth Pier Pavilion”

A visit to the extensively refurbished Pavilion on Penarth Pier (check times of buses to the Promenade). 2p.m. start

Thursday July 3

“Minnie Street Church”

Currently the subject of an exhibition t the Cardiff Story — to end of May. This Church is one of the oldest in Cardiff and is a real hidden gem. Situated on the corner of Fanny Street (off Crwys Road) and Minny Street. 2p.m. start

Thursday June 10th

“Bute Park Restoration Project”

Assemble by the West Lodge on Canton Bridge, for a guided tour around the refurbishments to include the Castle Moat and the Blackfriars Monastery. *Please note 7pm. start

SPECIAL NOTICE

Roath Local History Society, in partnership with The Cardiff Story Museum, will be mounting a three month exhibition on a theme of "A History of the Mackintosh Estate". To be held in the City Lab on the lower ground floor of the Old Library on The Hayes. The official opening will be on Saturday June 7 at 2p.m. Please come along to support the Society.

Lecture Programme 2013/14

Thursday, September 12th 2013

AGM followed by the ever popular **Members Evening**

Thursday, October 10th 2013

Thomas George. (Cardiff University). **Cardiff and the First World War**

This lecture will explore the ways in which the men and women of Cardiff contributed to the war effort, on the home front.

Thursday, November 14th 2013

Fred Davies. **The Taff Vale Railway**

Fred returns for the second part of the history of the TVR.

Thursday, December 12th 2013

Dr Andrew Hignell. **How the Ashes came to Cardiff.**

Prominent sports historian and Curator of the Cricket Museum at the Swalec stadium Andrew will trace the negotiations which resulted in the first Ashes Test in Cardiff.

Thursday, January 9th, 2014.

Dr Andrew Richardson. (Cardiff University). **Lords of Bricks and Mortar**

This talk will explore the development of the Castle and Town of Cardiff, from Roman times to the present and how it influenced civic pride and identity and gave power to its occupants

Thursday, February 13th, 2014

Rev Stewart Lisk. **The Civic Chaplain**

Rev Lisk is Vicar of St Margaret's Church. He will recount the with people and events with which he has been involved, as Civic Chaplain for Cardiff.

Thursday, March 13th, 2014

Dr Diane Brook. **Cardiff Archaeological Society.**

Diane is Vice Chair of CAS and pays a return visit to tell us of the work of the Society and the excavations and explorations with which they have been involved.

Thursday, April 10th, 2014

Peter Gillard. (Secretary RLHS). **A History of Cardiff's Parks.**

This illustrated talk will trace the evolution of parks and open spaces in Cardiff and their relationship to the development of the Town, City and Capital, over time