

Open Saturday and Sunday afternoons



[www.ClydachHeritageCentre.com](http://www.ClydachHeritageCentre.com)

Newsletter No. 4 October 2016

## Letter from the Chairman

This has been another busy year at the Heritage Centre with visitor numbers steadily increasing. As you will read elsewhere in the Newsletter we welcomed our 10,000<sup>th</sup> visitor and we have become a destination for various groups. This year the Centre was presented with an award by Clydach Community Council in recognition of our work in 'the preservation of local history and community service'.



Jean Round and Meryl Hunt with the Community Council Award.

With Swansea Canal Society we produced an event titled The Power of Water as part of the prestigious British Science Festival. The dram project is now complete and we have to thank a very enthusiastic group of volunteers and helpers who all contributed to the creation of this marvellous display. Last but by no means least we thank our volunteers who have staffed the Centre throughout the year and contributed so much to our successful operation.

*Susan Evans*

## Visitors

In March we welcomed our 10,000<sup>th</sup> visitor since opening in October 2011. Melanie Bowden of Trebanos was delighted to receive a certificate commemorating this notable event from Sue Evans, Chairman of The Friends of Clydach Heritage Centre. She also received a meal voucher donated by The New Inn, Clydach. Melanie said 'This is a wonderful little facility and we are so lucky that we have people who are preserving and presenting our heritage for ourselves and future generations'.



Melanie Bowden of Trebanos receives her certificate from Sue Evans.

The Centre has also become something of a destination. The U3A Cycling group, the riders on the Gower Cycling Festival's Port to Pottery ride and the local Cancer Research Walking group all calling in at various times for hot and cold drinks, Welsh cakes and ice cream. It was good to be visited by Ynystawe school, with about 30 children all learning something about their locality. One Sunday we even provided the venue for an impromptu family picnic when the weather prevented them sitting out in Coedgwilym Park.

# The Power of Water



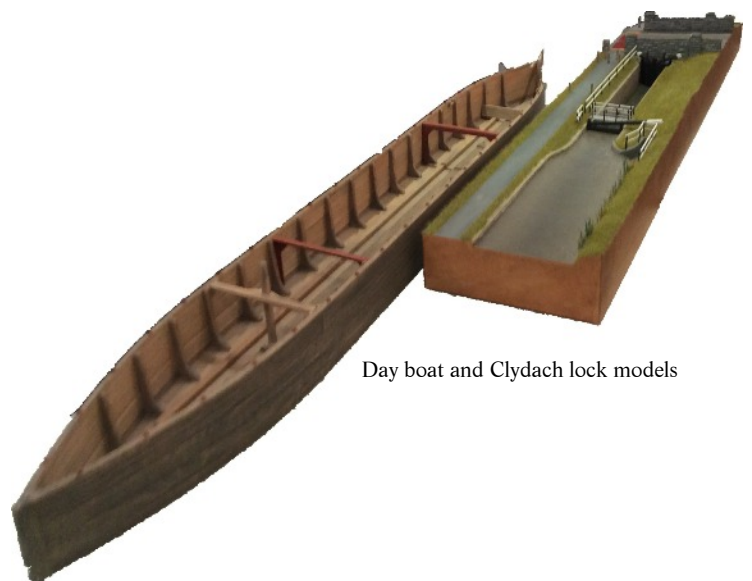
Into Trebanos Lock chamber

In September the British Science Festival came to Swansea for the first time in over twenty years. As well as the formal lectures at the University there were to be outreach events to bring science to the community. We teamed up with Swansea Canal Society and offered a joint event titled 'The Power of Water'. The aim was to show how powerful a force water can exert and how this can be used to move boats up and down hills.

There were scale models of a Swansea Canal day boat and of Clydach lock on display. These were made by Michelle Davidson of SCS and used to show how the canal worked. Did you know that Swansea Canal boats didn't have to turn round? They were pointed at each end and when they got to the end of their journey the towing pillar and the tiller would be moved to the opposite end of the boat and off they would go!

The lock model was used to explain how boats can move up and down hill. Close the gates and open the valves and the lock chamber fills up with water. When the water levels are equal open the top gate and the boat can sail into the chamber. Close the top gates and open the valves to let the water out. When the water levels at the bottom of the lock are equal open the bottom gates and out goes the boat! DVDs of the local canal network, The Swansea, The Neath and The Tennant, were also shown and helped give visitors a taste for this bygone form of transport. The Canal Society laid on rafted canoes, with guides, and visitors were able to paddle to Trebanos. Here they could take the canoe into the lock chamber and get a completely different view of the canal. On the voyage the guides pointed out items of interest. Wildlife was sadly in short supply and no one saw the kingfisher.

Over eighty people visited the Centre during the day including the Severn and South Wales Waterways Partnership group who had arranged a meeting in Pontardawe that day. Everybody agreed that they had found the event entertaining and informative.



Day boat and Clydach lock models



# The Wheels are on the dram

In the last Newsletter we talked about the work we were doing to improve the dram display. Since then we have completed the project, the dram now stands on wheels on rails and sleepers and ballast just as it would have done when it was working.

Supaheat Fuels of Players Industrial Estate donated a load of coal as it would have come out of a mine.

These large lumps of anthracite really show off as they sparkle in the sun. On top of the coal there is a display of three colliers' picks, from different eras of the coal mining industry. An information board complements the display and gives details of the picks and the coal. The various volunteers and helpers contributed immensely to the project, in particular James King Engineering who donated the rails and did the machining and fabrication work. Thanks are also due to Steve Mogford of Resolven who extracted the wheels from the Melincourt Brook and transported them to Coedgwilym, all for nothing.



The dram with its coal and picks.

To complete the display Mike Diment donated a set of coalman's scales and weights, a reminder of the days when fuel didn't come to your house in a pipe.



Coalman's scales and weights

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## What have people said about us?

*A new world to explore.*  
Mumbles

*a wonderful place, brought back memories*  
Chelmsford

*Lovely place to visit. Thank you so much.*  
Cambridge

*you're doing great work here. Don't stop*  
Sketty

*splendid work*  
Ravenhill

Extracts from our Visitors' book.

# Paying Subscriptions

Each year we have to pay for insurance and licences to allow us to run the centre. These basic running costs are met by subscription and the sale of goods at the Heritage Centre.

Membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> September and the membership fee is £5.00 per year.

We have set up a facility to pay subscriptions annually using PayPal. This is much easier for both you and us. To pay using PayPal go to the website [www.clydachheritagecentre.com](http://www.clydachheritagecentre.com) and click on the Support Us tab.

If you pay tax on any income you receive then please consider stating 'Yes' in the GiftAid box. GiftAid increases the value of subscriptions and donations by 25%. So for every £1 that you give GiftAided the Heritage Centre will actually receive £1.25 and at no cost to yourself.

## I would like to become a Friend of Clydach Heritage Centre.

I enclose my subscription for the year

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Post Code: .....

Tel: .....

Email: .....

Age (if under 18): .....

**Membership Fee: £5/year**

I would like to make a donation of £.....  
making a total of £.....

*giftaid it*

If you pay income tax or capital gains tax we can claim 25p for every pound you give to us - at no extra cost to you.

If you are happy for us to claim Gift Aid on your contribution from 6th April this year please tick here.

Signed: .....

Date: ...../...../.....

# Get to know us better



Our social media platforms are a great way to learn about what we do, find out about upcoming events, check our opening times and find out how you can get involved by becoming a member or volunteering your time. Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and join a growing group of people with an interest in what we do.

Visit our Facebook page @clydachheritagecentre to keep up to date with our news, events, view photos and more. Like us, post your review or comment.

You can also follow us on Twitter at @ClydachHtgCtr to receive our tweets and occasional retweets from other followers. Follow us and we will follow you back.

You can also stay in touch via the website, [www.clydachheritagecentre.com](http://www.clydachheritagecentre.com) where you can keep up to date with our news, events and more.



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