

Open Saturday and Sunday afternoons



www.ClydachHeritageCentre.com

Newsletter No. 6 October 2018

Letter from the Chairman

Clydach Heritage Centre is organised and run by a dedicated band of volunteers who rely on grants which help to fund developments. This year we have been most fortunate to receive grants from the Vale Community Donations committee, Clydach Community Council and our local county councillors. We thank them very much for this help.

This year the Centre has also been gifted some artefacts of local interest. Issues of Nickel News from the late 1960s and early 1970s have provided some interesting reading and an opportunity to see some of our community in their younger days! A sweet tin, a Coronation souvenir of King George V, and a pair of bridge, or Barlow, rails excavated in Kingrosia have been donated. This design of rail would have been used by Brunel for his Great Western Railway but the rails we have are lighter and probably designed for a dramroad.



Barlow rails



A selection of Nickel News



Riders on the Gower Cycling Festival's Port to Pottery ride.

The Centre has hosted various events again this year. The annual 43-2-C cycle ride organised by Cwmtawe Cycle Group to promote the cycle route between Clydach and Swansea Bay. The Gower Cycling Festival's Port to Pottery ride also called in, as it has done for the past four years, en route to Pontardawe. More locally the Cwmtawe Medical Practice's Social Prescribing Group have taken to meeting at the Centre and has been taking people on Well-being walks along the canal, popping in for a chat and a warm drink. At the end of August Swansea Council organised a Sport in the Park day, this brought many people to Coedgwilym and quite a few visited the Centre to sample the rolls and cakes and also to look at and comment on the displays.

In the centenary of the ending of World War 1 Rhian Evans, our youngest committee member, has prepared an exhibition commemorating the work of the Mond in producing materials for the war effort, and the refinery's workers.

Susan Evans

Rainbows learn about coronations



Clydach Rainbows, working for their Coronation badge, visited the Centre in June with their leader Gaynor Ellis.



Commemorative Plaque at entrance to Coedgwilym Park

PONTARDAWE R D C
PARC COEDGWILYM
THIS PARK WAS OPENED BY
COUNCILLOR W WILLIAMS JP
JUNE 6TH 1953
DURING THE CORONATION
CELEBRATIONS
E I I R
CHAIRMAN COUNCILLOR O G THOMAS JP
CLERK O GLYN MEREDITH SURVEYOR O S F WILLIAMS
M I MUN E

A sweet tin, a souvenir of the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary from June 1911 was of great interest as was the fact that Coedgwilym Park was opened during the week of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953. This is reflected in the stone plaques set into the gateposts at either side of the main entrance. They were also told that our queen is the granddaughter of King George V.

All of the photographs and films which they were shown of this period were black and white; it was quite a problem explaining that the world wasn't all black and white at this time!

Well being walks

The Cwmtawe Social Prescribing Service is a project funded by the Cwmtawe GP cluster and administered by Swansea Council for Voluntary Service (SCVS).

A Clydach Network was set up in January 2018 which has brought community groups together once a month to talk about what they do and how we can work together. Two group activities have been set up in Clydach, the monthly Conversation Club and a monthly Wellbeing Walk. Clydach Heritage Centre (through Jean)

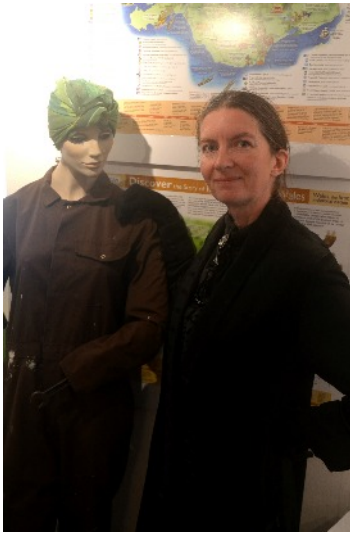


Well being walkers in Coedgwilym in June

have opened up specially to host end of walk refreshments, toilet facilities, and a friendly face and place that people feel comfortable in. The walk is aimed primarily at bringing people together, outdoors, to enjoy exercise and make friends. Jean and CHC have played a huge part in making this happen and we thank them for their help.

Cindy Hayward Social Prescribing Co-ordinator

The Mond Nickel Company and the First World War



Debra John with a female Mond employee

This year brings the centenary of the end of WWI and, as a result, a new exhibition to the Centre. The exhibition looks at The Mond and its role in the First World War and is based on the dissertation research of committee member Rhian Evans.



Tonia Antoniazzi MP opens the exhibition

Nickel was in high demand during WWI, and nickel refined at Clydach would go on to form armour plating for tanks and battleships. In addition to this, the by-products from the refining process were used in explosives. The Mond Nickel Company had the advantage of having a virtual monopoly on British nickel, which resulted in their production almost doubling during the war years.

The exhibition also looks at workers at the Mond. The workforce tripled as a result of the increase in production, and with 250 out of 850 male employees enlisting within the first few months of the war, females were recruited to fill the gap. Little is known, however, about the type of work women did, as employment records show their occupation as merely 'female'.

During the war, the Mond Nickel Company was chaired by Alfred Mond, son of Ludwig. Alfred was viewed favourably by some for his charitable actions such as opening his home to Belgian refugees and refusing his wage as an MP during the war. Others felt that he profited from the war and should have done something more productive than give money away.

Furthermore, some people viewed his German roots with suspicion and accused him of being a spy and fraternising with the enemy.

The exhibition was formally opened in late August by Tonia Antoniazzi, MP for Gower. She was joined by David Davies, chair of Vale Donations Committee and Lee Davies, Sustainability Manager at Vale. Debra John also attended and performed a spine tingling monologue on the Mond titled 'Make Yourself Necessary', the motto of the Mond Company. Fourteen other people attended the launch and were treated to some authentic 1916 'Trench Cake', prepared by Sue, and it tasted a lot better than it sounds!



Lee Davies, David Davies and Rhian Evans discuss the exhibition

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 1st October to 30th 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 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:/...../.....

* The Friends will only use the information provided on this form for the purposes of contacting you about FHC business.

Get to know us better

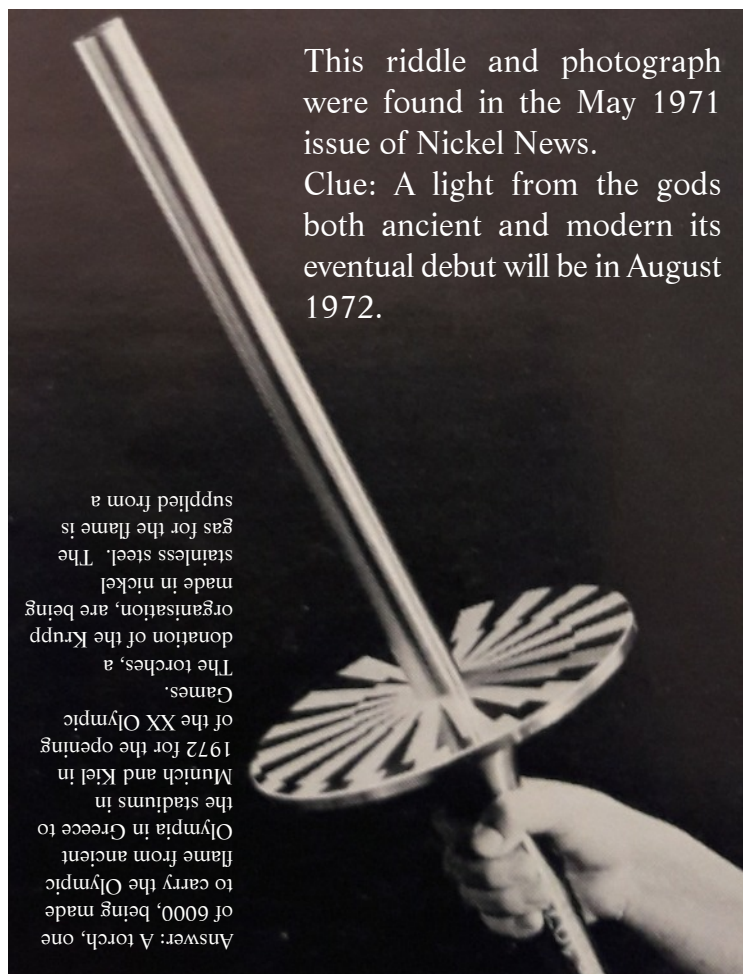


Visit our Facebook page @clydachheritagecentre to keep up to date with our news, events, view photos and more. Like us, post your review or Comment.

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 where you can keep up to date with our news, events and more.

Found in Nickel News



This riddle and photograph were found in the May 1971 issue of Nickel News.

Clue: A light from the gods both ancient and modern its eventual debut will be in August 1972.

Answer: A torch, one
to carry the Olympic
flame from ancient
Olympia in Greece to
the stadiums in
Munich and Kiel in
1972 for the opening
of the XX Olympic
Games.
The torches, a
donation of the Krupp
organisation, are being
made in nickel
stainless steel. The
gas for the flame is
supplied from a



Newsletter printed with financial support from
Vale Community Donations Committee