



E-NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024

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E-NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S WELCOME

Well, the clocks have gone back, and the days are shortening. As the wettest city in Britain, Cardiff gets more than its fair share of rain. But not all is dark and damp - autumn also offers the prospect of sunny days and crisp blue skies, when the colours in Roath's parks can appear stunning, gladdening our hearts.



Credit: [Richard Szwejkowski](#) [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

Lyn Smith, our Membership Secretary has passed on this snippet for your amusement:

While researching a book on interesting drunkards in 1901, author Arthur L. Humphreys came across a Cardiff man who had gone out drinking with a label attached to his coat, stating his name and address, asking anyone who found him to bring him home. At the end of the label was a thoughtful note: 'When you prop me against the door, knock, and, for your own sake, don't wait for my wife to thank you!'

[Taken from Foster's 'Welsh Oddities']

As Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday approach, spare a thought for the war dead of Roath. Ted Richards has compiled an excellent [Roath Virtual War Memorial](#) which compiles the names and addresses of those from Roath who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars – do have a look.

We have a very full newsletter this month - thank you very much to all those who have contributed. New items are always welcome.

30 ILTON ROAD

By Martyn Swain

The 1921 census entry for 30 Ilton Road contains an interesting entry. The residents are John Harry Grinham (aged 38) and his wife Stracey Mary Grinham (aged 40), together with their son Harry Derek (8) and daughter Joyce Mary (4). He is listed as the accountant for Hill's Garage on Westgate Street. The item that sparked my curiosity was Stracey's place of birth - Bombay, India. What was her story, how did she come to be born in India in 1881?

John Grinham and Stracey Pearson were married in 1909 in Edmonton, Middlesex and in 1911 were living in Hornsey, Middlesex. She had also been living in Hornsey in the previous census of 1901 with her parents and three younger siblings. The 1901 census threw up other questions. Stracey's brother Albert Bapty Pearson was born the year after Stracey but in Ilkley, Yorkshire. The next child, Florence Gertrude, was born in Bombay in 1886 but the youngest sister, Grace Dorothy, was born in Clapham, London in 1887. By the 1891 census they were all back in England and now living in Rothwell, Leeds.

Stracey's parents were Joseph Thomas Pearson and Stracey Hannah Smith. Joseph came from Armley, Leeds and Hannah from Otley about 10 miles to the north-west. But they married in Girgaum Mission Church, Bombay in May 1877. Unusually, Joseph was baptised the following year in the same church. Girgaum (current spelling seems to be Girgaon) is an area of Bombay (now Mumbai). Joseph Pearson's occupation was given as an accountant for Bapty Bros Ltd. I didn't believe he had named his son after his employer without good reason, and I discovered his mother's maiden name was Mary Hannah Bapty. Mary Hannah also originated from Armley, as had Joseph's father William Pearson. So what were they all doing in Bombay in the 1870's and 1880's?

Mary Hannah Bapty had a younger brother, James, born in 1828, two years after her. He had businesses in Leeds as a builder, a timber merchant and as a naphtha manufacturer. In March 1850 there was an explosion and fire at his naphtha factory in which one man died and three others (including James Bapty) were severely burned. Naphtha was a flammable mixture derived from crude oil and with a variety of uses as a fuel or solvent and in soap. At the inquest the coroner took the unusual step of going, with the jury, to James' bedside to get his account of the tragedy. The verdict was recorded as "accidental death" although it had been caused by a poor repair to a flue and a worker not properly carrying out his instructions to extinguish the fire being used to provide the heat to distil the naphtha.

James was in partnership with one of his brothers, Frederick, but in 1856 he dissolved their partnership as timber merchants, moved to Bombay with his wife Annie, and started a variety of business ventures, including as a timber merchant and also selling disinfectant.

James Bapty was an entrepreneur and an innovative engineer. It would appear his most profitable venture was the establishment of East India Flour Mills and a bakery

business in the 1870's. In his obituary *The Times of India* stated that "by dint of hard labour and the exercise of natural business abilities he soon established himself in the country." It went on to say, "by the use of improved mechanical appliances and of other means which suggested themselves to his shrewd practical mind Mr Bapty was not only able to make a large profit but reduce the price of flour in the city by half and at the same time supply a better product for the money".

JAMES BAPTY.
—
AUCTION SALE OF TEAK TIMBER.
THIS DAY, THURSDAY, the 21st instant, at 3 P. M., Mr. JAMES BAPTY, will sell by Public Auction at Tank Bunder :—
 544 Squares and } Moulmein Teak Timber.
 60 Planks
 ex *Aganoris*; by order of Talookchand Hokumchand, and on account and at the risk of Kerbajee Hormusjee, Contractor.
 Further particulars may be had of the undersigned.
—
IMPORTANT TO TIMBER MERCHANTS, CONTRACTORS AND OTHERS.
 On MONDAY next the 25th instant at 3 P. M., will be submitted to Public Auction at Tank Bunder, about 500 Tons first class Moulmein Teak Squares, Planks, and Boards ex *Pomona* in lots to suit Purchasers.
 Further particulars may be had of the undersigned.
JAMES BAPTY,
 Bombay, 21st April 1864. Mazagon.

Times of India April 1864

OUR DAILY BREAD.
 SIR,—As my name has been brought prominently to public notice in the *Statesman*, in connection with the bread-supply of Bombay, permit me to offer you samples of such as we are at present making from pure flour in the cleanest manner, price 12 per rupee. The rolls weigh 13 ozs., and the open and pan loaves which are double ones, 14 ozs. and 1 lb. 12 ozs. respectively.
 It would afford me the greatest pleasure to shew you through my mill and temporary bakery, and if it is possible to detect the slightest trace of impurity any where, I shall be glad to have it pointed out.
 As the proof of the pudding is in the eating, so likewise with bread; you can give both a confident and competent opinion upon this matter, and as I must either stand or fall on public opinion, I trust I may not be thought too bold in confidently trusting to the discernment of the people of Bombay.
 I have said nothing about the existing price of bread in Bombay, but as I can only live by a business proportionate to the size of my mill and the new bakery now in course of construction, I am not unmindful of that great element in the enterprise, for enterprise you will allow it to be called.
 Purity in preparation and economy in price are the aim of my venture.—I am, &c., **JAMES BAPTY.**
 58, Falkland Road, Bombay, August 28.
 . We have seen Mr. Bapty's Mill, and hope to say something about it to-morrow.—*En. L.S.*

Situations, &c.
Professional.
WANTED, a first-rate ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, from 25 to 40 years of age, to go out to Bombay for three, four, or five years. Apply in the first instance by letter, stating age, terms, experience, and send copies of testimonials to James Bapty, Belle-vue-terrace, St. John's Hill, Leeds.
—
TITLE OF AXHOLME HIGHWAY DISTRICT.—DISTRICT
Leeds Mercury April 1866

The Indian Statesman August 1872

EAST INDIA MILLS.
NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership which existed between us the undersigned, who formerly carried on business as Corn Millers at the East India Mills, Bombay, under the name of BAPTY BROTHERS, was dissolved on the 16th May last by mutual consent, and all debts due to the said firm are to be paid to the undersigned, JAMES BAPTY.
 All liabilities incurred by the above named James Bapty in the name of the firm of Bapty Brothers subsequently to that date will be discharged by him.
JAMES BAPTY.
N. ARDASEER.
 Dated this 16th July, 1872.

Times of India July 1872

LITTLE'S
SOLUBLE PHENYLE,
 THE SAFEST, CHEAPEST, CLEANEST, AND
 MOST EFFICACIOUS
SANITARY AGENT
 YET DISCOVERED.
 RECOMMENDED BY THE HIGHEST MEDICAL
 AUTHORITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
 DESTROYS DISEASE, OVERPOWERS SMELL,
 WORKS WONDERS AS A CURATIVE AGENT,
 DEODORISER, AND DISINFECTANT.
—
 WHOLESALE AGENT IN INDIA.
GEO. BAIRD & CO.
 To be had—BOMBAY: TREACHER & CO.; KEMP
 & CO.; B. PHILLIPS & CO.; THOMSON &
 TAYLOR; BOLTON & CO.; and **BAPTY BROS.**
 MADRAS—NORTON & Co.
AGENTS WANTED EVERYWHERE.

Times of India Sept 1882

"MAGIC IS THE WORD."
SMELLS VANISH.
 CURES ALL AND EVERY KIND OF
 Skin Disease in Man or Animals,
 MANGE,
 BARSATI, THRUSH,
 DISEASED FROGS (IN HORSES), AND
 FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.
 NO STABLE SHOULD BE WITHOUT A SUPPLY OF
LITTLE'S SOLUBLE PHENYLE.
 Wholesale Agents:—
GEO. BAIRD & CO., Lahore,
 and 21, Lall Bazar, Calcutta.
BAPTY BROS., Bombay.
NORTON & CO., Madras.

Civil Military Gazette, Lahore Aug 1882

BAPTY'S BREAD

HAVING been proved to be the most nutritious of all the fine breads examined in Bombay, and freest from impurity of ACID, SAND, and CHLORIDES, the proprietor is now prepared to carry out his original intention, viz :—

The supply of pure Wheat Bread at the lowest possible rate to meet the wants of all classes.

This intention would be frustrated by a house delivery and the employment of a large establishment.

It has therefore been thought desirable to make the supply of bread through depots and for CASH ONLY.

From the 1st October the Bread will be obtainable at the following places :—

1. The Bakery Falkland Road.
2. The Crawford Market.
3. The Fort Market.
4. The Nabob's House, Mazagon.

To insure supplies to our regular customers, the quantity ordered by them will be laid aside until called for.

For simplifying the rate per Loaf, we have increased the weights and altered the rates correspondingly as follows :—

Plain White Loaves.....	15 oz. each	6 pice, each	= 10 lbs. per Rupee.
White Twists and Rolls.	13 oz. " 8 " "	"	"
Plain Brown Loaves ...	15 oz. " 5 " "	"	= 12 lbs. per Rupee.
Servants' Brown	14 oz. " 4 " "	"	= 14 lbs. per Rupee.

Superfine Flour per lb. 2 annas. Bran per Maund 12 annas at the Mill.

The above rates are based upon the price of grain ruling in Bombay in August last.

As no work is done on Sundays, a double quantity is prepared on Saturdays.

New Bread deliverable daily (Sundays excepted) at 4 P.M., and if inducement offers, there will also be a morning delivery.

The quality of the Bread adapts it for CHILDREN and INVALIDS, and insures its wholesome preservation for several days.

VISITORS—Ladies and Gentlemen wishing to view the premises will be welcomed on Thursday afternoons.

BAPTY BROTHERS.

58 Falkland Road, Bombay, Sept. 28, 1872.

The Times of India October 1872

The newspaper cuttings above show the range of his enterprises.

Between 1859 and 1876 Annie gave birth to 14 children, which included two pairs of twins. Of these, 8 did not survive to their second birthday. The cause of death was noted as either dysentery or teething, teething being commonly thought to cause death up to the late 19th century and beyond.

In August 1877 the Mayor of Leeds called a small meeting in his rooms in Leeds Town Hall to discuss the current famine in Southern India. The meeting was reported in *The Leeds Times* of 25 August 1877. One of the attendees introduced James Bapty as "a Leeds gentleman, who had just returned from India in feeble health." James made an impassioned address saying he did not think "the people of this country were yet so aroused to the gravity of the situation in India." There was a vast amount of distress and death in Bombay and the death rate was nearly doubled although Madras was far worse. James thought the number of people affected was equal to half the total population of Great Britain and Ireland. He went on to say, "If [my] hearers knew the native character and saw how quietly the poor Hindoos (sic)

would sit down and die almost without a murmur, they would say it was enough to make a strong heart bleed." He informed the meeting that the sufferers had lost their strength and also most of their cattle. "Ploughing and tilling would have to be done by hand as there was scarcely a bullock left in the country."

There were offers of money donations, but it was felt what was needed were food donations. The general tone of the meeting was that it was an issue for the Government to step forward with aid.

James rose in Bombay society and ultimately served on Bombay Municipal Corporation and at the time of his death in March 1883 had been nominated as a Justice of the Peace. He had been in failing health for some time and was bedridden for the last couple of months. His wife Annie remained in Bombay until her death in 1900. It seems that the Bapty Bros company continued under new ownership after James's death before being wound up in 1891. James and his wife Annie left a considerable fortune to their children as well as charitable bequests.

James had a nephew, Edmund Frederick Bapty who was also in Bombay with his family for a short time during the 1870's, one of his sons being born in Bombay. Edmund was also an engineer. There is a Bapty Road, now a narrow, crowded Mumbai street (pictured, right, in the district of Girgaon. The name Bapty appears regularly on shipping passenger lists to and from India and Australia up to 1959.



So let us return to the Roath area and John and Stracey Grinham. In 1936 and 1938 John Grinham formed a number of different companies in a range of fields of business in Newport, Cardiff and Pontypool. He was listed as the Company Secretary and a shareholder in each case. But his main field of interest was in the motor trade and he presided over meetings of the Institute of the Motor Trade in Cardiff in the 1930's. By 1939 the Grinham's and their now adult offspring were to be found in a house in Sheringham Avenue, Southgate, North London. The house was named "Penylan". John is listed as a Chartered Secretary and Garage Accountant. He also acted as a liquidator in the winding-up of companies.

John Harry Grinham died in 1959 and Stracey Mary Grinham in 1970, both of them in Surrey.

New stone crest at Cathays Cemetery

The Friends of Cathays Cemetery have funded a new addition to the main cemetery gates on Fair Oak Road. A carved stone shield was fixed there on 23 July 2023 to replace one that was lost some years ago.



Only a blurred photo of the original shield could be found, but research showed that it was the coat-of-arms of Charles Croft Williams of Roath Court who was mayor of Cardiff and High Sheriff of Glamorgan when the cemetery opened in 1859.

The Friends were supported and assisted by Bereavement Services, and the shield itself was carved by Mossfords Memorial Masons



From Sketch to Stone

The story behind the new crest on the main gate

Tues 12th November 7pm
in
Cathays Cemetery Chapels
(Fair Oak Rd)

A talk by
Simon Morgan
(Mossfords Memorial Masons)

Bill Mosley Memorial Lecture



Admission £5 (cash only) * On-site parking * 07753 169891 for further details

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF CARDIFF AND ENVIRONS: PART 1

Les Phillips BA(Hons) Archaeology and former Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London"

Well before homo sapiens and those who preceded them appeared on the scene, dinosaurs roamed the region. Finds have revealed that early Welsh dinosaurs from more than 200 million years ago lived on a tropical lowland beside the sea. On the Penarth, Barry and Lavernock beaches and cliffs many fossils have been discovered. These include the fossilised remains of a placodont osteoderm, a bony deposit in the skin, and a single coelocanth gular bone. Recently, a ten year-old girl and her mother from Pontardawe, both fossil hunters, discovered on a beach near Penarth five enormous footprints of what is believed to have been a Camelotia, a huge herbivore from the late Triassic period.

Evidence for pre-Neolithic settlement in the area is rare. The industries of the Lower Palaeolithic are represented by the solitary find of an Acheulean hand-axe of quartzite from Pen-y-lan.

That period, which lasted from around 500,000 to 130,000 before present, BP, saw the first humans appear in what to become Britain. Neanderthals, the great survivors of Ice Age world, who it is believed may have lived alongside homo sapiens in the late paleolithic time and even interbred, doubtlessly also occupied the Cardiff region, as there is evidence of them from cave sites in western part of south Wales. They were expert craftsmen stone.



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the in

A typical Acheulean hand axe

Credit: José-Manuel Benito Álvarez
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[Att](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/) license.



The
the
best-
man,



Neanderthal man - a reconstruction by the Natural History Museum, London

Credit: Werner Ustorf
Licensed under the Creative Commons Licence
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>

discovery in 1823 by Dean William Buckland in a cave at Paviland on Gower Peninsula was one of the known examples of Cro-Magnon representing the Early Upper Paleolithic. Although given the title of The Red Lady of Paviland the remains turned out to be those of a young male Cro-Magnon aged 25-30. Radiocarbon dates have shown that he was alive around 26,000 years ago. Although the Gower is outside of the Cardiff area, I suspect that he had relatives in our part of south Wales.

The Mesolithic period, also known as the Middle Stone Age, which started at the end of the Late Upper Paleolithic around 10,000 BP until circa 5,000 BP, saw hunter

gatherers occupying the area, as is evidenced by numerous microliths, small tool types known as blades, points, awls and burins, forms of chisels, skilfully crafted from flint, from the sand dunes of Merthyr Mawr Warren.

Jon Roberts kindly recently sent me a paper had come across "Roath - Geology and Archaeology" written by Alec Keir the founder RLHS. It referred to several archaeological two of which I was unaware of. In 1902, when preparing the site where the Roath Power



Auroch skeleton in the National Museum of Denmark

By Marcus Sümnick from Rostock, Germany – Auerochse

Uploaded by FunkMonk, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=18323006>

Station was to be built on the corner of Newport Road and Colchester Avenue, some bones, both human and of hoofed animals, were found.



The Star Carr Pendants

By Milner, N., Bamforth, M., Beale, G., Carty, J. C., Chatzipanagis, K., Croft, S., Conneller, C., Elliott, B., Fitton, L. C., Knight, B., Kröger, R., Little, A., Needham, A., Robson, H. K., Rowley, C. C. A. and Taylor, B. - Milner, N., Bamforth, M., Beale, G., Carty, J. C., Chatzipanagis, K., Croft, S., Conneller, C., Elliott, B., Fitton, L. C., Knight, B., Kröger, R., Little, A., Needham, A., Robson, H. K., Rowley, C. C. A. and Taylor, B. 2016 *A Unique Engraved Shale Pendant from the Site of Star Carr: the oldest Mesolithic art in Britain*, *Internet Archaeology* 40. <https://doi.org/10.111141/ia.40.8https://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue40/8/1.html#1>, CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=145079881>

I can find no information on the human bones, but the animal remains were of the upper skull of an auroch (also known as a urus) with horn cores complete. The fragments of a somewhat larger pair of horn cores were also found. The auroch, an extinct cattle species, is considered to be the ancestor of modern domestic cattle. A large beast

with a shoulder height of up to 71 inches in bulls and 61 in cows. It had massive elongated broad horns that reached up to 31 inches and was one of the largest herbivores in the Holocene, the period since the last major ice age some 10,000 year ago. The earliest auroch fossils excavated in Europe date to 230,000 BP, so the herbivore was around for a very long time. The bones found in Roath were resting on a layer of sand and pebbles beneath some 20-30 feet of bluish tidal clay. It would be very interesting to know why human bones and part of a auroch were found together. Had Mesolithic hunter gatherers pursued the auroch who then turned on his hunters before dying? The paper also referred to a scraper of white patinated grey flint found at Roath Park, but no further detail given. It could have been of the Mesolithic period or maybe the following Neolithic era. Scrapers were used for cleaning animal skins in the process of making leather.

It is probable that many Mesolithic sites in South Wales have been lost through the extensive south Wales coastal submergence which is known to have occurred during and since Boreal times. There is evidence from the fine Mesolithic site at Star Carr in Yorkshire that not all may have been itinerant but possibly opted for a more settled lifestyle obtaining the food needed from nearby. Today the Khoisan people

of southern Africa follow a similar way of life to those early hunter gatherers and provide an insight into the skills needed for tracking game and finding sustenance in what the land has to offer.

It is the Neolithic period, the earliest part lasting around 4200 to 3000 BC, that provides the best evidence of the Cardiff area's early prehistoric past. About 4000 BC the first Neolithic migrants crossed from southern Britain into Glamorgan. The advent of agriculture. The Vale with its fertile soil would have attracted those early farmers. The Early and Middle Neolithic is represented by causewayed enclosures and long barrows and there are some fine examples of what the Neoliths constructed. In the suburbs of Caerau and Ely on the south-west side of Cardiff is the Caerau Hillfort. Triangular in shape and defined by three lines of bank and ditch on its northern sides and a single, enormous rampart on its eastern edge which encloses around 5 hectares. It is one of the largest Iron Age Hillforts in Wales. In 2011 the Caerau and Ely Rediscovering (CAER) Heritage Project was formed as a collaboration between Action in Ely (ACE), Cardiff University, local schools, residents, community groups and many others to explore the history and archaeology of the two suburbs. The supporters of CAER enthusiastically joined in the excavation of parts of the Iron Age Hillfort conducted by Oliver Davis and Niall Sharples of the School of History, Archaeology and Religion at Cardiff University starting in the early 2010's. Excavation in 2014 revealed the main complex of ditches to be the remains of a major Neolithic causewayed enclosure.

The stone axe is the most characteristic implement of the Neolithic period. Made from flint, but mainly stone, often polished. Some originally hafted, others bound to the handle by a thong or other material. Axe heads produced from flint may well have been 'imported' from other parts of Britain and possibly also Scandinavia, as well as local pebbles being used. Those made from flint, as well as a good number



With kind permission of Dr Olly Davis. Crown copyright
RCAHMW

of stone axes from south-west Wales and some from the Graig Lwyd axe 'factory' in North Wales, have been found in places including St Fagans, the former site of the Dowlais Steelworks in Cardiff, and Penarth. Twelve polished stone axe fragments were found at the causewayed enclosure at Caerau. The finds from the Neolithic period found in the enclosure ditches at Caerau, Dr Oliver Davis reports "have produced one of the largest assemblages of Neolithic flint and pottery from Wales and

certainly the largest recovered from a causewayed enclosure." Altogether 1683 sherds of Neolithic pottery, representing at least 69 vessels, were found. Initial analysis, Dr Davis says, suggests that the pottery has several distinctive regional

characteristics. Was the Caerau enclosure, I wonder, an established trading centre? One interesting sherd from the body of a finely made vessel may have originated from Northern France. Does this also point to widespread trading or was it a gift that the leader of the Caerau community was eager to display to his people and visitors? The flint assemblage from the enclosure ditches Dr Davis describes as modest. Some 350 pieces and the indications are that the raw material, most likely pebbles from beaches and rivers, was carried to the site and worked. Scrapers, six leafed arrowheads as well as the twelve polished axe fragments referred to above were amongst the finds. The majority of axe fragments indicate a south-west Wales provenance, but one part of an axe may have come from west Cornwall. Again possibly suggesting trading over a wide area.

The causewayed enclosures are known over most of north-western and central Europe. In Britain they are mostly found in southern England. There are three confirmed enclosures in Wales but there are, however, a good number of other sites yet to be determined as causewayed enclosures. The one at Caerau is believed to have been in use in the middle of the fourth millennium BC. What purpose they served is still a matter of debate. Professor Stuart Piggott's view that they were corrals has not gained much support. It is known that parts of the Neolithic period were very violent so maybe they acted as places of refuge when needed. Evidence of palisades would appear to confirm that. What appeals to me is that their purpose may have been to serve as gathering places not only for members of the local community but to develop relations with those further afield. People from different directions meeting and intermingling more or less peacefully is consistent with a period of much activity. The large number of animal bones discovered may well point to feasting taking place. And much talk exchanging information, and as Neil Oliver suggests, possibly seeking marriage partners, displaying of fine possessions and also exchanging and trading. A time to come together from near and afar, possibly regularly or on special occasions.

Those Neolithic people must have been in considerable awe of the gods who caused the sun to rise and set each day and the moon to move through its various phases. The gods who also controlled the seasons they were beholden to. Did they gather at those causewayed enclosures at specific times to worship the gods who ensured their survival, I wonder? We shall probably never know, but much thought for speculation. What is clear is that a considerable task force was needed to construct such enclosures. Probably encouraged by a powerful leader. The work, to my mind, represented an organised community coming together.



Examples of Neolithic stone axes held in the British Museum
Credit: SpinningSpark [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

Not too far from the Caerau enclosure are two chambered tombs at St Lythans and Tinkinswood, near St Nicholas, in the Vale. Built in the Earlier Neolithic they form part of what archaeologists term the Severn Cotswold group of chambered tombs. The building of



Credit: Nilfanion • [CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

tombs to house the bones of the dead was a new practice that came to Britain with the Neolithic farmers. All that is standing of the one at St Lythans is the chamber, the mound having been removed. The capstone measures 14 feet long by 10 feet wide.

Tinkinswood, however, is one of the most impressive and best preserved chambered burial sites in Britain, having been partially restored. It is topped by a very large capstone, 15 feet by 24 feet, weighing around 40 tons.



Credit: Nilfanion • [CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

It is believed that around 200 people would have been needed to put it in place. The dry-walled cairn is wedge-shaped, which is typical of the Severn Cotswold type, 131 feet long, and just over 58 feet wide composed of limestone rubble and neatly edged on all sides by a dry-stone wall. The stone wall of the horned forecourt, the likely centre of funerary ritual, was later reconstructed in the original herring-bone pattern. A single passageway leads to a simple end chamber.

John Ward's excavations in 1914 revealed that the chamber contained at least 50 individuals, 21 adult females, 16 adult males and 8 children as well flint tools and pottery. There is no evidence that the remains were of the elite but it could well be that they

were. Similarly there is no archaeological evidence of how the majority of the people were buried. Possibly left for the carrion scavengers to dispose of? What can be safely assumed is that those placed in chambered tombs were regarded with dignity and that rituals were held in the forecourt to prepare them for the journey to the afterlife. The Neolithic people not only brought farming to Britain but a new approach to death and the dead. A conscious decision was made to store human remains in purpose-built chambers. It was part of a culture showing respect for the dead. Though within a generation from constructing those burial places, often a large stone was placed to seal off the entrance, after the remains of the ancestors had been reorganised into groups of body parts. What was in the minds of those Neolithic people we'll never know. Interestingly, some years ago primary school children from St Nicholas re-enacted in the forecourt, appropriately dressed in the clothes of the ancestors, activity they believed to be similar to ancient ritual. Much beating of drums, singing and drama. That carried out after visiting the National Museum to learn more of what is known of life 5000 or so years ago.

Half way down the covering mound at Tinkinswood on the north side a polygonal cist was discovered. Either a later addition or it preceded the long barrow and was incorporated into it. Stones close by were once thought to be those of another chambered tomb but are more likely the result of field clearance. The stone used to construct the Tinkinswood tomb would have been quarried nearby. Moving and erecting the massive capstone was a remarkable feat, requiring considerable skill, co-ordination and organisation. On Cardiff's doorstep is one of the finest British chambered tombs probably built around 6000 years ago.

Of the dwelling sites of Neolithic people in Wales little is known. To the north-east at St-y-Nyll, Dr H Savory, then Head of the Department of Archaeology at the National Museum of Wales, when excavating a Bronze Age barrow found beneath it an oval ring of post holes 15 feet by 12, which it is thought may have been the remains of a Neolithic building. Domestic refuse indicated a sheep farming economy. Whilst little is known of where those people lived, more is known of the henge monuments built in those times. None, however, have to date been found in the Cardiff area, the nearest in Wales being in the Preseli area. The one at Waun Mawn may well have provided the Bluestones which were taken to Wiltshire to form an early phase of Stonehenge.

The past of Cardiff and nearby parts stretches from some 200 million years ago, through prehistory and history into present times. From an age when dinosaurs and present man's predecessors occupied the land before the appearance of homo sapiens. People came from overseas to add to the local population followed by invaders, the Romans, Vikings and men of Normandy. Part 2 will cover the Bronze Age to the coming of the Romans.

I am very grateful to Jon Roberts for sourcing my suggested illustrations.

ARE YOU MISSING OUT ON ROATH LOCAL HISTORY?

Roath Local History Society

Bringing History to Your Doorstep – since 1978



Have a look at the Society's website at <https://roathlocalhistorysociety.org/> From there you can click on "Publications" and then "[R.L.H.S. Monthly Newsletter](#)". It may not look our most interesting webpage but just click on any of the links and you will be able to delve into past editions of the Newsletter going back to 2018. Over the years the Newsletter has evolved - it used to be well, a newsletter. Now, in addition to news, it contains interesting articles submitted by our members and others. You can also read blog stories about Roath, a rich seam of fascinating articles all about Roath and Cardiff. Recent stories have included:

- [Henry Corn – Travelling Salesman, Photographer, Painter, Businessman and Spy?](#)
- [John Biggs – The Brewer who had Oldwell built.](#)
- [28 The Parade – The Parade Community Education Centre](#)
- [28 The Parade – Cardiff High School for Girls](#)
- [The tragic coincidence linking the deaths of the De Guélis siblings](#)
- [Charles Leyshon – The first referee to dismiss a player in a Rugby Test Match.](#)
- [28 The Parade – The Billups Family and their pivotal role in the formation of the Salvation Army](#)
- [Lady Anne Mackintosh \(1723-1787\)](#)
- [Did the Journalist Steal the Gold?](#)
- [From Plasnewydd to Roath Castle](#)
- [AI generated history of Roath, Wellfield Road and Roath Park Lake](#)
- [The street names of Temperance Town](#)

You can also get these blog stories delivered straight to your email inbox, by subscribing to the blogs (click on the link at the bottom of the home page, as shown, right), joining the 266 people who have already subscribed.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Elizabeth Morgan, RLHS Programme and Events Organiser

ROATH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Wednesday, 13th November, 2024

Glimpses of musical life in Roath
In the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Speaker:

Prof. Bill Jones

TO PUT US IN THE MOOD, PRIOR TO BILL'S PRESENTATION, EARLY-BIRDS CAN
ENJOY A MUSICAL SELECTION ON ORGAN AND PIANO FROM



Prof. Norman Doe, Organist at St. Edward's Church

NORMAN WILL PLAY A REPERTOIRE SPANNING THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY

IN AID OF *St. Edward's Church organ restoration fund.*

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WALKER ROAD, CARDIFF.

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Under the leadership of Sir Alfred Thomas
On Wednesday, November 30th, 1904.

President . . . SIR ALFRED THOMAS, M.P.
Conductor . . . PRINCIPAL EDWARDS, D.O., Cardiff.
DAVID EVANS, B.A., Mrs. H. B. JONES, Cardiff.
R. TREVILLIANCE, B.A., P.E.H.C., Cardiff.

Literary Assistance by IFANO JONES, B.A., Cardiff.
Theatrical and Dramatic Presentation by the Ainon Welsh Baptist Chapel.
Madame HUGHES-THOMAS, D.O., Cardiff.
CANTROU DAVIES, B.A., P.E.H.C., Cardiff.

Chorus of Ladies, Mrs. H. B. JONES, Cardiff.
Chorus of Men, H. B. JONES, Cardiff.
POLLARD, A.C., W. TREVILLIANCE, Cardiff.
The Ladies' Chorus.
The Ladies' Chorus.

TICKETS: Balcony, Reserved Seats, 2s. Balcony and
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PROCEEDS IN AID OF BUILDING FUND.

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WALKER RD., CARDIFF.

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On SUNDAY, APRIL 16th, 1905,
At 2.45 P.M.

ARTISTS:
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Mrs. T. JONES.
Contralto . . . Mrs. C. HANDLY.
Tenor . . . Mr. RICHARD J. BATES.
Bass . . . Mr. DAZ. WILLIAMS.
The TOM JOHN.
Eminent . . . Miss M. H. FRANCIS.
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SAINT EDWARD'S MUSIC & ARTS CENTRE

Access from 6.55pm. Music from 7.05. Presentation starts at 7.30pm
For live stream Zoom link, please apply to: RLHSZoom@gmail.com

no later than Monday 11th November

ALL WELCOME! GUESTS in-person, or online £3.00

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP £13.00



THE ORGANIST ENTERTAINS

We are delighted that Norman Doe has offered to play the St Edward's Church organ to entertain the RLHS audience prior to Professor Bill Jones's talk on 13 November 2024. The music will start at 19:05, and doors open at 18:55, so please get there early to whet your musical appetites before the main course.

In aid of the St Edward's Church organ restoration fund.

Photo credit: [Bill Jones](#), [Creative commons licence](#)

A SHORT PROGRAMME OF REFLECTIVE INCIDENTAL MUSIC 1870-1910

Norman Doe, Organist, St Edward's Church

Part I: Organ: Before the Talk

All the music you will hear on the organ was composed during the period covered in the talk by Professor Bill Jones. The scores used are also contemporary - and from Roath.

They are part of the extensive library of organ and choral music at St Edward's. The early library of late Victorian & Edwardian organ music began life very soon after the church opened in 1915. Two organs were introduced during the tenure of the first organist Netta Jones (1915-17). The second organist was Robert H.W. Riddett (1917-41): a new organ was fitted in 1919 but it was destroyed when the old timber-frame church burned down in 1919.

The present organ was built by Charles Gill (Cardiff Organ Works) and dedicated by the Bishop of Llandaff in 1924. R.H.W. Riddett's signature is on many of the organ scores. He would have played them on this organ, including this evening's pieces, as quiet voluntaries before the service as worshippers gathered to chat, to listen, and to reflect.

The evening's repertoire may include a selection from:

Arthur William Marchant (1850-1921): *Andante* [*The Vesper Voluntaries*, vol. 2, 77].

Joel Horspool (1854-1918): *Pastorale*; *Offertoire* [*The Vesper Voluntaries*, vol. 2, 146, 130].

William Faulkes (1863-1933): *Prelude* and *Andante Religioso* [*Six Organ Pieces*, 8 & 10].

Henry Tolhurst (1854-1939): *Evening*; *Barcarolle*; *Melody*; *Summer Idyll* [*Cathedral Voluntaries*, 82, 86, 94 - and possibly *Melody*, 12].

Kate Westrop (1840-1923): *Andante Sostenuto* [*Twenty Short Voluntaries*, 56].

Albert E. Wilson (dates unknown): *Agnus Dei*; *Berceuse*; *Song Without Words*; and *Interlude* [*The Sanctuary Series*, vol. 2, 6, 11, 12, 14].

Herbert Hadwen Chandler (1865-1941): *Tranquillity*; *Nocturne*; *Berceuse Pathetique* [*The Sanctuary Series*, vol. 2, 63, 65, 67].

William John Agate (1843-1915): *March of the Choristers*; *Elevation*; *Communion*; *Romanza* [*Minster Voluntaries*, 28, 32, 34, 37].

Caleb Simper (1856-1942): *Meditation*; *Melody*; *Communion*; and *Offertoire* [Simper, *Voluntaries for the Organ*, Volume II, Book VI-17: series one, 8, 18; series two, 16, 20].

Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900): *The Lost Chord* (1877)]

Part II: Piano: After the Talk

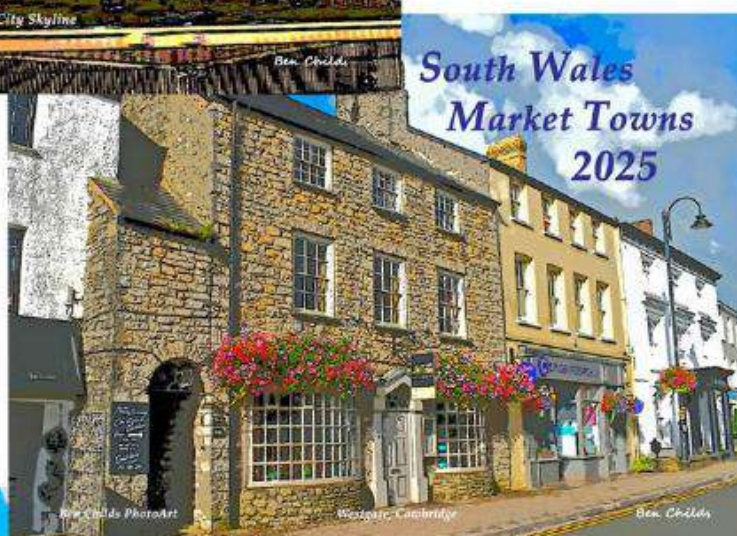
Edward Elgar (1857-1834): *Nimrod: Enigma Variations* (1898-99); *First Symphony, First Movement* (1908); *Chanson de Matin* (1889-90).

Ben Childs PhotoArt

For several years, Ben Childs has been providing R.L.H.S. with the striking images, that appear on the front cover of our brochure. At our November meeting, he will be bringing a selection of stationery items, featuring his uniquely enhanced local photographs.



The images featured here, are from his range of 2025 calendars - which make *excellent* Christmas presents.



There will also be a selection of Christmas cards, greetings cards and notepads. A generous 15% of all takings will be donated to the Society.

Meet your committee

It's been a few years since we last held a "beauty parade" of Committee members, since when there have been several changes in the Committee's composition, and we also have a number of new members who might like to know who is who.

Gareth Brown

I am a retired GP and have lived in Barry for 41 years. I was born in Glossop Terrace and brought up in Roath as were my parents. I was educated at St Anne's Infant school, Albany Road Junior school, Llanrumney Junior High and Cardiff High School for Boys.

I first joined RLHS soon after it formed and, after a break, rejoined and have been on the committee since 2017, I believe. I was Chairman from Sept 2021 to Sept 2024.



Chris Edwards

I have been a resident of Cardiff for most of my life. I have recently retired from Local Government after 35 years' service as a Chartered Town Planner with a focus on urban regeneration and town centre management.

I have a considerable interest in local history and archaeology and hope to develop this further through my participation with the Society and assisting in the monthly talks as part of the Technical Team.



Frank Holloway

I have been a member of RLHS committee since September 2023. Before retiring I taught A level history at Coleg Gwent. I have lived in Cardiff since 1979.



Nicky Macartney

I am new to the RLHS committee and am currently an apprentice in the Technical Team. I recently retired from being a medical laboratory scientist in Cardiff, having left London many years ago.



Elizabeth Morgan

Roath is where I was born, grew up and, in 2016, returned full-time. In between I was based in London, working as an Actor, Variety Artiste and Children's Entertainer. Since reconnecting with my Welsh roots, I have re-trained as a Wales Official Tourist Guide.

I have always been fascinated by History and have been an active member of RLHS since the 1990's. My current (and favourite) role on the Committee is as Programme & Events Organiser.



Myfanwy Morgan

I am the Research Group Co-ordinator. I am a retired Solicitor and a Welsh speaker. I was actually born in Waterloo Gardens but I spent most of my childhood in Llandaff and then London and North Wales before returning to live in Roath 18 years ago.

**Brian Neale**

I am new to the committee and am part of the Technical Team. This is after returning to the area following many years living elsewhere, including working as a Chartered Civil Engineer.

**Ted Richards**

I returned to my hometown of Cardiff about six years ago having lived away for the previous forty years, I'm both a chemist and toxicologist by training, having worked in regulatory affairs in an international setting. I have previously served as Chairman of the Society for three years and have now stepped back into the more comfortable role as Website Manager.

[Ed: For Ted's more extensive and impressive bio [-see here](#)]

**Jon Roberts**

I'm the Newsletter Editor and help out in the Technical Team with Zoom broadcasts. I've been a member of the Society since 2020. I'm a retired town planner, originally from the South East of England, but a Cardiff resident for the last 47 years, mostly in Roath. A DNA test tells me that I'm 21% Welsh.

**Lyn Smith**

Although born in Mountain Ash as Nigel, everyone knows me as Lyn. I was christened in that famous church in Llanwonno and lived my early years near there. I worked in Mid Glamorgan County Council in Greyfriars Road then moved into computing, working for the Business Statistics Office, BT and Companies House. I am studying with the Open University (History, of course) and am involved a lot with U3A as well as RLHS.

**Martyn Swain**

I'm the Treasurer and new assistant sound engineer. I moved to Cardiff in 2019 after living in Warwickshire and Oxfordshire for 40 years. I am a retired land surveyor and a recent convert to history having failed it at O Level and spent my working life in a geography-based environment.



OTHER LOCAL HISTORY LINKS

Rumney and District



Local History Society

Their meetings are held at 7:30pm on the second Thursday of every month (excepting January and August) at Rumney Baptist Church Hall, Tyr-Y-Sarn Road, Rumney, CF3 3BD.

The annual subscription is £20 and visitors can pay £3 per meeting. Their next talk is on 14 November 2024 and is entitled *Morgans of Tredegar House – How They Made their Money*, to be given by Siobhan Hayes, Archivist at Tredegar House.



Photo credit: Nick
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Find the Rumney and District Local History Society on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/rumneyhistory>

The British Association for Local History

The Roath Local History Society is a member of the British Association for Local History. Their website www.balh.org.uk/ offers a varied collection of local history stories, 10-minute videos and loads of helpful ways of researching local history. Some is of general relevance, but there are also pieces on very specialised subjects. Have a look at back issues of *The Local Historian* at <https://www.balh.org.uk/thelocalhistorian>. Members of the BALH are also entitled to a discount on courses. If you'd like the code to obtain the discount, please email me.



GET IN TOUCH

For newsletter submissions contact:

Jon at RLHSEditor@gmail.com

To request loans from the R.L.H.S. Archive, contact:

Geraint at Denison-Kurg@outlook.com or on (029) 2048 8358.

For membership, contact:

Lyn at RoathLocalHist@yahoo.com or on 07975 751807

For events and programming enquiries, contact:

Elizabeth at RoathHistory@gmail.com or on (029) 2048 2658.

For website enquiries, contact:

Ted at RoathHistoryWebsite@gmail.com.