



E-NEWSLETTER JUNE 2026

ROATH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society was founded in 1978 by the late Alec Keir. Our focus is on the ancient parish of Roath - the modern-day suburbs of Adamsdown, Splott, Tremorfa, Pengam, Plasnewydd, Penylan, parts of Cathays and Cyncoed as well as Roath itself.

Our lively and interesting meetings are held at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month from September through to May. See [Programme](#) for details. We meet at [St Edward's church](#), Westville Road, Pen-y-lan, Cardiff CF23 5DE. Annual membership is just £13 ([membership form](#)) and visitors are welcome to attend any meeting, in person or on Zoom for £3.

In May, June and July we undertake a series of trips to places of historic interest in Cardiff and the wider South Wales area.

Our Life President is Jeff Childs and our Life Members, appointed in recognition of the service they have given to the Society, are Dr Diane Brook, Gwyn Smith, Judith Hunt, Martin Sheldon and David Parry.

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EDITOR'S WELCOME

Our series of monthly talks has come to an end, and the summer programme has begun, with the first of six visits having taken place on 27 May. There are still some spaces available for a few of the visits – see page 19 for details.

You may have seen our new venture into the world of YouTube. Our first tentative steps involved Ted Richards and me talking about the [Scott Memorial lighthouse at Roath Park](#).

Our next video is in preparation and will be about the history of the Mackintosh Sports and Social Club.

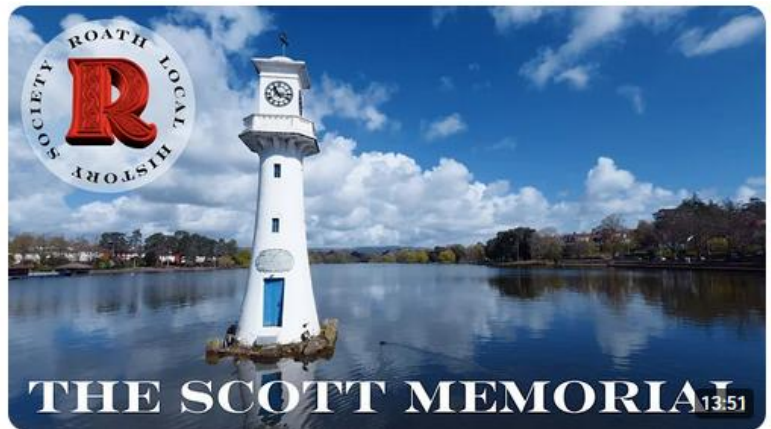
Please subscribe to our channel to get

the latest developments. We are very grateful to Gordon Plant for the time and expertise he has so generously given us in making these videos.

I should like to welcome Valerie Morgan onto the RLHS Committee and would encourage others to join her in volunteering – it really does help us to be able to share out the work and to get fresh input. However, I must make another urgent plea for a volunteer to act as Treasurer, following Martyn Swain's retirement from the position, which he has held for 3 years. I should like to thank him for his excellent work. The Treasurer's role is vital to the running of the Society and none of the existing Committee members can add this to their current responsibilities. It is really important that we have a Treasurer in place as soon as possible to help deal with the renewals that will commence in September. Please get in touch with any of the Committee to ask about the role.

There won't be a July edition of the newsletter (do contain your disappointment!), as I shall be having a short break, but normal service will be resumed in August.

Jon Roberts
Newsletter Editor



William Bird and his other famous descendant

By Jon Roberts

In April's newsletter we featured an account of Thomas Merton, an American monk who was the great-great grandson of William Bird, a one-time Mayor of Cardiff. This prompted me to find out more about William Bird. He was born in 1795 and came from the Channel Islands, and in 1823 started his business in Cardiff as a General Stationer, Bookseller, Printer & Account-Book Maker at 22 Duke Street. He married Margaret Stonehewer from Carmarthen, and the couple had two children, Hugh Stonehewer Bird and Elizabeth Bird. Many of the subsequent generations of Birds carried the Stonehewer name. William Bird passed on the stationer's business to William Lewis, who carried it on successfully for many years. William was an Alderman, JP and Mayor of Cardiff.



Photo credit: Jean Tuckey – from a private family collection



He relinquished public office when he moved to Southerndown. He died in around 1850, and both he and his wife are buried in St Brides.

Thomas Morton was not William Bird's only illustrious descendent. One of his great-grandsons was Sir Francis Hugh William Stonehewer Bird, a career diplomat, known as Hugh.

Although his father, Francis Stonehewer Bird, was born in Cardiff, this Francis (or Hugh) was born in Tunbridge Wells in 1891 and attended a private

Sir Francis Hugh William Stonehewer Bird, OBE, KCMG
(1895-1973)

Picture credit: National Portrait Gallery, London

school in Devon. My guess is that he studied Ottoman Turkish or Arabic at university because at the age of 22 he obtained a post as student interpreter in the Foreign Office Consular Service for the Ottoman Dominions, Persia, Greece and Morocco. There then followed a series of postings to Skopje, Nogador (in Morocco), Rabat, Jeddah, Addis Ababa, Saudi Arabia, the French zone of Morocco and in 1945, he was made Ambassador to Iraq.

**AGREEMENT FOR FRIENDSHIP AND NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE SHEIKHDOM OF KOWEIT AND THE KINGDOM OF
SAUDI ARABIA.**

Jedda, 20th April, 1942

[Ratifications exchanged at Jedda, 1st May, 1943]

No. 1

THE Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereinafter called the Government of the United Kingdom), acting on behalf of His Highness the Sheikh of Koweit, of the one part, and the Government of Saudi Arabia, of the other part, being desirous of confirming the friendship and neighbourly relations which happily have subsisted from of old between His Majesty the King of Saudi Arabia and His Highness the Sheikh of Koweit, and between their respective families and countries, have appointed as their representatives for this purpose:

The Government of the United Kingdom:

Francis Hugh William Stonehewer-Bird, C.M.G., O.B.E., His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

The Government of Saudi Arabia:

His Excellency Sheikh Yusuf Yasin, Head of the Political Section and Private Secretary to His Majesty the King of Saudi Arabia,

who, having examined their credentials and found them to be in good and due form, have agreed as follows:—

ARTICLE 1

Permanent peace and firm and inviolable friendship shall prevail between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sheikhdom of Koweit as it has prevailed from of old.

Prior to 1924, Sir Hugh married Françoise Marie Laczinski – they had two children, Frank and Norah. In 1943, Duff Cooper, later Viscount Norwich, introduced Hugh, his wife Françoise and their daughter Norah to General Charles de Gaulle, who, in secret, was passing through Rabat. In 2023, a wartime cigar partially smoked by Churchill at a dinner party in Rabat in 1944, hosted by Sir Hugh and preserved by him in a 1940s olive jar, was sold by his family at auction, fetching £5,500.

After suffering a serious thrombosis forcing his retirement as ambassador, Hugh served as British representative at the United Nations Advisory Council for Libya. Sir Hugh died in Wincanton, Somerset in 1973.

A Correction, an Omission and an Addition by Gareth Brown

Correction

After my fear, unfounded as it turned out, that I had misled readers about the identity of the persons around the bedside of the soldier in the painting, *The Care of the Wounded Soldier in the Great War* by Margaret Lindsay Williams, I must come clean and correct a definite mistake in one of my articles. On page 15 of the e-newsletter of February 2023 in the article about Romilly

Park, Barry my photograph (right) of a grassy mound somehow made its way into the piece next to the photograph of the Gorsedd circle which is just outside the park.



The mound in fact is a Bronze Age Barrow, according to the experts, and is situated right at the end of Westward Rise at Westward Corner. Surrounded by new houses it is near the grassy cliff top of Marine Drive, close to one of the paths into Cliff Wood in Porthkerry Park. From what I have gathered it was only rediscovered in recent years when the site was being prepared for the new houses to be built. The barrow was surrounded by trees and bushes, and ivy was growing over it. It appeared to be at the centre of a larger area than that which has been spared by the housing estate.



I did mention it on the walk I led in September 2022 on which the article is based but we did not visit it. It has had excavations in the past and is one of several Bronze Age barrows in Barry and environs. Some have dated it to about 3500 years ago and suggested that it likely contained the cremated remains of a single individual or a small number of people.

The start of the Bronze Age can be defined as the time that a civilisation started producing bronze by smelting copper and alloying it with tin, arsenic or other metals or traded other items for bronze from producing areas elsewhere and began using bronze items.

Therefore, the movement of people with bronze making skills into an area can herald the arrival of the Bronze Age in that area and the existing population can learn the methods or

just using bronze items from elsewhere qualifies the local population as members of the Bronze Age. Obviously therefore the Bronze Age's arrival varies from continent to continent and locality to locality. In Britain the Bronze age started relatively late and was from around 2100 to 750 BC according to Wikipedia and Prof. Alice Roberts, although our member in South Africa, Les Phillips, says that the Bronze Age in Wales started around 2300 BC and ended c.800 BC. Possibly it came to Britain with elements of the so-called Beaker People, but Bell Beaker culture in Britain does not exactly correspond to the period of the Bronze age here, as it predated it, starting about 2450 B.C. and finishing c 1800 B.C. I am no expert on early history so I shall go no further but encourage those with an interest to look up the references and further reading.

References:- barryanddistrictnews.co.uk 11/3/2022 for an interesting article named History: Bronze Age Mound at Barry Garden suburb by Karl-James Langford.

Wikipedia -The Bronze Age

Further reading

An overview of the Archaeology of Cardiff and Environs. Part 2 The Bronze Age by Les Phillips B.A. (Hons) Archaeology in RLHS e-newsletter January 2025- an erudite and informative article by our member in South Africa, ex-Cyfarthfa Street, Roath

Hidden Glamorgan-Westward Corner by Jonathan and Mark Lambert on <http://glamorganhistoryandarcheology.blogspot.com> a comprehensive account. I did not use any of the information in this in order to avoid any copyright issues but it is a worthwhile read.

Bronze Age Barry barry.cymru

Omission

On the walk I led in May 2025 visiting blue plaques on houses in the west side of Barry I unforgivably and negligently missed out a plaque very close to the Bethel Baptist Church which we passed when walking from Gareth Jones' birthplace in Romilly Road to Grace Williams' house in Old Village Road. Just a short distance down Harbour Road at no.8 (shown right) is a blue Pride in Barry/Balchder yn y Barri plaque commemorating **Leslie Illingworth**, political cartoonist who had lived there. I should have read the blue plaques list more carefully! The plaque merely says that Illingworth lived there, not that he was born there, but his father, Richard Frederick Illingworth, was on the electoral rolls from 1902 to 1905 at 8 Harbour Road, so it is highly likely that Leslie Gilbert was born there, according to Wikipedia, on 2 September 1902.



Chris Williams, in [biography.wales](#), categorically states that he was born in Harbour Road. The 1901 census shows his parents living there along with his brother Vivian, who was just 1, and a domestic servant.

Electoral rolls from 1906 & 1907 show that Richard was living at 1 Cardiff Road, Cadoxton (shown right). Chris Williams says that the family moved to Cardiff Road in 1904 but the 1905 electoral register has Richard still at 8 Harbour Road.

In 1911 the family were still living at 1 Cardiff Road. At that time Leslie's father Richard was 44 and a railway clerk. His mother Helen was a teacher, 37 and had been married 12 years. She would not have continued working as a teacher after marriage. The Sex Disqualification Removal Act passed in 1919, in theory, allowed women teachers to continue to work, but the authorities used marriage bars. This meant that if a woman teacher married, she had to resign, and if she was already married, she was sacked. Marriage bars persisted until 1944.



Helen was born in Hull, but she was of Scottish heritage, born Helen MacGregor. The only likely person for her in the birth record for Hull is an Ellen McGregor, born in 1874. Richard and Helen's sons, Vivian Richard, 11, and Leslie Gilbert, 8, were born in Barry, and they also had a daughter Phyllis Jean, 5, who was born in Cadoxton. It would seem that Cadoxton was still regarded as a separate entity from Barry at that time.

Richard Frederick Illingworth was born on 19 August 1866 in Knutsford and, in 1871, was living on Love Lane, Knutsford with two elder brothers, William 11 and Benjamin 9, scholars born in Cheshire, sister Elizabeth, 6, born in Gloucestershire and Arthur, 4 months old born in Knutsford. There was also a general servant born in Birmingham and a labourer from Nottingham as a boarder. Of course, with a name like Illingworth, Richard's father George, 42, was born in Yorkshire as was his mother Jane, 35, who was the Housekeeper. George's occupation is unclear. It looks like horse breather (not breeder) and beer!

In 1881, Richard at the age of 14, was a lodger at 26 Kinsey Street, Congleton and working as a solicitor's clerk. 1891 finds him boarding, aged 24, and a railway clerk at 28 High Street in Barry, where the Head of household is Thomas Pearson, 32, a Permanent Way Railway Inspector, born in Wilmslow.

They are both likely working for the Barry Railway Company and I wonder if Thomas Pearson was a relative or acquaintance of the Illingworth family who possibly secured the position for Richard and gave him accommodation. It is interesting that High Street, now regarded as being in the centre of Barry, was categorised on the census form as being in

the civil parish of Merthyr Dyfan, town East, Barry, Registration District of Cardiff, Sub Registration District of St Nicholas and Urban Sanitary District of Barry and Cadoxton! This reflects the fact that Barry was not regarded as a significant town in its own right in 1891, as it was still in the early stages of its development, the No1 dock only opening in 1889. East Barry originally was a hamlet or even a single farm in the area where the Barry Hotel was built, at the junction of Broad Street and Windsor Road, to the east of where the ancient village of Barry was situated.

Lo and behold, coming next is a Roath connection! The marriage was solemnised of Richard Illingworth, a 32 year old bachelor of 21 Windsor Road, Barry and Helen MacGregor, a 24 year old spinster, of 4 Fort Street, Roath (pictured right) at the Parish church of Roath on 4 November 1898. The occupation of Richard's father, George Illingworth was illegible on this certificate and Helen's father Alexander MacGregor was deceased. 21 Windsor Road, Barry is 12 houses up the hill from 9 Windsor Road where Margaret Lindsay Williams the artist was living as a child and who was 2 years old in the 1901 census. It is 3 doors down from the Welsh Congregational Church where the Williams family attended. Fort Street is a short street off Broadway on the opposite side to the Royal Oak and not as far up as the pub. Helen was born on 21 March 1874 in the Parish of Holy Trinity, Hull. Her father Alexander was a tailor and her mother's name was Mary Jane. I have been unable to trace her whereabouts until her marriage.



Wikipedia says Leslie's mother was a teacher, but is wrong in saying his father was originally from Yorkshire. It also says that as a child he attended the Church school of St Athan before winning a scholarship to the Barry County School. I would have thought that he attended his first school in Cadoxton. This is confirmed by Chris Williams who says that he attended Palmerston Road Infants School. He also says that they moved to Gileston in 1912 and Leslie attended St Athan school. It is possible that Richard's job became based at Gileston, prompting a move and that is when Leslie first went to school in St Athan. However, Richard was still at 1 Cardiff Road in the electoral register of 1914 but in 1915 he was on the electoral register in the Parish of St Athan in Cowbridge Rural District and his qualifying property was 1 Cardiff Road, Cadoxton-Barry and Near Gileston Station.

We have mentioned the whereabouts of the Illingworth family in the 1901 and 1911 censuses. In 1921 they were at St Athan. Richard was then 54 and a clerk in the Engineering Department of the Barry Railway. His wife Helen was 47 and did home duties, Vivian was 21, single and a Civil Engineer employed by the Barry Railway. Leslie was 18, single, attending an Educational Institution part time and an artist by profession, employed

by the Western Mail in Cardiff. Phyllis J was 15, and in whole time education. St Athan was in the Sub Registration District of Cowbridge, Registration district of Bridgend, Parliamentary Division of Glamorganshire, Pontypridd Division and enumerator's District name was Cowbridge Road!

I am not sure how old Leslie Illingworth would have been when he left elementary education at St Athan to have secondary education in Barry County School - probably 13-14. It was a long way to cycle and I am not sure buses were available then, but his residence in 1915, if not 1 Cardiff Road, Cadoxton was 'near Gileston station'. Their address in the register was named as Gilestone Rise. There is a Gileston Rise Cottage just beyond a road called 'The Old Station' on the right hand side of Gileston Road leading out from St Athan today, just to the south of the Vale of Glamorgan line which itself is just south of the road from Barry to Llantwit Major. So, if that is where Leslie lived from 1915, in all probability he took the train from Gileston Station to Barry for school, and to Cardiff to work for the Western Mail when he left school. The biography by the Original Political Cartoon Society says that when, a little later in his life, he moved back to work in Cardiff from the Royal College of Art in London and lived at the family home, he cycled and later drove to work. According to my sources he got the job in the lithographic department at the Western Mail mainly because his father played golf with Sir Robert Webber who was the chief executive of the paper. His father must have been more than a humble clerk to move in these circles.



Gileston Rise Cottage

[Photo](#) © [Alan Hughes](#) (cc-by-sa/2.0)

In 1918 his mother was on the electoral register as well as his father because, after the Representation of the People Act 1918, all women who were over the age of 30 who met minimum property qualifications were eligible to vote.

Whilst working for the Western Mail, Leslie also attended the Cardiff School of Arts, after winning another scholarship. I couldn't find where that was in Cardiff after WW1. Online resources say that the Cardiff School of Art & Design opened in 1865 as the Cardiff School of Science & Art on the top floor of the Cardiff Free Library and Museum, and then a distinct School of Art was formed in 1867, as I learned when writing about E.M. Bruce Vaughan for a previous article. The Cardiff Metropolitan University, of which the School of Art & Design is the oldest of its five constituent academic schools, says that since its first site in the oak rooms above the Royal and Morgan arcades, it had also been housed in The Friary Building near Cardiff's New Theatre, and then in the Howard Gardens campus, opened by the Earl of Snowdon in May 1970. Other sources say that the Howard Gardens

facility was built in 1966. The school is now based at the University's Llandaff Campus on Western Avenue. Does anyone know where it was based in the years after WW1?

Wikipedia says that Illingworth had some of his work published in the Football Express before attending college and began drawing cartoons for the Western Mail and deputising for the paper's celebrated political cartoonist J. M. Staniforth. The Football Express was a sports newspaper, and according to Chris Williams in [biography.wales](#) and the other sources below, it was the sister publication of the Western Mail. I must say, I have never heard of the Football Express. [Ed: Welsh Newspaper Online suggests that it was an offshoot of the Evening Express, with examples from 1902-1910]. Illingworth had drawn sketches and sporting cartoons for it. According to Wikipedia, in 1920 he moved to London after winning another scholarship to the Royal College of Art. Staniforth died just a few months later, and Illingworth took up the post of political cartoonist on the Western Mail.

After just three weeks he returned to London to study at the Slade School of Art continuing to be employed by the Western Mail, for which he worked on and off until 1927. As a young man, he held socialist views but stated later that he knew on which side his bread was buttered, so drew to the newspaper's political line and continued to work through the general strike of 1926. He also started obtaining freelance work, drawing for The Strand, Opinion, Punch and Tit-Bits. He travelled to the USA and had further art training in Berlin and Paris. He lived in Paris for a while, studying at the Academie Julian. In 1928 and again in 1930 he travelled to and from North America, which I refer to below.

Back in Britain, Illingworth was in demand as a freelance artist for magazines and commercial firms. In 1938 he succeeded to the post of cartoonist of the Daily Mail. He had applied for the vacancy through a pseudonym, as he believed that members of the Mail staff were prejudiced against his work. He was chief political cartoonist for the Daily Mail throughout World War II and although there was plenty of material to draw from, his detailed style made producing daily work for the Mail, and weekly for Punch, a chore. It was a reserved occupation, so he avoided conscription, unlike his brother who was conscripted aged 40, according to an article by the Political Cartoon Society. He remained as the Daily Mail's political cartoonist until 1969. By the time that he joined the Mail he no longer held radical views and regarded himself as a lower middle-class man drawing for the same readership. Chris Williams says that his work preached to the converted rather than challenged their prejudices. In the Second World War he also served in the Home Guard as an anti-aircraft gunner in Hyde Park. His cartoons were signed "Illingworth". I have no idea if he was generally known as Leslie, Les or Gilbert!

Chris Williams said that Illingworth left Wales permanently in 1936, yet he was on every electoral roll there I have seen from 1924 up to and including 1939. He did become a tenant at 53 Queensborough Terrace, Bayswater in 1936. The owner of the flat, Enid Radcliff, became his lifelong companion and housekeeper.

The Illingworth family moved sometime between 1922 and 1925, being at Gilestone Rise in the electoral roll of 1922 and at Picketstone Cottage in 1925, yet in 1923 a John Illingworth (who was he?) and a Leslie Illingworth were at Picketstone on the register. Where was or is Picketstone Cottage? There is a Picketston Cottage (pictured right) on a minor road leading northwards off Eglwys Brewis Road, and there is a small



settlement called Picketston just a little further along the road, not far from the South Wales Aviation Museum. Ordnance Survey maps published from 1885 to 1921 have Picketston in the same place, and today there is a Picketson Close in St Athan in the Eglwys Brewis area I would say, not far from Picketston. In the electoral registers in the 1920s and 30's neighbouring farms and residences such as Milllands, Gadlys (although called Gladlys Farm then) and the Butts were on the register near the entry for Picketstone Cottage. They are still visible on modern day OS maps nearer to Llanmaes itself. I am reasonably confident that Picketston Cottage now is the Picketstone Cottage that the Illingworths occupied. On Leslie's and Jean's arrival forms back in the UK after voyages from Montreal their abode was Picketston. Possibly just the cottage was known as Picketstone in the past! The spelling was that on every electoral roll.

Illingworth was offered the position of second Cartoonist at the satirical magazine Punch in 1945, after the death of John Bernard Partridge, and in 1948 was invited into creative meetings where the senior staff would discuss the content of future issues. He became the Cartoonist of Punch in 1949, alternating with Norman Mansbridge, and worked for Punch until 1968. He would illustrate the work of others rather than come up with his own satirical ideas. Malcolm Muggeridge was his editor for 5 years at Punch in the 1950s. He felt that although Illingworth was not 'a political animal and has little or no spirit of partisanship where politicians and their policies are concerned, yet he reacts profoundly to a political situation seen as part of the drama of life'

Williams says that Illingworth retained a strong Glamorgan accent, whatever that means (Barry or Cardiff, the Vale, Bridgend, the valleys!?) and could not be mistaken for anything other than a Welshman. Yet there was very little of Wales in his work for the Daily Mail and Punch and he showed no sympathy for Welsh politicians, loathing Aneurin Bevan and far preferring Winston Churchill. During WW2 his cartoons were very patriotic and strong in opposition to the enemies abroad rather than attacking figures at home. Williams says that they were the most effective monument to his art. '*The combat*' (Punch, November 1939), remains an evocative reminder both of the existential nature of that conflict, and of the important role assumed by political cartoonists in stiffening public resolve during its most difficult phases'.



Towards the end of his career Illingworth worked for the Sun and in 1974 produced a weekly cartoon for the News of the World continuing to work sporadically for these papers until 1976. He lived in Knightsbridge from 1940 to 1963 with his housekeeper and companion Enid Radcliff before moving to Sussex. The only address I have found for him in London at that time is 14 Park Mansions, Kensington in 1952. He never married. He was voted the Political and Social Cartoonist of the Year by the Cartoonists' Club of Great Britain in 1962 and was first President of the British Cartoonists Association in 1966. He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Kent in 1975.

He took up farming in Sussex, owning a farm and land at Robertsbridge, East Sussex after moving from Horley. He also had a house in Dulwich and a Barbican flat. He died in hospital in Hastings on 20 December 1979, age 77. His health had deteriorated with a heart condition, and his housekeeper Enid could not cope so he went into a home a few months before he died. His probate record shows that he left £87,176.

What became of the rest of Leslie Gilbert Illingworth's family? His father Richard Frederick remained on the electoral roll at Picketstone cottage up to 1956, although he died in London later that year. He left a modest sum of about £3400. He was a quantity surveyor in the Railway Engineering Department and in the 1939 electoral register he was a retired Chief Clerk in the railway engineers' office.



Illingworth in retirement

Credit: Ivan007, [CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/), via Wikimedia Commons

Leslie's mother Helen lived at Picketstone Cottage doing household duties. She was named again as Ellen during the 1930s in the electoral register. Her probate entry shows that she died in 1951, age 77, at 14 Park Mansions, Knightsbridge. Her address was Picketston Cottage, St Athan. She left £360 10s 11d to her husband Richard.

His brother Vivian Richard was born on 23 November 1899 in Barry, presumably at 8 Harbour Road and baptised on 9 April 1900 at the Parish Church of Barry by Rector HH Stewart. He was the sportsman who had won the FA Cup and represented Scotland at football and who was a keen cricketer. Vivian's father was an engineer, whilst Vivian's profession was civil engineer, an Associate Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers. His works residence was Docks Engineers Office, Merchant Exchange Buildings, Bute Docks.

He lived in the family homes until his marriage to Matilda May Payne in 1931. It seems she was known as May and she was born in Cardiff in 1907 and the marriage was in St Nicholas on 30 September 1931. Certainly, Banns of marriage in Vivian's parish of Llanmaes says the bride's parish was St Nicholas. Possibly sources saying that she was from Neath were using her place of abode in 1939 and during the war. Vivian's residence was at 4 Oaklands Terrace in the Walter Road area of Swansea 1931-32 and in 1934 he and Matilda May were on the electoral register at 11 Moat Place, Acton, Ealing. In 1939 their residence was at Maristowe, Upper Cimla Road in Neath.

A search of the birth records for children with the surname of Illingworth and mother's maiden name of Payne revealed a Richard P Illingworth, birth registered in the first quarter of 1933 in Brentford, a Jane V Illingworth, born in 1935 in Brentford, and Helen M Illingworth born in 1939 in Neath.

Military records show that Vivian's residence was in Edinburgh in 1941. It is difficult to read some of the military records on Ancestry without subscribing to another site but it appears that he was a Captain in the Royal Engineers Supplementary Reserve in November 1939. He was made a Major, possibly in October 1941, the entry in the London Gazette is very unclear. Then it seems sometime before February 1944 he was made a Temporary Lt Colonel in the Royal Engineers Regiment. Sadly, he died in hospital in the theatre of war in Italy on 2 February 1944 aged 44, not from injuries sustained in battle but from leukaemia according to the Political Cartoon Society's article. He was buried in Naples War Cemetery. A recommendation for the award of an OBE was published in 1944.

The Barry at War History Group's page on him on Facebook shows that he was Mentioned in Despatches, fought in North Africa with the 151st (Great Western) Railway Construction Company. quaternary unit: Supplementary Reserve and was awarded the War Medal 1939-1945, the 1939-45 Star and Africa Star. So it seems Vivian joined the Territorial Army quite a while before WW2 and the implication is that he died of an incident, which to me

implies injury, but it may just be the way the Army or the Gazette reports and records deaths in service. Probate at Llandudno on 1 February 1945 shows that he left £1902.

Leslie's sister Phyllis Jean was a teacher born in 1905 in Cadoxton- Cardiff Road probably. On 24 June 1928 she disembarked from the *Alaunia* of the Cunard Steamship Company at London. She was 22, accompanied by older brother Leslie who was an artist. They both lived at Picketston near Cowbridge. They were 3rd class Tourists whose country of last permanent residence and country of intended future permanent residence was England, despite the option on the form to indicate Wales. I think Leslie may well have been working in London then and maybe Phyllis was working in England too. The ship had started its journey at Montreal and had stopped at New York and Plymouth, Devon. There is no mention of Leslie visiting Canada in the sources I have used, so it is likely they joined the ship at New York. On 15 August 1930, Phyllis, 24, accompanied by Leslie, 27, departed on the *Duchess of York* of the Canadian Pacific Line for Montreal. They were c/o T. Cook & Son, Cardiff-presumably Thomas Cook travel agent's branch in Cardiff. The form was completed inaccurately as Phyllis was described as a housewife and Leslie as a teacher. Their country of intended permanent residence was Wales. The port of embarkation was not on the form, but the intended destination was Quebec and Montreal via Belfast and Greenock. On 18 July 1931 Phyllis arrived at Southampton on the *Empress of Australia* of the Canadian Pacific Line. The ship had departed from Quebec, stopping at Cherbourg. It seems that she had a year teaching in Canada?

She married Ernest Conwil Lewis, born in Pontardawe in 1907. Newspaper reports say the marriage was on 16 September 1937 at Llanmaes, which was the bride's parish after all, but another report says it was on 23 September at Llantwit Major. Ancestry says the details were obtained using AI so there may be errors! A Julian J Lewis with a mother's maiden name of Illingworth was registered in the birth records in Surrey NW in 1939 and a Janie? M at the same place in 1941. They could be Phyllis's children but not definite. A Phyllis Jean Lewis was registered in the death records in Redcar and Cleveland in November 1996. Her date of birth was 25 June 1905. This could well be her, as an Ernest Colwil Lewis was registered on the death records in 1981, aged 74 in Central Cleveland. Perhaps the more expert genealogy sleuths and newspaper archive hunters in our Society can help to firm up the details of Phyllis Jean and indeed Leslie who has numerous newspaper articles about him online?

Sources I based my account on were:

Illingworth, Leslie Gilbert (1902-1979), political cartoonist at the Dictionary of Welsh Biography biography.wales. Author Chris Williams(1963-2024). This also lists his various sources including ' Growing up in the Vale of Glamorgan', in Stewart Williams(ed).*The Glamorgan Historian*, 4(1967) 13-17. Wikipedia

Ancestry and The Genealogist for the genealogical records and electoral rolls data.

Cardiff Metropolitan University online information

chardmuseum.co.uk for limitations on women working as teachers. www.thegazette/London for Army information.

For further and deeper insights into L.G Illingworth's life and character I recommend the University of Kent's British Cartoon Archive biography. The article also contains various other informative references.

The Political Cartoon Society's biographical account on original-political-cartoon.com paints a vivid picture of his personality, his kindness, generosity, modesty and sense of humour and his way of expressing things in a South Walian manner. I corrected some of my assumptions and added more factual information from this source.

Footnote A station opened in Gileston in 1897 and closed in 1964. In the early stages of planning 'Gileston' and 'St Athan' were used interchangeably until 1896 when it was decided that Gileston would be the name. Later the nameboard of the station became 'Gileston for St Athan' but Gileston was the name generally used. Recently, St Athan's population has grown markedly some politicians and local people have urged TFW to reopen a station there. In 1939 another station opened at St Athan because the opening of RAF St Athan caused a surge in traffic on the line. Gileston was convenient for the East camp but not the western part of the base so the GWR opened St Athan Halt, yet it was over 2 miles from the town! In 1943 it was upgraded to a station, yet many locals still referred to it as 'the halt.' The UK Government has backed a proposal to reopen the station and a feasibility study for the Vale of Glamorgan Council took place in 2022, favouring a station near the St Athan Aerospace Business Park, although it is the furthest location from St Athan village and at the time, and possibly still now, there is no designated footpath or cycle route to the site.

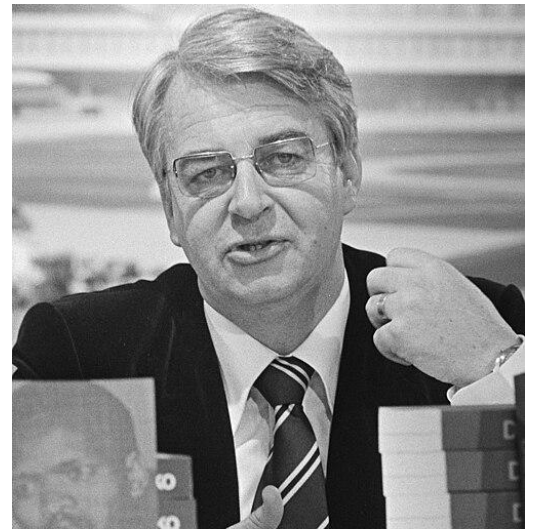
Addition

On the walk I led around the western side of Barry and Barry Island in September 2022 I lamented the fact that the long-proposed restaurant development in the old art deco style toilets at the Nells Point end of Whitmore Bay at Barry Island seemed to have stalled. There has been recent building activity there and it has been announced that the intention is for a restaurant, Morio Lounge, to open on 3 June 2026.



A SOUTH AFRICAN AND AN ENGLISHMAN FROM SOUTH AFRICA IN CARDIFF

The name Donald Woods may not be familiar to readers unless they have seen Richard Attenborough's film about him, *Cry Freedom*. Donald was a South African journalist, Editor of the Daily Dispatch in the Eastern Cape and an anti-apartheid activist. He had a significant connection with Cardiff where he lived and worked as a sub-editor for The Western Mail during the late 50's, to gain journalistic experience. During that time, he developed a deep affection for the Welsh people that remained throughout his life. He called at the British Council's offices in Braamfontein, Johannesburg in the mid 90', I suspect because he'd heard that the Director was a Welshman. He was back in South Africa assisting at the Institute for the Advancement of Journalism in the absence of Hugh Lewin, its Director. Hugh had also been a vociferous anti-apartheid activist and was imprisoned from 1964-71 for his activities in support of the African Resistance Movement and then spent 20 years in exile.

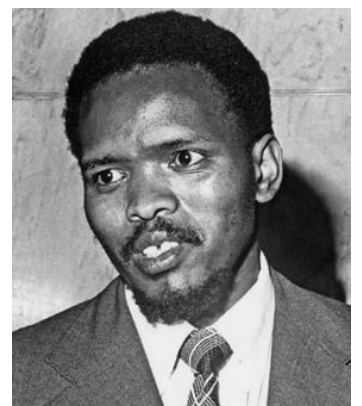


Donald Woods

Credit: Bert Verhoeff for Anefo, CCO, via Wikimedia Commons

When Donald and I first met we immediately struck up a friendship over a prolonged lunch with several G&Ts, Donald talking warmly of his time in Cardiff and people we both knew, such as Don Rowlands, a former Editor of The Western Mail, who directed the Thomson Foundation then based in Cardiff and set up with the specific aim of training journalists and communications teams in developing countries. Donald and I kept in contact including during my work visits to London. He and his wife, Wendy came to a concert at the Festival Hall organised by the British Council to mark Nelson Mandela's 80th birthday.

We often spoke about his courageous role in openly opposing apartheid and the friendship he developed with Steve Biko who was at the forefront of a grassroots anti-apartheid campaign known as the Black Consciousness Movement. Biko died in 1977 from brain injuries sustained from beatings by South African security officers. Woods felt that Biko "could enable one to share his vision" with "an economy of words" because he seemed to communicate ideas through extraverbal media - almost physically." As a result of his outspokenness against the regime and friendship with Biko, Donald was placed under arrest, given a 5 year ban and was stripped of his editorship. He was not allowed to speak publicly, write, travel or work for the duration of his ban. Added to that he was subjected to increasing harassment. His six year-old daughter was badly burnt by a T-shirt laced with



Credit: © Steve Biko Foundation

ninhydrin that the security service had sent. Fearing for his own life and his family's Donald decided to flee South Africa. The film *Cry Freedom* describes how, disguised as a Roman Catholic priest, he managed to hitchhike to Lesotho where a friend met him and took him the capital, Maseru. His family soon joined him, and with UN passports, they were flown over South Africa to Botswana and onwards to exile in the UK. When I first met him, I remarked that he didn't look at all like he was in the film. His response was that he decided to let Kevin Kline represent him. A man with a keen sense of humour as well as considerable bravery who spoke so fondly about his time in Wales. He died in London in August 2001 aged 67.

Another very memorable person that I had the good fortune to meet was Father Trevor Huddleston CR, another anti-apartheid activist who took on the authorities openly. In 1943 he went to the Community of the Resurrection mission station at Rosettenville in southern Johannesburg. Moving to Sophiatown on the West Rand of Joburg over the course of the next 13 years Huddleston developed into a much-loved priest and respected anti-apartheid activist, earning him the nickname *Makhalipile*, "Dauntless One". He was particularly concerned and outspoken about the Nationalist government's decision to bulldoze Sophiatown and forcibly remove its inhabitants 16 miles further away from Johannesburg to Meadowlands, a district of the township of Soweto. There are many South Africans whose lives were changed by Huddleston, amongst them Hugh Masekela, to whom Huddleston presented his first trumpet. Hugh, along with Jonas Gwangwa, went on to form the Huddleston Jazz Band, sparking a global career for both. I enjoyed the company of both Hugh and Jonas. Huddleston was also credited with influencing the lives of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Oliver Tambo, ANC President during his years of exile.



In early 1956 Father Trevor was posted back to the Community's mother house in Mirfield in West Yorkshire, and I met him when he visited Cardiff to promote his book *Naught for your Comfort*, a scathing indictment of apartheid. The Community had a house attached to Roath parish and I served with Father Huddleston when he took services at St Anne's in Croft Street. He talked to me about what was happening in South Africa and encouraged me to join the Anti-Apartheid Movement. I did, and as a result was advised not to visit South Africa until the end of apartheid. In 1994 I was posted here as The British Council's Director for South Africa and Regional Director, Southern Africa - a very exciting time as apartheid was over and Nelson Mandela elected President. But when the euphoria subsided, those previously disadvantaged were still so, and are today.

Les Phillips - Johannesburg, May 2026

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Elizabeth Morgan, RLHS Programme and Events Organiser

There are still some places available on some of the summer trips – non-members are welcome to come along.

☀️ R.L.H.S. ☀️ SUMMER ☀️ DAYTRIPS ☀️ 2026 ☀️

☀️ WEDNESDAY 24th JUNE 2026

CARMARTHEN

9.00 - 5.30

CORACLE MUSEUM • GUIDED WALK • ST. PETER'S CHURCH

COST: £24.50

☀️ WEDNESDAY 1st JULY 2026

WESTON-SUPER-MARE

9.00 - 5.30

LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM • FREE TIME to enjoy this quintessential English Seaside Resort.

COST: £16.50

☀️ TUESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2026

VALE OF GLAMORGAN

9.00 - 17.15

ST. DONAT'S CASTLE • COWBRIDGE • DYFFRYN GARDENS

COST: £15.50 + £13.30 for non-National Trust Members.

Anyone interested should contact:

Elizabeth Morgan

R.L.H.S. Programme & Events Organiser.

✉️ roathhistory@gmail.com

☎️ 029 2058 2658

📱 07801 544 823

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.

Their next event is on 11 June 2026 when Gordon Hindess will talk about the flora and fauna of Cathays Cemetery.

The annual subscription is £20 and visitors can pay £3 per meeting.

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

Grangetown Local History Society



At the time of going to press, no details of their future talks were available, but have a look at their [website](#).

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.



If you wish to be kept up to date on events held by BALH, please subscribe to their mailing list at <https://www.balh.org.uk/#subscribe>

Roath Local History Society on the web

There's also lots of Roath history on the [RLHS website](#), and in the excellent blog posts – do subscribe. There is also the re-energised [Facebook group](#) which has lots of interesting posts and comments. You need merely to answer 2 simple questions to join. And find us at [roath_history](#) on Instagram.

Latest blog stories are:

- [Kenneth More and his Cardiff Roots](#)
- [Margaret Lindsay Williams – Royal Portrait Artist](#)
- [Memories of a Steelworks Electrician](#)
- [Preswylfa School, 82 Pen-y-lan Road](#)

Louvain Rees | [hellohistoria](#)

Louvain Rees's [Hellohistoria](#) blogposts are well worth a follow. She is a BBC Award-winning social historian, specialising in Bridgend and her primary research interests are paupers, poor law, lunacy, and poverty between 1790 and 1921. She confesses to a taste for death and graveyards.

Cardiff Naturalists' Society

Images taken in the early 20th century by Harry Morrey Salmon, Welsh naturalist and "the father of British bird photography", are now available online via the [National Museum's Collections online system](#)

There are now well over 1000 images for you to enjoy. If you click on an image you will be able to zoom in and also be able to see the negative format for those images that are negatives.

cardiffnats@cardiffnaturalists.org.uk

www.cardiffnaturalists.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CardiffNaturalists>

<http://cardiffnaturalists.blogspot.com/>

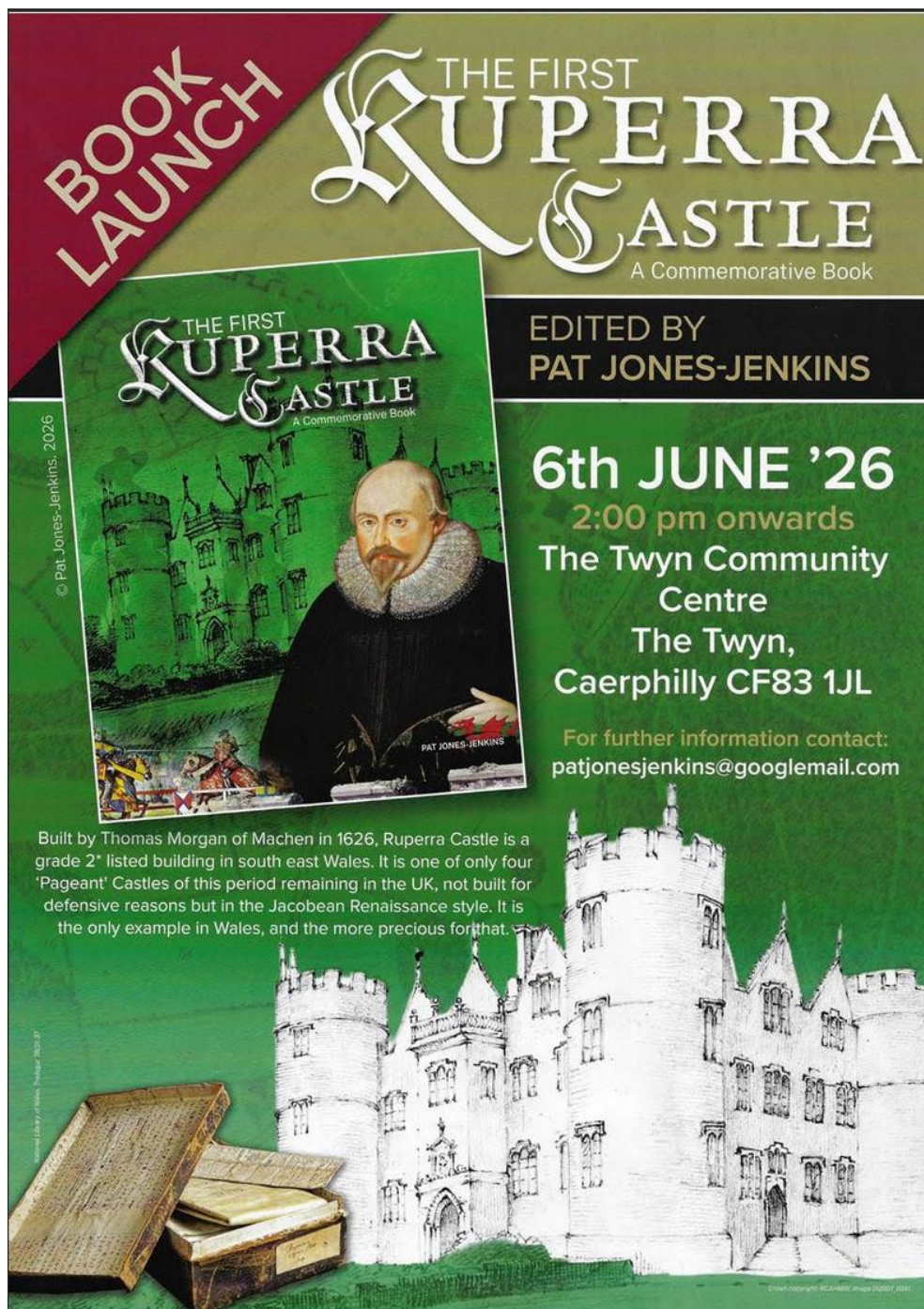


BOOK LAUNCH – THE FIRST RUPERRA CASTLE

We have received an open invitation for RLHS members to attend the Ruperra Castle Book Launch, celebrating the 400th anniversary of the building of the Castle by Thomas Morgan of Machen.

Several well-known and local historians have contributed articles to the book. The chairman on the day will be Tom Lloyd, OBE, DL, FSA. Further information can be obtained from patjonesjenkins@googlemail.com

The special price of the book at the launch will be £10.



BOOK LAUNCH

THE FIRST RUPERRA CASTLE

A Commemorative Book

EDITED BY
PAT JONES-JENKINS

6th JUNE '26
2:00 pm onwards
The Twyn Community Centre
The Twyn,
Caerphilly CF83 1JL

For further information contact:
patjonesjenkins@googlemail.com

Built by Thomas Morgan of Machen in 1626, Ruperra Castle is a grade 2* listed building in south east Wales. It is one of only four 'Pageant' Castles of this period remaining in the UK, not built for defensive reasons but in the Jacobean Renaissance style. It is the only example in Wales, and the more precious for that.

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GET IN TOUCH

For newsletter feedback and 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 ☎ (029) 2048 8358.

For membership, contact:

Nicky at RLHSMembershipSec@gmail.com

For events and programming enquiries, contact:

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

For website enquiries, contact:

Ted at RoathHistoryWebsite@gmail.com