

TIME TO GROW

The merger of the Gwent Local History Council into the Gwent County History Association has now been completed and we can look forward to developing new plans. Preparations are already well advanced for a series of new publications, the first of which should be out in 2015. More details in our next newsletter. Issue 116 of *Gwent Local History*, the 'Chartist Special' commemorating the 175th anniversary of the 1839 'Rising' was the biggest ever produced. We are working more closely with other organisations, with the day school in November on 'Gwent in the Great War', organised jointly by ourselves, the Western Front Association, Monmouthshire Antiquarians, the Chepstow Society and Tidenham History Group being a prime example.

Yet there are still significant challenges to be faced. In the past we have enjoyed substantial support, including financial support, from local authorities, both through the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations and through bulk orders of *Gwent Local History* for libraries and schools. Those days have gone. We now have to stand on our own two feet.

At present we are not covering our costs. We have reserves but it is clearly not in the interests of the organisation to run a year on year deficit. We therefore need to increase our membership and sales of our journal. You can help to achieve this:

- *encourage friends to join.
- *take advantage of our Christmas package (see page 4).
- *if you belong to a local history group, encourage it to affiliate.
- *ask your local history group to build up a library by purchasing back copies of *Gwent Local History*.
- *ask your local library if it has updated its subscription.

Contact us if you need any help with any of the above. Together we can build.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW HOME FOR NEWPORT SHIP: Newport City Council has agreed that Newport's Medieval Ship will be moved to a new site for up to three years while decisions over a more permanent solution are made. The new site has not yet been named. The Welsh Government has agreed to spend £20,000 a year towards the cost of the move and continued conservation work.

ALL CHANGE AT SUDBROOK: The Sudbrook History Centre, which contains an exhibition on the history of the village and the building of the Severn Tunnel, has received substantial financial assistance from Adventa, Monmouthshire Rural Development. It has now been rebranded 'The Tunnel Centre' and will be open daily.

DIC PENDERYN: THE GWENT CONNECTION

*Dic Penderyn was hanged for his part in the Merthyr Rising of 1831. Here **Steffan ap Dafydd** explores his connection with a Gwent clergyman.*

We are limited in our knowledge of “Dic Penderyn”, Richard Lewis, as a human being. However, some of what we know has connections with a Church of England clergyman.

That clergyman recorded the baptism of little Mary Lewis, the daughter of Elizabeth and Richard Lewis, on 26th July 1831. The significance of that line in the records of the Parish of St John and St Mary’s Cardiff is that the wife of Richard Lewis, whose profession is described as ‘convict’, is confirmed as Elizabeth. It enables us to identify her as Elizabeth Harries and their marriage on 7th April, 1828.

The clergyman’s name was Daniel Jones. He was present at Richard Lewis’s hanging on 13th August 1831, as were four Methodist Ministers. It is clear too that he had talked with the condemned man, as well as with other participants in the Merthyr Rising of June 1831. He had also baptised Lewis Lewis’s son, Lewis (and through that record, we know that Lewis Lewis’s wife’s name was Ann) on the 25th July 1831 at Cardiff Gaol. The baptisms of the 25th and 26th July 1831 for the two Lewis families were the only convict-linked baptisms recorded at the prison and in the parish in that year.

Daniel Jones presented a hand written report, now in the 1831 Rolls of the Glamorgan Quarter Sessions and available to be seen at The Glamorgan Archives.

In the Glamorgan Quarter Sessions Order Book, Midsummer 1831, pages 43-44, Chaplain's Report (Rev. D. Jones), he states:

*"... It is his painful duty to refer with deep Sorrow to another Class of prisoners those indicted for rioting at Merthyr tidvil and elsewhere the difficulty with most of them was to convince them that they had erred at all. They produced examples of many persons in higher Classes of Society whom they conceived to be doing precisely the same things and had no idea of the heinousness of any offence but the crime of murder. They how[ev]er acknowledged with one Voice that if they had led religious and moral lives they would not have been in the difficulties of which they complained and confessed that there were legal and peaceful means of redress within their reach. **The Chaplain considers Richard Lewis whose life was forfeited to the Law, to have had a correct sense of his Sinfulness and the necessity of pardon through the merits and mediation of a Redeemer, but that he lived and died under a mistake and misapprehension concerning the Sinfulness of the acts of Rioting in which they had all partaken.**"*

But who was Daniel Jones? In a printed record of Oxford Alumni, 1500-1886, Daniel Jones appears as follows:

*"Jones, Daniel, s. Daniel, of St. Pagan, co. Glamorgan, (For "St. Pagan", read St. Fagan) Cler. Jesus Coll., matric 27 May 1814, aged 18
Clerk 1814, scholar 1817-1821, BA 1817, MA 1820."*

He was curate at St John and St Mary's Parish, Cardiff between 1828 and late 1831. It may be that the role of Chaplain of Cardiff Gaol went with the curacy for an extra £10 per year. He ministered his last marriage in St. John and St. Mary's Parish, Cardiff on 9th November 1831, and signed himself "Daniel Jones Vicar of Caerleon".

He is recorded in 1841 Census as living in Vicarage House, aged 45, "Clergyman" with his wife Ann, of the same age, and son John, aged 9 years.

The 1851 Census sees him as a 55 year old and confirms his St Fagans origin, Ann his wife as a native of Oakley in Wiltshire, daughters Anne and Maria, aged 22, as well as son John Edward Jones.

His life in Caerleon is described in an interesting article in ***Gwent Local History***, No. 39, Spring 1975, "Rev. Daniel Jones, M. A., Vicar of the Parish Church of Llangattock-juxta-Caerleon or St. Cadoc's, Caerleon, from 1829 to 1857' (though he was there from 1831 to 1857). It includes the respect that the community had for him, his son, also a clergyman, adopting the surname Machen at the time of his marriage in order to secure an inheritance, then the grandson, Arthur Machen, author, whose writing has impressed the genre leader Stephen King.

It appears that the Vicar of Caerleon's life was quite comfortable. There is no part of the article that refers to Daniel Jones's time as curate in Cardiff and Chaplain of Cardiff Gaol and his own moment in history as a witness to the death of the 23 year old iron miner whose funeral triggered the trade union movement in South Wales that remains with us until today.

His gravestone (seen at 8.30 am on Friday 12th September 2014) reads:

"...Daniel Jones MA

*For 25 years Vicar of this Parish
who fell asleep in Jesus Sept 29 1857*

*Aged 61 years + The souls of the
righteous are in the hands of God.*

*Also Ann his beloved wife
who died May 27th 1866*

Aged 73 years."

COPIES OF GWENT COUNTY HISTORY STILL AVAILABLE AT DISCOUNTED PRICES

Volume 5 of the *Gwent County History* is still available at the discounted price of £45 (plus £4.50 postage and packing), a reduction of £20 on the list price from:

University of Wales Shop
12 High Street
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CF10 1AX
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Or e-mail shop@wales.ac.uk

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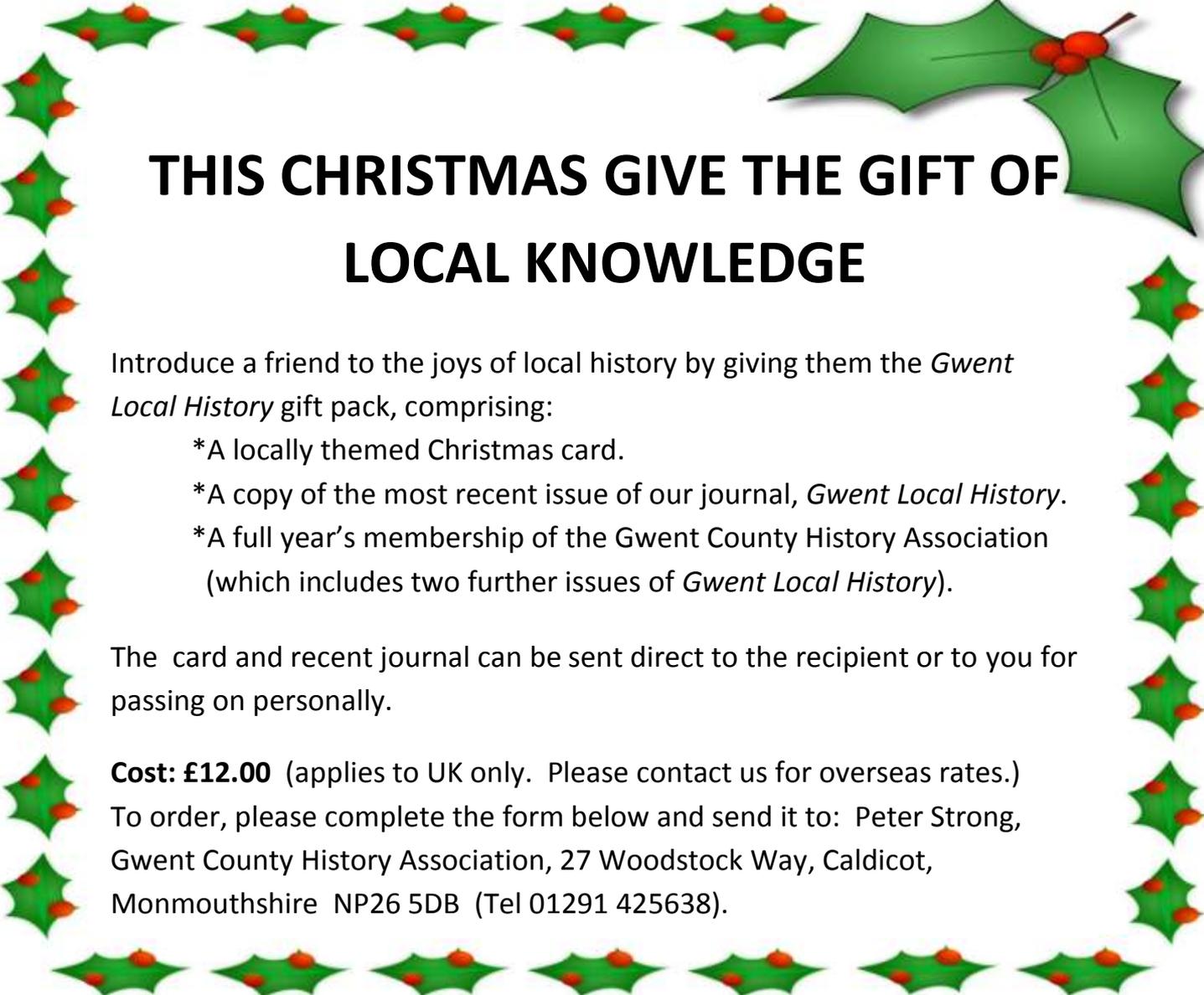
Earlier volumes are available at the list price or the whole set of five volumes can be purchased for £225.

CONTACT US

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THIS CHRISTMAS GIVE THE GIFT OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Introduce a friend to the joys of local history by giving them the *Gwent Local History* gift pack, comprising:

- *A locally themed Christmas card.
- *A copy of the most recent issue of our journal, *Gwent Local History*.
- *A full year's membership of the Gwent County History Association (which includes two further issues of *Gwent Local History*).

The card and recent journal can be sent direct to the recipient or to you for passing on personally.

Cost: £12.00 (applies to UK only. Please contact us for overseas rates.)

To order, please complete the form below and send it to: Peter Strong, Gwent County History Association, 27 Woodstock Way, Caldicot, Monmouthshire NP26 5DB (Tel 01291 425638).

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I enclose a cheque for £12 made out to Gwent County History Association.