

# **GWENT COUNTY HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

## **NEWSLETTER**

## **SPRING 2018**

### **NEW CHAIR FOR GCHA**

As reported in our last newsletter, following the retirement of Kath Norton as Secretary of GCHA and the difficulty in finding a new Secretary, the 2017 AGM agreed to remit election of officers to the committee.

At its meeting in February, Peter Strong agreed to stand down as Chair in order to take over the Secretary's position, while Gill Wakley of Abergavenny Local History Society, agreed to take over as Chair. Andrew Morgan remains in place as treasurer.

Gill has a great deal of experience at running local history activities and will be well known to members through her recent articles in *Gwent Local History*. The Committee is looking forward to working under her leadership.

Kath Norton has kindly agreed to remain as Secretary of Gwent Local History Council, a sub-committee of GCHA.

#### **HELP WANTED**

GCHA is seeking fresh blood to join our committee. In particular we are seeking people to assist with secretarial duties (e.g. writing minutes). To coin a phrase, "no experience necessary as full training will be given". If you think you can help, get in touch.

#### **RECOMMEND A FRIEND**

To keep on an even keel financially we need to increase our membership. Do you have a friend or colleague who might be interested in joining the Gwent County History Association and receiving the *Gwent Local History* journal? If so please send us their name and address and we will send them a complimentary back issue of the journal with an invitation to join.

#### **1918- JOURNEYS END -2018**

GCHA has given its support to a lottery funded 'Journey's End' project led by Gwent branch of the Western Front Association to commemorate the centenary of the 1918 armistice.

In January a plaque was unveiled in West Street Newport commemorating Annie Brewer, one of the most highly decorated wartime nurses. The ceremony was attended by members of her family and Vaughan Gething, Secretary for Health in the Welsh Government.

Future activities include:

\*Monthly guided tours of the war graves of St Woolos cemetery, Bassaleg Road (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month until October 2018).

\*A workshop at Gwent Archives the use of World War One archives. (May 16<sup>th</sup>, book through Gwent Archives).

\*Unveiling a plaque and photograph at St Woolos Hospital to mark its role as a military hospital (6<sup>th</sup> July).

\*A day of activities, talks, film, music etc at St Woolos Cathedral (Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 10.30-4.30).

Contact us for further details.

#### **ANNUAL LECTURE 2018**

### **THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT**

Dr Elin Jones

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2.30

St Michael's Centre, Penypound  
Abergavenny NP7 5UD All welcome  
Followed by GCHA AGM

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### BLAENAU GWENT VOICES

*Blaenau Gwent Voices* has been produced as part of a lottery funded project by “The Scriveners”, a group of local writers. After the Brexit vote, Blaenau Gwent received bad press suggesting that people in the area were hostile to migrants

“The Scriveners” decided to produce a book of positive stories that celebrate the importance of migration to the area by collecting stories from local residents about their diverse heritage. Even if people were born in Blaenau Gwent, you often only have to go back a few generations to discover that their families came from across Britain and the world.

### EVERY WOMAN REMEMBERED: Daughters of Newport in the Great War

by Sylvia Mason (Saron Publishing £6.99).

An enlarged version of an article which will appear in *Gwent Local History* (Spring 2018) telling the story of seven women who lost their lives during the Great War.

## 150 YEARS AGO: MEMORIES OF THE BLAENAVON ELECTION RIOT OF 1868

(From the *South Wales Weekly Argus* 13<sup>th</sup> May 1933)

Mr William Stinchcombe, 16 Upper Waun Street, Blaenavon, is the father of four generations. Aged 74, he worked for six years under the Blaenavon Co. Ltd. Mr Stinchcombe has lived in Blaenavon all his life. When eight years of age he started work at Gants Level, Pwlldu, and considered himself lucky to earn a weekly wage of 2s6d.

Just before his marriage (in 1882) he was one of the favoured few for he earned the top rate of 2s8d a day.

He remembers Blaenavon when it was a village with a brook running through it and remembers the polling day riot of 1868. Cheeses rolled down Broad Street and shoes could be picked up off the street –all the result of the riots.

Mr Stinchcombe says “the crowning glory” of the riot was a bonfire on the present site of the Midland Bank, when nearly all the furniture from the Lion Hotel was burned.

He said, “Men broke into the building and threw out anything they could burn. They intended doing the same at the Prince of Wales Hotel, but were frustrated by soldiers who had been rushed from Newport.



## MONTHLY TOURS January to October 2018

10 am, 2nd Wednesday each month

Meet main gate Bassaleg Road

 [www.gwentwfa.org.uk](http://www.gwentwfa.org.uk)

 [facebook.com/newportremembers](https://www.facebook.com/newportremembers)



## DATA PROTECTION

GCHA members will have noticed that on their renewal forms that they have been asked to give us permission to store basic personal details. This is because it is a legal requirement under the new General Data Protection Regulations.

Please rest assured that there is nothing sinister in this and that your details will not be shared. It is important to complete and return the form since without this we cannot legally contact you.

**CONTACT US:** Correspondence should be sent to:  
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