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Website link below

<https://gwrachtimeline.co.uk>

Here is the website link so you can find the site easily.

Get Involved

We are looking for people to get involved with the project by providing:

- * old photos of the village
- * their memories of the village
- * War records of their relatives
- * history of associations, e.g. scouts, cubs, cadets, marching bands etc.

Latest News:

It's been a bit quiet on the history website the last few weeks, I have been drawing breath and thinking on how we move forward. But I have been using the dry weather to do a bit of DIY around the house. But, never fear I will be on the history trail in earnest in the next few weeks.

That's not to say I have been doing nothing, it's just that I have not loaded anything new to the website. The last thing I put up was the map showing all the old historical sites within a 10 mile radius of the village, I would encourage you all to have a look as it's a very interesting picture of what has happened over the previous centuries around the village. It covers the **Iron Age, Bronze age, Romans** and the **major communication routes** of the people of that time.

I have also been buying some books on the history of South Wales which covers the above periods. There are 3 books in the series by the **Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales for Glamorgan** which I have purchased.

- Volume 1 Part 1 covers - The Stone and Bronze Age.
- Volume 1 Part 2 covers - The Iron Age and Roman Occupation
- Volume 1 Part 3 covers - The Early Christian Period

I also bought a book on King Arthur - King of Glamorgan and Gwent which sets out to prove the King Arthur story is true and he was a Welsh King living in Glamorgan. On the other side of the coin the book sets out dispel some of the common myths about him being buried at Glastonbury and that Camelot was located at Tintagel. The book is by A T Blackett and Alan Wilson and well worth the read.

A big **Thank You** to **Jennifer Bulman** who gave me 4 books on Trains and Railways of Britain last week.

Village Stories:

One of the most important targets for the timeline team is to gather not only the history of the village but to gather the personnel memories of the people who have lived in the village as well. So far we have managed to gather one or two memories from people and others have said they would like to write something. We had the story of Olive Pritchard father who served on HMS Prince of Wales when it was sunk by Japanese warplanes. Henry Caswell our USA correspondent wrote about his memories of his time growing up in the village. We also found online the story from Roydon Williams who used to live in the village, about the time he saw 750 British bombers flying over the valley when he was working nights as an engine cleaner at Glynneath Railway Station. Henry also saw the same bombers after his father woke him up the same night to see them fly over the valley.

I'm sure that there are many stories as interesting as these out there just waiting to be told. So if you have a story to tell get in touch and we can help you to get it published in the website. In order to help I have outlined below some tips to writing a great article.

Tips on how to write a great article:

If like me you haven't written an essay since your school day's, I have googled some hints and tips on how to write an article below. They have certainly helped me, so hopefully they will do the same for you.

- * Choose a subject for your article which is close to your heart.
- * Gather and list all the facts required, name's, dates, places etc. (I consider Rudyard Kiplings six honest serving men, **What, Why, When and How, Where and Who.**)
- * Create an outline for your article and organise the facts in a logical order. (Try to follow a chronological order in the article.)
- * Start with a good, short, punchy opening paragraph that will draw the readers in.
- * It depends what type of article your are writing but you may need to let the readers know what the article is about. (and if necessary, what it isn't about.)
- * Use small paragraphs to keep the article flowing and the readers interested to move on to the next paragraph. (Long wordy paragraphs tend to switch people off)
- * Keep the content of the article to the point.
- * It's time to write your first draft.
- * I found it helped me to read the first draft of the article out loud (I actually recorded it on the PC) that way you can pick up sentences that are a bit clunky.
- * Practice, practice, practice.

Achievements to date

Looking back over the last 18 months what can we say we have achieved to date.

The Website:

Well so far we have created a website to gather all the history of the village, we have also created a Timeline which shows very visually when things occurred in the village.

The website includes **28** articles as diverse as:

the Neath Canal, Spitfire crash on Craig y Llyn, Minorettes Jazz band, Video of the Scouts Carnival from 1966, Historic places within a 10 mile radius of the village, the Last passenger train at the railway station, the sinking of HMS Prince of Wales, Capture of POW's, Memories of the High street as well as old magazines and church pamphlets. Quite a diverse selection of stories I'm sure you would agree.

The Village Timeline

On top of this, we have captured **39** entries in the village timeline from 1700 to the present day:

They include the known dates of opening of Hen Dy Cwrdd, Capel Bach, Siloh and Calfaria, along with the Neath Canal, Venallt Ironworks, Neath Railway Line, the National School, Blaengwrach Council School, the Pit head baths, the Cemetery, OAP Hall, A465 Missing Link Road, New bridge into the village, along with severe weather dates and many other important dates as well.

But this is only the start, with your help we wish to include more articles in the Website and more dates in the Timeline. The hope is to include all events taken place in the village so we can build up a picture of how the village developed over the centuries.

This will make it a one stop shop for all the historical events that have taken place in the village.

A call to Arms:

- So if you would like to record your memories of growing up in the village, or going to school, or participating in any of the village associations, then please let us know.
- If you have any old photos, cine films or videos, documents or memorabilia of the village, get in touch and we can scan or photograph your items then you can have them back.
- Also your relatives memories of the village can be gathered and saved on the website, perhaps get your children involved by interviewing Granny and Grandad and capturing their memories.
- **If you would like to contribute in any way, then please get in touch.**