

Open Saturday and Sunday afternoons
Winter 12noon - 3pm, Summer 1-4pm

www.ClydachHeritageCentre.com

 clydachheritagecentre

 @ClydachHtgCtr

Newsletter No. 13 October 2025

Letter from the Chairman

2025 has been a year of anniversaries for Clydach. The centenary of Clydach War Memorial Hospital. Clydach Baths was opened 90 years ago. St. Mary's Church was consecrated in 1905 and the statue of Ludwig Mond was unveiled in 1925.

At the Heritage Centre there are Memory Books for visitors to write their recollections of the Baths and of the Hospital and we have received some interesting comments.

S4C visited the Centre to film for a series of 'Stori'r Iaith', the Welsh version of 'Who do you think you are'. The subject of the programme was Sarra Elgan, TV sports journalist and presenter, whose grandmother worked at the Mond. Rhian, our Vice chair, was filmed speaking to her about the work of the Mond.

Recently pupils from Knelston Primary visited in connection with the theme of the history of transport along the Swansea Canal. They were thrilled to see Dottie, John Brynmair's horse, who came along to show that horses were used to pull the boats along the canal.

Right: Sarra Elgan (centre) chatting to Rhian Evans (Vice Chair) while being filmed for Stori'r Iaith.

Through the year the Centre has opened specially for groups to learn of the rich history of Clydach and the surrounding area.

Although most visitors to the Centre come from the local area, during the year there have been some from as far afield as Holland.

The continued success of the Heritage Centre is due to the commitment of the band of volunteers who give of their time every weekend.

Looking forward to another successful year.

Susan Evans



How did we do?

The Heritage Centre was recently inspected by Swansea Food Hygiene Standards and we obtained a rating of 5, the highest rating available and we are thrilled to now publish our score.

But what does that mean you may ask

The rating gives information to customers about the hygiene standards in food premises at the time they are inspected. The hygiene rating given reflects what the food safety officer finds at the time.

SGÔR HYLENDID BWYD
FOOD HYGIENE RATING

0 1 2 3 4 **5**

DA IAWN
VERY GOOD

It's not easy to judge hygiene standards on appearance alone so the rating gives you an idea of what's going on in the kitchen, or behind closed doors.

Events in the Park

Pirate Day

On Sunday August 24th Swansea Canal Society held a Pirate Day at the canoe store. We entered into the spirit of this event by offering Pirate themed puzzles and games in the Centre such as "What's your Pirate Name?" e.g. born in January with your first name starting with A you would be Freebooter McScurvey. What's your name?



Pirate colouring sheets and shortbread biscuits completed a very successful day.



Visit from Knelston Primary School

A group of children and teachers from Knelston primary school visited the Centre in July. The children were doing a project on transport and were interested in the work of the canal. John brought along Dottie, his horse, with his carriage, and talked to the children about the way horses were used on the canal to tow the canal boats full of coal and other goods. He also explained why the horses would have had blinkers; so that they could only look forwards and not be frightened by anything coming up behind them, like a carriage or a boat.

As a treat all the children had a Joe's ice cream to go with their picnic lunch sitting in the sun on the benches in front of the Centre.

"Thank you to everyone involved in our trip, it was absolutely wonderful."

Kate Porter (teacher).

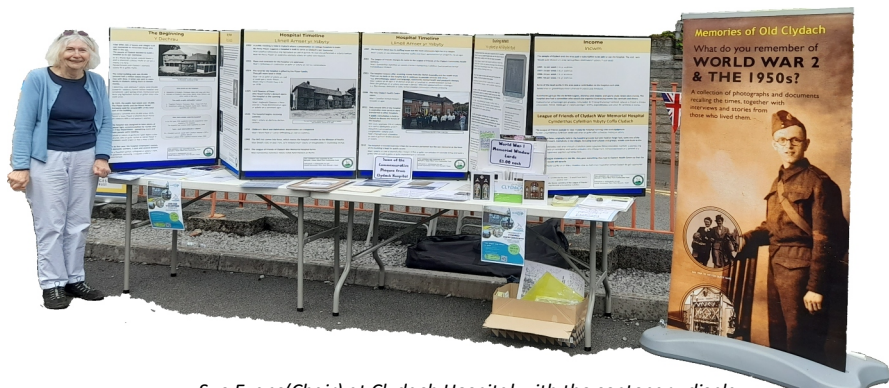


above: children arriving at the Centre

below: John Brynmair (Committee member) with Dottie, talks to the Knelston children about horses working on the canal.



Anniversaries



Sue Evans(Chair) at Clydach Hospital with the centenary display.

This year saw significant anniversaries of two much-loved Clydach landmarks, the Hospital and the Baths.

In 1925 the Clydach War Memorial Hospital opened, the village's memorial to those men from the village who died in World War 1. Though the hospital closed in 2012 the main building, being a war memorial, was saved and now provides accommodation for veterans. Alabaré, the group managing the accommodation, held an open day in August to celebrate the centenary of the hospital's opening. The Friends were invited to attend, and displayed the information panels from the Centre. These panels generated much interest, particularly the one showing how much employees contributed from their wages towards the costs of running the hospital:

1925	1d per week (equivalent to 34p today)
1927	2d per week (equivalent to 69p today)
1938	3d per week (equivalent to 115p today)
1945	4d per week (equivalent to 100p today)

An example of the model which Aneurin Bevan later drew on to create the National Health Service.

Clydach Community Council and Friends of Clydach Heritage Centre at Forge Fach for the celebration of 90 years since the Baths opened.

l to r: Cllr Eve Jackson, Cllr Julian Nicholds (Chair), Sue Evans (Chair), Gwyn Evans, Mary Hunter, Cllr John Hill

At 3pm on 15 June 1935 W J Percy Player officially opened the Clydach Swimming Pool, in the company of the Rhyndwyclydach Parish Council and many gleeful swimmers. Ninety years later (to the minute!) The Friends of Clydach Heritage Centre and Clydach Community Councillors opened an exhibition in Forge Fach to celebrate this anniversary. The Forge Fach Centre sits on the site of the old Baths so this was a fitting place for the celebration. Over 40 visitors attended and shared their memories of the Baths. A short film was shown describing the history of the Baths, from John Player's donation of the land which is now Forge Fach to local people's memories. One statement, which was repeated many times, was how cold the water was, it came straight from the river, but once you were in nobody cared they just had fun!

The Heritage Centre holds two Memory Books, one for each of these landmarks, where we ask visitors to share their memories for future readers.

Do you have memories of either the Hospital or the Baths? If so call in and record them at the Centre.



Paying Subscriptions



Each year we have to pay for insurance and licences to allow us to run the Centre. These basic running costs are met by subscription and the sale of goods at the Heritage Centre.

Membership runs from 1st October to 30th September and the membership fee is £5.00 per year.

We have set up a facility to pay subscriptions annually using PayPal. This is much easier for both you and us. To pay using PayPal go to the website www.clydachheritagecentre.com and click on the Support Us tab.

If you pay tax on any income you receive then please consider stating 'Yes' in the GiftAid box. GiftAid increases the value of subscriptions and donations by 25%. So for every £1 that you give GiftAided the Heritage Centre will actually receive £1.25 and at no cost to yourself.

I would like to become a Friend of Clydach Heritage Centre.

I enclose my subscription for the year

*Name:

*Address:

.....

.....

*Post Code:

*Tel:

*Email:

Age (if under 18):

Membership Fee: £5/year

I would like to make a donation of £.....
making a total of £.....

giftaid it

If you pay income tax or capital gains tax we can claim 25p for every pound you give to us - at no extra cost to you.

If you are happy for us to claim Gift Aid on your contribution from 6th April this year please tick here.

☐

Signed:

Date:/...../.....

* The Friends will only use the information provided on this form for the purposes of contacting you about FCHC business.

Our engagement with you

Quite a while ago we made the decision to modernise our website and now we're expecting to finally have our new website up and running within the next few weeks.

The web address will not change and you'll still find us at www.clydachheritagecentre.com

Once it's published online we'll make an announcement on our Facebook page. (Clydach Heritage Centre) to share the news.

Our Facebook page has had over 40 thousand visits in the last year... 21,000 in the last six months which raises our profile in the community. We also have an online presence through Tripadvisor where we are rated excellent or very good with a score of 4.8

Could you help us?

A small group of volunteers keeps Clydach Heritage Centre running and developing its displays.

Do you think you could offer up a few hours a month to help us out?

canolfan dreftadaeth
CLYDACH
heritage centre

JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

Could you spare a few hours a month to volunteer at Clydach Heritage Centre?

We Need Help For:

- Manning the Heritage Centre during opening hours
- Visitor interaction
- Sharing local knowledge

We are open every
SAT & SUN
Winter - 12 pm - 3pm
Summer - 1pm - 4pm

Contact Us
0330 111 4249

www.facebook.com/clydachheritagecentre

Newsletter printed with financial support of
Vale Clydach Nickel Refinery (The Mond)

