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CENTURY OF HOPE / CANRIF GOBAITH

2018 is going to be a momentous and challenging year for Archif Menywod Cymru / Women's Archive Wales. Thanks to a generous Heritage Lottery Fund grant we will be able to celebrate a century of women's heritage in Wales – commemorating not only the granting of partial enfranchisement in 1918 but also many other important milestones up to 2018. One significant milestone was the founding of AMC WAW itself, twenty years ago in 1997-8, and to celebrate this we will be filming the reminiscences of founder- and other active members as a record and archive for the future. This will also allow us to reflect upon the inspirational career of Ursula Masson, the founder member who died ten years ago.

The main aim of the project will be to raise the profile of AMC WAW in Wales and beyond and through this add to our collections of archives and promote awareness of women's history in Wales.

During 2018 we will be holding one event per month, working with school children and young people as well as with national and international scholars. We would like our members to be as involved as possible in these events, so please support us and not only attend as many events as you can, but also offer your help and expertise with organisation, marketing, meeting and greeting etc. at events near you. We would truly appreciate your involvement. We have employed three part-time officers - Catrin Edwards catrin.bydysawd@btinternet.com and Tash Horton who will be filming the interviews and the events themselves and creating a short film of the project and Heulwen Davies, our Events' Officer and who will help with marketing and promotion heulwendavies@icloud.com.

If you would like to be involved in any of the events, please contact Catrin Stevens catrinstevens@outlook.com / 01792 893410 or the named person per event below. We look forward to hearing from you and we certainly need your help.

Catrin Stevens

AMC/WAW Conference, Swansea, October 6th – 7th 2018.

Conference this year will be different. As part of the Century of Hope / Canrif Gobaith celebrations, Saturday 6th October will be an international conference run in conjunction with the School of Management, the Department of



History and the Morgan Academy, Swansea University. Speakers already confirmed include Diane Atkinson, Merete Ibsen, curator of the Kvindesmuseet Danish women's museum in Aarhus, Sue John of Glasgow Women's library, Helle Møller Sigh from Denmark and Margaret Ward, Queens University, Belfast. Sunday will follow the usual pattern, and a call for papers has gone out. There may be parallel sessions to make up for



Kvindesmuseet i Danmark, Aarhus

the shorter time for speakers.

By popular request we hope to reprise 2012's choir at the Conference dinner. If

you are interested in taking part, please contact Caroline Fairclough (caroline_fairclough@yahoo.co.uk) about choral distance learning!

CGCH EVENTS' CALENDAR

February 2018: Filming **Pen-boyr** school children's project on Cranogwen, Sarah Jane Rees, pioneering editor and campaigner.

March 8: International Women's Day, 'Women and Activism – past and present' in conjunction with the University of South Wales Venue: Pierhead Building, Cardiff

Ursula Masson Memorial Lecture: Dr Ryland Wallace, 'The women's suffrage movement in Wales', at 6.30
Venue: the Senedd.

April 3-4: Peace Banner Workshop for school children. Venue Melville Centre, Abergavenny. Making Welsh and English banners to be carried during the Peace march in August. Contact caroline_fairclough@yahoo.co.uk .

April 14: Llandudno Roadshow – an invitation to the public to bring photographs, documents (diaries, minute books, letters etc) and other memorabilia relating to women's history to show a team of expert historians and to be deposited or scanned as appropriate. Betty Williams, former MP will open the Roadshow. **Venue: Llandudno Central Library 11.00-2.30;** contact s.a.robinson@bangor.ac.uk A great opportunity for members to volunteer to help with meeting and greeting, registering attendees, and scanning documents.

May 30: Talk by Manon Eames: 'Women and the Sea' at the Volvo Ocean Race event. Venue: Millenium Centre, Cardiff 5.30p.m. Contact: catrinstevens@outlook.com

June 19: Mystery Tour to discover the political legacy of Margaret Lloyd George and daughters, Megan and Olwen. Talks, roadshow, exhibition and bus trip to locations of interest. **Venue: Cricieth Memorial Hall, 11.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m.** Contact: evans.dinah@yahoo.co.uk

June/July: (date and venue to be confirmed): a Digital Women's Heritage Treasure Hunt to find out more about the hidden histories of important women in Aberystwyth. Contact: gwyneth.roberts847@btinternet.com

August 10: National Eisteddfod Cardiff: 'Menywod mewn Marmor: Caerdydd, Pwy arall?' (Women in Marble: Cardiff, Who else?) Five eminent historians will champion five women who should be commemorated in statues in our capital city. **Venue: Y Senedd, Society Unit 1 at 1p.m.** Simultaneous translation provided. Contact: sianrhiannon1@outlook.com

August 27 (Bank Holiday Monday): Peace Walk to commemorate the 'Women for Life on Earth' Cardiff-Common Greenham walk of 1981. **Meeting place: City Hall, Cardiff** Contact: gaimall@aol.com

October 6-7: Saturday: International Conference . Sunday – the call for papers has gone out. **Venue: The School of Management Centre Swansea Bay Campus, Swansea University.** In conjunction with the School of Management, the Department of History and the Morgan Academy, Swansea University. Contact: catrinstevens@outlook.com

November 24-25: Venue: in conjunction with National Botanic Garden, Carmarthenshire – talks on women gardeners. Contact: j.sabine367@btinternet.com

December 7: Premier of Canrif Gobaith / Century of Hope Film and celebration of end of project! Venue: Redhouse, Merthyr Tydfil; evening event.

Archive Donation to National Screen and Sound Archive.

Rachel Rowlands of Rachel's Dairy, has presented archive material on the company to the National Sound and Screen Archive in WAW's name. Participants at the AMC/WAW Conference in Aberystwyth last October will remember that Rachel gave a fascinating paper on three generations of women dairy farmers.



Elizabeth Phillips Hughes: another Carmarthen woman remembered.

Following the unveiling in Carmarthen of a blue plaque to Dorothea Bate in December last, Elizabeth Phillips Hughes is to be commemorated with a blue plaque in May. Elizabeth Hughes was born in Carmarthen and educated at Cambridge, where she became the first principal of the Cambridge Training College for Women Teachers, grandly named as it was established in two adjoining cottages, with 13 students. The college is now named Hughes Hall after her. She 'retired' to Barry in 1899, but travelled the world as an educationalist, spending 6 months as a professor at Tokyo University. Her collection of Japanese artefacts is in the National Museum, Cardiff. In her sixties during WWI Miss Hughes acted as VAD Commandant in South Wales, for which she was awarded the MBE in 1917. She continued to support women's education for the rest of her life, and died in 1925.



Newport women in the Great War

EVERY WOMAN REMEMBERED



Daughters of Newport
in the Great War

Sylvia Mason

Foreword by Dame Rosemary Butler DBE

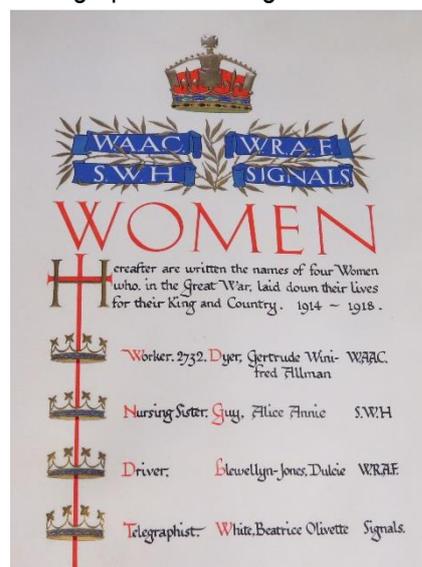
Sylvia Mason has written a very useful account of the lives of women in Newport, S Wales, during World War I. Starting with the four names of women who died who are recorded in the Newport Book of Remembrance, she has produced biographies of all eight women who were casualties of the War. In addition she has researched a quantity of other names of women, ranging from Margaret Haig Thomas to munitions workers like Minnie Sanders and tram conductors like Gladys Wreford. There is an interesting section too on Florence Jones, a member of the No Conscription Fellowship. Her fiancé, Harry Ridings, was court-marshalled as a conscientious objector and imprisoned in Dartmoor, and Sylvia has

included passages from Florence's diary in the book.

Every Woman Remembered is good, too, on the social background both before and during the War. She covers the suffrage movement before the war, the charitable efforts of women during the war (including the establishment in 1917 of a crèche for the children of munitions workers), as well as the slow but steady progress of women in civic life after 1918.

Every Woman Remembered is published by Saron Publishers, price £6.99.

Proceeds from sales are being donated to the Newport Women's Bursary, which awards funds to help women fulfil their ambitions. Available from Amazon, and hopefully elsewhere too.



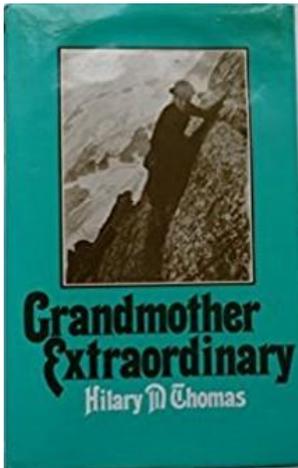
'Remember John, if bandits capture me you are on no account to ransom me!'

As we celebrate the centenary of the enfranchisement of some women, it would be easy for us to forget that not every woman in Britain was campaigning enthusiastically for the vote. Reading some accounts, you might think that every woman was a suffragette. But in fact Emmeline Pankhurst only had about 2000 followers, compared with the 40,000 who were members of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies), with their constitutional and peaceful methods. And there were many thousands of women who were affected very little by the campaigning, living their lives without taking much interest in politics – like the vast majority of people today, in fact.

But the process of history affects us all, without us always realising it. The social and political changes which led to the Representation of the People Act, 1918 were reflected in the lives of all women at that period – including women like Mary De la Beche Nicholl (1839 – 1922). Mary was born into the wealthy Dillwyn family of Swansea. When she married John Cole Nicholl of Merthyr Mawr, her cousin Amy Dillwyn was one of her bridesmaids. But the Dillwyn philosophy is to be seen in the advice her father gave Mary on her eighteenth birthday: to act upon principle and to cultivate her intellectual powers.

Although she and her husband raised a family of six children in their comfortable home at Merthyr Mawr, her home was never the focus of Mary's life. The pair had wide interests – after all, they went to Poland and Hungary on their honeymoon - and when her husband died in 1894, Mary was free to follow her chief interests, butterfly hunting and

mountaineering. Her interest in the natural world was typical of the Dillwyns, and it wasn't just a hobby. Mary had the knowledge and understanding of a true scientist, working closely with scholars in the field and publishing articles in academic journals like the *Entomologist*. Although she had had no formal education, she, like hundreds of other wealthy women, showed in her work that she had first class 'intellectual powers'.



Mountaineering was a pursuit followed by many women at this time, and they showed, despite all the restrictions of their formal dress and their hats – that they were courageous, physically strong and well able to face the dangers and challenges of the high mountains. Mary was perhaps remarkably venturesome: she travelled to the Balkans, to Lebanon and Syria, Bosnia, Montenegro and North Africa. Her order to her son not, on any account, to pay a ransom for her suggests she was not only aware of the dangers of these travels, but ready to face them on her own.

If you would like to know more about this remarkable woman, look for *Grandmother Extraordinary*, by Hilary Thomas (Barry, 1979) where you will find the details of her life, based on her diaries, and striking photographs of her on her travels, including a magnificent one which is on the cover of the book – showing her climbing a terrifyingly sheer rock face, with a background of snowy mountains far below – in a long dress, hat and gloves!

Elin Jones

The Women's Suffrage Movement in Wales Exhibition and the Unveiling of the Purple Plaque in memory of Val Feld AM

Wednesday, 6th March was a memorable day in the Senedd, Cardiff Bay and for all the right reasons. During the morning Ann Jones, Deputy Presiding Officer hosted the launch of the new exhibition on the Women's Suffrage Movement in Wales, which Professor Angela John and Dr Ryland Wallace had helped to curate. The first suffrage banner of Cardiff NUWSS, now in the safekeeping of Cardiff University was also on display and this could be contrasted with the more professional and beautifully sewn later banner from the same branch. During the launch Dr Ryland Wallace explained the context of the exhibition, Catrin Stevens discussed Women's Archive of Wales' role in safeguarding the history of women in Wales and David Anderson and Sioned Hughes described the vision for the new history of Wales galleries to open shortly at St Fagans.

The large audience then went outside to see the ceremony of unveiling the purple plaque in memory of Val Feld, AM for Swansea East (1947-2001) by her daughters, Bronwen McCarthy and Hester Feld. This is the first purple plaque to be unveiled in Wales and the colour purple has been chosen to commemorate the colours of the suffragettes. Several speakers, including AMs and former AMs, Jane Hutt, Elin Jones, Sue Essex, Julie Morgan and First Minister Carwyn Jones spoke of her inspirational qualities and her passion for equality and social justice. She embodied these qualities when she worked for Shelter and the Equal Opportunities Commission Wales and Cerys Furlong of Chwarae Teg spoke of her commitment to that charity. She was a remarkable woman who was instrumental in setting up the Welsh Assembly, which during its first years was a beacon for gender equality.

Former and present Assembly Members and Members of Parliament: among them Catherine Thomas, Lee Waters, Jane Davidson, John Griffiths, Jane Bryant, Rosemary Butler, Julie Morgan, Anna McMorris, Julie James, Christine Chapman and staff with the new Val Feld plaque at y Senedd.

