

AONB Research Project

Research on World War I – Elfed Gruffydd

Area memorials

- The vast majority of the ones from LLŷn that lost their lives in the Great War are remembered on war memorials.
- There is little information available about the history of placing these monuments (difficulty in finding records of committees or lists of contributions).
- There were dignified ceremonies to unveil memorials in Pwllheli and Nefyn.
- Commemorative plaques were added on them after World War II.
- There is a war memorial in Bangor for North Wales with the names of all those lost. Keith Parry's website, yffor.com is based on this list. There are many names not included on the memorial in Bangor, and names included in Bangor which cannot be traced in the press or on local monuments.
- There's details and pictures of the memorials in the areas listed below:
Aberdaron, Abererch, Boduan, Bryncroes, Clynnog Fawr, Dinas, Edern, Llanaelhaearn, Llanbedrog, Llanengan, Llannor, Llithfaen, Morfa Nefyn, Nefyn, Pistyll, Pwllheli, Rhiw, Rhydyclafdy, Sarn, Y Ffôr.
- The monuments vary quite a bit, their layout, wording, location etc.
- There are 20 monuments on the Peninsula but there isn't one in Llangian (which includes Mynthro) or in Tudweiliog, although the Squires of Cefnamwlch and Nanhoron estates were very supportive of the war and urged the area's young men to volunteer and enlist.
- There is no monument to the parish of Botwnnog either and only one name from Botwnnog is on the memorial in Bangor.
- While Trefor is part of the Llanaelhaearn parish, young men from Trefor are not listed on the memorial.
- There is no monument in the parish of Llaniestyn. The memorial was placed (I wonder why?) in Dinas, and that has been raised by '*residents of Dinas, Greigwen and Garnfadrynn*'.
- There is no monument in the parish of Llangwnnadl. The only evidence of anyone from the parish killed at war is the name G Griffith, which appears on the memorial in Bangor.
- As one can expect, the wording on the memorials varies greatly, the quotes are interesting and the authors of some cannot be traces.
- The names of some young men appear on more than one monument, a sign of pride perhaps, and the need to honour the young men with local connections. This suggests that the communities wanted to 'claim heroes'.

Memorials to individuals

- There are memorials to individuals in the following locations and details and photos are included:
Aberdaron (Eglwys St Hywyn), Abersoch (Capel Annibynwyr, Chapel Calfaria), Efailnewydd (Capel Berea), Garnfadrynn, Llanbedrog (Capel Peniel Newydd, Capel Rehoboth, Eglwys St Pedrog), Llangian, Penllech (Eglwys St. Fair), Pwllheli (Capel Salem, Eglwys St Pedr, Capel Seion, Capel Tarsis), Rhydyclafdy.

- Some churches and chapels in Llŷn have commemorated their members by placing memorials on their premises, whether a plaque on the wall or a stained glass window. This research includes details about the various monuments to certain individuals. Again , there is a variety of design, use, wording and lettering.
- The vicars of Llanbedrog and Aberdaron both lost their sons, and they are commemorated by a vestry and a stained glass window.
- John G Roberts, originally from Garnfadry left books and a sum of money in his will to establish a library.
- A collection box monument was recently designed for Penllech Church to commemorate Glyn Roberts.

Rolls of Honor

- There are ‘Rolls of Honor’ in the following schools and churches and the research includes details and photos:
- Ysgol Bryncroes, Capel Brynmawr, Capel Dinas, Capel Garnfadry, Capel Rehoboth Llanbedrog, Capel y Nant Nanhoron, Capel Penlan Pwllheli, Capel Penmownt Pwllheli, Salem/Taris Pwllheli, Capel Tabernacl Pwllheli, Capel y Traeth Pwllheli.**
- In the vestries and chapels listed above are beautifully framed 'Rolls of Honor' naming, not just those killed but all the young men who joined the army and navy.
 - They vary in design, writing and presentation, some colored by hand.
 - There are pictures of the young men on the rolls of honor in Garnfadry and Ysgoldy'r Traeth, Pwllheli.
 - A booklet in was designed in Penmount and Traeth with photos of the men inside.

Individual soldiers

- Elfed's elaborated a bit more on some soldiers, when there more information was available. The research highlights the fear and insecurity and the pain of saying goodbye to family. This section is the most personal out of the research as the evidence present stories of individual families and soldiers. Two of the soldiers mentioned are Cynan and Tom Nefyn.

Soldiers from specific areas (this section should be dealt with side by side with the 'Monuments')

- A major effort has been made to commemorate those boys where there is not a memorial for them.
- There are no monuments for the young men of Llangian, Nanhoron, Trefor or Tudweiliog and Penllech.
- Elfed has collected as much information as possible about the young men of Bryncroes and Dinas and started on Aberdaron and Pwllheli. Elfed hopes to add other areas.

Enlisting and Recruitment

- "To the Army young men of Gwalia! A man who doesn't hate the enemy of his country is a hateful man. Wales Forever!"
- Lloyd George's argument to establish the Welsh Guards.
- Recruitment meetings in Llŷn with the Estates' families at the forefront.
- Two dozen enlists after Mrs. Wynne Finch, Tudweiliog chairing the meeting. On one hand, it was a surprise to have so many joining so early in such a rural area, but one should remember that the Wynne Finch family was the landlord, a significant employer and very influential in Tudweiliog.
- Newspaper clippings about enrolling meetings in Llŷn.
- Posters.

Soldiers on Llŷn

- Research of the Royal Artillery 43th Welsh Division coming to Pwllheli after encouragement from Town Council.
- Excitement in the town in early 1915, when soldiers came to stay in the homes of residents. Those who kept summer visitors talking full advantage of business throughout the year.
- The railway station had opened in Pen Cob in 1909 and crowds gathered there to welcome troops.
- Strict conditions imposed on the residents who had soldiers staying in terms of feeding the troops, sleeping arrangements and washing facilities.
- An English service on Sundays for non-Welsh soldiers.
- Sports days for them.
- Concerns about excessive 'temptation' for the women of Pwllheli and judgment made on the behaviour of some women in the press. Response letter by one woman.
- Soldiers returning home on leave.
- Special constables appointed in Abersoch

The Belgians in Llŷn

- Britain wanted to protect Belgium so thousands fled from their country and about 200,000 of them came to Britain.
- The first Belgians in Cricieth
- The kindness of Aberdaron residents.
- Although the Belgians stay was short, it is clear that they mixed well with the residents.

Tribunals and the Law

- Fewer men enrolled voluntarily than the authorities had hoped so the Derby scheme was introduced in the autumn. Every man between the ages of 19-41 was expected to enrol

immediately or be prepared to do so when needed. This scheme was unsuccessful so enforcement measures had to be put in place.

- Some appealed, explaining their reasons, the research includes some cases in Llŷn at the time

The Tramp's Visit

- Reverend JT Pritchard's Tocia bus tour around Llŷn. Record of how Llŷn was at the time.

Produce!

- As the war progressed, Llŷn's Farmers were drawn into the vicious circle. The servants went to war, and the authorities were urging farmers to produce more food.
- The importance of Cwnhingwr (rabbit hunter).
- Arguments were presented in the tribunals in favour of the Cwnhingwr and they are addressed in the research.
- Effects of the war on the End of Season Fairs
- Young Farmers benefiting when the agricultural college opened at Madryn.
- 'Dig for Victory' Posters.
- Land Girls.
- Fishing.

Social Life

- Despite the war, social life in Llŷn was underway and this section is full of information about the social life of the residents. There is also evidence of singing from the 'Cymanfa Dosbarth Penlleyn' leaflet in the trenches in France.
- The Literary Society.
- The Sunday School Trips.
- The Kinema.
- Religion.
- The Great Influenza – How it affected Llŷn.

Hardship

- There were concerns from the first days of the war about food shortages, and as always, shortages raised prices.
- A shortage of meat in Nefyn.
- 'Food Price' and coal.
- Rationing Eggs.
- Water Shortage
- Complaining that Pwllheli market supplied buyers from Criccieth, Porthmadog and beyond.
- Rationing
- Granite Quarries and Mines

Local support for Soldiers and Humanitarian Organisations

- The suffering led to many charities being established to support troops on the battlefield and families in need at home.
- The people of Llŷn were very supportive to organizations worthy of support. They went deep into their pocket to help their local soldiers in times of hardship.
- Letters from Mayor of Pwllheli to some young men from the town who were in the trenches.
- Concert in Tudweiliog to raise money for young men of 'Dweiliog and Penllech
- Meeting to help the soldiers in Llithfaen.
- Penygraig Sisters and others preparing winter clothes for the soldier.
- Llaniestyn School Logbook mentions an appeal to get Christmas Puddings to the young men.
- The support from Llŷn to charities like the Red Cross and others.
- The National Egg Collection for the Wounded in Lleyn and Eifionydd.

Signs of the War at sea

- The sea around the coast gave first hand experiences of war signs to local residents during the Great War.
- Sailors of Llŷn - Loss of ships and lives
- Bodies washed ashore in Abersoch. Burying the bodies at local cemeteries.
- Commemorating the ones who drowned when the 'BURUTU' wrecked.

Prime Minister visits

- As their MP, David Lloyd George was a regular visitor to Llŷn especially Nefyn and Pwllheli from 1890.
- Bangor National Eisteddfod

Celebrating the end of the war

- The truce
- Babies who were born in Llŷn and Eifionydd during the last day of the war, November 11, 1918, received a Silver Spoon. Article in Llanw Llŷn asking for any local information.
- Concerts to welcome soldiers back to Llŷn