

### **BETSY CADWALADYR NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

Betsy Cadwaladyr would have been remarkable in any age; in the nineteenth century her adventurous life - she



travelled the world and worked as a nurse at the Balaclava military hospital during the Crimean War - was truly extraordinary. Honno first published her autobiography in 1986 and has kept it in print since, until the last copies were sold recently. As the book is now out of print, Honno plans a new edition which will restore important elements of the original version and add new material for twenty-first-century readers and students. The new edition will contain the full text of Betsy's story, the introduction by Jane Williams (who wrote the narrative) on Betsy's social and religious background, the informative introduction by Deirdre Beddoe, and the portrait of Betsy as the frontispiece, from the earlier Honno edition; in addition, it will include the preface in which Jane Williams described how she and Betsy worked together on the narrative, and notes to explain to modern readers the book's references to nineteenth-century events and people. The new edition will reflect Betsy's importance in the history of the women of Wales.

Unfortunately, the new edition entails new costs: Honno plans to produce 1,000 copies, and to set the additions to the text and a new cover design, as well as printing and binding, will cost £2,500 in all. Honno's funding is for new books only, and this is why we are appealing now for help to pay for the new printing. The names of all donors who give £10 or more will be recorded in the list of Acknowledgements in the book itself (any money collected over £2,500 will go towards reprinting other Honno Classics). Donations can be made by cheques payable to Honno, and sent to Honno, Unit 14, Creative Units, Arts centre, Penglais Campus, Aberystwyth SY23 3GL (please mark envelopes 'Betsy Cadwaladyr'), or through our website [honno.co.uk](http://honno.co.uk). Together we can help to bring to a wider readership the story of a nineteenth-century Welsh woman who was brave, adventurous, and totally unique.

Gwyneth Tyson Roberts (on behalf of the Honno Committee)

### **WOMEN'S ARCHIVE OF WALES AT THE CARMARTHENSHIRE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD, 2014**

Following the great success of the Archive events at the Vale of Glamorgan (2012) and Denbigh (2013) National Eisteddfodau, we have decided to venture into this field again this year. The theme of this year's talk will be 'Voices from the Factory Floor', and it will trace the setting up and running of the project to gather the oral histories of women who worked in the manufacturing industries in Wales after the Second World War. It will focus upon the women of Carmarthenshire in particular. Our speaker will be Susan Roberts, Field Officer for the south-west, who has already recorded the memories of women who worked making batteries and chloride in Ponthenri, pickles in Burry Port, dog collars in Gwynfe, Slimma and Dewhirst clothes in Llandovery, Fishguard and Lampeter and car factories in Llanelli. Some of the feisty women she has interviewed will join her to recall their work in these factories and to describe the social and economic aspects of their experiences.

So please come along to hear more about this fascinating project. The event will take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August, at 12.30 p.m. in the Societies' Tent. Everyone welcome. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

.... are due to Helen Molyneux, niece of the Archive's founder Ursula Masson, and sponsor of the annual IWD lecture in her aunt's name.. She becomes the new Chair of the thinktank the Institute for Welsh Affairs (IWA). Also to WAW Committee member and tireless translator Catrin Stevens, who has been invited to become the new Chair of the Welsh Heritage Schools' Initiative.

## VOICES FROM THE FACTORY FLOOR – THE LATEST NEWS

This project, funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund, is galloping along at quite a pace at present. During the last three months our Field Officers: Catrin in the south-east, Susan in the south-west and Kate in mid and north Wales have recorded 68 of the proposed 150 interviews and have scanned about 200 photographs and documents on this theme.

Sixteen volunteers have attended two training courses in the south-east and south-west and they in turn have gone out into the field and recorded 15 of the 50 volunteer interviews in the original project plan.

But although these statistics themselves make interesting reading they don't really reflect the essence of this fascinating project, which is to create an opportunity to record the voices of the lively and vocal women who worked in light industry factories the length and breadth of Wales between 1945 and 1975. A remarkable variety of factories have been identified already, from the well-known large ones of Hoover (Merthyr Tydfil), Hotpoint (Llandudno), Polykoffs (the Rhondda) and Mettoys (Swansea) to smaller ones producing such goods as dogs' collars in Gwynfe, Carmarthenshire, gloves in Llantrisant, corsets in Caernarfon and all kinds of other clothing from Slimma to Laura Ashley.

And the women interviewed are very happy to share their stories. They talk about the influence (or lack of influence) of trade unionism; the tricks played on new factory 'girls'; provoking and teasing male members of staff; pilfering factory goods and the myriad of social activities associated with factory life. One speaker at Mettoys spoke about the management's negative attitude towards those who spoke Welsh during working hours, while Welsh was the majority language at the 'Tick Tock' factory in Ystradgynlais, a factor which made it a very homely place in which to work, it was claimed. It seems too that attitudes towards trade unionism varied according to the location of the factory. Workers in Cardiff, and Swansea to a lesser extent were not as supportive of unionism as those of the valleys where the cry of 'Everybody Out' could be heard if there was a whiff of injustice.



Ann Davies (née Williams) at Freeman's Cigar Factory, Cardiff 1957



'Megan Bach' supervisor Kay's Compact Factory, Caernarfon, early 60s.

We can't come to any firm conclusions yet about the project's outcomes, but the responses of interviewees, interviewers and volunteers have been very positive. One volunteer said 'It's been a pleasure to interview Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ and to be able to contribute towards such a worthwhile project. She was so glad that at last someone appreciated the contribution she had made as a factory girl to the Welsh economy and that her experiences were being safeguarded for the future.'

### WAW JOINT MEETING WITH LLAFUR

A joint study day with Llafur will be held at the Bloomfield Centre, Narbeth, on Saturday 17th May 2014. It will be an all-day event, including lunch, and there will be speakers promoted by both Llafur and WAW.

Further details will be emailed to members nearer the time.

### 2014 CONFERENCE

This year's Conference will be held at Bangor University on the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2014, The Women's Studies department of the University will be celebrating 20 years of existence, which makes Bangor a very fitting venue.

Plans are well advanced, and more details will be available soon.

Contributions to the Newsletter are welcome from all members. If you are able to submit your contribution bilingually this would be greatly appreciated. Please send your contributions to:

[newsletter@womensarchivewales.org](mailto:newsletter@womensarchivewales.org)

**Copy date for next issue  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

If you would like a large print copy of this Newsletter, in either Welsh or English, please contact Caroline at the email address above, or phone 01873 890540.

This Newsletter was edited by Caroline Fairclough, and translated by Catrin Stevens.

## A LITTLE HISTORY OF WOMEN PHARMACISTS

This was prompted by a friend sending me two snippets of information: a list of women pharmacists in 1869, and an account, courtesy of Tenby Museum, of a more recent proprietor of Tenby's Medical Hall.

Women have, of course, traditionally been involved in the production and administration of medicine since early times, valued and respected in their role of family and community carers. It was in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the various professions began to be institutionalised, that opposition to women in various branches of medicine developed. The Pharmacy Act of 1868 required all practicing pharmacists to register with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. In 1869 the first register shows 223 women pharmacists in the UK: women pharmacists therefore represented 1.9% of the 11,638 total registered in 1869.

In following years a good deal of hostility and ridicule was heaped upon them. For example:



Vera Hughes (r) with another woman pharmacist, probably Swansea Hospital early 1920s

*"I could not bear to see their hands as soft as alabaster  
Begrimed all o'er with dirty pill and nasty smelling plaster  
Oh! May I never see them with their chignons in confusion  
Attempt to shake the tinctures or prepare the cold infusion.  
How could they climb the shaky steps to clean the bottles dusty,  
Or go below amongst the wets into the cellar musty?  
Their sleek round arms were never made to work the iron mortar,  
But some opine they might assist to cut the salary shorter."*

The Pharmaceutical Journal, 1 March 1873

Women were allowed to take the Royal Pharmaceutical Society exams alongside men, and could work as pharmacists, but they were not allowed to *join* the RPS, and thus had no say in the regulation of their profession. Not until 1877 were they allowed to work in the RPS Chemistry Laboratory. Nonetheless the number of registered women pharmacists increased, many working as assistants in pharmacies and dispensers in hospitals.

In 1905 the Association of Women Pharmacists was founded, with the objectives

- To discuss questions relating to women's employment.
- To establish a locum register.
- To establish a register of all qualified women pharmacists.
- To provide a support system for women pharmacists.

These objectives have been maintained throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

(For more information see [www.rpharms.com/celebrating-women-in-pharmacy](http://www.rpharms.com/celebrating-women-in-pharmacy))

According to the *Englishwoman's Year Book* 1909\*\* 'The employment of women as dispensers is now much more usual than formerly, and it is becoming widely recognised that, with sufficient training, women can act efficiently as chemists and dispensers.' The address of the Association of Women Pharmacists 'at the present' was Gordon Hall, Gordon Square, London, W C. How condescending!

Of the 223 registered in 1869, 17 women worked in Wales:

Ann Chinn, 202 Bute Road, Cardiff.  
Anne Coleman, 7 High Street, Cardiff.  
Mary Davies, Menai Bridge, Anglesey.  
Rachel Davies, Roewen, nr. Conway.  
Mary Hale, Brecon.  
Mary Ann Harris, Crickhowell, Brecknockshire.  
Anne Hicks, St. Davids, Pembrokeshire.  
Jane Jones, Llanidloes, Montgomeryshire.

Margaret Jones, Llandinorwic, Carnarvonshire.  
Mary Lloyd Jones, St. Asaph, Flintshire.  
Sarah Jones, High Street, Newtown,  
Ann Lewis, Bodedern, Anglesey.  
Eleanor Lewis, Aberdare.  
Mary Ann Owen, Carnarvon.  
Sarah Pearson, Rhosllanerchrugog, Denbighshire.  
Anne Irene Price, Dunraven Place, Bridgend,  
Margaret Roberts, Holyhead, Anglesey

MEDICAL HALL was a pharmacy established in Tenby in 1830. In 1945 the business was inherited from her father by Enid Chilton, a trained pharmacist. She ran the business herself until 1963, when she took on a partner. She died in 1980.

(\*\*With thanks to Caroline Fairclough for this quote, and to Gareth Evans for the list of women pharmacists and information about Medical Hall.)

Jenny Sabine.

## THE WOMEN'S ARCHIVE OF WALES IS WELCOMED TO THE SENEDD, 19 FEBRUARY 2014

Christine Chapman, AM, is a long-standing supporter of the Archive, and through her good offices we had the opportunity to showcase the work of the Archive in the Senedd, and also to draw the attention of AMs and members of the public to our new project, *Voices from the Factory Floor*. A number of members and supporters of WAW were also invited to attend.

By 11.45am on 19<sup>th</sup> February a good number of people had already arrived. It was lovely to see old friends who have supported the Archive from the very beginning, and to see new faces too. This is the first time we have welcomed representatives from the NUT, Merched y Wawr, and the WI to join us, but not the last we hope: we share so many of the same objectives. We had an opportunity to browse displays of images from WAW collections to meet old and new friends, and to feast on the delicacies on offer to us, including Welsh cakes and 'premium' biscuits!



Christine Chapman AM at the Senedd event

Christine Chapman welcomed everyone, and gave a masterly appreciation of the work of the Archive and its contribution to the culture and history of Wales. Christine is able to combine her political and academic interests very skilfully, and to convey these with a practical and persuasive eloquence. Our Chair, Jenny, thanked Christine and others who had contributed to the event, and paid tribute to the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund both in our earlier Wales Women's Roadshow project, and in our current oral history project.

Catrin Stevens gave a lively outline of the new project, *Voices from the Factory Floor*, indicating the wealth of different experiences from every part of Wales which are waiting for someone to record them. It was good to hear next of the support that the Heritage Lottery Fund is giving to this innovative project. HLF's grant officer Rebecca Reitsis' engaging enthusiasm for the work was obvious to everyone present.

But the last speech was the best speech for me, when our President, Emeritus Professor Deirdre Beddoe, reminded the audience of the need to record and remember the contributions and experiences of Welsh women of every age and background. She is as enthusiastic as ever for history and women's rights, and eloquent as ever in persuading and inspiring her hearers. It is a privilege to hear her speak, and I am sure I was not the only one to leave the Senedd with the aim of starting immediately on the work of ensuring the future of the past of women in Wales.

Elin Jones

### GIFT TO THE ARCHIVE: 'LAND OF OUR MOTHERS'

Many of the members of the Archive will remember this successful series, which was broadcast by the BBC in 2008. After all, several of our members contributed to it, including our President, Professor Deirdre Beddoe. 'Land of Our Mothers' conveyed the history of women in twentieth century Wales clearly and persuasively. The series, which was presented by Tanni Grey-Thompson, was very well received by a wide audience.

The archive is very grateful to Carolyn Hitt, the series' producer, for giving us complete copies of all the programmes, together with a number of the original interviews on which they were based. This is a very valuable addition to the Archive's holdings, and for future historians, since it tells the story clearly and engagingly, but also gives an overview of this century's interpretations of the rôle and status of women in the last century.

Many of us enjoy Carolyn's articles in the *Western Mail*, and appreciate her readiness to pay proper attention to women's contribution to contemporary life in Wales. She has also produced a number of series for Radio Wales, and many of these have dealt with women's history. We wish her well as she establishes her new production company, 'Parasol', and look forward to seeing – and hearing – more excellent programmes dealing with the history of women in Wales.

### WOMEN REMEMBERED ON WAR MEMORIALS



As part of the Archive's commemorations of the First World War we have started a database collecting the names and any details of women recorded on official war memorials or other memorials. A good start has been made with the old Dyfed counties thanks to an excellent website <http://www.wawmp.co.uk/ceredigion>, and we have a few other rather random findings. If you come across any such memorial we would be very grateful for details – name, location – and a photograph. Please send them to [caroline.fairclough@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:caroline.fairclough@yahoo.co.uk). If possible, photographs will be added to our Flickr pages accessible via the WAW Website.