

Older News

2013 Conference

Our 2013 Conference was held in the very comfortable surroundings of Canolfan Soar, Merthyr Tydfil. Nearly 60 people attended over the two days.

Saturday saw Elin Jones introducing the Bangor rebel, Sheila Parry, Angela John speaking about her new Life of Lady Rhondda, interesting and varied papers from Mary

Macdonald, Alexandra Rees and Joe England, and a dramatic interlude 'Aunty Marged'.

Sunday had more excellent papers from Rhian Greaves, Charlotte Hodgson and Audrey Griffiths, and the Conference ended with a lively and fruitful discussion about the future of WAW.



'Voices from the Factory Floor'

A project to capture the experiences of women who worked in the manufacturing industries in Wales 1945-75



Excellent news for WAW!

Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded WAW a substantial grant to record the oral histories of women who worked in the manufacturing industries throughout Wales between 1945 and 1975. We shall also be collecting photographic evidence and documents relevant to this history from our participants.

During this period hundreds of light industry factories opened in Wales, from the Laura Ashley factories in mid-Wales, to Triang toys in Merthyr Tydfil, Berlei Bras in Ebbw Vale and Mettoy in Swansea. A vast majority of the workforce in these factories were women but their stories have been almost forgotten and unless we capture them quickly they could be lost forever. This project will record their memories and pay tribute to the women who played such a vital role in the economic recovery of Wales in the post-war period.

In order to carry out this work WAW will appoint two Field Officers (one in the north and one in the south) to work on a freelance basis to identify participants and to conduct many of the oral histories. They will also seek to train volunteers, especially members of WAW, to help with the recording and with transcribing the histories.



CALLING any member of WAW who might like to help with this important and interesting project (training in interviewing and using the equipment will be provided) please contact Catrin Stevens (Project Co-ordinator) as soon as possible on catrin@stevens2760.freemove.co.uk or call 01792 893410.



**Ursula Masson
Memorial
Lecture
March 2013**

International Women's Day was celebrated at the Atrium Building of the University of Glamorgan, where the department of Gender Studies supported this

event.

Professor Karen Black of Keele University gave a lively lecture entitled "*Only Connect*": *Women's Politics and the Everyday between the Wars*. She described how women politicians, both local and national, were supported and sustained by a whole web of political and non political organisations. Her work was carried out in Manchester, but has clear resonance for other areas of the UK including Wales.

The photograph shows some of the full audience waiting for the lecture to start.



**Visit to Gwent Archives, 12th January
2013**

A dozen members braved indifferent weather to visit the impressive new buildings of the Gwent Archives. The Archives are housed in the former General Office building of the Ebbw Vale steelworks, with modern storage and conservation facilities are wrapped around the listed building, complete with a poem by Gillian Clarke. Records from Newport, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and part of Caerphilly are held there.

The Research Room is well staffed and friendly, and is open on the 2nd Saturday of the month, from 10.00 to 4.00, as well as 9.30 to 5.00 weekdays. Many thanks to

Gary Tuson

The 2012 Conference was held in Abergavenny on the 13th and 14th October. Speakers included Gary Tuson, Nikki Brown, Elizabeth Belcham, Mary Jane Stevenson, Colin Thomas, Gwyneth Tyson Roberts, Cathryn Chamell-White, Ruth E Richardson and Catrin Stevens. Prof Deirdre Beddoe gave a keynote address on Women in Industry in post-war Wales; there was a presentation on the Womens Arts Association by Di Setch and Dilys Jackson. The Conference was rounded off with a panel discussing the early activism of Jane Hutt AM, Alison Scouller and Jennifer Cole.

