



## South East Wales Unitarian News

[www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk) [www.ukunitarians.org.uk/sewus/](http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/sewus/)



August 2016

### FOR YOUR DIARY

**Saturday & Sunday, 10, 11 September** – Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Cefncoedycymer will be open to the public as part of Cadw's 'Open Doors' Heritage Event. Saturday 2–4pm; Sunday 2.30–5pm with a service at 6pm celebrating the chapel's 269<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Sunday, 11 September** – In the morning Rev Eric Jones will broadcast a service (*Yr Oedfa*) on Radio Cymru and in the afternoon he will conduct a bilingual service at Capel Penrhiw in the grounds of St Fagans National History Museum. The service at Penrhiw is at 3pm and all are welcome. (**See below.**)

**Saturday, 1 October** – Visit of GA President, Dot Hewardine to SE Wales. Dinner at Dare Country Park, Aberdare (from 6.30pm).

**Saturday, 22 October** – copy deadline for the next issue of the District News.

### CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF REV D JACOB DAVIES

Jacob Davies was born on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 at Tregroes, near Llandysul. His ministerial career began at Aberystwyth (1940–44), then Highland Place Aberdare (1945–57). Following the death of Rev E R Dennis in 1949 his ministry included that of Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Trecynon (1950–57). On returning to Ceredigion in 1957 he ministered at Alltyblaca, Capel y Bryn and Cwmsychbant until his death in 1974.

On Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, to mark the centenary of Jacob's birth, Rev J Eric Jones will broadcast a morning service – *Yr Oedfa* – on BBC Radio Cymru at 5.30am and 11.30am. The service will include some of Jacob Davies's hymns and poetry. Later in the day Eric will conduct a bilingual service on the same theme at Capel Penrhiw in the grounds of St Fagans National History Museum. The service at Capel Penrhiw is at 3pm and all are welcome.

### DISTRICT RALLY 2016

On Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, on a marvellously sunny morning, our coach traversed a well-thought-out route through the SE Wales valleys, picking up passengers along the way.

With the final pick up having been made at Llangyfelach, Morryston, we set off along the M4 heading towards Ffostrasol, Ceredigion where we would have lunch prior to visiting the newly-restored Hen Gapel at Llwynrhydownen. The chapel is now in the care of the Welsh Religious Buildings Trust

<http://www.welshchapels.org/yr-hen-gapel/>

We later joined the congregation of Capel Panydefaid, Prengwyn at their afternoon service and enjoyed refreshments in the chapel vestry.

[Further coverage of the Rally appears in several of the reports below.]



Yr Hen Gapel

Photo: Welsh Religious Buildings Trust

## FROM THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Almost forty members of the South East Wales District set out for Ceredigion on 3<sup>rd</sup> July for this year's Rally. The weather could not have been better. An excellent lunch was provided at the Ffostrasol Arms where we were joined by Welsh Department Secretary, Melda Grantham and Rev Wyn Thomas. After lunch it was back on to the coach for the short journey to Llwynrhydowen Chapel, where Wyn gave us a brief history of the chapel. It was good to see the chapel now that all the restoration work has been completed. There was time for a quick photo-shoot outside, then back on the coach to Pantydefaid Chapel.



At Yr Hen Gapel, Llwynrhydowen

Photo: Melda Grantham

We joined the congregation for an excellent, thought provoking service delivered by Rev Wyn Thomas. After the service, members from Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Cefncoed placed flowers on the grave of their former minister, Rev Marles Thomas. We were then treated to refreshments in the vestry. It was a delightful day that everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

My thanks go to Rev Wyn Thomas and Melda Grantham for the arrangements in West Wales and to the ladies of Pantydefaid for their hard work providing and serving the refreshments.

Also my personal thanks to Lis Dyson-Jones for arranging lunch and Rev Eric Jones for the transport arrangements which made life so easy for me. I just had to sit back and enjoy.

On 5<sup>th</sup> August, Joy and I travelled with Rev Eric Jones to Abergavenny to help staff the Unitarian tent at the National Eisteddfod. Again we were very fortunate with the weather, it was a glorious day. It was also a very proud day for Megan Jones of Ceredigion when she became a member of the Gorsedd. Congratulations Megan. Thanks to all those of the South East Wales District who volunteered to help during the week.

*Tony Foster*

## FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITARIAN WELSH DEPARTMENT

The weather over the past few weeks may not have been great, but it has not spoilt any of the events which have kept the Unitarians busy this summer. June kicked off with a very special occasion when I was invited to attend the official opening of the fifth Welsh Assembly at the Senedd. The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall were all in attendance (and close enough to touch had I dared.) The official ceremony was followed by a fabulous lunch at the Millennium Centre which proved to be an excellent opportunity to network and tell people about the Unitarians.

The sun shone on us once again on the day of the SEWUS trip. It was a real pleasure to be able to welcome so many members up to the Smotyn Du, and specifically to Hen Gapel Llwynrhydowen. I do hope that you all enjoyed it and will venture up again soon.

The big event of the summer of course has been the National Eisteddfod which was held at Abergavenny between the 29<sup>th</sup> July and the 6<sup>th</sup> August. The focus this year was on the work that we as Unitarians are doing in support of our chosen charity BAWSO. We were delighted that representatives from BAWSO were able to be present with us on the stand on some days. The response from non-Unitarians was very positive and we were congratulated for highlighting a charity that does such excellent and vital work in Wales. There were also some performances to celebrate the life of Rev Jacob Davies



Elin Jones and Tony & Joy Foster with two BAWSO ladies at the Unitarian stand. Photo: Melda Grantham

who was born 100 years ago. I'd like to thank everyone who supported us – by volunteering on the stand or by making Welsh cakes.

There's still a bit of summer left, so please do get out and attend services and events, meet other Unitarians, and most of all – enjoy yourselves!

*Melda Grantham*

## **GA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE KEY MESSAGES 14 JULY 2016**

### **1. General Assembly Roll of Ministers**

The Recommendations of the Ministry Strategy Group and Interview Panel were approved and we are pleased to announce:

- that having successfully completed their probationary period, Rev Cody Coyne and Rev Winnie Gordon have been added to the Roll of Ministers with Full Status.
- that Rev Ralph Catts, Rev Katie McKenna and Rev Rob Whiteman have been admitted to the Roll of Ministers with Probationary Status.

### **2. 2020 Congregational Development Programme**

As growing new congregations is a "Next Steps" priority, Rev Andy Pakula and Aleks Zglinska from the 2020 Leadership Team joined the Executive Committee to give an update on the programme and to share their thoughts on the future. The success of the first 2020 project at Derby was highlighted and examined - showing that new Unitarian congregations and/or communities could be established. The close working relationship with the East Midlands District was also commended, along with the inspiring leadership of Christina Smith. Additional funding would enable more new congregations to be initiated. The 2020 Leadership Team agreed to bring forward more detailed proposals for the future of the Programme.

### **3. Vision – Next Steps**

As agreed at their May meeting, the Executive Committee received the initial detailed plans for each of the 15 "Next Steps" priorities. Considerable time was spent carefully reviewing the purpose of each one and particular attention was paid to the financial implications, the risks involved, who would need to be involved to take the priority forward and the links between the priorities. This is of course a complex task and further work was initiated for the next EC meeting in September.

### **4. Bowland Trust Donation**

It became apparent that there were misunderstandings concerning the recent £1.5million donation from the Bowland Trust to the General Assembly. This replaces the anticipated annual contributions that we expected to receive over the next 10 years. It was decided that the primary use of this money – which will be separately identified in a Restricted Fund – would be to support the ongoing work of the General Assembly (as has been the case for the last 10 years) and to fund specific initiatives identified under "Next Steps".

### **5. Review of Investment Management**

A review of the investment management arrangements has been initiated to ensure that all funds are managed effectively and generate the best return for the General Assembly. A further report will be considered at the September EC meeting.

### **6. Risk Register**

Effective risk management is an important governance requirement for all charities and the annual review of the risk register took place. Following the recommendation of Peter Hanley, Honorary Treasurer, it was agreed to focus upon the desired working outcomes (the positives) as well as the risks (negatives) in a more sophisticated and rigorous process.

### **7. London Pride Videos**

The Executive Committee was pleased to grant-aid the London District and Provincial Assembly (LDPA) from the Sexual Orientation Equality Group Designated Fund, in order to enable the production of two videos featuring Unitarian involvement in this year's London Pride event, held on 25 June 2016. Produced and directed by Sarah West, the two London Pride videos can be viewed on [Youtube](#) along with her "Next Steps" and [our videos page](#).

*Executive Committee*

## **THOUGHT FOR NOW**

(We are indebted to Anne Jones for bringing the following to our attention)

Life will always be, to a large extent, what we ourselves make it.

*Samuel Smiles*

## **ABERDARE**

The District Women's League and Men's Group held a service at Highland Place on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Readings were given by representatives of the congregations and tea was served afterwards. Our thanks to Joy for the wonderful 'Chalice in Flowers' admired by the congregation.

Our Annual Lecture held on 9<sup>th</sup> June was given by Roy Noble OBE and entitled 'Backwards to the Future'. Roy gave a very humorous talk on his life from childhood in Brynaman to teaching and to broadcasting. The event was a success and the audience enjoyed themselves in his company.

The wedding of Katherine and Michael took place on July 16<sup>th</sup>, with Rev Lewis Rees officiating and Margaret Griffiths playing the organ.

The Annual Flower Service and All Present Service was held on 24<sup>th</sup> July. The service was conducted by Rev Eric Jones. Everyone present was invited to sign their name on a sheet of paper which will be inserted in the newly rebound Membership Book which dates back to the 1860s. It was a well-attended service with visitors joining the congregation.

Anne and Eric Jones's Annual Coffee Morning was held at 14 Clifton Street on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August. It was a delightful morning with John and Barbara Clifford joining the throng. £355 was raised for the NSPCC and 'Singing for the Brain' an Alzheimer's Disease Support Group. Our thanks to Anne, Eric, Vikki and the grandchildren for all their hard work and making us feel so welcome.

Aberdare Unitarians attended a joint service with Cefncoed and Cardiff at the Friends Meeting House on August 7<sup>th</sup>. An excellent service by members of Cardiff was followed by refreshments. Our thanks to Cardiff congregation for hosting this event.

Highland Place now has a new sign above the front doors. Our thanks to our Chairman, Humphrey Evans, for getting it printed and arranging the fitting.

The wedding of Katherine and Claudia, our second equal marriage, takes place on August 23<sup>rd</sup> with Rev Eric Jones officiating.

On September 18<sup>th</sup> we hold our Harvest Thanksgiving Service. This will be a joint service with Cardiff and Cefncoed and will be taken by Rev Wyn Thomas of Ceredigion. Everyone is invited to bring along tinned or non perishable food which will be donated to the Merthyr Cynon Food Bank. This will also be the last service for our organist Jacob Jones who will be leaving for University.

And finally some personal news. Congratulations to Anne and Alun Watts on once again becoming grandparents, this time to baby Oliver. Merrilee Jones has retired and we wish her well for her retirement. Mary Sly celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, with members of Highland Place attending the party at Aberaman Rugby Club.

*Tony Foster*

## **Women's League**

In addition to our usual activities we have enjoyed a talk on the Von Trapp Family, recordings of Pam Ayres reading her poems, a tea party to mark the Queen's birthday and reminiscences of times, past and current, which have left fond memories or inspired us.

In addition, everyone chose a hero/heroine, a piece of music, book and luxury item – just in case Kirsty Young rang up to invite us to take part in Desert Island Discs!!!

Food is also quite close to our hearts. We finished our session with a lunch at Bracelet Bay, a little further on than Oystermouth. It was a glorious day and the view across to Swansea Bay was compared by one member to Naples (Should have gone to Specsavers!) – it was lovely, but not quite Italy. Could it get any better? Yes, we finished our day out with spectacular ice creams at Oystermouth's "compose your own coupe\* parlour" another lovely view out to sea.

Our Women's League District Summer Rally was held at a local bowls club. After lunch we enjoyed a spirited talk on Joyce Grenfell by local speaker, Howard Mortimor. His enthusiastic delivery and selected recordings were very interesting and great fun.

*Dilys Evans*

[Editor: \* – a coupe is a dessert served in a shallow glass or glass dish, typically with a stem.]

### **Meditation Sessions here at Highland Place, Mondays at 2:30 p.m.**

Facilitator for Highland Place Church, Joy Foster.

These are pop in meditation sessions for well-being for the community. They have been taking place weekly since October 26<sup>th</sup> 2015. We have a varied programme including chair exercises, guided imagery and relaxation. All welcome. Sessions last approximately 1 hour.

For enquiries tel. 07828 777 573 or 01685 876597

*Many blessings, Joy*

## **CARDIFF UNITARIANS / UNDOIDIAID CAERDYDD**

Greeting to everyone!

What a great day out the District Rally to Ceredigion was on July 3<sup>rd</sup>! Cardiff members were delighted to join friends from most of the other South East Wales congregations in a superb lunch followed by visits to Llwynrhydowen Old Chapel and Capel Pantydefaid where the warmth of welcome we received, enriched the day.

A bi-lingual service conducted by Gwynn Pritchard provided the setting for the visit to Cardiff of the Rev. Deane Perkins and his wife Sue on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July. Deane is the serving minister at our Partnership church in Belfast, Maine USA and he stopped off to meet us on his way to an ICUU Conference in Demark. We look forward to meeting him and some of his congregation in the future. It was good to have Rev Eric Jones join us on that occasion.

We were happy to see so many of our friends from Highland Place and Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Cefncoed on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August who joined us for a service in Cardiff. The sun shone on the righteous as we gathered together to celebrate 'Being Connected' in worship involving stories, hymns and meditation. Sharing tea together was good connection too.

Several of our members were able to attend the National Eisteddfod during the first week of August, to help at the Unitarian tent or just enjoy the atmosphere of the Maes and in the new Pavillion. Diana Bianchi worked for three days for the theatre company 'Chance Encounters' and portrayed two notable historic Welsh women during her time there. One was Lady Llanover, alias Augusta Hall who during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century promoted the Welsh Language and culture. Also known as *Gwenynen Gwent* (the Gwent Bee) she designed the Welsh costume as it is known today, promoted the triple harp as the national instrument of Wales and she became involved in the production of the first Welsh language magazine for women. The other woman was Martha Jones who was employed in Blaenavon Iron Works during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and who spread details of working conditions there.

During the Eisteddfod week, Diana met Rhian Williams (daughter of sadly missed Jane Williams). Until fairly recently, Rhian conducted occasional Welsh language services in Cardiff. She has been appointed Head of the new Welsh Medium Comprehensive School in Gwent. It was good to have news of her and her brother who is a head of a Welsh medium primary school in Fishguard.

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August, Robin Attfield and his wife Leela will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary. We send our good wishes to them both.

The Boyce family have much to celebrate as Caroline begins a teaching post in Cáceres, Spain where she will teach English as a second language for an academic year and James starts a new job working for Cardiff Libraries as a Hub Officer.

At the recent AGM of the United Nations Association Cardiff and District, Robin Attfield was re-elected Chair and Sarah Boyce will continue as the Minutes Secretary. UNA meetings planned for the immediate future include a talk on 'Islam and Intercommunity Relations' on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, to be given by Saleem Kidwai (from the Muslim Council of Wales). On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October Dr Amanda Potts will speak on 'The UN War Crimes Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia' and on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, Niall Cooper (Church Action on Poverty) will speak on 'The Right to Food'.

Cardiff Unitarians wish everyone a good summer and advise, in these troubled times, making space for the things that bring joy, remembering Ghandi who said, *'There's more to life than increasing its speed'* and quoting Maya Angelou who said, *'My mission in life is not merely to survive but to thrive and to do so with passion, compassion, some humour and some style'*.

On a personal note I share this with you – *'I cook with wine and sometimes I add it to the food'*.

*Lis Dyson-Jones*

## CEFNCOED

### Women's League

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of June we attended our District League Rally with a meal at the Bowls Club in Mountain Ash. The talk, on Joyce Grenfell, was very good.

July started well with a few of us going on the Rally to Ceredigion. We visited Pantydefaid Chapel where Rev Marles Thomas had been the minister, placing flowers on his grave in memory of his time here at Hen Dŷ Cwrdd.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August Pat Evans came from Aberdare and gave a talk on the musical *Sound of Music*. We had a lovely afternoon. Our thanks to Dilys Evans for bringing her.

We are arranging to visit the royal Mint at the end of August.

Gwynfa Bowen is doing well after her second knee operation. We wish her well.

*Vera Tomsett*

### District Rally

Those of us from Cefncoed who were able to join the District Rally to Ceredigion on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, thoroughly enjoyed the day. The weather, the company, the welcome, the food at Ffostrasol, the talk from Wyn at Llwynrhydowen and his service at Pantydefaid, the tea our hosts provided and their friendliness...—nothing could have been improved upon.

This was the common experience for all on the trip—but for those of us from Hen Dŷ Cwrdd there was something more...

Pantydefaid graveyard is the last resting place of the Rev J Marles Thomas and his wife Mary, so the visit provided an opportunity to lay flowers on their grave. Marles was minister at Hen Dŷ Cwrdd (1935-51) and at Pantydefaid (1951-66).

In part, Marles's time at Hen Dŷ Cwrdd was the time of our childhood and youth—it was good to remember those days, and to think of him.

The photograph shows Rev Wyn Thomas, minister of Pantydefaid, with Hen Dŷ Cwrdd members Phil Griffiths, Vera Tomsett, Ken Morgan, Ann Lewis and Margaret Edwards.



Photo: Margaret Griffiths

### War Graves

We recently had a visit from the regional supervisor of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The graveyard contains two First World War graves which we maintain on behalf of the CWGC – those of Company Sergeant Major David Prosser and Rifleman John Simms Griffiths. It is a hundred years since the deaths of these two casualties of that terrible episode in our history – but they are not forgotten.

### Naming Ceremony

On Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> August, Rev Eric Jones officiated at the Naming Ceremony of Annabel, daughter of Nicola and Ian Davies, and granddaughter of Wayne and Gaynor Harman. The young family now live in Liverpool, but Nicola wanted Annabel to be named at Hen Dŷ Cwrdd just as she herself had been. We wish Annabel good health and happiness.

### Out and about

On Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> June, the District Women's League and the Men's Group held a joint service at Highland Place with the theme, 'Coming Together'. Ann Lewis and Ken Morgan each presented a Reading on behalf of Hen Dŷ Cwrdd. On Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> August, we joined Aberdare and Cardiff congregations for a service at Cardiff with the theme, 'Being Connected'.

It was good to spend time together with friends – enjoying their company afterwards over a cup of tea and some tasty refreshments provided by the host ladies at the two venues.

*Ken Morgan*

## **NOTTAGE**

In June Lewis conducted the first 'children's service' for us, we were all delighted! There were just Leila & Ieuan present to represent the children, but we all enjoyed the storytelling, and look forward to many more!

In July, Lewis, who was on holiday, compiled a Flower Communion Service for us to hold together. It was really lovely. Isabelle provided the music, and we were all asked to contribute flowers. Jonathan, who is always very kind to us, bought each of the congregation a bunch of flowers from our local florist. We went home very happy, with flowers and lavender to brighten our homes, and memories of our special time together. Our congregation is stronger under the leadership of Lewis, diolch.

Since Lewis has been with us, we have resumed our coffee mornings, and now meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of each month. Our numbers have slowly increased, and at the last one there were 15 of us. We buy a cup of tea or coffee, enjoy homemade cake - thank you Jean & Helen – and have a 'sales table' for which we all contribute unwanted articles. It has proved financially successful, and is a great opportunity to share stories, and points of view, we also never leave without having had a laugh, which is vital to our wellbeing.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Friday in September (30<sup>th</sup>) is also the Macmillan Coffee Morning day, so we have decided to donate any money made that day to Macmillan, and invite you all to join us! We meet about 11am ... you could always go for 'fish & chips' on the sea front when you leave us, and make a day of it in sunny Porthcawl!

Congratulations to Isabelle who has just passed her driving test, a great achievement indeed.

The last service in July was to be conducted by the congregation, and Elizabeth & Isabelle kindly volunteered. It was a really special first attempt by Elizabeth, who gave us her thoughts and readings on peace, and Isabelle who provided the music and also shared readings and a story with Elizabeth. We were enchanted to the point where we applauded when the brilliant enactment of a story was complete. I can only see her progressing, and hope in time she'll spread her wings through the District.

Thank you! Hwyl fawr,  
*Avril Protheroe*

## **SWANSEA**

The Swansea congregation enjoyed the District Rally in West Wales in July. Many thanks to all for the lovely welcome and the service from Rev Wyn Thomas. An added bonus was the stunning scenery.

Also, in early July, a blessing (following a wedding which was held elsewhere) was held at our High Street church, with the service conducted by Julianne Morgan.

Best wishes to Julianne for a speedy recovery following a recent fall.

Work on the land around the church building continues with the trees at the back being cleared affording a wonderful view over to Kilvey Hill. The flower baskets and planters at the front of the church are looking splendid and this may have something to do with the fact that it's hardly stopped raining!

Proud Grandparent Alert! Many congratulations to Gareth Parles, grandson of Lynn and Margaret, who has just gained his BA degree in Film and Photography.

As ever, Glenys Merrells and Pam Taylor, who are still not well enough to attend services, are very much in our thoughts. Hope to see you soon, ladies.

*Kirsteen Reed*

## **TREBANOS**

### **GELLIONNEN**

Recent weeks have been busy and eventful. The floors in the kitchen, loo and 'in between' area have been beautifully tiled and Robert James has provided us with a good sized kitchen table. Later, a mid week cleanup party was arranged and so the door was open to three teenage visitors, Morgan, Hamish and Cameron MacGregor who called in to tell us that their parents Ania and Iain had been married there by Eirion Phillips and that they were visiting with grandparents Colin and Dolores Morgan.

Just a few weeks later we had more visitors – Wayne and Wendy Francis were outside the chapel waiting to greet us with their two lovely boys Rhys and Tomos, two ponies Ruby and Honey and one curly coated dog, Mali. Wayne and Wendy were married at Gellionnen.

Stephanie John arrived one Sunday morning to announce the birth of her grandson Eifion Francis, a brother for Elijah and weighing in at 8lb 9½oz. We wish the family well and say to both little boys, 'God bless'.

Aneurin Jones travelled hotfoot from playing at the Cambridge Folk Festival to play at Tŷ Gwerin in the National Eisteddfod. He must be a very familiar face each year at both festivals. Although we think of him as a violinist Aneurin also plays guitar and mandolin and will be teaching mandolin in Cyprus in the new school year.

And now to more senior folk. Martyn Edwards has celebrated a big birthday. He has also strimmed the graveyard – not an easy job, what with leaning memorial stones, lumps, bumps, bushes and resident moles.

Those of us who joined in with the District Rally had a thoroughly enjoyable time. The shared bus ride and the good weather made a promising start. Llwynrhydowen is a beautiful chapel and its history remarkable. The shared service at Pantydefaid was a great pleasure. Arranging these events is no simple task but they are very great morale boosters. We do appreciate the effort that goes into arranging them and the welcome that the host chapel always makes.

*Marian Littlepage*

## **WICK**

The land for Wick Chapel and its graveyard was given by a group of six farmers in the late 1700s, and because it was built by the village green by farmers – for farmers, there has never been a service during the month of August. All the farmers being involved with their harvests.

At our last July service we said our goodbyes until September and in particular we wished Elin Jones a good visit to the National Eisteddfod. As usual she takes her caravan and stays for the week helping to staff the Unitarian Tent. Mansel Lalis will also be visiting the Maes during the week.

The trees have been cleared from the centre of our graveyard and the old disused baptistry tidied, so the Chapel looks very welcoming, ready for our first service in September, which will be our Harvest Thanksgiving. As usual we will be making a special display as a donation to the Porthcawl Food Bank.

There is always a big welcome from the smallest chapel to anyone who can join us.

With every good wish to our District friends,

*Julianne Morgan*

## **MEN'S GROUP**

Our final outing before the Summer recess was to the Rhondda Heritage Park in June. An early lunch in the cafeteria was followed by a friendly, in-depth discussion on the dangers of voting to leave in the (then) forthcoming EU referendum. We then took the guided tour around the pit. It was a fascinating insight into the history and working conditions of miners in the South Wales coalfields, their struggles with the pit owners and the hardships they had to suffer. It is well worth a visit. We hope to visit the Welsh Assembly when we meet again in September.

My best wishes to you all.

*Tony Foster*

## **ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION**

Copy-deadline for the next issue of the South East Wales Unitarian News is **Saturday, 22 October, 2016**. Items for publication should be sent by to:- **kenneth.morgan25@tesco.net** or Ken Morgan, 25c Holford Street, Cefn Coed y Cymer, Merthyr Tydfil. CF48 2RW. Tel: 01685 379016.