



Members and clergy of Cardiff's Jewish community, 1932.
Aelodau a chlerigion cymuned Iddewig Caerdydd, 1932.
Llun trwy garedigrwydd/image courtesy of Laurence Kahn.

The Project / Y Prosiect

The Jewish History Association of South Wales was established in 2018 with the express purpose of uncovering and preserving the heritage of south Wales Jewish communities, and making it accessible to as wide an audience as possible.

There have been Jews in Wales for over 200 years. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries there were small Jewish communities in many of the south Wales valleys, as well as larger ones in the main towns.

According to The Jewish Yearbook, in 1919 there were 400 Jews in Merthyr;
in 1939, there were 175,
in 1959, there were 40;
in 1999, George Black "The Last Jew in Merthyr", died aged 82.

The decline of the Jewish community in Merthyr was, for the most part, echoed throughout south Wales.

The JHASW aims to capture the spirit of these communities through interviews with those who were there; through the stories of their lives, and their parents' and grandparents' lives. Who were they? How did they live? Why did they leave?

As well as collecting oral histories, we also digitise the images and documents that bring them to life; that show what it meant to be part of a Jewish community in south Wales, and how the members of these communities interacted with their friends and neighbours. We hope to show that this relationship was not defined exclusively by the Tredegar Riots of 1911.

Unless specified otherwise, all quotes in the exhibition are from the oral histories and written testimonies we collected.

Most of the material we have digitised can be found online at www.peoplescollection.wales/users/31091, or by going to the People's Collection Wales website and entering JHASW as a search.

This project has been funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, The Jewish Historical Society of England, and donations from individuals.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to this project: the interviewees who shared their memories; colleagues and partners who shared their expertise; and our volunteers who gave so generously of their time.

Sefydlwyd Cymdeithas Hanes Iddewig De Cymru yn 2018 gyda'r pwrpas penodol o ddatgelu a diogelu treftadaeth cymunedau Iddewig de Cymru, a'i gwneud yn hygyrch i gynulleidfa mor eang â phosibl.

Bu Iddewon yng Nghymru ers dros 200 mlynedd. Yn ystod diwedd y 19eg ganrif a dechrau'r 20fed ganrif roedd cymunedau Iddewig bach mewn llawer o gymoedd de Cymru, yn ogystal â rhai mwy yn y prif drefi.

Yn ôl The Jewish Yearbook, ym Merthyr

yn 1919 roedd 400 o Iddewon;

yn 1939, roedd 175 o Iddewon;

ym 1959, roedd 40 Iddew;

yn 1999, bu farw George Black, "Yr Iddew Olaf ym Merthyr", yn 82 oed.

Adleisiwyd y dirywiad yn y gymuned Iddewig ym Merthyr, ar y cyfan, ledled de Cymru.

Nod y JHASW yw dal ysbryd y cymunedau hyn trwy gyfweiliadau â'r rhai oedd yno; trwy straeon eu bywydau, a bywydau eu rhieni a'u neiniau a'u teidiau. Pwy oedden nhw? Sut oedden nhw'n byw? Pam wnaethon nhw adael?

Yn ogystal â chasglu hanesion llafar, rydym hefyd yn digido'r delweddau a'r dogfennau sy'n dod â nhw'n fyw; sy'n dangos yr hyn yr oedd yn ei olygu i fod yn rhan o gymuned Iddewig yn ne Cymru, a sut yr oedd aelodau'r cymunedau hyn yn rhyngweithio â'u ffrindiau a'u cymdogion. Na ddiffiniwyd y berthynas hon gan Derfysgoedd Tredegar yn 1911 yn unig.

Oni nodir fel arall, daw'r holl ddyfyniadau yn yr arddangosfa o'r hanesion llafar a'r tystlythyrau ysgrifenedig a gasglwyd gennym.

Gellir dod o hyd i'r rhan fwyaf o'r deunydd yr ydym wedi'i ddigido ar-lein yn www.casgliadywerin.cymru/users/31091, neu drwy fynd i wefan Casgliad y Werin Cymru a chofnodi JHASW fel chwiliad.

Ariennir y prosiect yma gan Gronfa Treftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol, Cymdeithas Hanes Iddewig Lloegr, a chyfraniadau gan unigolion.

Hoffem ddiolch i bawb sydd wedi cyfrannu at y prosiect hwn: y cyfweilion a rannodd eu hatgofion; cydweithwyr a phartneriaid a rannodd eu harbenigedd; a'n gwirfoddolwyr a roddodd mor hael o'u hamser.

Lewis Stuppel's shop, 57 Oxford Street, Pontycymer, c. 1910.

Siop Lewis Stuppel, 57 Oxford Street, Pontycymer, c. 1910.

Llun trwy garedigrwydd/image courtesy of Richard Shepherd.



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