

Forthcoming Events:

The Personal Stories behind our War Memorial

Illustrated talk in Caerwent Parish Church

Monday November 15th at 7.30pm

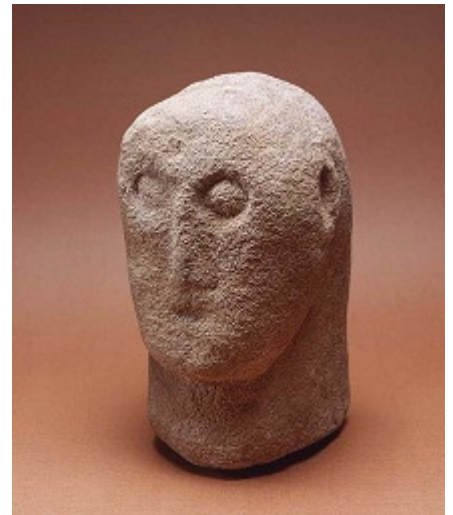
Servicemen from the Caerwent area who died in the World Wars – not just names – who were they? What place did they occupy in our Community and what of the families they left behind? John Nettleship recalls his work in tracing these people and thereby make Remembrance time more meaningful to those of us here today. N.B. this is not a military history.

The Tour of Newport Museum Caerwent exhibits

Members of the Trust were treated by Oliver Blackmore to an excellent tour of the rich collection of Roman artifacts connected to Caerwent now held at the Newport museum. . Included amongst the exhibits there is the Celtic Head pictured right and the Mother Goddess.

Many of the artifacts were excavated in the early twentieth century by the Caerwent Exploration Fund. Between 1899 and 1913 two thirds of Caerwent was uncovered to reveal the plan of the late Roman town. The excavations were supervised by local men, Alfred Hudd and Thomas Ashby. The origins and development of Caerwent have subsequently been pieced together by later excavations.

On display at the museum is a preserved mosaic called the Seasons Mosaic taken from a villa discovered near the West Gate of the wall. Also on display are varied broaches and clasps of wonderful intricacies demonstrating the various levels of society that lived in the town and a wonderful model depicting how the Roman house near the West Gate would have looked.



Secretary,

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LEST WE FORGET

Arthur Pugh

Arthur George Pugh was another soldier born within the Community bounds during the latter part of the 19th Century and who is unrecorded on any local memorial due to the family moving away.

He was the eighth of ten children to James and Mary Pugh (the last four of whom were born in Llanvair). Arthur was born on 9th October 1882 at Penhein. Christened in Llanvair Church on 28th January 1883 his father was described as a shepherd, possibly at Cwm Farm. Both James and Mary had originated from Herefordshire and according to the 1871 Herefordshire census entry James was described as a 44 year old butcher and Mary as his 25 year old wife. The family lived in the Cwm area for over ten years before moving again, this time to Carmarthenshire where James worked as a gardener.

On James's death Mary moved to West Ham with Arthur and his younger brother, Stanley, to join his older sister Winifred, who was a teacher. Here Arthur worked as a bakers' shop assistant in the Holborn area.

In late 1903 Arthur joined the Army and served for several years with the Gloucestershire Regiment. The 1911 Census shows that the single, 28 year old Arthur was still a shop assistant but also an Army Reservist. At this time five or seven years were served with the Colours with the remaining time up to twelve years with the reserve.

At the outbreak of World War one he was recalled to the colours, rejoining the Gloucestershire Regiment and serving in France from 1914 as one of the "Old Contemptibles" earning the Mons Star. He was killed in action on 9th May 1915 during the vicious fighting at Aubers Ridge in the Pas-de-Calais area as the Allies fought to keep the German army from the Channel coast. He has no known grave and is remembered on the Le Touret Memorial. No trace of the family appears to exist in our area today.

Gareth Jones