

Valeways launches “The Hidden History of Cadoxton”

Valeways was proud to launch its most recently completed project on 12 November 2021 to a gathering of 57 invited guests including Barry Town Councillors Dennis Clark and Helen Payne, contributors and volunteers at The Mount Rooms Hotel, Barry.

Project Leader, Paul Hawkins gave a resume of the year-long project involving voluntary groups from Barry with the assistance of video and design professionals. This was followed by the showing of the two videos. These were very well received by the gathered crowd with the narrator Paul Ogden receiving rousing applause. The celebration was rounded off with a wonderful buffet and discussion. Mike Edwards commented “I learnt many things from the video and I have lived in Cadoxton for 54 years” and a Welsh learner suggested the Welsh language video would be an excellent resource for her study group.

A novel undertaking for the charity started a year ago. Valeways was awarded a grant from the Heritage Fund of the National Lottery to develop a new walk that showcased the history of Cadoxton, an area of Barry, to explain how a small seaside village became one of the biggest exporters of coal in the world. A route was devised to feature many historically significant sites and those that portrayed how life was lived in the past.



Paul Hawkins



The audience



Leaflet display



Paul Ogden features in the video

Paul Hawkins resume, “From the start, the project was hampered by Corona Virus restrictions. However, Valeways volunteer Paul Ogden in conjunction with local historians Brian Luxton and Tom Clemett persevered and the walk was developed. Once developed, others could get involved, Valeways volunteers to trial the walk and to check the leaflet directions and walk instructions. A Valeways walk and clear team and local residents cleared the footpaths of any vegetation and rubbish. Mererid Velios of Barry Making Waves organised the design and translation of a children’s resource pack base on the walk leaflet text for distribution to all local primary schools. Valeways’ Rebecca Exley organised and helped to design a walk leaflet which was produced by Darren Witts of Treganna Design. Followed by Valeways volunteers Anne Davies and Cath Davies translating the leaflet into Welsh.

With all these elements in place, all that remained was the filming and production of a podcast of both versions. Again, Corona Virus restrictions interfered with the schedule for the filming but finally, on a sunny 4th June filmmaker Heledd Wyn Hardy recorded both versions of the film, featuring walk leaders; Paul Ogden in English with Welsh learner and Valeways Chair Peter Weston leading the Welsh language version. This was followed by several weeks of editing and checking the films were finally finished.

The film, leaflet, resource pack and a podcast of the walk commentary are now complete, in both English and Welsh.”

The resource pack has been delivered to local schools. As teachers are now keen to include local history into their teaching, this should be a valuable resource for them to encourage pupils’ understanding of their local heritage.

The videos are currently available on YouTube,

English <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ezZ3weugvw>

Welsh <https://youtu.be/pjEVO3zn9Co>

Copies of the walk leaflet are available from Barry Library.

Download from www.valeways.org.uk, Walking with Valeways/ Walk Search (self-guided)