

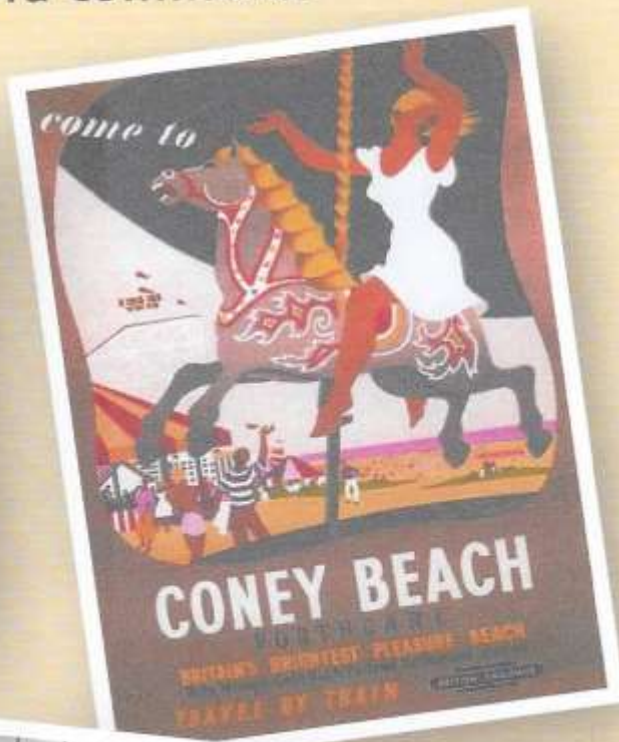


Porthcawl

Much More Than Meets The Eye

Stage II, Part B

Old Porthcawl, Trade and Commerce



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Unless otherwise acknowledged, photography within this report, as indeed in the earlier reports in this series, is by Fred Roberts, a member of both the **Porthcawl Civic Trust Society** and the Exploring Your Town team.

The project has been made possible by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of Bridgend County Borough Council's work on the Porthcawl Townscape Heritage Initiative

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## Feedback and Comments

Anyone wishing to make any comments on this report or provide any further information about Porthcawl should email: [www.porthcawlcivictrust@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:www.porthcawlcivictrust@hotmail.co.uk)



## Acknowledgements

Many people have been involved in the research and preparation of this report and **Porthcawl Civic Trust Society** is very conscious that it would not have been possible to complete it without their interest, generosity and support.

**Porthcawl Civic Trust Society** would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Richard Power who was a member of the Exploring Your Town Working Party as well as a long-standing member of the **Porthcawl Civic Trust Society's** Executive Committee. Richard was a supportive and steadfast member of the Working Party from its inception until his death earlier in 2019. He is missed.

**Porthcawl Civic Trust Society** is grateful to Mrs Rene King for contributing the unique artist's impression of Porthcawl's old Gasworks and special thanks are due to Wayne Stainthorpe of the Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society who, in typical fashion, responded with alacrity to our urgent requests for information. Brian Comley, Frank Fulgoni, Ronnie Sidoli, Wayne Bowen from the Porthcawl United Services Club and Chris Naughton from Ye Pirates Club also deserve special mention for sharing their time, memories and information so freely. As with our earlier reports submitted under the heading of *Porthcawl: Much More Than Meets The Eye*, we extend particular thanks to Bryn Wetherall of the regrettably now closed Ty'r Ardd Local and Family History Centre in Sunnyside, Bridgend. He went out of his way to determine the location of the necessary books and research materials to complete this report and we very much appreciate the general help and support that he consistently demonstrated over a long period of time. Likewise, thanks are due to the staff at Porthcawl Local Library for their help in tracing vital maps and newspaper references.

Particular thanks must again be given to Major Sir Leslie Joseph's daughters, Mrs Tina Eynon and Mrs Mary Daley, for providing family information and insights into the development of Coney Beach Amusement Park and Trecco Bay Caravan Park. They have contributed so many interesting photographs highlighting Porthcawl's story that we have been literally spoilt for choice. Selecting them proved especially difficult but a number of their photographs are on the front and back covers and within the main body of the report and its predecessor *Porthcawl: Much More Than Meets The Eye, Stage II, Part A*.

**Porthcawl Civic Trust Society** would also like to extend a special thank you to Steve Flett of 'Imstuck' for the specialist IT help he has given over the time it has taken to complete all 3 segments of *Porthcawl: Much More Than Meets The Eye*. His interest in the project and his willing assistance has averted several technological crises! Without him, **Porthcawl Civic Trust Society** would not have its website at [www.historyofporthcawl.weebly.com](http://www.historyofporthcawl.weebly.com) containing the 3 documents that currently make up the Characterisation report under the umbrella title of *Porthcawl: Much More Than Meets The Eye*.

## The Outline of the Report

This report has been entirely researched, prepared and written by members of the **Porthcawl Civic Trust Society**. The focus of Stage II, Part B of *Porthcawl: Much More Than Meets The Eye*, is on how the town recovered and grew after the closure of Porthcawl Harbour to maritime trading in 1906, how it carved out a new role in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and how it continues to evolve as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century wears on.

The document concentrates on the area known locally as 'Old Porthcawl' and demonstrates how the town's development is inextricably linked to its geographical environment, the expansion of its tourist trade, its commerce and its leisure sector. How these factors interact with the local economy is examined together with Porthcawl's standing as a seaside resort. In this respect, the report has been able to utilise more local recollections, knowledge and accounts than in earlier reports. In common with the previous 2 segments of *Porthcawl: Much More Than Meets The Eye* it draws on the available books, maps, census returns, newspaper reports, photographs and other material involving Porthcawl's late Georgian and Victorian origins together with its later growth and expansion into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and onwards.

In order to bring readers up-to-date with progress so far, the report opens with a brief summary of the areas covered by *Porthcawl: Much More Than Meets the Eye, Stage 1* and *Stage II, Part A*. It then moves on to examine the effect that the closure of Porthcawl Harbour in 1906 together with James Brogden's death shortly after in 1907, had on the town and the subsequent influence some of his contemporaries had on Porthcawl's development. Whilst it does not examine WWI and WWII in detail, the report acknowledges how both those global events affected the town and its growth. Consideration is given to socioeconomic factors and other influences such as increased leisure, population growth, visitor numbers, the cinema and how they interacted with the local economy. The expansion of 'Old Porthcawl' including South Road, John Street, Lias Road and Well Street is covered, before the document moves on to Station Hill, New Road and the creation of Griffin Park. There is a recognition of 'Old Porthcawl's' roots in the industrial era before the report closes with an extended section about Porthcawl Sands/Sandy Bay, Coney Beach and Trecco Bay and their popular appeal. Lastly, the report scrutinises how the introduction of mass tourism changed Porthcawl, its surroundings and its local economy.

In this document, the **Society** follows the same format as in its previous 2 reports, that is, each section lays out the history and origins of a certain area of Porthcawl before giving an up-to-date view of its status and presentation. The **Society** has commented in previous reports on how much has been learned throughout this project but, even after 5 years of intensive research, we are surprised that there is still so much more to learn about Porthcawl. It is a truly multi-layered, complex urban community with a rich history. The **Society** is aware that certain areas of the town remain unexplored by the Exploring Your Town Working Party and the intention is that these will be dealt with in the next episode of *Porthcawl: Much More Than Meets the Eye*.

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List of John Street Shops in 1938

List of Voluntary Organisations in Porthcawl in 2019



## **Glossary of Abbreviations:**

|            |                                            |
|------------|--------------------------------------------|
| AM         | Assembly Member                            |
| B&B        | Bed and Breakfast                          |
| BBBC       | British Boxing Board of Control            |
| BBC        | British Broadcasting Corporation           |
| BCBC       | Bridgend County Borough Council            |
| The 'Col'  | The Coliseum cinema                        |
| The 'Comp' | Porthcawl Comprehensive School             |
| CBE        | Commander of the British Empire            |
| DPLR       | Dyffryn Llynfi Porthcawl Railway           |
| GCC        | Glamorgan County Council                   |
| Glamro     | Glamorgan Records Office                   |
| GWR        | Great Western Railway                      |
| HSBC       | Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation |
| ID         | Identification                             |
| JP         | Justice of the Peace                       |
| KBE        | Knight of the British Empire               |
| Ltd        | Limited                                    |
| MP         | Member of Parliament                       |
| Nat West   | National Westminster Bank                  |
| ONS        | Office for National Statistics             |
| OS         | Ordnance Survey Office                     |
| PTC        | Porthcawl Town Council                     |
| PUDC       | Porthcawl Urban District Council           |
| RAF        | Royal Air Force                            |
| RAFA       | Royal Air Force Association                |
| RBS        | Royal Bank of Scotland                     |

|             |                                                        |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| RPGC        | Royal Porthcawl Golf Club                              |
| RSPCA       | Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals |
| RV's        | Recreational Vehicles                                  |
| The Society | Porthcawl Civic Trust Society                          |
| TV          | Television                                             |
| UK          | United Kingdom                                         |
| USA         | United States of America                               |
| YMCA        | Young Men's Christian Association                      |
| WW1         | World War 1                                            |
| WWII        | World War II                                           |

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