# C:\Users\Hillier\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCacheContent.Word\english-welsh_compact_black.jpg

**Legacy of Longfields**

AUTUMN 2017

**Project Newsletter**

**This newsletter** aims to bring you up to date with project activities and is produced quarterly. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, project blog or have ideas for project activities then please forward your suggestions to Teresa Hillier.

**Project blog:**

**legacyoflongfields.wordpress.com**

**Twitter**

**@Longfields1952**

**facebook.com/Longfields1952/**

**Teresa Hillier** is the project manager and was employed at Longfields from 1999 to 2004. Teresa is part of a team that made a successful *Heritage Lottery Fund* application. This application highlighted the fact that only limited formal research had been undertaken on the Association and there was a danger it would be forgotten following its closure.

**Project Activities**

**A public talk on the history of Longfields** was given on Saturday 23rd September 2017. This was done as part of the History Day organized by the Swansea Branch of the Historical Association and the Royal Institution of South Wales. It was a great opportunity to talk about the project and let people know about the exhibition in May 2018.

In conjunction with **People’s Collection Wales** a ‘digitisation’ training day was held on 28th September 2017. People’s Collection Wales is a website dedicated to the story of Wales and its people. During the day we were taught how to scan photographs and documents into a digital format to be uploaded to the website and so preserve materials and add to our Heritage Project. If you have any old photographs or other memorabilia of Longfields then please get in touch and we can include it in the collection. <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/>

**Pen Y Bryn** pupils have been very busy learning about the history of Longfields Association and on 1st October I took part in a question and answer session at the school.  The pupils of today wondered what pupils in 1953 did when they started at the school established by 'Longfields parents'.

There was a wide range of questions, some of which are reproduced here.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *What did they do for entertainment?* | *What lessons did they have?* | *Did they play football/any sport in school?* |
| *What did they have for dinner?* | *Was there a library in school?* | *Did they go on trips? If so where did they go?* |
| *What breaks did they have in school?* | *What facilities were there?* | *Did they have a school bus?* |
| *Were they in school on the weekend?* | *What resources did they have in the classroom? What kind of pens did they use?* | *Did they have any hoists?* |
| *Did they have music/what music technology did they have?* | *Did they use sign language?* | *Did they have any famous visitors?* |
| *Did they teach people how to live on their own?* | *Did they have hearing aids?* | *What punishments were there if someone was naughty?* |

As part of the Legacy of Longfields project we have been looking at old photographs. We held a **Workshop Day** at Pen Y Bryn School with Sara Beer from Disability Arts Cymru and film maker Ben Ewart-Dean. Pupils reflected on the material and came up with creative responses in the form of poems, drawings and drama.  The responses will be edited by Ben into a short film and will be exhibited, alongside some of the created work, at the end-of-project exhibition in May 2018.

When studying the photographs pupils wondered:

* Why the pupils did not have a uniform but the staff did
* How uncomfortable the calipers were that some of the children were wearing
* What were the calipers were made of
* Why a wheelchair did not fit one of the children
* About the types of equipment the children had to help them get about
* What pupils did at their Christmas party
* What equipment pupils had if they were not able to use a pen or pencil easily
* About the ‘ancient’ technology of the chalk board!

During October a group from the **Resource Centre** visited **West Glamorgan Archive Service** to look at some old photographs and think about what they would like to see in the exhibition.  These archives hold the ‘Longfields collection’ so there was a lot to research and discover about the Association.

After a visit to the Strongroom where we saw the oldest item in the archives, the Neath Charter - written in Latin on parchment, we made our way to the search-room.  We had a chat about the project and reminisced over old photographs. We decided that Pauline Brayley may need to have her own special exhibition as she seemed to appear in most of the photographs over the years!  Everyone thought that the old black and white photographs were very important in telling the ‘Longfields’ story.

Many thanks to West Glamorgan Archive Service for accommodating us on our visit.  Thank you to Andy and his team from the Resource Centre for transporting everybody and taking part in the event.  Thank you to Martin for his volunteering and special thanks to the two Pauline’s, Chris and Sara for sharing memories and remembering faces!

**The project website** is almost ready to be launched, just a few updates to do. A big thankyou to Jonathon Hurley Graphic Design Solutions <http://www.jhurleydesign.com/> and to Melanie Davies for the Welsh translation.

**Exhibition Planning** has started and there are lots of ideas in the melting pot at the moment. The Resource Centre and Pen Y Bryn School are contributing to the exhibition. We are working with Black Box AV <http://www.blackboxav.co.uk/> and

Valley Group <http://www.valleygroup.co.uk/> on displays and images.

**Forthcoming activities**

* Exhibition planning
* Oral history interviews
* Further project research

**Have a lovely Christmas and remember if you would like to contribute to the newsletter, project blog or have ideas for project activities then please forward your suggestions to Teresa Hillier.**