

31 January 1891 The New Fire Brigade for Merthyr On Tuesday evening last, at a public meeting, it was unanimously agreed "That this meeting is of the opinion that a fire brigade should be established for the town of Merthyr and district."

30 March 1907 Fire in the Fochriw Plantation: Smart Action by Police A fire which might have been attended with most serious consequences was discovered in the northern section of the Fochriw plantation on Sunday afternoon. About 4 p.m., Acting-Sergeant Williams was on duty at Pentwyn, when he observed smoke arising from the plantation, which is on at the opposite side of the valley. He got the assistance of Mr. W. Evans and Mr. Robert Slimmons, and accompanied by a large number of other men, they rushed across the valley, and in about half an hour the fire was put out. About 50 young spruce trees, all in full growth, were destroyed. The plantation covers an area of about 350 acres, upon which 800,000 trees were planted about 18 years ago by Lord Bute. But for the prompt action, many thousands pounds' worth of timber would have been destroyed. A similar outbreak occurred in the plantation about nine years ago.

29 February 1908 Fire Brigade A public meeting was held at the Baptist Vestry on Wednesday evening week, for the purpose of forming a fire brigade for the village. Mr. John Jones presided. The following were appointed members of the Brigade: Mr. George Jones, Station-terrace; Mr. John Williams, Martin-street; Mr. Edward Lewis, Railway-terrace; Mr. William Payne, Railway-terrace; with Mr. P.S. Williams as lieutenant.

24 October 1908 Fire A fire took place at No. 2, Williams-row on Friday evening last, a house occupied by Mr. Thomas Thomas. The fire is supposed to have been caused by a spark from the fire igniting some clothing on the line, which in turn set fire to the roof which is made of wood. Damage to the extent of about £15 was caused. Fortunately, the fire was quickly got under control, otherwise the damage would have been very great. The Fire Brigade, under the direction of Lieutenant W. J. Payne, was quickly on the scene.

7 November 1908 Fire Brigade The Bargoed Fire Brigade, under Captain Tom Jones, visited Fochriw on Wednesday night, when they were joined by the Fochriw Brigade. The men presented a very smart appearance and performed their drills very creditably.

28 November 1908 Fire Brigade Captain Tom Jones and Bugler Jones of the Bargoed Fire Brigade, visited Fochriw on Friday night last, and sounded the fire alarm. The firemen were quickly out, the last man arriving within five minutes of the sounding of the bugle. The alarm was given solely to test the alertness of the men. The Captain spoke very highly of the Brigade.

12 December 1908 Fire Brigade The Fire Brigade turned out for drill on Thursday night week.

15 May 1909 Fire On Thursday afternoon, a fire occurred at No. 5, Guest-street, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Jones. The fire was caused by a piece of coal shooting out on to some clothes which were drying by the fire. Police Sergeant Williams was quickly on the spot, and the fire was soon extinguished, and luckily, no great damage was done.

9 October 1909 Fire Brigade The fire brigade turned out for drill on Friday night.

22 April, 1911 Fire at Pentwyn: Miraculous Escape of the Family An alarming outbreak of fire occurred early on Good Friday morning at the White Horse Inn, Pentwyn. The inmates had a very narrow escape. The household consisted of Mr. & Mrs. Price, two children, and a servant girl, all of whom were in bed. The outbreak was discovered about three o'clock, Mr. and Mrs. Price waking up the same time to find a house filled with smoke. Mr. Price immediately alarmed the next door neighbours by tapping on the wall. Scores of neighbours quickly gathered. A messenger, Mr. Ernest Jones, was dispatched for the Fochriw Fire Brigade, which was on the scene within 20 minutes of the call, under the command of Lieutenant W. J. Payne. Police Sergeant Williams accompanied them. Luckily the fire had been practically put out by the neighbours, scores of whom assisted in carrying water. Great praise is due to the neighbours, all of whom worked like heroes. A word of praise should be given to the fire brigade for acting so promptly. To get out of bed, pull the fire cart and hoses up the steep hill - about three-quarters of a mile in length, in such a short time is a remarkable feat. Luckily there was a good supply of water, otherwise the consequences would have been much more serious. The house is the property of the Taff Vale Brewery Company.

Mr. Price made two attempts to escape by way of the staircase, but failed owing to the flames having spread there. He retreated into the bedroom, and with the boy in his arms rushed to the front bedroom window, and dropped the boy into the arms of Mr. William Mantle. Afterwards, he jumped from the bedroom window to the pavement below. He then rushed round to the back, and assisted by Mr. Mantle, climbed up and got in through the window. He found the little girl, just seven years of age, and made his way through the smoke and fire and dropped her into Mr. Mantle's arms. He then jumped from the window into the back yard. He received injuries to the hand. The servant girl made her escape from the same window by jumping out. She escaped with a few bruises on her legs. This was remarkable as she was barefoot, and had only her night attire on. It was a 16 ft drop to the ground. She then scaled a six-foot wall to arouse Mr. Mantle, who was by that time up. Mrs. Price made her escape by way of the staircase. She covered her head with some clothing. Great praise is due to Mr. Price, who by his presence of mind, promptitude and pluck, undoubtedly saved the lives of both children. Space will not admit to mention the names of those who assisted in various ways, some of whom showed daring courage. Mr. and Mrs. Price wish to thank all their neighbours, the fire brigade, and P.S. Williams for their kindness. It is not known, but it is assumed, that a spark from the steam coal fire flew on to the sofa, and thus caused the conflagration.

9 September 1911 Fire An outbreak of fire occurred at No. 10, Aelybryn, about 4:15p.m. on Tuesday last. The Fochriw Fire Brigade was called out, and was promptly on the scene, under the command of Lieutenant W. J. Payne. Damage was done to bedding, table and several other things. Police Constable Perrot, who lives opposite, was the first on the scene, and with the help of others quickly got the fire under control.

29 June 1912 Fire Brigade The Fochriw Fire Brigade in the charge of Lieut. W. J. Payne, attended at Caerphilly on Wednesday to line the route on the occasion of the King's visit. The men looked very smart and fit.

3 January 1914 Great Fire at Pontlottyn: Mr. Will Hagggar's Theatre Destroyed At 6 p.m. last Friday, a disastrous fire broke out at Mr. Will Hagggar's Theatre at Pontlottyn. The fire broke out in the engine room beneath the canteen and operator's room. The Theatre was burned to the ground in 15 to 20 minutes, fanned by a great wind. Councillor Ben Hughes phoned for the Bargoed fire brigade, in addition to the local brigade. The Hall was used by Mr. Hagggar as a picture palace and variety hall, and was capable of holding 800 to 1,000 people. It was a wooden structure. He had purchased the building just two years ago. The 'turn' for the week was Dockstader, illusionist and conjurer, and all his equipment, worth £200-£250, was lost in the blaze. Mr. Hagggar was away at Tredegar where he has another theatre.

31 October 1914 Fire A fire broke out in the store-room of the shop of Mr. Thomas Llewellyn, grocer, on Wednesday evening. The Fochriw Fire Brigade under Lieut. W. J. Payne, was on the scene within a few minutes of the call, and very soon got the fire out. Civilians promptly rendered assistance, preventing what might have been a great disaster.

3 June 1922 Fire A disastrous fire broke out at the motor garage of Mr. David Davies, Brook Row, on Thursday morning last. It appears that the fire was seen about 3a.m. by one of the men at the colliery who gave the alarm. A willing band of workers were soon on the scene. They assisted the fire brigade but owing to the hold the fire had obtained and the inflammable contents of the garage, their efforts were futile. Great sympathy is extended to the owner in his severe loss.

5 July 1924 Fire An alarming fire broke out at the home of Mr. T. J. Jenkins, 29, Aelybryn, on Tuesday night. Mr. Jenkins was awakened between 4 and 5 a.m. by the sound of things falling downstairs. On going downstairs, he was met by clouds of smoke and fire. He carried his wife and children through the smoke into the street. They were taken into the homes of neighbours. A large number of willing friends then gathered to assist in extinguishing the fire. Police and fire brigade were quickly on the scene and the fire was soon under control, but not before considerable damage was done. We extend great sympathy to Mr. Jenkins and his family in their loss. Mr. Jenkins wishes to thank all for their kind assistance.

23 June 1928 Outing Members of the Fochriw section of the Gellygaer Fire Brigade and friends journeyed to Barry Island on Saturday last and spent a very happy time.

29 December 1928 Personal District Officer W. J. Payne of the Fochriw section of the Gellygaer Fire Brigade, on a ballot vote has been appointed Life Governor of the National Brigade Association Widows' and Orphans' Fund. Mr. Payne has been connected with fire brigade work for over 20 years.

24 August 1929 Fire Brigade Congratulations to the Fochriw Fire Brigade, who carried off three prizes in the five competitions and demonstrations under the auspices of the Gellygaer Fire Brigade at Bargoed on Saturday. Fochriw won the following events: four-man dressing competition; motor pump competition; and hose-running obstacle competition. The following were the successful team: District Officer W. J. Payne, Station Officer B. Evans, Firemen William Thomas, Percy Edwards, Jack Lawrence and Ernest Jones.

5 October 1929 Fire Brigade Some of the members of the Fochriw section were present at Aberdare on Tuesday, to pay their last tribute of respect at the funerals of two members of the Aberdare Fire Brigade who lost their lives in the call of duty at the Aberdare Hospital fire.

2 November 1929 Fire Brigade The Fochriw section of the Gellygaer Fire Brigade under the supervision of District Officer W. J. Payne, attended the unveiling ceremony of the War Memorial at Rhymney on Sunday.

16 November 1929 Fire Fighters At a meeting in the Chief Fire Station, Bargoed, on Wednesday, several honours were conferred on the Fochriw section. District Officer W. J. Payne, and ex-Fireman George Jones were awarded silver medals for 20 years faithful service. Three certificates were awarded in recognition of Fochriw winning three prizes at the recent competitions. The presentations were made by Councillor W. A. Hancock, and Councillor Moses Price.

27 June 1931 Fire Brigade The local Fire Brigade took part in the competitions at Pontlottyn on Saturday last, under the auspices of the Gellygaer Fire Brigade and gave a good account of themselves. They came second in the aggregate score, and won first prize in the pump drill, and second in the extinguisher drill.

26 September 1931 Fire Brigade The large circle of friends of Firemen A. E. Jones, Fochriw, will be pleased to know that he has passed his examination of proficiency. He was presented with his certificate at the chief fire station on Saturday last.

28 May 1932 Fire Brigade The local brigade was successful in winning first prize and a shield in the two-man drill at the Gellygaer Fire Brigade Sports at Tirphil on Saturday. The successful members were Messrs. Ernest Jones and Sydney Briffitt.

1 October 1932 Fire Brigade Congratulations to District Officer Ben Evans of the Fochriw section of the Gellygaer Fire Brigade, who was presented with a long service medal for 20 years faithful service at the drum-head service at Pontlottyn on Sunday.

22 October 1932 Fire On Saturday, about midday, the Fochriw Fire Brigade received a call to a fire at 18, Martin's-street. It was discovered that some rafters were alight. The fire was soon put out.

9 December 1933 Fire Brigade Congratulations to the Fochriw Fire Brigade on winning the following prizes in the competition held by the Gellygaer Fire Brigade: first prize and Cup for motor-pump drill; first prize, Cup and medals as winners of the highest number of points. Three second prizes were also won. The winning team was made up of District Officer B. Evans, Station Officer W. Thomas, P. Edwards, T. Jones, S. Briffett and W. Edwards.

21 July 1934 Fire Brigade Success Fochriw section of the Gellygaer Fire Brigade competed at a national competition at Maesteg on Saturday. They were successful in obtaining third prize in the two-man horse cart competition.

8 September 1934 Fire Brigade The Fochriw section of the Gellygaer Fire Brigade, at the annual competitions held on Saturday at Gellygaer, secured first prize in the four-men hydrant drill; second prize in the four-men hose-running obstacle competition; second prize in the four-men turnout drill. The team members were: D.O. Ben Evans, S.O. William Thomas, E. Jones, P. Edwards, Wm. Edwards.

5 January 1935 Fire Outbreak On Friday, a fire broke out in the kitchen of No. 6, Brynteg, which is undergoing repairs. Fireman T. Jones was quickly on the scene, and with assistance,

soon got the fire under control. Bargoed Section of the Fire Brigade, under Chief Officer P. J. Moody, was on the scene from Bargoed in sixteen and a half minutes from the blowing of the siren at Fochriw.

2 March 1935 Fire Brigade Presentation At the Chief Fire Station, Bargoed, on Saturday, a concert and distribution of prizes won at the last competition took place. Fochriw won first prize and three second prizes. The winning team was Firemen B. Evans, W. Thomas, P. Edwards, E. Jones and W. Edwards.

20 July 1935 Sunday Morning Fire On Sunday morning, the alarm of fire was given. Members of the Fochriw Fire Brigade responded, and with the aid of several willing villagers pushed the hose cart up the hill to the scene of a fire, which was an electric standard between Fochriw and Pentwyn. The Bargoed Brigade, in the charge of Chief Officer P. J. Moody, and Second Officer Owen, arrived quickly on the scene, and the fire was soon extinguished.

31 August 1935 Fire Brigade's Readiness A fire broke out in a shed at the rear of 27, Guest-street, on Friday. Members of the Fochriw section of the fire brigade were quickly on the scene and soon had the water playing on the fire. The Bargoed Fire Brigade, under Officer Owen, were on the scene in 17 minutes.

14 December 1935 Personal Fireman A. E. Jones of Fochriw Fire Brigade has passed the recent examination for a post on the permanent staff of the brigade.

22 February 1936 Fireman's Appointment Mr. Ernest Jones left the district on Monday to take up his appointment as a permanent fireman on the staff of the Chief Fire Station, Bargoed.

16 April 1938 Fire On Sunday evening, at about 10.30, a fire broke out at the home of Mr. Hewins, 11, Brynteg-street. It appears the mantelpiece and some clothes caught fire in the back kitchen. The alarm was given, and the local fireman, Mr. Percy Edwards, was quickly on the scene. The Bargoed Fire Brigade, under the command of Chief Officer P. J. Moody were deep, was on the scene in 14 minutes from the time the call was given, a fine performance and a tribute to the efficiency of the Brigade.

16 April 1938 Fire at Fochriw Bargoed Section of the Gellygaer Fire Brigade, under Chief Officer P. J. Moody and Second Officer E. Owen, was called to a fire at Brynteg-terrace, Fochriw, a dwelling house occupied by Mr. William Hewins, late on Sunday night. On arrival, the chief officer found the kitchen had been ablaze, and was being extinguished by district firemen attached to Fochriw - Fireman P. Edwards and honorary fireman William Thomas, who were assisted by neighbours. The damage was comparatively small. The cause of the outbreak was, no doubt, a spark from the fire. This ignited clothing that was airing.

11 February 1939 Fire At Fochriw Church: Bargoed Brigade Finds Building In Smoke The Gellygaer Fire Brigade, under Second Officer E. Owen, were called to Fochriw just before eight o'clock on Sunday morning, and found St. Mary's Church enveloped in smoke. The firemen donned smoke helmets, and found a stage in a concert room in the basement smouldering. It is believed that hot coke from a heating apparatus fell on to the stage. The outbreak was soon quelled. The Church proper was not damaged, and services were held as usual on Sunday. The damage is estimated at £20.

18 February 1939 Church Fire In the report of the fire at Fochriw Church, the estimated damage should have been £200 and not £20 as reported. The vicar and Churchwardens thank the fire brigade for their promptness in coming from Bargoed, and also the police and general public for their splendid help.

1 April 1939 Fireman's Success Mr. William J. Llewellyn, sons of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Llewellyn, has been successful at the first attempt in passing his qualification of firemen, examiner or deputy under section 15 (1) (TD). He is employed at Ogilvie Colliery (Powell Duffryn Co.) previous to which he was a student at Bargoed.

14 February 1948 Garage Fire A fire that broke out on Wednesday evening, completely destroyed the garage of Miss A. Lawrence. A car in the garage was also destroyed.

2 June 1956 Cars Saved A fire broke out on Friday in a garage in Pentwyn road. Thanks to the prompt action of the owners, two cars were pulled out as the fire raged. They were saved from severe damage. Fire brigades from Rhymney and Bargoed were on the scene, and the fire was brought under control.

17 August 1957 Bridge On Fire Near Fochriw Escaping gas from a fractured main caused a fire at South Tunnel Bridge on Monday. Merthyr, Bargoed and Rhymney Fire Brigades were called to the fire, which was on the bridge that crossed a disused railway line. Ash from a nearby tip had recently been used as ballast to support the bridge that is frequently used by traffic. It is thought that the pressure of the ballast on the gas main, which runs along the disused track, under the bridge, caused a fracture, resulting in seepage of gas through 30 feet of ash. A lighted cigarette end dropped from a passing vehicle may have ignited the gas. Explosions tore up sections of the road surface. Despite turning off the gas supply, gas continued to burn into the night. Traffic was diverted. It is understood the road will open again during the weekend. [with photograph]

29 September 1962 Fochriw House Fire Appliances from Bargoed and Rhymney Fire Brigades called at Fochriw on Sunday evening to deal with a small fire that broke out in the living room of No. 3, Glyn Street. There was little damage, and the fire was under control soon after the arrival of the fire brigades. Station Officer Clive Warren was in charge.

7 September 1963 Fire Outbreak A small outbreak of fire occurred in a bedroom of the Rising Sun Inn on Monday night. The overheating of an electric blanket was the cause of the fire. Mr. Norman Withers called the Fire Brigade. Two appliances from Rhymney and Bargoed dealt with the fire. The damage was not as bad as feared.

11 May 1964 Fire A small outbreak of fire occurred at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Trevor Holifield, 19, Dynevor Street, on Friday. Fat in a chip saucepan overheated. Little damage was caused.