



RODNEY'S PILLAR FEASIBILITY STUDY

for Llandrinio & Arddleen Community Council

in conjunction with

Bausley with Criggion Community Council

and Llandysilio Community Council



ALISON DAVIES

RESOURCES FOR CHANGE

December 2018



Resources for Change Ltd

Directors: A Davies, C Thomas, E Cranidge, M King

VAT number: 996 4504 72. Company Number 7310220.

Registered Address: Cwrt Isaf Farmhouse, Llangattock, Crickhowell, Powys NP8 1PH.

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INTRODUCTION

Rodney's Pillar is a well-known local landmark, seen for many miles; it has fallen into some disrepair and local residents requested that the Community Council's look into the matter of ownership and repair. Llandrinio & Arddleen Community Council in conjunction with Bausley with Criggion Community Council and Llandysilio Community Council applied to Arwain to fund a structural survey and a feasibility study.

Resources for Change (R4C) was commissioned by the Community Council in September 2018 to undertake a study into the ownership, history, current interest and viability of repair, with consideration of lease or ownership of the monument together with estimates for the repair.

R4C met with representatives of the communities, and carried out reviews of the history and current issues regarding the monument and the site. They also liaised with Cadw and Powys County Council staff as well as the structural engineer at Adams Design Associates and made recommendations on what options would be appropriate in the foreseeable future. In addition, they developed a Tool Kit, based on the experiences gained in this study, for use by other community groups in Powys. They also provided guidance on appropriate governance for a community of interest group.

The recommendations in this report are based on these activities, and on the team's previous experience and knowledge; this includes community engagement and consultation, development of new interest groups and historical and archaeological research.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Rodney's Pillar stands in a corner of Montgomeryshire, on the Breidden Hills, close to the border with England. The pillar is a conspicuous landmark around the Upper Severn Valley (Grid Reference SJ29507 14414) Built in 1782 it is a Grade II* Listed Building and also a Scheduled Monument by reason of inclusion within the boundaries of a scheduled Iron Age hillfort. The area within which the Pillar lies is also a SSSI designated for the rare flora.

The Land is owned by the Criggion Estate with the majority of the land leased to NRW for forestry and agricultural purposes. Part of the hill is quarried by Hanson Aggregates for the volcanic rock known as dolerite. The Pillar is accessed via several Public Rights of Way and some Bridleways making it a popular place to visit, offering spectacular views and challenging exercise. There is, however, no vehicular access.

For many years the ownership of the structure has lacked clarity and at various stages repairs have been needed. Most recently, in 1983/4 works were undertaken by Powys County Council and Shropshire County Council.

Adams Design Associates report states that a visual inspection was carried out during March and April 2018 by a Chartered Structural Engineer. The upper sections were inspected using a drone, and a verticality check was undertaken using a theodolite, giving accuracy within +/-10mm at a height of 16.0m. Of particular note is the vertical cracking and bulge both of which reduce the structural integrity of the monument. In paragraph 3.1.5 the report states: *The column is in need of significant repairs to prevent further delamination of the outer stonework skin. Further delamination of the outer stone face could potentially result in partial failure of the face and this in turn would compromise the overall stability of the structure.*

3.1.12 *The lack of a lightning conductor poses a serious risk to the structure and this should be made good as soon as possible to reduce the risk of future damage.* The report identifies the cost of this as £15,000 - £20,000

The report states that the significant structural repairs required, removing and replacing the cement mortar with lime mortar, and re-installing the lightning conductor would cost £140,000 - £165,000

Local residents have voiced their concerns regarding the condition of the monument which has led to the local Community Councils taking the step of commissioning this study. A full structural survey which is independent to this document has been produced which states that the monument is now in need of repair and that some of the works identified ought to be carried out within the next two years.

Resources for Change has undertaken studies to review:

- The ownership of Rodney's Pillar
- The potential for, and the implications of taking on responsibility for the monument
- The potential to undertake repairs, in terms of securing funding
- The option for the members of a Community Group to work together to support the promotion and enjoyment of the Pillar

THE HISTORY OF RODNEY'S PILLAR

Dr R J Silvester researched documents, including those held by the Powysland Club¹, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, The National Library of Wales and Shropshire Archives.

CONSTRUCTION AND RESTORATION

No records are known to exist which provide details of its construction; however, hearsay evidence that was reported in 1877 attributes the design to the land surveyor, John Evans of Llwynygroes, Llanymynech. He also created the large map of North Wales, which Robert Baugh engraved².

Archdeacon D R Thomas, Rector of Llandrinio, a well-known historian and a member of the Powysland Club specifically mentioned in his article³ in 1896 that no newspaper reports had been identified which refer to the monument's 'opening'. The prime movers for its construction in 1781 remain unknown with no surviving subscription list revealing who funded its construction, other than 'some gentlemen of Montgomeryshire'.

It is interesting to note that Rodney's Pillar is not built on the highest point of the Breiddens which would be Moel y Golfu, but is seen from numerous locations in Montgomeryshire. However, it is not well located had it been the intention for it to be seen from Shropshire, where views are much more limited.

TIMELINE

A timeline is set out below:

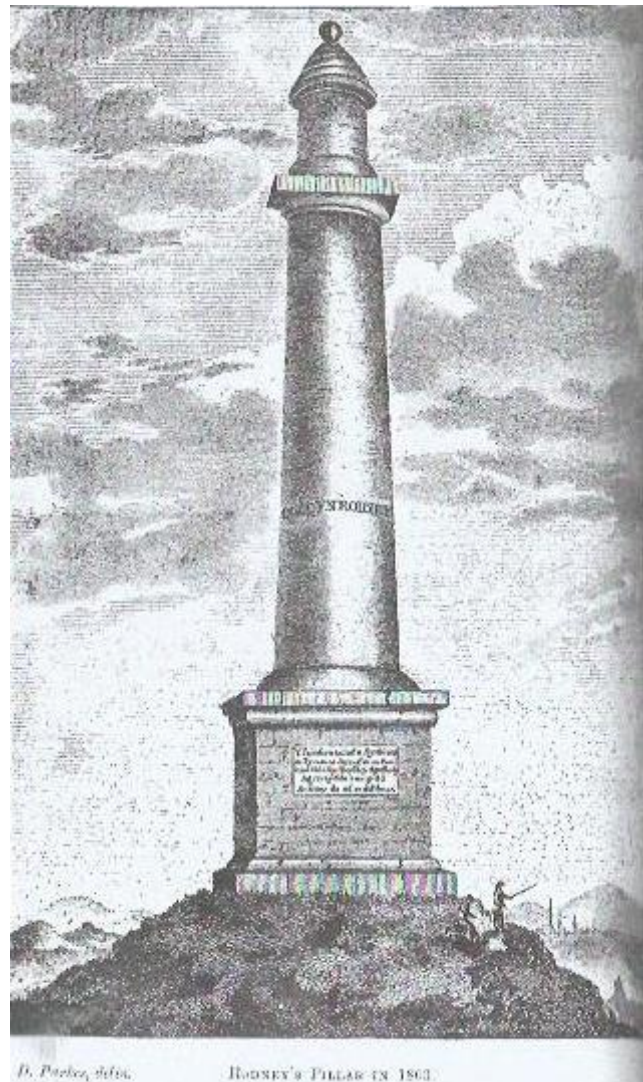
- 1781. Pillar erected, upon the proposal by gentlemen of Montgomeryshire; see the plaque on the monument.
- 1782. 10th August. Official 'opening', known as the 'Commemoration Jubilee', coincidentally at a time when Admiral Lord Rodney had just defeated the French at Les Saintes in the West Indies. Full details on the battles are given in the Montgomeryshire Collections Volume 29 in an article by Archdeacon Thomas.
- 1781. Engraving of the Pillar produced by Robert Baugh of Llanymynech, under an Act of Parliament. This was reported in *Bygones* in 1877, and the only known copy is held in the Shropshire Archives.

¹ Powyslandclub.co.uk The county's historical society, founded in 1867.

² http://www.llanymynech.org.uk/View_from_the_Hill.pdf

³ Montgomeryshire Collections 29 (1896)

- 1794. A watercolour of Llandrinio Bridge by John Ingleby has the Breidden Hills in the background with Rodney's Pillar shown.
- 1798. William Bingley⁴ states that the monument was erected by subscription from several of the neighbouring families.
- 1803. Lithograph of Pillar, engraved by D. Parkes (see left), now on deposit from Powysland Club in the National Library of Wales. Reproduced in the Montgomeryshire Collections by Archdeacon Thomas (1896, p.112).
- 1811. In Carlisle's *Topographical Dictionary* it is stated incorrectly that Pillar was 'erected to perpetuate the memory of Admiral Rodney's victory over the French fleet in the West Indies on 12 April 1782'. It is clear, however, that the monument was already planned before the victory.
- In 1833 Rodney's Pillar is mentioned in Samuel Lewis' *Topographical Dictionary*.
- 1847. The gilded ball on top of pillar was reputedly destroyed by a lightning strike at a prior date and it appears to have been replaced by one of copper at this date.
- Prior to 1890 a Welsh inscription on the pillar disappeared. It had been described in 1803 and transcribed in The Montgomeryshire Collections⁵.



*Y colofnanau uchaf a syrthiant,
A'r tyrrau cadarnaf a ammharant,
Ond clôd Syr Sior Brydges Rodney
A gynnydda Beunydd,
A'l new da of ni ddileurir.*

The highest pillars will fall,
The strongest towers will decay;
But the fame of
Sir George Brydges Rodney
shall increase continually
and his good name shall never
be obliterated.

⁴ Bingley was a prolific writer, and several of his works were popular. His *Tour round North Wales*, the result of his college vacation of 1798, was published in 1800 in two volumes. A second edition appeared in 1814.

⁵ Montgomeryshire Collections 29 page 115

- 348
- RODNEY'S PILLAR.
- RODNEY'S PILLAR RESTORATION FUND, 1896.
- SUBSCRIPTIONS.
- | | £ | s. | d. |
|----------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Powysland Club | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Earl of Powis, <i>President</i> | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| John Dovaston, Esq., West Felton | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Lord Rodney | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| W. H. G. Weaver, Esq., Oswestry | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Thos. Longueville, Esq., Llanforda | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| R. Moon, Esq., Llanymanyneb | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| C. W. Williams-Wynn, Esq., Coedymain | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| C. H. Wright, Esq., Halston | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Dr. P. Cartwright, Oswestry | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| J. Jones, Esq., Manor House, Woking | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| C. E. Howell, Esq., Rhylaport | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Capt. Mytton, Garth | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| C. Whitley Owen, Esq., Fronfrith | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Ardurdeon Thomas, Llandrinio | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| R. C. Thomas, Esq., Ardneilan | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| H. Ferreira, Esq., The Hill, Aberystwyth | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| W. P. Addis, Esq., Mayor of Welshpool | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Rev. T. M. Buckley-Owen, Tedsmore | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Alf. Darby, Esq., Little Ness | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| G. D. Harrison, Esq., Welshpool | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Harrison, Welshpool | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Capt. Hayhurst-France, Ystirn Colewyn | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Col. Hayward, Crosswood | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| J. Humphreys, Esq., Hanley Hall | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Rev. W. C. E. Kynaston, Hardwick | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sir Beldryn Leighton, Bart., Loton Park | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Stanley Leighton, Esq., M.P., Sweeney Hall | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Leslie, Bryn Tanar | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Col. Lloyd, Aston | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| R. Lloyd Kenyon, Esq., Pradoc | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Longueville, Penylan | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Naylor, Leighton Hall | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Misses Naylor | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Edmund Peel, Esq., Brynnyys | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Thos. Pryce, Esq., Pentre Heylin | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Rev. R. J. Roberts, Pool Quay Vicarage | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Proprietors of <i>Montgomeryshire County Times</i> | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| " <i>Oswestry Advertiser</i> | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| " <i>Shrewsbury Chronicle</i> | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| J. Franks, Esq., Rhydaire | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| W. S. F., Shrewsbury | 0 | 10 | 6 |
- RODNEY'S PILLAR.
- 349
- | | £ | s. | d. |
|-----------------------------------------------|---|----|----|
| John Gill, Esq., Welsh Pool | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| J. Parry Jones, Esq., Oswestry | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Dr. Marston, Welsh Pool | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Miss Owen, Ty Maen, Oswestry | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| W. F. Rogers, Esq., Oswestry | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Major H. Vane-Russell, Twyford, West Felton | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| E. B. Snale, Esq., Oswestry | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| F. W. Wateridge, Esq., Shrewsbury | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Dr. Weaver, Southport | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| George Evans, Esq., Middletown | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Rev. G. T. Hall, Shrewsbury | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| J. Bowen Jones, Esq., Eadon House | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Rev. Pres. Matthews, Llandysilio Rectory | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| P. Minshall, Esq., Oswestry | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| E. Cresswell Peelo, Esq., Shrewsbury | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| J. Plowden Pugh, Esq., " | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| S. W. Williams, Esq., F.S.A., Rhayader | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| E. Williams Vaughan, Esq., Oswestry | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Rowland J. Venables, Esq., Oakhurst | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| R. J. Edwards, Esq., Elderton | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Rev. Prebendary Matthews, Llandysilio Rectory | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mr. C. K. Benson, Oswestry | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. Charles Drew, " | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Misses M. and A. Hayhurst, Melyniog | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| " F. O. " | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| R. O. Perrott, Esq., Brewhydion | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. H. Lester Smith | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| C. E. Williams, Esq., Mayor, Oswestry | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Jackson, Chicago | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Rev. C. Hyde Brooke, Criggion Vicarage | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Messrs. R. and R. Hughes, Oswestry | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| " Childhood Memory " | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Mr. Evan Watkin, Llanfyllin | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Mr. R. Jones, Oswestry | 0 | 1 | 0 |
- £75 0 0

- ⁶ The image is enlarged over 2 pages and appended at the end of this document.

THE OWNERSHIP OF THE PILLAR

No records are known to exist distinguishing the ownership of the Pillar. Ownership of the surrounding land is however quite clear.

In 1782, the landowners were the Eyton family of Eyton in Shropshire, and Mrs Eyton attended the opening ceremony in what was referred to as a 'Commemoration Jubilee' on 10th August 1782. This is described in the Montgomeryshire Collections by Archdeacon Thomas.

In the 19th century the area was sold to the Vickers family of Offley Grove near Newport, Shropshire and this was at some point before 1821. We know this because a 1821 Criggion estate map shows Rodney's Pillar, depicted but not named. Nor is it mentioned in the schedule (or 'terrier'), accompanying the map.⁷

A Draft indenture exists, dated June 1827, which is housed in the Shropshire Archives, between Sarah and Mary Griffiths and various others, who are beneficiaries under the Will of Valentine Vickers (d.1814), regarding the Criggion estate.

A 1853 Criggion estate map shows Rodney's Pillar and names it, but it is not mentioned in the schedule.

Resources for Change also undertook research through the Land Registry. The most recent document⁸ with all details up to October 2018 identifies the land as the Criggion Estate and gives details of lease agreements. Whilst the Pillar is depicted on the map, it is not named on the map nor in the document. Various parcels of land are outlined or coloured with some information of leases. Other records are held by Land Registry but are not available publicly as they contain confidential information.

No evidence has been identified as to who owns the monument. It lies within the land boundaries of the Criggion Estate and no written source of information has been encountered which differentiates the monument from the estate holding.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ADMIRAL RODNEY AND MONTGOMERYSHIRE

George Brydges Rodney was born in Surrey on the 13th February 1718, his ancestral home was in Hertfordshire and after school at Harrow up to the age of 12, he went to sea becoming a Rear Admiral by the time he was 40 and a Baronet at 45 in 1764. Upon ennoblement, he took title of Lord Rodney of Stoke-Rodney in Somerset, and died in 1792.

⁷ National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

⁸ Land Registry Title Number CYM196813

Research has found no known association with Montgomeryshire, and no evidence that he ever visited the county. Supposed links with Herefordshire are at best indirect. Thomas Harley who built Berrington Court near Leominster died in 1804, and the house passed through his daughter's marriage into the Rodney family who lived there for the next 95 years through 7 generations⁹. There is considerable information available on the family through a range of internet searches, The present 11th Baron Rodney is identified as John George Bridges Rodney, born in 1999.

The most authoritative statement of Admiral Rodney and his life can be found in The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB), where nearly 7000 words are devoted to him. The ODNB can probably be accessed through a good library.

THE REASON FOR THE ERECTION OF THE MONUMENT BY THE GENTLEMEN OF MONTGOMERYSHIRE

There has been a general belief held in the area, and expressed by local people, that the monument was built because Montgomeryshire had provided much oak for the Naval Fleet and that therefore the gentry in the county had done well out of naval shipbuilding.

This now seems to have come from a belief first articulated by Archdeacon Thomas¹⁰. This was also reported in a much more extravagant fashion by Massey 2013: *'it can be claimed that the very defence of Britain depended on the hard oak of Montgomeryshire'*[!]. Massey cites no authorities in putting forward his claim.

Its erection seems more likely to be a reflection of the patriotic fervour common at or after a time of national crisis. It should be noted that in 1781 Britain was not only contesting the American War of Independence but was also at war with the Spanish and French.

Other monuments erected at a similar period include Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square, Nelson's Tower erected by Paxton at Middleton in Carmarthenshire and the Wellington Monument near Taunton in Somerset.

THE BREIDDEN SOCIETY AND ITS LINK TO RODNEY'S PILLAR

Beginning around 1789, members of the Breidden Society, which was founded by John Dovaston (1740–1808), met for many years near Rodney's Pillar for an annual festival of food, drink, poetry, and song. Records of their meetings for 1809-15 are preserved at the Houghton Library of Harvard University (MS Eng. 1168)¹¹.

⁹ <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/berrington-hall/features/the-7th-lord-rodney>

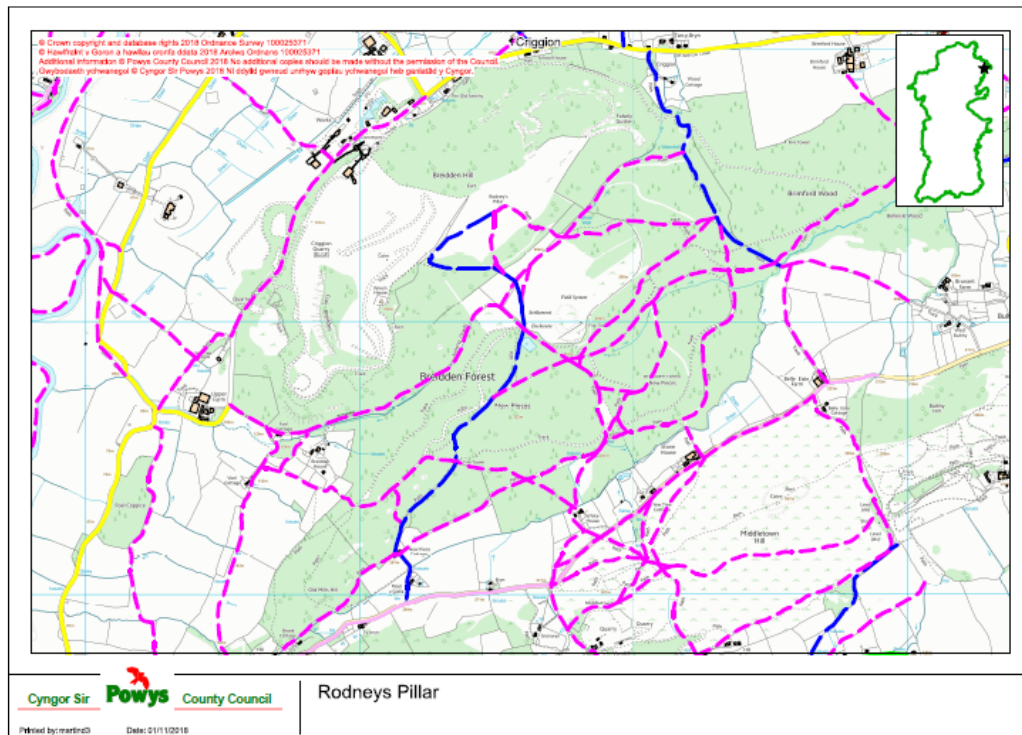
¹⁰ Montgomeryshire Collections 1896, page 124, and subsequently faithfully repeated as in Barton 2003, 31

¹¹ Montgomeryshire Collections 1896 page 127

OTHER BACKGROUND RESEARCH

LAND REGISTRY AND RIGHTS OF WAY

The map provided by Powys County Council (Countryside Access) shows numerous Public Rights of Way, footpaths (pink) and bridleways (blue) in the location of and leading up to the Pillar. These rights of way are all open and unrestricted. A point of access from a car park near to Criggion Village Hall uses a permissive right of way which is closed 2 days a week in the shooting season.



LIAISON WITH STRUCTURAL SURVEYOR

Resources for Change was provided with a copy of the structural report and recommendations and phone conversations and email exchanges took place.

The essence of the report is that some of the works needed are recommended to be undertaken within the next few years ; these include a bulge part way up the monument and loose stones at the top. The lightning conductor, which has been removed and replaced previously, has been stolen again.

This thorough survey provides photographs and drawings with findings and recommendations as well as an estimate of the cost which is expected to be in the region of £150,000.

The full report is available by contacting the Clerk at any of the Community Councils involved in the Project which are Llandrinio & Arddleen Community Council, Bausley with Criggion Community Council and Llandsyilio Community Council.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

R4C undertook public consultation with local people, and with visitors to the site, and in total 465 people participated in the consultation, of whom 381 gave information about where they lived. The majority (344) had SY postcodes (although it should be noted that the SY postcode covers an area up to the Welsh coast, including Aberystwyth; others came from further afield, including Australia and New Zealand as well as other parts of England.

Of the people surveyed a considerable majority value it as a local landmark; although it was noted that one reason for not visiting shows that not everyone is confident about following unmarked trails, “I don’t know how to get there”. The survey was online and was disseminated throughout local media and contacts, but five people weren’t confident to find their way to the top; however, to some this may be unsurprising as some routes require a level of confidence and negotiation of obstacles.

A public meeting was held at Criggion Village Hall in November to share the findings with local people and to listen to their views. 40 people attended and the majority, through a show of hands, expressed an interest in being part of a “Friends of..” type group.

FACE TO FACE INTERVIEWS

Fieldworkers walked various routes on different days of the week during October 2018, when the weather was fine. They held semi-structured interviews with 147 people, several were walking in groups and unsurprisingly there were more people out at the weekend.

The figures are distorted by the fact that groups frequently contributed how **often** they visited individually, but the **reasons** for the visit they elected one member to respond on the group’s behalf.

Questions were about how often they came, and why they walked up to the Pillar.

How often do you visit Rodney's Pillar?



■ 1st visit ■ Daily ■ weekly ■ monthly ■ annually

Interestingly, of the people spoken to, almost half were on their first visit, but more than 25% visited annually. The remainder, approximately 35% visited more frequently, at least monthly and some weekly.

The chart to the right shows clearly that tackling the challenging routes and enjoying the expansive views are key reasons for visiting.

It is clear from this response that visitors value the location and access to its Pillar highly.

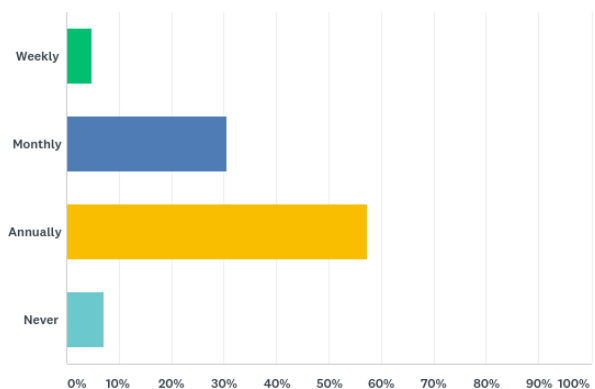


ONLINE SURVEY

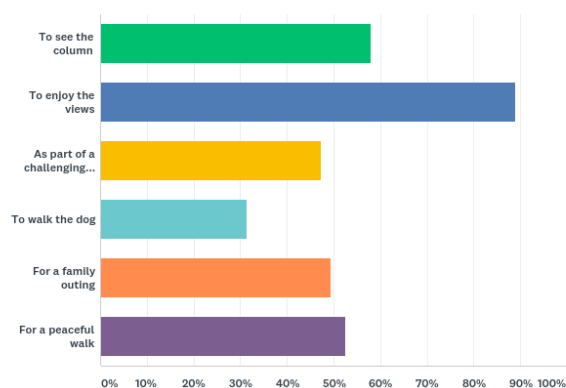
An online survey was available, and 315 people elected to respond in this way.

The results from the online survey show a similar use to that when people were asked face to face, with a significant number visiting monthly or making an annual visit.

Q2 How often do you visit Rodney's Pillar ?



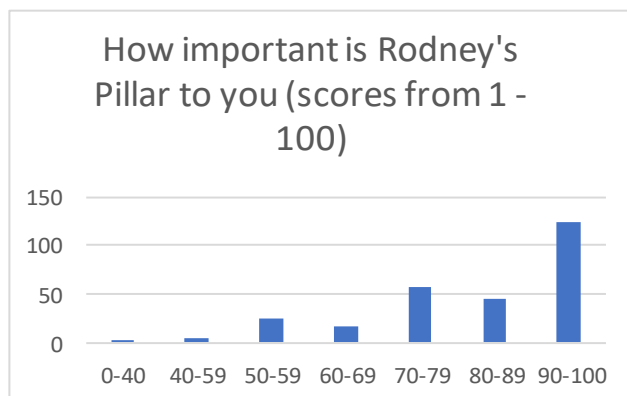
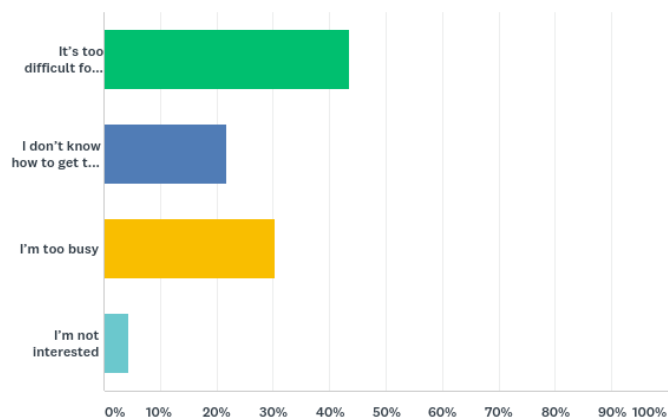
Q3 Why do you visit Rodney's Pillar? (Please tick all that apply)



Question 3 shows a similar distribution again. It is interesting to note that although seeing the column itself is important the panoramic views are the reason given by a majority. The routes are challenging enough for people to want to tackle it, yet it also attracts families and groups. It offers peaceful walks yet is easily accessible from a wide surrounding area.

Of course, some people never visit, and this gave us a chance to gain some understanding of why not. Only 23 people answered this question and only one wasn't interested; however, five people said that they didn't know how to get to the top.

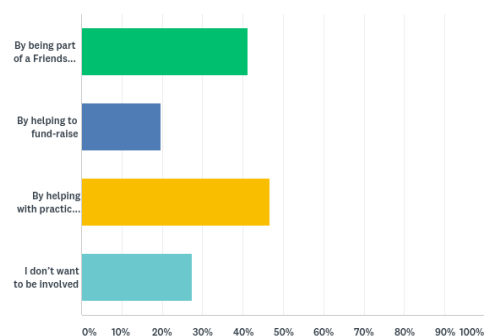
Q4 If you never visit it, why not?



273 people responded to how much they value the monument, and it is clear that of those people the vast majority considering very important to them.

We asked whether people would like to be involved in some way in the future and 270 people responded with about 200 suggesting that they would be interested in being part of a Friends group, helping with fundraising and carrying out practical activities.

Q6 How would you like to be actively involved if there was a project to do with Rodney's Pillar? Please tick all that apply



CONCLUSIONS

HISTORY

A fascinating history regarding the monument has been gathered, with several very useful sources for further investigation identified. Myths that had developed over many years now have some of their origins settled, and it may be that finding out more about Admiral Rodney, and the importance of the Montgomeryshire oaks in shipbuilding is of interest to our wider cultural heritage. Of particular interest could be the 19th-century Breidden Society; discovering more about its members and activities has potential for research, and also for replicating some of the cultural events held, to attract visitors.

OWNERSHIP

During searches of historical records, Land Registry maps and other available documentation no evidence has been revealed on the ownership of the monument. It lies within the land boundaries of the Criggion Estate, but nothing has come to light which clarifies one way or the other whether it is a material part of that estate.

RIGHTS OF WAY

The map supplied by Powys County Council shows clearly that there are numerous Public Rights of Way and some bridleways and therefore Rodney's Pillar is accessible all year. Hanson's Quarry will occasionally post notices when it is blasting to warn people of the potential dangers and on these occasions some paths may be closed.

More signage is needed to show the location of the Public Footpaths as the majority of visitors use the Forestry carpark by Criggion Village Hall which uses a permissive path which is closed for 2 days of the week during the shooting season.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Several interesting points arose from the consultation, in particular approximately 200 people want to take some kind of an active role in a 'friends' group' and have provided contact details; R4C has written to each and asked for permission to pass their details on to Llandrinio & Arddleen Community Council Clerk; this ensures compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). All those who have granted such permission are on a database now in the hands of the Clerk of the Clerk to Llandrinio & Arddleen Community Council.

CONSIDERATIONS

Following much consideration, discussion with the steering group and local community at the meeting at Criggion Village Hall it was agreed that repair of the monument by the local community is unlikely to be a viable option for the following reasons:

- Repair or maintenance of a building that is not owned or leased by the group or individual, or without the permission of that person or body is fraught with difficulty and lays the group open to challenge from any potential owner.
- To pursue ownership or lease of the monument would be costly and a 'successful' outcome would mean that responsibility for the monument would remain with the group in perpetuity.
- Currently the community holds no responsibility for the monument or its condition and therefore is not liable for repairs, insurance or health and safety.
- Local concern regarding the deterioration of the monument; with some matters requiring urgent attention. Restoration might be through public bodies such as Cadw or Powys County Council who have a Statutory duty to protect Listed property.
- There is considerable interest in the monument and therefore opportunity for promotion of the area as a whole; it is apparent that although the Pillar is well known this interest has not brought many direct and calculable benefits to the local community as far as we can establish.
- Statutory Bodies could apply for Grant Funding e.g Heritage Lottery

The potential "attractions" within the local area include:

- Rodney's Pillar – listed building Grade II*
- Scheduled Monument - Breidden Hillfort¹²
- Scheduled Monument – occupation dating to the Romano-British period (2nd to 4th century AD) on New Pieces (known locally as Small Pieces), Breidden Hill¹³
- Gypsy Monument on Moel y Golfa, pictured here.



¹² http://walesher1974.org/herumd.php?linktable=her_source1_link&group=CPAT&level=3&docid=301338476

¹³ <http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/sam/FullReport?lang=en&id=2628>

OPPORTUNITIES FOR A COMMUNITY GROUP

The level of interest shown demonstrates that a ‘friends group’ could be formed focussed on the natural and cultural heritage of the Breiddens. This could include gathering information on the history and heritage of the Breiddens, the importance of the location from the Iron Age, and its geological composition, an extinct volcano.

There are plenty of opportunities to offer information that enhance visits, walks and rides as well as involving people in aspects of the area that they know little about, together with increasing social opportunities and adding to the income generation potential of local hospitality providers.

Suggestions for the range of topics that the group may consider follow here:

Topic	Suggestions for how these may fit with a friends group
Natural heritage	Information on the flora and fauna can be gathered and recorded. This would include learning surveying and monitoring techniques, gathering data from NRW and the Biodiversity Information Service (BIS). The SSSI could be a starting point for this work.
	Learning and recording information about the geology of the Breiddens.
History/ industrial heritage	This could include a timeline from Iron Age through farming, forestry and Criggion Quarry.
Social history	Gathering all of the information that tells the story of the monuments (Rodney’s Pillar and the Gipsy Monument). The people who have lived and worked in the area and perhaps identifying those families who have been here for very many generations.
Guided walks	Phone apps could be developed to guide walks and rides, together with information about history and nature. It would also be helpful to identify neighbouring hills in the landscape. Some people could train as walk leaders and then offer this as a paid service for groups of visitors.
Breidden Society	Research into the Society could include talks, publishing information on a website or holding an annual celebratory event.
Protecting and caring for the area	Although taking on the maintenance of the monument is not a viable option, the establishment of an active group interested in the heritage of the Breiddens’ monuments may incentivise bodies that are in a position to carry out repairs, when they see active participation from a body of people.
Promotion and awareness raising	This fascinating area offers opportunity for some economic development if handled carefully. The history is fascinating and can draw visitors to use local hospitality. A balance would need to be found between retaining the peacefulness of the walks and the benefits of increasing visitor numbers who actually spend locally.

FORMING A COMMUNITY GROUP

A community of interest group comprises people who share an interest; they do not need to live within a certain area, although they may do.

At the Public Information Meeting at Criggion Village Hall on 27th November 2018 it was agreed that a community of interest group could be an appropriate next step and Resources for Change was asked to set out some advice on how to go about achieving this.

PURPOSE AND GOVERNANCE

It is important to be clear about the purpose of the group, so that people know what they are joining and that the members know the breadth and constraints agreed upon.

From the findings and conclusions reached at the public meeting it was informally agreed that the main purpose of a community of interest group could be to draw attention to the importance and significance of Rodney's Pillar and to encourage statutory bodies such as Cadw or Powys County Council to undertake the necessary repairs.

Governance should be reviewed every few years, circumstances and requirements change. There is more advice on the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) website¹⁴ and it is well worth approaching Powys Association of Voluntary Action (PAVO)¹⁵. An example of a simple Constitution is appended; there are some points that may be beyond what the group needs in the foreseeable future and so these may be deleted, whilst other matters may need to be included. The groups will need to agree its **objects** (or purpose) which are about **what** it wants to do; and its **purpose**, which is **how** it will do things, including how it might raise funds etc.

All activities must meet legal requirements on personal data, access and use of equipment. A group that wants to carry out practical activities will require some health and safety training for example, Walk Leader training, first aid, use of hand tools. There are training courses available and funding can be sought from various sources:

- The **Volunteering Wales Grants** aims to support formal volunteering projects that aim to recruit, support, train and place new volunteers and to support them.
<https://www.wcva.org.uk/funding/volunteering-wales-grants>
- WCVA has just launched a funding search platform
<https://www.wcva.org.uk/funding/funding-latest/2018/12/new-funding-search-platform-for-the-third-sector-in-wales>
- **Awards for All** which is part of Big Lottery is able to offer grants from £300 to £10,000 to support things that matter to communities.
<https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all->
- **The LNB Fund** supports organisations working to protect and preserve the environment and heritage across Gwynedd, Meirionnydd, and Montgomeryshire (including cross-border

¹⁴ <https://www.wcva.org.uk/funding/advice/new-to-funding/setting-up-a-new-group>

¹⁵ <https://www.pavo.org.uk/home.html>

projects in Shropshire). Projects should support work involving the many different things from the past that we value and want to pass on to future generations.

<http://www.cfiw.org.uk/eng/grants/80-the-lnb-fundwales>

- **The Ashley Family Foundation** – strengthening rural communities, especially mid Wales arts and culture. <http://www.cfiw.org.uk/eng/grants/78-ashley-family-foundation>
- **Hanson Community Scheme** for communities near their sites of operation; they also run an **Employee Charity Match Scheme**.
<https://www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/community-donations>

It is well worth checking local funding pots that may be connected with a private trust set up specifically for local benefit.

APPENDICES

REFERENCES FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

- Barton, P. G. 2003. The timber and sawmilling trade in Montgomeryshire, *Montgomeryshire Collections* 91, 29-52
- Carlisle, N. 1811. *A Topographical Dictionary of the Dominion of Wales* (London)
- Criggion Estate, 1821. Maps and schedule: *National Library of Wales Map Vol 77*
- Criggion Estate, 1853. Map and schedule: *National Library of Wales Map Vol 78; map 82*
- Lewis, S, 1833 *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* (London: S. Lewis and Co)
- Massey, R, 2013. An English admiral and a Welsh hill, *PenCambria, the magazine of Mid-Wales*, 23, 16
- Wikipedia. For information on the Breidden Society and Baron Rodney
- Thomas, Archdeacon D. R. 1896. Rodney's Pillar, *Montgomeryshire Collections* 29, 113-32; 334-50
- National Trust, Berrington Court.

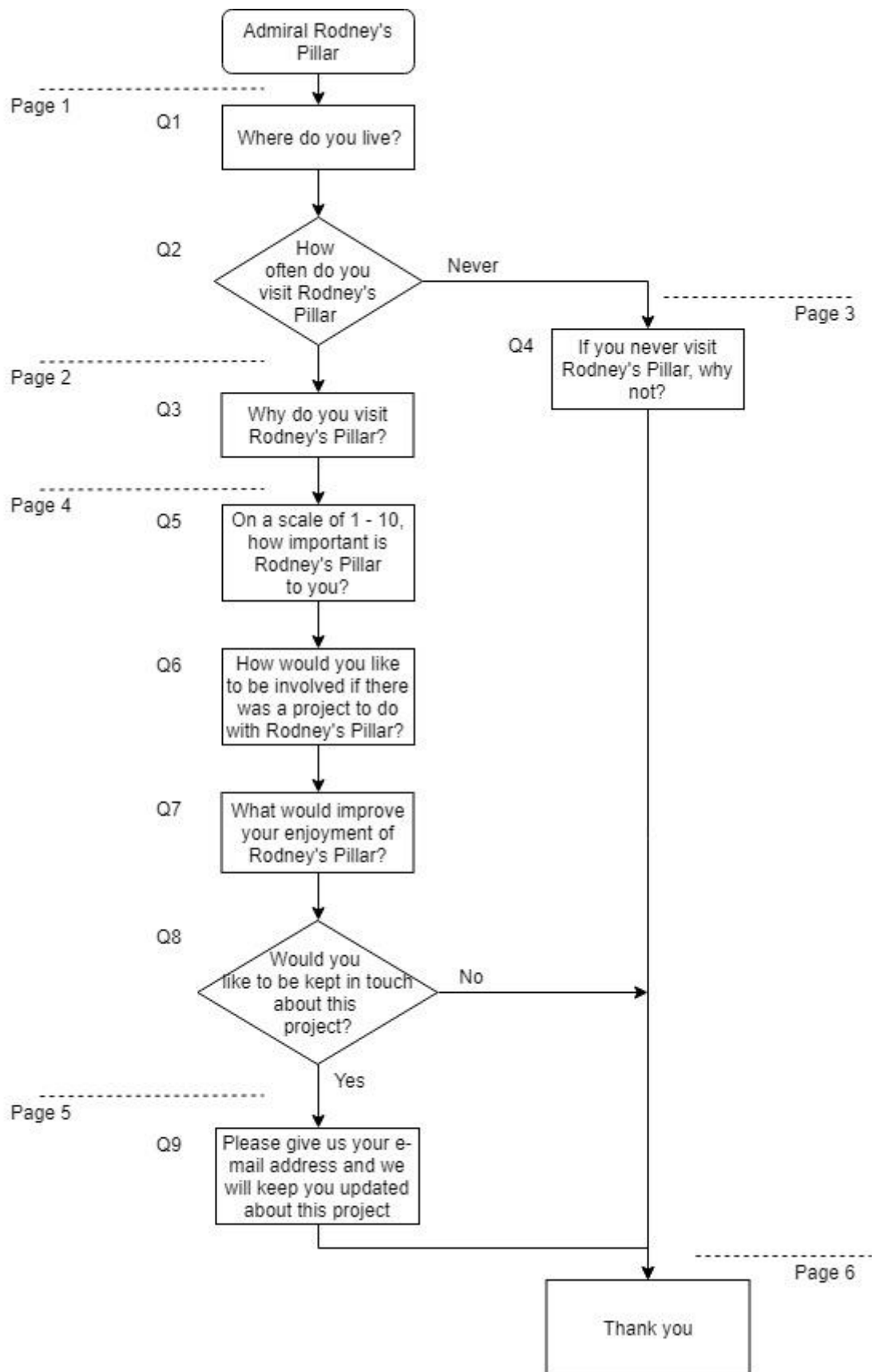
ONLINE SURVEY

Resources for Change has been appointed by the communities of Llandrinio, Arddleen, Bausley, Criggion and Llandysilio to investigate Rodney's Pillar so that informed decisions can be made regarding this monument and any future care and maintenance.

It was erected in 1781-82 by the 'Gentlemen of Montgomeryshire' to commemorate the naval successes of Sir George Brydges Rodney, Admiral of the White, prior to, and on the eve of his defeat of the French off Dominica, West Indies, in 1782 (Battle of the Saints).

We also need to find out the significance of Rodney's Pillar to local people and visitors. We would be very grateful if you would spend 3 minutes completing this short survey, so your views can help to inform this work. If you have any questions you can contact Resources for Change Alison@r4c.org.uk or the Clerk to Llandrinio and Arddleen Community Council davies1.thecrest@btinternet.com. The survey is anonymous, and your personal details will not be held without your express permission.

FLOW DIAGRAM OF THE ONLINE SURVEY



EMAIL SENT TO ALL SURVEY RESPONDENTS WHO HAD GIVEN THEIR CONTACT DETAILS

Dear Respondent,

You recently provided your email address as you wished to be kept informed regarding the work we are currently undertaking, and any opportunities that may arise for joining in any activities in the future.

I am writing to let you know that our research has reached a stage when we are about to present our findings to the community. An open meeting is to be held at Criggion Village Hall on Tuesday 27th November at 7.30 pm. We hope that you will be able to come along to hear the presentation and join in any discussion.

Resources for Change always works to General Data Protection Regulations and, as our work on this contract will be completed in the coming months, we need to know whether you would like your email address to be passed to the client (Llandrinio and Arddleen Community Council) so that you can continue to keep abreast of any developments. Please will you reply to this email to confirm that you wish your contact details to be passed on; if we don't hear from you, we shall delete them from our records at the end of our contractual period.

Kind regards,

Resources for Change

CONSTITUTION

A NAME

The group's name is _____

B THE OBJECTS / PURPOSES OF THE GROUP ARE :-

C POWER TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSE/S

In order to carry out the purposes, the Committee has the power to :-

- (1) raise funds, receive grants and donations
- (2) buy or sell property, take on leases and employ staff
- (3) co-operate with and support other groups with similar purposes
- (4) do anything else within the law which is necessary to achieve the purposes

D MEMBERSHIP

The Committee may admit to membership anybody aged 18 and over who supports the purposes of the group. People who wish to become a member should apply to the Committee.

E ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGM

- (1) The AGM must be held every year, with 14 days' notice given to all members telling them what is on the agenda.
- (2) There must be at least ____ members present at the AGM.
- (3) The Committee shall present the annual report and accounts.
- (4) Any member may put themselves forward for election as a Committee member at the AGM.
- (5) Every member has one vote.
- (6) Members shall elect between 3 and 10 members to the Committee. They will retire at the next AGM and may stand for re-election.

F COMMITTEE

- (1) The Committee shall hold at least 3 meetings each year. They will elect a chair, treasurer and secretary at their first meeting.
- (2) At least 3 Committee members must be at a committee meeting to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.
- (3) The Committee may make reasonable additional rules for the proper conduct and management of the group. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

G MONEY

- (1) Funds must be held in the group's bank account. All cheques must be signed by 2 Committee members.
- (2) Funds cannot be used to pay Committee members except to refund legitimate expenses.
- (3) Funds and property must only be used for the purposes of the group.

H SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Special General Meetings may be called by the Committee for the following reasons. All members must be given 14 days' notice and told what change is proposed.

- (1) **Changing the Constitution** - The constitution may be changed by a two thirds majority of members present and voting at a Special General Meeting.
- (2) **Emergency Special General Meetings** – to allow the members to decide on important issues.
- (3) **Winding up** – the group may be wound up by a two thirds majority of members present and voting at a Special General Meeting. Any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be given to a group with similar (charitable) purposes.

J SETTING UP THE GROUP

This constitution was adopted on _____ 20__ by the people whose signatures appear below. They will be the Committee until the first AGM, which must be held within one year of this date.

Signed

Print name and address

RODNEY'S PILLAR RESTORATION FUND, 1896.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Powysland Club	10	0	0
Earl of Powis, <i>President</i>	3	3	0
John Dovaston, Esq., West Felton	3	3	0
Lord Rodney	3	0	0
W. H. G. Weaver, Esq., Oswestry	2	2	0
Thos. Longueville, Esq., Llanforda	2	0	0
R. Moon, Esq., Llanymynech	2	0	0
C. W. Williams-Wynn, Esq., Coedymain	2	0	0
C. H. Wright, Esq., Halston	2	0	0
Dr. P. Cartwright, Oswestry	1	1	0
J. Jones, Esq., Manor House, Woking	1	1	0
C. E. Howell, Esq., Rhlewart	1	1	0
Capt. Mytton, Garth	1	1	0
C. Whitley Owen, Esq., Fronfraith	1	1	0
Archdeacon Thomas, Llandrinio	1	1	0
R. C. Thomas, Esq., Ardmillan	1	1	0
H. Ferrers, Esq., The Hill, Abergavenny	1	1	0
W. F. Addie, Esq., Mayor of Welshpool	1	0	0
Rev. T. M. Bulkeley-Owen, Tadmora	1	0	0
Alf. Darby, Esq., Little Ness	1	0	0
G. D. Harrison, Esq., Welshpool	1	0	0
Mrs. Harrison, Welshpool	1	0	0
Capt. Hayhurst-France, Ystirn Colwyn	1	0	0
Col. Heyward, Crosswood	1	0	0
J. Humphreys, Esq., Hatley Hall	1	0	0
Rev. W. C. E. Kynaston, Hardwick	1	0	0
Sir Baldwin Leighton, Bart., Loton Park	1	0	0
Stanley Leighton, Esq., M.P., Sweeney Hall	1	0	0
Mrs. Leslie, Bryn Tanat	1	0	0
Col. Lloyd, Aston	1	0	0
R. Lloyd Kenyon, Esq., Pradoc	1	0	0
Miss Longueville, Penylan	1	0	0
Mrs. Naylor, Leighton Hall	1	0	0
Misses Naylor, „	1	0	0
Edmund Peel, Esq., Brynypys	1	0	0
Thos. Pryce, Esq., Pentre Heylin	1	0	0
Rev. R. J. Roberts, Pool Quay Vicarage	1	0	0
Proprietors of <i>Montgomeryshire County Times</i>	1	0	0
„ <i>Oswestry Advertiser</i>	1	0	0
„ <i>Shrewsbury Chronicle</i>	1	0	0
J. Franks, Esq., Rhydaire	0	10	6
W. S. F., Shrewsbury	0	10	6

	£	s.	d.
John Gill, Esq., Welsh Pool	0	10	6
J. Parry Jones, Esq., Oswestry	0	10	6
Dr. Marston, Welsh Pool	0	10	6
Miss Owen, Ty Maen, Oswestry	0	10	6
W. F. Rogers, Esq., Oswestry	0	10	6
Major H. Vane-Russell, Twyford, West Felton	0	10	6
E. B. Smale, Esq., Oswestry	0	10	6
F. W. Wateridge, Esq., Shrewsbury	0	10	6
Dr. Weaver, Southport	0	10	0
George Evans, Esq., Middletown	0	10	0
Rev. G. T. Hall, Shrewsbury	0	10	0
J. Bowen Jones, Esq., Eusden House	0	10	0
Rev. Preb. Matthews, Llandysilio Rectory	0	10	0
P. Minshall, Esq., Oswestry	0	10	0
E. Cresswell Peelo, Esq., Shrewsbury	0	10	0
J. Plowden Pugh, Esq., "	0	10	0
S. W. Williams, Esq., F.S.A., Rhayader	0	10	0
E. Williams-Vaughan, Esq., Oswestry	0	10	0
Rowland J. Venables, Esq., Oakhurst	0	10	0
R. J. Edmunds, Esq., Edderton	0	10	0
Rev. Prebendary Matthews, Llandysilio Rectory	0	10	0
Mr. C. K. Benson, Oswestry	0	5	0
Mr. Charles Drew, "	0	5	0
Misses M. and A. Hayhurst, Melyniog	0	5	0
" F. O. "	0	5	0
R. O. Perrott, Esq., Breunhyddon	0	5	0
Mr. H. Lester Smith	0	5	0
C. E. Williams, Esq., Mayor, Oswestry	0	5	0
Mrs. Jackman, Chicago	0	4	0
Rev. C. Hyde Brooke, Crippion Vicarage	0	2	6
Messrs. R. and R. Hughes, Oswestry	0	2	6
" Childhood Memory "	0	2	0
Mr. Evan Watkin, Llanfyllin	0	2	0
Mr. R. Jones, Oswestry	0	1	0
	£75	0	0