



# PLAID HISTORY

Newsletter of the Plaid Cymru History Society    Edition 2    Summer 2019

## Revealing Plaid's Origins



*Dr Robin Chapman*

**This year's National Eisteddfod will include the opportunity of hearing a distinguished historian's account of the period leading up to the foundation of Plaid Cymru.**

Dr Robin Chapman will deliver a lecture on Welsh nationalism before 1925 during the festival in Llanrwst.

A popular speaker and a prolific author, Robin Chapman is senior lecturer in the Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies in Aberystwyth University. Among his work is a substantial biography of the novelist Islwyn Ffowc Elis.

The lecture which will be in Welsh will take place in the Societies 2 pavilion at 12:30pm, Thursday, 8 August 2019.

## Abi Williams, Mystery Leader

**Is there someone, somewhere who can throw light on the story of the Meirionnydd**

**man who for two years served as president of Plaid Cymru?**

Abi Williams took over the post in succession to Professor J.E. Daniel in 1943, before Gwynfor Evans became leader in 1945. He worked as a local government surveyor in Flintshire and at one time considered becoming a minister of religion. His family are thought to have come from the Corwen area.

Any details of his early years and background would be welcome - and is there a picture of him out there?

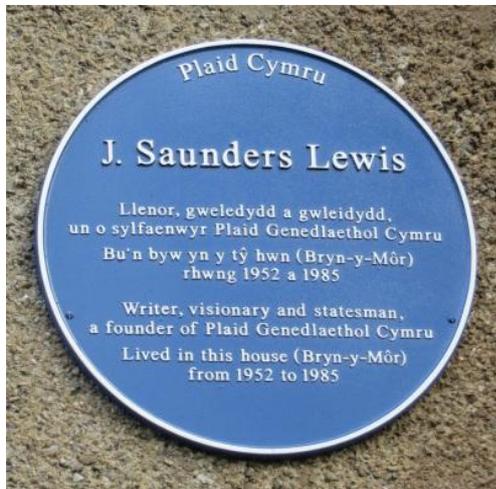
## Pioneer Patriot – the Life of Wynne Samuel



**A new biography has been published of Dr Wynne Samuel – who at one time was considered as a potential leader of the national movement.** This tribute by Plaid History chairman Dafydd Williams traces Wynne's extraordinary career, and includes a number of photographs and documents that have been published for the first time. The tribute may be viewed

on the Plaid History website  
([www.hanesplaidcymru.org](http://www.hanesplaidcymru.org)).

## What About a Blue Plaque?



**Around seven years ago, the Penarth branch of Plaid Cymru decided it was high time to celebrate the life of Saunders Lewis, one of the first leaders of the party who lived in the town for many years.**

They set about their task with determination, and in 2015 with the ready cooperation of the owner and the assistance of the Plaid Cymru History Society, a blue plaque was unveiled on Saunders Lewis' former home in Westbourne Road by the party's Honorary President, Dafydd Wigley.

What about celebrating Plaid's history in your area? It is not as difficult to organise a blue plaque as you might think - we can supply more details.

## Who Was Dafydd Iwan's Granddad?

**The Reverend Fred Jones (1877-1948), one of the famous Cilie family of poets, was one of the six founding fathers of Plaid Cymru who attended the party's inception at Pwllheli in 1925.**

Now Dafydd Iwan has agreed to speak about his grandfather's history in a special meeting of the Plaid Cymru History Society when the Annual Conference comes to Swansea later on this year (Friday and Saturday 4-5 October 2019).

## Plaid History - Our Aims

Plaid Cymru History Society aims to promote discussion, knowledge and research about Plaid Cymru's past and any relevant aspects of our country's history. We also work to bring to a wider audience knowledge of people and events that contributed to the country's constitutional history before 1925.

## Plaid History Website

Don't forget to keep an eye on the Society's website - packed with items of interest on the past activities of the national movement. Go to: [www.hanesplaidcymru.org](http://www.hanesplaidcymru.org) - and have a look at our Facebook page on [@hanesplaidcymru](https://www.facebook.com/hanesplaidcymru).

## Contacting Us

Do you have historic items you would like to hand over to the Plaid History society? Contact us via email on [history@hanesplaidcymru.org](mailto:history@hanesplaidcymru.org).