

MEMORIAL TO FORMER PUPILS OF THE CLASS OF 1961 To 1968
AT PONTARDAWE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

MEWN ANGOF NI CHA^NT FOD

In these years we were mostly eleven to eighteen years old, entering from primary schools over a large area. To be accepted at the school we had to have passed the eleven plus examination. As former pupil Dame Sia^ⁿ Phillips writes, the school aspired to the standards of schools in England such as Eton and Westminster. These standards are reflected in the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC) examination papers in the archives on this website www.aias.us. However it was a mixed day school of about four hundred pupils, a majority of whom were Welsh speakers. It is described in volume one of my autobiography. The class of 1968 scattered all over the world, but some of them may read this Memorial and are welcome to get in touch at [myronevans123 at gmail.com](mailto:myronevans123@gmail.com).

Sadly, the school was closed by Neath Port Talbot Borough Council which made no attempt to conserve it. The school was abandoned as Britain was abandoned by the Romans and waves of barbarians (vandals) tore it to pieces and finally burnt it to the ground. A new bilingual Grammar School should be founded as a phoenix from the ashes. Even the site of the school, high up on Allt y Cham beneath the ancient church of Llan Giwg, was obliterated by ticky tacky - anonymous housing for an atomized society. I have asked one or two people in Pontardawe about the Grammar school and they do not even know where it was. The ancient Llan Giwg has survived despite the attempts to sell it off.

The following members of the class, to my knowledge, have passed away.

Eifion Wyn Jeffries Garnswllt

He was the first of us to cross the river on to the shores of eternity, in the early sixties, after he was tragically killed in a sporting accident on the school field ("O Hudd ei Ddoe", "From Yesterday's Shadow", Autobiography Volume One on www.aias.us). He was a cheerful pupil and a fluent first language Welsh speaker, so was a good friend of mine. He came from Garnswllt in Mawr, arriving at the school after a long bus journey. He once got minus ten out of a hundred for a term examination, nothing for the exam and ten off for talking. This beats Sia^ⁿ Phillips' record of nothing in arithmetic. He was named after the bard Eifion Wyn and was an only child.

John Broad

David Daniels of South Carolina mentioned to me last week that he had died.

David Lloyd

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I think that all the rest of the class are in good health. The most famous member is probably my cousin Mary Hopkin, who left the school in the lower sixth at the age of seventeen to work with the Beatles. She occasionally lives in Pontardawe, and appears on youtube. There is one unaccompanied song: "Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn" (Wil Hopcyn Llangynwyd, written down by Iolo Morganwg).

Myron Evans, Craig Cefn Parc