



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration and Tourism

Cabinet – 18 March 2021

### Black Lives Matter Response of Place Review

<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide an update on the outcomes of the Review previously commissioned as a result of the Black Lives Matter Motion to Council and seek endorsement for the subsequent recommendations.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Creative City Safeguarding people from harm; Street Naming and Numbering Guidance and Procedure.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal; Regeneration, Cultural Services, Highways;
<b>Recommendation:</b>	It is recommended that Cabinet:-  1) Notes the findings of the review and authorises the Head of Cultural Services, in consultation and collaboration with the relevant Cabinet Members, to:  1.1 Commission interpretation where the place name is identified as having links to exploitation or the slave trade, via QR or other information tools; 1.2 Direct the further research required of the working group in exploring information and references, including new material as it comes forward, as well as new proposals for inclusion gleaned through collaboration and consultation with the community and their representatives; 1.3 Endorse the positive action of an invitation for responses that reflect all our communities and individuals of all backgrounds and abilities, including black history, lgbtq+ , cultural and ethnic diversity, in future commissions for the city's arts strategy, events and creative programmes, blue plaque and other cultural activities; 1.4 Compile and continuously refresh the list of names included in Appendix B, in collaboration with community representatives, to be published and updated, as a reference tool for current and future opportunities in destination/ street naming.  2) Authorises future decisions relating to destination/street naming to be delegated to the Heads of Service for Planning & City Regeneration, Cultural Services and Highways & Transportation in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members.

<b>Report Authors:</b>	Tracey McNulty/ Kim Collis
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Catherine Window

## 1. Background

- 1.1 On 2 July 2020, Swansea Council agreed a motion as follows:  
[We will] *take action, where possible, to remove offending names or public realm items that have confirmed links to slavery or exploitation*  
[We will] *commission a deeper review of place names and public realm items that may have links to slavery and exploitation*  
[We will] *develop resources and accurate information on our links to the slave trade and exploitation as part of the story of Swansea's history in order to better inform and educate residents and visitors to the City.*
- 1.2 Cultural Services had, at this point, completed a significant programme of work as part of its commitment to Agenda21, Culture in Sustainable Cities, resulting in a Diversity Pledge. The BLM motion placed into sharp focus the need for us to look further than our service plan for future programming and consider our role in developing a sense of place, as well as presenting our social histories and overall 'story'.
- 1.3 The report outlines and presents the findings of a working group, which undertook a review of these, in order to present a fair and balanced overview and set of recommendations. The research for this review was undertaken by Cultural Services, specifically by Swansea Libraries Local Studies section and by West Glamorgan Archive Service. The primary function of the review was to identify references which commemorate historical figures with documented links to the slave trade, slavery, or its abolition, as well as looking at characters accused of crimes against black people during colonialism, or whose reputation may be contested in recent times, by researchers and campaigners.
- 1.4 The work and approach has taken into account different viewpoints and 'societal norms', both current and historic, drawing on records and contextual references, as well as identifying opportunities for interpretation versus decommission. It has also attempted to identify historically significant people of Black heritage, as well as other under-represented demographics, or groups/persons with protected characteristics, for example (but not limited to); lgbtq+, women and disabled people, who may have been overlooked for commemoration historically, but who could be honoured in future. The intention is to develop a shared understanding which can inform current and future decisions for all our public spaces.
- 1.5 In the pursuit of collating and presenting this work, the bias towards naming streets and places after historic industrialists and landowners has been prominent. The working group proposes that equal consideration of all the city's individuals of note, who are representative of its rich diversity, is a

solid legacy of this work; to be identified through further research and collaboration with stakeholders, community organisations and representatives.

## **2. Public Arts, Statues, Plaques, Monuments and Place Names**

- 2.1 There are relatively few public statues in the city. With the exception of the two Dylan Thomas-related statues in the Marina they celebrate individuals who may be loosely termed 'city fathers'. None of the three personages are known to be have any family links to the transatlantic slave trade or slave ownership. John Henry Vivian, whose statue is in Ferrara Square and who was MP for Swansea between 1832 and 1855, supported the 1833 Act abolishing slavery within the British Empire. The other two, Henry Hussey Vivian and William Thomas of Lan, are later in date.
- 2.2 Outside the urban area, a monument in Ilston, Gower celebrating the Baptist leader John Myles (1621-1683), who emigrated and helped found Swansea Massachusetts, has been identified in a similar audit of monuments conducted by Welsh Government. The inscription fails to mention his condoning of the widespread use of slavery, which started in the American colonies as early as 1619.
- 2.3 There is a significant gap in the city's representation of diversity in its public realm 'honours'. For example, there is no statue celebrating any woman or disabled person in Swansea, or a member of any minority ethnic or lgbt+ community. Public art has been, since the completion of the Marina project, almost invariably abstract in design and for the most part lacking in reference to Swansea's recent history or its contemporary civic life. This reflects a similar situation across Wales, as identified in the Welsh government report referred to above.
- 2.4 During its period of greatest expansion in the nineteenth century, Swansea named many of its new streets after prominent local industrialists, significant members of the local gentry, and Welsh and British military heroes. Coincidentally, some of these figures had direct or indirect involvement with the British slave trade, owned slave plantations or were connected with slave-owning families, as listed in Appendix A
- 2.5 While the potential renaming of any Swansea street is a matter for consultation and careful consideration, the Black Lives Matters protests in June 2020 have already led to initiatives to contextualise some of Swansea's street names with links to slavery. An example of this is the QR code for Maesteg House devised by the HistoryPoints project and recently erected by Rights of Way officers on Kilvey Hill which draws attention to the history of slave ownership of the Grenfell family. This is a non-intrusive means of highlighting these aspects of our common history <https://historypoints.org/index.php?page=kilvey-hill-swansea>
- 2.6 The history of Swansea includes individuals of conscience who have fought for improved social justice, whether that be the abolition of slavery, women's

voting rights, greater gender equality or other social and educational reforms. With a few notable exceptions (e.g. the blue plaque scheme), these people are little evidenced in the public realm. It is a recommendation of this report that there should be more recognition in our future public spaces of the achievements of people of all backgrounds and communities, together with other social reformers and campaigners for justice. Some suggestions of people who might be otherwise overlooked in history are included in Appendix B with a brief biography; and we seek to continue to build on this collection as a resource for future reference.

### **3. Moving Forward through Inclusion, Education, Interpretation and Learning.**

- 3.1 While decisions on decommissioning and naming will be subject to further consultation, scrutiny and public engagement, we can present in the first instance, evidence of our progress in addressing this agenda, along with suggestions as to how the broad report recommendations could be implemented, to facilitate a constructive programme plan going forward.
- 3.2 West Glamorgan Archive Service is already working with its neighbouring archive service in Cardiff to produce a set of online resources which will support the changes to the Wales national curriculum presaged by the appointment of Professor Charlotte Williams and her working group to oversee the introduction of teaching of this strand of our history to the new curriculum in 2022.
- 3.3 The naming of streets and creation of new civic space can be at times contentious or, perhaps more commonly, evoke widespread indifference. When naming is successful, the result can be a significant factor in place-making, as evidenced by the development of the Marina by the City Council in the 1980s and early 1990s. This area draws on aspects of Swansea's maritime history and weaves a gentle narrative linking street names, public space and public art. Any new space or street naming could be interpreted, either with a panel (e.g. in a public square) or with a QR code, explaining the historic link.
- 3.4 Likewise statues and monuments may either be a factor in creating shared memory and community identity or else simply a photographic opportunity on a day out in the centre (e.g. Dylan Thomas' statue). More often, statues are so ignored that most people are probably not even aware of their existence. The three Victorian 'city father' statues unfortunately fall into this category and many Swansea residents would probably be hard-pressed to identify them and their location, let alone be aware of the individuals' part in our shared history.
- 3.5 Current statues and monuments, including the large scale historic works such as the Brangwyn Panels, can include nearby interpretation or the inclusion of QR codes or other points of reference so as to contextualise them in our current understanding of Swansea and its history.

#### **4. Statues, Artworks and Monuments**

With the above provisos, we note a growing awareness of the following:

- 4.1 The absence of a tribute to Amy Dillwyn, whose brief biography is included at the top of Section 4 in Appendix B. Like Dylan Thomas, she was also a well-known Swansea character and distinctive in appearance (she was, for example, a cigar smoker, an almost unknown habit for a woman of her day) and hence a tribute, or statue, could be equally distinctive.
- 4.2 There is a campaign within the city to erect a fitting tribute to a freed slave Willis whose brief biography appears in Section 1 of Appendix B. It is almost certain that Willis existed and the story of his escape from slavery via the efforts of the people of Swansea is correct, although the written record is very scant on his life after he stepped ashore here.
- 4.3 Part of the success of a statue or monument is that it should resonate emotionally with the general public for it to be noticed and registered in the collective memory. Some civic monuments carry emotional significance for the general public, such as the Swansea Cenotaph. It is noteworthy that, unlike some other towns and cities that were heavily bombed during the Blitz, Swansea has no memorial to the 230 killed and 397 injured during the Three Nights' Blitz and this is probably a result of the eagerness to rebuild after the war.
- 4.4 Likewise, a monument to lives lost to AIDS, an epidemic exacerbated by prejudice, vilification and ignorance; as well as a tribute to key workers and victims of Covid19, whether by memorial, event, artwork, musical piece, exhibition or statue, may be an appropriate consideration for a future civic commission. Along with recognition of individuals' contribution and success, these events in our city's social and cultural collective memories warrant serious consideration as a means of addressing imbalance, and creating a far reaching legacy in response to the review.

#### **5. Street names**

- 5.1 While changing a street name is not a straightforward matter, we are now able to reflect on the historical records of whether the person celebrated in the original street name may have connections to slavery, exploitation, cruelty or crimes as illustrated in the introduction. For example, the signage for Picton Arcade has been removed by the owners and we are now able to reconsider proposals for the public space intended to the rear of the Kingsway development.
- 5.2 New developments often require multiple street names and these street names are often inter-related. Some ideas for linked street names based on people who deserve greater recognition are as follows, all referred to in Appendix B:
  - Swansea campaigners for women's suffrage, i.e. Amy Dillwyn, Clara Neal, Emily Phipps, Mary McLeod Reeves and Jenny Ross

- Swansea campaigners against slavery, i.e. William Dillwyn, Richard Phillips, Jessie Donaldson, Diana Noel, Joseph Tregelles Price, John Morris, Lewis Weston Dillwyn and Christopher Cole
- Famous Swansea women, e.g. Joan Curran, Gertrude Bacon, Valerie Ganz, Iris Gower etc.
- Swansea sportsmen, of Black and White ethnic heritage

## **6. Blue Plaques**

- 6.1 Swansea Council has a blue plaque scheme which can pride itself on its variety. The relatively new scheme was conceived with the concept of maintaining a balance of different types and has been enriched by a number of creative ideas and nominations from the Women's Archive Wales group in Swansea. For example, the new plaque for anti-slavery campaigner Jessie Donaldson is to be welcomed.
- 6.2 It is important to maintain this existing record of balance and expand its diversity, in particular to recognise the importance of recognising disabled and LGBT+ individuals, as well as those of BAME origin, along with those who fought for the abolition of slavery. This can be done by revising and developing a new set of guidelines that fully illustrate and guide this intention, ensuring we capitalise on opportunities to celebrate all ambassadors for the city, historic and more recent.

## **7. Implementation of this report**

- 7.1 The worldwide Black Lives Matter protests in the summer of 2020 represent a societal shift in which considerations of historic racial inequality and prejudice have informed a new public consciousness which is more alive to the sensibilities of today's diverse and multicultural society and the inequities still faced by many communities. For example, it is now impossible to imagine that a person from history with connections to the slave trade could be considered in the naming of a new public space in Swansea, as was proposed not long before the events of 2020. While the desire to revive lost historic street names is a good one, an awareness of the need to promote equality and understanding of diversity in all its forms, must inform future decision-making around our public spaces, blue plaques and street naming if we are to be inclusive and representative of society.
- 7.2 There is much that the Council can do to create new paradigms in our public spaces which are more inclusive and representative of all our communities. Most UK cities are at present going through this process of introspection after the events of summer 2020, as most share the same narrative of streets, statues, parks and memorials named after people with direct or indirect connections with the slave trade and then later a Victorian patriarchy celebrated for its wealth, entrepreneurship and subsequent municipal benevolence. Society has moved on since that time and our new public spaces have often failed to register the change.

- 7.3 Cardiff Council for example have announced the commissioning of Wales' first public statue of a Black woman, the teacher and equal rights campaigner Betty Campbell. As mentioned above in section 4.1, one of the worthiest Swansea women to be honoured by a statue would be Amy Dillwyn and some years back the Council failed to respond to a campaign for the new open space in front of Swansea Museum to be called Amy Dillwyn Square, opting instead for the more conservative name of Museum Square. It is perhaps time to right that oversight and Amy Dillwyn, alongside or followed by others that come to light, should be recognised in our new public spaces and street naming. We have made a start with this in listing names in Appendix B, and will continue to build on this work in collaboration with our community groups and representatives.
- 7.4 Picton Arcade is by comparison a relatively recent creation which could be renamed as part of a much-needed makeover for that run-down end of the south side of Kingsway. We would hope to open up a dialogue with the owners and lease-holders to rename the Arcade at such time as businesses are stabilising post pandemic, but in any event to commission focused interpretation of the site, the historic name and links and to put forward an alternative name for adjacent developments in place of e.g. Picton lane/ Picton Yard.
- 7.5 With regard to existing historic Swansea street names, with the possible exception of Picton Arcade, rather than change the existing name (with all the associated complications) it is considered better to contextualise the existing street name with the biographies, which include the failings, of the people after whom they were named. Part of the issues around these historic street names is that in many cases it is uncertain which member of a particular influential family they are named after. Appendix A brings out the complexity of some of these issues.
- 7.6 'HistoryPoints' is an existing network of 1,500 QR codes which provides information at historic sites across Wales. QR codes can be placed on windows, fences, doors, walls, gateposts and noticeboards, the user then scans the code with his or her smartphone or tablet to read a concise history of the site. Of the street names which are listed in Appendix A, the following are considered suitable for this treatment: De la Beche, Grenfell, Eaton. Monuments such as that to John Myles in Ilston village on Gower could also be contextualised by inclusion in the HistoryPoints network.
- 7.7 Mention has been made above of the need for new guidelines for blue plaques which will enshrine the need for maintaining the diversity of the scheme. These should be written and adopted as a matter of priority before new nominations are considered, in order to create fairness and transparency. Other plaque schemes as seen in other cities, celebrating specific communities should also be considered.

## 8. Equality and Engagement Implications

8.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

8.2 The report was subject to an initial screening exercise which established a Full EIA was not required. Further recommendations for changes, or future proposals for renaming or erecting permanent artworks in honour of individuals may be subject to the same process.

## 9. Financial Implications

9.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report as fulfilling the recommendations entails an enhancement of the invitation to meet the existing requirements for inclusivity and diversity. Therefore all work will be undertaken within current budget allocations for cultural development and participation, as per annual budget setting.

## 10. Legal Implications

10.1 Legal advice may be required in relation to any decommissioning or proposed change to a street name contemplated by this report.

**Background Papers:** [The Slave Trade and the British Empire: an audit of commemoration in Wales | GOV.WALES](#) (Welsh Government, Nov 2020),

### Appendices:

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| Appendix A | Swansea street names with links to slavery and exploitation  |
| Appendix B | Rebalancing the picture: suggested names of some Swansea people from under-recognised groups who deserve recognition. <i>To note this is intended as a start, in response to the BLM review specifically, and not a complete record or account of individuals.</i> |
| Appendix C | EIA Screening Form   |



## APPENDIX A

### Swansea street names with links to slavery and exploitation

Street numbers attached are Unique Street Reference Number (USRN) which can be used via [www.findmystreet.co.uk](http://www.findmystreet.co.uk) to locate streets precisely. Particularly contentious names are marked in red – and are presented first, as a priority marker for us to address.

**■ Picton Arcade**, City Centre [39107187] **Picton Lane**, City Centre [39101995]; **Picton Terrace**, Mount Pleasant [39101996]

Picton Arcade and Picton Lane comes from the earlier street name Picton Place which used to run part of way along the street where Kingsway is now. The name Picton Place dates from the early 1830s. The name most probably derives from the noted military commander Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Picton. Picton Terrace (c.1880s) in Mount Pleasant probably also commemorates him.

Picton was a member of a Pembrokeshire gentry family. From 1797-1803 he was appointed Governor of the recently captured Spanish island of Trinidad creating a new order and establishing British rule. In so doing he increased slave imports dramatically, purchased his own slave plantation and made a large personal fortune. His rule was noted for brutality and strictness and came under legal scrutiny. He was charged with a number of crimes including arbitrary execution, and brutality towards slaves, but he was eventually on put on trial for the torture of a free 15 year old mixed race girl Louisa Calderon. He was found guilty on his first trial in 1806 and then was acquitted in his second in 1808. Though this caused great scandal, his military exploits in the Peninsula war 1810-1814 resulted in him becoming highly regarded prior to his death. His election as an MP for Pembroke in 1813 further enhanced his standing and he was knighted in 1813. His death, leading a bayonet charge, at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 resulted in many public commemorations of him across Wales.

Picton visited Swansea in 1807. His career was frequently mentioned in the local newspaper *The Cambrian* and the post coach from Swansea to Bristol was named the General Picton even prior to his death at Waterloo. There was also a General Picton pub in Orchard Street in Swansea in later times and a number of ships which visited Swansea were named *Picton*.

Monuments to Sir Thomas Picton, who is widely commemorated in south Wales, have been probably the most controversial, with Carmarthenshire County Council wrestling over the future of a monument to him in Carmarthen and the Cardiff Council removing his statue from display in the City Hall. It seems unlikely that any future public space could take on this name without raising a large degree of public controversy.

**Clarence Street** [39100496]; **Clarence Court**, [39100495]; **Clarence Terrace** [39100497]

These street names first recorded in the 1830s are highly likely to commemorate King William IV (1765–1837), who, before he was crowned in 1830 ,was the Duke of Clarence. As Duke he was a prominent opponent of the legislation for abolition of the slave trade in the House of Lords.

**De la Beche Road**, Sketty [39100703] [c.1869] and adjacent **De la Beche Park**; **De la Beche Road**, city centre [39100702] [c.1870]; **De la Beche Terrace**, Morryston [39106297] [c.1890] These streets and park are named in commemoration of the De la Beche family and possibly Sir Henry De la Beche.

Sir Henry Thomas De la Beche (1796–1855) was an important geologist, a key figure in founding of the Natural History Museum and founder of geological mapping. De la Beche inherited two mortgaged slave plantations, Halse Hall (172 recorded slaves in 1833 at the time of abolition), and Hanbury Pen (88 enslaved in 1833), in Clarendon Parish, Jamaica. He visited Jamaica as a child and lived for a year there from 1823-4. De la Beche, a radical in politics, attempted to reform his plantations, reducing the use of punishment, but he did not free his slaves. He produced a pamphlet *Notes on the Present Condition of the Negroes* (1825), on the subject. His time in Jamaica resulted in the publication of the first description of the geology of Jamaica and its first geological map and thus he is regarded as the 'Father of Jamaican geology' and is commemorated on the island. With the abolition of slavery in 1835 compensation was paid £3,523 11s 9d 88 for Halse Hall and £1,698 9s 4d for Hanbury Pen, not to De la Beche, but to the mortgage holders on the estate, while De la Beche retained the estate and its now semi-free workers.

Between 1837-1844 Sir Henry maintained a residence in Swansea during his important systematic mapping of the South Wales coalfield which was key in expanding coal mining. He was an significant figure in the Royal Institution of South Wales, now Swansea Museum, and also carried out an important Public Health Survey of Swansea in 1845, also looking at Merthyr and Brecon. His daughter Elizabeth De la Beche married Lewis Llewelyn Dillwyn (1814–1892) in 1838, an important industrialist who was MP for Swansea for 37 years. Their son, Henry De la Beche Dillwyn (1843-1890) was a lawyer and local judge.

It is unclear whether the road namings in Swansea are in honour of Sir Henry himself or the ongoing family connection to Swansea via the Dillwyns. Although they are often attributed to Sir Henry further research would be needed to affirm this. The date they were created make it seem likely the Dillwyn connection is significant. There are strong connections of the Dillwyns to Sketty with Elizabeth De la Beche's residence at Park Wern and then Hendrefoilan. Henry De la Beche Dillwyn also held land in Morriston, possibly in the area where De la Beche Terrace is now.

**Eaton Crescent**, Uplands [39100773] [c.1880.]; **Eaton Road, Brynhyfyd** [39100774] [c.1890s]

It has been suggested Eaton Crescent is named after the wealthy former West Indian plantation owner and Quaker merchant Thomas Eaton [1732-1802] who sold his slaves and moved to Swansea c.1780. His son Robert Eaton snr [d.1840], a noted Swansea banker, certainly lived in Brynymor house, today known as Stella Maris, the Ursuline Convent, and owned much land in the area around it including the land on which the Crescent was built. Although it has been suggested that it was Thomas who built Brynymor house it seems it was constructed c.1826, though he may have owned an earlier building in the area.

It would seem, judging by the date it is first recorded, Eaton Crescent was actually named after the family generally, rather than Thomas, and also would have commemorated the public service of Robert Eaton snr, and his son Robert Eaton jnr [d.1873] who were both Swansea councillors. Robert Eaton Snr was also actively involved in the local campaign against the slave trade in the 1820s.

It seems likely that Eaton Road in Brynhyfyd is named after the same family.

**Grenfell Park Road**, St Thomas [39101058]; **Grenfell Town**, Bonymaen [39101059]; **Grenfell Avenue**, Gorseinon [39101057]; **Riversdale Road**, West Cross [39102130]; **St Leger Crescent**, St Thomas [39102263]

The Grenfell family were one of the most important copper industrialists in Swansea. It was Pascoe Grenfell (1761-1838) who established the Grenfell link with the town, purchasing the Middle and Upper Bank Works in 1802. As MP for Great Marlow he was an ally of Wilberforce in the debates for the abolition of slavery. At the same time in the copper business he was a partner with Thomas Williams of Anglesey, who defended the production of copper goods for exchange in slaves.

His son Pascoe St Leger Grenfell (1798-1879) moved to live in Swansea in 1844 to manage the Grenfell's copperworks. St Leger Grenfell had a mortgagee share in Hazelymph estate, in Jamaica [216 Enslaved on abolition] and received £4,121 19s in compensation after slavery was abolished in 1835. He also unsuccessfully attempted to claim compensation for another debt owed on the St Elizabeth, Jamaica slave estate. The Grenfell family also had key interests in Cuba where they helped fund the El Cobre mine which used free labour alongside slave labour in horrific conditions from the 1830s till the late 1870s. In the later period, Chinese indentured servants were also used in the mine. Copper ore from the mine was shipped back to Swansea for processing. Pascoe St Leger Grenfell was Director of the Cobre Company and his brother Riversdale William Grenfell (1807-1871), also resident in Swansea, was also involved.

The Grenfell family were very important in shaping Kilvey and St Thomas area where Pascoe St Leger Grenfell lived in Maesteg house. Grenfell Town area was built at Pentrchwyth, Bonymaen from 1803 to 1813 and consisted of forty terraced houses arranged in three rows: Grenfell Town, Taplow Terrace and Rifleman's Row. They were noted for being particularly good employers who paid well and also did much charity work in funding schools and churches. Pascoe St Leger Grenfell was a Swansea Borough Councillor and JP who took an active interest in local government and in the expansion of Swansea's harbour and trade. St Leger Crescent is undoubtedly named after him, while Riversdale Road possibly commemorates his brother. Further research would be needed to see if the other names related to the Grenfells are connected to particular members of the family.

**Nelson Street**, Central Swansea [39101761]

Most likely named after Admiral Horatio Nelson, who visited Swansea in 1802 and is a Freeman of Swansea. Nelson Street was laid out in 1806, soon after Nelson's death in 1805. Many surrounding streets in the area are also commemorate the Napoleonic wars with names like Wellington and Trafalgar. However, Gerald Gabb has argued that the true origin of the street name comes from Robert Nelson/Neilson, a Scottish mercer who bought a lot of land in the area in the 18th century, and who lived in Wind Street by 1758.

Horatio Nelson once argued against the abolition of the slave trade in a private letter, though he took no public stance on the issue. He has been the focus of some recent discussion with suggestions that many commemorations of him across the UK should be reviewed. However given his status as a pre-eminent figure in British naval history as yet none of this discussion has resulted in any renamings and the discussion itself has proved hugely controversial.

**Rodney Street**, Sandfields [39102139]

Likely to have been named after Admiral Lord George Rodney (1719-1792) who was famous in his day for victories against the Spanish and French fleets. Rodney publicly opposed the abolition of the slave trade.

**Somerset Place**, Maritime Quarter [39102219]; **Worcester Place**, Central Swansea [39102624]

There are multiple streets names in Swansea commemorating the deep Swansea connections with the Somerset family, the Dukes of Beaufort, who have held the title of Lord of Gower and Kilvey from 1490 and who still own much land in the area today. The subsidiary titles of the family, Marquess of Worcester and Earl of Worcester, are also reflected in local street names.

Two street names stand out, Somerset Place and Worcester Place in the historic Georgian lower town, an area now known as the Maritime Quarter. Given the time period they were created in they would have been named after Henry Charles Somerset, 6th Duke of Beaufort (1766-1835) who voted against the abolition of the Slave Trade in 1796.

Other connections to the slave trade and slave ownership among the Somerset family are Henry Somerset, the second Duke (1684–1714) who was one of the Lords Proprietors of the Bahamas and Carolina, both slave-holding colonies.

There are many other street names relating to the Beaufort family throughout Swansea though it is unclear if they relate to particular members of the family. Further research would be needed.

## APPENDIX B

### **Rebalancing the picture: suggested names of some Swansea people from under-recognised groups who deserve recognition**

This appendix focuses on notable deceased figures who have had a connection with Swansea close or distant. They are categorised into different groups all of whom are under-represented in the public realm. This is an outline: more research is needed on all or each of these people before choosing them for recognition.

#### **1. Members of the BAME community**

##### **Cyril George Cupid (1908-1965), record breaking Welsh athlete**

The Swansea son of George Cupid, a West Indian spelterman (zinc worker) who married Maud Palmer a local white woman. He became the Welsh Champion in both the 100 and 220 yard races from 1930-4, winning 8 titles, four consecutive sprint doubles, setting new Welsh records. In 1934 he was the first Welshman to run under 10 seconds for the 100 yards, clocking up 9.8. He qualified to be in the first Welsh team to compete in the Empire (now Commonwealth) Games in 1934.

<https://www.rainbowdragon.org/2018/10/24/black-history-month-wales-fascinating-swanssea-family/>

##### **Lloyd 'Kid' Davies (b.1885) Boxer**

An African American boxer who settled in Swansea and who became a local and national star fighting frequently in South Wales, England, and Scotland. Also spent time fighting in Paris in France as well. He was sometimes described as the champion of Wales and his boxing career lasted from 1902-1916? During the First World War he worked at Pembrey Munitions works. Featherweight 49 wins 35 KOs 26 Losses 17 Draws 113 known bouts

##### **Ralph Ellison (1913–1994)**

The important African American novelist visited Swansea during his service as cook in the merchant marine in World War Two and the warm welcome he found from the local people made a deep impression on him.

<http://babylonwales.blogspot.com/2006/08/ralph-ellison-in-swanssea.html>

##### **Fisk Jubilee Singers**

African American singing group that raised funds for Fisk University, a Black college, in Tennessee toured Britain coming to Swansea several times in 1874, 1875, 1889, their last visit being in 1907. They were key in establishing the popularity of slave spirituals as popular songs outside the Black community. Further Information: Jen Wilson, Freedom Music: Wales, Emancipation and Jazz 1850-1950 (University of Wales Press, 2019)

##### **Käte Bosse-Griffiths 1910-1998**

Käte Bosse-Griffiths, Egyptologist, and author in Welsh. Of German Jewish origin, her family suffered from Nazi persecution, her mother dying in the Holocaust. She escaped to Britain in 1936 and worked in Research posts in Egyptology, at University College London, and later at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. She married the Welsh scholar J. Gwyn Griffiths and together they worked many years in Swansea University, where she laid the ground work for

what is now the Egypt Centre. She lived in Sketty and had strong connections with Swansea Museum where she also worked.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/obituaries/obituary-kate-bosse-griffiths-1155460.html>

### **Joe Hunte (c.1918-1983) community activist**

A West Indian who came to the UK in 1958 and attended Swansea University where he studied Politics, Economics and Philosophy and won the annual student debating competition. Moving to London he became a leading member of the West Indian Standing Conference, and as Public Relations Officer helped to create pressure to push for the Race Relations Acts of 1965 and 1968. Later working in race relations for local government he has been commemorated with a housing project named after him in Tower Hamlets.

<https://www.tonycfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Joe-Hunte.pdf>

### **Martha Isabella (1762- ?)**

The first black woman known to have been baptised in St Mary's Swansea being recorded on 13th August 1784 as "Martha Isabella, a poor black" aged 22 in the Parish records. We know nothing else of her life or how she came to Swansea.

### **John Jones ( 1745 - ?)**

The first black child known to have been baptised in St Mary's Swansea being recorded as "John Jones, a black" on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1745 in the Parish records. As a seaport, Swansea is likely to have had black residents earlier than this. However as the first known black resident John Jones is of note, though we know nothing else of his life. His status whether slave or free is uncertain, but it is likely he was free as he was baptised,

### **Captain Hugh Mulzac (1886-1971)**

The first Black captain of a US merchant vessel. Born in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines he was sailor on British merchant vessels. He studied at Captain Dixon's Nautical Academy of Navigation and Seamanship, 20, Wind Street and earned a mate's licence. He then served on ship's officer on British and American merchant vessels in the First World War and emigrated to the United States in 1918. He became the first African American to pass the US shipping master's examination in 1920 gaining his first command soon after. Racial discrimination however meant he found it difficult to find work as a Captain during the 1920s and 1930s. He was given command of the new Liberty ship Booker T. Washington in 1942 which carried much needed supplies during the Second World War. He insisted on having an integrated crew rather than an all black crew which led to much controversy.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugh\\_Mulzac](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugh_Mulzac)

### **Gebuza Nunga – "George Black"**

A Zulu tinsmith worker who worked in Llanelli on the early twentieth century reputed to be a tribal chief. Nicknamed George Black he retired to Pennard where he became a well-known local resident and member of the Home Guard during WW2.

### **Willis**

An American slave who arrived in Swansea on the 2nd of February 1833 on a Swansea copper barque sailing back to Swansea from Chile via New Orleans where Willis had stowed away, being signed on as a sailor when he was discovered. His freedom was confirmed by the Portreeve of Swansea. There has been media attention on his case recently. Further Information: Jen Wilson, *Freedom Music: Wales, Emancipation and Jazz 1850-1950* (University of Wales Press, 2019)

## 2. Swansea campaigners for the abolition of slavery

The campaign in Swansea against slavery started in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and petitions against slavery from Swansea were frequently sent to Parliament. Swansea has been identified by academics as the leading location of anti-slavery sentiment in Wales, even in the period preceding the formation of the Swansea and Neath Anti-Slavery Society in 1822.

Leading figures in advocating abolition included Joseph Tregelles Price, the Neath Quaker who was secretary of the Society, and in Swansea key figures included Sir John Morris, Lewis Weston Dillwyn, and Captain Sir Christopher Cole of Penrice Castle, MP (1770-1836), and other prominent members of Swansea society. Many of these figures already have some form of recognition in Swansea through for example street names, but their connections to abolition should be better noted.

Many of the public anti-slavery campaign meetings were held in the old Swansea Town Hall which was located adjacent to the Castle. After 1829 they were held in the new Guildhall, which is now the Dylan Thomas Centre.

### **William Dillwyn (1743-1824)**

The important Quaker abolitionist who was a key figure in establishing the links between abolition campaigns in America and Britain. Born in Pennsylvania, from a family of Welsh descent, William moved to Walthamstow in London in 1777 during the War of Independence, but he had visited Britain before to campaign against slavery. He was one of the twelve committee members of the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade when it was formed in 1787 and was a key figure in helping achieve the abolition of the slave trade in 1807. William visited Swansea and was impressed by the Cambrian pottery, which he became involved in. His son Lewis Weston Dillwyn (1778-1855) moved to Swansea in 1802 to manage the Pottery and established the family locally. Lewis Weston Dillwyn was active in the anti-slavery cause both locally and nationally. Although William does not have a deep connection to Swansea personally, his importance to abolition and the Dillwyn family connection is significant.

Further Information - "Swansea & the Abolition of the Slave Trade" by David Painting. *Swansea History Journal* 15 2007/08 p. 10-18

### **Jessie Donaldson (1799-1899)**

Jessie Donaldson, who lived in Swansea was a campaigner for the abolition of slavery, travelling to Cincinnati in 1856 to operate a 'safe-house', risking fines and prison sentences for offering shelter and protection for slaves as they tried to escape to the North of America. Other members of her family had long been active in the anti-slavery cause in the United States.

A blue plaque for Jessie Donaldson is currently under discussion.

### **Lady Barham (Diana Noel née Middleton) (1762-1823)**

Diana Noel, 2nd Baroness Barham, was the only child of Admiral Sir Charles Middleton of Barham Court in Kent. From the 1770s, the evangelical Middleton family became leaders of the British anti-slavery movement with strong connections to Wilberforce and other leading figures. Lady Barham moved to Gower in 1813 where she lived in Fairy Hill, Reynoldston and was very important in establishing a series of non-conformist chapels locally. She is

remembered today in the Barham Centre, Mount Pisgah Chapel, Parkmill, but her connection to the anti-slavery cause is not always appreciated.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diana\\_Noel,\\_2nd\\_Baroness\\_Barham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diana_Noel,_2nd_Baroness_Barham)

### **Richard Phillips (1756-1836)**

Swansea born Quaker lawyer from a family involved in the copper trade who was a founding member of various key groups in the abolition of slavery including the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade that also included William Dillwyn whose family were connected to Swansea. Richard Phillips worked together with Thomas Clarkson to assemble detailed statistical and financial information on the slave trade which was valuable in arguing the case for abolition. His Cornish cousin James Phillips was a printer and bookseller in London who was another important abolitionist figure. He also was a key figure in the founding of Swansea dispensary which later turned into Swansea Infirmary, the first Swansea hospital, and schools in Swansea.

Further Information - "Swansea & the Abolition of the Slave Trade" by David Painting. *Swansea History Journal* 15 2007/08 p. 10-18

<http://gallery.nen.gov.uk/image77405-abolition.html>

## **3. Critics of Colonialism**

### **Revd Bowen Rees, (1857-1929) and Susanna Wesley Rees (née Davies), (1863-1933)**

Welsh Congregationalist Missionaries in Matabeleland, South West Zimbabwe for over thirty years. They lived in and later retired to Swansea where they died. Rev. Rees Bowen opposed Cecil Rhodes' expansion into Matabeleland and was named Isitsha Kasibulawa "Vessel Not to be Broken" by the Ndebele people as he was not to be targeted during uprisings. He and his wife are regarded very highly in Zimbabwe today for speaking up for the Ndebele and spreading Christianity and education. A monument to him was erected to him in Bulawayo in 2017.

## **4. Women**

### **Amy Dillwyn (1845-1935)**

On the death of her father, Amy Dillwyn found she had inherited responsibility for her father's factory at Llansamlet which was deeply in a debt which had been concealed by a dishonest solicitor, and that as a result hundreds of her workers faced the spectre of unemployment. With an almost Quaker-like head for business she scorned the cowardly option of selling up and decided to run the works herself with the aid of an experienced manager named John Corfield. She gave up the considerable comfort of a mansion with servants for a life of real austerity and set out to prove that a woman could successfully function in what was essentially a man's world of competitive industry. She was by the time of her death a much-loved icon of Swansea life, famous for her unconventional outward manner, rock solid Liberalism and her unflinching but always non-violent feminism.

There is already an Amy Dillwyn Close in West Cross. Along with Amy Dillwyn, Swansea should celebrate more its other prominent suffragists, **Clara Neal, Emily Phipps, Mary McLeod Reeves** and **Jenny Ross**.



### **Val Feld (1947-2001)**

Val Feld was AM for Swansea East 1999-2001 and the first AM to die in office, from cancer. She was a much loved and respected politician in Swansea Eastside with a strong social conscience, previously head of Shelter Cymru and the Equal Opportunities Commission Wales. She is commemorated with a blue plaque on the walls of the Senedd in Cardiff.

### **Gladys May Aylward (1902–1970) Missionary in China**

Gladys Aylard was born in 1902 in Edmonton, London, where a school has been re-named after her. After leaving school aged 14, she did shop work before becoming a parlour maid in Swansea. She later joined Jeannie Lawson, an independent missionary who had settled in northern China. Together they ran an inn for muleteers, the long-distance truck drivers of their day who carried an assortment of goods on the backs of their mules. The aim of the ladies was to make a little money while evangelising their guests who, being travellers, would spread Christianity among their customers. Their inn (known in the 1959 film as the **Inn of the Sixth Happiness**) became in time a place of refuge for orphaned and abandoned children.

### **Gertrude Bacon (1874–1949) – pioneer aeronaut**

Gertrude Bacon lived for some years in Swansea with her brother Frederick Bacon, the first professor of engineering at Swansea University College. An ardent balloonist, she was the first woman to ascend in an airship and one of the first women to fly an aeroplane. She wrote books on aspects of flying.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gertrude\\_Bacon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gertrude_Bacon)

### **Joan Elizabeth Curran (1916-1999)**

Swansea born physicist who played important roles in the development of radar and the atomic bomb during the Second World War. She invented chaff, a radar countermeasure technique credited with reducing losses among Allied bomber crews. She also worked on the development of the proximity fuse and the electromagnetic isotope separation process for the atomic bomb. In later life she became a founding member of the Scottish Society for the Parents of Mentally Handicapped Children.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan\\_Curran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_Curran)

### **Lilian May Davies (1915–2013), later Lilian Craig, later Princess Lilian of Sweden and Duchess of Halland**

Born and raised in a small terraced house in Garden Street, Swansea, since demolished although the name lives on as an underpass leading to Swansea's main shopping centre, the Quadrant. Her father William Davies was a private in the Swansea Battalion of the Welsh Regiment during World War 1. She moved to London, aged 16, and became a fashion model. She was married to actor Ivan Craig when she met Prince Bertil of Sweden in London in 1943. She was divorced from Craig amicably, after he returned from WW2. Prince Bertil's father, King Gustaf VI Adolf, refused to give his blessing for the couple to get married. The King feared that had Prince Bertil married a commoner, the royal dynasty's survival would be jeopardised. The couple lived together discreetly for more than thirty years.

See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princess\\_Lilian,\\_Duchess\\_of\\_Halland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princess_Lilian,_Duchess_of_Halland) and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-21735827>

### **Valerie Ganz (1936–2015) Artist**

Valerie Ganz grew up in the Mumbles area of Swansea, attended Swansea College of Art and studied painting, sculpture and stained glass. She studied at Swansea College of Art then worked as a teacher and lecturer. She remained as a tutor until 1973 and died suddenly on

28 September 2015, aged 79. She developed an interest in the industrial heritage and landscapes of South Wales and during the 1980s spent several days a week underground at 14 coal mines, sketching the miners at work. She exhibited at the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery and her works are held at UK public collections, including the National Library of Wales and the National Museum of Wales, amongst others.

See <https://valerieganz.co.uk/> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valerie\\_Ganz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valerie_Ganz)

### **Iris Gower (Iris Davies) (1935–2010)**

Prolific bestselling Swansea novelist, who took the pen name Iris Gower. Many of her novels are set in Swansea and the surrounding area such as the bestseller *Copper Kingdom* providing a vivid description of historical Swansea and its industries with dramatic plots. She was a patron of the Year of Literature in Swansea in 1995 and in 1999, was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the University of Swansea.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris\\_Gower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris_Gower)

### **Ethel Ross (1905–1994) lecturer, author**

Ethel Ross was a lecturer at the Swansea College of Education and the author of a number of works of local interest, notably 'Radical Adventurer, the diaries of Robert Morris, 1772-1774' and 'Letters from Swansea'. The Dylan Thomas Centre's temporary exhibition space displayed material about Ethel Ross and Dylan Thomas in 2016. Ethel knew Dylan and his Swansea friends well, through her work with the Swansea Little Theatre Company and also through family association, following her sister Mary's marriage to Alfred Janes, one of Dylan's close friends and fellow member of the 'Kardomah Gang'. Ethel was living in Killay at the time of her death.

See <http://www.dylanthomas.com/blog/ethel-ross/>

### **Ursula Masson (1945–2008) Author, Teacher, Political Historian**

Born in Merthyr Tydfil, but taught Adult Education at Swansea, conceived the idea of the Women's Archive Wales (Archif Menywod Cymru) and co-founded it in 1998. She was its long-serving chair at the time of her death. Ursula worked with Swansea Women's History group producing a fascinating series of short films - cutting edge in terms of women's history. She honed in on the neglected topic of Welsh women conscientious objectors, a topic which had been largely neglected. The group also made a film about female munition workers and a film about women and the miners' strike of 1984, drawing comparisons with women in 1926. She promoted a series of Wales Women's History Roadshows where people were invited to bring material relating to the social history of women's lives. Ursula also helped to establish Honno Welsh Women's Press, which brought back into print the works of forgotten Welsh women writers of the 19th and 20th centuries. Her main interest was in the political history of women in Wales. She wrote widely on the complex subject of the women's suffrage movement in Wales and was awarded her PhD on Welsh Women Liberals, 1883-1914. See the tributes to her at <https://www.womensarchivewales.org/en/> and [https://www.100welshwomen.wales/100-women/ursula\\_masson/](https://www.100welshwomen.wales/100-women/ursula_masson/) for further information.

### **Dr Florence Thomas (née Price)**

The first qualified female doctor in Swansea General Hospital. From a Welsh family, she was the first female medical student who registered at the University of Birmingham in the year of its foundation in 1900. She graduated from Birmingham in 1905 and was appointed as resident medical officer at the Swansea General Hospital in December 1904, where she excelled both as a clinician in medicine and surgery and as a microbiology researcher. She retired from

hospital work after marriage in 1908, but returned to medical service in Swansea during the crisis of the First World War.

### **Dr Mary Thompson-Ritchings (1877-1954) MB, ChB**

She was Swansea's first female doctor in General Practice. Born in Swansea she attended Glasgow University graduating in 1903, then was resident medical officer at Drumcondra Hospital, Dublin, before settling in general practice at Swansea in St Helen's Villa c.1903/4. She was Commandant of the Swansea Volunteer Aid Detachment by 1912. Dr Thompson-Ritchings was also involved in early work to support new mothers in the town, at the Mother and Baby Welcome, a pioneering baby clinic which was commended by Queen Mary. She was awarded an MBE in 1918 for her work as Medical Officer in Charge at the Red Cross Hospital at the YMCA during WW1 which had 360 beds.

### **Elsie Maud Wakefield OBE (1886-1972) botanist**

She was born in Birmingham, where her father was a science teacher. The family moved to Swansea and she was educated at Swansea High School for Girls and Somerville College, Oxford, where she achieved a first-class degree in Botany. She then gained a Gilchrist scholarship and worked in Germany, publishing her research in German. In 1910 she was appointed Assistant to the Head of Mycology at Kew, working in the herbarium, and in 1915 she took over as Head of the department. In 1920, using a travelling scholarship from Somerville College, she travelled to Barbados, working for six months with the West Indies Imperial Department of Agriculture to research tropical fungi and diseases of tropical crops. Returning to her post in Kew, she retired in 1951. In 1929 she was elected President of the British Mycological Society and in 1950 she received an OBE. Her publications amounted to nearly one hundred papers on fungi and plant pathology and two field guides to British fungi. Ref: Ogilvie, Harvey & Rossiter, eds., *The Biographical Dictionary of Women in Science*, (2000).

### **WW1 Women Munitions Workers**

First World War munitions workers from Swansea, killed in explosions or accidents at work or illness associated with their work:

Links to information on each and newspaper articles on Women's Archive of Wales website:  
[http://www.womenandwar.wales/en/search.php?func=search&searchfor=Munitions+Worker&in\\_occupation=on](http://www.womenandwar.wales/en/search.php?func=search&searchfor=Munitions+Worker&in_occupation=on)

Catherine Anne Carroll (née Rees); Edith E Copham; Esther Devonald; Mary Fitzmaurice; Catherine (Kate ) Hill; Jane Jenkins; Margaret Morris; Mildred Owen; Eleanor (or Sarah Jane) Thomas; Dorothy Mary Watson