

### Sandfields: A Community built on Steel

<b>Created:</b>	2015
<b>Number of panels:</b>	15
<b>Format:</b>	Pull-up banners (80 x 210cm, 31½" x 84")
<b>Synopsis:</b>	An exhibition on the history of the Sandfields area of Port Talbot, and its connection with the steel industry.

The project uses a combination of archival images and content created by pupils of Sandfields Comprehensive School.

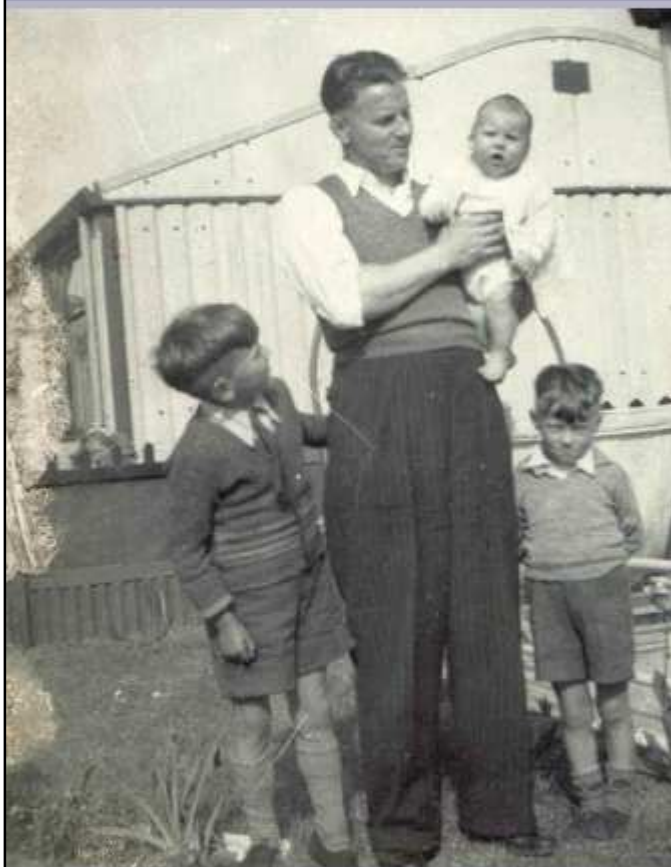
Boards include the following titles (two boards for each):  
What was Sandfields like before the estate was built?  
Why did people move to Sandfields? Where did people move from to come to the estate? What was life on the estate like in the early days? What different types of houses were built on the estate and what was it like to live in them? What was it like to go to school in Sandfields when the schools were new?

The exhibition was part of a collaborative project between West Glamorgan Archives, Richard Burton Archives and the National Waterfront Museum.

Images of the individual boards appear on subsequent pages.

# SANDFIELDS

**A Community Built on Steel**  
**Cymuned a Adeiladwyd ar Ddur**



*An exhibition by pupils of  
Sandfields Comprehensive  
School, Port Talbot*

*Arddangosfa gan  
ddisgyblion  
Ysgol Gyfun Sandfields,  
Port Talbot*

## ABOUT THIS EXHIBITION

This is an exhibition created and put together by Sets 9.1 and 9.2 at Sandfields Comprehensive School, Port Talbot. The pupils created it during two visits to the National Waterfront Museum with the help of staff of the Museum, staff from West Glamorgan Archives and from Richard Burton Archives, Swansea University. They also used historical research contributed by Swansea University PhD student Bleddyn Penny. The pupils continued working on the project after their museum visits during both Geography and Art lessons and sometimes in their dinner time.

The pupils would like to thank the Port Talbot Historical Society and especially Damian Owen who provided some great photographs of Sandfields to accompany their work.

Finally, a big thank you too to Welsh Government, who provided the grant to make all this possible.

## AM YR ARDDANGOSFA HON

Dyma arddangosfa a grëwyd ac a luniwyd gan Setiau 9.1 a 9.2 Ysgol Gyfun Sandfields, Port Talbot. Creodd y disgyblion yr arddangosfa yn ystod dan ymweliad ag Amgueddfa Genedlaethol y Glannau gyda chymorth staff yr amgueddfa, staff o Wasanaeth Archifau Gorllewin Morgannwg ac o Archifau Richard Burton, Prifysgol Abertawe. Cyfranawyd y gwaith ymchwil hanesyddol gan fyfyrwr PhD o Brifysgol Abertawe, Bleddyn Penny. Bu'r disgyblion yn parhau i weithio ar y prosiect ar ôl eu hymweliadau â'r amgueddfa yn ystod eu gwersi Daearyddiaeth a Chelf, ac yn ystod yr awr ginio weithiau hefyd.

Hoffai'r disgyblion ddiolch i Gymdeithas Hanesyddol Port Talbot, a Damian Owen yn arbennig, a ddarparodd ffotograffau gwych o Sandfields i gyd-fynd â'u gwaith.

Yn olaf, rhaid diolch i Lywodraeth Cymru hefyd a ddarparodd y grant i wneud yr holl bethau hyn yn bosib.







# Why did people move to Sandfields estate?

Pam symudodd pobl i ystâd Sandfields?



The Steelworks brought Port Talbot out of the ground. Our community became stronger because of the industry growing up around us.

When the steel works first arrived, called the Abbey works it was part of a national industry and then it was known as British Steel. It was then known as Corus. It is now owned by Tata which is an Indian company.

Sandfields was fine. It's all I ever knew. It's where I was brought up... As far as I was aware, everybody on the estate worked in the steelworks. I know on either side of me - the Williams, the Morgans - they all worked in the steelworks. (Keith Foley)



# Why did people move to Sandfields estate?

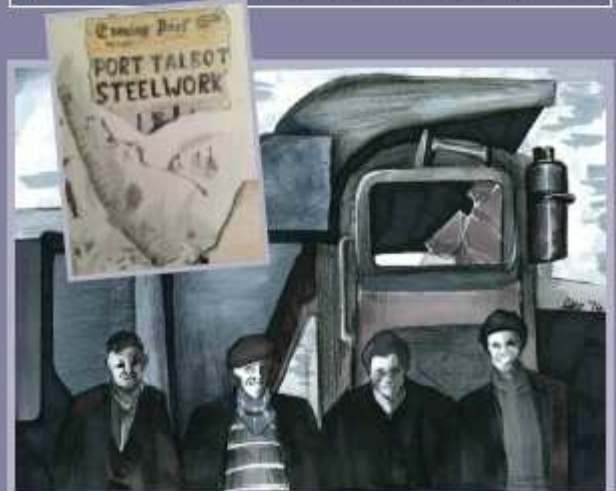
Pam symudodd pobl i ystâd Sandfields?



New Sandfields came straight after the War, about the time I started to work. They'd started building the steelworks and they were starting to bring men from different areas. All the tin works were closing. (Joe Staines)



My name is Marion Norman and I'm 78 years old. I have lots of memories about the Sandfields estate and the steel works. You could say my memory started in the 1930s. Before I got married I had a job as a stamp, stamping bars of steel pulling numbers on them. I remember my first day at work, I wore a girl's blouse and dungarees and I had a little hat on, I was nervous then. The people I worked with were mostly women. I remember that I started working as a young boy. I think he was a little man. My boss was called Mr Abraham who came from Talbot.





# Where did people move from to come to the estate?

O ble gwnaeth bobl symud i ddod i'r ystâd?



This woman recalls that she was born in the Lowlands, in a poor pocket of the country. She moved to the area around the 1950s, during the early days of the coal boom. She was one of the many people who came to the area to work in the coal mines. She says that the conditions were very hard, but she was able to find a better life in the new area. She moved to the area in the 1950s, and she has lived there ever since. She says that the area has changed a lot since she moved there, but she still loves it. She says that the area is a great place to live, and she is proud to call it home.



# Where did people move from to come to the estate?

O ble gwnaeth bobl symud i ddod i'r ystâd?

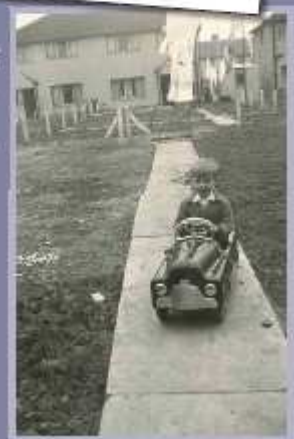


I loved it there. There were some rough characters but - generally speaking - we loved it there, and we were a large family. There were a lot of big families there. (Joe Santos)

People didn't know each other really. They'd come from various areas. Once we'd moved down to Sandfields from old Port Talbot, I found it a big difference. (David Thomas)

People came from all over the country to work in the steel works. From the West Midlands, Lancashire and especially Scotland. With our special words - to give a genuine flavour. Many took up employment in the Port Talbot Steel Works.

Many of the jobs worked no longer work in the Sandfields. Our jobs changed by car from other parts of the world.







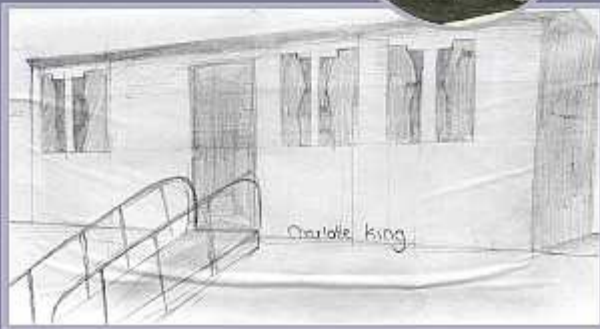
# What different types of houses were built on the estate and what was it like to live in them?

Pa fathau gwahanol o dai a adeiladwyd ar yr ystâd a sut brofiad oedd byw ynddynt?



Pre-fabs were built for people who the war had left the countryside. The name Pre-fab was to describe the mass produced houses. The difference between Prefabs and conventional houses was mainly that they were made of steel and brick and were designed with all modern conveniences. A kitchen, bathroom, living room and a bedroom were built in the early 1940s. Conventional houses were better but were more costly and they were only built for a short time until the new houses built on council estates.

Research by Jane Day and Zoe Bond



# What different types of houses were built on the estate and what was it like to live in them?

Pa fathau gwahanol o dai a adeiladwyd ar yr ystâd a sut brofiad oedd byw ynddynt?



*We had a wind done outside the side window. They were still building the estate. (David Thomas)*

There were a lot of poor Cornish houses built there with people who had come to work on the estate. Some of the houses were built by the council. Some were built by the council.

As a young boy I remember going to school in the area. I had a very good time. I had a very good time. I had a very good time.



*Speaking from my knowledge of the different types of pre-fabricated houses, I do not think we have much ground for complaint. The Cornish houses and the new Wimpy houses are perfectly satisfactory as far as we can see. If you want to build six or seven hundred houses in the next few years, I cannot see you getting them if you try to build all traditional houses. (Council for Mearns, quoted in the Port Talbot Guardian 2nd February 1951)*



# What was it like to go to school in Sandfields when the schools were new?

Sut brofiad oedd mynd i'r ysgol yn Sandfields pan roedd yr ysgolion yn newydd?



The uniform was grey for the girls and to wear skirts what the boys wore trousers or shorts.  
 About 1900 girls and boys can wear trousers. We have black trousers instead of grey. The only thing that was really changed in the 1920s was white and grey (M. O'Brien)

My life at school was very long especially in the run. All my friends worked together.

Handwritten notes on a piece of paper, partially obscured and difficult to read.



# What was it like to go to school in Sandfields when the schools were new?

Sut brofiad oedd mynd i'r ysgol yn Sandfields pan roedd yr ysgolion yn newydd?



The station was important to us by the bus line when we had a festival with the 1910s.

When I was 12 I moved from Glasgow to London and I remember taking my first bus to school. I had to get up at 7.30 and I had to get home after school at 6.30.

In that time the first school had had 2 separate buildings. I don't know what the second building was for.

When I was young we had a school that was built in the 1910s. It was built in the 1910s. I don't know what the second building was for. I don't know what the second building was for. I don't know what the second building was for.

I was surprised that my father had a bicycle and was taking it to school. He had a bicycle and was taking it to school. He had a bicycle and was taking it to school. He had a bicycle and was taking it to school.

I was really good at school and I was proud to be the first.

During the war the school was closed for 4 years. I was 12 when the school was closed. I was 12 when the school was closed. I was 12 when the school was closed.

William Brown



This exhibition was created and put together by Sets 9.1 and 9.2 of Sandfields Comprehensive School, Port Talbot with assistance from the National Waterfront Museum, West Glamorgan Archives and the Richard Burton Archives, Swansea University.

Situated at the heart of its community, Sandfields Comprehensive School has educated several generations of Sandfields residents since it first opened its doors in 1958. It has a proud heritage as the first purpose-built comprehensive school in Wales, a heritage which it takes forward and builds on as it moves forward in the 21st century.



Crëwyd a gosodwyd yr arddangosfa gan Setiau 9.1 a 9.2 Ysgol Gyfun Sandfields, Port Talbot gyda chymorth Angueddfa Genedlaethol y Glannau, Archifau Gorllewin Morgannwg ac Archifau Richard Burton, Prifysgol Abertawe.

Yng nghanol ei chymuned, mae Ysgol Gyfun Sandfields wedi addysgu sawl cenhedlaeth o breswylwyr Sandfields ers iddi agor ei drysau ym 1958. Mae ganddi etifeddiaeth falch gan mae hi oedd yr ysgol gyfun gyntaf a adeiladwyd at y diben yng Nghymru, etifeddiaeth y mae'n ei datblygu wrth iddi symud i'r 21ain ganrif.

*Hawl dyn ei gyfle  
To each, their chance*

