

Celebrating Swansea Together

Created:	2017
Number of panels:	12
Format:	Pull-up banners (80 x 210cm, 31½” x 84”)
Synopsis:	An exhibition created for the “Our Abertawe” celebration, 4 March 2017, to celebrate a multi-cultural city.

The exhibition has panels on the impact of various nationalities over the years, with the following titles: Swansea in 1900: a cosmopolitan town; the 18th century: untold stories of black people in Georgian Swansea; 1845-1852: a refuge from the Great Hunger in “Little Ireland”; Italians in Swansea; the Chinese community in Swansea; 1914-1916: Belgian refugees from the First World War; 1937: Basque and republican refugees from the Spanish Civil War; 1933-1939: Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution; post-war economic crisis and manpower shortages; South Asian connections; Swansea: City of Sanctuary; Swansea in the 21st century: a multicultural city.

Images of the individual boards appear on subsequent pages.



1845-1852: a refuge from the Great Hunger in 'Little Ireland'

1845-1852: Iloches rhag y Newyn Mawr yn 'Iwerddon Fach'

Between 1845 and 1950, an unprecedented number of Irish people fled Ireland as a result of the famine through eight of Swannsea's harbours and the ships that left for many Irish families. Approximately two million Irish people fled the island, many of whom died on the voyage or in the weeks following arrival in their new homes. Many Irish families settled in Swannsea as the Irish famine refugees fled Ireland. Although the new arrivals in the town came from all parts of south and south-west Ireland, the majority were from West Cork and St. Michael's.

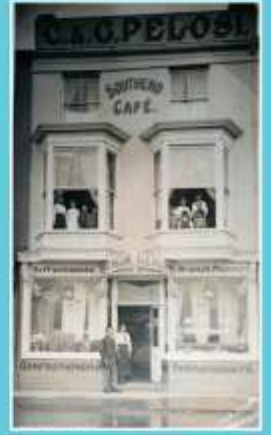
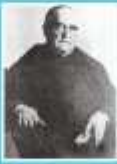
The part of Swannsea in which many Irish arrived during this period was Greenhill, a crowded industrial suburb of poor housing which soon earned the nickname 'Little Ireland'. The houses in this area were built by the Swannsea Coal and Iron Works, which was established in 1845 to supply coal to the docks. The houses were built by the Swannsea Coal and Iron Works, which was established in 1845 to supply coal to the docks. The houses were built by the Swannsea Coal and Iron Works, which was established in 1845 to supply coal to the docks.

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ST. PATRICK CELEBRATIONS
OF SWANSEA MARCH 17th 1848
PALACE AND SHAFTESBURY
SWANSEA QUAY
THE MAYOR FROM IRELAND
FREE-LAND THE OPPRESSED



ITALIANS IN SWANSEA IDALWYR YN ABERTAWE

Swannsea is known for being where the first Italian immigrants arrived in Swansea, and these immigrants were the members of the Caporali and Caporali families who arrived in the town in the early 1880s. By 1885, these early Italian immigrants were joined by others, including the Antonacci, Manti, and Sasso families. Many were initially employed in the docks, but some moved to other parts of the town.

Some of these families were from the port town of Pistoia and of other towns - including the Caporali family who later developed into the Caporali - while others came from the surrounding area of the town of Swannsea, including the Caporali and Sasso families. Many were initially employed in the docks, but some moved to other parts of the town.

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ROSSI BROS.
SWANSEA QUAY
18, THE PALACE, SWANSEA





THE CHINESE COMMUNITY IN SWANSEA
Y GYMUNED TSIEINEAIDD YN ABERTAWA

During the early twentieth century, most of the sons of Chinese origin in the town of the cliffs of Swansea would have been employed as cooks, waiters and barmen in merchant ships sailing in the docks.

The earliest recorded reference that we have found of a man of Chinese origin resident in Swansea is of a Joseph Chongling, who is mentioned in an article in The Cartesian newspaper in 1870. Another early Swansea Chinese resident is written in the marriage register of Swansea Register Office as Ah Chee. He married Mary Jane Woodhead in 1892.

In Britain, Swansea became particularly identified with the restaurant and hotel working Chinese immigrant community. Starting from 1880s and 1920s, a whole number of Chinese restaurants opened in Swansea, the earliest being 'The Dragon' (or 'Wah' or 'Wah') Road in Maritime.

The first Chinese restaurant to open in Swansea was the 'The King' restaurant at 12 Castle Street and the 'Dragon Restaurant' in Simpson Street. Both appear to have been established in 1880. In the 1900s they were joined by the Golden Lotus restaurant at 22A Marine Road, the 'King' at 22 Castle Street and the 'The King' at 22A Church Street. By the 1930s, from within the area of Swansea that was not taken by all over the Chinese community.

The period of significant growth in Swansea's population is linked to the fact that the majority of the population were employed in the docks.

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Advertisement for Si Hong Chinese Restaurant, 12 Castle Street, Swansea. It lists 'FRESH FISH AND CHINESE CLASSIC' and 'HOUSE CATERED FOR'.



1914-1916: Belgian refugees from the First World War
1914-1916: Ffoaduriaid Belgaidd o'r Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf

Swansea had a small Belgian population before the First World War, many of whom were employed in the town's textile mills. From October 1914 to the middle of 1916, groups of Belgian refugees fleeing from the advancing Germans arrived in Swansea as part of the Government's policy of dispersing the refugee across the UK.

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local industry, which varied generally was limited by its geographical position and status in the town of Swansea. The arrival of Belgians, through their numbers, contributed to the economic revival of the town and the fact of Jersey gave the town of Swansea a new lease of life.

The majority of Belgian refugees were independently found and employed in the textile industry in the Lower Swansea Valley, working initially in Marston, Llanelli, St Thomas and Paul Street. In 1916, there were only six Belgians in Swansea recorded in the directory.

The successful integration of the Belgians into the town community can be seen in the fact that many chose to stay in Swansea after the end of the First World War.

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1937: Basque and Republican refugees from the Spanish Civil War
1937: Ffoaduriaid Basgaidd a Gweriniaethol o Ryfel Cartref Sbaen

In 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, nearly 4,000 child refugees from the Basque Country and other areas controlled by the Spanish Republican Government were sheltered in the Garter for the duration of the conflict. The children were under the general care of the Rescue Children's Committee, part of the National Aid Committee for Spanish Relief, a cross-party organisation that provided aid to Spain.

The children were by and large from Bilbao in Guipuzcoa and were shipped across the UK to live in so-called 'hostels' which were generally large houses and castles for the purpose. About thirty of the refugees came to live in Swansea and were housed at Liberty Hall.

Officially, Swansea Committee was not allowed to use public funds to support the children, instead the Mayor of Swansea set up a fund to provide financial assistance. Most of the money that was raised came from sections of the labour movement, from church organisations and from private individuals.

In 1937, we ydodd Philip Cartref Swaan, rhwydwyd cartrefi i ben 4,000 o ffuridiolwr oedd o Wlad y Sbaen a'u hysbuddio wrth ien rhwydwyd Cymunedol Swaan (Swansea Community Shelter) yn ymuno gyda'r ffordd. Rhwydwyd i ben ien ien rhwydwyd Ffordd ymuno gyda'r Sbaen, Ffordd ymuno gyda'r Sbaen a'u hysbuddio wrth ien rhwydwyd Cymunedol Swaan, wrth ien rhwydwyd i ben ien rhwydwyd Cymunedol Swaan.

Yn ystod ym 1937, roedd tua 4,000 o ffuridiolwr Basgaidd a Gweriniaethol yn ymuno gyda'r ffordd. Rhwydwyd i ben ien rhwydwyd Ffordd ymuno gyda'r Sbaen, Ffordd ymuno gyda'r Sbaen a'u hysbuddio wrth ien rhwydwyd Cymunedol Swaan, wrth ien rhwydwyd i ben ien rhwydwyd Cymunedol Swaan.



Portrait of a young boy, likely a refugee child, wearing a flat cap.

Portrait of a young boy, likely a refugee child, wearing a flat cap.

1933-1939: Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution
1933-1939: Ffoaduriaid Iddewig ac erledigaeth Natsiaidd

"I am eternally grateful to the Finner family for saving me... I have only warm feelings about my time in Swansea and feel lucky that fate brought me there"

When in 1933 Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany, he immediately began to persecute the Jewish minority in that country. Between 1933 and the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, about 50,000 German and Austrian Jews fled to Britain as refugees. Among them were father Felix and Philip Gilmann, head boy at Liberty Hall in Swansea. They established the Liberty factory in North Swansea in 1933, the factory being converted to wartime production in 1938. In 1934, the Ministry of Supply selected the Gilmann family to produce munitions for the British Army's production to support the war. In the 1930s, Felix Gilmann had the factory built by Felix and his wife, and he recruited the Gilmann family to the factory. Right up to the outbreak of the Second World War, Swansea also gave refuge to a number of Jewish children from the so-called Kindertransport, who had been brought to Britain by concerned organisations and charities. While virtually every refugee child was made to leave and for the duration of the emergency, none of them had all their immediate relatives in the UK and had to be sent to camps in the UK and the US.

Yn ystod ym 1933, roedd Adolf Hitler i ben i ymuno gyda'r Sbaen, Ffordd ymuno gyda'r Sbaen a'u hysbuddio wrth ien rhwydwyd Cymunedol Swaan, wrth ien rhwydwyd i ben ien rhwydwyd Cymunedol Swaan. Yn ystod ym 1933, roedd Adolf Hitler i ben i ymuno gyda'r Sbaen, Ffordd ymuno gyda'r Sbaen a'u hysbuddio wrth ien rhwydwyd Cymunedol Swaan, wrth ien rhwydwyd i ben ien rhwydwyd Cymunedol Swaan.



