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The Life and Death of a Coastal Village as Shown by its Cemeteries

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Introduction



1, New Quay, Wales, indicated in red on map.

New Quay (Cei Newydd), is a small coastal village on the west coast of Wales in the United Kingdom. Present day New Quay consists of a population of 1082 according to the 2011 census (NOMIS), but in the summer months this dramatically increases. These increases are due to the number of holiday homes in the village and people who make use of their caravans as permanent residence in these months. Who could blame them with the golden sandy beaches, shallow calm waters, resident dolphins and sometime pleasant weather. This ultimately has shaped the village into what it is now, soul-less in the winter months but a hub of activity in the summer season. Now it mainly consists of over-priced restaurants, three fish and chip shops, ice cream parlours and gift shops selling, tacky souvenirs and

buckets and spades, but it wasn't always like this.

Up until the beginning of the 19th century New Quay was just a small hamlet, mainly consisting of agricultural land with just a few thatched cottages, the beaches here attracted people from the surrounding areas for work, with many coming to work as fishermen in the herring season (Jenkins 2005:63). The characteristics of the foreshore had also given the opportunity for the construction of ships being built here, with the first recorded of these being the 24-tonne sloop 'Thomas and Mary' launched in 1779 (A History of Llanarth). Ship building, mainly sloops, became an integral part of New Quay. Because of this, and the naturally sheltered harbour being ideal for the safe mooring of passing trade vessels and local fishing boats in stormier seas, a company was formed, the 'New Quay Pier & Harbour Company'. This newly formed company was established to make further use of the sea, in a more industrious fashion (Jenkins 2005:63). In the first two decades of the 19th century a total of 31 ships had been built in New Quay. There had been call for a new pier to be constructed since the late 18th century, with the current one being described as 'ruinous, unsafe and insufficient' (Archifdy). Previously to the 19th century, the main activities of New Quay, had been farming and fishing, the emergence of boat building in this area changed the way people lived.

With the development of the pier, New Quay was transformed, ship production increased, and this employed more than 300 ship builders all along the coast to Cei Bach (A history of Llanarth). The pier allowed more vessels safe harbour, and this led to more visitors. New Quay had to adapt, and this led to terraces of houses being constructed over-looking the harbour. Hotels and inns were built, New Quay had started to take off in a big way.

New Quay owes its development to the construction of the pier in the 1830's and with over 200 ships being built in New Quay (Archifdy), it is clear that the sea has been integral in transforming the village, this can be seen in the house and street names that can be seen today. This village has been described as having a community which is totally dependent on

the sea (Jenkins 2005:63). The shipbuilding that changed this area did not last forever though, the last boats were built in the 1880's. Since then the village has remained to be shaped by the sea with people offering boat trips to tourists to see the dolphins and the whole place being geared up towards the tourists who are drawn here by the wonderful coastline.

By looking at the graveyard I want to examine how this community has fared in times past. The memorials in these graveyards cover the periods when New Quay was just a few cottages up until present day, the earliest here date back 258 years. Over the years the number of people making use of them has changed drastically, and this reflects what is happening in the village itself.

The expansion of the village led to the expansion of the cemeteries, in all there are four cemeteries here to collect data from. Each graveyard is different in its own little way, some well-kept whilst others are left to whatever nature intends.



2, New Quay Council Cemetery



3, St Ina's



4, Maen y Groes Congregational Chapel



5, St Llwchaiarn's graveyard

Inevitably, if they are not cared for, more memorials will be lost than already have been. By recording what is there it will give good insight into how New quay has evolved over time. it will show the mortality statistics for the village and see how the sea has had an effect not just on the life of the village but also the death in the village.

Methods and methodology

The four cemeteries chosen are either in New Quay itself or on the outskirts surrounding the village. The only cemetery in the village is St Llwlchaiarn's which is situated in rectory square, a further two are situated above the village on the way out heading south and the final one, St Ina's which is situated across the bay from New Quay heading east. The earliest burials that were still visible in any of these cemeteries date to 1770 and are in St Llwlchaiarn's Church in New Quay.



6, Gravestones in dis-repair, St Llwlchaiarn's

All four cemeteries were quite different, they had different styles of lay out, different types of terrain, be it hilly or flat. They cemeteries also showed varying types of care, some gravestones were covered in trees and brambles and impossible to get to, and some were very awkward to get to leading to deterioration through neglect. With this being a survey of the graveyard itself

and not of the burial records which are associated with the church, in some instances it was impossible to gather all the necessary information. Where it was not possible to gather the full information of an individual, partial information was gathered.



7, Broken Headstone, St Ina's

I had decided the main information I wanted to collect was, sex, age, date of birth, date of death, month born, month died, year born, year died, occupation and house name, so for this I created a survey form (see Appendix 1). Each form allowed me to collect the details of 32 individuals, I was also to take photos of each headstone for future reference. By collecting this data, I hoped it would be able to show me how the village had changed over time, not in a structural sense but more how the village of New Quay had shaped its community.

To be able to determine an average age for the decades of death, I decided to separate all deaths into decades and decade of age (see appendix 2). Once this information was gathered I then worked out an average by multiplying the value for that age (for example 3 people who had died in their 90's would get a value of 285 years, 3×95 . For people who died in their 80's a value of 85 was multiplied, people who died above 100 just got 100). I felt having such a large sample permitted this way of attaining an average age.

New Quay Council Cemetery



8, New Quay Council Cemetery

Firstly, I visited New Quay Council Cemetery, this cemetery opened in the 1920's, it was introduced as an overflow to St Llŵchaearn's. NQCC is a well-kept cemetery with few amenities, it is on a flat area and has good accessibility to all graves. The weather conditions were fine and sunny at the time of my visit, but with this cemetery being situated on the top of a hill it

made it very windy. There is a pergola situated in the centre of the cemetery, so I made use of this and sat there whilst drawing a plan of the cemetery (see appendix 4), this was made simple by the uniformity of the cemetery itself. Taking the details on the forms I had created was somewhat trickier due to the windy conditions. Luckily with this cemetery being the newest of the four and well-kept it afforded me the ability to take photographs of each headstone with all the necessary information remaining very visible.

When home I uploaded all the images I had taken in the cemetery onto my laptop and was then able to zoom in on the image and study the information with greater ease than I would have been able to in the cemetery. Upon collating all the evidence, it was necessary to re-visit the cemetery to check on the information of four headstones. Three were made of a polished grey marble composite which created a shine in the photograph making it difficult to view and one purely because it was dated February 29th. With the previous sketch of the cemetery this made locating these headstones very simple.

St Ina's



9, St Ina's Llanina

St Ina's is a small church situated on Llanina point just over the bay from New Quay, it is set very much on the shoreline and erosion in previous times may well have claimed some of St Ina's occupants, with an 1888 Ordnance Survey map showing the coast to be 100m further out to sea (Coflein). It is said to be one of the smallest churches in Ceredigion, with the current version being dated to 1810.

Collecting data here was quite different to the previous cemetery, after sitting on the bench and doing a rough sketch of the graveyard I continued. Upon entering the churchyard immediately upon right, there are some graves which are the oldest of the church, there is ample space around these graves and they are set out peacefully. Further towards the

seaward end of the graveyard the graves are more uniform with a clear indication on the use of space as opposed to the other areas of the graveyard. These are the more current graves, and this is the only one of the four cemeteries which sees an upward trend in its use in recent years.

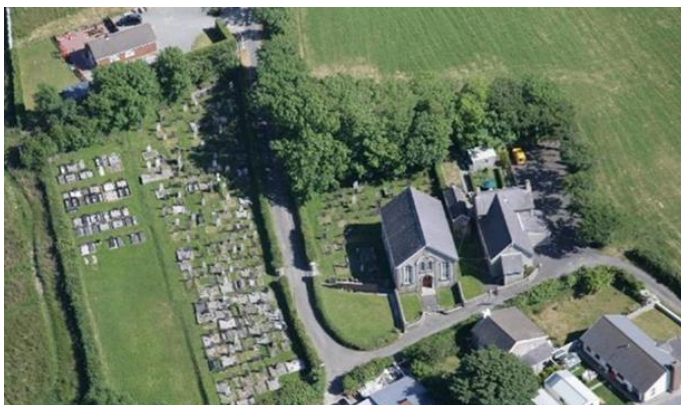
I tried to use the same principles as I had used previously, there were no issues with any of the newer graves, some of the older graves proved a little more difficult. Because these were few and far between and I could foresee issues I got as much information as I could whilst I was present. Some of these headstones were in a very weathered manner, I did not wish to take any charcoal rubbings for fear of damaging further. It also gave me the dilemma of deciding of how far I am prepared to go to get the information required.

Because this is a survey of what is visible in the graveyard at the present time, I decided to set some limits. To a large extent I wanted to leave the graveyard exactly as I found it. I did not want to unnecessarily alter any part of a stone just for my needs. Chalk was a no go, (Mytum 2008:90) says that the use of chalk on any monuments with a soft or unstable surface must be avoided. I took the advice of Mytum (Mytum2008:91) and evaluated my research priorities. With the legible sample being so large it did not make this a crucial factor in my research due to the limited number of illegible headstones. In these cases, I took many photographs from different angles with different lights and had very good results, with the majority that could not be read becoming a lot clearer.



10, Headstone with moss St Ina's

Maen y Groes Congregational Chapel



11, Aerial view of Maen y Groes Congregational Chapel

The largest sample was taken from Maen y Groes Congregational Chapel graveyard situated in Maen y Groes just on the outskirts of New Quay. Although situated in a neighbouring village this cemetery houses many of the inhabitants of early New Quay, this is shown in the number of Master Mariners that lay here along with memorials to sailors. There are also a number of pubs mentioned in this

graveyard, which were in days gone by situated in New Quay.

The graveyard area is split into 3 distinctive areas, an area around the chapel which houses the earlier graves and a further section over the road which has been extended. The earliest graves date from the 1840's and these go through to present day.



12, Gravestone partly obscured by vegetation, Maen y groes

The chapel area is quite overgrown, but it was possible to gather the images required using the methods set out previously. There was a certain amount of gardening required to make the lower inscriptions visible on some, but this was done with little effort. Over the road in the newer part gathering some of these memorials was a little trickier. This was down to them being extremely close to each other, there is little room for anyone to attend these graves. Just getting close to these graves to take photographs was quite a feat, clambering over loose stones with other memorials at extreme angles. Again, it seems here space was an issue. In the extended part of this area where burials date from the late 1940's, it seems there is a lot more space, but this could just be down to the memorials not being as grand.

St Llwlhacharn



13, St Llwlhacharn's Church, New Quay, note the vegetation in the background

St Llwlhacharn Church in the village of New Quay itself is the final graveyard to be examined. Perched on the hill above the village with the church hall next door this church is most central to New Quay. It has burials dating back to 1770 and is quite well kept around the church. The immediate church grounds are well kept although the graveyard extends behind the church and up a rather steep incline, these factors may influence the state of this section of the graveyard. Trees and bushes grow out of graves, some headstones are totally hidden by the

growth around them and some are totally inaccessible. This is by far the worst kept of all the cemeteries.



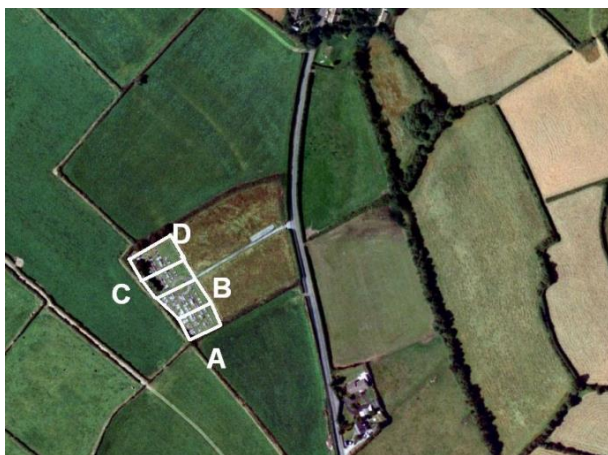
14, Tree growing out of grave St Llwlhacharn's

Due to the neglect of the graveyard it made collecting samples from here very awkward. Some graves were totally hidden from view under dense shrubs and others were collapsed, broken into pieces on the ground. Fortunately, by this time I was quite experienced in getting the information required using the previous methods mentioned.

Once data was gathered from all four cemeteries I was left with a large pile of papers filled out with the details of nearly everyone who has been memorialised in the village of New Quay. By combining all this information, it will give a good insight into how busy this place could be in different periods of its history. Looking at the graveyards independently is important because they operated at different periods with varying numbers of internments. Also, by going back and looking at the different languages on the memorials at different periods, something which I failed to record at the start, it may be possible to see if sources from outside the village may have influenced this. The information gathered will be looked at in two ways, individually and as a whole.

Results

New Quay Council Cemetery



15, Aerial image of New Quay Council Cemetery

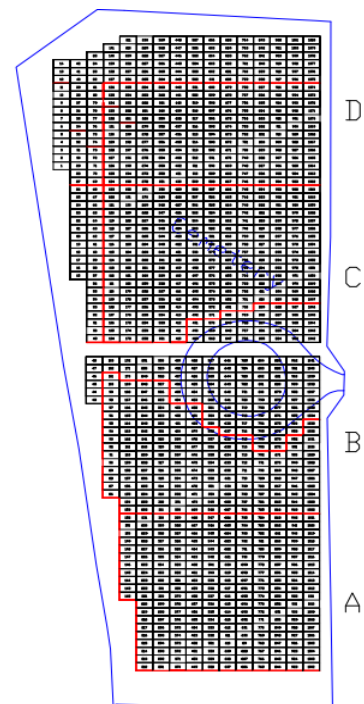
New Quay council cemetery is located just to the south of New Quay village on the A486. It is located into four zonal areas. Areas A and B have the earliest graves with C and D having the more recent burials. The earliest recorded burial at this cemetery dates back to 1925 (Ceredigion County Council), with the most recent burial being in 2016 at the time of my visit although there are memorials dating earlier with the earliest being dated 1895.



16, New Quay Council Cemetery entrance, single trackway in with parking on grass.

New Quay council cemetery at the time of this survey has a total of 347 memorials situated within its boundaries. There are 157 located to the left of the cemetery upon approach, zones A & B and a further 190 located in zones C & D. The latest burials all dating from 2010 onwards are straddled across zones C & D on the right-hand side of image XX. The current layout of the cemetery will not facilitate many further burials without new zones being introduced.

This being the first cemetery in this area that I was to collect data from was quite an easy introduction to recording the memorials. This cemetery affords easy access for visiting and maintaining the memorials with the area being very flat, unlike the other cemeteries to be recorded. All graves are laid out side by side in an East West facing orientation. Other than a central pergola type structure a shed for the storage or gardening tools and a standpipe for water there are no other facilities here.



17, New Quay Council Cemetery burial plot plan (Ceredigion County Council)

The individuals that are remembered or buried in this cemetery show a strong connection with the village of New Quay. I personally knew several of them, worked for one as a teenager and also went to school with another. There are 608 individuals remembered here with 310 being female and 298 being male. Of these it was possible to determine the year of death for 307 of the females and 295 of the males a total of 602 in all. The months of death were not as widely available and in all it was possible to record a total of 453 individual months of death 235 females and 218 males. It was possible to determine the age of deaths of a total of 501 of the individuals with 247 being female and 254 being male.

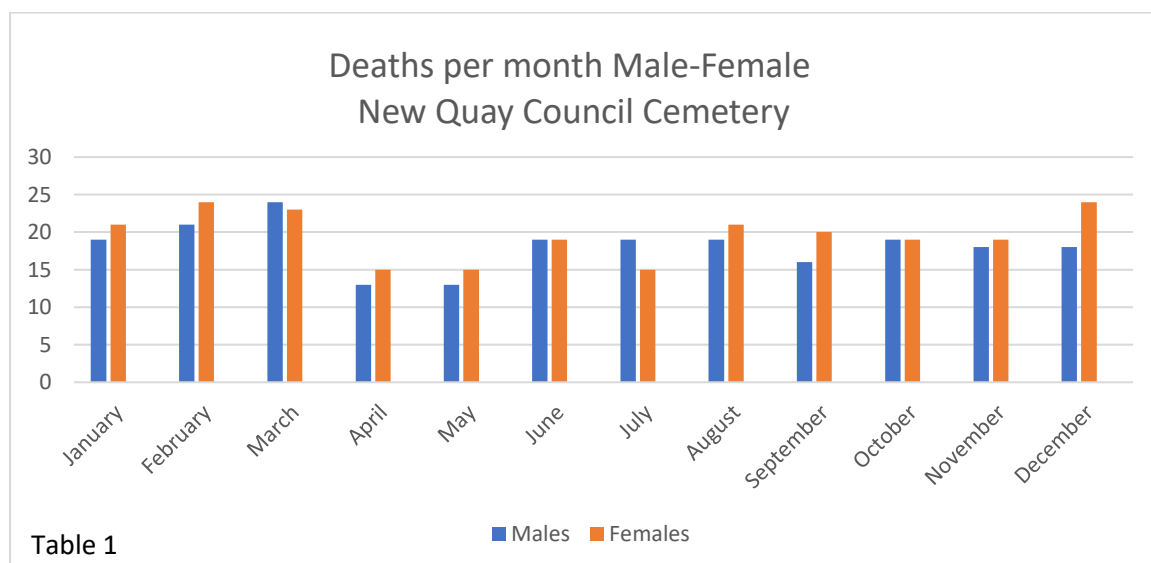


Table showing the deaths per month for New Quay council cemetery. The highest amount of death occurs in the month of march with 24 males and 23 females dying, the lowest amount of deaths fell in April and May with both months recording the deaths of 13 males and 15 females.

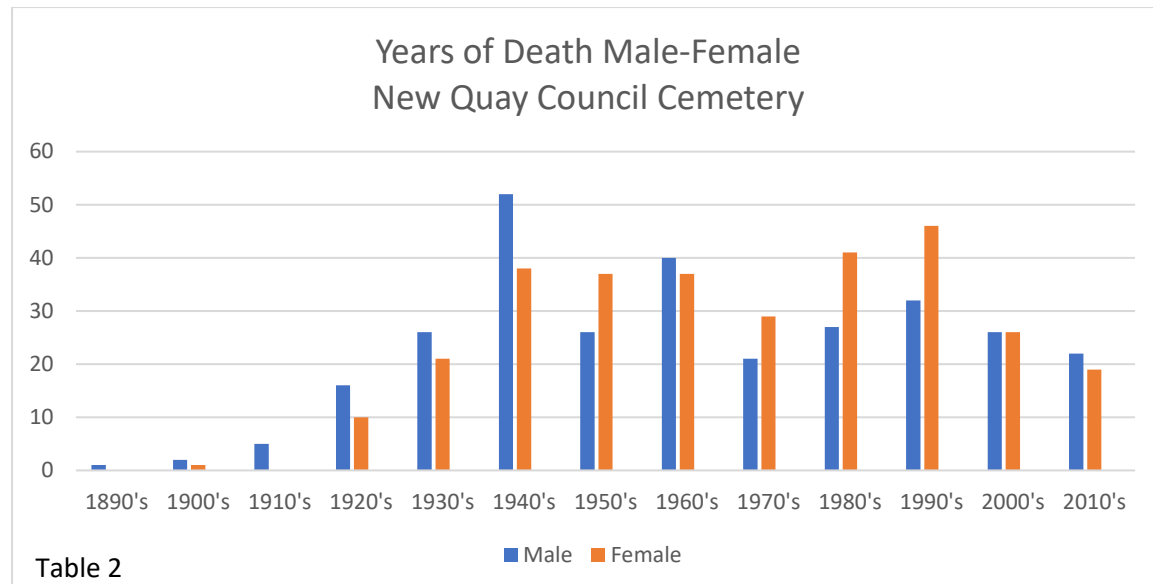
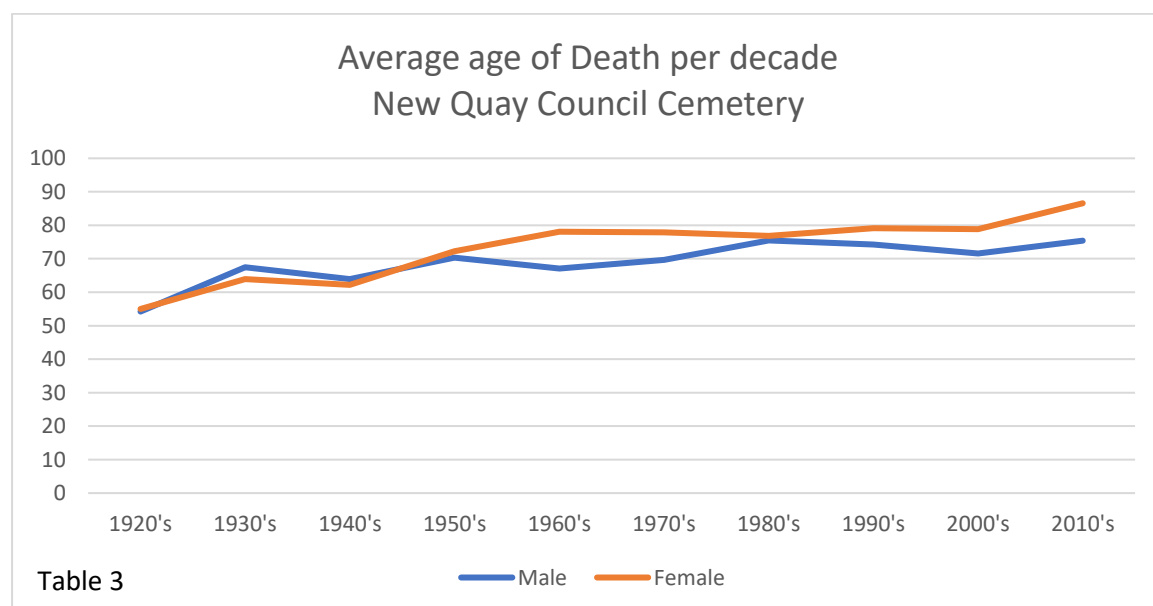


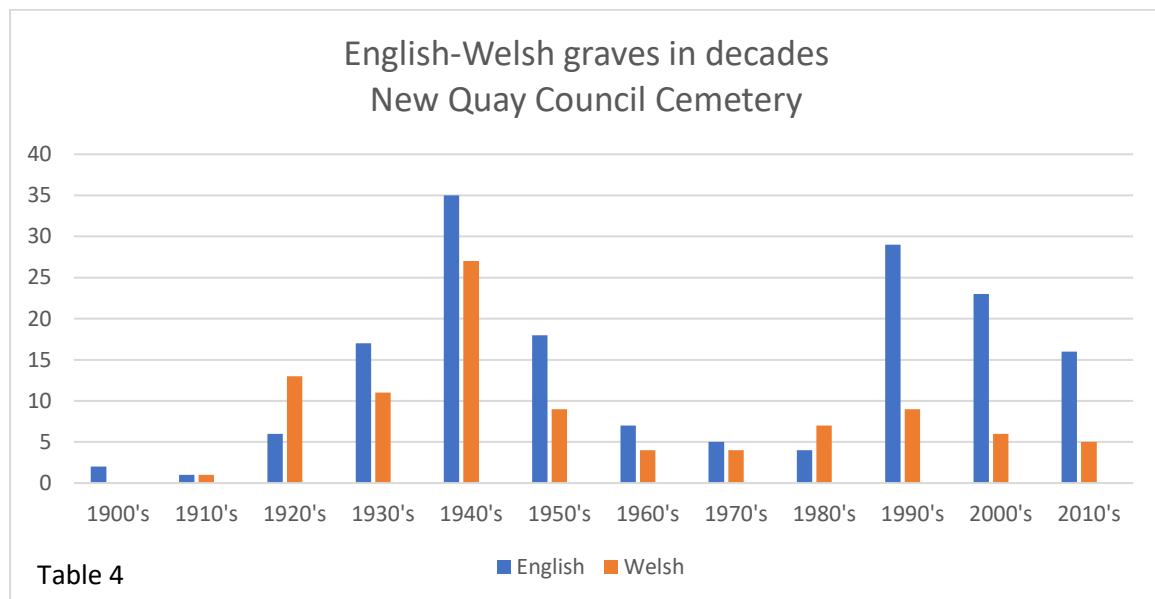
Table showing years of death for a total of 602 individuals, 307 females and 294 males.



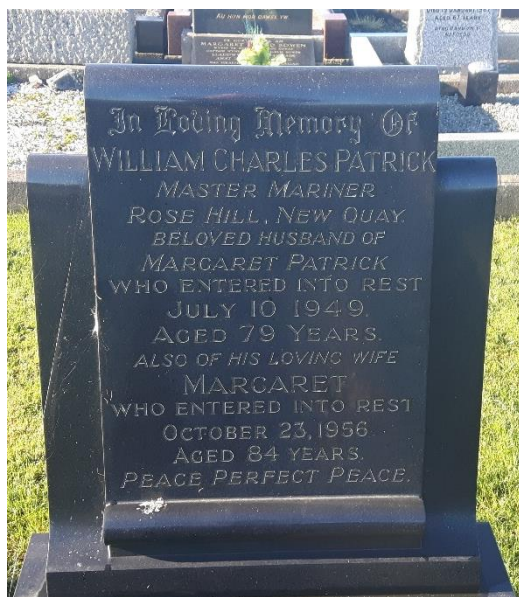
Above is a table showing the average age of death per decade. The average age of death has slowly risen since the 1940s. there are several memorials for men killed in the second world war in this cemetery so that may explain the slight decline for the male data set on the graph.

In this cemetery it was possible to determine the language of 269 memorials. Some headstones were not present at the time of recording and others with just a name and a

date gave no indication to the intended language. The majority of the graves were in English with 173 out of 269 being so, the remaining 96 being in Welsh.



The table shows a clear increase in the 1990s and continues to dominate in the next two decades. In every decade apart from the 1910's, 1920's and 1980's, English language memorials dominate. The increase in the 1990s fits in with the trend of English moving to this area in the 1980's as I did myself.



18, Head stone to a William Charles Patrick, Master mariner of Rose Hill, New Quay. Also, to Margaret his loving wife,

Although the first recorded burials were not until 1925, long after the heyday of the ship building that dominated here, the sea was still a very important feature. There are many references upon the memorials showing links to the sea. There are 25 memorials dedicated to Master Mariners of New Quay, far more prevalent than any other occupation mentioned, some mention the name of the ships they were captain of. There are also eight captains mentioned but these may not be of the seafaring type. Individuals who have lost their lives at sea are very present, many saying where they were lost at sea, some on far off journeys where they state the departure point and destination. Memorials to sailors are common, some which say they were lost at sea and others that just show they died quite young, they may

not have drowned but it is clear from the memorials that interactions with the sea had a negative effect on the average life expectancy in this village.

Apart from names or dates of death the most common feature to be found on the memorials here are the places where they have lived, their house names. Many of the

houses here are named after vessels which were built in New Quay, over 200 up until shipbuilding drastically declined in 1870's (Jenkins 2005: 64). In total 190 out of 347 memorials have places of residence upon them.

St Ina's Church, Llanina



19, Aerial view of St Ina's Churchyard showing the beach

St Ina's church, which is dedicated to St Ina a King of Wessex who reigned from 688 – 726 A.D, is situated right on the coast just to the east across the harbour from New Quay, before the small hamlet of Cei Bach. Legend

has it that St Ina was shipwrecked in the Irish Sea and because of the help from the community that saved him he showed his gratitude by building the first church here.

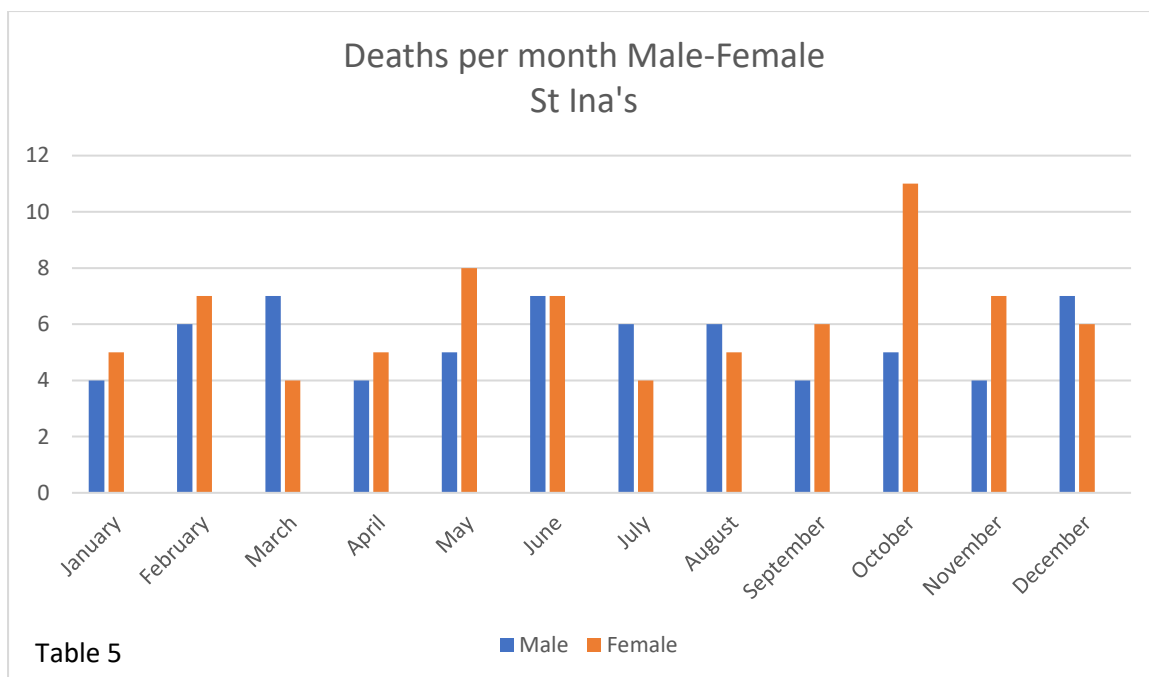
The church itself has been rebuilt on the site of an earlier one in 1810, partially rebuilt in 1850 and restored in 1905 (Coflein), this is at least the third church on this site but there could have been as many as six others.

St Ina's graveyard contains memorials to at least 241 individuals. The earliest memorial is to a John Lloyd the vicar of Llanarth and Llanina, who died in 1771 and was buried in the chancel of the church. In the graveyard itself the burials date back to the 1800's. The graveyard is quite peaceful with a laid-back atmosphere, there does not appear to be the same

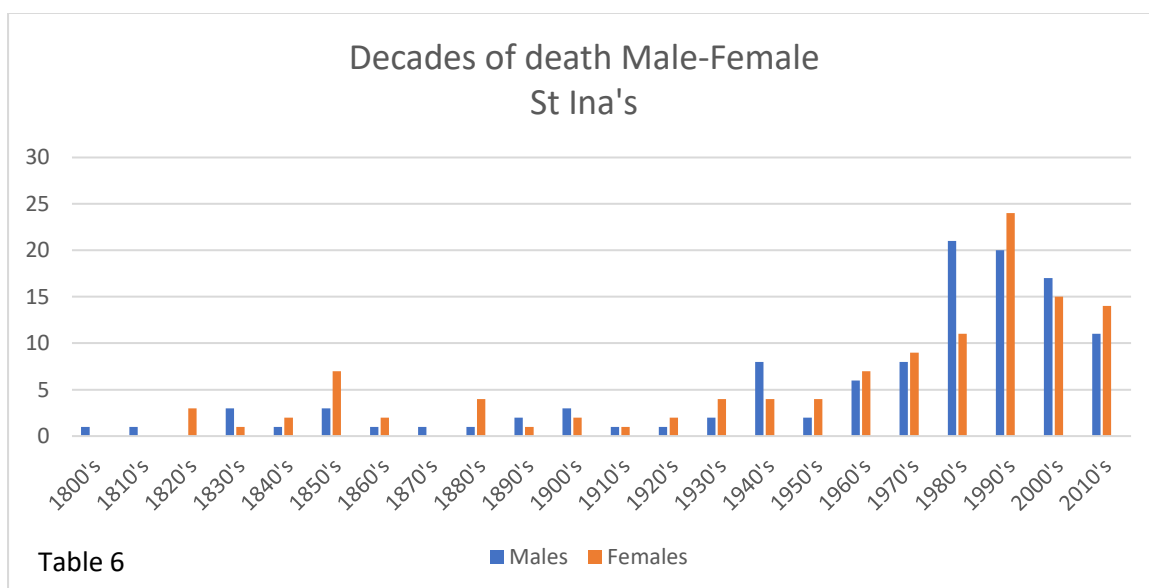


20, St Ina's Church, Llanina

perspective on space here as opposed to New Quay council cemetery. the graves pre-1960 are spaced out nicely with plenty of room, 179 in total. It is not until you get to the 1970's that they see the need for space as an issue and start to lay the memorials out in a more symmetrical fashion.



This graph shows the deaths per months for St Ina's Church cemetery. A total of 140 months was available, 65 male and 75 female.



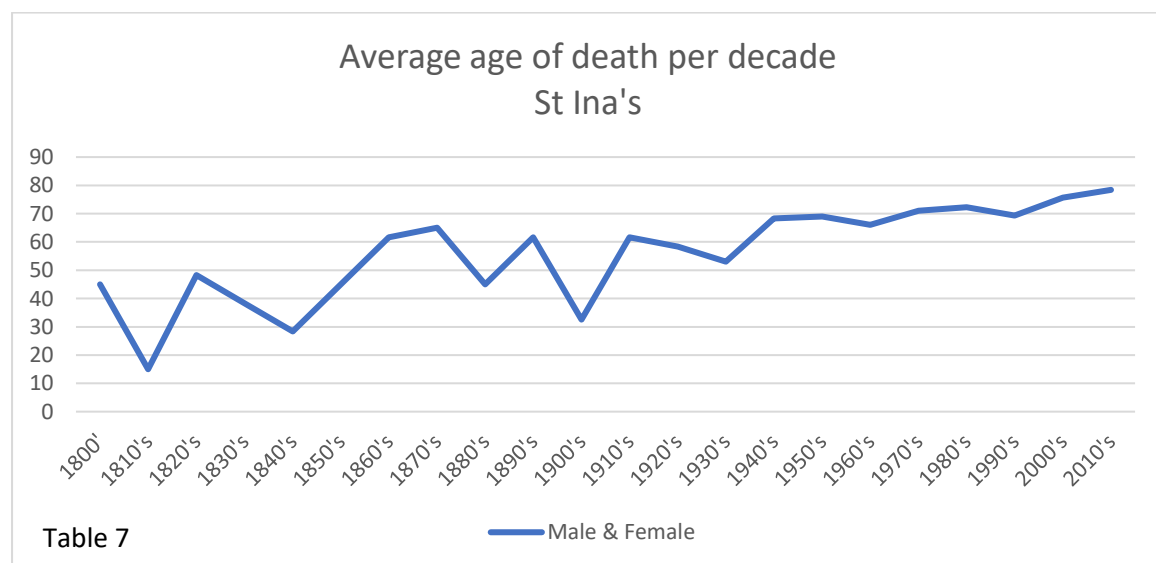
It was possible to determine the decades of death for 233 separate individuals, 114 males and 119 females. The table of dates of death show that two thirds of the memorials here date from the 1970's up until present day. There are fewer memorials here than in any of the other sites I visited, and strangely with its location which is very nearly on the beach, references to the sea are not as predominant. This could be influenced that the majority of the memorials are dated long after the last memorial recorded that stated a drowning at sea (New Quay Council Cemetery 1968). Here there features among others a shopkeeper, farmer, QC, an archaeologist, consultant radiologist, three musicians but just one master

mariner. The sea in the background dominates this churchyard, but unlike the other graveyards in this area it does not dominate the memorials.

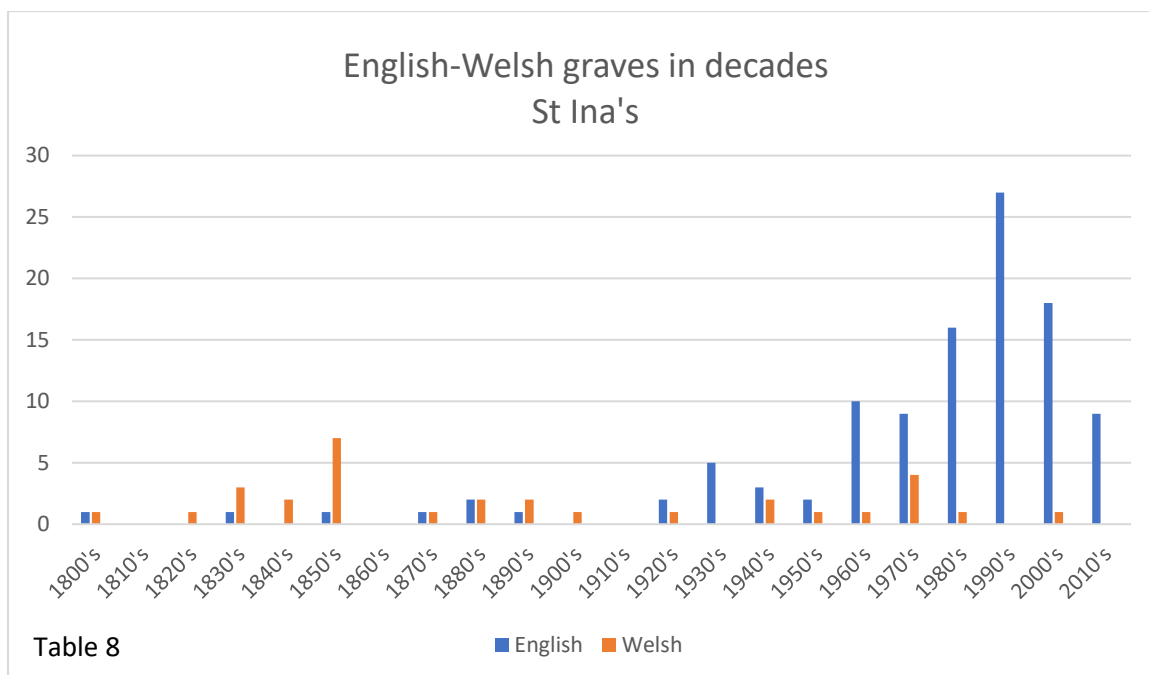


21, Flat slab memorial to the Evans family of Penrhiwgaled Farm

Again, the place names of where the individuals lived are recorded here in good detail. They show that in the earlier period people associated themselves more inland than to the sea. Gilfachreda which is situated behind the church is mentioned far more than New Quay. The Evan's of Penrhiwgaled Farm seem to be the predominant family in the earlier period of this graveyard with their own fenced of private plot in pride of position next to the church. Penrhiwgaled translates to *Head of A hard hill*, and the farm itself is quite inland from St Ina's, approximately 3 miles south-east.



The above table shows the average age of death per decade for the combined sexes at St Ina's Church, Llanina.



A total of 138 of these headstones gave the opportunity to look at the English to Welsh language variation. There were 29 memorials in the Welsh language and 109 in the English language, the Welsh language graves peaked in the 1850's with seven, they then slowly fell in number with none in the 1990's and only 2 since the end of the 1970's. Burials here have risen in number over the last 40 years but the Welsh language seems to be getting used less frequently.

Maen y Groes Congregational Chapel



22, Proximity of Maen y Groes congregational Chapel and New Quay Council Cemetery

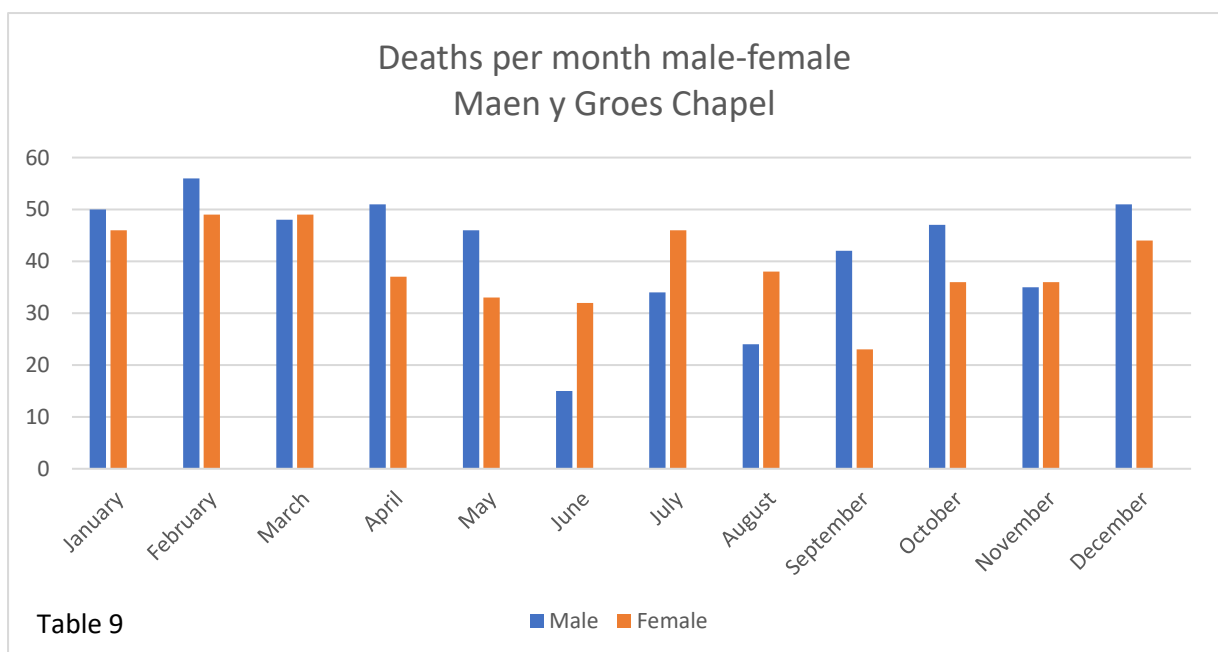
Maen-y-Groes Congregational Chapel is a good example of a graveyard for this area, it has a higher number of occupants than any other site in this study. Situated a little further out of New Quay than the New Quay Council Cemetery just off of the A486, this graveyard has been operational from the 1830's and is still in use today. With the main graveyard around the chapel itself, over the years it has needed to creep into an area over the

road, this then filled up and there was a further expansion adjacent. The main chapel area was used for the first 30 years 1840-1860, it was then at the end of the 1860's it needed to be expanded over the road.

There are at least 1057 individuals memorialised in Maen y Groes and they share 372 separate plots between them. There are 255 individuals in the immediate chapel area in 109 plots, a further 802 individuals in the extended part over the road, they share a total of 263 individual plots.



23, Maen y Groes Congregational Chapel cemetery.



Above shows a table with the results of each month of death for 969 individuals, 500 males and 469 females. More than twice as many females as males died in June, and nearly twice as many males than females died in September.

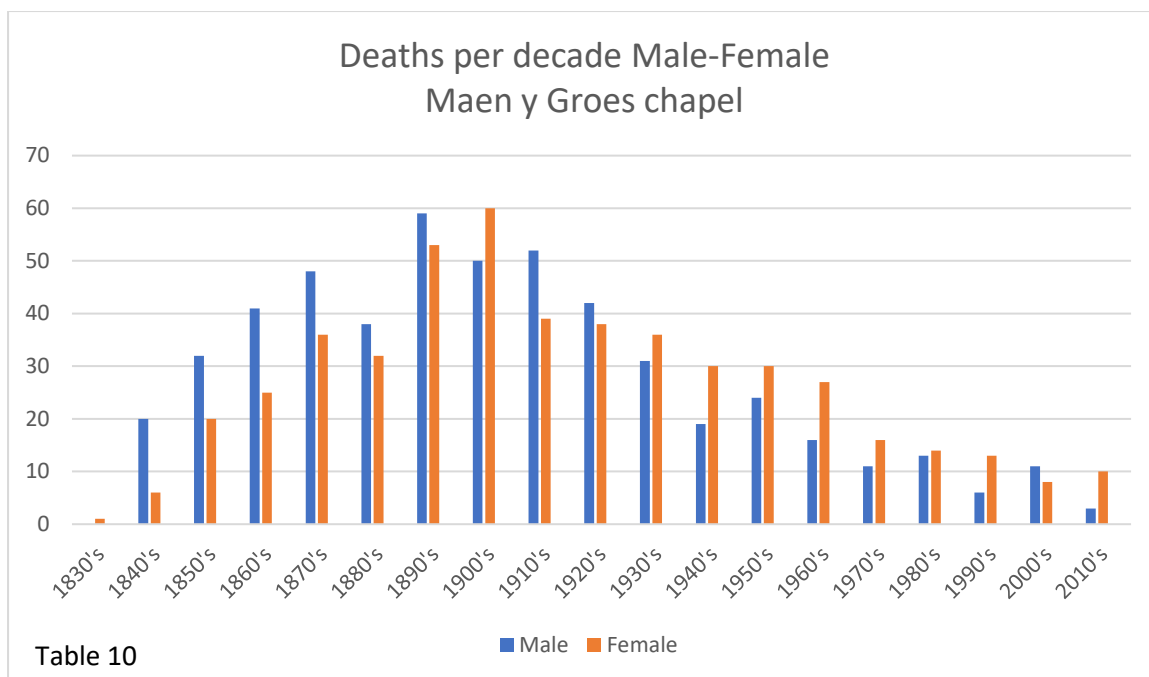
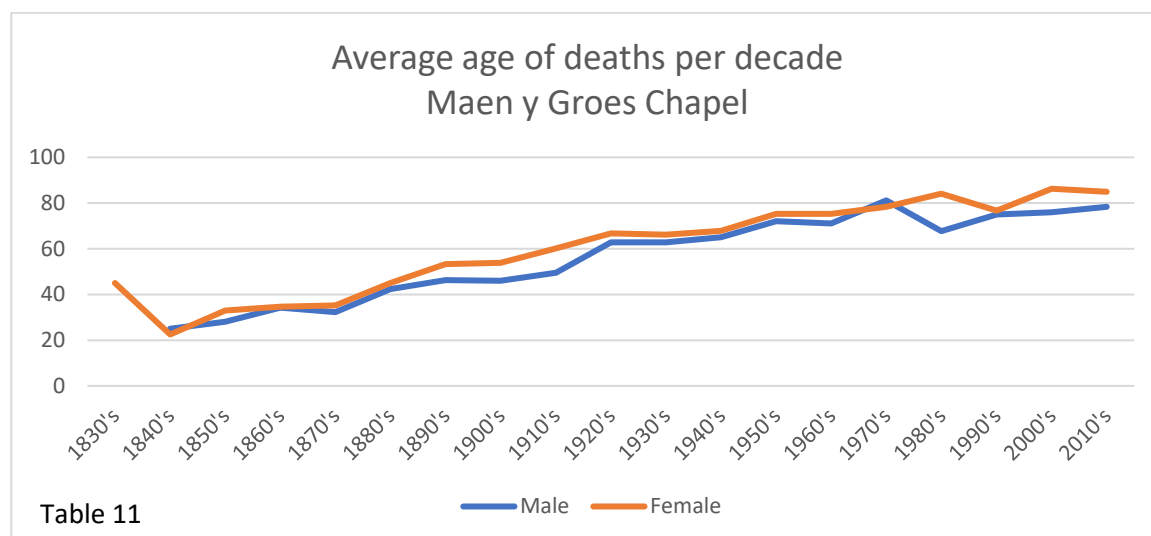
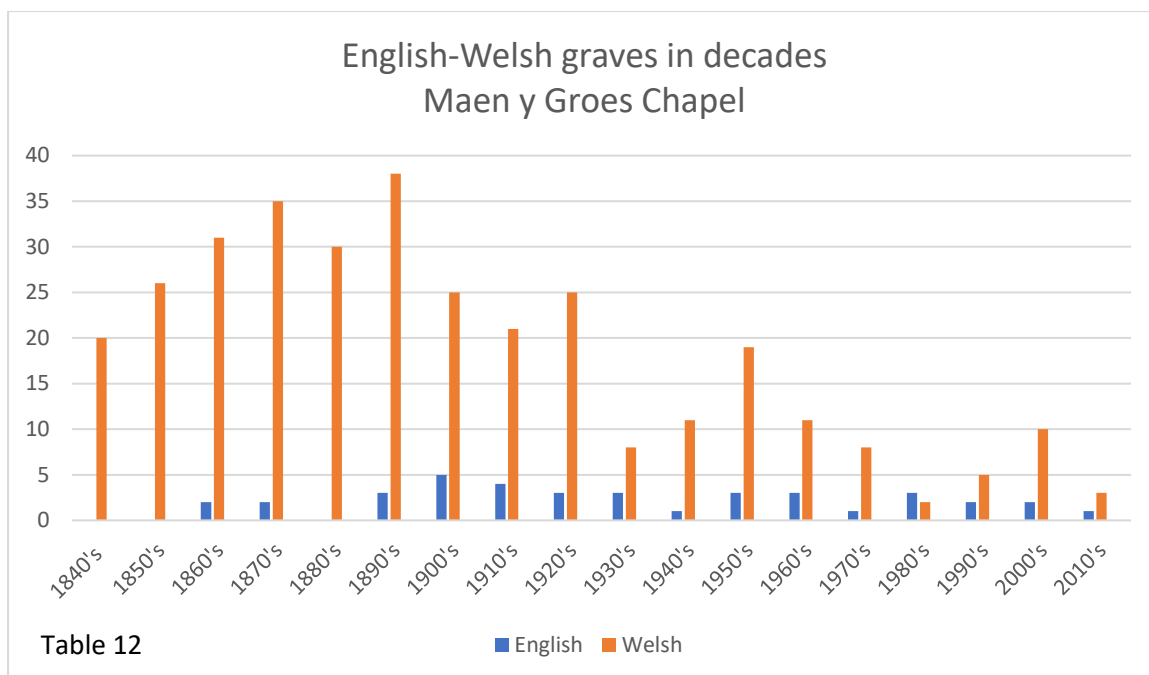


Table showing the male female deaths in decades which are memorialised. There are a total of 512 males and 494 females. This graph shows when Maen-y-Groes was most popular, with that being the turn of the 20th century, since then the numbers have steadily reduced. One more 1938.



The above table shows the average death rates per decade, for males and females from 1830 to present day. Apart from the one recorded death in the 1830's there has been a steady rise in the average age of death to the present day. There is a sharper incline in the average death rates in the decades following the end of the ship building trade in New Quay.



366 memorials were looked at relating to their language, of these graves 38 were in English and 328 were in the Welsh language. There is no steady decline in the use of the Welsh language as is shown in the previous two cemeteries, just a steady decline in internments. This fits well with the case of New Quay Council Cemetery opening over the road.

St Llwlchaiarn's



24, Dense shrubs and trees, St Llwlchaiarn's

St Llwlchaiarn's Church in the village of New Quay itself is the final graveyard to be examined. Perched on the hill above the village this church is most central to New Quay. It has burials dating back to 1770 and is quite well kept around the church. The graveyard extends behind the church and up a rather steep incline, these factors may influence the state of this section of the graveyard. Trees grow out of

some of the graves, some headstones are totally hidden by the growth around them and some are totally inaccessible. This is by far the worst kept of all the cemeteries.

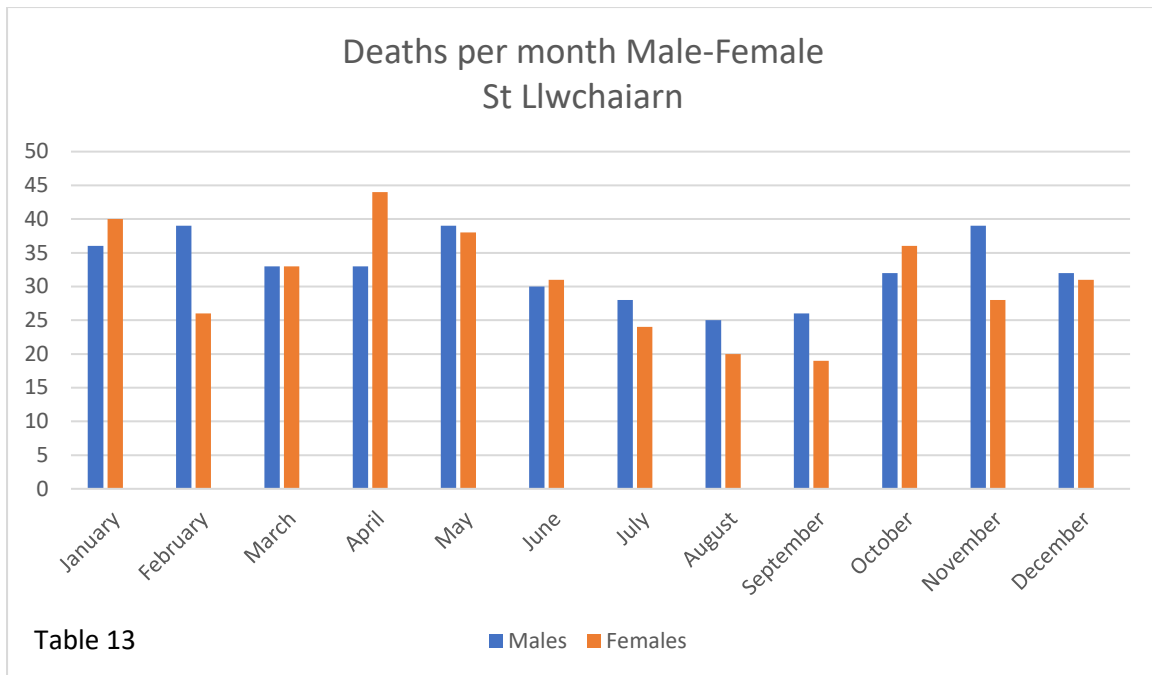
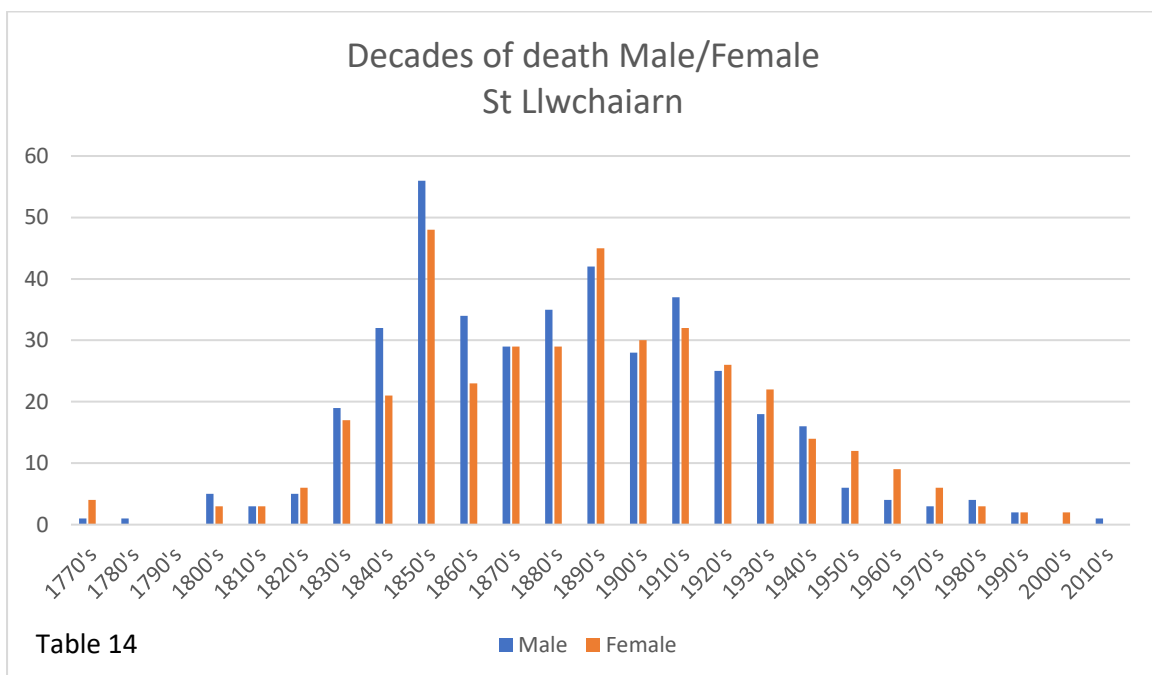
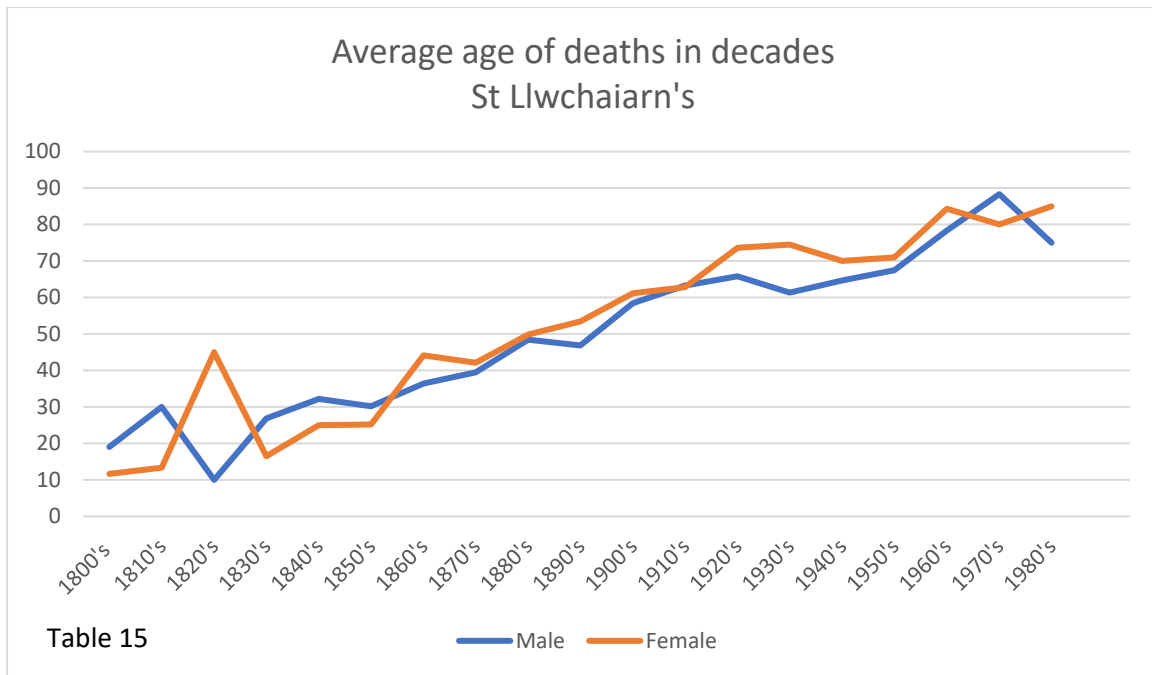


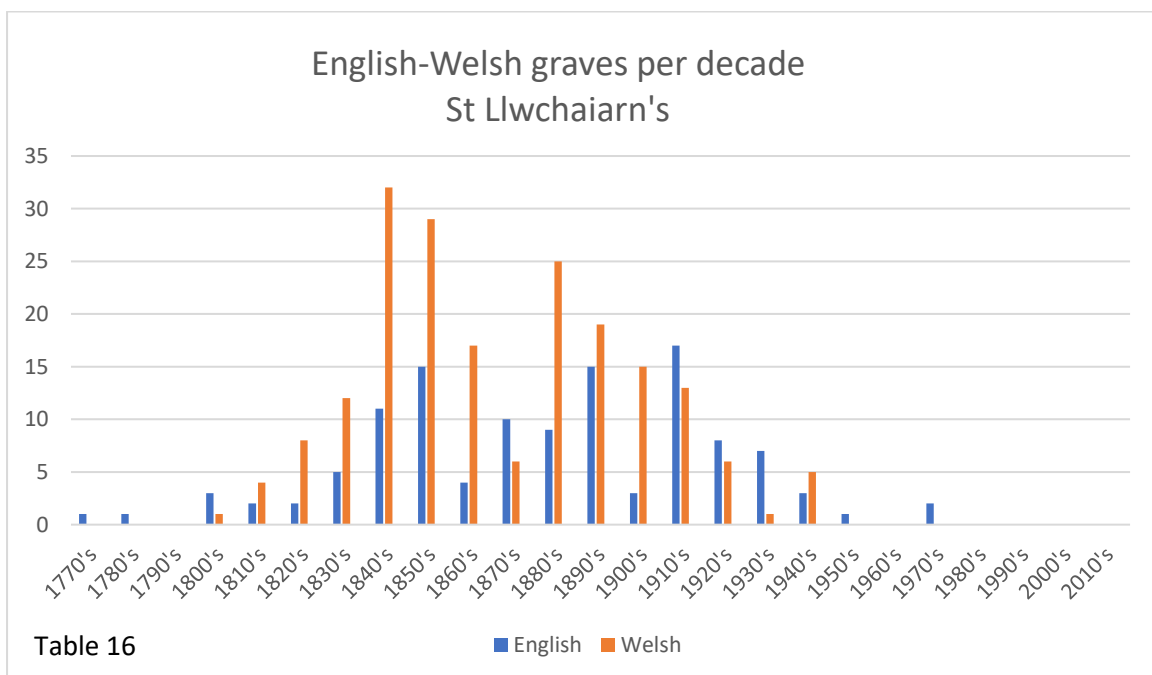
Table showing the deaths per month for a total of 726 individuals, 392 males and 370 females. There is a clear decrease in the deaths in the warmer months.



This table shows the amount of deaths per decade to be found at St Llwlchiar's. the earliest date from the 1770's. This table shows that the 1830-1850's had a rise which jumped quite rapidly, this could be interpreted to when New Quay became quite a busy place.

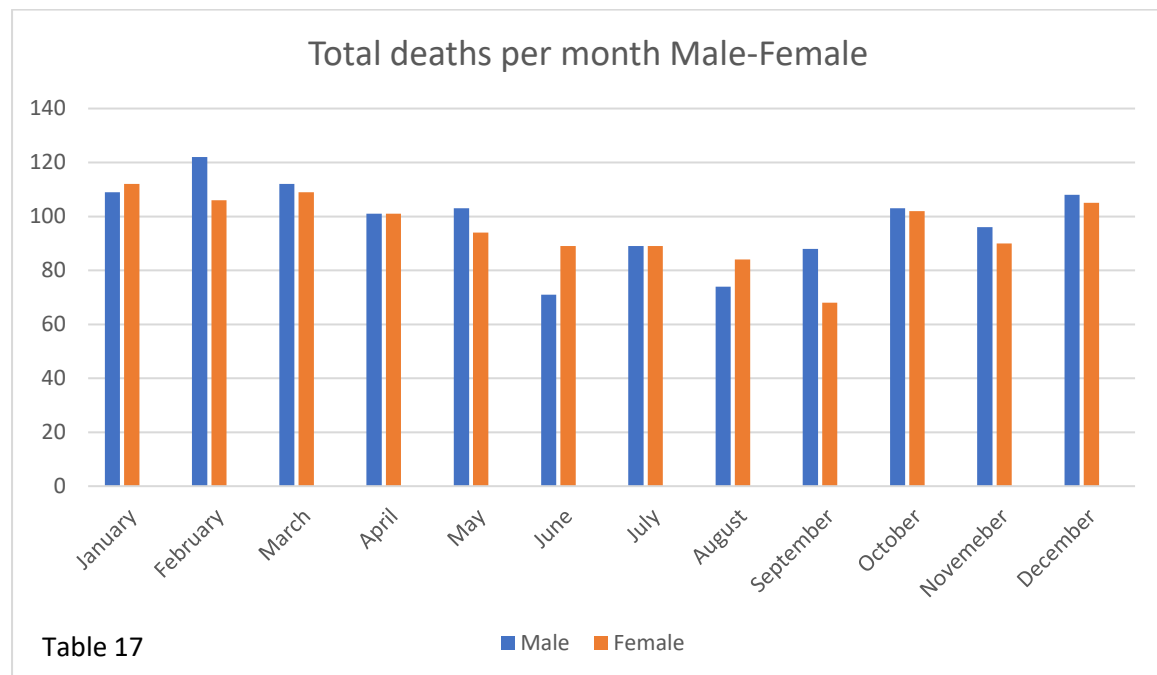


The above graph shows the data recorded from St Llwlchaiarn's church in New Quay. The majority of the burials before 1820 were that of children.

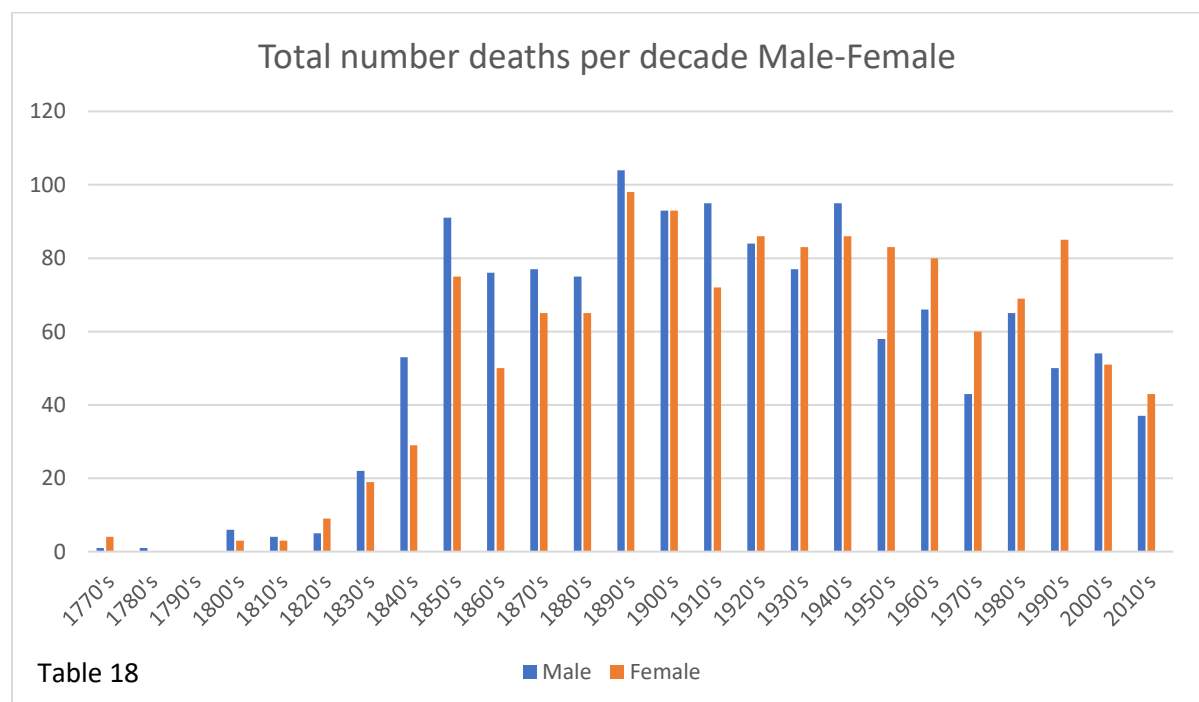


Total number of English or Welsh language memorials in St Llwlchaiarn's graveyard New Quay.

All cemeteries combined

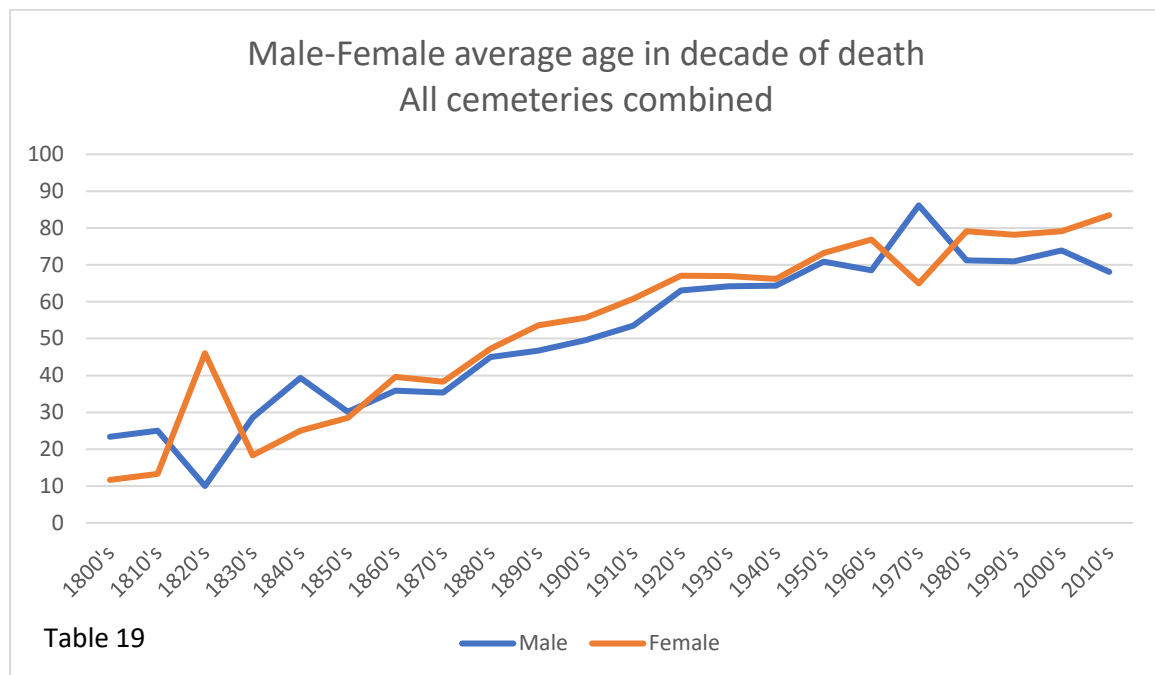


Above is a table showing the total deaths per month for male and females collected from all graveyards. A total of 2327 graves had eligible dates that could be read to indicate the months these individuals died, 1176 males and 1151 females. The most deaths occur in the colder months as to be expected, with the most occurring in the month of February 228 least in September 156.

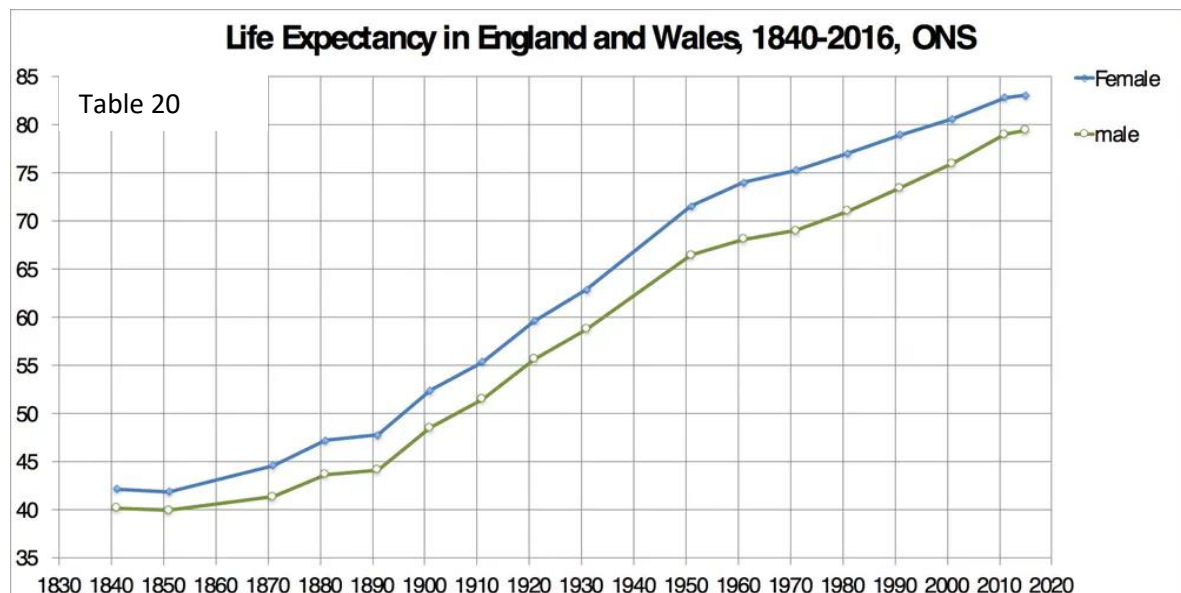


This table shows the Male female number of deaths per decade of males and females. Very few were recorded up until the mid-nineteenth century, since then the number of

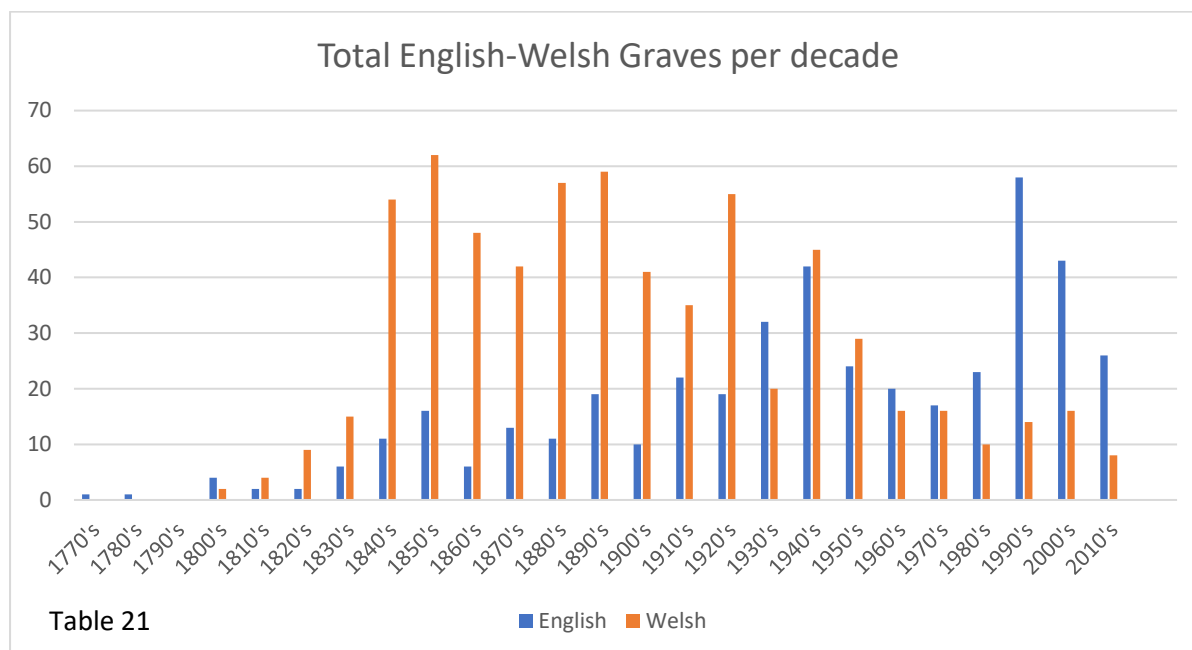
memorials increased at a steady rate up until they peaked in the 1890's since then to present day they have more than halved.



Above graph showing data for all recorded memorials where age and year of death were known from the year 1800. The graph below (The office for National Statistics) shows a similar trend to that of the New Quay area, (low sample numbers pre 1830's distorts the graph somewhat pre 1840's).



The above graph is taken from the office for national statistics, this charts the average age of death for males and females from the year 1841.

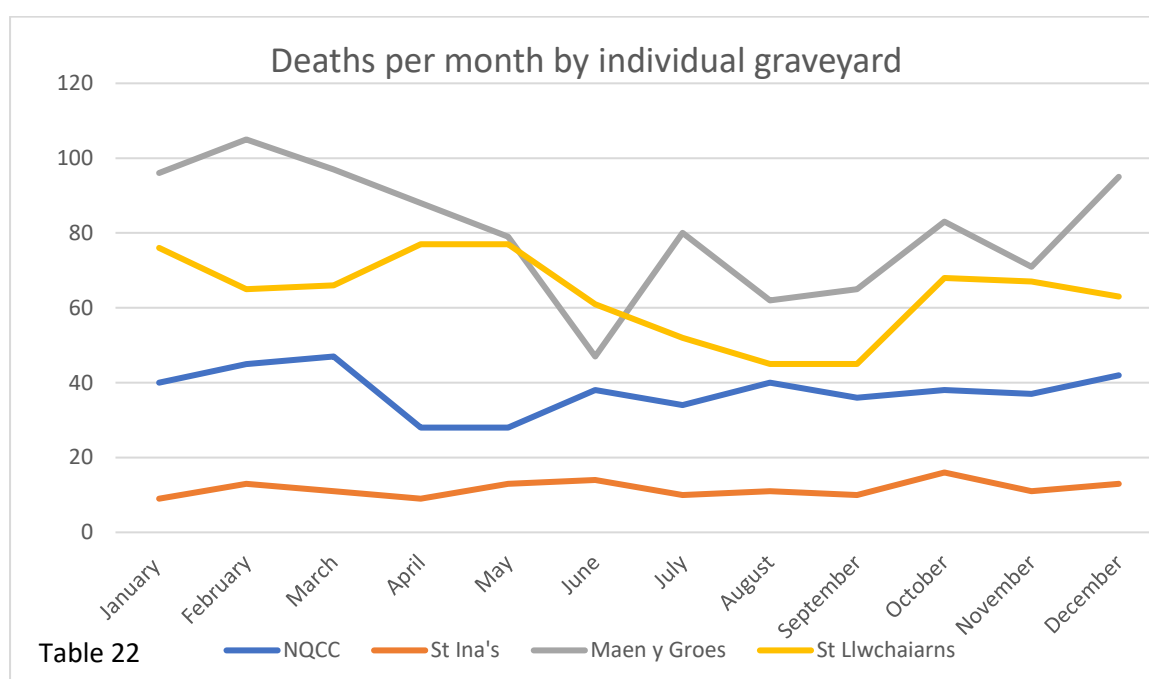


Above table showing the use of the English and Welsh language on the memorials in all the cemeteries combined. A total of 1085 graves had enough of an inscription on to determine the intended language of use. Graves with only initials or names on without a Welsh or English word were not counted, there were 428 memorials in English and 657 in Welsh. The earliest of all the memorials recorded were in English one each in the 1770's and 1780's, both in St Llwlhaiarn's churchyard, with the earliest Welsh language grave in 1800's, one in St Ina's and three in St Llwlhaiarn's. Apart from the earliest graves the welsh language has been dominant up until the 1930's when English became more widely used. Since the 1960's the use of the English language has become more widely used.

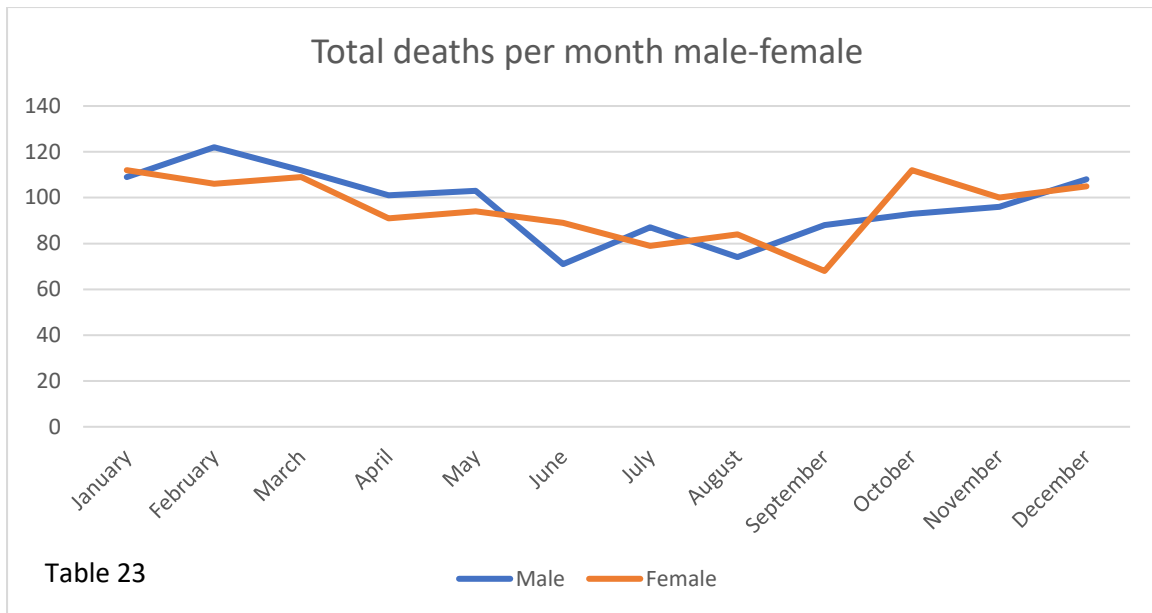
Several people recorded in the cemeteries were also recorded on the war memorials in the town, for this reason I did not count the deaths on the memorials for fear of repetition. No bombs were dropped on New quay in the second world war (Jones 2013:39) but the effects of the war can be seen not only in the memorials in these churchyards but also in the death rates for the decades that follow

Discussion of results

The death rates per month show typical trends of the warmer months seeing less deaths with the colder months seeing more. In the colder months from November to February a total of 435 males and 413 females died, where as in the warmer months of June to September, 320 males died, and 330 females died. In the colder months there were an average of 108.75 male deaths per month and in the warmer periods an average of 80 male deaths per month. For females it was an average of 103 deaths per colder month to 82.5 deaths per warmer month.

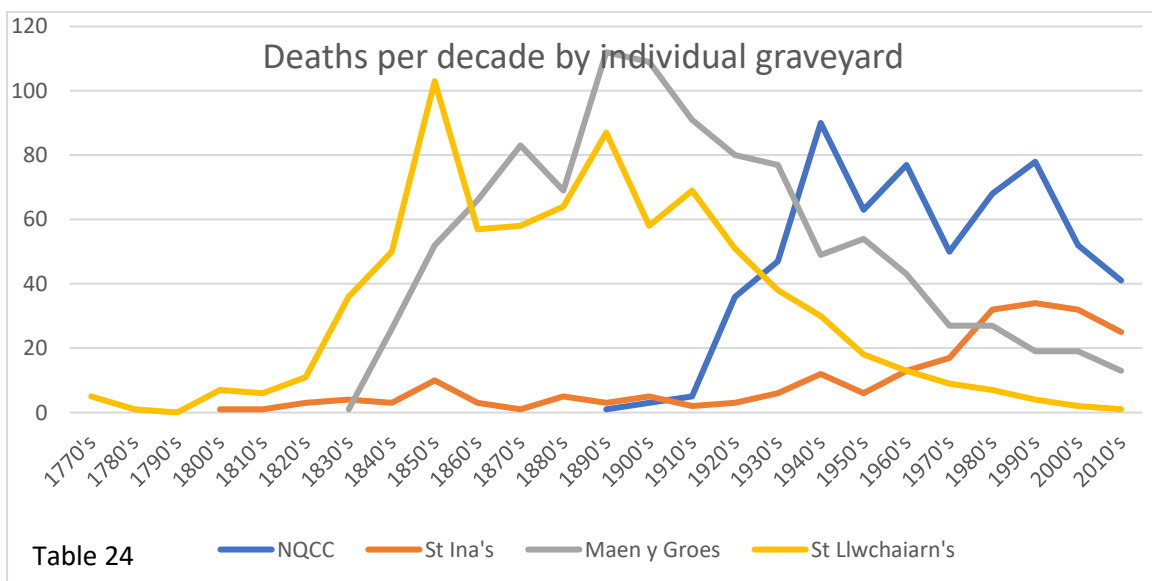


The above table shows the deaths per month for all individual graveyards. New Quay council cemetery which has the majority of its memorials dating from the 1920s shows a decline in the summer months, as does St Llwlchiar's which has the majority of its memorials dating from the 1830's to the 1940's. Maen y Groes could follow this trend, but for an increase of deaths recorded in July. June having the lowest recorded amount of deaths for females, more than half than in all other months other than August highlights this on the graph. St Ina's, which has been in use from the 1800's does not show as much variation as the other three cemeteries but this could be because it has the lowest sample number, but also the majority of the recorded memorials here are from the 1980's to present day, the colder harsher winter months may not have so much effect with the inhabitants being better prepared for colder weather.



The graph above shows the number of deaths per month with all cemeteries combined. As expected the combined figures show that there are fewer deaths in the summer months. The only anomalies on the data recorded, were that the graveyard at Maen y Groes congregational chapel shows that in the months of June there were more than twice as many female recorded deaths than male (32-15), also in the months of September there were nearly twice as many male recorded deaths than female (42-23).

By looking at the death rates per decade it shows us how this village has expanded over time. The few pre-1820 are dedicated to the children of a local farmer and his children, from the 1830's they greatly increase. This shows how the village is expanding with the building of the new pier and the influx of people to build the ships that helped New Quay become a hub for shipbuilding.

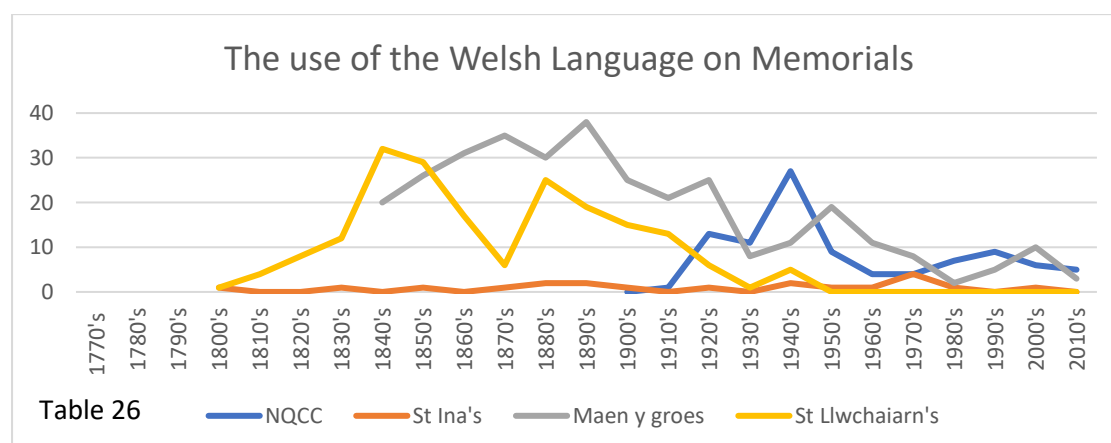
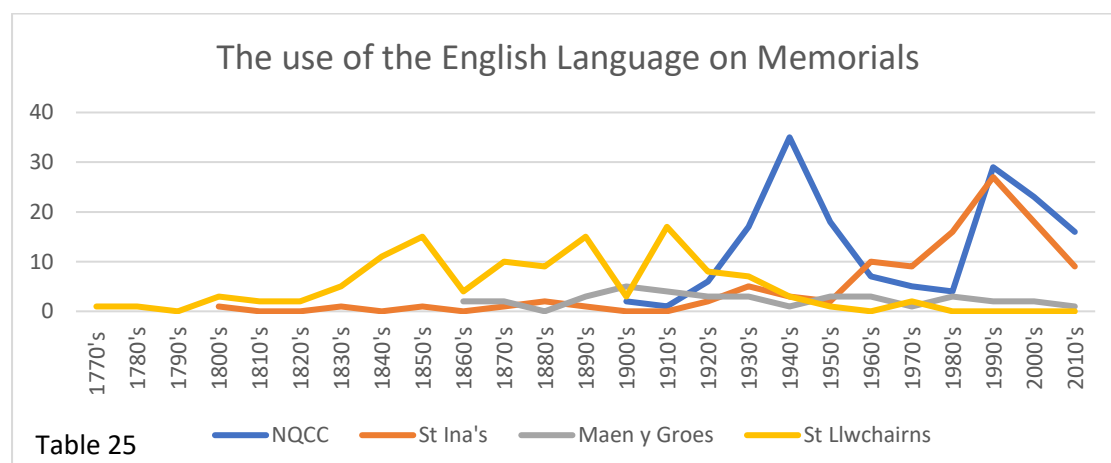


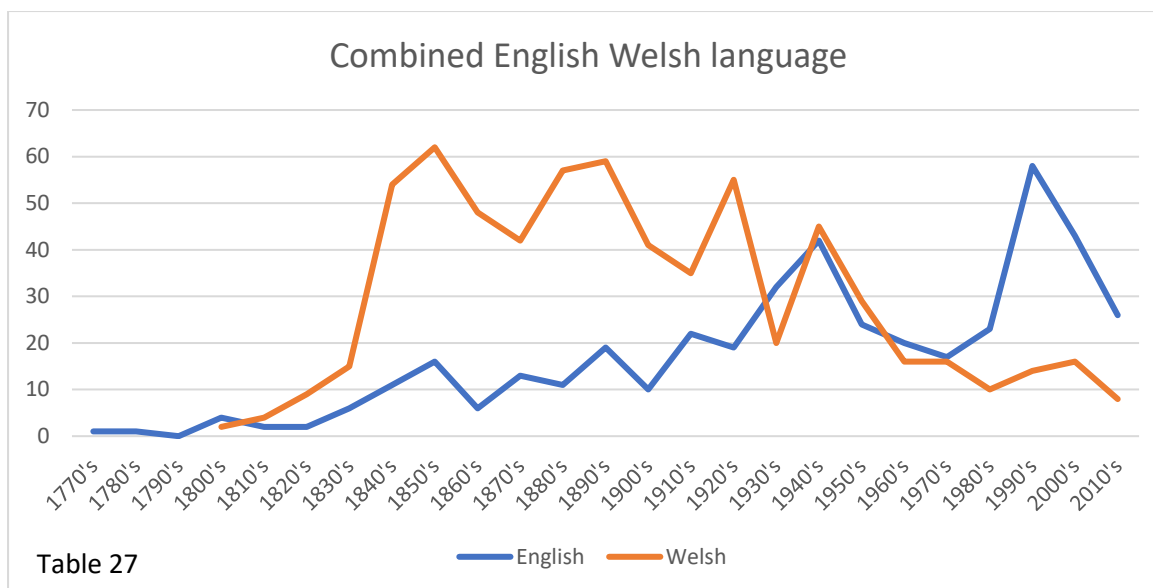
This graph shows the deaths per decade by individual graveyard. St Llŵchaiarn's in the village of new quay itself has the earliest burials although St Ina's is the oldest of these graveyards. The graph shows a steady increase in deaths from the 1830's onwards until the 1950's which then starts to show a decline, with the only graveyard to see a rise is St Ina's. The 1820's saw just 14 memorials but by the 1830's that had increased to 41, and the 1850's sees 165 memorials. The most memorials appear in the 1890's when there were 202 deaths memorialised, there then sees a decline down to present day with a brief rise in the 1940's.

Language use on Memorials

Looking at the language written on these graves show us how the use of the Welsh language on memorials has altered. Although the earliest ones are in the English language there are 50% more Welsh graves than English ones, 657 Welsh and 428 English. There are no other languages being used in these cemeteries.

The following graphs show the use of the two languages in each of the graveyards. They show that the use of the Welsh language was not as unusual in St Llŵchaiarn's as it was in Maen y Groes. Maen y Groes has more memorials than New quay but far less of them in Welsh. New Quay Council Cemetery and St Ina's Churchyard both have more English Language graves than Welsh language graves. This could be down to their more recent usage. In Maen y Groes and St Llŵchaiarn the majority of early memorials are Welsh.





This graph shows the use of the English and Welsh language on memorials, since the 1810's the Welsh language had always been more dominant up until the 1980's when the use of the English Language becomes more dominant. Reports show that especially in the rural west of Wales since 2001, the use of the Welsh language has been in decline, with native Welsh speakers leaving and English Retiree's moving in (The Economist 2014), evidence from these graveyards suggest it happened here a lot earlier.

Conclusion

In the 248 years, since the earliest visible memorial the graveyards here can show how the village of New Quay has transformed. The earliest graves date from 1770 (pictured) and these graves are of the flush flat slab type. They go into good detail of who lies there with this one mentioning the children of a William Jones who all died young. The most common material used in these graveyards was slate but most modern memorials are on polished granite headstones. Maen y Groes had the widest variety of headstones with crosses, obelisks, pedimented designs, and sculptured headstones among others. New Quay Council Cemetery was rather more uniform with most of the graves being family plots with inscribed kerbstones. There are varying designs with cross varieties being amongst some of the earlier designs but the memorials from the year 2000 are mainly a simple polished granite head stone. The majority of headstones at St Ina's were of the polished granite variety, with the earliest examples being flush flat inscribed slabs in a



25, Earliest memorial dating to 1770, St Llŵchaearn's

fenced family plot. There are stones used as simple markers but the majority of graves here are from within the last 40 years.

St Llŵchaiarn's also has a wide variety of headstones, from the early flat slabs to large headstones commemorating many family members. The volume of memorials post 1830 give good insight into how the village had expanded, pre 1800 there are just two headstones memorialising six people. This was to be expected with the description of New Quay at this time of being just a few cottages with people making use of the land for farming().

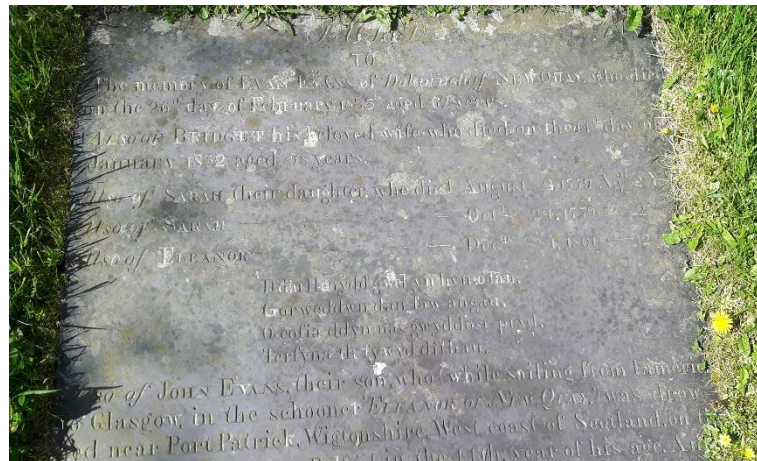
By the 1840's there were 76 burials and in the next ten years a further 79 people would be buried or commemorated here.

It is said that New Quay is a place where the whole community is completely tied up with the sea (Jenkins 2005:63).

The graveyards around New Quay show testament to this with many telling stories of people who have drowned or lost on voyages presumed drowned. Some say when their body was recovered and

brought home and buried, others just say 'he has found his grave in the deep'. Many other inscriptions found here show connections with the sea too, the most prominent profession to be found on these graves is that of a master mariner. Many speak of the children of master mariners and apart from the name of the person memorialised or their date of death and house name, this inscription appears most often. Other inscriptions that show the connections to the sea include that of sailors, most of these to be found in St Llŵchaiarn's graveyard itself. There is evidence of the ship building that made New Quay one of the most important ship building ports in Wales (Jenkins 2005:63). Gravestones here have professions such as, sail maker, ships carpenter, ship builder and ropemaker all necessary for the construction of ships.

With the rapid expansion of New Quay, thanks to the roaring boat building trade, this in turn led to the growth of the population as shown in the data collected from the graveyards. To support the people who were building the ships other professions are shown, stonecutters who were needed for the building of the new pier, the stonemasons who were needed to build houses to house the work force. There are also tailors, shoemakers, shopkeepers and many publicans.



26, Gravestone of Evan Evans who died in 1833, here also lies the body of his wife and 3 children. There is also an inscription for his son who drowned whilst travelling from Limerick to Glasgow on the schooner 'Eleanor' which was built in New Quay. 'And his grave is in the deep'.



27, Triangular topped headstone with a book motif, dedicated to the memory of Joseph Davies of the Star Inn New Quay who died 1871, also to his wife Margaret who died 1899.

In the early days of New Quay's growth, the death rate for men was much higher than that of women. This could be for one of two reasons, there were either more men here due to the nature of the trades required here, or that the work nature of the work here could be having a negative effect on the mortality rates of men. Either way with all this going on in New Quay, there must have been a clear demand for public houses to keep their thirst quenched, many of which are long since gone. Pubs feature highly on the gravestones, 1 in total, they are the Angel, Belle Vue, Black Lion, Blue Bell, Boars Head, Castle Inn, Crown, Dolau Inn, Farmers Arms, New Storehouse Inn, Penrhiwllan, Penrhiwgaled Arms, Newadd Rock Inn, The Ship, The Star Inn and the Sailors Home which is now The Sea Horse. The Sailors Home is said to be immortalised in a play by Dylan Thomas, where he is reputed to have drawn inspiration for from New Quay, which where it goes.....

"Sailors, grandson of Mary Anne Sailors, draws a pint in the sunlit bar. The ships clock in the bar says half past eleven. Half past eleven is opening time. The hands of the clock have stayed still at half past eleven for fifty years. It's always opening time in the Sailors Arms..."

Dylan Thomas, Under Milk Wood.

The large number of pubs or inns mentioned in the graveyards show that New Quay must have been a very busy place in the 18th century. The pubs in New Quay, are now quite different, only two remain that have not been vastly altered in the last few years. Fortunately, one is the 'Sea Horse' which still has fishing nets in the window and models of ships on ledges in the bar and on the windowsill's here.

The death rate for this area is similar to that of the historical average death rates (Office for national statistics). Childhood mortality was high in New Quay, up until the early part of the twentieth century, and some of the earliest memorials are dedicated to that of young children. In the period before the twentieth century 229 children, 118 boys and 111 girls did not reach the age of ten. In the twentieth century it is only 29 children who did not make this age, most before 1940.

In the decade of the 1850's, a total of seventy children did not pass the age of ten. This is shown in the records of the graveyard, this in turn shows how the village was growing rapidly, in the seventy years of memorials before the 1850's, there only shows a total of fifty-seven aged under ten. If surviving into double figures was hard, getting through the teenage years was not much easier, fifty-two males and 42 females did not make it to their twenties before 1900. Post 1900, it is twenty males and thirteen females who died before their twentieth birthday, some of these are casualties of war.

Surviving childhood in New Quay, if you were a male, it probably meant that the sea was going to be a big influence in your life. There are many gravestones that are dedicated to the memory of people lost to sea, drowned, some recovered and some finding a watery grave of the deep.

A total of 71 memorials read of people who have drowned or died at sea, these date from 1831 to 1972, a further 21 memorials tell of how people have died abroad. These are all of males, some who may have died in places such as Australia or Hong Kong. They may be buried there and then memorialised here, others state what date they died, when their body was brought back and then, when they were laid to rest. There are memorials in these cemeteries for people who have drowned and they range from a 14 year old boy to a 62 year old captain. If you managed to retire though it was possible to reach a nice old age with more men living until their 80's by the 1880's, this does coincide with the end of the ship building in this port (Jenkins 2005:64). It was not until 1864 that New Quay got its first lifeboat, that being after there had been thirteen wrecks in the previous seven years with considerable loss of life (Bryan 2014:2)

With the sea being such a factor in this area and with the number of males who have died at sea being memorialised, it could be thought that there would be a wide variation in the average age of deaths between male and female here. In the 1840's the average age of death was 39 for a male and 25 for a female in New Quay. One of the reasons it could be so low for women is down to the maternal mortality rates, between 1850 and 1900 the chances of dying during birth were approximately 1 in 20, between 1900 and 1930 this dropped to 1 in 25 (Chamberlain 2006), before dropping to the levels they are today. The male to female average age was generally in the line with the national statistics, with the exclusion of pre-1850, this is because the sample for this period is mainly of children, before that there were simply not enough people living here to die. In



28, Memorial to a 'Evan Phillips' who in 1886 drowned on his passage from Saffi to Falmouth aged just 14 years. The welsh epitaph reading 'From farms and mountains, river, oceans there will be good'.



29, Headstone for Martha, the beloved wife of John Brown, boat builder, who died at the age of 25 in 1849. A month later her child died at 1 month old (more than likely a case of maternal mortality).

the period between 1780 and 1800 there was only one burial before then only one adult (in their twenties) had been buried here. It is hard to determine the number of maternal mortality rates because they are not mentioned on the graves here but like with the example above it is hard not to draw these conclusions.

There were 680 house names mentioned on these memorials, many of them more than once, house names found on these graves show the connection to the sea, many are named after some of the 244 boats that were built in New Quay and on the surrounding beaches. The streets here have names such as Mariners Row or Rock Street, which is named because they quarried the stone from the end of this street for the building of the new pier. House names such as Aeron, Belmont, Castle Green, Friendship, Gwalia, Utopia and Zenobia are all houses which share their name with ships built here and there are many more.

There is a clear distinction between all four cemeteries. New Quay council cemetery is still very much in use today, the memorials here are smart and neat, especially the newer ones. It does not seem much will change here for some time. St Ina's is very peaceful and located by the sea, out of all the graveyards this one has in the past few decades seen the biggest rise in its use. It seems here, that in the past the master mariners and sailors seemed tired of the sea and did not want to be buried too close as this one has the fewest memorials. Maybe they thought that being buried here would lead to a watery grave, human bones have been found here where erosion has taken place, with its location right on the seashore. This does not seem to put people off now though, the extended rise seems common with it seeming popular with artist and musician types. They seem to be taking the place of the sailor.

Maen y Groes has been in constant use since the 1840's according to the records collected. It seems it was a cemetery which was used by locals with the vast majority of the memorials being in Welsh, the English language here is scarcer until later times. St Llŵchaearn's is the only one that is rarely used in recent decades, there is no more room for burials here, there are many different trades mentioned here with master mariner being most popular. It seems this graveyard has more intervention from the sea than the others, with many memorials to people who have drowned. The voyages on which they perished or the far-off lands in which they died bring the world into this little graveyard. The use of the English language in this graveyard may have been influenced more by these outside influences than that of Maen y Groes graveyard which was operational at the same time.

The sea has shaped the town which is shown in the graveyard, more recent memorials speak of trades but ones which are not connected to the sea. The sea still shapes the village as a tourist destination, but this is only for a few months of the year, other than that the population is falling. The sea does not influence these graveyards as it once did, it is now, professor, musicians, artists, archaeologists and many more, all worthy professions but not necessarily linked with the village.

Appendix, 1

Graveyard Survey Form

Appendix, 1

Graveyard Survey Form

Parish		Date	
Graveyard		Number Recorded	

[illegible]

Appendix 2

New Quay Council Cemetery Male

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100+
1900		1			1						
1910	1	1	1	1							
1920	1	1	1		1	2	3	3	1		
1930					1	6	6	8	3		
1940			3	2	4	4	16	11	4	2	
1950			1		1	2	3	5	3	2	
1960	1				1	7	8	10	6		
1970			1		1	1	5	3	6		
1980					1		7	3	9	1	
1990					1	3	2	14	7	1	
2000			2	2			3	9	8	2	
2010			1	1		3		5	10	3	

New Quay Council Cemetery Female

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100+
1900				1							
1910											
1920	1	1		1			2	3	1		
1930				2	2	1	6	7	1		
1940		2	1	2	4	3	3	7	5	2	
1950					2	1	7	7	8		
1960			1		1		9	8	8	1	
1970						1	4	6	8	2	
1980			1				7	11	14	5	
1990						2	5	11	13	6	2
2000				1	2	1	1	5	9	7	
2010							2	2	6	9	

St Ina's Male

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100+
1800					1						
1810		1									
1820											
1830			1				1				
1840			1								
1850										1	
1860									1		
1870							1				
1880				1							
1890						2					
1900					1						
1910				1			1				
1920							1				
1930								1			
1940			1				1	2	1		
1950							1				
1960							2		2		
1970				1	1	1	1		5		
1980			1	1		4	4	4	2	3	
1990	1	1		1		2	4	6	5	1	
2000					1	2		6	7	1	
2010					1		1	2	6	1	

St Ina's Female

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100+
1820	1						1	1			
1830			1								
1840			1	1							
1850	2		2			1		2			
1860		1							1		
1870											
1880	1			1				2			
1890								1			
1900			1								
1910									1		
1920				1				1			
1930	1		1					1	1		
1940									1		

1950				1				1	2		
1960					1	1	1	1		1	
1970					2			2	3	1	
1980					1		1	2	4	3	
1990			1	1		1	5	5	5	3	
2000					1	2	2	2	7	1	
2010							1	3	5	4	

Maen y Groes congregational chapel, Male

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100+
1840	9	1	2	3	2	1	1	1			
1850	15	2	5		2		3	4	1		
1860	6	7	8	7	1	4	5	2	1		
1870	12	6	6	7	2	5	3	5	1		
1880	4	3	7	7	2	3	6	3	3		
1890	11	1	3	8	3	5	9	7	6	1	
1900	6	5	3	1	8	9	7	7	5		
1910	2	4	9	4	2	9	9	7	3	2	
1920		1	2	4	2	7	13	7	5	1	
1930		1	3		2	3	5	11	4	1	
1940			2		3	2	2	4	6		
1950					2	1	3	12	4	1	
1960						2	4	8		1	
1970							3	6	1		
1980			1	1		1	1	3	4		1
1990							3	1	1	1	
2000					1	1		4	4	1	
2010									2	1	

Maen y Groes congregational chapel, Female

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100+
1840	4		1		1						
1850	9	1		1	1	3	2	3			
1860	8	3	1	2	2	3	1	2	2		
1870	8	9	3	1	2	7			6		
1880	5	2	2	4	2	2	5	4	4	1	
1890	7	1	3	4	1	7	13	4	11		
1900	5	4	4	2	9	4	11	17	8		
1910	2	1	4	1	2	4	9	7	5	4	
1920		1	3			5	7	12	8		

1930		1	2	2		3	9	11	6	1	
1940			1	2		3	4	8	6		
1950				1		3	5	7	12	2	
1960	1					1	6	8	9	1	
1970							4	3	7	1	
1980							1	1	8	2	
1990					1		2	3	5	1	
2000						1		1	1	5	
2010							1	2	3	4	

St Llwchaiarn Male

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100+
1770			1								
1780							1				
1790											
1800	2	1	1		1						
1810		1			1						
1820	3		1								
1830	6	3	3	3	1		2	1	1		
1840	9	5	3	3	4	2	3	1	2		
1850	20	6	8	4	3	6	4	2	3		
1860	5	3	6	7	3	4	3	2			
1870	5	5	3	5	1	3	4	2	2		
1880	5	2	2	2	3	5	4	6	3		
1890	5	4	5	3	4	5	5	6	5		
1900		2	2	2	2	4	5	4	4	1	
1910	1	2	2	2	1	4	4	7	10		
1920				3	3	4	3	3	6	2	
1930	1	1			1	1	5	3	4	1	
1940				1	4	2	1	3	3		1
1950						3	1	3	1		
1960								2	1		
1970									2	1	
1980								2			
1990									1		
2000											
2010										1	

St Llŵchaiarn's, Female

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100+
1770	3	1									
1780											
1790											
1800	2	1									
1810	1	1	1								
1820	1			1		5					
1830	7	4				1	1				
1840	9	2	2	2	2	1		2	1		
1850	22	8	5	2		2	4	1	4		
1860	6		4		2	1	3	3	3		
1870	4	5	4			6	4	3	2		
1880	4		1	4	4	3	4	4	3		
1890	7	3	3	1	4	1	8	6	9	2	
1900	4		2	1		3	3	8	6	2	
1910		2	1	2	2	6	4	9	4	2	
1920	1					2	2	8	8	1	
1930			1			1	1	12	7		
1940		1	1			1	2	2	6	1	
1950						2	2	4	2		
1960							1	1	4	1	1
1970									2	2	
1980									3		
1990										1	
2000									2		
2010											

Appendix 3

Deaths per month data

	NQCC		St Ina's		Maen y Groes		St Llwchaiarn's		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Jan	19	21	4	5	50	46	36	40	109	112
Feb	21	24	6	7	56	49	39	26	122	106
Marc	24	23	7	4	48	49	33	33	112	109
April	13	15	4	5	51	37	33	34	101	91
May	13	15	5	8	46	33	39	38	103	94
June	19	19	7	7	15	32	30	31	71	89
July	19	15	6	4	34	36	28	24	87	79
Aug	19	21	6	5	24	38	25	20	74	84
Sept	16	20	4	6	42	23	26	19	88	68
Oct	19	19	5	11	37	46	32	36	93	112
Nov	18	19	4	7	35	36	39	28	96	100
Dec	18	24	7	6	51	44	32	31	108	105

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total	221	228	121	192	197	160	166	158	156	205	196	213

Appendix 4

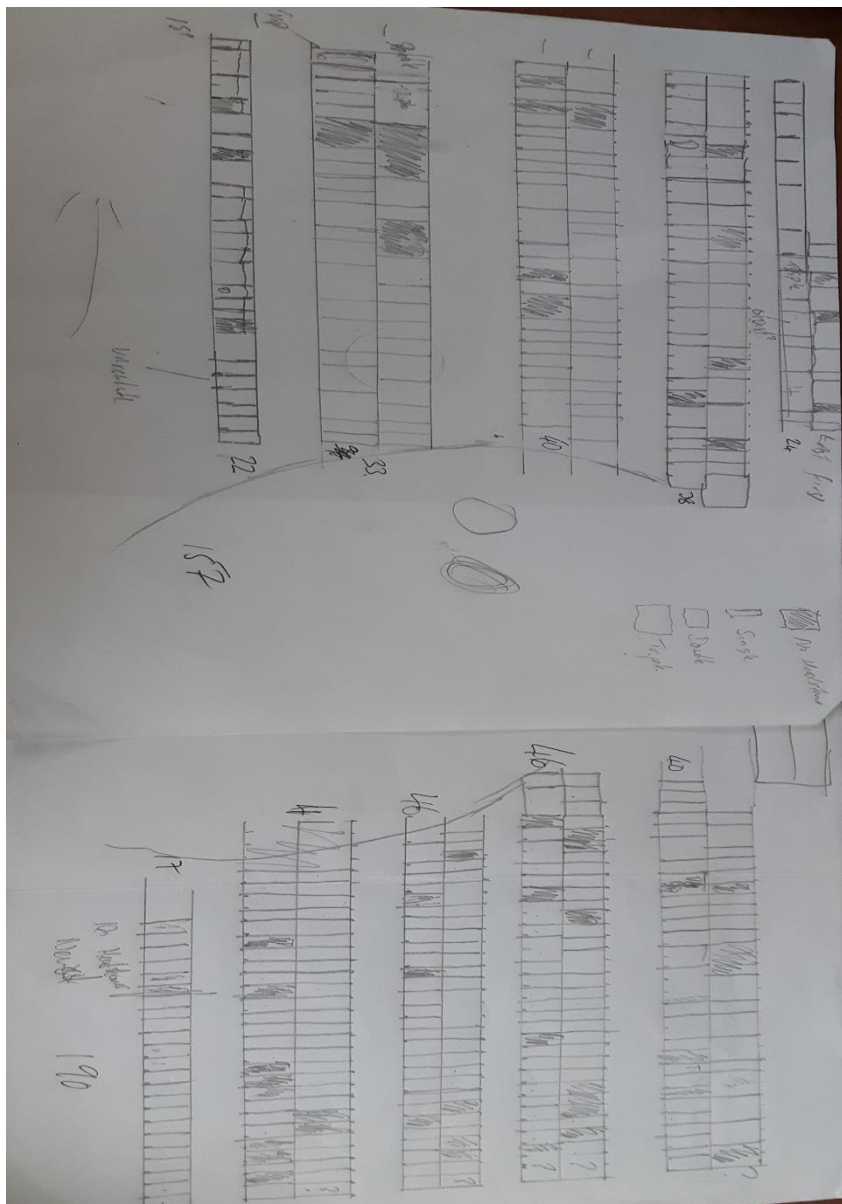
English/Welsh language graves

	NQCC		St Ina's		Maen y Groes		St Llwchaiarn's	
	English	Welsh	English	Welsh	English	Welsh	English	Welsh
1770's							1	
1780's							1	
1790's								
1800's			1	1			3	1
1810's							2	4
1820's				1			2	8
1830's			1	3			5	12
1840's				2		20	11	32
1850's			1	7		26	15	29
1860's					2	31	4	17
1870's			1	1	2	35	10	6
1880's			2	2		30	9	25
1890's			1	2	3	38	15	19
1900's	2			1	5	25	3	15
1910's	1	1			4	21	17	13
1920's	6	13	2	1	3	25	8	6
1930's	17	11	5		3	8	7	1

1940's	35	27	3	2	1	11	3	5
1950's	18	9	2	1	3	19	1	
1960's	7	4	10	1	3	11		
1970's	5	4	9	4	1	8	2	
1980's	4	7	16	1	3	2		
1990's	29	9	27	0	2	5		
2000's	23	6	18	1	2	10		
2010's	16	5	9	0	1	3		

Appendix 5

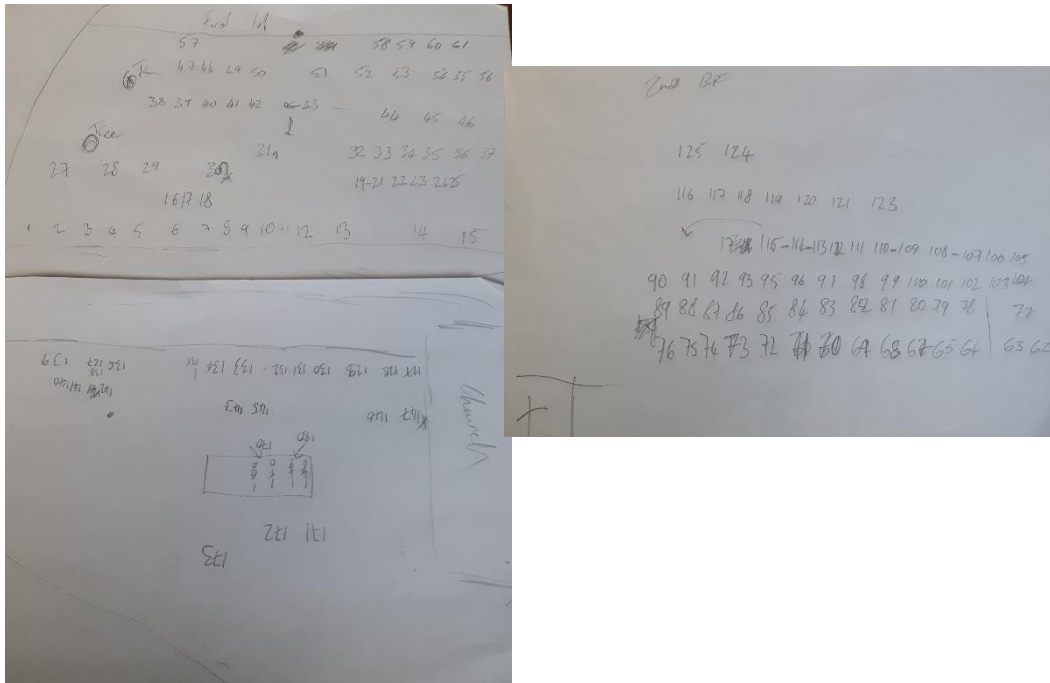
Plan of New Quay Council Cemetery



Made up with, single, double or triple grave sized graves. Shaded areas denote where there are no memorials.

Appendix 6

Rough sketch of St Ina's Churchyard



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[accessed 16.10.2017]

Images

All image by Jonathan Morgan except,

1 Google maps

11 Coflein.gov.uk

13 Dyfedfhs.org.uk

15 Ceredigion County Council

17 Ceredigion County Council

18 Coflein.gov.uk

