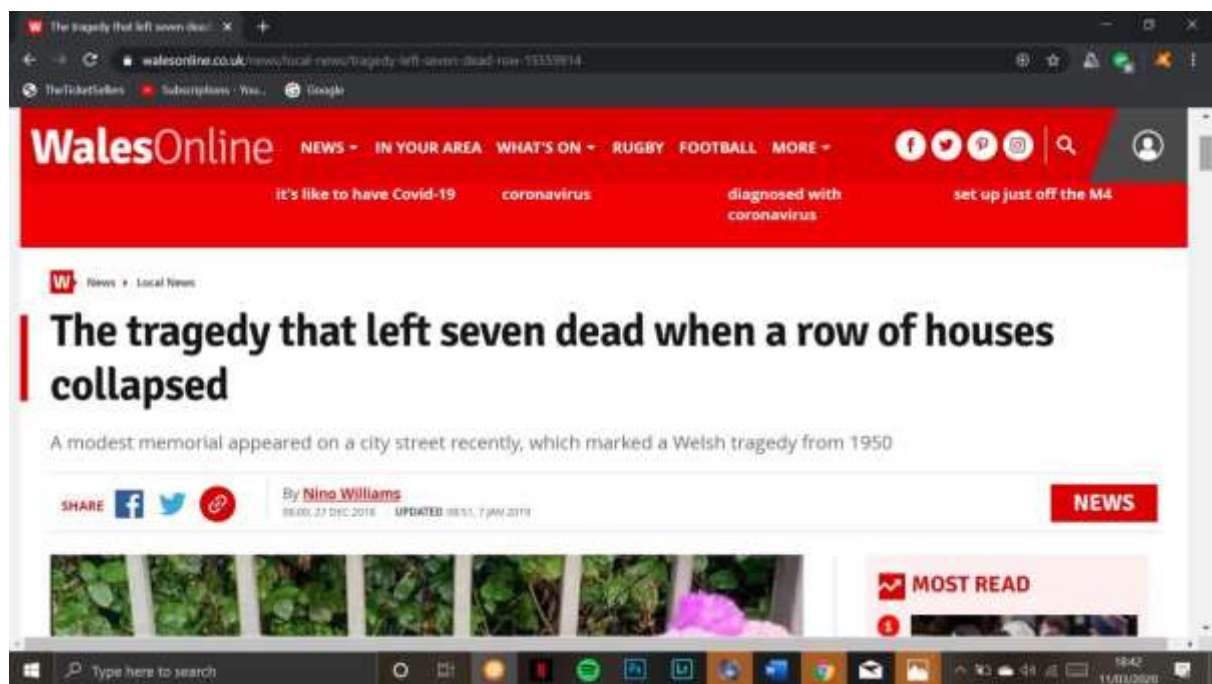


Katy James
Individual research
Prince of Wales Road

When originally researching for my site-specific proposal, I came across the fact that my own street had an extremely rich history. Although I was worried about creating a proposal to do an exhibition in my street, I am glad I did as I have learnt so much, and also helped families and local people find comfort as we commemorated their loved ones.

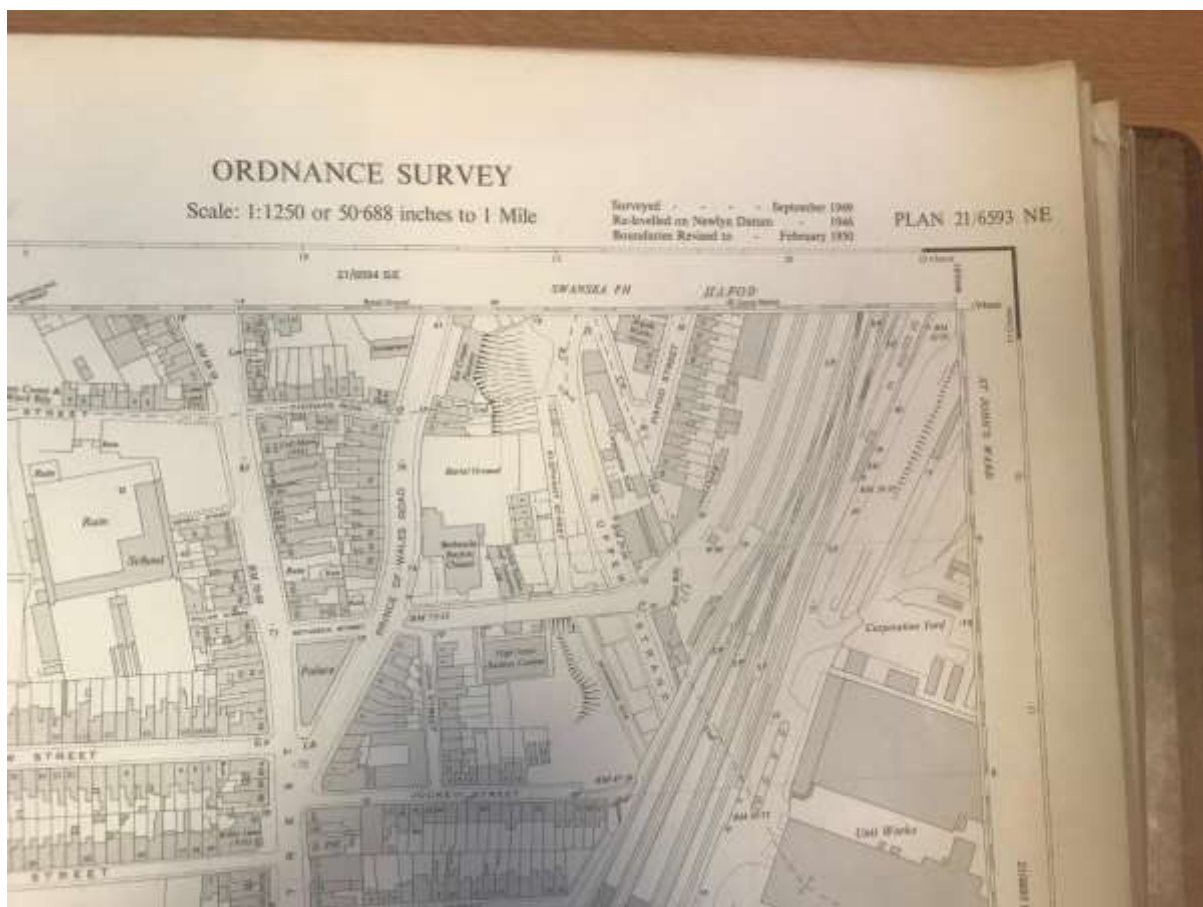
My research throughout this project will be documented below. I'd like to note that although it was a group project, I did a lot of research before being put into a group in order to create my proposal.



<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/local-news/tragedy-left-seven-dead-row-15559914>

The article above, is where my idea of doing the site specific in the road came to life. Due to the fact that it was the only online source found easily, it interested me to find out about it more, at first just for common knowledge but the more I thought about it, the more important it seemed to become.

Archive trip – After reading about the collapse on WalesOnline, I went down to the archives to look at maps to understand the incident a bit more and to figure out where the collapse actually was as I didn't understand how the numbering in the street worked.



I also learnt about 1 of the 7 known victims of the incident, Samuel Belkin.

In order –

1911 census - tells you a lot about him and his wife

Sheet showing his grave in Townhill cemetery

1939 Registration document - pre war registration of everyone living in the UK. Tells you his birth date and that he's still living in POW Road

1950 Electoral roll - still in POW Road

1950 Death register - this gives the reference for you if you want to order a death certificate which you can do online

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Instructions and the Explanatory notes on the other side of this paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in full.

The contents of the Schedules will be treated as confidential. Births even will be taken that no registration is declared and regard to individual persons. The entries are not to be used for proof of age, as an indication with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND ADDRESS	RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF FAMILY	AGE	SEX	MARRIAGE	PARTICULARS AS TO RESIDENCE	PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, TRADE, BUSINESS, OR VOCATION		SUFFRAGE	EDUCATION	REMARKS	LABOUR
						Present	Previous				
Samuel Belkin Sarah Belkin Wife 30 25	Head Wife	30 25	M F	Married Single	10, POW ROAD, SWANSEA. 10, POW ROAD, SWANSEA. 10, POW ROAD, SWANSEA.	None	None	None	None	None	None

Signed: *Samuel Belkin*
Date: *11/11/11*

https://www.jewishgen.org/jcr-uk/Cemeteries/Swansea_Cemeteries/Burial_Townhill_0135.html

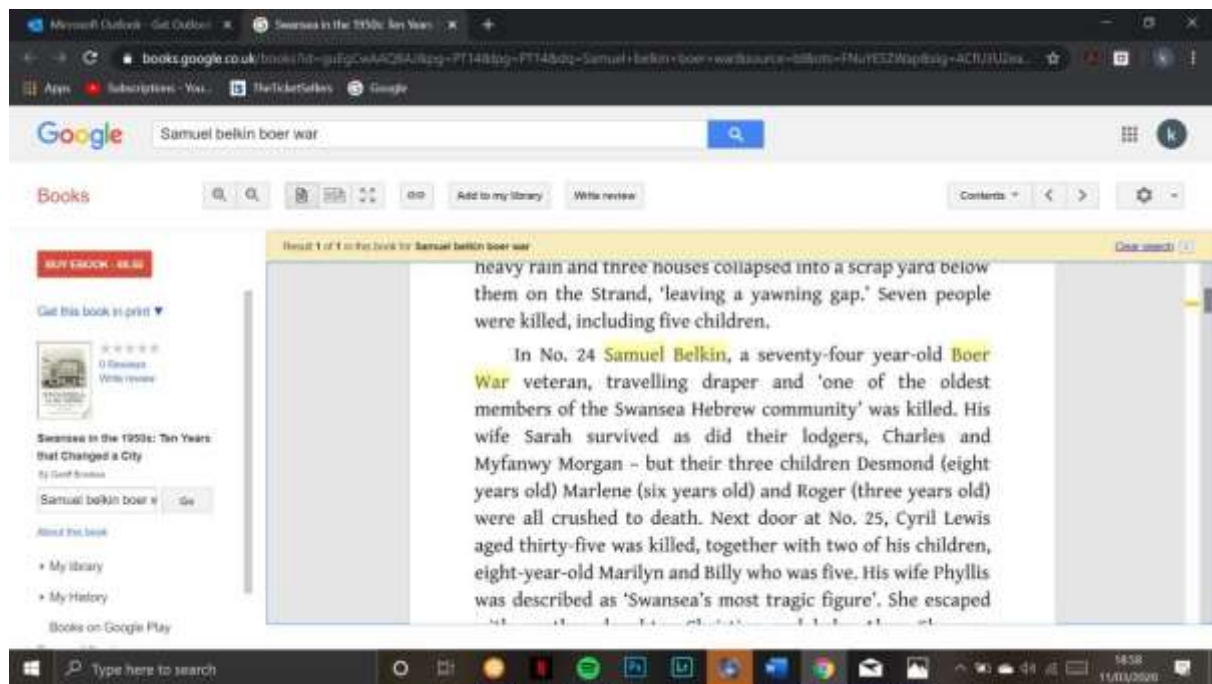
JCR-UK
Jewish Communities & Records

Swansea Cemeteries
Burial Records

Burial Details		Previous Grave	Next Grave
Surname: <i>Belkin</i>		Click on image to view/enlarge in a new window 	
Given Name: <i>Samuel Hymman</i>			
Died: <i>09 September 1950</i>	Age: <i>74</i>		
Cemetery: <i>Townhill</i>	Section: <i>D</i>		
Row: <i>I</i>	Grave No: <i>3</i>		
Latitude: <i>51.6784468 °</i>	Longitude: <i>-3.9477085 °</i>		
Notes:			

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[illegible]



The information included within my proposal includes, where the idea came from, a brief overview of the history, I also briefly talk about why the site meant so much to me.

Written Practice Proposal

After my video proposal got picked which was based on Prince of Wales Road, me and my group got together to discuss what was and wasn't possible for the project. We decided that before we really got into what to exhibit, we needed to learn about the street, rather than just the collapse which occurred in 1950.

After a lot of online research, we realised that it was very limited information and we would need to learn a lot more before putting on an exhibition. We have sourced information from primary and secondary resources and all of which have been a massive help. We had the opportunity to speak to Ian Smith, who had lived in the street at the time of the collapse, this chat really opened up a lot of confusion for the group as we were enlightened on so much information which we had no idea about.

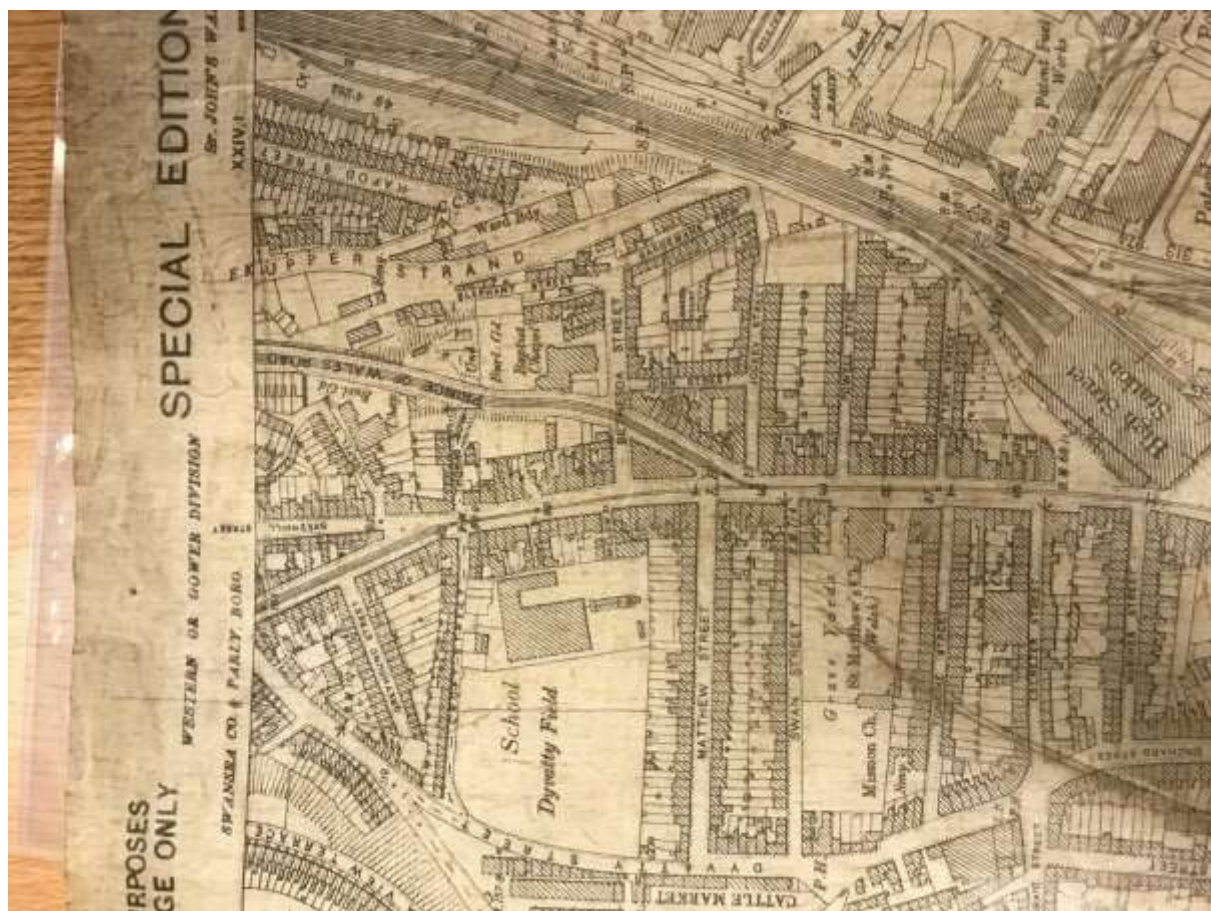
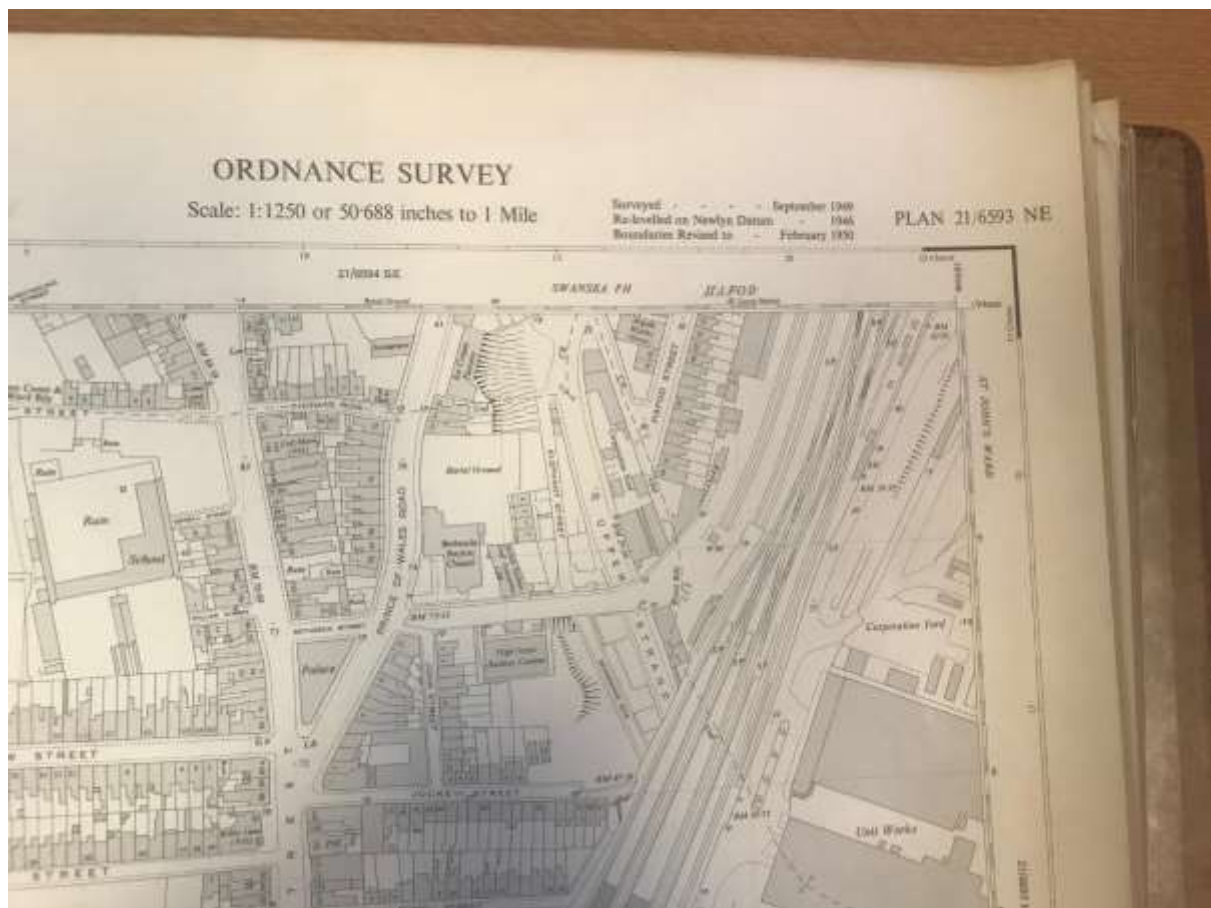
We decided that as a group, it would work best for us to rather do one big exhibition piece, we will each do our own work which compliments each other's work. Also, now, due to information we had found, we have chosen to exhibit regarding issues other than the collapse, this means we will include, religion, displacement and racism. This has also opened up our opportunity for the location of the exhibition. As my current house is in Prince of Wales Road, we have decided that it would be interesting to exhibit both inside my house and also, in the overgrown heap which was once a row of houses.

I have had permission from my landlord to exhibit in my house (15 Prince of Wales Road) and we are now waiting to hear back from the council about exhibiting in the rest of the road.

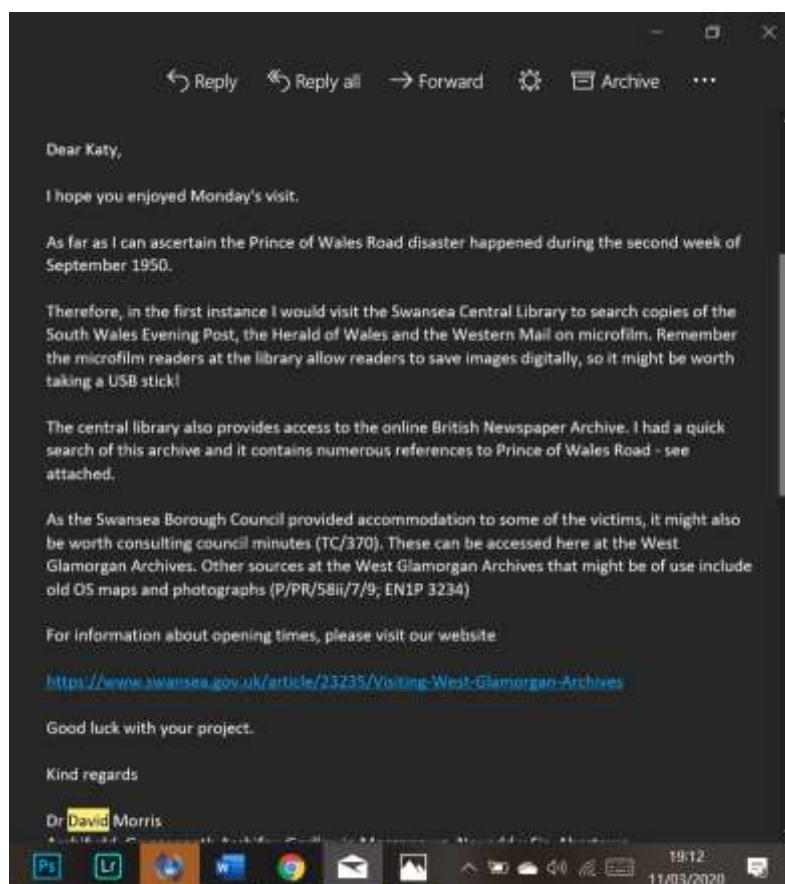
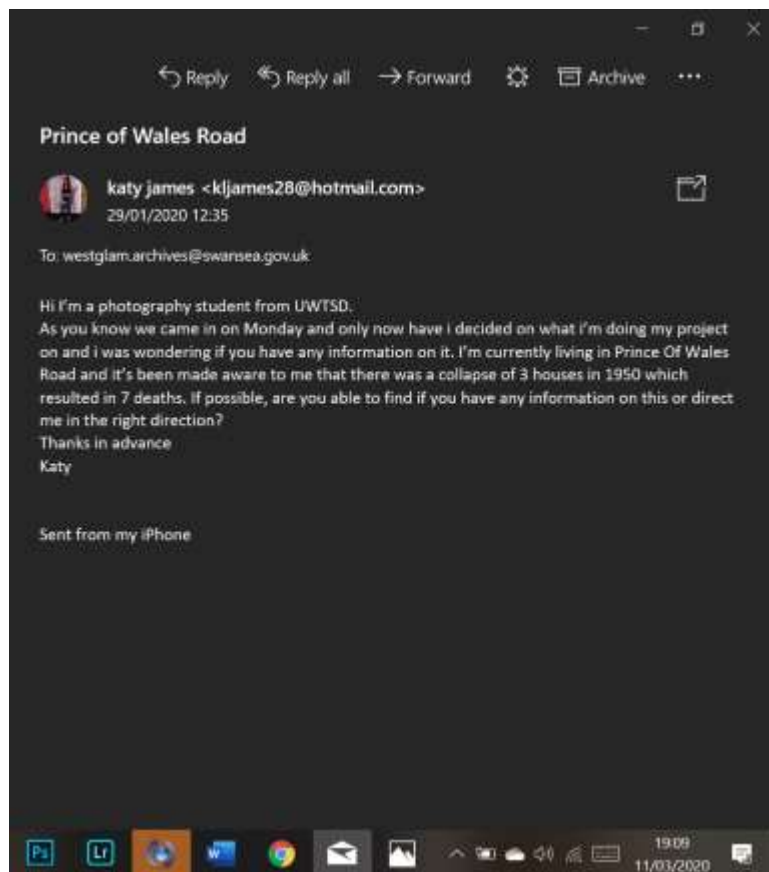
I went back down to the archives and collected images of a bigger variety of the maps, this to continue to discover where the accident took place exactly.

This 1921 map was the most interesting as it shows us that Prince of Wales Road, was at some point, shortened. I assume this took place after the collapse but due to unreliable sources we were unable to find an exact time.









Fear to stay by crashed houses

Many residents of the remaining houses in Prince of Wales Road, Swansea, where three houses crashed in ruins last Saturday with the loss of seven lives, said yesterday that they are afraid to remain there, but must, because they have nowhere else to go.

Eleven of the 19 houses in the road are still occupied, and five have been evacuated because of their dangerous condition.

Nine doors from the gap left by the collapse of the houses, Mrs. Kathleen Rastatte sleeps in a chair in the passageway of her house, with the front door open.

Her three-month-old baby sleeps near in her pram, and near the door of the front room, Mrs. M. Fitzgerald, the 76-year-old grandmother, has made the sofa into a bed.

Mrs. Rastatte said: "I am scared almost out of my wits since this terrible thing happened. I can't bring myself to go to bed."

The W.V.S. and the Salvation Army have distributed clothes among the victims of the crash, and yesterday the Mayor of Swansea opened a fund to alleviate distress.

Corporation employees last night partly demolished another house in Prince of Wales Road, which was considered dangerous.

Western Mail - Monday 25 September 1950

Image © Trinity Mirror. Image created courtesy of THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD.

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Greatest Achievement

Here, then, is Swansea's greatest achievement and its strength. Swansea's interest in its festival is real, it has gone beyond mere curiosity.

Because they have made sure of their foundations the organisers can now safely extend their structure. They need no bidding. Plans for next year, although still in only a tentative state, were told me, but must be another story. They aroused my keenest anticipation.

A. P. Y.

Old Welsh clog-maker dies

Mrs. Martha Ann Rigg, who died at her Penderyn home, aged 91, was one of the last clog-makers in Wales. The trees growing alongside the Hepste River, near Penderyn, were found to be ideal for clog manufacture.

Llanfair P.G., Anglesey.

3 more Swansea houses collapse

Three more houses in Prince of Wales - road, Swansea, collapsed during Saturday night. They were unoccupied.

The houses adjoined those which collapsed two weeks ago, killing seven people.

A *Western Mail* reporter was told yesterday that other houses might collapse shortly, for large cracks had appeared in the garage walls which formed the foundations of the row of houses.

Only a few houses in the street now remain occupied. The occupants of the others have either been found accommodation by the local authority or are staying with friends.

Originally when deciding the exact location of the exhibition, I was planning on working outside but due to weather conditions etc I decided against it, and due to the map we found which was dated from the 1949, number 15, had already been built and the houses which were later to collapse in 1950, were not shown on the map, this was interesting for us as if they seemed inconsistent about a map, what other information was incorrect?

We were able to arrange a chat with former resident of the street, Ian Smith. Ian was toddler at the time of the collapse however lived on the street until the age of 11 and remembers the stories told to him by his mum and other residents. He also let us know about how much further down the street the collapse was and also provided the information that following the collapse, the remains of the houses still stood, despite being bricked up at the doors and windows, until sometime in the 1970s. Very kindly, he gave us some images with permission to use within our exhibition.





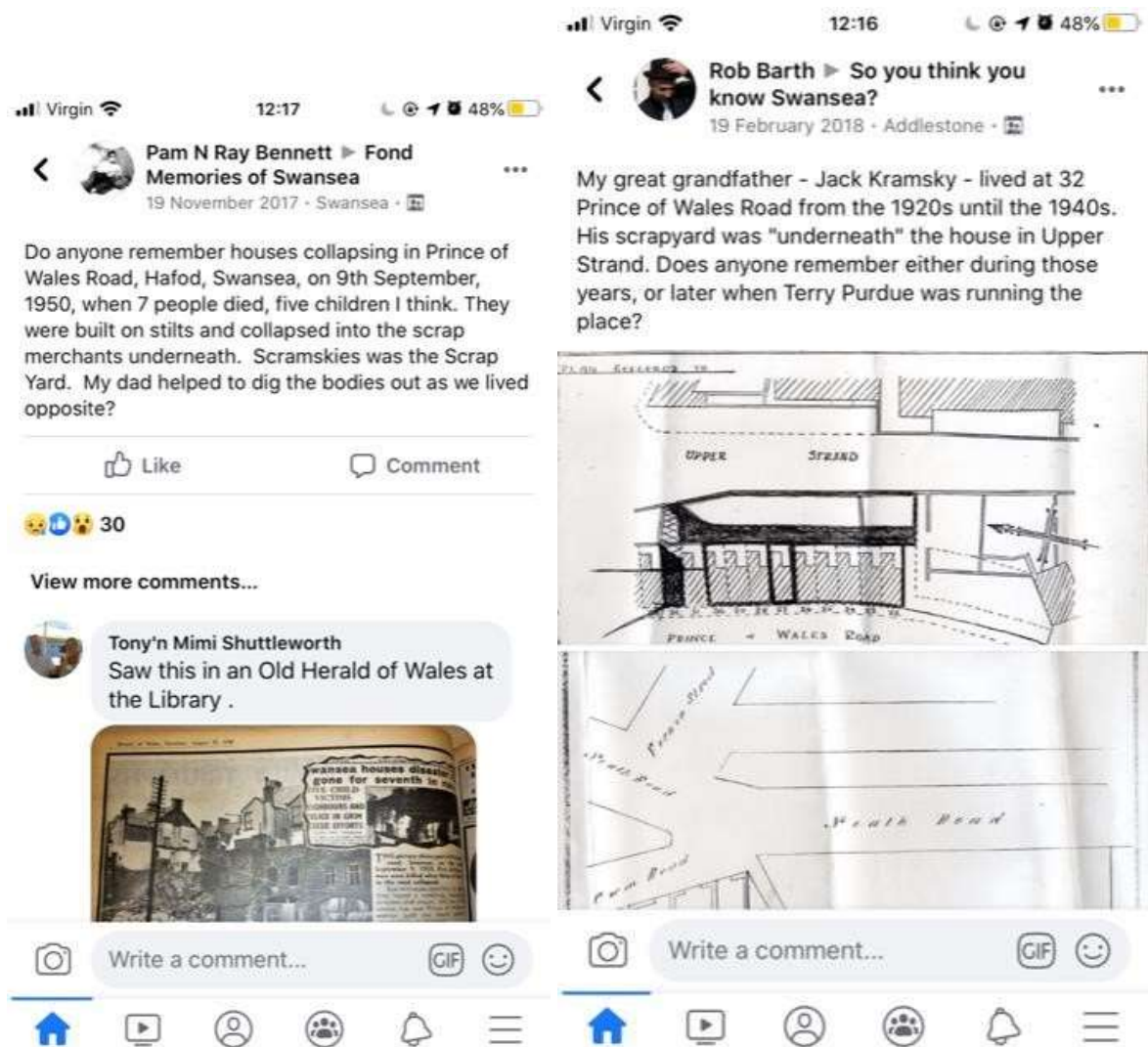






I joined various facebook pages which focused on Swansea and its history. This let me access the personal images, stories and opinions on the collapse. This also helped me advertise the

exhibition. Below are some screenshots of the different posts I had found, each post had around 30 comments so here is a few examples of what was available to view.



< **Lauren Field** ▶ So you think you know Swansea? ...
6 September 2018 · 📷

I noticed this on Prince of Wales road near the palace today.. anyone got any idea's??



👍 Like 💬 Comment

📷 Write a comment... 📺 😊



< **Joanna Gallanders** ▶ So you think you know Swansea? ...
15 November · 📷

Hi, I'm not sure that anyone will be able to help but here goes. My 90 year old mum was living in Prince of Wales Road, Swansea before and during the war and their house was bombed in 1940. She has considered writing about her childhood but wants to confirm the date it happened. All the information I can find so far is all about the 3 day blitz in 1941. Can anyone point me in the direction of somewhere that individual areas of bombing and dates are listed please?

👍 Like 💬 Comment

👍 7

View more comments...



Kaye Jones
Prince of Wales Rd was on Swansea docks my grandfather lived there in the cottages. I remember him telling me

16 w 👍 Like 💬 Reply 👍 1

View 1 previous reply...

📷 Write a comment... 📺 😊



A very sad story. Rescuers search for survivors after number 25 Prince of Wales rd collapsed.

But it was Swansea's decaying housing stock which would show the most awful consequences early in the morning of Saturday 9 September 1950.

The integrity of a row of terrace houses on Prince of Wales Road in Dyfatty had been fatally compromised by the heavy rain and three houses collapsed into a scrap yard below them on the Strand, 'leaving a yawning gap.' Seven people were killed, including five children.

In No. 24 Samuel Belkin, a seventy-four year-old Boer War veteran, travelling draper and 'one of the oldest members of the Swansea Hebrew community' was killed. His wife Sarah survived as did their lodgers, Charles and Myfanwy Morgan - but their three children Desmond (eight years old) Marlene (six years old) and Roger (three years old) were all crushed to death. Next door at No. 25, Cyril Lewis aged thirty-five was killed, together with two of his children, eight-year-old Marilyn and



In 25 Prince of Wales Road, September 1950. (By kind permission of David Moly)

Like

Comment



Write a comment...



Sad sight, houses collapse, prince of wales rd.



Write a comment...



The tragic consequences of the houses collapsing in my street, Prince of Wales rd 1950

At number 24 Samuel Belkin a 74 year old 2nd Boer War veteran Died, a Draper and one of the oldest members of the Hebrew community,, his lodgers Charles and Myfanwy Morgan survived but devastatingly their children Desmond 8, Marlene 6 and Roger 3 failed to survive [RIP]

At number 25 Cyril Lewis 35 along with 2 of his children Marilyn 8 and Billy 5 all died in this terrible tragedy

May They All Rest in Peace



Write a comment...



Prince of Wales Rd 1955. I'm the baby with my mother and father. Looking towards Hafod School. On the right is where the houses collapsed into the Strand.



Like

Comment

120

View more comments...



Michelle Waters

My nanny and bampy lived in one of the houses that fell my bampy died along with my auntie and uncle my



Write a comment...





Graham Colwill ▶ Swansea and its history

Tuesday at 17:12 · 📷

Victims of September 9th 1950.

A group exhibition is being held by Photography students of University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

The exhibition is commemorating the disaster that took place on Prince of Wales Road on the 9th of September 1950. The tragedy that left seven dead when a row of houses collapsed.

I don't know if there is a charge for entry. 🤔

The exhibition is open to the public to come and view at 15 Prince of Wales Road, Swansea.

11th-13th of March, 10am-4pm.



Like



Comment



13



Katy James 🖐️

Thank you for this post!! it's free entry. For those who don't get the chance to attend. we will be making a website



Write a comment...



My work

My original idea for project was to use the kitchen and either project or print an image big enough to go fit into the big window. I wanted to use an image of the site after the buildings had collapsed and would leave the other window clear, my idea was for it to feel as if you were looking out onto the tragedy and then would have the opportunity to compare it with the actual view of what the site has now turned to. Due to insufficient imagery, I wasn't able to find a photograph which would work well enough for the scale of the window. Instead of this, I started looking at different ways people block out windows in buildings which are no longer used, for example, the remains of the houses that collapsed, were bricked up. Although bricking the windows would work, I felt like I wanted to give off information from my work rather than it being a just an installation, this is where I came up with the idea to do use newspapers in the windows. I went to the local library and printed copies of the newspaper from the day and days following the accident, I included articles related and non-related to the incident.

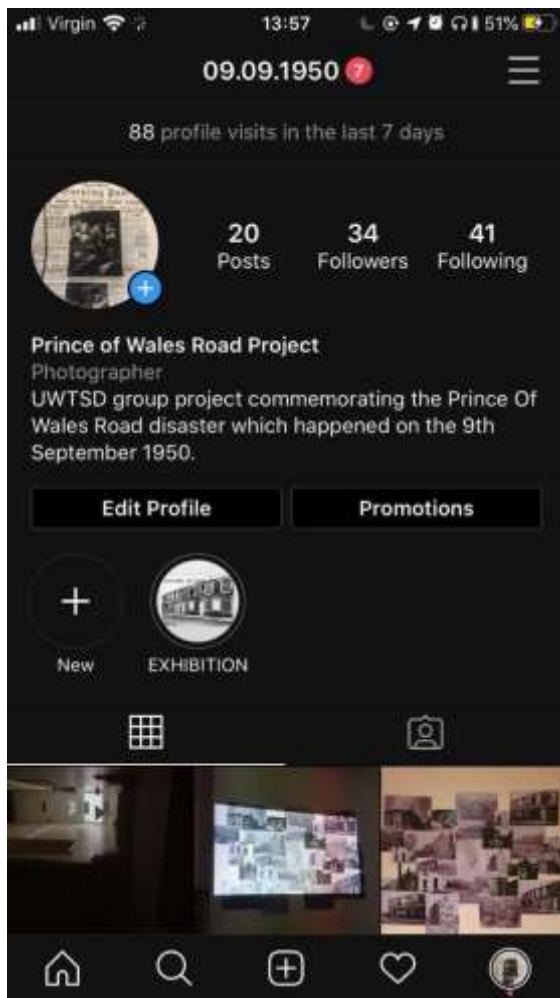
My use of sound came into play after reading an extract from Geoff Brookes' ***Swansea in the 1950s: Ten Years that Changed a City***. One of the witnesses stated that the sound of the collapse was like hearing the planes coming over in the war. As I wanted to use this in my work, I decided to play around with different audio from planes as although I wanted it to sound like a plane, I didn't want it to be too obvious.

“My work in the kitchen is using newspapers as a filter, telling the story of September 9th through the means of the time. I have chosen to display on the windows as they look directly onto the site of the collapse, this replicates how the windows of the old ruined houses were blocked out, and how the incident was unintentionally covered up by local council as the demolition and rebuild costs were categorised under war reconstruction costs. By layering the newspapers, they act as a mask, however the site is still visible. This is a retelling of what actually happened”

Above is the narrative which I had written as a brief explanation about my work which was then put into our leaflet for the exhibition. I somehow forgot to write about my use of audio. I was very disappointed in myself because of this.

Advertisement

I created an Instagram page under the name @09.09.1950. I used this as a platform to advertise the exhibition, also the preparation and progression stages of the experience. As previously shown as well, we advertised on different Swansea facebook pages. Before this we had leaflets and posters.



VICTIMS OF SEPT 9TH 1950



VICTIMS OF SEPT 9TH 1950

A group exhibition held by four UWTSD
Photography students commemorating
the disaster that took place on
Prince Of Wales Road
on the 9th September 1950.

15 PRINCE OF WALES ROAD, SWANSEA
11TH-13TH MARCH
10AM-4PM

Overall evaluation

I am incredibly happy with the outcome of our exhibition. My main factor for this is due to the importance it has had on the community of Swansea. We had a number of previous residents as well as relatives of the victims come and see the exhibition and the reaction, we received was overwhelming. We have decided to also create a website to continue the commemoration and spread the word about the tragedy, this will be useful to those who also didn't get a chance to view the exhibition.

I think the group worked well together however I think that some people contributed a lot more towards it than others and weren't considerate about the group by sloppy performances and last-minute pieces. I felt responsible for it as it was originally my idea however I was not responsible for people's individual work. As far as the group work went (the presentation) I felt that it was successful however due to stuttering and not complete fluency in the audio, the quality of it went down considerably. Although we wanted it to sound like a conversation, as a group we should've considered finding a voice actor.

As for my own work, I think this is one of the best pieces of work I have produced due to the fact it's something completely different to what I am used to doing. Due to the amount of extended research I went to, and also the fact I played around with more than just one idea which is something I usually do. Find an idea and stick to it. Rather than playing around and experimenting.

When it came down to being at the exhibition, invigilating. Not everybody had a fair share. Most of the group were here the whole three days whereas another only came to physically help on the first day. This left the rest of the group to feel rather uncomfortable due to not being able to explain the work they had made properly.

I believe the work which we made individually and as a group, worked extremely well with the space.

If we were to do the project again, I feel as a group we should've started more intense planning for the exhibition as it felt very laid back which was less motivational when it came to making the work and the attitude we gave off could've been a lot more professional. Some aspects of the exhibition fell down due to some people leaving work until the last minute which resulted in work not making sense as there was no appropriate signage or explanation for the other members of the group.

Images from exhibition



