

**Cymdeithas Brycheiniog a Chyfeillion yr Amgueddfa
Brecknock Society and Museum Friends -Charity no. 518041**

Summer Newsletter 2022

It was good to see so many members at Hay Castle on 8 August for a fascinating tour and the autumn/winter programme is shaping up well.

Liz Bickerton will email you with further details in due course, but the programme currently looks as follows:

Saturday October 8th-postponed visit to Caerleon with David Morgan.

Tuesday October 18th in the Guildhall (6 pm) Ken Jones and others will be speaking about the Brecon Town Improvement Plan;

Monday November 7th in The Muse (3pm)- a talk by Ruth Coulthard about The Gunpowder works at Pontneddfechan;

Monday January 9th in The Muse (3pm)- a talk by Hugh Purcell and Margaret Percy about The Burney Brothers from Hay;

Friday March 17th- the Sir John Lloyd lecture will be given by Dr. Peter Wakelin.

This will tie in with the exhibition due to open at y Gaer in summer 2023 on the artist and writer David Jones and his years at Capel y FFin. We will also be working with y Gaer and the Brecknock Arts Trust to develop a programme of events around the exhibition.

Gallery events

The programme of BSMF talks at y Gaer started on 13 August with an excellent discussion led by William Gibbs on the Celf ar y Cyd touring exhibition. Next month's talk will be on 10 September, when Mervyn Bramley will speak on The Llanfihangel Nant Bran Chalice. This is part of the Brecknock History Festival on the theme of "Sacred Places".

All talks take place in y Gaer at 11.30am on the second Saturday of the month. Look out for details on the Guildhall notice board and in y Gaer.

Members will also receive information by email. For any queries, or offers to give a short talk, please contact libbyrees@gmail.com.

Y Gaer update

It is very good news that y Gaer is now open 7 days a week and the programme of exhibitions in the Sir John Lloyd galleries continues with Celf ar y Cyd which runs until 30 October.

It remains however very frustrating that the café is still not open and there is a lack of clarity about what access will be available to some of the rooms for

local societies, including of course the Brecknock Society. After discussions with BSMF Council colleagues, I wrote to Catherine Richards, the Professional lead for Arts and Culture at Powys County Council, expressing our serious concern and will have a meeting with her shortly. We are working closely on this with another key partner, the Brecknock Arts Trust.

More positively, the Society has contributed towards the costs of **audio equipment** for the courtroom and has provided some funding for Volunteers' events.

E papers

These were originally conceived during the long days of lockdown when y Gaer was closed, but we have decided to continue them and I hope that you enjoyed the most recent ones by William Gibbs and David Morgan. There are others in the production pipeline and do let me or Liz Bickerton know if you have ideas for future papers.

Llansantffraed and Llandetty churches

You may be aware that meetings have been held to discuss the future of Llansantffraed and Llandetty churches which have not been open since March 2020. Because of the historic significance of both churches, the Brecknock Society has been represented at these discussions and we have signalled our willingness to help, building on the renewed engagement with the local community in keeping these churches open for public use. You can find further details on the Beacons benefice website and both churches will be open (Llansantffraed on 17 September and Llandetty on 24 September) as part of the Sacred Places programme of events.

So, to sum up, there is plenty going on and we look forward to seeing you at future Society events as well as in y Gaer.

Best wishes

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Siberry. Chair BSMF