



ISSUE 56

May 2017



Editorial

It looks like it is going to be a very busy summer. I have already booked up my Hay Festival picks and will be going along to the Elan Valley Archaeology walks and many others. There are many excellent events covering the whole spectrum of history so have a look and book up now.

Hanes is published every 3 months. The next edition will be on August 1st 2017. Please email any articles or information about events etc. with the heading "HANES" to

alan.j.nicholls@btinternet.com

by July 28th. 2017.

Introducing The Forum

BRECKNOCK MUSEUM

Contact: Nigel Blackmore, Senior Curator
Tel. 01874 624121

BRECKNOCK SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

FRIENDS Contact: Elaine Starling
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BRECON LIBRARY

Contact: 01874 62334

BRECONSHIRE LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Brecon, LD3 9EW. Email:
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BUILTH WELLS & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

Contact: Anna Page
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CHRIST COLLEGE ARCHIVE

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CRAI & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY ARCHIVE

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CRICKHOWELL DISTRICT ARCHIVE CENTRE

Contact: Angela Waring
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CRICKHOWELL & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

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HAY HISTORY GROUP

Contact: Peter Ford
Tel: 01497820676
email: pcford1@hotmail.com
www.Hayhistorygroup.co.uk

HAY TOURS

www.haytours.co.uk

LLANGAMMARCH WELLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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LLANWRTYD & DISTRICT HERITAGE & ARTS CENTRE

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email: r.w.thomas@talk21.com
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LLYN SYFADDAN HISTORY GROUP

Contact: Roger Reese
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PONTNEATHVAUGHAN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Stephen Morris
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POWYS COUNTY ARCHIVE OFFICE

email: archives@powys.gov.uk
www.powys.gov.uk/archives

POWYS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Sheila Leitch
Tel: 01497 847354

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL WELSH

Contact: Richard Davies / Celia Green
Tel. 01874 613310

TALGARTH AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Contact: Sheila Lovell
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WELSH HISTORIC GARDENS TRUST

Contact: Elizabeth Siberry
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YSTRADGYNLAIS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306

NEWS AND EVENTS

Young Archaeologists' Club

The Brecon Beacons Young Archaeologists' Club is part of a network of Young Archaeologists' Clubs across Wales, and the UK, administered by the Council for British Archaeology. YAC is the only UK-wide club for young people up to the age of 17 interested in archaeology. YAC's vision is for all young people to have opportunities to be inspired and excited by archaeology, and to empower them to help shape its future. The Brecon Beacons Young Archaeologists' Club was established by a group of local volunteers in order to fill a gap in the provision of YAC branches in the Brecon Beacons and the Usk Valley. Brecon Beacons YAC is supported by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

You can find out more about the Brecon Beacons Young Archaeologists' Club by visiting our blog <http://bbyac.wordpress.com/>

Brecknock Society & Museum Friends

20 Jun 2017 - Renovation work by Hay Castle Trust - 2.30 pm Hay Castle (Numbers are limited as this is a hard hat visit- contact Elaine Starling – 01874 7114840)

9 Sep 2017 - "Justice and Joy" Breconshire Estates from the viewpoints of landowners and tenants.

One Day Conference at Penpoint (10.00 – 4.00) jointly with the institute for the Study of Welsh Estates and involving local and visiting speakers.

Brecon Cathedral

1 Aug 2017 Saint Eluned Festival. Brecon Cathedral will celebrate local saint, Eluned, with guided walks to her well, children's activities, a hog roast, and crafts and stalls within the Cathedral grounds. Everyone welcome and free to all.

Breconshire Local & Family History Society

Here is the Calendar of our Monthly Meetings, held at Brecon Library (Upstairs) at 2.00pm. All are welcome, non-members pay a £1 entry fee.

6 Jun 2017 AGM followed by "Photographs of Brecon Past and Present". Following the business of the AGM, Rob Eckley will give an illustrated talk, using old photographs of Brecon and his own collection of modern photographs.

4 Jul 2017 Outing: The Havard Chapel, Brecon Cathedral - Lt. Col. Rodney Ashwood will talk about the Rorke's Drift Memorials in the Havard Chapel.

1 Aug 2017 Memories of the Cwmtaf Valley - Gwyneth Evans will give this talk about life in the Taff Fawr Valley.

5 Sep 2017 Walter Wilkins Part 2 - Walter Wilkins Old Banker, Entrepreneur and Politician - Ken Jones will continue the story of Walter Wilkins, one of the notable Brecon residents of his time.

We continue to hold a "Help with your Family and Local History Research" session, at Brecon Library, on the third Saturday in the month (Bank Holidays excluded) – 11.00 am to 12.00pm. All welcome.

For more details about our activities, contact Hilary Williams (Secretary) at enquiries@blfhs.co.uk or telephone 01874 624432

Builth Wells Heritage Society

18 May 2017 - Trip - Llancaiach Fawr & Cyfartha Castle

9 Jun 2017 - Chris Woodward - Powys - Exploring its milestone Heritage and the Turnpike era.

8 Sep 2017 - Jill de Grey Birch - A Childhood in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe.

13 Oct 2017 - - Sue Lilly - The Preseli Blue Stones and Stonehenge

10 Nov 2017 - Andrew Hinall - The History of Cricket in Builth Wells

Crickhowell & District History Society

The Friends of St. Edmund's are holding a talk on Tuesday 23rd May, 7.30 pm., at St Edmund's Church Crickhowell - Eric Gower "The behind-the-scenes story of the War Memorial in the Church."

Meetings at Parish Hall

All at Church Lane, Crickhowell.
7.30pm -

24 May 2017 - Robin Williams: Industrial Archaeology in Action on the Glamorganshire Canal

21 Jun 2017 - John Evans: "The Murder of Billy the Twyn"

Hay History Group

All meetings are on Fridays at Cusop Village Hall and start at 7.30.

19 May 2017 - 'Fair Rosamund' Clifford. Talk by Dr. Peter Ford

28 Jul 2017 - The Castle and the Medieval Imagination: Secular or Sacred or both? Talk by Rodney Mace.

29 Sep 2017 - Matilda de Braose - Myths and Legends. Talk by Mari Fforde

3 Nov 2017 The Cistercians, particularly in the western areas of Britain. Talk by Gil McHattie

Hay Tours will be conducting our History Tours around Hay at the Hay Festival. Look at the programme and book one.

Llanwrtyd Heritage and Arts Centre

Our Heritage and Arts Centre opened for the 2017 Season on Thursday 13th April. As reported in the February Issue of Hanes the rear rooms have been refurbished and reorganised to provide additional Art & Craft Workshop facilities with also currently an Art gallery area upstairs. The Centre will continue to be open throughout the summer and autumn months between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. from Thursdays to Sundays.

As a result of these changes, in addition to providing "heritage facilities and information", the added interest this year will be provided by a series of month-long exhibitions by different artists and crafts people who will usually be present to demonstrate their work and discuss their interests. Our first group of visiting artists will be "**New Start Art**", (Gorica Bulcock, Sue Reah, Val Fowler and Cecelia French,) ladies who have been friends for many years while living in the Upper Towy Valley. Their exhibition will conclude on 7th May

and in addition to exhibiting their art work they have examples of patchwork quilting, cushions and cushion covers, aprons and crafted bags which are available for sale. The next Exhibition will then be with "**Richie Dean Digital Art**" and "**Wooden it be Nice**" (Monica Adlard) over the period from 11th May to 4th June. Richie uses traditional media (watercolour and acrylics) whereas Monica loves working with wood and also fabrics/yarns to produce exclusive cushions. Each of the forthcoming Exhibitions, through to October, will be advertised on our website - **history-arts-wales.org.uk** - or simply search by typing in **ldhac**

Should you require more information regarding our facilities, items for sale, nature of interactive displays, wall panel display material, etc. please contact 01591 6100167 or ldhac2016@gmail.com.
www.llanwrtydhistorygroup.webs.com

Powys Archives

Work to refurbish the new Archive facility at Unit 29, Ddole Road Industrial Estate in Llandrindod has been completed and the installation of the new shelving has started. As this will be mobile shelving the rails and floor are currently being laid in preparation for the shelves to be installed on top. Please see our Twitter ([@PowysArchives](https://twitter.com/PowysArchives)) and

Facebook ([@powysarchives](#)) pages for further updates.

From Monday 15th May the Archives will close to the public while we relocate to the new facility. We are planning to reopen in our new building on Tuesday 1st August but please see our website for more details.

Recent accessions to Powys Archives

Items belonging to Dewi Cynon Davies of Penderyn, Breconshire, including diaries, 1890-1902; photograph, nd & notebooks, c1892-1935. Notebook with results of classes at Penderyn YFC show, c1950s, bank book & account book for Evan Williams of Hirwaun, c1921-1933 and others [Acc 2367]

Printed music compositions by William Benjamin Davies of Tygwyn, Cray, Breconshire, C19 & a Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church year book (in Welsh & English), 1943 [Acc 2369]

Llanfrynach Community Council, Breconshire: plan of a passenger shelter built at Llanfrynach, 1957 & photocopy of a lease of a children's playground in Llanfrynach, 1979 [Acc 2370]

Bundle of receipts and invoices for the Phillips family of Llechach and Nant-y-groes Farms, Lower Chapel, Breconshire, c1930s-1950s [Acc 2373]

CD of the unveiling of a plaque at the Usk Reservoir and a talk about its history, 2016 [Acc 2380]

Breconshire County Council: twelve plans of proposed police houses in Brecon, 1939-1966 [Acc 2381]

Rent book of Thomas Lewis, Nantmelyn Uchaf, Breconshire, 1878-1896 [Acc 2383]

Two deeds concerning the Watkin family and property called Pant Morvydd and other lands in p. Llanfihangel Cwmdru, Breconshire, 1709-1731 [Acc 2387]

Records from the Shropshire and Marches Circuit of the Methodist Church including from Knighton Church, 1881-2015; Llanbister Chapel, 1918-1995; Builth Church & manse, 1896-2007 & Llansantffraid Chapel, 1877-2013 [Acc 2394]

Please see our website for more details.

<http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/archives/find-archives-local-records/archives-office-location-opening-hours/>.

*The National Library of
Wales*

Sat 30 May 2017 - Me, the Media and Family History - Using her numerous and varied experiences whilst working for the BBC over the past 15 years, Cat Whiteaway aims to

explore the role of the media and the parallel rise in popularity of family history, in an internet free era, also known as pre - Who Do You Think You Are. **Free admission by ticket.**

11.00 a.m. - Fallen Poets Exhibition

The official opening of the exhibition which commemorated a century since the deaths of the two poets, Hedd Wyn and Edward Thomas.

Also, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Talks, presentations and stands.

A full day of talks, presentations and stands, with an opportunity to talk to experts.

A fascinating day for everyone interested in all aspects of Family and Local History. **Free admission.**

Wednesday 17 May 2017

1:15pm to 2:15pm

To coincide with the **Stories of the Saints Exhibition** in the Library, this talk will introduce the images of Welsh saints that are found in churches all around Wales.

While the medieval imagery of saints that has survived is often damaged and fragmentary, the revival of interest in the saints of Wales from the nineteenth century onwards has yielded a wealth of imagery in stained glass, figure sculpture and other media. **Free admission by ticket.**

Wednesday 31 May 2017

1:15pm to 2:15pm

Phil Cope, author of *Holy Wells Wales* and *Borderlands: new photographs and old tales of the sacred springs, holy wells and spas of the Wales / England border* takes us on an illustrated journey through the holy wells of Wales. **Free admission by ticket.**

Saturday 8 July 2017 2:00pm to

3:15pm. A presentation by the historian and author **Gerald Morgan** on George Powell, the heir and squire of Nanteos. **A bilingual event. Admission by ticket £4.00.**

Elan Valley Visitor Centre

16 Jul 2017 - 12.00 Pont ar Elan

Join archaeologists TRYSOR for this pop-up picnic. Enjoy your sandwiches whilst learning about the archaeological features around this area of the Elan Valley. Suitable for all the family. Meet at Pont ar Elan SN 903716

22 Jul 2017 - 11.00am Location:

Craig Goch Dam Car Park - Join TRYSOR for a moderate 6 mile guided walk in celebration of this year's Archaeology Festival. Heading from Craig Goch to Lluest Abercaethon discover the medieval settlements and bronze age burial sites in this area. Meet at Craig Goch Dam SN 895687

Other Events

May 21, 2017 - Glanusk Estate Garden Fayre and Open Gardens

Visitors will be welcome to wander through the gardens, speak to the Estate gardener and visit the private Penmyarth Church.

The Fayre will feature exhibits of works for sale from people who live and work on the Estate as well as external artisans and demonstrations.

The popular Glanusk Tea Tent will be serving drinks and delicious homemade cakes and biscuits, there will be a scrumptious menu from Sugarloaf Catering and Black Mountain Roast will be serving up a variety of coffees.

Access will be via the main gates to the Estate on the A40.

Hay Festival

There are many excellent events and talks at Hay Festival again this year. I have picked out a few history related ones - have a look on the Hay Festival Website for the whole programme.

Friday 26 May 2017, 4pm

What I Found in the Library - Mark Purcell. For 600 years, exquisitely produced volumes stored everything we know – from Gutenberg’s bibles to Newton’s *Principia* and Austen’s *Persuasion*. Purcell tells a rollicking

tale of discoveries and bibliophile treasures from some of Britain’s greatest private library collections that are now saved for the nation. Purcell was formerly Libraries Curator for the National Trust and is now Deputy Director of Research Collections at Cambridge University Library

Saturday 27 May 2017, 11.30am - Myths & Legends of the Brecon Beacons.

Discover the magic and myths hidden in the rolling hills of the Brecon Beacons. Find Arthur and his knights sleeping away the decades in a cave, and go on the search for the White Lady of Tretower Court with the award-winning author of *Down To The Sea In Ships*, *The Prince’s Pen* and *Orison for a Curlew*. Chaired by Peter Florence.

Monday 29 May 2017, 4pm -

Herodotus 2500 - Paul Cartledge. The classicist celebrates the spectacular anniversary of the birth of the ‘father of history’. Herodotus was a great, infinitely curious investigator and a digressive storyteller, whose *Histories* are the source of so much of what we know of the ancient world. Cartledge is AG Leventis Professor Emeritus of Greek Culture at Cambridge.

Tuesday 30 May 2017, 10am.

Mapping Herefordshire’s Landscape. Paul Olver. In the 1830s, a number of geologists, who were essentially border squires and clergymen, shared their knowledge of fossils with Roderick Murchison, which led to the

eventual designation of the 'Silurian System'. This appreciation of the landscape and being able to 'read the land' was also the inspiration in the county for the Picturesque Movement'. Olver explains the origins of the rock types and the local landscape and discusses the importance of Herefordshire in the formative years of geological science.

Tuesday 30 May 2017, 5.30pm.

Mabinogi. Matthew Francis. Francis' re-telling of the first four stories of the Welsh classic is the first to situate it in poetry, and captures the magic and strangeness of this medieval Celtic world: a baby is kidnapped by a monstrous claw, a giant wades across the Irish Sea to do battle, a wizard makes a woman out of flowers, only to find she is less biddable than he expected. Permeating the whole sequence is a delight in the power of the imagination to transform human experience into works of tragedy, comedy and wonder.

Wednesday 31 May 2017, 10am.
Herefordshire's Home Front in the First World War. Bill Laws.

Herefordshire in 1913 was an old-fashioned shire under the benevolent rule of the Church and the gentry. Its bishop was opposed to war and his successor was opposed to women's suffrage. Many of its farmers refused to plough on a Sunday: many more regarded women as being incapable of farm work. By 1919 the shire was in mourning for more than 4,000 men, had employed 4,000-plus women in munitions factories and another 2,500

on farms. It had deprived more children of a proper education than any other English county.

Wednesday 31 May 2017, 2.30pm.
Meetings With Remarkable Manuscripts. Christopher de Hamel.

Intimate conversations with 12 of the most famous medieval manuscripts in existence. De Hamel traces the elaborate journeys these exceptionally precious artifacts have made through time and space. He shows us how they have been copied, who has owned them or lusted after them (and how we can tell); how they have been embroiled in politics and scholarly disputes; and how they have been regarded as objects of supreme luxury and as symbols of national identity. De Hamel was Head of Medieval Manuscripts at Sotheby's and is now Librarian at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

Saturday 3 June 2017, 10am. The Making of the British Landscape. Nick Crane. The history of 12,000 years of the British landscape, from the Ice Age to the 21st century. A tour de force from the prize-winning author Nicholas Crane, co-presenter of *Coast* and President of the Royal Geographical Society.