



ISSUE 58

NOVEMBER 2017



Introducing The Forum

BRECKNOCK MUSEUM

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BRECKNOCK SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

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BRECON LIBRARY

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BRECONSHIRE LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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BUILTH WELLS & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

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CHRIST COLLEGE ARCHIVE

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Editorial

The Brecknock History Festival was very successful once again with a good turnout at most events. There is plenty to look forward to in the run-up to Christmas and the New Year - many events from across the county. And of course 2018 will hopefully see the opening of "Y Gaer" the new Brecknock Museum and Library complex after such a long closure.

Hanes is published every 3 months. The next edition is to be published February 1st 2018. Please email any articles or information about events etc. with the heading "HANES" to alan.j.nicholls@btinternet.com by January 31st. 2018.

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REGIMENTAL MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL WELSH

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WELSH HISTORIC GARDENS TRUST

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YSTRADGYNLAIS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306

NEWS AND EVENTS

Brecon Beacons National Park

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

15 November 2017 - 6.00pm
**The Brecon and Abergavenny Canal
and its lime-kilns.**

David Viner and David Morgan of the Canals and Rivers Trust. The Muse,
Glamorgan Street, Brecon.

Tuesday 23 January 2018

David Price of Merthyr Chong: His life in the East India Company and later as a distinguished Oriental scholar. 3.00pm
The Muse, Glamorgan Street, Brecon.
Ken Jones

Wednesday 28 February 2018

The Stained Glass of Breconshire
6.00 pm The Muse, Glamorgan
Street, Brecon. Martin Crampin of the
Centre for advanced Welsh and Celtic
Studies

Friday 23 March 2018

21st Sir John Lloyd Lecture - The Lord
Thomas of Cwmgiedd
7.00pm Theatr Brycheiniog
Lord Thomas who recently retired as
Lord Chief Justice was born near
Ystradgynlas, Breconshire. Please look
out for details of Lecture

Brecknock Forum

8th December 2017

Forum Meeting in the Queens Room in
The Diocesan Centre at 10.30
Lunch afterwards in Pilgrims. If you are
coming to lunch please let Elaine
Starling know so that we have some
idea of Numbers: 01874 711 484 or
evstarling@lineone.net. Notices have
been sent out.

Brecknock Museum



We attended the 'Topping Out' of Y Gaer, the Brecon Cultural hub to mark progress on building work.

Volunteering opportunities

Documenting and cataloguing the collection (using computerised and manual catalogues)
Helping with family, school and other events
Taking digital photographs
Gallery supervision/talking to visitors/giving guided tours
Cleaning/packing of artefacts
Researching enquiries about the collection.

Contact us on:

brecknock.museum@powys.gov.uk

01874 624121

Breconshire Local & Family History Society

Meetings are held at Brecon Library (Upstairs) at 2.00pm. All are welcome, non-members pay a £1 entry fee.

7 November 2017 "Show and Tell" Afternoon - Come along with a favourite item or story and share it with us as we wind down following another hectic year. Light refreshments will be available.

There is no meeting in December

2 January 2018 Abandoned Dwellings of the Black Mountains. Robert Gant has researched this area and will speak of these lost communities.

Family History Help and Advice at Brecon Library 11am to 12 noon on the third Saturday of each month (excluding Bank Holidays). Members of the Society are available to help members (and non-members) with any enquiries relating to their family and local history research. Our service includes guidance on research anywhere in UK or further afield.

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

Builth Wells Heritage Society

Please note, as of now our new venue for monthly talks is The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Garth Rd., Builth Wells LD2 3AR (Opposite our previous venue The Greyhound Hotel) which has a small car park.

10th November 17 7pm History of Cricket in Builth Wells given by Andrew Hignall

9th February 18 7pm 'The Willow Globe' open air theatre given by Phil Bowen

Members: Free Visitors :£3 Tea and coffee available

Crickhowell & District History Society

Talks held in the Parish Hall, Church Lane and commence 7.30 pm.

22nd November 2018 - Malcolm Meadows - "World War 1 at Sea and the Sinking of the Lusitania"

Hay History Group

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

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

29 November 2017 - trip to the Thomas Shop at Penybont and then on to Abbeycwmhir Hall. We will arrive at Penybont for about 11.00am and have a short talk by Derek Turner then a look around this fascinating shop. We will then go to the Hall for about 1.00 for a tour which costs about £12 for two hours – the Christmas displays will be up so it should be very enjoyable. Contact: Alan at 01497822722

Hay St. Mary's Graveyard

Several months ago an American lady, Margaret Egleston, contacted me to find out about her Hay ancestry. She had done some research and found that she descended from James Davies who lived at Pen-y-maes before 1850. James' descendants were chemists and ran the shop at 7 High Town in Hay which is now Jones' Chemist. In the infamous Armstrong murder case, it was Fred Davies, the chemist, who started off the investigations into Major Herbert Rowse Armstrong suggesting to Dr. Hincks that Major Armstrong had poisoned his son-in-law, Oswald Martin, by putting arsenic in a scone after an invitation to tea. Margaret visited Hay this summer and I showed her around the town and we looked into St. Mary's churchyard to see if we could find the

family graves. Bryn Like's recent book on the memorials was a great help and we located the graves eventually but the job was quite difficult because the graveyard was quite overgrown and only some of the upstanding stones were visible, the flat slabs were covered in moss and brambles. The graveyard has been closed to new burials since about 1870 so very few of the graves at the back of the church are now being cared for. A couple of months ago I saw a lady sitting in front of a gravestone recording the memorial there. I chatted with her and it transpired that she was recording the memorials for the whole graveyard for the Powys Family History Society. She had already done the Brecon Road Cemetery. But her job was very difficult and could only be partially done because of the undergrowth. So after raising the matter with Hay History Group I decided to see if we could assist with clearing the cemetery. A meeting with the churchwardens was arranged and an agreement was made that we could begin. The History Group had recently received a small grant and we have decided that this would be an excellent project to fund, buying tools etc. for the job. When we have completed the project we hope to upload the map of the memorials and the transcriptions to our website. So Margaret's contact via the History Group website started a chain of events that will eventually allow researchers across the world to find their ancestors final resting place in the peaceful setting of St. Mary's graveyard beside the Wye. Alan Nicholls.

Llangammarch Wells Local History Society

Meetings start at 7.30pm at the Alexandra Hall

November 20th 2017 Evening of show and tell from family memorabilia and archives.

December 11th 2017 Christmas meal at The Trout, with accompanying quiz!

Meetings for 2018 –
Order of topics to be decided, but topics are:
The (almost) Flooding of the Irfon Valley
The Epynt in the Past
Local authors and writers

Llanwrtyd Heritage and Arts Centre

Our Heritage & Arts Centre will be closed for the “winter months” during November to March, re-opening in April 2018.

We will be open during November however, on two consecutive weekends, when Llanwrtyd holds its 34th annual Mid-Wales Beer Festival (17th -26th Nov.) which hosts the “Real Ale Wobble” (Sat. 18th) and “Real Ale Ramble” (Sat-Sun 25th-26th). Visitors to the town are therefore welcome to visit the Centre on those weekends.

At the end of October we completed our second year of opening (April to

October) during which we also hosted many local Arts & Crafts contributors within our Art Gallery. Displays included not only paintings and craft items and but also workshops illustrating how such work is undertaken.

During the period April – October we attracted 1,700 visitors and we hope to continue this level of interest during 2018.

We hold Talks on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.00 p.m. the next talks being:

1st November 2018 Richard Rees (Llanwrda) “The Drowning of the Valley” ... the proposed drowning of the Irfon Valley to create a massive Reservoir to supply London with drinking water.

6th December 2018 Geoff Williams (Llandeilo) “Travels in Chile, Argentina/Patagonia & Tierra del Fuego”. Geoff is an avid walker who has travelled extensively around Wales and abroad on his adventures!

Talks are ... £2.00 .. to include Refreshments. All welcome.

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

The new facility for Powys Archives and Information Management was officially opened in Llandrindod Wells on Monday 2 October by the Leader of Powys County Council, Cllr. Rosemarie Harris, marking an investment of £1.6m by the council to safeguard Powys’ historic records.

Councillor Harris commented: “I’m very pleased that this project has been finished on time and within budget as we now have a long-term home for these very important items which also, importantly, provides a much better service to our residents and to those who travel from all over the world to access these documents.”

Please see our website for details of our new location and opening hours (<http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/archives/find-archives-local-records/archives-office-location-opening-hours/>).



Recent accessions to Powys Archives

Minute book of Breconshire County Council Old Age Pensions sub-committee, 1927-1948;

Notebook containing records of local baptisms, marriages and burials, accounts and memorandums, possibly belonging to the wife of a town clerk of Builth, Breconshire, 1740-1927;

Letter from Rice Price of Belleplaine, Clark County, Missouri to his father Rees Price of Newbridge, Llanyre, Radnorshire, 1842;

Order book for E Company, 1st Brecknock Rifle Volunteers Battalion, South Wales Borderers, 1880-1886 & notebook of James Vaughan, assistant surgeon, Light Battalion, stationed in India, Aden, Turkey and Persia, 1842-1881 [Acc 2408]

Records from the Builth Wells Cottage Hospital League of Friends, Breconshire, including minute books, 1946-2004; list of committee members, nd; newsletters, 1977-2000; various reports, 1970s-1990s & other records [Acc 2409]

Theatr Powys: 35 tapes of rehearsals, performances and projects, 1986-2007 [Acc 2410]

Records from the Royal British Legion, Women's Section: Brecon & Radnor County including minutes 1970-2010 & end of year accounts, 2002-2012.

Records from Knighton branch including membership book, 1976-2012, accounts, 1977-2011, photograph, 1926 & end of year accounts, 1976-2012 [Acc 2411]

The Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh

Saturday 11th November 2017 at 10.00am at the Royal Welsh Regimental Museum, Brecon - Christmas Fair - Entrance £2

Stalls, Decorations + Cards, Festive Gifts, Raffles + Games, Refreshments served throughout the day, Cakes + Mince Pies

All proceeds go to the Royal Welsh Regimental Museum, Brecon

The National Library of Wales

Wed 8 Nov 2017, 1:15pm. Rewriting The Mabinogi. The Mabinogi has long fascinated readers all over the world with its tales of war and enchantment, adventure and romance. Professor Matthew Francis of Aberystwyth University reads extracts from his new Faber version, and discusses the challenges he faced in transposing this medieval prose classic into contemporary English poetry.
Free admission by ticket

Wed 15 Nov 2017, 11:15am Gallery Talk: On the trail of King Arthur. In the company of the curator of our Arthurian exhibition Dr Maredudd ap Huw, we journey from Wales, through England, to the rest of continental Europe. What connects the King of the Isle of Britain to the Queen of the Fairies?

How did a fearsome opponent become a stalwart friend? Discover how Arthur captured the imagination of a continent, and became the most famous of all kings. **Free admission by ticket**

Wed 15 Nov 2017, 1:15pm

Locating the Legends: Archaeological Tales from the Royal Commission's Archives. Scott Lloyd of the Royal Commission discusses myths, legends and archaeology, drawing on examples from over a century of archival accumulation by the Royal Commission. **Free admission by ticket.**

Sat 18 Nov 2017, 2:00pm

Henry Vaughan - a poet of Breconshire. Elizabeth Siberry, co-editor of *Henry Vaughan and the Usk Valley* published in 2016, will talk about the life and work of the seventeenth-century poet, who was born, lived most of his life and died in the Usk Valley. He was known as The Swan of Usk, and his grave, at Llansantffraed church, is now a site of literary pilgrimage. He has not always been well remembered in his own county or in Wales, but Elizabeth will discuss his later reputation, drawing on sources from the National Library's extensive collection. **Admission by ticket £4.00. Free to NLW Friends**

Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre

9th November 2017, 20:00 - 22:00

My Dearest Girls: The Letter Book

Six women's lives in a time of war, told through the letters they wrote to one another. Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre Fir Tree Lane, Hereford HR2 6LA. £10 adults; £5 children (suitable for age 12+)

Francesca Millican-Slater creates a brand new piece based on the real letters sent between a group of six Shropshire women between 1917-20.

Against a background of war the women tell each other stories of their everyday life; as farmers, office workers, factory hands, nurses and teachers. There is gossip and hint of scandal, reprimands and reprisals, tales of dancing for royalty, fiances on the frontline and how to feed 100 chickens while on rations.

By combining character, music hall influenced song and lyrical story telling Francesca invites the audience to meet, hear and imagine themselves within the lives and friendships of these women.

Tickets available from [HARC](#) on 01432 260750, or online via [Arts Alive](#)