



ISSUE 62

NOVEMBER 2018



## *Editorial*

Autumn is upon us but there is no time to sit by a cosy fire as there are lots of excellent events to attend across the county. The opening date for y Gaer is rapidly approaching so read the article about volunteering for this exciting project.

Hanes is published every 3 months. The next edition is to be published February 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. Please email any articles or information about events etc. with the heading "HANES" to [alan.j.nicholls@btinternet.com](mailto:alan.j.nicholls@btinternet.com) by January 29th. 2018.

## *Introducing The Forum*

### **BRECKNOCK MUSEUM**

Contact: Nigel Blackmore, Senior Curator  
Tel. 01874 624121

### **BRECKNOCK SOCIETY AND MUSEUM FRIENDS**

Contact: Elaine Starling  
Tel. 01874 711484  
email: [evstarling@lineone.net](mailto:evstarling@lineone.net)

### **BRECON LIBRARY**

Tel. 01874 62334

### **BRECONSHIRE LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

Mr Robert Eckley, 42, Pendre Close,  
Brecon, LD3 9EW.  
email: [r.eckley@btinternet.com](mailto:r.eckley@btinternet.com)

### **BUILTH WELLS & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY**

Contact: Anna Page  
Tel. 01982 553376

### **CHRIST COLLEGE ARCHIVE**

Contact: Felicity Kilpatrick  
Tel. 01874 615440

**CRAI & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY  
ARCHIVE**

Contact: Frances Jenkins  
Tel. 01874 636990

**CRICKHOWELL DISTRICT ARCHIVE CENTRE**

Secretary: Wendy Parker.  
Contact: [archive@visitcrickhowell.co.uk](mailto:archive@visitcrickhowell.co.uk)

**CRICKHOWELL & DISTRICT HISTORY  
SOCIETY**

Contact: Carol Jenkins  
Tel. 01873 812184

**CYNON VALLEY MUSEUM**

Depot Road, Aberdare CF44 8DL.  
Tel: 01685 886729  
Email: [engagement@cynonvalleymuseum.wales](mailto:engagement@cynonvalleymuseum.wales)

**HAY HISTORY GROUP**

Contact: Peter Ford  
Tel. 01497820676  
email: [pcf1@hotmail.com](mailto:pcf1@hotmail.com)  
[www.Hayhistorygroup.co.uk](http://www.Hayhistorygroup.co.uk)  
[www.haytours.co.uk](http://www.haytours.co.uk)

**LLANGAMMARCH WELLS LOCAL  
HISTORY SOCIETY**

Contact: Sue Lilly  
Tel. 01591 610792  
Email: [llangammarchhs@gmail.com](mailto:llangammarchhs@gmail.com)

**LLANGYNIDR LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Contact: Ann Jessopp  
Tel. 01874 730431  
email: [dfjessopp@btinternet.com](mailto:dfjessopp@btinternet.com)

**LLANTHONY HISTORY GROUP**

Contact: Oliver Fairclough  
Tel. 01873 890 540  
[oliverfairclough@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oliverfairclough@yahoo.co.uk)

**LLANWRTYD & DISTRICT HERITAGE  
& ARTS CENTRE**

Contact: Rob Thomas  
Tel. 01591 610661  
email: [r.w.thomas@talk21.com](mailto:r.w.thomas@talk21.com)  
[www.llanwrtydhistorygroup.com](http://www.llanwrtydhistorygroup.com)

**LLYN SYFADDAN HISTORY GROUP**

Contact: Roger Reese  
email: [roreese2013@gmail.com](mailto:roreese2013@gmail.com)

**POWYS COUNTY ARCHIVE OFFICE**

email: [archives@powys.gov.uk](mailto:archives@powys.gov.uk)  
[www.powys.gov.uk/archives](http://www.powys.gov.uk/archives)  
Tel. 01597 826088

**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  
Tel. 01874 711096  
Email: [atalovell@btinternet.com](mailto:atalovell@btinternet.com)

**WELSH HISTORIC GARDENS TRUST**

Contact: Elizabeth Siberry  
Tel. 01873 812169

**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*

**Fri. 30th Nov.** 7pm. - The Interpretation of The Brecknock Museum's Collections : how the stories are told. The Muse Glamorgan Street Brecon

**Tue. 19th Feb. 2019** 3pm  
Merthyr : Brecknock's great Neighbour .  
Speaker Joe England. Venue tbc.

**Fri. Mar. 22nd 2019** 7.00pm  
Sir John Lloyd Lecture Writing History. The World of Theophilus Jones, our 'county historian'. Professor Prys Morgan. Theatre Brycheiniog ( Tickets are free but have to be booked in advance)

### *Brecknock History Forum*

**Fri. Nov. 23rd 10.30 History Forum Meeting** at Ystradgynlais Miners Welfare. There will be an opportunity after lunch to see some of the places of historic interest in the Town.  
Contact Elaine Starling 01874 711 484

### *Breconshire Local & Family History Society*

**6 November** Show and Tell. This will be an end of year informal gathering where attendees can bring along a memory to share with the group. Light refreshments available.

There is no meeting in December

**8th Jan. 2019** A Potpourri of Local Subjects. Short presentations on, for example, "The Thomas Brothers, Brecon Sculptors"; "Brecon's Railways"

Research advice for both family and local history is available on the third Saturday in the month, at Brecon Library, between 11am and midday. All are welcome.

Find us on Facebook:  
www.facebook.com/breconblfhs  
Our Website details are:  
www.blfhs.co.uk  
For more details about our Society,  
e-mail: enquiries@blfhs.co.uk .

The Society meets monthly at 2pm,  
upstairs in Brecon Library, Ship Street,  
Brecon. Members attend the Talks for  
free and visitors can attend on payment  
of £1.

## *Builth Wells Heritage Society*

**Fri. 9th Nov.** 10am – 4pm Free Display  
of World War One pictures and  
artefacts being held at The Fountain  
Café, High St, Builth Wells. Followed  
by Talk at 7.30pm in The Wesley Chapel  
by Dr. Robin Barlow on his book entitled  
'Wales and World War One'  
December - There is no meeting this  
month

**Fri. 11th Jan. 2019** - The Society's  
Annual Dinner at The Greyhound Hotel,  
Builth Wells. Booking required

**Fri 8th. Feb.** - Phil Bowen, Talk on  
'The Willow Globe' open-air theatre in  
Powys.

Contact: Terry Couzens  
Tel: 01982 553696  
Email: terry1066@hotmail.com

All meetings are at 7.30pm and are held  
at The Wesley Church, Garth Rd, Builth  
Wells LD2 3AR.  
Tea & coffee. Visitors Welcome £3

## *Crickhowell & District History Society*

**22 Nov.** - Malcolm Meadows: The Role  
of Women in World War 1

**20 Feb. 2019** - (Annual General  
Meeting)  
Robin Williams: Coastal Shipping from  
Gloucester to Bude

**20 Mar. 2019** - Hugh Purcell: 'Up Top',  
the History of the Mid Wales Hospital,  
Talgarth

**17 Apr. 2019** - Dr Celyn Gurden  
Williams: Lady Llanover and her Circle

**22 May 2019** - Brian Davies: The View  
from the Rocking Horse, Pontypridd and  
its surroundings

Meetings are held on Wednesday  
evenings in the Parish Hall, Church  
Lane. There is an admission charge.

## Hay History Group

Following a very successful History Day in September Hay History Group is publishing its first Transactions which will record the research which has been undertaken by the group in the past 12 months. The theme for the History Day was "*National Treasures of the Independent Kingdom of Hay*" and the display content will be included in the Transactions.

### Hay Castle

Hay Castle restoration has been developing at a rapid pace. The ancient gates have overlooked the town for many hundreds of years, although in recent years they have lain hidden behind fencing, overgrown vegetation and a large timber prop. One of the key elements of the project to restore Hay Castle involves the conservation of these impressive gates. Recent research has shown that one side probably dates to around 1640 (around the time the mansion was built), while the other may date to the mid 1300s.



Back in September each nine foot, oak door was carefully packed and padded, then lifted from its pintles using a small crane. The gates were then transported to the workshop of conservators John Nethercott & Company in Discoed near Presteigne.



The scaffolding surrounding Hay Castle is the biggest structure ever built in Hay-on-Wye, soaring 22 meters high. It comprises over 90,000 metres of galvanised steel tube. The most challenging part of this job, says Network Scaffolding commercial manager Garyn Lucas, is that it cannot be tied to the Scheduled Ancient Monument and Grade 1 listed building at any point. The scaffolding is built entirely freestanding to provide support to act against the lateral forces without tying into the building. The impressive structure will support a temporary roof over the mansion to enable construction of a new roof and insertion of steel support beams and the bronze clad staircase. The scaffolding is wrapped in a mono flex film which is like a huge tarpaulin, and will be in place until late 2019.

## *Llanthony Valley and District History Group*

**Nov. 21st** 7.00pm William Gibbs :  
'Stories of the Llanthony valley:  
selected readings' Visitors £4.

**Sat. Dec. 8th.** 4.00pm Christmas films  
and party: *Voices of our Valley extracts*  
– Douglas Wright; Christmas Party; film  
*On the Black Hill* introduced by Jasper  
Fforde

**Wed. Jan. 16th. 2019** 7pm Justine  
Wheatley: *The Romans in the Black  
Mountains area*

**Wed. Feb. 20th.** 7pm. Panel discussion  
– *Changes in our local natural  
environment: past and future*

These will all take place in Cwmyoy  
Memorial Hall. Annual membership  
£10.00 per household of two, £7  
individual. Visitors £4 donation.

The English language edition of Oliver  
Fairclough's book, *The Llanthony Valley:  
A Borderland*, published by the  
Landmark Trust, sold out within a  
month of its launch on 19 September.  
This is now reprinting and will be  
available at £10 from the Group, and  
from local outlets from November;  
price £10.00 (plus £2.30 postage, if  
applicable)

## *Llanwrtyd Heritage and Arts Centre*

**Wed. 7th. Nov.** An illustrated Talk  
with Lynne Ball and others on "Camino  
de Santiago". Earlier this year a party of  
local intrepid adventurers undertook a  
Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela  
in Northern Spain. They will recall their  
visit and experiences with appropriate  
photographs and information.

**Sun. 11th. Nov.** We are hosting a  
Remembrance Evening, to be held at  
7.00 p.m. This will include a Concert  
with members of the Llandoverly Male  
Voice Choir. Our commemorative  
display regarding WW1 and the 100<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of November 1918 will  
provide a focus point. (All tickets have  
been sold).

**Wed. 5th. Dec.** We are delighted again  
to host a Talk with Geoff Williams  
entitled "Climbing in the Kamnik-Savinja  
Alps in northern Slovenia".  
Talks are held on the first Wednesday  
of the month, at 7.00 p.m. £2.00  
donation incl. refreshments

The Heritage Centre will not resume the  
normal pattern of opening on Thursday,  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday between  
10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. as we now  
enter the winter break, re-opening in  
April of next year. However, we are  
open on Saturdays during November-  
December, 10.00 a.m. until 3.00 p.m.

## *Llyn Syfaddan History Group*

**Thu. 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019** 7.30pm.  
William Gibbs. " Seeing Landscape ".  
How artists have represented the landscape of Breconshire from the sixteenth to the twentieth Century.  
Free entry to members and £3 at the door for non members at Llanfihangel Talyllyn and Llanwern Community Hall

## *Powys Archives*

### **Recent accessions to Powys Archives:**

Register of appointed teachers for Builth High School, Breconshire 1904-2001 [Acc 2513];  
Summary of receipts and expenditures for Ystradgynlais Highway District, Breconshire 1884/5 [Acc 2515];  
36 postcards and photographs of Powys gifted from Shropshire Archives n.d. [Acc 2517];  
33 volumes of Powys County Council Cabinet Minutes 2012-2017;  
1 volume of Powys County Council Audit Committee Minutes 2017 [Acc 2518];  
Two photographs of Builth Wells Secondary School, Breconshire May 1963 and April 1968;  
Copies of three photographs of a caravan used for cooking lessons, Radnorshire 1916;  
Digital images of the above, plus Llandrindod County School, Radnorshire 1921 [Acc 2519];

Working folder concerning 1979 local census in Powys [Acc 2523];  
Photographs and negatives from archaeological digs in Powys - Sennybridge, Breconshire 2000; Dolyhir/Strinds, Radnorshire 1990; Brecon Cathedral, Breconshire 1994; Llandeilo Graban, Radnorshire 2001; Rosary Cottage, Breconshire n.d. [Acc 2524];  
Planning file concerning land at the rear of the Old Toll House, Bridge Street, Hay-on-Wye 1974-1984 [Acc 2525];  
General working file for the conversion of the Great House Barn, Talgarth, Breconshire 1995-1998 [Acc 2527];  
Powys County Council Minute books (31 volumes): Cabinet 2014- 2018; County Council 2014-2016; Audit Committee 2016-2017; Democratic Services 2012-2014; Regulatory Committee 2012; Planning, Taxi Licensing & Rights of Way Committee 2013-2017 [Acc 2528]

## *y Gaer*

### **Y Gaer: a partnership project**

As I hope most readers of Hanes know, y Gaer is the name for the inspirational development in Brecon which is bringing together the classical Shire Hall, which contains the Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery, with a new Brecon Library. Although there have been some delays, the fitting out of the interior is now proceeding and a 'soft' opening is expected quite early in the New Year – with a formal opening later on.



## Volunteering

From its inception, Y Gaer has been a partnership project between Powys County Council and local community organisations and this partnership is further expressed through the role that volunteers are playing and will play in working for its success.

Y Gaer volunteers can choose to work either by welcoming and assisting visitors or by operating behind the scenes (for example playing a part in the management of the Collections). To provide information on this there will be a number of events, the first of which is an information evening on Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup> (6.00 to 7.30 pm) at the existing Brecon Library. The event is organised by Powys CC and supported by the various local partners: the Brecknock Society & Museum Friends (BS&MF), the Brecknock Art Trust etc. Do come along if you can.

Separately from y Gaer Volunteers, the BS&MF is building up a team of volunteers from across Breconshire for an 18-month Interpretation Project funded by the Garfield Weston Foundation. This team is charged with drawing together information on 200 plus exhibits to be covered by touch-screen tablet terminals that will add to visitors' experience in the renovated Museum and Art Gallery. We are still recruiting volunteers so if you are interested in taking part in this innovative project, please see the Interpretation Project page on the BS&MF website

(<http://www.brecknocksociety.co.uk/interpretation-project.html>).

## Pop-up y Gaer: Library; Museum; Art Gallery

Y Gaer, the exciting new development that brings together the new Brecon Library and the Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery in one integrated complex, will be opening its doors within a few months. Societies and other organisations that make up the



Brecknock History Forum are promoting the project across Breconshire through a pop-up display that will be making an appearance at local shows and other events this summer and autumn. There will activities for children and opportunities to discover what y Gaer has to offer, including educational facilities, volunteering opportunities, interactive displays and much more.

Do look out for it!

**Interpretation Project for Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery - Note for potential volunteers**



The Interpretation Project will provide 45 information terminals in the galleries of the refurbished Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery in y Gaer. Each terminal will be equipped with a tablet computer at which visitors will be able to find information about key exhibits in its vicinity. The aim of these is to 'enhance the visitor experience' by adding both interest and depth to the limited information that can be provided on the regular printed label for each exhibit. Each tablet computer will be uploaded with interpreted material also provided through the Project.

The Interpretation Project is additional to the y Gaer Project itself. The Brecknock Society and Museum Friends (BS&MF), as one of the local partners to Powys County Council (PCC) on y Gaer (Breconshire's new cultural hub), is leading on the Interpretation Project. As a registered charity, BS&MF has been able to obtain funding for this project which would not otherwise have been available. BS&MF officers are working with PCC's museum staff and the Brecknock Art Trust in a project team to manage the Information Project.

The tablet computers and their mountings together with specialist IT and design services for the tablet displays are being funded through a grant to the BS&MF from the Garfield Weston Foundation.

The BS&MF is recruiting a team of local Breconshire volunteers to assist with researching and assembling the information to be displayed on the terminals.

## **The Volunteer Task**

Volunteers on the Interpretation Project are asked to research and assemble information on one or more of the exhibits to be covered by the information terminals. The accompanying illustrated list gives some examples of the range of exhibits to be covered. Some volunteers will have some special expertise or will perhaps be knowledgeable about a particular part of Breconshire, others will simply like the idea of delving into the background of a person, painting or artefact! Volunteers will each have a mentor from the project team who will either allocate or help them choose particular exhibits to work on, and to whom they can turn for further guidance or feedback.

Volunteers will be expected to work largely from home and need to have access to a computer and the internet. They are asked to deliver a relatively simple initial layer of interpreted material on each of the exhibits to be covered by the information terminals in time for the opening of y Gaer in late February / early March 2019. They will go on to assemble additional layers of interpreted material, including carrying out any additional research. ('Interpreted material' includes photos, sound recordings and videos as well as text.) BS&MF will issue guidance and organise training workshops to help volunteers in planning their research and in obtaining and assembling information. The actual task of uploading the interpreted material onto the tablets will be done by others on the project team. The Interpretation

Project will finish at the end of March 2020.

All volunteers are asked to complete a registration form which includes terms and conditions, data protection etc. On finishing their task, volunteers are also asked to hand over and assign to the Museum an 'e-file' containing material from their researches for future use.

An Information Project webpage is being developed where supporting information will be available about the Information Project. If you have any queries about being a volunteer on the Interpretation Project, please contact Dr Liz Bickerton 01874 636926 / [liz.bickerton@btinternet.com](mailto:liz.bickerton@btinternet.com)  
Brecknock Society & Museum Friends  
[www.brecknocksociety.co.uk](http://www.brecknocksociety.co.uk)

## *National Library of Wales*

**5 Dec. 2018 1.00pm**

The Mostyn Psalter-Hours: a deluxe illuminated manuscript

Kathleen Doyle, Lead Curator of Illuminated Manuscripts at the British Library, will discuss their recent acquisition of the Mostyn Psalter-Hours, a deluxe illuminated manuscript made in London in the last decades of the thirteenth century. The book is an outstanding example of English illumination of the highest quality, and may have been made for a bishop of London.

Free admission by ticket