



ISSUE 63

FEBRUARY 2019



## *Editorial*

It's snowing outside while I'm writing this edition but it will soon be spring and you will all be looking forward to getting out and about across the county to all the wonderful history events presented below. Enjoy! Welcome to entries from newcomers Cusop History Society and Herefordshire FHS.

Hanes is published every 3 months. The next edition is to be published May 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. 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 April 31st 2019

## *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  
Mal Morrison [mal911@yahoo.com](mailto:mal911@yahoo.com)

### **CHRIST COLLEGE ARCHIVE**

Contact: Felicity Kilpatrick  
Tel. 01874 615440

### **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

## **CUSOP HISTORY GROUP**

<http://cusophistory.wix.com/cusop>

## **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)

## **HEREFORDSHIRE FHS and POWYS FHS**

email: [philbufton@hotmail.com](mailto:philbufton@hotmail.com)  
3, Cagebrook Avenue, Hunderton,  
Hereford. HR2 7AS  
Tel. 01432 355723

## **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*

**Tue. 19th February** 3.00pm  
Merthyr, Brecon's Great Neighbour - Joe England. Merthyr Tydfil, the first wholly industrialised town in Wales, symbolises entrepreneurial energy, persistent radicalism and civic advancement. Two centuries cover rising prosperity and then a swift descent into poverty and uncertainty.

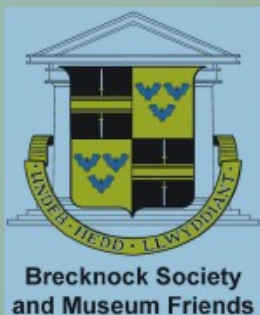


At the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Brecon. Free Entry :. If you would like more information contact John Gibbs (018747 30747; [gibbs@keme.co.uk](mailto:gibbs@keme.co.uk)) or Elaine Starling (01874 711484 or [evstarling@lineone.net](mailto:evstarling@lineone.net) )

**Fri. 22nd March** 7.00pm  
Sir John Lloyd Lecture Writing History. "Writing History- The world of Theophilus Jones, our County Historian." Prys Morgan, Emeritus Professor at Swansea Universit Theatre Brycheiniog ( Tickets are free but have to be booked in advance)

**Sat. 30th March** 7.00pm  
'Llanspyddid through the ages' - Illustrated talk by local historian Jonathan Williams on the history of the church and village from Roman times onward, including an update on the future use of the church. In association with the Friends of Llanspyddid. Admission free. St Cattwg's Church, Llanspyddid, LD3 8PB

**Mon. 8th April** 2.30pm  
Annual General Meeting. Venue TBA.



# Theatr Brycheiniog

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 7.00pm

22<sup>ND</sup> SIR JOHN LLOYD

## MEMORIAL LECTURE

### WRITING HISTORY - THE WORLD OF THEOPHILUS JONES, OUR COUNTY HISTORIAN

**PRYS MORGAN**

Theophilus Jones (1758 - 1812) published his great book 'The History of the County of Brecknock' in two volumes in 1805 and 1809. In this lecture, the eminent and engaging Prys Morgan, Emeritus Professor at Swansea University, will be exploring Jones' life and work in the light of his own insights into, what he has called, the Eighteenth-Century Renaissance in Wales.



Tickets are free but seats should be booked via  
Theatr Brycheiniog.

There will be a retiring collection in aid of the  
educational work of the Society.

THEATR BRYCHEINIOG BOX OFFICE 01874 611622

[www.theatrbrycheiniog.co.uk](http://www.theatrbrycheiniog.co.uk)

## **24th-25th April**

A Conference at Brecon Cathedral (Society are partners)  
Reading ,Writing and Collecting: Books and Manuscripts in Wales  
Further details to be announced.

**Sun. 28th April** 3.00pm Annual memorial evensong to commemorate the death of Breconshire poet and physician Henry Vaughan, including wreath laying at his grave, address by Rev Dr Peter Pike and refreshments. Admission free; retiring collection. St Bridget's Church, Llansantffraed, LD3 7YF

## *Breconshire Local & Family History Society*

**Tue. 5th February** 2pm.

A Guided Tour of the Guildhall in Brecon with Cllr Ieuan Williams.  
Venue: Guildhall, Brecon

**Tue. 5th March** - Research and presentation: a family story.  
Janet Robinson has researched her family history and has produced a book "Family Matters" on the subject of her family research. She will pass on tips regarding her research.  
Brecon Library

**Tue. 2nd April** - Letters from the Front – Boar War and World War One. Ann Reese has a collection of these letters sent home by soldiers on the front line and she will share some of these with us. Y Gaer

**Tue. 7th May** - History of the Gurkhas in Brecon. Major (Retd) Guptaman Gurung will speak about the long and valued relationship between the Town and the Gurkas. Y Gaer

**Tue. 4th June** AGM and Talk  
Full details of Talk nearer the event.  
Y Gaer

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](http://www.facebook.com/breconblfhs)

Our Website details are:

[www.blfhs.co.uk](http://www.blfhs.co.uk) - For more details about our Society, e-mail:

[enquiries@blfhs.co.uk](mailto: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. 8th February** 7.30pm

Change to previously advertised programme:

The speaker Malcolm Morrison talking about Buffalo Bills Wild West's one and only visit to Powys in 1904. The illustrated talk will detail the logistics and newspaper reports of what was undoubtedly the biggest single event ever to come to Powys. Recent discoveries of genuine artefacts from the Builth Wells event will be on display. at Wesley Church, Garth Road, Builth Wells. Visitors £3

Builth Wells & District Heritage Society

### **When Buffalo Bill came to Breconshire**

speaker - **MALCOLM MORRISON**

Original material by Jim Davies and recently discovered original artefacts



**Friday 8<sup>TH</sup> February 2019**

**Wesley Church, Garth Road**

**BUILTH WELLS**

**7.30p.m. Visitors welcome £3.00**

**Fri. 8th March**

The Cistercians of Abbey Cwm Hir – Julian Lovell

**Fri. 12th April**

AGM followed by Builth Motor Club – Brian Jones

**Fri. 10th May**

From the Cradle to the Grave and Back Again – Philip Hughes

**Fri. 14th June**

The Codebreakers of Bletchley Park – Richard Davies (Brecon Museum)

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*

**Wed. 20th February -**

(Annual General Meeting)  
Robin Williams: Coastal Shipping from Gloucester to Bude

**Wed. 20th March -** Hugh Purcell: 'Up Top', the History of the Mid Wales Hospital, Talgarth

**Wed. 17th April -** Dr Celyn Gurden Williams: Lady Llanover and her Circle

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

**Wed. 19th June -** William Gibbs Seeing landscape-how artists have recorded the landscape of Breconshire through time



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

## *Cusop History Group*

**Fri. 15th February 7pm**

### **Film. "Stories From The Hopyard"**

From the makers of "Chewing The Cud: Memories from Hereford's old livestock market" comes a brand-new heritage film about the glorious traditions of hop picking in the county. With their distinctive aroma and connections to beer and the turning of the seasons, this film mixes archive photographs, films and newly recorded oral history interviews from farmers, traders, pickers and brewers. With the renaissance of interest in hops, we listen to stories of days past and present from Herefordians, people from South Wales, the Black Country, Polish migrant workers and Gypsy Roma travellers. This film is a part of the 'Herefordshire Life Through A Lens' project. Free to members, £3 for non-members. (1 hour 30 mins). Refreshments available.

**Sun. 3rd March 3pm**

**Visit to Redwing**, Cusop Dingle hosted by Celia Cundale.

**Thu. 7th March** - we have booked a visit to the **Ashmolean Museum, Oxford** when we go behind the scenes with Denise Derbyshire who will be leading a handling session of rare and beautiful historic objects

rarely seen. Places are limited so early booking is essential. Car sharing can be arranged and we have access to some parking nearby for a few cars.

**Fri. 12th April 7pm** Voices of the River Wye - an oral history project by Marsha O'Mahony. Cusop Village Hall

Our research group continues to thrive and more topics keep adding to our list of projects. We will provide an update following our meeting of researchers on Saturday 2nd Feb Visit our website at

<http://cusophistory.wix.com/cusop> and facebook page to see the latest information, including the research and our photos of historical Cusop.

## *Hay History Group*

### **Hay Castle Restoration**



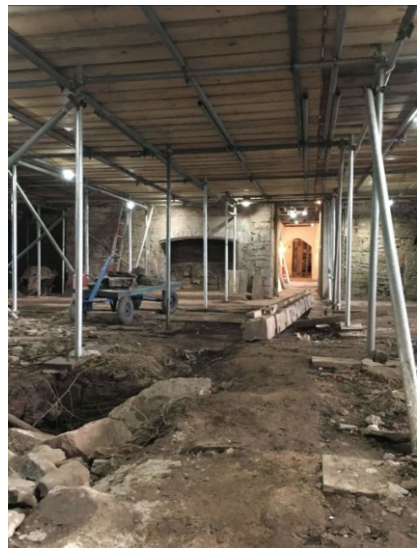
Since the white weatherproof covering was installed over the scaffolding structure, it has been very difficult to see what is going on underneath. Here's a short summary of the work that is being undertaken. In the mansion, floor boards have

been removed to install under floor heating and the walls and floors throughout have been taken back to the original stone. Drainage has been put in for the new kitchen, and the servants' staircase has been partially removed as it was found to be extremely rotten. It will be rebuilt and put back in the same position with damaged timbers replaced. In the derelict section of the mansion, the walls requiring repointing have been assessed and are being pointed with hot lime mortar. In the medieval tower, a Victorian-era wine cellar has been removed and wall areas damaged by this structure have been rebuilt using existing stone. On the first floor, the apartments have been stripped back and the stud walls are in place for the offices and public toilet facilities. Across the exterior of the entire structure areas requiring attention are being repointed.

All the stone roof tiles have been removed as have the felt and battens that lay beneath. Roofer Dilwyn Thomas found the roof structure in very good condition and currently the process of undertaking minor roof repairs is taking place. Once this is completed, the insulation will be put in and the stone tiles replaced. Once the roof is watertight again, the scaffolding roof cover can be removed in readiness for the insertion of supportive steels across the whole of the mansion.

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heating and the walls and floors throughout have been taken back to the original stone. Drainage has been put in for the new kitchen, and the servants' staircase has been partially removed as it was found to be extremely rotten. It will be rebuilt and put back in the same position with damaged timbers replaced. In the derelict section of the mansion, the walls requiring repointing have been assessed and are being pointed with hot lime mortar. In the medieval tower, a Victorian-era wine cellar has been removed and wall areas damaged by this structure have been rebuilt using existing stone. On the first floor, the apartments have been stripped back and the stud walls are in place for the offices and public toilet facilities. Across the exterior of the entire structure areas requiring attention are being repointed.





Trenches for drainage and services – gas, electricity and communications – are being dug across the site by Brecon-based Seer Construction. Drainage has turned out to be one of the more troublesome elements of the project and has required high levels of discussion, planning and oversight. The rainwater that comes from the roof structures of the building all has to go somewhere in an efficient and ecologically sensitive manner. The old pipes were blocked and inadequate, and a new drainage system using a large soakaway has been integrated into the groundworks. At this time of year, all this digging has resulted in an amazing amount of mud. Archaeologist Peter Dorling has been on site whenever digging is taking place.

## *Herefordshire FHS*

### **Fri. 15th February**

Speaker: In the Sticks Talks: The Empress of Ireland, What really happened. The fascinating story of the forgotten ship The Empress of Ireland that sank with a greater loss of passengers than the more well-known Titanic. Find out the When, Where and How. [www.inthestickstalks.co.uk](http://www.inthestickstalks.co.uk)

**Fri. 15th March** Speaker: David Hill. Completely Lost in Herefordshire. David Hill will present in his own inimitable style views of Herefordshire we all should know, but cannot think where there are exactly.

**Fri. 19th April** Speaker: Marsha O'mahony. River Voices – Extraordinary tales of the River Wye. River Voices is filled with stories of the Wye told through the words and photographs of those who have known the river all their lives – ferrymen and ferrywomen, boat builders and bridge builders, rowers and swimmers, anglers and poachers, ghillies and river bailiffs, otter hunters and more.

### **Herefordshire Family History Society**

Monthly open meetings are held on the third Friday of the month at the Kindle Centre, adjacent to Asda superstore Hereford. For those with satnav the post code is HR2 7JE. ALL Future meetings will take place upstairs in Room Q, this Room has better acoustics and will mean better appreciation of the talks and speakers.

## *Llangynidr Local History Society*

### **Thu. 2nd May** 7.00pm

Spring Meeting and AGM at Llangynidr Village Hall. Dr Ann Benson - The Somerset Family, Dukes of Beaufort, in South Wales. A richly illustrated talk tracing the family in their three Welsh homes, Raglan Castle, Troy House and Llangattock Park

## *Llanthony Valley and District History Group*

**Wed. 27th February** (change of date)  
Panel discussion: Stephanie Tyler (Gwent Wildlife Trust), Jeff Davies, others tbc 'Changes in our local natural environment – past and future'

**Wed. 20th March** Rupert Otten, Local recusancy and the Gunter project  
Wednesday

**Tue. 16th April** Clive Williams - The history of the local influence of the National Park  
2019 history walks:

**Wed. 15th May** The Ffwyddog starting from the Pant – led by David Austin; time to be confirmed.

**June and July** – months, dates and times to be confirmed: (1) Cwmyoy to Ty-Hunt-y-Bwlch; (2) Llanvihangel Crucorney including Llanvihangel Court.

History Group projects: We are planning to start a new project about the history of the houses and their residents in the Llanthony and Grwyne Fawr Valleys and Forest Coalpit and Bettws. Contact Pip Bevan [pbevan@mokoro.co.uk, 01873 890609].

Annual membership: £10 a household, £7 an individual; visitors £4.

## *Llanwrtyd Heritage and Arts Centre*

**Wed. 6th February** - a talk by Rob Thomas on "Burial or Cremation?: The story of Dr. William Price, surgeon, radical, eccentric, visionary, Archdruid".

**Fri. 1st March** - we are inviting people to a coffee morning to celebrate St. David's Day. There will be an opportunity to sample Welsh fayre and see a display on the refurbishment work being undertaken at the Old Parish Church, St. David's, situated on the Abergwesyn Road.

**Wed. 6th March** - Val Loveridge on "Emotional Intelligence in Education".

**Sat. 23rd March** - we will be hosting the Builth Wells Ladies' Choir. This starts at 7.30 p.m. and tickets are £6.00 to include refreshments, available from the Centre or Caffi Sospan in Llanwrtd.

**Wed. 3rd April** - a talk entitled " My Career in HM Diplomatic Service; my experiences around the world" with Alan Huckle.

**Wed. 1st May** - "Dame Adelina Patti: one of the greatest sopranos in the world" with John Rath. (We plan to share this talk with Llangammarch History Society and the venue will be announced later as either at the Llanwrtyd Heritage Centre or the

Alexandra Hall). Talks start at 7.00 p.m. and admission is £2.00 to include refreshments.

The Centre will be open to visitors as from **Thursday 4th April** when we will also be showing our first two exhibitions in the Art Gallery featuring landscape paintings by Ray Burnell and painting and fabric design from Genevieve Caminade. In May "New Start Art" will be displaying in both the upper and lower galleries and include a number of participating artists.

As previously, the Centre will be open through the season into October, from Thursday to Sunday (10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.) plus Bank Holidays.

## *Llyn Syfaddan History Group*

**Thu. 18th April 7.30 pm**  
"Someone's Watching Over You" A history of aerial photography over Wales. Given by Medwyn Parry of the Royal Commission for the Ancient Monuments of Wales. All welcome £3 at the door for non members. At Llangasty Village Hall.

## *Powys Archives*

Recent accessions relating to Breconshire:  
4 photographs relating to Breconshire - Sennybridge football team 1910 with names; Sennybridge Senior Council

Mixed School, Form 2, September 1940 with names; Sennybridge Senior and Defynnog Endowed Primary School 1947; Defynnog residents with names n.d. (Acc 2532)

Breconshire County Council Minutes April 1927 - January 1929 (Acc 2533)

## *Powys Family History Society - Brecknock Group*

**Mon. 25th February** Mr Steve Roderick will give a talk on T C Thomas and the Llynsafaddan Players

Details of the **March and April** meetings not yet finalised

All meetings are held at **Kensington Church, Brecon at 7.30pm**

## *y Gaer*

**Interpretation Project for Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery**

### **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)