



ISSUE 64

MAY 2019



Editorial

Summer is around the corner so time to get out and about enjoying the countryside and discovering the wonderful history of Breconshire. Lots of events across the county and beyond are detailed here. Enjoy!

Hanes is published every 3 months. The next edition is to be published May 1st 2019. Please email any articles or information about events etc. with the heading "HANES" to alan.j.nicholls@btinternet.com by April 31st 2019

Introducing The Forum

BRECKNOCK MUSEUM

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BRECKNOCK SOCIETY AND MUSEUM FRIENDS

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BRECON LIBRARY

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BRECONSHIRE LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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BUILT WELLS & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

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CHRIST COLLEGE ARCHIVE

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CUSOP HISTORY GROUP

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CYNON VALLEY MUSEUM

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HAY HISTORY GROUP

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www.Hayhistorygroup.co.uk

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POWYS COUNTY ARCHIVE OFFICE

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POWYS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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REGIMENTAL MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL WELSH

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YSTRADGYNLAIS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Caryl Jones Tel: 01269

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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

**Sat. May 18th - Church and Chapel
Study day in the Usk Valley west of
Brecon: Refurbishment, Restoration
and Renewal**



Programme:

10.30 Church of St David, Llywel
Coffee and cake

11.00 Introduction to the Church. Refurbishment and creation of a Heritage area via a HLF grant: The Rev'd Paul Wilding and Project manager Gillian Byrne. The church is largely late Perpendicular of about the 1480s and is of simple plan. Internally there is an early medieval stone and the cast of another, a significantly early font and the village stocks.

12.00 Tour of Churchyard with Janet Watkins. *Lunch at Llywel (please bring your own). If the weather is inclement this can be eaten in the school room at back of the graveyard*



13.30 Beili Du Chapel Pentrebach Presbyterian (Calvinistic Methodist) chapel built in 1800 & rebuilt in 1858 in the Simple Round-Headed style, retaining the early long-wall entry type but with a small stable and vestry added. The Chapel is listed Grade II by Cadw for its special historic interest as a 'simple rural chapel retaining painted grained woodwork within'. We will be met by Tanya Jenkins of Addoldai Cymru (the Welsh Religious Buildings Trust)



15.30 St Cattwg's Church. Llanspyddid. Introduction to the church. Discussion on the potential

options and sources of funding and resources for community use of the building. This is part of the feasibility study currently being carried out by the Friends of Llanspyddid.

The Grade II listed church has a simple combined nave and chancel style dating from the 14th century and partly rebuilt in 1880. Features include its early medieval font, fine 18th century memorials and carved façade to the porch. The church is now closed for worship and is faced with redundancy and potential sale by the Church in Wales.

Tea will be provided in the church

Contacts: Jonathan Williams, Mervyn Bramley, Mundo Architecture

17.00 Close and disperse

Please contact Elaine Starling ((01874 711484 or evstarling@lineone.net) to see if a place is available. We hope to share transport for those starting from – or passing through – Brecon.

Adelina Patti Events September 2019

Before social media, even before television and Hollywood there was a star who out shone most others, Adelina Patti. Born in 1843 in Madrid, her parents were Italian opera singers so it was natural that young Adelina started to sing at a very early age. The family moved across to America and Adelina made her first public appearance aged 8 and was making regular professional concerts from aged 18. By 1861 she was living in UK and singing at Covent Garden. Adelina made her home at Craig-y-nos

in the Upper Swansea valley for nearly 40 years. Having bought the property in 1878 she then spent the next few years creating her own 'Grand Design' with towers, turrets and battlements. From her Castle tucked away in Wales she travelled the world touring North America and Europe with adoring crowds where-ever she went.

This year is the centenary of the death of Adelina Patti on 27th September 1919 and a wide range of events are being organised in Brecon, Criag-y-nos and Ystradgunlais. Full details will be given in the local press, posters and other publicity. However the events have already started with the publication of a wonderful leaflet produced by the Ystradgynlais Heritage Society.

In June the BBC are arranging a coach trip for people attending Cardiff Singer of the World. The outing will be to Craig-y-nos Castle including a tour of the theatre with music and a talk about Adelina Patti and her life.

Brecknock Museum will be holding an exhibition featuring items from the collections relating to Adelina Patti. The exhibition will be open to the public free of charge – the details will be publicised in August.

Last year Ystradgynlais won first prize in their category in Britain in Bloom, this year they are taking part again and one bed, near the Church car park, will celebrate Adelina Patti.

And, while in town viewing the **Blodau Ystradgynlais in Bloom** call in to the Welfare Hall where there will be an **art exhibition** with entries from

all ages and all types of art. The library will also have a display of material relating to Adelina.

Saturday 14th September Concert, The Guildhall, Brecon to mark the naming of the theatre as The Adelina Patti Theatre. The concert will feature Elin Manahan Thomas who sang at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Tickets will be available from Brecon Town Council and other locations in the town.

Saturday 21st September Fun Afternoon at the Prom, Brecon. A festival of song with local schools and other local choirs taking part. There will be a fun Dog Show – Patti Paws - and a marquee in case of bad weather. A free event.

Sunday 22nd September Theatr Brycheiniog, Brecon a Patti Fest Day with a series of illustrated talks about Adelina her music, life and travels. There will also be a discussion on how Adelina was depicted in art showing items held in Brecknock Museum and other collections.

Tuesday 24th September Theatr Brycheiniog, Brecon Students from The Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff are holding a concert featuring the winner of the Adelina Patti Prize for Bel Canto 'Beautiful Singing' in Songs, Arias and Ensembles to commemorate the Queen of Song.

Thursday 26th September Welfare Hall, Ystradgynlais an evening of film, spoken word and music. Tickets on sale from The Welfare Hall.

Saturday 27th September Craig-y-nos Country Park There will be a short musical performance in The Boat House at dusk to mark the exact centenary of the day that Adelina died. Please bring a warm coat and a chair. A torch may also be useful. £5.00 suggested donation to include some refreshments.

Sunday 28th September Craig-y-nos Country Park Community Day of music, arts, theatre and family entertainment. Free event for all the family. There will be guided walks around the Country Park and the Geopark during the day. Craig-y-nos Castle will be open for visits to Adelina's personal theatre. Full details of all events will be on our Facebook page: Adelina Patti 2019

The Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh

Visit of King Goodwill Zwelithini to Brecon.

In 2017, Brecon was proud to host 100 Zulus including Queen Mantfombi. The Zulus stopped the traffic and people wherever they went. 2019 is the 140th anniversary of the Anglo-Zulu wars, known to most people in the UK for the epic battle at

Isandlwana and the defence of Rorke's Drift. This year, Brecon will have the even greater honour of a visit by the



current Zulu monarch, King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu, members of his family and entourage who have been invited to Wales by the Friends and Trustees of the Royal Welsh Regimental Museum. A major series of events are being organised to celebrate this strengthening of the cultural ties between KwaZulu-Natal and Wales. These include

a. The King Goodwill Art competition open to all youngsters aged 9-18 living in Wales with first prizes of £100 worth of art materials. See the leaflet for details, closing date is 3rd June,

please encourage your family, friends, colleagues, schools to enter.

b. Victorian workshops were held in April at the Regimental Museum attended by local schools. The workshops included the story of the life of King Cetshwayo.

c. Follow-up art sessions will be held in May in those local schools to

produce art pieces about the life of King Cetshwayo.



d. A children's book has been written about the life of King Cetshwayo. When published, this will include children's art work from local schools.

e. An illustrated map has been created by a local artist which shows the highlights of King Cetshwayo's time in London in 1882. During his stay, he travelled to Osborne House to meet Queen Victoria. As part of his visit, King Goodwill Zwelithini will follow in King Cetshwayo's footsteps in London. The map will be presented to him as a memento of his visit.

f. The Army is working with the Regimental Museum to hold Community Day at the Barracks on 21st July. This will see a fantastic pageant staged for King Goodwill Zwelithini, supported by local choirs and bands.

g. A gala concert will be held at Brecon Cathedral on 22nd July to showcase Welsh musical tradition and talent to the King.

Planning is also underway to bring performers from KwaZulu-Natal to stage a musical, dance and drumming concerts. Keeping looking out for more details nearer the time in local press and social media. Any queries to Ann Reese, a.reese@btinternet.com.

Breconshire Local & Family History Society

The Society meets monthly at 2pm, at Brecon Library. When "y Gaer" opens, our meetings will be held there. Members attend the Talks for free and visitors can attend on payment of £1.

Here is our calendar of Talks for the next four months:

4 June AGM

2 July Visit to Llanwrtyd & District Heritage and Arts Centre. The Centre is housed in the converted Congregational Chapel, in the Town Centre.

6 August A History of Swansea Pottery. Ieuan Evans's knowledge of Welsh pottery and porcelain will be shared with us when he gives his illustrated Talk about Swansea Pottery.

2 September Visit to Powys Archives, Llandrindod Wells. We will look behind the scenes and see some of the highlights of the Archive Collections.

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

www.blfhs.co.uk

For more details about our Society, e-mail: enquiries@blfhs.co.uk

Builth Wells Heritage Society

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. 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.

No meetings in July and August

18 September

Diane Harrison: Kilpeck Church

Meetings are held on Wednesday evenings in the Parish Hall, Church Lane. Admission charge for non members £4-00.

Hay History Group

23 May - 2 June - Hay Literature Festival has lots to offer the history buff. Have a look at the Festival website and book soon. Here are just a few highlights:

Thursday 23 May, 7pm Barbara Erskine - The Ghost Tree

The new time-shift novel from the global bestselling author of *Lady of Hay* Her heroine Ruth discovers a hidden diary from the 18th century, written by an ancestor, Thomas Erskine. As she sifts through the ancient pages of the past, Ruth is pulled into a story that she can't escape.

Friday 24 May, 4pm

Helen Fulton, Geraint Evans, Gillian Clarke and Jon Gower - The

Cambridge History of Welsh Literature
The earliest surviving Welsh poetry was forged on the battlefields of post-Roman Wales and the 'Old North' of Britain, and the Welsh-language poets of today still write within the same poetic tradition. In the early 20th century, Welsh writers in English outnumbered writers in Welsh for the first time, generating new modes of writing and a crisis of national identity. The editors of the new Cambridge history are joined by the great poet Gillian Clarke and novelist and historian Jon Gower to celebrate one of the oldest continuous literary traditions in Europe.

Tuesday 28 May, 5.30pm

Richard Suggett - Hay Castle and Hay Lordship: Discovering and Dating the Buildings of a Medieval Frontier Society. Richard will focus on the development of the castle, the discovery of the 15th-century houses of the lordship's tenants and new ways of dating medieval timberwork, including the extraordinary castle gates. Suggett is Senior Investigator for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments for Wales.

Herefordshire FHS

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. £5 including refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Llanthony Valley and District History Group

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 Cruorney 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. 1st May: All over in a Flash –
Europe's biggest Meteorite impact
with Rob Loveridge 7.00 p.m.
Admission £2.00 incl. Refreshments

Thurs. 2nd May – Sun 2nd June:
New Start Art: Upper & Lower Art
Gallery (Painting and Crafts)

Thurs. 6th June - Sun. 30th June
Richie Dean: Lower Art Gallery
(Paintings and Digital work)

Wed. 12th June: Concert with Ollie
West Band (on Tour) Tickets : £6.00
incl. Refreshments.

Thurs. 4th July - Sun. 28th July
Elaine Graham: Upper Art Gallery
(Paintings). Jacky John: Lower Art
Gallery (Ceramics).
The Heritage Centre is Open every
Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday
10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

National Library of Wales



**Carto-Cymru - Symposiwm Mapiau
Cymru 2019** £10
31 May 2019 (9:30am - 4:30pm)

This year's symposium will
concentrate on the work of Humphrey
Llwyd, the father of Welsh
cartography. Speakers will include:
Keith Lilley, Professor of Historical
Geography, Queen's University
Belfast
Joost Depuydt, Curator of
Typographical and Technical
Collections, Plantin-Moretus Museum,
Antwerp
James January-McCann, Place Names
Officer and Royal Commission on the
Ancient and Historical Monuments of
Wales.

Wed 22 May 2019, 1:00PM
Putting Welsh History on Television
Colin Thomas

For some the interpretation of Welsh
history is a battleground. Indeed Channel



4's history of Wales *The Dragon Has Two Tongues* was a 13-part passionate argument between two totally different versions of the past, articulated by Wynford Vaughan Thomas and Professor Gwyn Alf Williams. Colin Thomas, the producer/director of that series and a three times winner of BAFTA Cymru's Best Documentary award, will look back at his own attempts to put Welsh history on television and touch on those of other series like *The Story of Wales* and *Wales – Horrible Histories*.

Event held in English

Free admission by ticket

Wed 19 Jun 2019, 1:00PM

Wales and the Sea: 10,000 Years of Maritime History -

A presentation by Dr Mark Redknap, and fellow contributors to the Royal Commission's latest joint publication, *Wales and the Sea*. This new book has over 400 high-resolution images largely drawn from the vast collections of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, The National Library of Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru–National Museum Wales. This illustrated presentation will introduce

the exciting but little-known story of the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and more recent maritime history of Wales.

Event held in English

Free admission by ticket

Powys Archives

Recent accessions relating to Breconshire:

4 volumes relating to The Rev. Rice Powell's Boughrood Charity: Minutes 1748-1859;

Documents 1860-1948; Survey of Estates 1816; Book of Charter 1719-1793 (acc 2553)

Mid Wales and Border Presbytery Directory 2018; copies of photographs relating to Breconshire, all with names - group at the May Day Fete at Tredustan, Defynnog 1928, Dr Jeffreys retirement 1926, group outside Sennybridge Post Office; Cor Meibion Llandeilo'r Fan (acc 2557)

Photograph of Table Mountain, Crickhowell, Breconshire 1938 (acc 2558)

Cefn-yr-Erw, Abercraf, Ystradgynlais, Breconshire 1988-2000: final reports, photographs and plans of work carried out by R J Hill of Upton Lovell, Wiltshire, in his role as building surveyor and consultant. (acc 2560)

Brecon Rainbows, Breconshire - log books, 1990-1994 and 2008-2009 (acc 2563)

Deeds relating to Devynock, Breconshire 1736 - 1909, properties mentioned include Onnen Fawr, Marchog Dyr, Gelly Libe, Belfont Estate. (acc 2564)

47 volumes of Powys County Council minute books 2008-2018 (acc 2571)

Powys Family History Society - Brecknock Group

Mon 27th May Llywel and Colbren families. Speaker: Gareth Jones

Mon 24th June AGM - Followed by a talk on Fact, Fiction and Folklore
Speaker: Rev. Towyn Jones

Mon 29th July Visit to Llandefalle Church - C/o Rev. Ian Charlesworth

All meetings are held at Kensington Church, Brecon at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Powys FHS Contact Details: Phil Bufton. 3, Cagebrook Avenue, Hunderton, Hereford HR2 7AS.
philbufton@hotmail.com

Brecon History Forum

Minutes of April 2019 Meeting

John welcomed the attendees to the meeting and thanked Roger and Ann Reese for the refreshments and lighting a fire on this cold but bright morning.

y Gaer (Brecknock Museum , ArtGallery and Library)

Progress Report: John reported that there was as yet no official date for the opening of y Gaer. Keir, the contractors need to remedy any defects before a handover to Powys. Once the handover is completed it will take 8 - 10 weeks to set the Museum and Library up! There are implications: the first of the special exhibitions planned (The Water Colour Society of Wales exhibition) will be delayed.

y Gaer Volunteers: The Volunteer Co-ordinator, Andrea Mansfield is currently recruiting: there is a need for 'meet and greet' people as well as for people working behind the scenes . A volunteer is asked to provide the names of two referees and may need to be prepared to have a DBS check. Training courses will be offered e.g for Health and Safety etc. Attached to these Minutes are the relevant documents. The application form can be found at
<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/6785/Volunteer-to-help-at-y-Gaer>

Interpretation of items in the Museum and Art Gallery Collection.

This was described in the notes of the last meeting. Volunteers are producing 'in depth' electronic information on items in the Museums and Art Gallery Collections.

Commemoration of the death of Adelina Patti .

Elaine Starling and Malcolm Best reported on progress with all the Patti Commemorations. The project has its own email address and Face Book page. The former is adelinapatti2019@btinternet.com The latter is : Adelina Patti Celebrations2019

Malcolm briefly outlined the events taking place in Ystradgynlais. There will be an event on 26th September in the Miners Welfare Hall, including a talk and film . He also described the planned events at Craig y Nos on Sept 27th and 28th, which will include guided tours of the Castle. The Brecon events will include the special Exhibition in y Gaer. On Sept 14th September Elin Manahan Thomas is performing in the Guild Hall Theatre, which is to be renamed The Adelina Patti Theatre. On Saturday 21st there is a Patti Fest on the Prom which includes a dog show . In the evening, the Brecon Sinfonia are playing and on Sunday 22nd there is to be a Heritage Day in the Theatre with talks about Patti's life. On Tuesday Sept 24th there is a concert in the Theatr Brycheiniog and a Patti prize is being awarded by Royal College of Music. This evening will see the first of the Prizewinners receive their Awards. All the events described are organised by different groups: if enthusiasm can make these events successful then they will certainly succeed . Full details will be published

shortly. Please will members of the Forum raise public awareness.

Brecknock History Festival 2019.

In order to fit in with the Patti events, the theme will be music in Brecknockshire. John has asked Rebecca Games to coordinate information. The Forum would like to celebrate the role of music in eisteddfodau, choirs and choral societies, orchestral groups etc across Breconshire. The aim will be to publicise any relevant musical events that will be taking place in the August, September, October period and will also to list events that will take place at other times of year. Local History Societies and similar bodies might like to think in terms of occasions at which the history and impact of local music groups could be celebrated.

If you are aware of a body or an organisation with a strong musical and historical tradition, do please get in contact with Rebecca at rebeccagames@yahoo.co.uk

Brycheiniog

New edition is out Cost £12 . Very soon there will be a new website for the Brecknock Society which will have digitised back copies from 2007. Earlier volumes are available on the National Library website : <https://journals.library.wales/>

Churches and Chapels in Brecknockshire: past, present and future.

Churches and Chapels are a repository of local information both culturally and socially but many of them face a difficult future The Brecknock Society will have a focus on imaginative conservation, restoration and engagement schemes over the next two years culminating in the 2021 Sir John Lloyd Lecture which will be given by Huw Edwards. On May 18th , the Society is visiting Llywel and Llynsypddid Churches and Beili Du Chapel. Please contact Elaine to see if a place is available.

Round The Groups.

1) Cathedral, Convivium 14/15 June at the Cathedral . Phil Cope will be launching his new book on wells

2) Ystradgynlais

A panel is ready for display on Air craft Raids in the 2nd World War. On 30th September Ystradgynlais is 'Hosting Wales in Bloom'.

There is to be a new Town Map Discussions are taking place with the Josef Herman Society on a possible event re the 1954 Eisteddford.

3) Hay, It is hoped the scaffolding on the castle will be down by Christmas: opening May /June 2020. Mari Forde has been working with children on a stop motion project which can be viewed online. At the Hay Festival on 28th May, Richard Suggett is talking on 'Hay Castle and its Development.'

Hay Tours website is now linked to Hay History Group.

4) Llangors.

Next Thursday at Llangasty Village Hall. Medwyn Parry, from The Royal Commission is talking on Aerial Photography. Roger Reese noted that the historic hall-house Llwyn Celyn in the Llanthony valley will be open 1st to 5th June (details on Landmark Trust website).

5 Crickhowell Archive centre. Recently had a successful fund-raising lecture by William Gibbs and Elizabeth Siberry on Artists of the Usk Valley.

6Military Museum.

Details have been finalised for the visit of King Goodwill Zwelithini in July 2019. He is visiting London and Brecon. The theme is the 140th anniversary of the Zulu King's visit to meet Queen Victoria after the Zulu Wars. There is a revamped education programme which includes a Victorian room alongside a Zulu Room in the Museum. There is also an Art Competition (see attached pdf). When the King is in Brecon there will be a community day on July 21st at the Deering Lines (including the attendance of the Band of the Welsh Fusiliers), a concert at the Cathedral (July 22nd) and the musical of last year will be performed again at the Theatre for two nights.

7)Llyswen and Boughrood. Elizabeth Bingham outlined The Death House project and the progress so

far achieved. She also outlined research on 19th C deaths due to poverty for a film which is being produced as part of the successful HLF bid.

8) Llangyndir. Rosemary Evans reported that at the AGM on 2nd May, Ann Benson will repeat her talk on the Beaufort family in South Wales. Tickets are available. The group have been researching the wash Lanes in the Village.

9) Llangammach and Llanwrtwd. Sue Lilley reported that at the AGM on Monday May 20th there will be a talk about Dr Mary 'Epynt' Phillips. And on June 17th there would be a talk by Gaynor Williams on the Treasures of Cefn Brith. There is concern about the future of the 18thC Tirabad church built by the Gwynne family and associated with William Williams Pantycelin.

10) Brecon Local Family History Society.

This group meets the first Tuesday in the month

Next meeting 10.30 am 7th June in Brecon at a venue to be determined – perhaps the Cathedral