



ISSUE 70

November 2020

Editorial



In the last editorial in August I was hopeful that lockdowns were in the past but that seems a little hopeful now. So we will carry on and this issue of Hanes gives some light relief from present concerns with some excellent articles from across the county. Enjoy reading and keep safe.

Hanes is published every 3 months. The next edition is to be published November 1st 2020. Please email any articles or information about events etc. with the heading "HANES" to alan.j.nicholls@btinternet.com by October 31st 2020

Introducing The Forum

ABERGAVANNY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Gill Wakley
Email: wakley76@gmail.com

BRECKNOCK SOCIETY AND MUSEUM FRIENDS

Contact: Elaine Starling Tel. 01874 711484
email: evstarling@lineone.net

BRECON LIBRARY

Tel. 01874 62334

BRECONSHIRE LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Alison Noble – Secretary
Email: blfhsenquires@gmail.com

BUILTH WELLS & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

Contact: Anna Page Tel. 01982 553376
Mal Morrison mal911@yahoo.com

CHRIST COLLEGE ARCHIVE

Contact: Felicity Kilpatrick
Tel. 01874 615440

**CRICKHOWELL DISTRICT ARCHIVE
CENTRE**

Secretary: Wendy Parker.

Contact:

archive@visitcrickhowell.co.uk

**CRICKHOWELL & DISTRICT HISTORY
SOCIETY**

Contact: Clive Ralph

Tel. 01873 810262

CUSOP HISTORY GROUP

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

HAY HISTORY GROUP

Contact: Peter Ford

Tel. 01497820676

email: pcford1@hotmail.com

www.Hayhistorygroup.co.uk

www.haytours.co.uk

**HEREFORDSHIRE FHS and POWYS
FHS**

email: 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

**LLANGYNIDR LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY**

Contact: Ann Jessopp Tel. 01874

730431

email: dfjessopp@btinternet.com

LLANTHONY HISTORY GROUP

Contact: Oliver Fairclough

Tel. 01873 890 540

email: oliverfairclough@yahoo.co.uk

**LLANWRTYD & DISTRICT HERITAGE
& ARTS CENTRE**

Contact: Rob Thomas

Tel. 01591 610661

email: r.w.thomas@talk21.com

www.llanwrtydhistorygroup.com

LLYN SYFADDAN HISTORY GROUP

Contact: Roger Reese

email: roreese2013@gmail.com

POWYS COUNTY ARCHIVE OFFICE

email: archives@powys.gov.uk

www.powys.gov.uk/archives

Tel. 01597 826088

**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

**Y GAER – MUSEUM ART GALLERY &
LIBRARY**

Contact: Nigel Blackamore

Tel: 01874623346

**YSTRADGYNLAIS DISTRICT HISTORY
AND LANGUAGE SOCIETY**

Contact: John Owens

johnowens38@talktalk.net

NEWS AND EVENTS

Abergavenny Local History Society

St Mary Priory Records by Gill Wakley & Sue Smith

Last year, in that time before the restrictions imposed on us all by a novel virus, the Research Group of the Abergavenny Local History Society decided that one of their new tasks would be transcribing the records from St Mary Priory Church² which are held at Gwent Archives.

One of us offered to be the Convenor for the study – we always try to have one of the Group as the leader of a project to ensure that the research is co-ordinated and not replicated by individuals. She downloaded the pages of the records of christenings (or births), marriages and burials (or deaths) which were available for Family History research but not in a way that could be searched and used by local historians. She also drew up an Excel spreadsheet proforma for the recording and, after some trials of the best way of recording, sent the rest of us our instructions.

Three of the Research Group had been on a transcribing course at Gwent Archives, and following this had transcribed the Abergavenny Vestry Book from 1702 to 1804, the early pages of which were often illegible, damaged and in secretarial hand. After almost two years of work

we had written some articles about the content for the Gwent Local History Journal^{2,3,4}. Some of our group had some previous experience of transcription in previous employment, but others needed some help with transcription and recording from the more experienced members.

We had been working remotely before lockdown, receiving our individual pages to transcribe on line. We had previously found that it was often easier to use the magnifying tools on the screen than trying to puzzle out the handwriting on a printed-out page from a photograph. It was a little more difficult to arrange outdoor meetings to discuss what we were doing (once lockdown eased), although the excellent weather in the summer helped, and we were able to meet in Abergavenny Castle grounds using the picnic tables there. We set up a dedicated email address, run by Sue Smith, for the Research Group for return of transcriptions as well as help and queries.

In Book One the entries started from 1652 (mostly from 1653). At first, they were in English in a clear hand (with the usual idiosyncratic spelling of the time and secretarial hand) until 1662, although entries were sparse for 1660 and 1661. This, of course, marked the end of the interregnum and with that, a change from the regulations introduced for record keeping by the Parliamentarians. In 1662, John Greenhaugh was appointed as vicar for St Mary Priory and he celebrated his joy at the restoration of the use of Latin in the record.

The recording in Latin became more difficult for the team of transcribers as few of them were familiar with Latin, and, for those that were, it was in some time past. They found their skills rather inadequate to cope with a system of numbering for dates that varied and was only sometimes from classical Latin. John Greenhaugh's handwriting was not good and often appeared rushed and poorly executed. It appears (from information recorded after his death), that the information was actually recorded by others on loose sheets of paper and then written into the formal record later, so that there are some gaps and date order is not always consistent. Fortunately, much of the recording is formulaic and repetitive, so once learned it became easier.

Some of the Latin words used could not be found at all and we suspect that he invented them and his idiosyncratic Latin was often very odd. Some of the words were obvious – 'carpentarius', for example, which, according to a Latin dictionary, translates as 'carriage/wagon/chariot builder/cartwright/carriage driver/coachman'. It appeared, however, that it was likely that he was using it for the occupation 'carpenter' as it seemed very unlikely that the number recorded (17 in 30 years) would just have been, for example, a cartwright or coachman. 'Ferrarius,' which translates as a blacksmith was obvious, but why did he also use smyth or smith? 'Crepidarius' took much longer to research but

eventually turned up as Greek thick soled sandals which would have been equivalent to the Pattens or Overshoes worn to keep shoes out of the mud outside. Other words we have still not found. If anyone has come across

'carythecarius/carithecarius' and various other spelling variations, we would like to know!

He also recorded where the burials were: in the porch, in the church, and 'in templo' or 'in comitario' and occasionally 'in cancelario' (which we thought was the chancel). Research only gave some suggestions and no firm answers – perhaps a communal vault of some sort as that was quite common at that time.

Whoever recorded the information in these early days, also often recorded occupations and sometimes also the street or place of domicile, which gives extra information which we are analysing for an article. There is gold in the records too as some individuals come to life through the records. Christopher Price, an apothecary, for example, whose wife had a child almost every year and many of them died (as was likely then), as well as John Greenhaugh himself. We hope to be able to trace some family trees, at least partially, and corrections to the family tree of the prestigious and complicated family of Gunters in Abergavenny have already been made.

The tedious process of checking the entries for mistakes and looking for patterns and stories is under way for Books One and Two, with

transcription now continuing into the eighteenth-century records, and, thankfully in English rather than John Greenhaugh's version of Latin, although the handwriting continues to be a problem.

Notes:

¹ Gwent Archives DPA42/1 (Book One) & DPA42/2 (BookTwo).

² Wakley, Gill & Smith, Sue, *Civic Activities in the Abergavenny Vestry Book in the Eighteenth Century*. Gwent Local History Journal, 2016, number 119.

³ Wakley, Gill & Smith, Sue, *Churchwardens and Church Affairs in the Abergavenny Vestry Minutes 1702 to 1804*. Gwent Local History Journal, 2016, number 120.

⁴Wakley, Gill & Smith, Sue, *Churchwardens and Church Affairs in the Abergavenny Vestry Minutes 1702 to 1804*. Gwent Local History Journal, 2016, number 120.

Breconshire Local & Family History Society

We have been quietly working during the summer. Hilary Williams and Steven Morris are drawing together information about the numerous pubs and inns that existed in Brecon and Llanfaes in 18th and 19th centuries. This has proved to be a never-ending piece of work as small snippets of information keep coming to light. At some point Hilary and Steven hope to be able to prepare some of their

findings for the wider public. Of course, all their research notes will be kept in the Society archives.

In 2015 a group of volunteers from the Society, recorded all the memorial inscriptions for the burial ground of St Illtyd's church on Mynydd Illtyd, best known for The Mountain Centre on the edge of the Common. The full list of all the inscriptions together with cross-references to the Parish Records and index for surname and place names have now been published. Copies are available through the BLFHS website www.blfhs.co.uk

Following the transcription of the MIs, the Society prepared some history notes on Mynydd Illtyd for the visitors to The Mountain Centre. The research for these history notes is now being extended and, hopefully, will be published in a small book.

Our webmaster, Jennie Williams, continues to extend the information held on our website with extensive Parish Pages being up-loaded. And our Newsletter Editor Sue Ashton, produces a quarterly masterpiece which goes to all our members who are scattered not just in Wales but across the UK in far-flung places like Australia. They all enjoy receiving Hanes as well.

Brecknock Society and Museum Friends

Connecting Breconshire Heritage

Elaine Starling as Secretary of the Brecknock History Forum, wrote out to members on Oct 22nd explaining that, with a very short deadline for submission, John Gibbs had been informed about HLF monies available for community-based heritage projects (The '15 minute grant applications'). The work has to be carried out between November 2020 and the end of March 2021.

After some discussion, it was decided that an application could be made in which the focus would be working with Breconshire Local History societies and others in the communities across Breconshire, to increase awareness of the collections and displays in Y Gaer.

It was concluded that the Brecknock Society & Museum Friends should make the application, as the informal nature of the Forum precluded it from doing so. Elaine, as secretary of the Forum, wrote a letter of support and the Chair of the Llyn Safaddan History Group (Roger Reese) was asked to add his comments. Nigel Blackamore provided a letter of support from y Gaer.

Elaine apologised to BHF members for the fact that the tight deadline had

prevented wide consultation but commented that since so many members of the Forum had been generous of time and support in working and advising on the collections in y Gaer, she hoped that they would be favourable to the idea. She has since received several messages of support and encouragement.

There has undoubtedly been enormous interest in these grants and we have no idea whether this application to HLF will be successful. Even if it is not, it may be possible to push forward the project in some other way.

#15 - Connecting Local Breconshire Heritage

y Gaer - Museum, Art Gallery & Library is housed in the new cultural centre, Brecon. The Brecknock Society & Museum Friends (BS&MF) is supporting Powys CC staff in the interpretation of items from across the 'historic' county of Breconshire.

A key element in the Heritage Lottery award under which the y Gaer displays were conceived was 'Connecting collections and communities'.

As part of the interpretation work, over 300 volunteer-written "digital labels" relating to a diverse range of objects are now displayed on 46 terminals in the Museum. In the process of drafting these 50-word

labels, the volunteers have conducted in-depth research, the results of which will inform the proposed project

The aim of the 15-minute project is to make connections between items on display y Gaer and the localities from which they originated.

The project will:

- * Engage with local community groups to identify items in y Gaer that are important to them.
- * Integrate information gathered by the BS&MF volunteers with that held by the local groups.
- * Produce a bi-lingual webpage for a minimum of 25 items or groups of items.
- * Use this material to enhance the interpretation within y Gaer.

We will work with the BS&MF volunteer group, the Brecknock History Forum (BHF: an informal grouping of local history societies), community councils and a range of other community organisations.

Examples of items that could be covered include the Llangorse log boat, a kibble from Abergwesyn iron mines, a clock made in Ystradgynlais.

Members of BHF have websites which could carry the web-pages. Some Community Councils or other local groups might carry a relevant page or

use the material in other ways. Cross-references would be made to the dedicated y Gaer website and the BS&MF website. Social media would also be used to disseminate the information.

BS&MF would commission a suitably qualified self-employed community heritage engagement officer to co-ordinate the project and ensure that outcomes are achieved. The person would work closely with the local communities and Powys County Council staff at y Gaer, together with the BS&MF, and the BHF. The person would be line-managed by a small group of members of the BS&MF Executive Council. The officer would undertake work that the stretched Powys CC staff at y Gaer would not be able to undertake themselves.

We will evaluate the project by:

- * asking communities at the beginning of the process what their aspirations for the project are.
- * using this baseline to evaluate in March 2021 whether they felt it had been achieved.
- * producing examples of ways in which community groups have used the information disseminated via the project to promote heritage at local level.
- * examining the use of the information by other local groups.

* obtaining feedback from visitors to y Gaer.

The final product will be shared widely through Breconshire via the community channels described above and using BS&MF own website, Hanes (BHF newsletter) and publications from other Breconshire groups.

E- papers

The last issue of Hanes reported how, as a boost to morale in these very difficult times, the BS&MF had decided to produce a series of e-papers at monthly intervals. These are posted on the Society website at <https://brecknocksociety.co.uk/brecknock-log-brecknock-society-and-museum-friends-occasional-papers/> There are now six papers in the series. In reverse order of release, they are:

6. A secret castle in the usk valley - david morgan
5. The old brecon jail: a new acquisition and an old controversy - william gibbs
4. Llanhamlach church – more than meets the eye - david morgan
3. Brecon theatre and charity - jayne gold
2. Sarah siddons' memorabilia from the garrick club on loan to brecknock museum & art gallery - william gibbs
1. Sarah siddons as the tragic muse by sir joshua reynolds: the thomas baxter plate - william gibbs

A seventh paper will be posted shortly. It will deal with the Wellington statue in Brecon and will refer to the fact that it also celebrates the Welsh General Thomas Picton who died at Waterloo. A man of enormous bravery, he was of savage disposition and had been brought to court for his treatment of a female slave while in Trinidad. A very relevant topic for today!



Ideas for further papers in this series – especially if they deal with topics from ‘wider Breconshire’ would be most welcome. Do send thoughts and drafts to John Gibbs.

New Initiative from the National Park

Alice Thorne, Heritage Officer (Archaeology) at the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority has recently written to a number of members of the Forum saying:

‘ This is early stages, but I wanted to let you know that I have been nominated to work part time on an ‘Historic Environment Action Plan’ for the BBNPA National Park. This is an initiative recently approved by park membership, as an Historic Environment parallel to the BBNPA Nature Recovery Action Plan

[https://www.beacons-
npa.gov.uk/wp-
content/uploads/BBNPA-Nature-
Recovery-A4-ENG-WEB.pdf](https://www.beacons-
npa.gov.uk/wp-
content/uploads/BBNPA-Nature-
Recovery-A4-ENG-WEB.pdf)

I am not quite sure how this is all going to evolve, but we will certainly need to develop a steering group, and a partnership to develop the plan and effect delivery’.

Builth Wells & District Heritage Society

The year to date has been extremely quiet compared with previous years. All of our monthly speakers from March onward have had to be postponed and, as the pandemic shows no sign of respecting our plans, some rescheduled dates have had to be put off yet again. This is particularly sad as we had some

excellent visiting speakers booked: Hugh Purcell was due in April to speak about his wonderful book ‘Up Top’ which gives an in-depth look at the Three Counties Asylum which became the mid-Wales Hospital in Talgarth, in May we were due to welcome back Phil Hughes to complete his story about the Brecon section of the Monmouth to Brecon canal; in June we should have welcomed Dr Mike Alun Williams to speak about Brecon Cathedral and in September we expected Richard Davies from the Regimental Museum to speak about John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough. October should have brought us Sue Lilly with a lovely subject of Dr Mary ‘Eppynt’ Phillips and the re-scheduled for November ‘Up Top’ talk has been postponed for a second time! Heyho. What will become of next years projected programme? Our annual dinner in January -will we have to cancel this popular event for the first time ever? Will we get to hear John Dingley’s talk about Kit Carson in February, and will Tim Hoverd be able to come in March to tell us about ‘The Herefordshire Viking Hoard’?

It was around this time last year (28th September 2019) that we took a full coach of our members and friends to St Fagans National Museum of History for a truly memorable day out. In the current climate all of these things seem a million miles away.

On a more positive note we decided to waive all membership fees for the current year and we have been in

regular contact with the membership via email and our Facebook page. The committee has met via the Zoom platform and donations to our collection have continued albeit at a slower than usual rate. One notable addition has been a first edition of 'The Brecon and Radnor Express' newspaper which is in remarkably good condition.

We continue with the task of converting cassette tapes (remember them?) into digital format. They are recordings of the fascinating memories of several elderly Builth people made many years ago by the late Gwen Davies.

We were able to assist The Builth Rotary Club with prizes for their Young Writers competition by giving them a huge reduction in the price of our publication 'A War of Memories'. Every participant in the competition was given a copy of the book which records the wartime memories of local people; this included children, evacuees, land girls as well as the military.

Hopefully our next contribution will announce the resumption of our normal activities, but I fear that our next meeting may be our AGM via Zoom! We have made some video clips of how Builth became a ghost town back in March/April at the start of the lockdown. We will make these available in happier times. They are for the future when the Covid 19 pandemic is a distant memory, as we

used to think of the Black Death!

Mal Morrison, Secretary, Builth Wells & District Heritage Society.

Hay History Group

News from Hay Castle

The final few days of the summer saw some real glimmers of light at Hay Castle. For the past few months, we have been seriously delayed by the restrictions of the Covid19 pandemic. Our priority has been the safety of our construction team working on the site, and stringent safety precautions have been introduced to make sure that the virus cannot spread amongst our workforce. This has meant that productivity has been severely reduced, and our eventual opening date has been pushed back to spring 2021.

September saw some long-awaited activity, however. The work on the steps into town has restarted, and the enormous steel beams for the new roof of the east mansion have been craned into position. These have been meticulously calibrated to match the specifications of the Grade 1 Listed Building.

Also installed this month has been the shaft for the new lift, which will provide access for all to many areas of the building. Jacob Spence is the architect in charge of the technical drawings and layouts for the new lift.

He commented,

'Nearly everything about installing a passenger lift in a 17C Grade-I Listed Building was going to be a challenge, from archaeology to the historic roofline. Following a number of studies, we chose to carefully site the lift where it would have the least impact on existing fabric, but afford the greatest user access to experience up-close this extraordinary assemblage of buildings.

The lift shaft is being formed of a delicate steel skeleton, clad in reclaimed brick on two sides, and carefully tying to existing rubble stone walls with shoe details dry packed into existing joints. The lift carriage will rise past, and have views of, these interestingly wobbly walls, with historic repairs and features, including a floating fireplace, to link all floor levels of the castle house with the keep, topping out at an external viewing platform with views over town and the Wye Valley beyond.'

Once the new roof has been completed, the team will be able to carry on working on the interior of the building. Many parts of the less damaged west mansion are already at a cosmetic stage. We have been through some tough times, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

When Hay Castle reopens next year, there will be a fantastic range of inspiring activities to take part in. We hope to have lots for kids, but also

plenty of opportunities for the grown-ups to get involved too. One of those activities is coming to life right now – our fun and educational dressing-up area at the Castle! Local volunteers, under the watchful eye of Emily Hedges, our skilled coordinator, will be making replica medieval costumes for visitors to try on, creating a perfect photo opportunity, as well as a glimpse into the history of the space. We are hugely grateful to a generous grant from the Ashley Family Foundation in support of this project.

The great news is that it's not too late to get involved. Our team will be working on this over the winter months, so if you're interested, and have basic sewing skills, please get in touch with us at info@haycastletrust.org.

As a charity, we rely on volunteers, but feedback tells us that our volunteers also get a huge amount from being involved with the project. This latest activity is a chance to stitch yourself into the fabric of Hay history. We're looking for a team of volunteers with sewing experience to help make a range of costumes that visitors to the Castle will be able to wear when they visit. The project will be launched in November and there will be three workshop days in the early part of 2021 to put the garments together. We'll be working in a spacious environment where social distancing can be maintained and it will be a fun and informative way to learn about the Castle's medieval

history. If you're interested in joining us, please get in touch.'

We're also on the hunt for interesting fabrics which local people may be able to donate. Do you have material which our volunteers might be able to use? We need rich and natural colours, velvets, satins, cottons and blends and trim, braiding, pearls and gemstones, all fitting for noble couture. Of course, the costumes will have to be hard-wearing and machine-washable, but we hope to have around a dozen finished items for visitors to try on.

The dates for any interested volunteers are currently scheduled as follows:

Introductory session – afternoon of Saturday 21 November

Making session 1 – Saturday 16 January 2021

Making session 2 – Saturday 20 February 2021

Final making session – Saturday 20 March 2021

We've just started cataloguing "The History of Hay Castle in 100 Objects." Over the next few months, we're going to take our followers on a bit of a journey through some of the unusual, spectacular, mundane, and bewildering objects which tell the story of Hay Castle. We started off with the amazing trebuchet ball, and so far have covered other weird and wonderful objects including a Hay car bumper sticker, the War Memorial

and the yew trees! Follow us to find out what is next.

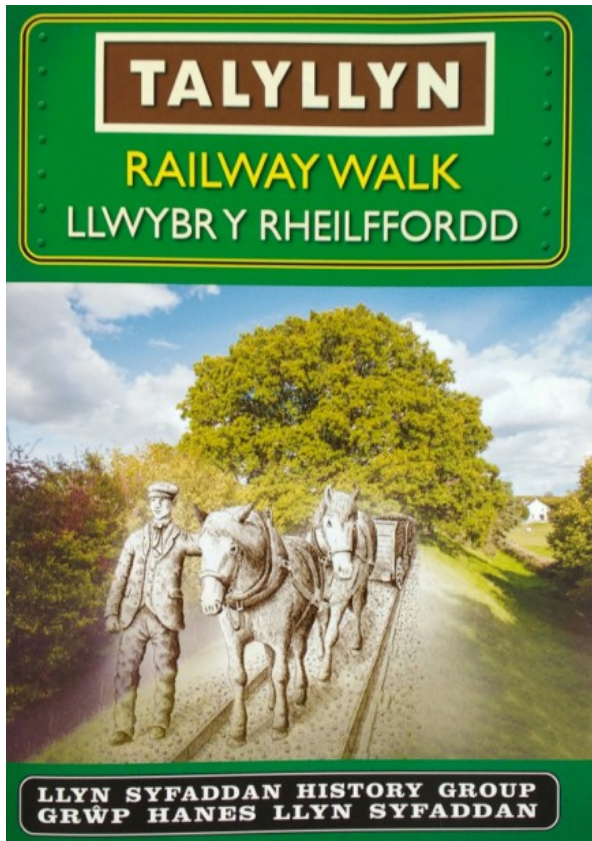
On Twitter, we continue to retrace Kilvert's Diary, 150 years after it was first written. Check it out at twitter.com/haycastle.

Finally, on Instagram, we are delving into the archives looking at historic photos of Hay Castle. There have been some fascinating discussions so far on the origins of some of the images. Find us at instagram.com/haycastletrust.

Hay Castle website is looking a bit dated now – we'll be launching a brand new site soon. This will allow you to manage your Friends membership, book a tour, and get all of the latest news about what's going on.

Llyn Safaddan History Group

We are very pleased to launch our latest local illustrated walk map titled; "TALLYLYN; Railway Walk".



The map was designed and produced by Tallyllyn based graphic designer Jon Dixon who is an active member of our group.

The map forms part of a larger project to preserve and present aspects of our local heritage and was part funded by a Sustainable Development Grant from the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

The maps can be found in the converted Tallyllyn phone kiosk, which

is now a railway and local history information centre, in addition to other local community venues.



Powys Family History Society

Powys FHS has, since the last edition of Hanes, been invited, and participated in another On-Line Family History Fair organised by the Genfair organisation.

Obviously due to Covid-19 the Memorial Inscription (MI) recording started a great deal later than is the normal timeline, but since we have been allowed across the border the following parishes have been or are being re-checked or completed: Radnorshire – Abbey Cwm Hir, Llanddewy Ystradenny, Llansanffraed in Elvel, Llanfihangel Rhydithon, Whitton and the following Chapels,

Ackhill Chapel, Heartsease Chapel,
Dolau Chapel, Gravel Chapel, Knucklas
Baptists, Heyope Chapel.
Breconshire: - Bronllys, Capel y Ffin, St
Mary, Crickadarn, Builth St Mary,
Talgarth, St Gwendoline.

Once checked and published they will be
available on our on-line shop at
<https://www.powysfhs.org.uk/wordpress/shop/>

We have now held 2 successful Zoom
general meetings, open to all to join in
with the talk, get the link from our
Meetings page or from our Facebook
page. If you are a speaker on local or
family history and would be willing to
give Powys FHS a talk, contact
philbufton@hotmail.com

<https://www.powysfhs.org.uk/wordpress/meetings/>

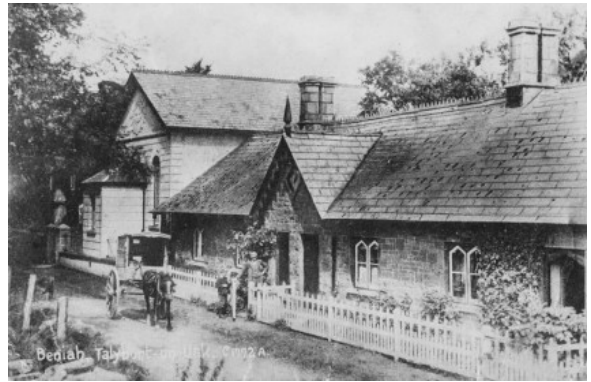
<https://www.facebook.com/PowysFamilyHistorySociety/>

Phil Bufton

Talybont-on-Usk

Our community past to the present

A new website will be launched on
31st October. The site displays
photographs both old and new about
the community of Talybont-on-Usk
and its history, collated and edited by
John Jones.



To view please go to either
www.talybontonusk.wales or
<https://talybontonusk.wales> where
you will discover a collection of
images and information about
Talybont-on-Usk. The site has been
especially designed to be 'user
friendly' with easy to access sections
on our history, places of worship,
transport and industry, land use, our



settlements, schools, war time,
societies and entertainment, and
attractions. This has all been made
possible by research and contributions
of photographs, computing expertise
and local knowledge by many
generous people. John hopes you will
enjoy looking through the various
sections and possibly learn a little
more about this very special part of
Wales.

y Gaer - Museum, Art Gallery & Library

Senior Curator – Nigel Blackamore
Senior Librarian – Nichola Farr
Tel. 01874 623346 / 624121

As we travel towards Christmas and the winter months, Covid19 uncertainties abound. At this time, our intention remains to reopen from Thursday 12th November on our reduced opening hours 10-4, Thursdays through to Saturdays, for visits to the Museum, along with limited library browsing and pre-booked computer slots. We hope to also include reopening on Tuesdays, probably by the end of the month, again 10-4, as soon as we have this confirmed we will advertise on our social media and external signs, dotted right around the building.

As I write this the final touches to our new standalone y Gaer website are being completed and we hope this will launch very soon, as soon as we have a date we will again start to advertise the fact.

Over recent months we have been busy applying for grants to support y Gaer and our activities – these have included a large grant to cover resource costs for family activities this Halloween – 100 packs were made and raced out in time for the firebreak lockdown to local people. The event itself was held online on the 31st

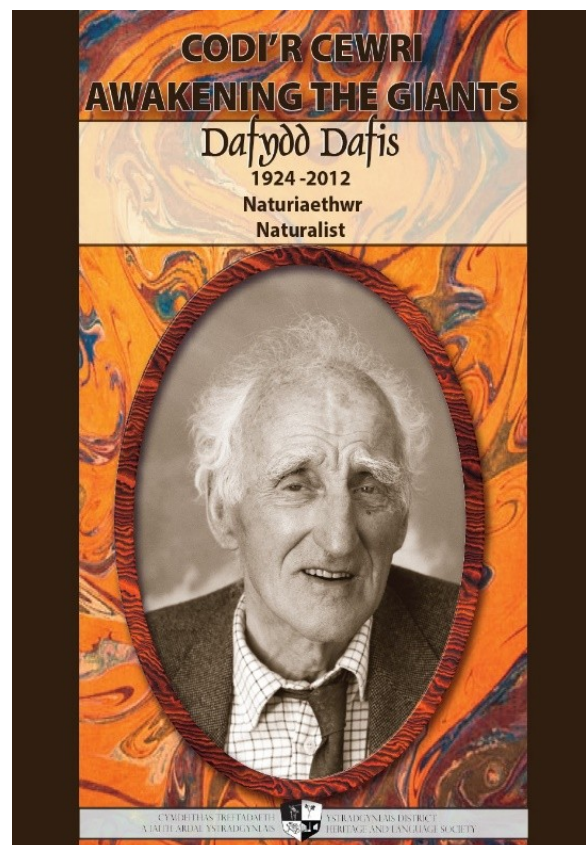
October. Support from another successful grant allowed us to buy blogging equipment, which enabled us to pre-record the activities and publish on the day for families to enjoy. Do take a look at our Facebook page for the craft activities, story times and Frightful Quiz.

As the pandemic continues – Powys County Council continues to work on a business critical footing, and this has so far prevented us from re-engaging our Volunteers back on-site, please rest assured this is continuously under review and as soon as we can offer volunteer places, back within the building, we will do so. We appreciate many of our Volunteers have indicated that they are unwilling to return until the pandemic is over, which we fully appreciate and understand. We currently have a number of grant applications submitted, looking to support y Gaer and make us more resilient going forward, we have everything crossed that we are successful in our bids and will find out the results soon.

Ystradgynlais District Heritage & Language Society

The Society is pleased to report that the thirteenth pamphlet in the series of notable persons who were either born in or have lived in the Ystradgynlais district was published in September 2020. The A5 size, colour bilingual pamphlets outline the achievements and contributions the named person has made to Welsh life and culture. The latest pamphlet outlines the life of Dafydd Dafis (David Davies), born in Cwmgiedd, who was a naturalist of note and founder of the Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd a Welsh-language society which promotes knowledge of the flora, fauna and landscapes of Wales. The Society has a membership from all over Wales. Amongst his many other activities he published a volume on Welsh plant names for the National Museum of Wales.

The persons featured in the series are:- Dafydd Dafis (1924-2012) Naturalist; Sir Goronwy Hopkin Daniel (1914-2003) Civil Servant, Welsh Academic; David Daniel Evans (Dai Dan) (1898-1974) South Wales Miners' Leader; Menna Gallie (1919-1990) Authoress; William Leyshon Griffiths (Gwilym ap Leision) (1863-1925) Minister & poet; Thomas Levi (1825-1916) Minister & Publisher; Adelina Patti (1843-1919) Opera singer; Daniel Protheroe (1866-1934) Composer & Conductor; John Thomas



Rees ((1857-1949) Conductor & Composer; Elizabeth Ada Thomas (Ada Hughes) (1905-1952) Professional harpist; Sir James W. Tudor Thomas (1893-1976) Ophthalmic Surgeon; Prof Stephen Joseph Williams (1896-1992) Welsh Scholar; Prof Thomas E. H. Williams (1923-2001) Civil Engineer;

Copies of the pamphlets are available, free of charge, from Ystradgynlais Library and Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall. The Society gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance received from Ystradgynlais Town Council in the production of these publications.

New Website

Elaine Starling gives: A website was brought to my attention this week. *Powys History Points*. If you google the address lots of interesting things appear.

Library Online Resources

Those researching their family and local history may be interested to know that the "Ancestry" website is accessible via the Powys Libraries website for free. Just log on with your library card number and pin.