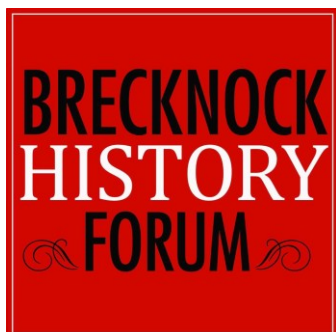




ISSUE 73

Aug 2021

Editorial



At last everything is gradually returning to normal. Groups are meeting, talks are being planned and long delayed projects are restarting. Let us hope this continues and confidence returns quickly so that we can once again meet up with our friends to enjoy all the wonderful history that is around us.

Hanes is published every 3 months. The next edition is to be published November 1st 2021. Please email any articles or information about events etc. with the heading "HANES" to alan.j.nicholls@btinternet.com by October 31st 2021.

Introducing The Forum

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BRECON LIBRARY

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BRECONSHIRE LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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BUILT H WELLS & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

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Mal Morrison mal911@yahoo.com

CHRIST COLLEGE ARCHIVE

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**CRICKHOWELL DISTRICT ARCHIVE
CENTRE**

Secretary: Wendy Parker.

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archive@visitcrickhowell.co.uk

**CRICKHOWELL & DISTRICT HISTORY
SOCIETY**

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CUSOP HISTORY GROUP

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

HAY HISTORY GROUP

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Tel. 01497820676

email: pcford1@hotmail.com

www.Hayhistorygroup.co.uk

www.haytours.co.uk

**HEREFORDSHIRE FHS and POWYS
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email: philbufton@hotmail.com

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SOCIETY**

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**LLANWRTYD & DISTRICT HERITAGE
& ARTS CENTRE**

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www.llanwrtydhistorygroup.com

LLYN SYFADDAN HISTORY GROUP

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email: roreese2013@gmail.com

POWYS COUNTY ARCHIVE OFFICE

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www.powys.gov.uk/archives

Tel. 01597 826088

**REGIMENTAL MUSEUM OF THE
ROYAL WELSH**

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**TALGARTH AND DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

Contact: Nigel Blackamore

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**YSTRADGYNLAIS DISTRICT HISTORY
AND LANGUAGE SOCIETY**

Contact: John Owens

johnowens38@talktalk.net

NEWS AND EVENTS

Brecknock Society and Museum Friends

Volume 52 (2021) of *Brycheiniog*, the journal of the Brecknock Society and Museum Friends, has been published and is available to purchase:

<https://brecknocksociety.co.uk/resources/brycheiniog/>.

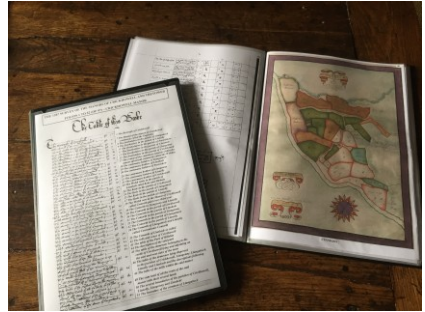
Brecknock Society and Museum Friends Occasional Papers, is a new initiative to share short papers on all aspects of our work. They can be accessed via the Resources tab on the website.

Pamela Redwood

During the spring, members of the Forum were very sorry to learn of the death of Pamela Redwood. Together with her husband Martin, who died in 2020, she made a major contribution to an understanding of the history of our area. As well as being stalwart members of the Brecknock Society & Museum Friends, both were strong supporters of the Crickhowell District Archive Centre.

In 1983, after a career as a London social worker, Pamela and her Welsh husband Martin (Professor of Electronics at Queen Mary College, University of London) took early retirement and moved to Llangatock. Pamela enrolled at Cardiff University

for a diploma in local history followed by an M. Phil degree. Over a period of nearly 40 years, she conducted a great deal of meticulous research which was brought to fruition in many important articles in *Brycheiniog*.



Perhaps the most important is 'Houses and History in Rural Breconshire 1600 to 1800', published in 2012, with its wealth of coloured photographs, at that date only made possible through the generosity of the author.

As she has said about coming to live on the Ffawyddwg above Llangatock - 'living next to an Iron Age hill fort was a novelty'. But she also said that the real attraction for both herself and Martin was the 1587 Beaufort Estate survey of the Manors of Crickhowell and Tretower which had recently arrived in the National Library of Wales from Badminton. Analysis of Information from the survey featured in a number of her articles and a splendid annotated facsimile of the Survey in two volumes was prepared by Martin for presentation to the Brecknock Museum (see illustration). Another copy is in the Archive Centre.

Brecon Cathedral

Brecon Cathedral 'A Thousand Years of Calm'

Readers of Hanes may be interested in the newly opened Brecon Cathedral Heritage Trail and the associated Brecon 'Green Minds' Garden; the whole being the brain-child of Sarah Ward Clavier, who has recently joined the Executive Council of the Brecknock Society & Museum Friends.

The whole is very beautifully described by Sarah, her husband the Rev Mark Clavier and others in the Radio Wales programme 'All things Considered'. [All Things Considered - A Thousand Years of Calm - BBC Sounds](#). This is available until Sept 5th (If you wish to avoid the Radio Wales news for Aug 8th, miss the first four minutes of the programme)

Breconshire Local & Family History Society

Mynydd Illtyd – a new publication

For over 4,000 years man has visited Mynydd Illtyd as evident by the standing stones erected there: the road the Romans built across the area; the Great Forest the Normans used for hunting; the sheep grazed there by farmers and the tracks where drovers walked their cattle and sheep.

In 1957 the Brecon Beacons National Park was established and in the 1960s it was decided to establish a visitor centre on the site of a farm called Caeharn, on Mynydd Illtyd and in a unique position to view the Beacons and surrounding area of the National Park. This is now known as The National Park Visitor Centre west of Brecon.



Since then, thousands of people have visited the centre and walked in the area to enjoy the natural beauty and tranquillity of Mynydd Illtyd. This book aims to give present day visitors a flavour of the history of the area to explain some of the lumps, bumps and tumps that people in years past have left behind.

Topics covered include the geology of the area, St Illtyd and the church that was on the mountain, the archaeological features and story of some of the people who have lived on the land. There is also mention of the British and American troops who used Mynydd Illtyd during the 1939 – 45 War. If anyone has more

information on these soldiers, please contact the Society.

The book can be purchased through the Society website at www.blfhs.co.uk for £4.99 (Plus P&P if required).

*Glen Harris,
Chair, Breconshire Local & Family
History Society*

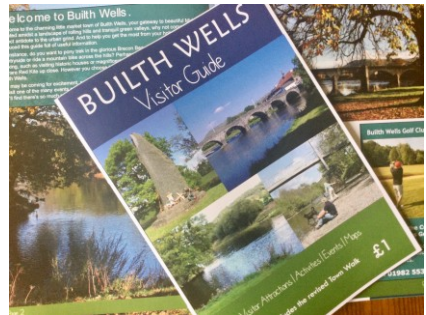
Builth Wells & District Heritage Society

These are certainly exciting times in Builth Wells with the easing of restrictions allowing us to recommence our monthly meetings. Obviously people will be a little cautious for a time so we are adopting a safe seating arrangement and continuing to ask that everyone wears the masks that we have become accustomed to over the long lockdown - that we hope will never return.

For our September speaker we are extremely fortunate that Dr Mike Williams has agreed to come along. The subject will be Brecon Cathedral and visitors will be most welcome to join us on Friday 10th September at 7.30 at Wesley Church, Garth Road, Builth Wells.

Our 8th October meeting will feature Tim Howard who will be speaking about 'The Herefordshire Viking Hoard', and on 19th November we

have our own Rob Warlow speaking on a military theme to focus our thoughts upon the armistice day events of the previous week.



The Heritage Centre at 14 High Street is welcoming many visitors and local people and we are continually improving our facilities. With the 1921 census due to be released in January we have purchased IT equipment and taken out a subscription so as to offer our members and the general public access to the online census and newspaper archives that we have available. We are also looking into the best method of digitalising our huge collection of photographs and creating a database to cross reference our collection of documents etc. Any advice on this would be welcomed but Microsoft excel has been suggested. Any experts out there who can help set up a simple searchable database? An updated version of the last visitors guide has been produced (see pic) which includes local and nearby attractions and an updated 'Town Walk'. It is on sale at the Heritage Centre for £1, along with our local walking guide (50p) and Prince

Llewelyn info and walking guide (50p). They have proved very popular. Who knows, maybe the Brecknock History Forum will pay the centre a visit in the near future. Lastly, we have produced a QR code from which people can make a donation to the Heritage Society. In these cashless days one has to move with the times!

Crickhowell & District History Society

22 September - Elizabeth Sibery: 'Social circles in the late 18c and early 19c in Crickhowell'

An examination of the links between some of the prominent individuals in Crickhowell including the Orientalist Sir William Ouseley, the Strettons at Dan y parc and the vicar Henry Vaughan.

19 October -William Gibbs: 'Theophilus Jones, Thomas Price and a hidden sketchbook'. Mr Gibbs reveals Thomas Price's role in illustrating Jones' book on 'The History of Breconshire'

18 November - Eric Gower: 'The Right Notes at the Right Time-the Story of the Sweetland Organ, St Edmund's Church'

For further information please contact harrietharden@hotmail.com or telephone 01874-830259.

Meetings are on Wednesday evenings in the Clarence Hall. The talk on 18 November will be in St Edmund's Church. Annual membership of the Society is £7. Entry to talks is £3 for members and £4 for non-members.

Hay History Group

In the next few weeks, Hay Castle will be launching a brand new website, ready to showcase all that it has to offer. As well as reading a potted history and checking information such as location and opening hours, you'll also be able to do a lot more on the new site. Visitors will be able to book tours, or tickets to exhibitions where required. We'll have the menu for the café as well as the programme of events and activities. And Friends of Hay Castle will be able to manage their subscriptions through the site. We'll send another email with a sneak peek so that our subscribers are the first to see it. Our archive and reading room space in the castle will have a gallery of interesting and unusual historic photos for visitors to browse. Where the material really comes to life though is with the advent of video from Hay in the sixties and seventies. Richard Booth's declaration of independence caused a stampede of reporters and film crews to descend on Hay, all eager to get their own angle on what this quirky Welsh town was up to.

Until recently, we thought the 1977 footage might be the earliest, but we have recently uncovered even earlier footage from the 60's. BBC's Nationwide programme sent a crew to interview Richard Booth at the start of his book empire, when thoughts of independence were just a glint in a pint of Guinness. Richard cuts a rather dashing figure in the black and white clip, and he has not yet assumed the mantle of maverick King – but he is unmistakably the same sharp thinker who would transform the town a decade later. We are sure that visitors will love seeing this glimpse into the past.

We're not yet able to link to the Nationwide clip, but to whet your appetite here is some footage from the time of Hay's declaration of independence, with a rather bemused reporter musing on the pros and cons of the Hay Sausage....

<https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-hay-on-wye-declares-independence-1977-online>

Llwyn Celyn

A medieval hall house in the Black Mountains whose *metamorphosis of* was followed in

£4 Million Restoration: Historic House Rescue

a sumptuous two-part documentary which aired in the UK on More4 during January 2019 and can be seen on www.channel4.com catch up service.

National Library of Wales

Due to concerns over the spread of COVID-19 public events at the National Library of Wales building have been suspended for the time being. You can, however, enjoy a full and varied online programme that include Curators Present events, information sessions and events by guest presenters. Details of these can be found below.

If you have missed any of our online events a selection of these are available to view on our [YouTube channel](#)

Open Doors

Neath Abbey Ironworks



Sat 11 Sep - Sun 12 Sep 2021

10:00 - 16:30 - Free event

Neath Abbey Ironworks is a site of world importance, being unique in producing iron in its huge blast furnaces and, at the same time, being one of the greatest engineering concerns in Great Britain, making railway locomotives, marine engines, iron ships and stationary steam engines.

These products powered the Industrial Revolution, and made Wales the first industrial society. It was the first place in Wales to be lit by gas, and its plans are registered in the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme.

The site possesses two of the largest masonry blast furnaces built.

Take a guided tour at 2pm of Neath Abbey Ironworks, a birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, with expert historian Bill Zajac.

The Friends of Neath Abbey Iron Company have recently had funding for information boards explaining the

heritage and natural history of the site. These will be available to view for the first time.

See two superb 18th century blast furnaces - built into a cliff for ease of charging, Ty Mawr - the 1801 ironmaster's house, and the engine manufactory where numerous steam locomotives were constructed. Full details of these buildings will be on the information boards.

Address - Neath Abbey Ironworks, New Road, Neath Abbey, Neath, SA10 7NH.

Neath Abbey Ironworks is accessible by the lane to the side of GMF Motor Factors, opposite the Smith's Arms on New Road, Neath Abbey, Neath, SA10 7NH on the A4230. <https://w3w.co/former.themes.juror>

There is plenty of free car parking in the area.

For transport by bus, the following stop near the Ironworks - nos. 4, 34, 38, 155 and 204.

The site is flat, but uneven and rough. There may be difficulties for wheelchair users but it is accessible.

Neath Abbey

Neath Abbey, is holding an Open Doors event with Bill Zajac conducting a tour there at 10.30am. on Saturday.

Originally founded as a daughter house of Savigny in 1130, the abbey

was absorbed into the Cistercian order in 1147. Fairly complete remains of the abbey survive, together with the sixteenth-century mansion raised within its precincts.

Join Bill Zajac to explore the long and varied history of this fascinating site. During an extended tour of the site, he will reveal how the abbey's remains illustrate a succession of pivotal episodes in the history of South Wales, including the Norman advance, the suppression of the monasteries and the early stirrings of the Industrial Revolution.

Free Tour at 10.30am.

Powys Family History Society

The Powys FHS has since the last edition of Hanes been able at last to get about and actually do some Monumental Inscription recording again, currently doing Llanelwedd, Nr Builth and Bwlch y Sarnau Chapel

Recorded and published are Builth St Mary, Gwenddwr St Dubricius and Chapel, completed but not yet published Capel y Ffin St Mary Parish Church and Chapel.

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

The return to physical local group

meetings still looks some way off, so we have organised Zoom meetings until the end of 2021, members get the free as part of our website Newsletter, anyone wishing to be included, please contact Phil Bufton at philbufton@hotmail.com <https://www.powysfhs.org.uk/wordpress/meetings/>

Tuesday 10th August 2021

Jackie Depelle - Ideas for researching Non-Conformist ancestors
A Family Historian's first port of call for researching before 1837 is usually the Baptism, Marriage and Burial entries in the nearest Church of England's Parish Registers. However, many of our ancestors chose to not to belong to the Anglican Church and are therefore missing from these records.

Tuesday 14th September 2021

Claire Moore - We don't want any...Master's not in" What REALLY happened on Census night

Thursday October 21st 2021

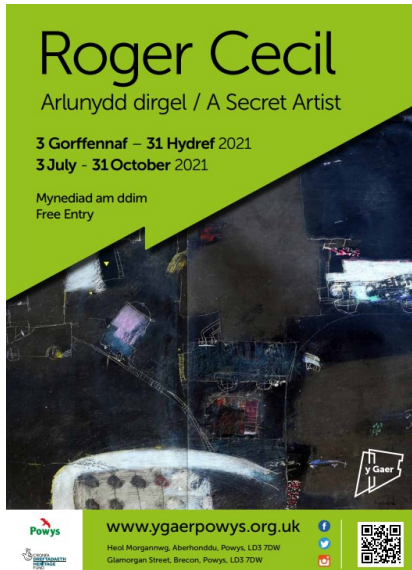
Powys FHS AGM – Drone Archaeology of Powys. Film and slide show by Julian Ravest.

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

y Gaer Museum and Art Gallery

**Work by Roger Cecil at y Gaer,
Brecon : A remarkable exhibition in
Sir John Lloyd Gallery,**

This is the first exhibition since 'lock-down' to be held in the Sir John Lloyd Gallery in y Gaer. As with the rest of the Museum and Art Gallery, it is open every day except Mondays and Wednesdays: 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and runs until October 31st .



Roger Cecil
Arlunydd dirgel / A Secret Artist

3 Gorffennaf – 31 Hydref 2021
3 July - 31 October 2021

Mynediad am ddim
Free Entry

www.ygaerpowys.org.uk

Heol Morgannwg, Aberhonddu, Powys, LD3 7DW
Glamorgan Street, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7DW

Powys
Brecon
y Gaer

Roger Cecil (1942 - 2015) lived and worked in the house in Abertillery in which he had been brought up. His largely abstract paintings have been described as "rich in imagery, poetry and colour, drawn from his

environment, the industrial valley towns and mountains".

His inspiration was the fused natural-industrial environment that he saw all around him: "these big, gigantic sort of breaks in the mountain; manmade things". He loved to climb to the moorland that roofs the Welsh coalfield, often sleeping overnight in a sheepfold to catch the first light. He used diverse materials in his painting, including plaster, car-body filler, household paints and grate blacking, working them for months with decorating brushes, plastering floats, chisels, sandpaper and scrapers – with revelatory effects. The paintings sing with harmonies of greys, pinks, whites, deep brown and coal black, and they are complex in texture – rough, dry, polished, pitted....

Many of the works in the exhibition are for sale and some important sales have already been made. The exhibition has been splendidly curated by Peter Wakelin whose book on Roger Cecil can be obtained in the y Gaer Shop.

Connecting Collections and Communities

This was the title of the scheme under which the successful 2010 application was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the refurbishment of the Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery and its linking via an atrium to a new Brecon library – now y Gaer

(currently open 10.00 – 4.00 everyday except Monday and Wednesday).

Last autumn the Brecknock Society & Museum Friends and the Brecknock History Forum put in a bid for a small Heritage grant under the heading 'Connecting local Breconshire heritage'; the idea being a small amount of funding could enable communities across Breconshire to make connections between items in y Gaer and the localities from which they originated. We were unsuccessful on that particular occasion but remain convinced of the value of this concept. And so we were delighted with the double page spread in the Brecon and Radnor Express on July 28th.



On page 25, under the banner 'Tales from y Gaer', was a splendidly illustrated description of items in the Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery collection relating to the famous Polish artist Joseph Herman, while on page 24 was an account of the Josef Herman Heritage Train in Ystradgynlais, the town in which he lived and worked. On this page there was also an item on the cultural and heritage interpretation panel recently

installed in Cwmtwrch by the Ystradgynlais District Heritage and Language Society.

This is cross-fertilisation of ideas and information at its best and we hope that residents and visitors will make a point of visiting both the Ystradgynlais area and y Gaer: there is much to be seen in both places.

The illustration gives an idea of the combined spread.

Ystradgynlais District Heritage & Language Society

The Society is pleased to report that the long overdue interpretation panel for Upper Cwmtwrch has now been erected. The delay in completion of the project is a result of difficulties encountered during the lockdown period of the Covid pandemic. The free-standing 7' x 4' (2.1m x 1.2m) panel is the seventh such panel to be erected in the district by the Society. The new panel is located adjacent to the *Ffordd y Glowyr (Miners' Trail)* panel opposite the New Tredegar Arms, Upper Cwmtwrch. The *Ffordd y Glowyr* panel was erected by the Town Council almost ten years ago and describes using bilingual text the industrial heritage of the mining industry in this area of the Twrch valley.



The information displayed on the new panel complements that on the *Ffordd y Glowyr* panel to provide a comprehensive overview of the area's cultural and industrial heritage using bilingual text, photographs and maps.

The six other panels are located at the following sites:-

Lower Cwmwrch near Bethania chapel, Cwmphil;

Glanrhyd in the Ynyscedwyn Ironworks park;

Ystradgynlais in the car park off Heol Eglwys;

Cwmgiedd at the junction of the Ystradgynlais By-pass and Heol Giedd;

Penrhos near the Council Offices at Hendreladus and Abercraf at the junction of Heol Tawe and Henneuadd.

Each provides information on the cultural and industrial heritage of the area where the panel is located. The Society acknowledges the support and financial assistance it has received from Powys C.C. and Ystradgynlais Town Council in completing this project. Thanks to Paul Sandbrook and Jenny Hall of *Trysor* for collating the

information and Phil Wait for design work on the panel.



During the period of the Covid 19 pandemic lockdown in 2020-2021 there has been a much greater footfall in the Diamond Park, Heol Glantawe, Ystradgynlais. Many walkers having 'discovered it' for the first time and have been impressed with the area's natural beauty, footpaths and information panels placed within the park's boundary by the Town Council and Ystradgynlais District Heritage and Language Society. The nine 3' by 2' lectern style information panels, on stone plinths, outline the history of the district's former rich coal mining industry.

A number of visitors to the park expressed a wish for the Town Council to provide additional benches in the area. The Council, working in partnership with the Heritage Society, has recently placed a new bench on the footpath which runs parallel to and behind Heol Glantawe between the Park's main entrance and the footpath leading from the Café

Chameleon to Station Road. The bench has drawn favourable comments from members of the community as it depicts a mining theme collage panel on its back support and is in keeping with the area's mining heritage. The site being the location of the former Wern Plemys / Gurnos Colliery and the Diamond Colliery.

The project was funded by the Town Council with a financial contribution from the Heritage Society's funds. The bench was manufactured by local company *Streetmaster* based in the Ynyscedwyn Business Park.

A copy of the mining collage in the bench's back panel is shown below.



Barbara Lloyd - A memorial conundrum

From the *Hidden History, Folklore and Mystery of Our Churches* Facebook page



Why did the stonemason 'misspell' on this memorial stone? (See Yarmouth and August)

This explanation from Natasha Watts

Alright so this is a little difficult to properly explain, BUT bear with me! The Latin Alphabet did not contain a 'U' and it was not until after the Late Renaissance that it became the convention to use 'I' and 'U' as vowels as opposed to 'J' and 'V' as consonants, prior to this, J and V were used instead of I and U as 'allographs' to the latter. An allograph is a variant of a letter which may or may not add meaning to that letter and they were not generally standardised, much like the spelling of that time. So in short, the 'V' was a commonly accepted representation of a 'U' and the preceding verticle line which runs next to it and gives it the appearance of a 'N' is infact an added method of citing that it was not a 'V' as a consonant,

but a 'V' as the vowel 'U'. I hope this makes sense!

As I said, this was not standardised and therefore you might find a quirk like this exists in only certain regions or even by only certain masons.

Chances are you will see it on other engravings in that Parish, or you may not. Just like spelling at that time, the standardisation was not prominent, thus you might find all manner of differences in written languages.

Engravings regarding anything encumbering the jurisdiction of the Church generally leant towards the older usages of Latin. Meaning that while you might read written texts from that time and place in adherence to Modern English, things like memorial engravings leant more towards the usage of older Latin.