



ISSUE 75

Feb 2022

Editorial



A very nice selection of articles have this time. Thanks to all our contributors. Look out for the Sacred Places project run by Alison Noble and also the many events happening in the next few months.

Hanes is published every 3 months. The next edition is to be published May 1st 2022. Please email any articles or information about events etc. with the heading "HANES" to alan.j.nicholls@btinternet.com by April 30th 2022.

Introducing The Forum

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CUSOP HISTORY GROUP

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

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**YSTRADGYNLAIS DISTRICT HISTORY
AND LANGUAGE SOCIETY**

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NEWS AND EVENTS

Brecknock Forum

Sacred Places – exploring the rich history of places of worship in the landscape of Breconshire

In total there are 14 groups and individuals contributing to the Sacred Places project with over 80 sites to be included. The aim is to produce an A5 book for use by Breconshire residents and visitors. It will highlight some of the lesser-known Sacred Places across the county.

At a recent meeting of the Forum a designer and printer were appointed to set a basic design layout for all contributors to use. This will provide continuity to the publication but allow groups to specify individual details they would like to use.

The final list of sites to be included was circulated – the book will have a brief 50-word description of each together with lots of photographs. The book will be for sale for £5.00 from retailers and we will distribute a share of the copies to all contributors for sale in each area.

The deadline for copy is 28th February with a publication date of end of March.

During History Month in September many events will be arranged at Sacred Places. The details will be published in a small booklet which will be available as for previous History Festival publicity.

Brecknock Society and Museum Friends

Tues 8th March by Zoom at 6pm

“Windows to a wider world: the Ousleys and Strettons in 19th century Crickhowell “

A talk given by Elizabeth Siberry

5th. to 8th May The Vaughan Association Conference (postponed from 2021). Vaughan 400th Birthday Commemoration Event .(please google website for further details)

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/>.

**24th Sir John Lloyd Lecture: A Pretty Castle and a Fair Place.
7 pm Friday April 1st 2022**

The group of medieval buildings found at Tretower is one of the most remarkable in all Wales. The late medieval Tretower Court was saved for the nation by the Brecknock Society in 1930 and the twelfth-century castle was taken into the care of the State in 1947. Dr David Robinson’s lecture will look at the subsequent conservation work at both buildings, and at the various interpretations placed on them by different generations of historians.

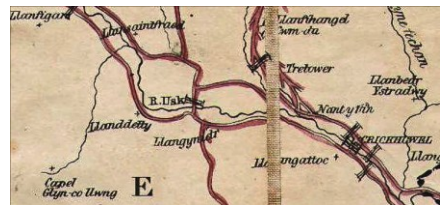


This year's lecture on Tretower Court and Castle is the one that should have been given on March 20th 2020 but which fell victim to the first Covid lockdown. We are delighted that it has been possible to rearrange it. The tickets (free) are available from the Theatr Brycheiniog Box Office. It is hoped that the lecture will also be live-streamed to those who cannot – or would prefer not to – attend in person. For more information on this, please contact Elaine Starling (elainestarling10@icloud.com).

Roads in Breconshire 200 years ago: turnpikes, macadam and stone-breakers - Article by John Gibbs

The following thoughts on the roads of Breconshire were prompted by work on my 2021 Brycheiniog article on the history of the hamlet of Cyffredin, just outside Llangynidr. In

the discussion I commented that 'By virtue of its location, Cyffredin was secluded but it was not remote from the world. Over the centuries, the Usk valley in Breconshire has offered a key east-west route, and Brecon itself was a significant hub in the stagecoach network that developed across England and Wales between the mid-1700s and 1830. By 1835, there was a mail coach from London, passing within two miles of Cyffredin, seven days a week. Although the route used by the coaches lay on the northern side of the river, the road from Crickhowell to Brecon via Llangynidr was also a turnpike. Moreover, via another turnpike, created in the 1790s, the nearest towns at the head of the south Wales valleys were only six miles away'.



This got me interested in turnpikes and I was very pleased to find on-line a high resolution copy of a splendid 1843 map of Wales showing all the different Trusts that were operating. An extract showing the area south east of Brecon is shown here (note the tollgates)

The interest in turnpikes leads onto an interest in 'macadam'. I first came across the term when doing O level

history in the 1950s (we did the first half of the 19th C but no warfare as far as I recall - only politics and the agricultural revolution).

I see from the Wikipedia entry that John Loudon MacAdam was made Surveyor general for roads for the Turnpike Trust in 1816 and he started putting his theory of road construction into practice. This involved the thorough compaction of layers of small angular stones. The action of the road traffic would cause the broken stone to 'aggregate', merging into a level, solid surface: there was no need for the layer of large stones previously used.



And this is where the 'stone breakers' came in. McAdam believed that the "proper method" of creating the right-sized stones, none of them to be larger than one inch in length or heavier than six ounces in weight, was by people sitting down and using small hammers. Men, women, children and were employed in this way. (See Landseer's 1830 oil painting).

By the mid-1830s, it was considered

that Britain had the best roads in the world and journey times had been cut in half as compared to fifty years earlier.

Presumably stone-breaking was carried out in our area as elsewhere in the country. Just the other day I came across a local reference to stone breaking in Eliane Wigzell's excellent book 'Crickhowell 1881', recently published by the Crickhowell and District Archive Centre. She describes how the guardians of the workhouse had opened stone-breaking yards and were using stone-breaking as a means of testing the resolve and commitment of the men seeking poor relief. For what was the stone used, I wonder. This is 50 years after the great period of macadam road construction and in an era when steam engines and iron rails rule. Not that a railway was ever constructed up this part of the Usk Valley of course!

Builth Wells & District Heritage Society

2022 started with the society taking the difficult decision to cancel our annual dinner, an event that has always been one of the highlights of the year, however with the relaxation of rules regarding the pandemic we have decided to continue with the remainder of our programme. The Heritage Centre has remained open throughout and a variety of donations have come our way,

perhaps the most notable being a Family Bible that once belonged to the Sir Robert Peel's family. We also have a very old clock from the recently closed Horeb Chapel that we are hoping to get cleaned and repaired to include in our display.

In conjunction with the Town Council and the local branch of the Royal British Legion, we staged a display to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January. The flags at the war memorial flew at half-mast on the day. The window display remains in place for the time being and we received many messages thanking us for commemorating the event. We appear to have been the only town in mid-Wales to have done so.

This month we expect to welcome the Brecknock History Forum to our Heritage Centre for their regular meeting and we have selected three local religious sites to include in the forthcoming Sacred Sites publication that the Forum is preparing. The sites selected for Builth Wells district are St Mauritius Church, Alltmawr, St David's Church, Llanynis and St Cynog's church, Llangynog.

Our forthcoming monthly meetings include:

11th February 2022 The Sinai Desert (including St Catherine's Monastery) by Viv Williams

11th March 2022 Rubbish Tips of Builth Wells - Duncan McDonald

8th April 2022 Archaeology - Rev. Mark Beaton

All commence at 7.30 at Wesley Church, Garth Road, Builth Wells. Friends and visitors are most welcome

Crickhowell & District History Society

Programme of Speakers

16 Feb. 2022 Annual General Meeting followed by Ryland Wallace on 'Churchmen, Sportsmen and Women Musicians, Reverend Thomas Jones and Family of Llanbedr.

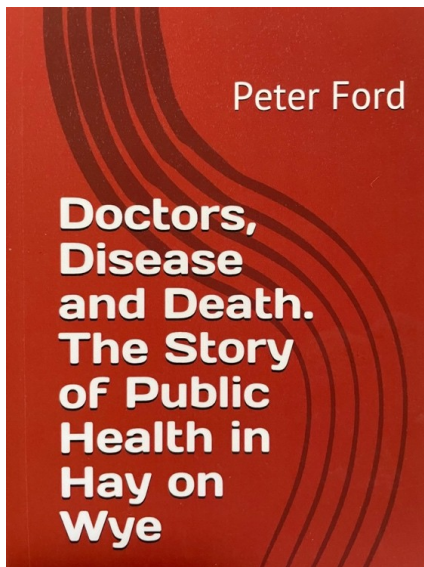
23 Mar. 2022 Eliane Wigzell 'Crickhowell 1881, Stories of Crickhowell and its People'.

13 Apr. 2022 Dr Naylor Firth 'History of Crossings of the Severn Estuary'. All talks are held on Wednesday evening beginning at 7.30 in the Clarence Hall, Beaufort Street. Admission for non-members is £4

Hay History Group

Doctors, Disease and Death. The Story of Public Health in Hay on Wye.
- A new book by Peter Ford

Life may have been hard in small rural towns in Wales like Hay on Wye but did it really need 50 doctors to work there over the last 200 years? This book describes the health of the population from disease, accident and infirmity since medieval times. It explores the healthcare from the apothecaries to the early surgeons and doctors. Learn about the range of work they were called upon to do, and the work of the town councillors to look after the health of the population.



Here are its workhouse, isolation hospital, almshouses, and surgeries,

supported by the chemists, nurses and dentists. The doctors are listed together with stories about their individual medical practice and the incidents in which their services were required.

Last Stone Field Boundary in Hay



The drystone wall at the top of the Warren is the last stone field boundary in Hay. Probably dating back to the Inclosure Acts of 1845-58, it is in a poor state. The Warren has been selected as one of five Local Nature Recovery Projects by the National Park. As part of this overall scheme a grant has been obtained to start restoring the wall.

The Hay Community Woodland Group has cleared the line of the wall by removed all the overhanging branches, small trees and scrub, and dismantled some of the worst sections. The funding has been used to employ a stonemason to rebuild sections. So far approximately half is fully restored, and it is hoped to complete the rest by the end of the year.

Burying in Woollen Acts - article by Barbara Lloyd

Charles II had seen his father executed and the years of the interregnum before his reign (1660-1685) began and this, then, brought in years of political and religious factionalism, conflict in Europe and the consequent economic pressures for the country. Between 1666 and 1680 the Burial in Woollen Acts required the dead to be buried in pure English woollen shrouds to the exclusion of any foreign textiles. This aimed to assist the nation's economy. The requirement excluded plague victims and the destitute. It was a requirement that an affidavit be sworn in front of a Justice of the Peace (usually by a relative of the deceased), confirming burial in wool, with the punishment of a £5 fee for noncompliance. Burial entries in parish registers were marked with the word "affidavit" or its equivalent to confirm that affidavit had been sworn; it would be marked "naked" for those too poor to afford the woollen shroud.

The registers of glasbury breconshire gives:

The last of September there was an affidavit made and returned to me to be registred before Henry Probert, Esq, by Elizabeth Myle of this parish. Wittnessed by John Sargent and Elizabeth Davies 1678.

Anne Watkins, wid., of Cumbach interred October ye 24th, an affidavit for burying in Woolen made the 28th before Henry Probert, Esq., by Anne Madocks of this parish. Wittnessed by John Sargent and Phelip Watkins 1678.

William David of this Parish buried at Llyswen October the . . . An oath made 8ber 28th before Walter Vaughan, Esq., by Margerett David of Llyswen, Wittnessed by Margarett W^m and Da Jones 1678. Mary the wife of Wm Andrew interrd at Llyswen October ye 24th. An oath made ye 28th before Walter Vaughan, Esq., by Margerett David of Llyswen. Wittnessed by Margarett Wm and Da : Jones 1678.

These are the first Certificates I received and filed for burying in wollen."

Source Full text of "[The registers of Glasbury, Breconshire : 1660-1836 ; Transcribed by Thomas Wood](https://archive.org/details/registersofglasb52glas) <https://archive.org/details/registersofglasb52glas>

*Ystradgynlais district
heritage & language
society*

'Tick – tock' interpretation panel

The Society has erected a further interpretation panel in the area which outlines another aspect of the industrial heritage of the town. The new panel gives a brief overview of the story of the Clock and Watch factories at Wind Road, Glanrhyd known locally as the 'Tick-Tock'. The 3' by 2' lectern style panel is located on the path leading from the car park of "The Clockworks" pub/restaurant to its main entrance. The panel provides a brief account of the manufacturing history of the factory using photographs and bilingual text.



The factory was constructed for the Anglo Celtic Watch Company in 1946 and was officially opened on 15th March 1947 by the Rt Hon Hugh Dalton, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In 1949 the Enfield Clock Company transferred to the adjacent site from London. The factories employed almost two thousand people, mainly women, from the Swansea, Amman and Dulais Valleys. At the height of its production the Anglo-Celtic Watch company produced 30,000 finished



watches per week involving 3 million parts. Products were exported to over 60 countries around the world. By the early 1950s the Enfield Clock Company was manufacturing striking clocks, including pendulum time pieces and the casing of strikes and time pieces. The company produced 800 clocks per day. Clock and watch manufacture at the site ceased in 1980 when Smiths Motor Accessories (Vehicle Instrumentation) took over the site. In 1983 the business was sold to Lucas Industries who, in 1999, transferred production to Poland. The two factories were demolished in 2012 and a supermarket and public house constructed on the site. The Society acknowledges the

assistance it has received in the preparation of the panel from Paul Sambrook, Jenny Hall and Phil Wait of *Trysor*, Mr. Mansel Jones, author of *'The Heritage of Smiths/Ingersoll*

National Library of Wales

It looks like NLW is open for unrestricted research. Photos can be taken of collections free of charge. (But please check this has not changed).

Have a look on the NLW Youtube channel for some interesting history videos:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3UEYg-BdHW9PGdnn8stM1_Ro9quByp1j

Mortimer History Society

Diary of Events

Saturday 12th February 2022

Passion and Power in the Marches

An online afternoon conference starting at 14.00 UTC. The speakers are:

Dr Craig Owen Jones on *Prince, Lord or Vassal? The Life of Gwenwynwyn ab Owain Cyfeiliog*

Dr Melissa Julian-Jones on *The Corbets and inter-Marcher Warfare: Reconsidering Definitions*

John Fleming MA on *Nest ferch Rhys: Princess, Mistress, Mother*

Members:£3 Non-Members:£5

Wednesday 2nd March 2022

Princely Ambition: Ideology, Castle Building and Landscape in Gwynedd

7.00pm online launch of Dr Craig Owen Jones' book

Contact

secretary@mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk for the Zoom link

Saturday 26th March 2022

AGM and Medieval Weobley

At Weobley Village Hall, Herefordshire. After our AGM, Elizabeth & Brian Holley will speak about the medieval history of Weobley and lead a tour of the village.

Saturday 14th May 2022

Murder, Mayhem and Marriage:

The Mortimers and the Welsh Princes

A one-day Conference held jointly with the Radnorshire Society. Dr Euryn Roberts on *Wales at the time of the Conquest*

Dr David Stephenson on *The Mortimers and the Rulers of Rhwng Gwy a Hafren*

Dr Rhun Emlyn on *The Mortimers and Llywelyn ab Iorwerth*

Dr Sophie Ambler on *Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, Simon de Montfort and Roger Mortimer*

Prof. Gruffydd Aled Williams on *A "Notorious Association": Owain Glyndwr and Sir Edmund Mortimer*

See website for more information and booking:

<https://mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk/events/>