



BRECKNOCK HISTORY FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 2022



A range of events during September across the historic county of Breconshire, many of which focus on

Sacred Places in Breconshire

Cwmtwrch Heritage Event

Friday 2nd September 2.30 – 8.00

Exhibitions and talks about Cwmtwrch heritage

Saturday 3rd September 10.45 – 5.45

11.00 Unveiling of Miners Plaque

1.00 – 5.30 Musical Performances

Free admission. Refreshments available

Cwmtwrch Miners Welfare Hall, Upper Cwmtwrch

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/Cwmtwrch-Miners-Welfare-Hall-415107268822613/posts>

Sacred Places of Llangynidr

Saturday 3rd September 10.30am

Please join Llangynidr Local History Society for a walk around the village looking inside the Church and the two Chapels (these last are normally only open at service times)

Meet in Llangynidr Car Park at 10.30am for a short walk to the Church of St Cynidr and St Mary. There will be a talk about the history of the church and some of the old registers will be available to inspect.

We will then walk about 400 yds to the United Reformed Chapel to hear about its contribution to village life. Then we go on to Sardis Baptist Chapel in the Lower Village (those wishing to may drive down) for a short talk on the history of the Baptists in the village before returning to the Car Park

Hay History Group Heritage Day at Hay Castle

Sunday 4th September 10.00 – 5.00

10.00 – 12.00 Photogrammetry Workshop – Join this practical workshop which will show how to make a 3D computer animated rendering of a sacred object from multiple photographs.

12.00 – 4.00 Our popular pop-up museum returns with displays of local Hay history.

4.00 – 5.00 A talk by Julian Ravest on his work with drone photography at Abbey Cwmhir, Strata Florida and Painscastle, using advanced computer software to analyse aerial photographs to produce new insights and discoveries of the history of these ancient sites.

Book your place – email: alan.j.nicholls@btinternet.com

Brecknock Museum and Art Gallery, y Gaer, Brecon

Saturday 10th September 11.30 - 12.15pm



The 17th C silver Chalice and Paten from Llanfihangel Nant Bran Church is one of the treasures of the collection. Mervyn Bramley of The Brecknock Society & Museum Friends will tell the story of its acquisition and lead a conversation about some of the other church and chapel-related items on display.
Free

St Gastyn, Llangasty Talyllyn – Llyn Syfaddan History Group

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September 12.30 – 5.00pm

The Church will be open for visitors on Saturday and after the Service, at 11.00 on Sunday. Guided tours of the church and the burial ground each day. Local artists will be 'in residence' alongside displays about the church history and rewilding the burial ground. There will also be the chance to climb the church tower and, for younger visitors, a Children's Quiz. Parking at the church. Disabled access and dogs welcome.

Toilets and refreshments at Llangasty Retreat House nearby.



Exploring Church Rood Screens: a visit to Llandefalle, Llanfilo, Talgarth and Llanelieu



Archwilio Sgriniau Rood: ymweliad â Llandefalle, Llanfilo, Talgarth a Llanelieu

**16 September/Medi 2022
10.30am - 3.30pm**

**Booking essential: please contact
Rhaid archebu lle: cysylltwch â**

Elaine Starling (elainestarling10@icloud.com)

A visit to four Breconshire churches, all of which have part of their wooden medieval rood screens (a screen which divided the nave of the church from the chancel and would have carried an image of the crucifixion above it). The visits will include an introduction to each church and time to look around and discuss. The group will have lunch in Talgarth. A timetable of the day will be available after booking.

St Paulinus, Llangors - Llyn Syfaddan History Group

Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th September 10.00am – 4.00pm



A weekend of music related events. Norman Lowe will talk on the Renatus Harris organ at 1pm on Saturday followed by organ recitals at 2.00pm and 3.15pm.

The Talgarth Male Voice Choir will perform on Saturday morning at 12 noon.

Sunday Service at 11.00am followed at 12.30 by Norman Lowe's talk on the Renatus Harris organ.

If you have memories of living in, or visiting, Llangors please come along and tell us your stories. While the church is open the Church Registers will be available for examination. Refreshments available. Parking in the school car park which is a three-minute walk from the church. Disabled access to the site. Toilets a few minutes away.

www.llangorsehistory.org

Tabernacle United Reformed Church, Pennorth - Llyn Syfaddan History Group

Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th September 10.00am – 4.00pm

The Chapel will be open for online Family History research and will have displays on local history.

Sunday 10.30am – Service at the Chapel – all welcome. There will also be special activities for children throughout the weekend.

Refreshments and toilets available at the Chapel. Disabled access, WC and parking at the Chapel. General parking – see local signs. Dogs welcome.

The Muse, Brecon - Breconshire Local & Family History Society

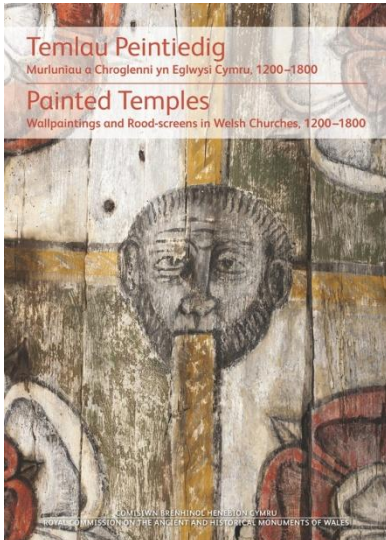
Tuesday 20th September 2.00pm

Brecon's Lost Chapels

Well-known local historian Ken Jones will give a talk about the building now known as The Muse. This former chapel, built in 1836, has undergone a number of changes of use including being the first home of Brecknock Museum. Ken's talk promises to be a lively and informative history of this unassuming building. No charge for members of Breconshire Local & Family History Society, non-members £1.00. Disabled access. Parking in pay and display parking nearby.

Brecknock History Forum/Brecknock Society & Museum Friends

Friday 23rd September 7.00pm



Wallpaintings in Welsh Churches, 1200–1800: Some Breconshire Connections

Speaker: Richard Suggett (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales)

Venue: Plough Chapel, Brecon

Further details: Elaine
Starling elainestarling10@icloud.com

St Catwg's, Llangattock - Crickhowell & District Archive Centre

Saturday 24th September 10.00 - 4.00



Guided tours about the history of the church and some of the stories behind its memorials at 11; 12; 2 and 3pm.

The church registers will also be on display and the updated illustrated church guidebook (published in August 2022) will be on sale.

In addition, there will be an opportunity to hear about how the churchyard is being managed to encourage wildflowers and insects etc.

Coffee/ tea and biscuits will be available with a warm welcome.

St Mary's Church, Llanwern - Llyn Syfaddan History Group

Saturday 24th September 10.00am – 4.00pm

The Church will be open to visitors to view the memorials inside and outside this delightful church.

Parking in farmyard opposite the church – follow directions. Disabled access.

St Michael of All Angels, Llanfihangel Talyllyn - Llyn Syfaddan History Group

The church will be open 10.00am – 4.00pm daily throughout September. There will be a self-guided “Church Detective Trail” available from the church and a “Did Yew Know?” fact sheet on the yew trees. Parking in the village roadside. Disabled access is from the pavement between the Black Cock Inn and the old School House.

Ystradgynlais Heritage and Language Society

Thursday 29th September 7.00 pm.



A talk on Brecon Cathedral
by Mike Williams at the Welfare Hall,
Ystradgynlais

Free Admission. Refreshments available

The Brecknock History Forum

This brochure has been produced by the Forum, an informal gathering of groups interested in local and family history across Breconshire. The contents have been extracted from ‘Hanes’ an electronic publication which comes out quarterly.

For more information please contact Elaine Starling (01874 711484 or elainestarling10@icloud.com).

Hanes is available on the Brecknock Society website:
<https://brecknocksociety.co.uk/resources/hanes/>

This brochure is sponsored by the Usk Valley Trust



ISSUE 77

Aug 2022

Editorial



This composite edition of Hanes combines the booklet detailing the forthcoming Brecknock History Festival in September and the August edition of Hanes. Many thanks to all those who have submitted articles for this bumper issue.

Hanes is published every 3 months. The next edition is to be published November 1st 2022. Please email any articles or information about events etc. with the heading "HANES" to alan.j.nicholls@btinternet.com by October 31st 2022.

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 623346

BRECONSHIRE LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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

BUILT 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**

Contact: Mark Cottle
CDAC, Ty-y-Fro, Beaufort Street,
Crickhowell, Powys NP8 1BN
e-mail:
info@crickhowellarchives.org.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

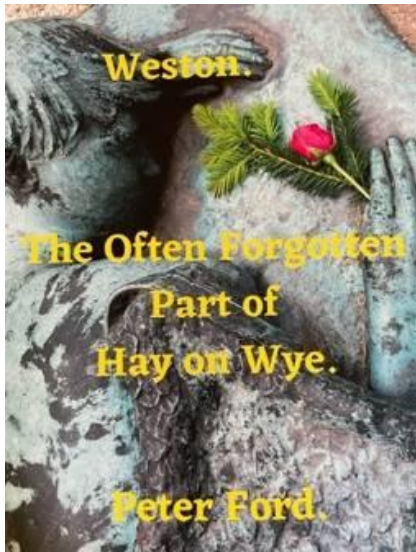
**Y GAER – BRECON LIBRARY &
BRECKNOCK MUSEUM**

Tel: 01874623346

**YSTRADGYNLAIS DISTRICT HISTORY
AND LANGUAGE SOCIETY**

Contact: John Owens
johnowens38@talktalk.net

Hay History Group



A new book explores the part of Hay on Wye known as Weston Hamlett which was legally separate from the town until the late 17th century. As it was outside the confines of the town walls this was the area of 19th century expansion, based around the medieval church of St Mary's and the motte and bailey castle. The area boasts two sets of almshouses, and was the site of the workhouse, the National School, and the isolation hospital. It was here along the Brecon Road that during the Second World War a 'Y' monitoring station recorded signals to be sent daily to Bletchley Park for decoding.

Llangynidr Local History Society

Saturday 3 August 2022 - 10.30am
Sacred Places of Llangynidr

Please join us for an interesting walk around the village looking inside the church and the two chapels. Meet in Llangynidr Car Park opposite the village hall for a short walk to the church of St Cynidr and St Mary. There will be a talk about the history of the church. Some of the old registers will be available to inspect. (The church will be open for the rest of the day so you can come back later if needs be). We will then walk about 400 yds up to the United Reformed Chapel in Upper Llangynidr. The chapel is normally shut except at service times so this will be an opportunity to look inside and hear about the chapel life of the village.



We will then walk back via the Car park to the lower village and the Sardis Baptist Chapel. The walk from the Car Park is about ½ Mile so those wishing to may drive down. (Parking is rather limited). Again, the chapel is usually only open at service times. We

will have a short talk on the history of the Baptists in the village before returning to the Car Park.

Powys Family History Society

The Powys FHS continues to present our monthly meetings via the Zoom platform, as we have been doing throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the Zoom presentations will continue alongside the group meetings. Having Zoom presentations means that not only are we able to invite international speakers, but we also have attendees who are based outside the United Kingdom in the main, which is a shame the more local attendees do not attend in quantities I would like or expect. Anyone interested in joining our Zoom meetings, contact Phil Bufton at the email below. The link gets sent out in our Monthly Newsletter.

See the full list of Zoom Meetings on our website under the Meetings tab.
<https://www.powysfhs.org.uk/wordpress/meetings/>

We again continue our Monumental Inscription recording and publications, our most recent being the Llanigon, St Eigon Updated 2022, Llandefalle St Mathew and Bethesda Chapel. Price £6 plus £1-50 p&p. Also Radnorshire Monumental Inscriptions: Llannano St Anno and Llanbadarn Fynydd, St Padarn. Both updated in 2022

All our publications are available on our webshop.

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

Our Next Zoom Meetings are:

Tuesday 9th August – Jane King – Coram’s Children: the History of the Foundling Hospital

Tuesday 13th September – Antony Marr – Birth & Death – The Hidden Secrets of Registration

Tuesday 11th October – Andrew Lound – The Lusitania. The tragic story of the sinking of the RMS Lusitania featuring remarkable imagery from the wreck.

Tuesday 15th November – Andrea Hetherington – British Widows of the First World War – the Forgotten Legion.

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

y Gaer

Early Christian Monuments

Huge memorial stones form an eye-catching display in the Brycheiniog Gallery of y Gaer.

These stones, or early Christian monuments, date from the fifth and sixth centuries, each is marked with at least one inscription and they tell us a

great deal about a period from which very little other evidence survives, as more perishable materials such as wood, fabrics and manuscripts have almost completely disappeared. Only some of these are explicitly Christian but it seems probable that most of them were erected within Christian communities and they usually commemorate the dead. They tell us about social history, about influences on Wales and about the development of languages in Wales. Some memorials include Ogham inscriptions, a form of writing which uses sequences of lines grouped horizontally often either side of an edge. This form of writing was devised in Ireland and brought into west Wales by Irish settlers. Other stones use Latin inscriptions, similar to those used in Gaul (Roman France), showing the links between Wales and Europe and the former Roman Empire.

One of the early Christian monuments in the museum collection is from Scethrog. It originally stood on the west side of the road from between Brecon and Bwlch and has Latin wording inscribed vertically down the stone. This translates as '[The stone] of Namnius, son of Victorinus'. "The Llansantffraed poet Henry Vaughan (1622-1695) knew about this stone and in *Vanity of Spirit* he referred to it as 'A piece of much antiquity ... With hieroglyphics quite dismembered, And broken letters scarce remembered.'

Another very interesting stone was originally located a mile north-east of

Crickhowell, it was later moved to Glanusk Park, where it stayed until it was gifted to the Museum many years ago. This is fascinating because it combines Ogham and Latin inscriptions. It commemorates Turpillius, the son of Trillunus. The Ogham inscription runs vertically up the front left edge of the slab, with the Latin inscription consisting of four lines running downwards on the right. This combined inscription seems to suggest the equal status of the two scripts and the communities who used them. Another interesting point is that the Ogham alphabet lacked a symbol for P, a sound absent from early Irish, so the Roman name Turpillus created a problem and an X-shaped Ogham symbol is used instead.

These important local objects play a significant role in explaining the history of Brecknock within y Gaer."

Ystradgynlais District Heritage & Language Society



The latest interpretation panel commissioned by the Society outlines the early history of the Coronation Park, Ystradgynlais. It has recently been installed at the Park's entrance. The 3' (90cm) by 2' (60cm) lectern style panel outlines the Park's early history using bilingual text, maps and photographs and is the sixth such panel to be erected by the Society in the district.

The Park was acquired by the Ystradgynlais Council from Col. F.R.D.A. Gough of Ynyscedwyn House, Ystradgynlais in 1911, the Coronation Year of George V, who was Queen Elizabeth II's grandfather. Prior to 1911 the area was mined for ironstone which was transferred to the local Ynyscedwyn Ironworks for processing. Over the years the area has been extended and landscaped to create an area where members of the community can enjoy walking and admiring the area's natural beauty.

The project was completed using Society funds and financial support from Ystradgynlais Town Council and the Brecon Beacons National Park Sustainable Development Fund. The Society acknowledges the assistance of Paul and Jenny of Trysor for their work in collating the information and Phil Wait for designing this and the other panels in the series.

The Society has also been successful in securing the funding for a similar panel to outline the history of the **Glantawe Electric Company**. This was the company responsible for providing electricity to the homes in the area and street lighting in the wider area. The power-house, located in the village, has recently been refurbished by a local businessman. The Company office and power plant were officially opened in 1910 by Baron Cederstrom the third husband of the world-famous Adelina Patti of Craig y Nos in the Upper Swansea Valley. We look forward to completing this project by the end of 2022.

The Society will also publish by the end of 2022 the fourteenth pamphlet in its series of notable persons of the area who were either born or lived in the district. The subject of this pamphlet is **David Thomas** who, together with **George Crane** the owner of the Ynyscedwyn Ironworks, developed the method of using locally produced anthracite coal to smelt the iron at Ynyscedwyn. Thomas was, in 1839, 'headhunted' by Josiah White

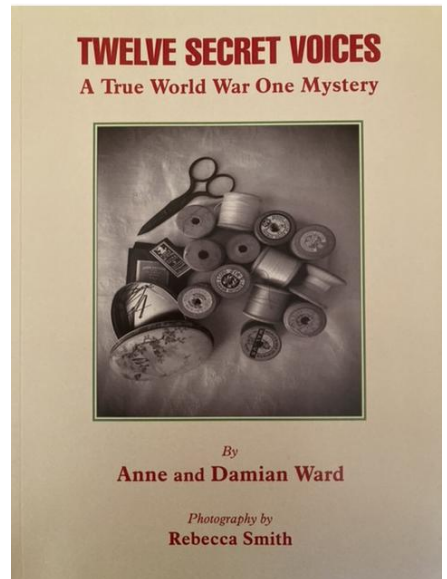
and Erskine Hazard, founders of the Lehigh Coal and Lehigh Navigation Company, Pennsylvania, USA to sign a five year contract to continue his work in the USA.



The Thomas family moved to live in the USA and became influential in the development of the iron industry in the Pennsylvania area. He was a revered figure in the iron industry and in his adopted home of Catasauqua. He died there aged eighty eight in 1994. For his success in America he earned the title of the **'Father of the American anthracite iron industry.'** Does that mean that Ystradgynlais is therefore the 'birthplace of the American anthracite iron industry'?

A Handmade Mystery of World War One - A True Story

In November 2018 I was in a charity shop in Brecon, rummaging in a bag of white goods for a tablecloth for Christmas Day, when I came across an unusual embroidered double bedspread.



Unusual because the embroidery was not of baskets, seasons, flowers or bonneted ladies. There wasn't even a bird or bow!

The embroidery was of REGIMENTAL BADGES!?!

Twelve in total representing assorted

units from seven commonwealth countries, including Wales.

When my husband Damian and I identified them, another unique fact came to light- they were all active in World War One! Now we were REALLY intrigued!



This amazing bedspread helped us through 2020 by taking us on an international and often time travelling adventure including 1914 Ypres, a British actor in Hollywood, an Irish Convent, the Prime Ministers residence of Chequers and to numerous professional historic organisations all over the world.

And all because there is NO clue on it of WHO, WHERE, WHY etc it was made! NOTHING AT ALL!

We have written a book about our research so far, made a short documentary available free on YouTube and give talks with Q&As to all ages to explore its possible provenance.

In the meantime this beautiful embroidery has been donated to The National Army Museum in London where it can be enjoyed- and puzzled over- by everyone.

We will remember them.

Stay safe
Anne and Damian

*Across The Black
Mountain.
Saturday 10th June 1989.*

Arwel Michael.

Looking though my bedroom window this morning, Saturday 10th June 1989. I noticed that it was raining. It had rained quite heavy during this week, but the forecast was quite favourable for today.

April and May had been unusually dry but June had not started very well.

I intended walking from Ystradgynlais across the Black Mountain to Llanddeusant, ending my walk at the New Inn Gwynfe.

By half past seven the rain had passed, the sun was appearing. I got

ready to start walking over the mountain to Llanddeusant and then to the New Inn at Gwynfe.

Having had a good breakfast I was on my way to Cwmgiedd, crossing the Tawe and the A4067 before entering the B.B.N.P on to Llwynbedw Farm Cwmgiedd.

The early morning rain had passed when walked across Llwynbedw Farm. I had almost forgotten how lovely it is where I spent so much time there as a young boy.

Walking through Cwmgiedd I passed Tawlfan where we lived when Cellan and Llinos our children were small. It brought back lovely memories.

Leaving the village going up the hill and passing the remains of Henglyn-uchaf Farm being close to the centuries old way from Swansea to Brecon.

A short distance after passing Pen-sarn Farm I reached Pen-yr-heol Farm. Passing this Farm I had to Ford across Nant Gwys. The level of the water was still quite low considering last weeks rain.

Having crossed Nant Gwys there are lovely Oak Trees and a path leading to the mountain. I felt privileged to be living in such a lovely part of Cwmtawe.

Having reached the mountain gate, I came across two lovely horses enjoying the morning sunshine. The other side of the gate is a small stream flows from the Waun. While there I disturbed a lovely heron it almost hit me flying past.

Continuing through the Waun until reaching Llwyn Cwnstabl which has an

old ruined dry stone wall. This old wall is called Y Chain. It separated the farmland from the mountain between the River Giedd and the Twrch possibly built by the Tredegar Estate.

Between the wall and Llwyncwnstabl is the old ruined mansion Hafod Cwnstabl. Unfortunately only the foundation remain.

According to the late Mr Charles Edwards of Ysrtadgynlais. Hafod, or Llwyn Cwnstabl came into the ownership of Morgan Aubrey of Abercenyrg, Brecon. It is also mentioned in the writings of Thomas Levi, Ystradgynlais.

Much of the stones have disappeared over the centuries, possibly they had been used to improve the Farm Houses on the Palleg.

Near this old ruin are the remains of a large sheep fold. It was said that it could hold up to five thousand sheep. Having reached the top of Llwyncwnstabl, the views from there is quite outstanding.

This area takes us back to the Mabinogion with King Arthur hunting the wild boar. The boar was said to have ravaged Ireland, then it escaped across the Irish Sea into Pembrokeshire. Eventually it reached *Y Mynydd Du*. The Black Mountain of Breconshire, then on to the Twrch River eventually escaping into Cornwall.

The names of our local rivers and streams are mentioned in the legend of Cilwch and Olwen from the Mabinogion. i.e. Twrch, Gwys, Aman, Rhewin, Egel and Llwhchr.

It is time for me to return from Welsh Legends and continue my walk on the mountain.

Nant Goch is the next stream I had to cross, then continue to Tyle Garw.

Ffrydiau Twrch can be seen the other side of the river 300ft below on the Carmarthenshire side. The Twrch River is the border between Breconshire, Carmarthenshire, and the old Glamorganshire.

Ffrydiau Twrch are springs of water issuing from the ground both sides of the river.

Carefully I worked my way down from Tyle Garw until reaching Ffrwd Las, this being a springs issuing from the ground on the Breconshire side of the Twrch.

On Pen-yr-helyg the Carmarthenshire side of Twrch, there are approximately twenty six remains of ancient dwellings, that being, between Ffeydiau Twrch and Nant y Llyn.

Continuing along the Powys side of the river I noticed quite an erosion the Carmarthenshire side. It was between Ffrydiau Twrch and Nant y Llyn. This is to be expected due to the hillside being of glacial deposits.

Iolo Morgannwg mentioned regarding a terrible flood that devastated the Twrch Valley, it reaching the Ynyscedwyn Estate Ystradgynlais. This flood occurred during 1652 due to the Ice melting on the upper reaches of the Twrch. During the Mini Ice Age.

In all probability the flood started where Nant y Llyn meets the Twrch,

possibly due to a large Glacial deposit giving way during the thaw of 1652. It had been estimated at that time, half a million tons of stones and silt had been deposited onto the Ynyscedwyn Estates Land in Ystradgynlais.

I continued my walk against the flow of Nant y Llyn until noticing a Red Kite being tormented by a Crow. Having observed this amazing encounter, it was time for me to move on further into the mountain.

Having reached Godre'r Garreg Las I then continued up to Carnau'r Garreg Las. There are two large Bronze Age Cairns on the highest point of Carreg Las. The views from there are outstanding. North to the Epynt, South to the Gower, East to the Black Mountains and West across Castell Carreg Cennen to Pembrokeshire.

At last it was time for food sitting alongside one of the Cairns with my mind in the distant past.

Leaving Carreg Las looking across the Twrch Fechan to Esgair Ddu with Nant Sali Morys below. This Stream entering Twrch Fechan was named after Sali Morys. Sali was a young woman from Llanddeusant Parish and her body was found alongside this stream. Sali had been returning from Ystradgynlais market having been there selling farm produce.

This sad episode occurred alongside the old bridleway from Ystradgynlais to Llanddeusant where Nant Sali Moris enters Twrch Fechan.

It is approximately three miles from Carnau'r Garreg Las to Llanddeusant. This a downhill walk until the final three quarters of a mile up hill to

Llanddeusant Church.

Leaving Carnau'r Garreg Las and heading to the source of Twrch Fechan, continuing with the old Funeral Route. Half way down is Carreg yr Ogof, a limestone outcrop and has been quarried in the past. As the name suggests, there is a small cave to be found there.

When walking down this steep hill, what came to mind was the past funerals of Llanddeusant men on their final journey home from Ystradgynlais. Some Llanddeusant miners wished to be buried at home in Llanddeusant if loosing their lives in the mines.

The Ystradgynlais men would carry the body over the mountain to Aberdeudwrch. On reaching there, the Llanddeusant men would be waiting for its final journey home to Llanddeusant.

This route is very steep coming down off the mountain, eventually passing Gelli-gron Farm before crossing Sawdde Brige. The remaining three quarters of a mile to Llanddeusant Church was a steep climb for the Funeral.

Back to the present day once more. Reaching Llanddeusant I entered the small Pottery that's in an old building opposite the Church. When I entered the pottery, a local farmer was there waiting for his sheep to return from Llyn-y-Fan Fach.

Leaving the pottery, I walked to the Churchyard to see this old Welsh Church. Leaving the Churchyard I changed my boots for a lighter pair

for the remaining part of my walk.

Leaving Llanddeusant I was heading for the small village called Twynllannan. On my way to this lovely little village, I passed Tredomen Farm and continued over Felin-fach Bridge, passing Aber Llechach Farm then as always, their sheepdogs there to greet you.

It was not long before I reached the lovely Village of Twynllannan. I searched for a telephone box needing to phone my father. It was an extremely hot day and it was as if in an oven in the phone box.

When leaving Twynllannan, passing a little cottage called "Beili Glas" I noticed a car parked outside with a Maidenhead Garage address. Immediately I took Beili Glas to be another Holiday Cottage. When passing the cottage a voice came from the garden wishing me a good afternoon. There were two elderly ladies sitting on the lawn playing some board game.

One of the ladies asked me from where have you come? I told her that I had walked over the mountain from Ystradgynlais, then up though Cwmgiedd across the mountain to Llanddeusant. heading for the New Inn Gwynfe.

Having heard Cwmgiedd being mentioned, she asked me, have you ever herd of the Wartime film called "The Silent Village"? It was filmed in Cwmgiedd.

I told her that I had seen the Silent Village. She mentioned that Humphrey Jennings its Producer was a family friend.

I asked her if she had seen The Silent Village, I certainly have was her replied. There was a Humphrey Jennings Season in London last month and we went to see it. I asked do you remember a blond curly haired child sitting on his mother's lap in the film ? I certainly can she replied. I then told her that I was the little two year old chilled. She was amazed in hearing that and over the moon. She said that she and her friends had wondered if the little child was a boy, or a little girl. I shall inform my friends now that it was certainly a little boy.

I had the impression that both ladies were English, until the other lady spoke to me in Welsh. Her name was Catherine Thomas. She asked if I had ever read "Moulded in Earth" by Richard Vaughan. I replied that I had also "Son of Justin" among other of his books. She mentioned that Richard Vaughan was her brother but his birth name was Ernest Lewis Thomas.

Where does he live I asked. He passed away last year she answered. His lived in Talylychau. It was here in Beili Glas that he wrote Moulded in Earth. This is the area he described in Moulded in Earth.

She mentioned that it was her grandfather who built Beili Glas and then she asked me a strange question. *Have you ever had any unexplained experiences when on the mountain?*

Why she asked me that I do not know, but it prompted me to tell her of an experience I had during the last

Saturday in September 1978.

It was a glorious day when walking along the Twrch River on *Mynydd Du*. The Black Mountain. I was heading for Aberdeudwrch. Remotest part of Wales in all probability.

When leaving the river at Aberdeudwrch walking through Bwlch y Ddau-gwynt, between Tyle Garw and Cerrigcoegion. On this part of the mountain I started to feel uneasy, also uncomfortable. I felt being watched from the rocks above on Cerrigcoegion. This uneasiness increased and prompted me to start running, but not to run very fast, just in case I needed to run faster. I had not seeing anyone or anything. I was alone but still afraid. I had past that part of the mountain alone on many occasions, also various times of the year.

Having run approximately two miles, I started to become calmer especially when seeing Cwmgiedd my home Village in the distance. I had never mentioned this episode to anyone other than my wife until today to Katherine Thomas.

Her reaction was, I believe you. She then mentioned that she was aware of such events, then mentioning a passage from Moulded in Earth. A farmer and his friend were being drawn by a horse and cart, suddenly the horse refused to move and became quite agitated, there was nothing to be seen, the farmer's friend told him to leave unseen funeral go past. The horse then quickly became responsive once more and they continued with their

journey. That encounter happened to my grandfather said Katherine Thomas. She then asked if I had herd of Nant Sali Morys? I had and had passed it on many an occasion.

Over many years I had tried to discover why such a small stream flowing on the mountain to the Twrch Fecha had been given such a name. Apparently Sali Moris was from Twynllanan in the Parish of Llanddeusant. Sali used to carry farm produce from Llanddeusant across the mountain to Ystradgynlais Market. Sali was caught on the mountain in a storm and died there. Sali's body was found close to where the small stream enters Nant Twrch Fechan, alongside the Ystradgynlais to Llanddeuasnt bridleway. This small stream has been known ever since as Nant Sali Moris.

There are wonderful views of the Carmarthenshire Fans from Beili Glas, Twynllannan.

Katherine mentioned that she had travelled the World but this was the (Parlour of the World). *"Hwn yw Parlwr y Byd"*. As she looked up to the Fans.

Sadly I left the lovely ladies resuming their game on the lawn while I continued on my way.

I had been privilege in meeting such wonderful individuals.

Continuing my walk along this lovely narrow winding road, then passing Hen Bont Farm and Pont Newydd. Then passing Pont Aber Inn alongside the A4069 Black Mountain Road.

The weather had warmed up during

the day and I was looking forward in reaching the New Inn, Gwynfe, but I had two hard uphill kilometres remaining before reaching the New Inn and complete my walk.

The time was 6.30pm when I arrived. Entering the Inn I met a man who had walked with me when I led walks for the B.B.N.P.

Pat my wife and Llinos our daughter arrived a little later and we had a lovely meal there.

When at the bar a young man started talking to me, not knowing at the time we were related. Eventually realising our connection he mentioned that his mother was in the other room. Entering that room I met Eira his mother who I had not seen in years. The first thing she asked me was. Arwel what are you doing hear? How did you come over? After informing her I had walked over the mountain from Ystradgynlais. "Don't Tell Your Bloody lies" was her response. She was my mother's cousin.

This had been a wonderful and memorable eighteen mile walk across the mountain. A day I shall never forget.

"Unfortunately the New Inn Gwynfe, also Pont Aber Inn have closed their doors to the public during the late nineteen nineties".