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Introducing The Forum

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Editorial

A few choice events for you to enjoy to Christmas and beyond.

Hanes is published every 3 months. The next edition is to be published February 1st 2023. Please email any articles or information about events etc. with the heading "HANES" to alan.j.nicholls@btinternet.com by January 31st 2023.

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NEWS AND EVENTS

Brecknock Society and Museum Friends

Brecknock Society short talks
11.30am, second Saturday of the
month, at y Gaer. Free, all welcome

November 12th 2022:

Carla Rapoport - From Boudica to
Sarah Siddons : Women's History at y
Gaer

The cafe will be open before and after
the talk.

December 10th 2022

Martha Powell - Recital and talk on y
Gaer historic concert harp

Festive refreshments after the talk

7th November 2022

3pm at the Muse
Ruth Coultard on The Gunpowder
Works

9th January 2023,

3pm at the Muse
Hugh Purcell on The Burney Brothers

14th February 2023

2pm at Hay Castle , in the Clore Room
Marie Fforde Hay Revisited

17th March 2023

7pm Theatre Brycheiniog
Sir John Lloyd Peter Wakelin.

Breconshire Local & Family History Society

We have started our monthly indoor
meetings again, meeting at 2.00pm on
the second Tuesday of each month at
Kensington Church, Watergate,
Brecon. Everyone is welcome to
come to our meetings, members are
free, non-members pay £1.00 per
meeting.

Tuesday 8th November 2022:

John Owen will talk about "Recording
Heritage in Ystradgynlais". The town
is now quiet but once it echoed to the
sounds of the ironworks, later
watches and clocks were made and
sent all over the world. John will
explain how the Heritage Society
produced materials explaining the
history of the town to locals and
visitors.

Tuesday 13th December 2022 :

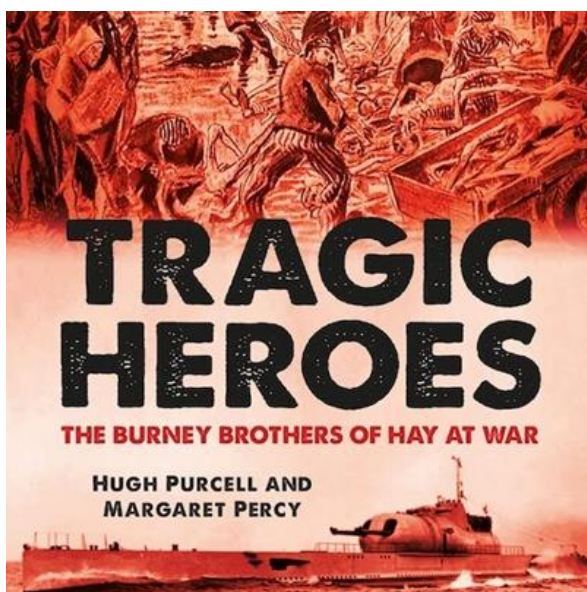
A meeting to talk over Family History
research, problems and brickwalls. If
you are exploring your family history,
come along to tell us what stories you
have discovered or ask for ideas of
where to go next in your research.

Hay History Group

Wednesday 2 November 2022,
Hay Castle Event - 7pm Venue:
Hay Castle Clore Learning Space £5

[Hugh Purcell & Margaret Percy talk about the Burney Brothers of Hay](#)

This talk is part of our Wednesday evening History talks series.



The Burney Brothers of Hay are of historic importance. Christopher parachuted into France in 1942 was captured, tortured by the Gestapo, survived 18 months in solitary confinement, and then 15 months in Buchenwald Concentration Camp. His books, *Solitary Confinement* and *Dungeon Democracy*, became classics of WW2. This biography rediscovers his writing and speaks of an heroic life blighted by post-traumatic stress. Roger was a scholar and pacifist turned sailor who drowned in 1942 while serving aboard the giant Free

French vessel *Surcouf* in the Caribbean. It was the worst submarine disaster of WW2, shrouded in mystery and intrigue. What caused her disappearance? This book offers an answer. In 1962, Roger's friend, Benjamin Britten, dedicated the *War Requiem* to him.

Hugh Purcell and Margaret Percy spent their careers creating award-winning documentaries for BBC TV and Radio on historical and environmental subjects. Margaret was also a TV News presenter and reporter, covering wars in Africa. Both wrote books and articles while in the BBC and now write professionally, from their home near Hay-on-Wye.

Hugh and Margaret will be signing books after the event.

Hay Castle Exhibition - The Printed Line Oct 8th - Jan 8th 2023 10-4pm Free



This exhibition considers how artists have used a variety of printmaking techniques to exploit the potential of

the printed line: from the thick, velvety lines of drypoint and intense cross-hatching of etching to delicate wood engravings and boldly-coloured screenprints.

Spanning the 20th century and up to the present day, the prints include Sickert's masterly etching *The Old Middlesex*, a bold etching by Eduardo Chillida and one of Matisse's pared-down lithographs. The use of colour is explored in screenprints by Bridget Riley and Kenneth Martin, as well as Simon Patterson's witty lithograph reworking the lines of the London tube map.

Hereford Record Office

7th November 2022.

14:00 - 16:00 Cost: £5

A talk about stained glass in Herefordshire and Shropshire Robert Walker, former conservation officer, reveals the glorious tradition of medieval and early modern stained glass in the county and diocese of Hereford. From the rare late thirteenth-century panels at Madley, to the stunning images of the Virgin and Child at Eaton Bishop and the magnificent assemblage of glass at Ludlow, the region's glass bears comparison with the best in the country.



5th December 2022

Time: 10:00 - 12:30

Cost: £10 - booking essential

Reading old handwriting workshop
An introduction to Secretary hand script used in the 16th and early 17th centuries. Students will have the opportunity to work through English parish records, wills and title deed extracts and get to know the basic principles of Tudor and early Stewart palaeography.

Location: HARC - Herefordshire Archives and Records Centre, Fir Tree Lane, Rotherwas, Hereford, HR2 6LA.

Mortimer History Society

Saturday 3rd December 2022

10.00-1.00 A Medieval Christmas

A half-day event at Holy Trinity Church, Hereford. Prof. Giles Caspar Medieval Christmas Customs
Dr Sigbjorn Sonnesyn - Chants and Carols: Medieval Christmas and the Church and medieval Christmas music by Pease Pottage

Saturday 28th January 2023

Education and Learning in Medieval Wales and the Marches

A half-day conference – online only. Plus, a follow-up series of evening talks each focussed on one scholar/writer.

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.

See the full list of Zoom Meetings on our website under the Meetings tab. You do not have to be a member to join the Zoom meetings, just contact philbufton@hotmail.com for information.

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

We again continue our Monumental Inscription recording and publications, our most recent being the Llanhamlach St Peter & St Illtyd, and Llansaintffraed St Bride parish church surveys.

Also Radnorshire Monumental Inscriptions: St Harmon, St Garmon, inc Nantgwyn & Sychnant Chapels, Cwymbach Llechrhyd, St John the Divine. Both updated in 2022. We have also been contacted by the family of Gareth Jones from Stafford, who have donated Gareth's complete archives of many years of work transcribing graveyards in SW Breconshire. Including in this are transcriptions of parish registers, Bishops Transcripts and census returns for many of these parishes. Unfortunately, Gareth is no longer able to continue this lifetime of work. All our publications are available on our webshop.

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

Our Next Zoom Meetings are:

Tuesday 15th November 2022

Andrea Hetherington – British Widows of the First World War – the Forgotten Legion. Check out our website Meetings page for the latest meeting programme.

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

y Gaer – Brecon Library & Brecknock Museum

Floods in Brecon

In 1853 Brecon suffered a huge and destructive flood. This flood was so noteworthy that it was reported in the Illustrated London News on 30th July 1853, a copy of which is in the museum collection at y Gaer.

The Illustrated London News (ILN) was the first illustrated newspaper in the world and was printed for 161 years from 1842 to 2003.

An important record of the great Brecon flood, as well as a dramatic report, the ILN dedicates a complete page to pictures of the devastation. The six illustrations show scenes in and around the town, with captions such as *Devastation of the flood – Honddu Bridge destroyed, Inundation of Honddu Mill and The flooded River Honddu carrying away the building on its banks*".

The report contains vivid details about the events, caused by a massive thunderstorm after a spell of hot weather. "At Brecon, the destruction of property has been of fearful extent, the picturesque old place has been devastated."

The Honddu flooded particularly badly, with most bridges destroyed. Castle Bridge was one of only 3

bridges over the Honddu to survive.

The ILN reported that houses and workshops along the Struet were washed away, and "The pretty little Honddu bridge fell before the watery avalanche". At the bottom of Ship Street "in less than ten minutes the whole of the street was under a depth varying from three to nine feet ... spreading terror throughout the town."

The 1853 flood waters were even higher in Brecon than during the 1979 flood that many people will remember, and which prompted the major flood alleviation scheme along the Usk in Brecon. The marker on the left-hand wall at the bottom of Ship Street shows the height the water reached.

In 2011 the Environment Agency Wales carried out major strengthening works on a 30m section of a flood bank in Brecon to reduce the risk of flooding for the area around Ty Henry Vaughan. The Illustrated London News report of the devastation caused by the 1853 flood reminds us how important our modern flood defences are.

A Tale of Gwenddwr School *- by Elizabeth Orr*

I wasn't looking for it but, one day whilst researching something else – now forgotten – I came across a book called *Smiling Water* (Llandysul, 1999) which tells the trials and tribulations of a young village schoolmistress in Gwenddwr, Breconshire. After reading the book, I thought it would be interesting to have a look at the school records we hold at Powys Archives. For Gwenddwr School we have Managers Minute Books and Log Books and I found reading through and comparing entries in them with Mair's autobiography a fascinating exercise.

After she was abandoned by her husband and father of their two young daughters, Mair Thomas went to live with her parents in the school house in Gwynfe, Llangadog, Carmarthenshire. Her mother and father lived in the school house as her father was the school master there. She could have taken a position as teacher at Gwynfe school, but was determined to be independent. She applied for the post of supply teacher at Gwenddwr after seeing an advert in *The Western Mail: Required Urgently, a County Supply Teacher for Breconshire.*

She was offered the unusual assignment of taking over a small school ... pending the appointment of a new headteacher. Mair thought the name Gwenddwr may be a good omen as gwen can mean smile and

dŵr means water...smiling water! The school Managers Minute Book shows that they were against employing a woman as headteacher. A Meeting of the Gwenddwr School Managers was held at the Church Hall, Erwood on Thursday Dec. 29 1949 – 3 applications for post of Headmistress were considered. At the next meeting – March 20 1952 - It was decided to press for a Headmaster in view of the size of the school at present. 28 pupils and the large range of ages of the pupils 5 – 15 years. School Managers Meeting, August 12 1952. Six applications were received for the post of Headteacher. All women. [!]

The problem appeared to be their concern at the number of older boys in the school – who perhaps they felt needed the presence of a male head teacher to keep them in line – and as the next paragraph shows But if the older boys were still in the school next term or if the numbers justified it, it was resolved to press once more for a headmaster and the correspondent was instructed to write to the authority to this effect.

Although no mention of this in the Managers Minute Book, the School Log Book on 6 January 1953 has this entry: I, Mair Thomas take charge of this school today having been appointed County Supply Teacher... Mair moved from her parents' home in Carmarthenshire, leaving her daughters to live with their maternal grandparents. Her journey to Gwenddwr feels very similar to one

taken today - the turn after Erwood and up to Twmpath to the haunting call of the curlew and the mournful mew of the buzzards, then the sharp bend by the stand of Scots Pine. Her father drove her the first time but, after weekends or school holidays at home in Carmarthenshire, there were times, she had to walk from Erwood Station, cross the bridge over the Wye and make her way up the winding lanes to the village on foot.

During her first year at the school, she made her mark by getting to know the children and learning how to deal with some of the more unruly older boys. Welsh was Mair's first language, and she introduced them to the Welsh language through song and also felt it was important for them to learn about their local history (e.g the Drovers and Prince Llewelyn). It is obvious from reading the chapters about her year as a supply teacher that Mair built a rapport with the children, this being reflected in her autobiographical account and entries in the school log book.

In Smiling Water towards the end of the book, Mair - whilst still a supply teacher at Gwenddwr and living at Chapel House - receives a letter from the Education Department dated 1951 and offering the post of Headmistress at Gwenddwr School, to take effect from 1 January 1952. These dates don't tally with the Log Book or Managers Minute Book. Perhaps a little poetic licence, forgetfulness, or a typo? The sequence of events in the

archival documents is as follows:

Whilst she was a supply teacher, the Managers continued their quest for a Headmaster. In the school Managers Minute Book March 8 1953 Applications for the post of headmistress were considered but no final decision was reached... [One of these applicants was Mair Eifiona Thomas].

However, on November 6 1953 in the school Managers Minute Book It was decided to appoint Mrs. M.E. Thomas, School House, Gwynfe, Llangadog, Carm. as Headmistress of the school and in the school Log Book on 10 November 1953. I, Mair Thomas, County Supply Teacher in charge of the above school since 5 January 1953, was today informed...that I had been appointed headmistress of Gwenddwr School.

Although the address is given as Gwynfe, whilst she was a supply teacher, Mair had been lodging with Mrs. Staley – the school cook – at Chapel House in Gwenddwr. Mrs. Staley it appears was her stalwart during her years in Gwenddwr and did much to help her settle in. Mrs Staley is often mentioned - a well-known local character - in Hills & Sunny Pastures: Life in Erwood and its Surrounding Parishes (Erwood Women's Institute, 2000) accompanied by photos. She was a widower by the time she was working at the school, having previously lived at Abergwenddwr Cottage with her

husband. Of Mrs. Staley's cooking, Mair wrote from first day, the school dinners were absolutely super. Herbs were brought in from hers and other local gardens, whilst supplies were bought from Ray the Stores in Erwood and Harold the Butcher. Soft fruit and apples were taken from the garden of a derelict garden near the school.

Following her appointment to position of Headteacher, she then moved into the school house – at the cost of Only a pound a month! along with her daughters, now able to come to live with her in Gwenddwr. The house needed work, and this was achieved with help from Mrs. Staley and others. At the beginning of the following Spring Term, Mair's eldest daughter of School House, Gwenddwr was admitted as a pupil to the school. Age 5 years, 4 months. In the summer term of 1955 Mair's youngest daughter was admitted to the school 26th April Permission received from Chief Education Officer to admit my daughter...age 3 years, 7 months.

There is an event in Smiling Water which at first, I thought was out of sequence – like the Headteacher appointment letter – but, have realised it may be an event that happened more than once! It concerns a school summer outing to Pant y Llyn on the Epynt. Mair wrote about it as happening during her year as supply teacher, but there is a record of the same trip in 1954, the summer after she took up position as Head. School Log Book Summer Term

1954 - A letter received from the Education Officer granting a holiday on 30th June for a school Nature Ramble to Pantllyn [Pant y Llyn] Pool. In Smiling Water, she wrote We set off carrying baskets of packed lunches and bottles of water... Soon we arrived at the wide open spaces of the mountains dotted with wild ponies and grazing sheep and ahead of us a large glistening lake set in a landscape of sweeping hills and green pastures. This then was Pantllyn, the place they had chosen for our school picnic. It was beautiful.

The walk to Pant y Llyn is about 2 ½ miles from the school and Older boys and girls carried the little ones on their backs and we relied on them to show us the way to their chosen destination.

In the Log Book, Mair writes that whilst on the picnic From a high rock on the Epynt we were able to watch the Eclipse of the Sun, and had a fairly clear view of the Eclipse in its various stages – from 12.45 to 1.15pm.

According to "BBC On This Day", For people in Britain it was the first time they could see this natural phenomenon since 1927... There would not be another total eclipse visible from Britain until August 1999. Remembering the strange atmosphere during the eclipse of 1999, I wonder how the young school children felt on that day up on the Epynt seeing their first solar eclipse.

School Log Book 16 December 1954
The last day of the Christmas Term.
The children had their Xmas dinner,
and after dinner, they presented Mrs.
Staley (our cook) with a box of
chocolates. At the Christmas party the
day before, the children had sung
carols and songs -with 'action songs'
in Welsh. Singing in Welsh is
mentioned a number of times by Mair
in her entries in the log book. Welsh
was Mair's first language, and she was
well placed to carry out the wishes of
the school inspectors to teach her
pupils some Welsh.

Smiling Water ends just as Mair is
about to become Headmistress and
move into the school house with her
daughters. She reflects on her
unhappy marriage and faces the
future bringing up her daughters
alone I saw no possibility of ever
having another relationship. Her
name on the book is however, Mair
Winfield. She married Brian Winfield
in the 4th quarter of 1959.

The school Log Book has few entries
for 1959 – all entries for the year are
confined to one page. There is no
mention of a day off for a wedding.
The last entry from Mair is on 23
Dec...

"I terminate duties here today after
seven very happy years as
headmistress."

She had been instrumental in
organising the Gwenddwr Show in
1953 according to Hills & Sunny
Pastures, and there is a photograph of
her and Mr. Winfield (Brian) attending

the 40th anniversary show in 1993 as
well as there being photos of her in
her days at Gwenddwr School in the
same book.

Mair worked elsewhere in the UK
after leaving Gwenddwr and came
back to live in Wales later in life,
settling near Machynlleth, where she
lived the rest of her life. She died in
2009 and the poignant ending to the
story is that she was buried in the
grave yard of St. Dubricius Church,
Gwenddwr. Mrs. Staley, who died in
1980, is buried in a nearby grave.

Mair's gravestone reads:

Headmistress
of
GWENDDWR SCHOOL
1953 ~ 1959
Author of
SMILING WATER
MAIR touched the
hearts of all those
she met

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Twitter @PowysArchives

Bibliography

Smiling Water. Mair Winfield
(Llandysul, 1999)

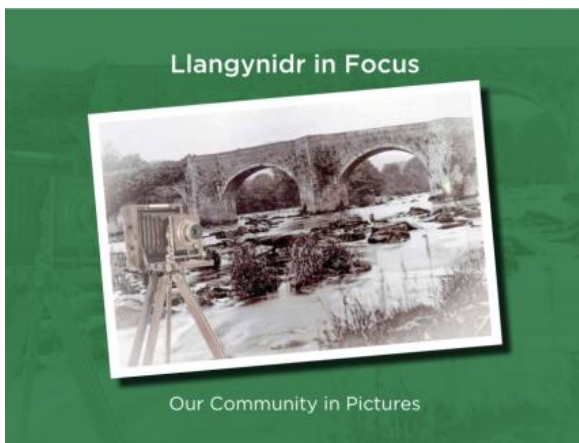
Hills & Sunny Pastures: Life in Erwood
and its Surrounding Parishes (Erwood
WI, 2000)

Powys Archives (including catalogue
reference)

Gwenddwr School Log Book 1950-
1971 B/E/PS/35/L/03

Gwenddwr School Manager's Minute
Book 1903-1957 B/E/PS/35/M/1

Llangynidr Local History Society



Llangynidr Local History Society has just published a photographic look at the history of the village over the past one hundred and seventy years using photographs given by families over a number of years and going back to the earliest days of popular photography. The book looks at the village through a series of lenses which concentrate on various aspects of village life such

as Buildings, Llangynidr at Work, Religion, Schools, Societies and Pastimes etc and gives a real feeling for the way the village has changed and developed over that period.

There are some particularly fascinating photos, particularly those done by a resident, Captain Sparrow, in the 1890s, which are wonderfully well constructed images and of very high quality.

We also have the earliest known photograph of a Llangynidr resident, taken at the Great Exhibition in 1851 and on glass. This is now in the museum in Brecon.

We think it is a very good addition to the printed body of work about the village and that was the objective; to make family photographs available to the community as a whole.

Brecknock Forum

Report on Brecknock History Festival 2022 with its focus on "Sacred Places"

The Brecknock History Forum publication 'Sacred Places' came out in the summer and has been very well received. The Forum is greatly indebted to Alison Noble for all her hard work in masterminding the content and in seeing it through the production process. The free leaflet on the September History Festival events (which itself formed part of the August issue of Hanes) was widely distributed and was also well-received. Below

follows a brief account of some of the events. It was prepared by the Forum's secretary Elaine Starling following the Forum committee meeting that took place at Hay Castle on Oct 7th.

Ystragynlais Heritage and Language Society. Cwmtwrch Heritage Events: 2nd & 3rd September: Elaine Starling reported on her visit on the 2nd Sept. She attended two talks : one given by a long time resident who talked about her childhood and growing up in the area and the other by Malcolm Best who talked about the Heritage and Culture of the Community and the importance of local people in remembering and recording it.

Sacred Places of Llangynidr: 3rd September
Rosemary Evans reported that some 40 people joined the local History Society for a walk around the village starting at St Mary's Church with a talk about its history. The group then visited Sardis United Reformed Church for information and refreshment, and finally, after a further walk, visited the Sardis Baptist Chapel. In the afternoon St Mary's stayed open so that visitors could view the Parish Registers.

Hay History Group - Clore Room at Hay Castle: 4th September.
Alan Nicholls reported that four people attended The Photogrammetry Workshop, the purpose of which was to show how to make 3D computer animated pictures of artefacts. In the afternoon, the Pop-up Museum was well attended with a steady flow of visitors.

On screen, a loop displayed 200 pictures from in and around Hay which were much enjoyed. The late Neil Fields had, over the years, built up a substantial collection documents and ephemera about Hay and, thanks to his son, some of this material was on display in the Museum.

The day finished with a talk by Julian Ravest on the use of drones to examine historical and archaeological features in the landscape. He has a license and works with Archaeological Trusts and History Groups. He showed pictures from Abbycwmhir, Strata Florida and Painscastle. Between 40 and 50 people attended.

Brecknock Museum and Art Gallery, y Gaer Brecon: 10th September
Mervyn Bramley spoke about the 17th century chalice and paten from Llanfihangel Nant Bran Church. He explained how the Museum acquired the items and discussed their importance. A valuable comparison was provided by the chalice and paten from Llandefalle Church which had been brought along by a member of the Brecknock Society & Museum Friends. There were about 30 people present. (This is the first of a series of Society talks on Museum items from across Brecknockshire which will take place on the second Saturday of the month).

St Gastyn, Llangasty Talyllyn. Llyn Syfaddan History Group: 10th & 11th September.

Linda Kells and Yvonne Beaven reported on this and other events in the Llangorse



lake area. There was a steady stream of visitors over the two days. The tower was open and very popular and there were artists and craft people in attendance. The Retreat House offered teas.

Brecknock Society & Museum Friends. Exploring Church Rood Screens - a visit to Llandefalle, Llanfilo, Talgarth & Llanelieu Churches: 16th September
 Some 14 people joined this group which was led by Sophie Clubb. At Llandefalle Church the group was given an in depth view of the site. There is evidence of wall paintings on the south wall. At Llanfilo, Jean Hosie, whose husband had been Church Warden recalled how he had discovered a copy of the tithe map hidden in the rood loft. In Talgarth Church, which is the largest parish church in the old County of Brecknock, we had to hunt for what remains of the screen. Members of the group were

interested in the memorials in the Church.

Lunch was taken in the Mill at Talgarth which gave some of the party the opportunity to see how the restoration of the Mill has transformed the locality. After lunch we drove to Llanelieu to look at the primitive and very important screen. This Church also has interesting wall paintings.

Finally, a small group visited Bronllys Church which has a tower separated from the main body of the church building. The rood screen here was moved towards the rear of the Church in the 1970's. It boasts a carving of the Green Man.

St Paulinus, Llangors. Llyn Syfaddan History Group: 17th & 18th September.

On the Saturday, the attendance was low but the people who came enjoyed the event. Norman Lowe's talk on the Renatus organ was well received as was the organ recital given by Stephen Powers, the Brecon Cathedral Organist.

The talk and a recital took place again on the Sunday. The Church registers were open for viewing both days. Recording of local peoples' memories was started and this will be continued.

Tabernacle United Reformed Church, Pennorth. Llyn Syfaddan History Group: 17th & 18th September. There was a slow stream of visitors. The Chapel was open for online Family History research. There was an interesting display of documents and

artefacts available for perusal.

The Muse, Brecon. Breconshire Local & Family History Society: 20th September.

Ken Jones spoke about the history of the building which began life as the English Congregational chapel, built at the initiative of the Rev Blow. It subsequently became the first Brecknock Museum. The meeting was attended by 30 People

Brecknock Society & Museum Friends. The Plough Chapel, Brecon: 23rd September

'Wall paintings in Welsh Churches 1200 – 1800: some Breconshire connections'.

Richard Suggett (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales) gave a brilliantly constructed and very moving talk based on his remarkable new book 'Painted Temples'. The event was very well attended and the Plough Chapel, with its wealth of carved interior woodwork, made an excellent venue.

St Catwg, Llangattock. Crickhowell: 24th September.

Tours were led by Elizabeth Siberry who recounted stories of interest about the memorials and the history of the church. The Brute Memorials were much admired. Church registers were available for perusal. There was a steady stream of visitors throughout the day

St Mary's Church, Llanwern and St

Michaels of all Angels. Llanfihangel Tallylyn were open on 24th September. (Llyn Syffadan History Group)

Ystradgynlais Heritage and Language Society : 29th September.

This was the last scheduled event of History Festival. Mike Williams gave a well-received talk on Brecon Cathedral - the building and its history.

Highlights of Llansantffraed and Llandetty open days, 17 & 24 sept 2022

Mervyn and the Rev Liz Bramley report that the two new church committees and other volunteers cleaned, planned and provided hospitality for the open days. Both attracted about 60 people, many of whom had not been inside these buildings before. To help them, full guide books were on sale. Also new one-page fact sheets had been written to give brief information on what to look for: these are now on each church's section of the website - <https://parish.churchinwales.org.uk/s475> or Google 'Beacons Benefice'.

Llansantffraed. Visitors remarked on the fine interior and on the wealth of wall monuments. They walked up to see poet Henry Vaughan's simple grave under the yew tree, and to read Sassoon's famous poem. The service of thanksgiving for re-opening Llansantffraed on the Sunday was a joyful occasion. The congregational hymns, and solos from Mr Glasnant

Morgan sounded their best in the superb acoustics of this building. The sermon recalled the words of Bishop Basil of St David's in 1885, at the dedication of this 'new' rebuilt church: "however beautiful the building, the congregation were even more important". So we are specially happy to see the building once again becoming a focus for some community activities.

Llandetty.



Visitors particularly enjoyed the peaceful surroundings. The graveyard slopes down towards the River Usk and part of it is dedicated to the War Graves of servicemen who died at nearby Crosfield House (now Buckland Hall). Clearing of the overgrown parts of the churchyard has revealed many interesting monuments, including the grave of George Overton, builder of the Brynogyre Tramroad. Civil War Parliamentarian Colonel Jenkin Jones' parting bullet shot in the priests' door also attracted attention. Inside is the 9th century Llandetty Stone, and on display were church records and the 1841 tithe map of the parish.