

BRECKNOCK HISTORY FORUM

BRECKNOCK HISTORY FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2018



A range of events across the historic county of Brecknockshire
organised by members of the Brecknock History Forum, with a
special focus on

People of Brecknockshire

Events are being held at the following locations:

Brecon
Cwmyoy
Hay on Wye
Llandew
Llangammarch Wells
Llangynidr
Llanwrtyd
Llyn Syfaddan

The Brecknock History Forum

An informal gathering of groups interested in local and family history across Breconshire.

For more information please contact Elaine Starling (01874 711484 or evstarling@lineone.net)

Some events are part of **OPEN DOORS** which celebrates the architecture and heritage of Wales.

For a full list of the events being organised for OPEN DOORS across the whole of Wales in September please see the Cadw website.

Cover Illustration: A collage of people of Breconshire, past and present, prepared for a 'Pop up Display' produced by the Brecknock History Forum to promote y Gaer; the new centre which will comprise a new Brecon Library and the refurbished Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery. The display will be on show over the next few months at local events and in the libraries.

This brochure is kindly sponsored by the Usk Valley Trust

Sunday 9th September

St Mary & St Cynidr Parish Church, Llangynidr (NP8 1NT)



2.00pm to 4.00pm

Llangynidr Parish Church is open every day from approximately 10.00am to 4.00pm, with the Sunday service being held at 11.00am. We will be giving access to the Parish Registers (Baptisms, Banns, Marriages and Burials) on Sunday 9th September from 2.00 to 4.00pm, so please come and wander or research as you wish. Please contact a Church Warden on 01874 730064 if you wish to research the registers at another time and we will endeavour to oblige.

Saturday 15 September

Llyn Syfaddan History Group



Pennorth (Tabernacle) Chapel

10.00am to 4.00pm

Pennorth, Brecon, LD3 7EX

Pennorth Chapel is the last remaining chapel in the Llangors area and is a reminder that chapel life has continued here for well over 180 years. This is an opportunity to visit the chapel and learn about how it began and about the lives of those instrumental in its establishment.

Llyn Syfaddan History Group will also be presenting displays of a range of notable local residents from the past who have either made

contributions on the wider stage or who were simply well known local characters with fascinating life stories.

Directions; A40 south from Brecon. After the dual carriageway, just before the Old Ford Inn take signposted left hand turn to Pennorth. In Pennorth the chapel is on the right just past the turning to Tallyllyn on the left. Parking will be signposted.

Refreshments will be available to purchase

Wednesday 19 September 2018

Llanthony Valley and District History Group



5.30pm The launch of a new book *The Llanthony Valley: A Borderland* by Oliver Fairclough

This book explores the valley, and especially its landscape, people and buildings, through probate records, estate archives, maps, newspaper reports and personal accounts. Its catalyst was the recent restoration by the Landmark Trust of Llwyn Celyn, a farmhouse dating back to 1420. The event starts at 5.30 pm onwards (light refreshments); this followed at 7.00 pm by the AGM of the History Group (free) and at 7.30 pm by an illustrated talk by Caroline Stanford 'Llwyn Celyn: The Full Story' (visitor admission £4.00). Cwmyoy Memorial Hall, Cwmyoy, NP7 7NF

Saturday 22nd September

The Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh



The museum will be open on Saturday 22nd September to welcome you to an exhibition and tour of the museum as part of the History Festival. We will take pre-booked groups behind the scenes to hear about Brecknock soldiers, see their letters, diaries and personal effects, and have a guided tour of the highlights of the museum collection. Each group will be limited to 8 people maximum but there will be 5 tours so there will be plenty of opportunity to join us. Groups will meet at 10.30, 11.30, 12.30, 14.00 and 15.00. There is an entry charge of £5 for the museum but no additional charge for the exhibition. To reserve your place, ring or text Ann Reese on 07760 382447. See the museum website www.royalwelsh.org.uk.

Saturday 22nd September

**Llangammarch Wells History Society
- Brecknock Society & Museum Friends**

Notables of Llangammarch 11.00am to 4.45pm Alexandra Hall, Llangammarch



11:00am Coffee

11.15am Famous People Linked to Llangammarch by Gaynor Williams, Simon Lilly, and Sue Lilly (including John Penry, Theophilus Evans, Theophilus Jones, John Price Beulah, James Howell, Thomas Howell, and Rev. D. Lloyd Isaac)

12.00 noon Discoveries About Those Involved in the Illustration of Jones' History of Breconshire by William Gibbs (including Richard Colt Hoare, Thomas Price, Charles Norris, Edward Pugh, and others)

1.00pm Lunch (bring your own or soup & roll will be available for £2)

2.15pm Visit to St Cadmarch's Church, Llangammarch

4.15pm Tea and depart

During the day there will be the chance to view the different editions of the History of Breconshire by Theophilus Jones.



The cost for the day will be £6.00, to cover room hire and coffee, teas, etc. (Members of the Brecknock Society and the Llangammarch Wells History Society, £3.00)

For more information and to reserve a place, please contact Elaine Starling

(evstarling@lineone.net 01874 711484)

Sue Lilly (llangammarchhs@gmail.com

01591 610792)

Sunday 23 September

Hay History Group

Book Throne 10.00am - 4.00pm

Mari Fforde will be leading a project to build a book throne. Come along to help, dress up and be photographed as your favourite Hay character sitting on the throne.

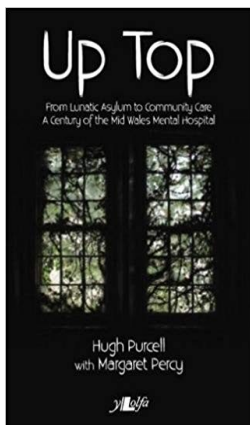
Pop-up Museum 10.00am - 4.00pm

National Treasures of the Independent Kingdom of Hay



We will have displays on some of the amazing people who have been central to the history of Hay. These include Matilda de Braose, the Agincourt Archers, Rev. Francis Kilvert, Archdeacon William Bevan, Alfred Savigar, Doctors of Hay, Hincks family, Agnes de Winton, Richard Booth and many more.

Up Top - From Lunatic Asylum to Community Care - an Illustrated talk by Hugh Purcell 4.00 pm



Up Top tells how the mentally ill were treated in the 20th century, focusing on the Mid Wales Mental Hospital, which began as a lunatic asylum and closed when community care took over 100 years later. It was the only UK hospital for psychotic POWs in World War II, including, briefly, the Deputy Führer Rudolf Hess.

All events are at Hay Parish Hall, Lion Street.

Free entry to all events but talk may be ticketed (see website) - There will be a retiring collection in aid of Hay Luncheon Club and HayDay Dementia Cafe. Tea and cakes will be on sale throughout the day.

For more details of all events see online at

www.Hayhistorygroup.co.uk

Monday 1 October

St David's Church, Llanddew LD3 9SS



Open Church and Exhibition 10.30 am - 3.30 pm

The church in Llanddew is the oldest church in Breconshire, dating from the 13th century. Bishop Gower's double-sided well is in the village and some ruins from the bishop's palace are visible from the road. The palace was the residence of Giraldus

Cambrensis (Gerald of Wales) while he was Archdeacon at Brecon Cathedral. Further information about the history of the church, and about Giraldus Cambrensis, is available in the church. There will be an exhibition and sale of work by the members of Llanddew Craft Group. There will be a cake stall; and tea/coffee and refreshments will be available. Disabled access to the church; parking and toilets are available at the Village Hall, which is a short distance from the church.

For those feeling energetic, there is a walk from Brecon Cathedral to Llanddew through Priory Groves. It is about 4 miles round trip, and includes a steep climb up a lane to the village.

Thursday 18 October

Llangynidr Local History Society



The Somerset Family in South Wales a talk by Dr Ann Benson. 7.00pm

Llangynidr Village Hall. Tickets at the door £5

Elizabeth Herbert's marriage in 1492 to Sir Charles Somerset is of major significance for Breconshire as their descendants, successively earls of Worcester and from 1682, dukes of Beaufort, held significant roles at local and national levels for four centuries, during which time Raglan Castle, Troy House and Llangattock Park were their principal Welsh homes. This richly illustrated talk traces the history of the family and their three Welsh homes.

Exhibitions

August - October

Llanwrtyd Heritage and Arts Centre



Thursday - Sunday: 10.00am - 4.00pm

From the 6th August the Llanwrtyd and District Heritage and Arts Centre will have a new display celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the completion of the Heart of Wales Railway line. The line was opened to through traffic on 8th October 1868 following the completion of the Cynghordy viaduct and Sugar Loaf tunnel (referred

to in a recent Hanes article on “The Coming of the Railway”).

Building on the permanent exhibition in the Centre, this new display provides additional details and photographs illustrating the development of the line and its significance to the town and the surrounding area. Whilst its original purpose was to link the industrial areas of England and South Wales it had far more importance for the development of the local towns as tourist destinations. The late 19th and early 20th Century saw thousands of visitors coming to “take the waters” and benefit from pursuits in the surrounding countryside promoting “health and vigour”. This is the second special display at the Centre this season, with an exhibition commemorating the end of WW1 already attracting many visitors.

September

Breconshire Local & Family History Society



There will be an exhibition in Brecon Library based on the “People of Breconshire” Theme. The highlight of the exhibition will be a display of information about the life and work of Dr Mary Elizabeth “Eppynt” Phillips [1874-1956]. Born in Brecon, she was the first female Doctor of Medicine to receive her initial training in Cardiff. She was a Suffragist and had a distinguished War career with the Scottish Women’s Hospital for Foreign Service, in Belgium, Malta and Serbia. The exhibition will be on show for the whole of the month of September.



ISSUE 61

AUGUST 2018



Editorial

This special edition of Hanes features the Brecknock History Festival, above, and many of the local history societies are involved in some aspect. There are several special events which this year spread across the months of September and October so there is no excuse to miss one. Do go along and enjoy an event, and find information on your local history group.

Hanes is published every 3 months. The next edition is to be published November 1st 2018. Please email any articles or information about events etc. with the heading "HANES" to alan.j.nicholls@btinternet.com by October 28th. 2018.

Introducing The Forum

BRECKNOCK MUSEUM

Contact: Nigel Blackmore, Senior Curator
Tel. 01874 624121

BRECKNOCK SOCIETY AND MUSEUM FRIENDS

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

BRECON LIBRARY

Tel. 01874 62334

BRECONSHIRE LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Mr Robert Eckley, 42, Pendre Close,
Brecon, LD3 9EW.
email: r.eckley@btinternet.com

BUILTH WELLS & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

Contact: Anna Page
Tel. 01982 553376

CHRIST COLLEGE ARCHIVE

Contact: Felicity Kilpatrick
Tel. 01874 615440

CRAI & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY ARCHIVE

Contact: Frances Jenkins
Tel. 01874 636990

CRICKHOWELL DISTRICT ARCHIVE CENTRE

Secretary: Wendy Parker.

Contact: archive@visitcrickhowell.co.uk

CRICKHOWELL & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Carol Jenkins

Tel. 01873 812184

CYNON VALLEY MUSEUM

Depot Road, Aberdare CF44 8DL.

Tel: 01685 886729

Email: engagement@cynonvalleymuseum.wales

HAY HISTORY GROUP

Contact: Peter Ford

Tel. 01497820676

email: pcf1@hotmail.com

www.Hayhistorygroup.co.uk

www.haytours.co.uk

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

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

POWYS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Sheila Leitch

Tel. 01497 847354

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

WELSH HISTORIC GARDENS TRUST

Contact: Elizabeth Siberry

Tel. 01873 812169

YSTRADGYNLAIS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Caryl Jones

Tel. 01269 825306

NEWS AND EVENTS

Young Archaeologists' Club

The Brecon Beacons Young Archaeologists' Club is part of a network of Young Archaeologists' Clubs across Wales, and the UK, administered by the Council for British Archaeology. YAC is the only UK-wide club for young people up to the age of 17 interested in archaeology. YAC's vision is for all young people to have opportunities to be inspired and excited by archaeology, and to empower them to help shape its future. The Brecon Beacons Young Archaeologists' Club was established by a group of local volunteers in order to fill a gap in the provision of YAC branches in the Brecon Beacons and the Usk Valley. Brecon Beacons YAC is supported by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

You can find out more about the Brecon Beacons Young Archaeologists' Club by visiting our blog

<http://bbyac.wordpress.com/>

Brecknock Society & Museum Friends

Friday Oct 5th 7 pm at The Muse, Glamorgan Street, Brecon

The Roland Mathias Prize poetry evening with Robert Minhinnick who has won the 2018 Prize for 'Diary of the Last Man'. The poet, a well-known environmentalist, will be reading and talking about his work.

Brecknock History Forum

Pop-up y Gaer: Library; Museum; Art Gallery



Y Gaer, the exciting new development that brings together the new Brecon Library and the Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery in one integrated complex, will be opening its doors within a few months. Societies and other organisations that make up the Brecknock History Forum are promoting the project across Breconshire through a pop-up display that will be making an appearance at local shows and other events this summer and autumn. There will be activities for children and opportunities to discover what y Gaer has to offer, including educational facilities, volunteering opportunities, interactive displays and much more.

Do look out for it!

Breconshire Local & Family History Society

4 September Last Days of WW1 and Local Connections. David Ross will bring the anniversary of the end of WW1 to a fitting conclusion with a talk on local men involved in the War.

2 October Remembering Aberfan Gwyneth Evans will talk about this profoundly sad disaster which occurred on 21 October 1966.

6 November Show and Tell. This will be an end of year informal gathering where attendees can bring along a memory to share with the group. Light refreshments available.

There is no meeting in December

8th January 2019 A Potpourri of Local Subjects. Short presentations on, for example, "The Thomas Brothers, Brecon Sculptors"; "Brecon's Railways"

Research advice for both family and local history is available on the third Saturday in the month, at Brecon Library, between 11am and midday. All are welcome.

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/breconblfhs

Our Website details are:

www.blfhs.co.uk

For more details about our Society,

e-mail: enquiries@blfhs.co.uk .

The Society meets monthly at 2pm, upstairs in Brecon Library, Ship Street, Brecon. Members attend the Talks for free and visitors can attend on payment of £1.

Builth Wells Heritage Society

Fri 14th September - **Peter Florence**, Director of the Hay Festivals, "31 Years of Festivals, and What Have we Got?"

Fri 12th October - **Rev. Carolyn Hall** "My Family in Less than One Hundred Objects"

Fri. 9th November - **Dr. Robin Barlow**, Author, "Wales and World War One"

Contact: Terry Couzens

Tel: 01982 553696

Email: terry1066@hotmail.com

All meetings are at 7.30pm and are held at The Wesley Church, Garth Rd, Builth Wells LD2 3AR.

Tea & coffee available

Visitors Welcome £3

Elan Valley Visitor Centre

4 Sep 2018

1 Sep 2018



10.00am Ancient Sites of the Elan Valley

Join local enthusiasts David James and Vic Pardoe as they explore Bronze Age and Medieval sites around the Pont ar Elan area. This moderate 6.5 mile walk will take in the Pillow Mounds, Banc Cynnydd Cairns, Carn Nant Y Ffald, Carn Wen and finally, Rhiw Afon Cairn. Meet at **Pont ar Elan car park SN 903716**

2 Sep 2018



10.00am Cwm Elan Lead Mines

Join Elan Valley Trustee, Bob Vaughan on a 5 mile walk to explore the history and remains of Cwm Elan Lead Mines. You will also be able to see the recent stabilising works. Meet at **Nantgwyllt car park SN 909639**



10.00am - 12.00 Railway Ramble

A gentle 3 mile walk following the line of the old railway from the Visitor Centre to Cwmdaudwr, looking at historical features of interest along the way. A lift back to the Visitor Centre will be available afterwards.

Llanwrtyd Heritage and Arts Centre

Heritage Walks arranged for the **12th, 19th and 25th of August** conducted by local resident Jim Davies whose family has lived in the area for six generations.

The **Art Gallery** will feature work from **NewStartArt** throughout August ... a group of five artists with varying interests, living in and around Llandovery. The Exhibition covers a broad range of subjects from landscapes, floral, still life and abstract work, using various mediums, with inspiration taken from our beautiful surrounding countryside. Artists include: NewStartArt from 6th August for 4 weeks; Irfon Valley Artists and

Artisans from 3rd September for 4 weeks; Simon Lilley and Brett Durham from 1st October for 4 weeks

Further information regarding a wide range of local arts and craftspeople : see irfonvaa.co.cuk

Talks are held at the Centre on the first Wednesday of each month, the current series commencing on **Wednesday 3rd October with Howell Evans : “ My Family Tree – Theophilus Evans and beyond ”** (7.00 p.m. (£2.00 incl. Refreshments).

Llanthony Valley and District History Group

Oct 17 Mari Fforde : 'Hay Castle, Past, present and future': Visitors £4. 7.00pm

Nov 21 William Gibbs : 'Stories of the Llanthony valley': Visitors £4. 7.00pm

Dec 8 Time t.b.c. Christmas social and local films, including 'On the Black Hill '

Jan 16 Justine Wheatley : 'The Roman in the Black Mountains area': Visitor Donation £4. 7.00pm

Llwyn Celyn

As summer stretches its wide warm arms across the Black Mountains we have been making speedy progress at Llwyn Celyn. Completion is now in sight. The last of our volunteer weeks in early June saw a small group of repeat volunteers returning to help with the interpretation displays. Everyone from contractors to visitors seems to have found an interesting piece of rusting iron, a glass bottle or an eye catching shard of pottery. How to display these items safely and permanently in the Beast House is a bit of a challenge and we have been aided by local artists Matt and Amanda Caines who have cast their trained eyes over all the items and their arrangement.

There is still lots of work to be done in the Threshing Barn to make it suitable for community use, but the old medieval hall house is now being furnished and fitted out with a kitchen. The final result will remain a secret until the grand unveiling in the autumn. We are delighted to announce that public open days will be held at Llwyn Celyn from 10am-4pm on Sunday 7th to Wednesday 10th October. The whole site will be open and free to visit. If you represent a group who would wish to visit, we are hosting group tours on 8th-10th October to help keep numbers manageable on Sunday. Please do email our Engagement Manager to book a slot for a group visit.

Powys Family History Society - Brecon Group

Mon 24th September 2018

Ghost Stories by Candlelight by Parchedig Towyn Jones, of Carmarthen

Mon 29th October 2018

Powys Family History Society A.G.M.
Followed by a talk by Margaret Southgate the Welsh Representative of the Guild of One-Name Studies

All meetings are held at Kensington Church, Brecon at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Free parking in adjacent Watergate Car Park after 6pm.

Radnor Group

Oct 19th 2018 - Radnorshire Society
Lecture 8pm Llandewi Ystradenny Village Hall. Dr. Joe Botting will give a talk on The Geology of Radnorshire.

Hay History Group

Hay Castle Restoration Work Has Begun



The work to repair and restore Hay Castle has begun! The appointed contractor, John Weaver Conservation, arrived on site and commenced works on 4th June 2018. John Weaver Conservation will work with Hay Castle Trust and Rick Mather Architects on the project, which will result in an important centre for the arts and learning and a valuable community asset.



For a thousand years, this remarkable structure has been part of the landscape. Part Norman, part Jacobean and part Victorian, Hay Castle has been a home to invaders, patriots' citadel, country manor and a world-famous bookshop. Building on this creative tradition, Hay Castle is about to take on a new life — as a major centre for culture, arts and education.