



ISSUE No. 41

MAY 2013

If you have something to say, a question to ask, a view to promote, please contact:

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### *Editorial*

Welcome to the May edition of Hanes. We have quite a wide variety of news from the Forum members in this edition.

I would like to draw your attention to the forthcoming History Event in September. Many of the Forum are taking part in this exciting project. Last year, 8 buildings in Brecon opened as part of the Open Doors. This year, as it is now a combined event, we are hoping many more will take part. Events are already being organised such as exhibitions, walks and history quizzes. For more information please contact Alison Noble 'The Forum' secretary on 01874 620133.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter.  
Sally

### *Introducing The Forum*

#### **BRECKNOCK MUSEUM**

Tel. 01874 624121

#### **BRECKNOCK SOCIETY AND MUSEUM FRIENDS**

Contact: Elaine Starling Tel. 01874 711484

#### **BRECON LIBRARY: LOCAL STUDIES DEPT.**

Contact: Sally Wheller Tel. 01874 623346

#### **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 Liz Matthews  
Tel. 01874 636990 Tel. 01874 636797

#### **CRICKHOWELL DISTRICT ARCHIVE**

Contact: Angela Waring Tel. 01873 810922

#### **CRICKHOWELL & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY**

Contact: Carol Jenkins Tel. 01873 812184

#### **HAY CHEESE MARKET PROJECT**

Contact: Clare Purcell Tel: 07717312286

#### **LLANGAMMARCH WELLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Contact: Gaynor Williams Kay Coldrick,  
Tel 01591 620368 Tel. 01591 610123

#### **LLANGYNIDR LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Contact: Jan Bailey Tel: 07766010090

#### **PONTNEATHVAUGHAN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Contact: Stephen Morris Tel. 01639 720728

#### **POWYS COUNTY ARCHIVE OFFICE**

Contact: Catherine Richards Tel. 01597 826088

#### **POWYS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (BRECKNOCK GROUP)**

Contact: Sheila Leitch Jo Crabtree  
Tel: 01497 847354 Tel: 01982 560604 / 07717207661

#### **BRECON LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

Contact: Hilary Williams Alison Noble  
Tel. 01874 624432 Tel. 01874 620133

#### **REGIMENTAL MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL WELSH**

Contact: Bill Cainan / Celia Green Tel. 01874 613310

#### **TALGARTH AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Contact: Jan Hughes Tel. 01874 711397

#### **WELSH HISTORIC GARDENS TRUST**

Contact: Elizabeth Siberry Tel: 01873 812169

#### **YSTRADGYNLAIS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

Contact: Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306

### *Forum Newsdesk*

#### **Welsh Historic Gardens Trust**

The Brecon and Radnor Branch of the WHGT is always delighted to hear from new people. As some venues (please see [Dates for your Diary](#)) have to limit numbers, priority booking is given to members. If you are interested in joining, please contact Elizabeth Siberry Tel: 01873 812169.

There will be a WHGT stall at both the Royal Welsh Spring Show in May and the Royal Welsh Show in

July.

### **Powys Family History Society**

Powys FHS now has a **Facebook** page. Check on Facebook and find out some interesting facts about Powys history. The page also provides useful family history websites. It is proving very popular, so feel free to have a look.

### **Builth Wells & District Heritage Society**

Builth Wells HS also has a **Facebook** page. Check on Facebook for their accessions and donations. It's a fantastic page with useful information for those interested in Builth's Heritage.

### **Llangyndir Local History Society**

Llangyndir LHS have a Water mill excavation most weekends through spring and summer. No experience necessary, for more information contact Jan Bailey Tel: 07766010090.

### **Breconshire Local & Family History Society**

- Our regular meetings held at 2pm on the first Wednesday of each month continue to attract large audiences.
- In January, we added to the members section of our website an updated illustrated database of the monumental inscriptions at Libanus Chapel, Libanus.
- Numerous articles and guides are now available to members on our website. New items are added frequently (see our News feature at [www.blfhs.co.uk/news.htm](http://www.blfhs.co.uk/news.htm) )
- The BLFHS continues to be an active participant in the *Brecknock History Forum* and will be contributing to the Local History Week scheduled for 7-15<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
- We continue to hold regular **Family History 'Drop-in Sessions'** at Brecon Library on the third Saturday of the month.
- In March we held our second Annual Lunch at Bishops Meadow Restaurant. All who attended enjoyed both the lunch and the entertaining and challenging quiz devised by BLFHS committee member Rob Eckley.
- To find out more about the BLFHS, please contact Mrs Hilary Williams, chairperson of the BLFHS Management Committee: e-mail [chair@blfhs.co.uk](mailto:chair@blfhs.co.uk) or telephone 01874 624432.
- See **Dates for your Diary** for details of our forthcoming meetings, which are now confirmed right through to January 2014. Advance details are also posted on our website, on the Brecon Library noticeboard, and in other prominent locations in the county.

### **Brecknock Society & Museum Friends Sir John Lloyd Memorial Lecture.**

The annual Sir John Lloyd Memorial lecture took place on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2013. The lecture is an annual event run under the auspices of the Brecknock Society and Museum Friends. Dr. Mark Redknapp raised our understanding of what was happening in Wales during the 9<sup>th</sup> century.

Excavations at Red Wharf Bay on Anglesey in the past few years have discovered a Viking settlement in that area which was used as a trading post. The Vikings had settled extensively in Ireland and on the Isle of Man. Not only did they trade with Wales but they were also trying to establish settlements this side of The Celtic Sea (Irish Sea).

Dr Redknapp's lecture briefly discussed the Mercian intrusion into Wales but more significantly, linked the kingdom of SE Wales with King Alfred of Wessex. He alluded to various 9<sup>th</sup> century documents that have been recently revisited, and established Alfred's reason for generating peaceful relationships with the Kings of South East Wales, whilst he was committed to fighting the Danes (Vikings).

Llangorse was first investigated in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when the wooden dug-out canoe was discovered, which is located in the Brecknock Museum. The Crannog is the only one of its kind identified in England and Wales. The investigations undertaken at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century have confirmed the importance of the site and our understanding of the knowledge that local people had in the use of wood.

The other finds included tools, jewellery, a reliquary and the cloth which is still being investigated. The importance of the cloth cannot be underestimated. The embroidery is in silk and the unusual motifs and general design are important in both a Welsh and U.K. context. The only other known material of this age to have survived in the U.K., is associated with the St Cuthbert (whose remains presently are lodged in Durham Cathedral).

Dr Redknapp did not pursue the myths and legend associated with the site but concluded that the site was probably "royal".

The site is documented, which was unusual at this time in Wales. The site was burnt and subsequently not reoccupied, except when there was a dispute involving Blanche Parry in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is recorded that certain local people from Llangorse barricaded themselves on the island Crannog.

Dr Redknapp's talk was illustrated with many pictures.

Prior to his talk, Dr Redknap presented the prizes for the Annual Victor Jones Memorial History Project which is an award given to Year 6 primary pupils in local schools. The competition is organised in partnership with the Brecknock Museum and the Brecknock Society and Museum Friends.

*Our thanks to Elaine Starling for this article about this year's Sir John Lloyd Memorial Lecture.*

### **Llangyndir Local History Society**

Llangyndir LHS is carrying out a three year project investigating water mills in the community. In 2011 we began by exploring the water management system of the Top Village mill. This was to inform us about how the water was taken from the River Claisfer and stored before use at the mill. It was also a useful training opportunity for society members. In 2012 we extended our investigation to Cyffredyn Mill, which is a derelict building close to a road on Cyffredyn common. Many people walk past the site and have missed the fact that a large three storey building had stood there for at least a hundred years up until the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The mill had a back shot wheel between 1.5 to 2 meters in diameter. Over the late summer and autumn of 2012 a dedicated team of volunteers has worked to reveal the building, including its wheel pits, mill pond and leets. Work is on-going to make the site secure.

We know that an earlier mill stood on this site as it is shown on the 1587 estate maps. We are reasonably certain that the mill we have revealed is a post medieval structure and not the 1587 building, so it is our intention to carry out more excavations in 2013 to find the earlier mill. One of our research questions is "How many mills are there on this site?" It is possible that an even earlier medieval mill may be underneath or near to the two we already know about.

We are always happy to stop work and explain what we are doing to passers-by, and we are happy for new volunteers to join us. It does become addictive. We are hoping to extend our project beyond this year as we have good geophysical evidence of another mill which was described as derelict in 1600, and we think this could prove to have medieval origins. We are always looking for more volunteers, both for excavation, finds processing, recording and research. There is something for everybody to do irrespective of age or ability. We are grateful to Brecon Beacons Trust who have funded this work and the landowners who have tolerated our eager interventions.

If you would like to visit our mill site or get involved in the project please use the contact on the front of the newsletter.

### **Hay Cheese Market Restoration Project**

Hay Cheese Market Restoration Project is now fully underway, having secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. They will be running an Information Stand at the **Fair on the Square**, Memorial Square, Hay-on-Wye, over the Bank Holiday weekend 25, 26, 27 May. It will be located inside the Cheese Market Hall, along with a team from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

You can also meet the Cheese Market Directors at the Hay Festival on 30<sup>th</sup> May when they join forces with architectural historian Julian Orbach to present a talk on *Market Halls: The Civic Cinderellas* and provide an update on the Cheese Market Project. It is Hay Festival Event Number 301 and starts at 7pm. Tickets £5, are available from the Hay Festival Box Office.

Enquiries or further information from Clare Purcell, [clare@cheesemarket.org](mailto:clare@cheesemarket.org).

### **Powys Archives**

#### **New accessions relating to Breconshire.**

Breconshire County Council plans of Defynnog Police Station nd; Cathedine Voluntary Primary School and School House 1954; and land proposed to be acquired for extension of Builth Council School, nd [Acc 2091].

Hay on Wye Oxfam Shop Minutes 1979-1990, 2000-2001, press release 2000. [Acc 2105].

Court Leet book for Dinas Manor in parishes of Talgarth & Llanelieu; 1844-1906; manor court book for the Lordship of Cantreselliff and the manors of Dinas, Llyswen, Gelly Fanog & Gwenddwr, 1847-1885. [Acc 2115]

Records relating to the Brecon Boat Company: various bills and accounts, 1800-1867; correspondence, 1806-1953; inventories of company properties, 1802-1813; leases of various properties, 1798-1865; printed notice of overspend on canal project, 1800. [Acc 2112]

Builth Wells Town Council minutes, April 2005-March 2011. [Acc 2127]

Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council: deeds concerning property in Llanwrtyd Wells, 1949-1992; records concerning Abergwesyn Community Centre, c1989; records concerning a new community centre in Llanwrtyd Wells, 1980s; records concerning footpath from Dolecoed Terrace, Llanwrtyd Wells 1970s. [Acc 2145]

Ffynnon Gynydd School records, 1937-2012;

### *Dates for your Diary*

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013.** Crickhowell & District History Society. *Triumph and Tragedy - Wales 1950*



*Triple Crown*, David Woodliffe. Crickhowell Scout Hall, Castle Road, 7.30pm.

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013.** Welsh Historic Gardens Trust. *Visits: Bryan's Ground, nr Presteigne and Bryngwyn Hall, nr Llanfyllin.*

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2013.** Powys Family History Society (Brecknock Group). *The Origins & Early Days of the Salvation Army with particular reference to Wales by Dr Glenn Horridge.* Kensington Baptist Chapel, Brecon 7.30pm.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2013.** Brecknock Society & Museum Friends. *Garth and Wesley's: Celebration in the Irfon Valley.*

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013.** Breconshire Local & Family History Society. *AGM followed by Tithe Maps a talk by Roy Davies.* Brecon Library, 2pm.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2013.** Builth Wells & District Heritage Society. *The Heritage of the Tudors by Rob Warlow.* Greyhound Hotel, Builth Wells, 7.30pm.

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2013.** Brecknock Society & Museum Friends. *Visit to Cyfarthfa Castle.* 2pm talk by local historian Joe England.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013.** Crickhowell & District History Society. *Capel-y-ffin and Father Ignatius, David Harrison.* Crickhowell Scout Hall, Castle Road, 7.30pm.

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2013.** Welsh Historic Gardens Trust. *Garden Party and visit to the Pant, Forest Coal Pit, nr Abergavenny.*

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013.** Powys Family History Society (Brecknock Group). *AGM & sales table. Opportunity to carry out research.* Kensington Baptist Chapel, Brecon 7.30pm.

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013.** Breconshire Local & Family History Society. *Stories in Welsh Stone talk by Geoff Brookes.* Brecon Library, 2pm.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2013.** Brecknock Society & Museum Friends. *Past Floods and Future Flood Management in Brecknock. Mervyn Bramley assisted by Craig Burdon (Natural Resources Wales).* Henderson Hall, Talybont-on-Usk, 5pm. Latest information contact Elaine Starling 01874 711484 or [evstarling@lineone.net](mailto:evstarling@lineone.net).

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013.** Ystradgynlais FHS. *Trip to Family History Fair – Weston Super Mare.*

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013.** Powys Family History Society (Brecknock Group). *The Limestone Legacy of the Brecon Beacons National Park, a talk by Alan Bowering.* Kensington Baptist Chapel, Brecon 7.30pm.

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013.** Breconshire Local & Family History Society. *Visit to Abercamlais House. Details to be arranged.*

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013.** Brecknock Society & Museum Friends. *An evening with the winner of the 2013 Roland Matthias Prize for Poetry.* Brecon Guildhall 7pm. Tickets £5.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013.** Ystradgynlais FHS. *Dating old photographs.* Ystradgynlais Library, 7pm.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013.** Brecknock Society & Museum Friends. *Listings and Maintenance of Historic Buildings in Breconshire. Jill Fairweather and Judith Alfrey (CADW).* Theatr Brycheiniog, Brecon. 7pm for 7.30pm.

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2013.** Breconshire Local & Family History Society. *Exhibition: Shops & Businesses in High Street Inferior. Part of Brecknock History Event.* Brecon Library.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013.** Builth Wells & District Heritage Society. *Croft Castle: the Owain Glyndwr and Johnes connections by Sally Pearson.* Greyhound Hotel, Builth Wells, 7.30pm.

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September.** Crickhowell & District History Society. *Gadgets and Gizmos plus Quiz – Don Balkwill.* Crickhowell Scout Hall, Castle Road, 7.30pm.

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013.** Breconshire Local & Family History Society. *Using the resources at the Regimental Museum Brecon, talk by Bill Cainan.* Brecon library, 2pm.

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013.** Welsh Historic Gardens Trust. *Visit to Westonbirt Arboretum.*

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