



ISSUE No. 50

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Editorial

Welcome to the autumn issue of Hanes. There are many interesting events detailed throughout. Look out for the launch of 'Above Brecknock' on Friday 20 November at Theatr Brycheiniog - a significant publication and an excellent Christmas present for all Breconshire historians.

Hanes will be published every 3 months. The next edition is to be published February 1st 2016. Please email any articles or information about events etc. with the heading "HANES" to alan.j.nicholls@btinternet.com by January 29th. 2016.

Introducing The Forum

BRECKNOCK MUSEUM

Contact: Nigel Blackmore, Senior Curator Tel. 01874 624121

BRECKNOCK SOCIETY AND MUSEUM FRIENDS

Contact: Elaine Starling Tel. 01874 711484

BRECON LIBRARY

Contact: 01874 623346

BRECONSHIRE LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Hilary Williams Alison Noble
Tel. 01874 624432 Tel. 01874 620133
email: chair@blfhs.co.uk

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 CENTRE

Contact: Angela Waring Tel. 01873 810922

CRICKHOWELL & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Carol Jenkins Tel. 01873 812184

HAY HISTORY GROUP

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
Ann Jessopp: dfjessopp@btinternet.com

LLANWRTYD & DISTRICT HERITAGE & ARTS CENTRE

Rob Thomas r.w.thomas@talk21.com Tel. 01591 610661
Administrative Officer admin@llanwrtydhrhg.com
Tel. 01591 610067 Website is: www.llanwrtydhistorygroup.com

LLYN SYFADDAN HISTORY GROUP

Roger Reese rogerreese2002@yahoo.co.uk

PONTNEATHVAUGHAN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Stephen Morris Tel. 01639 720728

POWYS COUNTY ARCHIVE OFFICE

email: (archives@powys.gov.uk)
website: (www.powys.gov.uk/archives)

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: 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

NEWS AND EVENTS

Brecon Beacons National Park Young Archaeologists' Club

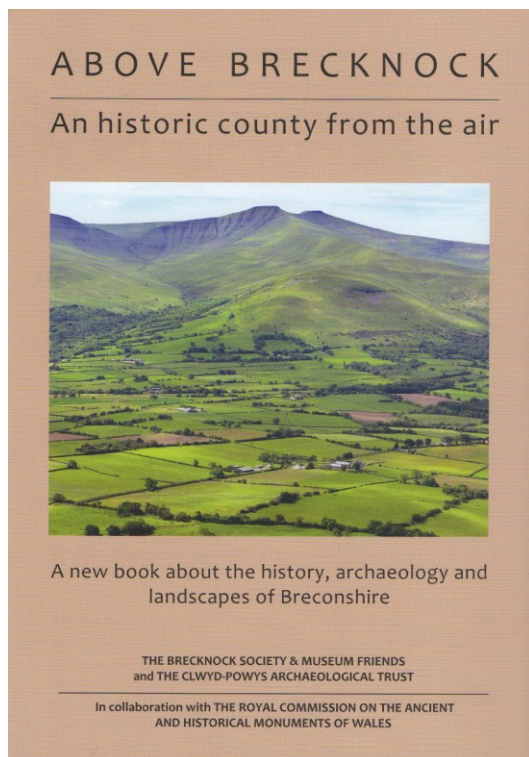
The Brecon Beacons Young Archaeologists' Club is part of a network of Young Archaeologists' Clubs across Wales, and the UK, administered by the Council for British Archaeology. YAC is the only UK-wide club for young people up to the age of 17 interested in archaeology. YAC's vision is for all young people 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/>

To register an interest in joining the club, or find out about our next session please contact Branch Leader Natalie Ward 01874 624437 natalie.ward@beacons-npa.gov.uk

Brecknock Society and Museum Friends

Friday 20 November Launch of 'Above Brecknock' at the studio Theatr Brycheiniog.



In March 2014, Dr Toby Driver, delivering the Brecknock Society's 17th Sir John Lloyd lecture, gave a packed house at Theatre Brycheiniog, a wonderful account of the archaeology and history of the historic County of Breconshire as seen from the air. Dr Driver works for the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW) and this organisation, the Brecknock

Society and the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust have joined forces to bring you a book of the same subject, entitled 'Above Brecknock'. During the autumn leaflets on this publication will be widely available, giving details of the book and also of a pre-publication discount offer. This offer, which will be of limited duration, will enable people to purchase the book at the price of £13 rather than £15. Information on the book and the pre-publication offer will also be available on the Brecknock Society & Museum Friends website (www.brecknocksociety.co.uk)

The Holy Wells and Sacred Springs of the Brecon Beacons

In common with many countries throughout Europe, Wales possesses a vast number of sacred springs and holy wells. Collectively referred to as wellspring sites, many of these date back to early Christian times, or even earlier where they are associated with pagan religions and beliefs. The important role that these places have played in our heritage has been in evidence for centuries, as centres for pre-Christian rituals and traditions, as homes to Roman water deities and spirits, and associations with Christian saints and places of pilgrimage, worship and healing. Wells have been a focus for local tradition and folklore providing a distinctive sense of place and cultural identity. Holy wells are an important part of the heritage of the Brecon Beacons, with important wells such as Maenddu, Ffynon Ishow at Partrishow, St.Cynidr's Well at Llanfrynach, and Bishop Gower's Well at Llanddew just over the border. But wells across Wales are losing their relevance for many people, with knowledge disappearing and wells falling into disrepair. Francis Jones in his seminal 'Holy Wells of Wales', written in 1954, listed about 1,200 wells, but the archaeological trusts have records for only around 450, suggesting our knowledge and understanding of these historically and culturally important sites is disappearing.

With funding from the Brecon Beacons Trust Keep Wales Tidy is working with Phil Cope, author of books on wells, such as *Borderlands: new photographs and old tales of sacred springs, holy wells and spas of the Wales – England borders* (SEREN 2013), the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Sanctaid, Artstation and the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, to identify and study the important wells of the Brecon Beacons area and highlight the stories and traditions, as well as the opportunities to promote them to visitors through interpretation, preservation, and linking them with walking trails. This is the first phase of a Wales wide project that is currently being developed with a view to an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We need volunteers to help us with the identification of the key wells in the area, research to find out more about their history, visit sites and provide photos, and to tell us about any stories they might have. The project will run until March 2016 and we will be setting up some community engagement events over the next few months to talk to people about the project and to capture as much information as we can. If you would like to get involved, or find out more about the project please contact Richard Phipps on 02920 726977, or Richard.phipps@keepwalestidy.org Keep Wales Tidy strives for a better local environment in every part of Wales, fostered by a sense of pride in our communities. For more information on our work please visit www.keepwalestidy.org

Breconshire Local & Family History Society

Calendar of Meetings

For the remainder of this year, our monthly public meeting will continue to be held on the first Wednesday in the month at Brecon Library, even though the Library is closed to the public on that day. Non-members pay £1 admission. Access will be via the Library lift from the Library's garage area in Bell Lane.

There is no meeting in December.

All enquiries to Mrs Hilary Williams at chair@blfhs.co.uk or telephone 01874 624432. Website is www.blfhs.co.uk

Builth Wells Heritage Society

Please note that we are changing our meeting day to a Friday, starting from the meeting on 13th November.

Crickhowell & District History Society

Wednesday November 18th

Talk - Chris Barber - Abergavenny, Historic Market Town Parish Hall, Church Lane 7.30 pm.
Members £2, non-members £3

Wednesday February 24th

Annual General Meeting
Parish Hall, Church Lane 7.30 pm

Hay History Group

Thank you to everyone who turned out to enjoy Hay History Weekend back in September, what a fantastic event! In total we recorded nearly 1000 visitors and our partners, Hay theatre Co, The Freemen of Gwent, the Cavalry of Heroes and Hay Castle Trust were all delighted to have received such support from a local crowd.

Saturday 28 November 2015, 11.30am - 1pm.

Hay Railway Tour being run by members of Hay History Group (11:30am-1:00pm). Meet at Hay Cheese Market.
Book at www.Hayfestival.com

Hay Railway provided a vibrancy to life and trade in the town from 1864-1962. The tour includes a visit to the working model of Hay Railway Station, local stories, information about Hay Bridge, the barge-building yard, the former ferry jetty and the Eye Well.

Hay Model Railway Group have been renovating a large model of Hay Railway Station and its environs and it is available to view each Wednesday at the Salem Chapel, Bell Bank, Hay, and every other Saturday - a must for railway enthusiasts. See the website for further details.

www.hayhistorygroup.co.uk

Saturday 28 November 2015, 4pm - Hay Castle

The Railways – Nation, Network and People
Simon Bradley explores the evolution of trains, and the changing experiences of passengers and workers. Britain's railways have been a vital part of national life for nearly 200 years. Transforming lives and landscapes, they have left their mark on everything from timekeeping to tourism. From the classical grandeur of Newcastle station to the ceaseless traffic of Clapham Junction, from the mysteries of Brunel's atmospheric railway to the lost routines of the great marshalling yards,
Book at www.Hayfestival.com

Saturday 28 November, 4pm. The annual Smith-Soldat Memorial Lecture is taking place at the Swan Hotel, Hay, as part of the Hay Festival Winter Weekend, which runs from 27-29 November. Our guest speaker this year is landscape historian David Lovelace, who uses a combination of ancient maps and modern digital technology, to reveal the hidden history of landscapes.

Sunday 29 November from 10:00-11:00am, Hay Tours will be offering a guided tour of Hay Castle. All tickets via the Hay Festival Box Office 01497 822 629.

For more information about us visit www.hayhistorygroup.co.uk and www.haytours.org

Powys Family History Society (Brecknock Group)

Meetings are held at the new Kensington Church, Watergate, at 7.30, unless otherwise stated. There is free parking in the Watergate Car Park, close to the church.

The Brecknock Group is undertaking a number of projects during the coming year. All members are invited to take part in these activities and offers to help are welcome. Training/help will be given where requested. The Group is interested to hear any suggestions for further projects.

Monday 23rd November 2015 7.30pm Mr Stephen Roderick is kindly giving a talk on 'Stanley Bligh of Cilmeri Park'.

Sunday 31st January 2016 1.00pm
Venue: The Castle Hotel, Brecon. Powys Family History Annual Lunch.

Monday 29th February 2016 7.30 pm
A talk on Family History and D. N.A by Mrs Barbara Lloyd.

Monday March 2016 TBC
Mr Jonathan Davies is giving a talk on The Life and Times of Epynt.

Monday 25th April 2016 7.30pm
Mrs Celia Morgan is giving a talk on Penderyn & Surrounding District.

Monday 23rd May 2016 Time to be confirmed
A Visit to Sardis Chapel Cwmcamlais with Reverend Michael Hodgson & Members.

Monday 27th June 2016 7.30pm
Brecknockshire Group A.G.M. and Research evening.

Monday 25th July, 2016 7.30pm
History of Bronllys Hospital Talk by Mr John Powell.