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

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Editorial

This edition of Hanes looks forward, in September to the History Week, which expands on the 'Open Doors' project from the previous year. Many of the forum members are taking part in one form or another. My thanks to Alison and all the members of the Forum who have helped to organise the events and create the booklet for this occasion. I hope everyone has a great week.

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

Contact: Sheila Leitch Tel: 01497 847354

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



Above is the logo that the History Forum will be using for the Brecknock History Week. We will aim to use it on all events concerned with History Week so look out for it come September!

The Brecknock History Week

Have you ever wondered who lived at Oak House, 12 The Bulwark, Brecon or wanted to look inside the Castle at Hay-on-Wye? What about exploring the Old Police Station in Crickhowell or taking a virtual tour of the village of Llangammarch Wells?

All these activities, along with many more, are on offer in the first ever **Brecknock History Week** which will run from Friday 6th September to Sunday 15th September. During that time, thirty-one groups from across Brecknock are coming together to arrange 48 events. Some of the events are being arranged under **Open Doors** which celebrates the architecture and heritage of Wales, giving free access to a variety of buildings including many churches where parish records will be available for research. There are special events for children and guided walks in Hay and Crickhowell.

The History Week is being co-ordinated by the Brecknock History Forum, with funding through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013 which is funded by the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. A booklet giving details of all events will be distributed along with Hanes and further copies are available from Libraries, Tourist Information Centres and other outlets. It will also be available on Facebook and the websites of Powys County Council, Brecon Beacons National Park and Brecknock Museum.

Hay History Group Hay History Weekend 6th - 8th September

This September is the launch of the Hay History Weekend. Aiming to celebrate the fascinating past of Hay, there will be events for all ages taking place across town.

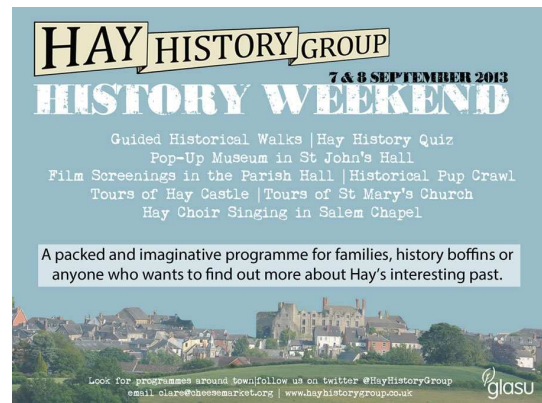
Look out for posters on display in all the windows of shops, pubs and cafes to help shed some light on their history.

Come to a film screening to get a taster for how life used to be around here in the past. We will screen *Real Life on the Black Mountains*, *On the Black Hill* and films and documentaries made about the famous Armstrong Murder Case.

Do the Hay History Quiz and test your local knowledge against our team of town experts to win a prize!

Join us in St John's Hall on Sunday 8th Sept, from 11am-4pm for the Pop-up Museum. Bring along your finds, treasures, strange artefacts or archive photographs, share your personal glimpses of the past and help us learn more about the town.

There will be loads going on, please come and support us, join in and ENJOY bringing old Hay to life.



The Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh

There have been a number of rumours circulating with regard to the future location of the Regimental Museum and I thought this would be a good opportunity to clarify our position.

The Regimental Museum is run by a Charitable Trust which neither owns nor leases the museum building currently containing the collection. This lack of secure tenure does present problems in applying for grants, particularly Heritage Lottery Funding. The Trustees are acutely aware of this problem and have been looking at a number of alternatives. The first and most likely alternative is to negotiate with the MOD for either a purchase or lease on the existing building – so the Museum would remain in situ and would in the future be the subject of a grant funded refurbishment. Another alternative was to look at the possibility of moving to the Brecknock Museum site, which is itself currently seeking a grant aided refurbishment. This option has been examined in some detail but the conclusion is that the move is currently not economically viable for the Regimental Museum. Situations of course change, and it may be possible to revisit this option at a later date.

However, the preferred option is still to remain where we are and it is on that basis that our current funding Appeal is based. The Museum has had a substantial make over (during the last eighteen months) to attract more visitors and our numbers are currently up by 30% on last year's figures.

2014 is of course the 100th Anniversary of the commencement of the First World War and we are putting a lot of effort into supporting local History/Family History Groups who are focussing on the impact the war had on their particular communities. For example, a number are producing small pamphlets giving background information on the men who are named on the local war memorials. . . Over a quarter of a million men from Wales enlisted in the Army between 1914 and 1918 and the Regimental Museum's archives contain substantial details on many of them. The emphasis is very much on commemoration rather than celebration.

If you have not visited the Museum in the last two years, I would urge you to do so and to let me know what you think of our make-over.

Bill Cainan - Curator

Education at the Regimental Museum

This has been a very busy and fun-filled year for the Regimental Museum. I took up the post as Education Officer last July and, from September until June, there has been a steady stream of school parties, each one enjoying a tailor-made day packed with fun activities and plenty of opportunities for learning.

Most of my work involves running workshops for pupils aged between 7 and 16 years, specifically dealing with the Victorian Soldier, World War 1 and World War 2. The majority of schoolchildren come to experience life on the Home Front during World War 2. They arrive dressed as evacuees, suitably labelled and carrying gas mask cases, vintage suitcases, ageing teddy bears and, in one case, a rather expensive-looking 1930's camera. From the moment they enter the building they are treated as if they have travelled from London to spend the duration of the war in homes in Brecon. After a snack of squash and biscuits they 'parade' and are 'chosen' by their teachers and members of the museum staff. This is lots of fun but it gives the children an idea of what it must have been like.

Through role play, which involves dressing up in authentic uniforms ranging from an officer's greatcoat to a Land Army Girl's overalls, the children are given a flavour of wartime life. They handle 'old money' and Imperial weights in the wartime shop, buying items such as Dried Eggs and Condensed Milk using farthings and silver three-penny coins, alongside items acquired using genuine Ration Books. In the home corner they learn to knit, sew and darn whilst they listen to radio broadcasts from a genuine 1930's radio. They can read a newspaper from the second day of the war, play wartime table games and put the family's 'baby' in an authentic baby's gas mask suit. In the ARP Warden's office they handle a wind-up telephone and can fill in replica Report Forms. They have great fun using a First Aid Kit, bandaging imaginary wounds and carrying each other around on a field stretcher – and the stirrup pump and fire hose always cause a stir! They listen to wartime recordings, including a London air raid, and watch Pathe News items from the 1940's. By following a Treasure Trail in the museum, they develop skills of observation and recording.

For me, working in the Museum is a very rewarding experience. I have met some fascinating and very enthusiastic children, from the little girl whose great uncle was a Japanese POW to the ten-year-old boy who spoke German as his first language and whose great grandfather had driven a Panzer tank. Every day

is different.

Feedback from the pupils and teaching staff confirm that the museum is providing an excellent education service and the catchment area stretches as far as North Powys, Chepstow, Cardiff and Swansea. We have been visited by schools whose children have additional needs and behaviour problems and they have been a credit to their teachers.

My aim for the following year is to contact even more schools, especially those who have never visited before. In 2014 I intend to include a feature on the 70th anniversary of the D Day Landings into the World War 2 workshops. With the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1, in 2014, the museum will be broadcasting its service to secondary schools and thus enhancing its profile even further.

Janet Holcroft

Our thanks to Janet Holcroft (Education Officer) for this article on the work at the Regimental Museum.

New Young Archaeologist Club for Brecon Beacons Area

A new YAC has been approved for South Powys and Carmarthenshire. The club, which will be called Brecon Beacons YAC will be launched in September. It is open to young people between the ages of 8 to 16 and will meet monthly on Saturdays. In the first instance the club will be based in Brecon. It is intended to offer a range of archaeological experiences to members, including visits, activity sessions and hands on archaeology.

Young Archaeologist Clubs are part of the Council for British Archaeology. Brecon Beacons YAC is grateful for the support given by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

For further details and to register an interest please contact Natalie Ward, Heritage Officer on 01874 624437 or email Natalie.Ward@beacons-npa.gov.uk

Recent accessions to Powys Archives

Deeds for properties in Llanerfyl, Llanspyddid, Llanbedr cum Partrishow & Devynock, 1842-1872; agreement to repay funds lost from charity, 1899. [Acc 2139].

Caehopkin School records including admission registers, 1911-2011; Log books, 1911-1946; photograph albums, 1987-2011 & plans of proposed school buildings, 1913. [Acc 2140].

Notebook of Hugh Penry Powel of Castell Madoc, c. 1893-1910. [Acc 2154].

Two plans of land in the Manor of Hay, C19; four printed notices from Builth Local Board concerning

payment of rates, submission of building plans and the vaccination of children, 1866-1871. [Acc 2157].

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 5th September 2013. Brecknock Society & Museum Friends. *An evening with the winner of the 2013 Roland Mathias Prize for Poetry (organized by Literature Wales as part of the Wales Book of the Year Award).* Brecon Guildhall, 7pm (Tickets £5). Contact Elaine Starling Tel: 01874 711484.

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

Friday 6th September 2013. Brecknock Museum. Visit The Courtroom 11.00am and 1.00pm. The ground floor of the Museum will be open 10.00-4.00. Partial disabled access.

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th September 2013. Breconshire Local & Family History Society. *Exhibition: Shops & Businesses in High Street Inferior (part of Brecknock History Weekend).* Brecon Library 2pm.

Saturday 7th September 2013. Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh, The Watton, Brecon. *Open Doors: There will be a special quiz for children and the chance to try on some uniforms from the 1879 and World War II.* 10.00 – 4.00.

Saturday 7th September 2013. Christ College. *Open Doors: Tour of buildings dating from Medieval period and 19th century.* 2.00pm. Booking essential 01874 615440. Disabled access to ground floor areas.

Thursday 12th September 2013. Builth Wells & District Heritage Society. *Croft Castle – Owain Glyndwr & Johnes connections,* talk by Sally Pearson. Greyhound Hotel, Builth Wells, 7.30pm.

Saturday 14th September 2013. Crickhowell & District History Society. *History Forum Walk.* Please contact Carol Jenkins Tel: 01873 812184 as numbers are limited.

Wednesday 18th September 2013. Crickhowell & District History Society. *Gadgets and Gizmos plus Quiz-Don Balkwill.* Crickhowell Scout Hall, Castle Road, 7.30pm.

Saturday 21st September 2013. Builth Wells & District Heritage Society. *Annual Heritage Outing to Weobley. A guided tour with Duncan James. Book Now. Please contact Anna Page Tel: 01982 553376.*

Thursday 26th September 2013. Talgarth Historical Society. *Visit to Hay Castle. Members only.*

Wednesday 2nd October 2013. Breconshire Local & Family History Society. Using the resources *at the Regimental Museum Brecon.* Talk by Bill Cainan. Brecon Library, 2pm.

Thursday 10th October 2013. Builth Wells & District Heritage Society. *Victorian Industrial Revolution – an illustrated talk by Peter Goodall.* Greyhound Hotel, Builth Wells, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 23rd October 2013. Brecknock Society & Museum Friends. *Artists and the River Scenery of the Neath Valley,* by William Gibbs. Venue: Aberyail, Llangynidr (John and Elizabeth Gibb's house), 5.30pm. Limited number – please contact John Gibbs tel: 01874 730747 or email gibbs@keme.co.uk for booking.

Wednesday 23rd October 2013. Welsh Historic Gardens Trust. *Visit to Westonbirt Arboretum.*

Thursday 31st October 2013. Talgarth Historical Society. *The life of Aleksandr Solzenitsyn* talk by Richard Walker. Gwernyfed Rugby Club, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 6th November 2013. Breconshire Local & Family History Society. *Brecon Railways* talk by Arthur Robinson. Brecon Library, 2pm.

Thursday 14th November 2013. Builth Wells & District Heritage Society. *Battlefield Heritage* with David Power. Greyhound Hotel, Builth Wells, 7.30pm.

Tuesday 19th November 2013. Brecknock Society and Museum Friends. *Wills in Medieval Breconshire,* Erica Canela. Brecon Guildhall, 6.00pm.

Wednesday 8th January 2014. Breconshire Local & Family History Society. *Curiosities from Brecknock Museum* talk by Nigel Blackamore. Brecon Library, 2pm.

Tuesday 14th January 2013. Brecknock Society & Museum Friends. *Walter Watkins (1741-1828) of Brecon – member of the Governing Council of Bengal, joint founder of the Old Brecon Bank and incorruptible M.P. for Radnorshire.* Talk by Ken Jones. Brecon Guildhall, 3pm.

**Produced by Powys Library
and Archive Service.**