

CRICKHOWELL & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 3 ~ SUMMER 2011

President's Introduction

Welcome to the Society's Summer Newsletter. We have had a successful year so far with our membership running at over 50. Our monthly talks have been well attended and our speakers enthusiastically received. In March, as part of the Crickhowell Walking Festival, we led a walk of 14 visitors around the town. We have much to look forward to for the remainder of the year in our talks, a walk in the Grwyne Valley and a trip to Gloucester.

I hope you will be able to join us at some of these events and encourage your friends and relations to do so.

We consider it important to have a close relationship with the Archive Society and your Committee met with the Archive Society Committee on 25 May. We are considering the scope for co-operation on events in the future.

We believe it is essential for the Society to encourage the interest of young people in the history of the locality and to this end we are sponsoring a prize at Crickhowell Primary School for a project to be undertaken in the next school year.

As ever, we are very grateful for your continued support.

Regards,
Robin

Society's Talks July to November

21 September

Society Member, Mrs. Joan Evans, will be showing us a film produced by the BBC, which followed the emigration of some of her relations from Cwmdy to Kansas in the 1830's. Those who have previously seen Mrs. Evans' presentation say this is an occasion not to be missed.

19 October

Malcolm Meadows will be talking about the construction of the Grwyne Fawr Reservoir, a local feature familiar to many of us.

16 November

Frank Olding, the Conservation Officer for Blaenau Gwent, is a well known local historian and has written several books including one on the pubs of Abergavenny. Frank will be completing his series of talks on the archaeology of the Black Mountains.

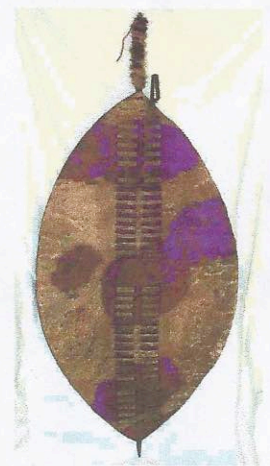
Society's Activities ~ February to June

Our series of talks began with a large attendance for the Rev Margaret Williams, Minister at Bethesda Chapel Llangattock, who gave us a fascinating insight into the history of the Llwmws, the original chapel in Llangattock.

In April our President, Robin Williams, told us about the history of Pontypool Japanware. His talk was enhanced by the marvellous examples of the output which members could examine at first hand.

In May we had a return visit from Bill Cainan, now the Curator of the army museum in Brecon. In his usual lively style Bill brought to life the traumas of the Zulu Wars.

For our talk in June we were delighted to have the ever-entertaining Bryan Davies, Curator of Pontypridd Museum, who told us about Dr Richard Griffiths and his tram roads.



A Zulu shield

Sad News

Unfortunately, we have lost three of our members this year. Society stalwart Tom Edwards and also Elaine Meadows and John Perry, have all passed away in recent months. Their presence will be sadly missed at our meetings and our condolences go out to their families.

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Website

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Please visit us and sign our
guestbook.

Postcards of Crickhowell and District

Over the past few years the Society has purchased about 50 postcards of the Crickhowell district from the early 1900s showing a variety of scenes including the High Street, the bridge and the church. We have used these for our film shows and calendars. We have now deposited copies with the Archive Centre where they may be viewed.

Refreshments

Some members like to chat to our speakers after their talk and several, including some speakers, have suggested it would be pleasant to do so over a cup of tea. Starting with the September meeting, therefore, we will be making tea and coffee available for a modest charge at the end of our talks.

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum Annual Day School

On Saturday 15th October the Forum is hosting a series of talks between 10.00 and 4.00 at Tredegar library. Topics include the development of British coinage and the story of the French onion men. The charge is £7.50 and includes a buffet lunch. If you would like more details speak to Clive on 01873 810262

Walk in the Grwyne Valley: Thursday 18 August

Geoff Williams, Chairman of the Archive Centre, will lead a walk from Glangrwyney to Llangenny explaining the history of the mills which were once found beside the river. The walk will start from Glangrwyney at 18.30 and will last about two hours. It is along fairly flat terrain. Participants should meet at the bus stop in Glangrwyney. If you have any queries about this event please ring Clive (01873-810262).

And finally.....

It is your Society and the Committee welcomes any comments you may have on the way it is run or any ideas for doing things differently. In particular, if you have suggestions for topics or speakers for our monthly meetings, Janice would be pleased to have them.

Society's Calendar 2012

Our calendar has proved very popular and we will be producing one this year showing a selection of views from the past of the Crickhowell area. We expect that it will be available in early November.

Purchases

This year we have purchased a laptop which will enable us to store our resources centrally and a projector to assist in our presentations.

Bus Trip

Following on from last year's successful trip to St. Fagan's, this year we are organising a bus trip to Gloucester Docks on October 1st. Attractions include:
Gloucester Waterways Museum,
Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum,
Gloucester Leisure Cruises,
Gloucester Antiques Centre
Fare £10 members £12 non-members
Under 16's £5
(Admission fees not included).
Book at Harris Interiors, Standard Street.