



CRICKHOWELL & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 4 ~ DECEMBER 2011

Foreword

As we move towards the end of another year I am pleased to report that it has been a successful one for your Society. Our membership remains strong although we are always looking for more and if you have friends or relations with an interest in the history of our Community I hope that you will encourage them to come along to our meetings.

Financially we are in a sound position. Members have given good support to our monthly talks which have been well received. We had an excellent attendance for the walk in the Grwyne Valley although the numbers for our bus trip to Gloucester Docks were disappointing. The availability of tea and coffee after our talks has been welcomed by members who like the opportunity to chat in convivial surroundings.

Our programme of talks for 2012 is included in this newsletter. We are currently considering options for a guided walk for next year and also, with the Archive Society, we hope to help stage the first Crickhowell History Weekend., planning for which is in its early stages. More details to follow

Thank you for your continued support. I hope to see you at the Annual General meeting on 22 February. In the meantime, best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Regards,

Robin Williams

Society's Activities ~ September-November

In September we were delighted to have Society member Mrs Joan Evans talk to us about her relations who emigrated to Kansas in the 1800s. The accompanying filmshow gave a wonderful insight into their lifestyle and the difficulties they encountered.

At our meeting in October Malcolm Meadows entertained a large audience with his talk and slides on the construction of the Grwyne Fawr Reservoir in the early 1900s.

We ended the year in November with a return visit from well known local historian and author Frank Olding who completed his trilogy of talks on the archaeology of the Black Mountains.

Annual General Meeting 22 February 2012

We hope that you will be able to attend our AGM on Wednesday 22 February when you will be able to let us have your views on how the Society is being run. There will also be the opportunity to have a chat with fellow members over a glass of wine and some light refreshments.



*The Waterways Museum at
Gloucester Docks*

Bus Trip to Gloucester

On 1 October 16 members visited Gloucester docks. We were blessed with glorious weather and most of those present took advantage of a boat trip on the Sharpness Canal which gave an excellent insight into the history and former importance of Gloucester as a centre for trade. There was also the opportunity to visit the impressive Waterways Museum. Our visit coincided with a music festival in which several groups of folk musicians regaled visitors with a succession of sea shanties at various locations around the docks.

Primary School Competition

In an attempt to encourage an interest in local history, this year we have initiated a competition for pupils at the upper junior classes at Crickhowell CP School. A project on local history was the subject and the pupils are busy working on it now. Prizes of £25, £15 and £10 will be awarded to the best three with £50 going to the school to spend on history resources.

Society's Programme of Talks for 2012

Our programme of talks is set out below. We have some new speakers, including Rachael Rogers, the Curator of Abergavenny Museum, and also the return of old friends. The topics range from the local, with our President, Robin Williams, telling us about transport and industry between Gilwern and Llanfoist to the international, with Bill Cainan talking about Isandlwana.

February 22 nd 2012	AGM
March 21 st 2012	R Williams – Transport and Industry Gilwern to Llanfoist
April 18 th 2012	Bill Cainan – The Battle of Isandlwana
May 16 th 2012	Brian Davies – Edward Williams and the Celtic Crosses of Llantwit Major
June 20 th 2012	Geoff Brookes – Stories in Welsh Stone
Sept. 19 th 2012	Chris Barber – Roaming with a Camera in the Brecon Beacons
Oct. 17 th 2012	John Evans – Local tram roads – Llangattock, Brynmawr and Blaenavon
Nov. 21 st 2012	Rachael Rogers (Curator of Abergavenny Museum) From The Stones to The Beatles - A history of Abergavenny in 50ish Objects



Geoff leading the Grwyne Mills Walk

Walk in the Grwyne Valley

On a pleasant evening on 18 August Society Member and Chairman of the Archive Centre, Geoff Williams, led 23 members and friends on a walk from Glangrwyney to Llangenny. Geoff enlightened us on the importance of the industry in the valley starting at the forge in Glangrwyney and moving past a number of former mill sites. At the conclusion of the walk some of the more energetic members walked back to Glangrwyney whilst the majority ended the evening by winding down with a drink in 'the Dragon' in Llangenny.

Committee Membership-Vacancy for Speaker Secretary

For the past two years our Secretary, Janice Marshall, has included as part of her duties, responsibility for arranging speakers for our meetings. In order to spread the burden of running the Society more evenly we want to appoint a new member to the Committee to be responsible for engaging speakers. The role includes finding 7 or 8 speakers each year. We have a list of speakers who we draw on from time to time and we also try and include some new speakers each year. In addition the postholder will prepare and distribute posters at set locations around the town publicising our talks and arrange for notification of them to be included in the Abergavenny Chronicle. Janice estimates that this task will take about 2 hours each month. If you would be interested in taking on this role and you would like more information about it please speak to Janice (tel 810305) or Clive (tel 810262).

Chris Lewis

Most of you will know Society Member Chris Lewis and be aware of his long term project to record photographs showing the history of Crickhowell and the surrounding area. In 2009 we used many of Chris' photos in our film presentation in the Clarence Hall. Chris has now digitized his extensive collection and presented the Society and the Archive Centre with copies of the material he has collected on Crickhowell. We were delighted to receive this wonderful record of our locality and we are most grateful to Chris. We will be making use of this material in our future presentations.

**Merry Christmas &
A Happy New Year**

