

CRICKHOWELL & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 7 ~ Summer 2013

Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter. The Society has had a busy year so far with a wide ranging series of talks, a challenging walk to the lost settlement of Tregaer and two visits which gave participants an insight into the industrial past of the South Wales Valleys. We hope to see some of you on our walk around the Town in September as part of the Brecon History Forum's History Weekend.

We were delighted with Llangattock Primary School's participation in the Louis Hurley History Prize. The entries were of a very high standard and I hope some of you managed to see them on display in Crickhowell Library.

We would like some more members and if you know anyone who may be interested in joining us please encourage them to come along to one of our meetings.

Clive Ralph

Walk to the Lost Settlement of Tregaer



The tumbledown walls at Tregaer

On a pleasant March afternoon nine Society members led by Geoff Williams, Chairman of Crickhowell Archive Centre set off from the Llanwenarth Arms across the fields to visit the remains of the settlement at Tregaer. The first part was an easy walk along the track which had been the original road into the settlement where we saw the remains of several houses and outbuildings which had formed part of a thriving settlement. We then climbed the steep hillside on a narrow track to see one of the best preserved ruins, it was a difficult trek but the outcome made it very worthwhile.

Visit to Pontypridd Museum

On Thursday 25 June twelve members journeyed to Pontypridd where we were met by the Museum's curator, Brian Davies, a regular speaker at our meetings. We started with a walk on the Common, in heavy rain which got steadily worse, but this did not curb Brian's enthusiasm as he explained the importance of the standing stones in the town's history. We then moved indoors to the Museum in a converted chapel where we saw many fascinating exhibits in a wonderful setting.



The Rocking Stone

Brecon History Forum:History Week

From 14 to 21 September the Forum is co-ordinating a week of activities by the various History Societies in Powys. Our contribution is to arrange a walk around the town on Saturday 15 September. It will last about two hours and will concentrate on Porthmawr, The Old Police Station in New Road, St Edmunds Church, Latham House in the High Street and the Clarence Hall. At each site presentations will be made about each building and its importance in the life of the town.

Places are limited to fifteen. If you would like to go please tell Clive as soon as possible (tel 810262).

Our walk will end at the Clarence Hall where the Archive Centre will be hosting an exhibition on some of the more memorable buildings in and around Crickhowell.

New logo

We are very pleased with our new logo and thanks are due to our new secretary, Carol for her work on the design.



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Please visit us and sign our guestbook

Talks for remainder of 2013

September 18 Don Balkwill
-Gadgets and Gizmos (plus quiz).

October 23 Malcolm Johnson
- Manufacture of Nails in Newport.

November 20 Robin Williams
-The History of Firearms.

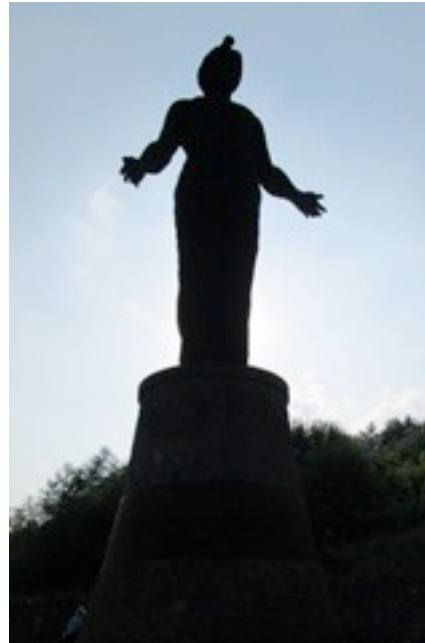
Visit to Six Bells Miners Memorial and Risca Heritage Museum



The museum at Risca with complete chemist's shop

On 17 July, on a gloriously hot evening, ten Society members journeyed to the imposing memorial at the former colliery in Six Bells where on 28 June 1960 twenty eight miners were killed in an underground explosion. Our member, the Rev Margaret Williams, who grew up in Six Bells and whose father worked at the mine gave a personal and moving account of the events surrounding the disaster and its effect on the community, amongst those killed was Margaret's eighteen year old cousin and one of her former classmates.

We then travelled down the valley to Risca Heritage Museum where we were welcomed by our President, Robin Williams, and four of his colleagues who were on hand to describe and highlight the many exhibits in what is considered to be one of the finest heritage museums in South Wales.



The Guardian of The Valleys

And finally.....

Venue for Talks

As you know, changes are underway at the Dragon. We do not know if we will have to find a new location for our meetings in the future. But if so we will let you know before our next talk by Don Baulkwill on Wednesday 18 September.