



Crickhowell and District History Society

Newsletter No. 9 ~ Summer 2014

Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to our ninth Newsletter. Again, we have had a busy year. At our AGM, Clive Ralph stood down as chairman, and I took up the position. I'd like to thank Clive for all the work he has done (and continues to do). He will be a hard act to follow, but, thankfully, still lends his advice and guidance.

Talks so far this year have covered a diverse range of topics with some of Chris Lewis' photos of old Crickhowell, Val Williams shared her enthusiasm for and expertise regarding Tretower Court, Chris Barber's superb photos of the Beacons, the ever entertaining and knowledgeable Brian Davies introduced us to the Welsh paintings of Julius Ibbetson (whose work can be viewed at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/artists/julius-caesar-ibbetson/paintings/>) and Malcolm Johnson regaled us with the story of "Iron-Bottom" Rogers.

We are indebted to our President, Robin Williams, for leading another of his canal walks and we took a minibus to Hereford to view the Mappa Mundi (see separate reports).

We are grateful to the Rowe family and their staff at the Dragon Inn for the continued use of their facilities.

Mal Powell

Robin's Canal Walk

On the beautiful evening of June 11th., our President, Robin Williams, led seven enthusiasts on a gentle walk which took us through stunning countryside and covered three centuries of local engineering history. We started at Govilon Wharf and continued along the canal towpath until our route was blocked by the ongoing engineering works to repair the breach in the canal. We then descended onto the track of the disused railway line where we encountered the only steep ascent of the evening en route to Llanfoist Wharf which required us to negotiate a dark tunnel under the canal. On the way we saw the former home of the ironmaster Crawshaw Bailey in Llanfoist.

During the walk Robin showed us the routes and outlined the history of Bailey's and Hill's tramroads and the Llanfihangel railway. On the canal we were able to contrast the impressive engineering required to build it over 200 years ago with the major engineering currently underway outside Llanfoist.



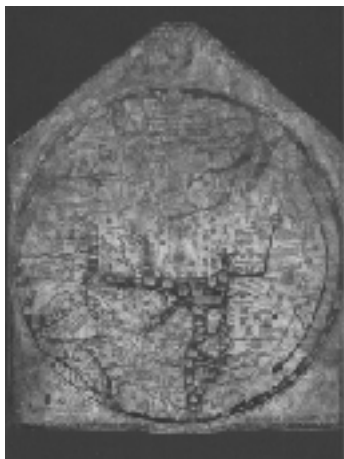
On the towpath

As ever, Robin's detailed knowledge and enthusiasm for his subject shone through and we were very grateful to him for a splendid evening.



Llanfoist Wharf

Visit to Hereford Cathedral



The Mappa Mundi

As usually seems to be case, our trip was blessed with lovely weather. On the 16th July, seven of us set out from the car park in a spacious minibus and headed over the border to Hereford. We then had a short walk to the Cathedral grounds and entered the cool interior.

We took a stroll around viewing the gilded and painted shrine of St Ethelbert, the colourful, restored Shrine of St Thomas of Hereford, medieval stained glass windows in the Lady chapel and four modern stained glass windows dedicated to the life and writings of the 17th century cleric and poet Thomas Traherne. There was time for some light refreshment in the Cloister cafe before we entered the Mappi Mundi exhibition. We enjoyed the interactive displays prior to viewing the extremely interesting map itself. On then to the Chained Library, where the learned guides shared their knowledge of the impressive room and its ancient volumes. We had time then, to make our way into the town centre for some further refreshment and shopping before heading back to the minibus.



The Chained Library

Forthcoming dates for your diary.

Exhibition: World War I and Crickhowell

**Saturday 14th September 10-5 pm and
Sunday 15th September, 10-4,pm.**

Venue: The Clarence Hall, Crickhowell

This will illustrate the impact of the War on Crickhowell and district (including the villages of Llanbedr, Cwmdu, Tretower, Bwlch, Llangynidr, Llangattock, Gilwern, Clydach, Llanelly Hill, Glangrwyney, Llangenny and Partrishow), based on work being carried out by volunteers in association with the Crickhowell District Archive Centre. Research to uncover the lives of the men of the district who fell in the war has been a vital part of this work and an illustrated listing of 'brief lives' will form a key feature of the exhibition.

Talks for Remainder of 2014

September 17 John Evans

Tram Roads around Brynmawr

October 15 Malcolm Meadows

Alchemy and the Passage through History to
Apothecaries and Pharmacy.

November 19 Frank Olding

Roman Abergavenny

**Talks are held at the Dragon Inn, High Street
and commence at 7.30pm.**

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