



Crickhowell and District History Society

Newsletter No. 10 ~ Winter 2014

Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to our tenth Newsletter. Once again, our year has been busy and productive. Since the last newsletter, the main event has been the staging of the World War 1 exhibition (see separate article).

Membership numbers have dropped slightly, unfortunately, though we have been pleased to welcome some new faces. Our talks usually attract around 20 people which is pleasing for a small society such as ours. We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Rowe, the proprietors of the Dragon Inn, for allowing us the use of a room in which to hold our talks. We are again planning some events for next year, which will hopefully be of interest to both our membership, and the general public. May I take the opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

Mal Powell

Louis Hurley Memorial Prize

This year, it is the turn of Llangattock Church in Wales School to take part in our schools competition. We are told that the Y5/Y6 pupils will be preparing projects on 'The Victorians' which will be ready for collection at the end of April. Their projects last time set a very high standard in both content and presentation so it looks as if we might have a difficult task in selecting the winners. We will be displaying a selection of the entries at our meetings.

Young Men, To Arms!



In September, in conjunction with the Archive Centre, we held the World War Exhibition in the Clarence Hall. The exhibition was the result of a large body of work undertaken by a large number of individuals and who researched the history of the men from the local area who had not come home during the Great War. Individual folders for each of those were produced detailing their stories. The event was also a celebration of those who had returned and gave us a glimpse of what life was like in Crickhowell 100 years ago.

The event was very well-attended over the two days it was held and led to individuals bringing along their personal artefacts and memories. Such was the success of the exhibition that we were asked to re-stage it in St. Edmunds' Church mainly for the benefit of the High School Sixth Form but also the public. The exhibition was held for a third time on Remembrance Sunday, again in the Clarence Hall. On this occasion, a cheque for £240, being the proceeds of donations collected, was presented to the Royal British Legion. Thanks must go to Geoff Williams of the Archive Centre, who was the co-ordinator and driving force behind the event.



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Please visit us and sign our guestbook



Display Boards

We have purchased a set of six display boards for use in exhibitions etc. We will be making use of them at some of our meetings next year.



Our Autumn Talks

Our planned series of talks did not quite run to plan this year, but we were kept interested. Mr. Evans was unable to deliver his talk on Tram-roads, but instead delivered a fascinating insight into 'A Miner's Life at Work and Home'. In October, Malcolm Meadows entertained us with 'Alchemy and the Passage through History to Apothecaries and Pharmacy'.

In November, our scheduled speaker could not attend and once again, our president, Robin Williams, gallantly stepped in at short notice with a talk on 'Shipping in the South Wales Coastal Region' which I was unfortunately unable to attend but was assured that it was as interesting and informative as Robin's talks always are.



Programme of talks for 2015

We have a mixture of old and new faces covering a wide variety of topics. We start the year with a return visit from the ever popular Brian Davies, former curator of Pontypridd Museum, who will enlighten us on early Russian colour photography. Moving much closer to home, in March, Adrian Cook will explain the research he has done on Danycastell House, his family's home in Castle Road. We are delighted to welcome back our President, Robin Williams, in March who will set out a pictorial history of Ebbw Vale between 1913 and 2013. In June Keith Bush of the Carnhuanawc Society will tell us about the contribution to Welsh cultural life of the Rev Thomas Price vicar of Cwmdru from 1825. 2015 marks the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt and in September, Bryan Davies (a different one from our February talk) will explain the local contribution to the campaign of Henry V. As we continue our remembrance of the First World War, in October, Malcolm Meadows will tell us about the lives of some of the poets of the Great War. We end the year with a visit from Popular local historian Chris Barber with a richly illustrated presentation of Abergavenny from Roman Times to the present day.

We hope that our programme has something of interest for everyone.



Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 18th. 2015 at the Dragon Inn, High Street and will commence at 7.30 pm. We hope to see you all there.