



# Crickhowell and District History Society

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## Newsletter No. 13 ~ Summer 2016

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### Chairman's Introduction

Hello once again and welcome to our Summer Newsletter. As usual, this year's meetings have been well attended with a mixture of old friends and new faces. Although a local society, our talks so far have taken us as far as the Ukraine.

I kicked off the season with an account of the connection between the local area and Senghenydd, following the terrible mining disaster there in 1913. Our esteemed President, Robin Williams, followed in March with a fascinating look at social housing in Port Sunlight, Burnsville and Pontywaun. David Cartwright came to see us in April with his amazing story of Merthyr industrialist John James Hughes (below) and the founding of Hughesovka (now Donetsk) in the Ukraine.



In May, our old friend Brian Davies, showed us how he has spent the first period of his retirement by restoring a steamboat - and what a fine job he has made of it.



(Thanks to Gelligaer Historical Society for their permission to use this photograph)

Our half-year closed in June with the enthusiastic Roger Reese regaling us with the history of Taly-llyn, the nearby forgotten railway village.

With high-quality speakers such as these our programme continues to inform and entertain. I trust you will all have an enjoyable summer - hopefully with some sunshine - and will join us for our forthcoming talks..

Mal Powell

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### Our Autumn Programme

Talks to look forward to this autumn include Adrian Cook on 21st September and his "History of the Grwyne Fechan Valley", Robert Gant on 19th October will talk on "Abandoned Dwellings of the Black Mountains". In our final session on November 16th we will be pleased to welcome for the first time, Elizabeth Sibery, who will tell us of "A Crickhowell crusader and the Legends of History."

We hope that you will be able to come along and enjoy the talks and have a cup of tea with us.

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### Robin's Walk

Prior to the start of our monthly talks, we are once again indebted to Robin Williams, who has kindly offered to lead another of his popular and informative walks. This time it will start at 2.00 pm on Sunday 18th September. On this occasion it will take in the "Tramroads of Brynmawr". Keep an eye on our website, or phone nearer the date, for details of meeting point, duration etc.

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### History Points

Keep an eye out for further History Points plaques appearing around town in the not-too-distant future. I am informed that places earmarked are Porthmawr Gate, The Manor Hotel and the Burial Chamber at the foot of the Manor drive.

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### Louis Hurley Memorial Prize

This year it was the turn of pupils in the top classes Crickhowell CP School to enter our project competition. Those of you who attended our June talk will have seen the work the children produced. I'm sure you will agree that the standard of entries was very high and we had a difficult job selecting the winners. The topics once again covered a wide range of topics including the canal, the workhouse, the Clarence Hall, local witches and tales of murder. We were pleased to see that several included references to personal connections to the topics covered. Thank you to the staff at the school and well done to ALL the entrants. First prize of £25 went to for her excellent project on the Llangattock Workhouse. We were unable to choose between the other prizewinners so joint 2nd prizes of £15 went to and for their work on and respectively. As usual, a donation of £50 was also made to the school funds to purchase historical resources.

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### Brecon Society Walk

We were contacted earlier in the year by Brecon Local & Family History Society who asked if we could help by arranging a short tour of Crickhowell for them. Clive Ralph readily agreed and will be leading the group on a short guided tour on Tuesday August 2nd. If anybody would like to help Clive out with their knowledge of the town and join him on the walk, I'm sure he will be delighted.

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### History Week

In the 2nd week of September the Brecon History Forum will be holding its annual History Week featuring a number of special events around the county. It begins with the Opening Night on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Theatr Brycheiniog. The theme will be "Myths & Legends" and once again promises to be a fascinating and informative evening. All welcome.

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### Crickhowell District Archive Centre

Our friends at the Archive Centre have unfortunately lost their main source of funding from Powys and need help to keep going. They are currently selling good quality pens for a minimum donation of just £1. help them out by buying at least one or, better still, join as a Friend if you haven't already done so for a mere £10 annual fee. It would be a great shame to lose this important resource enjoyed by so many locals and visitors alike.



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