



Crickhowell and District History Society

Newsletter No. 15 ~

Summer 2017

Chairman's Introduction

Hello again and welcome to the first of this year's newsletters. I find it hard to believe that this issue is number 15. How time flies. As always, I must pay tribute to our small committee for the work they do and support they give me. We continue, in our small way, to contribute to the social and, I trust, educational life of our lovely town with our series of talks. Our use of the Parish Hall as a venue suits our society's needs admirably and, following a consultation earlier in the year, it is possible that the facilities provided will become even better, hopefully with the installation of a permanent screen for our speakers to utilise. Fingers crossed. I hope that the summer brings you fine weather and that you will be able to join us once more in September when our autumn series of talks begin. See below for details.

Best wishes,

Mal Powell

Talks Remaining This Year

Our talks start again on September 20th with Chris Barber, whose illustrated talks always seem to attract a large crowd. This time he will talk on "*The Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal*." He will be followed on October 18th by the Archive Centre's Geoff Williams, who will be telling us the history of "*Penheolrhyn, A House on the Margins*."

At our last meeting of the year, on November 22nd, we will welcome back another old friend, Malcolm Meadows, who takes us away from the local area with his talk on "*World War 1 at Sea and the Sinking of the Lusitania*." An interesting variety of topics which we are sure you will all enjoy.

Louis Hurley Memorial Prize

This year it was the turn of pupils from Y5 and Y6 of Llangattock Church in Wales School who took up the challenge of producing a History Project. The subject chosen was "The Victorians." We were informed by their teacher that the work undertaken was all of their own volition. The projects submitted were once again of a high standard and their presentation was admirable. First prize of £25 went to Layla Mills for her excellent work on "*Pwlldu - A Lost Community*," 2nd with £15 was Thomas Griffiths with his well-researched "*Our Victorian History*" and 3rd place of £10 was awarded to Daisy Ochom with her highly original offering of "*Daisy*" - a mock flyer for a Victorian seamstress. Highly Commended were Jack Preece for his model of "*The Horseshoe Inn*" (see below), Sylvie Caddick for "*Victorian Transport*," and Owen Smyth for "*The Workhouse*." An engraved shield was also awarded and £50 donated to the school to purchase historical resources. Our members had the opportunity to view the entries at one of our meetings and the pupils' efforts gained a wider audience after going on display at the Scout Hall during the Open Gardens weekend, a collaboration which we hope will continue in the future.



Model of The Horseshoe Inn, Llangattock

Lych Gate

Talks so far this year

Our AGM in February was our 20th anniversary and we were delighted to welcome Mr. John Addis, who was the driving force behind setting up the Society in 1997. The speaker was John Webb, whose often hilarious anecdotes about the history of Webbs' Store, kept the audience entertained. The talk by Will Davies on the Crickhowell castle in March had to be postponed at the last minute as Mr. Davies unfortunately ran into an unforeseen problem connected with his work at Cadw. He has promised to return next year. Luckily, John Webb stepped into the breach and with the help of Society members reminisced about the shops that once lined the High Street.

In April the popular and informative Brian Davies talked on South Wales a Millennium Ago. May's talk was given by our president Robin Williams, who recounted his involvement in the restoration of a derelict section of the Glamorganshire canal. The talk was well illustrated and featured an amazing working model which had been re-created using 3D printing technology.

John Evans, of the Archive Centre, was the speaker at our June meeting and he recounted the details of a local crime from long ago - the murder of Billy the Twyn. It was a fascinating story and we became the jury.

Brecknock History Festival

Once again, the beginning of Autumn heralds a flurry of activity from various Brecknock History Societies. This year the focus is on "The Houses & Estates of Brecknockshire." Full details of the events organised can be viewed in the booklet included with this newsletter. The nearest event to Crickhowell is being held at St. Mary & St. Cynidr Parish Church in Llangynidr on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 10th September when registers for Baptisms, Banns, Marriages and Burials will be available to view.

Following concerns about the damage that occurred some ten years ago to the Lych Gate at the junction of Church Street and Church Lane and that the structure is deteriorating, a meeting of interested parties was recently held to endeavour to improve the structure.

It was established that ;

- despite extensive research it has not been possible to establish legal ownership of the Lych Gate, neither the church nor the local or county council accept any responsibility for it,

- when the structure is repaired there is a potential problem regarding future ownership and responsibility for ongoing maintenance.

There was general agreement that;

- work should be undertaken as soon as possible, costs are estimated between £10-£15,000,

- a small group should be convened to take the matter forward and consider options for funding,

- the group will need to resolve the issue of future ownership and maintenance,

- It may be necessary to establish a trust, especially since considerable funds will be involved.

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