

Newsletter No. 18 ~ Winter 2018-19

‘Lest We Forget’ Clarence Hall Exhibition 9-11 November

Several hundred visitors attended this exhibition organised by Crickhowell & District Archive to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice. For our contribution to the Exhibition, your Society provided a montage of Crickhowell and district during wartime. For its centrepiece we were privileged to have on loan from the Went family a summary of the war record of Charlie Went, including the medal presented to him on his return from the war by Crickhowell.

Autumn Series of Talks

We covered a wide span of history from the Romans to the present day. In September Jeremy Bosanquet told us about the Romans in the Usk Valley with special emphasis on their fort at Abergavenny. Bringing us to the end of the twentieth century, in October, Mel Warrender, chairman of the Ebbw Vale Steelworks Trust explained why that site had been chosen for steelmaking. Finally, in November, we had a return visit from Malcolm Meadows who gave his usual polished performance combining text, photos and music in his explanation of the role of women in World War 1.

Membership

We have a small and loyal membership fluctuating around twenty members. We normally get fifteen to twenty members at our talks but on one occasion this year we had a total of just nine. We would like some new members to ensure your Society is on a secure footing for the future. Your Committee will be considering over the next few months what we can do to publicise the Society and increase membership. If you know of anyone who may wish to join, or just attend the occasional talk, please encourage them to do so.

Calendars for 2019

We still have a few calendars recalling memories of Crickhowell and District in times gone by. If you would like a copy they are available from the Courtroom Cafe or Askew’s Bakery for £5.

Annual General Meeting

This will take place on Wednesday 20 February followed by a talk from our President, Robin Williams. We hope to see you then.

Pictured is the Rocking Stone at Pontypridd which will feature in our May 22nd talk from Brian Davies.



Programme of Speakers for 2019

We have a mixture of the old and the new and we hope there will be something of interest for everyone. We have welcome returns of our President, Robin Williams who, following our Annual General Meeting, will speak on shipping on the Severn Estuary and Brian Davis, formerly curator of the museums at Big Pit and Pontypridd, will talk about the history of the Pontypridd district. Closer to home, Diana Thomas will tell us about the history of the beautiful church at Kilpeck, Dr Celyn-Gurden Williams will talk to us about Lady Llanover and Hugh Purcell will regale us with the history of the now defunct, Mid Wales Hospital in Talgarth. In a new departure into the art world, William Gibbs will explain how artists have recorded the local landscape through time. After a return visit from Dr Naylor Firth describing the industries of the Wye Valley we end the year with a film show from Phil Harrison. As most of you will know, Phil was a former member of the Society and Chairman and his presentation will consist of photos of World War 1 of Crickhowell and district and of some of the lesser known campaigns in which local men took part including Salonika and the Brec-knocks in India.

The full list of talks is as follows.

20 February-Annual General Meeting

Robin Williams:Coastal shipping from Gloucester to Bude

20 March

Hugh Purcell:'Up Top' The story of Talgarth Hospital, known as the Mid-Wales Lunatic Asylum

17 April

Dr Celyn Gurden-Williams: Lady Llanover and her circle

22 May

Brian Davies: The view from the Rocking Stone, Pontypridd

19 June

William Gibbs: Seeing landscape, how artists have recorded the landscape through time.

18 September

Diane Thomas: The church at Kilpeck

23 October

Phil Harrison: World War 1 photographs of Crickhowell and District and the Brec-knocks in India

20 November

Dr Naylor Firth:Wye Valley industries

All meetings are held in the Parish Hall, and commence at 7.30 pm



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