



# Crickhowell and District History Society

## Newsletter No. 17 ~ Summer 2018

### **Louis Hurley Memorial Prize**

Pupils from Crickhowell Primary School submitted a wide ranging series of topics for consideration. In judging the competition we look for entries which show some original research by the pupils. The first prize of £25 was awarded to Iolo Warman Powell for a project on Porthmawr which is owned by his grandfather. Second prize of £15 was awarded to Emily James for a piece on Talgarth Mill. There were two joint third prizes each receiving £10, Rhianna Haworth who had researched Grwyne Fawr Reservoir and Maggie Fodeningles who submitted a piece on one of her ancestors, Gonville Bromhead VC who fought at the Battle of Rorkes Drift. Highly commended were Bianca Mustatea for her work on Brecknock Past and Mia Sherrard and Luna Delgado-Santaaulalia for their joint submission on the Romans in Wales.

The engraved shield was awarded to Iolo Powell and £50 was donated to the school to support their study of history. All the entries were on display in the Scout Hall during the Open Gardens Weekend on 16 and 17 June.

### **Lychgate**

You may have noticed that work to repair the Lychgate has been completed. It is very satisfying to see the structure which was erected in 1840 restored to its former glory following the damage to it several years ago. Your Society is pleased to have played a part, under the leadership of the Civic Society, in the restoration.

### **Talks Completed This Year**

We began at our Annual General Meeting on 21 February with Dr Naylor Firth who spoke about John Upton, an engineer whose works ranged locally from Llanellen bridge to the construction of the harbour at Sebastapol. He was a man whose reputation as an engineer was somewhat blighted by his shortcomings in his financial dealings with his contemporaries. On 21 March we had a talk from Will Davies of Cadw about Crickhowell Castle and its buildings.

Brian Davies made a return visit to the Society on 18 April to explain his role as the first curator of the Big Pit Mining Museum. We had our first ever talk on site on 23 May when our member, Eric Gower, gave a fascinating insight into the establishment of the war memorial in St Edmund's Church. The first half of our programme concluded on 21 June with our President, Robin Williams showing slides of the fortifications on Malta and explaining the background to the establishment of the giant gun at the heart of them.

### **General Data Protection Regulations**

Most members of the Society will be aware that there is an addition to the Data Protection Act that requires all organisations to ensure that their members remain happy for their contact details to be retained. If there are any members who have not received this information and do not wish the Society to retain their details, could they kindly inform the committee? If you are happy to continue receiving Newsletters and other communications from the Society, whether by post or email, there is no need for any action.

## American Visitors

In June we were pleased to receive a visit from seventeen members of the Edward-Howell Family Association. Their ancestor's family coat of arms includes the three towers seen on our own town crest and they were curious to learn of any connection to Crickhowell. Unfortunately, we were unable to provide them with any evidence of a definite link, but pointed them towards heraldic experts who would be better placed to assist them in their quest. They enjoyed a short tour of the castle, the bridge, the church and rounded off their visit with a drink in the Bear before heading off to Aberystwyth.



## Remaining Talks This Year.

Wednesday September 26th. -

**Jeremy Bosanquet**

*"The Romans and the Usk Valley"*

Wednesday October 24th. -

**Mel Warrender**

*"Why Ebbw Vale?"*

Wednesday November 22nd -

**Malcolm Meadows**

*"The Role of Women in World War 1"*

December -

No Meeting

## Contact Numbers

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