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If you have something to say, a question to ask, a view to promote, please contact:

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Closing date for **special edition** (Canal Festival) 19th March 2012

Welcome to the January 2012 edition of Hanes. I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year. As you will probably be aware Becky – Branch Librarian is off on maternity leave at present. We wish her well and look forward to hearing about the new arrival in a few weeks.

2012 promises to be a very busy year for the Forum as the celebrations for the anniversary of the Canal will take place to mark 200 years of its existence. A short report on the dates for various events already arranged will follow in the Forum Newsdesk. Anyone with any articles, photographs or memories of the canals please contact your local history society for information on how to contribute to the festival. Drop in dates for scanning any pictures/articles etc have yet to be confirmed.

The next issue of Hanes will be a special issue to celebrate the Canal Festival and this will be published and distributed in April.

Sally Wheller

Introducing The Forum

BRECKNOCK MUSEUM
Tel. 01874 624121

BRECKNOCK SOCIETY AND MUSEUM FRIENDS
Contact: Elaine Starling Tel. 01874 711484

BRECON LIBRARY
Contact: Sally Wheller Tel. 01874 623346

BUILTH WELLS & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY
Contact: Dave and Felicity Gill Tel. 01982 570230

CHRIST COLLEGE ARCHIVE
Contact: Anna Lang Tel. 01874 615440

CRAI & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY ARCHIVE

Contact: Frances Jenkins Liz Matthews
Tel. 01874 636990 Tel. 01874 636797

CRICKHOWELL DISTRICT ARCHIVE

Contact: Angela Waring Tel. 01873 810922

CRICKHOWELL & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Janice Marshall Tel. 01873 810305

LLANGAMMARCH WELLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Gaynor Williams Kay Coldrick,
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LLANGYNIDR LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Christine Porter Tel. 01874 730354

PONTNEATHVAUGHAN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Stephen Morris Tel. 01639 720728

POWYS COUNTY ARCHIVE OFFICE

Contact: Catherine Richards Tel. 01597 826088

BRECON LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Hilary Williams Alison Noble
Tel. 01874 624432 Tel. 01874 620133

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL WELSH

Contact: Bill Cainan / Celia Green Tel. 01874 613310

TALGARTH AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Contact: Jan Hughes Tel. 01874 711397

WELSH HISTORIC GARDENS TRUST

Contact: Elizabeth Siberry Tel: 01873 812169

YSTRADGYNLAIS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306

Forum Newsdesk



Brecknock History Forum helping to celebrate
'Mon & Brec 200'

Calendar of 2012 Canal 200th Anniversary Events and Activities

Please note this is a draft copy and subject to changes.
1st to 27th February – Canal Exhibition at Theatr Brycheiniog:
Liquid Transport by Lesley Lillywhite and friends.

10th February, 12 midday - Ringing of the Bells: At midday Church bells along the canal will be rung, from Pontymoile Basin to Brecon, to launch the canal Anniversary. The official launch event will be held at Pontymoile Basin from 11am with Pontymoile Brass Band Male Voice Choir.

10th February, 7.30pm – Illustrated Talk: The Story of the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal (A Brecon Beacons Park Society event) at The Bear, Crickhowell. An illustrated talk by Chris Barber to celebrate the bi-centenary of the completion of this remarkable waterway which was completed exactly 200 years ago this week.

12th February, 10am to 4.30pm - Guided Walk Celebrating The Bicentenary of the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal. Starting from Gilwern Wharf car park GR SO 243146. A varied route taking in two associated tramroads, three canal wharves and a stretch of the canal to reach Llanfoist. From there a pleasant path beside the river Usk will then be followed to rejoin the canal and back to the start. Level: Moderate, Dist: 18km (11 miles) Leader: Chris Barber.

29th February, 7pm to 9pm - Talk: 200 years of the Brecon & Monmouth Canal - Event 14 of the Crickhowell Walking Festival – at the Old Rectory Hotel, Llangattock. Peter Jones will give one of his lively and fascinating illustrated talks on the history of the Brecon and Monmouthshire Canal.

1st March, 2pm-4pm – Walk: The Brecon and Mon at 200 – (Walk 54 of the Crickhowell Walking Festival.) The walk will initially follow the route of the railway that killed the canal, looking at the wharfs at Govilon and Llanfoist. Then visit Crawshay Bailey's grave, an iron bridge (the first in Wales) and an inclined plane (used for tram cars carrying limestone down from the quarries). The route back along the canal will pass Bailey's house and the site of the breach in the walls of the canal. Leader - Peter Jones; 4 miles; Cost: £5 (booking essential)

12th March – 16th April – Canal Exhibition at Theatr Brycheiniog: Reflections & Perceptions by Maguel Alikhsander. In this his first exhibition he explores the power of reflection to create an alternative context for everyday scenes. His setting is the Monmouth and Brecon Canal in the vicinity of Theatr Brycheiniog and his subject matter is the water itself.

31st March – 1st April – ‘Beacons to the Sea’ Beer Launch and Delivery. Brecon Brewing is launching 'Beacons to the Sea' a 4.1% abv pale golden ale for the 200th Canal Anniversary. The first deliveries of the special beer will be made by horse drawn dray and narrow boat down the canal, delivering to the various pubs alongside the canal on the way.

21st May – 25th May – Brecon Primary Schools Activity Week in the Library. See opposite for details ‘News from Brecknock Museum’.

2nd – 4th June – Talybont-on-Usk Village Jubilee & Canal Celebrations.

4th June – Llangynidr Village Jubilee & Canal Celebrations: An all day celebration with music, dance and activities for all.

6th June - 8th June, 10.30am to 3.30pm - Families Canal Anniversary Activities in Brecon at the Library, Canal and Theatre.

20th July – 30th July - Canal Exhibition at Theatr Brycheiniog: An exhibition of canal related documents, images and exhibits www.theatrbrycheiniog.co.uk

More Canal Anniversary events and activities will be added over time so for up to date details and a full list of the calendar of events see www.facebook.com/MonmouthshireAndBreconCanal

News from Brecon Library

Our request service for local history is still running well. The last couple of months have seen such requests for information as follows:

- Obituary from the Brecon County Times newspaper in 1908 on Thomas Jones the proprietor of the Brecon Beacon newspaper.
- Another obituary from 1939 on LT Commander Thomas Clive Conway Lloyd who was lost at sea on the HMS

‘Thetis’ submarine.

- Information on the Independent Chapel ministers from the ‘Album Aberhonddu’ by T Stephen published 1898.
- Ordnance Survey maps of Llanfaes 1904
- Information on a local gunsmith.

We have a large collection of local history books, OS and Tithe maps, local newspapers - going back to the mid 19th century, and also free access to the findmypast and ancestry websites. Should you be unable to get to the Library to follow any research of your own please feel free to use our Research Service. Information on the charges and how to apply are on our website at www.powys.gov.uk/libraries.

News from Brecknock Museum

From 21-25 May 2012, Brecknock Museum, Brecon Library, Theatr Brycheiniog and British Waterways will be working in partnership to deliver a week of hands-on activities for Brecon primary school Key Stage 2 pupils to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Monmouth and Brecon Canal. Pupils will spend half a day at Brecon Library learning about the Canal's past & how bridges are built and looking at how to use the Library's resources to research local history topics. They will also spend half a day at Theatr Brycheiniog learning about how canals were built and exploring the local environment & wildlife, with pond dipping activities along the Canal. In addition, from 6-8 June, the partnership will be working with other local organisations and businesses to offer a programme of family activities to continue the celebrations. More information will be available soon.

Although Brecknock Museum is currently closed to the public, the Education & Access Programme continues to be available to schools and other groups on an outreach basis. Full details are listed on the Museum's website at www.powys.gov.uk/brecknockmuseum and the Education, Access and Volunteer Co-ordinator, Stephanie Dempsey, can be contacted on stephanie.dempsey@powys.gov.uk or 01874 624121. During the closure, Stephanie will also be working with other local organisations to offer children's holiday activities. During February half-term and the Easter break, she will be helping to run events at Brecon Library as follows:

Wed 15 and Thu 16 Feb 10am-12pm ‘Dragon Tales; Stories and Craft’.

Wed 4 and Wed 11 Apr 10am-12pm ‘Fun and Games’ *Play board, dice & card games and make one of your own to take home!*

All events are free of charge, suitable for children aged 3-11 years. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult.

Welsh Historic Gardens Trust

A new addition to the list of local organisations is the Brecon and Radnor Branch of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust. More details of the work of the WHGT can be found on its website-www.whgt.org.uk- but its aim is to research, document, conserve and protect the garden heritage and parkland of Wales. The local Branch has a programme of visits to gardens and study days (national and local). Members are actively engaged both in practical conservation work and historical research. Details of the 2012 programme will soon be available and further information can be obtained from Elizabeth Siberry-01873 812169.

News from the Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh

Major Martin Everett retired as curator of the South Wales Borderers museum last year and we would just like to take this belated opportunity to welcome Mr Bill Cainan to his role as the new curator of the museum.

Powys County Archives

New Accessions relating to Breconshire (August – November)

Three photographs relating to Sennybridge, including Sennybank, early 1900s; Defynnog Church, c1927 and Sennybridge Show 100th Anniversary dinner, 1965. [Acc 2047]

Photograph of Old Hemley Hall, Llanfihangel Tal-y-Llyn, 20th Century. [Acc 2052]

Papers of the Reverend Evan Evans, minister at the Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Cefn Gorwydd, including notebooks (4) c 1896-1932. [all in Welsh] {Acc 2054}

Specification of works to Sardis Congregational Chapel, Ystradgynlais, May 1962. [Acc 2064]

Signed minutes of the Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council, 2003-September 2009, including some agendas, 2002-2005. [Acc 2066]

Additional records of Coelbren School, including Log books (2) 1966-2002, attendance registers, 1990-2010; and a Governors' minute book, 1975-1986. Access restrictions may apply. [Acc 2056]

Records of Harry Soan, radio broadcaster, including transcripts and handwritten notes relating to his broadcasts, and newspaper cuttings and ephemera 1970s-1980s. [Acc 2067]

News from the Breconshire Local & Family History Society

- The **Breconshire Local & Family History Society** (BLFHS), established in June 2011, is proving to be highly successful group. All our monthly meetings have been well attended and by early December the membership of the Society exceeded 100.
- The BLFHS website is proving to be a rapidly growing asset, offering considerable resources to local and family historians alike. In January 2012 the website moved to a new address – <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/> - which offers more scope for further expansion and the addition of new features to our website. Details of all new features are provided on the *News* webpage.
- Over three days in September, the **Shops and Businesses Project Group** staged a highly successful exhibition at Brecon Library, illustrating the current state of our research into the shops and businesses in Brecon town over the past 100 years. Many visitors to the exhibition contributed their memories of old Brecon to the project, which is led by BLFHS Committee members Alison Noble and Rob Eckley.
- In November, members of the BLFHS provided advice and assistance to a group from the Llanddew community who began surveying, transcribing and recording the inscriptions on memorial stones and gravestones at St David's Church, Llanddew.
- To commemorate the bicentennial year of the **Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal**, a wide range of activities and events is planned on and along the canal.

The BLFHS is playing a leading role in the planning of the celebrations, and is liaising with other interested groups to organise a number of joint and individual Canal Festival projects. Full details are set out on our new *Canal Festival* webpage.

- In December, the BLFHS took part in Brecon Cathedral's first **Christmas Tree Festival**. The BLFHS was one of nearly 50 participating groups.
- If you would like to learn more about the BLFHS, please contact Mrs Hilary Williams, chairperson of the BLFHS management committee: e-mail williams.o.h@ic24.net or telephone 01874 624432.
- See *Dates for your Diary* for details of our forthcoming meetings, which are now confirmed right through to January 2013. Advance details are also posted on our website, on Brecon Library noticeboard, and in other prominent locations in the county.

Sporting times

Event held at Brecon Library looking at local history resources.

On Friday 4th November, several Primary School pupils from the local area attended Brecon library. The purpose of the visit was to learn about the various resources available to them should they wish to research the history of Brecon and the surrounding villages.

The pupils were split into groups of about 7 or 8, Rob Davies (School Library Service) and Stephanie Dempsey (Brecon Museum) entertained them with quizzes, whilst Sian Pratten (Brecon library) showed them how to use the various online facilities such as Children's Britannica. With a theme of sport in Brecon throughout the decades, my task was to show the children how to use the microfilm reader available for public use in Brecon library. I chose the year 1948, and we scrolled through the editions of the Brecon and Radnorshire Express published in that particular year, discovering that the local football team, Brecon Corinthians, had an outstanding season, winning four trophies. The children were able to compare the team photograph from 1948 with one from the 1890s that been photocopied and put alongside other local sports reports. Needless to say, they found the 19th Century team photograph very amusing with the players wearing their long shorts and handlebar moustaches.

As well as old newspaper reports, the children were shown how to find local history books, specifically those with a sporting theme; in the process learning that Brecon RFC was a founder member of the Welsh rugby Union.



Miss Mary Anne Thomas' niece

Of personal interest to me, whilst searching for local sporting

books, I discovered a book written about Brecon Golf Club. I recalled that my mother had told me that in the 1910s, a great aunt of mine, Miss Mary Anne Thomas, had been the stewardess of the club and her niece, (my grandmother), had assisted her in keeping the greens to a fit state during the Great War because of the shortage of men to undertake the task. Within this particular book, *Brecon Golf Club 1902 – 1977*, written by Daniel M James, it does indeed describe the years of Miss Thomas' stewardship. Apparently, according to the author, she certainly did not put up with any nonsense from club members, being a tee-total, God-fearing Chapelgoer. Searching through the family albums, I discovered a picture of Miss Thomas taken outside Kensington Chapel where she was a regular attendee. I brought the picture in for the day, and the children were able to read the paragraphs in the book and see the photographs alongside it.



Group including Miss Mary Anne Thomas outside Kensington Chapel (4th from left, front row)

Sadly, the day seemed to pass all too quickly and the ten minutes of allocated time for each group was barely long enough. However, within this time, the children all had a chance to use the microfilm reader, which they all seemed to enjoy. Hopefully this whetted a few young historians' appetites, encouraging them to come back again in the future and use the local history resources that Brecon library possesses.

Helen Jones (Library Assistant)

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 4th January - Breconshire Local & Family History Society. *'How to get the most out of Census Returns for local and family history research'*. Brecon Library 2pm.

Monday 9th January – Pontneathvaughan Local History Society. *'An evening with... 'Mr Robin Hatherall.* Pontneathvaughan Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 1st February - Breconshire Local & Family History Society. *Houses in Brecon. Mervyn Jenkins, of B. Jenkins & Sons Ltd, will give a talk about the work of the firm in and around Brecon.* Brecon Library 2.00-4.00pm.

Monday 13th February – Brecknock Society and Museum Friends Captain Phillips of Brecon at home and at sea. A portrait of the Breconian (commemorated by Captain's Walk) given by Sister Bonaventura Kelleher and Ken Jones at the Brecon Guildhall, 2.30pm. Free Admission.

Wednesday 22nd February – Crickhowell & District History Society. AGM. Crickhowell Scout Hall, Castle Road, 7.30pm.

Monday 5th March – Breconshire Local & Family History Society. *'Powys Archives Trip.'* A guided visit as an introduction to using the Archives. Please note you must book a place on this trip and pay a deposit of £5.00 per person.

Monday 12th March – Pontneathvaughan Local History Society. *'An evening with Mr Arwel Michael.'* Pontneathvaughan Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Friday 16th March – Brecknock Society and Museum Friends The Sir John Lloyd Lecture. *Conquerors, Courtiers and Careerists: the struggle for supremacy in the Lordship of Brecon 1093 to 1282,* given by Dr David Stephenson, Hon Research Fellow, School of History, Welsh History and Archaeology, Bangor University. Theatr Brycheiniog 7.30pm
Tickets available from the Theatre Box Office from January 2012.

Wednesday 21st March - Crickhowell & District History Society. *'Transport and Industry, Gilwern to Llanfoist'* R Williams. Crickhowell Scout Hall, Castle Road, 7.30pm

Monday 30th March – Brecknock Society and Museum Friends Annual General Meeting. 2.30pm at Brecon Guildhall. Please confirm.

Wednesday 4th April - Breconshire Local & Family History Society. *'Market Towns in Herefordshire'* Penny Platts. Looking at the buildings and churches of these ancient trading centres. Brecon Library 2pm.

Wednesday 18th April – Crickhowell & District History Society. *'The Battle of Isandlwana'* speaker Bill Cainan. Crickhowell Scout Hall, Castle Road, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 2nd May – Breconshire Local & Family History Society. *'A walk round Llangammarch.'* A gentle walk around this fascinating village led by local historians. The walk will finish with tea at the village hall. Donation to Llangammarch £3.00 per person.

Wednesday 16th May – Crickhowell & District History Society. *'Edward Williams and the Celtic Crosses of Llantwit Major'* speaker Brian Davies. Crickhowell Scout Hall, Castle Road, 7.30pm.

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