

Notes from Local Interest Group Meeting 29th September 2022

Present: Maureen Lloyd (ML), John Price, Wendy Ozols, Roy & Avryl Lloyd, Gina Goodge, Joan Lloyd, Cherry & Victor Williams, Jenny Francis, Sue Lawler, Malc Gonnella, Tim Francis, Mollie Moore, Grace Davies.

On Zoom: Dainis Ozols, Elsa Harflett, Bronwen Jenkins, Celia Jones

Apologies: John & Marisa Olliver

ML welcomed everyone to the meeting, both those in the Hall and those on Zoom. She made a special point of thanking John Price for all of his hard work in enabling us to hold these hybrid meetings; they would not happen without him and his technological expertise, and we are all most grateful to him.

The Gossip Review and AGM

ML reminded us that the Gossip is published every two months. Payment is by subscription, £6 per annum if delivered locally and £12 per annum if posted. She made the point that we make a slight loss on the posted copies as the postage has recently increased to over £1, but that this can be absorbed for the time being. She thanked all of her hardworking and reliable delivery team. ML also told us that she is hoping to enlist the help of Allison Joyce in the gathering of advertising subscriptions. These are £10 per annum. Payment of all subscriptions can be made in cash or by BACS.

She then took us through the accounts for the year, which showed a surplus. As the Gossip is a non-profit making publication, this is used to pay for community projects, such as the Zoom subscription and the underwriting of the community website, although the Community Council does contribute to this. The new shelving for books in the bus shelter was also funded out of Gossip funds and ML thanked Phil Griffiths for putting these up; they have helped to keep the bus shelter much tidier. The subs also pay for some casual work done by Bethany Price. She does the initial set-up of the articles, using Publisher. ML then does the final edit/layout. ML emphasized that she is completely dependent on articles and information being sent to her for inclusion, and she would really like more information about events and activities that are happening locally so that she can include these in each issue. In fact, all contributions are most welcome.

ML asked for any comments about The Gossip. Sue Lawler, who is relatively new to the village, said that she and her partner were both very impressed when they received their first copy, both by the articles and by how well presented it was. She knows from experience how much work goes into producing such a publication and so wanted her appreciation to be noted.

Local Interest Group

ML introduced this section by reminding us that all meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month, with the exception of December when there is no meeting. In the winter months, we meet in the Hall for talks. In May, June, July and August we go on visits to places of local interest. There is

no subscription for the group; everyone is a “member”. All funding comes from donations collected at the indoor meetings. As well as the meetings, walks are also organized and recently these have been in conjunction with the Radnorshire Society; ML thanked Elsa Harflett for her hard work in organizing these.

ML showed us an account sheet and went through some of the detail. We have to pay for the hire of the Hall, as well as heating, and also occasionally for speakers, although they often choose to take contributions for a chosen charity. We also buy small gifts to thank people who kindly host us on our summer visits.

John Price then showed us clips from all of our activities between October 2021 and August 2022, which he had very kindly put together for our enjoyment. These included:

- A talk on 200 Years of Agriculture in Radnorshire by ML.
- A film about wildlife by Antonia Fraser and others on Radnorshire from the Air, focusing on Painscastle Castle mound. (John had added a little more very interesting detail about the castle to this section.)
- Stewart Roberts giving an illustrated presentation on Notable Birds of the Rhosgoch Area.
- A talk on the Tuck Family of Painscastle given by Cherry Williams.
- Talks by four relative newcomers to the area about their lives: Lucy Trench, Robert Collingwood, James and Jenny Martin.
- An illustrated talk about Llanbadarn Fawr by Jennifer Lewis.
- Visits to Newchurch Village, Lower Pengarth, Llanshiever and Huntington in the summer.

Plans for LIG for 2022/23

ML asked if anyone had any ideas for speakers and/or visits for the coming year. The following were suggested:

1. Ann and Howard Dean have said that we are welcome to go back to Gladestry to look at the Church and also their home, Church Barn.
2. ML thought that it might be possible to approach Geoff Steel and Rachel Jones in Huntington to do another visit there.
3. Tim Francis agreed to talk to his sister, Eleanor Watkins, about the possibility of coming to talk to us about the book she wrote about growing up locally, “The Blue Remembered Hills”.
4. Roy Lloyd suggested that a talk on the history of Hay Market would be interesting. Hay has a History Group and they might be able to help us.
5. ML agreed to talk to Lucy Trench about the possibility of a summer visit to the Sidney Nolan Trust at The Rodd, near Presteigne.
6. Mollie Moore suggested that a visit to the glass recycling place in New Radnor might prove interesting.
7. Elsa Harflett suggested another “newcomers evening” would go down well. Sue Lawler and Malcolm Gonnella said that they would be happy to contribute to this if ML would like to give them a date to work towards. ML asked whether there were any other volunteers.
8. Malcolm Gonnella said that he was very interested in researching the history of the house that they have moved to and, if he is able to do this, he would be happy to present his findings at a meeting. JP, ML and RL have information which they will make available to him.
9. Cherry Williams said that she **might** be able to contribute half an evening’s worth of entertainment if she can gather together some information about Bryngwyn that she has.

10. Roy Lloyd suggested that a visit to Llandewi Church would make an interesting summer visit and Joe Bowkett, the warden, could be approached to help facilitate this.
11. John Price said that Moriah Chapel would also make an interesting visit, possibly in conjunction with Llanbedr Church.
12. Roy Lloyd wondered whether Ray Woods would be willing to come to talk to us. ML thought that this might be more appropriate as a visit, given Ray's expertise.
13. Cherry Williams wondered whether the people who live at Top of Lane on the Begwns might be interesting to have along. Roy and Avryl Lloyd agreed to approach them about this.
14. Grace Davies suggested that she could talk about the book she helped to produce, "Reflections: 100 Years of the Escleyside Agricultural Society". She would need some help from JP in putting together a Powerpoint presentation to illustrate her talk. She would also need some time to put this talk together and so suggested that a date later next year would suit her better.

ML said that if anyone else had suggestions, especially for speakers as we have five months to fill, she would be extremely happy to receive them; everything will be considered!

Next month, on Thursday October 27th at 7.30pm, Allan Lloyd will be talking to us about Hergest Court and the Vaughan family. This should be a most interesting evening; he is an excellent speaker.

The evening ended, as always, with chat and refreshments, kindly made by Avryl Lloyd.