

Minutes of Local Interest Group 29th October 2015

Apologies for absence: Richard Harris, Evelyn Bally, Dainis Ozols, Carol Gibbs, Jenny Francis and Sue Farmer.

Present: John and Margaret Price, Mo Lloyd, Wendy Ozols, John Price (Rhosgoch), Sue levers, Avryl and Roy Lloyd, Mollie and Geoff Moore, Adrian Chambers, Jess Bailey, Edwina Griffiths and Grace Davies.

Mo Lloyd welcomed everyone and gave an outline of the evening.

- 1. Bryngwyn Census** (led by JP and JB) Data is available for 1841-1911. JP (Hay) said that information for each census varies greatly – 1841 is very basic whilst there is a lot more for 1911. He has put the information from each census together by property, but this does not give all the information available, eg where people came from. He asked ML what the information was going to be used for. ML said that it would be a good local resource for people and that it may go on the community web site. JP also showed us the tables that he has devised using the data – these can give more information – and said that he had been trying different ways of recording information. JB then showed us her file – she has put the data into an Excel file, again this displays it in table form, JP demonstrated how the information can be filtered, eg by property or family name. There is also a column for “notes” and JB is now adding information on where people came from. JB and JP pointed out that properties “change name” between censuses and this can cause some confusion. JP said that giving each property an ID number (in addition to its name) in an additional column would aim to avoid this confusion. At this point, ML said that it is essential that there is a “master file” of the data so that other people can work on the information if they wished. JP said that this was possible as long as each individual is using the same field names and that we must decide on what information we want to record at the outset so that these can be established and included as column titles. JP and JB will liaise re the format used to collate the data. JP also added that some information from 1939 would be made available soon, but that the 1921 census data won't be released until 2021. ML asked that anyone who would like to help with the data entry should liaise with JB. JP said that he would be keen to deal with the 1911 census data. ML suggested at this stage that the numbers that have been allocated to each property could be added to a map. She also said that it would be useful to have a column showing the relationship of each individual to the head of the household. She added that every piece of information shown on the census should be recorded in order to avoid having to go back to the census data all of the time as this would defeat the object of the exercise. JP made the point that census data does not give the whole picture because of the 10 year intervals. JB added that she has been recording the acreages for each farm where she has been able and that it is surprising how much these can change. ML said that JB and JP should go ahead and work on the data, but that they should say what help they need, and that it would be a very useful experiment if we could complete the exercise for Bryngwyn parish so that we can go on to look at other parishes in the future. RL asked what will be done with all the information. He suggested that it would be very interesting if we were to follow through on properties and families, especially if some of the families were still living in the local area.

2. **Website** ML said that those working on the community website would welcome input from others, for example groups such as the WI or Young Farmers could have their own pages which they then maintain themselves, or individuals could write copy for the webmasters to put on the site. WO and MM said that they could do something for the WI. GM showed everyone present something that he has written about the 1924 RAC car trials, which had come up Sunny Bank and along the B road to Gladestry. He had brought along some photos which had been taken at the event at the ford in Rhosgoch and of the cars coming up Sunny Bank. ML said that this was just the sort of item which could go on the website. GM's article will also go in the Gossip.

3. **Local Films** JP showed three film clips about the local area. One focused on Ireland Moor and the management of the heather moorland. The second featured ladies from Bryngwyn WI and their band, Grease Lightning. The last was about the area along the Wye from Clyro to Erwood. They were all extremely interesting and everyone enjoyed this item. During this item, JP (Rhosgoch) told us about an interesting time he had when he had helped with some work on the suspension bridge at Llanstephan.

4. **Ideas for Future Meetings**

- ML has e mailed Ray Woods but has not yet received a reply.
- ML has also talked to Dr Duncan Noble, an archaeologist who has written a book on the domestication of horses, about coming to talk to the group.
- ML asked whether members would be interested in visiting the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales in Aberystwyth and some agreed that this would be most interesting. This could be combined with a visit to the National Library of Wales if people want. She undertook to try to arrange such a visit.
- ML asked for others to come forward with ideas.