

## Notes from Local Interest Group 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**Present:** Maureen Lloyd, Wendy & Dainis Ozols, Avryl & Roy Lloyd, John & Margaret Price (Hay), Carole Gibbs, Iris Lloyd, Ginny Guy, Sue Farmer, Richard Thomas, Deri Jones, Richard Harris, Bill Johnson, Mollie & Geoff Moore, Grace Davies

**Apologies:** Jenny Francis, Joan Lloyd

Maureen Lloyd welcomed everyone and said that the evening would consist of a number of short films about farming in the past, as well as the local area, which Ginny Guy and John Price (Hay) have put together for us.

We started by seeing an extremely short clip of elephants helping out with farming (ploughing and tossing bales onto a cart) during WW1, in 1917; this was most entertaining. This was followed by footage of ox ploughing in 1924. Next came a short film showing how butter and cheese were made on the farm in the past. Avryl Lloyd said that she could remember her mother making cheese in the same way.

Next we were shown a short, more recent film about making cider using traditional methods, with a horse being used to turn the wheel at the cider mill. Many local farms grew apples for cider and Pendre in Painscastle still has some cider apple trees.

We were all very interested to see some old footage of Rhosgoch Mill which dated from about 1948. The pond was still full of water and the building looked in good condition. This was interspersed with some of the film that JP had made during the LIG visit to the mill in August 2017. JP also showed us some of the film that he had made when the group visited the gun on the Garth in July 2016. (We were reminded that the weather was not very summery that evening!)

Some very interesting film of the sheep market in Kington in 1937 followed; the sheep looked much smaller and leaner in the 1930s. This was followed by a charming film about the relationship between banks and farming (dated 1949) and was a reminder to us all of days gone by when the bank manager was known to everyone and had an extremely important role to play in the local community. These days, you would be lucky to find a bank in small rural towns.

Jenny Francis had contributed a lovely film about a farm in the Llanthony valley made in 1991. It featured a farmer called Trevor Powell who used a horse to go around his hill farm, "wild west style"!

A real treat followed. JP had found some footage of Maureen Lloyd and Stella Havard being interviewed for an Australian TV sport show about trotting. They had had to go to London for the filming and both were dressed in their jockey's gear. They explained what the sport was all about and about safety issues, and ML was asked to explain how she had come to break her neck whilst competing. Her most memorable statement was, "it wasn't the horse's fault"! This was extremely interesting, not least because it featured ML.

Two short films about recruiting people into farming followed, one from 1948 and the other from 1945. The latter showed the training received by young people attending agricultural college to learn the more scientific methods that were being introduced at the time. Again, this was extremely interesting.

To end the evening, we saw some more modern footage of two men looking at vintage farm machinery and explaining how it worked, some very short clips of the Women's Land Army girls during WWI and a piece about the Royal Welsh Show in 1960, when it was held in Welshpool.

ML thanked John and Ginny for putting together a fascinating evening's entertainment for us. Certainly some of those in the room could remember the machinery and methods that had been depicted in the film clips and they had conjured up happy memories of times past.

ML announced that she would like to organise a trip to Llandrindod Museum to see the WWI Exhibition that opens there on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. She is hoping to find a date in early December that will suit as many people as possible and will in touch with details as soon as possible.

We finished, as always, with refreshments kindly made by Avryl Lloyd.