

## **Notes from Local interest Group 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Present:** Maureen Lloyd (ML), Wendy (WO) and Dainis Ozols (DO), Avryl and Roy Lloyd, John Price – Hay (JPH), Tim Francis, Sue Ievers (SI), Peter and Pauline Spode, Edwina Griffiths (EG), Richard Thomas (RT), Deri Jones (DJ), Carole Gibbs, Ginny Guy (GG), Jenny Francis (JF).

**Apologies:** Joan Lloyd, Grace Davies

ML welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that, as is usual in September, it would take the form of a review of the previous twelve months, as well as planning for the 2018/19 season. The group started in October 2014 and has had four very successful years so far.

### **Review 2017/18**

ML talked us through the meetings. We started in October with a most entertaining evening listening to local stories told by Tom Nicholls from Rhydlydan. This was followed in November with a fascinating illustrated history of Llewetrog farmhouse, presented by Carole Gibbs. We do not have a meeting in December, but some of us paid a very informative visit to the new Powys Archives, situated on the Ddole Industrial Estate in Llandrindod.

In January, ML presented the early history of Painscastle including the building of the castle in about 1130. Her talk took us up to 1137 with a promise of more history to follow at a future meeting. Phillip Jones, from Llandrindod Museum, came to talk to us in February; his topic was "Early Birds and the Boys in Blue: A Century of Radnorshire Aviation", based on his book of the same title. This talk contained lots of humour and local interest and we all found it most illuminating. We had another outside speaker in March. Ken Jones gave us a fascinating presentation about the de Winton family, including a potted history of the East India Company. In April, Mari Fforde came to talk to us about the Hergest Camp near Kington which was used by the Americans in WW2. Some of those in the audience had direct family links with the camp and this talk proved extremely popular, with a very high attendance.

May saw the first of our summer "field trips". We walked from The Rices up to Ty Llwyd and back to Trewylod, following some of the old tracks which used to lead to Painscastle. In June, we had a fantastic guided tour of the Llanbwchllyn Wildlife Reserve with Stephen and Judy Mullard, from the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust. This was a very special evening visit, made even more so by the amazing weather. We completed the evening with a visit to Llewetrog. July's visit was to Cefnige Mill and Llandeilo Graban Motte, another most interesting evening guided by ML. Our last field trip of the summer was a visit to the Castle Twmp in Painscastle and, yet again, we were blessed with a wonderful evening and amazing views.

All agreed that it had been a full, interesting and most informative set of meetings and most had been extremely well attended.

### **Accounts**

ML presented the Local Interest Group's Accounts. She explained that, even though there is no subscription or charge for meetings, we do have a small kitty which can be used to pay for speakers and/or expenses from time to time. At present, this kitty amounts to £164.78. Much of this comes from the extremely generous donations made by participants for the refreshments which are served at the meetings held in the Hall, and thanks must go to our "members" for their generosity, and also especially to those who actually provide the refreshments for us to enjoy. In October 2017, there

was also a donation of £25 from the Freemasons; this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in a quiz which was part of a meeting to which our members were invited. Every month when we meet in the Adullum Hall, ML also gives the hall committee some money as a contribution towards the heating costs. ML went on to explain that the accounts were available for inspection and she passed around the accounts sheet for everyone to see. JPH suggested that people would probably be more than willing to contribute a small amount to help to pay speakers' fees on occasions when we have one.

### **Planning Meetings for 2018/19**

ML threw the meeting open and invited suggestions for next year's meetings. She explained that she had one or two things planned already and that she would like to run these ideas past those present to see whether they would be suitable.

**October:** JF said that she might be able to get access to some films of local interest, possibly focussed on the Lanthony Valley, if people were interested. ML asked GG whether she also had access to some film material and she said that she did, as did JPH. It was agreed that JF, GG and JPH would liaise to put together an evening of local interest for the next meeting, in October.

**November:** ML suggested that it would be nice to conclude the WW1 research already started in this most appropriate month of 2018. She said that Phil Jones is willing to come to talk to us once again. He is currently setting up an exhibition about WW1 in Llandrindod and this opens in November and so he would not be quite so busy by the end of the month. DO suggested that it would be nice to commemorate the local men who gave their lives in some way and asked whether the vicar could be approached. The former vicar, Ben Griffith, had been enthusiastic about holding an appropriate service of commemoration; however, he is not allowed to return to his former parishes for three years which does not end until 2019.

**January:** ML told us that Cherry Williams has offered to come to talk about her Great Grandmother's diaries (the lady lived from 1858-1929). She lived at Danyfron in Colva and so this would be of good local interest.

**February:** WO has agreed to work with Roy and Avryl Lloyd to present a talk about the various trades people and shops that have been used by Pendre Farm over the years. RL's Father and Grandfather were particularly good at keeping documentation and RL and AL have collected a whole file of resources which we can use.

**March:** DO suggested that it might be nice to have an evening dedicated to Francis Kilvert and the observations that he made in his diaries about our local area. ML agreed to approach Ann Dean from Gladestry to see whether she would be willing to contribute to this, because she enjoys writing about Kilvert for *The Gossip*.

**April:** RT asked whether it would be possible to have a talk about the Drovers, given that Painscastle was such an important centre for them. It might be possible to find a speaker, but ML asked whether anyone would be willing to research this topic and present it to the group. You do not need to be an expert – just willing to do some reading/research and present the findings to an audience. If anyone would like to do this, please could you let ML know.

**May:** EG has suggested that, following the successful visit to Llanbwchllyn, it would be nice to visit another local Radnorshire Wildlife Trust Reserve, Cwm Byddog above Clyro. WO agreed to contact Stephen Mullard and Jonathan Stone from the Trust in order to arrange this.

**June:** WO suggested that the group might like to visit Maesyronnen Chapel near Glasbury. This is a charming and very old chapel with an extremely enthusiastic and welcoming congregation. She undertook to try to organise this for June when the evenings are long.

**July:** ML said that it would be a good time to visit Llandeilo Graban village and St Teilo's Pool and that she would look into this. Perhaps EG would like to help with the research since this is where her home was.

**August:** WO has suggested that it would be wonderful to visit Great House in Newchurch, if Norman and Betty Lloyd would be happy to have us. There is also the church in the village which is interesting and has links with Kilvert. ML will look into this possibility.

At this point, there was a general discussion about the local churches and it was agreed that visits to all of them could be made at some time in the future, for our summer outings. GG said that she had done architectural surveys of all of the local churches and would be willing to help if the visits go ahead. Llandewi Fach would be another interesting visit for the summer months. SI said that she would be interested in visiting the church at Llanbadarn y Garreg and GG said that this was definitely one of the ones she had surveyed. DJ mentioned that Mrs Probert, who used to live at The Drevour farm, knows a good deal about Colva church; however, she is now quite elderly and living in Kington and so it might be better to ask her son, Graham, who also has good local knowledge.

GG asked whether anyone knew what was happening at Rhosgoch Mill. Things seem to have slowed down there at the moment. ML said that Janet was quite willing to give us an update although there was very little obvious progress at present.

DO wondered whether the new tenants at the Old Shop might be willing to let us look at the building, which is old and of interest within the village.

GG asked whether a visit to Glascwm could be arranged. She certainly knows about the church. ML said that it would also be interesting to learn about the Clas system in Wales, in conjunction with such a visit.

RT asked whether there could be a talk about Hay Castle. Mari Fforde did come to the village in January 2018 and gave a talk at the WI Open Meeting, which was well attended. JPH said that the Hay History Group might also be willing to help with this topic. ML suggested that, since Mari had been to the village recently, this might be a topic to keep for a time when the castle restoration project was nearing completion, perhaps the end of 2019 or early 2020.

JPH said that recent research that he has been undertaking has brought to light bits of local folklore that could be worth investigating further. ML said that it was always going to be difficult to "tie these tales down" but that that did not mean they were not worth looking into. Some stories are often used in several different ways.

RT asked whether it might be possible to get into Upper House in Painscastle. DO said that we would need to contact the developer and that he was not sure about how safe it would be to have people wandering around inside.

The meeting ended with ML asking people to keep coming up with ideas. It would also be great if members could come forward to volunteer to do presentations. No particular skills are required, just a willingness to do some research and then tell people about the topic.

Since the meeting ML, wondered if there would be any interest in a visit to Llandrindod Museum to see the exhibition about the 531 men from Radnorshire who lost their lives in WWI, alongside a lot

of other interesting stuff! It is an interesting museum which is always worth a visit. She has talked to one of the exhibition organisers who would be glad to welcome us. Would a visit in the early part of December be appropriate?

At the end of the meeting, refreshments were enjoyed by all. Many thanks to AL and EG for making these.