

## **Minutes of Local Interest Group meeting 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014, Adullam Hall, Painscastle**

**Present:** Mo Lloyd (ML), Lisa Lloyd (LL), Jenny Francis (JF), Carol Gibbs (CG), Peter & Pauline Spode(PS x 2), Dainis Ozols (DO), Richard Martin (RM), Sue Farmer (SF), Margaret Herdman (MH), Edwina Griffiths (EG), Simon & Diana Balm (SB DB), Mollie & Geoff Moore (MM GM), Evelyn Bally (EB), Roy Lloyd (RL), Grace Davies (GD)

**Apologies** were received from Avryl Lloyd (AL) and Wendy Ozols (WO), although both arrived later before the end of the meeting.

ML opened the meeting at 19.30 and welcomed everyone. She said that she did not expect this to be a formal meeting but that it would provide an opportunity for those present to show everyone else what they had brought with them.

**Margaret Herdman** introduced a number of books, including: "Moods of Kilvert Country", which is a beautiful photographic essay by Nick Jenkins, "Houses and History in the March of Wales, Radnorshire 1400-1800", by Richard Suggett (contains an excellent article on the Upper House, Painscastle), the "Pevsner Architectural Guide to Powys" by R. Haslam and "Radnorshire" by W.H. Howse.

**Sue Farmer** brought a picture of Rhiw Pitch before it was widened by the Council, a map of Wernoog Farm, an old photograph of Painscastle and some notes on Vicar John Price.

**Carol Gibbs** brought some photographs and survey notes of Llewetrog dating from 1967. She added that a number of other houses were surveyed at that time, possibly by Harry Brooksby, who also identified the Upper House. MH agreed that this was correct. She also had some information as to the origins of the name "Llewetrog", saying that it meant "mound". She also had two well-illustrated books, "Photographs of Radnorshire" by P.B. Aberly and "Early Photographs of Radnor" by W.H. McKaig. She also had a quantity of historical legal documents.

**Edwina Griffiths** had brought a fascinating Radnorshire Council Supplementary Planning Guidelines Draft for Painscastle dated February 1981. This contained the sentence "Painscastle is a small hamlet in the heart of South Radnor" and also described our village as "one of the most isolated settlements in Radnor". She also brought a fascinating extract from the School Record for 1874. This included a complaint dated April 17<sup>th</sup> of that year that "...spelling continues to be a great drawback." She also showed us some old newspaper cuttings about Llanbedr and Twm Tobacco's grave.

**Geoff and Mollie Moore** brought the complete collection of scrapbooks relating to the local area and its people, which had been put together as a WI project by the late Pat Taylor. SF has added material to these after Pat died. They date from 1976 and are a treasure trove of information which anybody is welcome to research. They proved to be very popular on this occasion.

**Jenny Francis** said that the Francis family had previously lived at Llandevron. She brought some excellent maps of the Clyro Court Estate dating from the sale of the estate in October 1950.

**Evelyn Bally** had some details of the Clyro Court sale and she had also brought a very large quantity of legal documentation relating to Lane Farm dating from at least the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The

documents had been handed down by Charlie Davies and she regretted that they still needed to be looked at in detail to see what could be learned from them. Perhaps the Group could help out?

**Mo Lloyd** had brought an Ordnance Survey map of the Painscastle area dating from about 1833. This was one of the first such maps ever completed and contained many names of farms and hamlets that had since disappeared.

**Roy Lloyd** had brought a number of interesting documents, including a tithe map and a lovely photograph of the former Maesllwch Arms (now the Roast Ox), dating from the 1920s or 1930s and which showed the owners, the Morgan family, gathered around the front door. GD said that her family had owned the pub before this date. SF reminded us that there had been two fires at the Maesllwch Arms and showed us a newspaper article from one of the scrapbooks detailing one of these incidents. RL also produced the Sale Particulars for the Painscastle Estate, dated 30<sup>th</sup> October 1919, when some 1513 acres of the Estate were auctioned by John D. Wood at the Drill Hall in Hay. In addition to listing the different lots these also praised the "...excellent trout fishing on Bach Howey."

The various documents proved hugely popular amongst those present and hardly anyone noticed that some two hours had passed before we even considered making a cup of tea. Refreshments were very kindly supplied by RL and AL and were most welcome.

ML thanked everyone for attending and for bringing such an interesting collection of historical material. She said that it was obvious that the Group had made an excellent start and that it was now important to maintain momentum and focus.

She reminded those present that we had an opportunity to present some of our new knowledge and recollections to the U3A Lost Farms and Villages group that would be visiting Painscastle on the 5<sup>th</sup> November. Although discussions and preparations were still ongoing, she hoped that the group could be walked around a number of significant Painscastle properties and be given suitable presentations on a number of relevant topics and also shown a variety of maps and other documents, etc. The properties did not just include the castle mound and the oldest buildings, but might also include, for example, the first council house in the village. She said that Gwyneth Guy from Kington might be able to speak about the Upper House. She hoped that the Group might be able to assist in logging all of the Painscastle properties in time for the visit and that our next meeting might best be used for this purpose as well as finalising arrangements for the visit.

ML said that metal detectorists had been at work in the area over the last few months and that a few interesting objects had been recovered. RL confirmed that he was in possession of some of these.

ML added that part of her own property at Lower Lundy was presently undergoing extensive redecoration, as a result of which an ancient cruck frame had been partially exposed.

JF asked whether we should try to establish why there was no church in the centre of the village. SF said that she was in the course of preparing a history of all the local churches. EB said that she had already completed an audit of the churchyard at Bryngwyn and that it was now displayed on the wall at that church.

### **Any Other Business**

DO said that we had done very well to find some of this material in such a short time but that we still needed to think about how best to record it so that others could access it too. ML agreed and said that she was still waiting to hear from Jess Fromant on what could be done about a web site. DO said that he would also informally consult his new neighbour at Begwns View, as he had a background in web development.

### **Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm, at Adullam Hall.

The meeting closed at about 10.45pm.