

Minutes of Painscastle Local Interest Group Meeting 27th March 2015

Present:- Maureen Lloyd [ML], Edwina Griffiths [EG], Mollie Moore [MM],Avryl Lloyd [AL], Roy Lloyd [RL], John Price (Hay) [JP], Margaret Price [MP], Grace Davies [GD], Dainis Ozols [DO], Pauline Spode[PS], Peter Spode [PS2].

ML welcomed those present and said that she only had a light agenda this evening as it had been a busy month elsewhere. She reported that she had been visiting most of the local churches with the vicar to check on the various memorials to our wartime casualties. So far any available lists at Newchurch, Bryngwyn, Llandeilo Graban, Aberedw, Crickadarn and Gwenddwr churches had been checked, as well as the Harmon Chapel at Rhosgoch.

She had still not been able to speak with Ruby Bagley about Llanbedr Church. She said that she still needed to check the 1911 Census for Llandeilo Graban too.

DO asked whether any paper records had been found that supported the various memorials, but ML said they had not. She suggested that the disestablishment of the Church in Wales at the same time as the Great War may have resulted in some documents going astray. JP offered to conduct some more research into the names if time permitted. ML suggested that we should try to find out a little more information about all of the names revealed so far, although it appeared that thankfully most local men had returned from the Great War relatively intact.. At least three had died in the Second World War.

EG suggested that we might try looking at the market hall in Erwood, as there could be a memorial there in the absence of a church in the village. Also, the chapel there might be worth investigating, although we would need to make sure it could be unlocked.

ML passed round an old photograph supplied by Margaret Herdman (Hom) which showed a man riding a very old motorcycle and sidecar combination. The sidecar had been adapted to carry his livestock. The visible number on the front of the motorcycle read CJ-3339 (believed to be a Hereford registration) and the name of the rider may have been Arthur Arrowsmith from Glanant. MM said that he husband would probably be able to identify the type of motorcycle and DO suggested that the local archives might have records of the registered keeper.

Following on from Margaret Evans' talk last month ML said that she had brought along an extract from the Painscastle School log listing all of the evacuees. It was notable how many of these were from the Bootle area, but there were some single names from other parts of the country, including Sheerness in Kent. DO said that this had surprised him as he thought that evacuees were all from the larger cities.

ML and DO said that we were making progress with the community website, the first pages of which will be the Community Council pages. Jess Fromant had recently launched the first few pages online so that she could do some more tweaking. ML said that it would still take

some time before the site was complete although she hoped to be able to include a section on the "Gossip" quite soon.

ML said that she and DO had recently attended an excellent lecture on the Battle of Agincourt at Brecon Theatre at which the contribution made by the Welsh bowmen was highlighted and some details of the contingent from Brecon and the area discussed. There was a travelling exhibition about the Battle that could currently be viewed at Brecon Theatre and details of other venues could be found on the 600th anniversary web site¹. DO also recommended another excellent web site on which details of thousands of soldiers from the Middle Ages could be researched².

ML also said that she had recently enjoyed an interesting walk on Little Hill that had concluded at Glaschw Church. She said that there was an interesting memorial in the church in the form of a simple cross on which two German names were recorded, albeit not very legibly. These were Oberleutnant (Senior Lieutenant) ? Brixto? And Feldwebel (Sergeant) A. Liedig of the German Air Force. She asked whether anybody had any recollection of a German aircraft crashing in the area in April 1942. RL said that one had crashed near Painscastle, but this may have been another incident.

The meeting concluded as always with those present sharing anecdotes and advice over a cup of tea and a biscuit.

The next meeting will take place at the Adullam Hall, Painscastle at 19.30 on Thursday 23rd April 2015.



¹ <http://agincourt600wales.com/>

² <http://www.medievalsoldier.org/>