

Minutes of Local Interest Group meeting 27th November 2014, Adullam Hall, Paincastle

Present: Mo Lloyd (ML), Jenny Francis (JF), Dainis Ozols (DO), Margaret Herdman (MH), Edwina Griffiths (EG), Evelyn Bally (EB), Roy & Avryl Lloyd (RL, AL), Deri Jones (DJ), Jess Fromant (JF), John Price (JP), Mollie Moore (MM), Grace Davies (GD), Richard Price (RP)

Apologies: Wendy Ozols, Peter and Pauline Spode

ML opened the meeting at 7.45pm and welcomed everyone to the Hall. She provided those present with a summary of the recent visit to Paincastle by the Hay U3A Lost Farms and Villages Group and said that they had appreciated what had been prepared for them. AL said that she had enjoyed the visit and the experience of showing the group around Pendre. ML suggested that we might like to do something similar ourselves next year when the evenings were longer and the weather better. ML said that she would be happy to share the notes she had made in advance of the U3A visit with other members.

ML said that she had received an email from Bill Bowker of the Glasbury History Group in which he said that he would welcome any help from us in researching the history of the Begwons during World War 2.

EB had prepared a list of names from the 1914-1918 Roll of Honour to be found at Saint Michael's Church, Bryngwyn. MM said she thought that there were more names to be found in the chapel at Rhosgoch. EB said she was not sure, but the same names might also be found at Newchurch and possibly at Colva. DO said that he had been looking at some web sites operated by various local history groups recently and he had noted in particular one prepared by the Leatherhead and District Society¹ (in Surrey) which displayed photographs of all the local war memorials and other relevant monuments. The Society had researched all of the names on these and provided a substantial amount of biographical information about the individuals on the web site. MM said that the memorial in Talgarth had only been erected in the 1950s and suggested that the community may not have had sufficient funds to build something earlier. DO offered to do some more research on the names provided by EB.

ML said that she had brought several books with her for members to look at, in particular the Valley Views that Llanthony had prepared. These were good publications that we might try to emulate.

DO mentioned the excellent book called "Brilley Voices"² that JF had recently lent him and said that we should try to do something similar ourselves before it was too late. In that context RL suggested we approach Bill Morris, who was now 92 and who could relate a great deal about the area. ML suggested that RL should be our first candidate for interview. EG and MM suggested Margaret Evans (EG's cousin). ML asked whether we should invite some of these individuals to our meetings in order to answer questions and it was agreed that it might be possible to do this in some cases but that some might not be willing to travel too far or to appear in front of too many people. Various tactics were discussed but it was agreed that it was absolutely vital to record any conversations so that they could be carefully transcribed later.

¹ <http://www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk/>

² Brilley Voices, collected by Brilley Living Archive Group, ed. Judith Gardner, Logaston Press 2010, ISBN 978 1 906663 38 4

RL also suggested Dai Lloyd from Kington (Trevor Lloyd's youngest brother). He also suggested we approach Walter Price at Rhulen, who is now also in his 90s but who has a very good memory and a large collection of old photographs by someone called Brooks, many of which were of local wildlife. He was a particularly good source of information on local game keeping. EG suggested we also approach Tom Nicholls. As far as trying to arrange interviews with long-term residents was concerned, RL said he would speak with Bill Morris. ML said she would speak to Dai Lloyd. JP said he would talk to Arthur Nicholls. JF and EG also suggested we approach Graham Edwards in Bryngwyn. JF also suggested the Probert brothers at Cwm-Gwilym in Newchurch and it was generally agreed that we should certainly also speak with John and Joan Meredith of Rhosgoch.

RP then joined the meeting and at this point JF and DO discussed various suggestions with regard to the proposed web site. They said that they had already decided to purchase the domain name www.painscastle-rhosgoch.co.uk before it was too late and because it had only cost £25 for 5 years. JF said she was happy to help to develop the site using the same platform as she had used for her own web sites. It would cost about £5 per month for the site to be hosted online, but this was good value as we would be allowed to have multiple authors, unlimited pages, password access if required and possibly even access to e-commerce facilities in the future. DO said that this was now a good opportunity to develop a web site that represented the whole community and not just the local interest group. For example, the site could include information about what the community did now and not just about its history. We could include information about the Council, minutes of meetings, details of local businesses, farms, B&Bs, etc. We could offer back editions of the Gossip and indeed some of the previous articles would make good copy for the web site. It was a good opportunity to finally put Painscastle and Rhosgoch on the map. DJ and RP said that they had been asked by Powys to put the Council's activities online and agreed that this was a useful suggestion. DO and JF offered to prepare a mock up over the next few weeks to show to the rest of the group at a future meeting.

ML said that she had brought with her some CDs prepared by the Powys Family History Society³ containing full details of all the local censuses. Other members were free to look at these.

The meeting concluded at about 21.30.

Next Meeting

As the last Thursday of December will be 25th, the next meeting will be on January 29th 2015.

³ <http://www.powysfhs.org.uk/>