

## **Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Local Interest Group 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014**

**Present:** Maureen Lloyd (ML) in the Chair, Richard and Tracey Martin (RM & TM), Jess Fromant (JF), Carol Gibbs (CG), John and Sue Ievers (JI & SI), Deri Jones (DJ), Sue Farmer (SF), Grace Davies (GD), Wendy and Dainis Ozols (WO & DO)

ML opened the meeting by explaining the reasons for initiating it and then asked each person to say what their specific interests are.

### **People's Interests**

DO – recording history/consolidating bits of information and making sure that information is recorded before it is lost.

JF – tracing family names, the drovers, documenting gravestones before they are unreadable and history of property. (ML said that Llanbedr and Adullam graves are already recorded but need to be checked.)

DJ – how the valley evolved over time, say from the 1600s to the present.

SF – loves the history of the area and wants to know more, lives on a drovers' route in a house built on the site of an old long house (mentioned in Kilvert's diary).

CG – moved to the area 10 years ago and has been researching her property's history and wants to know more. Has a general interest in Welsh history and would like to know more about the Painscastle area.

SI & JI – have lived here for 20 years and are interested in their house and its history.

TM – knows nothing of Welsh history and is particularly interested in rights of way/ riding routes.

RM – wants to know more about the local area. Is particularly interested in railways and so would be interested in studying a wider area.

GD – brought a copy of an article about Rhosgoch Mill (dated 1953) and a DVD on Bryngwyn WI (1997/98) to the meeting. Also has a copy of a recording of Betty Lloyd (The Castle) talking about Painscastle; she was a very good local historian.

ML – also interested in looking at the evolution of local history and wants to put all the "bits and pieces" of history together in a "place" where people can find and use them.

WO – interested in oral histories and would like to record the thoughts of those who have lived in the area for a long time before they forget (eg Roy Lloyd and John Herdman).

### **Discussion**

ML – said that the Gossip could be used as a medium to record what we find out.

SF – asked us not to have everything on the internet as not everyone has access.

ML – we need a “hub” ie a group of people or a place to keep information together. A Society would help hold everything together.

CG – agreed that there must be some structure.

SF - thinks that Val Price has a copy of the tithe map. This is an eg of individuals having bits of information that could be useful to others.

DJ – it would be best to pick up small stories which could be researched and then written up for the Gossip so that they are recorded. We do not want to get too bogged down in detail or with anything too “heavy”.

ML – already has bits and pieces on her computer and elsewhere and really does want to have them stored on something like a web site so that people can access them.

SF – asked whether things were still kept in the archives in Llandrindod, eg the WI did a record of all the field names back in the 1960s.

ML – said that they did exist and that she had looked in the Highways Board archive and other places in the archive for some information.

DO – there are two ways of working; either we direct people to a specific project or people follow their own interests and share the information and record it. The latter is more likely to be successful.

ML – we could then have meetings where people share what they have found and where they can seek guidance if they need it. The Radnorshire Society has its own records which might be useful and ML is a member and has a list of its publications. People should also record where they found the information and share their sources.

DO – could we list sources on a web site?

SF – asked what had happened to the Painscastle web site (most unaware of its existence). Could we take over this site?

DJ – this was set up by the Community Council and is now out-of-date and perhaps we could revive it.

DO – asked whether the Council might help with the cost of hosting a web site.

DJ – said that it might be possible for the Council to contribute something.

ML – we ought to have some web presence and favours a web site.

DO – less time/ fewer staff being put into historical work/recording by local government these days and this makes local history groups even more important.

CG – must be careful about the internet being the main organ of information dissemination; Facebook is a particular concern to some people.

DO – a web site would give access to information gathered to people from outside the local area.

JF – a web site would be possible and she could set one up very easily and immediately, but content takes years to amass. We would also need to think about the sub-sections that we would like to have on the web site.

DO – circulated a copy of the home page of the web site belonging to Ewyas Lacy Historical Society as an example.

ML – initially the web site could say who we are and what we are doing.

SI – in the future, people may like to know who has lived in their house in the past. This could go on the web site.

SF – could we have an outing to the County Archives? (General agreement that this would be very interesting.)

SI – the unabridged version of Kilvert's Diary would also contain a great deal of local information.

SF – suggested that we each write a short piece about our own houses as an initial project. These could go in the Gossip.

WO – this might stimulate interest amongst others to do the same or to start other small investigations.

ML – should copies of the Gossip be put in the County Archive and Hay Library? This would ensure that the information was recorded somewhere officially.

### **Action**

1. ML agreed to organise a trip to the County Archives.
2. Each member of the group will do a short write-up about their house.
3. It was agreed that we should have a regular monthly meeting to be held on the last Thursday of each month.
4. WO and ML agreed to start interviewing some local residents, starting with Roy Lloyd.

### **AOB**

SF – asked about the information board that was put up in the village garden in Painscastle when the WI renovated the area: what was on it; who paid for it?

WO – agreed to ask Mollie Moore and Brenda Jones whether they could shed any light on the matter.

### **Date of next meeting**

This was arranged for Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Roast Ox (tbc by ML).

