

Notes from Local Interest Group 27th October 2016

Present: Maureen Lloyd (ML), Margaret and John Price - Hay (JPH), Richard Martin, Wendy and Dainis Ozols (DO), Avryl(AL) and Roy Lloyd (RL), John Price – Rhosgoch, Richard Thomas (RT), Edwina Griffiths and Grace Davies.

1. ML welcomed everyone and said that a brief review was in order as it was now 2 years since the group had started. We had had another good year with some particularly enjoyable “field trips” and also some good talks. ML wanted to thank JPH, in particular, for all of his hard work, which has contributed greatly to the success of the meetings.

One thing from our original list of interests that we have not yet done is the interviews with longstanding residents and there was much discussion about how this could be accomplished successfully. JPH said he would be willing to ask Lily Williams (Plas Warren) whether he could interview her and possibly involve her son, Tom, as well. Another local character who could be interviewed is Richard Griffiths.

ML asked for some suggestions for future meetings. RT said that he would be willing to do a short piece about his house, Upper Llandewi, with others contributing if they could. Ray Woods has said that he would be happy to come to talk to us again and it may be possible to organise something with Hannah Shaw who oversees the Flagship Pond group on the Begwns. DO suggested that we might get hold of Paul Martin Remfrey (M. Phil.) and ask whether he might come to talk to us. All agreed that the external visits had been very good and some suggestions for next year were made, including a Bachawey walk and Dolycannau. RL agreed to ask Matthew Johnson, the farm manager, about the Cilliau. AL brought along a couple of articles relating to the chapel that could form the basis of one meeting.

2. The next section was led by JPH. He had found a great deal of information from old press cuttings that relate to various aspects of local life. These give an interesting insight into local life and are worth noting. The following is a summary of what he had found, in chronological order.

In December 1791, there was a notice about a meeting of the Talgarth and Painscastle Association for the Prosecution of Felons – before the creation of a national police force, rural communities formed societies to prosecute criminals.

On 3rd June 1795, in the Hereford Journal, there was mention of men being enrolled in His Majesty's Navy at John Tuck's [Castle Farm] in Painscastle.

14th September 1805, there was a report in The Cambrian of the death of Mr Price of Painscastle; he had been gored by his bull. JPH asked whether this might be Daniel Price, who was buried on 10th August of that year, or Edward Price buried on 24th August? The latter left £595 in his will.

An extract of the indenture of Stephen Haywood, dated September 1st 1825, mentions “messauges tenements from lands hereditaments and premises were for many years in the holding or occupation of Daniel Price”. Is this the same man?

The Hereford Journal, 23rd February 1820, advertises the tenancy of Llanderviron, "an excellent farm". It also says that "no-one need apply who is not a good farmer".

The Cambrian of 23rd August 1823 talks about the sale by auction of "Cwmheli Farm, Llandeilo Graban and Llanbedr Painscastle – 90 acres and common rights on adjoining hills – and Craignant, 27 acres, and CwmyrHenllan, 32 acres," also in the parish of Painscastle Llanbedr.

In the Hereford Journal of 25th April 1832, there is an article about a proposal to build a bridge at or near "Kevan-Shane" and another over the River Wye at or near Boughrood.

The Glamorgan, Monmouth and Brecon Gazette and Merthyr Guardian of 6th December 1834 contained an article about Mr Wilkins' Harriers, which started at Painscastle with "all the crack riders" of the county. The hunt followed the fox to Rhulen Church, towards Cregina, Glascwm and Colva and then on towards Old Radnor, then Gladestry. It was reported as "one of the most splendid runs ever known in the county of Radnor". Even though there were several falls during the run, there were no serious injuries.

The Hereford Times of 19th September 1835 announced that a fair will be held at Painscastle on 22nd September.

The Hereford Journal of 29th August 1838 says that an auction will be held at the Rose and Crown, Hay, of freehold farms called Vron, Penycwm and Penbedw, comprising 147 acres in all.

On 15th August 1840, the Hereford Times reported that anyone found "sporting" without permission in the "manors of Painscastle" would be prosecuted and that anyone giving information leading to a conviction would receive "three sovereigns reward".

The Hereford Journal of 21st December 1842 carried a notice "To let, New House, Llanbedr Painscastle" with 210 acres of arable, meadow and pastureland.

Also in the Hereford Journal, this time of 14th June 1843, was a notice about "An Act for the Communication of Tithes in England and Wales". It stated that there would be a meeting on 16th of June of land owners and tithe owners at the house of Charles Bowen, called the Drovers Arms.

The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian, Glamorgan, Monmouth and Brecon Gazette of 3rd January 1846 carried an article, part of which read, "The only thing I have observed that is likely to make a railway pay is the Trap Rock". This was a manure from Painscastle which was called marl. It went on to say, "It is plain to see that any person that knows about the different formations, that it was formed in a state of lava by volcanic action. I calcined a piece of it and I found it contained a large portion of carbon – I should think 10 or 12%."

On June 14th 1843, the Hereford Journal had a piece about a meeting at the Radnor Arms of the True Ivorites, headed by the Kington amateur brass band. Mr J Griffiths was in the chair. The motto of the society was, "Cyfeillgarwch, Cariad a Gwirionedd" (Friendship, Love and Truth). This was the only friendly society which conducted its business exclusively in Welsh (until 1858 when the law was amended and secretaries had to be competent in recording in both English and Welsh).

Also in the Hereford Journal, this time on 5th September 1860, there was a report of a fight on Parkey Pitch, between Thomas Baylis (blacksmith) and the Williams Brothers. The

Williams brothers were the protagonists and were fined £3 and £2. Since they did not pay the fines, they were both "committed to the county gaol".

On 9th July 1864, the Hereford Times carried a note of sale by auction of the New Inn and Little and Great Duffryn, in all about 3 acres, which was to take place on July 18th at The Swan in Hay.

Later in that same month, 16th July, the same newspaper had another notice of a forthcoming sale, this time for Llanyrafan Farm. It was described as "highly fertile land".

The Brecon County Times of 18th August 1866 carried a report of a meeting at the Baptist Chapel at Llandeilo Graban (Moriah Chapel). The purpose of the meeting was to make a presentation to Rev T T Phillips on his departure to Shropshire. The Rev John Griffiths of Painscastle Congregational Chapel was in the chair.

In the South Wales Daily News of 27th June 1892, an article talked about a meeting held in the National Schoolroom in Painscastle by Mr Frank Edwards, the Liberal candidate for Radnorshire. It went on to say that he didn't ask for votes and that "he would as soon as a man for a £5 note as for his vote". A vote of confidence in him was unanimously passed. Mr Powell of Rhosgoch and Mr Lyke of Brynygarth both addressed the meeting.

The South Wales Echo of 21st August 1894 carried an article about school accommodation in Wales. The Painscastle National School was ordered by the department to make extensive alterations within 12 months. "including the provision of a new cloakroom and stove".

The South Wales Daily News of 14th July 1898 reported the bankruptcy of a Radnorshire farmer; this was Joseph Evans of Upper Argoed, Llandeilo Graban.

In the Hereford Times of 25th November 1899, there was a letter to the editor regarding the Painscastle Rural District Council's surveyor's salary. The correspondent was writing in support of the surveyor, whose salary (£40) was lower than that which had been paid some 20 years previously (£55). The writer (from Clyro) was protesting at the way that Mr Lyke (the surveyor) had been treated.

On 16th November 1901, the Cardiff Times reported a burglary at the home of The Rev John Thomas Beynon of Llanbedr Painscastle, which had been carried out by Arthur Embrey, a former postman from Erwood. Embrey pleaded not guilty but was convicted and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment with hard labour.

The Gloucestershire Record of 29th September 1905 reported that a discussion about the speed of motor cars had been conducted at Painscastle Rural District Council. The clerk had rued the demise of the toll gates and the chairman had remarked that "gypsies, timber hauliers, traction engines, people, etc can now use our roads without contributing a penny towards their repair". It was also noted, with some amusement, that the old turnpike gates would have checked the speed of the motor vehicles.

On 11th November 1905, the Aberdare Leader reported that Mr Lewis Davies has been ordained minister of Hermon Chapel.

The Cambria, 11th May 1906, reported that notable services had been held at Moriah Chapel, Llandeilo Graban, and that the Rev J. Powell Griffiths, pastor of the Baptist chapels at Painscastle and Llandeilo Graban was an extremely successful minister.

In the Evening Express of 27th November 1906, there was a report of the purchase of the whole of the Painscastle portion of Major Mynor's estate, by Mr Penry Vaughan Morgan of Park Lane, London. He was the nephew of a former Lord Mayor of London.

The Evening Express of 3rd July 1909 reported on the health of Painscastle district. Sanitation was generally good and the water supply satisfactory. The birth rate was 21.03 per 1000 and the death rate 12.02 per 1000, both satisfactory rates.

A reduction in the Painscastle rates was reported in the Western Mail of 4th April 1914. It was levied at 9 3/8d in the pound compared with 10d in the pound previously.

The Gloucestershire Echo of 8th June 1949 talked about a 180 mile cycle tour by Cheltenham and County Cycling Club, which went through Painscastle, Newchurch and Huntigton after overnighing in Erwood.

Our thanks must go to JPH for his painstaking research and for finding all of these little "snippets" about our local area; we are most grateful to him for presenting them to us.

3. The final part of the evening involved watching a couple of short films of local interest.

Refreshments were provided by AL and EG – many thanks to them.