

# HANES

NEWSLETTER OF THE BRECKNOCK HISTORY FORUM

ISSUE 20

MAY 2006

Our May issue proudly features scholarly researches from respected historians Mr Karl Showler, pages 2-3; Mr Martin Everett, pages 3-4; Doctor P.J. Snow, page 5; Mrs Pamela Redwood, pages 6-7; and Mr Tony Bell, pages 8-9-10. Add to all of this a report on yet another hugely successful "Young Historians in Competition" (Brecknock Society and Museum Friends) pages 4-5, together with a preview of the next phase in the exciting Llangynidr "Dig" (Forum Newsdesk) and Mr Martin Everett's "Rorke's Drift Defender: Lost and Found" page 3, and you can surely appreciate why the editor feels confident of our latest columns being well received.

If you have something to say, a question to ask, a view to promote then please contact:

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Closing date for September 2006 issue  
1<sup>st</sup>. August

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## *Forum Newsdesk*

Llangynidr Local History Society reports how there appears to be a growing interest nationally in the history of ruined farmhouses which are scattered, in particular, over the hills of Wales. The Society can certainly claim to be in tune with this trend since there have been investigations on one such farm in the remote Glaisfer valley in the south of the parish. For a third summer, excavations will be continuing at Blaen-y-Cwm farm, starting on August 5<sup>th</sup>. "Operation Dig" will take place on every Sat., Sun., Mon., and Tuesday for five weeks before finishing on September 5<sup>th</sup>. This site is proving to be very exciting as each year's finds provide further insight into life in this area over several centuries. The farm is shown on the manorial map of 1587 as a substantial farmhouse, nestling beside Afon Clyse Vare, below the mountain wall which separates the farmed land from the mountain; so it is known there have been buildings here for at least 420 years! The deeper the dig, the more it is hoped to discover about this particular area of Llangynidr, which can still be found by following the old track to the hill – called "Howell Dee" (Heol Ddu?) in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

## *Introducing The Forum*

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The Society considers itself fortunate to have the services of an enthusiastic, professional archaeologist, Wendy Toomey, who will be in charge once again this summer.

The "Dig" is a wonderful opportunity and will provide valuable experience for young "would-be" archaeologists and for any interested folk who enjoy "poking about" in old places such as Blaen-y-Cwm. Both observers and "hands-on" helpers are welcome at the stated dates during the summer break.

Funding for this project has been made possible by money from the sale of the Society's village history book "Shadows in a Landscape" (published in 2000), but this year additional funding will have to be acquired from other sources.

To find out more, please contact Sue Ware (01874 730850) or Christine Porter (Llangynidr contact for "HANES", Tel. 01874 730354).

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## *The Bishop and his Cats*

Connop Thirlwall was one of Wales' most distinguished and theologically challenging Victorian Bishops. He lived between 1797-1875, and Connop Thirlwall was one of Wales' most distinguished and he was Bishop of St David's from 1840 to 1874. Interesting insights into his life in late middle age are given in his posthumously published *Letters to a Friend* (1881), being his correspondence after 1862 to the beautiful Elizabeth Johnes of Dolau Cothi, Pumpsant, some 20 miles from the Episcopal palace at Abergwili. Connop comes over as a very humane and active man, and, like our local diarist, the Rev. Francis Kilvert of Clyro, he was a great walker and took a cold bath each morning. Connop was not, as so many 19th century bishops were, an ex headmaster in an age when headmasters of many leading schools were noted floggers. For example, Archbishop Edward Benson (1829-1896) was skilled in the use of the rod when head of that most expensive of public schools, Wellington College.

Born in Mile End Old Town, London, his mother was Susannah Connop, a widow of Welsh extraction, and his father, the Rev. Thomas Thirlwall who had his roots in the north of England. Connop attended Charterhouse School from 1810 to 1813 as a day pupil. Here he developed his wonderful grasp of languages having already as a child mastered Latin and Greek; he then went on to German, French, and then Italian, Spanish and Portuguese as he made various continental visits.

Connop entered Trinity College, Cambridge, in October 1814 and was duly made a Fellow in 1818. A fluent public speaker he made a mark in the University but was in trouble for expressing ideas unacceptable to the Vice-Chancellor. From Cambridge he moved to Lincoln's Inn to study law in the Chambers of Disraeli's uncle and was called to the bar in 1825 where he practiced for two years on the home circuit.

Returning to the stimulating intellectual life of Cambridge he developed a religious vocation and was ordained deacon (1827) and priest (1828). Progressing upward in the educational staff of Trinity he was compelled to resign in 1834 owing to his having espoused a number of officially unpopular causes including the admission of Dissenters to the University and having expressed his opposition to compulsory chapel attendance for those who had no religious inclination.

Through the influence of Lord Brougham Connop was presented to the valuable living of Kirby Underdale in Yorkshire where he wrote a History of Greece in 8 volumes. During the summer of 1840 he was nominated to the Queen by the then Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne to the See of St David's. Melbourne having overcome the reservations he had held in 1837 when he considered him for the see of Norwich. Lord Melbourne shared with Thirlwall in both his politics - they were Whigs - and an open minded theology. In those days all mainland bishops had seats in the House of Lords so their political views were important.

Having made up his mind to nominate Thirlwall as bishop, the Prime Minister wrote to him at his Yorkshire parish. However the candidate could not be found as he was away on a walking tour so it took several days to find the obscure village inn at which he was staying. Connop hesitated for a few days but then accepted and he was duly consecrated on 9th August 1840.

The St David's diocese at that time extended right across central Wales from Hay-on-Wye in the east to the west coast. The Bishop's Palace was at Abergwili House near Carmarthen with the Cathedral even further west at St David's. In order to serve the widely scattered communities in such a large see there were, by 1874, four Archdeacons, who were in effect the Bishop's eyes and ears within the life of the diocese. Thus we find archdeaconal appointments for St David's, Cardigan, Carmarthen and Brecon. Oddly, the Bishop served as proctor for the Chapter of the Brecon priory. Proctors were representatives elected by corporate bodies such as the Cathedral Chapter or Brecon Priory; in Connop's case to the southern deliberative body of the church, the Canterbury Convocation. So, in effect, Thirlwall held both his own seat in the upper house (of Bishops) and another in the lower house of senior clergy.

On arriving in Wales Connop learned Welsh so as to be able, within a year, to take Morning Service and offer the Sacraments in the Cathedral. Of his Welsh preaching it was said that he must have been a Welshman by birth as "he read his sermons better than the clergy". Connop's reply to this was that he may have been more grammatically correct. It was said of him that he was not fluent in Welsh conversation but he could deliver a moving sermon in that language which united churchmen and Dissenters. As Bishop he was also concerned with the translation of the scriptures into Welsh. He expressed the view that "Welsh boys read Greek much more like what it was spoken", setting out his points in both languages.

Bishop Thirlwall was duly made an Honorary Member of the *London Cymryddion Society* and a Druid in 1864 since he was a strong supporter to the National Eisteddfod. This

however did not protect him from the tongue of Lady Llanover (1802-1896), known as the Bee of Gwent (we need her Welsh name). Lady Llanover, who was an enthusiast for the Welsh language, felt that Thirlwall was caressed and flattered for his supposed knowledge of Welsh by the Welsh clergy.

Living in the relative seclusion of Abergwili Connop took an interest both in current affairs and his own diocese. It is estimated that he dispensed some £40,000 on charitable work as well as funding many poorly paid parish priests for many rural clergy suffered as agricultural incomes fell. By the conclusion of his episcopate he could look to the restoration of 183 churches, with 30 under repair at the end of his life. Yet for all his concern about the welfare of his clergy it was said of him that he lacked the usual politeness and was rude to his servants.

Bishop Thirlwall was a man who maintained a large correspondence much of which has been published. Some of his informal letters contain references to his love of cats from which I have selected two as being of interest. Connop suggested that "I do not venture to introduce a second cat into the family without the express consent of the one now reigning". For example a young cat "Lion" was not allowed into that part of the Palace occupied by the great old tabby "Tabitha", who disliked "Lion". No doubt "Tabitha" was jealous of "Lion" who would run up the Bishop's back and perch on his shoulder and then, with his paw, chase the Bishop's pen or take food from his fork during a meal.

In another letter Connop said "no friend of an Angora kitten would bring it within reach of my "Lion" ... the house now quiet would become a scene of swearing, cattering, and wauling....". This was an interesting use of a word which we today would write as "caterwauling". Connop expressed the view that he preferred "a really good tabby.... but a tortoiseshell which is in its perfection the rarest of all."

In 1859 the Bishop in writing to a Miss Bayne expressed the desire for a "cat post" so that he could send a tabby cat to her.

Connop once had a cat which was in the last stages of "inanition and debility" so he sent it in a basket to Carmarthen for treatment. On the way it escaped and was chased some distance before being caught. Thereafter it lived for many years. The Bishop also kept a flock of pet geese which he visited each morning when at Abergwili House.

Connop, as Bishop, took part in all the theological controversies of the day in a liberal and unbiased spirit. He supported the government's grant to maintain the great Catholic Irish seminary at Maynooth (1845), the removal of civil disabilities from the Jews (1848) and the disestablishment of the Irish Church (1869); the latter was the outcome of a protracted battle which had important undertones for the subsequent disestablishment of the Church in Wales.

Although not in unity with many of Bishop Colenso's (of Natal) views he granted permission for him to preach in the

diocese. John Colenso, a Cornish man, had raised vitriolic storms in the Church of England since, as among other things, he did not require Africans seeking baptism to divorce their polygamous wives.

Suffering from increasing deafness and to his great sadness, loss of sight, Connop Thirlwall retired to Bath in 1874 aged 77, where he died a year later. He was buried in Westminster Abbey in the same grave as his friend and school fellow, George Grote.

His brother bishops at the Canterbury Convocation meeting in July 1875 heard glowing tributes to his scholarship, and his skill as a linguist. The Bishop of London said of him that there was never a kinder man, a man who felt deeply for his poorer clergy. His writing, according to the Bishop of Winchester, could be "strongly expressed as could his public pronouncements but he was noted for his kindness to children and brute animals." The Bishop of St Asaph, as a Welsh Bishop, spoke of his own experience when as he was vicar of Abergwili when Thirlwall was appointed, the latter was concerned as to the provision for him of an adequate local clergy house.

A bust was erected in his memory in 1876, created by a Carmarthen born sculptor Edward Davis (1813-1878). It had a suitable Latin memorial inscription that included Thirlwall's Welsh Motto *Gwyn Ei Fyd*. {White is his World}. Thirlwall would have known Davis as he had made a statue of Sir William Nott for Carmarthen twenty years before in 1851.

Karl Showler  
Hay-on-Wye

*The editor acknowledges the research undertaken by Mr Showler and is grateful for allowing the results of his research to be included in "HANES."*

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## *Rorke's Drift Defender: Lost and Found*

It was a quiet day in the Regimental Museum in the Watton. Mrs Sonia Gittoes from Swansea decided to brave the winter elements and pay the famous Brecon museum a visit. It transpired that one of her family was David Jenkins of Defynnog who had served in the 24<sup>th</sup> regiment at the time of the Zulu war. Following the disaster at Isandlwana on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1879, when a number of local Brecon men had been slaughtered by the massed Zulu army, David had written home to reassure his family that he had survived that appalling day. His letter was published in *The Merthyr Express* of Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 1879:

### **Letter from a Welsh Survivor of Isandula**

The following letter has been received from Zululand, written by David Jenkins, son of Mr Thomas Jenkins, tailor and draper, Tanner's Arms at Davynock, and nephew of Mr W Davies, saddler of Aberdare, in which town the writer

was well known:

*Zululand  
January 26, 1879*

*Dear Father,  
Just a few lines to let you know that I am one of the ten that escaped out of five companies. The remainder were cut to pieces, - in fact cut in bits – with those savages. About 15,000 of them came on the camp when the column was out. All in camp were killed – 495 of our regiment and about 300 of different corps. Oh I never saw such a sight. Please pray to God to continue to save my life. There are only 240 men remaining in our regiment. So no more. I shall write again soon if alive.*

*Dear father, please go personally or write a letter to Isaac Lewis, Pendra, Brecon and tell him that his son in law, Sgt. Chambers is killed. His son Thomas is alive but still in hospital with fever. He had a very narrow escape. He crept on his hands and knees and came from the hospital to the fort through all the firing. Please give my love to all, and write soon.  
Your affectionate son.*

*D. Jenkins  
P.S. I think we will go down to the colony to get re-fitted, as we have lost everything.*

The letter mentions the deaths of Sergeant Instructor of Musketry George Chambers who married Elizabeth, daughter of Isaac Lewis of Brecon, in January 1877 and her brother Gunner Thomas Lewis of Royal Artillery, who was involved in the fighting at Rorke's Drift which took place some 12 hours after the disaster at Isandlwana. George Chambers's name is remembered to this day on his father-in-law's headstone in Brecon Cemetery and in the Regimental Museum where a coalport mug given to George and Elizabeth as a wedding present is on display.

David Jenkin's letter suggests that he was one of the fortunate survivors of Isandlwana. However, only 10 men out of nearly 600 men of the regiment escaped and their handwritten accounts prepared, but not used, in the subsequent Court of Enquiry, are held in the regimental archives. There is no report from 295 Pte. David Jenkins of Defynnog. Furthermore, we know that David Jenkins was in G (Rainforth's) Company 1/24<sup>th</sup> which was held in reserve at stores depot at Helpmekaar, some 20 miles from Isandlwana. The actual whereabouts of David Jenkins during the period on 22/23 January 1879 was not clear.

After 127 years, Mrs Gittoes was able to solve the mystery with tangible evidence – a Rorke's Drift Testimonial Bible presented to each of the gallant defenders by the ladies of Durban. The name of the soldier is inscribed in the flyleaf of each bible. This bible containing David Jenkins's name was identical to others held by the Regimental Museum; there was no doubt over its authenticity.

We knew of the possibility of two soldiers named "Jenkins" from 1/24<sup>th</sup> being at Rorke's Drift and the various rolls were not able to shed light on the matter. A soldier named 841 Pte. James Jenkins was a patient at Rorke's Drift but had

been killed by the Zulus as they plundered through the hospital building and his name appears on the memorial at Rorke's Drift; Colour Sergeant Bourne, the redoubtable senior NCO, at Rorke's Drift, mentions 1083 Pte. M Jenkins but he was killed at Isandlwana. This prompted a search through the Regimental Archives and we were able to find a reference to Pte. David Jenkins 1/24<sup>th</sup> being at Rorke's Drift in the handwritten ledger containing the records of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. So with some confidence, we were able to add David Jenkins's name to the roll of Rorke's Drift defenders. Interestingly, in his letter David had quite naturally concentrated on telling his family of his lucky survival from Isandlwana when many local men had been killed – Rorke's Drift on the other hand was not yet news as the announcement of the award of Victoria Crosses to the eleven defenders was published much later.

Martin Everett Curator of The Royal Regiment of Wales Museum, The Watton, Brecon.

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## *Brecknock Society and Museum Friends*

### *Young Historians in Competition*

A wide range of subjects was covered by this year's entries for the Junior Schools History Competition, run annually by the Brecknock Society and Museum Friends. The internet is making information and illustration readily available to amateur researchers but most pupils entering this competition have appreciated the value of primary sources. Older people, with their memories, have been consulted as a living oral resource, and in several cases have contributed evocative photographs. Thus encouraged, the young writers have engaged imaginatively with the past. "Originality" is rated highly by the judges, together with "content" and "presentation."

The competition, which is open to all Junior Schools in Breconshire, invites individual or joint work on a topic of local history. Winner of the first prize was **Shona Hughes**, a pupil of Cradoc, who lives in Llanfaes. Her "History of Brecon Gaol" spans two centuries, from Maunde's original building to its present conversion to Housing Association dwellings. Shona interviewed Ann Blake who remembered the haunting atmosphere of the Hanging Gallery, used temporarily as a workroom by Faithful Overalls in the 1960's. Acknowledgement was duly given to Dewi Davies's writings on crime and punishment in Breconshire and, in scholarly fashion, Shona presented and interpreted details of census returns, drawing well-reasoned conclusions.

Hand-sketches enhance the pupils' work. The entry from **Ned Blackburn** (Cradoc School) included stone-rubbings of churchyard memorials, and plans of "St. Meulog's Church" – the history of which won him joint second prize. Here again, history was brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with a CD of the celebratory ringing of Llandefaelog's restored

bells, December 2005. Joint second was **Jonathan Jones** (Ysgol-y-Bannau) whose family has recently bought a Brecon town house, full of historic interest. In researching “No. 4, The Watton, Jonathan scrutinised old Bills of Sale and census material. Names of former owners initiated a search for further information, and led him to a photograph of town dignitaries in Brecon Guildhall. Here again, a young researcher shaped an informative view of Brecon’s social history.

Llanfaes school also claims a prize-winner – **Eden Jackson**, who was a pupil in Libanus until the closure of that school, which she chose as her subject. In “Two Lasses from Libanus” she collaborated with Mrs Helena Jones to complement the latter’s school reminiscences, and to follow the school’s history to its end.

Other commended entries featured Rorke’s Drift, the Canal, Gwennllian Morgan, Epynt, and the Almonry of Brecon Cathedral. Entries for the first time from Ysgol-y-Bannau were welcomed but the organisers are conscious that the number of schools competing has shrunk. Research work for the competition integrates with the National Curriculum, and often awakens in pupils a greater awareness of their locality, and kindles a long-lasting interest in history.

We have some inspirational teachers in local Junior Schools. The Society looks forward to their positive response to next year’s competition.

Helen Gichard, Secretary, The Brecknock Society and Museum Friends

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## Churchyard Mysteries

In Vaynor churchyard is the gravestone of Robert Crawshay – “Robert Thompson Crawshay May 10<sup>th</sup>. God forgive me”

We know a great deal about this man. He was the last of the Crawshay iron masters, said to be the richest commoner in Britain, a tyrant to his workers and family, with a great deal to forgive. His grave lies under the east window of the church, the most sought after position in any churchyard. The least sought after position was opposite the chancel door, where parishioners would walk over the graves in order to enter the church.

*“Here I lie at the chancel door  
further in because I’m poor,  
The further in the more you pay  
But here I lie as warm as they.”*

Says a famous Devon epitaph. However, at the chancel door of Vaynor, there is a stone that tells a tale at least as compelling as that of R.T. Crawshay:

*“Thomas Norbury  
Was born at Bromsgrove  
Died at Merthyr Tydfil July 14 1872  
Aged 64*

*For 49 years he kept a small oilshop in Pantystore house, over which he built an observatory. Skilful in knowledge and cunning and understanding science, he spoke of trees from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon, even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall. He spoke also of beasts and fowl and of creeping things. After the way that they call Heresy, so worshipped he the god of his fathers.*

*In memoriam by Rose Crawshay.”*

Of this man nothing is known except the bald facts on his monument. How did he come from Bromsgrove in Worcestershire to Merthyr Tydfil? There is something moving in the idea that amidst the horrors of the Crawshay industrial works, a man was still looking at the stars. The purple prose that describes Norbury’s intense interest in the natural world reminds us that at this time there were many Working Men’s Science Clubs, meeting in pubs and institutes to read papers and present specimens. His contemporary, John Nowell of Todmorden, handloom weaver and self-taught botanist, was an internationally known expert on mosses, who communicated with the director of Kew Gardens and the professor of botany at Cambridge and was visited by scientists from as far away as Germany. Thomas Norbury sounds to have been in the same mould, and then there is the hint that “they,” the intellectual and religious establishment, resented the pretensions of this upstart tradesman and accused him of “heresy.”

Finally, of course, there is the mysterious fact that the person who erected the monument was none other than Rose Crawshay, the wife of the great oppressor, who lies fifty yards away under the east window. What does her interest indicate? One could hazard a number of guesses, but I believe Mrs Crawshay’s insight was an example of the old proverb:- “Men play the game, but it is women who know the score.”

The epitaph, originally leaded, is now almost indecipherable and it appears that in spite of Mrs Crawshay’s efforts, the life and character of Thomas Norbury will soon be forgotten.

Doctor P.J. Snow

*The Editor acknowledges the research of Doctor Snow and is grateful for allowing the results of his research to be included in HANES.*

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## Beating the Bounds

What landowner, however small his property, has not had cause to think about its boundaries? We know where boundaries are; we take for granted the maps that show the extent of our gardens, our parishes, our counties. But before maps came into general use in the nineteenth century it was less easy to establish which land belonged to whom. Some of the most ancient boundaries are those of ecclesiastical parishes, and from the necessity of patrolling them in old times arose the custom of “beating the bounds.” The parish priest and parishioners would regularly perambulate the

bounds of the parish, which had a variety of markers, including boundary stones. To teach the young about this vital matter of property, boys were beaten at the boundary or bumped on the stones, to make them remember where they were. The ceremony ended with a feast, and a prayer for a good harvest. The custom still survives in many places today.

In Crickhowell and Llangattock people remember occasions when, as children and members of Sunday school or a church choir, they joined in “beating the bounds.” It is said that on a Llangattock perambulation the youngest girl was stung with nettles at a boundary stone; and the Crickhowell parish magazine for June 1959 describes a climb up to the Darren by a large crowd of children and the Rector. Prayers were said up there for the parish, and the youngest boy and girl were bumped on the boundary cairns. This article, however, is concerned with boundary walking by local people on a grander scale.

In the nineteenth century perambulations round the perimeter of the two manors of Crickhowell and Tretower – a journey of some 45 miles – were undertaken about every ten years for the Duke of Beaufort, who was lord of both manors. These perambulations had the very serious purpose of ensuring that the Duke’s manorial neighbours did not encroach upon his territory. There are documents in the National Library of Wales, which record the Crickhowell perambulations for the years 1864, 1872, 1885, 1892 and 1902.\* They describe the routes taken and give the names, age and status or place of residence of all the participants. The Duke’s steward and other manorial officials led the walk, which lasted two days. On the first day the route started near Cwm Banw, turned east over the mountain, skirting the Sugar Loaf, then down to the Grwyne Fawr river, and back to Glangrwyney (13 miles). The second day began at Beaufort (then in Llangattock parish) and came over the mountain to Glangrwyney (9 miles). It is all rough mountain territory: steep climbs and descents, with no easy pathways. The documents describing the walks, written by various stewards over the years, are clear, but the route is always the same and can make dull reading except for incidents and local details. Perhaps the most interesting was the walk of 1864 because it was attended by the Duke of Beaufort himself, accompanied by four of his sons, young lords of 17, 14, 12 and 11 years. The steward’s account of this day portrays a mood of deferential festivity, with speeches and cheers in the right places and moments of humour. It was a stifflingly hot day in August, which made the steep climbs a trial of endurance for older participants, but young lords experienced only “pangs of hunger ... borne with fortitude,” which were catered for by a splendid feast for all on the banks of the Grwyne Fawr.

There were no religious observances on manorial walks but on this occasion the manorial officials and others saw to it that some traditional bumpings and beatings – lightly administered – occurred, and the steward wrote them down. Poor Thomas Watkins of Ty’r y Wen, who had the bright idea of tipping boys upside down over a well, seized one of the young lords for the purpose, not knowing who he was. When he discovered his mistake he was awe-struck, and looked as if he would sink into the earth as he begged pardon of the Duke, while his companions laughed

hilariously. His Grace, who was known to be generous towards his tenants, received his apology “with all possible marks of kindness and good humour.” The young lord was perhaps less forgiving, but the steward thought the lesson of the boundary had been learned.

These perambulations were usually attended by twenty or thirty local people. Besides the Duke’s solicitor, his agents and their clerk, local police and clergy, there were local landowning farmers or their sons, smallholders, agricultural workers, gamekeepers, innkeepers, and, of course, boys, but no women. Their ages ranged from nine to seventy-two years. The Duke’s 11 year old son, Lord Edward Somerset, was the youngest but one of all the participants on all the walks, while the Duke’s agent, John Thompson esq., who was on the walk of 1864, was still doing the rounds in 1892, at 72 years of age. The other 72 year old was an indomitable Thomas Watkeys of Ty’n- y- Wlad, who in 1902 was on his “third time round” mounted on a 21 year old mare. The names on the 1872 document differ somewhat from the others, perhaps because this was a report presented to the steward at the manorial court by the court’s jurors. There are 21 names on the jurors’ list, which also gives the occupations of some which suggest Crickhowell town rather than the countryside: William Henry, Barber, surgeon; William Thomas, priest; Samuel Shephers, butcher; Richard Thomas, road surveyor; John Jones, painter; Henry Jeffreys, maltster; Austin Bright, innkeeper; John Thomas Stevens, bank manager; Joshua Daniels, builder; David Evans, sergeant of police; John Jones, ironmonger; Robert Probert, farmer. No ages are given. It is not clear whether the jurors themselves went on the perambulation, the report of which looks like a copy of the previous one with minor alterations. The steward in August 1902, R.H.A. Davies, wrote out in an exercise book the previous itinerary, making his own comments in a wide margin. He found more boundary stones than previously recorded and noted that at lunch – 2:00 p.m. at Craig-y-Bwla bridge – there were five more people, including Thomas John Allen, aged 37 (with camera?) and J. Wilson Abernethy (proprietor of The Bear), aged 43. The last walk of 1902 is made colourful by the lucky survival of a bill from The Bear. It is addressed to the Duke of Beaufort and entitled “boundary walking” with the dates. It shows that on the second day a brake was hired to take perambulators to Abergavenny station, from where they went by train to Beaufort for the start of the walk. The brake met them again at Glangrwyney. On this walk were 33 men, half of them under 21, and the remainder middle-aged officials and others. The picnic, prepared by The Bear, consisted of:-

58 lbs. of beef,	£2 18s
12 loaves of bread,	6s
10 lbs of cheese,	6s 8d
4 bottles of pickles,	6s
18 gallons of ale,	£1 16s
4 bottles Scotch whisky,	18s
2 bottles of sherry,	10s
6 syphons soda,	3s
3 dozen ginger beer,	6s
Tobacco,	2s

The total bill, including travel and a picnic on the previous day, was £18 11s 4d!

There are no perambulations recorded later than 1902. The manor boundaries coincided with parish boundaries, but they were concerned with landholding, not civil administration. In the early twentieth century the value of land fell sharply. In 1902 the Duke of Beaufort sold some of his Monmouthshire estate, followed by sales of Crickhowell properties in 1915, 1920, and later. Apart from common land his manors became less and less of a reality, after an existence of some five centuries, and perambulations of their boundaries have become irrelevant and, even as a ceremony, forgotten.

\*Part of this article is taken from *Brycheiniog*, 36, pp. 83-119. Details of all participants on all the walks in Crickhowell and Tretower manors, which may be of interest to family and other historians, are available at Crickhowell District Archive Centre.

Mrs Pamela Redwood

*The Editor acknowledges the research undertaken by Mrs Redwood and is grateful for her permission to include the results of this research in the current issue of HANES having originally appeared in the Crickhowell District Archive Centre Newsletter (No. 7) for January 2006.*

*One Hundred Years Ago - From The  
Columns Of The Brecon And Radnor  
County Times, Friday June 29th 1906*

## THE EARTHQUAKE

### LOCAL EXPERIENCES

Wales and some of the West and South Western counties of England were, on Wednesday morning, the venue of an earth tremor of a decided character. The disturbance, which took place about 9-45 a.m., seems to have taken, generally speaking, the line of the Severn Valley and Llanely on the one side of the Bristol Channel and Ilfracombe on the other. The movement is also reported to have been felt in Lancashire and Warwickshire. The probable cause is stated to be an earth-fault. South Wales is reputed to be watted with these.

Swansea appears to have experienced the heaviest shock. Many chimneys fell, children rushed out of school pell-mell, heavy ornamental masonries fell into the street, household goods were smashed and a young woman engaged in High street, was so alarmed that she leapt through an upper window and broke her arm. Another young lady rushed into the street with her night-dress. At Llanely the ceilings of one of the schools fell. In Cardiff late sleepers were tumbled on the floor, and at the Docks clerks and principals rushed from their offices helter-skelter as their buildings trembled.

In the populous colliery districts great alarm was caused, it being the popular impression in each that a colliery

explosion had occurred. Thousands of colliers hastily quitted their work and remained idle all day.

A curious incident is reported from Bristol, where two young men, watching by the bedside of their dead father, distinctly saw the body move.

The tremors were felt in Brecon exactly at 9-45. Few appear to have thought of a seismic disturbance as the reason for the rumbling noise and oscillation, and the first impulse was to look out of the window to see what heavy vehicle was passing. Llanfaes seems to have felt the shock more heavily than the town side of the river, and doors and windows and loose articles were considerably shaken.

The telephone operators and others engaged at Brecon railway station had no difficulty in realising on Wednesday morning that they had been visited by an earthquake. One gentleman engaged in the Midland office exclaimed immediately the shock had subsided, "That's a small echo of San Francisco." He had hardly uttered the words when a gentleman engaged in another room walked in and remarked that his room was wobbling about – he couldn't understand it. On the platform the shock was also felt by several people.

Mr R.W. Musk was practising in the Roman Catholic church when he heard the rumbling and a sound as if heavy stones were falling on the roof. Thoroughly alarmed, he ran into the street with his music in his hand.

At the "County Times" offices the shock was distinctly felt, especially in the composing room, where the type cases fairly rattled.

At Bwlch the rumbling noise prompted one young man to rush out of the post office to see if the motor-omnibus was going by.

It is noteworthy that Colonel R.D. Garnons Williams writes us that he felt a slight shock at Tymawr as early as 6 a.m. and a second shock at 16 minutes to 10. This is the only notification we have received of the earlier shock, and we echo Colonel Garnons Williams' intimation that it would be interesting if any-one else felt it.

It seems that the tremor was noticed all over the county. Talgarth felt it and Ystradgynlais, Cefn and Brynmawr. Our Builth correspondent writes: "An earth tremor affected Builth Wells and district at 9.45 a.m. on Wednesday. It was distinctly felt at Erwood, where the houses and furniture were shaken, much to the alarm of the inhabitants. Most people in Builth experienced the shock, the Intermediate school was shaken, and the articles on top shelves in the town danced, whilst in some houses dishes rattled and things are said to have fallen. Llanwrtyd Wells and Llangammarch Wells also felt the shock, and many of the houses in the rural districts also realised the disturbance with a good deal of consternation. No damage is reported in the neighbourhood".

From Hay we learn that a distant vibration of the earth was felt about 9-40 a.m. In a house in Lion street the crockery on a dresser was shaken violently, and a child got so frightened at the phenomenon that she ran out crying into the street.

The vibration was felt in various parts of the town, and those who experienced the tremor say that it was accompanied by a low rumbling sound. People in bed felt a rocking sensation. The shock caused considerable excitement.

Fortunately, no serious damage appears to have been done anywhere.

## *One Hundred Years Ago- From the Columns of The Brecon And Radnor County Times, Friday June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1906*

### **EIGHTEEN SHEEP KILLED AT LLANDEFALLE**

#### **NARROW ESCAPE AT YSTRADGYNLAIS**

The thunderstorm which visited South Wales on Saturday evening last was not without disastrous effects in Breconshire. In the county town the storm was characterised by heavy thunder, vivid lightning, and continuous rain, but no damage was done.

However, as Mr Jeffrey Stephens, Tredurn, Llandefalle, one of Capt. D. Hughes Morgan's tenants, was going around his stock he discovered that eighteen of his best sheep had been killed by lightning. The sheep were in a straight line near the hedge, where they had evidently gone to shelter from the storm. The ground and the side of the ditch where he found the sheep were fused and cut up by the lightning. The sheep were in a field about 200 yards from the house, and Mr Stephens states that he thought the house was struck, for it shook very badly. Nine sheep were also killed at Park Farm, Trallong, the property of Mr W. Williams.

Late on Saturday night a house at Ystradgynlais, occupied by Mr and Mrs Johnson, was also struck by lightning. The electric fluid struck the corner of the chimney, damaged the roof, rent the wall alongside the bed, but left the occupants untouched. It also made a clear cut hole about three inches in diameter between two jugs in the kitchen wall, leaving the china ware undamaged.

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## *Cyril Flower – The Last M.P. 1843-1907*

A.J. James and J.E. Thomas, together with W. Williams, in their Parliamentary Histories of Welsh M.P.'s have recorded the place of Cyril Flower as the last M.P. for the Borough of Brecon and town of Llywel. This was as a result of the Third Reform Act and Distribution of Seats Act 1884/5 which took away Brecon's privilege of separate representation, and merged the borough voters into the county, the number of voters for 1885 in the borough being 848. The electors were therefore left, with only the county

M.P., William Fuller-Maitland of Garth, another Liberal who held the seat from 1875-95.

Flower had been born in 1843, the eldest son of the late Philip William Flower of Furze Down Park, Surrey. His parents had emigrated to Australia in the 1830's and established a successful merchant trading house in Sydney. Flower was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, and was called to the bar at Inner Temple in 1870. He married, in 1877, Constance de Rothschild, eldest daughter of Sir Anthony de Rothschild, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Rothschild, which resulted in a happy partnership. Financially, the marriage brought together the Battersea estate, which Flower had inherited from his father, comprising 800 properties in Parktown, and the Rothschild wealth.

In that same year he had his portrait painted by Sandys, which today hangs in the Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery. His contemporaries viewed him as rich, handsome, intelligent, politically active, an enthusiastic sportsman, businessman, and a lover of art – quite the ideal Victorian gentleman! Artistically, Flower was a friend of the Pre-Raphaelites and owned work by Rossetti, Burne-Jones, Gilbert, and Storey. His taste was for Aesthetic movement and Old Master paintings, and in 1867 he was elected a member of the Burlington Fine Art Club.

His widow recalled, "I can remember shortly after our marriage, Cyril told me how he hoped, one day, to go through the magic doors of the House of Commons as M.P." The mid-wife to these aspirations was Michael Biddulph, joint M.P. with Sir Jos. R. Bailey for Herefordshire, who suggested that the Borough of Brecon, until then looked upon as a safe Tory seat, might be successfully fought by a liberal at the next General Election. This was a formidable task as the seat had been held by J.P.W. Gwynne-Holford of Buckland since 1870.

The Flowers made an initial sortie in December, 1878, when Lady Flower recalls, "I had my first impression of the Brecon Borough. It was not a very cheerful one, and my heart sank within me. The journey from London seemed endless, the weather was cold and damp, the Wellington Hotel not attractive. I knew that Mr Gwynne-Holford, the sitting member, the owner of a beautiful estate in the county, had long been connected with the town, and was deservedly popular, also that our chance of victory was small, and that a gigantic task lay before us. We knew instinctively, that we should have the county people against us, together with representatives of the Army, and probably the clergy of the Established Church."

The Flowers felt, that to balance this, they could probably count on the support of the whole body of Nonconformists: ministers, students of colleges, a fair number of the town folk and country people and of the not very reputable Irish contingent. As the election drew near Lady Flower's presence was not always welcome. "From the first I was advised not to appear on the County Tennis Club ground, for no-one there would have acknowledged me, and I was warned that at the ball held in connection with the Annual Agricultural Show no-one would ask me to dance; as it happened, one man was bold enough to do so, but he was an

habitual drunkard, rather shunned by the ladies of Brecon, and quite tipsy on the night in question.”

The day of the election dawned, and in a letter to her mother the Dowager de Rothschild, Lady Flower conveyed the excitement. “Mr Holford passed our window several times, once or twice at the head of all his labourers, who had walked over from Buckland. Fights went on under our windows, one fury of a woman dashing herself upon a man, knocking him down and trampling upon him. The Irish female blues were truly awful, offering to fight any male Tory who would like to have a turn... Then comes a roar of voices. Quantities of supporters rush in and Abdul our African servant’s black face is the first I see. The Agent screams a majority of 59!”

The formal result was:

Mr Cyril Flower (Liberal)	438
Mr Gwynne-Holford (Conservative)	379

Mr Flower’s published expenses were £1,024 0s 5d; Mr Gwynne-Holford £747 14s 5d. The Flowers’ main residences were Aston Clinton, Tring, Herts, and Surrey House, Hyde Park Place. The latter had once been the home of the Duke of Norfolk. To maintain a presence in Brecon they initially rented a house “Ffrwdgrech”, the property of a Mr Church, before moving to Buckingham House. The original building consisted of one house, but had been divided into three, the Flowers taking the centre part. Their next door neighbour, Mrs Morgan and her daughters, had become great friends to Lady Flower, in particular Fanny (Gwenllian Morgan).

The electors of Brecon seem to have viewed their M.P. in a favourable light. They were assiduously kept up to date with his social life through the columns of the Brecon County Times, whether through the enthusiasm of the editor, or, more likely, an early form of press releases from Liberal headquarters. At least once a month the paper would carry information on sailing at Cowes, shooting in Scotland, appearances at court, always with a detailed list of the movers and shakers in British society who were present. The January 1884 edition, for example, carried the following notes:

#### “VISIT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES TO BUCKS”

During the recent visit of the Prince of Wales to Mr Alfred de Rothschild at Halton, His Royal Highness honoured Mr and Mrs Flower with his company at Aston Clinton. Amongst the guests staying for the week at Aston Clinton were Lord and Lady Brooks and Miss Maynard, Lord William Compton, Countess of Lonsdale, Earl of Euston, Mr Henry James Q.C., Mr and Mrs Broad, Mr and Mrs Sands, Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, Mr Montefiore, Mr Grenfell, Mr Mackenzie etc., etc. There were shooting parties for Mr Flower’s visitors on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

On Thursday and Saturday there was hunting with the Bicester and Sir Nathaniel de Rothschild’s hounds, the sport being excellent. The whole party from Aston Clinton joined the company at Halton each evening of the prince’s visit.

Mr and Mrs Cyril Flower were to have been the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Westminster during the week, when a large party was invited to Eaton Hall in honour of T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Albany’s visit which had, of course, been postponed owing to the Earl Grosvenor’s death. To ensure his proximity to these events Flower made a habit of staying at Surrey House for the Parliamentary sessions.

Despite these diversions, Flower maintained a strong local presence in Brecon, and attempted to aid his constituents where possible. He presented a petition to Parliament from the Operative Stone Masons Society at Brecon in favour of amending the Employer Liability Act. Again, in 1884, and on a more cultural note, he gave a lecture at the Brecon Literary Institution on “Poems of Lord Tennyson”, the proceeds of which were in aid of the town library! His wife and the Dowager even attempted to learn Welsh with Mr J.B. Jones, the non-conformist minister, although their favourite expression was “Buddigiaeth” (Victory), which was useful at election time!

Unfortunately, their time in Wales ended in 1885.

Fortunately for his future, Fowler was invited to stand for the South Beds Division, comprising the towns of Luton, Dunstable, and Leighton Buzzard. At the poll held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1885, he was returned with a majority of 2,209 over his Conservative opponent. The voting was:

Mr Fowler	6,080
Mr Gedge	3,871

He remained as M.P. until 1892, during which time he served as a Lord of the Treasury (£1,000 p.a.) and a Junior Whip. In September of that year he was raised to the peerage as Lord Battersea and Overstrand, a curious geographical juxtaposition. The latter could partly be explained by the Flowers’ commissioning of the architect Edward Lutyens, to transform two holiday villas they owned on the Norfolk coast into a fashionable residence. They named it “The Pleasaunce” and often lavishly entertained friends there.

To ease their departure from Wales in October, 1885, the inhabitants of Brecon made a presentation of plate with a massively framed illuminated address to Mr Flower in the Town Hall. The address read as follows:

“Honoured and dear Sir,

We, the inhabitants of the Borough of Brecon and Town of Llywel, avail ourselves of this opportunity of conveying to you our sincere expressions of esteem and attachment. It is with profound regret we contemplate the severance of your political connection with our borough, and we cannot allow the event to pass without giving you some tangible proof of the sentiments with which we regard your valuable services.

The favourable estimate we formed of your character when we first made your acquaintance has been abundantly confirmed by our subsequent experience of your public life. All the expectations we were then led to entertain have been more than fulfilled, and the town is indebted to you to an extent we had not ventured to anticipate.”

References:

*Jones, Theophilus A History of the County of Brecknock (Glanusk Edition)*  
*Poole, Edwin The Illustrated History and Topography of Brecknockshire*  
*James, Arnold J. and Thomas, John E. Union to Reform and Wales at Westminster*  
*Williams, W.R. The Parliamentary Representation of the Principality of Wales 1541-1885*  
*Constance, Lady Battersea Reminiscences*  
*Brecon County Times*

Mr Anthony Bell  
Camden Road  
Brecon

*The editor acknowledges the research undertaken by Mr Bell and is grateful for allowing the results of his research to be included in HANES.*

## Brecknock Bookshelf

### A Selection of New and Recent Titles

**Eisel, John and Bennett, Frank**

*The Pubs of Hay-on-Wye and the Golden Valley*

This book covers the pubs that survive or have existed in Hay-on-Wye, the Golden Valley and the valley that runs from Gospel Pass at the head of the Black Mountains down past Llanthony Priory to Llanvihangel Crucorney, along with those pubs along the A465 that heads back into Herefordshire along the southern edge of the Mountains.

**Logaston Press 2005 £9:95 ISBN 1 904396 46 1**

**Gedge, David**

*A Country Cathedral Organist Looks Back.*

Born in 1939, David Gedge began his musical life singing treble, then alto, and finally bass in the choir at Southwark Cathedral. While there he sang the part of young Nicholas in the first London performance of Benjamin Britten's "St. Nicholas", and sang in the choir at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. In 1966 David was appointed Organist of Brecon Cathedral and Music Master at Builth Wells Bilateral School. The rest, as they say, is history!

**Serendipity 2005 £12:95 ISBN 1 84394 168 6**

**Goodall, Peter J.R.**

*Ring the Bell in the Gaols of Brecon. Canwch y Gloch!" Centuries of Barbarism, Rape, Murder and Incarceration in the County of Brecon.*

Brecon is an ancient town with a historic past that can be traced back to the Roman period. However, beneath the ancient streets and crumbling walls lay many a dark and foreboding secret. ... this is the story of the men, women and children who frequented the various gaols of the town, some ending their lives on the gallows.

**Gwasg Carreg Gwalch 2006 £5:50 ISBN 1-84527 027 4**

## Dates for your Diary

**2006**

**May 11<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Builth Wells and District Heritage Society. *A field trip visit to three local churches lead by Mr Jim Davies and departing from the Groe Car Park at a time to be confirmed.* All information Mr Chris Mainwaring Tel. 01982 552689.

**May 17<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)** Crickhowell and District History Society. Mr Roger Morgan "A Ship's Surgeon, 1805." The Market Hall, High Street, Crickhowell, 7:30pm. All information Mrs Margaret Finnis Tel. 01873 810004.

**May 18<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Llangammarch Wells Local History Society. Mr Roger Davies of Llanwrtyd "Welsh Mountain Ponies." The Aberceiros Inn, Llangammarch Wells, 7:30pm. All information Mrs Pamela Lewis Tel. 01591 610479.

**May 22<sup>nd</sup> (Monday)** Powys Family History Society – Brecknock Group. Mr Andrew Dulley of West Glamorgan Archive Service "How to Read Old Documents." Kensington Chapel Schoolroom, Brecon, 7:30pm. All information Mrs Lynda White Tel. 01497 847229 or Mr Philip Evans Tel. 01874 754365.

**May 20<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)** South Wales Branch of the Victorian Society. Visit by car-sharing to the smaller spas of Mid-Wales, most of which owe their spa status to the arrival of the Mid-Wales Railway in 1864. Meet at 10.45 at the Lake Country House Hotel, Llangammarch Wells, for coffee to be followed by church visit (Caroe). Lunch at the Drover's Arms in Llanwrtyd Wells, followed by a visit to the remains of the spa building at Dol-y-Coed and to St. David's Church, continuing to Beulah (Eglwys Oen Dew, designed by John Norton), and to the home of its patron, Clara Thomas, at Llwyn Madoc. Then on to Disserseth – atmospheric C17 interior, untouched by Victorian restoration – before reaching Newbridge-on-Wye and proceeding to the Church at Llanellwedd, finely restored by John Norton. Tea has been arranged for 4:00 at the mansion of Pencerrig, home of the landscape painter Thomas Jones. All information and booking details Mr and Mrs Richard Camp Tel. 01874 636647.

**May 24<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)** Brecknock Society and Museum Friends. Visit to the grounds of Penpont Estate with Mr Gavin Hogg as guide on "Timber, trees and planting at Penpont." 6:30pm at Penpont House.

Cars leave Brecknock Museum 6:15pm. All information Miss Helen Gichard Tel. 01874 636507

**June 1st (Thursday)** Ystradgynlais Family History Society. *Tithe Maps/Maps*. Ystradgynlais Branch Library 7:00pm. All information Mrs Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306.

**June 8<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) Builth Wells and District Heritage Society.** “*Review of a Book, Museum, or Place of Heritage Interest*” – an open session for members to speak. 7:30 pm Strand Hall, Community Room, Builth Wells. All information Mr Chris Mainwaring Tel. 01982 552689.

**June 17<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)** Ystradgynlais Family History Society. *Day trip to Family History Fair at Cwmbran*. All information Mrs Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306.

**June 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** Brecknock Society and Museum Friends. “*Exploring the Brecknock-Abergavenny Canal*” with Mr Ray Haydon, Archive Officer of the Canal Trust. 6:30pm at Goitre Wharf. Cars leave Brecknock Museum 5:40pm. All information Miss Helen Gichard Tel. 01874 636507.

**June 21<sup>st</sup> (Wednesday)** Crickhowell and District History Society. Mr David Hall “*The Building of the Severn Tunnel*.” The Market Hall, High Street, Crickhowell, 7:30pm. All information Mrs Margaret Finnis Tel. 01873 810004.

**June 26<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** Powys Family History Society – Brecknock Group. *Annual General Meeting and Research Evening*. Kensington Chapel Schoolroom, Brecon, 7:30pm. All information Mrs Lynda White Tel. 01497 847229 or Mr Philip Evans Tel. 01874 754365.

**July 6<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Ystradgynlais Family History Society. *Guest speaker on Family History*. Ystradgynlais Branch Library 7:00pm. All information Mrs Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306.

**July 15<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) – July 22<sup>nd</sup> (Saturday)** Llangynidr Local History Society. *Archaeology Week*. All information Mrs Christine Porter Tel. 01874 730354.

**July 18<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** Brecknock Society and Museum Friends. “*J.L. Pearson, Victorian Architect*” A summer evening visit to Treberfedd and Llangasty Church, as an introduction to Mr Richard Camp’s talk in October. 6:30pm at Treberfedd House (by kind permission of Mr David Garnons-Williams). Cars leave Brecknock Museum 6:10pm. All information Miss Helen Gichard Tel. 01874 636507.

**July 20<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Llangynidr Local History Society. *A talk by Ms Wendy Toomey (Archaeologist in charge of the excavation at Blaen-y-Cwm)*. Llangynidr Village Hall 7:30pm. All information Mrs Christine Porter Tel. 01874 750354.

**August 3<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday)** Ystradgynlais Family History Society. *AGM and Internet Night*. Ystradgynlais Branch Library 7:00pm. All information Mrs Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306.

**August 5<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) – September 5<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** Llangynidr Local History Society. *Blaen-y-Cwm farmhouse excavations (every Sat., Sun., Mon., and Tuesday)*. See also “Forum Newsdesk” page 1. All information Mrs Christine Porter Tel. 01874 730354.

**August 11<sup>th</sup> (Friday) – August 13<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)** Brecknock Society and Museum Friends. As usual, Friends of the Museum will be serving fund-raising teas on the Saturday and Sunday outside the Museum. Please contact the President, Sister Bonaventure Kelleher if you are willing to help. All information Brecknock Museum Tel. 01874 624121.

**September 7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Ystradgynlais Family History Society. *Researching Deaths*. Ystradgynlais Branch Library 7:00pm. All information Mrs Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306.

**September 12<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** Brecknock Society and Museum Friends. “*Jenkins the Builders*.” Mr Mervyn Jenkins will talk on the long-established family firm’s contributions to the buildings of Brecon. 7:00pm at Brecon Guildhall. All information Miss Helen Gichard Tel. 01874 636507.

**September 16<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)** Builth Wells and District Heritage Society. *Full day Field Trip based on “Industrial South Wales” – a coach trip departing from the Groe Car Park at 9:00am*. All information Mr Chris Mainwaring Tel. 01982 552689.

**September 20<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)** Crickhowell and District History Society. Mr Brian Davies “*Pontypridd Celebrations of a Bridge and an Anthem*.” Venue to be confirmed. All information Mrs Margaret Finnis Tel. 01873 810004.

**October 5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Ystradgynlais Family History Society. “*Bring Along a Tree Evening*.” Ystradgynlais Branch Library 7:00pm. All information Mrs Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306.

**October 10<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** Brecknock Society and Museum Friends. “*The Raikes family’s connection with J.L. Pearson, the renowned Victorian Architect: religious conviction interpreted in architecture*.” An illustrated talk by Mr Richard Camp in his series on

Victorian architects. 7:00pm The Diocesan Centre, Brecon Cathedral. All information Miss Helen Gichard Tel. 01874 636507.

**October 12<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Builth Wells and District Heritage Society. "*George Borrow in Spain.*" A talk by Mr Jim Davies 7:30pm the Strand Hall, Community Room, Builth Wells. All information Mr Chris Mainwaring Tel. 01982 552689.

**October 21<sup>st</sup> (Saturday)** Crickhowell and District History Society. "*Another Walk Down Memory Lane.*" Clarence Hall, Crickhowell, 7:00pm. All information Mrs Margaret Finnis Tel. 01873 810004.

**November 2<sup>nd</sup> (Thursday)** Ystradgynlais Family History Society. *Newspapers and Cambrian Index.* Ystradgynlais Branch Library 7:00pm. All information Mrs Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306.

**November 14<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** Brecknock Society and Museum Friends. "*Gwenllian Morgan's place in the history of Brecon Town Council.*" Mrs Gail Rofe, the Town Clerk, will talk in the Council Chamber, Brecon Guildhall, 7:00pm. All information Miss Helen Gichard Tel. 01874 636507.

**November 15<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)** Crickhowell and District History Society. *Mr Frank Olding "The Archaeology of the Black Mountains."* Venue to be confirmed. All information Mrs Margaret Finnis Tel. 01873 810004.

**December 7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Ystradgynlais Family History Society. *Annual Dinner.* Venue to be confirmed. All information Mrs Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306.

**December 14<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Builth Wells and District Heritage Society. "*The Twelve Days of Christmas.*" A talk by Mrs Judith Hurford 7:30pm the Strand Hall, Community Room, Builth Wells. All information Mr Chris Mainwaring Tel. 01982 552689.

## 2007

**February 13<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** Brecknock Society and Museum Friends. "*Iron Cage: the history of Ystradgynlais and the Upper Tawe Valley.*" A talk by Mr W. Ley, in the appropriate setting of Abercraf Miners' Welfare Hall. 7:00pm. All information Miss Helen Gichard Tel. 01874 636507.

**February Half-Term.** Brecknock Society and Museum Friends. *Closing date for entries in The Junior Schools History Competition (to be awarded on the 9<sup>th</sup> March).*

**March 9<sup>th</sup> (Friday)** Brecknock Society and Museum

"*Frances Hoggan, Doctor of Medicine, of Brecon – pioneer physician, patriot and philanthropist.*" A lecture presented by Professor Neil MacIntyre. Members will be given priority booking. 7:30pm the Guildhall, Brecon. All information Miss Helen Gichard Tel. 01874 636507.

**March 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** Brecknock Society and Museum Friends. *Annual General Meeting.* Full details to follow later. All information Miss Helen Gichard Tel. 01874 636507

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