

# HANES

## NEWSLETTER OF THE BRECKNOCK HISTORY FORUM

ISSUE 22

JANUARY 2007

A Happy 2007 to all our members, readers, and contributors with yet another sincere thank you to one and all for ensuring *HANES* is allowed to celebrate the beginning of its eighth year.

A somewhat slimmer issue than usual, maybe, but still offering interesting and stimulating contributions with a warm welcome to Mr Dewi Bowen and his Rudolf Hess reminiscences on page 2. Always a delight to feature and include that little something which travels just a short distance from the more conventional History highway! Mr Ken Jones explores the interesting life of Doctor Frances Hoggan on page 2 while the editor makes absolutely no apology for highlighting our St. David's Day Lecture at Brecon Library on February 23<sup>rd</sup> - see bottom of page.

May the year ahead be one to enjoy and remember.

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

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Closing date for May 2007 issue  
1<sup>st</sup>. April 2007

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**BRECON CATHEDRAL LIBRARY**  
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**BRECON LIBRARY: LOCAL STUDIES DEPT.**  
Contact: Chris Price Tel. 01874 623346

**BULTH WELLS & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
Contact: Chris Mainwaring Tel. 01982 552689  
**CRAI & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY ARCHIVE**  
Contact: Frances Walter Liz Matthews

### *St. David's Day Lecture Brecon Library*

**Brecon Library** looks forward to hosting its twelfth St. David's Day Lecture on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12.30 pm, when Mr Edward Parry makes his customary welcome and eagerly awaited return for an illustrated presentation "Brecon –from Bernard to the By-Pass: 900 years in 40 minutes."

The very basis of this enthralling lecture will be Edward re-visiting the themes of his previous talks – dating back to the very first in 1996 – and offering a captivating whistle-stop tour of Brecon's exciting history from Bernard de Neumarche to the present. Surely an event not to be missed!

Admission is free, for the lecture only, or £5:75 to enjoy a traditional St. David's Day lunch served by Powys Catering. Do be sure to book early as tickets are in short supply. Tickets, and all information, are available from Chris Price at Brecon Library, Tel. 01874 623346. See also *Dates for your Diary* on page 7.

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## *Rudolf Hess – Hitler's Deputy Reichsführer A personal recollection*

On a night in 1941 Rudolf Hess came to Britain on what was understood to be a secret mission to offer peace terms to Winston Churchill with a view to bringing about a truce between Germany and Britain and, as a result, to focus on a war on one front against the Soviet Union.

However, his Messerschmitt plane crashed on the Duke of Hamilton's estate in Scotland and after bailing out Hess was captured and held prisoner in Britain for four years. He ranked as the most enigmatic figure in the third Reich leadership. He was regularly moved by the authorities to avoid any rescue or assassination attempts by the Nazis.

Hess was incarcerated at Maindiff Court in Abergavenny until the end of the war and then sent back to Germany to face trial at Nuremberg for war crimes. Spending the rest of his life in prison Rudolf Hess eventually committed suicide, aged 92, in Berlin's Spandau Prison.

Rudolf Hess (Hitler's deputy) was born in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1896. His father Carl had lived near Cardiff towards the end of the nineteenth century but after the death of his first wife, Elizabeth Mackie of Michaelstone-y-Fedw, the wholesale marketer returned to Germany. Rudolf Hess was Welsh speaking and, I believe, hailed from West Wales.

### **Rudolf Hess's Greyhound**

Almost every Saturday afternoon during the second world war a private soldier with a greyhound travelled down on the Abergavenny – Merthyr Tydfil train and dropped off at Cefn Coed to quench his thirst at the Railway Inn.

He claimed the greyhound that answered to his German name – Nimrod – was owned by Rudolf Hess, Hitler's former deputy, who was in captivity at Maindiff Court which was once the home of Crawshay Bailey the Victorian ironmaster of Abergavenny. Hess walked the surrounding hills – the Sugar Loaf was one of his favourite rendezvous – under military guard and probably with his greyhound. Regular customers at the inn would speak of this elaboration which contained a degree of truth because Nimrod was a mighty hunter in a German myth. Rudolf Hess perhaps had the hunter's appetite and looked back nostalgically to his German mythical past to find a name for his dog from the teutonic legends which inspired the operas of Wagner. Edward Elgar's "The Enigma Variations" – the intriguing series of musical character portraits of his friends - included Variation (No. 9) – Nimrod – a name he gave to August

Jaeger, his closest musical confidante, who was German with a surname meaning "Hunter." Edward Elgar was the first English composer in 200 years to win international acclaim

There was something always available in the Railway Inn that cannot be bought – viz. laughter! The old inn cracked with good natured banter. The soldier found himself among convivial, jolly faced, rumbustious men with impeccable eyes for fashionable nonsense but happy to recount tales of Cefn Coed, Castle Pit, Cwm Pit and conflicts of the First World War with a passing stranger. He found in them a mutual interest.

This soldier was a larger than life character with twinkling eyes and invariably occupied the corner of the bar with his pint of Rhymney beer. He had a kind of face often described as piratical with a voice that had a satisfying Jim-Lad rasp. His complexion, if you picked it from a colour chart, would be labelled "Teak" or "Light Oak."

Giving a mischievous smile and shaking the loose coins in his trouser pocket he headed for the bar door and stumbled out into High Street, Cefn Coed, whistling under his breath "When I grow too old to dream."

He then proceeded on foot down the middle of the road exercising Rudolf Hess's greyhound en-route for the Saturday evening greyhound racing at Penyarden Park in Merthyr Tydfil. He walked with a pair of army trousers so vast that his legs, when they moved, seemed to work invisibly inside them. His route of two miles to Merthyr followed random turns of his head as if he was being towed by his woodbine cigarette.

Mr Dewi Bowen  
Cefn Coed  
Merthyr Tydfil

*The editor is grateful to Mr Bowen for this very entertaining piece and for allowing it to be included in HANES.*

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## *Dr. Frances Hoggan*

During the past three centuries Brecon has been associated with three eminent women. The nationally famed actress Sarah Siddons in the eighteenth century will, I am sure, be familiar to all the readers of HANES. The majority reading this short article will also be aware that Gwennllian Morgan, who was born in Defynnog, was not only the first town councillor in Wales but also became the first woman mayor in 1912. However, it is likely that only a minority will know the name Frances Hoggan even though she had an international reputation, and Edwin Poole wrote about her in his 1886 "Illustrated History and Biography of Breconshire".

Frances Hoggan was born at 19, High Street, Brecon, in December 1843. Her father, Richard, was curate to the Rev. Canon Richard Davies of St. John's Priory, and her mother, Georgina, appears to have been in some way, as yet

unidentified, connected to the de Winton family of Breconshire. When she was three the family moved to Glamorgan and after receiving her early education in Cowbridge and in Windsor, Frances continued with her studies in Paris and Dusseldorf. At some stage Frances decided to become a doctor but in mid-Victorian Britain women were not permitted to study to become university trained doctors. Undeterred, Frances passed the examination to enter Zurich University, in 1867, which was the only university in Europe to accept women medical students. In Zurich University she is still something of a legend because she completed her six year course in three years and in 1870 became, not as once thought the first Welsh woman, but the first British woman and the second in Europe, to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine. This was particularly remarkable since her thesis on muscular dystrophy challenged the views of her eminent supervisor!

After post-graduate work in Vienna, Prague and Paris and her marriage to Dr. George Hoggan in 1874, she and her husband established the first husband and wife medical practice in Britain and together, or separately, they published forty-two medical research and social issue papers. She was also aware of her Welsh background, and in the 1880's became intensely involved in the debate about intermediate and higher education in Wales, especially with regard to the opportunities for women. In 1892 Frances wrote a small, but influential, book "*Education for Girls in Wales.*" Dr. Gareth Evans, in his 1990 book "*Education and Female Emancipation in Wales,*" described her as "... undoubtedly one of the leading feminist pioneers in Wales." After the mid-1880's she became particularly involved in educational and social reforms in India, the Middle East, South Africa and, especially, the U.S.A. In the United States she gave important lectures and wrote articles about the situation of Afro-Americans. She was one of the speakers at the first Universal Race Congress held in London in 1911.

She died in 1927 and her ashes are interred with her husband's in an unmarked plot in Woking cemetery. However, she was remembered in Brecon in 1970 when a service on the anniversary of her receiving her medical degree was held in the Cathedral, and the Brecknock Society presented the Cathedral with a suitably inscribed font ewer. Onfel Thomas, who had been secretary of the Brecknock Society for twenty-five years, also produced a well-researched pamphlet about Frances.

At 7:00 p.m. on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March in the Guild Hall, Brecon, Neil McIntyre, Emeritus Professor of Medicine at the Royal Free Hospital and University College London Hospital will present the 2007 Sir John Lloyd Memorial Lecture on "*Frances Hoggan, Doctor of Medicine – pioneer physician, patriot and philanthropist.*" Professor McIntyre is also president of the Welsh Medical History Society and has devoted many years to researching the life of Frances Hoggan. Tickets for non-members of the Brecknock Society and Museum Friends can be obtained in writing, and enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, after 12<sup>th</sup> February, to Helen Gichard, c/o Brecknock Museum and Art Gallery, Captain's Walk, Brecon, LD3 7DW. Admission is free but there will be a voluntary collection in aid of the Usk House Day Hospice, Brecon – a local

initiative of which I am sure Frances Hoggan would have approved and supported.

Ken Jones  
Chairman, Brecknock Society and Museum Friends.

*The editor acknowledges the research undertaken by Mr Jones and for allowing his researches to be included in HANES.*

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## *Snippets From The Press*

### Hereford Journal 30<sup>th</sup> September 1795

"Women are like Forts in Flanders; some are taken by storm, others sustain a long and dreary siege:- lately was married, after a short courtship of thirty-seven years, Mr John Plant, aged eighty-eight, to Miss Ann Kerkman, aged eighty-five."

### The Cambrian 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1816

"Public Dinner – Brecon: The Friends of the Independence of this County (some few, not all of them) intend Dining at the Sun Inn on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> inst. Colonel Wood to be present. Dinner on the table at four o'clock."

### The Times 8<sup>th</sup> February 1796

"The present fashionable mode of wearing the hair turned up so close behind, is an imitation of the Republican *coiffure a la guillotine*. We hope the French fashion will go no further. It is however, not unworthy of remark, that this fashion of heads *a la guillotine*, has come into vogue in London at the period of its being unfashionable in Paris. Should it, however, be recorded by future historians, we hope they will give the priority of the fashion to the French, as it is one we should not wish to dispute with them about."

*The Editor is grateful to Mr Ken Jones, Chairman of the Brecknock Society and Museum Friends for allowing these entertaining snippets to be shared with our readership.*

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## *One Hundred Years Ago - From The Columns Of The Brecon And Radnor County Times, Friday January 11<sup>th</sup> 1907*

### **DEATH OF PRINCIPAL ROWLANDS**

### **SCHOLAR, POET, AND PREACHER**

The Free Church Movement in Wales has received a severe blow by the death, which took place on Sunday last, of the

Rev. David Rowlands, B.A., Principal of the Memorial College, Brecon, and an Alderman of the Breconshire County Council. Despite the fact that of recent years it was apparent that a strenuous life was having its effects upon a constitution that had lost much of its former robustness, Principal Rowlands continued to discharge his responsible duties at the College up to the end of last term. Towards the close of the old year, however, the venerable gentleman contracted influenza, which aggravated a chronic heart condition, and the Principal passed away peacefully at a quarter-to-two on Sunday morning at the College, in the presence of the members of his family. Throughout his severe illness Mr Rowlands was attended by Dr. Howells.

Principal Rowlands was a native of Anglesey, a fact which, like another illustrious son of that famous island – the late Archdruid – he embodied in his bardic name, Dewi Mon. He came of a clever family, a sister of his being the late Mrs Tudno Jones, a very accomplished lady and a Welshwoman to her finger-tips. Principal Rowlands's ancestors played a prominent part in the early history of Nonconformity in the island, and he inherited their sturdy Puritanism and their love of simplicity in religious matters.

He was born in the year 1836, in a farmhouse called Gwenfron, near Amlwch, but his parents removed in the early years to Ty Cristion, Bodedern, and it was there he spent the years of his childhood. It was his almost invariable custom every summer to revisit his native Mon. He was, as would be expected, blessed with parents of more than average intelligence, his mother being descended from one of the gentlest and best known families in Anglesey. His parents were ambitious for their children, and provided them with education beyond the custom of those days. Young David remained at school at Holyhead until he was thirteen years old, and had among his school-fellows the late Dr. Hugh Jones, Principal of the Baptist College at Llangollen, and Sir William Roberts, M.D. His earliest religious associations were with the Calvinistic Methodists, and he always retained some of the characteristics of that denomination, and a strong affection for it.

At the age of 18 he was apprenticed to a draper in Holyhead, but it happened, as it has to hundreds of the born preachers of Wales, that he was imbued with a desire to enter the ministry. This desire was fanned into flame under the powerful influence of old William Griffith, the famous Independent minister of Holyhead, and the result was that he preached his trial sermon when he was 16 years of age. After a few months sojourn in business in the metropolis he returned to prepare himself for the work of the ministry in the year 1858 at the Academy, then kept at Bala by Michael D. Jones. Here he came under new influences, greatly different from those of his earlier years, for Michael Jones was a Radical in religion, a Socialist in politics, a fiery patriot, and a prophet of the order of John the Baptist. No two men more unlike could meet, but they learned to love one another, and the older man impressed his pupil at least with the love of Wales and of liberty. Young Rowlands acquired also a sense of the importance of the Christian ministry that led him to prepare for it with thoroughness and perseverance.

Having spent some years at Bala, Rowlands went to New College, London, where he made such progress in a few years' time that Principal Michael D. Jones felt justified in inviting him to become his assistant at Bala. Young Rowlands, however, was not satisfied with the amount of training he had received and he was anxious also to obtain a university degree, which would qualify him for a career of greater influence in the Congregational body. Inspired by this laudable ambition, Rowlands became a student at Brecon College, where he spent four years and studied assiduously for the B.A. degree of the University of London. He attained the object and now decided to settle down among his countrymen. His first pastorate was at Llanbrynmair, a chapel which looms large in the history of Welsh Congregationalism. It counts among its ministers John Roberts (the elder) and Samuel Roberts, father and son, two men who left a permanent influence on their denomination and upon Wales generally. Samuel Roberts (S.R.) decided to go to America, and he relinquished his pastorate at Llanbrynmair. The congregation found a suitable successor in David Rowlands, who, greatly to his credit, more than satisfied the expectations of his people – not an easy thing to do considering that he followed the intellectual giants that had preceded him.

After five years of arduous labour at Llanbrynmair the late principal entered the English ministry at Welshpool, and people may still be heard to relate that the palmy days of Congregationalism and Nonconformity in that somewhat sleepy town were the days of the pastorate of "Dewi Mon." From there he removed to the English church at Carmarthen, but after two years he was once again recalled to the scenes of his studies and he became classical tutor at Brecon Memorial College, where he was destined to labour the remainder of his days.

For several years it fell to his lot to teach almost every subject in arts and science that was considered a necessary preliminary training for the ministry. After the year 1885 the students were sent for their arts' training to the University Colleges at Cardiff or Aberystwyth, and Professor Rowlands divided the theological work with the late Principal Morris, the former taking more especially the classes in the Greek New Testament, in Philosophy, and in Ecclesiastical History. The advent of the University of Wales and the association of the College with it for the purposes of theological training demanded a still higher degree of specialising and a consequent increase of the staff, so that Principal Rowlands, who, after the death of Dr. Morris, had succeeded to his position at the head of the college, was able in his latter years to confine himself to the study and teaching of New Testament Greek and Homiletics. For teaching the latter subject he had many rare qualifications.

Though his voice was not often heard in recent years Principal Rowlands had a facile pen. He could write Welsh as if he knew no English, and express himself in English as if he had never been brought up in Welsh speaking Anglesey. He published a volume of "*Sermons on Historical Subjects*" in the early days of his ministry at Welshpool, which received a warm welcome from the English public and press. In recent years he had been a large contributor to a series of volumes published by Robinson, of

Manchester, and containing sermons by all the leading Nonconformist preachers of the day. But the best productions he gave his native land were in his own tongue. His Welsh grammar was for many years the best known handbook of the language, and articles from his pen on every variety of public topics were eagerly sought by the editors and as eagerly devoured by the readers of all the Welsh periodicals. But his most lasting contributions have probably been made to the hymnology and lyric poetry of his country. He was one of the editors of his denomination's New Hymnal, and some of the hymns he contributed are today familiar in every corner of Wales. He collaborated a great deal with the late Dr. Joseph Parry, both in editing old songs and in producing new works. He edited and wrote most of the words in the "*Cambrian Minstrelaie*," a collection of six volumes of Welsh songs, of which Dr. Parry was the musical editor. He also wrote the libretto of the Welsh opera, "Blodwen," of the oratorio "*Emmanuel*," and of the cantata, "*Joseph*." Many more songs and hymns are scattered in various other publications, and many, it is understood, that he wrote have not yet been published. A characteristic labour of love he performed was the collection and editing of the works of his brother-in-law, the bard, Tudno, to which he prefaced a sympathetic and very appreciative memoir.

In his younger days the principal, like most ambitious young Welshmen, entered the eisteddfod arena, and captured many a coveted prize. Even when he was at the zenith of his intellectual power he was induced to enter the lists once more. At the Brecon National Eisteddfod the late Marquis of Bute offered a prize of £50 for the best translation of Euripides' "*Alcestis*." Professor Rowlands was a competitor, but he had a strong man and a thorough Greek scholar competing against him in the person of Mr Morris Lewis, of Swansea, and the adjudicator (the late Rev. J.B. Jones, of Brecon) decided to divide the prize between the two.

Mr Rowlands was often called upon to adjudicate at the National Eisteddfod, and his decisions generally gave thorough satisfaction to the competitors. He held the degrees of Bard and Druid.

Principal Rowlands took great interest in Welsh education, and was from its inception until it was superseded by the Education Committee, a member of the Breconshire County Governing Body. A couple of years or so ago he contributed an article in the Welsh quarterly, "*Y Geninen*," in which he somewhat severely attacked the Church in Wales. Principal Rowlands, for some reason or other, displayed a stronger animus against the Welsh Church than other people of his class and culture generally do. He admitted, however, that a change for the better had come over the Established Church, but he attributed that change to the influence of Welsh Dissent upon it, overlooking, of course, the fact that the great revival which had taken place could not have come except from within, as it had been the means of largely impressing its stamp and image upon the several denominations in Wales.

Somewhat late in life his denomination conferred upon him its highest honour – the chairmanship of the Welsh Congregational Union, a position which it is scarcely

necessary to say be filled with conspicuous ability and the utmost credit to himself.

In 1904 the Breconshire County Council conferred upon him an honour which well befitted the position to which he had attained, in electing him an Alderman of the County Council. Other positions of importance he occupied were those of Director of the London Missionary Society, member of the Court of Governors of the University College of Aberystwyth and Cardiff, and member of the Theological Board and Senate of the University of Wales.

His relations with all the Free Churches had ever been cordial and intimate. He was one of the first founders, and the first president, of the local Free Church Council, but he enjoyed the friendship of many man of all churches and parties, both in Brecon and the country at large. His loss, therefore, will be deeply mourned, not only by his widow and only surviving son, Mr Wilfred C. Rowlands, solicitor, London, but by the larger family of the College, his colleagues on the staff, and the students, and also by the Church at Glamorgan Street, of which he had been a faithful member and a wise leader throughout his long career at Brecon.

At many of the Free Churches in Brecon and throughout South Wales on Sunday, references were made to the demise of Principal Rowlands. At the Glamorgan Street Congregational Church, Brecon, the Rev. W. Roberts made a touching allusion to the Christian life and character of the deceased Principal; and at the close of the evening service a vote of condolence with the widow and family were passed in silence. Messrs S. Rayson, W.R. Price, and W.T. Lee, on behalf of the deacons, all paying tribute to the deceased's memory.

#### THE FUNERAL

The obsequies on Thursday afternoon were of a very impressive description, and there was abundant evidence on all hands of the high esteem in which the deceased Principal was held by ministers and others both far and near, a large number of his old students at the college attending to pay a tribute to the memory of a great man. Throughout the borough the blinds were drawn at many business and private houses as a mark of respect, and the scene in the grounds of Brecon Memorial College as the mourners foregathered to join in the cortege, prior to leaving for Glamorgan Street chapel, was most impressive. Punctually at two o'clock, following a brief service at the deceased's residence, the coffin containing the remains of Principal Rowlands was borne from the house by six of the college students, acting as under-bearers, to the glass-sided hearse. The occupants of the five mourning carriages were Mr Wilfred Rowlands (son) and Mrs Rowlands, Mr and Mrs Rees (London), Dr Owen Evans, Miss Parry (niece), the Rev. J.E. Harries and Mrs Harries (sister-in-law), Mr Sidney Robinson, M.P., Professor Lewis, Professor Rees, Professor John Evans, Rev. D.A. Griffith (Secretary of the Memorial College), Mr Morgan Evans, J.P. (Chairman of the College Committee), Rev. H Elvet Lewis, M.A., Rev. E.H. Davies, Mr J.A. Jebb, Rev. Foulkes Roberts (Bristol), and Rev. Lewis Jones. All the students in residence at the College followed their late Principal to his last resting place.

The ministers and students headed the mournful procession as it left the College. The coffin was literally covered with beautiful floral tributes. There was a crowded congregation at Glamorgan Street chapel, and as the mourners assembled Miss Rayson, the organist, played Mendelssohn's "*O rest in the Lord.*" During the service the coffin rested on a table at the foot of the rostrum. The funeral service in the chapel was conducted by the Rev. John Evans, B.A., and it commenced with the singing of the hymn "*A while in the desert we wander,*" composed by the deceased principal and impressively rendered to the tune of "*Crugybar.*"

Before proceeding further with the service the Rev. John Evans said a large number of letters of sympathy had been received by the family expressing regret at inability to attend the funeral, and all conveying very appreciative remarks concerning the character and services of the late Principal. Resolutions of sympathy and appreciation had also been received from the following churches and associations:-

Glamorgan Street Church, Brecon; King's Cross Church, London; Borough Road Church, London; Barrett's Grove, London; Park Road Church, Liverpool; the churches of Aberaman and Aberdare; and the South Pembrokeshire Congregational Association and the South Wales English Congregational Union. Referring to the late Principal Rowlands, Mr Evans said he had had the privilege of being the pastor of the deceased for close on twelve years and had always found him most kind and considerate. Principal Rowlands was a regular attendant at his church whenever his health permitted it, and he had always taken a deep interest in the welfare of the cause. Deceased was a very kind critic, and he had spoken words to the speaker which had done him good and helped him the better to do his work. He was sure no pastor could have had a more sympathetic and helpful listener.

Portions of scripture were then read by the Rev. Lewis Jones, and Mr Howell Parry offered prayer in Welsh.

Mr Morgan Evans, J.P. (Chairman of the Memorial College Committee) then addressed the congregation in Welsh, expressing deep sympathy with the family of the deceased, and paying a fitting and well deserved tribute to the Christian life and character of Principal Rowlands.

The Rev. Elvet Lewis, M.A., followed. Though it was impossible, he said, for them to meet this afternoon without sorrow he thought they ought to be thankful to God that they could meet without sadness. There was, of course, a natural sorrow. The teacher was silent and the warrior had found rest. They felt that the ranks had been thinned more and more, but they rejoiced to remember that those who had been called from among them had left such a heritage of courage, for if there was anything more than another in the life of Principal Rowlands he thought it was courage. The deceased had had to battle with ill-health for a good part of his lifetime, and though he had lived under the shadow of death every day he still pursued his cause with courage and calmness, doing each day's work as he was able and trusting to God for the rest. The life was now finished as far as the sorrows of this earth were concerned, but the life was not

ended. Principal Rowlands would continue to live in the homes of those he had taught and influenced, and he would also live in what he had written. All his contributions to literature were either patriotic or religious. The deceased contributed in prose and in poetry, and in conjunction with the late Dr. Parry he helped the music of the nation. But every song he wrote was as pure as the flower in the field, and every song he wrote bore upon it something of the patriot's spirit. His songs helped to purify our national ideas, to lift them above controversy and worldliness. They remembered all that the late Principal did, not because they wished to boast of him or of his work, but because they wished to thank God for the gifts given to him and for the use which he made of them. That day they would surely pray for those who were nearest and dearest to the departed Principal.

Dr. Owen Evans also delivered an address in Welsh. He said he remembered the deceased when he first entered the ministry in North Wales. There was no frothiness about the friendship of Principal Rowlands, but he was a pure and faithful friend. Deceased had a hand in starting the Welsh Congregational Union which greatly benefited by the assistance he gave to it. The work done by him to the cause to which he belonged was inestimable. But to-day his work was done and they might say he had fought a good fight.

The hymn commencing "*Draw ar Ianuan anfarwoldeb,*" written by Principal Rowlands, was then sung to the tune of "*St. Garmon,*" after which the Rev. John Evans pronounced the benediction. As the coffin was borne out of the church the organist played "*The Dead March*" in "*Saul.*"

The mournful procession then wended its way to the cemetery, where the service was continued with marked impressiveness by the Rev. D.A. Griffiths, in the presence of a large gathering of college students, pastors, and others, the funeral service concluding with the hymn, also from the pen of the late Principal, "*Bererinion yn yr anial,*" sung to the tune of "*Gwalia.*"

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## **Brecknock Bookshelf**

### *A Selection of New and Recent Titles*

#### **Kinross, John**

##### *Discovering the Smallest Churches in Wales*

This volume covers almost 50 churches in Wales which have naves of 30ft or less. The churches are selected from the whole of the principality, north, mid and south, and are arranged by county. The book, which is lavishly illustrated with colour and black-and-white photographs, drawings and location maps, will appeal both to those living in Wales and to visitors.

**Tempus Publishing 2007 £13.99 ISBN 0 7524 4101 9**

**Williams, Dewi**

*Preacher's Son.*

A collection of reminiscences of a Welsh childhood set in the early nineteen fifties in Breconshire, Mid Wales. This autobiographical work is written with candour, honesty, humour and a degree of pathos.

Exposure Publishing 2006 £7:95 ISBN 1 84685 186 6

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## Dates for your Diary

2007

### January 21<sup>st</sup> (Sunday) – March 17<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)

Brecknock Museum Gallery One. *Kate Beelis and Sally Matthews "Gathering"*. An exhibition by photographer Kate Beelis, and artist Sally Matthews, exploring the nature of hill farming, people, animals, landscape over the seasons in the hill-farming community of Tarsset, Northumberland. All information Brecknock Museum Tel. 01874 624121.

### January 27<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) – March 24<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)

Brecknock Museum. *Bells and the Art of Ringing*. An insight into the art of bell founding and the history of bell ringing in Breconshire. This exhibition will give the visitor an understanding of the art of change ringing and its activities in the immediate area, within the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon. All information Brecknock Museum Tel. 01874 624121.

**January 28<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)** Powys Family History Society – Brecknock Group. *Annual lunch at Bishop's Meadow Motel, Brecon*. All information Mrs Eirwen Jones Tel. 01874 754440.

**February 1<sup>st</sup> (Thursday)** Ystradgynlais Family History Society. *Talk on Aberdulais Falls*. Ystradgynlais Branch Library 7:00pm. All information Mrs Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306.

**February 8<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Builth Wells and District Heritage Society. *"Bring and talk – an opportunity for members to talk about, or discuss, a favourite book, item, topic or character."* Builth Wells Branch Library, 7:30pm. Visitors welcome - £1:00 admission fee. All information Mr Chris Mainwaring Tel. 01982 552689.

**February 12<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** Pontneathvaughan Local History Society. *Mr Ryan Davies "The Rebecca Riots."* Ysgol Thomas Stephens, Pontneathvaughan, 7:30pm. All information Mr Stephen Morris Tel. 01639 720728.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Llangammarch Wells Local History Society. *Mrs Susan Price, Pant-Teg, "Llanwrtyd and District, Past and Present."* Alexandra Hall, Llangammarch Wells, 7:30pm. All information Mrs Pamela Lewis Tel. 01591 610479.

**February 23<sup>rd</sup> (Friday)** Brecon Library. St. David's Day Lecture. Mr Edward Parry *"Brecon – from Bernard to the By-Pass: 900 years in 40 minutes."* 12:30pm. Admission free for lecture only or £5:75 to include traditional lunch served by Powys Catering. All information Chris Price Tel. 01874 623346.

**February 26<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** Powys Family History Society – Brecknock Group. *Mr Viv. Pugh, Chair of The Dic Penderyn Society "Dic Penderyn: Myths and Reality"*. Kensington Chapel Schoolroom, Brecon, 7:30pm. All information Mr Philip Evans Tel. 01874 754365 or Mrs Lynda White Tel. 01497 847229.

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

**March 1<sup>st</sup> (Thursday)** Ystradgynlais Family History Society. *Details to be confirmed*. All information Mrs Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306.

**March 8<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Builth Wells and District Heritage Society. *A.G.M. followed by a talk by Mr Jim Davies – title to be confirmed*. Builth Wells Branch Library, 7:30pm. Visitors welcome - £1:00 admission fee. All information Mr Chris Mainwaring Tel. 01982 552689.

**March 9<sup>th</sup> (Friday)** Brecknock Society and Museum Friends. *The Sir John Lloyd Memorial Lecture: "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 Guildhall, Brecon. All information Miss Helen Gichard Tel. 01874 636507.

**March 12<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** Pontneathvaughan Local History Society. *An evening with ... Mr Arwel Michael*. Ysgol Thomas Stephens, Pontneathvaughan, 7:30pm. All information Mr Stephen Morris Tel. 01639 720728.

**March 15<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Llangammarch Wells Local History Society. *A.G.M.* Aberceiros Inn, Llangammarch Wells, 7:30pm. All information Mrs Pamela Lewis Tel. 01591 610479.

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

**March 21<sup>st</sup> (Wednesday)** Crickhowell and District History Society. *Dr Ryland Wallace "The Suffragettes in Wales."* The Old Market Hall, Crickhowell, 7:30pm. All information Mrs Margaret Finnis Tel. 01873 810004.

**March 24<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) – May 13<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)** Brecknock Museum Gallery One. "*A Chair and a Lovespoon*": *Lovespoons and Welsh Furniture*. This exhibition will be based on the important collections of Welsh furniture, lovespoons and folk art held by Brecknock Museum. All information Brecknock Museum Tel. 01874 624121.

**March 26<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** Powys Family History Society – Brecknock Group. *Mr Philip Witcombe "How to start and develop your family tree"*. Lasswade Country House Hotel, Llanwrtyd Wells 7:30pm. All information Mr Philip Evans Tel. 01874 754365 or Mrs Lynda White Tel. 01497 847229.

**March 31<sup>st</sup> (Saturday) – May 20<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)** Brecknock Museum. *Beacons Way Art Trail*. The exhibition will celebrate the work of the eight artists who have been commissioned to create works of art to be placed along the Beacons Way Path, a new long distance footpath which crosses the Brecon Beacons National Park from the Holy Mountain in the East to Bethlehem in the West. All information Brecknock Museum Tel. 01874 62 4121.

**April 5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Ystradgynlais Family History Society. *Pictures of Ystalyfera*. Ystradgynlais Branch Library 7:00pm. All information Mrs Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306.

**April 18<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)** Crickhowell and District History Society. *Sister Bonaventure "18<sup>th</sup> Century Theatre in Brecknock."* The Old Market Hall, Crickhowell, 7:30pm. All information Mrs Margaret Finnis Tel. 01873 810004.

**April 19<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Llangammarch Wells Local History Society. *Mr Ray Haydon, "The Brecon and Abergavenny Canal."* Alexandra Hall, Llangammarch Wells, 7:30pm. All information Mrs Pamela Lewis Tel. 01591 610479.

**April 30<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** Powys Family History Society – Brecknock Group. "*Enjoy an illustrated journey on the old Neath to Brecon Line in the company of Mr Tudor Watkins.*" Kensington Chapel Schoolroom, Brecon, 7:30pm. All information Mr Philip Evans Tel. 01874 754365 or Mrs Lynda White Tel. 01497 847229.

**May 2<sup>nd</sup> (Wednesday)** Ystradgynlais Family History Society. *Day trip to the National Library of Wales*. All information Mrs Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306.

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday)** Ystradgynlais Family History Society. *Details to be confirmed*. All information Mrs Caryl Jones Tel. 01269 825306.

**May 16<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)** Crickhowell and District History Society. *Mr Ken Jones "Major David Pryce, East India Company."* The Old Market Hall, Crickhowell, 7:30pm. All information Mrs Margaret Finnis Tel. 01873 810004.

**May 21<sup>st</sup> (Monday)** Powys Family History Society – Brecknock Group. "*Speaker: Mr Stuart Wilson who bought a stony field in Monmouthshire and discovered the lost city of Trellech. An amazing story, and an opportunity to see the archaeological progress being made on this site.*" Kensington Chapel Schoolroom, Brecon, 7:30pm. All information Mr Philip Evans Tel. 01874 754365 or Mrs Lynda White Tel. 01497 847229.

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