

Breconshire Local & Family History Society (BLFHS)
Cymdeithas Hanes Lleol a Theuluoedd Brycheiniog



Newsletter No.1: June 2011

Welcome to our first Newsletter. The BLFHS newsletter, edited by Hilary Williams, will be published monthly for members only. It will be accessible on the members section of the BLFHS website. We hope you will wish to add your own contributions to the newsletter.

Our Inaugural Meeting:

Hilary Williams chaired the meeting and began by welcoming those present and explaining the aims and objectives of BLFHS. The attendance (between 40 and 50 persons) and the interest shown in the new Society were truly overwhelming. Hilary also introduced the Management Committee and thanked the staff of Brecon Library for hosting this and future BLFHS meetings. The Library Staff and individual committee members had set up an impressive display of photographs, maps and books, which the attendees browsed while sampling the light refreshments, chatting before signing up for membership. The BLFHS has since received very positive feedback on the meeting, which lasted about two hours.

The New Committee:

Office	Name	E-mail address
President	Owen Forester	
Chairman	Hilary Williams	williams.o.h@ic24.net
Secretary	Alison Noble	anobleajn@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Eirwen Jones	eirwen.jones@live.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Sue Snook	ssnook@talktalk.net
Photography/Publicity	Robert Eckley	r.eckley@btinternet.com
Webmaster / Vice Chairman	John Ball	john@jlb2011.co.uk
Shadow Webmaster	Jennie Williams	starry.jen@gmail.com
Brecon Library Representative	Sally Wheller	
Co-Representative	Rebecca Pugh	

What happens next?

We are most grateful to all who have become members, whether via e-mail, letter or at the inaugural meeting. At the time of writing, the membership stands at 70 persons.

This is *your* Society. Its success depends on the input of the members as well as the hard work of the Management Committee.

Our plea to you all is to contribute to the website. This is where our Webmaster (John Ball) and his very able Shadow Webmaster (Jennie Williams) will display your transcriptions, historical information, anecdotes, photographs, queries and answers and anything else of assistance and interest to other members. Please don't think that what you may have to offer is of no value. Send in your contribution and you can be sure it will be used. We can advise on possible copyright issues, if required.

Our Webmasters are at present developing a section of our website devoted to the Breconshire parish of **Llanafan Fawr**. We ask that you consider offering relevant transcriptions, family history research, photographs, historical information, anecdotes, book lists, etc., to the Society for inclusion on the Llanafan Fawr Parish webpages. Please send your items to the Chairman (contact details at the end of this Newsletter).

The Year Ahead

- **Monthly Meetings:**
Commencing on Wednesday 6th July, we will be meeting at Brecon Library on the first Wednesday of every month (except December).

- **Attending Open Days:**
We attended the Gwent FHS Open Day at Cwibrân on 11th June where we had an excellent reception from visitors and other Societies. We will be manning a stall at the Glamorgan FHS Open Day at Rhydycar Leisure Centre, Merthyr Tydfil on Saturday, 10th September.
- **Who Do You Think You Are? Sessions:**
Jointly with Brecon Library, we will be holding *Who Do You Think You Are?* research days for the general public. Watch for dates and other details on our website and on Brecon Library noticeboard.
- **Shops and Businesses Project:**
Work will soon be continuing on our project to record the businesses and shops in Brecon town during the 20th century.
- **Members' queries and the Website:**
Over the coming months, the Committee will be dealing with Member's research queries and will also be working hard gathering and preparing information for our website and, but we need help from you, too. If you would like to help with our work, please contact the Chairman.

Accessing the 1911 census on Ancestry:

For those of you who subscribe to Ancestry or who access Ancestry at your public library, it is possible to find the census page you require, even though Ancestry has yet to provide a proper search facility. By using a combination of the following facilities, you can find people, addresses and the schedule number which will take you to the relevant page.

1. Copy the following 'Family Search' URL into the address bar on your web browser:
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://hr-search-api:8080/searchapi/search/collection/1921547>
Enter the name of your ancestor together with the enumeration district in which you think the person resided in 1911. A list of people will then be displayed with place of birth added. Find the person and you then have the enumeration district which can be searched on Ancestry.
2. Open a new window in your web browser and copy the following URL into the address bar:
<http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/grouplist.aspx?group=1911uki>
This is the Ancestry search page for the 1911 Census Summary Books. Choose the England or Wales census Summary Books that you want to search. Using the drop-down list, choose the County, Civil Parish and the Enumeration District required. The digital images will then appear and you can search the images to find the names of the houses and the surname of the Head of Household. The number in the first column, to the left of each household is the unique Schedule Number for that household. Since each household in the 1911 census had two pages, you now need to double the Schedule number.
3. Open another window in your web browser and copy the following URL into the address bar:
<http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=2353>
This is the Ancestry search page for the 1911 Census. Using the drop-down list, choose the County, Civil Parish and the Enumeration District required. The digital images will then appear. In the box next to the word '*image*' enter the doubled Schedule Number and press 'Go'. This will take you directly to the Household Schedule page that you require.

The above procedure sounds complicated but it will soon become easier with practice. Remember to have all three browser windows available during your searches so that you can switch from one to another depending on your stage of searching.

A good read

Mistress Blanche: Queen Elizabeth I's Confidante, by Ruth E Richardson, Logaston Press, Almeley, 2007; ISBN 978 1 904396 86 4.

Blanche Parry was the Chief Gentlewoman of the Privy Chamber of Queen Elizabeth I, and Keeper of Her Majesty's Jewels. She was born in Herefordshire's Golden Valley to a noble

family of the March of Wales and had family and land links with the Talgarth and Llangorse areas of Breconshire. As well as the biographical and family interest, the book gives a good insight into life in the Elizabethan period, particularly for the local gentry of the time, in Wales and the Marches.

A good website with further information is www.blancheparry.com/

Please send us the details and a brief review of a local history- or family history-related book that you have found of interest. It need not be newly published.

Snippets from the Press

Old press cuttings with items of Breconshire interest are always welcomed.

Our Website:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wlsblfhs/>

Googling 'WLSBLFHS' will also find us.

Next Meeting:

Date and time: Wednesday, 6th July 2011 at 2:00 pm.
Venue: Brecon Library, Ship Street, Brecon
Speaker: Glyn Powell
Subject: The Castell Du Iron Foundry, Sennybridge

Contribute to the Newsletter:

Please contribute articles, tips, questions and answers for others to share. Feedback on the Newsletter is also always welcome. If you wish to contribute an item please contact Hilary Williams (contact details below)

Contact us:

Hilary Williams, BLFHS Chairman
Maesycoed
39 Camden Road
Brecon, LD3 7RT
Tel: 01874 624432
E-mail williams.o.h@ic24.net