

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



Newsletter 34 – July 2014

Welcome to our Newsletter. We invite you to contribute articles, tips, questions and answers for others to share. Feedback is always welcome. Have you missed an edition? Read the archived Newsletters on our website.

July Meeting Review: “Visit to Tretower Court” about 15 members went to Tretower Court on a nice sunny afternoon. I think most people enjoyed themselves although I couldn't attend as I had a nasty attack of hay fever, so I laid low for the day!!

This month on our Website

This section provides news of recent additions to our website, together with direct links to the relevant webpages. During the past month our webmaster John Ball was away on holiday and has also been recovering from a serious illness. Consequently there have been fewer than usual additions to the website.

Since our last Newsletter (published 16 June 2014), we have added/updated the following:

- **World War I links** – new feature: <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/links-ww1.htm>
- **Members' Interests** – updated for 2014 members: <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/minutes/index.htm>
- **Committee Meeting Minutes** for *June* meeting: <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/minutes/index.htm>
- **Noticeboard** (*General Notices* and details of *Forthcoming Events*): Last updated 10 July <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/noticeboard.htm>
- **Public News Pages**: Last updated 17 July <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/news.htm>
- **Members' News Pages**: Last updated 17 July <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/news.htm>

Check the News Pages every few days and the Noticeboard at least weekly.

If you have difficulty navigating the website, please do ask for help by e-mailing our webmaster, John Ball at john@jlb2011.co.uk.

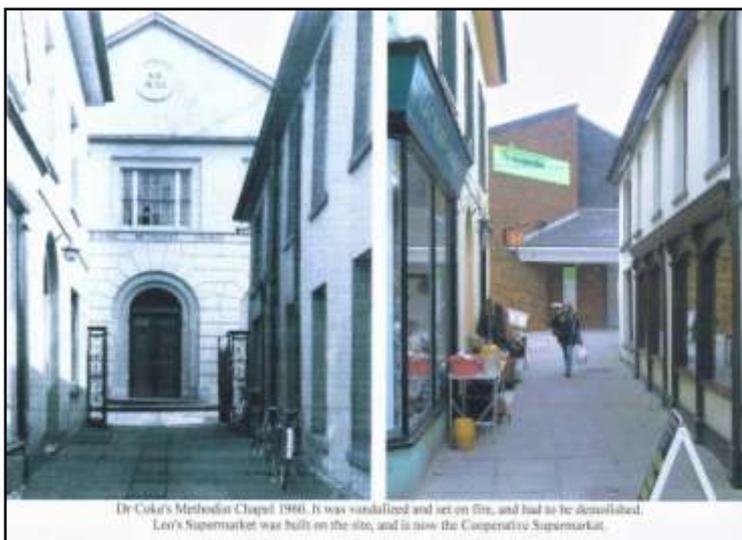
Dr Coke's Chapel, Brecon

During the month of May, the bicentenary of the death in May 3, 1814 of Dr Thomas Coke was commemorated in Brecon, his birth place. He was regarded as the Father of Methodist Missions.

Dr Coke's Chapel – a bilingual Wesleyan Methodist chapel was built in Brecon, on the corner of Free Street and Little Free Street, in 1770 and was refurbished in 1815. The original Free Street chapel has long been demolished and has been replaced by terraced houses. If you look at the houses at that Free Street/Little free Street junction, they are set back and I wonder whether that reflects the footprint of the Chapel.

In 1834, a new Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was built off Lion Street. It cost £2,000 to build. It fell out of use and was provisionally listed in the late 1960s.

In the late 1960s to early 1970s, the Chapel with its contents was destroyed by fire. The site then became a supermarket for Leos and then the Co-operative Society, which it remains today.

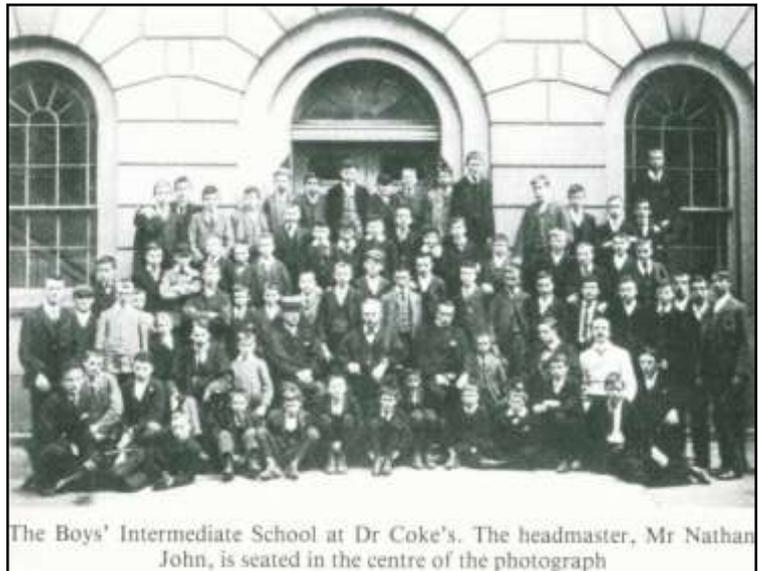


Brecon children, who failed the 11 plus exam, attended Gwernfyed School, until it was decided to base these children in Brecon. Dr Coke's Chapel school room was used as a Boys' Intermediate School on a temporary basis in the middle 1950s. Member Glen Harris attended the school room from 1953 to 1954

and then they transferred to the Plough Chapel Schoolroom until a permanent home for the Secondary Modern children was found.

Thank you to Rob Eckley for the photographs.

If you have more to add to this article, do get in touch and your contribution will appear in next month's newsletter.



The Boys' Intermediate School at Dr. Coke's. The headmaster, Mr Nathan John, is seated in the centre of the photograph

Llywel Church

A PDF format 32-page [Illustrated Guide](#) to St David's Church, Llywel, compiled by Richard Camp that you may find interesting.

Monmouthshire/Breconshire marriages

A Gwent researcher, David Woolven, has kindly sent us details of these Breconshire people found in the Llangibby (Monmouthshire) marriage register:

- Married by Banns 7 Nov 1724 Roger Vaughan, Talgarth, Breconshire and Rebecca Prutherch.
- Married 21 June 1703 David Jones, Exciseman, Brecon and Elizabeth Richard.
- Married by Licence 25 May 1776 Edward Richard, parish of Llangattock Crickhowell, Breconshire and Elizth Lewis of Llangibby. Witnesses: Thos Lewis (signed by mark); Richs Madocks.

NEXT MEETING

Date and time: Wednesday, 6th August 2014

Venue: Brecon Library

Subject: *"Brecon Remembers World War 1"* Over the past year, Steve Morris and members of the U3A have been researching the Brecon men who fell in WW1. A short profile has been prepared for each of the men, including some remarkable stories.

BLFHS WEBSITE: Our website address: <http://www.blfhs.co.uk>

CONTACT DETAILS:

If you wish to respond to or comment on an item in this newsletter, or contribute to the next newsletter or to our website, please contact our Chairperson:

Hilary Williams

Maesycoed, 39 Camden Road, Brecon LD3 7RT.

Tel: 01874 624432 E-mail: chair@blfhs.co.uk