

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



Newsletter 37 – October 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.

October Meeting Review: “*The Tarell Valley linking people and places through time*” by Joe Daggett, the National Trust’s Countryside Manager for the Brecon Beacons and Monmouthshire.

Joe and his team look after the National Trust property across mid and south-east Wales: a total of 26 sites, 16,500 hectares of land, including farms, parklands, woodland mountains and Moorland. Their work includes managing, recording and surveying, access, archaeology, nature conservation, woodlands and buildings and engaging people with this work through volunteering and local Communities. Joe and his team have a workbase on Blaengwyn Farm in the Tarell Valley near Libanus. Joe entertained and educated his audience by taking us on a virtual walk up the Tarell Valley, illustrating the geographical, geological and archaeological features and linking them to the history of the people who have inhabited the valley over the past 3000 years. After the talk, members of the audience were able to examine a range of fascinating archaeological finds that Joe had brought along.

Joe’s slide show is available on the members’ section of our website. From the member’s page, highlight the ‘Resources’ Button and click on ‘Meetings’ from the drop down menu.

Prior to the main talk, Helen Ball (formerly Whyte) gave the latest in her series of short presentations on Family History Resources. On this occasion she broke new ground by using the library’s Wi-Fi service to make a ‘live’ visit to [FamilySearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), the website of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, more commonly known as the LDS.

This month on our Website

Since our last Newsletter (published 15 September 2014) we have added/updated the following:

- **Parish Pages:** added *Garthbrengei* and *Glasbury* (nineteen parishes pages now available) added details of servicemen named on the War Memorial at Upper Chapel (Merthyr Cynog webpages). added transcribed baptism records for Brychgoed Independent Chapel and Trinity Calvinistic Methodist Chapel (Defynnog webpages).
<http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/parishes/index.htm>
- **Minutes:** added minutes the management committee meetings held on 14 Aug and 18 Sep:
<http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/minutes.htm>
- **Monthly Meeting Report:** added a report and slide show of the October meeting:
<http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/meetings/index.htm>
- **Newsletters:** added Newsletter 37 (October 2014):
<http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/newsletters.htm>
- **Noticeboard:** updated 21 Oct <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/noticeboard.htm>
- **Public News Pages:** updated 24 Oct <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/news.htm>
- **Members’ News Pages:** updated 24 Oct <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/news.htm>

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

Help needed! Once again, only two new Parish Pages have been added to our website since the last newsletter because John Ball, who is developing the pages, desperately needs more information and photographs. The next parishes on his list are: Gwenddwr, Hay, and Llanafanfegan (Llanfegan). We are grateful to Robert Eckley for providing some fine photographs of Glasbury and Gwenddwr Churches

If you can contribute any such material, email John at john@jlb2011.co.uk

Please report any problems with the website to our webmaster, John Ball, at john@jlb2011.co.uk

First World War: Newspaper Snippets month by month

This snippet was sent to me by members Mr and Mrs S Roderick, for which I am grateful. It shows how quickly the local population pulled together for the war effort.

Extracts from the Brecon County Times. 1914

15.10.1914. Sennybridge. Patriotic Clergyman . . . The Rev. H.T.A.Edwards, son of Mrs. Bickerton Edwards of Sennybridge, brother of Dr. Bickerton Edwards of Seven Sisters and Rector of Tenby, has been appointed Acting Chaplain of the 4th class attached to that portion of Lord Kitchener's new army under canvas on Salisbury Plain. . .

15.10.1914. Cray. The War. . . Following the splendid effort which was made at the Horeb C.M.Chapel, Cray, in aid of the National War Fund - Belgian Refugees Fund and which realised close on £20, a sewing class has been inaugurated to sew and knit useful articles for our brave soldiers serving both at the front and at home. We understand that one parcel has already been forwarded as the fruits of these ladies' efforts.

22.10.1914. Cray. The War. A recruiting meeting to which all young men, especially farm servants, will be held at the Council School tomorrow (Friday) night when the speakers will include Ald. A.A.Mitchell, J.P. and Mr. Sidney Robinson, M.P. The meeting will also be open to ladies.

29.10.1914. Cray. A report on the recruiting meeting held at Cray . . We are pleased to state that as a result of the meeting the names of four young men, who are in service in Cray, were handed in to be forwarded to the Recruiting Officer at Brecon. In this respect they are setting a noble example to the natives of Cray. . .

29.10.1914. Cray. Personal. Miss Ethel M.Evans, youngest daughter of the Rev. William Evans, late Vicar of Cray has been selected as a nurse to proceed to the front and left for France on Monday. She will be attached to the ambulance train, bringing wounded from the front to the hospital. She received her training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

World War One, a total war. When Britain entered the war on 4 August 1914, Kitchener expected a long war – at least three years. Most people thought it would be “over by Christmas” and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lloyd George, thought it would be “business as usual” in Britain.

In reality, this war would have a profound domestic impact on Britain and its people:

- Massive casualties,
- Conscription for the first time in modern British history;
- Food and other shortages;
- Women entering the male dominated industries;
- Ever-increasing state control of people's lives;
- Greater importance of home produced vital products.

The war would be won as much by the co-operation and efforts of those in Britain as those serving abroad.

Welsh newspapers can be read online at:

- <http://welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk>
- <http://cymru1914.org>

A Word of Thanks

- **The Transcription Group:** I am delighted to report that this group of Society members is doing excellent work for us, by transcribing Bishops Transcripts and Chapel Records for the website. The fruits of their labours are already appearing on the website. They volunteered very quickly following my appeal last June and were up and running in no time. Each member lives in a different part of the country and they communicate with each other and with the Committee by e-mail. I would like publically to pass on the thanks of the Committee and Members for their sterling work.
- **Webmaster:** I would also like to thank our webmaster, John Ball, for all he does for the Society.

Websites

- A very useful source of local and family history is <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>. “British History Online is the digital library containing some of the core printed primary and secondary sources for the medieval and modern history of the British Isles. Created by the Institute of Historical Research and the History of Parliament Trust, it aims to support academic and personal users around the world in their learning, teaching and research.”

Researchers are able to search by region, subject, period, source type and text search. The majority of the information is available for free although for a small annual fee you can access more documents etc.

A good read

- Dan Jones: “The Plantagenets: the Kings who made England”, published by Harper Press, May 2012.
Despite its 600 pages, this book takes the reader along at quite a pace so one never loses concentration. It has been very well reviewed.
Dan Jones has also written a sequel about the Tudors called “The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses and the Rise of the Tudors” Faber & Faber (4 Sep 2014).
This book will definitely be on my Christmas wish-list!

NEXT MEETING

Date and time: Wednesday, 5th October 2014 at 2:00 pm
Venue: Brecon Library
Subject: “*Geographical techniques for family and local historians*”
Roy Davies will return to look at maps and talk about how the history of the landscape can be drawn out of the features shown on paper.

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