



Newsletter 43 – May 2015

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.

May Meeting Review: *Visit to Treberfydd, Llangasty.*

Twenty-nine members and friends, equipped for rain, arrived at Treberfydd House and Gardens on the afternoon of Wednesday 6th May. The visitors were welcomed by our genial host David Raikes of Treberfydd. The party was divided into two groups so that while one group toured the gardens the other group was shown round the house. The tours were enhanced not only by having David Raikes share his considerable knowledge of the House and its occupants over the years, but also by the informative leaflets provided. The afternoon was brought to a close with homemade cakes and tea. Everyone seemed to enjoy the visit and thanked the Raikes family for their hospitality.

This Month on our Website

Since our last Newsletter (published 24 April 2015) we have added/updated the following:

- **Parish Pages:** added *Llanddetti/Llanthetty* (twenty-six parishes now available):
<http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/parishes/index.htm>
- **Newsletter:** added Newsletter 43 (the one you are now reading):
<http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/newsletters.htm>
- **Noticeboard:** updated 10 May with notice about the June AGM, availability of agenda, minutes and postal voting papers: <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/noticeboard.htm>
- **Public News Pages:** updated 10 May <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/news.htm>
- **Members' News Pages:** updated 10 May <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/news.htm>

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

Help needed! The next parishes being tackled are: Llanddewi Abergwesyn and Llandewi'r Cwm. If you can contribute any photographs or textual material relating to these parishes, or if you wish to report any problems with the website, email our webmaster John Ball at john@jlb2011.co.uk

The Raikes Family and Treberfydd

The Treberfydd estate was built and developed under the auspices of Robert Raikes (1818–1901). He was descended from a family with businesses as diverse as banking and publishing. A cousin, also named Robert Raikes (1736–1811), a onetime proprietor of the "*Gloucester Journal*", was a founder of the Sunday School movement.

Whilst at Oxford University, Robert Raikes (1818–1901) was influenced by the Oxford or Tractarian Movement, an Anglo-Catholic movement that advocated the principles of "High Church" within the Anglican Church. This involved reintroducing some of the Catholic practices of the pre-Reformation Church into the Anglican liturgy.

He gave up his connections with the family bank and set out to find somewhere where his family and retainers could live out the principles of the "High Church" in their daily lives and worship.

In 1847, newly married, Robert and his wife Francis found an estate at Llangasty Tal-y-llyn. According to Volume 3 of Theophilus Jones's "*History of the County of Brecknock*" (Glanusk Edition), there was a manor house at Treberfydd that had been the residence of the Lords of the Lordship of Llangasty Tal-y-llyn for several centuries. By the time of Raikes' visit to the area, a "modern" Georgian style house called *Treberfydd Villa* had been there for some fifty years.

Robert Raikes contacted a young architect, John Loughborough Pearson (1817–1897), who had already done some work for him in the Hull area, including a chapel for his grandmother. Pearson went on to become best known for his churches. At Llangasty, Pearson demolished the Georgian villa and built a country house in the Victorian Gothic style.

When Raikes came to the area, the church of St Gastyn, Llangasty was in a poor condition, and without a resident curate. Pearson was tasked with almost completely rebuilding the Church down at the Llangors Lakeside and he designed the interior according to "High Church" principles.

The services held there were to become regular and novel in that there was a surpliced choir, trained by Mrs Raikes, and high standards of music and worship. A small religious revival was the outcome of these efforts. A school and master's house were built next to the church, again in Victorian Gothic style. These are now private dwellings.

Treberfydd's gardens were designed by W.A. Nesfield, an eminent Victorian gardener, famed for designing parts of Kew Gardens, the Witley Court fountain and Castle Howard's South Lake.

Despite the development of the house and other cottages and outbuildings, the estate was too small to provide the income needed for self-sufficiency and when the family bank and other projects failed in the 1860s, Raikes had to seek employment from Glanusk Estate. In the 1870s, the family finally moved away to his in-laws, who lived in Oxfordshire. The house was then rented out and it was not until the 1890s that Treberfydd was once again the Raikes' family home.

It is their descendants that live and work at Treberfydd today.

The property is open to the public, so if you wish to visit or revisit the house and grounds this year, note the following details:

The House will be open to the public for tours of the house from 25th and June 27th to July 10th, with the Gardens open for the National Gardens Scheme charities on June 28th.

Tours during this time will be at 2pm and 4pm and cost £5.50 including a self-guided tour of the estate and its woods and gardens. Homemade teas and cakes are available. All tours are led by a member of the Raikes family.

Visit http://www.treberfydd.com/your_visit/ for more details.

Further Reading

- Brecknock Society: "Brycheiniog" Vol 23 pp 65-74 available as a free PDF download at <http://welshjournals.llgc.org.uk/browse/viewobject/llgc-id:1384193/article/000024099>
- Theophilus Jones: "History of the County of Brecknock" (Glanusk Edition) Volume 3
- "The Church of Llangasty Talylyn" pamphlet available from the church, which is often open to the public.

Memorial Cards

Last month we highlighted an unusual Memorial Card and asked whether anyone had seen anything similar. Many thanks to member Alison Skipper for sending the images below, showing the deaths of Rees Powell and Ann Powell who farmed at *Lloftyardd*, Abergwesyn. The cards are framed and were bought at a sale.



Left hand panel

"He sleeps in Jesus, check thy grief,
The time of absence will be brief,
And that loved voice, tho' silent now
Will greet thee where no tears can flow,
He sleeps in Jesus, at his waking
Of glorious endless life partaking,
That slumbering form shall be restored,
Bright in the Image of the Lord."

Right hand panel

In Affectionate Remembrance of
REES POWELL,
(Lloftyardd,)
Who Died October 14th, 1887,
Aged 54 years.
Interred at Beulah Chapel, Breconshire.
A Light has from the Household gone,
A voice we loved is stilled,
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled."



Left hand panel

"But one thing is needed and Mary hath chosen
that good part, which shall not be taken away
from her."
"WATCH AND PRAY"

Right hand panel

"In Loving Memory of
ANN,
(The beloved Wife of Rees Powell, Lloftybardd)
Who passed away June 30th, 1900,
Aged 65 Years.
Interred in Beulah Churchyard, July 5th."

PLEASE NOTE: Venue for our monthly meetings for the remainder of 2015

As many of you will be aware, the library services in Powys have been cut back. As a result, Brecon Library is now closed on Wednesdays. However, as we had already booked our monthly meetings right through to the end of 2015, the library staff have agreed to open the library for our meetings on the first Wednesday in the month as scheduled (excluding July when we visit Hay-on-Wye). We are most grateful to the library for making this provision. Reorganising the speakers and meetings for alternative days would have caused difficulties.

The main door of the Library will be opened at 1:15pm and will close at 4:15pm. Please do not expect normal library services to be available during these hours: the Library is only opening for our Society meeting. The garage area will be locked so access by the lift will only be available from the ground floor to the first floor.

The BLFHS Committee is currently discussing alternative options for 2016 and will consult with you in due course.

NEXT MEETING

Date and time: Wednesday, 3rd June 2015 at 2:00 pm
Venue: Brecon Library [but note the information above]
Subject: Annual General Meeting, followed by "Hay-on-Wye" by Alan Nichols
This will be an introductory talk as a prelude to our guided tour of parts of Hay-on-Wye in July.

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 at:
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