

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



## **Newsletter 44 – June 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.

**June AGM and Meeting Review:** Our 4<sup>th</sup> AGM was well attended and I wish to thank those who sent in their postal votes and so were counted as attendees. The Chairman's report given at the AGM follows:

### **Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting Wednesday 3rd June 2015**

I would like to welcome all members attending the AGM today. I also wish to thank those members who sent in their voting forms because they were not able to attend in person.

This AGM marks the end of our fourth year as a Society and we continue to make steady progress. I would, as always, like to thank our Management Committee members: Secretary, Alison Noble; Treasurer, Eirwen Jones; Membership Secretary, Sue Snook; Speaker Coordinator, Vi Evans; Transcription Coordinator, Mary Zorkoczy; Photography and Publicity, Rob Eckley; and Webmaster, John Ball with the support of Jennie Williams. Without their dedicated hard work, the Society would not function. Overseeing us all has been our President, Dr Owen Forester. Dr Forester is not so well now, so is not attending meetings. We extend our thanks and best wishes to him for his support and active involvement in our Society from its inception. He remains our President.

We had a full monthly programme during the 12 months since the last AGM, all being well attended. Thanks go to all who attend these meetings, whether members or friends. I wish to acknowledge the work and expertise which Helen Ball brings to her regular 15 minute spot at our monthly meetings. John Ball continues to co-ordinate the audio visual part of our monthly meetings and then uploads these onto our website. I wish to acknowledge the generosity of those speakers who give their permission to be recorded and to have their information put onto the website.

We continue to hold monthly drop-in sessions on the third Saturday in the month at Brecon Library. Members and non-members are welcome to these sessions. We continue to have a very warm and productive relationship with both the Library and the Brecknock Museum and we get involved where ever we can with their projects.

In August 2014, we held our annual publicity and help session in St Gwendoline's Church, Talgarth at the Black Mountain Festival.

In association with the Brecknock History Forum, of which we are a member Society, we took part in the second Brecknock History Week in September. Our event, which was entitled "WW1 on the Home Front – Brecon" was successful and Cradoc Primary School borrowed the files to help their pupils in their studies of WW1.

The Transcription Team have been active for a year. Members Sue Ashton, Jackie Birch, James Hendry, Merry Ibbetson, Mair Meek, Alison Skipper and Mary Zorkoczy, who also acts as Co-ordinator, have transcribed an amazing number of Bishops Transcript and Chapel Record sets. John works with them as they complete a record set and then places the transcription on our website. My description of this does not in any way reflect the sheer hard work and expertise of the transcribers and of John in making these transcriptions available for our members. On behalf of the Committee and all members, I would like to extend a very big thank you to all concerned.

Our membership at the end of 2014 was 97 members. At present the 2015 membership stands at 91 persons.

John Ball with the assistance of Jennie Williams continues to maintain our Society website and I encourage you all to browse it regularly for updates. I would like to point out that John Ball is a lynch pin in our Society and without him, we would not be able to provide the excellent resources on our website, which are available to members all over the world. He spends hours of his time at this task. I think we would all agree that it is an outstanding website, in terms of content and design. Very many thanks from us all, John.

The Committee continues to meet monthly at Bishops Meadow, for our Management Meetings and we also hold periodic Working Meetings where we develop and sort out issues brought up at Management Meetings. As you know, Alison Noble is standing down as Secretary, but she will still attend Management Meetings in her other role as Local History Co-ordinator for the Society. I want to put on record the invaluable role she has played as Secretary for the Society. We really need new members on our Management Committee, so if you are a member who lives locally you would be welcomed with open arms to our happy and productive monthly meetings!

I wish to thank the library and its staff for their help and support over the past year. We are glad to have a warm working relationship with them.

It remains for me to thank all our members for their loyalty to the Society this year and to offer the Society members and our supporters, my best wishes for 2015/16.

Chairman: Hilary Williams

3rd June 2015

Following the AGM, Alan Nichols gave us an illustrated talk, as a prelude to our guided tour of parts of Hay-on-rye in July. He concentrated on the period from the Conquest up to Henry VIII's Acts of Union. Hay, like other parts of this area, was conquered by the Normans and came under the rule of an extended family of Norman Lords as well as English royal rule during this period. This Marcher Lordship, just like its neighbouring Lordships, was affected by English dynastic politics as well as by Welsh politics, with, for example, the raids by Owain Glyndwr.

Alan Nichols is a member of Hay History Group. Their web site, tours site and twitter page are shown below:

<http://hayhistorygroup.co.uk/>

<http://www.haytours.org/>

<https://twitter.com/hayhistorygroup>

Other useful websites:

<http://www.cpat.org.uk/ycom/bbnp/hayonrye.pdf>

<http://www.castlewales.com/hay.html>

<http://history.powys.org.uk/history/hay/haymenu.html>

<http://www.oldsay.co.uk/>

### **This month on our Website**

Since our last Newsletter (published 12 May 2015) we have added/updated the following:

- **Parish Pages:** added Bishop's Transcripts to *Brecon St John* parish pages:  
<http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/parishes/index.htm>
- **Aids to Research:** added a guide to *Old Occupations*:  
<http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/guides.htm>
- **Newsletter:** added Newsletter 44 (the one you are now reading):  
<http://www.blfhs.co.uk/members/newsletters.htm>
- **Noticeboard:** updated 8 June with notice of guided walk round Hay-on-Wye in July:  
<http://www.blfhs.co.uk/noticeboard.htm>
- **Public News Pages:** updated 8 June <http://www.blfhs.co.uk/news.htm>
- **Members' News Pages:** updated 8 June <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 Llanddewi'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](mailto:john@jlb2011.co.uk)

**National Library of Wales Exhibition: Publisher and Plunderer?: Sir John Prise and the first Welsh books** 31 January – 27 June 2015. Free entry

Sir John Prise was one of Wales' foremost Renaissance figures. He amassed a superb personal library of printed books and manuscripts, including the earliest manuscript in Welsh, the Black Book of Carmarthen. He also adopted new technology to publish the first Welsh printed book – *Yny lhyvyr hwnn* – in 1546.

This exhibition will look at the life and work of a remarkable “Tudor Man”, and will attempt to reconcile his cultural interests with his turbulent role of persecuting heretics, dissolving monasteries and pleasing his ruthless task-masters, Thomas Cromwell and Henry VIII. This will be a rare opportunity to view monastic plunder which fell into Prise’s hands, treasures which, for a while, will be released from their chains at Hereford Cathedral Library.

Hilary found this exhibition very interesting.

#### **Interesting Websites connected to this Exhibition:**

Try these sites if you are interested in digital downloads of medieval historic books and manuscripts:

- <https://www.llgc.org.uk/collections/digital-gallery/digitalmirror-manuscripts/>
- <http://www.wdl.org/en/>

Useful transcriptions and translations into English of many of these digitised books and manuscripts can be found at: [http://www.maryjones.us/ctexts/index\\_welsh.html](http://www.maryjones.us/ctexts/index_welsh.html)

#### **PLEASE NOTE: Venue and arrangements for our monthly meetings for the remainder of 2015.**

As many of you will be aware, the Library Service in Powys has been cut back. As a result, Brecon Library is now closed on Wednesdays. However, owing to our prior booking of the Library for the whole of 2015, the library staff have agreed to open up for us as normal on the first Wednesday in the month (excluding July when we visit Hay-on-Wye). We are most grateful for this concession: reorganising the speakers would have caused difficulties.

The Library will be opened at 1:15pm and will close at 4:15pm. Please do not expect normal library services during these hours as the Library will only be opening for our Society Meeting.

The main entry and exit points will be via the garage area on the Lower Ground Floor side entrance in Bell Lane.

Access will be by means of the lift in the far left hand corner:

*EITHER* press for Ground Floor to access the main library floor and then access the Upper Floor via the staircase

*OR* press for 1<sup>st</sup> Floor to enter the upper floor via the staff office area.

*NOTE THAT THESE CHANGES HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER.*

The BLFHS Committee will be discussing venue options for 2016 and will consult with you in due course.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Date and time: Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 at **2:30** pm – duration: about 1 hour.

Venue: Swan Hotel, Hay-on-Wye

Subject: A guided Tour of historic Hay-on-Wye. If you are interested in this Tour, please fill in the booking form and send with remittance for £5 per person, to the address on the form.

PLEASE NOTE: our next meeting at the LIBRARY will be at 2:00 pm on Wed 5<sup>th</sup> August.

**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

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