



# Breconshire Local & Family History Society (BLFHS) Cymdeithas Hanes Lleol a Theuluoedd Brycheiniog Newsletter 82 – November 2018



## Christmas 1918

North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser. 15.11.18  
p.7

### THE WAR. ARMISTICE SIGNED. HOSTILITIES AT AN END.

The Prime Minister made the following announcement through the Press Bureau at 10.20 a.m. on Monday :

The armistice was signed at 5 o'clock this morning, and hostilities are to cease on all fronts at 11 a.m. to-day.

Brecon County Times. 28.11.28 p.3

#### GARTH

Armistice Rejoicings.—Great excitement prevailed here when the news of the armistice came. In the evening Mr Evans, station master, who is churchwarden of Llanlleonfel Church, proceeded there with members of his family and others to ring the bells. This little church is built on a hill, and the peals were heard for many miles away.

#### THE "DEMOBBED."

The War Office announces that from the date of the armistice to noon on Monday 123,107 officers and 2,915,744 other ranks were discharged or demobilised, making a total of 3,038,851.

Cambrian Daily Leader. 23.7.1919 p.1

The Armistice had been signed but the country was still suffering the after effects of a brutal war although the government did try to make that first Christmas after the guns fell silent a more abundant one. Turkey, Goose, Fowl and rabbits were to be sold coupon free between the dates December 16<sup>th</sup> and January 4<sup>th</sup> 1919. The prices per pound were also fixed so that there would be no opportunity for racketeering.

The Christmas cake and pudding was also saved to some extent although currants, sultanas and raisins were in short supply and it was reported that there was barely a quarter of a pound available for each person. The amounts which were available were distributed proportionately to the shops in line with what their sales had been in 1916. This did mean that those shops who had not sold dried fruit before were left out

#### ADDITIONAL SUGAR FOR CHRISTMAS.

It was recently announced that holders of the Child's Ration Book would be entitled on surrender of the Sugar Coupon for the week ending 21st December, to obtain half-a-pound of Sugar in excess of the normal Weekly Ration.

The Ministry of Food have now decided that in lieu of the above special allowance to Children all persons (whether Adults or Children) holding Ration Books shall be entitled on surrender of the Sugar Coupon for the week ending 21st Dec., to obtain a Quarter of a Pound of Sugar in excess of the normal ration for the week in question.

Brecon County Times. 5.12.1918 p4

and there was much discord about the unfairness of this. The sugar ration was increased which meant that sweets and pastries were in greater supply than for a long time. Restrictions which had been in place preventing

	At a rate per lb.		Not exceeding for any one bird	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Cockerels, Pullets, Cocks, Hens ...	2	5	14	6
Turkeys ...	2	5		
Domestic Ducks	2	1	12	6
Geese	1	7		

R. J. RHYS,  
Divisional Commissioner,  
8, Park Grove, Cardiff.

Brecon County Times 29.8.1918

- 150 g (5½ oz) currants
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground cloves
- ¼ tsp grated nutmeg
- 85 g (3 oz) margarine
- Pinch salt
- 300 g (10½ oz) plain flour
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 

bakers from producing crumpets. Muffins, teacakes and light and fancy pastries were abolished and chocolate was on the menu again! Bread flour was also in greater supply and of a better purity than had been allowed during the War.

Fruit which had been almost non-existent during the four years previous began to appear again. Now that the seas were once again safe apples were coming in from the USA costing 9d a pound whilst grapes, oranges and lemons were expected and were to cost no more than 10d per pound and 1s per pound for lemons. A popular recipe used throughout the last year of the war was War Cake, a fruit tealoaf. Here is the recipe taken from "The People's Friend" of January 7<sup>th</sup> 1918.

#### War Cake

- 50 g (5½ oz) sugar
- 150 g (5½ oz) raisins

Place all the ingredients apart from the flour, bicarbonate of soda and baking powder in a saucepan with 300 ml (pt) water and boil together for 3 minutes. Put aside to get cold.

Pre-heat oven to 180 deg. C., 350 deg. F., Gas Mark 5 and grease and line a 900 g (2 lb) loaf tin.

Add the bicarbonate of soda and baking powder to the flour and mix together. Sieve into the cold mixture and stir well.

Transfer the mixture to the prepared tin and bake in the pre-heated oven for 1 hour or until a skewer inserted into the middle of the cake comes out clean.

Outdoor paupers were also included in this Christmas bounty being given an extra 2s each. Inmates of the workhouse would get their usual Christmas meal.

Whilst it would be a sad time for many families there was excitement amongst those who knew their loved ones were safe. The War Office announced that Christmas leave would be given to all those men who had signed up in 1914 and outside of this preference would be given to youths of 18 and men of 40 who were married. A tad random but for those who fulfilled these requirements no doubt it was a happy outcome.

The War would not officially be over until 1920 when the Treaty of Versailles along with the League of Nations Covenant would finally be ratified at 4.15pm on January 10<sup>th</sup> 1920 but for now the guns were silent and everyone looked forward to their first peaceful Christmas since 1913.



### *A Christmas Poem*

#### **A SUNDAY CHRISTMAS.**

An old English poem runs thus:

Lordynges I warne you ale beforne  
 (Lordlings, I warn you all before)  
 Yef that day that Cryste was borne  
 (If that day that Christ was born)  
 Falle uppon a Sunday  
 (Fall upon a Sunday)  
 That winter shalbe good par-fay  
 (That winter shall be good, verily)  
 But grete winds alofte shalbe.  
 (But great winds aloft shall be).  
 The somer shalbe fayre and drye  
 (The summer shall be fair and dry)  
 By kinde skylle, wythowtyu lesse,  
 (By kind skill, without decrease),  
 Throw all londes shalbe peas  
 (Through all lands shall be peace)  
 And good tyme all thynges to don  
 (And good times all things to do),  
 But he that stelythe, he shalbe fownde sone.  
 (But he that stealeth, he shall be found  
 soon).  
 What chylde that day borne be  
 (What child that day born be)  
 A great lorde he shall ge.  
 (A great lord he shall be).

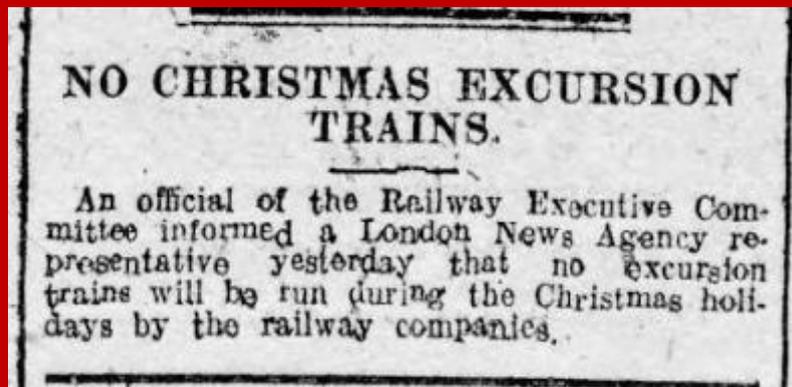
*Barry Dock News. 27.12.1918*

### **UNWANTED CERTIFICATES**

So often we end up with certificates which prove not to be our ancestor. Rather than let them go to waste we are instituting a section each month listing them for the benefit of any member who might be able to use them. If anyone has any they would like to donate please let me know at [editorblfhs@outlook.com](mailto:editorblfhs@outlook.com).

The More things change, the more they stay the same!!

North Wales Chronicle. 13.12.1918



### Free Online Resources

There are lots of free resources out there on the Internet. Copy and paste the web addresses into your browser

### The Peniarth Manuscripts

These are being digitised by the National Library Wales and can be seen online at the NLW website. There are a mixture of items including from the 16th Century, mss of Roger Morris of Coed y talwrn, Thomas Evans of Hendreforudd, Simwnt Fychan, some pedigrees and medical tracts. Most are in Welsh but can be seen and read online. Use this link for a list.

[www.library.wales/collections/learn-more/introduction0/llawysgrifaupeniarth/](http://www.library.wales/collections/learn-more/introduction0/llawysgrifaupeniarth/)



**Don't forget – I am always looking for interesting article subjects so let me know if you have anything you would like to share!!!!**

I am looking for interesting subjects on which to base the monthly article. If you are passionate about a subject which you think would be interesting to our members please let me know by sending me an email at the usual address [editorblfhs@outlook.com](mailto:editorblfhs@outlook.com)

If anyone would like to write something I would be very pleased to receive it – I do find sometimes that the month comes around very quickly so an offering from a member would give me a bit of respite!

## Brecknock History Festival 2018. "People of Breconshire"

The final part of our series.

**Dame Olive Annie Wheeler**  
**4 May 1886 - 26 September 1963**  
**Professor of Education**



Olive was a child of Henry Burford Wheeler and his wife, Annie. Henry was a Printer and in the 1881 census, the family were living at 3, Wheat Street, Brecon, which is next to the Rorke's Drift Inn.

Olive was born in Brecon and attended Brecon County School for Girls and the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. She gained the degrees of B.Sc (1907), M.Sc (1911) and D.Sc in psychology (1916).

She lectured at Cheltenham Ladies College and the University of Manchester and then

moved to Cardiff.

In 1925, Olive became Professor of Education at the University College at Cardiff. She was particularly interested in the use of psychology in teaching methods.



She was chairman of the Welsh Advisory Council on Youth Employment in 1947 and of the South Wales District of the Workers Education Association.

Olive served on many educational committees and councils and was created Dame of the British Empire (DBE) in 1950 for her services to education.



Following her retirement in 1951, she went to Canada on a lecture tour. Her contribution to theories of education was known in many parts of the world through her numerous publications and papers in psychological and educational journals.

She lived at Woodlands, Betws-y-coed Road, Cyncoed, Cardiff. Her death there came suddenly in 1963, aged 77 years.

*Olive Annie Wheeler aged in her mid twenties.*

### **References:**

• *National Library of Wales: Dictionary of Welsh Biography* -  
<http://yba.llgc.org.uk/en/s2-WHEE-ANN-1886.html>

- *National Portrait Gallery for her images.*

<https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/person/mp75871/dame->

[olive-annie-wheeler](#)



### The Beacon

This free A5 monthly glossy magazine distributed in Brecon and its surrounding villages contains a "Your History" column, contributed by the BLFHS, which often offers an interesting article about the area. This month: The Construction of Brecon Cemetery and the establishing of the Ursuline Order of Nuns in Brecon

### The Construction of Brecon Cemetery

By 1856 the Priory Church [Brecon Cathedral] burial ground was overcrowded and it was decided that a separate burial ground should be provided for the Church in Brecon.

A joint burial board [St. John and St. Mary] was elected and the first meeting was held in the Guild Hall in January 1857. The chairman was the mayor, David Thomas, who explained the difficulty in obtaining a suitable site. In October 1857, however, five acres of

Court Farm were purchased from Sir Charles Morgan for £620. The site was approved by H.M Inspector of burial grounds.

The tender made by Messrs Griffiths and sons, builders from The Watton, was accepted. They were to build two chapels, a lodge and entrance gates as well as the boundary wall, roads and pathways within the cemetery site.



On 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1858, Bishop Thirlwall of St David, consecrated the ground allotted to the Church of England.

The construction price of £3,000 was loaned by certain benefit societies of the town and the loan, with interest, had been paid off by 1879.

Brecon Cemetery is the municipal burial ground and is maintained by the Environmental Department of Powys County Council.

### The Ursuline Order of Nuns, Brecon

The order of Irish Ursulines, so-called as it was dedicated to St Ursula, recently celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their arrival in Brecon. In September 1948 six Thurles Ursulines and one sister from Waterford joined two Blackrock sisters to make a new foundation in Brecon. They took over the Convent and St David's School in Glamorgan Street, which had for forty-five years been owned and staffed by the Daughters of the Holy Spirit (also known as the White Nuns because of the colour of their habits).

The Ursuline Order, in which women dedicated their lives to the service of the Church through the education of girls, was founded in 1535 in Brescia by Angela Merici, an Italian religious educator [Painting of St Angela Merici by Pietro Calzavacca]. It is the oldest order of women in the Roman Catholic Church dedicated to teaching. St Ursula was recognised as the patron saint of school girls.

The order opened St Joseph's Primary School in 1950 and the sisters devoted themselves to education and pastoral work. They quickly became a part of town life, but sadly both schools have closed and the community now has only two sisters remaining.



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**Website updates [members only]**

Nothing to report



**November Meeting Review: Show & Tell**

There was no report.



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**Website**

Our website address is [www.blfhs.co.uk](http://www.blfhs.co.uk)

**Facebook**

The society now has a Facebook page. Check it out at [www.facebook.com/breconblfhs](http://www.facebook.com/breconblfhs)

**Next Meeting**

Date/Time: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019. 2pm

Place: Brecon Library

Subject: A Potpourri of Local Subjects  
Short presentations on, for example, “The Thomas Brothers, Brecon Sculptors”; “Brecon’s Railways”



Wishing all our members a

*Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.*

The next newsletter will be January 2019 where-after we are going Quarterly

As always if anyone has anything to contribute please do let me know on the usual email address:  
[editorblfhs@outlook.com](mailto:editorblfhs@outlook.com)