



Breconshire Local & Family History Society (BLFHS)

Cymdeithas Hanes Lleol a Theuluoedd Brycheiniog

Newsletter 55 - June 2016

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 7th June 2016

"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 fifth year as a Society and we continue to make steady progress. I would, as always, like to thank our Management Committee members: Acting Secretary, Alison Noble; Treasurer, Eirwen Jones; 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 could not function.

During 2016, four Members volunteered to attend the Management Committee meetings to see whether they would like to be voted on as full participants at this AGM. They are Ann Voss, Katherine Kelly, Margaret Sommers and Glen Harris. At present, they are shadowing the established committee, but I am delighted to say that all have expressed a desire to become full members of the Management Team.

Dr Forester, our President, is not so well now and has moved to Abergavenny to be with his family, so he does not attend meetings. We extend our best wishes to him and he remains our President.

Our Membership at the end of 2015 was 98 members. At present and therefore half way through the Membership year for 2016, we have 82 Members.

We had a full monthly programme, including our Annual Lunch, during the 12 months since the last AGM and all events were well attended. I wish to thank Helen for her 15 minute spot at many of our monthly meetings. John Ball continues to co-ordinate the audio visual part of our monthly meetings and then uploads those 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.

This month on our website

As well as the regular maintenance tasks to keep our website running smoothly, John has added several new items since the last Newsletter.

Parish Pages

A start was made on the parish pages for Llandyfaelog fach. [Added 9 June 2016:]
www.blfhs.co.uk/members/parishes/index.htm

Transcription Project

New webpage showing status of work being undertaken by our team of transcribers. [Added 4 June 2016]
www.blfhs.co.uk/transcripts-progress.htm

Monthly Meeting

An MP3 sound file of the proceedings of the BLFHS fifth AGM [added 8 June 2016]
www.blfhs.co.uk/agm2016.mp3

2016 Meetings Programme

Programme now complete up to end of the year. [Updated 14 June 2016]
www.blfhs.co.uk/meetings.htm

Newsletter

Newsletter 55 (the one you are now reading)
www.blfhs.co.uk/members/newsletters.htm

Noticeboard

Details of July's planned visit to Talgarth Mill. [Updated 12 June 2016]
www.blfhs.co.uk/noticeboard.htm

Public News Pages

[Updated 16 June 2016]
www.blfhs.co.uk/news.htm

Members' News Pages

[Updated 16 June 2016]
www.blfhs.co.uk/members/news.htm

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. John 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, and the result is an outstanding website, in terms of content and design. Very many thanks from us all, John.

We continue to hold monthly drop-in sessions on the third Saturday in the month at Brecon Library. At these sessions, we focus on helping with family history research and using Library computers. We help both Members and non-members with their research. 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. I wish to thank the Library and its staff for their help and support over the past year. We are very lucky to be able to use this building for much of our Society's activities.

In association with the Brecknock History Forum, of which we are a member Society, we took part in the third Brecknock History Week, last September. Our event, which was themed as "Brecon Schools", was held in St Mary's Church in the centre of Brecon town and proved to be a great success. Many ex pupils turned up and the buzz of recollection was a joy to see and hear. Thanks goes to all those who allowed their photographs to be scanned for the event. Alison and Rob did an excellent job in putting on the display of photographs and other ephemera. I would like to especially mention Rob, who has given hours of his time with regards to publicity for the Society and in preserving aspects of Brecon modern history in the form of photographs. He always provides invaluable support with the projects undertaken by the Society.

One of our Society projects during 2015/16 has been to record the Monumental Inscriptions of Llanilltyd Churchyard near the "Mountain Centre" [Brecon Beacons National Park Visitor Centre]. This was built as a Chapel of Ease for Defynnog Parish Church and was also used for non-conformist burials in the area. It has some very interesting graves and MIs. Thank you to everyone who is involved with this Project, which will be concluded sometime during 2016.

The Transcription Team has been very active again this 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 a variety of Bishops Transcript and Chapel Record sets. Once transcribed, Mary sends John Ball their work and he uses his skill to make them website and research friendly and then places these transcriptions on our website. Again, the sheer effort and expertise shown by all concerned is much appreciated by Committee and Members alike. This successful Transcription team, who do not live near each other, nor in Wales, show that distance from Breconshire is no bar to becoming involved and making a great contribution to the Society. On behalf of the Committee and all members, I would like to extend a very big thank you to all concerned.

We are most fortunate to have a new Newsletter Editor, Sue Ashton. She has just published her second Newsletter and I am sure we all agree that its format, style and content are excellent. We send our thanks to Sue, for volunteering to take on this task, as well as continuing as a member of the Transcription team.

Alison Noble has decided to stand down from the Management Committee having been our Secretary, then Acting Secretary, as well as our local history guru, for the past five years. She is not giving up her membership of the Society and will continue to co-ordinate the Shops Project and will take around the "Who Do You Think They Are" photographs to events and Groups. I must thank her on behalf of the Society and personally for all her hard work and for being so supportive to me in my role as Chairman. Her talents are many: clerical, administrative and of course her talent for, knowledge of and interest in local history. Many thanks Alison, for all you have done to develop the Society.

This month on our website continued

BLFHS Management Committee

Details of 2016-17 committee members.

[Updated 12 June 2016]

www.blfhs.co.uk/committee.htm

BLFHS E-mail Contact Address

Old contact address replaced by new address throughout the website. [Updated 12 June 2016]

enquiries@blfhs.co.uk

Don't forget! Check the News Pages every few days and the Noticeboard at least weekly.

On a personal note, today marks the end of my period as Chairman of the Society and I would like to add a personal thankyou to my colleagues on the Management Committee and to all those Members who have been so supportive to me and of the Society during my period as Chairman.

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 the rest of the year and for the future.”

Chairman: Hilary Williams

7th June 2016

June Meeting Review: AGM

The fifth Annual General Meeting of the BLFHS was held on Tuesday, 7th June at 2:00pm in the training room at Brecon Library. Highlights of the meeting included the Chair's report on the Society's progress in the past year [see main article in this newsletter], and the election of the Management Committee and its Officers for the next twelve months.

Hilary Williams stood down as Chair after a five-year period in that office. She was succeeded by Robert Eckley. Alison Noble stood down as Secretary, to be succeeded by Hilary Williams, Eirwen Jones was re-elected as Treasurer. The remaining existing committee members were re-elected *en bloc*: John Ball, Vi Evans, Glen Harris, Kathryn Kelly, Margaret Sommers, Ann Voss, and Mary Zorkoczy.

The Management Committee would like to thank all those who attended and especially those who sent in postal votes, who were counted as being present on the day.

A sound recording of the AGM is available at www.blfhs.co.uk/agm2016.mp3 as an MP3 file on the BLFHS website.



Help Needed!

The next parishes to be tackled are Llandyfaelog fach and Llanfihangel fechan.

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



Free Online Resources

There are lots of free resources out there on the Internet. Here are some I have come across recently. Copy and paste the web addresses into your browser.

Wales Court and Miscellaneous Records, 1542-1911

These are unindexed images of the Court Records and Marriage Bonds from the National Library of Wales collection. Although not indexed they are divided up into manageable chunks both by subject and place. If you are prepared to browse through the images you may find information useful to your research which is not yet available on the National Library Wales site. For example the post 1837 marriage bonds are not indexed or available for browsing on the NLW site but can be browsed on FamilySearch through the above link. Some of the Marriage Bonds cover dates as late as the 1860's. Not all sections cover Breconshire but there are images for some Consistory Court Papers and Gaol Files as well as the said Marriage Bonds. <http://linkis.com/familysearch.org/pFqGo>

The Brynmawr Wales Genealogy Project

This website was set up by Jeffrey Thomas and is a collection of online resources for those interested in the history of Brynmawr. Brynmawr lies on the northern border of the South Wales valleys but was at one time part of Breconshire.

<http://thomasgenweb.com/brynmawr.html>

Red Cross First World War Volunteer records

Over 90,000 Red Cross First World War volunteer records can now be searched online at the address below. Searches can be made by surname and/or place. Searching for Brecon, for example, will bring up a list of volunteer VAD's either from the region or working at a hospital in the region. If you have people in your family tree who joined the Red Cross during WWI you may find them listed and learn new details about what they did and where they worked during this period. Type the address into your browser as usual. Searches can also be made for Red Cross hospitals in the period.

www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/Who-we-are/History-and-origin/First-World-War



Next Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday 5th July 2016. 2pm

Place: Talgarth

Subject: Visit to Talgarth Mill

We visited Talgarth Mill soon after it opened but since then there have been many additions and changes since then so come along to see why this is one of the most popular visitor sites in the area. There is also a wonderful café to complete your visit! There is a charge of £3.00 (discounted) and free parking in the town centre.

Website

Our website address is www.blfhs.co.uk

If you have any comments on this Newsletter or would like to contribute an article or short piece please contact me. Sue Ashton. editorblfhs@outlook.com