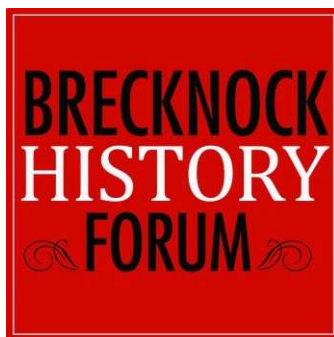




ISSUE 91

February 2026



Editorial

Another stacked issue full of thought provoking history. Try to get to an event this spring and enjoy the history vibe.

Hanes is published every 3 months. The next edition is to be published on May 1st 2026. Please email any articles or information about events etc. with the heading "HANES" to alan.j.nicholls@btinternet.com by April 30th 2026.

Introducing The Forum

ABERGAVANNY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Gill Wakley
Email: wakley76@gmail.com

BRECKNOCK SOCIETY AND MUSEUM FRIENDS

Contact: Tel.
email: libbyrees@gmail.com

BRECON LIBRARY

Tel. 01874 623346

BUILT WELLS & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

Contact: Anna Page Tel. 01982 553376
Mal Morrison mal911@yahoo.com

CHRIST COLLEGE ARCHIVE

Contact: Felicity Kilpatrick
Tel. 01874 615440
archive@christcollegebrecon.com

CRICKHOWELL DISTRICT ARCHIVE CENTRE

Contact: Elaine Wigzell
CDAC, Ty-y-Fro, Beaufort Street,
Crickhowell, Powys NP8 1BN
e-mail:
info@crickhowellarchives.org.uk

CRICKHOWELL & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Clive Ralph
Tel. 01873 810262

CUSOP HISTORY GROUP

<http://cusophistory.wix.com/cusop>

HAY HISTORY GROUP

Contact: Peter Ford
Tel. 01497820676
email: pcf1@hotmail.com
www.haytours.co.uk

HEREFORDSHIRE FHS and POWYS FHS

email: philbufton@hotmail.com
3, Cagebrook Avenue, Hunderton,
Hereford. HR2 7AS Tel. 01432 355723

LLANGAMMARCH WELLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Sue Lilly
Tel. 01591 610792 Email:
llangammarchhs@gmail.com

LLANGYNIDR LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Ann Jessopp Tel. 01874
730431
email: dfjessopp@btinternet.com

LLANTHONY HISTORY GROUP

Contact: Oliver Fairclough
Tel. 01873 890 540
email: oliverfairclough@yahoo.co.uk

LLANWRTYD & DISTRICT HERITAGE & ARTS CENTRE

Contact: Eifion Lloyd.
Tel: 01591610329
email: teplloyd2002@yahoo.co.uk.

LLYN SYFADDAN HISTORY GROUP

Contact: Roger Reese
email: roreese2013@gmail.com
website - llangorshistory.wales

POWYS COUNTY ARCHIVE OFFICE

email: archive@powys.gov.uk
www.storipowys.org.uk/archives
Tel. 01597 826088

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL WELSH

Amanda Rosewarne, Curator
Tel. 01874 613310
curator@royalwelshmuseum.wales

Y GAER – BRECON LIBRARY & BRECKNOCK MUSEUM

Tel: 01874623346

YSTRADGYNLAIS DISTRICT HISTORY AND LANGUAGE SOCIETY

Contact: malcolm-best@sky.com

NEWS AND EVENTS

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

**Alice Thorne, Heritage Officer for
Archaeology, BBNPA**

The National Park Authority is working with Dr James January-McCann of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) to develop the Park's Historic Place Names database and register. This project celebrates and preserves the rich history behind the names of towns, villages, farms, and other local places across Bannau Brycheiniog.

As part of the project, a series of community workshops is planned to begin in February 2026. These gatherings will give local people the chance to share knowledge of place names—everything from old buildings to field names and footpaths—and help build a record that reflects the Park's cultural and linguistic heritage.

The first workshop will take place at Llangynidr Village Hall on 6 February, with further events planned in other communities as the project develops. Everyone is welcome to join, contribute knowledge and help shape this growing resource.

- **Background information on the project:** [RCAHMW | Chwilio Ein Cofnodion | Rhestr o Enwau Lleoedd Hanesyddol / RCAHMW | Search Our Records | List of Historic Place Names](#)
- **Workshop details:** [RCAHMW | Gweithdai Enwau Lleoedd Bannau Brycheiniog...yn cychwyn Chwefror 2026! / RCAHMW | Bannau Brycheiniog Place Names Workshops – February 2026](#)
- **Dr January-McCann's article:** *Casglu enwau lleoedd ym Mharc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog* – Lingo360

This is very much a work in progress, and we look forward to seeing how local knowledge and stories will help shape the Park's place names resource over the coming months.

Brecknock Society

The Sir John Lloyd Lecture 2026

The Brecknock Society's annual lecture will be given by Professor Mary-Ann Constantine of the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies at the University of Wales and founder of the Curious Travellers Project.

2026 SIR JOHN LLOYD LECTURE
Professor Mary-Ann Constantine
Soil & Surface
Looking at Landscape through
Agricultural Tours of Wales

Theatr Brycheiniog LD3 7EW
13 Mawrth/March 2026, 7pm

Am Dim / Free
Archebu yn / Book at:
www.brycheiniog.co.uk
Derbysson Croeso / Donations welcome

Brecknock Society & Museum Friends
www.brecknocksociety.wales

The journals of tourists visiting Wales form a fascinating source for Welsh history, often focussing on the 'picturesque' nature of the landscape. From the late 1700s however, a new sort of tour emerged with a more practical focus: the 'agricultural tour'. In the early 1800s the Board of Trade commissioned Rev. Walter Davies of Meifod, bardic name Gwallter

Mechain, to produce a report on the state of agriculture in South Wales. Walter turned to fellow bard Iolo Morgannwg (Edward Williams) – stonemason, antiquarian, radical, forger and proto-druid – for help.

The accounts of their journeys to collect information are fascinating historical documents and tell us much about moral and aesthetic responses to landscapes, and the people who worked them. Focused on Breconshire, this talk explores this distinctive version of the 'Welsh Tour', and what it tells us about Breconshire both above and below ground.

The lecture will be at Theatr Brycheiniog on Friday 13th March at 7pm. Tickets are free and there will be a retiring collection. Book through the theatre:

<https://theatrbrycheiniog.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873660195/events/128629289/seats>

There will be a warm welcome for all Hanes readers at the lecture and also at the reception afterwards (cash bar).

Builth & District Heritage Society

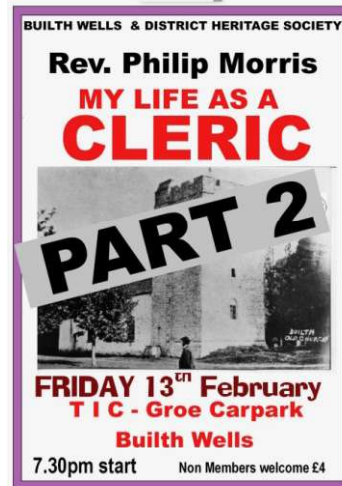
This is our 40th year and we will be announcing later on what form our celebrations will take.

We are managing to stay open at the Centre whilst the HighStreet is closed for a month. It's free for an hour to park on the Groe so that has helped. Thanks also to our dedicated volunteers. We will be open more hours in the Spring now we are the tourist centre as well.

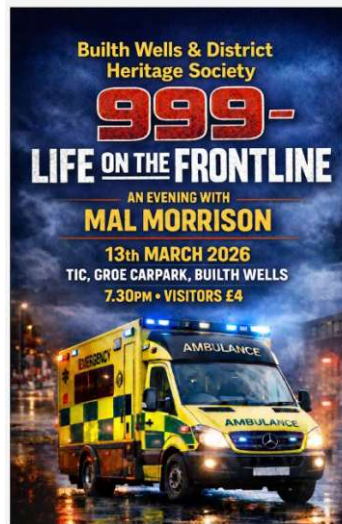


Our members had a great night at our annual dinner in the Greyhound Hotel on January 10th. Great food and good company.

Our next meeting is on 13th February. Rev Phil Morris is giving us part two of his talk. Part one was very funny but also very informative. Phil's a great speaker. His talk will be about the two sides of his family. One side going into the Church and the other having one hung at Brecon jail. All welcome.



The March meeting on 13th will be a talk by our Chairman Mal Morrison about his life in the ambulance service 1986 to 2013. Many changes must of occurred over that time. Lots of anecdotes and stories. Again all welcome.



Crickhowell District Archive Centre

We have recently heard the sad news of the death of Geoff Williams of Llangattock who was a good friend of the Forum for a number of years and a key figure in setting up the Crickhowell District Archive Centre. Living where he did, he took a special interest in the History of farming above 600 feet.

His funeral took place at Llangattock Church on 22nd of January

Hay History Group

Redefining Beauty



**Tuesday 3 March 2026,
7pm Venue: Hay Castle Great Hall**

An evening with actor Maxine Peake, poet Olivia McCannon, and Beauty and Beast illustrator Clive Hicks-Jenkins, hosted by Mari Fforde.

In Clive Hicks-Jenkins' reimagining, beauty is unstable and unsettling — something that flickers at the edges of childhood fear and imagination. To mark the close of the exhibition, this one-off event brings together three distinct voices responding to his work through poetry, performance, and provocation.

Join us in the Great Hall for a dramatic evening of the uncanny, the unsettling, and the unruly.

The exhibition by Clive Hicks-Jenkins in our Gallery will be open from 6pm before the event. There will also be a bar open from 6pm

Hereford Archives

Collections on tour: The Two Emperor Coin

**Monday 2 February 2026 -
Wednesday 4 February 2026.**
2pm - 3pm at Hellens Manor, Much
Marcle, HR8 2LY

Free - please reserve your place at
herefordmuseums@herefordshire.gov.uk

Join Alfred Williams, Collections Information Officer and Mastermind finalist, to hear about his specialist subject, Alfred the Great. He will explore how the Two Emperor coins found with the Herefordshire Hoard reveal the political propaganda that shaped how we view the past.

These small but significant items hint at an alliance unrecorded by history, and offer a fresh perspective on resistance to the Vikings, and the dangerous world of Saxon royal politics.

Meet the Herefordshire Hoard

Tuesday 17 February 2026 at The Yard, 32 Aubrey St, Hereford HR4 0BU
10am - 1pm Free - Drop in event

Step into the vibrant and welcoming setting of The Yard for a special chance to explore the story of the Herefordshire Hoard.

THE HEREFORDSHIRE HOARD

Order food and drinks from Leaven, Burger Shop and The Bookshop while you get hands-on with high quality replicas of these remarkable Anglo-Saxon and Viking treasures, guided by expert curators who will bring the past to life. Enjoy creative crafts for kids and fascinating historic insights for grown-ups

For any questions please email - herefordmuseums@herefordshire.gov.uk

Llanwrtyd Wells and District Heritage

The heritage centre is located in an old Congregational Chapel in Llanwrtyd Wells and has been open to the public since 2016. The centre is open from late March to the end of October on Thursday to Sunday 10am to 4pm, also it is open weekends during November and it is well worth a visit. There is also an art exhibition that is changed monthly. Also we hold 2 religious services a year.

We have had a successful winter programme of talks sponsored by the Goodwin Group, these have included a talks on dark skies, the drovers and Brecon Mountain Rescue.

Future events include a St Davids Day coffee morning on Saturday 28th February and a talk on the Suffragettes. It is hoped to reinstate the art competition this year with the theme 'a wonderful world'. It is also hoped to organise a couple of concerts at the centre.

We say a fond farewell to our manager of 8 years Lynne Brooks who has worked tirelessly and enthusiastically and beyond the call of duty over the years, at a farewell lunch in her honour she was presented with a plant and vouchers. We have appointed a new centre manager Ashleigh Davies and we as trustees and volunteers wish her well in her new role.
Eifion lloyd.

Llyn Syfaddan History Group

You can imagine our shock on receiving the photos of a tree that had come down over our much treasured converted telephone kiosk in Talyllyn. The kiosk was converted into a railway and local history information centre six years ago and continues to receive a great deal of interest from visitors and locals. It is regularly maintained by a dedicated group of villagers who have turned the area next to the kiosk into a n attractive place to stop rest and view the many photographs and snippets of information plus read the many memories that have been written into the memory book which can be found in a waterproof container attached to an adjacent telegraph post.



Fortunately, shock turned to relief on discovering that the tree missed the box by inches and no damage was done to the kiosk, memory book, bench, Signage nor planter!
If you are visiting the Llangors area why not take time to pop into Talyllyn

which was founded as a result of a major railway junction and station, all of which no longer exist, and learn about it by visiting the kiosk.

Our next planned talk takes place on Thursday 16th April at Llangors Communit Hall, commencing at 7pm. Dr Adrian Humpage will be talking about the history and development of Brecon Railway Station. All our talks are open to non members, £3 entrance.

Roger Reese

Website; llangorshistory.wales

email; llnysyfaddanhg@gmail.com

Mortimer History Society

The Society organises a full programme of conferences, seminars, study days and field trips. MHS members enjoy a discount on all events. There are also special interest groups working on palaeography and heraldry.

Saturday 31st January 2026

2.00pm to 4.45pm (join from 1.45pm)

Marcher Miscellany

An afternoon online conference with 3 speakers

14.05 Dr D. Huw Owen

Conflict and co-existence in north-east Wales in the Later Middle Ages with special reference to the lordship of Denbigh.

14.55 Dr Caroline Bourne

The 'Lost' Castles of the Marcher Lordship of Gower

15.55 Tristan Wood
An 'inconstant creature' and the
'nobly born': Gerald of Wales,
Derbforgaill ingen Maeleachlainn, and
Nest ferch Rhys.

Saturday 28th March 2026
Mortimer History Society Annual
General Meeting
Wigmore Village Hall

Saturday 28th March 2026
Spring Soiree. Wigmore Abbey

See website for more info:
<https://mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk>

Powys Family History Society

All our publications are available on
our webshop.
[https://www.powysfhs.org.uk/wordpre
ss/shop/](https://www.powysfhs.org.uk/wordpress/shop/)

Our latest Monumental Inscriptions
publication is the Brecon Chapels.
Price £7 available from our online
shop.

See the full list of Zoom Meetings on
our website under the Meetings tab.
You do not have to be a member to
join the Zoom meetings, just contact
philbufon@hotmail.com for
information.
[https://www.powysfhs.org.uk/wordpre
ss/meetings-by-zoom/](https://www.powysfhs.org.uk/wordpre
ss/meetings-by-zoom/)

Our Next Zoom Meeting is:

Tuesday 10th February 2026 **Philip Thomas – Telling the story of your own Family History.**

I have recently begun a short
storytelling/family history
performance to community groups,
lunch clubs, U3A groups etc which is
based on elements of my own family
history and which is designed to
encourage people to investigate the
stories that exist within their own
families. I wonder if this might be of
interest to your group members? I
have attached a flyer for information.
To be clear, I am a storyteller, not a
family history expert, but the
performance has been well received
so far.

Tuesday 10th March 2026 **Dai Davies. – Research how to simplify and engage the next generation.**

The talk covers topics like 1) pushing
our research beyond names and
numbers to get at the stories, 2)
simplifying the research process to
help us write those stories, and 3)
finding stories that are meaningful to
our loved ones to get them more
interested in our research. I've given
the talk previously for the Society of
Genealogists and the Family History
Zoom Group and there was a lot of
really great conversation afterwards.

Local group meetings are now to be
found on a separate page; all group
meetings are listed here

<https://www.powysfhs.org.uk/wordpress/meetings/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PowysFamilyHistorySociety/>

Phil Bufton. Chairman PFHS
philbufton@hotmail.com

y Gaer

The next Brecknock Society Saturday Morning Talk will be on 14th February, when Charles de Winton will outline the history of the Royal Observer Corps which celebrated its centenary in 2025. He will describe how the ROC operated from a network of underground bunkers, including the monitoring post at Cefn Cantref near Brecon, which he has recently restored.

Sgwrsiau/Talks @ y Gaer

Cantref's Role in the Cold War
Rôl Cantref yn y Rhyfel Oer

gyda/with Charles de Winton

Dydd Sadwrn/Saturday 14 Chwefror/February 11.30
archebu yn/book at: <https://CantrefColdWar.eventbrite.co.uk>

y Gaer Am dim Free. Croeso i bawb All welcome. Brecknock Society & Museum Friends

The talk is titled 'Cantref's Role in the Cold War' and will be held in the Beacons Room at y Gaer at 11.30. The talk is free and booking is via Eventbrite

<https://CantrefColdWar.eventbrite.co.uk>

Sgwrsiau/Talks @ y Gaer

Artefacts in y Gaer
Hay-on-Wye/y Gelli
Arteffactau yn y Gaer

Sgwrs gan/Talk by Alan Nicholls

Dydd Sadwrn/Saturday 14 Mawrth/March 11.30am
archebu yn/book at: <https://HayatyGaer.eventbrite.co.uk>

y Gaer Am dim Free. Croeso i bawb All welcome. Brecknock Society & Museum Friends

The talk on March 14th will be given by Alan Nicholls of this parish, who will take Hay on Wye Artefacts in y Gaer as his subject. Booking for this talk opens on 1st March at

<https://HayatyGaer.eventbrite.co.uk>

April's event on the 11th focuses on Llangors Past and Present. As well as talks on the subject the Time Team replica boat will be on show outside y Gaer. More information will be available on the Brecknock Society website

brecknocksociety.wales/events

Saturday Talks @ y Gaer - Notes for speakers

The talks, which are organised by the Brecknock Society, are held on the second Saturday of the month, starting at 11.30. Speakers usually talk for 40 or 45 minutes with time for audience questions and comments at the end.

We meet in the Beacons Room at y Gaer, by kind permission of Neath Port Talbot College. We are able to use their 65 inch, fixed height smart screen, which connects to a laptop. There will be someone available to help you with setting up the screen and connecting your computer.

The talks usually attract an audience of between 50 and 60 people,

The talks are free and open to all, though Brecknock Society members have priority in booking. They are advertised on Eventbrite and on the Brecknock Society website

<https://www.brecknocksociety.wales/events> as well as at y Gaer.