

## Newsletter No 2: July 2018



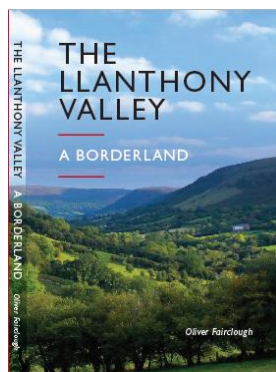
### Cwmyoy Hall talks

John Evans shared his considerable knowledge of John Arnold (1634-1703) and his persecution of Catholics, including the martyrdom of St David Lewis in 1679. A panel of local farmers described the changes that have taken place in farming over the last 100 years or so. Jeff Davies' talk about the Welsh language in the Black Mountains was particularly interesting on place names. Oliver Fairclough described landownership and farming and how these, and the lives of people living in the Valley, changed during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

January	John Arnold's Persecution of Catholics
February	Agriculture in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century – Panel
March	The Welsh Language in the Black Mountains
April	19 <sup>th</sup> Century life in the Llanthony Valley

### Members' research

#### A history of the Llanthony Valley and environs



*The Llanthony Valley: a Borderland* written by our Treasurer, Oliver Fairclough, has just been printed in English and a Welsh version is on its way. The writing and publication has been assisted by various pieces of History Group research and by the Landmark Trust through its historian Caroline Stanford. The book launch will take place in Cwmyoy Hall before the meeting on Wednesday September 19<sup>th</sup>; copies will be for sale to History Group members at a discount due to a generous subsidy from the Landmark Trust.

On July 5<sup>th</sup> Oliver gave a copy of the book to Prince Charles who was visiting Llwyn Celyn to see how the buildings had progressed since his last visit.

#### Schools project

The archive research on Llanthony school (Jenny Francis), Forest Coalpit school (Ann and Mel Powell), and Pandy school (Viv Davies and Judy Hood), has been completed and Jenny is now working on Cwmyoy school. Separate stories for each school will be written using this research, stories from Valley Views over the years, and memories of people who went to the schools shared in Research Days and during the Voices of our Valley videos.



#### Research Days

On March 10<sup>th</sup> Douglas Wright gave us some more education on the geology of the eastern Black Mountains, we did some work on the Schools Project, and a new project about hard winters, including memories of 1947, 1963, and 1982.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> we shared experiences of using the Group's dropbox folder and internet history research resources, briefly discussed the schools project, talked about the proposed History Group walks' leaflets, and heard some stories about the entrepreneurial Blackwell family from Bernard Blackwell, grandson of Charlie Blackwell. Among

other activities Charlie built Cwmyoy Hall, made coffins and ran the bus service until 1935 when it was sold to the Red and White group.

## Walks programme

Wednesday May 30th  
Capel-y-ffin: Monastery,  
Grange and Artists' Walk

Wednesday June 20th  
Forest Coalpit

Wednesday July 18th  
Blaenbwch

Wednesday September 12th  
Ffwdog ridge (led by David  
Austin)



St Mary's Church proved a wonderful location for a showing of the works of the Capel-y-ffin artists: Eric Gill, Edgar Holloway, David Jones, Eric Ravilious, and Reg Gammon put together by William Gibbs and Oliver Fairclough. We also visited the Monastery and the Grange and some of us walked



above the Grange  
to Honeycomb  
Rock.

Our Forest  
Coalpit circular  
walk, led by Jenny  
Parry of Chapel  
Farm, started at  
the Coed y Cerrig  
Nature Reserve,



and with contributions on geology from Douglas and Gerald of Wales from Rosie Russell, took us past charcoal hearths, the Pant, and 'Bishop Baldwin's Bridge', to Pontyspig, which is currently being restored. Following a picnic nearby we walked to Forest Coalpit school where we learned something of its history from Caroline Fairclough and pupil Lawrence Green. We then visited Salem chapel and Chapel Farm (with biscuits) and walked back to the Nature Reserve along the old track from Coed y Cerrig to Old Coalpit and Forest Coalpit.

## Cwmyoy Hall Talks 2018-19 – third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Wednesday September 19<sup>th</sup>

AGM + Caroline Stanford *Llwyn Celyn – the Full Story* (preceded by launch of *The Llanthony Valley: a Borderland* 5.30)

Wednesday October 17<sup>th</sup>

Mari Fforde *Hay Castle – past, present and future*

Wednesday November 21<sup>st</sup>

William Gibbs with local help: *Stories of the Llanthony Valley: a selection of readings*

Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup>

Film Show & Christmas Party: *Voices of our Valley extracts* (edited by Douglas), and, following the Christmas party, a showing of *On the Black Hill* introduced by Jasper Fforde who worked as a cameraman during the film shoot.

Wednesday January 16<sup>th</sup>

Justine Wheatley *Romans in the Black Mountains' area*

Wednesday February 20<sup>th</sup>

Panel (members to be confirmed) *Changes in our local natural environment – past and future*

Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup>

Rita Tait *Recusancy and the Gunter project*

Wednesday April 16<sup>th</sup>

Clive Williams *The history of the local influence of the National Park*

Membership: £10 a household, £7 an individual. Join at a meeting or contact Pip Bevan [pbevan@mokoro.co.uk, 01873 890609]