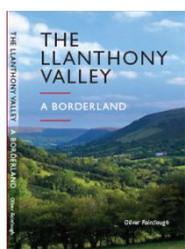


Newsletter No 3: January 2019



The Llanthony Valley: a Borderland, published by the Landmark Trust



This book by Oliver Fairclough, which incorporates various pieces of History Group research, was formally launched in Cwmyoy Hall on September 19th before the AGM. More than 60 people came to the launch, many books were sold, and there was lots of chatting over wine and refreshments generously provided by Oliver and Caroline. Since then the Group's allocation from Landmark of 250 copies of the first printing has been sold and there have been inroads into the second printing, boosted by energetic selling by Jenny Parry. The book costs £10 but joint and single members may buy 1 copy for £5. Contact oliverfairclough@yahoo.co.uk; 01873 890540

Cwmyoy Hall talks

At our *September* meeting Caroline Stanford, Landmark's historian, considered three questions about Llwyn Celyn: Whose land was it built on? How old is it? Who built it and why? And the answers? 'Baranau' (Bryn Arw) was endowed to Llanthony Priory in an 1127 charter from the Lord of Bergavenny. Llwyn Celyn was built in one go with timber felled between 1418 and 1421 and it was most likely built by an aspiring yeoman. In *October* Mari Fforde told the story of Hay Castle originally built in 1198 and currently being restored with the help of an HLF grant, while in *November* William Gibbs with volunteers from the history group shared a set of readings about interesting local residents, many taken from Valley Views. You can read more about these talks in our [Dropbox folder](#).

September	Llwyn Celyn – the Full Story
October	Hay Castle – Past, Present and Future
November	Stories of the Llanthony Valley
December	Films and Christmas Party

Our *December Christmas party* was preceded by a showing of video extracts from Voices of our Valley, expertly edited by Douglas Wright and followed by the film *On the Black Hill* based on the novel by Bruce Chatwin set on the eastern edge of the Black Mountains. After the film Jasper Fforde, who worked as the clapper loader on the film more than 30 years ago, described how many of the scenes were shot using photographs he took at the time.

History Walks

Blaen Bwch and the Carney: July 2018: On this walk we explored aspects of the history of Glyn Bwch, with a particular focus on two residents of the Carney. Reg Gammon (artist and farmer) bought the ruined farmhouse in 1940, re-built it and lived in it until the early 1960s when Tom Maschler, a publisher who brought many famous writers to the Carney and who still lives there, moved in. The walk started with a talk with slides by Pip about the Carney and residents and was followed by a visit to the Carney preceded by a short walk and talk about the interesting local geology by Douglas, a talk by Peter Davies about the Glyn Bwch Valley, and a picnic. Some people walked to a nearby little waterfall and some walked back down to Capel-y-ffin via Pen-y-maes with good views of the Monastery across the valley.

2019 history walks: Wednesday May 15th The Ffwyddog starting from the Pant – led by David Austin; time to be confirmed. June and July – months, dates and times to be confirmed: (1) Cwmyoy to Ty-Hunt-y-Bwlch; (2) Llanvihangel Crucorney including Llanvihangel Court.

Llwyn Celyn

On completion of the building works the Landmark Trust invited History Group members and other supporters to a special tour of the house and outbuildings on the afternoon of the 30th September.

History Group projects: **more researchers needed**- no experience necessary

Schools project: Most of the archive research has been completed and the next step is to use it to write short and entertaining histories of the four schools: Llanthony, Cwmyoy, Forest Coalpit, and Pandy. We need more writers; if you would like to produce a draft pamphlet for one of the schools please contact Pip (details at the bottom of next page).

Snowy winters: This is another project that needs to be written up and possible expanded starting from the memories and other information we have collected, particularly about the winters of 1947 and 1963; are you interested?

New group project: We are planning to start a new project about the **history of the houses and their residents** in the Llanthony and Grwyne Fawr Valleys and Forest Coalpit and Bettws. If you would like to find out more about the house you live in, the people who have lived in it, and their relations with other local residents contact Pip, and if you are free come to the Research Day on Saturday 2nd February.

Individual projects: You may already be involved in exploring the history of a topic that interests you that you might like to talk to others about, and there are endless possibilities if you are looking to start a new project. There are resources and links on many topics in the Dropbox folder which members can access and time at our Research Days for informal chats and presentations.

History Walks leaflets/publication: Since we started our History Walks in 2015 we have designed and walked and (history) talked twelve paths. The stories of these walks can be found [here](#). We have a plan to publish these walks in print and on the website so that other people can follow them. If you would like to be involved in the writing up and re-walking of the routes please contact Pip.

Research Day Saturday 2nd February Cwmyoy Hall

This will start at 10 and finish at 4 but you can come whenever and for as long as you like. If you know you will be coming please tell Pip; otherwise just drop in. There will be tea and coffee and biscuits and cake in the morning and afternoon.

10 am Group and individual projects discussion; **11.30ish** History group archive and publications; **1.00ish** shared lunch (bring a contribution) and informal history chat; **2.00** Memories of houses, residents and family networks – open to all but with specially invited contributors.

Cwmyoy Hall talks Jan-April 2019 – usually 3rd Wednesday of month at 7 p.m.

Wednesday January 16th

Justine Wheatley *Romans in the Black Mountains' area*

Wednesday February 27th *Change of date due to Pantomime*

Panel: Stephanie Tyler (Gwent Wildlife Trust), Jeff Davies, others tbc *Changes in our local natural environment – past and future*

Wednesday March 20th

Rupert Otten *Recusancy and the Gunter project*

Wednesday April 16th

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]