



Looking forward with hope

Events disrupted by Covid-19

As reported in our July Newsletter we changed the order of our 2020-21 programme, organising monthly history walks from September to December using our new history walks leaflets. All but the first of these attracted around 20 participants, some new to the Group. From January 2021 we designed a mixed indoor/outdoor programme, which we will be adjusting to fit with (developing) lockdown rules. In January, given the continued closure of Cwmyoy Hall, the History Group forum on the pandemic has been postponed. We will now hold it at a time when we are well out of it and ready to look back. We will not postpone the February and March meetings until we are sure the Hall will be closed. Meetings we cannot hold this year will be included in the 2021-22 programme.

In the current lockdown, to be reviewed around 8th January, outdoor meetings are not allowed. However, anticipating that they will be, even if the Hall is closed, we are designing three new history walk leaflets which could take us to April. As soon as the Welsh Government permits group outdoor meetings we will set the first date.

Cwmyoy Hall

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| January 20 | Opening Meeting 2021: A special History Group forum
<i>Pandemic in the Valley – Bring your stories and experiences</i> Douglas Wright – Chair
History Walk - as soon as rules permit group outdoor meetings |
| February 17 | Di and Andrea Evans <i>A history of Capel-y-ffin Youth Hostel</i> or History Walk date tbc |
| March 17 | Cath Larkin and Oliver Fairclough <i>Penycae: a cottage on the Ffwyddog; past, present and future</i> or History Walk date tbc |
| April 21 | Eddie Procter <i>Paths to Llanthony Priory: communication networks in the southern Welsh marches</i> |
| May 19 | Rob Gant <i>Voices from the past: the role of oral history in community studies using local examples</i> |
| July 21 | Douglas Wright and Andrea Evans <i>The history of Llanthony Show</i> |

Outdoors

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| June 16 | History walk <i>Trewyn and environs</i> |
| August 18 | John Kenyon <i>Fieldtrip to White Castle and Grosmont castle</i> |

History walks September-December 2020

All Around the Gaer – September

The first walk took place on a lovely September day, but, despite the glorious weather, only six people turned up. One of them was Henri Collings who had grown up in Cwmyoy in the 1930s and 40s but had never been up the Gaer; he especially enjoyed looking at his old house from above. The leaflet offers two walks – the longer one takes in the histories of Llwyn Celyn, the Cwm Coed-y-cerrig road to the Nature Reserve, the Pant, the old Ffwyddog parish road, the Iron Age hillfort with its panoramic vistas, and the ancient greenway around the side of the Gaer.



Capel-y-ffin and Glyn Bwch - October



Outside St Mary's church

On a very wet day the Capel-y-ffin walk attracted sixteen people. Leaflets distributed outside St Mary's church pointed people to the church and nearby Baptist chapel, the Monastery, and the Carney where Reg Gammon and then Tom Maschler lived, and described geological features and the artists and writers who visited Capel-y-ffin. By the Church, and up at the Monastery, History Group chairman Douglas Wright elaborated on some of the leaflet's stories.

Llanthony – November

Twenty-four people enjoyed fascinating tours of the village (Tony Smith) and the Priory buildings (Douglas) and then split. One group followed the leaflet route along the path to Maes-y-beran and then up to the left to the old cottages built by Landor for his workmen. The route passes the Wiral, the quarry and the Siarpâl, descending through the Parks, the Abbey field and the Warren. The others went up to the Siarpâl from the Abbey.



The Siarpâl

Cwmyoy and Blaenyoy – December



Community cider press

Twenty-two of us met in the new Cwmyoy Hall carpark for an introduction to Cwmyoy by Douglas, with most walking across the fields to the village and reconvening at St Martin's church. We learned a lot from Henri Collings who grew up in the village graduating from Cwmyoy School aged fourteen and a number of others contributed memories and interesting historical insights. From the church most people continued up the muddy path to Ty-hwnt-y-bwlch, while a few went on to complete the route around Blaenyoy.

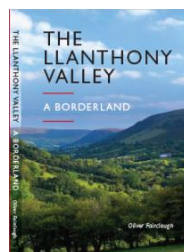
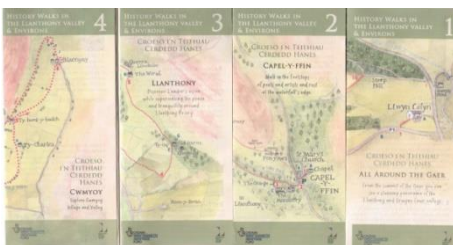
Addition to the website

This supplementary website <http://llanthyhistory.genesis-ds.com/> can be accessed directly or from the main website <http://www.llanthyhistory.wales/>. It currently has a News page and a Publications page where you can download Black Mountains History 2020, the four history walks leaflets, and all past Newsletters.

Publications

History Walks Leaflets

(1) All Around the Gaer (2) Capel-y-ffin (3) Llanthony and (4) Cwmyoy. Designed by Lisa Hellier with text by Pip Bevan. Price £1 each from Pip Bevan pbevan@mokoro.co.uk 01873 890609 and local outlets (in due course).



The Llanthony Valley: a Borderland by Oliver Fairclough

The history group book costs £10

Contact oliverfairclough@yahoo.co.uk;

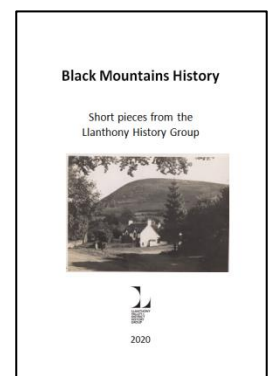
01873 890540

Black Mountains History 2020 – NEW!!!!

This annual production, edited by Caroline Fairclough, is now available. A few hard copies have been circulated and a pdf is being sent to all members and friends with this Newsletter. There are some paper copies available: contact 01873 890540. £1 to non-members.

There are five short pieces:

Oliver Fairclough:	Florence Attwood Mathews at Llanfihangel Court
Pip Bevan:	Snowed in: some memorable Black Mountain winters
Shirley Rippin:	Pen-y-Gadair Fawr – the Highest Forest in the UK
Dick Vigers:	The Case of Jacob Watkins' Will, 1861
Caroline Fairclough	Christine Olsen's Photographs of the Llanthony Valley 1950-55



Join the history group: Free for 2020-21. Join at a walk/meeting or contact Oliver Fairclough or Pip Bevan.