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The Llanthony Valley & District History Group was formed in the autumn of 2015 to promote interest in the history and culture of the Llanthony Valley and surrounding area by sharing information, experience and expertise with other members and the wider world, through research and reminiscences, and by organising events and activities.

Programme of meetings September 2022 – April 2023

Saturday September 3rd Tretower Court and Castle 2.30

Oliver Fairclough *A guided tour of Tretower Court*

Tretower Court, near Crickhowell, was the home of the Vaughans, an important gentry family, from the 1450s to about 1700. It then became a farmhouse, eventually passing to the Ministry of Works in a ruinous state in 1934. This visit, led by Oliver Fairclough, will focus on the post-medieval history of Tretower Court - including the Parry family who farmed here, and the Court's extensive 20th century restoration.

The visit is **free** to members of the Llanthony Valley and District History Group (normal admission £8.50) who have paid their subscription of £10 for the coming year, 2022-3, either in advance by BACS - sort code: 51 61 02, account: 76428850 - or in cash on the day. Non-members: CADW's standard charges apply.

Meet at CADW's **Tretower visitor centre at 2.30.**

September 21st Cwmyoy Hall 7pm

Short AGM followed by Ryland Wallace *Churchmen, Sportsmen and Women Musicians: Revd Thomas Jones and Family of Llanbedr*

The Revd Thomas Jones was Rector of Llanbedr and Patricio from 1860 to 1902. He was a far from conventional churchman, marrying three times and having two sons and five daughters, the lives of whom brought him grief and heartbreak on the one hand and joy and celebration on the other.

October 19th Hay Castle 3.30

Mari Fforde, Learning and Activities Officer *A private guided tour of Hay Castle*

Dominating the town of Hay, the castle has been a Norman fortress, and later a Jacobean gentry house, before becoming the home of Richard Booth's kingdom of books. The castle suffered two devastating fires during the 20th century, and after a decade of restoration, it has recently opened for the first time to visitors.

This guided visit is **free** to members of the Llanthony Valley and District History Group. Non-members and guests: £5.

Meet in the **entrance area at 3.30**

October 29th Cwmyoy Hall 11am-4pm

Research and Memories Day

Sharing of local research and memories by members and friends, including more on our project, *Houses and Families in the Llanthony and Grwyne Fawr Valleys*

November 16th Cwmyoy Hall 7pm

Gill Wakley Abergavenny Market and the Valley

Gill Wakley has done much research on the history and functioning of Abergavenny markets. She will be interested to hear the stories of those whose families' livelihood depended on the Market during the 20th century.

Saturday December 10th Cwmyoy Hall 4 – 6.30pm

Christmas Party

The usual great entertainment and delicious food – more details later.

January 25th Cwmyoy Hall 7pm Change of Date

David Filsell *The Arrival of Powered Vehicles in the Llanthony Valley*

A Daimler made its way to the Monastery in 1901 where it was cursed by Father Ignatius. Through the first half of the twentieth century the arrival of cars, motorcycles, buses, tractors, lorries and vans brought big changes to the way people worked, children got to school, and to everyone's social lives. Here are some reflections of those times.

February 15th Cwmyoy Hall

Panel (members tbc) *The Rise and Fall of Pony-trekking in Llanthony Valley*

In the 1950s farmers and others in the Valley looking for new sources of income discovered there was a demand for pony-trekking. Soon there were six businesses taking treks up both sides of the Valley and one of them was advertising in London using flyers. Demand held up into the 1990s but following a sharp decline most businesses closed in the early noughties. A panel of local people involved in trekking will share their memories and ask for more from the audience.

March 15th Cwmyoy Hall

Dick Vigers *'The Old General': The life and times of Rev. Morgan Lewis, Capel-y-ffin*

Exotic visitors to the Llanthony valley in the 19th century made the attractions of the area known to a wider world; the local community, however, continued to follow a largely traditional, Welsh way of life. Central to this was the chapel and one of its pillars was Morgan Lewis who guided his Baptist flock for over 50 years, eventually becoming one of the 'wonders' of the valley himself.

April 19th Cwmyoy Hall

David Knight *The Three Matthew Knights of Llanthony Abbey*

Between 1873 and 1967 three successive generations of Matthew Knights worked as Stewards of the Llanthony Estate during its ownership by the Landor family. Matthew Knight, Matthew James Knight and Matthew Latham Knight lived in and managed the Abbey Hotel. They married local girls and played key roles in the local community especially in the church and Llanthony School.

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Annual membership is £10 per person due in September; guests are welcome at £5 per event.

Renew your membership or join the Group (1) at a meeting, or (2) pay by BACS - sort code: 51 61 02, account: 76428850 with your name as reference.

More information from the Secretary, Pip Bevan (philippabevan@outlook.com; 01873 890609) or the Treasurer, Oliver Fairclough (oliverfairclough@yahoo.co.uk; 01873 890540)