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Crickhowell's History Man

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Local historian and lifelong Crickhowell resident **John Addis** came to the BBC Wales Bus when it visited Crickhowell in May 2005. Here, he shares his vast knowledge of the town's past and present both in pictures and prose. Articles featured were first printed in the publication, *Into the Millennium* by John Addis.



Toll Gates and Chapels
How 19th century drovers tried to avoid paying their tolls for using local roads - and how they were foiled.



Crickhowell Bridge
The bridge over the river Usk at Crickhowell has seen its fair share of floods and repairs.



Schools in Crickhowell
The cost of attending Crickhowell's oldest school used to be one old penny.



Industry
Agriculture is important but manufacturing has also played a part in the local jobs market.



Crickhowell Castle
Built around the 12th century, Crickhowell Castle was attacked by Owain Glyndwr in 1403.



Addis' Old Photos
A selection of old photographs showing scenes from Crickhowell life in bygone days.

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your comments

john addis crickhowell

Hello Chris Fry Gilwern, A photo of Dan y Park House (Built in the 17th. Cent. demolished in 1956) can be found in Crickhowell Yesterday Vol.1 also there is one of Col. Sandeman the last person who lived thereA small history can also be found in the guide "Into the Millennium" by John Addis
Wed Apr 7 12:33:41 2010

Chris Fry, Gilwern

Does anyone have any photo's of Dan-y-Parc House. Any history of too would be very helpfulKind RegardsChris
Tue Mar 23 13:59:46 2010

Elise Scadding from New Zealand

In response to Alison from DudleyMy father was Sydney Alfred Samuel Scadding and he was married to Freda Hughes in Talgarth in March 1941. My mother was his second wife. Dad was born in Southampton. I would be happy to share further details with you as I am started trying to trace some of my family as we left the UK when I was very young.
Thu Mar 18 11:05:24 2010

Alison from Dudley

My grandad was Sydney Alfred Samuel Scadding and i believe Alfred Scadding may be his grandad. Sydney came from Southampton but married in Breconshire in the early 1940's.
Sat Feb 27 12:03:15 2010

John Addis Crickhowell

Hi Rita Tait sorry about delay in my reply (I always wait for others to reply, not to make it boring for them) I have not got anything on Patricio only some photo,s of the architects drawing of the refurbishment of the Church in 1885 on glass negatives, Photo,s include the famous screen, before & after the refurbishment, the drawing of the font & inscripion, and some of the plans of the church
Sun Feb 21 10:22:36 2010

Guy Bevan 'Glannant' Australia

Have visited Crickhowell. Lots of history of the Bevan Family
Tue Nov 10 10:09:59 2009

Rita Tait Hay-on-Wye

John Addis (Hi!) does your area of expertise extend as far as Patricio & the houses of Tyn y Llwyn (& Tyn y Pant - now a ruin)? I am at present writing up years of research & am familiar with the work of Pam Redwood published in Brycheiniog. Her interest was the house whereas I am a direct descent of the Powells (John & Ann, mid 1800s) via a well documented illegitimate birth in 1846.
Mon Sep 7 14:28:05 2009

D. Wilkinson, of Bungay

I understand my Grandma and Great Aunts were born in Crickhowell, and that the family was connected with a wharf on the river. Grandma was called Windass before marriage and her family was Trew. I would be grateful for any information please. Thank you.
Mon Jul 13 18:40:57 2009

Julia Goff, Hafodyrynys

I would like to find out about Tal y maes farm. I lived there in the early 1960's when my father, Eric Smith managed the farm for (I think) a Major Achers.
Wed Feb 25 10:03:59 2009

Amy Sumner

This is to laurie scadding my graet gradfather was also alfed scadding married to selina, i can not find her maiden name but would like to hear from you to share information.
Sun Nov 16 20:07:37 2008

Tim Raikes, Crickhowell

Does anyone have any information about Sir William Latham, said by Cadw to have built Latham House around 1709?
Thu Sep 11 15:09:16 2008

Roy John Barker

My wife's grandfather was George Whitney a blacksmith in the late 1800s and a resident of Crickhowell. There is a family story of George making some of the railings for Hyde Park in London. Can anyone tell me if this is really the case?
Wed Jul 2 08:59:17 2008

Alvin Morgan

I am researching my family history and found one of my family moved to Llanelly. I have seached the church registers in County hall without much success therefore I am trying to trace them thriugh Chapel records. Do you know who I could contact in respect of finding births, deaths and marriages for the Chapels in Crickhowell/Llanelly.Thank you
Tue Jul 1 16:10:18 2008

Andrew Moir, Alton

I'm trying to acquire a copy of your book but am unsure if it is a single volume or two complementary volumes published in 1992 and 1996 respectively. I'd be grateful for your

advice.

Thu Apr 24 10:57:40 2008

John Addis, Crickhowell

The Hermitage was an old shooting lodge for an estate, and was once owned by a gentleman called Macnamara who had his lover living there he used to ride from Hay on Wye over the mountain to meet her. The site is now ruins, the troops stayed at a farm called Tal-y-Maes further up the valley, the 4th. London Infantry Brigade were there and prisoners of war photos in Crickhowell Yesterday.

Fri Apr 27 09:29:58 2007

Nic, POWIC Project, Derby

What or Where is The Hermitage at Crickhowell. Apparently German PoWs were interned there? Can anyone help with info? Many Thanks

Sun Apr 15 12:15:03 2007

Patricia Hammond from Melbourne

Here is the marriage information for Laurie. Fisher, Susanna Selina Crickhowell 11b 130 Scadding Alfred Crickhowell 11b 130 The marriage took place in the March quarter of 1886. Information from Free BMD site.

Sun Mar 18 12:53:17 2007

Laurie Thomas Scadding caister-on-sea norfolk

I am trying to find my great grandmothers maiden name. I believe she was married in crickhowell in about 1888/9 to my great grandfather Alfred Scadding. Her christian name was Selina. They later lived in Brecon Brynmawr.

Fri Oct 27 16:48:53 2006

Jamelia from Crickhowell

I love this site! There is so much information. I would have chosen to have some pictures of the houses from the 1900s but it's not up to me what this site has on it.

Mon Jul 31 18:06:02 2006

This site is now closed and cannot accept new comments.

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Pen Portrait

Last updated: 27 January 2006

Local historian **John Addis** is a lifelong resident of Crickhowell. Here he provides a pen portrait of the town he grew up in - described by many as 'The Glittering Jewel of the Vale'.



Written by John Addis from Crickhowell

"Described by many as 'The Garden of Wales' or the 'Glittering Jewel of the Vale', very few places could be named with such beautiful words and I don't think there are many who would try and take that honour from Crickhowell.

The bilingual signs as you enter this beautiful town state the Welsh name of Grug Hywel, meaning Hywel's Rock. This of course is the Table Mountain overlooking the town unmistakable with its flat summit (1,486 ft.), believed to have been where the Welsh ruler Hywel Dda held his fortress.

Although this is disputed it was certainly a camp of a Welsh Chieftain called Hywel, and I like to think it to have been Hywel Dda the Welsh ruler. The belief is he never came down as far as Crickhowell. So which Hywel was it? I cannot honestly believe that he would not want such a strategically important valley.

As a Welsh border town the name changed from the Welsh name Grug Hywel to Crickhowell and is favoured today as Crickhowell because of the absence of Welsh-speaking people. But nevertheless, local families can go back many hundreds of years and are very proud to be "Crickhowell Welshman". At one time, all the people living in the valley surrounding Crickhowell seemed to be related to one another - through marriage or direct blood!

Crickhowell lies in the Usk Valley beneath the Black Mountains with the river Usk meandering through its picturesque scenery like a sparkling silver ribbon. Beyond the Table Mountain lies the peak of Pen Cerrig-Calch which is 2,300 feet.

Crickhowell was one time under the Parish of Llangattock. Llangattock formerly included the parishes of Llanelli, Llangenny, Llanbedr, Llangynidr, Cwmdru, Patricio, Brynmawr and Beaufort. Sometime during the 14th century, Crickhowell became a parish of its own.

During the Georgian period, the town centre was completely redesigned. Tower Street was rebuilt in 1850 (its old name was Bailey Street). Before Tower Street was built, there used to be a road at the back of Ivy Towers, then up the alleyway by the side of the Dragon Guest House.

Of great historical interest is a street leading off the centre of town, named Standard Street, so called because it was here that Sir Richard Evans raised his standard in 1485 and with

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three thousand men marched to assist Henry Tudor (Henry VII) and shared his victory on Bosworth Field.

In the 18th century, High Street was known as Cross Street and the centre of town was known as High Cross. Another street that ran from the town centre was Barriance Street believed to have ran from the centre of town and then towards Porthmawr. The road that runs from Porthmawr to the river bridge, (known as New Road) and then on to Llangynidr was built in c1830.

Bridge Street leads up from the bridge and used to be the main street that led from the old ford. The road still runs by the side of Bethabara Chapel and leads across the river then across a field to the Legar; and is still a public right of way. The houses in Bridge Street are mostly 18th and 19th century and they're used to be a "Pound" house at No. 4. The lower end is still prone to floods and the flood bank and walls that were built in the late 1960s were breached in 1979, causing a considerable amount of damage.



On October 24th 1998, heavy floods again caused considerable damage to local properties, mainly on the Legar and to the Bridgend Public house. The reason for flooding more frequently to the Legar side could be the flood defence on the Crickhowell side pushing all the flood water over to the Legar side.

The bow-fronted windows are still on some houses in Bridge Street and I remember No. 11 at one time a shop. No. 12 Bridge Street was a blacksmith shop but if you take a close view of the gable end at the side entrance, you can see evidence of an arch, perhaps belonging to a place of worship.

In 1890 a new town hall was built and opened in 1892. The hall was called the Clarence Hall after the visit of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, who laid the foundation stone to the building. The Duke stayed at Glanusk Park during his visit to Crickhowell.

Run by a management committee for the local council, the hall has been used for many different occasions but I think the most memorable was as a cinema that was held on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Matinees were also held for the children on a Saturday morning. Building work to the hall took place in the 1980s when a new roof and new floors replaced the old.

During the year of 1886, a building in Beaufort Street was rebuilt and called the Percy Davies Institution. It comprised of a Library, Coffee Tavern, Reading Rooms and Recreation Rooms. By a codicil in her will, dated 1900, Mrs Percy Davies of Porthmawr (who survived her husband and died in 1903) left the house and premises in Beaufort Street and Standard Street known as Queen Coffee Tavern, with all furniture, stables and yard that joins the main building, upon trust for the people forever, to carry on the named institution known as the Queen Coffee Tavern.

In 1996 the stables were sold off and the money invested and in 1971 the Library was moved to Silver Lane. Many of

the books that were kept in the library at the Queen's Coffee Tavern were sent to the Brecon Library. Of most interest was



the collection that belonged to John Andrew Doyle of Pendarren House, Llangenny. He left in his will part of his valuable collection of books to the people of Crickhowell and part to Brynmawr Library. Eventually, the Doyle collection ended up at King Edward VIII school

Abergavenny. Crickhowell's new library in Silver Lane was found to be too small to house the books, and no one else would take them.

In the early part of the 19th century, Crickhowell was granted the right to hold three fairs annually. They were to be held in the main street on the 1st of January, 12th May and the 31st of August. Sadly the tradition is dying out and the fairs seem to come only once a year and sometimes not at all.

Market days were on Thursdays and Saturdays, also held in the main street, today there are only a few stalls selling vegetables and bread in the market hall and the street market has completely disappeared.

Just after the Second World War, two new council housing estates were built. There were thirty semi-detached brick houses at Dan-y-grug, sixty-five prefabricated houses and ten brick houses at Ffynnonau. In the late 1950s and running into the 1970s, a new council estate was built at Brynant, housing 48 families.

In the middle of the 1960s, a new housing estate started on the site of Pregge Farm with 174 families in private houses, and in 1973 a new housing site started on the old bowling fields at Brecon Road with 93 families in private houses. A new site started in the 1980s called Derwen Fawr on fields under Oak Road, housed 28 families. I have mentioned these because of the size and numbers of people involved, but many more houses have been built around the town. Castle Road and Upper House Farm have new sites. The new site at Upper House was built for people who wanted to work from home using computers. It is known as a "Tele Village", the first of its kind in the UK.

The population of Crickhowell has virtually doubled overnight. The 1999 Register of Electors shows a total of 1,819 people in the district of Crickhowell."

Article written by John Addis

- [Read more about the history of Crickhowell...](#)

your comments

Joanna Hemmings from Pinner

I have traced part of my family tree and have gone as far back as the 1841 census. My great-great-great grandfather, Joseph Meale lived in Bridge Street, Crickhowell with his 3 children, eventually moving to Mill Street by 1851. His 3rd

child, Thomas Meale (my great-great grandfather) lived in Crickhowell all his life, Printers Lane/Silver Street and eventually High Street. I understand a female relation ran the coffee tavern. My great-grandfather, Charles Meale was killed on the railways when my grandfather, another Thomas Meale was in his 20s. My grandfather was a massive rugby fan and played in Wales, not sure if it was for Crickhowell or Abergavenny. I believe there is a Meale pew in one of the local churches. I think I should like to visit the area one day

Caroline Dancey, Gilwern

Dear John, My fiancé (Michael King) has recently been given a couple of your books, which show photographs of his family back in the 18 and 1900's. He has not been able to put these books down as he has found them fascinating. The reason for sending you an email is that we were wondering if it is possible to obtain copies of these photos of his family. At this moment I do not have the exact photos that we are interested in, but that is not a problem. I hope you are able to provide us with some information. We look forward to hearing from you. %0! DKind regards, Caroline and Mike

D Delves from Sydney Australia

Clutching at straws, here: - are there any Powell families there, who are missing a son/brother/uncle Charles Glendower Powell, b. 1830? We understand that at 18 he "jumped ship" in Australia (although there are a number of C Powells who arrived as assisted migrants). Any clues at all most welcome!

London

Can we have more information on Margaret Powell who I know was an acclaimed nurse during the Spanish Civil War with the British Medical Unit (SMAC) 1936-1939. Being the last British nurse to leave Spain in 1939. Margaret Powell received one of the highest awards in Republican Spain.

Shirley Kendall, Australia

Dear John, I was wondering whether there are any photos extant of Dany Parc before it was demolished and whether you could tell me anything about the estate. A distant ancestor, Edward Kendall, owned the place and we have visited St Catwyg's Church and seen the family memorials. Edward's second wife was Elizabeth Bevan nee Phillips and I believe she may well have been buried in St Edmund's Cemetery in 1848 with her first husband, William Hibbs Bevan. If you have anything you would like to share, I would be most grateful. Thank you.

Ruth MULLER

My mother, Lily Margaret Powell, later Lesser, was born at the Cym Farm, Llangenny, in 1913. In 1937, after qualifying as a nurse in London, she was one of the very few Welsh women to go to Spain, where she served as a nurse with the Republican forces right until the very end of the war.

Geoffrey Baker, Sandy, Utah, USA

John Addis; Dear John I was wondering if you knew anything about a contingency of Belgian soldiers stationed there during the second world war?

Janet Trestrail Australia

Three generations of my ancestors lived in Llangattock (as watertenders and agricultural labourers.) From letters written by them to Australia (a snapshot of life in Wales before, during and after World War 2) they were a very happy and

healthy lot and my research so far indicates that they would have absolutely NO reason to leave such a beautiful place.

Marianne Morgan Golden from New Jersey, USA

I have recently been researching my Welsh family and found that my 2nd Great-Grandfather moved from Llanbadarn Fawr, Cardiganshire to Crickhowell sometime before the 1841 Census was taken. He was Isaac Morgan, a blacksmith and he lived at 2 Tower Street. He was married to Maria Phillips, who was born in Crickhowell. I have traveled to Wales several times, but only recently discovered where my family came from. What a lovely town in one of the most beautiful parts of the world! I would enjoy hearing more about the area and hearing from anyone who has any knowledge of the Morgan or Phillips families. I look forward to "coming home" one day soon. Marianne Morgan Golden

Mr Smith, Crickhowell

I have been wondering if there has ever been an archaeological dig on Table Mountain. Surely there is a lot buried beneath that rock. It would also be interesting to see some old illustrations of what the fortress on Table Mountain might have looked like.

Joseph Gent, Franklin pa

I visited your town in sept of 1971 and spent three days there. I still remember it as one of the best times in my life. I was met with kindness and hospitality wherever I went. I walked along the canal, drank and ate well at local places. I stayed two or three nights at the home of a local woman and her family. As I recall her husband was hard of hearing and their home was a few doors down from the hostel. Her father took me over to Ireland and even paid my way on the ferry. These were good people, the very best, God bless your town.

This site is now closed and cannot accept new comments.

Lock-ups, Toll Gates and Chapels

Last updated: 24 November 2005



Read more about the fascinating history of Crickhowell written by lifelong town resident **John Addis**. Here he discusses the heritage of various public meeting points...

Written by John Addis from Crickhowell:

Police Stations, Lock-ups and the Market Hall

"According to Jones History of Brecknock, Crickhowell had a lock-up in 1814. The market and town hall was built by the Lord of the Manor, the Duke of Beaufort in 1833/4. The architect was Henry Wyatt. The cells were believed to be at the rear of the market hall.

The upper rooms were used as a magistrate's courtroom until the late 1980s. During the early part of the 19th century the cells for prisoners were removed from the magistrate's court to leasehold premises in New Road, (now No. 4 New Road). They were used in the New Road premises until the year of 1878. Now a private dwelling, the present owner has refurbished the property and has sympathetically kept the old cells intact.

A new police station was built at the top of Bridge Street in 1877/8 and was demolished in the middle of the 1960s to make way for a more modern one built on the same site. The station is still used today and the builders were J. G. Thomas of Abergavenny.

The Toll Gates

An Act of Parliament was passed to widen and repair roads in the Brecknock County. This resulted in all main roads being "Turnpiked". First introduced in Monmouth in 1755, the South Wales "Turnpike" Act governed main roads of South and Mid Wales, until the establishment of County Councils. The roads were then purchased by the County and the turnpike gates removed. By 1895 the last official tollgate was believed to be in Anglesey.

Tollgates in the Crickhowell district were on either side of the entrance to the town. Approaching from Brecon, the tollgate was situated opposite Glanant, where now stands the Bevan memorial drinking shelter. The tolls from the tollgate went to the parish of Crickhowell.

Before you entered Crickhowell, on the Brecon side of the town and outside the Tollgate, stood two cottages with the White Hart Inn between them. Today the cottages and inn are one (as a public house).

The story goes that the tollgate at this point so annoyed the

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drovers and smallholders that they started crossing the river Usk by a ford below Glanusk Farm, which resulted in the non-payment of tolls. But at a parish meeting held on the 26th April 1838, with W R Stretton in the Chair, "it was resolved that the Surveyors of the Parish do forthwith make application to Her Majesty's Justices in Petty Sessions to stop the highway leading to the ford".

This was obtained and on the 26th July 1838 at a Parish meeting, Joseph Bailey was asked if he would purchase the road, as he owned the adjacent land. The valuation for the road was set at £45. Mr Bailey doubled the sum and agreed to pay all expenses for stopping the road. This resulted in no short cut to the town, making every traveller and drover pay to use the tollgate.

On the other side of Crickhowell, as you enter from Abergavenny, the tollgate was situated opposite the present day Elvicta industrial site. The field behind was known as "Tollgate field". It was in the Vale of Grwyney Parish, so the tolls were paid to the Grwyney parish.

A third tollgate was on the Crickhowell to Gilwern road opposite the top entrance to Dan-y-Park. The present day road has been altered and the existing cottage which was the old tollgate, is set back off the road. In the 1880s William Addis, my great-grandfather was the gatekeeper at Dan-y-Park tollgate.

Another tollgate stood on the cross roads by Ty Llangenny farm. Mr. David Rumsey from Ty Llangenny farm mentions that his great uncle remembered the old stone shelter that housed the gate keeper, and the field is still known as "Toll Gate Field".

Chapels & Churches:

There were five known chapels in the Crickhowell area. The Wesleyan chapel in Tower Street was built in 1851 and closed in the 1960s. Today the building is a garage for a haulage company.

The Welsh Methodist chapel in Lamb Lane was built in the early 19th century. The chapel had a completely Welsh-speaking congregation. Closure came just before the Second World War and the chapel lay empty until the middle of the 1950s when it was turned into a garage for cars to park. In 1997, planning was given to turn the building into a dwelling.

Dan-y-castle Presbyterian Chapel in Castle Road was built in 1805 and is still very strong in its worship. In 1960 when I was working on repairs to Dan-y-Castle Chapel, I found an old Sunday school register. It was thrown out with other rubbish that was to be burnt in the old boiler house. The register is quite tattered but goes back to 1859 and up to 1886. Parts are written in Welsh.

Bethabara Baptist Chapel at the lower end of Bridge Street was built in 1840 and still has a strong congregation. Baptism still takes place in the River Usk by the side of the chapel. Evidence can still be found at 6 Castle Road of an old chapel but little is known about it.

There is also a Catholic Church on Brecon Road, which still has a strong congregation. The church was built in the 1930s and is known as St. Joseph's. The building attached to the

church used to be a school and later became a convent for nuns. It is now a private dwelling. The house next door was built on the site of a domestic garage and was built after the church. The priest's house was across the road opposite the church.

The Evangelical church was started in July 1976, nine years later (1985) they moved to a permanent address in Silver Lane. The services are held in the modern building behind the Market Hall. (The building was first built to house a Health Centre for the County in the 1950s). I thank Mr Robert Davies for this information."

Article written by John Addis from Crickhowell.

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your comments

Ann Shaw from Scotland

You mention the toll gate at Ty-Llangenny Farm. I was brought up there. My father, Jack Rumsey , farmed there, and his son my brother took over. Then in due course his son took over and sold it . Today it has been converted into four upmarket dwellings.

Mon Feb 9 15:05:36 2009

John Peters, Saxmundham

John. In your article, you mentioned the Dan-y-Castle Presbyterian Chapel at Crickhowell. During some recent research into the 'Christopher' family at Cwmgu, Cwmdru,I discovered a reference in the IGI (Internation Genealogical Index)to the baptism of James Christopher, son of William and Sarah Christopher, at the Dan-y-Castle Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Crickhowell on 7th. May, 1829. Would I be correct in assuming that the Calvinistic Chapel became the Presbyterian Chapel at some stage?

Sun Dec 21 11:17:35 2008

Nick Quine Bath UK

John, I believe your great grandfather mentioned above as the tool keeper at Dan-y-Park, was my great great grandfather. I found this article when researching my great grandfather, also William Addis.

Mon Jan 21 15:36:27 2008

Michael Godel, Portsmouth

To Anne-Louise Halliday in Australia. In the 1851 census Mary Ann Matilda Walters is listed with William and Elizabeth Ready in Brecon. She is described as their niece. Elizabeth's maiden name was Walters and she was my Father's maternal grandmother's paternal grandmother! We must be related!

Mon Dec 3 08:18:03 2007

Philip Bailey from Crickhowell

John, for some reason you didn't mention St Edmunds when discussing Chapels and Churches in Crickhowell.Although I'll grant you the last decent priest we had was Rector James, St Edmunds is still the largest church in the town

Fri Nov 2 16:04:35 2007

Jean Rogers Crickhowell

Billy Ellis was my grandfather and I remember him and Eddy

with their coal lorry very well!
Tue Apr 3 09:57:52 2007

Anne-Louise Halliday

Hi, viewed this info as my g.g.g.granfather was a Thomas Walters from crickhowell. He married an Ann also Walters I believe. His daughter's birth certificate (Mary Ann Matilda Walters) in 1838 says that Thomas was a shoemaker living at New Bridge Street. Anyone reading this who has Walter's rellies from Crickhowell please send a comment. regards
Anne-Louise (Australia)
Mon Mar 26 16:51:56 2007

John Addis Crickhowell

I remember Eddy, Bill Ellis daughter is married to John Williams Now living in Llanbedr
Mon Mar 5 10:26:20 2007

Mark Powell

Hello, can anyone from Crickhowell remeber my granfather Eddy Powell the coal merchant working with Billy Ellis both from New Road
Sat Feb 17 17:57:36 2007

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Crickhowell Castle

Last updated: 24 November 2005

Local historian **John Addis** writes about the ruined castle that lies at the heart of Crickhowell. The castle was attacked by Owain Glyndwr in 1403 and was probably abandoned in the same century.



Written by John Addis from Crickhowell:

"The castle as you enter the town from the east can be seen from the A40 road, which is on the route of an old Roman road from London to Fishguard.

Alisby, who was a knight serving Roger Mortimer (a Norman), once held the castle in its early days and the castle is named Alisby Castle after him. The Turbervilles held the castle in the 13th Century, but Lady Sybil Turberville, heiress to the estate, married Sir Grimbald Pauncefote and this resulted in the Pauncefote's running the castle.

Reputed to be built in the 12th century, the castle was attacked in 1403 by Owain Glyndwr (true name Owain ap Gruffydd, son of Gruffydd Fychan, descendant of Bleddyn ap Cynfyn, Prince of Powys) and was believed to have been abandoned in the same century.

The collapse of the structure and robbing of the stone by locals to build most of the surrounding properties has left only the remains of two towers, one circular and one rectangular. Part of the rectangular tower collapsed during the First World War.

The grounds in which the remains of the castle lie, were a camp for the Indian Army during the Second World War. Information which my father, Trevor Addis, gave me during my youth, states that earth moving equipment was brought in and the ground was extensively moved around, to give its present day shape.

The tower that stands in Tower Street was one time thought to be a drum tower that belonged to the castle's curtain wall, but research has found that it is a folly. Also the stone window mullions and the tower were reputedly taken from Llanfair Chapel and built into its structure.

The ground in which the castle stands is now a recreation ground. The ground was given to the people of Crickhowell and surrounding areas by a gentleman called Mr James of Llanwysk House, Llangattock, to honour the death of his son who died in the Great War of 1914/18. Renovation work to the remaining part of the castle was completed in September 2001 by Cadw."

Article written by John Addis from Crickhowell.

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- **John Addis' Old Crickhowell Photos...**

your comments

john addis crickhowell

The castle might not have been rebuilt but it certainly helped the building of a lot of the dwellings around the area, (With the stone that came from the ruins,) locals did not just leave it to waste they used it for building material, ready dressed stone was hard to come by. Some good examples can be seen if you know where to look.(lintels over ingle nook fireplaces are the best examples a couple of ton in weight)
Sun Dec 27 18:14:02 2009

Jon From Blaenafon.

This castle although very little remains, is a tribute to the welsh fight for freedom. An english held castle in wales, brought down by Owain Glydwr in his revolt of 1403 never to be rebuilt. A lasting reminder of a welsh hero's fight for freedom.

Thu Mar 20 09:16:40 2008

Megan Davey from Abergavenny

My grandmother lives in crickhowell and in tower street too! i am doing a project on crickhowell castle and this was a huge help.

Sun Nov 5 12:40:50 2006

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Crickhowell's Industrial Heritage

Last updated: 24 November 2005



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Agriculture has always been a mainstay of the local economy but other industries have also played their part in providing gainful employment for the people of Crickhowell. Local historian **John Addis** takes a closer look at the area's changing jobs market.

Written by John Addis from Crickhowell:

"Crickhowell's industry has been mostly agriculture. Sheep farming in the surrounding hills has played a part for hundreds of years. Some of the farms have also produced milk and beef, with a small amount of crops. This can be said for almost all of the outlying farms in the districts of the Crickhowell area.

Throughout the years, the local shops have also played a part in employment. Other valuable employers have been the local mansions in the area - when most families sent their children to enter into "service". This meant that the employee lived in the house of employment and received a small wage with their keep. Butlers, maids, gardeners, coachmen, carpenters, masons, cooks and many more professions. This was a valuable source of employment until the demise of the large house.

After the Second World War, a lot of unemployment in the area heralded the arrival of the Elvicta Cabinet and Tool factory. Its parent factory was in Cannock near Birmingham. The factory was set up under the Distribution of Industry Act and was built in 1950.

In the 1950s, the factory employed 100 workers. As the labour in Crickhowell was unskilled, skilled workers from Birmingham were brought in. Houses at Ffynnonau Council Estate were allocated to nine skilled families from Birmingham.

Elvicta produced builder's levels and various tools for the building industry, radio cabinets, industrial cabinets and some household furniture. The factory closed in the late 1970s. Today the building is used for a distribution factory for frozen food.

The canteen, which is separate from the main factory, used to hold dance evenings. During the 1950s the famous jazz player Acker Bilk appeared there. The worker's children also enjoyed Christmas parties for many years. Today, the canteen is a veterinary surgery.

During the early 1980s in the grounds of the Elvicta factory, small factory units started to be built, resulting in an industrial area employing a small number of people.

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Another employer who started in Crickhowell just after the Second World War was a company called Wendy Boston, who made soft toys. The company started its business in a room behind the Britannia Inn.

The business rapidly expanded and moved to the Drill Halt in Castle Road and then to Abergavenny. Many local people from Crickhowell followed for employment. Today the business has finished but can still be remembered with great affection by local people.

Forest Crafts who were at Glanusk Sawmills employed many local men and women, making period furniture and other wooden products but ceased trading in the late 1970s.

Quarrying has been part of the local industry for many hundreds of years but has now disappeared. The last quarry being at Llanfair Lane, also known as Vaynor Quarries Ltd, the parent company was at Merthyr. The quarry at Crickhowell closed in the late 1960s.

The building industry has produced many skilled craftsmen in the area and has been a good source of employment. Another source of employment after the Second World War was a factory at Marl Pontypool. The factory made nylon and was known as 'The British Nylon Spinners'.

Workers travelled by bus every day. In its heyday, the factory employed 7,500 people from all over South Wales. Later, the factory was sold off to ICI and is now owned by a company called Dupont, making other goods as well as nylon. The factory only employs 130 people.

A good employer used to be the ammunition factory Glascoed, Pontypool. Again, buses were run on a regular basis to take employees to and from work from Crickhowell. The factory is still there but only employs a small amount of people.

Ebbw Vale steel-making plant at one time employed 12,000 - 15,000 people and was one of the largest and modern steel-making plants in Europe. They employed a vast amount of people from Crickhowell but after the steel-making plant closed (1999), only a handful of workers have survived from Crickhowell."

Written by John Addis

- [More articles by local historian John Addis...](#)

your comments

Gregory Pegg

I recently found an old Elvicta level about 30 inches long made of mahogany w/ brass plates. Any info for me?
Wed Dec 3 14:58:59 2008

Elaine Weaver, Kent

My father in law, Robert George Weaver, was born in Crickhowell on 07.01.1921. His father, George Henry Weaver, was buried in the churchyard in October 1921, aged just 28, following pneumonia. My father in law says that he owned?/worked in a garage in Crickhowell but that it closed

after his death. His widow remarried a farmer (Griffiths) and the farm possibly stayed in the new family for 2 more generations. My father in law emigrated to Australia after WW2, working on sheep farms, married there but then returned to England in the 1970's. I'd be interested in obtaining a copy of your book for my father in law, especially if there is any sign of the garage - I've not seen anything on the web yet!

Tue Oct 23 08:15:19 2007

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Crickhowell Schools

Last updated: 24 November 2005

Local historian **John Addis** writes about the town's education system - from the earliest recorded classes to the opening of the High School which ended the need for local children to travel to Brecon for their lessons.



Written by John Addis from Crickhowell:

"The oldest school still standing in Crickhowell is said to be the one in Lamb Lane. No records can be found but it is said by some of the older inhabitants that it cost one penny (in old sterling money) to attend. The building became a builder's yard and is now a private dwelling.

Other schools in Crickhowell were mainly private. Two of them were Ivy Towers in Tower Street and the Catholic Church, Brecon Road. Opposite St. Edmunds church is the old church school, built in 1855. In 1878 the National Society took over the school, which was then known as the National School.

In 1955, the school was taken over by the county and closed in 1966. The headmaster's house was sold for a private dwelling and the old school rooms were then used as a storeroom for local removal contractors. In 1991, the church diocese at Swansea sold off the old school rooms for a private dwelling. It is now under refurbishment (2005).

The 1870 Education Act made it compulsory for every child to attend school. This saw a vast increase in the number of children attending the National School which resulted in another school in Crickhowell. The site was at Brecon Road and the school was known as the "British School."

The introduction of the "eleven plus" again saw a change. A Secondary School was necessary in Crickhowell. A site next to Preggee Farm was acquired and in 1936, a new secondary modern school was built for pupils who failed the eleven plus. This saw the end to the old "British school" as the main school.

The British School building was kept open for pupils of the secondary modern to be taught different crafts such as carpentry and metal work. The old British school building is owned by Powys County Council, but a group called **Arts Alive** and "Crickhowell Weavers" have taken over the lease of the building. In 1999, a lottery grant was awarded for renovation work to the building and the work was completed in April 2000.

The pupils who passed the eleven plus exam had to attend Brecon and Brynmawr Grammar schools. The county provided transport but in the 1970s, the introduction of comprehensive education saw the end of the Eleven Plus and the Secondary Modern School became an infant school. All the pupils at the

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age of eleven and over were sent by bus to a school in Brecon.

In 1983 a new High School was built on the fields near Porthmawr. Viscount Tonypany (the late George Thomas MP) opened the new High School in October 1983 and the first headmaster was Mr Roger Davies. The opening of a new High School saw the end of pupils having to travel to Brecon and now Crickhowell has an excellent junior and high school."

Written by John Addis from Crickhowell.

- [More history articles by John Addis...](#)

your comments

Bonnie Derrick (nee Price), Bristol

How nice to read John Addis' history of Crickhowell Schools. I was a pupil at the Secondary Modern School from 1942-44 and can clearly remember Mr Beynon, the Headmaster. I previously attended Llangynidr Infant and Junior Schools, which were eventually demolished and houses built on the site.

Fri Feb 6 09:24:05 2009

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Old Photos

Last updated: 19 February 2007

John Addis has devoted a great deal of his spare time to documenting the history of his home town. Sample a selection of some of his Crickhowell photos collected through the years. These photographs were first published in the book, *Crickhowell Yesterday* by John Addis.



Family Wedding Photo

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John: "A typical wedding in 1898. A. J. Addis marries Rose Thomas."

your comments

Lorraine Ellis Cwmbran

does anyone know the ellis family who lived in crickhowell , my father raymond ellis helped make the zebra crossing outside the bear hotel
Tue Mar 2 09:20:37 2010

Jules Shropshire

Trying to locate my mums family her dad was stan john allen from crickhowell gwent born 1916 he had brothers william noel percy sister connie that we know of.
Thu Jan 14 09:44:27 2010

Nicola Clyne from Weymouth

My grandmother Mrs Mynlan Edmund lived at no 7 Tower Street from c. 1939 to 1978. She taught at the primary school from 1939 till 1957 and had many friends in Crickhowell and had taught members of most families living there! We stayed with her often, and lived there for 6 months in 1957. My brother and I used to play with Robin Manley (see message above) and I would be interested to hear from him again. I visit Crickhowell several times a year and absolutely love it there. Lovely to see the photos, are there any of the primary school teachers/schoolchildren out there? I bought the 2010 calendar with old photos and really enjoy looking at it. I have also bought the book.
Fri Jan 8 10:18:25 2010

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Robert Manley (Robin)

Hello John I don't know if you remember me. My dad was Joe Manley the blacksmith and my mum ran the Youth Hostel. I met you a couple of years ago while waiting for a chinese take-away. Anyway I promised you some pictures of Mrs Dennis and Roger, which I've finally dug up. (sorry it took so long) There's also one of my father dressed as a tramp at the tug-of-war, and one of him with Mr Townsend who used to live in Tower Street. Please send me your email address and I'll scan them in for you. All the best, and I'll say hello the next time I see you in Crick.

Mon Nov 23 09:31:48 2009

M Edwards, from Aldwick, W Sussex.

I am trying to find anyone in Crickhowell that knew Alf (Alfred Edwards who was with Flo) if anyone has information please contact me.

Thu Oct 8 10:04:42 2009

Pauline Eden Glos

my grandmother Mary Morris farmed Gilfach farm for 50 years and the family owned some other farms - I would like to know more about the change of hands of these farms .

Mon Aug 31 15:38:45 2009

John Addis Crickhowell

to Heather Taylor Agnes Jones (ne Thomas) is sat on the right of the bride Rose Thomas, left looking at the photo of wedding

Sat Aug 1 17:53:46 2009

John Addis Crickhowell

For old photos of Crickhowell I sell books called Crickhowell Yesterday on Ebay. This will help to answer questions which many people ask on this site about places and family

Tue Jul 28 09:00:36 2009

Pamela Blake Hampshire

Dear John Addis, My Ancestors were toll gate keepers in Wales. One of the toll cottages they operated from was in Brecon Road, Abergavenny and the other at Bridge Toll Cottage, Glangrwyney. I have a faded photo of the Glangrwyney Toll Cottage but was wondering if you have any photos of this toll house and/or the Brecon Road Toll house? If you have I would love copies of them. Regards Pamela Blake

Mon Jul 13 18:44:56 2009

Heather Taylor, Worcestershire

Trying to contact Mr John Addis regarding first photo of the wedding of A J Addis and Rose Thomas, tracing Thomas line in family history and have come across a Rose E Thomas in census return of 1881, daughter of William and Mary, and wondering if you have any more information on the family, and whether this could be THE same Rose Thomas, if so her younger sister Agnes was my 2 x great grandmother, so desperate for any info!!

Sun Jul 5 20:16:43 2009

Carolyn Arthurs, Caldicot

I believe my great grandfather was a police man in Crickhowell at the beginning of the last century. His name was Jarrett. Do you have any information about him? My grandmother was born at the police station I believe in 1898.

Wed May 27 19:56:18 2009

Jules Hall

I am looking for a black survice man who was in wales in the year of 1945I only have my mothers name and his name.Can any one please help me.I can give you more info, if needed!

Sun May 17 21:04:44 2009

geoffrey ferguson from hawkwell essex

I lived in Crickhowell from August 1939 to Feb 1946,attended St Edmund's Church School and Brecon Grammar. I recall the night the Indian Army arrived, it was a frosty and moonlit night.The account by Mr Addis sadly omits mention that the cavalry and the artillery also set up camp in Llangattock Park.There was a cookhouse in the yard behind the Britannia pub.The HQ was set up in the old Glanusk House, which they virtually wrecked.One member of this force died and was buried in St Edmund's Churchyard.I lived at 19,High St in the flat above that which is now Nicholls Dept. Store, in those%! 20days used as a military blanket store.

Thu May 14 15:39:49 2009

Michael Philip Catania from manchester, ct usa

This is a really great picture of my uncle Philip. I am trying to do more research on his plane and was wondering if anybody knew where i could get some. My Father made my middle name after his brother Philip.

Fri Feb 27 10:35:25 2009

Angela Moyls Summerland, B.C.

do you know if there are any photo's of the Bailey family who lived in Glanusk in the 1840's? My husbands great great grandmother Margaret Bailey married James Greenfield 22 June 1839. I would love to see a picture of any of the family. I would also like to have a picture of Brynderwen the family home of the Greenfields. Any leads would be greatly appreciated.

Sat Feb 7 17:16:48 2009

Trevor Addis

Looking for family in Crickhowell

Wed Jan 28 10:21:38 2009

Ruth, Bristol

do you have any information on the history of the old cottages attached to the gliffaes hotel (i believe they are now used as staff quarters)

Wed Jan 21 14:09:18 2009

John Billingham, New Forest

Help required. Could anyone tell me if there was a Albion Inn or Britannia Inn in Crickhowell probally dating from the mid 1930's, there would have been a Frank and Charlotte Billingham as Landlord & Landlady. They later lived in Ty Gwyn which I believe is now a Guest Hotel.

Fri Nov 28 12:14:00 2008

Gill Head from Maidstone,Kent

Hello John, I love looking at the you photographs, can you tell me if there is a photograph of my grt grandparents Richard and Ann Lewis' bakers shop which was next door to the CornExchange on the 1901 census. On the same census my grandparents Richard and Catherine Lewis are shown living at 9 Victoria Terrace next door to John and Ann Addis,could it be that members of your family were neighbours of my family? My father Horace was born at Victoria Terrace in 1906.

Mon Nov 3 09:37:29 2008

Ross Pocknell, Abergavenny

Hello John like the photos of my great grand parents and love the photo of you in the football team.

Mon Nov 3 09:24:45 2008

John Billingham, New Forest

My father worked in the Bear in the 1930's he was an errand boy and would run errands for staff and customers alike. He told me it was a lucrative pastime.

Fri Oct 10 15:27:17 2008

Lloyd Pocknell from Abergavenny

hi John is that my great great grandparents? I would like to know more about them (please right back).

Mon Jun 30 10:03:58 2008

Ann Thomas from Loughborough

Hi John. I loved your photos especially the one of the 'Honey Cart'. I lived with my Grandfather William Baker in Langattock and we had to close all the doors and windows when it was time for the cart to call and empty the buckets. Our big treat was to walk to Crick to the wonderful ice-cream shop that was there then.

Wed May 14 09:07:35 2008

Dave, Hereford

Any one know Mr Hodges the owner of a garage in the 30's 40's 50's?

Mon Apr 7 09:47:46 2008

Audrey Coggins Liverpool

Hi John Loved your pictures. In the 1851 Census my Gr Gr Grandmother Margaret Jones is listed as being an Inn Keeper but it doesn't say of what just the High Street Do you know of any records of any other pubs or was the Bear Hotel the only one? I am hoping to pay Crickhowell a visit soon and would be grateful for any help

Thu Mar 6 16:53:28 2008

Jan McCann from Adelaide Sth Aust

I have thoroughly enjoyed looking through your photos... What a beautiful part of the world you live in... I would dearly love to visit.. maybe one day... My motive for writing.. I have been tracing my Ancestors... I would love to find out about my GGGrandfather: he was a Wesleyan Minister Lewis Williams... He lived and preached in Crickhowell 1847 - 1850... Is the Church still standing... the carpark/housing? I know I am asking a lot... but to find my Ancestor lived and breathed in your City... another thought.. must be a few "rellies".. plenty down under!!! In appreciation.. Jan..

Tue Feb 26 14:45:47 2008

Patricia Woolfall, Andover

Hi John, my sister is Val Havard, meet you after so many years at Sally's wedding, great to see pics of Crickhowell Val did say she would get me your second book remind her plea.

Sat Feb 16 16:43:05 2008

Derrie Edge from Hereford

Hello John. Yes I know Dante Gates his mother is the youngest sister to S/SGT Philip Catania Radio operator to B.17f Flying Fortress Ascend Charlie. Dante's mother Camilla Gates is a tremendous help in the in depth research on the aircrew. I also want to gain any local information and yes I know father was at the crash site of 16/17 September 1943.

Mon Jan 28 08:00:14 2008

Josephine Wanstall from Bracknell

My great great grandfather, William Richard Clarke ran a Draper shop in the High Street, Crickhowell in 1851 then in 1861 in Beaufort Street. Has anyone any information or photos around this period in time that can help me with my family history researches?

Thu Dec 13 16:08:46 2007

Ross and Lloyd

Your pictures they are brilliant...

Mon Dec 3 08:30:37 2007

David .J. Haydon.

Dear John Addis,I have just returned from a holiday at Glanusk Park Estate,and would like to purchase your book intitled Crickhowell Yesterday. Itis the write up and especially the pictures that are of interest,what periods, dates from and to are covered? And I am very interested on all matters regarding the estate in general.Please advise your email address so that we might talk, and any other useful information.Many thanks,

Sun Sep 9 16:06:44 2007

P Tedder , Surrey

Hi, if there are any photos of the Glanusk Estate I would love to purchase a copy my mother in law was born in Cross Keys and her father worked on the estate in 1917. His family lived and worked on the estate up until the 1960's at least.

Thu Aug 30 09:13:00 2007

H

Do you have any information on Knights Mill and The Laundry that are on the just along the road from the entrance to the Estate? Do you know of names of the people who lived there?

Thu Jul 19 15:24:42 2007

Vicky , Harding New Zealand

Dear John Addis, I have an old photo of my ancestor Mrs. ADDIS standing outside the row of houses she owned in Victoria Terrace near the bridge in Crickhowell. Please contact me also I would to buy a copy of your book.

Tue Jul 3 09:39:52 2007

John Addis, Crickhowell

Hi Richard, please email, Regards John

Fri Jun 29 12:45:53 2007

Richard from Gilwern

John. I am researching the wartime activities of US troops in the Gilwern to Crickhowell area during 1943 to 1945. Do you happen to have any photos of any military nature from this time ??Thanks, Richard.

Thu Jun 28 17:42:21 2007

John Addis, Crickhowell

I am sorry Sophie Jackson that you are upset about the photo of the dancing bears. Certainly you are correct that this type of cruelty should be stopped. But this is a photograph concerning social history. This is a photograph that shows what went on. The Gypsy's made a living and people that tuned up to watch were as bad as the people who used the bears in this way. Perhaps our own grandparents and great grandparents were there. Thank god this does not happen any more in the civilised world.

Mon Jun 18 10:58:47 2007

Sophie Jackson, Stockton-On-Tees

I think making bears dance is cruel. First they slaughter their mother take the cubs illegally from the wild, pierce a hole in its nose so they can put a big metal ring in it, rip out their teeth and claws all without anaesthetic, then they tie string on the ring through its nose and pull on the rope to make it stand on its hind feet! It's cruel, inhumane and should be stopped!

Thu Jun 14 09:46:29 2007

Ian Jones

Do you have any photographs showing the front of Upper House Farm? Thanks

Sun May 27 19:28:35 2007

Rhiannon Rees from Abertillery

I recently found out that my great, great grandfather, James Edwards, was gamekeeper at the Glanusk Estate in 1881. If anyone has any pictures of the Estate at this time I'd be very grateful.

Tue May 22 08:12:05 2007

Marianne Morgan, Golden, New Jersey, USA

Dear John, I enjoyed seeing your photographs, especially of the Bear Inn. The 1851 Census lists my 2nd Great-Grand Uncle, Thomas Morgan and his wife, Lettice, living next door to the Bear Inn. He was a blacksmith. Can you tell me where I can obtain a copy of 'Crickhowell Yesterday'? I am preparing a family history and think it would make a nice addition to my files.

Wed May 16 09:51:33 2007

john addis crickhowell

Crickhowell Yesterday can be bought from me at NP8 1RB.

Tue Mar 6 14:10:12 2007

Paul from Crickhowell

I am the owner of Cwrt Y Gollen Lodge, 1 mile East of Crickhowell. After Cwrt Y Gollen House was burnt down, its gate lodge was converted to a fishing lodge. I would like to hear from anybody that stayed in the lodge in those days, especially if they have photographs of the building - interior or exterior.

Tue Jan 23 09:47:06 2007

S. Williams, Monmouthshire.

I would like to contact Vicky Tagg from Lincolnshire, about her mum Elizabeth Jones. My sister has been trying to contact her for many years. I would also like Crickhowell yesterday V.2

Sun Jan 21 12:29:48 2007

Linda Kent-Taylor, Welwyn

I have seen a copy of a family photograph taken in Crickhowell. The Williams family of Twynbleant Brynmawr on a visit to Crickhowell. I have been told you may have the glass negative. If so have you any idea of the date it was taken. It would help to try to sort out family members.

Wed Oct 11 09:32:09 2006

Derek Homfray-Davies

The news from Paul Foley concerning Edward Cox Davies of Cwrt y Gollen has enabled me to abandon a four year search. Many many thanks.

Tue Sep 5 09:21:28 2006

Derek Homfray-Davies- Glastonbury

I have been visiting family graves across S Wales. Am delighted to see photo of Cwrt y Gollen House - it's a first. Have emailed the Crickhowell archivist group.
Tue Aug 29 11:03:35 2006

Francis Sans from Carla-Bayle (France)

I am very intersted by the old photo of John Addis No.6, Dancing bears in Crickhowell. I think that they are French Bears displays. How can I get a reproduction of this photo?

Wed Aug 2 09:39:06 2006

Vicky Tagg from Lincolnshire

My mother, formerly Elizabeth Jones, was born and raised in Crickhowell. We have Crickhowell Yesterday v1 but are unable to get v2 anywhere. Can you help us as she is desperate. I believe there is a picture of my great grandfather in army uniform, my great uncle Harold in some sports teams and my mother in some school photos in the book.

• **Can you help?**

Thu Jul 27 10:23:08 2006

Jennifer Morgan Saundersfoot

Hello John The photos are great Have you any more of the family? I am your cousin Jennifer Aunty Claras granddaughter Regards to Ann
Mon Mar 27 03:14:54 2006

Gwynner from Milton Keynes

Trying [and getting very frustrated]to trace anything in relation to the Hansfords who I believe lived there in Crickhowell until after WW2, does anyone know anything?
Fri Jan 27 09:57:37 2006

john addis crickhowell

Hello dante gates virginia usa you say you are a nephew of the crew would it be the flying fortress crew regards DJA
Mon Jan 16 16:22:08 2006

John Addis, Crickhowell

Many hundreds of photos can be seen in the book 'Crickhowell Yesterday'. The glass negatives are held by me.
Fri Dec 16 16:21:16 2005

Dante' Gates from Virginia,USA

Hullo John, Thank you for the picture. Take care. A nephew of one of the crew
Mon Nov 21 21:30:00 2005

This site is now closed and cannot accept new comments.

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The Bear Hotel

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

John: "The Bear Hotel. Mrs Amabernethy, the landlady, looking at a 'local fisherman' sat in a tin tub. The photo was taken c. 1900. It appeared in a local newspaper and the caption that appeared with it said that locals wanted their own fishing and boating on the Usk, but were not allowed, so the next best was this!"

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Glan Usk Park House

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

John: "Glanusk Park. Built in 1826. The architect was Robert Lugar who also built Cyfartha. The ground plan is the same as Maeslwch Castle. Glanusk Park House was demolished in 1954. There used to be a life-sized statue of Wellington housed there."

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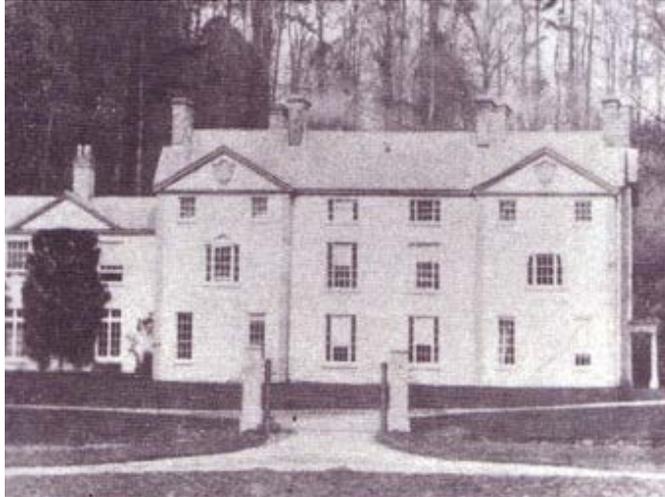
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Cwrt-y-gollen House

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

John: "Cwrt-y-gollen house. The estate belonged to the Morgan family and was then passed to the Davies family who kept it for approximately 150 years. It was bought by the Sandeman family from Dan-y-parc in 1891 at an auction. Very sadly, it was burnt down when workmen were working there about 1911. The military took over in the 1939-1945 war when it was used for an American camp. The army formed the Welsh brigade depot there in 1960, but closed it as a full time camp in 1986."

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The 'Honey Cart'

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

John: "A horse drawn tanker outside the Vine Tree Pub. The tanker was known locally as the 'Honey Cart'. It used to empty and collect the toilet waste. William Rumsey can be seen in the photograph handing out some home brewed beer."

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Dancing bears in Crickhowell

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

John: "1910, dancing bears were a common sight at this time. These two were outside Wards the seed merchants. The bears were later taken to Brynmawr to perform. One of them went beserk and ran up the street."

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A Royal Visit to Crickhowell

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

John: "His Royal Highness the Duke of Windsor, addressing the people of Crickhowell at the monument, 1925."

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Crickhowell AA Box c. 1928

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

John: "1928 - AA Box. Mr Bill Thomas, who used to be the local AA man for 44 years. This box was situated outside Nantyffin Cider Mill."

• [View 2006 image of AA box](#)

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Crickhowell's AA Man Mr Bill Thomas

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

John: "Bill Thomas sat on his bike in 1928 a 5.4 HP single cylinder side valve Charter Lea."

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◀ The crew of an American Bomber lost near Crickhowell ▶

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

John: "1943 Crew of the Flying Fortress - an American Bomber which crashed on the mountain near the Cwm Farm, Llanbedr at 21:20 hours on 16 September 1945. Fortress 42-5903 known as Ascend Charlie piloted by First Lt. Herbert Turner was hit in No. 1 engine by flak over La Rochelle. On the return journey the formation hit a cloud front with the oncoming darkness the formation scattered resulting in the plane hitting the hillside and killing all 10 crew."

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Crickhowell Fire Crew

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

John: "The Lady with the brass fireman's helmet is Mrs. Dennis who used to own the Bear Hotel. In those days, the fire station was in Standard Street opposite Upper House Farm. A siren used to sound when a call out was on. Mrs Dennis would run out and stop the traffic for the fire engine to come out at the bottom of Standard Street. The gentleman in the uniform is Mr Bill Thomas the local AA man."

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← Mrs Thatcher visiting Crickhowell Conservative club →

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

John: "Mrs Thatcher who visited Crickhowell Conservative Club in 1977. In the picture are left to right Mrs A Usborne, Dennis Thatcher, Lady Kitson, Mrs Thatcher, Jack Price and Mr Trevor Evans."

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Local Football Team

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

John: "A teams of locals who played against Eist of Holland on an exchange visit. The exchange was run for many years."

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Town Twinning 1991

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

John: "1991 - citizens from Seacr in France who twinned with Crickhowell exchanging a Coat of Arms. Chairman of Crickhowell Community Council Mr Brian Couzens, watched by the Mayor of Brecknock, Elvet Meredith ."

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Medieval Day 1992

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

John: "July 1992. Medieval day which was held in the High Street - Griff the Garden Festival of Wales Mascot visited the town. To his right is Jim Meredith, Town Crier from Aberystwyth, and Jonathan Evans MP for Brecon & Radnor watched by Mary Taylor, Elaine Harries and Sue Addis."

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