

Grŵp Hanes Lleol **MEIFOD** Local History Group



Programme 2026

About us

- Meetings are usually held on the third Thursday in the month.
- Talks are held in Meifod Village Hall, and start at 7.30pm.
- Membership is £10 a year (runs for a year from date of joining).
- Talks are free for members and £4 for guests.
- For more information visit the group's website:
www.meifodhistorygroup.co.uk
or contact Frances Ward, secretary:
frances.ward1514@btinternet.com / 01938 500107

January: no meeting

Thursday 19th February at 7.15pm

History Group AGM

Followed by...

A Tale of Two Village Halls

Chris Roberts & Frances Ward

During the 20th century two village halls were built in Meifod. The Village Institute opened in 1922, and served the village very well until the 1980s, when the building could no longer meet necessary standards. A new Village Hall was then built next to Meifod school, and was opened in 1988. **Frances Ward** will talk about the origins and building of the Institute, and **Chris Roberts**, who was chairman of the committee that master-minded the funding and building of the new village hall, will tell the story of the Hall.

Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm

'Aggie'

A one-woman dramatic monologue, written and performed by Alison Utting

Agnes Hunt was born in 1866, and became lame in childhood after contracting sepsis – but she was determined to train and work as a nurse. Actor and writer **Alison Utting** has drawn on Agnes Hunt's memoirs, diaries and letters to bring Agnes to life in 'Aggie', which tells the story of Agnes's early years. It shows her optimism, her determination, her relationships, and how she found her path in life – which led in 1919 to her co-founding the Orthopaedic Hospital at Gobowen with Robert Jones.

Thursday 16th April at 7.30pm

Wallpaintings in Welsh Churches

Richard Suggett

Wales has some of the most remarkable late-mediaeval churches in the UK, and many once had decorated screens, roofs or walls. Some decorated roofs have survived over the centuries, while many wallpaintings have been rediscovered under layers of whitewash. **Richard Suggett**, a Senior Investigator of Historic Buildings at The Royal Commission Wales, has made an extensive study of Welsh churches, and will talk about the history of wallpaintings and the conservation problems that occur when wallpaintings are rediscovered.

Thursday 21st May at 7.30pm

Collecting Welsh Place Names

Dr James January-McCann

The List of Historic Place Names of Wales contains thousands of individual place names. It is used for historical research, as well as being the basis for naming new streets and developments across Wales. **Dr James January-McCann**, Place Names Officer at the Royal Commission, will talk about the history and development of the List, and how old names are recovered.

Thursday 9th July 1pm-7.30pm in Meifod Village Hall

A Place Names Collection Workshop run by Dr James January-McCann

Meifod History Group will be hosting this event for people to come along to tell James about local place names that are no longer recorded on official maps.

Members-only summer visits

Thursday 18th June at 7pm

A guided tour of Llanyblodwel church and churchyard

St Michael the Archangel church in Llanyblodwel has a long and fascinating history, but in the mid-1800s was radically – and very unconventionally – altered by the Revd John Parker when he was vicar. The two churchwardens of St Michael's, **Alec Gordon** and **Roger Taylor**, will relate the church's history, and give us a guided tour.

Maximum 30 people

Thursday 16th July at 7pm

A guided tour of Llanfyllin Workhouse

Led by John Hainsworth

Y Dolydd, on the outskirts of Llanfyllin, is probably the best surviving example of a 19th century workhouse in the UK. It is run by the Llanfyllin Dolydd Building Preservation Trust, which is restoring the building as a community resource.

John Hainsworth, a member of the Trust, will tell us why workhouses were built, what life was like for the inmates, and take us on a guided tour.

Maximum 30 people

August: no meeting

Thursday 17th September at 7.30pm

The Montgomeryshire Election of 1880

Edward Parry

For nearly a century, from 1799, members of the staunchly Tory Williams Wynn family were returned, usually unopposed, as Montgomeryshire's Members of Parliament. But in the 1880 general election the sitting MP, Charles Watkin Williams Wynn – who lived at Coed y Main, the house he'd had built in Meifod – lost the seat to the Liberals. Local historian **Edward Parry** will describe what happened, how was it received, and what happened next.

Thursday 15th October at 7.30pm

The hidden histories behind special-purpose maps

Dave Ward

'Special-purpose' maps include late 17th century route-planning maps that show the exact road from – say – Chester to Cardiff, or a map showing the proposed route of the pipeline from Lake Vyrnwy to Liverpool in the 19th century, or land utilisation maps in the 20th century. Using examples from his own collection, **Dave Ward**, chairman of Meifod history group, will talk about the hidden histories behind the making and use of special-purpose maps local to this area.

Thursday 19th November at 7.30pm

The Story of Dolanog

Richard Church

Dolanog is a small village on the river Vyrnwy, a few miles from Meifod. It has interesting old buildings, a 19th century church designed by Richard Kyrke Penson, the Ann Griffiths memorial chapel – and in 1921 a hydro-electric plant was installed on the river that supplied electricity to five houses, the church and the chapel. Local Historian **Richard Church** has close ties with the village, and will bring together fascinating stories from Dolanog's past.

Thursday 10th December at 7.30pm

Members-only social evening: more details later!