GWENT COUNTY HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER WINTER 2022

A CHANGE OF ORDERS

A reminder that membership renewals will be due in April (although some members pay in January and are welcome to continue to do this). Reminders will be sent out along with details of the AGM.

At the last AGM it was decided that membership fees should be increased from £10 per year to £15. Those from the same address who currently pay £12.50 will be able to renew their membership at £15 per household. The new fees would come into force from 2023.

If you pay by standing order please remember to change the amount. The committee hopes that it will not be necessary to increase membership fees again for several years and so the revised standing order will keep your membership valid and save the time and money required to send out reminders.

If you pay by cheque, you are welcome to continue to do so. However, with so many banks closing (including the branch of Lloyd's in Caldicot where your cheques are normally paid in) it is becoming increasing difficult to deal with cheques. You may wish to consider paying by Standing Order. Please contact us for a mandate form if you wish to do so. You can also pay by electronic transfer. Again, contact us for bank details.

RECOMMEND A FRIEND

To keep on an even keel financially we need to increase our membership. Do you have a friend or colleague who might be interested in joining GCHA and receiving the *Gwent Local History* journal for only £15 a year? Send us their name and address and we will send them a complimentary back issue of the journal with an invitation to join.

GET INTO PRINT

We are always on the lookout for articles for our journal, *Gwent County History*. There is no minimum length for articles and help will be given on matters such as style and editing. So don't hide that research under the bed, share it with the world! As well as being distributed to GCHA members and to interested purchasers, copies of our journal go to all four UK national libraries and to Harvard University Library in the USA.

2023 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2023

GCHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LECTURE
Saturday 2Ost May 2.30. Details to be confirmed.

JOINT GCHA/MAA DAY SCHOOL 2023
Hosted by Caldicot and District Local History Society. Saturday 1st July 10.00-4.00 at the Church Hall, Rogiet. Talks will focus on people and events from the history of Rogiet, home of Severn Tunnel Junction. Details to be confirmed.

FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF

THE COMMONPLACE BOOK OF JOHN GWIN
edited by Maddy Gray, Tony Hopkins and Alun Withey. (South Wales Record Society www.southwalesrecordsociety.co.uk). £18.00

John Gwin lived at Llangwm near Usk in the middle years of the seventeenth century. One of the county's lesser gentry, he worked for the high-profile Catholic Marquess of Worcester: but he had friends and relatives among the county's leading Puritans.

He was insatiably curious, a keen fruit farmer, interested in scientific and medical developments, a devoted family man, and an energetic churchwarden. All this is reflected in his commonplace book, the notebook in which he jotted down things he wanted to remember.

The book is a treasure trove of medical remedies, snippets of local and family history, notes on the management of the Worcester estates, poetry by the leading Puritan William Wroth, advice on the choice of marriage partners, tips on good husbandry, and details on the ownership of church pews and the repair of the churchyard wall. It offers us an unparalleled insight into the cultural and intellectual world of south-east Wales in a period of civil war and continuing religious and political upheaval.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Our bank has informed us that in future cheques must include our full name: Gwent County History Association. GCHA etc will not be accepted.

CONTACT US: Correspondence should be sent to: Pete Strong, GCHA, 8 Deepweir, Caldicot, Mon. NP26 5JG strong@btinternet.com