

Brecon u3a

Margot Hollingdale

Last Thursday morning, the bells of Builth and Brecon rang out during a talk given by David Childs, Treasurer of, and Advisor to the Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Guild of Ringers, about the international history of bells and bell making over the centuries, but especially in England and Wales.

In the afternoon, Ruth Richardson told a fascinating tale recounting the excellent pedigree of Blanche Parry (ap Harry) whose aunt, also Blanche, had become Guardian to the children of Henry VIII, and introduced her niece to the English Court from a time before the birth of the Princess Elizabeth. Over the years, Blanche became a Chief Gentlewoman of Queen Elizabeth I's Privy Chamber and Keeper of Her Majesty's Jewels. The Queen treated and trusted her as a baroness. Blanche is buried in The Golden Valley church at Bacton where the Royal links are continued.

Robert East examined John Stuart Mill's "Essay on Liberty" (1859) and the "*harm principle*" and led a good discussion centred around the European Court of Human Rights' recent recognition of Article 8 of the Convention which encompasses a right to effective protection by the State authorities from the serious adverse effects of climate change on lives, health, well-being and quality of life.

Tomorrow, we will be faced with Five Murderers and Five Poisons, Inspirational Welsh Women in their Historical context and more.