

### *Enhanced report for Brecon & Radnor Express for 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024*

Last Thursday, Brecon resident, Jonathan Morgan spoke about entrepreneurs of Welsh origin who moved from humble beginnings and achieved great things in Wales and beyond with tenuous links to Presidents of the United States, such as Thomas Jefferson and Richard Nixon and even with piracy. Lord Camrose, born in Merthyr Tydfil, was a newspaper magnate and his brother, Baron Buckland of Bwlch, was an industrialist (GKN). John Hughes of Merthyr Tydfil learned all there was to know about iron and steel works and moved to Russia with about 100 skilled Welsh workers to recreate an industry there and to build the city of Donesk. David Davies Llandinam was the industrialist who built Barry Docks and passed his wealth to his granddaughters who were philanthropists and donated so much artwork to the National Museum of Wales and created the Gregynog Music Festival. Lloyds Bank, Lloyds (Insurance) of London, Yale University (18<sup>th</sup> Century Elihu Yale), architects John Nash, Inigo Jones and John Lloyd Wright, the not too-pleasant copper mining magnate Thomas Williams, the John Lewis Partnership, William Morris and Laura Ashley can all prove ties with Wales. There was no mention of Welsh singers and entertainers such as Sir Tom Jones, Dame Shirley Bassey, Sir Bryn Terfel Jones, Aled Jones, Katherine Jenkins from Neath and Charlotte Church from Cardiff (who has recently launched a business at Rhydoldog House).

Richard Walker led a discussion about the Philosophy of Work – a strange topic for the elderly and retired! “Play reading” enjoyed a double session with a third sitting tomorrow.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June, Hugh Purcell will tell the story of the last English revolutionary, Tom Wintringham and in the afternoon, Will Davies (Cadw) will talk about recent excavations at Blaen Llynfi Castle. Also, members will give 10-minute presentations of three differing landscapes.