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**Saturday 8 March 2025**

Lecture to Friends National Museum Wales,  
Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre, NMW, Cathays Park, Cardiff  
10.30am

**Mr Edward Holdaway: The Rees Family of Llandoverly**

The National Museum of Wales has in its collections a printing press, a portrait by Hugh Hughes of an Anglican priest and a Welsh triple harp. The connection between them is the Rees family of Tonn, Llandoverly.

The **portrait** is of the Rev. William Jenkins Rees [1772-1855], who was born in Llandoverly. He played a leading role in establishing the regional eisteddfodau and resuscitating the Cymmrodorion in London. He was instrumental in establishing the Welsh MSS Society and editing its publications.

The **printing press** belonged to William Rees of Tonn, Llandoverly, who established a printing and publishing business in 1830 and was judged by his peers to be one of the leading printers in Britain – the 'Elzevir' of his time.

The **Welsh triple harp** belonged to William's eldest daughter Sarah. In the 1860s William was active in the promotion of the triple harp nationally, together with Lady Llanover and Brinley Richards.

These artefacts are the hooks on which hangs the story of the contribution that the Rees family made, locally and nationally, to debates and action relating to education and the future of the language and culture of Wales.

Edward Holdaway was born in Cardiff just after World War II. He is a Hereditary Freeman of the City. He spent much of his working life away from Wales, and since 1998 has lived in Pembrokeshire. Over the last 10 or so years he has been researching his family roots in West Wales. This has led him among other aspects to the Rees family, formerly of Tonn, Llandoverly, and the subject of his talk. He is now writing an account of the life of his great-great grandfather William Rees, to be published late in 2025.

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A fee of £10 for the talk, followed by coffee and biscuits in the Oriel Suite, may be paid on the day as follows:

- Cash – notes preferred
- Cheques payable to: Friends National Museum Wales

OR: Pay prior to the event by BACS:

Account name: Friends National Museum Wales

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For Rees Family of Llandoverly