



CYMDDEITHAS HYNAFIAETHWYR A NATURIAETHWYR MÔN

CYLCHLYTHYR • NEWSLETTER

ANGLESEY ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY AND FIELD CLUB

No.74 Gwanwyn / Spring 2020



At the time of writing, the glorious spring sunshine is flooding through the window, the blossom is on the trees and bird song fills the air. In this strange time of lockdown, the beauty of our countryside in North Wales is a blessing indeed. Unfortunately, due to the current COVID-19 situation, we have postponed our summer excursions, but please check the AAS website regularly for updates. We hope to resume the lecture series in the autumn. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy reading about some of our recent activities. Hot off the press, and an excellent read to enjoy in the days ahead, is Professor Robin Grove-White's book, *A Prism for his times: Late Tudor Anglesey and Hugh Hughes of Plas Coch* (details on page 4).

CYFARFODYDD 2019/20

MEETINGS 2019/20

20/09/2019 Ieuan Wyn Jones: A Gallery of Anglesey MPs – Privilege and Progress 1800-1951

The evening's speaker, Ieuan Wyn Jones, was introduced by Professor Robin Grove-White. Mr Ieuan Wyn Jones, who has served both as MP and AM for Ynys Môn, treated the society to an informed and entertaining lecture entitled 'Privilege and Progress 1800-1951'. This was a comprehensive talk, which charted the development of Anglesey politics from the late Victorian period until the middle of the twentieth century. It set the Island within a wider national and UK context, through a detailed evaluation of the politics and characters of eleven Anglesey Members of Parliament.

Mr Jones explained that two distinct periods could be identified between 1800 and 1951. The first period 1800-1868 was dominated by two powerful local families – the Pagets and the Bulkeleyes. Both families had a long lineage going back to the sixteenth and fifteenth century respectively. This was a time of patronage, in an age where few could vote for political change. During this period, Anglesey had five MPs – three Pagets, one Bulkeley and, through their patronage, one Stanley.

Sir Arthur Paget was the first of the politicians to be discussed. He had a colourful life and spent most of his time as an MP (1794-1807) abroad in Russia, Berlin, Sicily and Vienna. Whilst he appears to have been an able diplomat, his lavish lifestyle earned him the title of 'the emperor' and put him into debt. He also found notoriety by having an affair with Duke of Bedford's cook and then eloping with Lord Boringdon's wife, Lady Augusta Fane, whom he later married.

Sir Arthur was followed by Berkeley Paget who served Anglesey from 1807-1820. He was persuaded by his family to go into politics and seems to have been a reluctant MP. He did, however, become the first Anglesey MP to have a ministerial post as a junior minister in the Treasury. Mr Jones pointed out that this was a time when MPs were not paid, but ministers were. Becoming an MP in this period had more to do with gaining prestige than serving the electorate.

The following men were Anglesey MPs in the period up until 1868: Henry Paget (MP from 1820-1832); Sir Richard Bulkeley (MP from 1832-7 and 1847-68); and William Owen Stanley (MP from 1837-47), the latter being familiar to ASS members as WO Stanley, a keen archaeologist, who excavated a number of archaeological sites on Anglesey.



Ieuan Wyn Jones

The period from 1820 was marked by arguments about the Reform Act (which was eventually voted through parliament in 1832, widening the franchise slightly and abolishing rotten boroughs). It was also a time when politicians did not stand on policy but rather gained support by keeping their peers on side. Mr Jones provided a sobering example of the electioneering expenses of one Anglesey candidate. A total of £35,000 was spent on wining and dining constituents, including a bill for 36 gallons of ale! Another important factor is that, before the Reform Bill of 1872, there was no secret ballot, so by keeping the county squires happy, it was likely they would tell their tenants which way to vote. However, change was afoot: increasingly, newspapers (local and national) held MPs to account and the second widening

of the franchise in 1867 led to a different breed of politician in subsequent years.

1868 saw the election of Richard Davies, a successful businessman in the shipbuilding business and a native of Llangefni. He was a Liberal, Nonconformist, and in favour of state education. He held the seat for 18 years but stood down in 1868 in opposition to Gladstone's Irish Home Rule Bill. Davies was superseded by Thomas 'Palesteina' Lewis (MP 1868-95). Lewis, also a Liberal and businessman, gained his nickname 'Palesteina' because he had visited the Holy Land and was fond of giving lectures on the topic. His retirement heralded in Ellis Jones Griffith who served as Anglesey MP until 1918. A contemporary and friend of Lloyd George, Griffith was schooled on Anglesey and became one of the first students to attend Aberystwyth University, later gaining a Law

The production of this newsletter has been a team effort. A huge thank you to all who have helped: Ann Huws for reports and translations, and for working under such pressing deadlines; Carol White for reporting on her research and fieldwork; Siôn Caffell for his many excellent photographs; and Tom Pollock for design and layout.

degree from Cambridge. He juggled the career of barrister and MP and, in 1912, was given a job in the Home Office, where he worked on legislation to disestablish the church.

The post-war years saw the election of Brigadier-General Owen Thomas (MP from 1918-1923). Thomas stood as an independent Labour candidate and seems to have been a popular choice. He was a seasoned soldier and had also, sadly, lost sons in the war. He had the capacity to unite people of different political views. Mr Jones highlighted the stark differences between Thomas' politics and those early MPs of the nineteenth century. Here was a man with very different priorities and radical views for the time. He supported state ownership of electricity, coalmines and transport. He wooed the new women voters with his vision of a three-bedroom cottage for all, with a garden, hot and cold water and a bathroom - music to the ears for many who lived in poor and unsanitary conditions! Unlike many of his predecessors he often spoke in parliament on various causes.

The death of Owen Thomas in 1923 led to a by-election on Anglesey and the election of Sir Robert John Thomas. Sir Robert



Megan Lloyd George (MP from 1929-1951)

was a supporter of Welsh devolution and took an active interest in the well-being of his constituents. Mr Jones illustrated this by drawing attention to Sir Robert's correspondence with the Postmaster General. Sir Robert requested a motor or horse and trap to improve the conditions of the postman at Malltraeth, who had to carry heavy loads, wade knee-deep through water and suffer inclement conditions. Unfortunately, Sir Robert's plea went unheeded: the Postmaster General replied that he thought a bicycle would be good enough!

The last MP to be considered was also the first woman MP representing Anglesey and the first woman MP in Wales, Megan Lloyd George (MP from 1929-1951). Whilst she was not born on Anglesey she was soon held in great affection. She championed many causes and made a name for herself as an orator.

Mr Jones brought the lecture to an end by summing up the period we had visited: a time of profound change which saw reform, the broadening of the franchise, and MPs increasingly held to account by the press. Dr Gareth Huws thanked Mr Jones on behalf of the Society for a masterful and enjoyable lecture.

K. J. Pollock

18/10/2019 Dr Gwilym Owen: The Law in Anglesey under the Tudors

Our evening speaker, Dr Gwilym Owen, was welcomed by AAS Chairman Frances Lynch Llewellyn. Dr Owen, formerly a solicitor, is now Senior Lecturer in Property Law, Equity and Trusts at Bangor University. He began by dedicating his lecture to the fond memory of Professor Antony Carr, our much loved President, who sadly died in the spring of 2019. When in 1990, Professor Carr published an article in the *Welsh History Review* on Gwilym ap Gruffydd and the rise of the Penrhyn estate, Dr Owen was inspired to carry out his own research into the topic. Professor Carr's research had traced the development and legal history of the entail of the Penrhyn Estate up until the year 1413. Thoroughly enthralled, Dr Owen was keen to know what happened next and continued this line of research into the sixteenth century. This research has now culminated in a recent book entitled *At Variance: the Penrhyn Entail*, published by The Welsh Legal History Society and co-authored with Peter Foden.

Tudor law in Wales developed from Welsh customary law and from English legislation brought in with the Acts of Union in 1536 and 1543. Using a case study from 1862 - a legal dispute concerning the ownership of the foreshore in Cemaes - Dr Owen was able to show that, even in Victorian times, the legal system in Wales incorporated some areas of medieval Welsh law.

An example of the customary law in Wales, especially pertinent to Dr Owen's research into land and inheritance, is the concept of *Cyfran*, the Welsh system of partible inheritance. *Cyfran* ensured that land was shared between the deceased kin group made up of male heirs (legitimate and illegitimate). This system of inheritance eventually led to its demise as, over the years, as land was inherited and apportioned out, the parcels of land became smaller and uneconomical to farm. The study of historical maps, estate papers

and legal documents makes it possible to trace such changes in land ownership and to identify which estates grew larger and which diminished. Dr Owen uses this methodology to study the development and changes in land tenure in Wales.

To illustrate the extent of land holdings, different types of tenure, and various rents and feudal services due from tenants on Anglesey in the Tudor period, Dr Owen drew attention to a number of primary sources, including an inquisition post-mortem produced after the death of Edward Gruffydd of Penrhyn in 1540. This document, compiled by the crown commissioners, comprised an inventory of what was owned - in order that the beneficiary of Edward's estate could pay the medieval equivalent of inheritance tax. It showed that the Penrhyn Estate had large tracts of land in Anglesey. Careful study of this Inventory (translated from the original Latin) has provided a detailed and interesting insight into who rented and worked the land.



Dr Gwilym Owen

The second part of the evening's lecture was interactive. Dr Owen produced a map of Anglesey by John Speed, along with an Inquisition taken at Beaumaris during the reign of Henry VIII. Many AAS members present were familiar with Anglesey's landscape, and were invited to comment on the lists of land holders and the various places shown on the map. This was most informative and led to a lively discussion on particular townships, villages and, in some instances, specific farmsteads, some of which are still in use today.

The evening was drawn to a close by a vote of thanks by Professor Robin Grove-White, who thanked Dr Owen for an interesting and enjoyable lecture.

K. J. Pollock

Yr Athro Robin Grove-White a Ms Sadie Jarrett 15/11/2019

Ar noson laith o Dachwedd, daeth aelodau ynghyd mewn cyfarfod pur anarferol yng nghalendr y Gymdeithas - cyflwyniad cyn-lansio llyfr gan yr Athro Robin Grove-White, a thrafodaeth yng nghwmni Ms Sadie Jarrett, myfyrwraig sy'n cynnal ymchwil i deulu'r Salesbury ger Corwen ar gyfer Doethuriaeth o Brifysgol Bangor.

Brasgamodd Robin ymlaen i gyflwyno, gyda'i afaeth arferol, trosolwg o'i lyfr: *A Prism for his Time - Late Tudor Anglesey and Hugh Hughes of Plas Coch*. Caiff ei gyhoeddi'n gynnar yn 2020, ond mwynhaodd yr aelodau ragflas gogleisiol o'r prif themâu. Nôd y llyfr yw cyflwyno bywgraffiad o fywyd Hugh Hughes, un o gyndeidiau Robin, a chynnig cipolwg o Fôn yng nghyfnod cynnar y Tuduriaid - bywyd bob dydd, gweinyddiad cyfiawnder, a llywodraeth.



Professor Robin Grove-White

Ganwyd Hugh Hughes ym Mhorthamel Isaf (yna Plas Coch) Llanedwen yn 1548, a bu farw yn Llundain yn 1609. Roedd yn gyfnod cythryblus - yn hanesyddol a chymdeithasol. Wedi ymwahaniad Harri VIII â Rhufain, roedd Ffrainc a Sbaen (dwylad Gatholig) yn bygwth rhyfel gyda Phrydain, ond roedd cynllwyn, newyn a phla yn beryglon real hefyd. Serch hynny, daeth sawl mantais yn sgil y degawdau yma - twf llythrennedd o ganlyniad i'r dulliau printio newydd, ymlediad addysg, ac esgyniad dosbarth protestanaidd newydd. Roedd Hugh Hughes yn rhan o hyn i gyd.

Wrth gwrs, y datblygiad mwyaf arwyddocaol yng Nghymru yn nyddiau'r Tuduriaid oedd Deddfau Uno 1536-1543. Daeth y gwahaniaeth rhwng y Dywysogaeth a'r Mers i ben, a daeth cyfraith Lloegr i rym yng Nghymru hefyd.

Cafodd Hugh Hughes addysg benicamp, mynychodd Coleg y Drindod Caergrawnt, derbyniodd hyfforddiant yn Neuaddau'r Frawdlys, roedd yn gyfreithiwr medrus, ac yn weinyddwr craff. Er iddo wario'r rhan fwyaf o'i oes ym Môn - yn cynnal ei ystad, gweinyddu cyfiawnder fel Ynad Heddwch, a thair gwaith yn Siryf Môn - roedd ganddo hefyd yr egni a'r hyder i lwyddo yn Llundain y cyfnod. Priododd ferch y teulu Montagu Sir Northampton, ac fe'i etholwyd yn AS dros Fôn yn 1597.

Wedi rhoi braslun o fywyd Hugh Hughes, aeth Robin ymlaen i gynnig cipolwg o'r hyn a'i cymhellodd i gyflwyno'r ymchwil ar ffurf bywgraffiad. Gan fod Hugh Hughes yn un o'i gyndeidiau byddai'n amhosib anwybyddu'r cysylltiad hwnnw. Ond roedd bywyd Hugh Hughes yn dwyn sawl adlais o fywyd Robin ei hun - cartref yng nghefn gwlad Môn ond addysg yn y Loegr gosmopolitaidd, cysylltiad agos gyda sefydliadau cyhoeddus, ac angen dybryd i allu gweithredu'n effeithiol mewn dau fyd tra gwahanol.

Mantais arall ymdriniaeth fywgraffiadol oedd y ffaith fod cymaint o adnoddau digyffwrdd ar gael - yn Archifdy Prifysgol Bangor, archifdai lleol, yr Archifdy Cenedlaethol, y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol, yn ogystal â chofnodion treth a hyd yn oed cerddi mawl.

Pwnc allweddol yn llyfr Robin yw'r hyn a elwir y Cwestiwn Seisnigeiddio, a'r ffaith i haneswyr uchel eu parch fod yn bur ddigydymdeimlad tuag at uchelwyr Cymreig y cyfnod wedi'r Deddfau Uno, gan ystyried Hugh Hughes a'i debyg yn dirfeddianwyr hunanlesol oedd wedi gwerthu'r diwylliant, treftadaeth a'r iaith Gymraeg er mwyn cymryd rhan mewn sefydlu cenedl Seisnig

15/11/2019 Professor Robin Grove-White and Ms Sadie Jarrett

On a dank November evening, members came together for a somewhat unusual meeting in the Society's calendar - a pre-book-launch presentation by Professor Robin Grove-White, followed by discussion with Ms Sadie Jarrett who is conducting PhD research at Bangor University into the Salesbury family of Rhug near Corwen.



Ms Sadie Jarrett

Robin strode forward to deliver, with his customary élan, an overview of his book entitled *A Prism for his Time - Late Tudor Anglesey and Hugh Hughes of Plas Coch*. It will be published early in 2020, but members were treated to a tantalising snap-shot of its themes. The aim of the book is to present a biography of Hugh Hughes, one of Robin's forefathers, and to offer an exploration of Anglesey in the early Tudor period - its everyday life, administration of justice and governance.

Hugh Hughes was born at Porthamel Isaf (later Plas Coch) Llanedwen in 1548, and died in London in 1609. Historically and socially, these were turbulent times. Following Henry VIII's break with Rome, Britain risked war with Catholic France and Spain, but conspiracy, plague and famine were real threats too. Yet these decades also brought the expansion of literacy thanks to new printing techniques, the proliferation of education, and the rise of a new protestant class. Hugh Hughes was caught up in all of these.

Of course, the most significant development to affect Wales in Tudor times was the passing of the Acts of Union of 1536-1543. The distinction between the Principality and the March ended, and the law of England also applied to Wales.

Hugh Hughes was impeccably educated, he attended Trinity College Cambridge, trained at Lincoln's Inn, was an accomplished lawyer and an astute administrator. Although he lived much of his life in Anglesey - managing his growing estate, administering justice as a local JP, and three times appointed Sheriff of Anglesey - he also had the energy and drive to prosper in the London of his time. He married into the wealthy Montagu family of Northamptonshire, and was elected MP for Anglesey in 1597.

Having presented an overview of Hugh Hughes's life, Robin gave insight into his reasons for adopting a biographical approach to research. Clearly, as Hugh Hughes was an ancestor, it would have been impossible to ignore the connection. But this ancestor's life also bore some echo of his own - a home in rural Anglesey but education in a cosmopolitan England, close involvement with public institutions, and a pressing need to operate effectively in two very contrasting worlds.

Another advantage of a biographical approach was the availability of untapped resources - those stored at Bangor University and local archives, National Archives, the National Library, as well as tax records and even the poetry of praise.

A key issue in Robin's book is what is termed the Anglicisation Question and the fact that well-respected historians have been particularly unsympathetic to Welsh gentry of the post Acts of Union period, viewing Hugh Hughes and his ilk as self-serving landowners who sold out their own Welsh culture, heritage and language in order to participate in the establishment of a new English state. Yet evidence shows these new men operating with

newydd. Ond mae'r dystiolaeth yn dangos bod y dynion hyn yn gweithredu'n ddiffuant a gonest i ffurfio cenedl newydd Gymreig-Brydeinig, gan weinyddu cyfiawnder a rheolaeth deg, a cheisio sicrhau parhad yr hynodrwydd Cymreig yn hytrach na'i ddifetha.

Yna, daeth Sadie Jarrett ymlaen i ymuno â Robin mewn trafodaeth graff, gydag ambell gwestiwn neu gyfraniad o'r gynulleidfia. Aethant ati i gymharu a chyferbynnu dwy ystad Gymreig bwysig ac economaidd debyg - ystad Hugh Hughes ym Mhlas Coch, ac ystad y teulu Salesbury yn Rhug.

Datgelodd Sadie mai uchelwyr Seisnig wedi ymgartrefu yn Ninbych yn ystod y 13^{eg} ganrif oedd y teulu Salesbury. Bryd hynny, ystyriwyd y Cymry'n ddinasyddion eilradd, ond roedd y teulu Salesbury'n awyddus i fod yn Gymry - credent fod Cymreictod o fantais, roeddent yn siarad Cymraeg, a daethant i ymgorffori'r uchelwyr Cymreig modern cynnar. Serch hynny, anfonwyd eu meibion i Loegr i'w haddysgu, roeddent hwy'n siarad Saesneg, ac wedi 1536 daethant yn Ynadon Heddwch ac Aelodau Seneddol pwerus.

Ac eto, llwyddodd y teulu Salesbury i gynnal hunaniaeth nodweddiadol Gymreig yn y cartref - yn eu hagwedd tuag at eu tenantiaid, eu teyrngarwch i'r diwylliant barddol, ac yn y rôl bwysig roddwyd i ferched. Yn union fel y teulu Hughes ym Mhlas Coch a theuluoedd uchelwyr eraill, roedd y teulu Salesbury yn siarad Saesneg ond yn ymddwyn mewn ffordd Gymreig - roeddent yn ddiwylliannol Gymreig iawn.

Gyda delwedd gref o'r uchelwyr Cymreig newydd hyn oedd yn gallu derbyn cyfraith a rheolaeth Seisnig, ond eu mowldio i'r ffordd Gymreig o fyw er mwyn datblygu hunaniaeth Gymreig amlweddog a chyfoethog ei haenau, daeth y cyfarfod i ben.

Efallai fod stori Hugh Hughes a'r teulu Salesbury'n berthnasol heddiw. Rydym ninnau'n byw mewn cyfnod cythryblus, ac yn wynebu newidiadau digyfelyb i'n llywodraeth a'n systemau cymdeithasol. Tybed a fyddwn ni'n gallu derbyn y newidiadau hyn ac eto glynu'n dynn i'n hynodrwydd arbennig ein hunain?

Ann Huws

integrity and dedication to forge a federated Cambro-British state, administering justice and fair governance, and contributing to the continuation of Welsh distinctiveness rather than to its destruction.

At this point, Sadie Jarrett joined Robin for an insightful discussion, with questions and contributions from the audience, during which they compared and contrasted two notable and economically similar 16th Century Welsh estates - that of Hugh Hughes at Plas Coch, and the Salesbury family at Rhug.

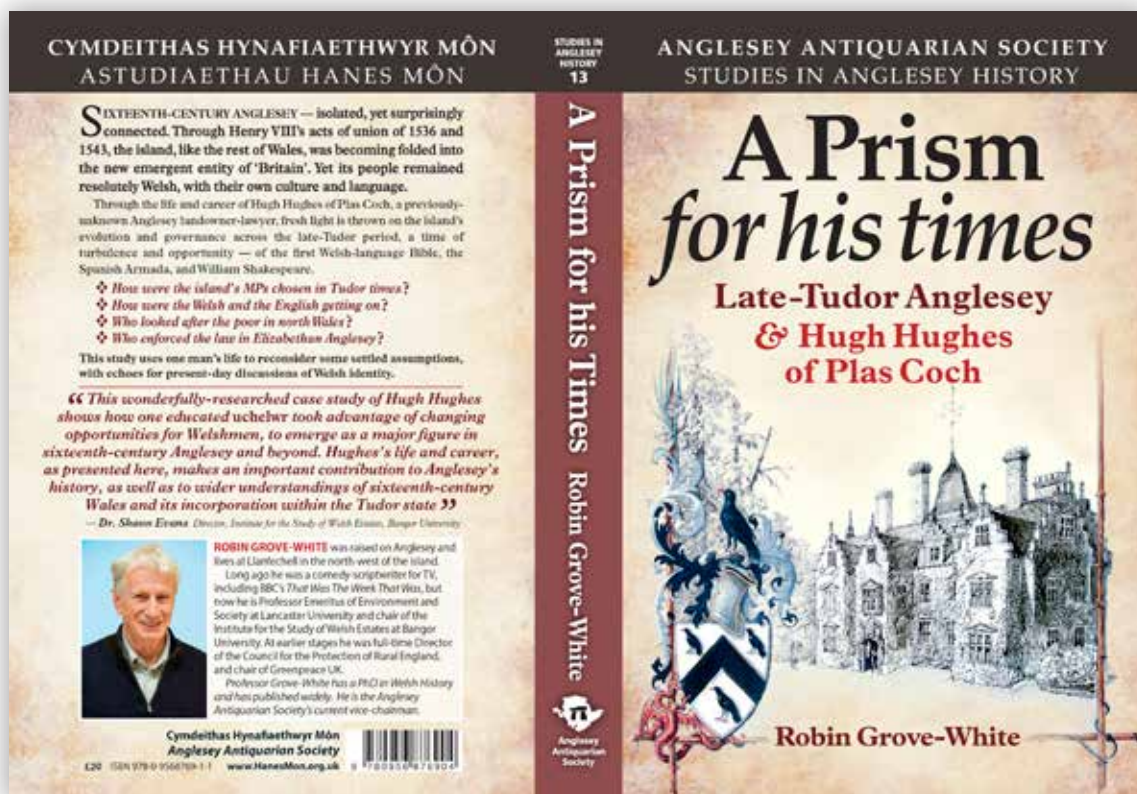
Sadie revealed that the Salesburys were English gentry who settled in Denbigh during the 13th Century. At that time, the Welsh were considered second class citizens, but the Salesburys embraced Cymrycisation - they considered it attractive to be Welsh, they spoke Welsh, and became the epitome of early modern Welsh gentry. However, the Salesbury sons were sent to England to be educated, they spoke English, and after 1536 the Salesburys became effective JPs and MPs.

Nevertheless, the Salesbury family maintained a distinctly Welsh identity at home - in their approach towards tenants, loyalty to the bardic culture, and the important role of women. Like the Hughes family at Plas Coch and many other Welsh gentry families, the Salesburys spoke English but acted in a Welsh way - they remained culturally very Welsh.

With this powerful image of a new class of Welsh gentry, able to absorb English law and governance, mould them into the Welsh way of life, and so develop a rich, many-layered and multi-faceted Welsh identity, the meeting drew to a close.

Perhaps Hugh Hughes and the Salesburys' story resonates today. We too live in turbulent times; we too face unprecedented changes to our governance and social systems. Can we absorb these changes, and yet maintain our own particular distinctiveness?

Ann Huws



A Prism for his times. By Robin Grove-White, 2020. ISBN 978-0-9568769-1-1
Price £20.00 postage £3.00 in UK (Publication 20 March 2020)

How to order

If you would like to order by post or online please visit our website:
Anglesey Antiquarian Society – Cymdeithas Hynafiaethwyr Môn - <http://www.hanesmon.org.uk>

CYMDEITHAS HYNAFIAETHWYR MÔN ANGLESEY ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL GWYNEDD GWYNEDD ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Ysgol Undydd Cymdeithas Hynafiaethwyr Môn
8/02/2020

Thema ysgol undydd Cymdeithas Hynafiaethwyr Môn 2020, a gyflwynwyd mewn partneriaeth ag Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd, oedd Cloddiadau Parc Cybi. Ar fore stormus, ymgasglodd yr aelodau'n glyd yng Nghanolfan Ucheldre Caergybi i fwynhau rhaglen lawn o sgysiau'n ymchwilio myrdd agweddau o hanes Môn ddaeth i'r amlwg yn ystod y cloddiadau.

Wedi cyflwyniad byr gan Andrew Davidson, camodd Jane Kenney (YAG) ymlaen gyda: *Darganfyddiadau ym Mharc Cybi*. Rhoddodd drosolwg o'r safle, a gloddiwyd mewn dau gyfnod rhwng 2006 a 2010 gan ddatgelu tirwedd hanesyddol gyfoethog: neuadd Neolithig gynnar gyda physt canolog a tho gwellt; heneb siâp D a chladdedigaeithau cist yr Oes Efydd; pentref hynod yr Oes Haearn; ffermydd a mynwent beddau cist hir y cyfnod Rhufeinig, a thystiolaeth o ffermio o'r canoloesedd cynnar hyd y 19^{eg} ganrif.

Brasgamodd Alison Sheridan o Amgueddfeydd Cenedlaethol yr Alban ymlaen i ddatblygu'r thema gyda: *Gosod crochenwaith Neolithig hwyr Parc Cybi yn ei gyd-destun ehangach*. Pwysleisiodd fod crochenwaith rhychiog gafwyd ar y safle, er wedi ei ffurfio'n lleol, yn dangos perthynas agos â chrochenwaith gwyddelig y cyfnod. Arloeswyr yn crwydro arfordiroedd Môr Iwerddon oedd y brodorion Neolithig hyn - yn masnachu, gwneud cysylltiadau, rhannu syniadau. Mae adlais o'r cysylltiad arfordirol hwn yn y cerrig cerfiedig a welwn ym meddrodau'r Iwerddon, yr Alban, Llydaw, a Barclodiad y Gawres yma ym Môn.

Daeth Frances Lynch i'r llwyfan i gyflwyno: *Beddrodau Cist a'r Oes Efydd Gynnar ym Mharc Cybi*. Roedd y safle eisoes yn safle seremonïol - bu beddrod Neolithig Trefignath yn ymddyrchafu'n hir dros y tirwedd - ond yn ystod yr Oes Efydd, rhoddodd

Anglesey Antiquarian Society Day School
8/02/2020

The theme for Anglesey Antiquarian Society's 2020 day school, presented in association with Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, was Excavations at Parc Cybi. On a blustery morning, members hunkered down at Ucheldre Centre in Holyhead to enjoy a packed programme of lectures exploring many aspects of Anglesey history revealed during the excavations.



Jane Kenney

After a brief introduction by Andrew Davidson, Jane Kenney (GAT) stepped forward with: *Discoveries at Parc Cybi*. She presented an overview of the site, excavated in two stages between 2006 and 2010 revealing a rich historical landscape: an early Neolithic hall with central posts and thatched roof; a D-shaped monument and cist burials from the Bronze Age; an impressive Iron Age settlement; Roman period farmsteads and long cist grave cemetery, and evidence of

early medieval to 19th century farming.

Alison Sheridan of National Museums Scotland strode forward to develop the theme with: *Setting Parc Cybi's Late Neolithic pottery in its wider setting*. She emphasised that grooved pottery found on site, although locally made, had close parallels with Irish pottery of the period. The Neolithic people were pioneers exploring Irish Sea coastlands - trading, making connections, sharing ideas. This coastal connection is echoed in decorated slabs at passage tombs of Ireland, Scotland, Brittany and Barclodiad y Gawres here on Anglesey.

Frances Lynch took the stage to present: *Cist Barrows and the Early Bronze Age at Parc Cybi*. The site was already one of ritual - the Trefignath Neolithic tomb had long dominated the landscape - but during the Bronze Age, Parc Cybi settlers moved from mixed group burials in one tomb, to single burials with grave goods. Parc

aneddwyr Parc Cybi'r gorau i gladdu grwpiau cymysg mewn un bedd gan ffafrio claddedigaethau unigol gyda nwyddau. Datgelodd cloddiadau Parc Cybi wyth beddrod cist - sgwâr gyda muriau carreg a chapfaen - grŵp teuluol efallai, ond heb unrhyw arwydd o'r cynharaf na'r mwyaf pwysig.

Camodd Tim Young o GeoArch ymlaen gyda: *Gofannu cynnar*. Datgelodd y cloddiadau mai gofannu ysbeidiol fu ym Mharc Cybi o'r Oes Efydd i'r ôl-ganoloesedd. Ni wyddwn ffynhonnell yr haearn, ond mae prinder y sorod a'r meicrowaddodion gafwyd yn awgrymu mai gofannu ar raddfa fechan fu yma, neu efallai bod gofaint Parc Cybi'n taflu'r sorod yn rhywle arall.

Troediodd David Hopewell (YAG) i'r llwyfan i gyflwyno: *Dyfodiad Rhufain, Môn y Cyfnod Rhufeinig*. Safleoedd Rhufeinig cyfarwydd yw'r gaer yng Nghaergybi a chaeran Cemlyn; tyrau gwylio ar Fynydd Twr a Thrwyn Carmel; aneddiad cymhleth, ffordd, a chlostiroedd gydag adeiladau hirsgawr yn Nhau Cochion - yr olaf wedi mabwysiadu swyddogaeth *vicus* efallai. Bu'r Rhufeiniaid yn elwa o gopr a chyfoeth amaethyddol Môn, gan fasnachu'n abl-ffrî gyda'r brodorion. Ond wedi diwedd gormes Rhufain, ail-gydiodd y brodorion mewn bywyd fel o'r blaen. Efallai mai tirwedd o gyd-ddifaterwch fu yma wedi'r cyfan.

Dros ginio cafodd yr aelodau gyfle i ryfeddu at arddangosfa hynod o waith disgyblion Ysgol Cybi fu'n dehongli'r safle gyda modelau, ffotograffau a sain. Yna wedi cinio, prysurodd pawb yn ôl i glywed cyflwyniad Jane Kenney: *Pentref Oes Haearn Parc Cybi*. Disgrifiodd aneddiad aml-gyfnod gyda thai crynion carreg yn sefyll rhwng dwy gors. Gerllaw y mwyaf o'r tai roedd mur a llwybr coblog yn arwain at borth â slabiau carreg. Tybed ai hwn oedd cartref arweinydd y llwyth? Mae'n bosib mai ysguboriau oedd adeiladau llai gerllaw. Darganfyddiadau'r cyfnod oedd breichled siâl, troelenni cogail addurniedig, a mwclen amber wedi torri.

Yna camodd Kate Waddington o Brifysgol Bangor ymlaen a gosod Parc Cybi mewn cyd-destun ehangach gyda: *Aneddiadau Oes Haearn led-led gogledd-orllewin Cymru*. Datgelodd fod aneddiadau bychain byrhoedlog yr Oes Efydd wedi datblygu'n aneddiadau mwy yn ystod yr Oes Haearn - aneddiadau anamgaeedig, amgaeedig neu fryngaerau. Yn ogystal â sicrhau diogelwch, roedd amgáu'n cynnig cyfleon ar gyfer gweithgareddau penodol - seremonïau, preswyllo, storio bwyd, neu weithgarwch arbenigol fel gofannu. Roedd hefyd yn arwydd o statws uchel.

Camodd Nancy Edwards o Brifysgol Bangor ymlaen gyda darlith ddisglair: *Parhad a Chwmp - deall aneddiad a chymdeithas ym Môn y Rhufeinig hwyr a'r canoloesol cynnar*. Wedi diwedd rheolaeth Rhufain, bu gwasgfa economaidd a pholitaidd, ond i'w ganlyn ffurfiwyd hunaniaeth frodorol newydd a chymhleth. Serch hynny, roedd yr ymdeimlad o le'n aros, a parhaodd y brodorion i ddefnyddio'r aneddiadau cynhanesyddol a Rhufeinig. Bu claeu hinsawdd yn y 6^{ed} a'r 7^{fed} ganrif, a daeth newid mewn dulliau amaethu, sefydlwyd systemau caeau a ffermydd newydd - pob un yn tyfu a storio bwyd. Ymledodd Cristnogaeth; yn sgîl y twf yn nifer offeiriad yn y 5^{ed} a'r 6^{ed} ganrif bu newid mewn arferion claddu; esblygodd y gaer Rufeinig yng Nghaergybi yn eglwys; gyda sefydliad teyrnasoedd brodorol yn y 7^{fed} ganrif, ymgododd hunaniaeth wir Gymreig neu Brydeinig.

Gyda diwrnod llwyddiannus yn dirwyn i ben, brasgamodd Gary Robinson o Brifysgol Bangor ymlaen i grynhoi. Pwysleisiodd bwysigrwydd Parc Cybi fel croesfan mudo a chysylltu, safle sy'n ymgorffi'r angen i ail-ymweld â safleoedd hynafol gyda chwestiynnau a dirnadaethau newydd. Trwy hynny, gallwn ehangu a mireinio'n dealltwriaeth o'r gorffennol.

Ann Huws

Cybi excavations revealed eight cist graves - square, slab-walled and capstone-covered - a family group perhaps, but with no indication of the earliest or most important.

Then Tim Young of GeoArch stepped forward to present: *Early smithing*. Excavations at Parc Cybi disclosed evidence of intermittent periods of smithing from the Bronze Age to post-medieval. The source of iron ore remains unknown, and the small amounts of slag and micro-residues found suggest the scale of smithing activity was small, or perhaps Parc Cybi smiths were dumping slag elsewhere.

David Hopewell (GAT) strolled up to present: *The Coming of Rome - Anglesey in the Roman Period*. Known Roman sites include the fort at Holyhead and fortlet at Cemlyn; watchtowers on Holyhead Mountain and Carmel Head; and a complex settlement, road and enclosures with rectangular buildings at Tai Cochion - this last possibly having partially adopted the function of a *vicus*. The Romans exploited Anglesey for its copper and agricultural wealth - trading freely with the locals. But after the Romans departed, the indigenous people picked up their lives as before. Perhaps the Roman period only created a "landscape of mutual indifference."

Over a buffet lunch members enjoyed a stunning exhibition of work by pupils at Ysgol Cybi who interpreted the Parc Cybi site via modeling, photography and sound. We returned for Jane Kenney's presentation: *Iron Age Settlement at Parc Cybi*. She described a multi-phase settlement with stone-built roundhouses set between two areas of marsh. The biggest roundhouse had a wall and cobbled pathway leading to its stone-slabbed entrance, suggesting this may have been the house of a chieftain. Other smaller structures nearby may have been granaries. Finds of the period included a shale bangle, decorated spindle whorls, and an amber bead.

Kate Waddington of Bangor University came to set Parc Cybi within a wider context with: *Iron Age settlement across north-west Wales*. She revealed how small short-lived settlements characterising the Bronze Age developed into larger unenclosed, enclosed or hillfort settlements of the Iron Age. As well as providing security, enclosure offered opportunity for specific functions - ceremony, occupation, food storage, or specialised activity such as smithing - but also indicated high status.

The last slot fell to Nancy Edwards of Bangor University, who presented a sparkling and scholarly account: *Continuity and Collapse - understanding settlement and society in late Roman and early medieval Anglesey*. With the end of Roman rule, Anglesey endured political and economic collapse followed by the forging of a new and complex native identity. Yet a sense of place endured - prehistoric and Roman settlements continued to be used. A cooler climate in the 6th and 7th centuries triggered change in farming techniques, new farmstead settlements and field systems were established - all growing and storing food. Christianity spread, the rise of the priesthood in the 5th and 6th centuries influenced burial practices, the Roman fort at Caergybi became a church, and a truly Welsh or British identity emerged in the 7th century with the establishment of native kingdoms.

As a successful event drew to a close, Gary Robinson of Bangor University sprang forward to sum up. He described Parc Cybi as a site of movement and making connections, a place that embodies the need to revisit ancient sites with new questions and new perceptions. Only then can we broaden and refine our understanding of the past.

Ann Huws

Friday, 17th January 2020

Marquess of Anglesey: The First Marquess and the Commemorative Column

Our Chairman Frances Lynch Llewellyn introduced the evening's speaker, the Marquess of Anglesey, Patron of AAS. Lord Anglesey began by painting a vivid and colourful picture of the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, in which Lord Uxbridge, the Duke of Wellington's second-in-command, and commander of the cavalry, took decisive action amidst the confusion of battle. Lord Uxbridge (later the first Marquess of Anglesey) had not been Wellington's first choice as second-in-command. The main reason for this appears to have been Uxbridge's impulsive nature, which Wellington considered to be a liability in the field. However, as the battle between the coalition forces and Napoleon played out, it was this very characteristic of Lord Uxbridge which was to save the day.



Marquess of Anglesey

The French troops were seasoned soldiers and making good headway. Wellington was hoping to hold out until the Prussian troops arrived to swell the allied ranks. Wellington noted afterwards that it was a close battle which could have gone either way, 'a damned nice thing, the nearest run thing you ever saw in your life'. Throughout the Sunday, 18th June, the French had continued to launch artillery attacks and, by the afternoon, a gap opened up in the centre of the allied troops: it looked likely the French would break through the line. This was Lord Uxbridge's moment, noting the gap he took the initiative and led a cavalry charge of 2,000 made up of the Household and Union Brigades. This caught the French by surprise and scattered their infantry. Unfortunately, a cavalry charge is difficult to control and there were many casualties as the troops pushed forward too far into French lines.

Lord Uxbridge did not get away unscathed and lost his leg to canon. The way in which he bore this injury is lost to time but, whilst probably an apocryphal story, has become as famous as his battle charge. He is said to have turned to Wellington and said 'My God, Sir, I've lost my leg', to which Wellington, momentarily removing a telescope from his eye, replied distractedly, 'My God Sir, so you have'. This stoicism and bravery may be more myth than reality but Lord Anglesey drew attention to the surgeon's account of removing the leg without anaesthetic. Lord Uxbridge remained conscious throughout, without complaint, which suggests his bravery was not just reserved for the battlefield.

After the Battle of Waterloo, Lord Uxbridge's was made the first Marquess of Anglesey. He was commemorated for his part in the Napoleonic wars by the erection of the fine column which stands close to the shores of the Menai Strait in Ynys Môn. Lord Anglesey thanked Peter Crosby and the Institute of Welsh Estates at Bangor University for recent research into the history of the column, which has helped to enrich understanding of its conception and construction (see also NL 73, 2019). It was built between June 1816 and 1817 and listed as a grade II monument in 1952. Before a final decision was made to erect a column, several schemes were discussed to mark the achievements of the Marquess: these ranged from a silver plate with suitable engraving, to a triumphal arch to span the Menai Strait! The column stands to a height of 91 feet and has 115 internal steps. The bronze statue of the Marquess, by Mathew Noble, was commissioned after his death in 1854, so some 37 years after the battle.



©Elliot Brown

The column, a famous landmark and popular tourist attraction for many years, was closed in 2012 for safety reasons. It is now owned by the charity, The Anglesey Column Trust (ACT), which is aiming to restore and reopen the column. Initial funding for the project was raised by an injection of funds by Lord Anglesey and a grant by the National Heritage Lottery Fund. This made it possible to get the project off the ground and moving forward. In addition to the restoration of the column, ACT aims to improve the site with an interpretation centre and cafe (in the cottage and at foot of the column) and a viewing platform at the base of the column. The column stands high above the surrounding landscape on a raised rock outcrop with a good view across the waters of the Menai Strait. The addition of such a platform will allow for disabled access, so that everyone can enjoy the vista: this is felt to be particularly important, as the column honours the memory of a disabled war hero.

It is anticipated that the cost of restoration and the additions mentioned above will be c.1.2 million pounds. The Heritage Lottery Fund has indicated that it will fund almost half of this sum, on the understanding that ACT can match fund the rest. So the race is on to raise funds. ACT is looking for patrons and fund raisers to help bring the project to fruition. Re-opening the column will provide an interesting and unusual attraction, benefit the local economy and restore an important part of the Island's heritage.

For further details please see: <https://www.angleseycolumn.com/>

K. J. Pollock



Portrait of the Statue of
Sir Henry William Paget
(1768-1854),
1st Marquess of Anglesey,
Designer: Matthew Noble
(wikipedia)

Chwefror 21^{ain} 2020, Sir Ifor Williams Memorial Lecture Yr Athro Deri Tomos - Gwyddonwyr Mawr Môn

Ar waetha'r gwynt a glaw didostur, prysurodd tyrfa gref i Oriel Môn i wrando Darlith Goffa flynyddol Syr Ifor Williams. Camodd Donald Glyn Pritchard ymlaen i roi braslun cryno o hanes a chyfraniad Syr Ifor Williams, cyn cyflwyno'r siaradwr gwadd sef Dr Deri Tomos, Athro Emeritws Biocemeg Ffisegol ym Mhrifysgol Bangor. Ei bwnc oedd: *Gwyddonwyr Gwynedd a Môn - taith-meddwl wedi ei hysbrydoli gan arddangosfa Storiell*.

Wrth nodi'r pwyslais roddir yn Storiell ar agweddau gwyddonol o'r gorffennol, sylweddolodd Deri Tomos bwysigrwydd casglu a chronio'n ofalus hanes a gorchestion gwyddonwyr Cymru.

Tybiai y gallwn ddiffinio gwyddonydd fel un sy'n ymchwilio, yn defnyddio offer, ac yn harnesu grymoedd. Onid teg felly yw honi mai'r gwyddonwyr cyntaf oedd preswylwyr cynhanesyddol ein hardal - llwythi'r Oes Fesolithig fu'n hela ar y Trwyn Du ger Aberffraw, neu'r bobl Neolithig fu'n adeiladu neuadd bren gyda tho gwellt ym Mharc Cybi?

Ond bu gwyddonwyr cynnar yn arbrofi gyda metelau hefyd - lluniwyd bweill yr Oes Efydd â chopr o Fynydd Parys, a chafwyd crawcwellt Oes yr Haearn yn Nhrwysfynydd. Mae'n syndod fod gwyddonwyr cynnar yn gwybod sut i ddod o hyd i'r metelau crai. Credai Tseineaid y Cyfnod Tang fod cysylltiad rhwng planhigion a mwynau yn y ddaear - bod nionod yn tyfu pan fo arian yn y ddaear, nionod bach pan fo aur, a sinsir pan fo copr. Efallai bod gwyddonwyr cyntaf Cymru'n defnyddio'r un ddamcaniaeth.

Aeth Deri Tomos ymlaen i ystyried ein gwyddonwyr mwy diweddar. Mathemategwr dylanwadol oedd Williams Jones (Pabo). Cafodd



Dr Deri Tomos

Despite relentless wind and rain, an enthusiastic crowd thronged to Oriel Môn to hear the annual Sir Ifor Williams Memorial Lecture. Donald Glyn Pritchard stepped forward to present a short account of Sir Ifor Williams' life before introducing our guest speaker - Dr Deri Tomos, Emeritus Professor of Physical Biochemistry at Bangor University. His subject was: *Scientists of Anglesey and Gwynedd - a mind-journey inspired by exhibits at Storiell*.

Noting the emphasis placed at Storiell on scientific aspects of the past, Deri Tomos realised the importance of collecting and chronicling the history and achievements of Wales' greatest scientists.

He proposed that a scientist can be defined as one who investigates, uses tools, and harnesses forces. Surely therefore, it is reasonable to infer

that the first scientists were prehistoric settlers - Mesolithic tribes who hunted at Trwyn Du near Aberffraw, or Neolithic people who built a timber hall with thatched roof at Parc Cybi?

Early scientists experimented with metals too - Bronze Age axes were formed using copper from Parys Mountain, and Iron Age bog iron was found near Trawsfynydd. It's remarkable how early scientists knew where to find crude metals. Chinese of the Tang Period believed there was connection between plants and ores in soil. They claimed onions grew where there was silver, spring onions where there was gold, and ginger where there was copper. Perhaps Wales' first scientists had faith in a similar hypothesis.

Deri Tomos went on to consider our more recent scientists. Williams Jones (Pabo) was an influential mathematician. Born in 1675 in Llanfihangel Tre'r Beirdd, he became a London accountant,

ei eni yn Llanfihangel Tre'r Beirdd yn 1675, bu'n gyfrifydd yn Llundain, yn athro Mathemateg i'r bonedd, ac yn gyfaill i Newton a Halley. Yn ei lyfr *Synopsis Palmariorum Matheseos*, defnyddiodd William Jones yr arwydd pi (π) i gynrychioli cymhareb cylchedd/diamedr cylch am y tro cyntaf.

Botanegydd oedd Hugh Davies (1739-1821). Fe'i ganed yn Llandyfrydog, ac yn 17 oed aeth i Goleg Peterhouse, Caergrawnt. Ei gyfraniad mawr oedd *Welsh Botany* - llyfr yn y Gymraeg, y Saesneg a'r Lladin sy'n disgrifio dosbarthiad planhigion gan groesgyfeirio'u henwau Cymraeg gyda'u henwau gwyddonol. Mae genws cyfan wedi ei enwi ar ôl Hugh Davies - *Daviesia cordata*, planhigyn na welodd ef ei hun erioed mohono oherwydd planhigyn o Awstralia yw hwn.

Siawns fod pawb wedi clywed hanes Meddygon Esgyrn Môn. Honir fod Evan Thomas (1735-1814), bachgen ifanc achubwyd wedi llongddrylliad ger Ynysoedd y Moelrhoniaid yn 1745, yn gallu gosod esgyrn. Aeth ymlaen i sefydlu llinach o feddygon esgyrn byd-enwog. Ei or-ŵyr, Hugh Owen Thomas (1834-1891) ddyfeisiodd y Thomas Splint yn 1870, a'i nai yntau oedd Syr Robert Jones (1857-1933) - llawfeddyg orthopaedig sefydlodd yr ysbyty orthopaedig yn Gobowen sy'n dwyn ei enw hyd heddiw.

Pwysleisiodd Deri Tomos gyfraniad gwyddonwyr Gwynedd hefyd - John William Thomas (Arfonwyson; 1805-1840) o Bentir ysgrifennodd lyfr *Elfennau Rhifyddiaeth*; John Lloyd Williams (1854-1945) o Llanrwst fu'n flaenllaw ym maes atgenhedlu gwymon; William Charles Evans (1911-1988) o Fethel, cemegydd fu'n gyfrifol am y Gwasanaeth Trallwys Gwaed trwy gydol yr Ail Ryfel Byd; a Syr William Henry Preece (1834-1913) o Bontnewydd fu'n arloesi ym maes telegraff gan arbrofi ar y Fenai, ac at oleudy'r Skerries.

Gwyddonydd arloesol arall o Wynedd oedd Herbert Rees Wilson (1929-2008) a aned yn Nefyn, ac a raddiodd mewn Ffiseg o Brifysgol Bangor. Aeth i Llundain a bu'n gweithio gyda Maurice Wilkins ar strwythur DNA. Er bod Gwobr Nobel wedi ei roi i Francis Crick, James Watson, a Maurice Wilkins, cydnabyddir Herbert Rees Wilson fel un o'r wyth mwyaf blaenllaw yn y gwaith o adnabod DNA.

Peiriannydd oedd William Ellis Williams (1881-1962) o Gerlan, Bethesda. Graddiodd mewn Ffiseg ym Mhrifysgol Bangor a bu'n Athro Peirianeg yno yn ymchwilio egwyddorion hedfan artiffisial. Yn 1909 aeth ati i gynllunio ac adeiladu awyren gan arbrofi ar dywod Traeth Coch. Yn 1913 cafodd ehediad llwyddiannus gyda'r awyren y *Bamboo Bird*.

Ond mae merched yn amlwg yng ngaleri'r sêr hefyd - merched fel Ellen Edwards (1810-89), a aned yn Amlwch yn ferch i gapten llong. Symudodd Ellen i Gaernarfon a sefydlodd ysgol mordwyaeth yno. Deuai ei disgyblion o bell ac agos i ddysgu sgiliau mordwyo, a phob blwyddyn byddai o leiaf 30 ohonynt yn pasio arholiadau Byrddau Morol Lloegr, yr Alban a'r Iwerddon. Cafodd Ellen ei hadnabod fel gwraig alluog ym maes mordwyo - un oedd wedi dysgu rhai o forwyr gorau'r byd sut i hwylio llongau mawr. Hefyd rhaid enwi Eirwen Gwynn (1916-2007) sef y ferch gyntaf i ennill doethuriaeth mewn Ffiseg o Brifysgol Bangor.

Wrth gloi, pwysleisiodd Deri Tomos bwysigrwydd magu balchder yn ein gwyddonwyr Cymreig, ac annog gwyddonwyr y dyfodol i feithrin a defnyddio'r Gymraeg wrth addysgu, ymchwilio a gweithio. Wedi dau neu dri o gwestiynau, neidiodd Gerwyn James i'w draed i ddiolch yn gynnes i Dr Deri Tomos am ddarlith ddisglair oedd yn ffisian ag egni ac angerdd.

Ann Huws

Maths teacher to the aristocracy, and friend of Newton and Halley. In his book, *Synopsis Palmariorum Matheseos*, it was William Jones who used the pi symbol (π) for the first time to represent the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter.

Hugh Davies (1739-1821) was a botanist from Llandyfrydog who studied at Peterhouse College Cambridge. His towering achievement was *Welsh Botany* - a book written in Welsh, English and Latin, which presents a systematic catalogue of plants cross-referencing the Welsh names with their scientific names. A complete genus is named after Hugh Davies - *Daviesia cordata*, an Australian plant he himself never saw.

Surely everyone has heard of the Bone Surgeons of Anglesey. It is said that Evan Thomas (1735-1814), a young lad rescued from a shipwreck near the Skerries in 1745, could set fractured bones. He went on to found a dynasty of world-famous orthopaedic surgeons. His great-grandson, Hugh Owen Thomas (1834-1891) invented the Thomas Splint in 1870, and Hugh Owen Thomas' nephew was the much-revered Sir Robert Jones (1857-1933) - a surgeon who established the orthopaedic hospital at Gobowen that still bears his name.

Deri Tomos emphasised the contribution of Gwynedd scientists too - men like John William Thomas (Arfonwyson; 1805-1840) from Pentir who wrote *Elfennau Rhifyddiaeth* (*Elements of Arithmetic*); John Lloyd Williams (1854-1945) from Llanrwst who discovered how some seaweed reproduce; chemist William Charles Evans (1911-1988) from Bethel who took charge of the Blood Transfusion Service during World War II; and Sir William Henry Preece (1834-1913) from Bontnewydd, a pioneer in the field of radio telegraphy who carried out research on the Menai Straits and at the Skerries lighthouse.

Herbert Rees Wilson (1929-2008) from Nefyn was another pioneering Gwynedd scientist. He graduated in Physics from Bangor University, went to London, and worked with Maurice Wilkins on the structure of DNA. Although the Nobel Prize was awarded to Francis Crick, James Watson, and Maurice Wilkins, Herbert Rees Wilson is acknowledged to be one of the eight most important scientists in the identification of DNA.

William Ellis Williams (1881-1962) from Gerlan, Bethesda was an engineer. He graduated in Physics from Bangor University, became Professor of Engineering there, and studied the principles of artificial flight. In 1909, he built his own plane, testing it on sands at Red Wharf Bay. In 1913, he achieved a short but successful flight with the *Bamboo Bird*.

But women scientists are well represented in the gallery of stars too - women like Ellen Edwards (1810-89), born in Amlwch, the daughter of a ship's captain. She moved to Caernarfon and established a School of Navigation. Her students came from far and wide to learn the principles of navigation, and every year at least 30 of them passed the Marine Boards of England, Scotland and Ireland examinations. Ellen was recognised as a skilled navigator - one who taught some of the world's best mariners to sail large ships. And of course, we must mention Eirwen Gwynn (1916-2007), the first woman to graduate from Bangor University with a PhD in Physics.

To close, Deri Tomos emphasised how vital it is that we foster pride in our Welsh scientific greats, and encourage future scientists to adopt and use the Welsh language as they teach, study, and work. After a few questions, Gerwyn James sprang to his feet and thanked Dr Deri Tomos for a scholarly lecture fizzing with energy and enthusiasm.

Ann Huws

Discovery of a Mesolithic 'knapping floor' at Porth Forllwyd in September 2019

Carol White, Bangor University

This article is an update on doctoral research at Bangor University, in which recent archaeological investigations have revealed several new areas of Mesolithic activity on east coastal landscapes of Anglesey. Quantities of Mesolithic flint implements have been recovered through field research involving community participation, promoted through an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' initiative, entitled the 'Mesolithic of Anglesey Project'. Finds from these investigations, and also assemblages held in local museums, have been recorded as part of a wider research based inventory. All artefacts recovered through this research have an accession order with the Oriel Ynys Mon, Llangefni, Anglesey.



Carol White

Field investigations began in 2016 with systematic surface collections or 'fieldwalking' in landscape near to the Neolithic pit-chambered tomb on the Plas Lligwy Estate, following observations of worked flint surface scatters. Various lithic artefacts were recovered, including 'microliths', which are indicative of tool manufacture during the Mesolithic period. Test-pit excavations in April 2017 identified discrete concentrations of worked flint on a small plateau in the north-west corner of the same field. An opportunity to organise several 'fieldwalks' across a ploughed field near Hen Capel Lligwy in September 2017 produced multi-period evidence, but also a substantial Mesolithic-Neolithic presence. On returning to the field near Lligwy pit-chambered tomb in April 2019, further test-pit investigations recovered more Mesolithic to early Neolithic worked flint and chert pieces, confirming Mesolithic activities within the surrounding landscape. However, this area has been ploughed extensively, and consequently, all finds were derived from a disturbed context, placing constraints on the extent of site evaluation, and lithic assessments involving technological sequencing analysis, such as *chaîne opératoire*.

During March 2019, a small number of flint artefacts were observed in the eroding sediments of a coastal pathway near Trwyn Gribin, at Porth Forllwyd. Informal surface collections produced several Mesolithic flint tools, and as this landscape was noted as generally undisturbed, with the potential for 'primary context' archaeology, the land-owner was informed about the discovery. Permissions were sought and granted for access to the property to undertake archaeological field research between Tuesday 3rd to Sunday 8th September 2019,

Archaeological investigations were conducted on the north edge of wild meadow at Porth Forllwyd, with a total of five test-pits of two metres by one metre across a distance of seventy five metres along the headland. Previous disturbance of the soils was identified in some test-pits, with evidence of ancient plough-marks found. However, it became clear that the test-pit nearest to the original surface collections held intact stratified levels. Underneath the uppermost sandy-clay deposits containing an increasing numbers of worked flint, a horizon of consolidated stoney-sand constituted

a clear, discrete stratigraphic unit. Throughout the period of excavation, hundreds of worked lithic artefacts, all exhibiting Mesolithic technological processes, were mapped, collected and recorded. Flint implements and *debitage* in high number concentrations within the test-pit indicated the presence of a 'flint knapping floor'. A photograph and drawing have been included below of a large flint blade found at Porth Forllwyd; length 49mm x width 16mm x thickness 4mm, with single direction removals and no retouch, and patination suggesting light thermal processing. Other finds included worked jasper, circular cobble features, and small blocks of red porous material, thought to be derived from the local Old Red Sandstone (pers. comm. Margaret Wood). When observed *in-situ*, this material stained the surrounding sediments, and appeared to have been used in conjunction with the flint and jasper artefacts.



Porth Forllwyd 2019 - Flint Blade
TT1 G1 Level 3
Carol White 2019

The research of Anglesey's Mesolithic period continues, with cataloguing, analysis and recording. A more detailed report of the recent investigations is in preparation, and it is hoped that there will be an opportunity to resume field investigations at Porth Forllwyd when the current 'lock-down' situation has been lifted. However, the significance of the local **red sandstone** material with similar properties to *red ochre*, found on the knapping floor at Porth Forllwyd, is a topic with potential for broad discussion. Natural red clays and minerals were extensively used during earlier Prehistory, for art and ritual practices, but with consideration given to the local area, it would be useful to hear from anyone who is familiar with archaeological research or historical literature relating to the use of the local Old Red Sandstone, or can offer accounts of local traditions on the Isle of Anglesey linking the colour red to local custom. Your thoughts would be most welcomed! Please contact Carol White at hip82b@bangor.ac.uk

Archifau Ynys Môn / Anglesey Archives

Rhestr o Ddeunydd a Dderbyniwyd yn Ddiweddar / List of newly received documents

| Acc. No. | Acc. Date | Cat. No. | Covering Dates | Title |
|----------|------------|---|------------------|--|
| 6415 | 11.07.2019 | WM/2690 | 1844 - [c. 1990] | Casgliad Mr Bown |
| 6416 | 12.07.2019 | WM/2691 | [1973] Medi 7 | Copi Taflen cystadlaethau Talwrn |
| 6417 | 12.07.2019 | WM/2692 | 1917 | Papers re Ernest Holland Rifleman 302586 |
| 6418 | 15.07.2019 | WA/2/5/50 | 1976 - 1992 | Papurau Ysgol Feithrin Rhosmeirch |
| 6419 | 16.07.2019 | WM/2693 | [c. 1895] - 1999 | Papurau Trevor Eames, Blacksmith, Regent House, Beaumaris |
| 6420 | 07.08.2019 | WM/1823/16/48 | 1987 - 1990 | Albwm Lluniau Merched y Wawr |
| 6421 | 14.08.2019 | WM/2643 add | 1894 - 1985 | Papurau Ieuan Williams, Porthaethwy |
| 6422 | 14.08.2019 | WM/2689 add | 1835 - 1977 | Deeds - land at Cross Street Holyhead, Laundry |
| 6423 | 19.08.2019 | WM/2694 | 1990 - 2018 | Clwb Cerdded Cefni |
| 6424 | 20.08.2019 | WM/2695 | 1909 - 1956 | Photograph Album, Letters and Postcard misc Anglesey |
| 6425 | 21.08.2019 | WA/2/5/66/2/1 | 1891 - 1943 | Admission Register Rhosybol Council School |
| 6426 | 28.08.2019 | WM/2696 | 1912- 1980 | Alf Pritchard Collection |
| 6427 | 30.08.2019 | WM/2697 | 1872 - [c. 2000] | Dr Kenneth Roberts papers |
| 6428 | 30.09.2019 | WM/2698 | 1971 - 2019 | Clwb Cinio Cymraeg Caergybi |
| 6429 | 07.10.2019 | WD/46/1 | 1848 - 1990 | Papurau Y Parchedig Dr Dafydd Wyn Wiliam am Fodedern |
| 6430 | 15.10.2019 | WM/2701 | 1984 - 2018 | Papers of Benllech Rugby Club |
| 6431 | 24.10.2019 | WD/3/1/ WD/3/21/ WD/3/47/ | 1954 - 1996 | WI Federation Llaneilian Branch Llangoed Branch |
| 6432 | 25.10.2019 | WM/2702 | 2019 | Cyfweliad gan Cadi Jones efo Mr Russell Price am Siop Stein, Amlwch |
| 6433 | 01.11.2019 | WM/2703 | [mid 20th cent.] | Saunders Roe Negatives |
| 6434 | 07.11.2019 | WD/3/1/ WD/3/42/ WD/3/37/ WD/3/3/31 WD/3/48 | 1965 - 2017 | WI Federation Llanfairpwll Branch Llanerchymedd Branch Beaumaris Branch Llangristiolus Branch |
| 6435 | 14.11.2019 | WM/2704 | 1926 - 1948 | Cyngor Plwyf Bodwrog - Receipt and Payment Book |
| 6436 | 14.11.2019 | WP/44/43 | 1967 - 2016 | Cofnodion: Cyngor Tref Llangefni |
| 6437 | 26.11.2019 | WM/2705 | 1916 Nadolig | Cerdyn Nadolig hefo calendr 1917 |
| 6438 | 27.11.2019 | WM/2706 | 1942 - 1993 | Papers of Arthur Williams, Llanfair PG and Gwendoline Evans, Holyhead |
| 6439 | 28.11.2019 | WD/3/47 | 1934 - 2017 | Cofnodion Llangoed W.I. |
| 6440 | 29.11.2019 | WM/2707 | 1959 - 2016 | Royal Anglesey Yacht Club Regatta Programmes |
| 6442 | 06.12.2019 | WP/19 ff | 1894 - 2004 | Cofnodion Cyngor Plwyf Llanddona Parish Council |
| 6443 | 17.12.2019 | WM/2708 | 2019 Dec. 15 | Order of Service 75th Anniversary of the US aircrew who died at Holyhead |
| 6444 | 17.12.2019 | WM/2709 | [c. 1997] | Catalogue of collections and Furniture Beaumaris Gaol Museum |
| 6445 | 18.12.2019 | WM/2710 | 1933 | Photographs of Yachting on the Menai Strait and Scotland by the late Miss Isla Johnson of Bryn Mel, Llandegfan |
| 6446 | 02.01.2020 | WA/2/5/24 | 1943 - 2014 | Llyfrau Log Ysgol Gymuned Moelfre |
| 6447 | 02.01.2020 | WSH/11/196 - 198 | [2019] | Copi Lluniau Benllech, Thetis, Brynteg a California |
| 6448 | 09.01.2020 | WSM/376 add | [c. 1985] | Lluniau Derec Owen |
| 6449 | 21.01.2020 | WM/2368/12 | 1833 - 1871 | Cyfrol: Bedyddio Capel Bethania, Llangaffo |
| 6450 | 22.01.2020 | WSD/895 - 899 | [c. 1900] - 1937 | Photographs Holyhead |

| Acc. No. | Acc. Date | Cat. No. | Covering Dates | Title |
|----------|------------|-------------------|------------------|---|
| 6451 | 27.01.2020 | WD/48 | 1846 - 1980 | Cofnodion Capel Salem, Llanfwrog |
| 6452 | 27.01.2020 | WP/49/17 | 2011 - 2017 | Cofnodion Cyngor Cymuned Llanidan |
| 6453 | 03.02.2020 | WM/2595/1/23 - 32 | 2017 - 2020 | Newsletters Menai Bridge and District Civic Society |
| 6454 | 10.02.2020 | WD/47 | 1929 - 2000 | Llyfrau Cyfrifol Capel/Eglwys Rehoboth, Llanfaelog |
| 6455 | 10.02.2020 | WM/2711 | [c. 1895] - 2007 | Casgliad Owain T.P. Roberts, Amlwch |
| 6456 | 12.02.2020 | WM/2712 | 1934 - 1938 | Photograph Albums of trips by the Amlwch Branch of the International Friendship League |
| 6457 | 12.02.2020 | WR/426 | [c. 1929] | Bartholomew's Revised Map of North Wales, Sheet II for Motorists & Cyclists |
| 6458 | 14.02.2020 | WM/2713/1 | 2019 | CD: A Bridge to the Future |
| 6459 | 14.02.2020 | WBN/1096 | 1998 | Plans of The Chester to Holyhead Trunk Road (A55) (Bryngwran to Holyhead) Compulsory Purchase Order |
| 6460 | 17.02.2020 | WM/2635 add | 1859 - 1956 | Tyddyn y Waen Amlwch additional items |
| 6461 | 24.02.2020 | WM/2714/1 | [1984] | Copi Llyfr "O Ganrif i Ganrif" gan Elwyn Gray Hughes, Porthaethwy |

Anglesey Archives, Bryn-cefni Industrial Estate,
Industrial Estate Road,
Llangefni, LL77 7JA. Tel 01248 751930
E Mail: archives@anglesey.gov.uk
The Senior Archivist is Hayden Burns.

Archives Service Opening Hours

Monday to Wednesday:
09:15 - 13:00 & 14:00 - 16:45
(closed for lunch between 1pm - 2pm)

Appointments

The Anglesey Archives Service operates a booking system. Users are therefore required to book a place in the search room in advance of their visit. Bookings can be made in person, by email, telephone or letter. Please be advised that a booking is required for each person wishing to use the service. If you have any special requirements please mention them when booking. Don't forget your Reader's Ticket.

Research Service.

There is a paid postal research service with an initial charge for the first hour. Please contact Archive Service for the current fee.

Because of the COVID-19 situation, please check with the archives before visiting

The next edition of the newsletter will be published in Spring 2021. Please forward any articles to: Karen Pollock, Tanffordd Bach, Glanrafon, Llangoed, LL58 8SY or karen@excellentdesign.plus.com

AAS Publications Members who require items through the post, may contact our Publications Officers, Robert and Margaret Bradbury, Bryniau Mawr, Pentraeth. LL75 8LJ • Tel/Ffon 01248 450132

You can view and print the pages off our Website.
Gallwch weld a printio y tudalennau oddiar ein Gwefan.

Web Site / Safle Gwe
www.hanesmon.org.uk/aaswp/

If you purchase books, videos and electrical goods from Amazon, next time click on the link via our Website- the Society benefits.

amazon.co.uk