



CYMDEITHAS HYNAFIAETHWYR A NATURIAETHWYR MÔN

CYLCHLYTHYR • NEWSLETTER

ANGLESEY ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY AND FIELD CLUB

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CYHOEDDIAD PWYSIG GAN YR HYNAFIAETHWYR

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE ANTIQUARIANS

Hoffai'r Gymdeithas gyhoeddi newid hir-ddisgwyliedig yn un o'i pholisïau.

Mae'n ddrwg gennym orfod gadarnhau bod yr olygfa gyfarwydd o aelodau'r pwyllgor yn cludo negeseuon i'ch drws ar ben ffon fforchog yn dod i ben. Yn ogystal, ni fyddwn mwyach yn defnyddio dull semaffor o ben brynau, na'n disgwyl i chi sefyll wrth y tolltai i ddisgwyl newyddion gan y goets fawr, nag y chwaith, yn gofyn i chi ddarllen dogfennau a sgwennwyd gyda chwilsen. Yn eu lle, 'rydym am fabwysiadu'r dull cyfathrebu a elwir yn 'e-bost'.

Mae rhai ohonoch wedi rhoi caniatad i'r Gymdeithas ddefnyddio eich cyfeiriadau e-bost, tra bo eraill efallai yn defnyddio cyfeiriadau e-bost newydd neu wedi mentro i e-bost yn gymharol ddiweddar. Gan hynny, gofynnwn eich caniatad i ddefnyddio'r dull hwn llawer mwy nag yn y gorffennol. Gallwn eich sicrhau bydd y cyfeiriadau'n cael eu storio ar fas-data ddiogel, ac na fyddwn yn rhannu'r wybodaeth gyda thrydydd parti heb eich caniatad penodol. I'r rhai nad ydynt ar e-bost, gallwch barhau i ddarllen am weithgareddau'r Gymdeithas ar ein gwefan (www.hanesmon.org.uk) a thrwy dderbyn y Cylchlythyr a'r Trafodion.

Os ydych yn fodlon i ni gysylltu â chi trwy e-bost, a fyddwch cystal ag anfon neges i'r perwyl i aas.mail@hanesmon.org.uk? Trwy anfon y fath neges, byddwch yn caniatáu i'r Gymdeithas ddefnyddio eich cyfeiriad e-bost wrth gysylltu â chi. Buasem yn dra ddiolchgar pe teach yn anfon y neges i ni cyn Rhagfyr 31ain 2020?

'Rydym yn trefnu cyfres o ddigwyddiadau cyffrous ar gyfer 2021 – gan gychwyn efo darlithoedd dros 'Zoom' yn ystod mis Ionawr. Daw'r hysbysiadau a'r dolennau trwy e-bost, felly cofiwch ateb gyda'ch cyfeiriad.

Yn y cyfamser, hoffai Swyddogion a Phwyllgor y Gymdeithas ddymuno Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd llawer gwell i bawb. Cadwch yn ddiogel a gobeithio cawn eich gweld yn gwenu'n rhadlon wrth ymuno gyda ni mewn darlithoedd ym mis Ionawr.

O.N. Unrhyw syniad be' i wneud efo 87 o hen Ffyn Fforchog?

The Society wishes to announce a long-awaited change of policy.

We are sorry to report that the familiar sight of committee members carrying messages to your door on cleft sticks is to be phased out. Also to go will be the semaphore signals from hill tops, the rush to toll houses to meet the stagecoach, and the scrutiny of quill-written parchment documents. In their place, we have decided to embrace a method of communication known as 'e-mail'.

Some of you have given the Society permission to use your e-mail addresses whilst others may be using new addresses or have only recently adopted e-mail. We propose, therefore, to use e-mail as a method of communication far more than in the past. Rest assured that your e-mail address will always be stored on a secure data-base, and details will never be divulged to third parties without your express permission. Those of you not using e-mail will still be able to learn about the Society's activities by visiting the website (www.hanesmon.org.uk) and by receiving the Newsletter and the Transactions.

If you are happy for us to contact you by e-mail, please send us a message to that effect on aas.mail@hanesmon.org.uk. Receipt of such a message will be deemed as permission for the Society to use your e-mail address to contact you. Please can you send us this message by December 31st 2020.

We have a range of exciting events planned for 2021 – including a series of 'Zoom' lectures starting in late January. Notification and links will be via e-mail, so do please reply with your address.

Meanwhile the Officers and Committee wish you all a very happy Christmas and a much better New Year! Keep safe, and, we hope to see many of you in front of your own bookcases in January.

Gareth Huws

P.S. Has anyone a use for 87 now-defunct cleft sticks?



Anglesey Antiquarian Society Excursion - Sept 19th 2020



Bryn Tŵr



Din Dryfol

On a sunny Saturday, weary of the pandemic and fired with a desperate need to meet old friends and taste normality again, 19 members of the Society cheerfully came together for visits to three lesser-known historical sites in the very heart of the island. In a packed few hours, we tumbled into the past and savoured an enthralling glimpse of Anglesey life in three very different periods.

Our first port of call was Tre Gôf, an old farmstead situated only a few yards from Telford's A5. Members strolled down a track to examine a typical 19th century Anglesey farmstead, and Gareth Huws sprang forward to tell its story.

According to the 1841 census, a 60-year-old clergyman called Robert Evans lived at Tre Gôf with his family, a servant, and two agricultural labourers. Tre Gôf was a substantial farm then, and most of the present-day buildings were probably built at around that time.

The outbuildings - a lofted cart-shed, stable, cow-house, loose boxes, barn, pigsty and servants' quarters - are set in an L-shaped pattern and built of rubble masonry under grouted slate roofs. Although somewhat worse for the wear and tear of time, they all retain some original features - servants' quarters still have quarry-tile floors and original fireplaces; doors, ventilation slits and windows in many buildings remain unchanged; remnants of line shafting in the barn can still be seen; feeding chutes to the pigsty are still in place.

The farmhouse itself also remains, but with the later addition of rear kitchen and front porch. There is some suggestion that 19th century Tre Gôf and its buildings were constructed on the foundations of an older homestead.

Quivering with anticipation, and to the bemused looks of passing motorists, members scuttled across the narrow road, on to the early years of the 20th century and Bryn Tŵr, where Ian Jones presented his brother's home - a fine castellated gentleman's residence built for a Staffordshire engineer on land originally belonging to Tre Gof. Then our focus turned to a red sandstone tower built on the eastern side of a rocky outcrop above Bryn Tŵr and easily visible from the A55. The tower, a folly, is believed to have existed in 1901, it appears on Second Edition OS maps as Castell Tre'r Gof, and is possibly connected to Tre Gof itself. Undeterred by the steep path, members strode up to the folly and were enchanted by fine views from all sides.

The final call of the afternoon was to Din Dryfol, a Neolithic burial chamber first excavated by Frances Lynch herself in 1969 and 1970, and situated on farmland between Cerrigceinwen and Aberffraw. During a pre-excursion recce, Frances discovered the site much neglected and in dire need of some TLC. Her eloquently-phrased words in the ears of Cadw's High-Hiedyins ensured prompt results: when we arrived, tangled vegetation obscuring the site had been pruned to ensure plenty of room around the tomb. Yet, Frances revisited the site to carry out further much-appreciated clearance. (Frances explains the excavations in 1969-70 and 1980 below).

As the afternoon drew to a close, Frances evoked an image of that first exciting excavation: students fizzing with enthusiasm, and warm evenings sitting outside her little caravan breathing the heady scent of late summer honeysuckle and musing on the day's digging. And with that glowing image, we returned to cars and reality once more, but with thoughts and spirits lifted by a happy day free of Covid cares.

Ann Huws

Din Dryfol - history and excavation

Damage to the monument had started in the Roman period, perhaps by the inhabitants of the hut group at Plas Bach, just across the river. How extensive this early damage was is not clear, but by 1870 it was in much the same condition as it is today - an impressive entrance stone at the east and the remains of a rectangular chamber some 10m to the west. It was expected to find evidence for another 2 or 3 chambers filling this gap, making a long gallery like the tombs in SW Scotland and the north of Ireland. The evidence, which lay in the cairn to the south of the surviving chamber, showed that this gallery had probably existed, but it was built, not in one, but in three stages and that one of these stages had involved a wooden entrance rather than the expected stone structure.

In this sequence of building, its history is very like that of Trefignath which also developed in three stages. Both monuments were built about 3,800 BC (judging by the few sherds of pottery found) but it is likely that changes at Din Dryfol were more rapid and there was no evidence for continuing interest in the site in the Late Neolithic (c. 3000 BC) as there was at Trefignath.

Frances Llewellyn

Please forward any articles to: Karen Pollock, Tanffordd Bach, Glanrafon, Llangoed, LL58 8SY or karen@excellentdesign.plus.com

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