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A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN

The election of a new Chairman to our Society provides an opportunity for taking stock of the present, and looking forward to the future.

Largely due to the dedicated work of past officials, the Society today is a flourishing concern with over one thousand members and a programme of activities which includes not only lectures and excursions but also the publication of the annual Transactions, and books in the excellent History of Anglesey series. This is a record of which the Society can be justly proud and I would welcome suggestions from members as to how they think the Society's work can be developed in the future.

Two factors are of particular importance if the Society's work is to flourish into the next century. In the first place the involvement of members is essential and I do hope that newcomers will come forward to help with the organisation of the Society's excursions and other activities. Secondly, we must ensure that the Society remains financially secure, and I am afraid that in the near future membership subscriptions will have to be increased - the present subscription of £3 for individual members and £4 for husband and wife, in force since 1980, must be the bargain of the decade!

Finally, my earnest hope for the future is that the Society will continue to uphold the high standard of scholarship for which it has become so well known and respected.

JOHN ROWLANDS

NEWS FROM G.A.T.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Ltd. is looking at several new projects for 1989, which will be reported in more detail in the spring issue of this newsletter, when the finance to carry them out has been secured.

Leaflets on Bryn Eryr, Llansadwrn, where excavations took place over 75 weeks and revealed round houses within a rectangular bank and ditch enclosure, are still available from the Trust's office at College Rd. Bangor. There is also a leaflet outlining the work of the Trust which not only covers excavation but also aerial monitoring, and another explains the Gwynedd Sites and Monuments Record, and the present-day uses to which this record is put.

During the year, a small portion of a stone axe and some flints were found near Dothan, and a bronze brooch was found at Moelfre during the dredging of a stream. Paul Craddock of the British Museum has done a trial excavation at Parys Mountain, to re-locate trenches dug by Oliver Davies in the past, and has found charcoal which is now being carbon-dated.

BE A SOCIETY WATCH-DOG

As the system of "observers", once worked by the Society, has lapsed for some years, your committee discussed the possibility of reviving it. But they came to the conclusion that this is a responsibility which should be taken by all conscientious members of an antiquarian society. So every member is asked to keep watch in his own area, and while travelling on the island, and to report any damage to monuments, buildings or sites of historical interest to the Secretary who will then take appropriate steps where these are deemed necessary. As the Society is also a Field Club, any damage to conservation areas should also be reported. With such a widespread membership, this is one practical way we can all help to conserve our heritage. And, of course, putting into practice the request of our Chairman in his message!

A RESIGNATION AND AN APPOINTMENT

Mr. Huw Roberts of Llangefni, who has been secretary of the Society's Publications Committee for 11 years, has now resigned and Mrs. Glenda Williams, the Publications Officer who looks after book sales, takes his place. The Society owes Mr. Roberts a great debt, as during the years he was in office the Publications Committee has been very active. Mrs. Williams has looked after book sales for six years and is already well versed in the work of the Committee.

During 1989 the next volume in the History of Anglesey series will appear. This is a new "Natural History of Anglesey" which Dr. Eifion Jones is editing, but the new volume will contain 10 new chapters, the remaining three being up-dated from the previous edition.

In 1991, Mrs. Frances Llewelyn will produce a supplement of the last 20 years' work in bringing to light Prehistoric Anglesey which will bring up to date her previous volume with this title.

Planned for 1993 is a volume on Local Government in Anglesey, 18th c. to 1974, by Dr. William Griffith, to be followed later in the '90's by "Llenyddiaeth Ynys Mon" by Professor Bedwyr Lewis Jones.

EXCURSIONS, 1988 and 1989

The 1988 programme of excursions proved popular, and already the Excursions Committee are well ahead with preparations for 1989.

This will include a half day excursion to Glynllifon where a member of staff of the college will speak about the house and the family. The spring walk will take place in the area between Cwm Ystradllyn and Aberglaslyn, with Mrs. Llewelyn in charge once again. July will see us at Llyn Alaw and Llanbabo Church, following a day trip the same month to Bodelwyddan Castle and the surrounding area. An outing to the Llanveris area is also being planned, and the week-end excursion will travel to Gwent, staying at the College of Further Education, Caerleon, and taking a look at Tretower Court, the museums and amphitheatre at Caerleon, Penhow Castle, Tredegar House, and the Visitor Centre at Elan Valley during the weekend.

THE A.A.S. ON DISPLAY

Society officers will join the Area Librarian, Mrs. Elspeth Mitcheson, to plan an exhibition projecting the Society's activities, to be held at Llangefni Library, July 3-7, 1989

VICE PRESIDENT TO BE OUR DINNER SPEAKER

Those who heard Lord Stanley speak of his family at Nether Alderley Church and at Over Alderley, during this year's weekend excursion, will look forward to the Society Dinner on April 15th, 1989, at Carreg Bran, Llanfairpwll, where Lord Stanley will be our guest speaker. Apply early for your place!

A NEW ACQUISITION OF IMPORTANCE

Mr. Einion Thomas, the area archivist, reports the receipt of deeds and documents relating to the Trescawen estate, 1685 to 1900, and also a collection of Prichard-Rayner family portraits on deposit at the Archives office. This, says Mr. Thomas, is of great importance to the Anglesey collection

The recipe book of Margaret Wynne, Boderwyd, whose acquisition was reported in a recent newsletter, has provided fascinating reading to both Einion Thomas and the editor! Have you seen it? Why not drop in at the Archives department and take a look for yourself.

Mr. Thomas suggests, with tongue in cheek, that perhaps some Antiquarians might benefit from the following ...

"THE LADY LOSTIS RECEIPT TO MAKE YE HAIRE GROW

Take 2 quarts of red cowes piss, 2 or 3 handfulls of rosemary tops, one quart of cowes dung, halfe a pound of Virgins Huny. Put these into a still and distill ym, after they are distilled put in halfe a pint of spiritt of sack and (wn you use it) warme it milke warme and bath ye head with it wch will cause ye haire to grow where never any was. Wn ye haire comes shave it 2 or 3 times. When you (use it) shake it well together, this is rare good for ye eyes ye strengthing of ym."

... and the editor's favourite ...

"A RECEIPT TO PICKLE PUFFINS

Make ye puffins cleane as soon as you take ym & draw them yn let ym lye in water & salt a whole night. Yn wash ym clean in yt liquor and turn up there leggs and parboyle ym in water and salt for halfe an houre and as you take ym out of ye hott water shake ym in cold water, and sett ym endwaies to run all night. Next morning lay them flat on there breast in a dry cloth and crush them a litle till they be thoroughly dry, yn scrape ym clean with a knife and lay ym on there breasts in ye vessell then take a pottle of white wine and as much white wine veneger and 2 pottles of Alagar, 2(?) mace, (?) ginger & 2(?) peper, ye mace and peper must be brused, ye ginger sliced, yn boyle all these a litle in ye liquor with a handfull of salt and when it is thoroughly cold cleare it and take ye spice yt is in ye bottom and throw between every lay of ye puffins in ye vessell as you pack ym up poure in ye liquor and putt a round slate or board to keep ym under water and stop up ye vessel close yt no wind gett in. This liquor and spice is a fitt proportion for 6 dozen. "

The WEA and Extra-Mural Department UCNW programme of courses for adults has already begun, but some courses likely to appeal to Antiquarians also begin after Christmas. Details of these will be found in a leaflet now available at public libraries, or from the WEA, 33 College Road, Bangor, or the Extra-Mural Department, University College N.W. BANGOR.