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REFLECTIONS AND PROJECTIONS

As a Society we do, of course, look back. Not only on the distant past, but on the year just gone. We are grateful to those who sit on our committees and organise affairs - a great deal is done behind the scenes about which the ordinary member is unaware. Many miles are travelled by officers, arranging publications, outings and meetings. British Telecom gains considerably from telephone contact maintained in between meetings! Members give of their skills voluntarily. Those who contribute to the Transactions do so without any compensation other than seeing their efforts in print. Unlike writers in general, those who go to great lengths to prepare mss. for publication in our "Studies in Anglesey History" also give us their invaluable services free of charge. We would be churlish if we did not acknowledge these services from time to time, and this would seem to be the place to do so. The Society is indeed fortunate in the wealth of scholarship apparent in its members, and the dedication of its officers to ensure that all goes well in the running of its affairs.

Most of us believe the turn of the year to be a point from which we look forward. Not the Antiquarians! We begin to do so in the autumn, with winter and spring meetings ahead, and the very busy and important arrangements to be made for next summer's outings.

Each year, those who join the weekend excursion say "This is the best yet!" (and next year's organisers will be hard put to better our Malvern trip this year). So, rather than try to excel, a slight change has been made to the habitual practice. We shall have a study weekend, when we shall take a close look at one topic with the help of a tutor. There are those who believe that, as a historical society, we should be doing this occasionally, so the weekend outing for 1991 will be in the nature of an experiment. If we find it not to be as successful as those of previous years, we shall have learned our lesson and will think again.

We have chosen the University of Wales Centre at Gregynog as our base, and shall learn something of the architecture of mid Wales under the guidance of one of our

own members, Mr. Vernon Hughes of Abergele, who until recently worked as an architect with CADW. Mr. Hughes has made one or two interesting suggestions for visits locally which we hope to arrange. There is one problem. Gregynog cannot accommodate our usual number. This will mean taking only one coach. But, rest assured, coach travellers will be picked up at the usual points, and the one large coach will then be filled at Menai Bridge.

The nature of the outing being slightly different, we shall be asking everyone to be prepared to join in every excursion from Gregynog and there may be walking. Those who come along for the ride and the company alone are likely to take a place which might otherwise be appreciated by a member wanting to attend all the planned programme. Although we shall be studying in a light-hearted sense, the weekend is being arranged for those who want to learn. And there isn't a shop within miles!

More about this and the day and half-day trips when details are released in the spring.

Meanwhile, do please give your support to our two autumn meetings, to the Pot Pourri in the spring and to the AGM. If you have any ideas you would like to pass on, for speakers or for outings in the future, any executive committee member will be pleased to know.

IMPORTANT! There are still some members paying their subscriptions at the OLD rate. If you pay by Banker's Order, please make sure it is for £4 single, or £6 joint, and amend if necessary. Also, if you change your address, please inform the Membership Secretary, Mr. Howell Hughes.

The Archives Office at Llangefni have asked that potential users of their service should now apply for a User's Ticket. This may be obtained by showing some means of identification (driving licence, bus pass, etc.) and will then be of use at any archives office in Gwynedd. This is part of a nation-wide move towards security in the offices.

12th CENTURY FONT

The "Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Anglesey" refers to a 12th century font at the parish church of St. Mary, Llanfair-yn-Neubwll.

It is described as "a circular gritstone

gritstone bowl with the surface divided into seven panels, containing saltires formed by incised lines". St.Mary's church was closed some years ago, and members should note that the font has been moved for safe keeping to St.Cybi's Church, Holyhead, where it may be seen by arrangement with the Holyhead Parish Office.

J.R.

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS As well as our own publications, there are several smaller books available from Information Centres and bookshops, on Anglesey matters, which make ideal stocking fillers for Christmas.

For those with an interest in Holyhead, "Holy Island (Ynys Cybi)", a pictorial record by John Rowlands and J.C.Davies (£3.95) will recall memories. A more unusual view, in poetry, appears in "Holyhead - Images of an Island" by Alun Owen and Glynne Pritchard, Holy Island Press, £7.50. "The Story of Holyhead Lifeboats" is by Jeff Morris, £1 in aid of R.N.L.I.funds. Edwin Roland Owens has produced "The Holyhead Breakwater and Quarries", price £3.95.

The W.I. recently celebrated its 75th birthday. There is an edition of "A Grain of Mustard Seed" available, telling the story of the WI from its beginnings in Llanfairpwll, written by the late Constance Davies who was a member of our Society. (£3.50)

For those with an affection for Rhosneigr, "Rhosneigr Then and Now" by T.M.Hale (Hedge-row Publishing, £6.95) should offer interesting reading.

Anglesey is superb walking country and has inspired one or two useful handbooks. "A Walker's Guide to the Anglesey Coastal Path" by Harry Ashcroft is light enough to be carried in the pocket (£2.95). As is "Short Walks to explore Anglesey" by Hilary Kendell and Hilary Bradman, at £3.25. "Exploring Anglesey" by Pat and Tim Clarke is a Countryside Publication at £2.50.

"The Anglesey Guide", published by Magna at £5.95, contains some well written text, up-to-date information and superb photographs and should be on every Anglesey lover's bookshelf.

GWYNEDD ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST "AT HOME"

The Society was well represented at the Open Meeting of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Ltd. held at Neuadd Syr John Morris Jones in September, when the Trust's recent work was reviewed by several of its officers, with the help of colour slides and projections.

Peter Fasham, Director of the Trust, told us how planning applications and water authority projects likely to affect the sites of historical interest are examined with the

Trust often being invited to comment before permission is given for work to be undertaken.

Dave Longley, a field officer, described one such case at Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy, where it was intended to lay a water pipe which would cross this alleged Dark Age cemetery. Excavations resulted in the previously uncertain line of the Roman road being identified, recorded and excavated.

Richard Kelly, deputy director, outlined work it was hoped to undertake on new sites in Llyn, and Stephen Boyle, Field Officer, spoke of the problems in conserving the outer wall around the five-acre site of Tre'r Ceiri.

Peter Fasham concluded by telling his audience of the work being done on Great Orme to cast light on the Bronze Age mines.

Of particular interest to us in Anglesey is the investigation of "New Haven", Amlwch Port. Once a thriving harbour and boat building centre in the 18th and 19th centuries, it will be the focus of Ynys Mon Borough Council's scheme to restore and interpret the harbour area. The Trust was asked to investigate the potential of the site. The building investigated was first recorded on an 1886 map and termed a "public house". This was called New Haven. The Trust was able to establish that the building's original use was as an ochre mill (for the manufacture of paint) some time in the late 18th or early 19th century. It became a public house in the 1860s and lost its licence in the 1890s.

The Trust has also co-operated with the Borough Council at Penmon, where the fish pond is to be re-filled, and they will be looking into the site of Osborne House, Rating Row, Beaumaris, before new development takes place there.

Peter Fasham stressed that the Trust is now well geared to advise on saving archeological remains and works increasingly with local authorities to that end.

He reminded his listeners that there are some 20,000 sites in Gwynedd which still need to be recorded.

CAN YOU PROVIDE??? ... a copy of the 1920 Transactions of the Society? This is needed by Mr. Malcolm R. Millington who wishes to complete his set. Mr. Millington lives at 8 Ryles Crescent, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 8DD, and his telephone number is 0625-615778.

STOP PRESS .. This month's Excursions Committee meeting decided on venues for two day outings next year - Snowdon (the top!) and sites in Arfon, and East Denbighshire. It is hoped to visit the Holyhead area for one half day, and the annual walk will be in the hinterland of Harlech and Talsarnau.