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WELCOME

.. to our new President, Lord Stanley of Alderley, who accepted the post at the last annual general meeting, on the retirement of Lord Anglesey. We look forward to a long association, and remember with appreciation Lord and Lady Stanley's visit, with us, to the Alderley estates during a week-end visit to Cheshire some little time ago, and to Lord Stanley's after-dinner talk more recently.

AT LAST - ORIEL YNYS MÔN!

The Queen having opened Oriel Ynys Môn in Llangefni at the end of October, the island now has its own spacious, modern, museum and gallery.

Dr.Kath Davies from the museum staff explains that there are two galleries, one for a permanent exhibition and the other for a wide variety of temporary exhibitions. A pleasant café, a well stocked bookshop, a lecture room, and a courtyard for the performing arts, will add to the attraction of regular visits.

The permanent exhibition gallery tells the island's story, reflecting how, to the ancient Celts, Anglesey was a sacred place. The island was to inspire later generations, too, as myth and legend mingled with fact. Poets and musicians praised its beauty and the deeds of the Welsh princes who held court here. The farms and chapels were to remain a stronghold of Welsh language and culture into modern times.

C.F.Tunnicliffe, the artist, was an inheritor of the age-old tradition of respect for the natural world. Today the Anglesey artist Kyffin Williams captures the essence of the island in his work, exhibited at the gallery. Jac Jones, the prolific illustrator, is another Anglesey man whose work will be seen.

A variety of temporary exhibitions will be presented, the work of established artists and members of local societies. Exhibitions with historical themes will be mounted in conjunction with Anglesey's schools. Local "eisteddfodau" will be using the gallery as a display area for craftwork and photography. The programme begins in August with the first chance to take a detailed look at the work of one of this century's greatest wildlife artists, Charles Tunnicliffe. It continues with an exhibition by Anglesey artist, Keith Andrew.

Oriel Ynys Môn is more than a museum or an art gallery. It is a testament to people and their achievements.

It is open throughout the year from 10.30 to five p.m., daily except Mondays. Entry to temporary exhibitions is free. Admission to the permanent exhibition is £1, children and concessions, 50p. School parties free of charge.

As Antiquarians, we should support this new venture - go along, and see for yourself.

NEW ADDITIONS

Both the Society's library and the Archives offices have had valuable new additions to their collections since our last newsletter.

The late Mr.Eric Thomas, to whom a tribute was paid in our Spring issue, bequeathed 23 copies of the Transactions, from 1960 to 1989, to the Society's collection housed at Llangefni Library, along with the index, 1913-1985.

The Area Record office at Llangefni has received parish records, including originals, and photostats and microfilm of those at present in the National Library, and Memorial inscriptions collected by the Gwynedd Family History Society. These are too numerous to list here, but the full lists are available at the Record Office in the Shire Hall, Llangefni. Both are very comprehensive.

Thanks to our librarian, Handel Evans, and the Area Archivist, Einion Wyn Thomas, for this information.

GWYNEDD ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST - OPEN MEETING

The Society was represented at the Trust's Open Meeting at the Syr John Morris Jones Hall, Bangor, in September by Jeffrey Morgan Lewis, who reported an extremely interesting and well-presented afternoon, when various researchers and archaeologists working on behalf of the Trust gave their annual review.

Although much of the progress described took place on the mainland, work still continued on Anglesey sites and assessing the remains found there.

Excavations at Osborne House, Beaumaris, had recovered stratified archaeological remains belonging to the medieval and later periods of the town's development. Pottery of the 13th and 14th centuries was found, and features suggestive of building activity in the area were recorded which may have been a boundary marked for the property and could also equate with the extent of the burgage plot.

Although excavation has ceased at Capel Eithin, Gaerwen, work has progressed on the analysis of site drawings, context relationships and finds' distributions, towards a final report for publication.

A draft text and completed illustrations have been prepared on the 1979 and 1989 excavations at Aberffraw, together with a review of previous work, and it is anticipated that this will be presented to the next annual meeting.

Six phases of activity have been recognised in post-excavation at Osborne House, and Level III archive has been completed. Further progress awaits the return of pottery and other material from the relevant specialists.

The annual report of the Trust reflected concern about the possibility of planning permissions being activated, which had been granted many years ago, before the days of time restrictions. Legally, these can still be taken up.

Survey and assessment was carried out recently, in response to a request by Welsh Water, to decide the archaeological implications of developing a plot of land at Llanfaes, adjacent to Fryars House, as a Sewage Treatment Works. Much of the area was inaccessible due to dense vegetation cover, concrete wartime installations and tracks in continuous use. But the assessment was able to show that significant structural and burial remains survive which could, almost certainly, be associated with the 13th-16th c. Friary at Llanfaes.

Two structural phases and three phases of burial were recognised, overlain by further structural phases of the 17th, 19th and 20th centuries. The Friary remains were restricted to the northernmost part of the site, close to where the Friary church is known to have stood, in use as a barn, until the mid 19th c. The Trust's report has been submitted to Welsh Water and Ynys Môn Council Planning Committee. This Society has also written to Ynys Môn, regretting the choice of site.

CEMAES HISTORIANS ARE ACTIVE

Cliff Corker, secretary of the Cemaes Bay W.E.A. branch, gives our chairman, John Rowlands, the credit for stirring up a wide interest in local history among the local people, through his WEA course recently.

In a letter to the Editor, he says "We have some 45 members, the average attendance being about 35, and a number of speakers have presented many aspects of the history of our village. Our most ambitious effort will be on October 23 when David Pretty will be with us from South Wales, to speak to us of the subject of his recent book,

"Rhyfelwyr Môn", General Sir Owen Thomas, M.P., formerly of Neuadd, Cemaes. Members of the public are invited to this event."

"Additionally, members have been collecting and recording items of local interest for the class. A pre-1815 copper mine has been explored, mapped and photographed. Notes and photographs have been made of local bee boles and bee walls. An unpublished 1923 history and guide to Cemaes, written by a former Vicar of the parish, has been copied and printed for members. Visits to places of local interest, including Llanbadrig Church and Brynddu, have been arranged and well supported. Assistance has been volunteered to the Gwynedd Family History Society to collect and index memorial inscriptions from the cemetery at Capel Ebenezer, Llanfechell. "

"A programme of similar talks and interest will take us through to January, when a more formal WEA arranged history course will be starting at the Cemaes School."

Strength to their activity!

TWO NEW MEMBERS - FROM OVERSEAS

The membership secretary, Howell Hughes, was pleased to enrol two new members recently, one from Japan and the other from Miami.

They are Mr. Ichiro Nagai, who lives in Tokyo and whose English is impeccable, and Mr. Herb Prytherch who wrote from his home in Florida, telling us that his great grandparents emigrated from Llandyfrydog, not able to speak a word of English. Now Mr. Prytherch is battling with a Welsh learners' tape, and hoping to be able to carry on a conversation in "schoolboy" Welsh the next time he visits Anglesey.

IN BRIEF ...

Oriel Bangor, whose fortunes have seen-sawed over the past months, is now in the hands of the Gwynedd Archives department. A previous member of the Archives' staff at Llangefni, Pat Benneyworth, has been appointed curator.

... The November meeting of the Society will be addressed by Sydney Anne Williams who will speak on the very interesting and unusual topic of women's work in Anglesey in the 19th century, into which she has done much research. Ladies - you, particularly, will be interested. ...

... The Welsh lecture on November 16 will be given by Dr. Cyril Parry who will speak on "Sir Fôn yn ystod y Rhyfel Mawr" (Anglesey during the Great War). ...

... Please remember - members of the Excursions Committee are always pleased to receive suggestions for outings with an historical or archaeological purpose - Mr. Llewelyn Jones (chairman) will welcome your ideas.
