ANGLESEY ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
CYMDEITHAS HYNAFIAETHWYR MON

CYLCHLYTHYR/NEWSLETTER ... GWANWYN/SPRING 1991

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OUR PRESIDENT RESIGNS

Lord Anglesey's resignation as President of our Society after such a long and distinguished period will be received with great regret at the next Annual General Meeting. Throughout his 44 years of office, as Vice-President and President, he has taken an active interest in all the Society's affairs and presided over our meetings in his own inimitable, good-humoured way.

During Lord Anglesey's presidency, the Society has developed in many ways, having more than doubled its membership and extended its activities considerably. The most important development, however, has been the publication of the "Studies in Anglesey History" series, described by Lord Anglesey as appealing "equally to the serious student and the ordinary reader". We have had the pleasure of listening to Lord Anglesey address the Society on a number of occasions, notably in 1974 when he spoke about his ancestor, "One Leg", and during the 75th Anniversary Dinner in 1986, when he looked back on the development and growth of the Society.

There will be an opportunity at the Annual General Meeting for members to thank Lord Anglesey, and show their appreciation of his years of service. Fortunately, the benefit of his advice and experience will not be lost, since he has kindly agreed to become Patron of the Society, thus continuing his interest in our affairs.

JOHN ROWLANDS
Chairman

The late Mr. ERIC THOMAS

Executive committee members, and, indeed, many others, notably those who supported the Society's outings, were sad to hear of the death in February of Mr. Eric Thomas, Menai Bridge.

Eric had served the Society well over a number of years. His comment and advice in committee were given in his own special way, with a tinge of dry humour and old-fashioned courtesy. He took part in the organisation of outings, and those he did not arrange himself, he attended, so supporting the efforts of others. His company was appreciated wherever he went, as he had a fund of reminiscences which enlivened his conversation.

He will be missed. The Society sympathises with his brother, Mr.Jim Thomas of Benllech, also a member, and his family in their loss.

ALUN LLOYD RECALLS PAST DELIGHTS

Reference made in the Autumn 1990 issue of the Newsletter to "... a slight change ... to the habitual practice" tempts me to think of the very first week-end trip, of 1975. I believe I am right in saying that the visit to York was the brain-child of the late Rev. Emrys Hughes, but I hasten to add that the idea was seized upon with characteristic enthusiasm by the late Mr. David Senogles.

Apart from one or two minor misfortunes, this 1975 adventure turned out to be an unqualified success. Although I am able to recollect the weekend in some detail, I will merely mention the journey home when we called at Bolton Abbey. The Rector of Skipton, speaking to us there, remarked about strange happenings. One of our members asked him if he was kidding us, to which he replied "My dear lady, I am in dead earnest!!" The late Mr. Edwin Cockshutt had prepared notes on the Lancashire Witches country and he was most disappointed that we could not stop as time was running out. Another member who had spent three months on the slopes of Pendle late in 1942 also felt sorry!

It was after this very first week-end outing that the Excursions Sub Committee was formed, and plans were laid for the visit to the University of Warwick in 1976. There, David was assisted by Mr. & Mrs.R.M.Benwell (Mrs. Benwell's roots are in Talwrn) and another memorable week-end was spent. I believe that it was in 1977 that the name of Mrs. Margaret Hughes first appeared in this connection, when she assisted David for the visit to Keele. Most of the details of both these outings remain in the memory - many of us will never forget the unscheduled visit to Mow Cop!

Since then, we have visited Bristol, Lancaster, and York (1980 for the second time), then followed Cardiff, Oxford, Buxton, Cambridge, Grange, Aberystwyth, Nottingham, East Cheshire, Caerleon and lastly Malvern (1990). Several organisers have been involved over the 16 years, and I would like to endorse most heartily the thanks paid by the editor for all the very hard work that has gone on. Pob hwyl ar gyfer 1991, a'r dyfodol!

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: The Cemaes Bay WEA class has arranged a bilingual lecture on Wednesday, October 23, 1991, 7.30 p.m. at Capel Bethel, High Street, Cemaes, by Mr. David A. Pretty on Sir Owen Thomas, M.P. The lecture is open to members of the general public, and there will be a small charge. Further details from the class secretary, Mr.C.Corker (Tel.Cemaes 710689).

WE REMEMBERED A VERY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Lord Anglesey, as President, and the chairman, Mr. John Rowlands, sent good wishes on our behalf to Mrs. Ethel Williams of Rhosneigr, on her 100th birthday in February. This was a real occasion for rejoicing, with family and friends making the day memorable.

Mrs.Williams was born in Liverpool, the daughter of ship owner William Thomas. She read history at Somerville College, Oxford, then married Herbert Williams of Ty Croes, who became Professor of Surgery at Liverpool University.

In 1961, Mrs.Williams became the first woman to serve as High Sheriff of Anglesey. She was the first chairwoman of Neuadd Rathbone, UCNW's hall of residence, and relinquished the post when she was 80 years of age.

We send our continued good wishes, Mrs. Williams. May your good health and enjoyment of life continue!

GWYNEDD ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST ON ANGLESEY

The weather continues to take its toll of Towyn y Capel at Trearddur Bay, but Gwynedd Archaeological Trust is working with CADW and Ynys Môn Borough Council in an effort to consolidate the site to prevent further erosion.

In the near future, the Trust is hoping to set up a programme to look at some of the Maerdref sites.

Society members who attended the most interesting open meeting staged by the Trust last year at Neuadd Syr John Morris Jones, in the autumn, will be interested to know that a similar meeting is being arranged this year, but no details are yet to hand. Peter Fasham, in charge at the Trust, suggests members hoping to attend should keep a close watch on the advertising columns in the local papers during September/October.

Contributions for the Autumn 1991 issue of the Newsletter should be in the hands of the editor by September 30th, please. She would like to hear from YOU.

WHY NOT ATTEND A COURSE AT TAN-Y-BWLCH?

The Snowdonia National Park Centre at Plas Tan-y-Bwlch has a wide and interesting programme this year, with something to appeal to everyone. This comfortable old house is very welcoming, and some of the accommodation has been improved to starred-hotel standard. (The editor can recommend!)

Courses include Spring Flowers, "Byd Natur a Ffotograffiaeth", Walking and Wildlife, Naturalists Notebook, The Industrial Archaeology of Slate and Copper; Archaeological Excavations with Peter Crew at Crawcwellt; Geology and Scenery of North Wales (including Anglesey); the Archaeology Summer School with Peter Crew and our own Frances Llewellyn; Practical Industrial Archaeology, and Traditional Houses and Cottages of North Wales. And much more.

Why not send for the comprehensive leaflet - from Margaret Griffith (a member of our Society) at Plas Tan-y-Bwlch, Maentwrog, Gwynedd, or pick up a copy from the sales table at our own AGM in May.

RHODDION I'R ARCHIFDY

Mae'r canlynol o'r adysgrifau cerrig coffa wedi eu hadneuo gan Gymdeithas Hanes Teuluoedd Gwynedd: Eglwys Sant Eleth, Eglwys Sant Ana, Capel Bethesda (MC) Cemais, Eglwys Sant Dona, Eglwys Sant Tysilio, Eglwys Sant Eilian, Eglwys Sant Mair, Eglwys Sant Mihangel, Capel Moriah(B) Gaerwen, Eglwys Sant Cawrda, Eglwys Sant Iestyn, Eglwys Sant Rhuddlad, Eglwys Sant Sadwrn, Capel Ainon(B) Pen Llyn, Eglwys Santes Gwenllwyfo, Eglwys Sant Ceidio, Capel Weslead (W) Pontrhydybont, Capel Sardis (B) Pontrhydybont, Eglwys Sant Mihangel.

Hefyd, cofrestr genedigaeth, priodasau a chladdedigaethau plwyf Llangaffo 1659-1812. (Bu'r cofrestr yma ar goll ers 1934).

Casgliad diddorol dros ben o bapurau W.J.Evans (Brynfab), Brynsiencyn, un a fu'n gyfrifol am adfywio Cymdeithas Gweithwyr Mon yn 1917.

Diolch i Eifion Wyn Thomas, archifydd rhanbarthol, am y wybodaeth!

IN BRIEF ... A welcome to Mr.Handel Evans who is now the Society's librarian, in place of Mrs. Elspeth Mitcheson who has moved away from Anglesey. Our thanks to Elspeth for her interest while she was based at Llangefni. Mr. Evans is area librarian at Llangefni Library, and will take charge of the Society's items housed there.

... The National Trust will be organising walks in the Fedw Fawr area (Penmon/Llanddona) in the near future - warden Mr. Bryn Jones suggests we keep a lookout in the press for details, and also for the annual opening of Cestyll Garden and Mill.