CYMDEITHAS HYNAFIAETHWYR MÔN
ANGLESEY ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY & FIELD CLUB

CYLCHLYTHYR/NEWSLETTER ... GWANWYN/SPRING 1992

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DWYIEITHRWYDD

Yn ddiweddar, trafododd Pwyllgor Gwaith y Gymdeithas ddatblygu a helaethu'r polisi dwyieithog ym maes cyfathrebu efo'r aelodau. Penderfynwyd yn unfrydol ..

1. Fod y Gymdeithas fel un o brif fudiadau diwylliannol Ynys Môn yn parhau i ymateb i'w chyfrifoldeb tuag at ddwy iaith (Cymraeg a Saesneg) a diwylliant y Gymdeithas.
2. Ble mae'n bosibl ac yn ymarferol, bydd pob cyfathreb gan y Gymdeithas i'r Pwyllgor a'r aelodaeth gyffredinol yn ddwyieithog.
3. Atebir pob cyfathreb i'r Gymdeithas gan aelodau unigol yn yr iaith y derbynir ef.
4. Cyhoeddir popeth yn y Trafodion a'r cylchlythyr o'i dderbyn gan y golygyddion, yn yr iaith y derbynir ef.

Dibyna gweithredu'r uchod ar barodrwydd ewyllysgar nifer o gyfieithwyr gwirfoddol ar fyr rybudd. Os ydych yn barod, ac yn gallu, helpu'r Gymdeithas gyda'r gwaith yma, rhoddwch wybod i'r Ysgrifennydd neu'r Cadeirydd mor fuan ag sy'n bosibl os gwelwch yn dda.

BILINGUALISM

The Society's Executive Committee recently discussed the extension of its bilingual policy in relation to communication with members, and unanimously agreed that ..

1. As one of the leading cultural organisations in Anglesey, the Society continues to recognise its responsibility to both languages (Welsh and English) and culture of the community.
2. Where possible and practicable, communications from the Society to the Committee and general membership will be bilingual.
3. Correspondence to the Society from individual members will be answered in the language of receipt.
4. Communications to the Transactions and the newsletter will, in the event of their acceptance by the editors, be published in the language of receipt.

The implementation of the above will continue to depend on the willing availability at short notice of volunteer translators. If you are able and willing to help the Society with this work, please let the Secretary or Chairman know as soon as possible.

THE MISSES MASSEY OF CORNELYN

Those who have already visited Oriel Ynys Môn, the permanent exhibition, will have admired the beautiful drawings and paintings of Anglesey plant life, the work of Edith Ellen Henrietta Massey and her sister, Gwendoline Elizabeth Eveleen. These are a small part of a collection of around 500 bought at auction at Christie's by Ynys Môn Borough Council for a mere £2,000. They were executed during the 20s and 30s, one sister specialising in pencil drawing and the other in water colour painting.

Their home was Cornelyn Manor, Llangoed, but much of their work was done in a cottage on the shore near Penmon, where they would spend a fortnight at a time during the summer.

Who were they? What is known about them?

It is believed that the family came to Anglesey from Cheshire - their parents had a connection with Puddington Hall on the Wirral. There were two brothers, as well as the two sisters, although only one brother appears to have spent time in Anglesey.

As did many other moneyed families in the early 1900s, they moved in their own social circle, rubbing shoulders with the aristocracy and the gentry.

The sisters not only drew and painted, but they enjoyed needlework, and a retainer who remembers them at Cornelyn recalls that they made the lace for the maids' uniform caps, to be worn when on duty in the house.

They hunted, they travelled, and they attended all the social functions where it was policy to be seen.

Gwendoline kept two scrapbooks which are now in the safe keeping of UCNW archivist Tomos Roberts. She wrote them in a large clear hand, in black ink on white boards which were bound together to make two large volumes. These are full of drawings, photographs of local people and places, and one deals solely

with the Anglesey Hunt. It is prefaced with a large photograph of her sister Edith, dressed in green riding costume, a bowler with a face veil, and a bunch of violets in her coat lapel below her stock pin, standing by her horse. All the local hunts are recorded, along with anecdotes and memories of hunting personalities like the Rev.John Owen of Llaneilian who owned a pack of foot harriers in 1837. He would hunt twice a week in the country around Amlwch, dressed in clerical attire and a big white cravat. Sometimes the local farmers would hunt with him, and they all sat down to dinner at five o'clock, to be enlivened by an old harper who played to the guests.

But the main attraction, visually; of these two volumes is their decoration. Gwendoline illuminated the capitals, and a riot of country animals tumbles down the margins and across the foot of the pages. She used gold leaf abundantly. Her foxes and rabbits, all gold, have rivetting red glass eyes.

The two sisters were early members of our Society, possibly founder members, and remained so until their deaths in 1946 and 1960. The 1914 diary section of the second volume refers to an early AAS excursion to Holyhead Mountain and another to Penmynydd.

If any member has a personal reminiscence of the Misses Massey, Dr.Cath Davies at Oriel Ynys Môn will welcome contact.

CONGRATULATIONS to Society members Capt. Ted Jones of Brynsiencyn and Mr.Eddie Jones of Llangoed, chairman and secretary respectively of the North Wales Marine Study Group, who attended Buckingham Palace recently with others, where they were presented with the premier award of the National Diving Association, made annually, by the Duke of Edinburgh. The award came to the Group for the excellence of their study programme during 1991.

Beth am ymuno â Chyfeillion Oriel Môn, grwp a ffurfiwyd ychydig wedi i'r Oriel gael ei hagor ar Hydref 25, 1991? Amcanion y grwp yw hybu gwaith yr Oriel; cefnogi ymdrechion i ddod â thrysorau Môn adref a chodi ymwybyddiaeth am etifeddiaeth yr Ynys. Pris ymuno: Oedolion £5, Ieuenctid £2; Mudiadau £50, Oes £125. Ymgysylltwch â Mr.J.B.Cowell, 52 Lôn y Bryn, Porthaethwy, Ynys Môn.

A DIARY DATE .. There will be a lecture in English by Professor Bedwyr Lewis Jones, on Wednesday May 6, at 7.30 p.m. at Holyhead Library, entitled "Holyhead 1730-1780, Low Cheerfulness and High Seriousness". The lecture is arranged by the Gwynedd Library Service in association with the Holyhead Arts Festival to commemorate the bicentenary of the death of the Rev. Thomas Ellis. Admission to the lecture is free.

NATURALLY GWYNEDD 1992 .. A useful little booklet published by Gwynedd County Council is now available free of charge from Gwennie Johnson, Cae'r Felin, Chwilog, Pwllheli. This lists gardens open and nature-related events in the county during the summer and autumn, including details of Anglesey Coastal Heritage guided walks. One, called "In search of Llys Aberffraw", gives walkers a chance to look for clues as to the whereabouts of the Prince's court. Another deals with the nature and history of the Penmon area. Others cover the natural history of the Warren, a look at the industrial archaeology at Borthwen, and so on.

OUR SUMMER ATTRACTIONS .. With this letter comes information about AAS excursions for 1992. Your committee is always receptive to new ideas - suggestions are welcome!

This summer we are to spend a day in Chester where we shall go by river launch to view part of the Eaton estate then be shown around the city by expert guides. Sorry, ladies - no shopping! The second full day will take us to visit the ancient church at Mallwyd and travel through beautiful mid Wales to Welshpool to see the Powysland Museum then the elegant church at Leighton, built by a Liverpool banker when he bought the estate and built himself a mansion to house his treasures and to use as a second home. On the return journey there may be time to visit the Ectarc Centre in Llangollen to see the colourful Russian exhibition.

EXHIBITIONS AT ORIEL YNYS MÔN

4-26 April: "The Natural World", sculptures by artist/blacksmith David Petersen.
2-31 May: "The Wild Flowers of Anglesey" Botanical studies by the Massey sisters of Cornelyn.
3-7 June: Eisteddfod Môn; the Anglesey Eisteddfod's art and craft exhibition.
10-14 June: "Branwen", performance and exhibition by Anglesey schools.
20 June-27 Sept. Tunnicliffe's Anglesey. A major exhibition of work by Charles Tunnicliffe.
3 Oct.- 1 Nov. Harry Hughes Williams, 1892-1953; paintings and drawings.
5 Nov.-20 Dec. Christmas Crafts.