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THE LLANFAES COLLECTION

A major new collection of almost 200 items has been deposited at Oriel Ynys Mon.

These artefacts were found on what is believed to be a medieval market site in Llanfaes, and it is likely that more will be found in the near future.

The collection is of great historical significance and includes items such as a 12th century papal seal, rare long and short cross coins, bronze buckles, pendants, spindle whorls and fishing weights.

Following comprehensive cataloguing of these items, it is intended that a selection be placed on display in the permanent exhibition gallery.

The Llanfaes collection complements those items from the Anglesey Antiquarian Society deposited at Oriel Ynys Mon. Artefacts belonging to the Society have now been catalogued and a selection is on display in the permanent exhibition gallery. Because there are so many items (170 at present), exhibits will be rotated at regular intervals to allow the public to enjoy as much of the collection as possible. It is hoped that a small display will also be mounted for Holyhead Library where many items were originally kept.

KATH DAVIES

EXCURSIONS 1994

Next year's excursions will include the customary walk in June, a day outing in the Harlech area in July and two half day excursions, one to Llanddwyn in May and the other to Llanwenllwyfo and Llanallgo in September. The week-end excursion will be to Leicestershire, in the steps of Thomas Cook.

During the recent excursions committee meeting, comment was made that some Society members - fortunately, only very few - take the organisation of these outings very much for granted and cancel at the last minute on what appears to be a flimsy excuse. The chairman, Mr.Llewelyn Jones, is anxious that members realise how much preparatory work goes into the arrangements and urges everyone, when applying, to make sure their diaries are left clear on those particular dates. Unavoidable last-minute cancellations due to emergencies, sickness etc. are understood, but nobody should take the sometimes difficult organisation of these very pleasurable events for granted.

Our membership secretary, Mr.Howell Hughes, reports that there are STILL some members who are not paying their full subscription to the Society, and warns that drastic treatment is about to be given to the miscreants! If you have received notification to this end, PLEASE amend your subscription accordingly. Your membership in future will depend upon your action - NOW.

Mrs. Frances Llewelyn has a collection of Transactions of the Society for disposal, from 1982-1992. Please telephone her on Bangor 364608.

ST.MARY'S CHURCH, LLANFAIRYNNEUBWLL

It was a warm, sunny Saturday afternoon when a large group of parishioners and visitors gathered outside the small church in Llanfair-yn-neubwll to take part in the open air service to celebrate the feast of The Blessed Virgin Mary. But this was no ordinary service.

The church closed in the mid 1970s, and it and the churchyard have recently been tidied by well-wishers, some of them from the neighbouring parishes, our chairman, Mr.John Rowlands among them.

The service was taken by the local clergy, Mr.Rowlands reading one of the lessons, and the congregation sitting on the gravestones sang Welsh and English hymns lustily as bees buzzed among the field flowers, and aircraft from RAF Valley droned overhead.

The restoration of the church took place in 1857, but this was no Victorian sweepaway of all that was good. The architect in charge was H.Kennedy, who carried out much work in rural Anglesey in the mid- and later 19th c.

In his brochure, John Rowlands remarks "He belonged to a generation of architects known as the "ecclesiologists" who disliked much church restoration carried out in the post-reformation period, preferring instead to imitate the style of the medieval period, especially of the 14th century. St.Mary's is typical of most churches restored by Kennedy, consisting of a chancel and a nave, undivided structurally."

In his 8-page booklet on the church, Mr.Rowlands packs a great deal of interest.

To find the church, cross the railway at Valley and take the immediate turn left, a country lane between high hedges, for about half a mile, and the church will be seen in a field to the right. Read the booklet before you go - copies from Mr.T.A.Pierce, Lon y Llan, Valley. Price £1.50. Postage would also be appreciated.

LEARNING WITH PLEASURE

Courses organised by the WEA and External department of the University are now well under way, but one or two are not due to begin until the New Year. These are:

LOCAL STUDIES at the Primary School, Newborough. 10 meetings from Jan.6. Thursdays at 7.15. Tutor: Gwilym Trefor Jones.

Also at Newborough at the Prichard Jones Institute: ASPECTS OF COASTAL RESEARCH. Thursdays at 7 p.m. 10 meetings from Jan.11. Tutor: Dr.D.Cecil Jones.

At Holyhead Library, ASPECTS OF WELSH HISTORY. A course especially suited to newcomers to Anglesey but all are welcome. Wednesdays, 7 p.m. 10 meetings from Jan.12. Tutor: John Rowlands.

Eryl Rothwell Hughes will conduct a short course of lectures on THE CELTS to be arranged during the January term. Details from the Extra Mural department in early Jan.

The department (0248 382258) will also give details on request of two archaeological study tours, one to Ireland, 20-26 March 1994 and the other to Bristol/Bath.

W.E.A. have study visits to Pembrokeshire and to the Isle of Man during 1994.

The 4-day visit to Pembrokeshire takes place on 25-28 May, staying at the Fishguard Bay Hotel and visiting St.David's Cathedral, Pembroke Castle (birthplace of Henry VII), Tenby, Picton Castle and the Graham Sutherland Gallery. Leader: Rufus Adams.

The Isle of Man tour is publicised in Welsh - "YNYS MANAW, EI HANES A'I DIWYLLIANT" Ramsey, Awst 23-26. Manylion pellach, Gwynn Matthews. Tel: 0745 78482.

BOOK REVIEW

From time to time, especially in the autumn issue of the Newsletter, we have told members of books which mention the history of Anglesey and occasionally have recommended them as Christmas gifts.

This time, mention of "The Old Parish Churches of North Wales" by Mike Salter comes as a warning.

In the section on Anglesey, spellings of place and church names are incorrect, and one wonders if the author ever received proofs before his book was published. If spellings are incorrect, how much credence can be put on the content?

Perhaps the Society's Publications Committee would like to consider publishing an illustrated gazetteer of churches in Anglesey? It could be most useful to those of us living on the island, and visitors, alike. AND it could be depended upon for authenticity!

AN INVITATION ... Footballers, and followers of the game, hoarding information, pictures, and memorabilia regarding the North Wales Coast F.A. are urged to contact Gareth M. Davies, of 27 St.Seiriols Close, Holyhead,

(tel.0407-760576) who is producing a Centenary publication due in 1994.

"If any members would like to assist with any material, it would be very much appreciated says Mr.Davies, who emphasises "The older, the better".

Photographs etc. involving football in Holyhead and Ynys Mon in general would also be very welcome.

All loaned items will be very well cared for, promises Mr.Davies, and returned after copying, and any costs incurred fully reimbursed.

EXHIBITIONS AT ORIEL YNYS MON, 1994

Jan.8 - Feb.12: Paintings by Gwynedd artist PETER PRENDERGAST

Feb.26 - March 27: Photographs and paintings, SEAN HAGERTY, Llanddeusant.

April & May: Items from the Gallery's reserve collections

THE NATIONAL TRUST AT WORK IN ANGLESEY

During 1992/3, the National Trust has carried out work on its property on the island, including the old house at Cemlyn which dates back to the 15th c. Used at one time as a stable, it has been renovated. The roof had to be rebuilt, and this has been done in the traditional way, using slates in diminishing courses as the apex is reached, and lining the inside with a mixture of horsehair and lime. Oak grown at Erddig was used in the roof as well as the floor, to make doors and to make the three-barred windows as probably used in the original building.

Pebbles from the beach have been used to whip the surface of the walls.

The main reason for renovating the house was to ensure a base and workshop for the Trust warden, Bryn Jones, as well as the North Wales Nature Trust warden who is employed during the summer months.

During the last few years, most of the coast path from Cemlyn through Mynachdy and Clegir Fawr to Porth Swtan has been repaired.

A local builder was contracted to repair the chimney at the old copper mines at Cadair Mynachdy. Although the buildings are in ruins, the chimney still stands and the Trust felt it should be safeguarded for the future.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Anglesey Antiquarian Society publications make excellent Christmas gifts. These will be available at the Autumn meeting or can be purchased through the publications secretary, Mrs. Genda Williams, Oriel Ynys Mon, and certain bookshops.