

Golygydd: Mrs. Margaret Hughes, 1 Bryntirion, Llanfairpwll LL61 5YP. Tel: 01248 712084

EXCURSIONS - THE FUTURE

During the weekend excursion to Selby in September, members were given an opportunity to air their views on the future of the Society's outings, after hearing of some of the problems in organising them from the chairman and treasurer. These views were all taken back to the excursions committee a few weeks later, discussed in detail and noted.

Outings have become increasingly costly as must be expected, and concern was expressed about the dwindling support, due, it was believed, to so many conflicting interests. But those who remain faithful followers did not wish them to be discontinued, saying that they were value for money. In fact, many said they would be quite prepared to pay more, as they appreciated that the Society outings offered them opportunities to visit sites and houses they would not otherwise see.

This is all very encouraging to those of us who are at the organising end, and lose sleep over cancellations at the last minute which can cause a make-or-break financial situation. We certainly appreciate the appreciation! But we have also noted the criticisms, and will try to act upon them where we believe it necessary.

And so we set out to plan excursions for 1996, confident that they will be anticipated eagerly, and enjoyed by those who have supported them so well over the years, and, hopefully, by newcomers who hear of their worth as well.

The 1996 day excursion, in July, will take us into a part of Wales we have not visited before as a Society - Lake Vyrnwy and the surrounding countryside. Geraint Evans of Benllech will be in charge. Frances Llewelyn will again lead her intrepid group of walkers into the mountains in June. Local half day outings will see us visiting the southern coast of Anglesey, at Llanedwen and Llanidan under the guidance of Jeffrey and Joan Lewis, and, in September, Caernarfon where Mr. G.W. Parry of Capel Coch will plan visits. The weekend, again in the hands of Emyr and Margaret Hughes, will reflect the popular request at Selby, that we should visit Hereford.

It was heartening to see newcomers at the excursions committee meeting, wanting to help in the organisation, with the old(er) stagers there to help out if need be.

So 1996 promises to be full of interest. Details will have been finalised in time for the printed programme to appear in the spring, as usual.

But these excursions need YOUR support. It would be very encouraging to have a waiting list for every excursion, as was in days gone by. Some of our members remember the days when three coaches were used, and still we had waiting lists!

RESEARCH INTO AN ANGLESEY MUSIC COLLECTION

Thomas Jones, parish clerk of Llanfaethlu during his long lifetime (1818-1898) was responsible for the valuable collection of music which he made, in manuscript form, contained in over 40 pocket books, now held at the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth.

He began his collection when he was 20 years of age, and continued to his death.

Dr. David Evans of Llanfairpwll, a member of the Society and of the music department at Bangor University, is researching into the contents of these books, and will be preparing an article on them for a future issue of the Society's Transactions.

The collection includes anthems, hymn tunes, and various other pieces in the category of religious music, and also folk songs, temperance songs, and music used at social gatherings.

Many of the pieces are anonymous, but one or two names occur which give the flavour of the times - John Ambrose Lloyd and Cristiolus Mon among them.

Dr. Evans says researching into the books is a herculean task, as knowledge of hymnary and Welsh anthems is necessary to evaluate much of the contents, and the music was written out by Thomas Jones in an almost microscopic hand, to be contained in pocket books of this size.

But there is no doubt that the collection is an important one, and its contents will cast a bright light on contemporary music in Anglesey.

Thomas Jones's collection survived after his death, complete, and the then Archdeacon Albert Owen Evans presented them to the National Library of Wales in 1919, when he was rector of Llanfaethlu.

"This collection reflects the changes in musical taste over a long period of time" comments Dr. Evans, "and opens a window on what the people of Anglesey sang and what local composers were writing in the 19th century".

Archdeacon Albert Owen Evans himself was a bibliophile, with over 4,000 books in his personal library. He contributed widely to religious writing during the first half of this century.

EXTRA MURAL AND WEA COURSES IN ANGLESEY IN THE NEW YEAR

At Amlwch, Eryl Rothwell Hughes begins a course, "Post-Roman and Early Medieval Britain with particular reference to Wales", 10 meetings on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. from January 9, in the Community Centre. (Univ. course)

Mr. Hughes also lectures on "The Historical and Traditional Architecture of Wales", 10 meetings on Wednesdays at 7.15 from January 10th in the Bethesda Chapel Room, Holyhead. (Univ. course)

Gwilym Trefor Jones discusses "Aspects of Local History", a course especially suited to newcomers to Anglesey, each Wednesday, 7 p.m. at Holyhead Library, 10 meetings from January 10. (WEA)

"Agweddau ar Hanes Lleol, a Daearyddol Mon" (Gwilym Trefor Jones), dydd Llun, 7 p.m. yn yr Ysgol Gynradd, 10 cyfarfod o Ionawr 15, Brynsiencyn.

A weekend course is planned at Coleg Harlech, July 5-7, 1996, on "Wales and the Tudors, 1553-1603". Tutor, Rufus Adams. (WEA)

Details of all the above from (WEA) 01248 353254; (University) 01248 382256.

A GUIDE TO THE EARLY 16thc. GLASS AT LLANWENLLWYFO CHURCH

A neatly presented booklet by J.O. Hughes, of Llaneilian, was published by the author who is Rector's Warden at Llanwenllwyfo, and made available at the recent flower festival held in this beautiful church. It is indispensable to those who wish to make a close study of the windows. There is also a brief reference to other items of interest in the church.

There are a few copies still available. Contact Mr. Hughes at Bryn Glas, Llaneilian (Tel. Amlwch 830186). Price, £1.50.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Elspeth Mitcheson, who is to return to Anglesey to take up the post of Director of Leisure and Heritage Services under the local government re-organisation which takes place in 1996.

Mrs. Mitcheson was the guest speaker at a recent Antiquarian Society dinner, when she recounted her family connections with Holyhead. Before leaving Anglesey to work with Gwynedd County Council, she was librarian at Llangefni.

DINNER GUEST .. The guest speaker at the Society's annual dinner, 1996, will be Leon Gibson, one of our vice presidents and chief executive to the new Anglesey County Council.

SOCCER HISTORY IS REMEMBERED

Antiquarian Society members have contributed to "A Coast of Soccer Memories, 1894-1994", compiled and edited by Gareth Davies of Holyhead, which tells the story of 100 years of North Wales coast football.

Our chairman, John Rowlands, historian and former headmaster at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi, recalls the Holyhead wartime football League Cup final in April 1941 between Army XI and RAF Valley at the old Recreation Ground, which attracted a crowd of 1,500 spectators.

Past President of the North Wales Coast FA records his experiences of football and its administration, Mr. J.O. Hughes.

Copies, price £11.95 (£3 postage) from Oriel Ynys Mon, Llangefni, or from Gareth Davies at 27 St. Seiriol's Close, Holyhead. Tel: 01407 760576.

Forthcoming exhibitions at Oriel Ynys Mon in the New Year include ...

Jan.13 - Feb.18: Paintings by Harry Hughes Williams, Anglesey artist.

Feb.24 - Mar.24: Pictures from the Oriel collection.

Mar.30 - May 27: Watercolour painting - 200 years' history. Pictures by Cotman, Cox, De Witt, etc.
