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THE SOCIETY'S HELP IS INVITED

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, through arrangements with individuals, "Capel" and other professional organisations, is co-ordinating the recording of nonconformist chapel buildings of Wales.

"We are at present carrying out a search for photographs of chapels", states their spokesman.

"We would be pleased to hear from members of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society of the location of any C19 or early-C20 photographs of chapels of Anglesey."

"At a later stage in the project we would like to see such photographs, note their existence and whereabouts in our Welsh chapels database, and perhaps be allowed to copy selected material for our public archive."

Any information should be sent to Chapels Recording Project, Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Wales, Crown Building, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth SY23 3QQ. Telephone Aberystwyth 621212 or 621224.

THE POT-POURRI

The Society will hold its next Pot-Pourri at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 6, 1998, at Oriel Ynys Môn, Llangefni. This, as usual, will provide an opportunity for any member to present a short talk on any topic relating to the Society's interests.

Members who would like to contribute during the meeting should inform Alun Gruffydd, Meetings secretary, as soon as possible - tel. 01248 724444.

THE "SWTAN" PROJECT

Research has continued into the history and feasibility of restoring the cottage at Swtan, reports Mr. J.O. Hughes, the Society's representative.

The National Trust commissioned a report in association with the local restoration committee. Mr. Tomos Roberts (archivist at UCNW) found deeds relating to a sale of Swtan in 1688. The restoration could be as it was occupied after the turn of the century. The last tenants, still living, have been interviewed and plans for re-building and thatching completed.

The local committee, with the help of Menter Môn, are ready to make an application for lottery money, but they need a lease or possession to be able to do so.

The National Trust, however, are now asking for an adequate endowment fund before they can lease. This has produced an impasse, as substantial money promised by Menter Môn must begin to be used before December 1997 or it will have to be transferred to another project. In that case, the National Trust would merely make the ruin safe.

The report produced is excellent and well worth publishing - but it is sad that, after all the work, the last thatched cottage in Anglesey may never be restored.

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE ANGLESEY COUNTY RECORD OFFICE include ...

Additional papers of William Thomas, ship-builders, Amlwch, 1870s-1950 (WD2).
Almanacau Caergybi, 1896 and 1917 (WM1774).
Additional records of urban and district councils, 20th century, misc.
Llyfr Cownt Capel Abarim, Llanfachraeth, a Melin Machraeth, 1823-1880 (WM1775).
Anglesey Constabulary, Gwalchmai Station Order Book, 1890-1903 (WM1779).
Papers of the Stein family, drapers, Regent House, Amlwch, 1909-1972 (WM1780).
Map of Holyhead which belonged to Jacob Nathan Barkan, showing firewatcher posts, etc. c.1939-1945 (W Maps 80)
Vaccination register, Llangefni sub-district 1890-1898 (WM1785).
Plan and Schedule of Gwynedd River Board of Malltraeth Marsh, c.1950 (WDAK59).
Cofnodion Cynghorau Cymuned Llangadwaladr a Threfdraeth 1927-1984 (WP42 and WP66).

The Record Office sells a small but very useful selection of books of local interest, including the publications of the A.A.S., some publications of Gwynedd Archives and Museums Service and other interesting titles. Copies of old postcards are also available 10p each, including 16 of Anglesey places.

THINKING OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS? ... Why not consider one of the Society's publications?

Mrs. Glenda Williams, Publications officer, will gladly give details of what is available. She can be contacted on 01248 713781.

"CAPEL" - THE CHAPELS HERITAGE SOCIETY

Chapels are closing in Wales at the rate of one a week, as many congregations find it impossible to maintain their buildings. Each year large numbers of chapel records and documents are destroyed or lost.

Many chapels are demolished each year, others are unsympathetically converted to other uses without first being photographed or recorded.

Many buildings are of outstanding architectural interest but few are afforded protection by becoming listed buildings.

These are the problems which prompted the setting up of "CAPEL", the chapels heritage society, whose members wish to encourage the study and preservation of the Nonconformist heritage of Wales.

"CAPEL" offers advice to congregations on ways to maintain and preserve their buildings they record and study chapel architecture, encourage chapels to safeguard their records, and encourage sympathetic conversion of chapel buildings no longer required for their original purpose.

"CAPEL" holds regular meetings in all parts of Wales, organised by county or regional groups, and two national conferences each year, focussing on particular aspects of the chapel heritage of Wales.

Regular newsletters appear, with up-to-date information on the society's activities, also information sheets and practical advice on grant aid, chapel archives, and how to record chapels.

Membership costs £5 per annum. Details from the Hon. Secretary, Miss S.G. Beckley, West Glamorgan Record Office, County Hall, Oystermouth Road, Swansea SA1 3SN.

A NEW PUBLICATION ON CHURCH SILVER

"The Church Plate of the Diocese of St. Asaph", by Canon Maurice H. Ridgway, a well known antiquary, will be published in December 1997.

This will contain a detailed list of the church plate from medieval times to 1837 and is the first time it has been recorded.

The foreword is by the Archbishop of Wales in a fully illustrated book which contains a record of the Rural Deans' visitations in the 18th century which adds interesting information on what they found in parishes in that century.

The work is offered at a pre-publication price of £30 (plus £2.50 p&p) for orders received by December 1st 1997. Details from

the publishers, Gee & Son (Denbigh) Ltd., Chapel Street, Denbigh LL16 3SW.

THE TALWRN GROUP FORGES AHEAD ...

The Talwrn Archaeology Group (President, Frances Llewelyn) has arranged a varied and busy programme for its members during the coming winter and into spring 1998.

This includes talks on the development of the postal service in Anglesey, archival resources for village research, the development of Talwrn, a discussion on wells; early medieval Wales, including the excavations at Rhosyr, recent work at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, shipbuilding and navigation, a churches update, the signalling stations from Holyhead to Liverpool, Thomas Telford and North Wales, town architecture, the Gwynedd Family History Society, and Beaumaris - the establishment of a new town.

Meetings are held at Stone Science, Talwrn. For details of membership, contact Alison Brigstocke (tel. 01248 852420).

WEEKEND EXCURSION 1998 ... Please note ...

The dates of the 1998 weekend excursion will be 10th, 11th and 12th September. We shall be visiting Lincoln. As you will see, this will again be a three-nights' break because of the distance travelled.

We shall traverse the Peak District and will stay at the Lincoln Forte Posthouse in the centre of the town, opposite the Cathedral. Visits will include the 900-years old Cathedral, one of the finest in Britain, William the Conqueror's Castle with its unique prison chapel, The Lawn Visitor Centre sited in a one-time asylum set in beautiful grounds, and there will be a morning bus tour of the city when a local guide will introduce you to some of the city's lesser-known but equally interesting features while you are "sitting comfortably". There will also be a visit to a local stately home.

Lincoln has strong Roman and Medieval associations. It is hoped to invite a travelling exhibition from the County Museum to the hotel with a member of staff to tell us of the importance of Lincoln during these periods.

One coach only will travel, so there will be 49 places. As ever, bookings will be made on a first come, first served basis following receipt of deposits. Make a note in your diary! Details with the usual spring posting.