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Editor/Golygydd:
Mrs. Margaret Hughes, 1 Bryntirion, Llanfairpwll LL61 6BQ. Tel: 01248 712084

A WELL DESERVED HONOUR

The Society's congratulations go to our Patron, The Marquess of Anglesey, who was presented with the Chesney Gold Medal by HRH The Duke of Kent, President of the Royal United Services Institution, at a ceremony in Whitehall in January.

The Chesney Memorial Gold Medal is the highest award in the gift of the Council of the Institute, named after the late General Sir George Chesney, KCB, Royal Engineers, and initiated in 1899.

The Council of the Institute awards the Gold Medal from time to time, to the author of any especially eminent work calculated to advance the military sciences.

"This was not in any way expected by me", says Lord Anglesey, "and I'm humbly delighted that my life's work is to be recognised so splendidly."

Lord Anglesey's life's work is, of course, his eight volumes detailing the history of the British Cavalry, the eighth of which was published on the day of the presentation. This is entitled "The Western Front, 1915 - 1918; Epilogue 1919 - 1939", published by Leo Cooper.

The presentation of the medal took place before some 100 military historians, when Lord Anglesey was invited to make a 20-minute dissertation. Doubtless this was received with the same appreciative acclaim which has always been a feature of his talks to less erudite historians in the Antiquarian Society in the past!

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE ARCHIVES' OFFICE

Ann Venables reports a variety of new and valuable acquisitions to the archives collection ...

School Timetables, Park Infants, Holyhead, 1914, 1918, 1920. Ref.WA11/454.

Adroddiadau blynyddol Capel Horeb MC Brynsiencyn, 1881-1995. Ref.WM 1753.

Plan of part of the Rhianva estate, parishes of Pentraeth, Penmynydd and Llanbedrgoch, 1869. Ref.W Maps 78.

Llyfr cofnodion Clwb Amaethwyr Ieuainc Penmynydd 1945-1948. Ref.WM 1755.

Adroddiadau Siloh, Eglwys y Bedyddwyr, Caergeiliog, 1956-1995. Ref.WM 1758.

Cofnodion Capel Noddfa (Bedyddwyr) Towyn Capel, Trearddur Bay, 1910-1995. Ref.WM 1762.

Additional records of Anglesey County Council; Amlwch, Llangefni and Menai Bridge Urban District Councils; Aethwy, Twrcelyn and Valley Rural District Councils, 1890s-1974. Refs. miscellaneous.

Minute Book of the Holyhead Social and Cycling Club, 1936-1941. Ref.WM 1765.

Added to the Society's collection at Llangefni Library: Colour photographs of each of the Anglesey churches, except Llangwyfan (on the island), taken by the late Emyr Hughes. Originals at the Bangor Diocese Office.

COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

Since 1988, plaques have been erected by the local council at noteworthy sites on Anglesey.

This year, plaques will be unveiled in honour of almanacist and printer Robert Roberts of Holyhead, and osteopath Richard Evans of Llanfaethlu.

Next year, they are planned for linguist Bedwyr Lewis Jones of Llaneilian, sculptor and engineer Richard Huws of Talwrn, and hymnist John Roberts of Llanfwrog.

During 1999, author William David Owen of Llechylched, harpist and bard Robert ap Huw of Llanddeusant, and mathematician William Jones of Llanbabo will be honoured, and these will be followed during the next four years by 10 more.

IN BRIEF ...

Dr. Nancy Edwards, senior lecturer in archaeology at the University of Wales Bangor, has been appointed by the Welsh Office to the Court and Council of the National Museums and Galleries of Wales. Dr. Edwards has lectured to the Society on past occasions.

The annual bilingual service will be held at St. Mary's parish church, Llanfair - yn - Neubwll, near Valley, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 27th, when all will be welcome. In previous years, when the weather has been fine, the service has been held in the churchyard.

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS - NEW PUBLICATION

An introduction by the Society's chairman John Rowlands to this new 128-page book, "Ynys Môn, Isle of Anglesey", in the Archives Photographs series, refers to "an attractive, pictorial account of social, economic and cultural life in Anglesey during the late 19th and 20th centuries", which puts the content in a nutshell, but gives only a brief factual description.

This book, compiled by Philip Steele from archive material, covers the sea, farming life, people at work, desk and pew, leisure and arts and other categories.

"Although the photographs will undoubtedly bring back memories to many who can recall the earlier years of the century", writes John Rowlands, "the book is far more than an exercise in nostalgia. It will undoubtedly appeal to everyone who loves Anglesey and wishes to know more about its people and their distinctive past."

At £9.99, this must surely be a book for everyone's bookshelf. Copies are available from local bookshops, and most of the libraries.

TALWRN GROUP IS BUSY

The Talwrn Archaeology Group's last newsletter lists an impressive programme of meetings when such topics as church and domestic architecture were aired, and workshops held on the presentation of research material for exhibition and for publication as well as reports from individual members on research under way.

Diggers have been out excavating and hoping to find possible remnants of Roman roads. Maps have been collected and tithe maps and apportionment records investigated.

The enthusiasm of the members of the Group appears to know no bounds, which goes to prove that the "hands on" attitude to local history is exciting and inspiring.

IN TRUST ...

Amlwch Industrial Heritage Trust is in the process of being set up legally, and as this newsletter is being prepared a meeting is being held to discuss its aims and objects.

Early last year, a day school was held at Amlwch which attracted 160, and following a circular letter inviting further interest, 26 of those attending said they would like to be involved further by becoming Friends of the Trust.

Already, £3000 has been set aside by Menter Mon to help fund the organisation.

The main aim of Amlwch Industrial Heritage Trust will be to look into the archaeology of the copper mines at Mynydd Parys.

Anyone wanting to know more should contact Dave Wagstaff, at Pandy Parc, Llandyfrydog.

INDUSTRIAL GWYNEDD, vol.1 contains two articles on Anglesey topics. "Awdur Cob Malltraeth" by Thomas Roberts, and "Parys Mountain, Past, Present and Future" by Rob Vernon. Copies are on sale at Oriel Ynys Môn.

THE SOCIETY'S WEEKEND EXCURSION, 1997

With this newsletter, you will receive details of the excursions for 1997, and will note that we are experimenting with the weekend. This year, because of the distance we shall travel, it will cover three nights in place of the usual two.

When we visited Cambridge, some years ago, it was the opinion of many that as there was so much travelling involved, an extra night would have been welcomed so that more could have been seen in a more leisurely fashion.

This year, we shall be in that area again, but not in the city this time. The hotel stands on one of the main routes north of Cambridge, and will be a useful and comfortable base for a day's excursion on the Friday to the beautiful small city of Ely. This is Fen country, and Ely Cathedral is well named "The Ship of the Fens" as it stands on a rise and is a breathtaking landmark for miles around.

The day in Ely will be a leisurely one. Members will be free to explore for most of the time, and will be given a guide and a street map to spend the morning seeing sites of their own choice. We shall all meet up in the early afternoon for a visit to the Cathedral before returning to the hotel for dinner.

This year, too, we shall revert to the tradition of having a speaker on the first evening, a local historian who will introduce us to Ely and tell its story.

Saturday will be spent visiting the wonderful chapel at Madingley American War Cemetery in the morning, and imposing Wimpole Hall in the afternoon. We return home on Sunday.

As arrangements are different from usual and costs higher, it would help if you would please book your place(s) as soon as possible so that it can be decided whether plans are acceptable and numbers viable. If you hear nothing soon after applying, you will know that the weekend will go ahead. If not, your cheque will be returned immediately.