



CYMDEITHAS HYNAFIAETHWYR MÔN

CYLCHLYTHYR · NEWSLETTER

ANGLESEY ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

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I hope all AAS members enjoyed a good summer. I am writing this on the first day of September and the weather seems to know the season has changed. To cheer us up in this autumnal weather, our 2026/27 lecture series begin on the 18th of September. We have some excellent talks lined up, which we hope you will attend (see page 8 for details). A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to this NL by penning reports and sharing their photographs. KJP



Agata Eltman – Friends of Friendless Churches ‘Saving the Unwanted’: A whistle stop tour through our 69 years of rescuing, repairing, and re-opening historic churches. - 17th April 2026

Dr Warren Kovach introduced our evening's speaker, Agata Eltman, Deputy Director of Friends of Friendless Churches (FoFC). Agata began by outlining the history of FoFC, now in its 69th year. The charity was founded in 1957 by Ivor Bulmer-Thomas, a Welshman, born in Monmouthshire. Bulmer-Thomas was passionate about protecting redundant churches and chapels, buildings of architectural or historic interest in danger of falling into disrepair or under threat of unsympathetic restoration. Before the establishment of FoFC, he had restored St James' Church in Llangua, Mons., in memory of his wife. Such an endeavour inspired and motivated him to widen the scope and rescue further churches at risk of neglect or dereliction. Whether in rural or urban settings, Bulmore-Thomas saw such buildings as enduring landmarks, their very presence a testament to the dedication and community spirit of past generations – 'a perpetual reminder of spiritual values'. He wanted to save such buildings for the nation and ensure public access to all. With a like-minded group of friends, including some influential twentieth-century figures – T.S Elliot, John Betjeman and Roy Jenkins – FoFC was born.

FoFC has gone from strength to strength and now has 71 places of worship under its care – 34 in Wales and 37 in England. 2026 will see the adoption of three further churches in Wales and two in England. Agata gave a fascinating overview of the impressive restoration and maintenance work undertaken by FoFC, providing detailed case studies drawn from its extensive portfolio of finished and ongoing preservation projects.

One of the first churches to be taken into the care of FoFC in England was the beautiful church of St Peter's in Wickham Bishops, Essex. Dating to the twelfth century and constructed of flint rubble and re-used Roman bricks, it provides evidence of the earlier Roman presence in this part of Essex. St Peter's closed its doors in 1970 and was under threat of demolition. Sensitive restoration started in 1975 and has taken many years of hard work and dedication to complete. A suspended timber floor has been installed to cover the earthen floor, a new altar has been provided for the chancel, and the original font has been restored to its place. One of the most surprising and gratifying aspects of the conservation was the

discovery of four schemes of wall paintings dating from the thirteenth to the seventeenth century – a reminder of how colourful the interior of historic churches could be and of the biblical scenes past congregations contemplated during worship. The church is now open to the public and houses the studio of a stained-glass artist who has created some beautiful new windows for St Peter's.

In Wales, St Baglan's Church, Llanfaglan, came under the care of FoFC in the late 1970s. In a picturesque location overlooking Caernarfon Bay, the earliest part of the church dates to the thirteenth century. However, the presence of a holy well and the integration of an early medieval (5-6th century) inscribed stone into the fabric of the church, which originally marked the grave of one Anatemorus son of Lovernius, suggests earlier, perhaps pre-Christian beginnings. Agata showed us some wonderful images of the church, some taken by Bulmore-Thomas himself in 1992.

Bulmore-Thomas wanted to ensure that there was a more formal mechanism for protecting redundant churches in Wales. This is something he ardently pushed for during his directorship of FoFC. Bulmore-Thomas died in 1993 but this wish was finally realized in 1999, under the chairmanship of Roger Evans. FoFC entered into a formal agreement with Cadw and the Church of Wales which set out a structural process for the charity to take on the care and ownership of redundant churches.

The FoFC protects six churches on Ynys Môn. The first church to come under the charity's care, and the first in Wales, was the church of St Afran, St Ieuan and St Sannan in Llantrisant in 1978. Replaced by a new church a

mile away in 1899, the old church gradually fell into disrepair and by 1972 was derelict. Dating to the fourteenth century, the church was mentioned in the 1254 Valuation of Norwich as the Ecclesia de Llansann. FoFC's first priority was to replace the roof to keep out the elements. Of note in the simple and charming interior is the twelfth- or early-thirteenth-century font, box pews and two intricate baroque monuments.

Society members visited three churches on Anglesey in the care of FoFC last summer under the expert guidance of Rachel Morley, FoFC



St Peter's Church, Wickham Bishops

Photo By Glyn Baker,

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Director (see NL, 2025, no. 85). In 2025, St Tyfrydog's, Llandyfrydog became FoFC's latest church in Ynys Môn. This small medieval church is traditionally thought to have a fifth-century origin. The present church is of fifteenth-century date. A colourful stained glass window, produced in Liverpool by W. H. Sullivan in 1873, enriches the atmosphere of the interior. In a bad state of repair, the planned programme of restoration for St Tyfrydog's includes re-roofing, plaster renewal, new rainwater goods and below ground drainage. It is hoped that the church will be open to the public in 2027.



St. Baglans Church, Llanfaglan Photo: Nigel Williams, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9314024>

As Agata's absorbing lecture drew to a close, she emphasized that FoFC is indebted to the 160 volunteers that help to keep churches open and cared for, and to the body of specialists whose expertise helps to save and preserve the buildings in FoFC's care. She encouraged us to get involved, either as members or in a volunteering role. Details can be found on the FoFC website <https://friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk/support-the-fofc/>.

KJP.



St Tyfrydog's Church, Llandyfrydog Photo: Nigel Williams, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9314024>

Dr Marc Collinson – 'The road to Wylfa: a nuclear North Wales?' Friday 15 May 2026

Following the Society's AGM, Joanna Robertson (AAS Chair), warmly welcomed our evening's speaker, Dr Marc Collinson. A lecturer in contemporary history and politics at Bangor University, Marc's lecture focused on the establishment of nuclear power in Wales within the political, economic and social context of the post-war period. This was a time of renewal with an accelerated drive toward technological advances in the wake of the deindustrialisation of traditional industries.

As part of a programme of nationalisation, power generation was nationalised in 1948 under the control of the British Electricity Authority (BEA). This was brought about by a crucial need to generate enough power to heat and light the nation's homes and to boost the economy after the war - an issue that dominated local and national politics. The first nuclear power station in Wales was Trawsfynydd, built within the Eryri National Park (created in 1951). Whilst local MPs and trade union leaders championed this move to secure jobs in the area, Marc explained that its construction was a contentious issue that sparked a 'preservation versus amenities' debate. Voices against the building of the power station included members of the National Park Commission, who believed its scale and architecture represented an alien imposition on the landscape. It was felt that it would spoil the area's natural and cultural heritage. Prominent figures such as Saunders Lewis saw it as a sell-out and that Wales should not compromise its future. He declared at the 1958 National Eisteddfod, 'the future should not be sold for a scrap of food'. Others took a more conciliatory tone and called for respect for the landscape. Landscape artist, Sylvia Crowe, believed that, if care was taken in the architectural design and siting of the power station, there was no reason why nature and modernity might not complement each other. Trawsfynydd nuclear power station became operational in 1965.

The building of Trawsfynydd had received a great deal of local political support as the need for jobs and investment was keenly felt in North Wales. This was also the case when a second power station was proposed – two

locations were considered: Edern, Llŷn Peninsula – rejected principally on the argument that it would be located in an area designated as an area of outstanding beauty in 1957, and Connah's Quay, Flintshire – also ruled out, due to the densely populated area it would occupy.



Dr Marc Collinson

Marc posed the question, so why Wylfa? Several reasons made it a more favourable choice: population had doubled in the North Wales and Merseyside area so there was an urgent need to increase energy capacity; unemployment and depopulation were a major concern in the region; negative reaction, whilst still a factor, was less; and the site at Wylfa was actively supported by the Ynys Môn MP, Cledwyn Hughes, who saw economic development as a priority on the island.

Lessons learnt at Trawsfynydd were acted on. At Trawsfynydd there had been criticism that jobs in the construction and operation of the power station did not go to local people. Opportunities for construction work and long-term skilled work for local people were prioritised at Wylfa. In addition,

the UK government, as part of regional development policy, subsidised the development of Anglesey Aluminium (AA), an aluminium smelter. AA was able to operate efficiently by taking advantage of Wylfa's vast electricity generation capacity. As Marc pointed out, AA became one of the largest employers in North Wales, employing nearly 550 people at its height.

Initially, transport issues made the logistics of constructing Wylfa difficult. Marc described the problems encountered in getting the necessary building equipment and installation parts to the Wylfa site. The North Wales Chronicle, 1965, recorded how a large piece of equipment, carried by lorry and destined for Wylfa, had become stuck on the Menai Bridge – the driver had to reverse and send the equipment by sea. Similarly, a large boiler (also too large to cross via bridge) had to be floated out along the Menai Strait. In time, the building of Wylfa led to improved infrastructure on the island, as new roads were constructed to improve connectivity.

Economic benefits were seen in other ways too. Rising employment levels meant wages were spent in local businesses. Wylfa became operational in 1971.

The building of Wylfa and the use of nuclear power per se is a contested heritage. Drawing to a close, Marc reflected on how protests against nuclear power plants have changed: from the debates in the 1950s and 1960s on the visual impact of nuclear power stations and the destruction of natural landscapes, to the 1980s, when safety became the principal driver for protest following the 1986 Chernobyl disaster – a human

tragedy which also had a direct adverse impact on the people, landscape and agriculture of North Wales.

To conclude, Marc contemplated to what extent Welsh historical experience of nuclear energy will help to navigate nuclear debates of the twenty-first century. After such an informative and engaging lecture, it is reassuring to know that research carried out by historians such as Marc is available to help inform those discussions.

KJP

Gwibdaith Mynydd Parys - Mehefin 27ain 2026

Ag awelon mwyn y môr yn claeau poethdon Mehefin, ymgasglodd yr aelodau ar lethrau Mynydd Parys i fwynhau taith ddaearogol dan arweiniad medrus Rob Crossley o GeoMôn ac Oliver Burrows o Grŵp Parys Underground.

Ffurfiwyd Mynydd Parys o greigiau folcanig Ordofigaidd hwyr neu Silwraidd cynnar oddeutu 440 miliwn mlynedd yn ôl. Ond calcopyrit yw'r mwyn ffurfiodd y copor gan roi iddo ei arlliw coegeuraidd. Tra'n arwain trwy'r tomenni gwastraff amryliw, adroddodd Rob ac Oliver hanes datblygiad Mynydd Parys o'i ddinodedd cynnar i'w statws fel un o gloddfeydd copor mwyaf y 18fed Ganrif.

Ond mae tystiolaeth y'i cloddwyd am gopor gyntaf yn ystod yr Oes Efydd - wrth ymchwilio tomenni hynafol, datgloddodd archaeolegwyr gerrig morthwyl crynion 4,000 oed. Yn y 1760au, cafwyd hyd i swmp mawr o fwyn copor yn agos at yr wyneb, ac arweiniodd hynny at un o'r hyrddau mwyaf syfrdanol o weithgarwch diwydiannol a welwyd erioed: roedd mwyngloddio graddfa enfawr ar droed!

Ffurfiwyd dau gwmni mwyngloddio: y Parys Mine Company sef eiddo Llys Dulas, a'r Mona Mine Company oedd ym meddiant Plas Newydd. Mewn dim o dro, roedd cynnyrch y ddau gwmni yn rheoli marchnad gopor y byd - yn wir, llaweswyd llongau rhyfel Prydain â'u copor gan gynyddu buanedd a rhwyddhau ystywythder.

Ar y cychwyn, cloddwyd y mwyn trwy siafftiau bas. Gallai'r mwynwyr cynnar adnabod a dilyn brigadau yn cynnwys copor, a phe baent yn dod o hyd i wythien dda, byddent yn cloddio siafft syml. Yn ddiweddarach, dymchwelwyd y siafftiau cynnar hynny i'w gilydd er mwyn ffurfio dau dwtll agored mawr.

Byddai dynion, merched a phlant yn gweithio ar Fynydd Parys bryd hyn, ond y Copor Ladis oedd yn ymgymryd â'r gwaith lladdfaol o falu'r mwyn copor ar yr wyneb. Gydag ond morthwyl a charreg golbio, byddai merched a genethod mor ifanc a 12 oed yn morthwylu'r mwyn nes byddai'n ddarnau digon mân i'w smeltio.

Yn y blynyddoedd cynnar, smeltiwyd y mwyn ym Mhorth Amlwch ei hun ond yn ddiweddarach byddai'n cael ei allforio i Ddyffyn Tawe i'w brosesu. Yn ei anterth roedd Rhuthr Copor Amlwch yn cyflogi dros 1,500 o bobl.

Dull arall o gynhyrchu copor oedd trwy gyfrwng gwaddodiad. Byddai

Excursion to Mynydd Parys - June 27th 2026

As a blistering June heatwave bowed before a blustery sea breeze, doughty members gathered at Mynydd Parys for a geological mystery tour ably led by Rob Crossley of GeoMôn and Oliver Burrows of Parys Underground Group.

Mynydd Parys is made up of late Ordovician or early Silurian volcanic rocks that formed 440 million years ago. But the main copper-producing ore is chalcopyrite which gives it a brassy yellow colour. As we set off through the multicoloured mounds of mine waste, Rob and Oliver took turns to relate the Mynydd Parys odyssey - from obscurity to its late 18th Century status as the largest copper mine in the world.

It was first mined for copper in the Bronze Age - archaeologists investigating ancient tips unearthed rounded hammerstones dating back roughly 4,000 years. But in the 1760s a great mass of copper ore was discovered quite close to the surface, and this led to one of the most extraordinary bursts of industrial activity ever seen: large scale mining had begun.

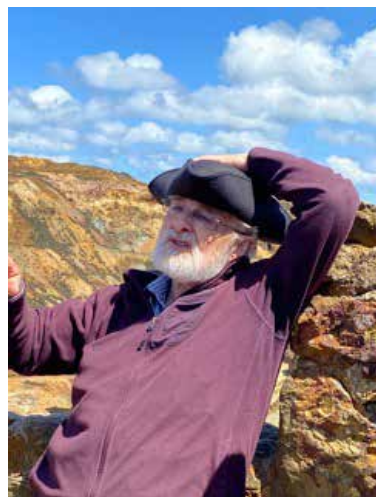
Two mining companies were formed: the Parys Mine Company owned by Llys Dulas, and the Mona Mine Company owned by Plas Newydd. Production from the two companies soon dominated the world's copper market, and their copper was used to sheath British war ships, thus increasing speed and manoeuvrability.

At first, the ore was extracted from shallow shafts. Early miners followed outcrops of copper-bearing ore - if a good vein was found, a simple shaft was dug. Later, the early shafts were collapsed in on each other to form two large open-cast pits.

Men, women and children worked on Mynydd Parys at this time, but it was the Copper Ladies who performed the gruelling work of breaking up the copper ore at the surface. Equipped with a hammer and knockstone, women and girls as young as 12 years hammered the ore into manageable chunks before smelting.

In the early years, smelting was carried out at Porth Amlwch; later, the ore was exported to the Swansea Valley for processing. But at its peak the Amlwch Copper Rush employed over 1,500 people.

Another method of obtaining copper was by precipitation. Rainwater leached salts from the copper ore into purpose-built precipitation



Rob Crossley holds onto his hat



AAS group looking down into the big open-cast mine pit
Photo: Ann Huws



View of the mine

dŵr glaw yn trwytholchi halenau o'r mwyn copor i byllau gwaddodi pwrpasol; cai haearn sgrap ei daflu i'r pyllau er mwyn cychwyn proses cemegol oedd yn arwain i slwtsh copor asidig; byddai hwnnw'n cael ei olchi a'i sychu er mwyn cynhyrchu copor.

Camodd Yr Athro Catherine Duigan, ecolegwraig dŵr croyw, ymlaen i adrodd ei hanes yn derbyn gwahoddiad i ddadansoddi'r dŵr yn y pyllau gwaddodi oherwydd fod cwmni ffilm yn awyddus i ffilmio reslwragedd mwd yn ymaflyd ynddynt! Ond mynegodd Catherine amheuan enbyd pan ddangosodd ei hymchwil fod y slwtsh asidig â pH o 2-3. Byddai wreslo yn hwnnw wedi peri niwed sylweddol i'r croen!

Daeth cloddio tan ddaear i ben yn 1904, a gwaddodi copor yn y 1940au. Yn y 1990au, sylweddolodd peirianwyr fod swmp enfawr o ddŵr asidig a orweddaid tu ôl i argae ddarfodedig yn bygwth Amlwch. Yn 2003, gwagiwyd yr argae a datguddiwyd llawr enfawr y gloddfa am y tro cyntaf.

Trân ymweld bryd hynny, digalonodd Rob wrth sylwi cymaint o hen geir modur oedd wedi eu dympio yn y gloddfa dros y blynyddoedd. Yn ei ddiastod taflodd garreg at un ond fe'i syfrdanwyd pan chwalodd y car yn chwillfriu o flaen ei lygaidd. Dros amser, roedd asid yn y slwtsh copor wedi cyrrydu'r darnau metel yn llwyr, a'r cyfan ar ôl oedd haen denau o baent yn ymrithiad drychiolaethol o'r modur gwreiddiol.

Oherwydd llygredd, prin yw'r planhigion ar Fynydd Parys, ac mae'r tirwedd arall-fydol wedi ymddangos mewn sawl ffilm. Ond mae'n safle poblogaidd gyda thrigolion lleol ac ymwelwyr, ac mae modd sicrhau mynediad at rai o'r siafftau a'r tramwyfeydd - ond gydag arweinyddion proffesiynol wrth gwrs!

Teithiodd yr aelodau i Borth Amlwch a phencadlys GeoMôn ble daeth Rob ymlaen i ddangos llinell amser ddaearogol Môn. Cyfeiriodd at John Stevens Henslow, botanegwr a daearogwr fu'n astudio daearog Môn yn 1820-21, ac aeth ymlaen yn athro Mwynyddiaeth ac yna Botaneg yng Nghaergrawnt. Yn 1831, cafodd Henslow gynnig i ymuno ar fwrdd yr HMS Beagle ar gyfer ei thaith dwy flynedd i arolygu De America. Gwrthododd yntau, ond awgrymodd dylai Charles Darwin fynd yn ei le. A dyna wr ifanc di-nôd yn cael cyfle i osod ei stamp ar Hanes.

Cyn ffarwelio, rhythodd Rob dros furiau'r harbwr a thraw tua'r môr. Mewn un llecyn, roedd arlliw coegeuraidd i'r dŵr - arwydd pendant fod copor o Fynydd Parys yn parhau i drwytholchi hyd heddiw.

Ann Huws

ponds; scrap iron was thrown in to start a chemical process which produced an acidic copper sludge; this was washed and dried to produce the copper metal.

Freshwater ecologist Professor Catherine Duigan, stepped forward to tell the story of an invitation she received to analyse water in the precipitation ponds. A film company planned to film lady mud-wrestlers tussling there! Catherine expressed concern when she discovered the acidic sludge had a pH of 2-3. Wrestling in that would have resulted in serious skin damage!

Underground mining came to an end in 1904; precipitation of copper from acidic mine water ended in the 1940s. In the 1990s, engineers realised that a large volume of water held back by a decaying dam posed a danger to Amlwch. In 2003, the dam was emptied gradually, thus exposing the enormous opencast floor.

Visiting this, Rob Crossley was saddened to see old cars that had been dumped over time. In disgust, he hurled a stone at one, but was astonished when the car simply disintegrated before his eyes. Over the years, its metal components had been eaten away by acid in the copper sludge. All that had remained was its thin coat of paint - a ghostly manifestation of the car's original form.

Because of soil contamination, there is little plant life on Mynydd Parys, and its brooding landscape has featured in many films. However, it is a popular spot for locals and tourists alike, and it is still possible to gain access to some of the shafts and passages - with expert guides of course!

Members moved on to Porth Amlwch and GeoMôn HQ where Rob presented a timeline of Anglesey's geology. He also spoke about John Stevens Henslow, a botanist and geologist who studied Anglesey geology in 1820-21, and became professor of Mineralogy and later Botany at Cambridge. In 1831, Henslow was offered a place on the HMS Beagle for its 2-year voyage to survey South America. He refused, but suggested Charles Darwin be asked instead. The rest is History!

As we said our farewells, Rob gazed across the harbour and out to sea. At one spot, the water displayed a distinctly yellowish tinge - a sure sign that copper from Mynydd Parys is still leaching to this day.

Ann Huws

Gwibdaith Bodewryd - Gorffennaf 4ydd 2026

Ildiodd mwynder Mehefin i wyntoedd main Gorffennaf, a nadreddodd yr aelodau ar hyd cillfyrdd canoldir Môn i Fodewryd i wrando hen hanes yr eglwys a'r stâd.

Lediodd ein siaradwr cyntaf, Robin Grove-White, y ffordd tuag eglwys fechan ganoloesol y Santes Fair ble mae atsain hiraethus y gorffennol yn oedi ar ei muriau o hyd. Ni wyddwn pryd y'i codwyd, ond mae wedi ei henwi yn Nhrethiad Norwich 1254, a hon oedd eglwys y teulu Wynn (neu Wynne), perchnogion Plas Bodewryd gerllaw, rhwng 1521 a 1755.

Roedd Bodewryd yn stâd bwysig erbyn y 16eg Ganrif, ond Edward Wynn (1681-1755) oedd yr olaf o'r Wynniaid i'w meddu. Gŵr deallus a dysgedig, fe'i penodwyd yn Ganghellor Esgobaeth Henffordd, a bu'n dal y swydd o 1707 tan 1754. Fel Canghellor, ei rôl oedd llywyddu llysoedd consistori Henffordd a Llwydlo a sefydlwyd i ymdrin â materion eglwysig o fewn yr esgobaeth - profi ewyllysiau, casglu degymau, a gosod penyd am bechodau fel godymu, puteinio ac usuriaeth.

Byddai'n gweithredu'n ddiwyd, gan deithio i Henffordd hyd at chwe gwaith y flwyddyn. Ond tra yno, ymddiddorai yn y dulliau ffermio mwyaf diweddar gan eu haddasu ar gyfer tirwedd a hinsawdd Bodewryd, a thrwy hynny gynyddu cynnyrch y stâd a'i gwneud yn fwy effeithlon a phroffidiol.

Ond roedd Edward Wynn yn gofnodwr trylwyr hefyd - boed gofnodion swyddogol materion yr esgobaeth, rhestrau a chyfrifon, neu ohebiaeth breifat rhyngddo ef a'i wraig ymddieithriedig. Yn drist iawn, bu farw Edward Wynn heb etifedd gwryw ac aeth y stâd i Margaret Owen, aeres Stâd Penrhos (Caergybi) ac wyres i Anne (marw 1748), sef chwaer

Excursion to Bodewryd - July 4th 2026

As a hot June gave way to a windy July, members snaked warily along narrow country lanes to Bodewryd and a chance to hear of its long-past history.

Our first speaker was Robin Grove-White who led the way to the small medieval church of St Mary's, its walls stained with haunting echoes of the past. When it was built remains a mystery, but it is named in the Norwich Taxation of 1254, and was the family church of the Wynn (or Wynne) family, owners of the nearby Plas Bodewryd from 1521 to 1755.

Bodewryd was an important estate by the 16th Century, but Edward Wynn (1681-1755) was the last of the Wynn landlords. An intelligent and highly educated man, he was appointed Chancellor of the Diocese of Hereford, and held the position from 1707 until 1754. As Chancellor, he presided over the consistory courts of Hereford and Ludlow which had been set up to deal with church matters within the diocese - wills and probates, collecting tithes, as well as setting penances for various sins such as adultery, fornication and usury.

He carried out his duties diligently, travelling to Hereford up to six times a year. But while there, he also took great interest in the latest farming practices, modified them to suit Bodewryd soil and climate, thus improving the estate's production and making it more efficient and profitable.

But Edward Wynn was also a meticulous keeper of records - from official records of diocesan matters, to lists and accounts, and private correspondence with his estranged wife. Sadly, he died without a male heir and the estate passed to Margaret Owen, heiress of the Penrhos

Edward, oedd wedi priodi â Robert Owen o Benrhos. Priododd Margaret gyda Syr John Thomas Stanley o Alderley Swydd Caer in 1763.

Er fod sawl aelod o deulu'r Wynnaiad wedi eu claddu ym mynwent Eglwys y Santes Fair, nid oes beddfeini i nodi eu man gorffwys. Serch hynny, mae placiau efydd yn yr eglwys ei hun yn cofnodi dilyniant y llinach.

Yn 1867 cyllidwyd atgyweirio'r eglwys gan Henry, trydydd Arglwydd Stanley o Alderley a gor-wyr Margaret Owen - diplomat yn yr Ymerodraeth Otomanaidd a drodd at Islam, a'r aelod seneddol Moslemaidd cyntaf. Un amod ei nawdd oedd fod nodweddion Islamaidd yn cael eu cynnwys mewn unrhyw waith atgyweirio - yn Eglwys y Santes Fair, mae'r ffenestri yn amlygu patrymau geometrig o wydr lliw yn hytrach nag eiconograffi Cristnogol.

Yn y fynwent, tynnodd Robin ein sylw at garreg fedd Hugh Williams, tyddynnwr a daflwyd oddi ar ei dir gan rym y Deddfau Cau Tiroedd - deddfau roedd William Bulkeley Hughes o Frynddu a hendar Robin, yn gefnogi. Bu farw Hugh yn 1867 ac ar ei feddfaen mewn cywydd caeth mae cerydd fflangellol - yn cyfeirio at Bulkeley Hughes ei hun efallai?

Nid penyd clefyd am cloes

Nid ingawl angyd dolurloes.

Nid henaint aeth am heinioes

Ond dyn a fu yn dwyn fy oes.

Erys y gerdd yn atgof ingol o'r tensiynau ynghlwm â chau tiroedd, a bod tensiynau o'r fath yn parhau'n berthnasol hyd heddiw.

Yna aethom draw i Blas Bodewryd ei hun. Dyma adeilad cofrestredig Gradd II*, y bloc canolog yn dyddio o'r 15fed Ganrif hwyr i'r 16eg gynnar, gydag estyniadau pellach yn y canrifoedd canlynol. Mae'r ffaith i'r plas gael ei ehangu i'r fath raddau yn dystiolaeth o lwyddiant a ffyniant y teulu Wynn dros y blynyddoedd.

Gwelir colomendy'n sefyll ar godiad tir gerllaw. Mae'n debyg iddo gael ei godi yn y 18fed Ganrif i sicrhau cyflenwad o gig colomen a phlŷ i Blas Bodewryd, a chredir iddo gysgodi 400 nyth. Roedd cig colomen yn foethusbeth yn y 18fed Ganrif, a chan fod modd gweld y colomendy o bell, gallwn awgrymu bod hwn wedi ei godi i dynnu sylw at lwyddiant a phwysigrwyd yr Wynnaiad hefyd.

Cyn cloi, brasgamodd Arwyn Owen ymlaen i gyflwyno ei ymchwiliad ar y lloc cynhanesyddol gerllaw. Awgrymodd ffotograffiaeth o'r awyr, delweddaeth LiDAR ac arolwg geoffisegol fod cloddwaith oddeutu 60



Dovecot

Photo: Ian Jones

Estate (Holyhead) and grand-daughter of Edward's sister Anne (died 1748) who had married Robert Owen of Penrhos. Margaret married Sir John Thomas Stanley of Alderley Cheshire in 1763.

Many of the Wynn family are buried in St Mary's churchyard but no headstones remain. However, brass plaques inside the church itself celebrate the continuity of the Wynn lineage.

Restoration of St Mary's in 1867 was funded by Henry, the third Lord Stanley of Alderley - great grandson of Margaret Owen, a diplomat in the Ottoman Empire who converted to Islam, and the first Muslim MP. His patronage demanded that Islamic detail be included in any restoration work, and at St Mary's, the window panes display geometric patterns of small coloured glass rather than Christian iconography.

In the cemetery, Robin drew our attention to the headstone of Hugh Williams, a smallholder forced out by the might of the Enclosures Act which Robin's ancestor, William Bulkeley Hughes of Brynddu, supported. Hugh died in 1867 and on his

headstone in strict cywydd metre is an excoriating condemnation - of Bulkeley Hughes himself perhaps?

No penance of illness imprisoned me;

No woeful death full of pain;

Age did not rob me of being -

'Twas a man who robbed me of life.

The poem remains a poignant and symbolic reminder of the tensions associated with enclosures, and how such tensions can still resonate today.

We moved on to Plas Bodewryd itself: a Grade II* listed building, with a late 15th or early 16th Century central block and further extensions added in later centuries. That it has been so much extended is testimony to the success and prosperity of the Wynn family over the years.

A square dovecote stands on higher ground nearby. It was probably built in the 18th Century to supply meat and feathers for Plas Bodewryd, and may have housed 400 nests. Pigeon meat was a prestige item in the 18th century, and as the dovecote can be seen from some distance, one could suggest that it too was built to emphasise the success and importance of the Wynn family.

Finally, Arwyn Owen sprang forward to introduce his research into a possible prehistoric enclosure nearby. Aerial photography, LiDAR imagery and geophysical survey suggest an earthwork approximately 60 meters in diameter: two excavations have uncovered a series of features as



Plas Bodewryd

Photo: Ian Jones



Arwyn Owen discusses his archaeological research

Photo: Ian Jones

meter mewn diameter yma: datgelodd dau gloddiaid gyfres o nodweddion yn ogystal â rhai arteffactau. Gan fod y safle yn sefyll o fewn tirwedd ehangach o breswyllo cynhanesyddol, mae'r darganfyddiadau hyn yn awgrymu safle aml-gyfnod gyda gweithgaredd o'r Oes Efydd hwyr.

Pwysleisiodd Arwyn fod safleoedd o'r fath yn gofyn sawl cwestiwn ond heb gynnig ateb. Onid allai hynny fod yn wir am Eglwys y Santes Fair, Plas Bodewryd a'r colomendy hefyd? Wrth ymadael â'r fangre hanesyddol hon, tybiodd sawl aelod y gellid gwneud yr un datganiad am holl Hanes - mae'n gofyn mwy o gwestiynau nag yw'n cynnig atebion.

Ann Huws

well as some artefacts. As the site sits within a wider landscape of known prehistoric occupation, these discoveries do suggest a multi-period site with activity from the late Bronze Age.

As Arwyn emphasised, such sites pose questions without answers, but could that not also be true of St Mary's Church, Plas Bodewryd and its dovecote too? As members went on their way, some pondered whether such a statement could be made of all History - it often poses more questions than it provides answers?

Ann Huws

Taith y Rhyl - Gorffennaf 25ydd 2026

Ar ddydd Sadwrn 25 Gorffennaf, fe wnaeth Hynafiaethwyr Ynys Môn ymweld â thref glan môr Fictoriaidd y Rhyl am daith tywys hanes cudd (a diddorol) y dref. Teithiodd sawl aelod o'r grŵp yna ar y trên. Yn dilyn cyfnod arall o dywydd crasboeth, roedd hi'n braf gweld y tymheredd wedi disgyn ychydig, ac er yn gymylog gydag ychydig o law mân, ni wnaeth hyn ddifetha ein hwyliau. Roeddem yna i ddysgu mwy am etifeddiaeth cyfnod dwristiaeth dorfol Oes Fictoria a dechrau'r ugeinfed ganrif, i drafod dirywiad y Rhyl, a'r rhesymau dros hynny, ond hefyd i chwilio am yr arwyddion niferus o adfywio. Arweiniwyd yr ymweliad yn fedrus gan ein Cadeirydd, Joanna Robertson, gyda Maggi a Colin Blythin o Grŵp Hanes y Rhyl.

Dechreuodd y daith yn yr orsaf drenau, a clywsom fod rhan helaeth o'r tir cafodd y Rhyl ei adeiladu arno wedi'i adfer o'r môr. Canolbwyntiwyd y datblygiadau cynnar ar ardal Crescent Road, gyda datblygiadau tua'r dwyrain, yn bennaf eiddo preswyl a masnachol, yn yr 1820au a'r 1830au. Bu'r ehangu i'r gorllewin yn bennaf i ddarparu ar gyfer twristiaid, nifer ohonynt wedi teithio o Lerpwl ar longau stemar. Canolbwynt ein taith oedd ardal y Rhyl i'r gogledd o'r rheilffordd. Wrth i ni gerdded, roedd modd gwerthfawrogi natur gynlluniedig y dref yn llawn, a oedd wedi ei datblygu ar batrwm grid.

Cafodd dyfodiad y rheilffordd effaith sylweddol ar ddatblygiad y Rhyl fel un o gyrchfannau gwyliau mwyaf llwyddiannus Oes Fictoria, a parhau wnaeth yr etifeddiaeth yma ymhell i mewn i'r ugeinfed ganrif. Cyrhaeddodd y rheilffordd yn 1848, ac o hynny ymlaen gwelodd y Rhyl gyfnod o dwf, gyda llety, theatrau, baddonau, llawr sgelfrio, promenâd, a phier wedi'u datblygu i wasanaethu'r mewnlifiad o dwristiaid. Erbyn 1893, y Rhyl oedd tref fwyaf Sir hanesyddol y Fflint.

Roedd cyfle i edmygu adeilad yr orsaf drenau, a agorwyd ar 1 Mai 1848 cyn cael ei ehangu ar ôl 1887 o sgil y mewnlifiad o ymwelwyr. Croesom y ffordd i weld y teils gwydrog hardd y tu allan i Westy'r Commercial Bee, sydd ers 1991 yn adeilad rhestredig Gradd II oherwydd y cynllun teils cyflawn. Mae bellach yn gartref i swyddfeydd newydd ar gyfer busnesau bach o sgil y Prosiect Treftadaeth Treflun.

Cerddom tua'r dwyrain i weld yr hen Odeon, a agorodd yn 1937, yn ddiweddarach yn 1969 yr Astra, ond erbyn heddiw neuadd



Pensaerniaeth Art Deco / Art Deco architecture
llun / photo: Lowri Ann Rees



Eglwys Sant Thomas / St Thomas Church
llun / photo: Rhys Davies

Trip to Rhyl - July 25th 2026

On Saturday 25 July, the Anglesey Antiquarians visited the Victorian seaside resort of Rhyl for a guided tour of the hidden (and fascinating) history of the town. Several members of the group had travelled there by train. Following another heatwave, the weather was thankfully cooler, and while sunny Rhyl was somewhat overcast and at times drizzly, this did not dampen our spirits. We were there to explore the legacy of the mass tourism of the Victorian era and early twentieth century, to discuss Rhyl's decline, and the reasons for this, but also to look for the many signs of regeneration. The visit was ably led by our Chair, Joanna Robertson, who was joined by Maggi and Colin Blythin of the Rhyl History Group.

We began our tour at the train station, where we learnt that much of the land Rhyl was built on was reclaimed from the sea. Early development was focused on the Crescent Road area, with the development of residential and commercial properties towards the east in the 1820s and 1830s. Expansion to the west was primarily to accommodate tourists, who initially travelled from Liverpool by steamer. The focus of our excursion was to be the area of Rhyl north of the railway line. As we walked, we were able to fully appreciate the planned nature of the town, which had been laid out on a grid pattern.

The coming of the railway was the catalyst to Rhyl becoming one of the most successful holiday destinations in the Victorian era, and its legacy lived long into the twentieth century. The railway arrived in 1848, and from then on Rhyl witnessed a period of growth, with infrastructure such as accommodation, theatres, baths, a skating rink, promenade, and pier developed to serve the influx of tourists. By 1893, Rhyl had grown to become the largest town in historic Flintshire.

We admired the railway station building, opened on 1 May 1848 and enlarged after 1887 to accommodate the influx of visitors. We crossed the road to see the beautiful glazed tiles outside the Commercial Bee Hotel, since 1991 a Grade II listed building due to its complete tiled frontage. It now houses new offices for small businesses under the Townscape Heritage Initiative.

We walked east to take in the old Odeon, which opened in 1937, later becoming the Astra in 1969, and now a bingo hall, it is a fantastic example of an Art Deco cinema.

bingo, enghraifft arbennig o sinema Art Deco. Wrth fynd i fyny'r Stryd Fawr, gwelsom Neuadd Ddawns Regent Bannette, lle perfformiodd y Beatles am y tro cyntaf yng Nghymru yn 1962.

Ein stop nesaf oedd eglwys y Drindod Sanctaidd ac Eglwys Sant Thomas, a gwblhawyd yn ddiweddarach. O'r fan honno, aethom ymlaen i'r promenâd, gan edmygu pensaerniaeth y tai trawiadol, gydag addurniadau terracotta a theils gwydrog, yn atgof o gyfoeth y dref yn ystod y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg. Adeilad amlwg ar y prom yw Ysbyty Frenhinol Alexandra. Sefydlwyd yn 1872 fel cartref ymadfer i blant, cyn symud i'w leoliad presennol yn 1902, datblygodd yn ysbyty gymunedol mawr oedd yn enwog am hyrwyddo lles awyr iach. Ar y to mae yna geiliog tywydd siâp llwynog, sy'n cyfeirio at ffynhonnell gyllid yr adeilad, a ddeilliodd yn rhannol o enillion ceffyl rasio Dug Westminster, Flying Fox, ac yn rhannol o gyfraniadau a wnaed gan gyngor y dref a thanysgrifiadau cyhoeddus.

Parhaon ar ein taith gerdded ar hyd y prom i Gylch yr Orsedd. O'r fan honno, gwelsom yr amddiffynfeydd arfordirol, lle ymunodd Liam, mab Joanna yn y draffodaeth. Nid oedd yr amddiffynfeydd môr cynnar, a adeiladwyd ar ddechrau'r ugeinfed ganrif, bellach yn addas. Cawsom glywed mwy am Gynllun Amddiffynfeydd Arfordirol Canol y Rhyl, prosiect amddiffyn rhag llifogydd mawr, gan amddiffyn cartrefi a busnesau y dref wrth helpu atal erydiad arfordirol am flynyddoedd lawer i ddod.

Trodd hi'n daith wyntog a llaith ar hyd y ffyrnt, ond cawsom loches yn y Kite Surf Café a cyfle am ddiod poeth a rhywbeth i'w fwyta. Roedd hefyd yn gyfle i edrych ar gopïau o fapiau, dogfennau a ffotograffau yr oedd Maggi a Colin wedi casglu. Ar ôl ein seibiant, fe barhaon ar ein ffordd ar hyd y ffyrnt tuag at y teras o dai llety pwrpasol ar West Parade (yr Ochr Ddeheuol). Mae llawer ohonynt dal yn arddangos rhan fwyaf o'u nodweddion gwreiddiol, gyda rhif 74 wedi'i restru fel Gradd II. Ganwyd Ruth Ellis, y fenyw olaf i gael ei chrogi yn y Deyrnas Unedig, yn un o'r tai yma.

Gan adael y promenâd, trodd y grŵp i mewn i'r dref i weld y parc newydd a thystiolaeth o adfywio. Ar Aquarium Street, tynnodd Maggi sylw at hen dŷ llety ei mamgu, a dangosodd lun o'i mamgu yn sefyll y tu allan i'r adeilad. Cerddom ymlaen i Neuadd y Dref a Llyfrgell Carnegie, sydd wedi'u rhestru yn adeiladau Gradd II. Adeiladwyd yn yr Arddull Gothig Ffrengig ym 1874-76, ac yn 1906 cafodd ei enhangu i gynnwys y llyfrgell.

Daeth ein hymweliad â'r Rhyl i glo ym Marchnad y Frenhines, a ailadeiladwyd yn ddiweddar, gyda cwrw byd a lle perfformio bywiog, menter gwydh er mwyn adfywio canol y dref. Eisteddodd y grŵp i lawr a mwynhau diod cyn daeth yr amser i ddychwelyd adref. Diolch yn fawr i Joanna am drefnu ac arwain y daith, ac i Maggi a Colin am eu cyfraniadau ac am fod mor barod i rannu eu hatgofion a'u mewnwelediadau. Roedd y daith yn llwyddiant mawr, ac yn galluogi aelodau i ddarganfod agweddau ddiddorol ehangach o hanes gogledd Cymru.

(Diolch hefyd i Rhys a Sylvia am fod more barod i rannu lluniau)

Lowri Ann Rees

Heading up the High Street, we saw the Regent Bannette Ballroom where, in 1962, the Beatles performed for the first time in Wales.

Our next stop was Holy Trinity church and the later completed Church of St Thomas. From there we headed onto the coast road, taking in the

architecturally striking houses, with decorative terracotta and glazed tiles, a reminder of the town's wealth during the nineteenth century. A prominent building on the prom is the Royal Alexandra Hospital. Founded in 1872 as a children's convalescent home, before moving to its current location in 1902, it became a major community hospital famed for its advocating of fresh air treatment. The charming fox-shaped weather vane alludes to the building's funding, which was derived partly from the winnings of the Duke of Westminster's racehorse, Flying Fox, and partly from contributions made by the town council and public subscription.

We continued on our brisk walk along the prom to the Gorsedd Circle, a group of standing stones which had been constructed for the National Eisteddfod. From there, we observed the coastal defences at Rhyl, where Liam, Joanna's son, joined in the discussion. The early sea defences, constructed in the early twentieth century, had become no longer fit for purpose. We learned about the Central Rhyl Coastal Defences Scheme, a major flood protection project designed to protect homes and businesses in the town while helping to prevent coastal erosion for many years to come.

The group braved a blustery and damp walk along the front, ducking into the Kite Surf Café for a hot

drink and something to eat. It was also an opportunity to look at copies of maps, documents, and photographs that Maggi and Colin had brought along. Refreshed, we continued on our way along the front towards the terrace of purpose-built boarding houses on West Parade (South Side), many of which retain most of their original features, with no. 74 being Grade II listed. One of these houses was the birthplace of Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in the United Kingdom.

Leaving the promenade behind, we made our way inland to see the new park and evidence of the town's regeneration. On Aquarium Street, Maggi pointed out her grandmother's former boarding house, and showed us a photograph of her grandmother standing outside the property. We then walked on to the Grade II listed Town Hall and Carnegie Library, built in the French Gothic Style in 1874-76, and extended in 1906 to accommodate the library.

Our visit to Rhyl concluded at the recently rebuilt Queen's Market, a vibrant food court and performance space, a fantastic initiative at the

heart of the regeneration of the town centre. The group sat down to a refreshing drink before it was time to make our way back home. Many thanks to Joanna for organising and leading the excursion, and to Maggi and Colin for their contributions and being so ready to share their memories and insights. The trip was a great success, not least because it enabled members to discover several fascinating aspects of north Wales history.

(Thanks also to Rhys and Sylvia for kindly sharing photographs)

Lowri Ann Rees



*Ceiliog gwynt siâp llwynog uwchben Ysbyty Frenhinol Alexandra / Fox weather vane above the Royal Alexandra Hospital
llun / photo: Sylvia Pinches*



*Ysbyty Frenhinol Alexandra / Royal Alexandra Hospital
llun / photo: Lowri Ann Rees*

Archifau Ynys Môn / Anglesey Archives
Rhestr o eitemau sydd ar gael o'r newydd / List of items recently available

Acc. No.	Cat. No.	Covering Dates	Title
6619	WM/2772	2010 - 2019	Discovering Old Welsh Houses Reports of properties in Beaumaris; Llanfachraeth; Llaniestyn; Llanedwen; Llanfaethlu and Llangefni.
6706	WM/2811	1946 - 1988	Casgliad Robert William Griffiths, Prif Coedwigwr Niwbwrch.
6778	WM/2841	1932 - 2009	Collection of the late John G. Nicol from his time as an engineer at Saunders Roe Beaumaris.
6869	WM/2650/29	2025 - 2026	Blwyddlyfr C.F.F.I. Ynys Môn
6871	WM/2887	1877 Hyd. 8	Tystysgrif Undeb Ysgolion Sabathol Môn, Owen Hughes, Talwrn.
6872	WR/431	[1769]	Map of Anglesey by George Rollos (Geographer).
6874	WM/1551/15	1996 - 2019	Anglesey Antiquarian Society financial records.
6876	WA/22/2/LOG/1	1863 - 1889	Logbook: Ysgol British Marianglas, Llaneugrad.
6876	WA/22/2/MIN/1 - 3	1909 - 1983	Minute Books: Llaneugrad (Marianglas) British School

Rhaglen 2026-27 Programme

2026		
18 Medi/Sept	Dr Lowri Ann Rees	'Justly styled one of the wonders of the world': 19th-century elite travellers and perceptions of the Menai Bridge.'
16 Hydref/Oct	Prof/Yr Athro Catherine Duigan	Stori ni, ár scéal, the story of us in the Irish Free State Census 1926.
20 Tachwedd/Nov	Rob Crossley	'Mammoths, Red Deer, Aurochs and Oak Forests' - The Mesolithic Environment of Anglesey.
2027		
15 Ionawr	Beth Jones	Pêl-droed Gogledd Cymru: Hanes a Hunaniaeth Gweledol / North Wales Football: History and Visual Identity
19 Chwefror/Feb	Yr Athro Jason Walford Davies	'R.S., Celf Gymreig, a'r 'Meistr Olaf': Erthygl Gymraeg goll gan R.S. Thomas.
19 Mawrth/March	Dr Alec Moore	Fishhistory - herrings and Anglesey.
16 Ebrill/April	TBA	'Tre'r Ddol: The story of a house and a family.'
21 Mai/May	Dr Sylvia Pinches	'Dirwest: The Temperance Movement on Anglesey'

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The next edition of the newsletter will be published in Spring 2027. Please forward any articles to: Karen Pollock, Tanffordd Bach, Glanrafon, Llangoed, LL58 8SY or kjo.pollock@pm.me

The production of this newsletter has been a team effort.

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