



CYMEITHAS HYNAFIAETHWYR A NATURIAETHWYR MÔN CYLCHLYTHYR • NEWSLETTER

ANGLESEY ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY AND FIELD CLUB

No.69 Hydref / Autumn 2017

Now that the days are drawing in, we can look forward to the Winter/Spring AAS Lecture Series (details page 3). The programme lifts off with Mark Davies' fascinating talk on early balloon flight, we hope you can join us.

HEDFAN I FÔN – 200 MLYNEDD YN OL

Mae CHYM (mewn partneriaeth â Chyfeillion Amgueddfa Forol Caerdybi a Changen Ynys Môn o Brifysgol y Trydydd Oes) wedi trefnu cyfarfod agoriadol Rhaglen Darlithoedd gyffrous 2017-18 fod fel dathliad o daugan-mlwyddiant yr hediad cyntaf erioed i Fôn yn 1817. Dyma pryd wnaeth Windham Sadler lywio balwn ar draws y môr o'r Iwerddon a glanio mewn cae ar gyrion Caerdybi, gan ddechrau cysylltiad hir rhwng Ynys Môn a byd hedfan.

Dyddiad: Gwener Medi 15^{fed} 2017.

Amseriad: 7:00yh.

Lleoliad: Oriol Ynys Môn (Ystafell Kyffin Williams)

Siaradwr Gwadd: Mark Davies, hanesydd o Rydychen.

Dyma gyfle unigryw i fod yn bresennol mewn darlith a fydd yn datgelu ffeithiau newydd ar ran Ynys Môn yn natblygiad hedfan.

Hynafiaethwyr – Dewch yn dyrfa deg i Llangefni nos Wener a byddwch yn barod i newid unrhyw drefniadau eraill er mwyn bod yn bresennol. Pobl Môn a'u traed ar lawr ond yn hedfan yr un pryd!

FLYING INTO ANGLESEY – 200 YEARS AGO

AAS (working in partnership with the Friends of the Holyhead Maritime Museum and the Anglesey U3A) has arranged that the opening meeting of the exciting 2017-18 Lecture Programme will be the bicentennial commemoration of the very first flight into Anglesey in 1817. A man called Windham Sadler navigated a solo balloon flight from Ireland and landed on the outskirts of Holyhead in July of that year and initiated a long association between Anglesey and the world of flight.

Date: Friday September 15th 2017.

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: Oriol Ynys Môn (Ystafell Kyffin Williams).

Guest Speaker: Mark Davies, an historian from Oxford.

This will be a unique opportunity to be present in a lecture that will reveal hitherto unknown facts about Anglesey's role in the history of aviation.

Antiquarians – you cannot afford to miss this event, so cancel all your other arrangements and make your way to Llangefni on Friday. It's time to fasten your safety belts!

Gareth Huws



CYFARFODYDD 2017

Gwahaniaeth barn rhwng Jonathan Swift a Daniel Defoe ynghylch Ynys Môn.

Yr Athro Tony Claydon, Ebrill 21^{ain} 2017

Ar yr olwg gyntaf, roedd y ddarlith hon yn ychwanegiad at yr Ysgol Undydd a gynhaliwyd llynedd i ddadansoddi daliadau gwahanol ymwelwyr am Ynys Môn. Ond ar lefel ddyfnach, roedd yn sylw ar wleidyddiaeth y cyfnod – thema ddaeth yn fwy amlwg yn ystod y drafodaeth ddilynol.

Gwybodaeth arwynebol o Fôn oedd gan y ddau awdur yma (yn wir ma'n bur debyg na fu Defoe yma erioed) ond roedd gan y ddau ddaliadau cryfion am yr ynys. Credai Defoe mai dyma'r ardal orau a mwyaf ffrwythlon yng Ngogledd Cymru; ond credai Swift mai Môn oedd y gwaethaf. Ysgrifennodd Defoe am Fôn yn 1724 yn ystod ei daith o amgylch Prydain gyfan; bu Swift yng Ngogledd Cymru yn 1727 pryd, i'w dristwch mawr ac yntau'n ceisio dychwelyd i'r Iwerddon, fe'i cadwyd yng Nghaerdybi gan wyntoedd geirwon.

Brodor o Lundain oedd Defoe, mab masnachwr, aelod gyda'r Presbyteriaid, gŵr yn edmygu Gwilym III, ac un oedd yn

MEETINGS 2017

The differing opinions of Jonathan Swift and Daniel Defoe about Anglesey.

Professor Tony Claydon, 21st April 2017



Professor Tony Claydon

This lecture was, on the face of it, an adjunct to last year's Day School on the opinions of visitors about Anglesey, but was at a deeper level a commentary on current politics, a theme which emerged very strongly in the ensuing discussion.

These two eighteenth-century writers had a rather superficial knowledge of Anglesey (indeed it was possible that Defoe had never visited the island) but they had strong views about it: Defoe viewed it as the best, most fruitful part of North Wales; Swift thought it was the worst. Defoe wrote about Anglesey in his tour of the whole of Britain written in 1724; Swift was in North Wales in 1727, returning to Ireland when he was held up by contrary winds in Holyhead, to his notable chagrin.

Defoe was a Londoner, son of a tradesman and a Presbyterian, an admirer of William III and an enthusiast for rather hare-brained schemes; Swift was Irish, the son of a lawyer; he became a clergyman and eventually Dean of Christchurch in Dublin.

ymgymryd â chynlluniau ynfyd. Gwyddel oedd Swift, mab cyfreithiwr, gŵr fu'n offeiriad, a maes o law yn Ddeon Eglwys Crist yn Nulyn. Roedd y ddau yn ysgrifennu mewn sawl maes – newyddiaduriaeth, nofelau, barddoniaeth a dychan. Bu'r ddau'n cydweithio gyda'i gilydd rhwng 1710 a 1714 - yn swyddfa propoganda Syr Robert Harley - gan ddadlau dros heddwch wedi rhyfeloedd Marlborough. Meddai'r ddau ar ddisgwyliadau diwyllianol fyddai wedi peri iddynt ffafrio ardaloedd bychain gwledig. Pam felly bo'u hymateb i Fôn mor wahanol ?

Doedd 'run o'r ddau yn hoffi mynyddoedd na thirweddau gwyllt (yn y ddeunawfed ganrif gynnar, fe'u hystyriwyd yn dywyll, gyda thir amaethyddol cyfoethog, cynhyrchiol yn ennill ffafriaeth). Tybed ai eu personoliaethau oedd wrth wraidd eu gwahaniaeth barn ? Yn y 1720au roedd Defoe yn bur llwyddiannus; roedd Robinson Crusoe a Moll Flanders yn boblogaidd ac roedd yntau'n ŵr optimistaidd. Yn yr un cyfnod, ac ar waethaf llwyddiant Gulliver's Travels, tybiai Swift ei fod yn fethiant; roedd wedi methu sicrhau bywoliaeth gyfoethog yn Eglwys Lloegr; roedd yn awyddus i fod yng nghanol pethau yn Llundain, ac ystyriai'r Iwerddon yn alltudiaeth.

Ond mae sail ideolegol a pholiticadd i agweddau gwahanol y ddau tuag at fywyd, ac i deimladau eraill yn y cyfnod hwn hefyd. Sail y gagendor sylfaenol rhwng y Whigiaid a'r Toriaid oedd eu hymatebion gwahanol tuag at effeithiau Chwyldro Gogoneddus 1688. Roedd Iago II wedi troi ei olygon i gyfeiriad Ffrainc ac at Louis XIV a'i unbennaeth. O ganlyniad, gwahoddwyd Gwilym o Oren i fod yn frenin er mwyn sicrhau rhyddid y Senedd a hawliau eiddo Seisnig. Yn ystod y blynyddoedd hir o ryfel ddaeth wedyn, bu twf aruthrol yng ngrym y Wladwriaeth. Roedd hynny'n ffafrio, nid y tiffeddianwyr traddodiadol, ond gweision y Llywodraeth, swyddogion y Fyddin, a'r sawl oedd wedi rhoi benthyg arian i'r Llywodraeth. Roedd gan mathau newydd o bobl ddulliau newydd o wneud arian.

Ystyriai Swift hyn yn erydiad o'r gymdeithas draddodiadol; ofnai ansefydlogrwydd mewn cymdeithas; nid oedd yn hoffi estroniaid nag Iddewon, a thybiai mai ffantasi oedd credyd. Yn y 1720au cadarnhaodd Swigen Môr y De ei ofnau gwaethaf. Pan fo cyfoeth mewn tir gall y tiffeddianwyr annibynnol feirniadu'r Llywodraeth, ond roedd y dosbarth newydd o arianwyr ym mhoced y Llywodraeth. Roedd y tiffeddianwyr wedi gallu alltudio Iago II, ond ni all arianyddwyr ddinistro'u llywodraethau oherwydd mae eu bywydau cyfan yn dibynnu ar gredu yn y llywodraethau hynny.

Pryderai Swift yn arw am y newidiadau sylfaenol hyn mewn cymdeithas, ac roedd ei bryderon yn meithrin ei besimistiaeth naturiol. Roedd Defoe yn llawer mwy cyfforddus gyda menter, ac yn ystyried newidiadau'r ddeunawfed ganrif yn ddatblygiadau cyffrous. Cyd-ddigwyddiad llwyr oedd Môn.

Ann Huws (*Cyfieithydd*)

Sir Thomas Parry (1904-1985) and Three Anglesey National Eisteddfodau

Professor Derec Llywd Morgan

Lecture, 12th May,

2017 Professor Derec Llywd Morgan gave an enthralling and informative lecture on the history and character of the National Eisteddfod on Anglesey and the part it played in the life of some of the major Welsh writers and poets of the twentieth century. His talk focused on Sir Thomas Parry: a man he describes as of 'strong character with many prejudices but also of much wit and some wisdom'.

Thomas Parry was a student at Bangor University and graduated in 1926 with a first class honours in Welsh. Latin was his subsidiary subject. He was taught by some of the great scholars of the day, for example, Sir John Morris Jones and Professor Ifor Williams. He excelled in his studies, winning both the Chair and

Both were accessible writers in many genres – journalism, novels, verses and satire. Both had worked together (1710-14) in the propaganda office of Sir Robert Harley arguing for peace after Marlborough's wars. Both had cultural expectations which should have favoured small rural regions, so why are their responses to Anglesey so different? Neither liked mountains or wild landscapes (which were judged gloomy in the early eighteenth century – the preference was for productive and prosperous farmland). Was it just their personalities? In the 1720s Defoe was quite successful; Robinson Crusoe and Moll Flanders were successful and he was a natural optimist. At the same time Swift was considering himself a failure, despite the success of Gulliver's Travels; he had failed to get a rich living in the Church of England; he wanted to be in the thick of it, in London, and he considered Ireland as exile.

But there is an ideological, political basis for their differing outlook on life, and of many others in this period. The fundamental divide between Whigs and Tories is their different attitudes to the effects of the Glorious Revolution of 1688. James II had been looking towards France, Louis XIV and his absolutism, which led to the invitation to William of Orange to guarantee the liberty of Parliament and English property rights. During the many years of war that followed there was an enormous growth in the power of the State. This favoured, not the traditional landowners, but government servants, army officers and those who lent money to the government. The permanent national debt dates from the reign of William III; the Bank of England is founded to create money from 'nothing' or paper. There were new ways of making money by new types of people.

Swift saw this as the erosion of traditional society; he feared instability in society, he didn't like foreigners, or Jews and he saw credit as fantasy. In the 1720s the South Sea Bubble confirmed his worst fears. The new class of financiers were in the pocket of the government; whereas, if your wealth is in land, you can criticise and be independent of the government. The landowners had thrown out James II, but bankers cannot destroy the facade of their governments because their entire life is dependent on the belief in that facade.

Swift was deeply disturbed by these fundamental changes in society which fed his natural pessimism. Defoe was far more comfortable with risk and was very excited by the changes which developed through the 18th century. Anglesey is incidental.

Frances Lynch Llewellyn

Crown in inter-collegiate Eisteddfodau. This gave Parry celebrity status amongst his fellow students. His first job was as a lecturer at Cardiff University where he met many new friends from all walks of life. One of his close friends was Caradog Pritchard, a young man from Bethesda who worked as a journalist for the Western Mail. Caradog won the Crown at Holyhead in 1927, the first Eisteddfod of the twentieth century on Anglesey. His winning poem held local resonance. It told of his mother's sad decline into mental illness after his father was killed in the slate quarry at Bethesda. The two men were to become closely linked through marriage too. Thomas Parry was Caradog's best man when he married Mattie Evans in 1933, a long-standing friend of Enid Picton Davies who was to become Parry's wife in 1936.

Thomas Parry had an ambivalent relationship with the Eisteddfod. He loved the concept – a celebration of Welsh literary talent and culture - but his letters show he could also poke gentle fun at some of the pomp and ceremony, particularly

the attempt to mythologize and link the modern festival and the Gorsedd of the Bards to the ancient druids of Wales. He was also bitterly disappointed when, in 1932, his awdl – an ode in strict meters – did not win a chair at the Aberafan, Port Talbot National Eisteddfod. His poem 'Mam' was inspired by Jacob Epstein's statue 'Genesis', a naked representation of a pregnant woman. Rejected by the adjudicators, two of whom were clergymen, because it was felt to be too much of an enigma, the suspicion held by Parry and his future wife Enid was that it was thrown out because it was too controversial and risqué. When the Reverend J. J. Williams, one of the adjudicators who had spoken out against the poem, came to preach in Enid's local chapel, the pair concocted a playful fantasy to pay him back. Thomas Parry wrote to Enid that she should attempt to remove the Reverend's wig during his sermon by the ingenious means of chewing gum and string, thrown from pew to pulpit. This was just one example of Thomas Parry's delicious wit recounted by Professor Morgan.

By 1957 when the second National Eisteddfod was held on Anglesey, Thomas Parry was considered by many to be the Welsh scholar of his generation. He was a prolific writer and had published a number of seminal works. He was the author of *Hanes Llenyddiaeth Gymraeg hyd 1900* (The History of Welsh Literature until 1900), which came out in 1944 and was the editor of *Gwaith Dafydd ap Gwilym* (The Work of Dafydd ap Gwilym), published in 1952. This latter work had been a mammoth task and he and Enid had spent many vacations collecting material from medieval manuscripts at the Bodleian and the National Libraries of Cardiff and London.

During this period in his life, Parry's scholarly star was burning bright, but the Llangefni Eisteddfod of 1957 marked a time of



Professor Derec Llywd Morgan

disappointment in his career. Earlier in the year he had attended an informal interview in London for the job of principal of Bangor University. He did not get the position, even though it was felt by many that he was the most suitably qualified. The new principal, Dr Charles Evans, was announced at the Eisteddfod, much to the chagrin of Thomas Parry and his supporters. He did, however, become the Principal of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth in 1958.

By the time of the third National Eisteddfod in Anglesey in 1983, Thomas Parry had long retired but his influence was still strongly felt. By way of a letter in the *Welsh Weekly News* in March 1984, he insinuated that the 1983 Crown winner

at Llangefni, Eluned Phillips, may not have been the author of the winning poem. Parry's opinion was not received kindly by those who felt their reputations had been tarnished by Parry words; but in true Parry-style he was unrepentant in his response to criticism.

Professor Morgan's lecture demonstrated the complex nature of Sir Thomas Parry and the lasting impact of his character and work. He concluded by giving a brief overview of the planning and fundraising in preparation for this year's National Eisteddfod on Anglesey. He thought that Sir Thomas Parry would have disapproved of some of the modern aspects of the festival – the popular music – but that he would have been delighted that so many young people were now getting involved and celebrating Welsh culture.

Professor Morgan's book *Y Brenhinbren: Bywyd a Gwaith Thomas Parry, 1904 -1985; The King – Life and Works of Thomas Parry, 1904- 1985* was published by Gomer Press in 2013.

K. J. Pollock

Annual General Meeting, Friday 12th May, 2017

The meeting was chaired by the Society's president, Professor Antony Carr. Apologies for absence were received and the minutes of the AGM held on the 20th of May, 2016 approved. The Treasurer's Report was prepared by Sion Caffel, Honourable Secretary of the Society. Chairman, Frances Lynch Llewellyn, noted that the Society had received a welcome and unexpected windfall from the Publishing Licensing Society. Book sales had also been successful and helped to raise funds.

Dr Lowri Ann Rees, editor of the Transactions, thanked Frances for her kind support and encouragement during the compilation of her first edition. She also thanked contributors and Mr Chris Gibbs of Printworks, Amlwch, for his help with the production of the journal. Lowri invited contributions for future editions and asked that those with potential articles, short notes and book reviews contact her.

A minute's silence and standing tribute was held for Margaret Hughes, Life Vice-President of the Society who died in March at the age of 94.

Business concluded with elections for offices and members of the committee. Re-elected was our President, Professor Antony Carr; Chairman, Frances Lynch Llewellyn; Vice Chairman, Professor Robin Grove-White; Treasurer, Aimee Pritchard Robinson; and Siôn Caffell, Hon. Secretary. A full list of elected Committee Members and officers can be found on the Society's website.

Edrych Ymlaen / Looking Ahead - AAS Autumn & Spring Programme

Cyfarfodydd/Meetings 2017/18
Tunncliffe Room, Oriel Ynys Môn, 7pm

15 September

Sadler and the first flight into Anglesey: Mark Davies

20 October,

Llys Rhosyr: Mark Redknap

17 November

Sir Ifor Williams Memorial Lecture (Public lecture through the medium of Welsh - Free of charge)

Ynys Lannog a Thiroedd Coll Helyg ap Glannog - Ceridwen Lloyd-Morgan

19 January, 2018

Pot Pourri - a special meeting with three talks on various aspects of World War 1

16 February,

The Enclosures of Mynydd Mechell 1862: Robin Grove-White

16 March,

From Cruck to Medieval Hall in North Wales - 60 years of house photography: Eryl Rothwell Hughes

20 April

Aerial Photography of Anglesey
Medwyn Parry

18 May 7.00 pm. AGM

8.00 pm. Music in the middle ages: Sally Harper

GWIBDEITHIAU

Mai 27^{ain}

Taith i Mostyn ac ardaloedd cysylltiedig yn Sir y Fflint

Ar ddiwrnod cymylog oedd yn bygwth haul a hinddrwg, gwibiodd dau a'r hugain ar antur gyffrous, a thra bu Ynys Môn yn sgwatio dan gymylau smwclawog, cawsom ddiwrnod heulog yn Sir y Fflint.

Cam cyntaf ar y daith oedd ymweliad â chroes Maen Achwyfan sy'n dyddio o'r nawfed ganrif, a sydd yn parhau i sefyll yn yr un man ar waethaf mileniwm o ysgytwadau politicaidd a chrefyddol. Mae'r addurniadau arni'n bur haniaethol, ond mae'n amlwg mai henebyn Cristnogol sydd yma. Serch hynny, ychydig iawn o eiconograffiaeth Cristnogol sydd i'w weld. Roedd modd gweld ffigwr yn trin gwaywffon ac yn llindagu sarff – delwedd yr arferir ei ddehongli fel duw nordig – ond buom yn trafod yn hir os oedd modd ai peidio gweld Cain ac Abel neu'r Fföedigaeth i'r Aiff.

Yna ymgasglodd pawb ar gyfer y daith fer i Neuadd Mostyn ble cawsom groeso cynnes gan Mrs Morag Jelley a'i chydweithwyr oedd yn barod i'n hebrwng ar daith o amgylch y plas. Honnir i'r tŷ gynnwys mwy o bortreadau teulu nag unrhyw fan arall yng Nghymru, ond roedd cyflwyniad cryno a gwybodus ein tywyswyr yn sicrhau ein bod yn gallu dilyn trywydd cenedlaethau'r Thomasiaid a'r Roger Mostyniaid, ac yn wir roeddynt i gyd yn haeddu'u cofio gan i'r teulu hwn chwarae rhan mor bwysig yn newidiadau tyngedfenol hanes Cymru a Phrydain.

Dyn ifanc iawn oedd yr Arglwydd Mostyn newydd a etifeddodd yr ystâd yn 2011, ac mae'n amlwg ei fod yn ymddiddori'n fawr yn y tŷ a'i gynnwys. Hyfryd oedd manylu ar nenfwd y parlwr, yn lân a gloyw wedi sylw gofalus y gwirfoddolwyr lleol, ac i glywed fod rhaglen sydd ar droed i lanhau ac adfer rhai o'r portreadau pwysicaf.

Yna prysurodd pawb i Gaerwys, tref Gymreig fechan dderbyniodd Siarth Frenhinol gan Edward I yn 1290, er mwyn mwynhau cinio blasys yn y Picadilly, tafarn sydd a'i henw yn cofnodi llwyddiant un o geffylau rasio'r Mostyniaid yn y ddeunawfed ganrif. Yn anffodus nid oedd digon o amser i grwydro ac edmygu nodweddion canoloesol y dref ei hun hefyd – tref ble sefydlwyd yr eisteddfodau cyntaf yn yr unfed-ganrif-ar-bymtheg gyda'r bwriad o geisio rheoli'r traddodiad barddol.



Mostyn Hall

O Gaerwys aethom ymlaen i Faes Rhydwen, neu Whitford, er mwyn ymweld ag eglwys y plwyf. Yma fe'n croesawyd gan Mrs Frances Taylor, a rhoddodd hithau inni beth o hanes yr eglwys yn ogystal â dangos copiâu o gofnodion y plwyf sydd yn cyfeirio at Thomas Pennant, teithiwr a naturiaethwr enwog oedd yn byw yn Downing, ystâd bwysig arall yn y plwyf eang hwn. Yr eil ddeheuol oedd ochr teulu Pennant o'r eglwys, gyda'r eil ogleddol yn cynnwys seddau a chofebau'r Mostyniaid. Yn ddiweddar mae Cymdeithas Thomas Pennant wedi noddi prosiect hanesyddol yn ymwneud â'r teulu a'u cyfoedion, ac mae'r eglwys yn arddangos nifer o baneli esboniadol sydd hefyd yn cynnwys gwybodaeth am y beddfeini canoloesol sydd yn sefyll yng nghefn yr eglwys.

O Faes Rhydwen, aethom ymlaen i Dyserth gan oedi ennyd i sylwi ar Glawdd Sir Fflint, a wyddwn bellach sydd yn raniad tŷ canoloesol cynnar ar hyd copa'r grib ac nid yn rhan o Glawdd Offa, ac ar Y Gop, sydd efallai'n fedd cyntedd cynhanesyddol fel Newgrange. Yn Dyserth, cawsom groeso gan Mr Harry Davies, warden yr eglwys yno. Brasgamodd pawb i'r

EXCURSIONS

May 27th

2017 Excursion to Mostyn and Mostyn-Related areas of Flintshire

Twenty-two members set off in a bus and in cars on a cloudy day which promised sun and thunder. In Flintshire we had sun, but returned to a drizzly Anglesey, so we had made a good choice of outing.

Our first visit was to the ninth-century cross Maen Achwyfan still standing in its original position after a millennium of religious and political changes. The decoration is largely abstract patterning but it is clearly a Christian monument, yet it has very little Christian iconography. We could recognise a figure wielding a spear and strangling a serpent which is normally interpreted as a Nordic God, but debated for some time whether we could see Cain and Abel and the Flight into Egypt.

Cars and bus then assembled into a convoy for the short journey to Mostyn Hall where we were warmly welcomed by Mrs Morag Jelley and other guides who divided us into two parties for a tour of the house. The house, it is claimed, contains more family portraits than any other in Wales and it must be true! But the erudition of our guides ensured that we kept track of all the alternating generations of Thomas and Roger Mostyns – and indeed they were all memorable because the family had been major players in all the crucial shifts and changes of Welsh and British history.

A very young Lord Mostyn inherited the estate in 2011 and it is clear that he is taking a keen interest in the house and its fascinating contents. It was wonderful to see the drawing room ceiling cleaned and glistening after the gentle attentions of many local volunteers, and to notice the programme of cleaning and restoration of the more important portraits.

We then drove to Caerwys, the small Welsh town granted a Royal Charter by Edward I in 1290, to have lunch at the Piccadilly, a pub recalling the prowess of a Mostyn racehorse in the eighteenth century. The food was very fine, but unfortunately didn't leave us much time for looking at the medieval features of the town where Queen Elizabeth and Sir Roger Mostyn had organised the first eisteddfodau in the sixteenth century to regulate the bardic profession.



Ninth-century cross, Maen Achwyfan

From Caerwys we returned to Whitford to visit the parish church. There we were met by Mrs Frances Taylor who explained the history of the church and showed us copies of the parish records relating to Thomas Pennant, the traveller and naturalist who lived at Downing, the other major estate in this large parish. The south aisle was the Pennant side of the church and the north aisle had the Mostyn pew and monuments. The Pennant Society has recently sponsored a historical project relating to the family and their contemporaries and the church has a good series of explanatory panels, which also contain information about the early medieval and medieval gravestones at the back of the church.

From Whitford we drove to Dyserth, pausing very briefly to draw attention to the Flintshire Dyke, now known not to be part of Offa's Dyke but a separate early medieval land division along the top of the ridge, and to the Gop Cairn, possibly a prehistoric passage grave like Newgrange. At Dyserth we were met at the church, beautifully decorated for a wedding that morning, by the churchwarden Mr Harry Davies. Fearing

fynwent er mwyn sylwi ar y beddau cwfflog yno sy'n dyddio o'r ail-ganrif-ar-bymtheg. Mae'r fath feddau, sydd yn arddull y Dadeni Cyfandirol, yn bur anarferol ond mae clwstwr ohonnynt yn Sir y Fflint ac un ym Miwmares.

Oddi mewn i'r eglwys, boom yn edmygu a thrafod croes uchel, yn dyddio o'r nawfed ganrif ac yn ymddangos mor hynod debyg i Maen Achwyfan fel mae'n bur bosib i'r ddwy fod o waith yr un llaw. Roedd sylfaen croes arall yn haeddu sylw hefyd. Yna boom yn trafod beddfaen ddwbl dau frawd o'r bedwaredd-ganrif-ar-ddeg, cyn troi ein llygaid tuag at ffenestr Jesse wych a chyflawn, yn dyddio o'r unfed-ganrif-ar-bymtheg, sy'n esgyn uwchben y prif allor. Yna, a hithau'n prynhawn hwyr, trodd pawb eu golygon tuag adref drachefn, gyda bwrllwm o hanes i synfyfrio drosto.

Ann Huws (*Cyfieithydd*)

a sudden thunderstorm which never came, we went first to look at the seventeenth-century Hooded Tombs in the graveyard. Such tombs, a Continental Renaissance style, are rare but there is a cluster of them in Flintshire and one in Beaumaris. Inside we admired and discussed the tall ninth-century cross, so similar to Maen Achwyfan that it is probably by the same hand, and another cross base. We also discussed the double gravestone of two fourteenth-century brothers and then turned our attention to the exceptionally fine and complete sixteenth-century Jesse Window above the main altar. We set off home at 5.00pm with a lot of history to mull over.

Frances Lynch Llewellyn



Gwibdaith: Trefignath, Parc Gybi, Penrhos

Ar Fehefin 3ydd cyfarfu'r aelodau ar Ynys Cybi er mwyn ymweld â beddrod Trefignath, i daflu cipolwg dros safle'r cloddiadau a gwblhawyd cyn adeiladu Parc Cybi, ac i ymweld â Pharc Penrhos.

Rhododd Frances Lynch gyflwyniad disgrifol i'r beddrod Neolithig yn Nhrefignath, gan egluro sut llwyddodd cloddiadau Christopher Smith yn 1977-79 i ddadorchuddio cyfres o dri beddrod. Bedd cyntedd syml o'r cyfnod Neolithig cynnar oedd y cyntaf. Yna fe'i cymhathwyd gyda charnedd fwy yn cynnwys siambr betryal yn y pen dwyreiniol a phorth gyda dwy garreg unionsyth. Ychwanegodd y trydydd cam garnedd newydd tua'r dwyrain, gyda siambr betryal oedd yn rhwystro mynediad i'r ail siambr, a phorth dwyreiniol dramatig.

Cyflwynodd Andrew Davidson ddisgrifiad cryno o'r safleoedd ddaeth i'r golwg yn ystod cloddiadau Parc Cybi. Eglurodd nas cyllidwyd yr agwedd ôl-gloddiad gan Lywodraeth Cymru hyd yma, ac felly mae'r canlyniadau'n ansicr ar hyn o bryd. Ond daethpwyd o hyd i dŷ Neolithig ychydig i'r gorllewin, a hwnnw'n gydamserol gyda chyfnod cyntaf beddrod Trefignath. Roedd safleoedd eraill yn cynnwys claddigaethau cist o'r Oes Efydd, tŷ crwn o'r Oes Efydd hwyr, anheddiad sylweddol Cynhanes hwyr a Rhufeinig gyda system cae yn gysylltiedig ag ef, a mynwent fechan o'r Canoloesoedd cynnar.

Yna prysurodd pawb i Barc Penrhos ac arweiniodd Joanna Davidson y grŵp drwy hen erddi'r plas, gan fanylu ar y tŵr betio, olion y gerddi a'r giatiau pictiwresg, y tŵr dŵr, a'r ardd furiedig. Cyn belled ag oedd hynny'n bosib, rhoddwyd sylw i olion y tŷ, a mwynhaodd pawb y cyfle i geisio cydweddu'r cynllun cydnabyddiedig gyda'r olion gweladwy.

Ann Huws (*Cyfieithydd*)

Excursion: Trefignath, Parc Gybi, Penrhos

On 3 June the Antiquarians met on Ynys Cybi to visit Trefignath burial chamber, to review the excavations undertaken in advance of the construction of Parc Cybi, and to visit the park at Penrhos.

Frances Lynch gave an excellent introduction to the Neolithic tomb at Trefignath, explaining how excavations undertaken by Christopher Smith 1977-9 had revealed a sequence of three tombs. The first from the Early Neolithic had been a simple passage grave. This had been subsumed into a larger cairn with a rectangular chamber at the east end, and an entrance marked by two upright stones. The third stage added a new cairn to the east, with a rectangular chamber which blocked access to the second chamber, and had a dramatic east entrance.

Andrew Davidson gave a brief description of the sites found during the Parc Cybi excavations. He explained that the post-excavation phase had not yet been funded by Welsh Government, and so the results were currently inconclusive. However a Neolithic house had been located a short distance west of the chamber, which was contemporary with the first stage of the Trefignath tomb. Other sites included Bronze Age cist burials, Late Bronze Age round house, a large late Prehistoric and Roman settlement and related field system, and a small Early Medieval cemetery.

The group then drove to the park at Penrhos where Joanna Davidson led everyone through the former gardens belonging to the house, looking at the betting tower, remains of the gardens including the Picturesque gateways, the water tower and the walled garden. The remains of the house were looked at as far as was possible, and an enjoyable time was spent trying to fit the known plan of the house with the visible remains.

A & J Davidson



Trefignath, Neolithic tomb



Penrhos House in its former glory

Gwibdaith Tŷ Fry – Mehefin 24^{ain} 2017

Mehefin 24ain, ar bawn Sadwrn heulog o haf, prysurodd pymtheg-ar-hugain o'r aelodau i ymweld â Thŷ Fry ger Rhoscefnhir. Daeth Mrs Kate Barker, y perchennog, ymlaen i arwain taith ddiddorol o amgylch y gerddi a'r tîr o'u cwmpas, yn ogystal â rhan o'r tŷ ei hun.

Mae'r safle, sy'n ynghudd o'r ffordd fawr, yn ymnythu mewn basn a honno'n arddangos olion tirlunio soffistigedig yn dyddio o'r cyfnod modern cynnar, neu hyd yn oed y cyfnod canoloesol hwyr efallai.

Awgrymodd Mrs Barker y gallai'r tirlunio hwn fod at bwrpas amddiffynol yn wreiddiol. Mae'r plasty presennol, gyda'i graidd canolog a gwblhawyd tua 1670, yn ymgorffori dwy asgell duduraidd gynharach, yn ogystal ag ystafell ddawns mewn estyniad sydd yn dyddio o'r bedwaredd-ganrif-ar-bymtheg gynnar, a'r cyfan yn ffurfio cyfuniad steilus a chyfareddol gyda thalwyneb trawiadol. Oddi mewn mae twneli ac efallai twll offeiriad hefyd.

Fel y dangosodd Mrs Barker, mae'r safle ei hun yn hynafol gydag o leiaf un adeilad arwyddocaol arall yn sefyll arno cyn codi'r plasty presennol. Mae'r ffaith fod Tŷ Fry a'i dîr yn sefyll mor agos at diriogaeth tuduraidd Plas Newydd sydd lai na milltir i ffwrdd, yn awgrymu cysylltiad canoloesol hwyr rhwng y ddau, mater y gallai ymchwil pellach egluro efallai.

Datgelodd Mrs Barker fod Tŷ Fry, yn ystod yr ail-ganrif-ar-bymtheg a'r ddeunawfed ganrif, ym mediant y teulu Williams oedd â chysylltiadau gyda'r teulu Hughes o Blas Coch, fel y tystiwyd gan y tariannau peintiedig uwch y pentan yn y neuadd. Yn 1791 priododd yr aeres, Mary Williams, i mewn i deulu Bodelwyddan, a gwerthwyd Tŷ Fry. Bu sawl perchennog wedi hynny, a bu'r plasty dan fygythiad o syrthio'n ferddyn yn ystod y 1960au a'r 70au, ond mae'r adfer sylweddol diweddar wedi ei achub.

Datgelodd cylchdaith hamddenol o amgylch y tîr rai arwyddion o ffordd Rufeinig bosib a gardd ddŵr yn dyddio o'r ail-ganrif-ar-bymtheg, yn ogystal â ffrydiau wedi eu leinio a thanffosydd yn arddangos saerniaeth o safon uchel. Trawiadol arbennig oedd y rhodfeydd uchel a'r llwyfannau gwyllo carreg gafwyd mewn mannau ffafriol ar y safle, gyda rhain i gyd yn dyddio o'r ail-ganrif-ar-bymtheg mae'n debyg. Daethant i gyd i'r golwg yn ystod gwaith Mrs Barker i adfer y tîr wedd, a chafwyd olion pwll a ffrwd melin hefyd.

Cytunnodd yr aelodau fod gwaith adfer a chynnal y safle yn lafur cariad arbennig iawn ar ran Mrs Barker, a mynegwyd eu gwerthfawrogiad o'i pharodrwydd i arwain y grŵp. Mae'n bosib byddai gwaith ymchwil cydgyssylltiedig, efallai'n cynnwys cyfraniad Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd, yn gallu taflu goleuni ar rai o'r dirgelion sy'n parhau.

Ann Huws (*Cyfieithydd*)



Tŷ Fry excursion – 24th June 2017

Thirty-five members visited Tŷ Fry in Rhoscefnhir on the sunny Saturday afternoon of 24th June. The owner, Mrs Kate Barker, led a fascinating tour of the gardens and grounds, as well as part of the house.

The site, well-concealed from the road, sits in a basin showing evidence of sophisticated landscaping from the early-modern, or even late-medieval, periods. Some of this may conceivably have been for defensive purposes, Mrs Barker suggested. The present mansion, the central core of which was completed around 1670, incorporates two earlier Tudor wings, as well as an early nineteenth-century ballroom extension, constituting a stylish and intriguing melange, with a striking front facade. The interior contains tunnels and even a possible priest hole.

As Mrs Barker showed, the site itself is an ancient one, and had accommodated at least one significant dwelling prior to the present manor. The proximity of Tŷ Fry and its grounds to the Tudor demesne at Plas Penmynydd less than a mile away suggested a possible late-medieval connection between the two, a matter on which further research could throw light.

Mrs Barker explained that between the seventeenth and early nineteenth centuries, Tŷ Fry had been owned by the Williams family, with connections to the Hughes of Plas Coch, as shown by the painted shields over the hall fireplace. In 1791, the heiress, Mary Williams, married into the Bodelwyddan family, and later Tŷ Fry was sold. There were several subsequent owners, and it had been at risk of dereliction during the 1960s and 70s; but major recent restorations had now redeemed it.

A lengthy perambulation round the grounds revealed traces of a possible Roman road and seventeenth-century water garden, as well as lined streams and culverts featuring high-quality workmanship. Especially striking were the raised walkways and stone viewing platforms at vantage points around the grounds, again probably from the seventeenth century. All of these had been recovered as part of Mrs Barker's landscape retrieval, as had the traces of a millpond and mill-race.

Members recognised the restoration and maintenance of the grounds was a remarkable labour of love on Mrs Barker's part, and gratitude was expressed for her willingness to show us around. There is now the prospect of more coordinated research, possibly involving the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, aimed at answering some of the outstanding questions.

Robin Grove-White



Tŷ Fry House and Gardens



Excursion: Dinam Hall – 19th July 2017

On 19th July, about 40 Antiquarians visited Dinam, the home of Richard and Dawn Williams over the past seventeen years. Standing in grounds on the edge of Llangaffo village, Dinam is a finely proportioned seventeenth-century hall house with later additions. The gallery overlooking the hall itself is an outstanding feature.

A magnificent cream tea awaited us on arrival, whilst we learnt about the history of the building. In the 18th century, the owners were the

Pritchards, who had supplied a succession of clergy for nearby Llangaffo church. More recently, the Williams had been engaged in major retrieval of the surrounding grounds and out-buildings, the latter including a very charming dovecote, potato sheds and other potentially useful facilities.

We learnt about the problems involved in maintaining and improving the many period windows and chimneys, all of which contributed to the elegance of the whole.

Robin Grove-White



Dinam Hall and Gardens



Dinam Hall and Gardens



Tea at Dinam Hall



Dinam Hall and Gardens



Llangaffo Church

Leaving Dinam, the Antiquarians made their way to Llangaffo Church. Frances explained the history of the building, pointing out that the present mid-nineteenth-century church replaced an earlier medieval church close by. The evidence for the antiquity of the site and surrounding area is apparent in the early medieval sculpture housed within the church and churchyard. An inscribed memorial stone is built into a wall of the sacristy and dates from the seventh century. Other points of interest include a cross-head and shaft of tenth- or eleventh-

century date. The shaft stands near the remains of the earlier church and is likely to have been a high cross similar to the example at Penmon. The churchyard also contains a number of cross-inscribed gravestones, the earliest of which date from the ninth to the eleventh centuries. Braving the rain, in the knowledge that sculpture was also recorded in the churchyard wall, a search by the churchwarden, Arwel Jones, and Antiquarians managed to locate a missing grave slab beneath the ivy.

K.J. Pollock



Cross-inscribed gravestones, Llangaffo Church



Inscribed seventh-century stone and cross-shaft, Llangaffo Church

The production of this newsletter has been a team effort. Grateful thanks go to Frances Lynch Llewellyn, Robin Grove-White, Andrew and Jo Davidson and Gareth Huws for providing reports and news items; to Ann Huws for translation, particularly at such short notice; to Siôn Caffell, Andrew Davidson and Janet Latham for superb photographs; and to Tom Pollock for design and layout.

NEW ACCESSIONS AT ANGLESEY ARCHIVES

Acc. No.	Acc. Date	Cat. No.	Covering Dates	Title
6218	20.01.2017	WDBA/4	2015 - 2016	Project Wylfa Newydd Archaeological Archive - Wessex Archaeology
6219	30.01.2017	WP/3/55 - 56	[c. 1940]	Plans Beaumaris Town Cemetery
6220	30.01.2017	WM/2601	1931 - 1989	Deeds Beaumaris and Penmon
6222	06.02.2017	WBN/1090	1980 - 2013	Lluniau Gwanaethau Democraidaidd CSYM
6224	10.02.2017	WM/2602	[c. 1900] - 1986	Papurau a luniau W. O. Williams Sargent Ym Miwmares Gaol
6225	10.02.2017	WM/2603	1787 and 1939	BRA Transfer of a lease by Lord Bulkeley of a house in Middx and Draft abstract of title of Lord Boston in Anglesey
6226	15.02.2017	WD/38/1 - 2	1913 - 2004	Marriage Registers Capel Libanus, Llanfechell
6227	20.02.2017	WM/2604	1983 - 2016	Papers of Pentraeth and District Labour Party
6228	20.02.2017	WM/2444/3	1816 - 1819	A shop account book found in the house of the late Maxi Roberts, Rhostrehwfa
6229	21.02.2017	WM/2605	1885 - 2016	Papurau Hugh Williams Pant y Saer a Theulu Helen Rowlands
6230	21.02.2017	WD/39	1932 - 1991	Adroddiadau Blynnyddol Capel MC Bethania Llangaffo
6231	24.02.2017	WDAAW	1775	Volume: Anglesey History
6232	28.02.2017	WM/2606	2016	Booklet: Aled Eames Memorial Lecture Moelfre
6233	08.03.2017	WM/2607	[c.1911]	Llyfr: Crynhoad o hanes Sir Fôn gan Richard Hughes, Coedana
6234	14.03.2017	WM/2608	[c. 1955]	Christmas Card with a sketch of the old St. Mary's Church,
6235	14.03.2017	WSP/614/1 - 3	[c.1875]	Photographs by William Hughes photographer, High Street, Llangefni [unidentified people, found in a house in Llanfairfechan]
6236	24.03.2017	search room	[shelf 02.01.05]	File: Bulkeley Family History
6237	28.03.2017	WDAAA/86	1954	Leaflet: Plan & Directory Holyhead Methodist Church English Circuit

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E Mail: archives@anglesey.gov.uk
The Senior Archivist is Hayden Burns.

Archives Service Opening Hours

Monday to Wednesday:
09:15 - 13:00 & 14:00 - 16:45
(closed for lunch between 1pm - 2pm)

Appointments

The Anglesey Archives Service operates a booking system. Users are therefore required to book a place in the search room in advance of their visit. Bookings can be made in person, by email, telephone or letter. Please be advised that a booking is required for each person wishing to use the service. If you have any special requirements please mention them when booking. Don't forget your Reader's Ticket.

Research Service.

There is a paid postal research service with an initial charge for the first hour. Please contact Archive Service for the current fee.

The next edition of the newsletter will be published in the Spring 2018. Please forward any articles to: Karen Pollock, Tanffordd Bach, Glanrafon, Llangoed, LL58 8SY or karen@excellentdesign.plus.com **AAS Publications** Members who require items through the post, may contact our Publications Officers, Robert and Margaret Bradbury, Bryniau Mawr, Pentraeth. LL75 8LJ • Tel/Ffon 01248 450132

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