
GRŴP DARGANFOD HEN DAI CYMREIG DISCOVERING OLD WELSH HOUSES GROUP

Dathlu Treftadaeth Cymru drwy astudio tai traddodiadol a bywydau'r bobl fu'n byw ynddynt.

CYLCHLYTHYR 17

Mehefin 2016

O'R GADAIR:

Wele gylchlythyr eto ar ddiwedd tri mis arall o brysurddeb a llwyddiant. Bu Margaret yn ymweld â thai yn nwyrain Cymru ac ar hyd arfordir y gogledd yn ogystal ag arwain arbenigwyr Dendro Rhydychen i dai y gellid eu dyddio. Bu'r Arddwest ym Mhlas Penmynydd yn hynod lwyddiannus gan godi dros £2800. Rwyn hynod ddiolchgar i bawb a fu'n ymwneud â'r diwrnod cofiadwy hwn yn ogystal ag i'n gwahoddedigion am eu cefnogaeth i'r digwyddiad. Gobeithio y gallwn godi mwy o arian yn nhyror yr Hydref drwy gynnal Ocsiwn Fawr Hen Bethau un noson yn ystod yr ail wythnos ym mis Hydref; mwy o fanylion i ddod. Rydym yn dal i chwilio am rhywun brwdfrydig i chwilota am Grantiau i gynnal ein gwaith cyfredol – cysylltwch â Margaret pe gallech helpu. Dymuniadau gorau am Haf dymunol.

Richard Cuthbertson, Cadeirydd



Plas Penmynydd ^>

Y NEWYDDION DIWEDDARAF

Bydd ein CCB yn cael ei gynnal am 2yp, Gwener, 24 Mehefin yn y Ganolfan, Llandrillo, Corwen, ac i ddilyn bydd y Ddarlith Gyhoeddus 'Statws, Anrhydedd ac Awdurdod yng Nghymru'r 16g a'r 17g: Dylanwad y Teulu Mostyn' gan Dr Shaun Evans. Bydd arddangosfeydd, raffl a lluniaeth ysgafn ar gael. Croeso i bawb a'r cyfan am ddim.

Prosiect Meirionnydd Gwanwyn 2016 Canlyniad ymweliad llwyddiannus arbenigwyr Labordy Dendrocronoleg Rhydychen yn y gwanwyn, oedd y dyddiadau dendro newydd canlynol, rhai ohonynt wedi eu talu gan y Parc Cenedlaethol a pherchenogion tai: Bryn Dinas, Cwm

Celebrating Welsh Heritage through the study of traditional houses and the lives of the people who lived in them.

NEWSLETTER 17

June 2016

FROM THE CHAIR:

How quickly the News Letter comes round! It has been a busy and successful 3 months. Margaret has been visiting houses in East Wales and along the North coast as well as taking the Oxford Dendro experts to potential datable houses. The Garden Party at Plas Penmynydd was very successful, raising just over £2800. I send my heartfelt thanks to all those who helped to make this such a memorable day and also all our guests for supporting the event. Hopefully we can do more fundraising in the Autumn through a Grand Antique Auction one evening in the second week of October, more details will follow. We are still searching for someone to energetically pursue Grants for our ongoing work, please contact Margaret if you would like to help. Best wishes for a fine Summer,

Richard Cuthbertson, Chairman



NEWS UPDATE

The **AGM** will be held at 2 pm on Friday 24th June in Y Ganolfan, Llandrillo, Corwen, followed at 3 pm by the Annual Public Lecture 'Status, Honour and Authority in 16th and 17th century Wales: The Mostyn Family Influence' by Dr Shaun Evans. There will be displays, a raffle and light refreshments. All welcome; no charge.

Merioneth Project Spring 2016 The successful spring visit of the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory experts resulted in the following new dendro dates, some paid for by the National Park and house owners: Bryn Dinas, Cwm Maethlon

Maethlon (tŷ neuadd 1511-41; llawr wedi ei fewnosod 1581-86); Cae'r March, Llanfachreth (gaeaf 1541/42); Gwernbraichdwr, Maerdy (gaeaf 1553/54; ailfodelu 1583-1613); Tyddyn Sais, Trawsfynydd (1547-57); Cae'n y Coed, Llandecwyn (gwanwyn 1585); Esgair Olwen, Llandecwyn (haf 1595); Dyffryn Gwyn, Cwm Maethlon (1607-17); Rhyd yr Eirin, Llanfair (canol 17 ganrif). Ymchwilir i hanes ambell dŷ ar hyn o bryd. Hoffem ddiolch yn ddiffuant am grantiau tuag at y prosiect hwn i Gronfa Marc Fitch, Cymdeithas Archeolegol Cambria a Chronfa Gymunedol Magnox.

Prosiect Gogledd Cymru 2016 Gweler erthygl Tony (isod) am waith cangen Conwy ac mae'r bobl leol yn paratoi am y prosiect hwn. Ar y cychwyn awgrymwyd astudio 85 o dai a thalwyd ymweliad â nifer ohonynt. Eglurwyd y prosiect i berchenogion â diddordeb a gwelwyd y coed sydd wedi goroesi. Cafwyd caniatâd y perchenogion i archwilio 19 tŷ a bydd 14 ohonynt yn cael eu hasesu gan arbenigwyr Labordy Dendrocronoleg Rhydychen yn gynnar ym Mehefin. Rydym yn gobeithio y bydd bump neu chwech ohonynt yn addas i'w samplu ac y cawn y canlyniadau ym mis Awst. Fe wneir ymchwil i hanes rhai o'r tai. Rydym yn hynod ddiolchgar am y grantiau a gafwyd i'r prosiect hwn gan Gronfa Gymunedol Gwynt-y-Môr ac Ymddiriedolaeth Gaynor Cemlyn Jones, a hoffem ddiolch i'r cymunedau lleol am eu cymorth.

Prosiect Gogledd Ddwyrain Cymru Fel paratoad i'n hymgais i ehangu ein gweithgareddau tua'r dwyrain, fe gynhaliwyd digwyddiadau agored llwyddiannus yn yr Wyddgrug a Dyserth ym Mawrth. Rydym hefyd wedi siarad mewn saith digwyddiad, yn bennaf gyda chymdeithasau lleol, a deg arall eto i ddod. Gobeithiwn glywed ganlyniad ein cais i Gadwyn Clwyd dros yr haf ar gyfer datblygu gwaith yn siroedd Dinbych a'r Fflint. Yn y cyfamser, rydym wedi gwneud cais am grant cyfatebol oddi wrth chwe sefydliad, pedwar ohonynt wedi cyfrannu a dau ganlyniad i ddod ym Mehefin. Gobeithiwn gynllunio gwaith newydd o Fedi ymlaen.

Cylchlythyr: Rydym yn cydnabod yn ddiolchgar grant tuag at Gylchlythyr 2016 oddi wrth Barc Cenedlaethol Eryri.

TAITH ASTUDIO MAI 2016 I FALDWYN

Eleni, roedd coets Abacab yn llawn, a gwnaeth ein ffrind y gyrrwr yrru'n dda ar hyd y lonydd culion, a than arweiniad Nick Moore daethom o hyd i sawl em cuddiedig yn ein rhaglen. Roedd rhai yn y grŵp yn hoffi awyrgylch hen ffasiwn Neuadd Gregynog tra teimlai nifer ei bod yn sbartaidd; roedd y staff yn ewyllysgar ond siomedig oedd y prydau bwyd amser swper. Mwynhaodd pawb y sgysiau gan arbenigwyr lleol ac fe gofir am sawl cyfnod pleserus gwahanol. Roedd nifer yr ymweliadau braidd yn rhy uchelgeisiol (neu roeddem ni yn brin o egni).

Dyma rai o'r sylwadau: "Roedd yn rhaglen ardderchog a gwelwyd ystod eang o eiddo, yn ogystal ag archwilio trefi bychain ac eglwysi". Roedd ansawdd moethus y pamffled yn adlewyrchu agwedd broffesiynol ac anelwyd y cynnwys at y lefel iawn o fanylder. Roedd yn hyfryd gallu gweld y tu mewn i gymaint o dai preifat ac mae gennym drefnwyr yn y maes, sef Nick ac Eva Moore, y mae ein dyled yn fawr iddynt." "Rwyn gwerthfawrogi fod y trefnwyr lleol yn awyddus i ni weld POB adeilad sblenydd, ond roedd braidd ormod ohonynt." "Uchafbwynt cyffredinol oedd gallu

(hall house 1511-41; inserted floor 1581-86); Cae'r March, Llanfachreth (winter 1541/42); Gwernbraichdwr, Maerdy (winter 1553/54; remodelling 1583-1613); Tyddyn Sais, Trawsfynydd (1547-57); Cae'n y Coed, Llandecwyn (spring 1585); Esgair Olwen, Llandecwyn (summer 1595); Dyffryn Gwyn, Cwm Maethlon (1607-17); Rhyd yr Eirin, Llanfair (mid 17th century). Some house histories are being undertaken. We gratefully acknowledge grants towards this project from the Marc Fitch Fund, the Cambrian Archaeological Association and the Magnox Community Fund.

North Conwy 2016 Project See Tony's article (below) for details of the work of the Conwy branch and local people in preparing for this project. 85 houses were initially suggested as potential subjects, and many of these were visited. The project was explained to interested owners and the surviving timbers seen. Owners' permission was granted to proceed with 19 houses and of these the 14 will be assessed by the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory experts in early June. We hope that five or six may be suitable for sampling and that we will receive the results in late August. Some house histories will be researched. We gratefully acknowledge grants towards this project from the Gwynt y Môr Community Fund and the Gaynor Cemlyn Jones Trust, and we thank the local communities for their help.

North East Wales Project In preparation for this eastward extension of our activities, successful open events were held in Mold and Dyserth in March. We have also spoken at seven events mainly with local organisations, and ten more are booked. We hope to hear the result of our application to Cadwyn Clwyd over the summer for developing work in Denbighshire and Flintshire. Meanwhile we have applied for match-funding from six organisations and have been awarded grants by four, with two results due in June. We hope to be able to start planning new work from September onwards.

Newsletter: We gratefully acknowledge a grant towards the 2016 Newsletters from the Snowdonia National Park.

STUDY TOUR: MAY 2016 TO MONTGOMERYSHIRE

This year we filled the Abacab coach so did not have the luxury of extra space; our friendly driver coped well with the narrow lanes and, led by Nick Moore, found the many hidden gems in our programme. Some of the group liked the old fashioned ambience of Gregynog Hall while others found it rather spartan; the staff were helpful but the evening meals were disappointing. Everyone enjoyed the talks by local specialists, and many different favourite high points were noted. The number of visits was slightly over-ambitious (or we just lacked sufficient energy).

Comments included: "It was an excellent programme with the wide range of properties seen plus the exploration of small towns and churches." "The glossy quality of the brochure reflected a professional approach and the content was aimed at the right level of detail. It was a joy to be able to see the inside of so many private houses and we have the organisers on the ground, Nick and Eva Moore, to thank for this". "I appreciate that the local organisers were keen for us to see ALL the splendid buildings, but there were just too many". "A general highlight was being able to discuss with

trafod ag aelodau o'r un fryd (a rhai arbenigwyr) y cwestiynau niferus a ofynwyd am ddyddio a strwythur nifer o hen dai trawiadol mewn tirlun gwledig hyfryd.

Gwnaeth y Daith Astudio elw sydd i'w ddefnyddio i gefnogi prosiectau GDHDC yn y dyfodol. Aberthodd nifer o bobl lawer iawn o'u hamser i wneud hyn yn ddigwyddiad ardderchog. DIOLCH YN FAWR i bawb a gynorthwyodd.

Diwrnod 1 – sylwadau: Arian a chariad – onid oes angen y ddau ar hen adeiladau?

Heb amheuaeth, mae'r Hen Neuadd, a gafodd ei hachub a'i hadfer, yn Rhyd y Carw, yn llwyddiant – daeth yn fyw yn y 21 ganrif diolch i gwpwl ymroddedig a wynebodd y sialens ac addasu'r hyn a oedd yn hen adeilad llychlyd, yn dŷ modern hardd gydag awgrym cryf o gynildeb Siapaneaidd. Cam ymarferol oedd mewnosod ffenestri yn y manau lle bu pared dellt a phlaster a hynny heb ddifetha'r cymeriad yn ddiangen. O'i gymharu â'r ysgubor Heightley hyfryd a welsom yn ddiweddarach, o leiaf mae'r adeilad hwn yn cael ei garu a'i ddefnyddio.



Aberriw / Berriew

Rwyf wedi gyrru o amgylch Neuadd Farchnad Llanidloes am y rhan fwyaf o'm mywyd gan edmygu ei benderfyniad diysgog i aros yn ei unfan, yn y man y cynlluniwyd iddo fod. Agorwyd ei lawr uchaf yn arbennig i ni, edmygwyr chwilfrydig ac fe gawsom ein cyfareddu gan yr arddangosfa yno. Roedd yr olygfa allan ar hyd y strydoedd i'r ddau gyfeiriad yn creu teimlad aruchel o oruchafiaeth.

Mae'n rhaid NAD yw'r dref gyfan wedi profi llawer iawn o 'welliannau' i'w hadeiladau a barnu o'r haid enfawr o Wenoliaid, Gwenoliaid Duon a Gwenoliaid y Bondo sy'n hedfan heibio; eu gelyn yw'r bondo plastig newydd. Maddeuwch i mi am grwydro, ond pan gyrhaeddasom Maes Mawr roedd arno angen cymaint o gynnal a chadw o ran garddwriaeth ac adeiladu fel bo pâr prin o Wybedog Mannog wedi ymgartrefu ynddo. Yn Nhalgarth, a oedd ar werth ar ôl ei adfer yn ofalus, roedd pâr o Wenoliaid Duon wedi cyrraedd, ddim ond i ddarganfod fod rhaid brwydro yn erbyn rhai o Adar y to ym mrig un o'r ffenestri dormer – trueni na fuasai pobl yn gallu bod mor awyddus.

Uchafbwynt y diwrnod cyntaf oedd dysgu am waith cerrig yn eglwys Sant Idloes (dendro 1538). Roeddwn wedi sylwi ar seiliau pileri yn y glaswellt yn Abaty Cwm Hir ac yn pendroni pam y gadawyd hwy yno, ac roeddynt yn odidog, yn cynnal rhai o'r bwâu a gymerwyd o'r Abaty. Roedd y capanau cynnar iawn yn dangos datblygiad yn y technegau cerfio gyda chynion gwell. Anaml iawn y gwelir hyn gan eu bod yn

like-minded members (and some experts) the many questions raised about the dating and structure of several beautiful old houses situated in lovely countryside.”

The Study Tour made a profit which will go towards supporting DOWHG future projects. Many people gave up a great deal of time to make it an excellent event. THANK YOU to all who helped.

Day 1 comments: Money and love - old buildings really need both, don't they?

The rescued and restored Old Hall at Rhyd y Carw is a success without doubt – brought into the 21st century by a dedicated couple who have taken up the challenge and adapted what was a dusty old building into a beautiful modern home with a serious hint of Japanese austerity. Inserting windows where lath and plaster would have been is so practical without spoiling the character unduly. Compared to the lovely Heightley Granary which we saw later, at least this building is loved and used.



Yr Hen Neuadd / Old Hall, Rhyd y Carw, 1524

I have driven around Llanidloes Market Hall for most of my life admiring its staunch determination to stay rooted to the spot it was designed for. Its upper floor was opened especially for us curious admirers who were enthralled by the exhibition there. The view out along the streets in both directions created a very superior feel of dominance.

The whole town must NOT have had a great deal of 'improvements' to its buildings judging by the huge flock of Swallows, Swifts and Martins flying over it; new soffits of plastic are their enemy. Forgive me for deviating but when we got to Maes Mawr it was so in need of horticultural and building maintenance that a delightful and rare pair of Spotted Flycatchers were making their home in it. At the carefully restored but 'for sale' Talgarth a pair of swifts had arrived to find they had to do battle with some sparrows in the apex of one of the dormer windows. If only people could be so keen.

The highlight of the first day was learning about the stonework in the church of St Idloes (dendro 1538). I had noticed the pillar-bases in the grass at Abbey Cwm Hir and wondered why they had been left there. But here in this church were the pillars from there, and they were magnificent, holding up some of the arches taken from the Abbey. The very early capitals showed evidence of the development of carving techniques with improved chisels. It is rare to see this due to them being brought under cover

cael eu cysgodi a ddim yn dioddef hindreuliad. Yn ôl pob golwg fe'u symudwyd ar frys, a dyna pam y gadawyd y seiliau a adawyd ar ôl. Mae eithaf stori i'r digwyddiad hwn ond gwell aros am y tro. Taith anhygoel! *Briony Davies*

DIGWYDDIADAU GRŴP HAF 20126

Archebwch yn gynnar gyda Wally: Wallybarr@yahoo.co.uk 01745 888622. Cost £5 (aelodau); £7 (heb fod yn aelodau) os na ddwedir yn wahanol. Bydd y manylion llawn yn cael eu hanfon at y rhai sydd wedi archebu. **Gwen Mehefin 24:** CCB a'r ddarlith flynyddol. Manylion uchod. **Merch Gorff 13** 2 yp – ymweliad drwy ganiatâd caredig y perchenogion i Goed y Foel, Derwin, Corwen, cartref to gwellt a fu unwaith yn dŷ neuadd dendro dyddiedig 1512. Dim mwy na 15. **Awst** Nid oes cyfarfod. **Merch Medi 14** 2yp. Ymweliad drwy ganiatâd caredig perchenogion Llwyn y Cynfal, Rhydymain, Dolgellau, tŷ llorior wedi ei adfer, dendro dyddiedig 1587. Dim mwy na 15. **Sad Hydref 22** 2yp sgwrs â darluniau 'Tai Cudd Gwynedd 1000-1800' gan Simon Simcox, arolygydd adeiladu a hanesydd lleol, yng Nghanolfan Gymunedol Capel Curig. Bydd raffl, a llyfr diweddaraf Simon fydd y wob. **Sad Tach 19** 2yp Sgwrs â darluniau 'Gwaith Achos CBA yn Nghymru' gan Cy Griffiths, Gweithiwr Cymdeithasol Adeiladau Rhestredig Cyngor Archeoleg Prydain yng Nghymru, yng Nghanolfan Gymdeithasol Capel Curig. Dim cyfarfod yn **Rhagfyr** gan fod canghennau yn cynnal digwyddiadau Nadolig.

DIGWYDDIADAU CANGHENNAU: archebwch drwy'r cysylltydd cangen, fel arfer am £2.

CANGEN MÔN ARFON

Cyswllt: Peter Masters: datinggoldwelshhouses@gmail.com 01758 750322. **Mer Gorff 6** Tŷ Mawr, Nanmor – 1527 tŷ neuadd gyda lle tân wedi ei fewnosod (cyfarfod ar y cyd â Changen Meirionnydd). Cyfarfod ym mhrif faes parcio Beddgelert, LL55 4YD, am 2 yp. Dowch â phicnic i de. Ffoniwch Peter ar gyfer cyfarfodydd eraill.

CANGEN CONWY

Cyswllt: Tony Scharer: tonyscharer@gmail.com 01745 813027. **Iau Meh 30** Y diweddaraf yn y cynnydd mewn astudio tai ym mhrosiect Cronfa Gymunedol Gwynt y Môr yng ngogledd Conwy. 9.30 y bore, Yr Hen Dŷ Ysgol, Llanddulas. **Maw Medi 13** Archifau Conwy, 9.30-12 gweithdy: cymorth ymarferol a chyngor ar hanes tai, a'r diweddaraf ar brosiect Gwynt y Môr.

CANGEN SIR DDINBYCH

Cyswllt: Janice Dale: jadale22@hotmail.co.uk 01450 440427. **Merch Gorff 27** 2 yp Cerdded o gwmpas Llandrillo, ac yna te yng ngardd Janice. **Awst:** dim cyfarfod. **Gwen Medi 16** 2yp Cyfarfod yn nhŷ 19g Margaret a Wally Barr, Gwespyr, Treffynnon. **Mer Hyd 12** 7yh Cyfarfod ym Mryn Berllan, Cynwyd (gynt yn dŷ ffrâm goed Elisabethaidd).

CANGEN MEIRIONNYDD

Cyswllt: John Townsend: john@thetownsends.org.uk 01341 430262. **Sul Meh 19** Achlysur cymdeithasol yr haf gan GDHDC Meirionnydd o 3-6 yh yng Ngesailgwm Mawr, Y Bont-ddu. Yn cynnwys ymweliad â thŷ, a chael y diweddaraf am brosiectau Hen Neuadd Pengwern a Chwm Maethlon. Mae croeso i bartneriaid/ffrindiau a phlant yr aelodau. **Mer Gorff 6** Tŷ Mawr, Nanmor – tŷ neuadd 1527 gyda lle tân wedi ei fewnosod (cyfarfod ar y cyd â Changen Môn Arfon). Cyfarfod ym maes parcio Penrhyndeudraeth am 2yp. Dowch

and not suffering from weathering. Apparently they were moved in haste, hence the bases left behind. There is quite a story attached to this event – maybe another time for this. Great trip! *Briony Davies, Merioneth*

2016 SUMMER GROUP EVENTS

Book early with Wally: Wallybarr@yahoo.co.uk 01745 888622. Cost £5 (members); £7 (non-members) unless otherwise stated. Full details will be sent to those who have booked. **Fri 24th Jun:** AGM and annual public lecture. For details see above. **Weds 13th Jul** 2 pm visit by kind permission of the owners to Coed y Foel, Derwin, Corwen, a thatched former hall house dendro dated 1512. Max 15. No meeting in **August**. **Wed 14th Sept** 2 pm Visit by kind permission of the owners to Llwyn y Cynfal, Rhydymain, Dolgellau; a restored storeyed house dendro-dated 1587. Max 15. **Sat 22nd Oct** 2 pm Illustrated talk 'The Hidden Houses of Gwynedd 1000 – 1800' by Simon Simcox, building surveyor and local historian, in the Capel Curig Community Centre. There will be a raffle with Simon's recent book as the prize. **Sat 19th Nov** 2 pm Illustrated talk 'CBA Casework in Wales' by Cy Griffiths, the Council for British Archaeology's Listed Building Caseworker for Wales, in the Capel Curig Community Centre. No meeting in **December** as most branches hold Christmas events.

BRANCH EVENTS: book with branch contacts, usually @ £2.

ANGLESEY-CAERNARFONSHIRE BRANCH

Rep: Peter Masters: datinggoldwelshhouses@gmail.com 01758 750322. **Weds 6th July** Tŷ Mawr, Nantmor – 1527 hall-house with inserted fireplace (joint meeting with Merioneth Branch). Meet at Beddgelert main car park, LL55 4YD, at 2 pm. Bring picnic tea. Ring Peter about other meetings.

CONWY BRANCH

Contact: Tony Scharer: tonyscharer@gmail.com 01745 813027. **Thurs 30th Jun** Update on progress with houses in the Gwynt y Môr Community Fund project in north Conwy. 9.30 am, The Old School House, Llanddulas. **Tues 13th Sept** Conwy Archives, 9.30-12 workshop: practical help and advice on house histories, and updates on the Gwynt y Môr project.

DENBIGHSHIRE BRANCH

Contact: Janice Dale: jadale22@hotmail.co.uk 01450 440427. **Weds 27th July** 2 pm Llandrillo walk-about, and then tea in Janice's garden. **August:** no meeting. **Fri 16th Sept** 2 pm Meeting at Margaret & Wally Barr's C19 house, Gwespyr, Holywell. **Weds 12th Oct** 7 pm Meeting at Bryn Berllan, Cynwyd (former timber-framed Elizabethan house).

MERIONETH BRANCH

Contact: John Townsend: john@thetownsends.org.uk 01341 430262. **Sun 19th Jun** Merioneth DOWHG summer social event from 3-6 pm at Cesailgwm Mawr, Bont-ddu. Includes house visit and updates on Pengwern Old Hall and Cwm Maethlon projects. Members' partners/friends and children welcome. **Weds 6th July** Tŷ Mawr, Nantmor – 1527 hall-house with inserted fireplace (joint meeting with Anglesey/Caerns Branch). Meet at Penrhyndeudraeth car park at 2 pm. Bring picnic tea. **Mon 19th Sept** Visit to Tyddyn Sais, Trawsfynydd (Snowdonia house dated 1547-57). Meet at 1.45 pm at the Glan Aber turning off the A470 south of Trawsfynydd.

REMINDER: all the houses mentioned in this newsletter are

â phicnic i de. **Llun Medi 19** Ymweliad i Dyddyn Sais, Trawsfynydd (Tŷ Eryri dyddiedig 1547-57. Cyfarfod am 1.45yp wrth Lan Aber a throi oddi ar yr A470 i'r de o Drawsfynydd.

NODYN ATGOFFA: Mae'r holl dai a grybwyllir yn y cylchlythyr hwn yn eiddo preifat.

COFIWCH YMWELD â discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk i weld adroddiadau blog o'r holl ddigwyddiadau diweddar ac i edrych ar ein llyfrgell gynyddol.

OS YR YDYCH Â DIDDORDEB MEWN HEN DAI ond eto ddim yn aelod, pam na wnewch ystyried ymuno â'r Grŵp? Ysgrifenyddes Aelodaeth yw Ms Zoë Henderson zoehenderson123@btinternet.com 01824 704404. Am wybodaeth bellach cysylltwch â Margaret Dunn, Ysgrifenyddes brynbedd1@gmail.com 01766 890550.

LAWER O DDIOLCH i Gangen Conwy am eu cyfraniad at yr argraffiad hwn o'r cylchlythyr.

CRONFA GYMUNEDOL GWYNT Y MÔR: PROSIECT GOGLEDD CONWY

Yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf mae cangen Conwy wedi bod yn weithgar yn ehangu eu gweithgaredd tua'r dwyrain, gan chwilio am hen dai yn y rhannau 'newydd' o'r hen Sir Ddinbych. Y rhain yw cantrefi hynafol Rhos a Rhufeiniog, ac mae'r prosiect hwn yn digwydd yn ardaloedd arfordirol Rhos.

Dechreuodd yn Hydref y llynedd (2015) pan drefnwyd fod Margaret Dunn a Rhys Mwyn yn cynnal cyfarfod dwyieithog yn Llangernyw er mwyn cyfarfod â phobl leol sydd a diddordeb mewn hen dai a'u hanes. Arweiniodd hyn at ail gyfarfod ym Metws yn Rhos lle gwnaethom gysylltiad â'u cymdeithas hanes lleol a dechrau rhannu gwybodaeth am dai hanesyddol yn yr ardal.

Fel bob amser, roedd yn rhaid i'r Grŵp chwilio am gyllid i dalu am y samplu dendrocronolegol a oedd ei angen, ond, yn ffodus, roedd y gwaith arfaethedig yng ngogledd Conwy yn cyfarfod â'r meini prawf i gael grant newydd o £5,000, grant yr oeddem wedi ei dderbyn gan Gronfa Gymunedol Gwynt y Môr – fel y cofnodwyd yn y cylchlythyr diwethaf. I unrhywun sydd heb sylwi, Gwynt y Môr yw'r fferm wynt alltraeth anferth (un o'r rhai mwyaf yn y byd) na fedrwrch osgoi ei gweld oddi ar yr arfordir o Llandudno i Brestatyn. Daw'r grant oddi wrth gronfa fawr sydd wedi ymroddi i gynorthwyo cymunedau arfordirol yn siroedd Conwy, Dinbych a Fflint.

Os nad ydych yn gyfarwydd â'r ardal hon ewch ar y B5381 o gyfnewidfa Glan Conwy ar yr A55 a theithio ar hyd yr hen ffordd fewndirol tua'r dwyrain tuag at Lanelwy (yr hen ffordd Rufeinig yng ngogledd Cymru). Wedi dringo'n serth, daw rhywun i lawr i dirlun ymdonnog o ffermydd bychain, gwrychoedd a lonydd cul, gyda nifer dymunol o hen goed derw yn dal i sefyll ar hyd ffiniau'r caeau. Y prif gymunedau yw Llaneilian-yn-Rhos a Betws-yn-Rhos, gyda chlystyrau eraill o dai yn Nolwen a Throfarth. Mae afon Dulas yn draenio'r rhanfwyaf o'r basn ac yn llifo tua'r môr drwy fwllch yn y brynau calchfaen ar hyd yr arfordir rhwng Llysfen ac Abergele. Yma, mae unrhyw dai o ddiddordeb hanesyddol wedi eu hamgylchynnu gan ddatblygiad newydd, ond i fewn yn y tir ceir nifer rhyfeddol o dai cyn-1700, lle mae eu

private property.

DO VISIT <http://discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk/> to see blog accounts of all recent events and to look at our growing library.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN OLD HOUSES and are not already a member, why not consider joining the Group? The Membership Secretary is Ms Zoë Henderson zoehenderson123@btinternet.com 01824 704404. For further information contact Margaret Dunn, Secretary brynbedd1@gmail.com 01766 890550.

MANY THANKS to the Conwy Branch for their contribution to this issue of the newsletter.

GWYNT Y MÔR COMMUNITY FUND: NORTH CONWY PROJECT

For the last few years the Conwy branch have been pushing their efforts eastwards looking for old houses in the 'new' parts of the county that were formerly in Denbighshire. These are the ancient cantrefi of Rhôs and Rhufeiniog, and it is in the coastal parts of Rhôs that this project is taking place.

It started in Autumn last year (2015) when we arranged for Margaret Dunn and Rhys Mwyn to host a bilingual meeting in Llangernyw to meet local people who were interested in old houses and their history. This led to a second meeting at Betws-yn-Rhôs where we made links with their local history society and began to share information about historic houses in the area.

As always, the Group has had to look for funding to pay for the actual dendrochronological sampling, but fortunately, the proposed work in north Conwy fulfilled the criteria in a new grant of £5,000 which we had received from the Gwynt y Môr Community Fund - as reported in the last newsletter. For anyone who has not noticed, Gwynt y Môr is the vast offshore wind farm (one of largest in the world) that you can't help but see off the coast from Llandudno to Prestatyn. The grant is from a large fund which is committed to help communities in coastal areas of Conwy, Denbighshire and Flintshire.



Cyfarfod cynllunio Conwy planning meeting

If you don't know this area take the B 5381 from the Glan Conwy interchange on the A55 and travel along the old inland road eastward towards St. Asaph (the ancient Roman route into North Wales). After a steep climb, one descends to an undulating landscape of small farms, hedges and narrow lanes, with a pleasing number of old oak trees still standing along field boundaries. The main communities are Llaneilian-yn-rhôs and Betws-yn-Rhôs, with other clusters of houses around Dolwen and Trofarth. The River Dulas drains

perchenogion wedi mynegi diddordeb yn yr hyn a geisiwn ei gyflawni. Ni ddylai neb fychanu'r amser a'r ymdrech sydd eu hangen i gytuno ar y rhestr derfynol o dai sy'n addas i'w dyddio. Cynhaliwyd sawl cyfarfod, gyda phobl yn mynd â rhestrau o dai addas i'w hymweld, ffrindiau i ffonio neu cysylltiadau i'w gwneud. Ac yn naturiol, ceir gwrthodiadau uniongyrchol, sefydliadau anghydweithredol, a diddordeb cychwynnol sy'n ddealladwy yn osgoi gweithredu, oherwydd ymrwymadau teuluol, swyddi a straen gwaith ar ferm.

Wrth i'r erthygl hon fynd i'r wasg rydym yn brysur yn ceisio trefnu ymweliadau i dai ar ran y tîm dendrocronoleg am bedwar diwrnod yn nechrau Mehefin. Er mwyn defnyddio amser yn effeithiol rhaid gofalu fod coed gwreiddiol y tî yn hawdd eu cyrraedd ar gyfer eu samplu – a ddim mewn atig sydd heb ei hagor ers hanner can mlynedd! Dylsai'r tî fod wedi ei adeiladu cyn y flwyddyn 1700, ac os yn bosib cyn 1600. Rhaid i'r perchenogion roi caniatâd ysgrifenedig i'r samplu ddigwydd, a deall y gall yr 'arbenigwyr' ddarganfod fod coed y tai hyn yn anaddas i'w dyddio. Y rheswm mwyaf cyffredin dros hyn yw pan nad yw gwyddonwyr yn dod o hyd i fan addas ar drawst y gellid tynnu allan gnewyllyn o ganol y cylchoedd yn y pren reit drwodd i'r gwynnin neu'r rhisgl ar y tu allan. Mae angen iddynt ddarganfod digon o gylchoedd i gyfateb i ddilyniant sy'n barod ganddynt yn eu cronfa ddata – cofnod y mae ein Grŵp wedi bod yn gyfrifol am wneud un o'r goreuon yng Nghymru. Ond hyd os y gellir cael sampl, rydym yn dechrau darganfod fod llawer o goed a gafwyd o ardaloedd arfordirol neu o ddyffrynnoedd iseldiroedd ffrwythlon gogledd Cymru, wedi tyfu yn llawer rhy gyflym – heb ddigon o gylchau yn y sampl i gyd-fynd ag unrhyw ddilyniannau sy'n bodoli.



Ger / Near Betws yn Rhos

Felly, gan fod ardal ein prosiect yn agos at y môr, rydym yn gofalu fod gennym gronfa o leiaf ugain tî yn barod ar gyfer yr archwiliad rhagarweiniol gan yr arbenigwyr, er mwyn gwirio nad yw'r coed wedi tyfu'n rhy gyflym i allu rhoi i ni yr wybodaeth a geisiwn. Bydd y rhai sy'n llwyddo yn y prawf yn cael ailymweliad, eu samplu a, gobeithio, yn rhoi rhai dyddiadau diddorol sy'n cydweddu â steiliau adeiladu a hanes tai.

Os yw'r prosiect hwn yn llwyddiannus, edrychwn ymlaen at fynd ar hyd yr arfordir i ardaloedd i'r dwyrain o Abergele (eto yn Sir Conwy) ac yn y pen draw, i'r Grŵp weithio yn Siroedd Dinbych a Fflint.

Tony Scharer, Conwy

most of this basin and finds its way to the sea through a gap in the limestone hills along the coast between Llysaen and Abergele. Here, any houses of historic interest are surrounded by new development, but inland there is a surprising number of pre-1700 houses where the owners have expressed an interest in what we are trying to achieve. Let no one underestimate the time and effort it takes to agree a final list of houses that are suitable for dating. There have been several meetings, with people taking away lists of houses to visit, friends to phone or connections to be made. And naturally, there are straight refusals, uncooperative estates, and initial interest that turns into understandable backing out because of family commitments, jobs and the pressures of farm work.

As this article goes to press we are running round trying to arrange house visits from the dendrochronology team over a four day period in early June. To make the most efficient use of their time we have to be sure that a house has original timber which is accessible to sample – not up through a trap door into a loft that's not been opened for fifty years! A house should have been built before the year 1700, and preferably before 1600. The owners must give written permission for the sampling to take place, and understand that the 'experts' may find their house timbers unsuitable for dating. The most common reason for this is when the scientists cannot find a suitable place on a beam where a core can be taken from the centre of the tree rings in the wood right through to the sapwood or bark on the outside. They need to find enough rings to match with sequences already recorded in their database – a record which our Group has been instrumental in making one of the best in Wales. But, even if a sample can be taken, we are beginning to find that many timbers from coastal areas or fertile lowland valleys in North Wales, are just too fast-grown – without enough rings in a sample to fit into existing sequences.

So, because our project area is close to the sea, we are making sure we have a pool of at least twenty houses ready for a preliminary inspection by the experts, just to check if the timbers are not too fast-grown to provide the information we need. Those that pass this test will be re-visited, sampled, and, we hope, provide some interesting dates which we can match to building styles and house histories.

If this project is a success, we look forward to moving along the coast to areas east of Abergele (still in Conwy County) and eventually, for the Group to work in Denbighshire and Flintshire.

Tony Scharer, Conwy



Comisiwn Brenhinol
Henebion Cymru
Royal Commission on the Ancient
and Historical Monuments of Wales

