
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 22

Medi 2017

EIN GWEFAN <http://discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk> yw prif sianel gyfathrebu'r Grŵp – defnyddiwch hi i weld mwy o fanylion am y digwyddiadau diweddar a'r rhai sydd ar ddod, ac i edrych ar ein llyfrgell sy'n cynyddu'n gyson ac ar nodweddion eraill.

O'R GADAIR:

Diolch i bawb a fynychodd y CCB er gwaetha'r glaw trwm. Fel arfer, cafwyd sgwrs ddi-ddorol iawn a llawn gwybodaeth gan Eurwyn Wiliam am y tri 'chawr' ymysg yr ymchwiliadau cynnar i dai Cymreig – Fox, Peate a Peter Smith. Roeddem hefyd yn hapus iawn i apwyntio dau Ymddiriedolwr newydd a fydd yn gymorth mawr i gryfhau'r Bwrdd.

Gwnaeth Margaret waith rhagorol yn casglu grantiau o gymorth mawr ar gyfer ein gweithgareddau ac fe gawsom hyd yn oed fwy o gefnogaeth gan ein cyfeillion Americanaidd, a llawer o grantiau llai ond derbynol iawn. Mynychodd llawer y diwrnod agored ym Mhlas Penmynydd, gyda nifer mawr o drigolion yr Ynys yn bresennol ac yn addo dod yn aelodau. Casglwyd cyfanswm o £575.00, a buaswn yn falch iawn o ddiolch i'r holl wirfoddolwyr a weithiodd yn rhagorol o dan amodau anodd.

Richard Cuthbertson, Cadeirydd



Digwyddiad Gŵyl Archaeoleg ^>

NEWYDDION DIWEDDARAF

YMDDIRIEDOLWYR: Rydym yn croesawu Eleanor Carpenter a Dr Shaun Evans a apwyntiwyd fel ein Hymddiriedolwyr

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

NEWSLETTER 22

September 2017

OUR WEBSITE <http://discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk> is the Group's main channel of communication – please visit it to see details of recent and forthcoming events and to look at our growing library and other features.

FROM THE CHAIR:

Thanks to all who attended the AGM despite the pouring rain. As usual Eurwyn William gave a very interesting and informative talk about the three 'giants' of early inquiries concerning Welsh houses – Fox, Peate, and Peter Smith. We were also very pleased to appoint two new Trustees who will greatly strengthen the Board.

Margaret has done a fantastic job in bringing in grant aid towards our work with yet more support from our American friends, and many smaller but very welcome grants. The open day at Plas Penmynydd was well attended, with many Anglesey people turning out and quite a number promising to become members. The total raised was £575.00, and I would very much like to thank all the volunteers who worked splendidly under quite trying conditions.

Richard Cuthbertson, Chairman



< ^ Festival of Archaeology event

NEWS UPDATE

TRUSTEES: We welcome Eleanor Carpenter and Dr Shaun Evans who were appointed as new Trustees at our June



newydd yn CCB Mehefin; mae'r ddau yn barod wedi ein cynorthwyo am gryn amser ac mae ganddynt gryn arbenigedd a fydd yn cryfhau ein mentrau yn GDdn Cymru.

GRANTIAU: Rydym yn cydnabod yn ddiolchgar y grantiau o Gronfa Marc Fitch, Cymdeithas Hynafiaethwyr Llundain – Cronfa Phillips, Cyngor Archaeoleg Prydain – Cronfa Archaeoleg Mick Aston, Grŵp Pensaerniaeth Werinol, Cronfa Gymunedol Gwynt y Môr, Cronfa Woodtiger, Cronfa Ddatblygu Gynaliadwy AHNE Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy, cronfa APCE (SNPA) Eryri a Chynllun Bagiau Cymorth Tesco. Rydym yn aros am ganlyniadau ceisiadau eraill. Rydym hefyd yn ddiolchgar am grant gan Barc Cenedlaethol Eryri tuag at y Cylchlythyr. Mae dros £20,000 wedi ei gasglu tuag at weithgareddau 2017-18, yn bennaf yn GDdn Cymru a Meirionnydd. Bydd ein rhaglenni o ymweliadau â pherchenogion, asesu, dyddio a chofnodi adeiladau ac ymgymryd ag ymchwil i hanes tai yn dechrau'n fuan. Cofiwch adael gwybod i ni am unrhyw dai yn eich cymdogaeth wedi eu dyddio cyn 1700, ac sydd â'u coed yn wreiddiol.

CODI ARIAN: Mae Gŵyl Archaeoleg lwyddiannus Cyngor Archaeoleg Prydain / Digwyddiad Agored DHDC ym Mhlas Penmynydd wedi sbarduno diddordeb lleol ac mae cyfres o sgysiau ac ymweliadau wedi eu trefnu ar yr ynys ac maent yn agored i bawb. Mae ein Cangen yng Nghonwy hefyd wedi ymgymryd â gweithgareddau codi arian.

GOLYGYDD Y CYLCHLYTHYR: Bydd ein golygydd presennol yn ymddeol yn fuan ac rydym yn chwilio am rhywun i lenwi'r swydd bwysig hon. Os ydych â diddordeb neu yn gallu awgrymu rhywun, cysylltwch â 01766 890550 am wybodaeth bellach.

OS YDYCH Â DIDDORDEB MEWN HEN DAI ond ddim eto yn aelod, pam na ystyriwch ymuno a'r Grŵp? Ysgrifennydd Aelodaeth yw Ms Zoë Henderson 01824 704404 zoehenderson123@btinternet.com. Am wybodaeth bellach cysylltwch â Margaret Dunn, yr Ysgrifenyddes secretary@discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk 01766 890550.

DIGWYDDIADAU GRŴP

Rydym yn brysur yn paratoi ar gyfer **cynhadledd wanwyn Grŵp Pensaerniaeth Werinol DU 2018** ym Mangor yn Ebrill. Bydd y cynrychiolwyr yn treulio dyddiau yn ymweld â thai ar Ynys Môn, yn Siroedd Dinbych a Chonwy. Bydd angen gwirfoddolwyr yn nes at yr amser i fod yn stiwardiaid ayb.

Mae'r daith arfaethedig. **Taith Astudio 2018 i Cumbria**, bellach wedi symud o Fai i fis Medi. Fe fydd y manylion yn cael eu dosbarthu yn fuan.

TREFTADAETH DINBYCH: DIGWYDDIAD DRYSAU AGORED Gwener 22 Medi: yn Theatr Twm o'r Nant, Ffordd yr Orsaf, Dinbych, LL16 3DA. Digwyddiad gan Dreftadaeth Dinbych ac sy'n agored i bawb – Sgwrs gan Richard Suggett (CBHC) – “Chwilio am y Tai Hynaf yng Nghymru”. Mynediad am ddim ond rhaid archebu drwy Lyfrgell Dinbych 01745 816313.

DIGWYDDIADAU CANGEN: archebwch â chysylltydd cangen, fel arfer @ £2.

CANGEN MÔN

Cyswllt: Peter Masters: datinggoldwelshhouses@gmail.com

AGM; both have helped us for some time and have considerable expertise which will strengthen our NE Wales initiatives.

GRANTS We gratefully acknowledge grants from the Marc Fitch Fund, the Society of Antiquaries of London – Phillips Fund, the Council for British Archaeology – Mick Aston Archaeology Fund, the Vernacular Architecture Group, the Gwynt y Môr Community Fund, the Woodtiger Fund, the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Sustainable Development Fund, the SNPA Snowdonia Fund and Tesco's Bags of Help Scheme. We await the results of other applications. We are also grateful for a grant from the Snowdonia National Park towards the Newsletter. Over £20,000 has been raised towards our 2017-18 activities, mainly in NE Wales and Merioneth. Our programmes of visiting owners, assessing, dating and recording buildings and undertaking house history research will soon get under way. Please do let us know of any pre-1700 houses, with original timbers, in your locality.

FUND-RAISING: The successful Council for British Archaeology Festival of Archaeology / DOWH Open Event at Plas Penmynydd has stimulated local interest and a series of talks and visits have been arranged on the island which is open to all. Our Conwy branch has also undertaken fund-raising activities.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Our current editor will soon be retiring and we are looking for someone to take over this important role. If you are interested or can suggest someone, please contact 01766 890550 for further information.

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 secretary@discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk 01766 890550.

GROUP EVENTS

We are busy preparing for the **2018 Vernacular Architecture Group UK spring conference** based in Bangor in April. The delegates will spend days visiting houses in Anglesey, Denbighshire and Conwy. Volunteers will be needed nearer the time to act as stewards etc.

The proposed **2018 Study Tour to Cumbria** has now been moved from May to September. Details will soon be circulated.

DENBIGH HERITAGE OPEN DOORS EVENT

Fri 22nd Sept: 7pm at Theatr Twm o'r Nant, Station Road, Denbigh LL16 3DA. Talk by Richard Suggett (RCAHMW) “Searching for the Oldest Houses in Wales.” The talk is free, but booking is required through Denbigh Library 01745 816313.

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

ANGLESEY BRANCH

Rep: Peter Masters: datinggoldwelshhouses@gmail.com

01758 750322. Mae cyfres newydd o gyfarfodydd ac ymweliadau wedi eu trefnu yn dilyn y diddordeb mewn hen dai lleol a ddangoswyd yn nigwyddiad Gŵyl Archaeoleg / DHDC ym Mhlas Penmynydd, Llangefni, yng Ngorffennaf. Maent ar agor i holl aelodau DHDC, ac mae croeso i bobl lleol i fynychu cyn iddynt ymaelodi. **Gwener 22 Medi:** 'Darganfod Hen Dai ar Ynys Môn' sgwrs ddarluniadol gan Margaret Dunn am 7.00yh yng Nghanolfan Thomas Telford, Porthaethwy. Bydd hyn yn rhagarweiniad / diweddariad i'r hyn sydd wedi ei ddarganfod yn y degawd diwethaf ar Ynys Môn. Fe'i dilynir gan luniaeth, arddangosfa a thrafodaeth am yr ystod o weithgareddau y gall aelodau ymwneud â hwy. Bydd y cyfarfod hwn yn Saesneg, ond cynhelir y gweithgareddau eraill yn Gymraeg. Ar agor i bawb: dim angen archebu. Dowch â'ch ffrindiau. **Llun 16 Hydref:** 1.00yp ymweliad i Gronant, Llanfachraeth, hen dŷ canoloesol gyda murluniau. Bydd y daith hon dan arweiniad yn amlygu pensaernïaeth a hanes y tŷ Buckley cynnar hwn; a lluniaeth a thrafodaeth i ddilyn. **Mercher 8 Tachwedd:** 2.00yp ymweld â Phlas Berw, Pentre Berw, adfeilion o'r G16 a thŷ o'r G17. Bydd y daith dan arweiniad hon yn amlygu y tai cynnar Holland hyn, cyn cael lluniaeth a thrafodaeth. **Mawrth 5 Rhagfyr:** 2.00yp ymweld â'r Red Boat, Biwmares a thai eraill lleol o'r G15 a'r G16. Bydd aelodau yn gallu dilyn taith dan arweiniad i dri thŷ cynnar yng nghanol Biwmares, gan orffen yn y tŷ cynharaf o ran dyddiad, bellach y Red Boat, lle y byddwn yn prynu ein lluniaeth ein hunain.



Ymweliadau arfaethedig ag Ynys Môn ^>

CANGEN ARFON

Cyswllt: Peter Masters: datingoldwelshhouses@gmail.com 01758 750322. Mae DHDC wedi derbyn cynllun grant 'Bagiau o Gymorth' Tesco a fydd yn cael ei lansio ar **lau 12 Hydref** am 7.00yh, yng Nghanolfan Gymdeithasol Beddgelert, mewn partneriaeth gyda Chymdeithas Hanes Beddgelert. Gobeithiwn y gall holl aelodau **Arfon a Meirionnydd** ddod i glywed am ein cynlluniau ac ymuno mewn rhai gweithgareddau gaeaf.

CANGEN CONWY

Cyswllt: Tony Scharer: tonyscharer@gmail.com 01745 813027. **Sadwrn 16 Medi** – 2.00yp: Ymweld â thŷ'r Faerdre, San Sior, ger Abergele. Archebwch ymlaenllaw gyda Tony Scharer (manyllion uchod). **Hydref** – sgwrs ddarluniadol gan Martin Cherry ar bensaernïaeth hen dai yng Ngogledd Cymru (dyddiad a lleoliad i'w cadarnhau). **Gwener 3 Tachwedd** – Cyfarfod Cangen yn nhŷ Gill Jones, Llanddulas, 9.30 yb.

CANGEN SIR DDINBYCH

Cyswllt: Janice Dale: jadale22@hotmail.co.uk 01490 440427

01758 750322. A new series of meetings and visits has been arranged following the interest in local old houses shown at the Festival of Archaeology / DOWH event at Plas Penmynydd, Llangefni, in July. They are open to all DOWH members, and local people are welcome to come along before becoming members. **Fri 22nd Sept:** 'Discovering Old Houses on Anglesey' illustrated talk by Margaret Dunn at 7.00 p.m. in the Thomas Telford Centre, Menai Bridge. This will be an introduction / update about what has been discovered in the last decade on Anglesey, followed by refreshments, a display and discussion about the range of activities in which members can get involved. This meeting will be in English, but other activities are held in Welsh. Open to all: no booking is required. Bring your friends. **Mon 16th Oct:** 1.00 p.m. visit to Gronant, Llanfachraeth, a late medieval house with wall paintings. This guided tour will highlight the architecture and history of this early Bulkeley house; followed by refreshments & discussion. **Wed 8th Nov:** 2.00 p.m. visit to Plas Berw, Pentre Berw, with 16thC ruin & 17thC house. This guided tour will highlight the architecture and history of these early Holland houses; followed by refreshments & discussion. **Tues 5th Dec:** 2.00 p.m. visit to the Red Boat, Beaumaris and other local 15thC and 16thC houses. Members will be able to follow a guided tour of three early houses in the centre of Beaumaris, finishing in the earliest dated house, now the Red Boat, where we will buy our own refreshments.



<^ Forthcoming Anglesey visits

CAERNARFONSHIRE BRANCH

Rep: Peter Masters: datingoldwelshhouses@gmail.com 01758 750322. DOWH has been awarded a Tesco 'Bags of Help' scheme grant which will be launched on **Thurs 12th Oct** at 7.00 p.m. in Beddgelert Community Centre, in partnership with Cymdeithas Hanes Beddgelert. We hope all **Caernarfonshire and Merioneth** members can come to hear our plans and join in some winter activities.

CONWY BRANCH

Contact: Tony Scharer: tonyscharer@gmail.com 01745 813027. **Sat 16th Sept** – 2.00pm: House visit to Faerdre, St George, near Abergele. Book beforehand with Tony Scharer (details above). **October** – Illustrated talk by Martin Cherry on the architecture of old houses in North Wales (date and venue to be confirmed). **Fri 3rd Nov** – Branch Meeting at Gill Jones's house, Llanddulas, 9.30 am.

DENBIGHSHIRE BRANCH

Contact: Janice Dale: jadale22@hotmail.co.uk 01490 440427

Iau 7 Medi yn nhŷ aelod. **Iau 5 Hydref** yn nhŷ aelod. **Iau 9 Tachwedd** Hostel Ieuenctid Cynwyd. Manylion i ddo.

CANGEN MEIRIONNYDD

Cyswllt: John Townsend: john@thetownsends.org.uk 01341 430262. **Mercher 6 Medi**: 10 yb, Archifau Dolgellau, Ffordd y Bala, Dolgellau, LL40 2YF - Cyfarfod i dafod gwaith posibl ar gyfer y Gangen am y flwyddyn nesaf gan fod rhywfaint o gyllid ar gael.. Mae Archifau Dolgellau ar agor i aelodau ar y dydd Mercher cyntaf yn y mis rhwng 9.30yb a 12.30yp.. Drwy fod yr Archifdy ar gau i'r cyhoedd bob dydd Mercher mae'r trefniant hwn yn golygu fod gennym ddigon o ofod gwaith. Mae hyn yn ddefnyddiol ar gyfer y grwpiau sy'n ymchwilio i hanes tai ac ar gyfer newydd-ddyfodiaid sydd angen cymorth. Rydym yn gallu defnyddio't Stafell Gymunedol a chyfleusterau te/coffi. Mynediad trwy'r drws ochr, i'r dde. Rhowch wybod i John os ydych yn bwriadu dod. **Sul 15 Hydref**: 3yp - ymweliad i Dafarn Trip (Hen dafarn Gradd II o'r ail ganrif ar bymtheg), Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog, LL41 3AQ. Archebu'n hanfodol: cyfyngir ar y nifer. Digwyddiadau Tachwedd a Rhagfyr eto i'w cadarnhau. Gwiriwch y ddalen 'Ymweliadau' ar wefan GDHDC. Gweler hefyd y cyfarfod ar **Iau 12 Hydref** am 7.00 yh yng Nghanolfan Gymunedol Beddgelert; manylion uchod.

CANGEN GOGLEDD DDWYRAIN CYMRU

Cyswllt: Wally Barr: wallybarr@yahoo.co.uk 01745 888622. **Mawrth 19 Medi**: 2.00yp ymweld â Cholomendy, Afon-wen, Yr Wyddgrug a chyfarfod Cangen (nifer mwyaf 12). **Iau 19 Hydref**: Cyfarfod Cangen yn Llyfrgell Gladstone, Penarlâg, am 2.00yp. **Mawrth 14 Tachwedd**: Cyfarfod Cangen yng Nghei Connah, am 2.00yp (mwy o fanylion gan Wally). Rhagfyr - dim cyfarfod. **Iau 11 Ionawr 2018**: Te pnawn Nadolig yn Llyfrgell Gladstone, Penarlâg. Amser i'w benderfynu (mwy o fanylion gan Wally).



Cangen Meirionnydd - cymdeithasol / Merioneth Branch social

NODYN ATGOFFA: Mae'r holl dai a grybwyllir yn y cylchlythyr hwn ac/neu sy'n gysylltiedig â DHDC yn eiddo preifat ac **nid ydynt ar agor** i'r cyhoedd.

LLAWER O DDIOLCH i Gangen Sir Dinbych am eu cyfraniad at yr argraffiad hwn o'r cylchlythyr.

FAERDREF, LLANDRILLO

Treflan yw Faerdref ym mhlwyf Llandrillo, Sir Ddinbych (rhyw filltir i'r gogledd o eglwys y plwyf) ac ar un adeg yn rhan o gwmwd canoloesol Edeirnon. Roedd maerdref yn

Thurs 7th Sept at a member's house. **Thurs 5th Oct** at a member's house. **Thurs 9th Nov** Cynwyd Youth Hostel (tbc).

MERIONETH BRANCH

Contact: John Townsend: john@thetownsends.org.uk 01341 430262. **Wed 6th Sept**: 10am Dolgellau Archives, Ffordd y Bala, Dolgellau, LL40 2YF - Meeting to discuss possible work for the Branch for the next year as there is some finance available. Dolgellau Archives are open to members on the first Wednesday in the month between 9.30am and 12.30pm. As the Archives are closed to the public on Wednesdays this arrangement allows us to spread out. This is useful for groups doing house research and for beginners who need help. We are able to use the Community Room and tea/coffee facilities. Entry is via the side entrance, to the right. Please let John know if you intend to come. **Sun 15th Oct**: 3pm visit to Tafarn Trip (Grade II seventeenth century former tavern), Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog, LL41 3AQ. Booking essential: numbers restricted. November and December events not yet confirmed. Please check the 'Visits' page on DOWHG website. See also the meeting on **Thurs 12th Oct** at 7.00 p.m. in Beddgelert Community Centre, mentioned above.

NORTH EAST WALES BRANCH

Contact: Wally Barr: wallybarr@yahoo.co.uk 01745 888622. **Tues 19th Sept**: 2.00pm visit to Colomendy, Afonwen, Mold and Branch meeting (max 12). **Thurs 19th Oct**: Branch meeting at the Gladstone Library, Hawarden, at 2.00pm. **Tues 14th Nov**: Branch meeting at Connahs Quay, at 2.00pm (more details from Wally). December - no meeting. **Thurs 11th Jan 2018**: Christmas afternoon tea at the Gladstone Library, Hawarden. Time TBC (more details from Wally).



Ymweliad Cangen GDd Cymru / NE Wales branch visit

REMINDER: all the houses mentioned in this Newsletter and/or linked with DOWHG are private property and are **NOT** open to the public.

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

FAERDREF, LLANDRILLO

Faerdref is a township in the parish of Llandrillo, Denbighshire (about a mile north of the parish church) and at one time part of the medieval commote of Edeyrnion. A

annedd bond yn gymorth i gefnogi'r 'arglwydd' lleol. Yr arglwyddi yn y cyfnod hwn oedd Barwniaid Edeirnion. Deilliai'r barwniaid hyn o dri mab Owain Brogynton [fl 1160-1186], Gruffydd, Iorwerth a Bleddyn. Mae ganddynt gysylltiad clir â Faerdref. Mae'n ymddangos fod llawer o hanes i'r dreflan hon, ac mae'n gofyn am astudiaeth gynhwysfawr.

Fel y disgwyliad, o gofio pwysigrwydd y faerdref, fe geir nifer o dai pwysig yn y dreflan, rhai ohonynt yn cael eu crybwyll mewn dogfennau hanesyddol cenedlaethol. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys Cryniarth, Plas Faerdref a Hendwr; ond drwy ymchwilio pen-bwrdd cyflym, ceir digon o gyfeiriadau o'r 15fed, 16fed, 17fe a'r 18fed ganrif at dai sylweddol eraill yn Faerdref, ac yn ddiweddar cafodd dau dŷ arall eu darganfod, un, Llanerch, wedi ei ddendroddyddio yn llwyddiannus i 1501/2; a'r llall, Hendre, o fewn tafliad carreg, yn aros am gael ei ddyddio.



Hendre © Janice Dale

Ond yn fwy arwyddocaol, yn fy thyb i, yw'r ffaith fod gan Hendwr a Llanerch ysguboriau ffrâm nenfforch gwell na'r cyffredin; felly a yw hyn yn cefnogi'r theori mai Faerdref oedd fferm y faenor?



Ysgubor 4 bae Hendwr / Hendwr 4-bay barn (cc-by-sa/2.0 © Eirian Evans, geograph.org.uk/p/140401)

Does dim gofod yma i fanylu ar hanes Hendwr, ond mae iddo stori ddiddorol iawn.

Fel y soniwyd yn barod, ceir cysylltiad clir rhwng Hendwr â'r

maerdref was a bond settlement providing support for the local 'lord'. The lords of this time were the Barons of Edeyrnion. These barons originated from the three sons of Owain Brogynton [fl 1160-1186], Gruffydd, Iorwerth and Bleddyn. They have clear links to Faerdref. It seems there is a lot of history to this township, and it deserves an in-depth study.

As would be expected, bearing in mind the importance of the maerdref, there are a number of important houses to be found in the township, some of them mentioned in national historical documents, including Cryniarth, Plas Faerdref and Hendwr; but doing a quick bit of desk-top research there are plenty of 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th century references to other substantial houses in Faerdref, and recently another two houses have been found, one, Llanerch, successfully being dendro-dated to 1501/2; the other, Hendre, within a stone's throw, is awaiting dating.



Llanerch © Janice Dale

But significant, I think, is the fact that both Hendwr and Llanerch have bigger than average cruck-framed barns: so does this support the theory that Faerdref was the 'home farm'?



Ysgubor Llanerch / Llanerch Barn © Janice Dale

There isn't room here to go into much detail on the history of Hendwr, but it does have a very interesting tale associated with it.

As already said, there is a clear line at Hendwr to the Barons,

Barwniaid, ac un disgynnydd o'i fath, Giwn Lloyd (1699-1774), yn ennyn rhywfaint o ddiddordeb.

Dim ond 8 oed oedd Giwn pan fu farw ei dad, a'i adael yn etifedd cyfoethog gydag ystâd sylweddol. Ond roedd Llundain yn denu ac yno fe briododd farforwyn o Dafarn To Gwellt yn Stryd San Jâms, o'r enw Elizabeth Taylor. O fewn blwyddyn fe anwyd merch iddynt, hefyd o'r enw Elizabeth, ond yn anffodus bu farw'r fam yn fuan a chan nad oedd Giwn am gael ei glymu i fagu plentyn, rhoddwyd Elizabeth allan i'w maethu. Ymhen amser, dychwelodd Giwn gartref a phriodi eto, y tro hwn â Sarah Hill o Hawkstone, Swydd Amwythig. Ni chafwyd plant o'r briodas hon a phan fu farw Giwn yn 1774 ni adawodd ewyllys. Ond fe roedd wedi datgan ei ddymuniadau, sef mai ei weddw oedd i elwa gyntaf o'i stad ac yna ei ddwy chwaer, er y bu'n rhaid iddynt werthu rhannau o'r stad i setlo amrywiol ddyledion. Ar farwolaeth y chwaer olaf, roedd y stad i'w gadael i berthnasau yng Ngwerclas, ond cyn y gallai hyn ddigwydd, ymddangosodd Jonathan a Robert Passingham yn mynnu eu bod yn feibion i Elizabeth, merch Giwn. Arweiniodd hyn at 27 blwyddyn o achosion llys, ac er dyfarniad y llys fod y briodas wreiddiol yn un ffug mewn Cofrestr Fleet (roedd priodasau afreolaidd a chudd yn digwydd o fewn ac o amgylch carchar Fleet hyd at 1754), yn y pen draw fe lwyddodd y brodyr Passingham, ond bu'r broses yn ddigon i ddymchwel yn ariannol deulu Gwerclas.

Yn dilyn gyrfa yn y fyddin, fe briododd Jonathan Passingham a symud i Gernyw, tra treuliodd Robert, ar ôl ei fywyd milwrol, amser yn Nhyfos, Llandrillo ac yn Heston o ble y tarddodd ei deulu. Fe briododd yn 1795, ond bu farw ei wraig ar ôl saith mlynedd, a threuliodd Robert, fel Is-gymrol Amddiffynwyr Swydd Gaer, lawer o'i amser yng Nghaer, lle bu'n rhaid iddo ymrafael mewn achos llys arall, y tro hwn yn cael ei gyhuddo o ymwneud â chynllwyn i dwyllo rhyw George Forrester, a rhedeg i ffwrdd gyda'i wraig, ac o ganlyniad i hyn, fe'i carcharwyd yng Ngharchar Newgate.

Rhwng popeth, onid oedd Faerdref yn lle eithaf diddorol?

Janice Dale, Sir Ddinbych

and one such descendant, Giwn Lloyd (1699-1774) is of some interest.

Giwn was just 8 years old when his father died, leaving him a wealthy man with a substantial estate. The lure of London called, and it was there that he married a barmaid of the Thatched Tavern in St James Street, by the name of Elizabeth Taylor. Within a year a daughter was born, also named Elizabeth, but unfortunately the mother soon died, and Giwn not wanting to be saddled with a child, the young Elizabeth was fostered out. Giwn eventually returned home and married a second time, to Sarah Hill of Hawkstone, Shropshire. There were no children from this marriage, and when Giwn died in 1774 he did not leave a will. He had, however, made his wishes known, and first his widow and then his two sisters had the benefit of his estate, despite the sisters having to sell parts to settle various debts. On the death of the last sister, the estate was to be left to relations at Gwerclas, however before this could happen, Jonathan and Robert Passingham turned up claiming to be the sons of Elizabeth the daughter of Giwn. This led to 27 years of court cases, and despite the court finding that the original marriage was a forgery in a 'Fleet Register' (irregular and clandestine marriages took place in and around the Fleet prison until 1754), the Passingham brothers eventually won, but the process financially ruined the Gwerclas family.

Jonathan Passingham, following an army career, married and moved to Cornwall, whilst Robert after his military life spent time at Tyfos, Llandrillo and Heston where his family originated from. He married in 1795, but his wife died after seven years, and Robert, as a Lieutenant Colonel of the Cheshire Fencibles, spent a lot of time in Chester, where he became embroiled in another court case, this time accused of entering a conspiracy to defraud one George Forrester, and making off with his wife, for which he was imprisoned in Newgate Prison.

So all in all, Faerdref is rather an interesting place!

Janice Dale, Denbighshire



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