DARGANFOD HEN DAI CYMREIG
DISCOVERING OLD WELSH HOUSES

NODDWYR/PATRONS:
Y Gwir Anrhydeddus yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas, CG, AC; Sir Simon Jenkins, FSA, FRSL; Dr Eurwyn Wiliam, MA, PhD, FSA

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

CYLCHLYTHYR 27 *Rhagfyr 2018*

EIN GWEFAN http://discoveringoldwelshhouses.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.

GAIR O'R GADAIR

Cawsom bnawn hyfryd iawn ym mis Hydref ym Mhlas Penmynydd a gwnaeth pawb fwynhau sgwrs Eleanor Carpenter ar farciau gwrachod. Heb drafferth fe godwyd £470. Llawer o ddiolch i bawb a fu'n cynorthwyo. Aeth Margaret, ein Hysgrifenyddes a minnau yn Nhachwedd i Neuadd Fawr odidog Castell Caerffili a chael noson ddiddorol yno. Roedd GDHDC yn un o dri cyflwynydd o Gymru yn rownd derfynol categori 'Y Dreftadaeth Orau, Ymchwil neu Gofnodi Gwobrau' Angel Treftadaeth Cymru, a noddir gan Sefydliad Andrew Lloyd Webber. Roedd pob un yno yn bresennol, o dras ac yn oreuon sefydliad treftadaeth Gymreig ac yn hynod o frwdfrydig parthed ein gwaith. Cafodd ein Grŵp Glod Mawr, ac roedd hyn yn deyrnged fawr i waith caled ein holl aelodau. Da iawn! Dymunaf Nadolig Llawen i chi i gyd.

Richard Cuthbertson, Cadeirydd

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

NEWSLETTER 27 *December 2018*

OUR WEBSITE http://discoveringoldwelshhouses.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

We had a very pleasant afternoon in October at Plas Penmynydd and all enjoyed the talk by Eleanor Carpenter on witch marks. We raised a cool £470. Many thanks to all who helped. Margaret, our secretary, and I attended a most interesting evening at the magnificent Great Hall of Caerphilly Castle in November. DOWHG was one of three submissions from across Wales in the finals of the 'Best Heritage, Research or Recording' category of the Heritage Angels Award Wales, sponsored by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. All the great and the good of the Welsh heritage establishment were there and were most enthusiastic about our work. Our Group was Highly Commended, which was a great compliment to the hard work of our members. Well done! I wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Richard Cuthbertson, Chairman

Ein Hysgrifenyddes a'n Cadeirydd yn y seremoni wobrwyo
Our secretary and chairman at the awards ceremony

Award Certificate
Tystysgrif y Wobr

NEWYDDION DIWEDDARAF YR YSGRIFENYDDES

Mae'r **Grantiau am 2018-19** yn cyrraedd cyfanswm o **£**14,000 hyd yn hyn, ac rydym yn aros am ganlyniad un cais arall. Ond mae hyn yn llawer llai na llynedd. Rydym yn hynod ddiolchgar am gefnogaeth Cronfa Woodtiger (UDA), Cronfa Marc Fitch a hefyd Ardal Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol (AHNE). Mae GDHDC hefyd yn ddiolchgar iawn i RCAHMW, ac yn arbennig i Roger Suggett am ei bartneriaeth gyson gefnogol ac ymgynghorol. Mae gennym hefyd arian a gawsom drwy gynnal digwyddiadau codi arian GDHDC ein hunain.

NEWS UPDATE FROM THE SECRETARY

Grants for 2018-19 total £ 14,000 so far, and we await the result of one more application. But this is much lower than last year. We are most grateful for support from the Woodtiger Fund (USA), the Marc Fitch Fund, and the the Clwydian range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). DOWHG is also very grateful to the RCAHMW, and especially to Richard Suggett, for a continuing partnership with support and advice. We also have money from our own DOWHG fundraising events.

Tree-Ring Dating is planned for early February when the

Mae **Dyddio Cylchau Coed** wedi ei gynllunio ar gyfer dechrau Chwefror pan fydd tîm o Labordy Rhydychen (ODL) yn ymgymryd asesiad a samplu pellach. Hefyd gobeithir cofnodi pensaerniaeth rhai adeiladau allweddol yn y dyfodol agos.

Bydd **marciau gwrthfelltithiol/apotropäig,** (sy'n debyg o gadw cythreuliaid draw) a marciau eraill megis marciau cydosod a marciau canhwyllau cwyr o hyn ymlaen yn cael eu cofnodi yn fanylach. Gadewch wybod i ni am unrhyw dý sydd â rhain.

Carpenter's assembly marks
Marciau adeiladu saer

ANGEN TRYSORYDD NEWYDD AR FRYS! Rydym angen rhywun i gymryd lle John Townsend o Ebrill 2020. Gofynnwch i'ch ffrindiau, cyfrifyddion, banciau os oes rhywun yn barod i ystyried ymgymryd â'r dasg hon ar gyfer ein helusen am 2 neu 3 blynedd.

Mae **gweithgareddau allanol** yn dal i gynnig sgyrsiau i sefydliadau ar draws gogledd Cymru. Maent wedi annerch dros 130 o bobl newydd. Mae cwestiynau wedi eu hateb ac o ganlyniad bu ymweliadau i dai. Mae is-gangen newydd wedi ei ffurfio a'i chanoli o amgylch Llansilin ger Croesoswallt (gweler manylion rhaglen a chyswllt isod), ac fe'i cysylltir á Changen Sir Dinbych.

Gweithgareddau Cangen Maent yn parhau i ffynnu wrth i aelodau ddilyn eu diddordebau wrth ymweld â thai, ymchwilio i hanes tai, cofnodi adeiladau a'r marciau anghyffredin a welir arnynt. Mae Canghennau yn dechrau ymchwilio o fewn eu hardaloedd, o blwyf i blwyf, er mwyn creu bas data o hen dai ar draws gogledd Cymru.

Margaret Dunn

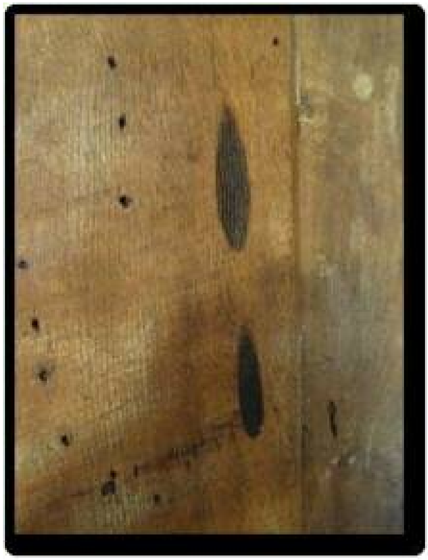
OS YDYCH Â DIDDORDEB MEWN HEN DAI ond ddim eto yn aelod, pam nad ystyriwch ymuno â'r Grŵp? Ysgrifenydd Aelodaeth yw Ms Zoë Henderson 01824 704 404
membership@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk
Am wybodaeth bellach cysylltwch â Margaret Dunn, yr Ysgrifenyddes 01766 890 550
secretary@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk

Cais am gymorth

Mae Janice Dale (cyswllt Cangen Sir Ddinbych) wedi dod o hyd i bamffled yn yr archifau am Eglwys Sant Buan, Boduan a dyma gynnwys un paragraff: *Roedd Wynn Boduan yr adeg honno yn ffrind agos i Ann Boleyn ac roedd hi yn aml yn aros*

team from the Oxford Lab (ODL) will undertake further assessment and sampling. Architectural recording of some key buildings will also be undertaken in the near future.

Apotropaic marks (thought to ward off evil) and other marks such as assembly marks and taper burns are now to be recorded in more detail. Please let us know about any houses with these.



Taper/Burn marks
Marciau llosgi canhwyllau

NEW TREASURER URGENTLY REQUIRED! We need someone to replace John Townsend from April 2020. Please ask your friends, accountants, banks if anyone is willing to consider doing this task for our charity for 2 or 3 years.

Outreach continued with talks to organisations across North Wales, addressing over 130 new people. Queries have been dealt with and house visits undertaken in response. A new sub-branch has been formed, centred around Llansilin near Oswestry (see programme and contact details below), and will be linked with the Denbighshire Branch.

Branch activities continue to flourish as members follow their interests in visiting houses, researching house histories, recording buildings and the unusual marks found on them. Branches are beginning research in their areas, parish by parish, to create a database of old houses across north Wales.

Margaret Dunn

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN OLD HOUSES and are not already a member, why not consider joining the Group? Membership Secretary is Ms Zoë Henderson 01824 704 404.
membership@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk
For further information contact Margaret Dunn
secretary@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk 01766 890550.

Request for help

Janice Dale (Debighshire Branch contact) has found an undated leaflet in the archives about St Buan Church, Bodfean. One paragraph states:
The Wynn of Bodfean of the time was a close friend of Ann Boleyn and she often stayed at Bodfean. On her marriage to Henry VIII she was given considerable land adjoining Bodfean and this she bequeathed to Wynn of Bodfean, hence a vast estate was created. From this new wealth came patronage to the village and church.
Janice has been unable to find anything about this, can anyone help, please? jadale22@hotmail.co.uk

ym Moduan. Ar adeg ei phriodas â Harri VIII cafodd gryn dir yn cydffinio Boduan ac fe drosglwyddodd hwn i Wynn o Foduan, ac felly fe greuwyd ystad enfawr. O'r cyfoeth newydd hwn daeth nawdd i'r pentref a'r eglwys.
Methodd Janice â darganfod unrhywbeth am hyn; a all rhywun arall helpu? jadale22@hotmail.co.uk

DIGWYDDIADAU CANGEN
Archebwch â chysylltydd cangen, fel arfer@ £2. Rydym yn hynod ddiolchgar i berchenogion tai am eu lletygarwch.

CANGEN MÔN cyswllt: Sue Hurst 01407 459 319
bootlanesue@sky.com
Iau Ion 22 2yp Ymweliad i Tan Tŵr, Dwyran, drwy ganiatâd Mr a Mrs Heaford. Sgwrs gan Martin Cherry ar 'Sut y datblygodd tai yng ngogledd Cymru o'r 1400au'. Lluniaeth ysgafn, £2 y pen (nifer mwyaf 15).
Iau Chwef 14 2yp Ymweliad i Tŷ Fry, Rhoscefnhir, drwy ganiatâd caredig Mrs Kate Barker. Cyfle i weld erlysiau'r goedwig. Lluniaeth, £5 y pen (nifer mwyaf 30).
Iau Mawrth 7 2yp Ymweliad i Bryndu, Llanfechell, drwy ganiatâd caredig Dr Robin a Mrs Grove-White. Lluniaeth ysgafn, £2 y pen (nifer mwyaf 30).

Ty Fry

CANGEN CONWY Cyswllt Gill Jones 01492 517 330
gidulas@doctorbones.org
Maw 15 Ion 9.30yb Cyfarfod o'r Gangen yn nhŷ Ann Morgan.
Maw 12 Chwef 2yp Ymweliad dan arweiniad i Gadeirlan Llanelwy. Cyfarfod yn y maes parcio.
Iau 14 Mawrth 9.30yb Ymweliad i Lannerch y Felin, Y Rowen. Nifer cyfyngiedig, rhaid archebu.

CANGEN SIR DDINBYCH Cyswllt – Janice Dale 01490440427
jadale22@hotmail.co.uk
Iau 17 Ion 12.30yp Cinio wedi'r Dolig gyda Changen GDdn Cymru yng Nghastell Rhuthun
Chwef Archifau Rhuthun, sgwrs ar ffynonellau pellach gan Kevin Mathias.
Mawrth Ymweliad i gartref – Llangar
Ebrill Ymweliad i Lyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru.
(cysylltwch â Janice i gadarnhau'r dyddiadau terfynol)

IS-GANGEN LLANSILIN Cyswllt Mary Cunnah marycunnah@yahoo.co.uk
Mae'r grŵp yn cyfarfod ar ail ddydd Llun y mis am 2yp yn Stafell y Plwyf, Eglwys Llansilin. Lluniaeth.

CANGEN MEIRIONNYDD cyswllt John Townsend
01341 430262 john@thetownsends.org.uk
Merch 9 Ion 2-4.30yp Archifau Dolgellau, LL40 2YF 'Darganfod

BRANCH EVENTS
Book with branch contacts, usually £2. We are very grateful to house-owners for their hospitality.

ANGLESEY BRANCH. Contact Sue Hurst 01407 459 319.
bootlanesue@sky.com
Tues Jan 22 2pm Visit to Tan Twr, Dwyran, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Heaford. Talk by Martin Cherry on 'How houses developed in north Wales from the 1400s'. Light refreshments, £2 per head (max 15).
Thurs Feb 14 2pm Visit to Ty Fry, Rhoscefnhir, by kind permission of Mrs Kate Barker. An opportunity to see the woodland snowdrops. Refreshments, £5 per head (max 30).
Thurs March 7 2pm Visit to Brynddu, Llanfechell, by kind permission of Dr Robin and Mrs Grove-White. Light refreshments, £2 per head (max 30).

CONWY BRANCH. Contact Gill Jones 01492 517 330.
gjdulas@doctorbones.org
Tue 15 Jan 9.30am Branch meeting at Ann Morgan's house.
Tues 12 Feb 2pm Guided visit to St Asaph Cathedral. Meet in the car park.
Thurs 14 March 9.30am Visit to Llanerch y Felin, Rowen. Numbers limited, please book.

Nant Clwyd y Dre

DENBIGHSHIRE BRANCH. Contact Janice Dale 01490 440427
jadale22@hotmail.co.uk
Thurs 17 Jan 12.30pm Ruthin Castle for post-Christmas lunch with NE Wales Branch.
Feb Ruthin Archives, talk on further sources with Kevin Matthias.
March House visit Llangar.
April Visit to the National Library of Wales.
(please contact Janice to confirm finalised dates)

LLANSILIN SUB-BRANCH. Contact Mary Cunnah
marycunnah@yahoo.co.uk
The group meets on the second Monday of the month at 2pm in the Parish Room, Llansilin Church. Refreshments.

MERIONETH BRANCH. Contact John Townsend
01341 430 262. john@thetownsends.org.uk
Weds 9 Jan 2-4.30 pm Dogellau Archives, Bala Road, Dolgellau, LL40 2YF 'Discovering pre-1700 houses in Merioneth parishes from home'. Hands-on computer session for all levels. Max 12 places, contact John Townsend.
Tues 12 Feb 10am-4pm 'Basic steps in building recording'.

tai cyn 1700 ym mhlwyfi Meirionnydd o gartref'. Sesiwn ymarferol ar gyfrifiadur i bob lefel. Lle i 12 yn unig; cysylltwch â John Townsend.
Maw 12 Chwef 10yb-4yp 'Camau sylfaenol mewn cofnodi adeiladau'. Dowch â phensilau a phapur graff os yn bosibl. Lle i 12 yn unig. Cysylltwch â John Townsend i gael y lleoliad.
Merch 13 Mawrth 10-12yp Stafell Gymunedol, Llyfrgell Dolgellau, Ffordd y Bala, Dolgellau, LL40 2YF. Sgwrs gan yr Archifydd Dr Ania Skarzynsk ar 'Ewyllysiau, sut i'w darllen a'u deall'

CANGEN GOGLEDD DDWYRAIN CYMRU cyswllt Margaret neu Wally Barr magsbarr@yahoo.co.uk; wallybarr@yahoo.co.uk, y ddau ar 01745 888622.
Archebwch ddigon ymlaenllaw gan fod lle yn gyfyngiedig.
Iau 17 Ion 12.30yp Cinio wedi'r Nadolig yng Nghastell Rhuthun
Chwef Ymweliad â thŷ, manylion i'w cadarnhau.
Maw 12 Mawrth Ymweliad â Nant Clwyd y Dre, Rhuthun, amser i'w gadarnhau.

CANGEN ERYRI Cyswllt Peter Masters 01757 750322 Snowdonia@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk
Llun 14 Ion 2yp Neuadd Gymunedol Beddgelert. Cyflwyniad Powerpoint gan Dr Martin Cherry ar 'Sut y datbygodd tai yng Ngogledd Cymru o'r 1400au'. Cost £2
Maw 26 Chwef 2yp Ymweld â Glasfryn Fawr, Chwilog a sgwrs gan Helen Williams-Ellis. Y perchennog presennol yn ddisgynnydd i Catrin o Ferain. Te. Cost £15
Gwe 22 Maw 2yp Ymweld â Thŷ Mawr, Nantlle – tŷ trawiadol steil Eryri gyda gwardrob, tua diwedd yr 16ganrif. Cost £2

COFIWCH fod yr holl dai y sonnir amdanynt yn y Cylchlythyr hwn ac/neu sy'n gysylltiedig â GDHDC yn eiddo preifat ac felly NID ydynt ar agor i'r cyhoedd.
Gall aelodau gymryd rhan mewn unrhyw ddigwyddiad mewn unrhyw gangen, yn ogystal ag yn eu cangen eu hunain. Holwch gysylltydd y gangen dan sylw.

ADRODDIAD O DAITH ASTUDIO I CUMBRIA 2018

Ar Fedi 10fed ymunodd dau ddeg chwech aelod a ffrind o GDHDC ar Daith Astudio
Dydd 1 Ein man galw cyntaf oedd Neuadd Newbiggin ger Penrith, yn dyddio o ddechrau'r 14 ganrif ac yn cynnwys tri thŵr amddiffyn pele o ddyddiau cythryblus y gwrthdaro Albanaidd-Seisnig. Daeth yr angen am amddiffyn adeiladau preswyl ac eglwysig yn brif thema yr holl daith. Cawsom groeso gan yr Uwchgapten a Mrs Sawrey-Cookson, a aeth â ni o amgylch y tŷ a darparu gwledd o de a chacennau y gwnaethom eu gwerthfawrogi'n fawr iawn.
Aethom ymlaen i Westy Hallmark, Caerliwelydd lle roeddem yn aros. Yn dilyn cinio nos cafwyd sgwrs gan Christine Craghill, aelod o Grŵp Adeiladau Brodorol Cumbria (GABC/CVBG), ar Agweddau ar Ffermdai Cumbria. Roedd hyn yn rhoi arolwg da o dai brodorol Cumbria, gan bwysleisio y gwahaniaeth rhyngddynt â thai yng Ngogledd Cymru.
Dydd 2 Arweiniwyd heddiw gan Peter Messenger, ef hefyd yn aelod o GABC. Treuliwyd y bore yng Nghaerliwelydd ac aethom yn gyntaf i Dŵr canoloesol y Priordy, tŵr amddiffynnol arall o ddyddiau gwrthdaro'r ffiniau, a bellach yn rhan o Eglwys Gadeiriol Caerliwelydd. Wedi archwiliad byr oddi fewn i'r gadeirlan gwnaethom gerdded i Tullie House a'r Neuadd Gorfforaeth ganoloesol (Guildhall) yn dyddio o tua 1405.

Please bring pencils and graph paper, if possible. Max 12 places, contact John Townsend for location.
Weds 13 March 10-12.30pm Community Room, Dolgellau Library, Bala Road, Dolgellau, LL40 2YF. Talk from Archivist Dr Ania Skarzynsk 'Wills, how to read and understand them'.

NORTH EAST WALES BRANCH. Contact Margaret or Wally Barr 01745 888 622. magsbarr@yahoo.co.uk; wallybarr@yahoo.co.uk Please book in advance.
Thurs 17 Jan 12.30pm Post-Christmas lunch at Ruthin Castle.
Feb House visit, details TBC.
Tues 12 March Visit to Nant Clwyd y Dre, Ruthin, time TBC.

SNOWDONIA BRANCH. Contact Peter Masters 01757 750322. snowdonia@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk
Mon 14 Jan 2pm Beddgelert Community Hall. Powerpoint Presentation by Dr Martin Cherry on 'How houses developed in N. Wales from the 1400s'. Cost £2.
Tues 26 Feb 2pm Visit to Glasfryn Fawr, Chwilog and talk by Helen Williams-Ellis. Current owner descended from Catrin of Berain. Tea. Cost £15.
Fri 22 March 2pm Visit to Ty Mawr, Nantlle, a spectacular late 16C Snowdonia-style house with a garderobe. Cost £2.

REMINDERS
Houses mentioned in this Newsletter and/or linked with DOWH are private and are NOT open to the public.
Members may participate in any branch event, not only their own. Check with branch contact.

REPORT OF DOWHG STUDY TOUR TO CUMBRIA, 2018

Newbiggin Hall, Cumbria
Neuadd Newbiggin, Cumbria

On September 10th twenty-six members and friends of DOWHG joined our Study Tour.
Day one: Our first port of call was Newbiggin Hall near Penrith, dating from the early 14C, and incorporating three defensive pele towers dating from the turbulent days of Scottish-English conflict. The need for defence in residential and ecclesiastical buildings became a theme of the whole tour. We were welcomed by owners, Major and Mrs Sawrey-

Wedi cinio a thaith mewn bws ar hyd rhai lonydd cul iawn daethom i Burgh by Sands, sef cyn hynny, y gaer Rufeinig Aberllava ar ben draw wal Hadrian. Yma y gwelsom dai dabbin clai. Drwy fod coed confensiynol neu gerrig ar gyfer adeiladu yn gymharol brin, bu'n rhaid i drigolion Gwastadedd Solway ddefnyddio'r adnawdd lleol amlwg, sef clai. Mae'r steil hwn o adeilad wedi ei gyfyngu mwy neu lai i ogledd orllewin Cumbria, ac mae tua 150 o enghreifftiau yn dal i oroesi. Gellir gweld adeiladau tebyg yn Denmarc a Gwlad yr Iâ, sy'n cadarnhau eu treftadaeth Ficingaidd. Yn wreiddiol doedd dim ond un stafell yn y math hwn o dŷ, ond llawer wedyn yn esblygu i fod â dau lawr a nifer o stafelloedd, ac mae'r mwyafrif ohonynt bellach wedi eu rendro ac yn dra anodd eu hadnabod. Mae'r clai yn inswleiddio, a phrofwyd y strwythur cyfan i fod yn hynod o hydwyth yn hinsawdd Solway sy'n aml yn un anghyfeillgar.

Yn eglwys Sant Mihangel gwnaethom wasgu ein gilydd i mewn i'r tŵr, a ddefnyddiwyd unwaith i warchod y plwyfolion rhag y Sgotiaid ymosodol. Ar droed fe aethom i Fferm Lamonby (dechrau'r 17C), dabbin o ffrâm nenfforch yn cynnwys tŷ, bwthyn, beudy ac ysgubor, a lle roedd y tý a'r bwthyn yn cael eu haildoi â gwellt. Yn y sgubor ddyrnu hir ac uchel eglurwyd y broses o adeiladu dabinau clai. Yna, gan ddilyn y lôn tua'r forfa lle bu farw Edward 1 a heibio bwthyn dabbin clai (Bwthyn Edna) daethom at Leigh Cottage, dabbin to gwellt 3 bae a nenfforch clai sydd wrthi'n cael ei atgyweirio. Yna aethom i Bowness Campfield, lle mae dabbin clai newydd yn cael ei adeiladu gyda'i do o rug (a hefyd banel haul!). Oddi mewn roedd arddangosfa yn disgrifio sut y'i hadeiladwyd a phwysigrwydd yr adeiladau brodorol hyn i'r rhanbarth. Yn dilyn swper cafwyd sgwrs gan Peter Messenger yn disgrifio gwladweinyddion Cumbria a'r gwahanol ddulliau o ddaliadaeth tir yn y rhanbarth.

Extramural stairs to original front doors in Alston
Grisiau allanol ar gyfer drysau ffrynt gwreiddiol yn Alston

Dydd 3. Arweiniwyd y grŵp y diwrnod hwn gan Richard Wilson, ymgynghorydd adeiladau hanesyddol ac aelod o GABC. Yn gyntaf, aethom i'r dwyrain at dref Brampton, gyda 84 adeilad rhestredig. Gan eu bod wrth ffin yr Alban, mae nifer o'r adeiladau yn rhai caerog a gwelir ambell dŷ fferm caerog wedi goroesi yn yr ardal ac yn aml wedi newid llawer. Yna Priordy Lanercost, o gyfnod Robert du Vaux tua 1169. Wedi Diddymiad y Mynachlogydd adeg teyrnasiad Harri VIII, Cookson, who gave us a tour of the house and provided a much appreciated feast of tea and cakes.

We proceeded to the Hallmark Hotel, Carlisle, where we were staying. After dinner Christine Craghill, a member of the Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group (CVBG), gave a talk on Aspects of Cumbrian Farmhouses. This provided a good overview of vernacular houses in Cumbria, highlighting how they differ from North Wales.

Day two was led by Peter Messenger, also a member of CVBG. We spent the morning in Carlisle and first went to the medieval Prior's Tower, another defensive tower from the days of border conflict, and now part of Carlisle Cathedral. After a brief look inside the cathedral we walked to Tullie House and the medieval Guildhall dating to c1405.

New clay dabbin house
Tŷ newydd wedi ei ddabio â chlai (dabbin)

Following lunch and a coach-drive along some very narrow lanes we reached Burgh by Sands, formerly Aberllava Roman fort at the end of Hadrian's wall. Here we saw clay dabbin houses. With limited conventional timber or stone for building, people of the Solway Plain resorted to the abundant local resource, namely clay. This style of building is more or less limited to northwest Cumbria, with about 150 surviving examples. Similar buildings can be found in Denmark and Iceland, confirming their Viking heritage. These houses originally comprised one room, many later evolving into two stories and multiple rooms, and most of them are now rendered, and are hardly recognisable. The clay insulates, and the overall structure has proved remarkably resilient in the sometimes hostile climate of the Solway.

At St Michael's church we all squashed into the tower, once used to protect parishioners from raiding Scots. We walked to the early 17C Lamonby Farm, a cruck-framed clay dabbin consisting of a house, cottage, byre and barn, where the house and cottage were being re-thatched. In the long high threshing barn, the process of building clay dabbins was explained. Then, following the lane towards the sea marsh where Edward I died, and past a thatched clay dabbin (Edna's Cottage), we found Leigh Cottage, a thatched 3-bay cruck-framed clay dabbin undergoing restoration. We then travelled to Bowness Campfield, where a new clay dabbin has been constructed complete with its heather thatched roof (plus solar panel!). Inside was a display describing how it was built and the importance of these vernacular buildings to the region. Following evening dinner a talk was given by Peter Messenger describing Cumbrian Statesmen and the different forms of land tenure in Cumbria.

trawsnewidwyd tŷ'r Priordy yn breswylfa deuluol i Syr Thomas Dacre. Yna ymlaen i Gaer Rhufeinig Epiacum a'r hen ffermdy caerog gerllaw, a ddefnyddir yn awr fel ysgubor amaethyddol. Ffermdy caerog yw 'bastle' a geir ar hyd y ffin Eingl-Albanaidd yn yr ardaloedd a boenwyd gan adfyw-wyr y Ffin. Ar y llawr cyntaf y trigai'r teulu gan ddefnyddio ysgol i'w gyrraedd. Pe digwyddai ymosodiad buasai'r ysgol yn cael ei chodi.

Ein man galw olaf oedd tref Alston. Roedd y mwyafrif o'r adeiladau cynharaf a oroesodd yn y dref yn debyg i'r ffermdai caerog ac wedi eu cynllunio fel bod yr unedau byw ar y llawr cyntaf. Fodd bynnag, roeddynt bob amser yn anodd eu hamddiffyn ond roedd iddynt steil brodorol lleol diddorol. Gwnaethom gerdded o gwmpas y dref gan sylwi ar y tai gyda grisiau allanol. Canolbwyntiodd Richard ein siaradwr yn y cyflwyniad gyda'r nos, ar bensaerniaeth Alston a chyflwynodd grynodeb deallus o hirbarhad traddodiad o fyw ar y llawr cyntaf yn ardal Gogledd y Pennines.
Ar ein diwrnod olaf anelwyd tua'r de i Grasmere a Dove Cottage, cartref y bardd William Wordsworth a'i chwaer Dorothy. Cafodd Dove Cottage, a adeiladwyd yn gynnar yn yr 17G, nifer o ymwelwyr yn cynnwys beirdd a llenorion megis Walter Scott, Thomas De Quincey, Charles a Mary Lamb, Robert Southey, Sara Hutchinson a Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Nid yw'n fwthyn mawr a gyda thri oedolyn yn preswylio a nifer o blant, mae'n rhaid fod y tŷ yn ymddangos yn orlawn ac roedd crwydro'r bryniau a'r pantiau lleol fel cwmwl unig, yn sicr o fod yn rhyddhad ar adegau.
Oddi yma dychwelasom i ogledd Cymru ar ôl treulio amser diddorol a goleuedig yn Cumbria.

Wally Barr, Trefnydd Taith Astudio

Day three was led by Richard Wilson, historic buildings consultant and CVBG member. We first travelled east to the town of Brampton, with 84 listed buildings. Being near the Scottish border, many buildings were fortified and some bastle houses (fortified farmhouses) have survived in the area, often much altered.
Next, Lanercost Priory, founded by Robert de Vaux around 1169. After the dissolution of the monasteries in Henry VIII's reign, the Prior's house was converted into a family residence for Sir Thomas Dacre. Then on to the Roman Fort of Epiacum and the aged bastle nearby, now used as an agricultural barn. A bastle is a fortified farmhouse found along the Anglo-Scottish border in the areas formerly plagued by Border reivers. The family lived on the first floor with access by ladder. In the event of a raid the ladder would be pulled up.

Our last point of call was the town of Alston. Most of the earliest surviving buildings in the town were, like the bastles, designed with their living quarters on the first floor. However, they were never defensible but an interesting local vernacular style. We walked around the town spotting houses with extra-mural steps. In his evening presentation Richard, our speaker, focused on Alston architecture and gave a knowledgeable summary of the persistence of the tradition of upstairs living in the North Pennine area.
On our final day we headed south to Grasmere and Dove Cottage, home of the poet William Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy. Dove Cottage, built in the early 17C, had many visitors including the poets and writers Walter Scott, Thomas De Quincey, Charles and Mary Lamb, Robert Southey, Sara Hutchinson and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. It is not a large cottage and with three adult residents and a number of children, the house must have seemed very crowded; wandering the local hills and dales, lonely as a cloud, must have been a relief at times.
From here we returned to North Wales after an interesting and enlightening time in Cumbria.

Wally Barr, Study Tour Organiser

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