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.

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

CYLCHLYTHYR 31 *Rhagfyr 2019*

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.*

O'R GADAIR

Wrth i ni agosáu at 2020 rydw i'n cael fy atgoffa y bydd yn ben-blwydd y Project Dendro yn 15 oed bryd hynny ac na ddylen ni adael i'r pen-blwydd arbennig yma fynd heibio heb ddathlu. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe bai pob aelod yn gallu ystyried digwyddiad neu gyhoeddiad priodol.

Roedd Gŵyl Hanes Bangor ar 25 a 26 Hydref yn llwyddiant ysgubol ac fe ddylem i gyd gydnabod gwaith arbennig un o'n haelodau, Raj Jones, gan mai oherwydd ei ysbrydoliaeth, ei waith a'i gefnogaeth ariannol, ynghyd â chydweithrediad y Brifysgol, y llwyddwyd i gynnal y digwyddiad. Roedd Richard Suggett yno'n trafod Cyfraith Dewiniaeth, cawsom olwg arbennig ar Harri'r VIII gan David Starkey, a siaradodd Lucy Worsley yn ddifyr dros ben am Elizabeth I. Cafwyd cyfraniadau gan siaradwyr nodedig eraill hefyd, ac roedd yr holl ddigwyddiad yn adlewyrchu'r twf enfawr yn ein hawydd i ddysgu mwy am hanes. Rydw i'n siŵr bod llawer ohonoch wedi ei mwynhau a gobeithiwn y cynhelir un arall y flwyddyn nesaf; ac wedi darllen sylwadau Margaret isod rydw innau yn cytuno'n gryf â'i theimladau.

Y cwbl sydd ar ôl i mi ei wneud yw dymuno gwyliau Nadolig braf iawn i bob un ohonoch a diolch am eich cefnogaeth a'ch brwdfrydedd yn ystod 2019.

Richard Cuthbertson

Y NEWYDDION DIWEDDARAF GAN YR YSGRIFENNYDD

Mae'n ddrwg gennym gyhoeddi marwolaeth diweddar Nigel Steele-Mortimer o Golden Grove, Llanasa, aelod gweithgar o Gangen GDd Cymru, a Madge Moran, arbenigwr ar bensaernïaeth werinol Swydd Amwythig.

CAIS AR FRYS – TRYSORYDD GDHDC: *Fel y gwyddoch, o bosib, cafwyd rhybudd y llynedd gan John Townsend, ein trysorydd ers blynyddoedd lawer, ei fod am ymddeol o'r swydd honno ar 31 Mawrth 2020. Mae'r unigolyn oedd wedi cytuno i ymgymryd â'r swydd wedi gorfod tynnu'n ôl oherwydd ymrwymiadau teuluol. Er i ni gysylltu ag ail unigolyn oedd â diddordeb, dydy o ddim bellach yn gallu derbyn y swydd. FELLY MAE ANGEN EICH CYMORTH ARNOM i ddod o hyd i rhywun i ymgymryd â'r swydd hon am 2-3 mlynedd. A allech CHI wneud hyn? Neu beth am gysylltu â ffrindiau a all ymrwymo i dderbyn y swydd wirfoddol hon, i gychwyn ar 1 Ebrill 2020. Mae costau teithio @40c y filltir ar gael, ac nid yw'n angenrheidiol i'r Trysorydd newydd gymryd rhan yn agweddau treftadaeth y Grŵp. Mae John yn fodlon eu helpu i ddeall y gwaith. Cysylltwch â Margaret Dunn am fanylion pellach ac am fanylion llawn y swydd. (secretary@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk)*

NEWSLETTER 31 December 2019

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

Well, as we move towards 2020 I am reminded that the Dendro Project will then have been running for 15 years and that we should not let this auspicious anniversary pass by uncelebrated. I would be grateful if all members could consider what might make a suitable event or publication.

The History Festival in Bangor on the 25th and 26th October was a great success and we should all acknowledge the wonderful work done by one of our members, Raj Jones, whose inspiration, hard work and financial support, along with the cooperation of the University, made the whole event possible. Richard Suggett was there talking about Witchcraft Law, David Starkey gave us some special insights on Henry VIII, and Lucy Worsley talked very entertainingly about Elizabeth I. There were many other illustrious speakers, and the whole event was a mirror on the huge growth in our appetite for history. I am sure many of you enjoyed it and we hope there may be a repeat next year; and having read Margaret's thoughts below I strongly echo her sentiments.

All that remains for me to do is to wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas break and to thank you for your support and enthusiasm during 2019.

Richard Cuthbertson

St Gredifael's Church, Penmynydd, Anglesey, location of the alabaster tomb of the ancestor of the royal house of Tudor
Eglwys Sant Gredifael, Penmynydd, Ynys Môn, lleoliad beddrod alabastr hynafiad y tŷ brenhinol Tuduraidd

NEWS UPDATE FROM THE SECRETARY

We are sad to announce the recent deaths of Nigel Steele-Mortimer of Golden Grove, Llanasa, an active member of the NE Wales Branch, and of Madge Moran, Shropshire's vernacular architecture expert.

*Mae **cofnodi pensaernïol** tri adeilad yng Ngogledd Ddwyrain Cymru yn gynnar yn yr hydref wedi cwblhau'r project Cronfa Woodtiger a chyn bo hir bydd yr adroddiadau ar gael ar ein gwefan ac ar Coflein. Ni chafwyd cais am grantiau newydd ar gyfer gweddill y flwyddyn ariannol gan ein bod yn canolbwyntio ar y Project Plwyfi a gwirio nad ydym wedi methu unrhyw dai dyddiedig cyn 1700. Diolch i bawb ym mhob cangen sydd wedi cymryd rhan yn yr arolwg pwysig hwn, ar-lein yn bennaf, a fydd yn ffurfio sail blaenoriaethu digwyddiadau yn y dyfodol. Diolch hefyd i'r sawl sy'n parhau i ymchwilio i hanesion tai. Roedd cryn ddiddordeb ar ein stondin ym mhenwythnos Gŵyl y Fflam yng Nghorwen; diolch i Janice a'i chynorthwywyr.*

***Llongyarchiadau** i Jenny Lees am ei herthygl "A Quest for Cymer in Edeyrnion and its Barons: Part 1 c1200-c1700" a gyhoeddwyd yng Nghylchgrawn diweddar Cymdeithas Hanes a Chofnodion Meirionnydd, hefyd i Margaret Barr, gan fod ei herthygl ar enwau lleoedd yn ein Cylchlythyr diweddaraf wedi ei dosbarthu gan Gymdeithas Enwau Lleoedd Cymru i bob un o'u haelodau.*

Llongyfarchiadau hefyd i'n cangen yng Nghonwy lle llwyddodd Richard Jones gyda'i gais am grant cam 1 gan "Gynllun Bagiau Cymorth Tesco". Rŵan, mae angen i bawb gasglu eu tocynnau plastig yn Tesco a'u gosod yn y blwch priodol yn Siop Fawr Tesco Llandudno rhwng 1 Ionawr a 31 Mawrth 2020. Byddwn yn gwybod maint y grant erbyn diwedd Ebrill 2020.

Pâr o nenffyrch, un o bedwar pâr sydd wedi goroesi yn y tŷ hwn o'r 16eg ganrif a fu ar un pryd yn dŷ neuadd yn Sir Ddinbych
A pair of crucks, one of four surviving pairs in this 16C former hall house in Denbighshire

Mae Martin Cherry, ynghyd â Peter Thompson a Richard Suggett wedi cyfrannu penawdau i "Cruck Building: A Survey" a olygwyd gan Nat Alcock, P S Barnwell a Martin Cherry, i'w gyhoeddi yn y Flwyddyn Newydd gan Shaun Tyas Publishing. Ar ôl ei ddarlith yng Ngŵyl Hanes y Pedair Cenedl ym Mhrifysgol Bangor, gwahoddwyd yr Athro David Starkey gan ein cadeirydd i ymweld â Phlas Penmynydd, gyda chinio i ddilyn. Cafodd grŵp bach ohonom awr ddifyr o drafodaeth cyn mynd i weld y delwau Tuduraidd yn Eglwys Penmynydd. Roedd yr Athro Starkey yn cymeradwyo ein dull aml-ddisgyblaethol o weithredu a'n defnydd o ffynonellau gwreiddiol yn ein hymchwil.

Yn ddiweddar, cyfrannodd GDHDC at gwrs diwrnod ar Goed ac Adeiladau Ffram Goed gan Sefydliad Siartredig Archeolegwyr Maes Cymru gyda sgwrs ar "Dendrochronology and Community Involvement in Rural North Wales".

Hoffem fynegi ein diolch i'n cyfieithydd, Mrs Eluned Rowlands,

***URGENT REQUEST - DOWHG TREASURER**: As you may know, John Townsend, who has been our treasurer for many years, gave notice a year ago that he would be retiring from that role on 31 March 2020. The person who had agreed to take over has had to withdraw due to unexpected family commitments. A second interested person we contacted is not now able to become our next treasurer. SO WE NEED YOUR HELP to find someone to undertake this role for 2-3 years. Could YOU do this? Or please contact any friends etc who might possibly take on this voluntary post starting on 1st April 2020. Travelling expenses @40p per mile are available, and the new Treasurer need not necessarily be involved in the heritage aspects of the Group. John is willing to help them settle in. Please contact Margaret Dunn for further details and full job description. (secretary@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk)*

*The early autumn **architectural recording** of three NE Wales buildings has completed the 2018-19 Woodtiger Fund project and the reports will soon be available on our website and Coflein. No new grants have been requested for the remainder of this financial year as we are concentrating on the Parishes Project and checking that we have not missed any pre-1700 houses. Thank you to all those in each branch involved in this important, mainly online survey, which will form the basis for prioritising future activities. Thank you too to all who continue to research house histories. There was considerable interest at our stall at the September "Gwyl y Fflam" weekend festival in Corwen; thank you to Janice and her helpers.*

***Congratulations** to Jenny Lees for her article "A Quest for Cymer in Edeirnion and its Barons: Part 1 c1200-c1700" published in the Merioneth Historical and Record Society's recent Journal, and to Margaret Barr whose article on place-names in our last Newsletter was distributed by the Welsh Place-Name Society to all their members.*

Congratulations also to our Conwy branch where Richard Jones has submitted a successful phase 1 grant application to the "Tesco Bags of Help Scheme". Now we all need to collect our Tesco tokens and put them in the correct slot in the Llandudno Tesco Superstore between 1 January and 31 March 2020. The size of the grant will be known by the end of April 2020.

Dr Martin Cherry with Peter Thompson and Richard Suggett have contributed chapters to "Cruck Building: A Survey" edited by Nat Alcock, P S Barnwell and Martin Cherry, to be published in the New Year by Shaun Tyas Publishing. After speaking at the Four Nations History Festival at Bangor University, Professor David Starkey was invited by our chairman to visit Plas Penmynydd, followed by lunch. A small group of us enjoyed a lively hour of discussion before viewing the Tudor effigies in Penmynydd church. Professor Starkey approved of our multidisciplinary approach and use of original sources in our research.

DOWHG contributed recently to a Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' Wales day school on Timber and Timber-framed Building with a talk on "Dendrochronology and Community Involvement in Rural North Wales".

We want to express our grateful thanks to our translator, Mrs Eluned Rowlands, for all the work she has done for us over the past few years - diolch yn fawr iawn. Our new translator is Haf Meredydd.

My apologies for not attending many meetings this autumn. I'm soon having my second cataract operation and then look forward to seeing clearly and driving again.

Margaret Dunn

am ei holl waith i ni dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf – diolch yn fawr iawn. Ein cyfieithydd presennol yw Haf Meredydd.
Fy ymddiheuriadau am beidio â mynychu llawer o gyfarfodydd yr hydref hwn. Cyn bo hir rydw i'n cael fy ail driniaeth cataract ac rydw i'n edrych ymlaen at weld yn glir a gallu gyrru car unwaith eto.

Margaret Dunn

AELODAETH DOWHG

OS OES GENNYCH DDIDDORDEB MEWN HEN DAI *ac os nad ydych eisoes yn aelod, pam na wnewch chi ystyried ymaelodi â'r Grŵp? £15 y flwyddyn, yn ddyledus 1 Ebrill. Yr Ysgrifennydd Aelodaeth yw Ms Zöe Henderson ar 01824 704404.*
membership@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk
Am ragor o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Margaret Dunn,
secretary@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk 01766 890550.

DIGWYDDIADAU CANGHENNAU

Archebwch gyda chysylltiadau'r canghennau, £2 fel arfer. Fe all aelodau gymryd rhan yn nigwyddiadau unrhyw gangen, yn ogystal â'u cangen eu hunain. Gallwch wirio hyn gyda chyswllt y gangen.

Rydym yn ddiolchgar i berchnogion tai am eu lletygarwch.
Tai preifat yw'r tai a grybwyllir yn y Cylchlythyr hwn sydd â chyswllt â CDHD a dydyn nhw DDIM yn agored i'r cyhoedd.

CANGEN YNYS MÔN. *Cysylltwch â Sue Hurst 01407 459319 anglesey@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk (Cofiwch archebu cyn gynted â phosib)*
22 Ionawr (Mercher) 2-4yp *Ymweliad ag Eglwys Cybi Sant, Caergybi. Sefydlwyd yr eglwys yn wreiddiol yn 540 OC ac fe'i codwyd o fewn muriau'r gaer Rhufeinig. Mae'r eglwys bresennol yn dyddio o'r 13^{eg} i'r 16^{eg} ganrif. Arweinir taith dywys gan un o'r plwyfolion ac efallai y bydd lluniaeth ysgafn ar gael. Cost £2, sef cyfraniad i'r eglwys.*

Pentre Berw, plasty o'r 17g, Gaerwen, Ynys Môn
Pentre Berw, 17C Manor house, Gaerwen, Anglesey

20 Chwefror (dydd Iau) 2–4yp *Sesiwn arall yn Archifdy Llangefni ar gyfer y Project Plwyfi. O'r 40 o blwyfi cyfoes Ynys Môn, rydym wedi ymchwilio hanes hanner y rhain am adeiladau rhestredig. Dyma gyfle i'r sawl sydd eisoes wedi gwneud rhywfaint o waith ar y project i ddod ynghyd a thrafod eu darganfyddiadau a chyfle i bobl newydd ddysgu sut i fynd ati. Lluniaeth ysgafn, cost £2. Cyfyngir y nifer i 20.*
18 Mawrth (dydd Mercher) 2-4yp *Sgwrs a lluniau gan Terry*

DOWHG MEMBERSHIP

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN OLD HOUSES *and are not already a member, why not consider joining the Group? £15 per annum, due April 1st. 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.

BRANCH EVENTS

Book with branch contacts, usually £2. Members may participate in events of any branch, not only their own. Check with branch contact.
We are grateful to house-owners for their hospitality.
Houses mentioned in this Newsletter and/or linked with DOWHG are private and are NOT open to the public.

ANGLESEY BRANCH. *Contact Sue Hurst 01407 459 319 anglesey@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk (Please book well in advance)*
Jan 22nd (Weds) 2–4 pm *Visit to St Cybi's Church, Holyhead. The church was originally founded in 540 AD and was built within the walls of the Roman fort. The present church dates from 13th – 16th centuries. A tour will be led by one of the parishioners and light refreshments may be available. Cost £2, which will be donated to the church.*
Feb 20th (Thurs) 2–4pm *Another session in the Archives at Llangefni for the Parishes Project. Of the 40 modern parishes on Anglesey, almost half have been looked into for listed buildings. This is a chance for those who have already done some work on the project to come together and discuss their findings and a chance for newcomers to be shown the ropes. Light refreshments, cost £2. Numbers limited to 20.*

St Cybi's Church, Holyhead
Eglwys Cybi Sant, Caergybi

March 18th (Weds) 2-4pm *Talk and slide show by Terry Williams on "Some of Anglesey's Lost Houses". These are houses which existed within living memory, but sadly didn't make it into the 21st century. To be held at Benllech Community Hall, light refreshments, cost £2. Numbers limited to 20.*
April 30th (Thurs) 2-4pm *Visit to Pentre Berw, Gaerwen. This is a complex site with ruinous early remains and a magnificent 17th century manor house. Tour of the house (indoor shoes, please) and light refreshments, cost £2. Numbers limited to 15, early booking advised.*

Williams gyda'r teitl "Some of Anglesey's Lost Houses". Dyma dai a oedd yn bodoli o fewn cof, ond yn drist iawn a ddiflannodd cyn cyrraedd yr 21ain ganrif. I'w gynnal yn Neuadd Gymunedol Benllech, lluniaeth ysgafn, cost £2. Cyfyngir y nifer i 20.

30 Ebrill (dydd Iau) 2-4yp Ymweliad â Phentre Berw, Gaerwen. Dyma safle cymhleth gydag adfeilion gweddillion cynnar a phlasty gwych o'r 17eg ganrif. Taith dywys o amgylch y tŷ (esgidiau priodol, os gwelwch yn dda) a lluniaeth ysgafn, cost £2. Cyfyngir y nifer i 15; fe'ch cynghorir i archebu'n gynnar.

CANGEN CONWY. Cysylltwch â Gill Jones 01492 517330 gjdulas@doctorbones.org

27 Ionawr (dydd Llun) Cyfarfod cyffredinol yn nhŷ Gill i rannu gwybodaeth am faterion cyfredol a phrojectau yn cynnwys y Project Plwyfi.

24 Chwefror (dydd Llun) Sgwrs gan Tony Scharer am hanes Plas Uchaf yng Nglan Conwy fel cyflwyniad ar gyfer ymweliad â'r tŷ yn yr haf.

23 Mawrth (dydd Llun) Un ai trafodaeth cyffredinol yn nhŷ Gill neu ymweliad ag Archifdy.

CANGEN SIR DDINBYCH. Cysylltwch â Janice Dale 01490 440427 jadale22@hotmail.co.uk Cysylltwch â Janice am gopi o raglen.

CANGEN LLANSILIN. Cysylltwch â Mary Cunnah, marycunnah@yahoo.co.uk

Mae'r grŵp yn cyfarfod ar ail ddydd Llun bob mis am 2yp yn Ystafell y Plwyf, Eglwys Llansilin. Lluniaeth.

Cynllun ar gyfer y dyfodol: Mae Paul Hughes, brodor o'r ardal, ac aelodau Grŵp Ymchwil Hanes Llansilin, yn bwriadu ysgrifennu llyfr ar hanes Llansilin.

CANGEN MEIRIONNYDD. Cysylltwch â Martin Cherry ar 01341 423517 martincherry@btinternet.com (Rhaid archebu lle)

15 Ionawr (dydd Mercher) 10.30 (NB NID ar ddydd Mercher cyntaf y mis fel arfer). Archifdy Meirionnydd am drafodaeth fer am gynlluniau a chynnydd ar y Project Plwyfi. Yna am 11.00 cynhelir y cyntaf o'r gweithdai 'Defnyddio Dogfennau Hanesyddol'.

5 Chwefror (dydd Mercher) 10.00 Archifdy Meirionnydd. Cyfarfod llawn cyntaf y Project Plwyfi. Manylion llawn i ddilyn. Os bydd y tywydd yn caniatáu efallai y byddwn yn ymweld ag un o'r plwyfi sy'n cael ei astudio.

19 Chwefror (dydd Mercher) 7.30yh yn Neuadd Gymunedol Nantgwynant. "The Casson Family in North Wales: a story of slate and more", sgwrs gyda lluniau gan Dr Diana Devlin, awdur a darlithydd. Bydd ei llyfr diweddar ar y pwnc hwn ar werth @ £9.95. Lluniaeth ysgafn. £2 y pen. Saif y neuadd fechan ar y gilfan ar ochr Beddgelert o Gaffi Gwynant ar yr A498.

5 Mawrth (dydd Mercher) 10.00 Archifdy Meirionnydd. Cyfarfod o'r Project Plwyfi (fel 5 Chwefror, cynlluniau i'w penderfynu).

25 Mawrth (dydd Mercher) 11.00 Gweithdy ar ddefnyddio ffynonellau dogfennol a arweinir gan Ania Skarzynska. (Fel uchod, 15 Ionawr).

1 Ebrill (dydd Mercher) 10.30 Cyfarfod o'r Project Plwyfi (pe bai angen, i'w gadarnhau)

6 Mai (dydd Mercher) Cyfarfod byr o'r Project Plwyfi gyda gweithdy ar ddefnyddio ffynonellau dogfennol am 11.00 a arweinir gan Ania Skarzynska. (Fel uchod ar 15 Ionawr)

CONWY BRANCH. Contact Gill Jones 01492 517 330 gjdulas@doctorbones.org

January 27th (Mon) General meeting at Gill's house to share information about current interests and projects including the Parishes Project.

February 24th (Mon) Tony Scharer will give a talk about the history of Plas Uchaf in Glan Conwy as a prelude to a visit to the house in the summer.

March 23rd (Mon) Either a general discussion meeting at Gill's house or a visit to an Archive.

DENBIGHSHIRE BRANCH. Contact Janice Dale 01490 440 427 jadale22@hotmail.co.uk

Please contact Janice for Spring programme.

Decoration on a timber-framed building, Katryn of Berain's house, Denbs
Addurn ar adeilad ffrâm goed, tŷ Catrin o Ferain, Sir Ddinbych

LLANSILIN 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.

Future plan: Paul Hughes, who was born and brought up in the area, and members of the Llansilin Historic Research Group, are proposing to write a book on Llansilin history.

MERIONETH BRANCH. Contact Martin Cherry 01341 423 517 martincherry@btinternet.com (Booking essential)

January 15th (Weds) 10.30 (NB NOT the usual first Wednesday of the month). Merioneth archives for a brief discussion about plans and progress on the Parishes Project followed at 11.00 by the first of the 'Using Historic Documents' workshops.

February 5th (Weds) 10.00 Merioneth archives. The first full Parishes Project meeting. Full details will follow. Weather permitting we may venture into one of the parishes under study.

February 19th (Weds) 7.30 p.m. in Nantgwynant Community Hall. "The Casson Family in North Wales: a story of slate and more", an illustrated talk by Dr Diana Devlin, writer and lecturer. Her recent book on this subject will be on sale @ £9.95. Light refreshments. £2 per head. The small hall is in the layby on the Beddgelert side of Cafe Gwynant on the A498.

March 5th (Weds) 10.00 Merioneth archives. Parish Project meeting (as 5 February, plans to be finalised).

March 25th (Weds) 11.00 Workshop on using documentary sources led by Ania Skarzynska. (As above, 15 January).

April 1st (Weds) 10.30 Parishes Project meeting (if required, TBC)

Hendre, tŷ ffrâm nenfforch yn Llandrillo (Sir Ddinbych, Meirionnydd gynt), a godwyd yn wreiddiol fel ffermdy iwmon yn 1502/3 (dyddiad dendrolegol) gydag ychwanegiadau diweddarach. (Ymwelodd cangen Meirionnydd â'r tŷ yn yr hydref)
Hendre, a cruck-framed house in Llandrillo (Denbighshire, formerly Merioneth), originally built as a yeoman's farmhouse in 1502/3 (dendro date) with later additions. (Visited in the autumn by Merioneth branch)

3 Mehefin (dydd Mercher) *Cyfarfod byr o'r Project Plwyfi gyda diwrnod hyfforddiant cofnodi llawn i ddilyn mewn tŷ yn Llanelltyd. Dyma ffermdy nen-fforch, bellach yn adfail ac yn cael ei ddefnyddio fel man storio. Fe'i 'darganfuwyd' fel rhan o Broject y Plwyfi Llanelltud – heb ei restru ac nid ar Goflein, mae'n ffermdy gwerinol 'anhysbys', o'r 16eg ganrif mae'n debyg. Oherwydd hynny, rydym yn credu y dylai gael ei gofnodi'n briodol a gallwn gymryd y cyfle hwn i gynnig hyfforddiant i unrhyw un a fyddai'n fodlon rhi cynnig arni – mesur, braslunio, cymryd nodiadau – cyflenwir yr holl ddeunyddiau angenrheidiol.* ***Sylwer, bydd rhaid cyfyngu'r nifer oherwydd natur y safle. Mae'n hanfodol felly gwybod y nifer ymlaen llaw ac mae'n bosibl y bydd rhaid newid y dyddiad ym mis Mehefin. Cysylltwch â Martin dair wythnos ymlaen llaw os hoffech fynychu'r digwyddiad.***

Cofiwch adael i Martin wybod mewn da bryd os ydych yn bwriadu mynychu'r rhaglen ddogfen a/neu'r gweithdai cofnodi adeiladau (07716 993652 neu 01341 423517). John Townsend yw cydlynydd cyfarfodydd y Project Plwyfi.

Mae aelodau o Gangen Meirionnydd hefyd yn cyfarfod ar ***ddydd Mercher cyntaf y mis*** *rhwng 9.30yb a 12.30yp yn Archifdy Dolgellau. Ar hyn o bryd maen nhw'n canolbwyntio ar Broject Plwyfi'r GDHDC (dod o hyd i dai gyda dyddiad cyn-1700 nad ydyn nhw eisoes wedi eu darganfod). Mae Llanelltyd, Llandecwyn a Thalyllyn wedi eu cwblhau fel ymarfer pen-bwrdd ac erbyn hyn mae aelodau'n ymweld â'r tai y cafwyd hyd iddyn nhw. Os oes gan unrhyw un ddiddordeb yn y project hwn, y gellir ei wneud yn y cartref, cysylltwch os gwelwch yn dda â John Townsend*
john@thetownsends.org.uk.

CANGEN GOGLEDD DDWYRAIN CYMRU. *Cysylltwch â Margaret neu Wally Barr ar 01745 888622 neu* magsbarr@yahoo.co.uk; wallybarr@yahoo.co.uk. *Mae'n hanfodol archebu ymlaen llaw.*
21 Ionawr (dydd Mawrth) 2yp *Neuadd Bentref Llanasa, cyfarfod a sgwrs gyda'r teitl "Getting Some Early Knights" gan Peter Masters.*

24 Chwefror (dydd Llun) 2yp *Cyfarfod ac ymweliad â Chaerfallen, Rhuthun (dyddiedig 1559/60)*
23 Mawrth (dydd Llun) 2yp *Cyfarfod a DVD ar adferiad a*

May 6th (Weds) *Short Parishes Project meeting followed at 11.00 with workshop on using documentary sources led by Ania Skarzynska. (As above 15 January)*
June 3rd (Weds) *Brief Parishes Project meeting followed by a full recording training day at a house in Llanelltyd. This is a cruck-framed farmhouse, now dilapidated and used for storage. It was 'discovered' as part of the Parishes Project for Llanelltyd - unlisted, not on Coflein, it is an 'unknown' peasant farmhouse, probably of the 16th century. As such we think it should be properly recorded and can take the opportunity of offering training to anyone who would like to try their hand — measuring, sketching, photographing, note-taking — all materials will be supplied.* ***Please note, numbers will have to be restricted because of the nature of the site. It's essential to know numbers beforehand and it is possible that the date in June may change. Please contact Martin three weeks in advance if you wish to attend.***

Please let Martin know in good time if you propose to attend the documentary and/or building recording workshops (0771 6993652 or 01341 423517). John Townsend is still the coordinator for the Parishes Project meetings.

Members of the Merioneth Branch also meet on the ***first Wednesday of the month*** *between 9.30am and 12.30pm at Dolgellau Archives. Currently the focus is on the DOWHG Parishes Project (finding pre-1700 houses that have not already come to light). Llanelltyd, Llandecwyn and Talyllyn have been done as a table-top exercise and members are now visiting the houses found. Anyone interested in this project, which can be undertaken at home, please contact John Townsend*
john@thetownsends.org.uk.

NORTH EAST WALES BRANCH. *Contact Margaret or Wally Barr 01745 888 622* magsbarr@yahoo.co.uk
wallybarr@yahoo.co.uk. *Essential to book in advance.*

January 21st (Tues) 2pm *Llanasa Village Hall, meeting and talk entitled "Getting Some Early Knights" by Peter Masters.*

Caerfallen (dated 1559/60) near Ruthin, last winter
Caerfallen (dyddiedig 1559/60) ger Rhuthun, y gaeaf diwethaf

February 24th (Mon) 2pm *Meeting and visit to Caerfallen, Ruthin (dated to 1559/60)*

gwaith trwsio Adeiladau Ffram Goed, Llyfrgell Gladstone, Penarlâg.

CANGEN ERYRI. *Cyswllt: Ann Alston*
snowdonia@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk
Archebwch ar-lein:
http://discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk/english/visits.html.
Peter Masters: 01758 750322 (Cofiwch archebu'n gynnar)

Mae Cangen Eryri wedi dechrau gweithio ar y Project Plwyfi gydag ambell i ganlyniad calonogol. Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod cychwynnol yn Archifdy Gwynedd, Caernarfon. Daeth llawer i'r cyfarfod ac roedd yr aelodau'n frwdfrydig. Mae sawl plwyf bellach wedi eu cwblhau a gobeithiwn drefnu cyfarfod arall yn gynnar yn y flwyddyn newydd er mwyn dadansoddi'r darganfyddiadau hyd yma.
27 Ionawr (dydd Llun) 2yp *Ymweliad â Thy'n Twr, Bethesda. Tŷ nen-fforch, efallai yn gyn-gartref i'r Archesgob John Williams. Gwisgwch esgidiau priodol i'r tŷ. Lluniaeth ysgafn. £2 y pen. Dim mwy na 15.*
19 Chwefror (dydd Mercher) 7.30yh *yn Neuadd Gymuned Nantgwynant. "The Casson Family in North Wales, a story of slate and more", sgwrs a lluniau gan Dr Diana Devlin, awdur a darlithydd. Bydd ei llyfr diweddar ar y pwnc hwn ar werth @ £9.95. Lluniaeth ysgafn. £2 y pen.*
24 Mawrth (dydd Mawrth) 2yp *Ymweliad â Rhydolion, ger Llangïan. Ffermdy boneddigion, cartref y Comisiynydd Piwritan Jeffrey Parry (m 1685). Gwisgwch esgidiau priodol i'r tŷ. Lluniaeth ysgafn. £2 y pen. Dim mwy na 15.*
4 Ebrill (dydd Sadwrn) 2yp *Ymweliad â Ffridd Isaf, Rhyd-ddu. Tŷ Eryri dyddiedig 1599/1600. Edrych ar hen ysguboriau a dau gyfnod y ffermdy. Dewch ag esgidiau i newid iddyn nhw. Lluniaeth ysgafn ar gael. Dim mwy na 10. £2 y pen.*
5 Mai (dydd Mawrth) 2yp *Ymweliad â Nanhoron, ar Benrhyn Llŷn. Gwisgwch esgidiau priodol ar gyfer y tŷ. Lluniaeth ysgafn. £5 y pen. Dim mwy na 20.*
Prynhawniau Mercher
Project Plwyfi – Gellir trefnu gweithdai yn ôl yr angen yn Ystafell Gymunedol Swyddfa Gofnodi Caernarfon ar brynhawniau Mercher i helpu'r sawl sy'n ymgymryd ag ymchwil hanesyddol ar gyfer y Project Plwyfi. Cysylltwch â Peter Masters os hoffech gael cymorth.

Ffridd Isaf, tŷ Eryri (dyddiedig 1699/1600), Rhyd-ddu
Ffridd Isaf, Snowdonia house (dated 1699/1600), Rhyd-ddu

March 23rd (Mon) 2pm *Meeting and DVD on the restoration and repair of Timber-Framed Buildings, Gladstone's Library, Hawarden.*

SNOWDONIA BRANCH. *Contact: Ann Alston*
snowdonia@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk Book online:
http://discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk/english/visits.html.
Peter Masters: 01758 750 322 (Please book early)

The Snowdonia Branch has begun work on the Parishes Project with some promising results. An initial meeting was held in the Gwynedd Archives, Cearnarfon. This was well attended and members were enthusiastic. Several parishes have now been completed and we hope to organise another meeting early in the new year to analyse the findings so far.
Jan 27th (Mon) 2pm *Visit to Ty'n Twr, Bethesda. Cruck-framed house, reputed home of Archbishop John Williams. Bring indoor shoes. Light refreshments. £2 per head. Max 15.*
Feb 19th (Weds) 7.30 pm *in Nantgwynant Community Hall. "The Casson Family in North Wales a story of slate and more", an Illustrated talk by Dr Diana Devlin, writer and lecturer. Her recent book on this subject will be on sale @ £9.95. Light refreshments. £2 per head.*

Ty'n Twr, tŷ nen-fforch, Bethesda
Ty'n Twr, cruck-framed house, Bethesda

March 24th (Tues) 2pm *Visit to Rhydolion, near Llangian. Gentry farmhouse, home of famous Puritan Commissioner Jeffrey Parry (d.1658). Bring indoor shoes. Light refreshments. £2 per head. Max 15.*
April 4th (Sat) 2pm *Visit to Ffridd Isaf, Rhyd-ddu. Snowdonia house dated to 1599/1600. Viewing old barns and two phases of the farmhouse. Bring change of shoes. Light refreshments available. Max 10. £2 per head.*
May 5th (Tues) 2pm *Visit to Nanhoron. Bring indoor shoes. Light refreshments. £5 per head. Max 20.*

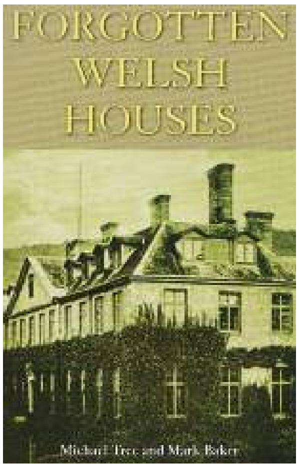
Wednesday Afternoons
Parishes Project - Workshops to help those undertaking research for the Parishes Project could be arranged in Caernarfon Record Office Community Room on Wednesday afternoons, as needed. Contact Peter Masters if you would like help.

GAN OLYGYDD Y CYLCHLYTHYR

Yn y rhifyn diwethaf soniodd ein Cadeirydd am lyfr 'gwych' Tom Lloyd o 1986, Lost Houses of Wales. Ydy, mae yn gofnod hyfryd, ond mae'n drist edrych drwyddo pan welwch chi'r lluniau sy'n rhoi cipolwg ar yr hyn sydd wedi diflannu am byth: dros 300 o dai gyda'u gerddi a'u parciau sydd wedi diflannu yn yr 20fed ganrif.

Ac yn eu cyfarfod ym mis Mawrth mae Cangen Ynys Môn yn mynd i gynnal sgwrs ar rai o dai coll Ynys Môn.

I godi calon yn wyneb yr holl golledion hoffwn sôn am lyfr arall yn y dosbarth hwn sy'n darparu rhybudd am adeiladau sydd mewn perygl, ond sydd hefyd yn darparu her wrth roi rhywfaint o obaith i ni. Adolygiad o feddiannau treftadaeth ledled Cymru sy'n dal ar eu traed ond sydd wedi eu hanghofio neu eu gadael yn wag ers degawdau yw Forgotten Welsh Houses gan Michael Tree a Mark Baker (2008). Hanfod y llyfr yw gobaith yr awduron wrth iddyn nhw edrych ar achosion unigol ac awgrymu posibiliadau adfer. Mae'r prif awdur wedi achub dau feddiant pwysig yn ei ranbarth ei hun. Pan ymwelais ag un o'r rhain am y tro cyntaf roedd yn ofynnol i ni wisgo hetiau caled. Ond ddegawd yn ddiweddarach cafwyd portread o'r stad raglywiaeth honno ger Llanrwst yn "Country Life" o dan y teitl 'Back from the Brink', gyda lluniau lu mewn lliw llawn!



Man cychwyn y project a ddaeth yn llyfr y pen draw oedd cais i gynghorau sir Cymru am restrau o'u meddiannau treftadaeth oedd mewn perygl: yng Ngwynedd yn unig, ac eithrio Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri, roedd dros 350, gan ddangos graddfa dychrynllyd y sefyllfa. Ymysg y rhain roedd 24 ar y rhestr Seren Gradd 1 neu Gradd 2; rhestrwyd y gweddill fel Gradd 2. Mewn gwirionedd, roedd oddeutu 17% o holl adeiladau rhestredig Cymru mewn perygl bryd hynny, ffigur sy'n annhebygol o fod wedi newid yn arwyddocaol ers 2008.

Mae'r awduron yn cyflwyno persbectif hanesyddol gyda dadansoddiad o'r man cychwyn a'r prosesau sydd wedi peri'r dirywiad yma yn ein treftadaeth adeiledig dros y degawdau. Disgrifir a darlunnir saithdeg o feddiannau, a rhoir tudalen ddwbl i bob un, gan drafod ei broblemau a chynnig syniadau a phosibiliadau ar gyfer y dyfodol. Cynhwysir oddeutu 50 arall mewn Rhestr, gyda darlun, enw'r awdurdod lleol priodol, y categori rhestru a disgrifiad byr.

Tynnwyd llawer o'r lluniau'n arbennig ar gyfer y llyfr; draw eraill o'r archifau sy'n dangos y tai yn eu holl ogoniant. Ond mae'r cwbl mewn du a gwyn sy'n creu teimlad o dristwch sy'n briodol i bwnc y llyfr. Serch hynny, mae ambell stori o

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

In the last issue our Chairman mentioned Tom Lloyd's 'wonderful' 1986 book "Lost Houses of Wales". Yes, it is a wonderful book and a valuable record, but the book makes very sad reading when you look at the illustrations giving a glimpse of what has gone forever: over 300 houses with their gardens and parks disappeared from Wales in the 20C.

And at their March meeting the Anglesey Branch is to have a talk on some of the lost houses of Anglesey.

To counteract the gloom of such losses I want to mention another book in this genre which provides a warning about buildings 'at-risk', but also provides a challenge while giving us some hope. "Forgotten Welsh Houses" by Michael Tree and Mark Baker (2008) is a review of heritage properties across the Principality which are still standing but have been forgotten and/or abandoned for decades. The essence of the book is the optimism of the authors as they look at individual cases and suggest renovation possibilities. The main author has notably rescued two important properties in our own region. When I first visited one of these we had to wear hard hats. But a decade or so later that same regency estate near Llanrwst was featured in "Country Life" under the title 'Back from the Brink', profusely illustrated in glorious colour!

The starting point for the project that became the book was an approach to Welsh county councils requesting lists of their heritage properties at-risk: in Gwynedd alone, excluding the Snowdonia National Park, there were over 350, revealing the shocking scale of the situation. These included 24 with Grade One or Grade Two-Star listings, the rest were listed as Grade Two. In fact, approximately 17% of all listed buildings in Wales were then at-risk, a figure that is unlikely to have altered significantly since 2008.

The authors present a historical perspective with an analysis of the origins and processes which have caused this decline in our built heritage over the dcades. Seventy properties are then described and illustrated, with a double page given to each, discussing its problems and offering thoughts and possibilities for the future. A further fifty or so are included in a Gazeteer, each with an illustration, the name of the relevant local authority, the listing category and a brief description.

Many of the illustrations were taken especially for the book, others are from the archives showing the houses in their former glory. But all are in black and white, and with the sepia cover create for me an atmosphere of melancholy which suits the book's subject. But happily there are success stories which provide the incentive for the would-be rescuer 'in search of their own paradise'. And there are sections on how to go about the task, not forgetting the 'Pitfalls and Failings', all written with the authority of a practitioner.

I know that in the case of some of the buildings included for our region the opportunities have been lost, and properties are now in an even graver state than when the book was written. But I am happy to see that some of the book's entries have been removed from the at-risk register and have been resurrected to become assets to local communities, enhancing the landscape and adding to our common heritage.

And as our Chairman previously commented, DOWHG has its own contribution to make to this task. Our identification and recording efforts 'make it less likely that even more wonderful houses and their features will be lost simply through ignorance of their importance'. That is our challenge.

lwyddiant sy n darparu r ysgogiad i r achubwr sy n chwilio am ei baradwys ei hun . Ac mae adrannau hefyd ar sut i fynd i r afael r gorchwyl, heb anghofio r Problemau a r Methiannau , i gyd wedi eu hysgrifennu gydag awdurdod unigolyn sydd wedi cyflawni gwaith ymarferol ei hun.

Yn achos rhai o r adeiladau sydd wedi eu cynnwys yn ein rhanbarth ni, gwn fod cyfleoedd wedi eu colli, a bod y meddiannau erbyn hyn mewn cyflwr llawer gwaeth na phan ysgrifennwyd y llyfr. Ond rydw i n falch o weld bod rhai o r tai yn y llyfr wedi eu tynnu oddi ar y gofrestr mewn-perygl ac wedi eu hadfer i ddod yn asedau i gymunedau lleol, ac yn gwella r tirlun ac yn ychwanegu at y dreftadaeth yr ydym i gyd un ac oll yn ei rhannu.
Ac, fel y dywedodd ein Cadeirydd yn gynharach, mae gan GDHDC ei gyfraniad ei hun i w wneud i r gorchwyl hwn. Mae ein hymdrechion adnabod a chofnodi yn golygu ei fod yn llai tebygol y bydd mwy o dai hyfryd a u nodweddion yn cael eu colli drwy anwybodaeth am eu pwysigrwydd . Dyna ein her ni.

Cofiwch bod gwahoddiad i aelodau anfon eu cyfraniadau eu hunain i r cylchlythyr ynghyd thestun ac/neu luniau. Anfonwch syniadau/cyfraniadau i mi mewn da bryd (y dyddiad cau fel arfer yw ail wythnos mis Tachwedd, Chwefror, Mai ac Awst). Llawer o ddiolch.

Dr Irene Brightmer
brightmer@btinternet.com

A historic farmhouse with a Jacobean staircase and a 1652 datestone in Brynford, Flintshire is on the at-risk register and is continuing to deteriorate. (Grade Two listed in 1962)
Mae ffermdy hanesyddol gyda grisiau Jacobeaidd a charreg dyddiad 1652 ym Mrynffordd, Sir Y Fflint, ar y gofrestr mewn-perygl ac yn parhau I ddirywio. (Fe I cofrestrwyd fel Gradd Dau yn 1962)

Please don t forget that members are invited to make their own contributions to newsletters with text and/or images. Please send ideas/contributions to me in good time (usual deadlines are the second week of November, February, May and August). Many thanks.

Dr Irene Brightmer
brightmer@btinternet.com

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