



DARGANFOD HEN DAI CYMREIG DISCOVERING OLD WELSH HOUSES



NODDWYR/PATRONS:

Syr/Sir Simon Jenkins, FSA, FRSL; Dr Eurwyn Wiliam, MA, PhD,

Gweledigaeth: Dathlu Treftadaeth Cymru drwy astudio tai traddodiadol a bywydau'r bobl oedd yn byw ynddyn nhw.

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

CYLCHLYTHYR 34 Medi 2020

NEWSLETTER 34 Sept 2020

GWEFAN: <http://discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk> yw prif sianel cyfathrebu'r Grŵp. Ewch i'r wefan i weld ein llyfrgell sy'n tyfu a nodweddion eraill. Fel arfer mae'n cynnwys manylion digwyddiadau diweddar a digwyddiadau sydd ar y gweill.

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

O'R GADAIR:

Wel, mae'r amser yn llithro heibio ac mae rhyw fath o drefn unwaith eto ar fywyd bob dydd. Efallai ein bod rŵan yn gadael i'r erchyll Covid-19 reoli ein bywydau yn fwy nag y dylai, ond mae hefyd yn ymddangos fel synnwyr cyffredin i beidio ymgymryd â risg di-angen.

Yn ddiweddar cyfarfu y Pwyllgor Gwaith am ein cyfarfod Zoom electronaidd cyntaf. Credaf ein bod i gyd yn meddwl ei fod wedi mynd yn eithaf da, yn enwedig gan ein bod yn newydd i'r dechnoleg hon a'i bod wedi cymryd dipyn o amser i ni ddyfalu sut i'w defnyddio. Oherwydd bod cryn bellter rhwng aelodau'r grŵp ledled gogledd Cymru mae'r aelodau, yn aml, yn gorfod teithio'n bell ar ffyrdd cul a hynny ambell dro mewn tywydd gwael (ac mae hi'n ymddangos bod mwy o dywydd gwael y dyddiau yma) gyda phroblemau dod o hyd i leoliadau ar ben hynny. Byddwn yn parhau i arbrofi gyda'r cyfarfodydd Zoom yma ac rydw i hyd yn oed wedi gwirfoddoli i roi cynnig ar sgwrs ar ddiwedd mis Hydref, lle bydd yn bosibl cysylltu cymaint o bobl â phosib ac y gallaf eich diflasu i gyd gyda'r pethau sy'n fy amgylchynu yn fy swyddfa yma ym Mhlas Penmynydd.

Mae gwaith da yn cael ei gyflawni ond gan fod Margaret yn trafod hwn yn ei hadroddiad wna'i ddim ymhelaethu ar hynny; gobeithiaf eich bod i gyd yn iawn ac wedi goroesi'r stormydd anghyffredin yma ym mis Awst.

Richard Cuthbertson, chairman (richard@dmmwales.com)

FROM THE CHAIR

Well, time slips by and a certain amount of normality has returned. It may be now that we are allowing the dreadful Covid-19 to dominate our lives rather more than it should, but it also seems like common sense not to take unnecessary risks.

Last week the Executive Committee met for our first electronic Zoom meeting. I think we all thought it went rather well, especially because we were new to it and it took us a while to work out a smooth modus operandi. The long distances on narrow roads that seemed to be an inescapable part of running any group covering the whole of north Wales carry very considerable risks to lone drivers who might come across dreadful weather (of which we seem to get more and more) or even simple route finding problems. We will carry on experimenting with these Zoom meetings and I have even volunteered to try a talk at the end of October, where as many people as possible will all be linked up and I can bore you all with ancient reminiscing about the things that surround me in the study at Plas Penmynydd.

Good work is being done all round but Margaret covers it very well in her report so I will limit myself to hoping that you are all well and surviving the unusual August storms.

Richard Cuthbertson, chairman (richard@dmmwales.com)

Y DIWEDDARAF GAN YR YSGRIFENNYDD: Margaret Dunn

Covid-19: Gobeithiwn eich bod chi a'ch teuluoedd yn parhau i fod yn iach ac yn brysur yn ystod y cyfnod hwn o gyfyngiadau'r pandemig yma ac edrychwn ymlaen at agoriad graddol swyddfeydd cofnodion a llyfrgelloedd. Rydym yn gwerthfawrogi'r holl waith a wneir ar hyn o bryd gan aelodau wrth wirio'r Taenlen Rheolaeth Tai a datblygu'r Project Plwyfi, er gwaethaf yr amgylchiadau unigryw. Rydym wedi paratoi'r Cylchlythyr mwy hwn i chi ei fwynhau a chymryd rhan ym mhob dim sy'n digwydd.

Project Plas Penmynydd: Rydym yn falch iawn bod Hanes y Tŷ bellach ar gael yn ddwyieithog ar ein gwefan. Llauer o ddiolch i Ann Morgan am gydlynw'r project hwn ac i Ymddiriedolaeth Elusennol Ynys Môn ac eraill am eu cefnogaeth ariannol a'u cymorth gyda'r project hwn.

UPDATE FROM THE SECRETARY: Margaret Dunn

Covid-19: We hope that you and your families continue to keep well and busy during this period of pandemic restrictions and we look forward to the gradual opening of record offices and libraries. We appreciate all the work currently being undertaken by members in checking the Houses Management Spreadsheet and developing the Parishes Project, despite the unique circumstances. This bumper Newsletter is for you to enjoy and get involved with all that is going on.

Plas Penmynydd project: We are delighted that this bilingual House History is now available on our website. Many thanks to Ann Morgan for co-ordinating the project and to the Isle of Anglesey Charitable Trust and others for financial support and help with this project.

Vacancies: DOWH is very grateful to John Townsend for his hard work for many years in his role as **Treasurer**, and for remaining in post for an additional year. He will be retiring as

Swyddi gwag: Mae DHDC yn hynod o ddiolchgar i John Townsend am ei holl waith ers blynyddoedd lawer yn ei rôl fel **Trysorydd**, ac am barhau yn ei swydd am flwyddyn ychwanegol. Bydd yn ymddeol fel Trysorydd ar 31 Mawrth 2021. Yn ddiweddar mae Irene Brightmer wedi ymddiswyddo fel **Golygydd y Cylchlythyr** a diolchwn iddi am ei chyfraniad pwysig wrth gasglu a rhannu gwybodaeth ar gyfer aelodau a thu hwnt. Gofynnwn i chi i gyd ein helpu i ddod o hyd i Drysorydd a Golygydd Cylchlythyr newydd; does dim rhaid i'r ddau fod yn rhan o DHDC eisoes. Os gwelwch yn dda, holwch yn eich cymunedau a chysylltwch â mi gyda'ch awgrymiadau.
Secretary@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk

Diweddarau a Rhannu Ymchwil:

Yn ogystal â datblygu'r Daenlen Rheolaeth Tai o adeiladau yr ymwelwyd â nhw a'r cofnodion newydd drwy'r **Project Plwyfi**, mae'r gwaith o ddiweddarau pellach ar gofnodion yn cael ei wneud gan nifer o aelodau sy'n rhannu eu hymchwil yn gysylltiedig â DHDC. Ar ddiwedd yr 1990au a dechrau'r 2000au ymgymerodd Margaret Dunn ag ymchwil manwl i stadau eang **Craflwyn**, **Beddgelert**, ac **Egryn**, Llanaber, a ddaeth oddeutu 1700 yn rhan o stad **Caerberllan**, Llanfihangel-y-Pennant, Sir Feirionnydd; mae Craflwyn ac Egryn bellach ym meddiant yr Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol ac nid ydyn nhw ar agor i'r cyhoedd. Roedd y tair stad hefyd yn berchen ar nifer o ffermydd sydd, ynghyd â daliadau fferm eraill, wedi eu hymchwilio i raddau gwahanol gyda'r adnoddau oedd ar gael ar y pryd. Hyd yma mae 24 o hanesion tai rhannol wedi eu paratoi ar gyfer ardal **Dyffryn Ardudwy** o Sir Feirionnydd, llawer ohonyn nhw'n rhan o stad Egryn. Bydd y rhain cyn bo hir yn cael eu cynnwys ar wefan DHDC. Mae aelodau eraill yn anfon eu hymchwil i ysgrifenyddion canghennau ar gyfer eu rhannu.

Margaret Dunn. Secretary@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk

Gweithgareddau / Digwyddiadau o Fedi 2020 hyd Ebrill 2021

Yn sesiynau diweddarau'r Pwyllgor Gwaith (ar Zoom) ym mis Awst ac Ymddiriedolwyr (drwy e-bost) trafodwyd adroddiadau diweddarau rheolaidd ar weithgareddau ac ariannu, ond canolbwyntiwyd yn bennaf ar gynllunio ffordd briodol ymlaen i DHDC o Fedi 2020 hyd o leiaf Ebrill 2021. Amlygir y pwyntiau allweddol isod ac mae'r adroddiadau llawn gan ysgrifenyddion y canghennau. Bydd rôl canghennau yn parhau i fod yn hanfodol wrth gynnal cyswllt gydag aelodau a'u diddordeb a'u rhan yn yr uchod.

Project Plwyfi: Mae'r gwaith allweddol hwn yn parhau a gobeithiwn y bydd mwy o aelodau yn ymchwilio eu plwyfi wrth i'r hydref agosáu gyda chymorth ysgrifenyddion canghennau. Llauer o ddiolch i Martin Cherry am ei erthygl tua diwedd y Cylchlythyr hwn.

Taenlen Rheolaeth Tai DHDC: Mae pob cangen ar hyn o bryd yn gwirio cofnodion eu hardal ar gyfer 2018-2020. Yn ystod mis Medi gobeithiwn roi cychwyn ar ychwanegu'r cofnodion cyn 2018 ac rydym yn cydnabod grant ar gyfer hyn gan Gronfa Marc Fitch.

Cyfarfodydd Zoom: Rydym yn edrych ar y posibilrwydd o gynnal ambell i gyfarfod Zoom ar bynciau yn ymwneud â diddordebau amrywiol DHDC. Cysylltwch â mi os hoffech

treasurer on 31 March 2021. Irene Brightmer has recently resigned as **Newsletter Editor** and we thank her for her important contribution in disseminating information to members and beyond. We ask you all to help us find a new Treasurer and Newsletter Editor; neither need to be currently involved with DOWH. Please ask people in your communities and contact me with suggestions.

Secretary@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk

Updating and Sharing Research:

In addition to developing the Houses Management Spreadsheet of visited buildings and the new recordings through the **Parishes Project**, further updating of records is being undertaken by a number of members who are sharing their DOWH-related researches. In the late 1990s and early 2000s Margaret Dunn undertook detailed research into the extensive estates of **Craflwyn**, **Beddgelert**, and **Egryn**, Llanaber, which circa 1700 became part of the **Caerberllan**, Llanfihangel y Pennant, Merionethshire estate; **Craflwyn** and **Egryn** are now National Trust properties not open to the general public. All three estates also owned numerous farms which, with other local farm holdings, have been researched to a greater or lesser degree with resources then available. To date 24 partial house histories have been prepared for the **Dyffryn Ardudwy** area of Merionethshire, many of which were part of the Egryn estate. These will soon be included on the DOWH website. Other members are forwarding their research to branch secretaries for sharing.

Margaret Dunn. Secretary@discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk

Activities / Events from September 2020 to April 2021

In the August Executive (via Zoom) and Trustees (via email) updating sessions routine update reports on activities and finance were covered, but the main focus has been on planning a suitable way forwards for DOWH from September 2020 until at least April 2021. The key points are given below and branch secretaries have the full reports. The role of branches will continue to be vital in maintaining contact with, and the interest and involvement, of members.

Parishes Project: This key work continues and we hope that now autumn is approaching more members will research their parishes with help from branch secretaries. Many thanks to Martin Cherry for his article near the end of this Newsletter.

DOWH Houses Management Spreadsheet: All branches are currently checking their area's entries for 2018-2020. During September we hope that the adding of the entries prior to 2018 will commence and we acknowledge the grant for this from the Marc Fitch Fund.

Zoom meetings: We are looking into the feasibility of holding occasional Zoom meetings on topics related to DOWH's varied interests. Please contact me if you would like to offer a topic in English or Welsh. Further details will be circulated in due course.

Please contact branch secretaries / the secretary with **any additional ideas** of what DOWH might do until we can again hold meetings and visits. We do want to involve members as much as possible.

gynnig pwnc yn y Saesneg neu'r Gymraeg. Byddwn yn dosbarthu manylion pellach yn y man.

Cysylltwch ag ysgrifenyddion canghennau neu'r ysgrifennydd gydag **unrhyw syniadau ychwanegol** o'r hyn all DHDC ei wneud nes y byddwn unwaith eto mewn sefyllfa i gynnal cyfarfodydd ac ymweliadau. Hoffem i gymaint o aelodau â phosib gymryd rhan.

Diweddariad ar y Llyfr Nenffyrch: Mae *Cruck Building: A Survey*, a gyhoeddwyd ddiwedd y llynedd gyda chyfraniadau pwysig gan dri o'n haelodau (Martin Cherry, Peter Thompson a Richard Suggett) wedi cyrraedd y rhestr fer ar gyfer Gwobr Colvin am weithiau cyfeirio rhagorol. Trefnir y gystadlueaeth hon gan Gymdeithas Haneswyr Pensaernïol Prydain Fawr ac fe'i hystyrir i fod yn 'un o wobrau pwysicaf hanes pensaernïol'. Mae copïau ar gael am bris gostyngol arbennig (£35 yn lle £50) gan shaun@shauntias.myzen.co.uk. I hawlio'r gostyngiad mae angen i chi adael iddo wybod eich bod yn aelod o DHDC, cymdeithas gyswllt i'r Grŵp Pensaernïol Gwerinol.

Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru: Ar 22 Awst cyhoeddwyd bod y Llyfrgell yn falch o gyhoeddi y bydd "yn ail-agor un o'i hystafelloedd darllen o ddydd Mawrth, 1 Medi 2020. Wrth groesawu ei haelodau'n ôl, bydd y Llyfrgell yn darparu gwasanaeth cyfyngedig a mynediad i'w chasgliadau, gyda mesurau newydd mewn grym i warchod darllenwyr, ymchwilwyr a staff. Bydd hyn yn golygu oriau agor cyfyngedig, system archebu ar gyfer ymwelwyr, llwybrau un-ffordd drwy gydol yr adeilad, pellter cymdeithasol, a threfn glanhau rheolaidd a thrylwyr. Hefyd, bydd y Llyfrgell yn gweithredu system gwarantîn i'n casgliadau wrth i ni ymdrechu i ddarparu mynediad diogel iddyn nhw. I ddechrau, dim ond gwasanaethau ystafell ddarllen fydd ar gael o fewn yr adeilad. Fodd bynnag, fe all y cyhoedd barhau i chwilio casgliadau'r Llyfrgell ar ei gwefan a defnyddio ei hystod o adnoddau ar-lein. Mae'r Llyfrgell yn ymchwilio i'r posibilrwydd o ail-agor ei harddangosfeydd a pharhau â'r gwasanaeth addysg a rhaglen wirfoddoli yn y dyfodol agos. Am nawr bydd Caffi Pen Dinas yn parhau ar gau; fodd bynnag, mae'n bosib y bydd gwasanaeth cyfyngedig ar gael o ganol Medi ymlaen. Mae gwasanaethau reprograffig masnachol y Llyfrgell wedi bod ar gael ers 2 Awst 2020".

Archif y Sir. Ar ddiwedd Awst cafwyd datganiad ar wefan Swyddfeydd Cofnodion Gwynedd bod paratodau yn cael eu gwneud i agor i'r cyhoedd. Mae'n debyg bod siroedd eraill yn paratoi cynlluniau tebyg.

FamilySearch.org Mae Janice wedi cael erthygl ddefnyddiol am Fanylder Chwiliad Teuluol o Gylchlythyr Durham RO Ar-lein, ar gael mae'n debyg o ne_ancestors@ndfhs.org.uk.

NEWYDDION O'R CANGHENNAU

Cangen Ynys Môn: Project Plwyfi gan Sue Hurst a Peter Masters
Ni fu unrhyw gyfathrebu diweddar gydag aelodau'r gangen. Gyda chymorth aelodau eraill mae Terry Williams bellach wedi ymchwilio holl blwyfi Ynys Môn wrth ddefnyddio'r gwefannau basdata amrywiol ac mae hefyd wedi dod o hyd i luniau lle'r oedd rhai ar gael. Mae aelodau'r gangen yn edrych ymlaen at ymweld â rhai o'r tai a ymchwiliwyd yn y dyfodol.

Cruck Book update: *Cruck Building: A Survey*, published at the end of last year with major contributions from three of our members (Martin Cherry, Peter Thompson and Richard Suggett), has been shortlisted for the Colvin Prize for outstanding works of reference. This competition is organised by the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain and is considered to be 'one of the most important prizes in architectural history'. Copies are available at a special discounted price (£35 instead of £50) from shaun@shauntias.myzen.co.uk. To get the discount you need to tell him that you are a member of DOWH, a Vernacular Architecture Group affiliated society.

The National Library of Wales: On 22 August 2020 it was announced that the NLW is pleased to announce that "it will reopen one of its reading rooms from Tuesday, 1 September 2020. By welcoming back its users, the Library will provide a limited service and access to its collections, with new measures in place to protect readers, researchers and staff. This will mean limited opening hours, booking system for visitors, one-way routes throughout the building, social distancing, and a regular and thorough cleaning schedule. In addition, the Library will operate a quarantine system for our collections as we endeavour to provide safe access to them. Initially, only reading room services will be available within the building. However, the public may continue to search the Library's collections on its website and make use of its range of online resources. The Library is exploring the possibility of reopening its exhibitions and continue the education service and volunteering programme in the near future. For the time being Caffi Pen Dinas will remain closed, however, it is possible that a limited service will be available from mid-September onwards. The Library's commercial reprographic services have been available since 1 August 2020".

County Archives. In late August the Gwynedd Record Offices website stated that preparations are being made to open to the public. Other counties are probably making similar plans.

FamilySearch.org Janice has obtained a helpful article about Family Search Accuracy from the Durham RO Online Newsletter, probably available from ne_ancestors@ndfhs.org.uk.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Anglesey Branch: Parishes Project by Sue Hurst and Peter Masters.

There has not been any recent communication with branch members. Terry Williams with help from other members has now researched all the Anglesey parishes using the various database websites and has also found photos for buildings where available. Branch members look forward to visiting some of the researched houses in the future.

There were two training sessions held in the Archives at Llangefni before March 2020. There are 77 Parishes listed for Anglesey. All of those parishes have been searched. Several people volunteered but principally by Sue Hurst, Ian Thomas and Terry Williams who have searched all of the parishes, 10 of which returned "No suitable houses". Within the remaining 67 parishes, 117 houses were identified as being suitable

Cynhaliwyd dwy sesiwn hyfforddi yn Archifau Llangefni cyn Mawrth 2020. Rhestrir 77 o Blwyfi ar gyfer Ynys Môn. Mae pob un o'r plwyfi hynny wedi eu harchwilio. Gwirfoddolodd amryw o bobl ond gwnaed y gwaith yn bennaf gan Sue Hurst, Ian Thomas a Terry Williams sydd wedi chwilio'r holl blwyfi. Cafwyd nad oedd 'dim tai priodol' mewn 10 o'r rhain. O fewn y 67 plwyf sy'n weddill, adnabuwyd 117 o dai fel rhai'n briodol ar gyfer ymchwil pellach. Dengys croes-gyfeirio gyda'n basdata bod 83 o adeiladau Rhestredig I neu II* ac 69 wedi eu Rhestru gan NPNR o fewn y rhestr honno o 177 o dai.

Aseswyd 55 o dai yn flaenorol. Penderfynwyd nad oedd 44 ohonyn nhw'n addas gan nad oedd ynddyn nhw bren priodol neu roedd wedi ei 'dyfu'n gyflym' neu'n Amrywiol. Wrth ddefnyddio dendrocronoleg, dyddiwyd 10 o dai gyda'r dyddiadau'n amrywio o 1465-1638. Ni ddyddiwyd dau, sy'n gadael 60 o dai i'w hystyried ymhellach. Mae llawer nad ydyn nhw eto wedi derbyn ymweliad.

Cangen Conwy: Llanddulas a Rhyd y Foel gan Gill Jones

Rydw i wedi bod yn cymryd rhan mewn project ar y cyd gyda Wendy Williams, o'n Cyngor Cymuned, i gynhyrchu tri llyfr am Blwyf Sifil Llanddulas a Rhyd y Foel. Trefnwyd yr ariannu eisoes i dalu am gost yr argraffu. Rydw i eisoes wedi cwblhau'r llyfr cyntaf am ddatblygiad addysg a'r ysgolion amrywiol sydd wedi bodoli yn y plwyf – gwladol, preifat, gwaddol a chrefyddol. Ar ddiwedd y llynedd, gweithiodd Wendy ar broject ffotograffig gyda rhai o ddisgyblion Blwyddyn 6 ysgol y pentref. Bu'r plant yn tynnu lluniau rhai o'r hen adeiladau a chymharu'r rhain gyda hen ffotograffau o'r un adeiladau. O ganlyniad crëwyd llyfr gyda lluniau o'r enw 'Ddoe a Heddiw/Then and Now'. Ar hyn o bryd rydw i'n gweithio ar y trydydd llyfr am hanes tai'r 17eg ganrif hyd at ddechrau'r 20fed ganrif.

Nododd Edward Llwyd bump neu chwech bwthyn a thŷ'r felin yn Llanddulas yn ei *Parochial Queries* yn 1699. Enwir pedwar tŷ – Y Genffos (Bryn Dulas heddiw), Y Tŷ Gwyn, Y Tŷ Gwyn yn ymyl Geuffos (Geuffos Bach heddiw) a Tŷ yn Glan yr Afon bell.

Dim ond y tri cyntaf sy'n bodoli heddiw. Roedd Rhyd y Foel (trefgordd Bodlyman) yn rhan o Fetws yn Rhos ar y pryd. Nododd Llwyd bod saith tŷ yn y plwyf hon ond dim un ym Modlyman.

Mae nifer fechan o dai eraill yn bodoli o'r 17eg ganrif - Y Felin, Braenar Caled a Thŷ Ucha yn Llanddulas; a Melin y Cwmp, Borth Wyrdd ac Y Foel yn Rhyd y Foel. Y prif dirfeddianwyr oedd Wynniaid Garthewin a Bronywendon, y teulu Hesketh, Gwrych, a'r teulu Hughes o Gimmel.

Mae o leiaf un-ar-bymtheg o dai unigol ac wyth rhes o fythynnod wedi diflannu yn eithaf diweddar. Chwalwyd rhai pan wnaethpwyd gwelliannau i'r hen ffordd drwy'r pentref wedi ymddangosiad ceir modur a bysiau yn gynnar yn yr 20fed ganrif; rhai wrth i'r gwaith chwarel ehangu, eraill pan grëwyd yr A55, a chollwyd rhai pan ollyngwyd dau o ffrwydron tir ar y pentref gan awyrennau o'r Almaen wrth iddyn nhw ddychwelyd o gyrch ar Lerpwl yn 1940. Tyfodd y pentref mewn maint yn bennaf oherwydd bod angen

for further research. Cross reference with our database shows that within that list of 117 houses, 83 are Listed I or II* buildings and 69 have a NPNR Listing.

55 houses have previously been assessed. 44 of those were deemed unsuitable by virtue of having either no suitable timber or it being "Fast grown" or Misc. Using dendrochronology, 10 houses were dated with date ranges from 1465-1638. Two were undated, which leaves 60 houses for further consideration. Many have not yet been visited.

Conwy Branch: Llanddulas and Rhyd y Foel by Gill Jones

I have been involved in a joint project with Wendy Williams, from our Community Council, to produce three books about the Civil Parish of Llanddulas and Rhyd y Foel. Funding has already been arranged to cover the cost of the printing. I have completed the first book about the development of education and the various schools which have existed in the parish – state, private, endowed and religious. At the end of last year, Wendy carried out a photographic project with some of the Year 6 pupils from the village school. The children took photographs of some of the old buildings and these were matched with old photographs of the same buildings. This has resulted in a pictorial book entitled "Then and Now". I'm currently working on the third book about the history of the houses from the 17th century to the early 20th century.

Edward Lhuyd noted five or six cott' and a mill house in Llanddulas in his *Parochial Queries* in 1699. Four houses are named - Y Genffôs (now Bryn Dulas), Y Tŷ Gwyn, Y Tŷ gwyn yn ymyl Geuffos (now Geuffos bach) and Tŷ yn Glan yr Afon bel. Only the first three now remain. Rhyd y Foel (the township of Bodlyman) was part of Bettws yn Rhos at the time. Lhuyd noted seven houses in this parish but none in Bodlyman.

There are a small number of other existing 17th century houses - Y Felin, Braenar Caled and Tŷ Ucha in Llanddulas; and Melin y Cwmp, Borth Wyrdd and Y Foel in Rhyd y Foel. The main landowners were the Wynnes of

Garthewin and Bronywendon, the Heskeths of Gwrych, and the Hughes of Kimmel.

At least sixteen individual houses and eight rows of cottages have disappeared in recent times. Some were demolished when the old road through the village was improved after the appearance of motor cars and coaches in the early 20th century; some as the quarrying enterprises were expanded; others when the A55 was constructed and a few were lost when two landmines were dropped on the village by German aircraft returning from a raid on Liverpool in 1940. The village grew in size mainly as a result of the quarries and lime kilns requiring workers. By 1831, there were 157 houses and 307 people in Llanddulas, plus a few more houses and their occupants in Rhyd y Foel. In 2011, the population of the Llanddulas and Rhyd y Foel Civil Parish was recorded as 1,542 persons in 713 houses.



gweithwyr ar y chwareli a'r odynnau calch. Erbyn 1831, roedd 157 tŷ a 307 o bobl yn Llanddulas, yn ogystal ag ychydig mwy o dai a'u preswylwyr yn Rhyd y Foel. Yn 2011, cofnodwyd bod poblogaeth Plwyf Sifil Llanddulas a Rhyd y Foel yn 1,542 o bobl mewn 713 o dai.

Cangen Sir Ddinbych: Hanes Cudd Cwm Main gan Jenny Lees

I'w gyhoeddi cyn bo hir mae ein hanes DHDC (1) o Gwernbraichdwr, a saif yng nghwm cudd hardd Cwm Main, gyda dyddiad coed a gwympyd yng ngeaf 1553/54 ac a elwid ar un pryd yn Gwern y Brechtwn. Arweiniodd ymchwilio ei hanes i Bensusylania, wrth i Glenn (1896) (2) gasglu cartau achau o lawysgrifau Cymreig hynafol a dogfennau teuluol a gludwyd yno gan wladfawyr o Sir Feirionnydd. Dioddefodd Crynwyr o Brydain erledigaeth lem i fygu anghydfurfiaeth, ac ymfudodd llawer o blwyfi o amgylch y Bala er mwyn osgoi cael eu carcharu, atafaeliad eu heiddo a hyd yn oed y bygythiad o farwolaeth fel bradwyr. Bu farw Robert Owen, yr oedd Glenn yn credu ei fod yn wŷr i John Lloyd o Gwern y Brychdwn, ym Mhennsylvania yn 1697 a dywedir ei fod wedi ei gludo i garchar Dolgellau yn yr 1670au oherwydd ei greddoau. Yn rhyfedd, mae Glenn hefyd yn sôn am Gwern y Brychdwn fel 'alias Owlars Brindle Bush'. O ystyried y gair 'brindle' neu frych yn y Gymraeg mewn cysylltiad â'r gair 'owler', sef rhywun a oedd yn allforio gwlan neu ddefaid yn anghyfreithlon, tybed a oedd gan Gwernbraichdwr gysylltiadau gyda'r arfer yma ar un pryd?

Tŷ neuadd ffrâm-nenfforch agored ar un pryd gyda phreniau to sy'n awgrymu ei adeiladu oddeutu 1531 (3) yw Rhydywernen, ffermdy arall sydd wedi goroesi yng Nghwm Main. Gerllaw, heb ei ddyddio, mae Coed-y-Bedo, a gysylltid ar un pryd gyda'r bardd Bedo Aeddren (yn barddoni oddeutu 1500). Efallai y dylid archwilio hanes y tŷ yma hefyd, gan fod braslun llinell gan Peter Smith yn awgrymu ei fod o bosib yn adeilad ffrâm bren (4) yn wreiddiol. Mae Llwyn Onn, a ystyrir gan RCAHMW i ddyddio o ddiwedd yr 17eg ganrif, ond gyda rhannau o gyplau to cynharach, yn un o sawl ffermdy sydd ar hyn o bryd yn adfail yng Nghwm Main, ond a oedd yn amlwg yn ffermdy sylweddol ar un cyfnod.

NODIADAU: (1). Jenny Lees a Pam Buttrey (2020) History of Gwernbraichdwr, Cwm Main, Corwen. (2). Thomas Allen Glenn (1896) Merion in the Welsh Tract - with sketches of the townships of Haverford and Radnor. (3). Martin Cherry a Dinah Pickard, 2015, <http://discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk/library/Hhistory/> (4). Peter Smith (1988) Houses of the Welsh Countryside: A Study in Historical Geography, 2il rifyn; t 211. (Lluniau pellach o Gwm Main ar gael ar leesjenny@gmail.com)

Denbighshire Branch: Hidden Histories of Cwm Main

by Jenny Lees

Soon to be published is our DOWH history (1) of Gwernbraichdwr, lying in the beautiful hidden valley of Cwm Main, with a tree-felling date of winter 1553/54 and once known as Gwern y Brechtwn. Researching its history led to Pennsylvania, as Glenn (1896) (2) compiled pedigrees from both ancient Welsh manuscripts and family documents taken there by Merionethshire settlers. British Quakers were harshly persecuted to suppress nonconformity, and many from parishes around Bala emigrated to escape imprisonment, confiscation of property and even threatened death as traitors. Robert Owen, believed by Glenn to be the grandson of John Lloyd of Gwern y Brychdwn, died in Pennsylvania in 1697 and is said to have been committed to Dolgellau gaol in the 1670s on account of his beliefs. Curiously, Glenn also records mention of Gwern y brychdwn as 'alias Owlars Brindle Bush'. As the word brych can mean brindled in Welsh and owler is a late C17th term for someone engaged in illegal exportation of wool or sheep, could Gwernbraichdwr possibly have once had such associations?



Rhydywernen, another surviving Cwm Main homestead, is a cruck-framed former open hall house with roof timbers suggesting construction in around 1531 (3). Nearby undated Coed-y-Bedo, once associated with the poet Bedo Aeddren (active in around 1500) may also merit a DOWH house history, as a line drawing by Peter Smith suggests that it could have originally been half timbered (4). Llwyn Onn, considered by RCAHMW to be late C17th but incorporating parts of earlier roof trusses, is one of several farmsteads currently derelict in Cwm Main, but obviously once a substantial farmstead.

NOTES: (1). Jenny Lees and Pam Buttrey (2020) History of Gwernbraichdwr, Cwm Main, Corwen. (2). Thomas Allen Glenn (1896) Merion in the Welsh Tract - with sketches of the townships of Haverford and Radnor. (3). Martin Cherry and Dinah Pickard, 2015, <http://discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk/library/Hhistory/> (4). Peter Smith (1988) Houses of the Welsh Countryside: A Study in Historical Geography, 2nd edition; p.211. (Further Cwm Main images available from leesjenny@gmail.com)

Diweddariad o Gangen Meirionnydd: gan John Townsend

Cyn Covid-19 roedd ein grŵp bach o aelodau brwdfrydig wedi ymchwilio i raddau amrywiol 245 o dai/adfeilion/safleoedd a oedd wedi eu hadnabod ac wedi eu dyddio cyn 1700 mewn 7 o'n 26 plwyf. Ymwelwyd ag oddeutu 30 o'r rhain a thynnwyd ffotograffau ohonyn nhw. Mae Meirionnydd yn ffodus oherwydd mae dogfennau ar gael sy'n ei gwneud yn weddol rhwydd adnabod tai sy'n dyddio cyn 1700 – y broblem ydy'r nifer ohonyn nhw yr ydym yn dod ar eu traws! Rydym wedi parhau i ymchwilio o'n cartrefi a chwblhawyd gwaith da iawn yn Ffestiniog a Maentwrog. Mae'r gwaith yn Llanelltyd wedi ei ehangu. Mae un o'n haelodau wedi ymweld ag ychydig o dai yn ardal Harlech a daeth un arall o hyd i adfail gyda chwpl to yn dal i sefyll wrth iddi grwydro ar ei theithiau cerdded.

Fel rhan o'r ymchwil i dai yn Llanelltyd mae fy ngwraig a minnau wedi rhoi cynnig ddwywaith ar gyrraedd adfeilion Glan-llyn-y-forwyn ym mherfeddwlad Cwm Camlan i'r gorllewin o Ganllwyd – crybwyllwyd y tŷ yn Rholiau Rhenti 1623 ac roedd rhywun yn byw ynddo hyd yr 1890au. Hefyd, dyma lle'r oedd un o gyndeidiau aelod o Feirionnydd ac aelod o Ynys Môn yn byw. Ar ein cynnig cyntaf o'r gorllewin diflannodd y llwybr yn y gors. Ar yr ail gynnig o'r de roedd plannu coed gan yr hen Gomisiwn Coedwigaeth wedi dileu'r llwybr. Wrth I gyfyngiadau Covid-19 lacio rhoddodd Martin Cherry a minnau drydydd cynnig wrth agosáu o Ganllwyd yn y dwyrain – roedd hyn yn llwyddiant ond doedd y llwybr ddim yn hawdd. Tynnwyd lluniau o'r adfail (yn cynnwys y golygfeydd ohono) a lluniwyd cynllun. Anfonwyd yr wybodaeth am gartref eu cyndeidiau i'r ddau aelod. Hyd yn oed yn ei anterth byddai wedi bod yn anodd cyrraedd y fan hon – ni fyddai neb wedi gallu picio i Ganllwyd am iaeth!

Wrth i'r hydref agosáu gobeithiwn drefnu mwy o'r mathau yma o ymweliadau oherwydd mae'n bwysig cofnodi adfeilion lle gellir parhau â phellter cymdeithasol. Un o'r pethau rydym yn ei fetu yw ein cyfarfodydd a'r gallu i rannu gwybodaeth yn hawdd. Er bod Archifau Dolgellau yn gobeithio ail-agor yng nghanol Medi bydd cyfarfodydd corfforol yn parhau i fod yn anodd. Rydym wedi ystyried defnyddio Zoom ond dydy dau o'n haelodau prysur ddim yn defnyddio'r math yma o dechnoleg ar hyn o bryd er mai dyma'r ffordd ymlaen, mae'n debyg. Os oes gan unrhyw un sy'n darllen hwn ddiddordeb mewn ymchwilio plwyf ym Meirionnydd byddem yn falch o glywed oddi wrthyh. Does dim rhaid crwydro'r bryniau!

Cangen GDd Cymru: Rhai Gweithgareddau Diweddar gan

Margaret a Wally Barr gyda Gina Skyner

Yn yr ychydig o fisoedd diwethaf mae sawl aelod o gangen GDd Cymru wedi parhau â'u gwaith ar ymchwil hanes tai, ac wedi gwneud sawl darganfyddiad difyr yn y broses. Yng Nghaerwys, mae ymchwil gan Sarah Maitland-Jones i Henllys wedi codi cwestiynau difyr am gynllun grid y dref ei hun. Os oes gan unrhyw un wybodaeth benodol am hyn cofiwch gysylltu a gallwn anfon eich gwybodaeth ymlaen i Sarah.

Mae Gina Skyner a Margaret Barr wedi gallu parhau gyda hanes Terfyn, Trelawnyd, gyda'i gyrn simnai enfawr, drwy



Terfyn

Merioneth Branch Update: by John Townsend

Before Covid-19 our small group of intrepid members had researched to various degrees 245 identified houses/ruins/sites that are pre-1700 in 7 out of our 26 parishes. 30 or so had been visited and photographed. Merioneth is fortunate to have documents available which makes it relatively easy to identify pre-1700 houses – the downside is the number of them we are finding! We have continued with armchair research and some very good work has been done in Ffestiniog and Maentwrog. The work in Llanelltyd has been expanded. One of our members has visited a few houses in the Harlech area and another found a ruin with a cruck still standing on her walks.

As part of the research into houses in Llanelltyd my wife and I have tried twice to get to the ruins of Glan-llyn-y-forwyn in the hinterland of Cwm Camlan west of Ganllwyd – it was a house mentioned in the Rent Rolls of 1623 and lived in up to the 1890s. Also it was where the ancestors of a Merioneth member and an Anglesey member lived. On our first attempt from the west the footpath disappeared into the bog. On the second attempt from the south the old Forestry Commission tree planting had eradicated the path. As Covid-19 restrictions relaxed Martin Cherry and I attempted a third approach from Ganllwyd in the east - this was successful but the path was just about walkable. The ruin was photographed (including the views from it) and a plan made. Both members were sent the information on their ancestors' des res. Even in its heyday this would have been a difficult place to get to – no popping down to Ganllwyd for the milk!

As we go into autumn we hope to do more of these sorts of expeditions as ruins are important to record and social distancing can be maintained. One of the things we miss is our meetings and being able to exchange information easily. Although Dolgellau Archives hope to open in mid-September physical meetings will continue to be difficult. We have considered using Zoom but two of our active members don't use this technology at present but it's probably the way forward. If anyone reading this is interested in researching a parish in Merioneth we would love you to get in touch. Trudging over hillsides is not mandatory!

NE Wales Branch: Some Recent Activities by Margaret and Wally Barr with Gina Skyner

In the last few months several members of the NE Wales branch have continued their work on house history research, making some interesting discoveries in the process. In Caerwys, research by Sarah Maitland-Jones into Henllys (the Old Courthouse) has raised some interesting questions about the grid layout of the town itself. If anyone has specific knowledge about this please get in touch and we can pass your information on to Sarah.

Gina Skyner and Margaret Barr have been able to carry on with the history of Terfyn, Trelawnyd, with its huge chimney stack, with phone calls, emails and a socially-distanced meeting in the garden. Gina has produced several excellent sketches of the house exterior and interior features, including details of the carved boss discovered by

gyfrwng galwadau ffôn, e-byst a chyfarfod gan gadw pellter cymdeithasol yn yr ardd. Mae Gina wedi cynhyrchu sawl braslun ardderchog o du allan y tŷ a nodweddion mewnol, yn cynnwys manylion y bwlyn cerfiedig a ddarganfuwyd gan Ric Tyler yn yr atig (wrth gwblhau ei adroddiad pensaernïol) – gan ddarparu tystiolaeth ei bod yn bosib gweld y trawst hwn yn wreiddiol o'r ochr isaf iddo. Mae Gina a Margaret wedi penderfynu y defnyddir y brasluniau yma, ac eraill, fel darluniau yn hanes terfynol Terfyn. I'w gwblhau bydd angen i ni aros i'r Archifdy ail-agor.

Yn y cyfamser, pan daw pethau'n ôl i'r drefn arferol, bydd nifer o gopiâu o adroddiadau hanes tai a gwblhawyd yn ddiweddar a roddwyd ar waith gan aelodau'r gangen yn cael eu hargraffu'n broffesiynol i'w dosbarthu i adrannau archifau a llyfrgelloedd lleol. Ariennir hyn yn bennaf gyda chyfraniad hael dros ben a roddwyd gan Gymdeithas Hanes Dinbych y llynedd. Bydd ein gweithgareddau eraill a drefnwyd ar gyfer y flwyddyn ac y bu'n rhaid eu gohirio yn cael eu hail-drefnu cyn gynted â phosib pan ddaw hyn yn ymarferol.



Ric Tyler in the loft (when completing his architectural report) – providing evidence that this beam had originally been visible from below. Gina and Margaret have decided that these sketches, and others, will be used to illustrate the completed history of Terfyn. For the completion we will have to wait for the re-opening of the Archives.

Meanwhile it is planned that when normal services resume, a number of copies of recently completed house history reports that have been carried out by branch members will be professionally printed for distribution to archive departments and local libraries. This will largely be funded through a very generous donation made by the Denbigh History Society last year. Our other planned activities for this year that had to be postponed will of course be reorganised as soon as this becomes feasible.

Cangen Eryri: Project Plwyfi yr hen Sir Gaernarfon gan Peter Masters

Cafwyd cychwyn da i'r Project Plwyfi yn 2019 gyda sesiwn hyfforddi yn yr archifau. Dechreuodd bobl ymchwilio'r rhestrau ac wrth i'r canlyniadau ddechrau dod i mewn, fe'u gwiriwyd ac fe'u hychwanegwyd i'r tai a restrwyd yr oeddem yn gwybod amdany'n nhw a'u hidlo i nodi tai a wiriwyd yn flaenorol. Cynlluniwyd sesiwn ddilynol i adolygu'r hyn y cafwyd hyd iddo a chynllunio'r cam nesaf, ond wedi'r sefyllfa Covid-19 gohiriwyd pob dim. Rhestrir 76 o blwyfi ar gyfer Sir Gaernarfon. Hyd yma yn y Project Plwyfi, mae 19 o'r plwyfi hynny wedi eu chwilio gan 9 ymchwilydd, ac o'r 164 o dai a nodwyd fel rhai oedd yn addas ar gyfer ymchwil pellach, mae 100 yn adeiladau Rhedredig I neu II* a rhestrir 67 yng Nghofnod Rhestr Eiddo Sir Gaernarfon; mae 98 tŷ ar restr NPNR.

Wrth groes-gyfeirio ein basdatau cafwyd, o'r 164 o dai a adnabuwyd o fewn yr 19 plwyf hynny, bod 67 tŷ wedi eu hasesu o'r blaen. Penderfynwyd nad oedd 55 o'r rheini yn addas gan nad oedd ynddyn nhw bren priodol neu roedd wedi ei 'dyfu'n gyflym' neu'n Amrywiol. Dyddiwyd y 12 tŷ arall drwy gyfrwng dendrocronoleg gydag ystod dyddiad o 1494-1586. Oherwydd newid terfynau mae 60 o'r tai bellach yn dod o fewn plwyfi Meirionnydd ac mae rhai bellach yng Nghonwy, sy'n lleihau'r nifer o dai sydd ar gael ar gyfer eu hystyried ymhellach i oddeutu 37.

O'r 37 plwyf yng nghofrestr "Adeiladau Rhedredig" Cadw yn yr hen Sir Gaernarfon mae'r deg yng nghantref Arllechwedd hefyd wedi eu hymchwilio gan Terry Williams. Mae naw yn Llŷn wedi eu hymchwilio gan Margaret Dunn; mae 8 o'r 15 plwyf yn Arfon yn cael eu hymchwilio gan aelodau eraill o'r gangen, fel y 3 nawr ym Meirionnydd (Llanfrothen, Llandecwyn a Phenrhyndeudraeth). Mae Terry Williams wedi cytuno i ymchwilio'r plwyfi sydd ar ôl yn yr hen Sir Gaernarfon. Dilynwyd y fformat a ddosbarthwyd ac mae rhai plwyfi wedi eu hymchwilio yn hynod fanwl, ond does dim ffotograffau nag ewyllysiau wedi eu cynnwys ac ni threfnwyd ymweliadau tŷ.

Ers ei sefydlu, dros ddegawd yn ôl, mae oddeutu 36 plwyf wedi eu hymchwilio o'r blaen o fewn yr hen Sir Gaernarfon;

Snowdonia Branch: Parishes Project covering old Caernarfonshire by Peter Masters.

The Parishes Project got off to a good start in 2019 with a training session in the archives, people started to research the lists and results began to trickle in. These were checked and added to the known houses listed and filtered to mark previously checked houses. A follow up session was planned to review what had been found and plan the next step, but since the Covid-19 situation all things have been postponed. There are 76 parishes listed for Caernarfonshire. So far in the Parishes Project 19 of those parishes have been searched by 9 researchers, of the 164 houses identified as being suitable for further research, 100 are Listed I or II* buildings and 67 are listed in the Caernarfonshire Inventory Record; 98 houses have a NPNR Listing.

Cross reference with our database shows that of the 164 houses identified within those 19 parishes, 67 houses have previously been assessed. 55 of those were deemed unsuitable by virtue of having either no suitable timber or it being "Fast grown" or Misc. The remaining 12 houses were dated using dendrochronology with date ranges from 1494-1586. Because of boundary changes over 60 of the houses now fall within the Meirionnydd parishes and some are now in Conwy, which reduces the number of available houses for further consideration to around 37.

Of the 37 parishes in the Cadw "Listed Buildings" register in old Caernarfonshire all ten in Arllechwedd cantref have also been researched by Terry Williams. Nine in Llŷn have been researched by Margaret Dunn; 8 of the 15 parishes in Arfon are being researched by other branch members, as are the 3 now in Merioneth (Llanfrothen, Llandecwyn and Penrhyndeudraeth). Terry Williams has agreed to research the remaining old Caernarfonshire parishes. The circulated format has been used with some parishes being researched in considerable detail, but no photographs or wills have been included and no house visits made.

Since its inception, over more than a decade ago, within Caernarfonshire some 36 parishes have been previously re-

adnabuwyd 181 o dai o fewn y plwyfi hynny. Archwiliwyd 53 tŷ o fewn Project Eryri, gydag oddeutu 93 o fewn Project Dendrocronoleg Gogledd Orllewin Cymru ac 16+ yn y project Ymchwil wedi ei Dargedu. Dydy'r gweddill ddim eto wedi eu categorioedd ac nid oes neb wedi ymweld eto â llawer ohonyn nhw. Gyda'r gwaith o wirio ac archwilio blaenorol bydd gorgyffwrdd anochel yn digwydd rhwng ymchwil newydd, cyfredol a blaenorol felly mae angen basdata cynhwysfawr cadarn.

searched; 181 houses were identified within those parishes. 53 houses were inspected under the Snowdonia Project, with some 93 under the North West Wales Dendrochronology Project and 16+ in the Targeted Research project. The balance has not yet been categorised. Many have not yet been visited. With the amount of previous checking and inspecting there will be the inevitable overlap between new, current and past research hence the need for a robust comprehensive database.

PROJECT PLWYFI: BETH NESAF? gan Martin Cherry

Fel mae llawer ohonom sy'n cymryd rhan yn y Project Plwyfi wedi sylweddoli, mae yna wybodaeth ddi-ddiwedd ar gael ar-lein, yn ogystal â nifer fawr o safleoedd tanysgrifio'n unig sydd wedi diddymu eu taliadau tra bod yr argyfwng yn dal i ddigwydd. Ceir darlun eithaf llawn o'r hyn sy'n goroesi ar bortal <http://historicwales.gov.uk>, a cheir hanes pobl hynod o ddiddorol mewn adnoddau wedi eu digideiddio megis ewyllysiau a rhestrau eiddo yn Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, cofrestrau genedigaethau, marwolaethau a phriodasau, dosraniad degwm (a mapiau), cyfrifiadau 1841-1911 a chrynodebau deunydd a gedwir gan archifau lleol a chenedlaethol, ynghyd â chwiliadau Google cyffredinol. Ond heb gael mynediad i lyfrgelloedd ac archifdai ac, yn fwy na dim, i'r tai eu hunain, mae'n teimlo fel teithio o'n cadair freichiau! Pan fyddwn unwaith eto'n gallu crwydro – ac mae arwyddion o lacio graddol, ac mae ambell ymweliad cofnodi eisoes wedi bod yn bosib – mae angen i ni ofyn i ni ein hunain, “Be sy nesaf?” Y pwynt cyntaf i'w wneud yw bod casglu'r wybodaeth hon yn werthfawr ynddi ei hun, cyn belled â'i bod yn dod ar gael i bawb, efallai ar ein gwefan ein hunain ymhenn amser. Ond, wrth i'n casgliad o wybodaeth gynyddu fe ddylai fod yn bosibl gweld patrymau – mewn perchnogaeth, mathau o adeiladu a'r defnydd a wnaed o addurn a manylder pensaernïol er mwyn gwneud argraff ar y cymdogion. Bydd hyn i gyd yn codi cwestiynau a, gobeithio, yn dechrau darparu atebion, a bydd yn darparu gwybodaeth ar gyfer ein ffordd o chwilio am ariannu ar gyfer gwaith arolwg manwl a dyddio cylchoedd coed pan fydd pethau'n dod yn ôl i drefn arferol, efallai yn 2021.

Does dim rhaid i ni aros hyd goresgyn y Covid-19 cyn i ni ddechrau gweld darlun mwy eglur yn ymddangos o'r holl wybodaeth yr ydym wedi bod yn ei gasglu. Er enghraifft, plwyf Llanelltyd, ar lannau'r Mawddach ger Dolgellau. Yma ceir nifer fechan o dai ffrâm nenfforch, yn cynnwys un nad yw erioed wedi ei adnabod o'r blaen (Ffig 1); mae'n ymddangos bod sawl ffermdy arall wedi cael eu hail-godi er eu bod yn cynnwys tystiolaeth ddifyr o ddeunydd hŷn, digon i awgrymu eu bod nhw hefyd, unwaith, yn dai nenfforch, efallai yn dai hirion (lle'r oedd pobl a gwartheg yn byw o dan yr un to). Credid ar un pryd bod tai nenfforch yn dyddio'n llwyr o gyfnod cyn tai deulawr gyda thoeau confensiynol ffrâm-A, ond mae ymchwil Margaret Dunn a'i thîm (cyhoeddwyd yn Discovering the Historic Houses of Snowdonia) yn ei wneud yn amlwg bod y



PARISHES PROJECT: WHAT NEXT? by Martin Cherry

As many of us involved in the Parishes Project have been finding out, there is an enormous amount of freely accessible on-line information, supplemented by large numbers of subscription-only sites that have dismantled their pay-walls for the duration of the crisis. A pretty full picture of what survives can be achieved via the <http://historicwales.gov.uk> portal, and considerable human interest added from digitised resources such as National Library of Wales wills and inventories, the registers of births, deaths and marriages, the tithe apportionment (and maps), the 1841-1911 censuses and summaries of material held by local and national archives, together with general Google searches. But without getting into libraries and archives and, above all, into the houses themselves, it's a bit like armchair travelling! When we are able to get back out and about – and there is a sign of a gradual thaw, and the occasional recording visits have already proved possible – we need to ask ourselves “what next?” The first point to make is that collecting this information is valuable in itself, as long as it becomes accessible to all, perhaps on our own website in due course. But, as our information base increases it should become possible to discern patterns – of ownership, of building and construction types and the use made of decoration and architectural detail to impress neighbours. All this will raise questions and, hopefully, begin to provide answers, and will inform the way in which we seek funding for detailed survey work and tree-ring dating when things get back to normal, perhaps in 2021.

We don't have to wait until the Covid-19 'all clear' before we can begin to see a clearer picture emerging from all the information we've been collecting. Take one parish for example, Llanelltyd, on the banks of the Mawddach near Dolgellau. Here may be found a small number of cruck-framed houses, including one that has never been identified before (Fig 1); several other farm houses appear to have been rebuilt but contain tantalising evidence of older fabric, enough to suggest that they, too, were once cruck-framed houses, perhaps longhouses (where people and cattle were accommodated under the same roof). It used to be thought that cruck houses pre-date fully two-storeyed houses with conventional A-frame roofs, but the research of Margaret Dunn and her team (published in Discovering the Historic Houses of Snowdonia) makes it clear that both types of house were being built at the same time,

ddau fath o dŷ yn cael eu hadeiladu yr un pryd, o'r cyfnod Tuduraidd cynnar hyd ymhell i mewn i'r unfed-ganrif-ar-bymtheg a hyd yn oed wedi hynny. Eto, mae ffermdai eraill yn y plwyf yn edrych fel pe baen nhw'n newydd neu wedi eu hail-godi'n llwyr. Lle mae pobl wedi cynnig dyddiad, fel arfer mae hwnnw tua diwedd yr 17eg ganrif neu ddechrau'r 18fed ganrif – gwaith dyfalu gyda gwybodaeth ond gwaith dyfalu, serch hynny. Fe all tystiolaeth ddogfennol fod o gymorth. Rydym wedi adnabod oddeutu 50 o dai sydd â dyddiad cyn yr 17eg ganrif wrth ddefnyddio ffynonellau a gyhoeddwyd a chanlyniadau gwaith maes yr RCAHMW. Mae cofnodion Esgob Bangor ar gyfer 1563 (cyhoeddwyd yn Rhestr Eiddo'r RCAHMW ar gyfer Meirionnydd) yn amcanu bod 38 cartref yn y plwyf bryd hynny. O gymryd bod y rhif hwn yn eithaf cywir mae'n awgrymu bod llawer o'r tai ar ein rhestr o 50 yn dyddio ar ôl 1563. Mae treth aelwydydd 1662 yn enwi 52 o breswylwyr tai, y rhan fwyaf ohonyn nhw gydag un aelwyd. Yn anffodus, ni ddatgelir enwau'r tai. Hyd yn oed wrth ystyried y posibilrwydd bod rhai tai oedd yn bodoli yn 1563 wedi adfeilio, mae'r ffaith fod y boblogaeth wedi cynyddu rhwng 1563 ac 1662 yn golygu bod llawer o'n 50 yn dyddio o'r ganrif rhwng 1563 ac 1662 – neu o leiaf yn sefyll ar safleoedd sefydledig bryd hynny. Gan mai dim ond un aelwyd oedd yn y mwyafrif, a oedden nhw'n dai hir ffrâm nenfforch, y daeth adeiladau efo lloriau eraill gyda mwy o le ac yn fwy cyfforddus i gymryd eu lle'n ddiweddarach? Rydym yn gwybod o waith haneswyr megis Nia Powell bod ffermio gwartheg mewn plwyfi fel hon yn yr 17eg ganrif yn hynod o broffidiol a bod modd i ffermwyr a phorthmyn ddod yn gyfoethog a hyd yn oed weithredu fel benthycwyr arian. Mae'r rhestrau eiddo sydd wedi goroesi ar gyfer teuluoedd amaethu yn Llanelltyd yn yr 17eg ganrif yn dangos hyn. Felly, cwestiwn mawr ac, efallai, y cwestiwn mawr ei hun, yw, pa bryd yn union y digwyddodd yr 'Ail-adeiladu Mawr' yn y rhan hon o'r sir?

Efallai bod hyn oll yn swnio braidd yn academig, ond mae un tŷ yn ein galluogi i ychwanegu ychydig o fywyd i'r mater, er nad yw'n datrys yr holl gwestiynau. Mae Cae-mab Seifion yn nodweddiadol o'r math lleol: saif ar waelod llethr, o gynllun hir, wedi ei adeiladu o gerrig ac o bosib yn wreiddiol gyda tho gwellt (Ffig 2). Ynndo mae neuadd, a gynhesir gan le tân cil pentan mawr, ac mae'n bosib dringo i'r ystafell uchod (y prif ystafell wely, mae'n debyg) drwy ddringo grisiau murol, un o nodweddion clasurol 'Tŷ Eryri'. Ar y pen arall, cynhesir y parlwr gan le tân llawer llai nad oedd yn cynhesu'r ystafell uwch, a ddefnyddir o bosib ar gyfer storio. Cartref iwmyr yn gynnar yn yr 17eg ganrif oedd y tŷ ac mae rhestr eiddo Griffith Meiricke, oedd yn byw yno pan fu farw yn 1683, yn ei alw'n glerc sydd, yn y cyd-destun hwn, yn golygu dyn llengar yn hytrach na chlerigwr – gadawodd gist lle'r arferai gadw ei bapurau. Roedd y rhan fwyaf o'i bethau yn ymwneud â'r fferm, yn ogystal â swm sylweddol o arian (£110) oedd ynghlwm â biliau a bondiau. Mae Meiricke yn un o'r ychydig o unigolion a grybwyllwyd yn Nhreth Aelwydydd 1662 y gallwn ei gysylltu â thŷ neilltuol. Fodd bynnag, doedd ynndo ond un aelwyd. Os mai'r un dyn yw hwn, efallai ei fod wedi byw yn

from the early Tudor period until well into the late sixteenth century and even beyond. Yet other farm houses in the parish look to be newly built or entirely rebuilt. Where people have ventured a date, it is normally to the late seventeenth or early eighteenth centuries – informed guesswork but guesswork all the same. Documentary evidence can help. We have identified around 50 houses pre-dating c1700 using published sources and the results of fieldwork by the RCAHMW. The Bishop of Bangor's returns for 1563 (published in the RCAHMW inventory for Merioneth) estimated that there were 38 households in the parish at that date. Assuming this figure to be reasonably accurate it suggests that many of the houses on our list of 50 must post-date 1563. The 1662 hearth tax gives the names of 52 occupiers of houses, most of them with one hearth. Unfortunately, the identity of the houses is not revealed. Even allowing for the possibility that some houses existing in 1563 might have fallen into disuse, the fact that the population increased between 1563 and 1662 means that many of our 50 must date from the century between the 1563 and 1662 – or at least occupy sites that were established then. Since the majority had only a single hearth, were they cruck-framed longhouses, later replaced by more commodious and comfortable fully storeyed buildings? We know from the work of historians such as Nia Powell that cattle farming

in parishes such as this in the seventeenth century was extremely lucrative and that farmers and drovers could become prosperous and even act as money-lenders. The inventories that survive for seventeenth-century Llanelltyd farming families bear this out. So, one big – perhaps the big question – is, when precisely was the 'Great Rebuilding' in this part of the county?

All this might sound a little academic, but one house allows us to add a little life to the matter, although it hard-

ly solves all the queries. Cae-mab Seifion is typical of the local type: downhill sited, elongated in plan, stone built and possibly originally thatched (Fig 2). It comprises a hall, heated by a big inglenook fireplace and the room above (presumably the main bedroom) is accessed by a mural stair – one of the classic features of the 'Snowdonian House'. At the other end, the parlour is heated by a much smaller fireplace that did not heat the upper room, which may have been used for storage. The house was the residence of a yeoman in the early seventeenth century and the inventory of Griffith Meiricke, who was resident there at the time of his death in 1683, calls him a 'clerk', which in this context must mean a literate man rather than a clergyman – he bequeathed 'a chest in which he used to keep his papers'. Most of his goods were related to the farm, as well as a considerable amount of money (£110) tied up in bills and bonds. Meiricke is one of the few individuals noted in the Hearth Tax of 1662 whom we can relate to a specific house. However, it had only one hearth. If it is the same man, he may well have resided in 1662 in a cruck-framed house with an open hall heated by a single stack. Did he rebuild it? Or his son? In his will he made provision for his widow 'to enjoy the house and garden, which she now holds for life': was that a separate building (part of a unit system)?



Cae-mab Seifion

1662 mewn tŷ ffrâm nenfforch gyda neuadd agored a gynheswyd gan un simnai. A wnaeth o ei ail-adeiladu? Neu ei fab? Yn ei ewyllys mae'n darparu ar gyfer ei weddw 'i fwynhau'r tŷ a'r ardd, i'w dal ganddi am ei hoes': a oedd hwnnwn'n adeilad ar wahân (rhan o system uned?). Gadawodd bethau y gellid eu symud gyda gwerth o £170 ond, fel arfer, ychydig o nwyddau tŷ a restrir – yn wir dim ond gwely, carthenni, bwrdd, a rhai taclau pres a choed, ynghyd â'r gist. A fyddai gŵr fel hwn wedi dewis byw mewn hen dŷ neuadd agored ffrâm nenfforch? Efallai y byddai mynediad at weithredoedd a dogfennau eraill, ac efallai rhywfaint o ddyddio cyloedd coed, yn ein helpu i fod yn fwy eglur a manwl gywir ar dai o'r math yma.

Mae un sylw olaf yn ymwneud â gwerth adfeilion. Roedd perthynas i Griffith Meiricke hefyd yn berchen ar dŷ yn y plwyf. Roedd Berthlwyd (Ffig 3), sydd bellach yn adfail, yn sylweddol, gyda seler enfawr a'r hyn sy'n ymddangos fel grisiau troellog ar ochr y prif simnai a arweiniodd at y brif siambr. Yn wahanol i dai lle mae pobl yn dal i fyw mae adfeilion, er gwaethaf y colledion amlwg, weithiau yn darparu tystiolaeth a all fod yn anodd i'w gweld pe bai rhywun yn dal i fyw ynndyn nhw ac wedi eu cuddio o ganlyniad i newidiadau a gwelliannau'r ganrif ddiwethaf neu fwy. Byddai'n dda cael dyddiadau ar dai megis y rhain i'n helpu i ddeall datblygiad y tai yma a natur y teuluoedd oedd yn byw ynndyn nhw.

Ffig 1 Tŷ ffrâm nenfforch a 'ddarganfuwyd yn ddiweddar' yn uchel uwchben aber afon Mawddach. Mae'r nenfforch, fel y gwelir yn aml, wedi ei amgylchynu gan y lle tân cerrig a'r simnai a osodwyd. Dim ond un ochr sydd i'w weld erbyn heddiw. Efallai ei fod yn dyddio o flynyddoedd cynnar yr 16eg ganrif hyd at canol y ganrif.

Ffig 2 Cae-mab Seifion, Llanelltyd, ffermdy clasurol iwmon – y safon aur i ffermwyr y plwyf ar ddiwedd yr 17eg ganrif.

Ffig 3 Berthlwyd, Llanelltyd, ffermdy gŵr bonheddig o ansawdd uchel, o'r 17eg ganrif mae'n debyg, a adfeiliodd wrth i'r eiddo gael ei gynnwys mewn stad fwy oedd â'i phencadlys y tu allan i'r plwyf.



He left movables worth £170, but as usual, very few household goods are itemised – indeed only a bedstead, blankets, a table, and some brass and wooden utensils, along with the chest. Would such a man still have chosen to dwell in an old cruck-framed open hall house? Access to deeds and other documents, and perhaps some tree-ring dating, might help us achieve greater clarity and precision on houses of this sort.

One final thought concerns the value of ruins. A kinsman of Griffith Meiricke also owned a house in the parish. Berthlwyd (Fig 3), now a ruin, was substantial, with a capacious cellar and what appears to have been a spiral stair to the side of the main stack that led to the principal chamber. Unlike houses that are still lived in, ruins, despite the obvious losses, sometimes provide evidence it might be difficult to see if they are still occupied and encumbered and disguised with the changes and improvements of the last century or more. It would be good to get dates on houses such as these to help us understand the development of these dwellings and the nature of the families that lived in them.

Fig 1 A 'newly discovered' cruck-framed house high above the Mawddach estuary. The cruck is, as so often, largely engulfed by the inserted stone fireplace and stack. Only one blade is now visible. It may date from the early- to mid-sixteenth century.

Fig. 2 Cae-mab Seifion, Llanelltyd, a classic yeoman farmhouse – the gold standard for farmers in the parish in the late seventeenth century.

Fig. 3 Berthlwyd, Llanelltyd, a good-quality gentleman's farmhouse, probably of the seventeenth century, that fell into disuse as the property was amalgamated into a larger estate centred outside of the parish.

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ARTICLES from BRANCHES: Members continue to undertake a range of activities and each branch has been requested to write something for this Newsletter. We thank all who have contributed. It is likely that we will request another short (or longer) article from each branch for future newsletters until we see if / when / how branch meetings are able to recommence.



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