GRŴP DYDDIO HEN DAI CYMREIG

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DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES GROUP

Rhif Elusen Gofrestredig 1131782 Registered Charity Number

CYLCHLYTHYR 10 - Medi 2014

Am wybodaeth bellach cysylltwch â Margaret Dunn, Ysgrifenyddes brynbedd1@gmail.com 01766 890550.

LLAWER O DDIOLCH i Gangen Sir Ddinbych am eu cyfraniadau i'r rhifyn hwn o'r cylchlythyr.

Darganfod Tai Hanesyddol Eryri Bydd y cyhoeddiad hwn ar y cyd â CBHC yn cael ei lansio am 2.00 yp ar 4 Rhagfyr ym Mhlas Tan-y-Bwlch, Maentwrog. Mae'n lyfr sylweddol, wedi ei ddarlunio'n gywrain gyda ffotograffau (megis yr un o Gae Glas ger Croesor) a chynlluniau. Ynddo cewch gyda'i gilydd, ddarganfyddiadau allweddol y deng mlynedd diwethaf o waith ein Prosiect. Bydd manylion llawn am ei bris(yn cynnwys gostyngiad i archebion a dderbynnir gyda thâl gan y Grŵp erbyn 1af Rhagfyr), a sut i archebu copïau, a sut i archebu lle yn y lansiad yn cael eu cylchredeg cyn gynted â phosib at bob aelod, perchenogion tai a chysylltiadau sydd â diddordeb.

Cynhaliwyd **CCB** y Grŵp yn Llandudno ym Mehefin; a diolchwyd yn gynnes am eu holl waith, i ddau ymddiriedolwr wrth iddynt ymddeol, sef Glenys Brown a Bill Jones. Cynigiwyd yn ffurfiol a phleidleisiwyd fod Rhys Mwyn a Martin Cherry yn dod yn Ymddiriedolwyr.
Derbyniwyd adroddiadau y Swyddogion a'r Cynrychiolwyr, a diolchwyd i'w hawduron. Yna gwnaeth ein Llywydd, yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas, gyflwyno y siaradwr, Richard Suggett sydd wedi gwneud cymaint i ddadansoddi darganfyddiadau'r Grŵp, ac i annog ei waith. Siaradodd am 'Tai Gwerinwyr yng Nghymru yn y Canol Oesau' – darlith hynod o ddiddorol, a gododd nifer o gwestiynau. Ceir manylion pellach am y cyfarfod ac am ymweliadau a digwyddiadau eraill y Grŵp ar y blog http://datingoldwelshhouses.blogspot.co.uk/.

Ym Mehefin treuliodd yr arbenigwyr **dendrocronoleg** wythnos yng ngogledd Cymru. Eleni maent wedi asesu 44 tŷ a samplu 11. Dylai'r canlyniadau fod ar gael ym mis Medi a byddant yn cael eu postio ar y wefan (http://datingoldwelshhouses.co.uk/) cyn gynted â phosibl.

Cae Glas, Llanfrothen © Hawlfraint y Goron: CBHC / © Crown copyright: RCAHMW

NEWSLETTER 10 - September 2014

For further information contact Margaret Dunn, Secretary brynbedd1@gmail.com 01766 890550.

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

Discovering the Historic Houses of Snowdonia This joint publication with the RCAHMW will be launched at 2 pm on 4th Dec at Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog. It is a substantial book, beautifully illustrated with photographs (such as this one of Cae Glas near Croesor) and plans. It draws together key discoveries from the last ten years' work of our Project. Full details of the cost (including a discount for orders with payment received by the Group by 1st Dec), how to order copies and how to book to attend the launch will be circulated as soon as possible to all members, house owners and interested contacts.

The Group held its **AGM** in Llandudno in June; two retiring Trustees, Glenys Brown and Bill Jones, were thanked for all their work, and two members, Rhys Mwyn and Martin Cherry, were formally proposed and voted to become Trustees. The reports of the Officers and Reps were accepted, and their authors thanked. Our President, Lord Elis-Thomas, then introduced the speaker, Richard Suggett, who has done so much to interpret the Group's findings, and to encourage its work. He spoke on 'Peasant Houses in Medieval Wales' – a fascinating lecture, which provoked many questions. Further details of the meeting, and of the Group's other visits and events, are on the blog: http://datingoldwelshhouses.blogspot.co.uk/.

In June the **dendrochronology specialists** spent a week in north Wales. This year they have assessed 44 houses and sampled 11. The results should arrive in September and will be posted on the website (http://datingoldwelshhouses.co.uk/) as soon as possible.

GROUP EVENTS

Book early with Wally: wallybarr@yahoo.co.uk 01745 888622. These cost £5 paid on the day unless otherwise

DIGWYDDIADAU GRŴP

Archebwch yn gynnar gyda Wally: wallybarr@yahoo.co.uk 01745 888622. Mae'r rhain yn costio £5 ar y diwrnod os na ddywedir yn wahanol. **Mawrth 23 Medi**: Ymweliad 2 yp i gartref (16G) Catrin o Ferain, yn Llannefydd, Henllan, Dinbych: nifer mwyaf 15. **Mercher 15 Hydref**: Ymweliad 2 yp Tŷ Gwyn (16/17G), Llanfwrog, Rhuthun – cartref i'r Salbriaid; nifer mwyaf 15. **Mercher 12 Tachwedd**: 10.30 yb am goffi [£5] ac ymweliad â Neuadd Bodysgallen (17G), ger Llandudno. Dim cyfyngu ar nifer. **Llun 1 Rhagfyr**: 10.30 yb yn y Bala. Ymweld â thŷ neuadd nenfforch yn Llangywair; Bwffe Nadolig yn Nhafarn yr Eryrod, Llanuwchllyn [@£12.95, i'w dalu wrth archebu]. Dim cyfyngu ar nifer.

Archebwch drwy eich cynrychiolwyr cangen am unrhyw **DDIGWYDDIAD CANGEN** – fel arfer am £2.

CANGEN MEIRIONNYDD

Cynrychiolwr: John Townsend: john@thetownsends.org.uk 01341 430262. **Gwener 19 Medi**: 10 yb hyd at 4.30 yp cwrdd yn Swyddfa Gofnodi Dolgellau (cyfarfod byr am 10 yb) – cynllunio ar gyfer hydref/gaeaf; ein hymchwil ni a chymorth i ddechreuwyr. **Mawrth 21 Hydref:** 2 yp ymweliad i Blas Hen, Brithdir – neuadd pum bae canoloesol hwyr, 18G cynnar y tu allan. **Wythnos gyntaf yn Nhachwedd** (dyddiad ac amser i'w trefnu): ymweliadau i Gallestra (Tŷ Eryri o'r 17G a gafodd ffrynt newydd yn hwyr yn y 18G gyda lle tân ar y pen a grisiau cerrig ar bwys) a Chae Einion (ffermdy un llawr a hanner o ddiwedd y 17G a'r tu mewn gyda llawer o fanylion wedi goroesi) – y ddau le yn Arthog. **Dechrau Rhagfyr** (lle, dyddiad ac amser i'w trefnu): cyfarfod a digwyddiad cymdeithasol y Nadolig.

CANGEN CONWY

Cynrychiolydd: Tony Scharer: tonyscharer@gmail.com 01745 813027. **Gwener 26 Medi**: Archifdy Llandudno 9.30 - 12.30 Adborth ar Fedw Deg a Chwm Howard, cynlluniau tref Conwy ar gyfer y dyfodol ac adborth dendroddyddio. **Sadwrn 25 Hydref:** ymweliad posibl i Flaen Glasgwm Ucha (nifer mwyaf 8 a rhoddir blaenoriaeth i aelodau Cangen Conwy). **Llun 17 Tachwedd**: Archifdy Llandudno 9.30 – 12.30.

CANGEN MÔN / ARFON

Cynrychiolydd: Peter Masters: datingoldwelshhouses@gmail.com 01758 750332. **Mercher 1 Hydref**: 2 yp BYW YN Y GORFFENNOL. Byddwch angen pasbort teithwyr amser ar gyfer y sgwrs yn Archifdy Caernarfon pan fydd Hannah a Ros yn datgelu rhai manylion diddorol am ffordd o fyw preswylwyr rhai o'r tai y gwnaethom eu mynychu ..... o'r gwisgoedd 17G y byddant yn eu gwisgo i pam y dylai fod ganddoch lain o ddanadl poethion.... ac nid yn unig er mwyn ieir bach yr haf! Hwyrach y gwnewch glywed jôc o'r Rhyfel Cartref! **Iau 6 Tachwedd**: 2 yp Ymweliad i Dŷ Mawr, Nantlle. **Iau 11 Rhagfyr**:[i'w gadarnhau] am 11 yb Ymweliad a chyfarfod cymdeithasol y Nadolig ym Mhenlan Fawr, Pwllheli.

CANGEN SIR DDINBYCH

Cynrychiolwyr: Janice Dale: jadale22@hotmail.co.uk; Wally Barr (cyswllt archebu): wallybarr@yahoo.co.uk 01745 888622. **Sad 27 Medi**: Cyfarfod cangen Swyddfa Stad Rhug, stated. **Tues 23rd Sept**: 2 pm visit to C16 Catrin of Berain's home, Llannefydd, Henllan, Denbigh; max 15. **Wed 15th Oct**: 2 pm visit to C16/17 Ty Gwyn, Llanfwrog, Ruthin – a Salusbury home; max 15. **Wed 12th Nov**: 10.30 am coffee [£5] & visit to C17 Bodysgallen Hall, near Llandudno. No max. **Mon 1st Dec**: 10.30 am in Bala. Visit a Llangower cruck hallhouse; Christmas Buffet at the Eagles Inn, Llanuwchllyn [@ £12.95; pay on booking]. No max.

Book with branch reps for **BRANCH EVENTS**; usually @ £2.

MERIONETH BRANCH

Rep: John Townsend: john@thetownsends.org.uk 01341 430262. **Fri 19th Sept**: 10 am to 4.30 pm drop-in at Dolgellau Record Office (short meeting at 10 am) – plan for autumn/winter, own research and help for beginners. **Tues 21th Oct**: 2 pm visit to Plas Hen, Brithdir – a late mediaeval five-bay hall, externally early C18. **1st week in Nov** (day and time to be arranged): visits to Gallestra (a C17th Snowdonia house refronted in the later C18th with end fireplace and stone stair alongside) and Cae Einion (a one-and-a-half storeys late C17 farmhouse with an interior which has much surviving detail), both Arthog. **Early Dec** (place, day and time to be arranged): meeting and Christmas social event.

CONWY BRANCH

Rep: Tony Scharer: tonyscharer@gmail.com 01745 813027. **Fri 26th Sept**: Llandudno Archives 9.30 - 12.30 Feedback on Fedw Deg and Cwm Howard, Conwy town future plans and dendrodating feedback. **Sat 25th Oct**: possible visit to Blaen Glasgwm Ucha max. 8 and Conwy Branch members will be given priority. **Mon 17th Nov**: Llandudno Archives 9.30 – 12.30.

ANGLESEY /CAERNARFONSHIRE BRANCH

Rep: Peter Masters: datingoldwelshhouses@gmail.com 01758 750332. **Wed 1st Oct**: 2 pm LIVING IN THE PAST. You will need your time-travellers' passports for the talk at Caernarfon Record Office, when Hannah and Ros will reveal some interesting details of the lifestyles of the residents of some of the houses we visit..... from the C17th costume they will be wearing, to why you should have a nettle patch... and it's not just for the butterflies! You may even hear a Civil War joke! **Thurs 6th Nov**: 2 pm Visit to Tŷ Mawr, Nantlle. **Thurs 11th Dec**: [tbc] 11 am Visit and Christmas social at Penlan Fawr, Pwllheli.

DENBIGHSHIRE BRANCH

Reps: Janice Dale: jadale22@hotmail.co.uk; Wally Barr (contact for booking): wallybarr@yahoo.co.uk 01745 888622. **Thurs 11th Sept**: Afternoon visit to Ysgubor Ddegwm, Pandy'r Capel, Bryn Saith Marchog, nr Corwen LL21 9SB. This house was originally a Tithe Barn for a now-destroyed thatched Tudor farmhouse called Braich y Cwm. Satnav does not often find it but it is on the main road, the A494, six miles from Ruthin going towards Corwen, on the junction with the B5429, signposted to Llanelidan. Meet at the house at 2 pm. There is parking in the lane. Please bring slippers. Tea/coffee provided. **Sat 27th Sept**: Branch meeting, Rhug Estate Office, 2pm. **Sat 25th Oct**: Branch meeting, Rhug Estate Office, 2pm. **Weds 5th Nov**: Afternoon visit to C16th house Porth y Dwr, Clwyd Street, Ruthin,

2yp. **Sad 25 Hydref**: Cyfarfod Cangen Swyddfa Stad Rhug, 2yp. **Mercher 5 Tachwedd**: Ymweliad yn y pnawn i dŷ 16G sef Porth y Dŵr, Stryd Clwyd, Rhuthun, LL15 1HH. Cyfarfod ym maes parcio Cae Ddol ger y bont a'r toiledau cyhoeddus am 1.50 yp. Ceir caffis a thafarn yn ymyl y tŷ ar gyfer y rhai a hoffai luniaeth ar ôl yr ymweliad. **Sad 22 Tachwedd**: Cyfarfod Cangen – man cyfarfod i'w gadarnhau.

LLANDRILLO

Cyfraniad diweddaraf Cangen Sir Ddinbych i'r cylchlythyr oedd disgrifiad o Edeirnion, a'r tro hwn fe hoffwn gyflwyno un o blwyfi'r ardal i chi.

Llandrillo yw'r plwyf mwyaf deheuol yn Edeirnion, a'm ffefryn fel disgrifiad ohono yw'r un gan Samuel Lewis, yn ei *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1833:

'LLANDRILLO, plwyf yng nghantref EDEYRNION, sir FEIRIONNYDD, 5 milltir (DDOn) o Gorwen, ac yn cynnwys 806 o drigolion. Mae'r plwyf hwn, sy'n cael ei enw o gysegriad ei eglwys, mewn man hyfryd ar lannau afon Ddyfrdwy, a ger afonig fechan Ceidiog, sy'n gallu troi yn llifeiriant wedi glaw trwm (a gallaf warantu hyn gan ei bod yn llifo yng ngwaelod fy ngardd).

'Mae'n ymestyn am fwy na phedair milltir o hyd a thair a hanner o ran lled, drwy ddyffryn cyfoethog a ffrwythlon Edeyrnion ac fe'i ffinir i'r de gan gadwyn nobl mynyddoedd y Berwyn, a Chader Berwyn y man uchaf o fewn y plwyf. Mae tri chwarter y tiroedd wedi eu hamgáu, ac mae rhan helaeth mewn cyflwr triniad da. Torrir mawn ar raddfa helaeth ar gyfer tanwydd; ac ar fynydd y Berwyn ceir chwarel o lechfaen campus.

'Mae'r pentref mewn man braf ar y ffordd dyrpeg o Gorwen i'r Bala a Dinas Mawddwy, ac ar fynedfa i ddyffryn helaeth a ddaw i ben yng nghadwyn uchel y mynyddoedd sy'n ffurfio ffin ddeheuol y plwyf. Mae'r olygfa o amgylch yn amrywiol tu hwnt gyda nodweddio arddunedd a helaethrwydd cyfoethog, ac mae'r golygfeydd pell yn fawreddog ac eang. O Gader Berwyn gwelir dyffrynnoedd prydferth Edeyrnion a Phenllyn, yn eu holl ogoniant o olygfeydd; ac yn y pellter, prif fynyddoedd gogledd Cymru, a rhai siroedd Caer, Amwythig, Dinbych, Caerwrangon, Stafford a Chaerhirfyn.'

Yna mae'n mynd ymlaen i sôn am y pum ffair, yr eglwys, capeli, addysg ac elusennau. Mae'n neuilltuo paragraff faith i'r henebion sydd i'w cael yma – Bwlch Maen Gwynedd lle roedd y Tywysogion yn cyfarfod i ddatrys unrhyw anghydfod; Bwrdd Arthur, y cylch o gerrig, a safleoedd eraill. Ond yr hyn nad yw Samuel yn ei grybwyll yw y sefydlwyd ein pentref gan Trillo, a oedd un o barti o 14 sant o dan arweiniad Sant Cadfan a adawodd Lydaw yn y 6G, gan lanio ym Meirionnydd, gyda'r rhan fwyaf ohonynt yn aros yn y rhanbarth arfordirol, ond daeth Mael, Sulien, Derfel a

LL15 1HH. Meet in Cae Ddol car park by the bridge and public toilets at 1.50 pm. There are cafés and a pub near the house for those who would like refreshments after the visit. **Sat 22nd Nov**: Branch meeting, venue tbc.

LLANDRILLO

The Denbighshire Branch's last contribution to the newsletter described Edeyrnion, and this time I would like to introduce you to one of its parishes.

Llandrillo is the southernmost parish of Edeyrnion, and my favourite description is that given by Samuel Lewis, in his *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1833:

'LLANDRILLO, a parish in the hundred of EDEYRNION, county of MERIONETH, 5 miles (S. W. by S.) from Corwen, containing 806 inhabitants. This parish, which derives its name from the dedication of its church, is beautifully situated on the banks of the river Dee, and near the rivulet Ceidio, which, after heavy rains, becomes a torrent. [I can vouch for that, it runs at the bottom of my garden].

Pont Llandrillo / Llandrillo Bridge. William Gawen Herdman 1805-82

'It extends more than four miles in length, and three and a half in breadth, through the rich and fertile vale of Edeyrnion, and is bounded on the south by the noble range of the Berwyn mountains, of which the highest point, called Cader Berwyn, is within the parish. About three-fourths of the lands are enclosed, and a great part is in a good state of cultivation. Peat is procured in great quantities for fuel; and on the Berwyn mountain there is a quarry of excellent slate.

'The village is pleasantly situated on the turnpike road from Corwen to Bala and Dinasmowddwy, and at the entrance of an extensive glen in the vale, terminated by the lofty range of mountains which forms the southern boundary of the parish. The surrounding scenery is finely diversified with features of sublimity and rich luxuriance, and the distant views are grand and extensive. From Cader Verwyn are seen the beautiful vales of Edeyrnion and Penllyn, in all

Trillo i mewn i'r tir gan sefydlu llannau yn Llandderfel, Dinmael, Llandrillo, a Sulien yn sefydlu eglwys yng Nghorwen.

Yn sicr Trillo a sefydlodd ein heglwys ni ar hen safle crefyddol, tafliad carreg o afon Ceidiog, fel y mae'r safle crwn a'r ywen hynafol yn tystio. Mae'r safle ei hun ar gyffordd dyffryn Dyfrdwy a dyffrynnoedd dyfnion sy'n arwain at frig sgarp y Berwyn ac yn arbennig at Fwlch Maen Gwynedd.

O safbwynt y trefgorddau yn y plwyf, mae nifer o ffynonellau yn rhoi niferoedd amrywiol - Mae *History of Merioneth* yn rhestru deg trefgordd, The *Merioneth Lay Subsidy Roll* 1292-3, naw; Edward Lhuyd, yn ei *Parochialia* 1696, unarddeg; a llyfrau Trethi'r Tlodion 1827,1845 a 1858 yn rhestru saith: Cilan, Garthiaen, Faerdref , Pennant, Llandrillo, Dinam and Sirior.

Dim ond yn y 12fed ganrif y mae dogfennau yn rhoi cipolwg i ni o'r hyn a oedd yn digwydd yma, pan ddechreuodd Barwniaid Edeirnion ddechrau effeithio ar hanes, fel deiliaid i Dywysogion Gwynedd. Grufydd ap Owain Brogyntyn a etifeddodd y plwyf a'i linach ef a ddechreuodd godi eu Llysoedd. Yn dilyn sawl rhyfel, yn y 13edd ganrif, bu heddwch rhwng y Barwniaid a'r brenin sy'n siartio iddynt eu tiroedd a'u breintiau. Fe gadwodd y barwniaid eu ffug annibyniaeth hyd ganol y 16eg ganrif, pan oeddynt bellach yn ddim llawer mwy na sgweieriaid bychain ac iwmyn.

Branas Ucha – safle ar gyfer un o lysoedd y Barwniaid / site for one of the Barons' Llys

Mae'r cofnodion plwyf yn dechrau yn 1662 ond maent yn rhwystrol o brin yn eu manylion – ond mae'n debyg na fuasai gan y deiliad unrhyw syniad o'r diddordeb a fuasai'r cofrestri hyn yn ei symbylu 300 mlynedd ymlaen mewn amser. Yr ewyllys gynharaf y gwyddom amdani yn Llandrillo yw un Luce vch [merch] Rice, gweddw yn 1569. Mae rhai ewyllysion a welais yn rhoi cipolwg ddiddorol ar fywyd y cyfnod yno. Credaf ei bod yn bwysig ein bod nid yn unig yn adnabod hen dai, ond hefyd yn eu gweld mewn cyswllt ehangach. Ond mae cymaint o waith angen ei wneud yn Edeirnion er mwyn adnabod grwpiau teuluoedd drwy gribo drwy'r cofnodion sydd ar gael a gobeithiwn y bydd hyn yn arwain at fwy o dai hen sy'n deilwng o ymchwil pellach.

Janice Dale

their variety of scenery ; and, in the distance, the principal mountains in North Wales, and in the counties of Chester, Salop, Denbigh, Worcester, Stafford, and Lancaster.'

He then goes on to mention the five fairs, the church, chapels, education and charities. He devotes a lengthy paragraph to the antiquities to be found here – Bwlch Maen Gwynedd where the Princes met to resolve disputes; Bwrdd Arthur, the stone circle, and other sites. But what Samuel doesn't mention is the founding of our village by Trillo, who was part of a party of 14 saints let by St Cadfan, leaving Brittany, in the 6th century, landing in Merioneth, with most of them staying in the coastal region but Mael, Sulien, Derfel and Trillo came inland to found Llans at Llandderfel, Dinmael, Llandrillo, with Sulien founding the church in Corwen.

Trillo certainly founded our church on an old religious site, a stone's throw from the river Ceidiog, as evidenced by its round site and the ancient yew tree. The site itself sits at the junction of the Dee valley and the deep valleys which lead to the top of the Berwyn escarpment and particularly to Bwlch Maen Gwynedd.

When it comes to the parish townships, a number of sources give different numbers - The *History of Merioneth* lists ten townships, The *Merioneth Lay Subsidy Roll* 1292-3, nine; Edward Lhuyd, in his *Parochialia* 1696, eleven; and the Poor Rate books of 1827,1845 and 1858 list seven: Cilan, Garthiaen, Faerdref, Pennant, Llandrillo, Dinam and Sirior.

It is only in the 12th century that documentation starts to give us a glimpse of what was happening here, when the Barons of Edeyrnion start making their mark on history as vassals of the Princes of Gwynedd. It is Grufydd ap Owain Brogyntyn who inherits the parish and his lineage that start building their Llysoedd. Following numerous wars, in the 13th century the Barons make their peace with the king who grants them charters of their lands and privileges. The barons retained their quasi independence until the middle of the 16th century, by which time they were little more than small squires and yeoman farmers.

The parish records start in 1662 but are frustratingly sparse in detail – but then I suppose the incumbent would have no idea of the interest the registers would be generating in 300 years time. The earliest will on record for Llandrillo is for Luce vch Rice, widow in 1569. Some wills that I have looked at give a fascinating look at life here. I think it is so important not only to identify old houses, but to see them in their wider context. But there is so much work to be done in Edeyrnion in identifying family groups from existing records, which I hope will lead to more old houses worthy of further research.

Janice Dale