Adnabod Ardudwy
Cylchlythyr 1
Cymdeithas Hanes a Chofnodion Sir Feirionnydd

Knowing Ardudwy
Newsletter 1
Merioneth Historical and Record Society

Annwyl Aelod,

Ers i ni dderbyn grant gan Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn, buom yn brysur yn gosod seiliau'r prosiect ac yn trafod gyda chymdeithasau a grwpiau sydd yn awyddus i'n cynorthwyo gyda'n gweithgareddau. 'Rydym yn awyddus i'ch diweddaru am y camau nesaf. Ar yr un pryd, 'rydym yn gofyn i chi gynnig eich syniadau am destunau ar gyfer darlithoedd a gweithdai. Hefyd, anfonwch eich sylwadau cyffredinol i ni. Codwch y ffôn. Eich prosiect chi yw hwn.

Lansio'r prosiect.
Fel y gwyddoch, lansiwyd y prosiect yn Archifdy Meirionnydd, Dolgellau yng nghwmni'r Arglwydd Dafydd Elis-Thomas, Dydd Mawrth, 17 Ebrill. Gan fod lle yn yr adeilad yn gyfyngedig, nid oedd yn ymarferol i wahodd holl aelodau'r Gymdeithas fel yr hoffem fod wedi gwneud. Gwahoddwyd cynrychiolwyr o'r sefydliadau a'r grwpiau hynny sydd wedi ymrwymo i'n cefnogi, Llywydd y Gymdeithas, Cadeirydd Cyngor Gwynedd a Maer Dolgellau. Gwahoddwyd Aelodau'r Cyngor sydd yn eich cynrychioli yn Ardudwy a'r Pwyllgor Rheoli. Nid ydym am i aelodau deimlo eu bod wedi eu diystyru. Byddwn felly'n cynnal nifer o gynadleddau a gweithdai yn yr Hydref a theithiau cerdded haf ar eich cyfer. Bydd y manylion i'w cael ar wefan y Gymdeithas, sef http://www.chchsf.org.uk
Gellir mynd i'r wefan yn eich llyfrgell leol neu gofyn yno am gopi o'r manylion.

Trefnwyd lluniaeth ysgafn ardderchog gan Carys, o Gaffi Mallwyd, merch ifanc sydd yn cychwyn busnes newydd. Mae'n bleser cefnogi ei menter. Cafwyd cwmni Rhiain Bebb a'i thelyn yn y cefndir. Gofynnwyd i rai o'n cefnogwyr i ddod

â lluniau ag enghreifftiau o'u gwasanaethau i'w harddangos. Cawsom gyfle i sgwrsio gyda hwy ac i gael blas ar yr hyn medrwn fanteisio arno.

Cynrychiolwyd Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru gan Richard Suggett, arbenigwr ar adeiladau hynafol. Ymwelodd Richard gyda Richard Williams-Ellis a Rhian â thri ffermdy hynafol yn Llandecwyn yn Hydref 2006 gyda'r

bwriad o ddyddio'r trawstiau ynddynt yn ystod y prosiect. Hefyd yn bresennol oedd cyfarwyddwr Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd, David Longley,

sydd yn cydweithio'n glos gyda ni. Cynrychiolwyd yr Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol gan Jane Richardson a daeth Katie Medcalf a Steve Smith o

gwmni Environment Systems, Aberystwyth â rhaglenni cyfrifiadurol gyda hwy. Byddant yn gofalu am osod mapiau ac awyr luniau cwmni Blue Sky, ar ein gwefan. Gobeithiwn bydd darn sylweddol o hon ar gael erbyn yr haf. Cynrychiolwyd yr adrannau sydd yn cynnig gwasanaethau addysg, llyfrgelloedd, archifau a llwybrau y mae Cyngor Gwynedd yn gyfrifol amdanynt.

Darlledwyd rhan o'r achlysur ar raglen 'Wedi 7' nos Fawrth ac ymddangosodd adroddiadau a lluniau gan Erfyl Lloyd Davies ym mhapurau'r Cymro a'r Dydd.

Eisoes, bu rhai gweithgareddau cychwynnol yn Ardudwy.

Sgyrsiau

Ers Fis Hydref, rhoddwyd sgyrsiau gyda lluniau i'r canlynol:- Swyddogion Addysg Meirionnydd, Cymdeithas Gymraeg Abermaw, Literary & Debating Society, Abermaw, Cymdeithas Cwm Nantcol, Cymdeithas Hanes Harlech, Cymdeithas Hanes Bro Cynfal, Ffestiniog, Cymdeithas Hanes Bro Ffestiniog (Blaenau), Cymdeithas Hanes Beddgelert a Chymdeithas Treftadaeth y Bala (tu allan i gylch Ardudwy), Grŏp Nantmor, Grŏp Saethon, Porthmadog/Llanfrothen a Chymdeithas Moi Plas, Trawsfynydd. Amrywiodd maint y grwpiau hyn mewn nifer o bedwar i 52 a daeth cyfanswm o dros 200 i'r cyfarfodydd. Bu'n ffordd o rannu gwybodaeth am y prosiect a'r Gymdeithas a denwyd rhai aelodau newydd. Cnewyllyn y grwpiau hyn (heblaw am Feddgelert, Arfon a'r

Bala) sydd wedi ymrwymo i weithio gyda ni. Byddwn yn cyfarfod ag athrawon Ardudwy ar ddiwedd y mis i gychwyn cynllunio gweithgareddau. Bu Rhian hefyd yn rhoi papur ar ran y Gymdeithas a'r project, mewn cynhadledd ryngwladol ar enwau lleoedd, yn Nulyn cyn Y Pasg hwn a chawsom gynigion i gysylltu'r prosiect ag amryw o brifysgolion a chymdeithasau.

Cafwyd cyfle ym Mawrth, ar raglenni 'Galwad Cynnar' a 'Hywel a Nia' ar BBC Radio Cymru i hyrwyddo'r prosiect a'r Gymdeithas.

Trafodaethau a chyfarfodydd.

Buom yn ffodus iawn o gael cymorth Dr Colin Thomas, Bow Street a Nina Steele, Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd (GAT) mewn trafodaethau gyda Chwmni Environment Systems, Aberystwyth. Y cwmni hwn fydd yn cydlynu'n gwefan, gan osod y mapiau a lluniau arni. Mae'n waith technegol

manwl ac fe fydd rhaid troedio'n ofalus er mwyn cael gwefan hwylus a phwrpasol.

Rhoddwyd ddau ddiwrnod i'r Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol (NT) mewn dyddiau agored yn Egryn. Bu'n gyfle da i hyrwyddo'r prosiect, gwaith y Gymdeithas ac i ddenu aelodau newydd. Mae'n ofid nad oes gwybodaeth eang ohoni yn y gymdeithas leol. Gobeithiwn ddefnyddio Egryn fel lleoliad gwaith maes, ynghyd â dwy fferm hynafol arall.

Yn ystod Hydref 2006, cerddwyd Llwybr Oes Efydd Uwch Artro yng nghwmni dau o swyddogion llwybrau'r Cyngor yn Ardudwy, David Coleman a Liz Haynes. Gobeithiant neilltuo ychydig o arian at ail agor rhai o'r ffosydd hynafol

a fu'n ei sychu. Bydd hyn yn gwella cyflwr y llwybr. Cerddodd dau aelod o Gymdeithas Hanes Harlech gyda mi o gwmpas y dref a chefais ganddynt hanesion a ffeithiau diddorol iawn am yr hen ffosydd a'r felin.

Paratowyd drafft o fapiau OS o Feirionnydd ac arno ffiniau cwmwd hynafol Ardudwy a thiroedd Cymer gan Alun Williams, aelod o staff Adran Fapio Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Rydym yn hynod ddiolchgar iddo ac am gefnogaeth pennaeth yr adran, Vincent James am y gwaith hwn.

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Ceisiwyd rhoi ychydig o fanylion am yr hyn a gyflawnwyd ar eich rhan ers Hydref 2006. Yn ein Cyfarfod Blynyddol yn 2006, crybwyllodd ein Llywydd fod y Gymdeithas ar groesffordd. Cyfeiriwyd at yr angen am symud ymlaen.

Efallai mai dyma'r amser i gnoi cil ac i ystyried oblygiadau hir dymor y prosiect ar y Gymdeithas. Un o brif amcanion y prosiect yw gwasanaethu'r Gymdeithas a chyfrannu at ei datblygiad. Her y Gymdeithas yw gwneud defnydd effeithiol o'r prosiect er mwyn datblygu a diogelu ei dyfodol. Hoffai Pwyllgor Rheoli'r Prosiect dderbyn syniadau ac awgrymiadau gan aelodau. Gallwn wedyn gynnwys trafodaeth mewn cynhadledd.

Cysylltwch â Rhian Parry, Adnabod Ardudwy – Knowing Ardudwy, Tŷtandderwen, Pencefn, Dolgellau, Gwynedd LL40 2ER. Ffôn (01341423144)
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Dear Member,

Since receiving the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund earlier this year, we have been busy laying the foundations of the project and discussing plans with societies and groups which are eager to be involved with our activities. We would like to tell you about the next steps. We would also like you to send us your suggestions for topics for workshops and lectures. Also, please send us general suggestions about how you would like to see the project progressing. This is your project.

The launch of the project

As you know, the launch took place on 17 April in the Meirionnydd Archives, Dolgellau in the presence of Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas. Because space in the building is limited, it was not practical to invite all members of the Society, as we would have wished. Representatives of the organisations and societies which are committed to support us, the President and Chairman of the Society, the Chairman of Gwynedd Council and the Mayor of Dolgellau were invited. Priority was then given to Council members who represent Ardudwy and members of the Management Committee. We are anxious to reassure members that they were not overlooked. We will be arranging a number of workshops and conferences in the autumn and a few farm walks this summer.

Details will be posted on the Society's website:- http://www.chchsf.org.uk

All members will be able to access the website at their local library or ask for a leaflet with the details.

Light refreshments at the launch were provided by Carys of Caffi Mallwyd. We were delighted to support her new

enterprise. We also enjoyed back ground music from Rhiain Bebb and her harp. Some of our supporting organisations were asked to bring examples of their services to display. Members had the opportunity to chat with them and to get a flavour of the things we might be able to achieve with their help.

Richard Suggett represented the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. He, Richard Williams-Ellis and I spent a day in Llandecwyn in October 2006. We visited three old farmhouses with a view to dating their timbers during the project. Also present was David Longley, Director of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT), with whom we are working closely. Jane Richardson represented the National Trust and Katie Medcalf and Steve Smith from Environment Systems, bought examples of the computer images which they produce. The company will be responsible for placing the O.S maps and the Blue Sky aerial photographs on our website.
We hope that a substantial part of this website will be ready by the summer.

Representatives of Gwynedd services for education, archive support, library services and footpaths attended.

Parts of the launch were recorded for the television programme 'Wedi 7' and by Erfyl Lloyd Davies for news papers, Y Dydd and Y Cymro.

Some activities have already started in Ardudwy.

Talks
Since October, illustrated talks were given to the following groups and societies:-Meirionnydd Education Advisers, Barmouth Welsh Society, Literary and Debating Society, Barmouth, Cymdeithas Cwm Nantcol, Historical Societies in Blaenau, Ffestiniog, Harlech, Beddgelert and Bala (ouside Ardudwy) and Trawsfynydd, groups in Nantmor and Porthmadog/Llanfrothen. Numbers attending varied from 4 to 52 and over 200 attended in total. These talks were an effective way of sharing information about the project and in attracting new members. In most cases,

representatives of these groups have agreed to work with us on specific tasks. We shall meet with teachers in Ardudwy this month to start planning activities. Rhian also gave a paper on behalf of the Society and the project at an international conference on place names, in Dublin before Easter and we have been asked to form links with several societies and universities.

We took opportunities in March to promote the project and the Society on BBC Radio, on 'Galwad Cynnar' and 'Hywel a Nia'.

Meetings

We were very fortunate to have the help and advice of Dr Colin Thomas, Llandre and Nina Steele, GAT, when meeting with Environment Systems, Aberystwyth to plan our bid. The work they will undertake for us is technical and complex so we need to tread carefully if we are to achieve an effective and easy to use website.

Two days were given to work with the National Trust at their open days at Egryn. It proved to be a useful opportunity to promote the project, the Society and to attract new members. It is sad that so little is known about the Society, locally. We hope to use Egryn for field work together with other two ancient farmhouses.

During the autumn of 2006, we walked the Bronze Age Track way with two Gwynedd Council officers who have responsibility for foot paths, David Coleman and Liz Haynes. They surveyed the path with a view to restoring ancient drainage ditches in 2007. This work should improve the condition of the track. Dudley Maidment and Meirion Thomas, two members of the Harlech Historical Society walked me around the old town to show among other features, the location of ancient water courses and the site of the mill.

A draft OS map of Ardudwy, showing ancient boundaries has been produced for us by Alun Williams of the Welsh Assembly Cartographic section. We are very grateful to him and to the head of department, Vincent Price for their continued support.

Adnabod Ardudwy — *Knowing Ardudwy*

Cylchlythyr 1 — *Newsletter 1*

Cymdeithas Hanes a Chofnodion Sir Feirionnydd — *Merioneth Historical and Record Society*

These notes are an attempt to describe some of the activities undertaken on your behalf since October 2006. In our AGM in 2006, our President referred to the fact that the Society is at a cross roads and the need to move on.

Perhaps this is the time to reflect and to consider the long-term effects of the project on the Society. One of the aims of the project is to serve the Society and to contribute to its future development. The challenge to the Society is to make effective use of the project in order to develop and to secure its future. The project management group invite you to send ideas and suggestions to this end. Telephone me if this is more convenient. We can then include a discussion in one of our conferences.

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Ebrill 2007 — *April 2007.*