Merioneth Historical and Record Society
Annual Report (October 2014 – October 2015)
Registered Charity No: 1102366
Nant-y-llyn, Cynllwyd Uchaf, Y Bala, Gwynedd.

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Structure, Governance and Management:

The Trustees who manage the Society:

(*appointed and re-appointed at an AGM in October 2014*)

Chairman: Gerallt W. Hughes; **General Secretary:** Beryl H. Griffiths; **Events Organiser:** Rhian Parry; **Treasurer:** Rheinallt G. Llwyd; **Editor:** A. Lloyd Hughes; **Membership Secretary:** Pamela F. Michael

All the Trustees give their time on a voluntary basis and do not receive payment or any other benefits.

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Finance: [Rheinallt Llwyd]

As the Accounts for 2014-15 illustrate there was a deficit of - £82.89 at the end of the financial year. The obvious reason for this was the increased costs in running the Society particularly 'postage' costs. But there were positive developments as well such as the grant received form the Heritage Lottery Fund to undertake specific activities; a small increase in subscriptions and monies received as a result of selling issues of the Society's Journal and the Journal Index on CD.

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Membership Report 01:09:14 – 31:08:15:[Pamela Michael]

The society has a total of 235 members, comprising 6 life members, 42 family members and 187 single members. In addition there are 16 institutional members, including two local history societies, Harlech and Edeyrnion and various academic libraries and museums, including three in the United States. Sadly the number of institutions in Wales who subscribe is contracting due to institutional mergers and tight budgets.

At least three members have died during the past year, three have resigned and some have not renewed their subscriptions. It is always helpful to be informed of any departures. We have gained seven new members and we have collected some arrears bringing a number of members up to date so that the sharp contraction that I feared last year has not materialised. We hope that the activities that the society offers and the excellent journal that is provided as part of the membership subscription will continue to inspire the loyalty of our long-standing members and to attract new members to join our throng.

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Activities: [Rhian Parry]

- **Llanelltud (11.11.14):** The intention was to allow members to discuss and suggest ideas for the 2015 programme and also the Heritage Lottery Fund project on the effects of the Great War on Meirionnydd. We welcomed Vivian Parry-Williams and David Sheppard who gave interesting presentations. Vivian read a selection of letters from the collection of Silyn Roberts, who was a minister in Tanygrisiau between 1905 and 1913. He also referred to letters sent by a number of Blaenau soldiers from the Front to their minister at Capel Rhiw, Blaenau. Their descriptions of the horrors around them were deliberately constrained to avoid causing distress to their families, but, by reading between the lines, one sensed the hell of their daily existence. David Sheppard gave a fascinating presentation on the approaches he took whilst researching his book, '*Dolgellau a'r Rhyfel Mawr*' (Dolgellau and the Great War). He conveyed much more than bare statistics and managed to create vivid pictures of the social backgrounds of the young men (106) and one woman, who were not to return.
- **Heritage Lottery Project:** We successfully bid for lottery funding for our project. At the beginning of 2015 we held a number of workshops at the Dolgellau Archives, some of which continue until December. Members worked diligently to collect stories, photographs and documents which will find their way to our new website or onto our pages on the People's Collection Website. We are considering whether we might continue when the project ends but concentrating on work and the local economy of Meirionnydd between 1917 and 1927, a period of great change and upheaval.
- **Lecture (14.3.15):** At Tan-y-bwlch Spencer Gavin Smith gave a talk on 'The Parks, gardens and designed landscapes of Medieval Merioneth'.
- **Lecture (25.4.15):** We met at Glan-llyn to hear Professor D Densil Morgan lecture on Thomas Charles, Y Bala (1755-1855) ' The Lord's Gift to the North'. Our speaker effectively brought new and fresh material regarding a familiar history, and in an extremely interesting way.
- **Visit to Yr Ysgwrn (24.5.15):** We made our way to the Ysgwrn, home of the poet Hedd Wyn, to enjoy a fascinating visit to the house before it is restored. There, in front of a welcoming fire, we were drawn into Gerald's magical tales. We studied the Black (bardic) Chair and walked over to the nearby Beudy Ucha (cowshed) where we heard of the plans drawn up by the Snowdonia National Park.
- **Lecture (13.6.15):** To celebrate the 150 years since establishing the Welsh Gwladfa (colony) in Patagonia, we joined forces with The Welsh Place-Name Society to hear Dr Dewi Evans, from Dublin University give a fascinating lecture on the place-names of Patagonia.
- **Lecture (19.9.15):** This year too, we remember 600 years since the death of Owain Glyndŵr and it is appropriate that we offer a lecture by our president, Professor Gruffydd Aled Williams, 'Glyndŵr in his homeland' The lecture fitted in with local celebrations by other societies and it is good to be working alongside them at the Glyndŵr Memorial Hall in Glyndyfrdwy, within his childhood area. Gruffydd Aled's new book '*Dyddiau Olaf Owain Glyndŵr*' (The Last Days of Owain Glyndŵr) is published the same week and it will be read with great interest.
- **Old Merioneth Books:** We end our programme of events this year with a talk ' Old, Rare and Interesting: 400 years of Merioneth Books, by Brian Slyfield. He has collected rare books and will bring some which relate to Meirionnydd to our AGM. This is something very special and we are grateful to Brian for transporting books such a long way from home.

We look forward to next year and to our activities. Our project ends in December. We welcome suggestions for next year's programme and thank you for those already received.

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The Journal: [A. Lloyd Hughes]

This year's *Journal* (Vol. XVII, Part II) will be despatched to the membership around mid-October. It will be about 100 pages long, comprising five articles, four short contributions, 'Proceedings of the Society, 2014' and eight reviews. Six b/w photographs are included. The Editor wishes to thank most sincerely all who have contributed to the issue.

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The Website: Most of this work is now complete and the website can be seen at www.merioneth-history.wales.

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Declaration:

The Trustees approve the above Annual Report.

Signed on their behalf by the Chairman of the Society,

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Gerallt W. Hughes

Date: _____

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Cymdeithas Hanes a Chofnodion Sir Feirionnydd
Adroddiad Blynyddol (Hydref 2014 – Hydref 2015)

RHIF ELUSEN GOFRESTREDIG: 1102366

Nant-y-llyn, Cynllwyd Uchaf, Y Bala, Gwynedd.

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STRWYTHUR, TREFN LYWODRAETHOL A RHEOLAETH:

Yr Ymddiriedolwyr sy'n rheoli'r Gymdeithas:

(*penodwyd ac ailbenodwyd mewn CCB ym mis Hydref 2014*)

Cadeirydd: Gerallt W. Hughes; **Ysgrifennydd Cyffredinol:** Beryl H. Griffiths; **Trefnydd Digwyddiadau:** Rhian Parry; **Trysorydd:** Rheinallt G. Llwyd; **Golygydd:** A. Lloyd Hughes; **Ysgrifennydd Aelodaeth:** Pamela F. Michael

Mae'r holl Ymddiriedolwyr yn rhoi eu hamser yn wirfoddol ac nid ydynt yn derbyn unrhyw dâl na buddion eraill.

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CYLLID: [Rheinallt G. Llwyd]

Fe welir o'r Cyfrifon am 2014-15 fod diffyg o - £82.89 ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn ariannol a hynny i'w briodoli'n bennaf i gynnydd mewn costau yn arbennig costau 'postio'. Ond mae arwyddion cadarnhaol yn y Cyfrifon hefyd yn arbennig y ffaith inni dderbyn grant o Gronfa Treftadaeth y Loteri at ddibenion penodol a hefyd y ffaith fod cynnydd bychan mewn tanysgrifiadau ac yng ngwerthiant ôl-rifynnau o gylchgrawn y Gymdeithas.

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AELODAETH: 1:09:14 – 31:08:15: [Pamela Michael]

Mae gan y Gymdeithas gyfanswm o 235 o aelodau, yn cynnwys 6 aelod oes, 42 aelod teuluol ac 187 o aelodau unigol. Yn ychwanegol mae 16 o sefydliadau yn aelodau, gan gynnwys dwy gymdeithas hanes lleol, Harlech ac Edeirnion ac amryfal lyfrgelloedd academaidd ac amgueddfeydd, gan gynnwys tri yn yr Unol Daleithiau. Yn anffodus mae'r nifer o sefydliadau yng Nghymru sy'n tanysgrifio yn gostwng oherwydd bod sefydliadau'n cyfuno a chyllidebau yn dynn.

Mae o leiaf dri aelod wedi marw yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, tri wedi dod â'u haelodaeth i ben a rhai heb adnewyddu eu tâl aelodaeth. Mae'n gymorth mawr os rhoddir gwybod am unrhyw aelodau sydd am adael. Rydym wedi cael saith aelod newydd ac rydym wedi casglu rhai ôl-ddyledion gan gadw'r niferoedd yn gymharol gyson fel na welwyd y gostyngiad mawr yr oeddwn yn ei ofni y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Gobeithiwn y bydd y gweithgareddau y mae'r gymdeithas yn eu cynnig a'r cylchgrawn rhagorol a roddir fel rhan o'r tâl aelodaeth yn parhau i ysgogi teyrngarwch ein haelodau a denu aelodau newydd i ymuno â ni.

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GWEITHGAREDDAU: [Rhian Parry]

- **CYFARFOD LLANELLTUD** (11.11.14): Y bwriad oedd paratoi'r ffordd ar gyfer gweithio ar y prosiect ar effeithiau'r Rhyfel Mawr ar Feirionnydd a hefyd i gael syniadau aelodau ar y rhaglen yn 2015. Croesawyd Vivian Parry-Williams a Dai Sheppard atom i roi cyflwyniadau. Darllenodd Vivian nifer o ddetholiadau o lythyrau o gasgliad Silyn Roberts, un a fu'n weinidog yn Nhanygrisiau o 1905 hyd 1913. Hefyd, cyfeiriodd at nifer o lythyrau milwyr o'r Blaenau a anfonwyd o'r ffrynt at Weinidog Capel Rhiw, Blaenau. Disgrifiadau cynnil a gaed o'r erchylltra, er mwyn arbed ofnau teuluol ond, o ddarllen rhwng y llinellau, gellid ymdeimlo â'r uffern o'u cwmpas. Soniodd Dai Sheppard am y ffyrdd a ddefnyddiodd i ymchwilio ar gyfer ei lyfr am Ddolgellau a'r Rhyfel Mawr. Cyflwynodd Dai lawer mwy na ffeithiau moel gan greu darluniau byw iawn o gefndir cymdeithasol y bechgyn (106) a'r un ferch, na ddychwelodd. Rhywsut, drwy adrodd eu hanesion yng nghyd-destun ardal wledig, llwyddodd i adfywio'r enwau moel ar y gofeb.
- **COFIO A CHREITHIAU:** Llwyddwyd i ennill arian loteri ar gyfer ein prosiect. Ar ddechrau 2015, cynhaliwyd cyfres o weithdai yn Archifdy Meirionnydd, gweithdai sy'n dal i'w cynnal hyd y Nadolig. Gweithiwyd yn egnïol a difyr i gasglu hanesion, lluniau a dogfennau a byddant yn gweld golau dydd ar ein gwefan newydd neu ar ein ffeil ar wefan Casgliad y Werin. Ystyrir dal ati ond i ganolbwyntio ar waith ac economi'r Sir rhwng 1917 a 1929, cyfnod tra chyffrous.
- **DARLITH (14.3.15):** Ym Mhlas Tan-y-bwlch cawsom wrando ar sgwrs ddifyr iawn gan Spencer Gavin Smith, ar Barciau, gerddi a thiroedd gwneud ym Meirionnydd yr Oesoedd Canol.
- **DARLITH (25.4.15):** Yng Nglan-llyn, cawsom wefr arbennig o wrando ar yr Athro D Densil Morgan yn traethu ar, 'Rhodd yr Arglwydd i'r Gogledd': Thomas Charles o'r Bala (1755-1815). Camp ein darlithiwr oedd cyflwyno gwybodaeth newydd a dieithr i lawer ohonom, gan ei wneud yn ddifyr dros ben.
- **YMWELIAD Â'R YSGWRN (23.5.15):** Troediwyd tua'r Ysgwrn i fwynhau ymweliad â'r tŷ cyn ei adnewyddu ac yn gartrefol, o flaen tanllwyth o dân, gael ein swyno gan hanesion Gerald. Gwelsom y Gadair Ddu ac aethom i'r Beudy Ucha i gael hanes y cynlluniau gan y Parc.
- **DARLITH (13.6.15):** I ddathlu 150 mlynedd y Wladfa, cawsom ddarlith gyfoethog gan Dr Dewi Evans, o Brifysgol Dulyn. Trefnwyd ar y cyd â Chymdeithas Enwau Lleoedd Cymru gan rannu'r costau.
- **DARLITH (19.9.15):** Eleni hefyd cofiwn 600 mlynedd er marw Owain Glyndŵr ac mae'n briodol ein bod yn cynnal darlith gan ein llywydd, Yr Athro Gruffydd Aled Williams ar 'Glyndŵr yn ei Gynefin'. Roedd y ddarlith yn cyd-fynd ag wythnos o ddathlu gan gymdeithasau eraill a braf yw cael cydweithio â nhw yn Neuadd Goffa Glyndŵr, Glyndyfrdwy. Hefyd yn cyd-fynd roedd llyfr newydd Gruffydd Aled, 'Dyddiau olaf Owain Glyndŵr' a bydd darllen mawr arno.
- **HEN LYFRAU:** Rydym yn gorffen ein rhaglen eleni gyda sgwrs ac arddangosfa gan Brian Slyfield, un o'n haelodau. Bu'n casglu hen lyfrau ac mae am ddod a nifer o rai sydd yn ymwneud â Meirionnydd i'n cyfarfod blynyddol. Bydd hyn yn rhywbeth arbennig iawn a gwerthfawrogwn ymdrech Brian yn dod â llyfrau mor bell o'i gartref.

Edrychwn ymlaen at y flwyddyn newydd o weithgareddau a bydd y prosiect yn dod i ben yn Rhagfyr. Byddwn yn falch o dderbyn awgrymiadau am weithgareddau a diolchwn am y rhai a gafwyd eisoes.

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Y CYLCHGRAWN: [A. Lloyd Hughes]

Bydd *Cylchgrawn* eleni (Cyf. XVII, Rhan II) yn cael ei ddosbarthu i'r aelodaeth tua chanol mis Hydref. Bydd y rhifyn o gwmpas 100 tudalen o hyd ac yn cynnwys pum erthygl, pedwar o gyfraniadau byr, 'Gweithrediadau'r Gymdeithas, 2014' ac wyth o adolygiadau. Cynhwysir chwech o luniau du a gwyn. Dymuna'r Golygydd ddiolch yn ddiffuant iawn i bawb sydd wedi cyfrannu i'r rhifyn.

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Y WEFAN:

Mae'r prif waith ar y wefan wedi ei wneud erbyn hyn a gallwch weld ffrwyth gwaith cwmni Eglur yn: www.hanes-meirionnydd.cymru .

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DATGANIAD:

Mae'r Ymddiriedolwyr yn cymeradwyo'r Adroddiad Blynyddol uchod.

Llofnodwyd ar eu rhan gan Gadeirydd y Gymdeithas,

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Gerallt W. Hughes

Dyddiad: _____