

Obituary

DONALD MOORE, 1922–2011



Photography Department, National Museum of Wales

Donald Moore was such a polymath and touched Welsh life at so many points that it is difficult for any one person to write an adequate obituary. I have therefore been asked as Chairman of Trustees to put together many people's recollections. One contributor described him as truly a modern Renaissance man.

He was born in Barry in 1922, the son of William Henry and Gwladys (née Evans) Moore and received his first education at Romilly School and then at Barry Grammar School, before proceeding to Aberystwyth to read Classics—a degree which included a formidable element of modern languages. He remained fluent in Latin, Greek, French and German all his life.

He was called to the colours in 1942 and spent a short time in the Royal Fusiliers before being transferred to the Royal Navy. He spent the years 1945–47 as an education officer, preparing ex-service men and women for civilian life. He remained committed to both the Royal Navy and the cause of education for the rest of his life. He was for many years active in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, being promoted to Commander in 1977 and being at one time responsible for coordinating the training work of all eleven divisions of the RNVR in the UK.

Released from full-time service in the navy, he went up to Oxford in 1947 to study for a Diploma in Education, topped up many years later by an M.Ed. from the University of Wales. His first civilian job (1948–53) was as Area Tutor Organiser for Adult Education in Shropshire. In 1953 he was appointed Schools Service Officer in Archaeology at the National Museum in Cardiff where he remained with ever-expanding responsibilities until 1977 when he moved to the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth.

His work in Cardiff was important and pioneering. Apart from introducing school pupils to the museum, he lectured on museum education in teacher training departments, and developed a countrywide loan service of museum objects to schools. Nor was his work confined to Wales. In 1964–65 he was seconded by the Ministry of Overseas Development to set up a Museums' Service in Uganda in Kampala and in 1970, under the auspices of the British Council he was advising Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone on their museum services.

Important though his work in Cardiff was, it could perhaps be argued that his most ground-breaking contributions were made in Aberystwyth. The Department for which he now had responsibility had previously been known as the Department of Maps and Prints and had had a modest remit. It now became the Department of Pictures and Maps and Donald as Keeper greatly expanded its role. He brought its fine but little known collection of paintings to the attention of the public through a series of thematic exhibitions, for which he wrote the catalogues. He augmented the collection through the purchase of works, both old and new, pertaining to Wales or by Welsh artists. His connections with Brittany enabled him to acquire Breton works, which complemented the unique collection of Breton books in the Library. Storage and conservation were improved. The Gregynog Gallery was refurbished and kept open for longer periods. In the 1980s he was the Research Consultant for setting up the Welsh Portrait Archive, which was set up at the National Library, which involved him in visiting museums, galleries and places of worship to photograph and record portraits.

As in Cardiff, he maintained and cultivated links with other organisations, notably the University of Wales School of Art. He became the temporary Director of the Swansea Museum Service in 1984–85 and of the Mostyn Art Gallery, Llandudno, in 1987–88, as well as consultant to the Clwyd Fine Arts Trust at Bodelwyddan Castle in 1984–88. He also served on the St David's Cathedral Library Advisory Committee and was a consultant to the Steering Group for Landscape Studies set up by the Countryside Council for Wales. Whenever people had a problem to solve or wanted sound professional advice they instinctively turned to Donald. His influence extended far beyond Wales and in 1981 he became the Chairman of the Map Curators Group of LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche).

In 1961 he married Mary Patricia Crowley, who later became the Glamorgan County Archivist. Together they were active in many societies and organisations, notably the Glamorgan History Society and the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust. He was elected as one of the first members of the Council of the Glamorgan History Society, contributing to its journal, *Morgannwg*, and lecturing at its Day Schools. His last major contribution to *Morgannwg* was his wide-ranging and beautifully illustrated article entitled 'Visions of the Vale', which appeared in the Society's golden jubilee issue in 2006.

He and Patricia were founder members of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust and played an important role at the national as well as the county level. Donald became President of the Ceredigion branch and, since in his later years he had to divide his time between Aberystwyth and their family home in Penarth, he was also active in the South and Mid Glamorgan branch. He acted as a much valued adviser in the creation of the Cowbridge Physics Garden. He was also the Founder Chairman and Trustee of the Hafod Trust which aimed to restore the picturesque landscape of Hafod.

The other organisation to which he gave life-long support was the Cambrian Archaeological Association, which he joined in 1947. He became a member of the General Committee (later to be reconstituted as the Trustees) in 1951 and served continuously until a year or two before his death. At one time or another he held almost all the main offices, General Secretary, Conference Secretary, Convener of the Index Sub-Committee, Chairman of the Monographs Sub-Committee. It was Patricia who became the Editor of *Archaeologia Cambrensis* but, after her untimely death in 2002, it was Donald who saw the current volume, CXLIX, through the press.

In 1978 Donald became the President of the Association. Anyone who wishes to see what a forward-looking man he was, has only to read his Presidential Address delivered at Caerleon in 1978 entitled 'Trends and Prospects in Archaeology'. At a time when many scholars were still nervous about the implications of the new technology for their disciplines, Donald urged them to seize it with both hands, pointing out the advantages of computers and microfilm (or microfiche) in opening up new research possibilities.

A decade later at the 150th anniversary meeting at Aberystwyth, Donald delivered a fascinating lecture on 'Cambrian Meetings 1847–1997: A Society's Contribution in a Changing Archaeological Scene', an extended version of which was published in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* vol. CXLVII, which ranged over the whole history of the Association from its first meetings, rather dominated by High Church Anglican clergy, to a consideration of the future role of the Association. Donald himself arranged numerous meetings, not only in Wales but in the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and Brittany, all meticulously planned.

His own publications are too numerous to list here. The 'Select Bibliography' numbered over 80 when a list was drawn up in connection with the recommendation for an MBE in 2000—a rather inadequate recognition one might think of his many services to Wales. They included editing various conference proceedings of key Cambrian meetings. He also rendered sterling service to the Monographs that the Association at one time produced. But his greatest monument in this field must surely be his oversight of the stupendous Index, a model of its kind, covering *Archaeologia Cambrensis* from 1846 to 2000. He edited and saw through the press the volume, compiled by Lily F. Chitty and Elizabeth H. Edwards covering the years 1846–1900; those compiled by Rowland Powel, 1901–60, H. E. Davies, 1961–80, and

finally that compiled by Elizabeth Cook, 1981–2000. His own contributions, modestly called ‘notes and lists’ were of immense value. He was always a ‘hands-on’ editor and no one who did not know would have guessed that he was in his late ‘eighties when the final volume appeared in 2008.

Donald spoke Welsh, a language he learnt as an adult, and sometimes broadcast in Welsh as well as in English. Among other appointments (again too numerous to list) he was a member of the Schools Broadcasting Council for Wales, of the Board of Celtic Studies, of the Ancient Monuments Board for Wales; Chairman of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust; Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and Vice-President of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion.

He was a most careful and methodical man and after his wife’s death, realising that many of her papers would have a permanent value for scholars, he spent much time carefully sorting and arranging them and, where appropriate, sending them to record offices or other institution.

He would have loved to have come to Gascony with the Cambrians in the summer of 2011 but, realising that that would be impossible—he was already gravely ill—he set about organising his own affairs so that they would give as little trouble as possible to his family and friends, especially his beloved niece and nephews, who had supported him in his final days. He chose the hymns for his funeral and made careful provision for Palkin, his treasured cat, who featured in many people’s recollections of him.

A dry account of his life and achievements, although necessary for a formal obituary, gives little flavour of the man himself. A lecture he gave to the Pembrokeshire Historic Buildings Trust in 2004 is much more revealing. While in Dale, preparing ex-service personnel (or soon to be ex-service personnel) for civilian life, he was lured by a pilot sub-lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Navy to accompany him in a Mosquito on a ‘test flight’ to look for Iron Age forts. It was a two-seater aircraft, each person under a separate hood. Equipped with parachutes and harnesses, they set off with Donald as navigator. The Mosquito was a fast aircraft for its time and, on their first run, they overshot Pen Dinas and Aberystwyth. Donald recorded, ‘So we had to turn back, and by banking steeply on one wing we traced out the lines of the ramparts below at the slowest speed and lowest height the Mosquito could manage.’ He added, ‘This sort of behaviour today would result in a torrent of protests in *The Cambrian News*.’

The pace of reconstruction after the War also led to an acceleration in rescue digs. While a student in Oxford Donald worked with Richard Atkinson (later Professor in Cardiff) on a rescue dig in Dorchester and ‘learnt how a trowel could become a refined extension of the human hand . . . and how the simple garden fork could act as a sensitive probe and locate in the gravel the edge of a hidden ditch, long silted over and filled by finer soil.’ Still considering himself basically an amateur, Donald excavated with Kathleen Kenyon in Herefordshire and with Dr H. N. Savory in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Linguist, archaeologist and art expert, Donald was indeed a modern Renaissance man. Visiting East Germany on museum business, his hosts asked him where he would most like to visit and he immediately replied ‘Weimar’—the birthplace of Goethe. A friend remembers he could recite Goethe by heart to the end. The same friend telephoned him last Christmas amid all the snow to ask how he was. Donald unhesitatingly declaimed in faultless Latin four lines from an Ode of Horace he had learnt 75 years before at Barry Grammar School. As one contributor said (in effect) ‘We shall not see his like again.’ But the thing which stands out in all the contributors’ recollections is his approachability and his generosity with his time and knowledge to interested amateurs. Above all he had a rapport with children. Many have testified to the fact that it was Donald who first captured their interest in all the subjects dear to the Cambrians’ hearts.

Many people have contributed to this obituary but in particular thanks are due to the The Rt Reverend John Wyn Evans Wyn Evans, Bishop of St Davids, Neil Fairlamb, Rector of Beaumaris, Frances Lynch Llewellyn, Tom Lloyd, Nansi Mascetti, Hugh Morgan, Eiluned Rees and Hilary Thomas.

THE 156TH ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING

South Wales Valleys, 2009

The South Wales Valleys meeting took place between 10 and 15 August, 2009. The theme of the meeting was the archaeology of the region. While this meant a great deal of industrial archaeology, the aim was to include prehistoric and medieval monuments too. It was fortunate that in a very rainy season the weather was fine every day except the last. Forty-nine members participated for some or all of the meeting. The meeting was based at the Premier Inn in Ebbw Vale with after-dinner lectures and the AGM taking place in The Miners' Institute in Llanhilleth, about five miles down the valley. This building of c. 1900 has recently been restored for use by the local community and has a very fine large function room. Members used their cars and gave each other lifts. Thanks are due to Mr David Young for organising the meeting and also to Dr Frank Olding and the incoming President, Mr Richard Keen who both provided invaluable help.

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MONDAY 10 AUGUST

The first visit was in the afternoon to **Pontypool Museum** where Cambrians were welcomed by the curator, Deborah Wildgust. The museum is housed in the Georgian stable block of Pontypool Park. Among many exhibits from the history, archaeology and geology of the Torfaen Valley the museum has an outstanding display of Pontypool and Usk Japanware, which was made there from the middle of the eighteenth century and exported throughout the world.

The party was then taken to **Goytre Wharf** on the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. Here there are substantial remains of the lime works where lime was produced for agricultural use, and also the manager's house and other buildings from the early nineteenth century. The canal was also an important corridor for coal and iron brought to the canal by a network of tramways and railways to the wharves at Gofilon and Llanfoist further north. Later in the week the Cambrians were to see many industrial monuments associated with this production and with this crucial transport network.

After dinner members heard an illustrated lecture given by Frank Olding, who is a member of the Association and the Heritage Officer for Blaenau Gwent Council. He surveyed the archaeology of the region from the Palaeolithic up to the Industrial Revolution.

The night was enlivened by a fire alarm at the hotel at 1.30am. However, it was a false alarm. Cambrians were again in luck, standing outside in warm and dry weather!

TUESDAY 11 AUGUST

Tuesday morning was devoted to the ironworks and associated sites at **Cyfarthfa**, Merthyr Tydfil. The coach put us down at the remains of a bank of furnaces surviving in an empty area of demolition. Richard Keen described the history of the works from its founding in 1765. In 1783 it came under the control of the Crawshay family, the name most strongly associated with Cyfarthfa. He took the party along a passage behind the furnaces and into a working chamber between furnaces. The scale of the construction was impressive. Picturesque artists might have described it as 'sublime'. Richard Keen then took us to see **Pontycafnau**, the first cast-iron railway bridge in Wales, which not only carried across the river Taf a tramway for limestone from the Gurnos quarries, but also supported two troughs, one above and one below the tramroad, carrying water to the ironworks. The party followed the line of the tramroad to a



Visit to the Cyfarthfa ironworks by the Cambrians on Tuesday 11 August 2009 where Richard Keen described the history of the works from its founding in 1765.

Photograph: Robin Griffith.

point in Cefn Coed y Cymmer where we stood under two later bridges from the eighteenth and twentieth centuries, our walk having presented a microcosm of bridge construction from the late eighteenth to early twentieth centuries.

The party then walked up the hill to **Cyfarthfa Castle Museum**, past the ornamental lake which also supplied water to the ironworks. The castle, an imposing structure built by the Crawshays in 1825, is now owned by Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council and houses both a school and the museum. The exhibits relate to the town and the locality and also comprise a collection of paintings, prints and drawings. The Cambrians enjoyed a buffet in the room known as either 'The Wedding Room' or 'Mr Crawshay's Office'. Using this room we also saw the interesting collection of modern Welsh art that it contains. In an adjacent passage there was an admirable collection of pencil drawings by Sydney Curnow Vosper.

After lunch the Cambrians went by coach to the Brecon Mountain Railway, three miles to the north, where the party split. Party A took a trip on the railway, which runs through splendid scenery into the Brecon Beacons. This is a modern narrow-gauge railway opened in 1979. It runs for part of the way along the route of the former Brecon and Merthyr Railway that ultimately connected Brecon with Newport docks.

Party B went in the coach to a point at the foot of the disused quarries on the west side of **Morlais Castle**. The climb up to the castle, with Frank Olding as a guide, was rewarded with magnificent views from the summit in the fine, clear weather. The remains of the castle were full of interest though not much masonry remains above ground. Entering the undercroft of the circular south-east tower was an astonishing experience! The castle dates from the early 1290s, built by Gilbert de Clare in defiance of both Welsh and marcher lords. The party then descended to where the coach was waiting to take us back to the railway and rejoin Party A.

After dinner the retiring President, Professor Tony Carr, installed Richard Keen as President of the Association for 2009/10. Mr Keen then delivered his Presidential Address entitled 'The Heads of the Valleys: 250 years of landscape change', which is published in this volume.

WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST

This day was devoted to the World Heritage Site at **Blaenafon**. To quote from Richard Keen's article in the programme booklet: 'It was only at and around Blaenafon that a happy combination of events resulted in the survival of a landscape upon which evidence of the history of industrialisation along the Heads of the Valleys remained in profusion. It is the completeness of the landscape that was, and is, so important. Within a relatively small area there are a number of monuments and sites that can claim national and international significance'.

The Revd Dr Jason Bray was kind enough to open **St Peter's Church** for us. Here Jeremy Knight, who was Cadw Inspector for the area at the time of the World Heritage bid, spoke about the history of iron-making and coal mining in Blaenafon and of the establishment of the World Heritage Site. The church itself was built in 1804 and contains cast iron features, including the font; in the churchyard are four tomb chests with cast-iron tops. The church is next door to the Visitor Centre, the former St Peter's School dating from 1816, where there is a comprehensive exhibition on the Heritage Site. The Cambrians next went by coach to the **Big Pit Mining Museum** on the other side of the valley. Here most of the party went on the guided tour underground which occupied most of their time. The others saw the surface exhibits: the winding house, the blacksmiths' shop, the pithead baths. Some particularly enjoyed the 'Mining Galleries', which involved walking through simulated modern underground workings with full sound effects.

After lunch in the canteen, the incoming President described the landscape that was spread out before us from the terrace. This included the town of Blaenafon with its ironworks. Under the guidance of Richard Keen and Jeremy Knight the party visited the **Blaenafon Ironworks** which is in the care of Cadw, looking especially closely at the remaining casting house, the balance tower and the workers' accommodation. Research is still going on at the site. Work was in progress on the calcining kilns where conservation work had just revealed the very last load of limestone in its storage bin prior to being broken up and carted into the furnaces and the last 'make' of iron ore and coke in their kilns, again ready for the furnaces.

This World Heritage Site is very extensive. 'The Blaenafon Industrial Landscape' states the Cadw guidebook, 'is a microcosm of the Industrial Revolution'. The Cambrians were able to see some of the outlying features of this landscape high up in the area beyond Keeper's Pond. Here the party saw the site of the **Garnddyrys Forge**, where the cast-iron was transformed into wrought iron in the puddling furnaces, and the route of Hill's tramroad, built in 1817-18 to link the ironworks to the canal at Llanfoist. The contrast between the present serene and sunlit scenery and the intense activity of the ironmaking era was striking.

After dinner the Cambrians went again to Llanhilleth Miners' Institute for the public lecture given by Peter Wakelin entitled 'Records, research and relevance: the Royal Commission 100 years on'.



The Cambrians visiting the furnaces at Blaenafon Ironworks, at the heart of the Blaenafon World Heritage Landscape, on Wednesday 12 August 2011. *Photograph: Robin Griffith.*

THURSDAY 13 AUGUST

On this day the Cambrians set out in two parties in separate coaches. The larger party, Party A, went first to **St Sannan's Church, Bedwellty**, where Madeleine Gray spoke. Though there was a church here from early times, the oldest part of the present church dates from the thirteenth century. Its prize possession is a late medieval chest carved with the Five Wounds of Christ and the Instruments of the Passion.

From Bedwellty the party went to the Siloh Presbyterian Chapel, Gelligroes, a well-preserved early chapel in which the doorways give access under the side galleries and the pulpit backs against the middle of the façade. They were warmly greeted by the chapel elders, who entertained them with refreshments.

The Cambrians then visited the **Gelligroes Watermill**, recorded since 1625, near the river Sirhowy. The owner, who showed us round, is working on its restoration. The mill operates when there is enough water, but unfortunately water is now scarce due to interference with the weirs and leats although it was said that the deepening of the outflow channel to reduce friction on the rebuilt wheel would allow it to turn with less water. This is the place where, in 1912, the amateur radio enthusiast, 'Artie' Moore, picked up distress signals from the Titanic as it went down. There is a small exhibition in the mill about Moore including amateur radio memorabilia.



The Cambrian's visit to the early Christian incised stone on Gelligaer Common, a remote area of upland south-east of Merthyr Tydfil, under the guidance of Frank Olding. *Photograph: Hugh Morgan.*

Meanwhile, Party B set off, under the guidance of Frank Olding, in a smaller coach to **Gelligaer Common**, a remote area of high ground south-east of Merthyr Tydfil. It can seem a desolate landscape in dull weather, but on this day it was magnificent with sunshine and distant views. This hill is remarkable for the large number of Bronze Age remains to be found, in contrast to nearby ridges. We saw two ring cairns and the summit cairn. We also saw the early Christian inscribed stone, now very much tilted from its original upright stance, with the inscription low down on the obliquely angled side. It seems that nobody has ever made much sense of the inscription, and nor did we. There was much debate between Frank Olding, Frances Lynch, Heather James, Jeremy Knight and others on its function and location. Lastly, we saw a group of house platforms, excavated by Lady Aileen Fox in 1938. Finds of pottery from these platforms date them to the thirteenth or fourteenth century.

The two parties came together again at **Llancaiach Fawr Manor** for lunch, a tour of the house and a talk on the ongoing researches into earlier remains at the site. The house, dating from the early sixteenth century, is owned by Caerphilly County Borough Council. The curator, Diane Walker, had organized for us an architectural tour of the house, describing the restoration and alterations undertaken by the council after the property came into their possession in 1983. There are plans for further restoration. Records of the earthworks to the east of the house have recently led to further investigations in Cae Hir, the field adjacent to the car park. We were shown a collection of finds from excavations in 2008 and earlier this



The Cambrian's visit to Llancaiach Fawr Manor on Thursday 13 August 2009. The house, dating from the early sixteenth century, is now owned by Caerphilly County Borough Council. The curator, Diane Walker, had kindly organized a tour of the house, describing the restoration and alterations undertaken by the council after the property came into their possession in 1983. *Photograph: Hugh Morgan.*

year. There had also been two geophysical surveys including one in 2009 which suggested further structures in the north of the field and, unexpectedly, a large number of structures in the south. The present hypothesis is that the site in Cae Hir was a late medieval manorial complex and possibly the forerunner of the present manor. There is evidently much more to be discovered. Further excavations, probably in association with a university archaeology department, are planned.

In the afternoon the Cambrians went in a single coach to meet with Brian Davies, the Curator of Pontypridd Museum, on **Pontypridd Common**. The rocking stone on the common, a glacial erratic, has long been an important political meeting place for the local community, and was the focus of a stone circle and 'serpent' constructed by a local druidic enthusiast in 1850. Brian and five other Cambrians stood on the front of the stone and with a concerted jump made it rock, drawing applause from the witnesses. We were also taken to a real Bronze Age circle, probably a kerbed barrow, further along the common.

Our guide went with us in the coach west of Pontypridd, to see the to **Hopkinstown Winding House** of the Great Western Colliery, where the winding engine, recently restored by members of the Pontypridd Historical Society, was actually running, as demonstrated by Brian Davies. The visit was attended by the



At the Cambrian's visit to Hopkinstown Winding House near Pontypridd the party joined by the Mayor and Mayoress of Rhondda Cynon Taff. From left to right: Frank Olding, Robert Smith, Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, Mrs Margaret Smith, Mayoress, John Harrison RCT Heritage Officer, and Richard Keen. *Photograph: Robin Griffith.*

Mayor and Mayoress of Rhondda Cynon Taff, and the party was photographed by the press. Unfortunately there was no time to visit the William Edwards bridge or the museum, in the town centre, but they were pointed out as we passed by.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held after dinner.

FRIDAY 14 AUGUST

The first site to be visited on the day was the **Sirhowy Ironworks**, near Tredegar, first established in 1778. It ceased producing iron in 1883 but continued to produce coke until finally closing in 1905. Both Frank Olding and Richard Keen spoke about the monument, which is well cared for by Blaenau Gwent Council.

The proposed visit to the Duke's Table, near Trefil, had to be omitted through lack of time. It consists of a circular stone picnic table and earthen benches, probably created for the Duke of Beaufort's shooting parties around 1790, before the nearby quarries were opened. Instead, the party went directly to the brink of the **Clydach Gorge** at Llanelly Hill. Clydach Gorge has a spectacular number of industrial sites and the remains of multiple lines of communication along, up and down the gorge. All this is within what is

nowadays beautiful scenery marred only by the modern Heads of the Valleys Road. Van Laun writes: ‘The valley had the natural assets to invite early industrial exploitation: iron ores, woodlands to provide timber for charcoal furnaces, and fast streams to supply power for simple mechanisation’ (van Laun, *The Clydach Gorge*, 1979). Production of iron continued on an increased scale as the industrial revolution developed, until it was overtaken by more up-to-date techniques with which it could not compete.

The coach set down more than half the party to walk down the south side of the gorge. The remaining members were taken to **Llangattock Church** near Crickhowell where the Rector welcomed them. The church comprises a nave and chancel with a north aisle and chapel of equal length. It is of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries though all the windows have been replaced. This party was then taken to The Lion Hotel at Gilwern for lunch, while the coach went to collect the walking party.

Meanwhile, the walkers had split into two groups for walks of varying difficulty. Richard Keen led the less demanding route down the road, explaining the monuments that could be seen both on the opposite side of the **Clydach Gorge**—limeworks, tramways and inclined planes—and on the near side—especially the route of the Merthyr and Abergavenny Railway, the Llanelly Quarry and the viaduct of the Bailey tramroad of 1821. Frank Olding took the others along the route of Bailey’s 1821 tramroad to the **Clydach Limeworks** and then down a woodland path, with a backward glance at an impressive viaduct, to the bottom of the gorge.

After lunch the party returned to the bottom of the Clydach Gorge to view the derelict **Clydach Ironworks**, founded in 1793–95 and expanding by 1841 to employ over 1,350 people. Richard Keen and Frank Olding again led the visit.

The last visit of the day was to **St Mary’s Priory Church, Abergavenny**, where the party was welcomed by the vicar, the Revd Jeremy Winston. Dr Sian Rees of Cadw described the church, which originates from a Benedictine priory founded early in the Norman advance into Wales. It became the parish church only after the Dissolution. The church contains a large number of very fine monuments from the fourteenth century onwards, recently most successfully cleaned. The most remarkable is the wooden figure of Jesse, which formed the base of a fifteenth-century Jesse Tree. Across the precinct to the west of the church stands a **Tithe Barn**, recently restored, now housing an exhibition space, where the new Abergavenny Tapestry can be seen, and a café where some of the Cambrians enjoyed a welcome cup of tea.

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST

The party was reduced to only twenty-six members on this last morning and used a small service bus. The weather was wet; there was a persistent fine drizzle. This seemed appropriate for the melancholy site above Tredegar at **Cefn Golau** where there is one of the few remaining cholera cemeteries. These cemeteries were set away from the towns since people were terrified of burying the victims in the customary graveyards. The transmission of the disease was not understood until later. There were outbreaks of cholera at Tredegar in 1832, 1849 and 1866. This cemetery has recently been fenced in to protect it from damage by cattle and horses. Unfortunately this has also had the effect of preventing sheep from keeping it grazed.

The Cambrians went next to the ironmaster **Crawshay Bailey’s Farm, Nantyglo**, which he built in 1795 together with a mansion, now disappeared except for the footing of walls. Here he constructed two round towers, the first in 1816, apparently to provide defence against a rebellious workforce, either for himself, or more probably for some of his workers. The farm buildings, which are in a dilapidated state, have cast and wrought-iron roofing trusses and cast iron flooring supports. In the construction of the roundhouses there was no timber at all but only stone and iron. One of the roundhouses is fairly complete, though unsafe to enter for more than a glance from the doorway. It has a roof of interlocking cast iron

plates. The other is a roofless stone shell. The Cambrians were shown over the farm by the owner, Mr G. Jones. The President was thrilled to have an opportunity of seeing the inside of the long range of farm buildings, never seen by him before and he resolved to return.

Time was running out for the meeting, though one more site had been planned and this was visited, albeit for a rather short time. **St Illtyd's Church, Llanhilleth** is unapproachable from the village even by a small service bus because of the steep road and tortuous bends. Our bus therefore had to take a long detour and approach from the east via the moorland of Abersychan. The church, now deconsecrated and used for local community functions, is the oldest standing building in the County Borough of Blaenau Gwent. It had become dilapidated and has been restored by the Council with help from Cadw. Close by is a motte, probably of the eleventh or twelfth century, and there are the remains of two buildings, probably fortified medieval buildings, behind the neighbouring cottages. Frank Olding addressed the Cambrians at this site. The bus then returned to the hotel and Cambrians dispersed after a late lunch.

DAVID YOUNG

AUTUMN MEETING, 2009

Bristol

The Autumn Meeting in 2009, organised by Muriel Chamberlain and Nansi Mascetti, was held in Bristol between 9–11 October 2009—the first time, surprisingly, that the Association had met in the City, despite its close connections with south Wales and Bristol Channel ports. Lectures and evening meals were held in Burwalls, the University of Bristol's Centre for Continuing Education, where some of the party stayed adjacent to the western end of the Clifton Suspension Bridge. Others were based at the Avon Gorge Hotel in Clifton close to the eastern end of the bridge. A total of 29 attended the Meeting, a smaller number than normal.

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FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER 2009

The party assembled at 3pm outside Burwalls to make the first of several crossings on foot across the **Clifton Suspension Bridge** to meet Dr Madge Dresser, of the History Department of the University of the West of England and co-director with Dr Peter Fleming of the Regional History Centre. Heroically, despite recovering from bronchitis, Dr Dresser led the party on a walking tour of **Clifton**. Dr Dresser is a specialist in the socio-economic life of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Bristol. Looking down on the **Avon Gorge** and the bridge from below the **Observatory**, she indicated the views that artists of 'Romantic' scenery were drawn to—even though there were many contemporary limestone quarries on the slopes of the gorge and it was thronged with shipping. The natural springs of **Hotwells** at the foot of the gorge were developed as a spa from the later seventeenth century when half of the manor of Clifton was purchased by the ever-entrepreneurial Bristol Merchant Venturers. But financial difficulties at the end of the eighteenth century ('credit crunches' being by no means exclusive to our own recent experiences) halted development of the spa which thereafter declined. More seriously, what had been a housing development boom over the heights of Clifton with fine Georgian terraces, crescents and villas

came to a juddering halt. Viewing the splendid houses of **Worcester Crescent**, for example, Dr Dresser pointed out that their initial construction had nearly bankrupted the builders and for some 20 years the houses stood empty and roofless until completion in 1853. Their fortunes had fluctuated ever since, with some of the party remembering the buildings as rather dilapidated 1960s flats, unlike their present fine condition. The afternoon reached a highlight with a private visit to **Clifton Hill House** which is now a University Hall of Residence. It was built between 1746 and 1750 for Paul Fisher, a wealthy Bristol merchant, who employed Isaac Ware, the nationally famous Palladian architect. This semi-rural villa, restrained in decoration, yet elegant and imposing was very influential in Bristol house building. Mrs Annie Burnside, the Warden, has brought about a remarkable programme of restoration, described in her recent book, in what is still very much a working and much-loved building.

After dinner, Dr Peter Fleming, Principal Lecturer in the History Department of the University of the West of England, welcomed the party to Bristol, and recalled both his undergraduate and postgraduate years at the History Department of Swansea University. He then gave a comprehensive overview of the medieval period in his keynote lecture 'Bristol: the City and the Port'. The name derives from the Anglo-Saxon 'Brigstow', testimony to an early bridge. Dr Fleming firmly identified the protected defensive position of the city, surrounded by water on three sides as the primary reason for its location and foundation as an Alfredan *burh*. He highlighted the rerouting of the river Frome into a new cut in the 1240s to make a deep-water harbour as an astonishing feat of medieval civil engineering, testament to the energy and enterprise of the Bristol merchants. He stressed that the city has always had a diverse economy and has always been more than a port. The late medieval city had expanded beyond its early walls when marshes were drained and a new bridge built. Its coastal, Bristol Channel and Irish Sea trade also expanded into the western Atlantic seaways, trading with Spain and Portugal. The Welsh had a strong presence in late medieval Bristol as ongoing research demonstrates. He ended with an intriguing suggestion that whilst there was no evidence for a Roman civil settlement on the site of the early medieval city, the old Welsh name of 'Caer Odwyr y Nant Badon' possibly referred to the Roman *Abona* or Sea Mills, lower down the Avon and might have been transferred to Bristol.

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 2009

A brisk walk for some to Burwalls for 9.15am on Saturday was rewarded by an informative and visually illuminating talk by Gail Boyle, Curator of Archaeology, on highlights of the Roman collection at the **Bristol City Museum**, with an emphasis on links with Wales. Gail Boyle has worked at Bristol for 22 years and is now engaged, together with advisors who include Peter Fleming and Madge Dresser, on the new Museum of Bristol currently being developed at the city docks. The City Museum's collections come from a wide area in the modern county of Avon and some date back to early antiquarian collecting. She emphasised the history of the collections and collectors themselves and Cambrians were particularly interested in her reading of extracts from letters by the then schoolboy George Boon, who was paid 'pocket money' by the curator from 1944 to help record—and (an astonishing achievement for a young man) secure the preservation of the Kings Weston Roman Villa from obliteration by immediate post-war housing development. A recent find of national importance was a huge coin hoard of some 11,000 Constantinian issues. Urban development in the Roman period was centred on the small town of *Abona*, which had military origins. Tiles stamped with the Second Augustan legion's stamp hint at connections with the legionary fortress at Caerleon. Numerous excavations in Bristol city centre and suburbs have shown that the whole area was quite densely farmed and settled in the Roman period.

After coffee (taken by many on the terrace overlooking the gardens at **Burwalls** in steadily improving weather) the final talk of the morning was by Duncan Taylor of the University of Bristol on 'Bristol

Channel Trade under the Tudors', the subject of his recently completed doctorate he has researched the trade of the Bristol Channel ports on both the Welsh and English sides principally from Customs Accounts. English records were fuller than Welsh and in addition he had made use of the unique Bridgewater Bailiffs accounts for 1541 and 1597 which show the underrepresentation of some trades in the Customs Accounts. His research has attempted to provide a more nuanced picture of the whole 'Severn Sea' trade (the term Bristol Channel was not widely used in the sixteenth century) by showing that Bristol did not dominate all its aspects. Using well-presented and comprehensible statistical charts he showed distinct local patterns particularly in the different proportions of Irish trade in commodities like smoked fish and leather—Ireland being a much more important trading partner for the Somerset ports than for Bristol and North Devon for example. Other differences were demonstrated between west Wales, where the Milford ports sent almost all of their wool to Ireland, whereas south-east Wales ports like Cardiff traded more in wool with France and the main Channel ports. In other words, there were segmented markets, with bi-lateral trading, most marked in places like Pembrokeshire and Minehead with strong Irish communities in the ports.

After lunch at Burwalls, the party set off by coach to **Bristol City Centre**. Chronologically we began in the mid nineteenth century where, under the guidance of Dr Stephen Jones, a thorough inspection was made of the different parts of Brunel's **Temple Meads Railway Station**, the western terminus of the Great Western Railway and formerly home to a number of other smaller railway companies. The visit began with the great train shed and its cantilevered roof with mock hammer beams above the cast iron columns, before getting onto the platform in today's station built by Mathew Digby Wyatt in 1871. Finally, viewing Brunel's terminus building, now in part a pub, Stephen Jones, speaking above the noise of the traffic, pointed out the innovative one-way system for carriages to drop off departing passengers and go round to pick up arrivals in what is now the oldest surviving railway terminus building in Europe.

Taking over from Stephen Jones, and moving to the quieter recesses of a hermit's cave in the rock face at the rear of the **Quaker Burial Ground**, close to Temple Meads, Peter Fleming noted the association of the area with the Knights Templar in what was, in the Middle Ages, open ground south of the city. The party then walked to the magnificent church of **St Mary's Redcliffe** which it is hard to believe was in origin a small chapel of ease. Dr Fleming concentrated on two aspects of the church (worth a day's visit in its own right). He stressed the ornate and flamboyant east porch with its almost Spanish Moorish cusped arches (a trading influence?) and the fact that the porch faced towards the city bridge and heartland and was evidently built for effect and grand entrances and exits. The party viewed the two tombs of the 'very rich and very wise' fourteenth-century Bristol merchant, William Canynge, one figuring him as a merchant with his wife and the other as a priest, since he took holy orders in his widowhood and became Dean of Westbury College.

The party then progressed towards the medieval bridge and then skirting the core of the medieval city and sites of town gates to the splendid Georgian **Queen's Square**. From there a somewhat breathless progress was made across the northern arm of the floating harbour to **College Green** and the **Lord Mayor's Chapel**, shortly before closing. This was in origin St Mark's medieval hospital and traces of the medieval hospital arrangements survive. The Pointz chantry chapel is one highlight, the other the extraordinarily rich and numerous funerary monuments from the late medieval to the nineteenth centuries. The party could not but concur with Peter Fleming's assertion that this really is a relatively unknown gem of Bristol's ecclesiastical history. Some of the party then visited the cathedral before returning to base, and an intrepid few continued to explore the topography of the heart of the medieval city. Duly rested, the party enjoyed a dinner in an upstairs dining hall at the Avon Gorge Hotel which provided a striking view of the illuminated Clifton Suspension Bridge.

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2009

Sunday morning began with an intriguing lecture by Dr Evan Jones of Bristol University on 'The Cabot Mystery'. Recent new work (which can be followed on the University of Bristol's History Department website, 'The Cabot Project') has transformed our ideas about what happened to Cabot's Second Voyage of 1498. Dr Jones sketched the background to the Cabot voyages stressing the willingness of Bristol long-distance traders to back ventures to extend their trade and break monopolies. Although a failure, a valiant try had been made to break the Italian monopoly of Mediterranean trade in the 1450s when Genoese pirates killed the Bristol voyagers after capture of their ships. Cabot impressed Henry VII with his North American discoveries and got support for a second voyage. But after the departure of Cabot on his second expedition to North America with five ships nothing more was heard. By the time Hakluyt was collecting material for his accounts of the Great Age of Elizabethan voyages of exploration information on Cabot was scanty. But why a mystery? Dr Jones explained that he had become aware that Dr Alwyn Ruddock, a respected academic at the University of London and doyenne of the Age of Discovery studies had discovered new information in Italian archives on further voyages on, for example, a church founded in North America and evidence suggesting that Cabot traded in the Caribbean for two years and did return. Alwyn Ruddock never published her findings and, unfortunately, instructed her executors to burn all her papers after her death in 2005. Evan Jones has discovered a synopsis of a proposed book on her research which she submitted to Exeter University Press and through the Cabot Project, ongoing work to substantiate Ruddock's claims are being pursued.

The final lecture of the Meeting was by Dr Stephen Jones, Heritage Tourism Manager for Cadw and author of three volumes on Brunel in South Wales speaking on 'Bristol, Brunel and Wales'. He began with Brunel's never-to-be realised plans for a Severn Crossing between Bullo Pill and Lydney well up stream of the present bridges, a plan rejected by the Admiralty for impeding navigation. He discussed the Avon Gorge Suspension Bridge before moving on to Brunel's ships. The Great Eastern was based at Milford and adapted for cable laying across the Atlantic and in his well-illustrated talk he showed a rare photograph of the Great Eastern at low tide on the grid at Neyland. Interesting details were provided of Brunel's 'management style' and contacts with his on-site engineers during his many Welsh projects. He concluded with the story of Brunel's final ship, the *SS Great Britain*—a fitting introduction for the afternoon's visit.

After lunch at Burwalls, the party set off again by coach and boarded the *Mathew* for a leisurely cruise around the floating harbour. Cambrians explored the ship and talked to the crew—and the General Secretary was even allowed to steer the vessel with a somewhat unfamiliar whipstaff tiller. The *Mathew* was built as a replica of Cabot's original caravel to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of Cabot's discovery of Newfoundland. Dedicated in the floating harbour at the first International Festival of the Sea in 1996, she successfully crossed the Atlantic in 1997 with the same number of crew on board as Cabot had sailed with. Today the ship is used for cruises, festivals and filming.

The final event of the afternoon was a visit to the *SS Great Britain* and the excellent dockside museum. The party was welcomed by Bob Evans and won over by his enthusiasm and commitment for the project with future plans for secondary and higher education and training projects now well developed. After a descent down into the dry dock, now sheeted over with glass in order to maintain dry conditions to preserve the iron plates of the enormous hull, Cambrians were then free to explore the ship and the museum, reconvening in late afternoon in the Haywood Saloon to consume the Bo'sun's Buffet. This provided the opportunity for Frances Llewelyn to thank the organizers and all the speakers for an extremely enjoyable and highly informative meeting.

Members dispersed after breakfast on Monday.

Eisteddfod Lecture 2009

The 2009 lecture at the National Eisteddfod in Bala on Wednesday 5 August 2009 was delivered by Professor Antony Carr.

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PENLLYN A'R TYWYSOGION

Pan ddaeth Madog ap Maredudd i rym ym Mhowys yn 1132 yr oedd cymydau Penllyn ac Edeirnion yn rhan o'i diriogaeth. Yn ôl *Brut y Tywysogyon* yr oedd Gruffydd ap Maredudd ap Bleddyn, brawd Madog, a'i gefnder Einion ap Cadwgan ap Bleddyn wedi cipio Penllyn, Meirionnydd a Chyfeiliog oddi ar Uchdryd ab Edwin a rhannwyd Penllyn rhyngddynt. Bu farw Madog yn gynnar yn 1160 a bu farw Llywelyn, ei olynydd penodedig, yn yr un flwyddyn; gan nad oedd Llywelyn wedi cael cyfle i ddewis etifedd rhannwyd Powys rhwng Owain Cyfeiliog, mab Gruffydd ap Maredudd, a Gruffydd Maelor, un o feibion Madog. Rhoddwyd tiroedd ar yr ymylon i aelodau eraill o'r teulu i'w dal o Owain neu Gruffydd a daeth Penllyn i feddiant dau o feibion Madog, Owain Brogyntyn ac Elise. Cofnodir nifer o roddion o dir yn y cwmwd gan y brodyr i abatai Ystrad Marchell a Dinas Basing.

Erbyn 1202 y mae'n debyg fod Penllyn dan ben-arglwyddiaeth Llywelyn ab Iorwerth ac felly yn rhan o Wynedd i bob pwrpas. Yn y flwyddyn honno yr oedd Llywelyn yn paratoi ymosodiad ar Wenwynwyn ab Owain Cyfeiliog o Bowys; gwrthododd Elise gymryd rhan ac, er bod gwŷr yr eglwys wedi llwyddo i gyfryngu rhwng y ddau dywysog, fe gollodd ei holl diroedd ym Mhenllyn heblaw am gastell Crogen a saith trefgordd gyfagos. Yr oedd ei dynged yn rhybudd i bawb am y perygl o dynnu Llywelyn i'w pen. Ar ôl rhannu Gwynedd rhwng Llywelyn ap Gruffydd a'i frawd Owain yn sgîl marwolaeth Dafydd ap Llywelyn yn 1246 yr oedd Penllyn yn rhan o etifeddiaeth Llywelyn ac y mae hanes y cwmwd o hyn ymlaen yn rhan o hanes Gwynedd. Ar Sul y Blodau 1282 ymosododd Dafydd, brawd Llywelyn, ar Benarlâg ac ar yr un diwrnod ymosodwyd ar Groesoswallt gan wŷr nifer o ardaloedd yn y gogledd-ddwyrain gan gynnwys Penllyn; cafwyd ymosodiad arall ar yr un dref ar Ddydd Gwener y Groglith yn ystod yr un wythnos. Yr oedd Croesoswallt yn ganolfan i fasnach Penllyn ond erbyn 1282 yr oedd perthynas gwŷr y cwmwd ag awdurdodau'r dref wedi dirywio.

Yr oedd Penllyn yn un o'r pum cwmwd a ddaeth at ei gilydd dan Ystatud Cymru yn 1284 i ffurfio sir Feirionnydd. Y Bala oedd canolfan y cwmwd; derbyniodd y dref ei siarter gyntaf yn 1324 ond ceir cyfeiriadau cynharach at y lle ac y mae'n bosibl fod tref fach wedi datblygu o gwmpas y castell (Tomen y Bala) erbyn 1200. Dyddiwyd siarter Elise ap Madog i abaty Ystrad Marchell yn y Bala yn 1191. Y mae'n bosibl hefyd fod rhywfaint o ddatblygiad trefol wedi bod yn Llanfor; symudwyd ei marchnad a'i ffeiriau i'r Bala pan sefydlwyd y fwrdeisdref. Ceid cestyll eraill ym Mhenllyn, y rhan fwyaf ohonynt yn gestyll mwnt a beili; y mae'n bur debyg y crogwyd William de Braose yng nghastell Crogen yn 1230 yn sgîl ei odineb gyda Siwan, gwraig Llywelyn ab Iorwerth ac yr oedd cestyll eraill yn Llanygerw a Llanfor. Ond y castell mwyaf diddorol oedd Castell Carndochan yn nhrefgordd Pennant-lliw; y mae'n debyg y codwyd y castell anghysbell hwn gan un o'r ddau Lywelyn i reoli'r ffordd i mewn i Wynedd ar hyd Hollet y Bala.

Yn 1284 gwnaethpwyd stent neu arolwg o bob un o siroedd Cymreig newydd Edward I. Er ei holl fylchau y mae stent sir Feirionnydd yn cyflwyno darlun gwerthfawr o'r drefn gymdeithasol ac economaidd yn y sir ddiweddedd oes y tywysogion. Y mae'r ddogfen hon yn rhestru'r holl rhenti, gwasanaethau a thaliadau a oedd ar y tenantiaid rhydd a chaeth i'r goron a hefyd yn adlewyrchu'r difrod a ddaeth i'r cwmwd a'r sir yn sgîl rhyfel 1282–83. Cyhoeddir cyfieithiad o'r stent yn ei chrynsyth yn ail

gyfrol hanes y sir. Nid oedd llawer o dir ffrwythlon ym Mhenllyn ac felly yr oedd yr holl bwyslais ar fagu anifeiliaid, yn arbennig gwartheg; hyn oedd asgwrn cefn yr economi. Ceirch, a oedd yn bwydo dynion a cheffylau, oedd yr unig gnwd a dyfid yn y cwmwd. Seilid trefn daliadaeth tir ar y gafael, fel yr oedd yn Edeirnion ac Ardudwy, yn hytrach na'r gwely ac yr oedd etifeddion y rhan fwyaf o afaelion yn rhydd.

Ceir rhagor o wybodaeth am y patrwm cymdeithasol yn rhôl treth 1292–93 a olygwyd mor feistrolgar gan y diweddar Keith Williams-Jones. Y mae'r ddogfen hon yn adlewyrchu cyfoeth trigolion y sir; codwyd treth o un rhan o bymtheg o werth anifeiliaid a chnydau o bob un yr oedd gwerth ei eiddo dros 15 swllt. Yr unigolyn cyfoethocaf ym Mhenllyn oedd Madog ab Iorwerth o Bennant-lliw a dalodd 30 swllt, sy'n awgrymu eiddo gwerth £22 10s. Yn ôl Keith Williams-Jones Penllyn oedd y cwmwd tlotaf yn y sir ac, yn wir, ni thalodd ond pedwar trethdalwr arall fwy na phunt. Mae'r rhôl yn dangos hefyd fod gan rai merched eu heiddo eu hunain ond nid oedd yr un ohonynt yn gefnog iawn; Gwenllian ferch Cynwrig o Langywer, a dalodd 8s 3c oedd y cyfoethocaf ohonynt.

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PENLLYN AND THE PRINCES

When Madog ap Maredudd came to power in Powys in 1132 the commotes of Penllyn and Edeirnion were part of his territory. According to *Brut y Tywysogyon* Madog's brother Gruffydd ap Maredudd ap Bleddyn and his cousin Einion ap Cadwgan ap Bleddyn had captured Penllyn, Meirionnydd and Cyfeiliog from Uchdryd ab Edwin and Penllyn was divided between them. Madog died early in 1160 and Llywelyn, his designated successor, died in the same year; because Llywelyn had not had an opportunity to choose an heir Powys was divided between Owain Cyfeiliog, the son of Gruffydd ap Maredudd, and Gruffydd Maelor, one of Madog's sons. Lands on the periphery were given to other members of the dynasty to be held of Owain or Gruffydd and Penllyn came into the possession of two of Madog's other sons, Owain Brogyntyn and Elise. A number of gifts of land in the commote by the brothers to the abbeys of Strata Marcella and Basingwerk are recorded.

By 1202 Penllyn appears to have been under the overlordship of Llywelyn ab Iorwerth and therefore to all intents and purposes part of Gwynedd. In that year Llywelyn was preparing an attack on Gwenwynwyn ab Owain Cyfeiliog of Powys; Elise refused to take part and, although men of the church succeeded in reconciling the two princes, he lost all his lands in Penllyn with the exception of the castle of Crogen and seven adjacent townships. His fate was a warning to all of the danger of provoking Llywelyn. After the division of Gwynedd between Llywelyn ap Gruffydd and his brother Owain following the death of Dafydd ap Llywelyn in 1246 Penllyn was part of Llywelyn's share and from now on the history of the commote is part of the history of Gwynedd. On Palm Sunday 1282 Llywelyn's brother Dafydd attacked Hawarden and on the same day Oswestry was attacked by the men of several parts of the north-east including Penllyn; there was another attack on the same town on Good Friday during the same week. Oswestry had been the main trading centre for Penllyn but by 1282 the relations of the men of the commote and the municipal authorities had deteriorated.

Penllyn was one of the five commotes which were brought together under the Statute of Wales of 1284 to form the county of Merioneth. Bala was the commotal centre; the town received its first charter in 1324 but there are earlier references to it and a small urban centre may have developed around the castle (Tomen y Bala) by 1200. A charter of Elise ap Madog to the abbey of Strata Marcella was dated at Bala in 1191. It is also possible that there had been some urban development at Llanfor, its market and fairs were moved to Bala following the foundation of the borough. There were other castles in Penllyn, most of them being the motte and bailey kind; William de Braose was probably hanged at the castle of Crogen

in 1230 following his adultery with Siwan, the wife of Llywelyn ab Iorwerth, and there were other castles at Llangywer and Llanfor. But the most interesting castle was Castell Carndochan in the township of Pennant-lliw; this castle was probably built by one of the two Llywelyns to control the route into Gwynedd along the Bala Cleft.

In 1284 an extent or survey was made of each of Edward I's new counties in north Wales. Despite all its gaps the extent of Merioneth presents a valuable picture of the social and economic order in the county at the end of the age of the princes. This document lists all the rents, services and payments owed to the crown by the tenants, both free and bond, and it also reflects the damage done in the commote and the county as a result of the war of 1282–83. A translation of the whole extent may be found in the second volume of the county history. There was not much fertile land in Penllyn and the emphasis was therefore on stock-raising, especially cattle; they were the backbone of the economy. Oats, which could feed both men and horses, was the only crop grown in the commote. Land tenure was based on the *gafael* as it was in Edeirnion and Ardudwy, rather than on the *gwely* and the heirs of most of the *gafaelion* were free.

There is more information about the social order in the 1292–93 lay subsidy roll which was edited so expertly by the late Keith Williams-Jones. This document reflects the wealth of the people of the county; the subsidy of one-fifteenth of the value of livestock and crops was paid by everyone with property worth more than 15 shillings. The richest individual in Penllyn was Madog ab Iorwerth of Pennant-lliw who paid 30 shillings which suggests property worth £22 10s. According to Keith Williams-Jones, Penllyn was the poorest commote in the county and, indeed, only four other taxpayers paid more than a pound. The roll also shows that some women had property of their own although none of them were very well off; Gwenllian ferch Cynwrig of Llangywer, who paid 8s 3d was the most prosperous of them.

ANTONY CARR

Grants and Awards

RESEARCH FUND

This fund exists for the encouragement of research within the field of the Association's interest. Its scope includes travel, fieldwork, excavation and associated scientific services, historical research, and other appropriate forms of assistance such as photography, photocopying, typing, and preparation of drawings for publication. Awards are normally restricted to projects connected directly or indirectly with Wales and the Marches. Application forms may be obtained from the current General Secretary (name and address given opposite Contents page) or printed out from the Associations website (www.cambrians.org.uk). Completed forms and copies (preferably up to six) should be returned by the end of October of any year for allocation in the following January. Late applications may be submitted before the beginning of January, but such late applications will only be considered if funds have not been fully allocated.

The Association granted awards to the following during 2009:

Jonathan Hudson received a grant of £250 on behalf of the **Welsh group of the Institute for Archaeologists** towards the costs of a welcome pack for the conference being organised to review the Research Framework for Welsh Archaeology.

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales received a grant of £1,846 on behalf of **Dr Jeffrey Davies and Dr Toby Driver** to fund an excavation on a Roman villa site at Abermagwr, Ceredigion.

Richard Madgwick, a PhD student at Cardiff University, received a grant of £500 to help cover the costs of isotopic analysis of animal bone from a late prehistoric midden at Llanmaes.

Llangynidr Local History Society received a grant of £1,000 for survey work in Dyffryn Crawnon which has many traces of earlier farming and settlement which can be recognised on estate maps of 1587.

BENEFACTORS' FUND

The Association established this fund to make grants to students and other young people under the age of 25 who are engaged in archaeological studies or activities, particularly relating to Wales and the Marches. Grants are meant to assist in covering the cost of books or equipment and the payment of fees, subscriptions or any other expenses considered appropriate. Grants towards the cost of excavation are not included as these are covered by the Association's Research Fund. Applications giving full details should be addressed to the current General Secretary (name and address given opposite Contents page).

THE BLODWEN JERMAN PRIZES

Two prizes are offered in memory of Mrs Blodwen Jerman, to raise the profile of the Association and to encourage young people to become members.

Prize 1

This prize will be awarded annually for the best dissertation on the history or archaeology of Wales or the Marches, submitted during the previous two years in any higher education institution, whether in Wales or elsewhere, in successful fulfilment of the requirements of an undergraduate or master's degree. The first prize shall be a cheque for £150 and three year's free membership of the Association, which includes its journal. At the discretion of the judges, runners-up may be offered one or two year's free membership of the Association, including its journal. Further information and application forms can be obtained from the Association's website (www.cambrians.org.uk).

Prize 2

This prize, aimed at a secondary school age-group, is now being awarded as one of a number of sponsored prizes within the Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative (WHSI). Heritage is interpreted in its widest sense and competition entries can be presented as written material or in photographic or video form, or as an exhibition, or a model. Computer-based projects such as databases or websites or CDs or DVDs are also welcomed. Further information and application forms can be obtained from the WHSI website (www.whsi.org.uk).

REPORT ON THE BLODWEN JERMAN PRIZE COMPETITION IN 2009

Four essays were considered from three different universities for Prize 1. The prize was awarded to Valerie Davies (BA, Lampeter University) for her dissertation on 'Activity Pattern Reconstruction and a Socio-Economic Interpretation of a sample of the Sub-Roman Population of Brownslade, Pembrokeshire'.

The purpose of this dissertation was to examine human bone material from a coastal sub-Roman cemetery and from its robustness deduce the major activities of the population buried there. The human bone was also assessed against a control sample from Glamorgan. The candidate provided a clear exposition, tackling first the nature of the enquiry, secondly placing the cemetery in a wider archaeological context of early medieval Wales, and thirdly discussing the practical techniques of bone analysis required for this study. The methodology was explained clearly with excellent supporting illustrations. The processed results from Brownslade were also well displayed with illustrations, analytical data, and interpretation. Assessed as a contribution to socio-economic interpretation, the small sample size (4 skeletons out of 32 burials) did limit the validity of the results.

The presentation of the text, the illustrations and the bibliography were all well arranged. The candidate argued that the robust skeletal material (both male and female) indicated the regular tasks of net hauling during fishing, of heavy manual work during seaweed harvesting and, less convincingly, of stone quarrying. As the candidate admitted, this line of enquiry really needed a larger sample and should also be supported by other sampling techniques which could utilise more of the excavated bone material and throw better light on the deceased's diet.

Eddie Procter (MSc, Oxford University) was commended for his thesis on 'Llanthony Priory in the Vale of Ewyas: the landscape impact of a medieval priory in the Welsh Marches'. It drew favourable comments for the quantity of information, the high standard of the landscape illustration and the effective use of maps and aerial photographs.

LAWRENCE BUTLER

Financial Statements 2009

The following financial statements are taken from the published *Trustees Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2009*, approved on the 22 July 2010.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Restricted Fund 2009 £	Unrestricted Funds 2009 £	Total Funds 2009 £	Total Funds 2008 £
Income Resources				
Incoming Resources from generated funds:				
Voluntary income	–	17,442	17,442	24,016
Activities for generating funds	–	10,001	10,001	26,796
Investment Income	92	10,094	10,186	12,704
Total Incoming Resources	<u>92</u>	<u>37,537</u>	<u>37,629</u>	<u>63,516</u>
Resources Expended				
Charitable activities	–	26,051	26,051	31,608
Governance costs	–	3,032	3,032	14,283
Total Resources Expended	<u>–</u>	<u>29,083</u>	<u>29,083</u>	<u>45,891</u>
Net Income Resources Before Revaluations	92	8,454	8,546	17,625
Gains and losses on revaluations of investment assets	<u>(89)</u>	<u>(2,636)</u>	<u>(2,725)</u>	<u>(8,348)</u>
Net Movement in Funds for the Year	3	5,818	5,821	9,277
Total funds at 1 January 2009	<u>4,892</u>	<u>267,725</u>	<u>272,617</u>	<u>263,340</u>
Total Funds at 31 December 2009	<u><u>4,895</u></u>	<u><u>273,543</u></u>	<u><u>278,438</u></u>	<u><u>272,617</u></u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2009

	2009 £	2008 £
Fixed Assets		
Fixed asset investments	216,068	218,792
Current Assets		
Cash in hand	62,370	53,825
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	<u>278,438</u>	<u>272,617</u>
Charity Funds		
Restricted funds	4,895	4,892
Unrestricted funds	273,543	267,725
Total Funds	<u>278,438</u>	<u>272,617</u>

The Cambrian Archaeological Association, 2009–10 Cymdeithas Hynafiathau Cymru, 2009–10

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The Association's Library

The library of exchange transactions from corresponding societies is housed at the National Library and Gallery of Wales, Cardiff, by kind permission of the Director. (A list of corresponding societies is given towards the end of the List of Members.) These are available for consultation (Tuesday to Friday, closed on public holidays), or can be borrowed by post for a period of one month, on the understanding that the borrower will refund the museum for the outward postage and pay the return postage. Requests for access to the exchange transactions should be addressed to: The Hon. Librarian, CAA Library, National Museum and Gallery of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NP.

Publications for Sale

The Association holds currently holds stock of the publications listed below. Further details of availability and costs including postage and packing can be obtained from the current Membership Secretary (name and address given opposite Contents page). The Association publishes a Newsletter which is distributed to members at the beginning of each year. Additional copies may be obtained from the Membership Secretary. Members possessing unwanted copies of the Associations publications in good condition are invited to donate them to the book stock, to be included in items offered for sale. Out-of-print volumes may thus become available to others seeking to obtain them.

Archaeologia Cambrensis ISSN 0306-6924

Following recent sales, the Association now holds few copies of the journal before 1964.

Indexes

The index to *Archaeologia Cambrensis 1847–1900* is out of print but is available for consultation in many libraries.

Index to Archaeologia Cambrensis 1901–1960, compiled by T. Rowland Powell, with lists and notes by Donald Moore, 1976. Pp. xxi + 313. Soft cover £6, bound in blue cloth £9 + £3.50 p&p.

Index to Archaeologia Cambrensis 1961–1980, compiled by Helen Emanuel Davies, with lists and notes by Donald Moore, 2004. Pp. xxxviii + 1753. Soft cover £15 + £3.50 p&p.

Index to Archaeologia Cambrensis 1981–2000, compiled by Elizabeth Cook, with lists and notes by Donald Moore and a contribution by H. P. Gwynne Morgan, 2008. Pp. 1 + 330. ISBN 0-947846-09-3. Price: soft cover £18.50 + £3.50 p&p, bound £22 + p&p.

Programme booklets of Annual Summer Meetings

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