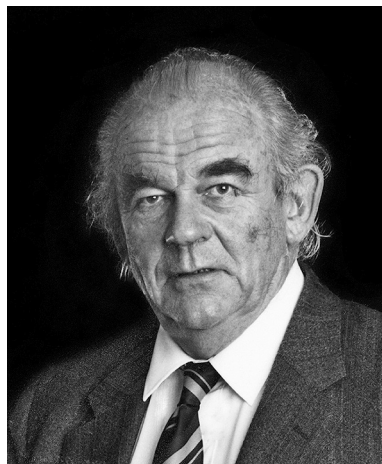


Obituary

PETER SMITH, 1926–2013

Peter Smith, architectural historian, died on the 12 March 2013. Peter was born in 1926 at Winlaton-on-Tyne, County Durham, and educated at Royal Grammar School, Newcastle, and King Edward VI School, Southampton. He read Modern History at Oriel and Lincoln Colleges, Oxford (Open Scholar of the latter) and subsequently studied at the Hammersmith School of Building. He was appointed Junior Investigator at the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales in 1949 and served as Secretary of the Commission between 1973–91. His contribution to the understanding of Welsh vernacular architecture was immense, notable publications including the chapter on ‘Rural Housing in Wales’ in *The Agrarian History of England and Wales, 1500–1640* (1967) and *Houses of the Welsh Countryside* (1975; 2nd enlarged edn 1988). He served as President of the Vernacular Architecture Group and was President of the Cambrian Archaeological Association in 1979 and he made numerous contributions to *Archaeologia Cambrensis* (his Presidential Address entitled ‘The architectural personality of the British Isles’ is published in volume 129) and was awarded the G. T. Clark Prize by the Association in 1969. He was awarded the Alice Davis Hitchcock Medallion of the Society of Architectural Historians in 1975 and an Hon. D.Litt by Bangor University in 1993.



As an addition to this summary of Peter’s considerable achievements I would also like to record the following personal tribute, which formed the basis of a funeral elogy given at St Padarn’s Church, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, on 22 March 2013. I first met in the 1980s when I applied for a junior post at the Royal Commission. At the interview, which was held in London, Peter, who had rather rugged features, scrutinised me for a disconcertingly long time and addressed me rather unexpectedly in a gravelly and unmistakable Yorkshire accent. I got the job and started assisting Peter, spending many days in the field with him surveying houses for the second edition of *Houses of the Welsh Countryside*. I soon learnt that behind the rather gruff exterior there was a kindly and somewhat driven man, and we sometimes worked late into the night. I spent a lot of time in his company travelling and surveying all over Wales and got to know him well. He was born near Gateshead, the son of a schools’ inspector. He was born with a disability, one leg shorter than the other, and was at first educated at home and—I believe—acquired his Yorkshire accent from his mother. His disability was something one noticed once but that was all. It never in the slightest hampered his exploration of roofs and confined spaces. Adults never mentioned it but children sometimes did, and Peter would respond to their curiosity courteously with a cautionary tale about crossing roads with care.

I soon learnt that Peter had a very deep sense of history. There was of course the social history of housing but Peter was very interested in political history and great events. For Peter the modern world started with the 1914–18 war. His father had been a soldier in the Great War on (I think) the Macedonian Front and had a fund of stories which made a great impact on him. When the war ended Peter’s father and his comrades made their way through Greece. Stopping at a village they found an ossuary or bone-house

in the graveyard, and the Tommies quite spontaneously jumped up and down on the bones making them fly everywhere from the sheer exuberance of being alive and having survived the war.

Working with Peter was rewarding. When you work with a master you try and learn as much as you can, and I wanted to learn. Peter taught by example. I was often assigned the humble role of conversation officer which allowed Peter to investigate a building without too much distraction. I observed that Peter would not rest until he had sorted out the plan of a building and only then would he deal with the detail. The importance of having an overview before you make a judgement is a great lesson in archaeology. Peter had various helpful phrases which I suppose you could call aphorisms. A favourite was 'it is later than you think', often used about houses whose age had been exaggerated. It was a phrase I believe Peter had adapted from the incongruous message above the clock in an undertaker's window in Aberystwyth. Another saying was 'a drawing (or, alternatively, a photograph) is worth a thousand words', and he encouraged illustrative work of all types. For many years his creative energies went into making drawings of houses but in retirement he returned to painting rather good landscapes for relaxation. There were other aphorisms: to the historic-house owner who asked for an opinion before Peter had come to a conclusion, he responded 'let the fox see the rabbit', a phrase I rather liked. Exploring a house often meant an exciting roof crawl. If we came back dirty, as we often did, his wife Joyce would know that Peter had had a good day. Lunch and supper stops were also important and Peter needed refuelling at regular intervals. He had the rather endearing habit of banging the spoon in his bowl when chasing the last drop of soup or apple pie.

Peter was not a particularly tidy person, and he could be very untidy indeed. This had its advantages. By not appearing like 'a man from the ministry', in suit and tie, Peter was invited into many houses where wariness of officialdom was an habitual reflex. On the theme of untidiness, Peter had an anecdote about Lord Raglan, the co-author with his hero Cyril Fox of *Monmouthshire Houses*. Peter called at Cefntilla Court to collect Lord Raglan on the way to visit an important house. Raglan appeared with a jacket from one suit, a waistcoat from another, and trousers from a third. Lady Raglan observed sadly, 'My lord is not a dressy person', and the same could be said about Peter himself.

When I joined the Commission it had a slightly old-fashioned air. Staff were still sometimes referred to by surname, but it was not a 'stuffy' office. Peter was impatient with those who were self important. In fact the Commission was rather democratic and the whole office (from Office Junior to Senior Investigator) all trooped off together for the spring meeting of staff and Commissioners usually held in some delightful location. Peter was continuing the tradition of maintaining a close association between staff and Commissioners established by his predecessor Dr Hogg and Professor Grimes. On these occasions, junior staff would find themselves chatting to senior archaeologists and historians. Other social accomplishments besides conversation were desirable. At Peter's first such meeting at Llanrwst Professor Grimes even taught him to play snooker. At these games of snooker a box was on hand for the diminutive Sir Idris Foster so that he could tackle the shots requiring a long reach. Commissioners talked freely in front of junior staff. Peter heard Sir Ifor Williams complain that Sir Thomas Parry, by accepting the post of National Librarian, had exchanged the pursuit of learning at Bangor ('the highest calling a man can follow') for (witheringly enunciated) administration. In those days administration could be fitted around other duties. Sir Cyril Fox ran the National Museum with a small office staff and found time to be an effective Commissioner, encouraging Peter to take up the new study of vernacular architecture. The Secretary of the Commission doubled as a field investigator, and Peter continued the tradition when appointed Secretary in 1973. Peter would have been impatient with the increasing bureaucracy, managerialism, and meetings culture of today's public service. His emphasis was on getting the work done, which to him meant completing the Glamorgan Inventory volumes. The survey of Glamorgan was a grand undertaking and the Inventory volumes were published thematically. It was a matter of great

disappointment that the projected volume on churches never appeared. It was partly a casualty of the changing relationship with our sponsoring body, and of changing expectations about the role of the Royal Commissions, which became the subject of a policy review by consultants Peate Marwick McClintock in 1987. Gone were the days when the Royal Commission received its funding directly from the Treasury, and a Chairman of RCAHMW could rebuff a Minister used to getting his own way by saying that he was not one of his minions. PMC concluded that the Royal Commissions had to change to survive. Their waspish comment that the Welsh Royal Commission had the air of an old-fashioned university department Peter rather took as a compliment. The implied conclusion that the Commission should abandon inventory work, as defined in the Royal warrant, Peter regarded as *lèse majesté*.

Peter was never given a civil honour although he was recommended for a gong more than once. This was rather odd but it did not trouble him. Quite the reverse. Peter was truly honoured by the esteem in which he was held—not only by those who knew him but also by many complete strangers. Often we would call at a house and find that Peter's reputation had preceded him. Among the messages we received at the office after Peter's death was announced was one from Adrian James. His message was typical: 'Very sorry to hear this news. *Houses of the Welsh Countryside* was instrumental in firing up my interest in vernacular architecture. I am sure that I am not alone in feeling indebted to Peter Smith for lighting the flames of my enthusiasm for this area of study'. He has been responsible for the saving of many buildings that, prior to the publication of *Houses of the Welsh Countryside* would have been removed without much thought for heritage and sense of place. His book did so much to raise awareness of the built heritage of the Welsh countryside and thereby save it for future generations. When Peter Smith's predecessor, Dr Hogg, died, our former chairman, Richard Atkinson, the distinguished archaeologist, who was ill himself, wrote to Peter and said simply 'He was a good man'. I think we can say the same about Peter. He was a good man in the sense that he used his gifts to the full. He was a good man in the sense that he was a modest man. For me he was a friend and patient teacher. *Requiescat in pace*.

RICHARD SUGGETT

THE 158TH SUMMER MEETING

Gascony, 2011

On the Saturday 25 June 2011 forty Cambrians assembled in Bordeaux by various means of travel from various parts of Wales, England, Ireland and even Portugal, for the meeting held between 25 June and 2 July. Those who arrived early had the pleasure of exploring Bordeaux, and even those who arrived later in the day were taken for a drive down the newly restored and invigorated quay alongside the river, with fountains, eighteenth-century buildings mirror pools and a shiny new tram system. The coach brought us via the fortified mill at Barbaste and the haunts of *le bon roi, Henri Quatre* to Condom, the small but elegant city which would be our base for the week.

The week was organised with enormous enthusiasm and meticulous care by Marie-Thérèse Castay who, after a career in the University of Toulouse, had returned to her native region where she knew all the places and all the people who would ensure that a fascinating, informative and above all an enjoyable time would be had by all. Her first success was the choice of hotel—the Hotel Continental, close to the river—very comfortable, quiet and serving delicious food. The formal dinner with regional specialities on the Tuesday evening was a tour de force. The proprietor, Veronique Sémézies, was an ideal host. The

coach firm, Bajolle, and especially our driver, Bastien, gave splendid service too, perhaps because his grandmother had been a friend of Marie-Therese's parents. It was that kind of a meeting; one where the Cambrians were absorbed into a network of friends and family and everyone came away feeling that they knew intimately that corner of the Gers, so densely filled with fascinating historical sites that few journeys were longer than 25 kilometres.

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SUNDAY 26 JUNE

Sunday morning, after the rigours of the journey, was designed to be leisurely, and the increasing heat of the day made that a necessity and curtailed the exploration of **Condom** proposed for the afternoon. The morning was spent at Mass in the Cathedral or alternatively at one of the town's best Armagnac distilleries. Both parties returned to the hotel for lunch via the narrow streets of the town centre where sixteenth- and seventeenth-century houses were pointed out, and even a window of twelfth-century date surviving in a much-altered façade. In the afternoon several British friends of Marie-Thérèse brought their cars to the hotel (where lunch was taken every day) to ferry members to the **Ancien Carmel** on the outskirts of town. This old Carmelite convent had recently been converted into a hostel for pilgrims and retreatants and its chapel redesigned for use as a lecture room. It proved to be a cool and well-aired refuge from the midday sun and was an ideal setting for the daily lectures which provided the background to the visits.



The Cambrians seeking refuge from the heat of the sun in the grounds of the Ancien Carmel shortly after the introductory talk given Marie-Thérèse Castay on the afternoon of Sunday 26 June 2011. *Photograph: Robert Faget of Le Petit Journal.*

On Sunday afternoon Marie-Thérèse herself gave a beautifully illustrated introduction to the geography of the region and to the broad sweep of its history. Gascony/Aquitaine was a particularly sophisticated part of Gallo-Roman France, but suffered in the barbarian invasions, and throughout the Middle Ages was battered by the triangular power struggles of the Counts of Armagnac and the French and English kings, struggles in which many Welshmen were involved. The Plantagenets had become players in this field with the marriage of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine and remained active there until the end of the Hundred Years War in the fifteenth century. After that the players changed—the English left (only to return in the twentieth-century), the house of Albret eclipsed Armagnac and the Wars of Religion brought Henry of Navarre to prominence and eventually the French throne, bringing Gascony firmly with him. The eighteenth-century saw a period of peace and prosperity under the wise administration of Antoine Mégret d'Étigny, but disruption returned with the Revolution. Throughout all this turbulent history the Gers sustained an agricultural economy, as it still does today, with the addition of many blazing fields of sunflowers. Another constant was the stream of pilgrims crossing the region on the road to Santiago de Compostela, bringing with them artistic styles which make the small country churches a delight. Perhaps less constant than the agriculture, this strand is also present in the Gers of today. Afterwards the whole party went to the Cathedral for an architectural tour with a lecturer from the Tourist Office, but since the heat outside was intense it was decided that it would be wise to return to the hotel directly rather than continuing with a walking tour of the town.

MONDAY 27 JUNE

Monday's programme was devoted largely to the Romans. The main visit in the morning was to the great villa at **Séviac**. Gascony and south-west France has a great number of wealthy villas, evidence of the high level of prosperity and education in this part of the Roman world which survived the decline of the Roman Empire. This villa was excavated and displayed during the later part of the twentieth century through the energy, knowledge and enthusiasm of a local woman, Paulette Aragon-Launet, despite little official support until the importance of her findings became apparent. The huge villa is adorned with large and well-preserved mosaics in virtually every room and all the corridors. Most of what is displayed belongs to the fourth and fifth centuries, but there is evidence that the estate was established by the second century and occupation continued into the seventh century, but by then invasions had damaged the local economy and the great bath-house was turned to agricultural use. The later evidence included an early Christian church with baptistry and a cemetery of Christian graves. On leaving the site a brief visit was made to the nearby bastide at **Montréal-du-Gers**, but the museum was unexpectedly closed.

After lunch at the hotel the party set out for **Nogaro** because the Roman lecture had had to be cancelled. Nogaro was an important site on the pilgrimage to Compostela and the church is an especially fine and interesting example of Romanesque architecture. After examining some of the surviving conventual buildings the party entered the church under a fine carved tympanum to look at the particularly fine series of carved capitals and Romanesque frescoes. Since this was an addition to the programme there was no guidance in the Programme Booklet, a situation which led to a lively debate about the identification of the biblical scenes represented.

We then returned to the original programme and left for **Eauze**, one of the oldest towns in Gers since it began life as an Iron Age oppidum and became the capital of *Novempopulania* and a Roman colony, though the centre of occupation moved a little during those six centuries. Evidence for the splendour of the Roman town emerged from the excavation of the railway in the nineteenth century and more recently (1985) in the discovery of a huge hoard of silver coins and jewellery of the third century belonging to a single individual called Libo. So enormous was this hoard (28,000 coins) that a new museum was built to

house it. After visiting the museum the party went out to see the recent excavations at **Elusa**, the original Roman town which replaced the oppidum located at Esbérous two miles away.

TUESDAY 28 JUNE

Tuesday started early with a visit to the fortified village of **Larressingle**, Marie-Thérèse's home village. Outside the imposing gateway she explained the origins of the village with the donation of this land in 1011 to the Benedictine monastery at Condom. The twelfth-century church is the oldest surviving building, followed by the earliest stages of the castle rising close beside it. From 1154 the fortress fell into the hands of the English and the village was jointly administered by Edward I and the abbot, an uncomfortable situation which nevertheless protected the village from further damage during the Hundred Years War, though it did suffer in the sixteenth-century Wars of Religion. The exact sequence of building within the church and the castle and the date of the houses built against the inner side of the encircling wall engendered a good deal of debate amongst the party.

From Larressingle the bus took us to the **Pont d'Artigues** which was crossed on foot in company with a group of modern pilgrims. This bridge and the lost Commanderie above it stood on one of the



Visit by the Cambrians to L'église Saint Sigismond at Larressingle where Marie-Thérèse Castay outlined the history of the twelfth-century church. *Photograph: Rita Wood.*

long-established pilgrimage routes to Santiago de Compostela. From the bridge the party went up to the small church of **Vopillon**, once the chancel of the much larger priory church of the Order of Nuns of Fontevault. The Wars of Religion and finally the Revolution destroyed the priory and the church was reduced in size and nearly collapsed. A restoration programme in 1966 revealed a series of thirteenth-century paintings showing the Nativity and Passion of Christ in the apse and well preserved around the door to the sacristy.

The lecture that afternoon covered the pilgrim routes to Compostela and was by Dr Lawrence Butler. From the Carmel the party went to the Cistercian abbey of **Flaran** where the great abbey church and the chapter house retain their Cistercian simplicity but the domestic quarters reflect a more opulent eighteenth-century monastic life, ended at the Revolution. Dr Butler spoke about Cistercian architecture here in the fine chapter house, where his audience could sit comfortably on the monks' benches around the wall. A large Roman mosaic in the grounds is witness to another large villa similar to Séviac on land owned by the abbey. On the return journey a brief visit was made to the **Chateau de Cassaigne**, once a country retreat of the bishops of Condom and now an Armagnac estate; and to **Mouchan**. At Mouchan we were met by the Mayor who has been most energetic in establishing the beautiful Romanesque church with its unusual fortified tower on the tourist circuit, as a member of the network of Cluniac foundations. The twelfth-century church has several points of design which relate to the transition from Romanesque to Gothic and some fine corbels, capitals and doorway details.



L'église Notre-Dame, Vopillon, during the visit by the Cambrians on 28 June 2011.

Photograph: Rita Wood.



The Cistercian abbey at Flaran. *Photograph: Rita Wood.*

WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE

Wednesday was another day of religious architecture with an interlude for tea in a delightful garden. The morning started at a small Romanesque church, **Sainte Germaine de Soldunum**, with a puzzling construction history. Although not on the original pilgrim route, it is popular with present-day pilgrims to Compostela and we met a group there that morning. Like many others this church suffered damage in the seventeenth-century wars and was reduced in size. The remaining central apse has a beautiful blind arcade and finely carved capitals. The nave was truncated in the eighteenth century when the western roof collapsed. Outside on the north side there is clear evidence of a missing short apse and on the south side there is a very fine decorated doorway (blocked) whose role is puzzling since it cannot be recognised on the inside.

From Sainte Germaine the party went to **La Romieu**, an entirely gothic structure of the fourteenth century. This great church was built by a local man, Cardinal Arnaud d'Aux a cousin of Pope Clement V. He was a papal diplomat who had many dealings with the English court and Edward II granted him funds to found a college of canons in his native village, alongside a great palace for himself which he did not live to enjoy. The huge church is a long rectangle with a tower at each end. The eastern one houses the sacristy, the chapter house and an archive room. The view from the belvedere on the top was enjoyed by only a few Cambrians, but most reached the chapter house and all were able to see the painted sacristy. This room has a series of angels skilfully filling the spaces between the ribs of the vaulting, interspersed with heraldic shields. The painting was highlighted with silver which, now tarnished, gives a heavier look

to the decoration than the artist and patron intended. The large cloister was unusual in having a second storey in wood, which was destroyed by fire in 1569. At the Revolution the cardinal's palace was sold off and eventually demolished and the Collegiate church became a parish church.

The lecture that day was the Presidential Address, 'Aristocratic residence in the Plantagenet world: Britain and Europe' given by Professor Gwyn Meirion-Jones (published at the beginning of this volume). Although the Annual General Meeting had not been held because this meeting was not within the United Kingdom, on the previous evening Professor Meirion-Jones had been invested as President by Professor Tony Carr, a Past-President of the Association.



Investiture of Professor Meirion-Jones (left) as President by Professor Tony Carr, a Past-President of the Association. *Photograph: Robert Faget of Le Petit Journal.*

The party returned to La Romieu via a rare survival, the chapel of the **Commanderie at Abrin**. These establishments were set up to serve the needs of pilgrims. This one, though independent at first, was run by the Order of St John of Jerusalem and was very prosperous until badly damaged in the Wars of Religion. At La Romieu the party enjoyed a splendid afternoon tea with a special Gascon apple cake at the beautiful arboretum at **Les Jardins de Coursiana**. On the return to Condom a short stop was made at the Romanesque church at **Lialores**. The triple-apsed east end has some particularly fine carving on the exterior and the gothic west end is topped by a triangular wall-belfry, a very characteristic later addition on many churches in this region.

THURSDAY 30 JUNE

Thursday was a day devoted to the bastide towns which are such a feature of this region in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, just as they are in the areas of Wales subjected to similar Plantagenet influence, when commerce needed serious protection. The first visit of the day was to **Fourcès**, a circular walled village with arcaded houses and shops around a central space which was the site of a motte castle of

eleventh-century date. As the village grew around a castle it really is a fortified village (*castelnaud*), like Larressingle, rather than a true bastide or merchant town with an arcaded central market square which might not have had a castle. At Fourcès the surviving castle has been relocated to the periphery, the arcaded stone houses replace earlier wooden ones and the church is outside the walls; all of these are bastide characteristics and account for the ongoing debate as to the village's true identity (a *castelnaud* or a bastide?).

The party then returned to the undoubted bastide of **Montréal-du-Gers** which was created in 1255 on a new site, on the end of a steep spur. The town has a clear grid pattern of streets focussing on the central market square with arcades. The Gothic church, enlarged in 1300, is on the south east side of the square and is incorporated into the wall which originally completely surrounded the town. The town was designed from the start to be a large one and, in a period when towns changed hands frequently in the ebb and flow of rivalries between the French and English, documents show that it proved difficult to find burgesses, until rich privileges were granted.

After lunch the lecture was very appropriately one on French and Welsh bastides by Professor Tony Carr. The afternoon's visit was to the great castle of **Lavardens**, rescued from dilapidation by a devoted local group who had raised huge grants to bring it back to use as an art gallery. One of this group and also a member of one of the twelve families who had bought sections of the building after the Revolution, M. Mothe who is currently Mayor of Lavardens, was our enthusiastic guide for the afternoon. Apart from the elegant stone patterned floors the huge rooms had lost their original sophisticated seventeenth-century fittings, but they were still impressive. The castle, built in 1619 for Marshall Antoine de Roquelaure, an old man newly married to a young wife, was built on the ruins of a twelfth-century fortress occupying a prominent crag. The first two floors at the west end are part of this fortress and the seventeenth-century chateau is built on them, enveloping the crag and dominating its landscape. The view from the roof was particularly exhilarating. The return to Condom was a little delayed this evening by some Cambrians losing the bus, but finding a bar! As a result the planned visit to Valence-sur-Baïse had to be postponed.

FRIDAY 1 JULY

Friday's visit to **Auch** was the most distant visit made that week and was the only one to a major city; for the most part we had been exploring the great historical depth of small villages. In fact the first visit of the morning was to one such—**Valence-sur-Baïse**—founded as a new bastide in 1274 along the top of a narrow ridge. The market square with arcaded shops and the 8-metre high wall and one of the original gateways survive in a village which still retains its grid of medieval streets.

The history of Auch and of Eauze (visited on Monday) is one of similar but fluctuating power bases. Both were important Iron Age oppida which became Roman cities in the first centuries AD. Eauze was the capital of the Elusates, Auch of the Auscii. At Auch the flourishing Roman city was down on the flat lands on the right bank of the river, but the period of barbarian invasions forced the inhabitants to move to high ground on the left bank which provided natural protection with steep slopes on all sides except the northern approach along the ridge-top. It was there that the medieval and modern city developed and when Elusa (Eauze) was destroyed in the ninth century, Auch became the main town of the region, as an archbishopric and as a centre of civil administration. This dual importance was a cause of friction for many centuries, added to which the establishment of a major independent monastery at the foot of the hill and a castle for the Counts of Armagnac, the growing power of the townspeople, and the ebb and flow of the struggles of the Plantagenets and the King of France, all make the history of Auch particularly complex. In 1716 when France was divided into *généralités* governed by *intendants* (representatives of the king) Auch became the seat of one of the most conscientious and far-sighted of these administrators,

Antoine Mégret d'Étigny, whose period of office, though relatively short, saw major improvements to the infrastructure of the region. His memory is rightly celebrated by a fine statue which dominates the *allées* and Courts of Justice which he had built, together with many of the roads along which the Cambrians had travelled.

On arriving in the city some of the party went to visit the museum, with good local collections and also some fine Central America material, down towards the lower town. Others stayed on the summit and explored the medieval streets around the cathedral, while checking the shops and restaurants for the best place for lunch. In the afternoon all assembled outside the city Tourist Office to meet Natasha, our official guide to the cathedral and the old town. The present cathedral was started in 1489 with a substantial crypt as foundation for the large sanctuary, but the main work belongs to the sixteenth century and it was not completed until 1672. The main glories of the cathedral are the series of stained glass windows by Arnault de Moles (1507–13) in the chapels of the ambulatory and the 113 magnificent Renaissance choir stalls (1510–54). Both the windows and the stalls are not only artistically of the highest quality but are an expression of a unified theology carrying a coherent devotional message. After the tour of the church there was a short recital by one of the cathedral organists on the great seventeenth-century organ. The bus returned to Condom via the lower town, close to the sites of the Iron Age and Roman settlements, long abandoned and now a modern suburb.

SATURDAY 2 JULY

Saturday saw a return to **Bordeaux** to catch trains and planes through the afternoon. This left time to pass through Nérac and glimpse the remains of the castle of Henry IV and to make a longer visit to **Vianne**, another well-preserved bastide town with an earlier church set at an angle across the prevailing grid of the streets. Rejoining the motorway, the bus became embedded in the traffic of the traditional French escape to the beaches but the wise planning of the organisers ensured that all travel deadlines were met.

FRANCES LYNCH LLEWELLYN

AUTUMN MEETING, 2011

Tenby

Forty-seven members attended the Autumn meeting organised by Heather James, held at Tenby between the 23–25 September 2011. Most members were based at the Fourcroft Hotel, a friendly, family-run hotel that overlooks the North Beach, Tenby and is a Listed Building of early nineteenth-century date. It is one of many 'regency' style developments dating to the late eighteenth to early nineteenth centuries when Tenby became a popular sea-bathing resort.

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FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

The Meeting commenced on Friday afternoon with a leisurely promenade led by Heather James from the Fourcroft Hotel and down **Crackwell Street**, within the medieval walled town. Glimpses of stone, jettied medieval town houses were visible behind later facades. Members paused to look down into **Tenby**



Tenby Harbour. *Photograph: David Young.*



Heather James (right) leading the promenade around Tenby on the afternoon of Friday 23 September 2011. *Photograph: David Young.*

Harbour and the changes wrought by William Paxton were pointed out. A wealthy nabob, London banker and Carmarthenshire gentlemen, he built a new carriage road down to the Harbour to give access to his new Bath-House. The fine early nineteenth-century townhouses at the base of **Castle Hill** were admired as the party progressed along the harbour wall and back, examining the exterior of Paxton's bath-house. The history of the port and harbour was briefly outlined before walking around the base of Castle Hill, a peninsula jutting out into the sea and separating North from South Beach. The old and new Lifeboat Stations and site of the former pier were pointed out and a short outline given of St Catherine's Island with its nineteenth-century Palmerstonian fort before some of the party ascended the hill to view and discuss what remained of the Castle and the fine Albert Memorial. Members then assembled in **Tenby Museum** for a view of the archaeological and historical collections, followed by a wine reception when Mrs Kathy Talbot, the Honorary Curator, spoke informally about the highlights of the Museum's Art Gallery.

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

Despite a rainy morning on Saturday, the party progressed by coach to look at the spectacular bank of nineteenth-century limekilns at **Kiln Park**, Penally (now a caravan park). Moving on to Penally village, welcome shelter was provided by **Penally Church** where Jeremy Knight spoke on St Teilo, his monastery at Penally and the high crosses now displayed within the church. The unusual vine-scroll decoration of one attests to close contact with the Anglo-Saxon world in the ninth-century. Passing **Penally Camp**, the party paused for Heather James to give a brief account of the nineteenth- and twentieth-century military history of the camp and Penally Burrows. After a short stop at **Lydstep Palace**—a ruined medieval hall-house—the party descended to Lydstep Holiday Village's beach-front **Clubhouse** for lunch. This holiday

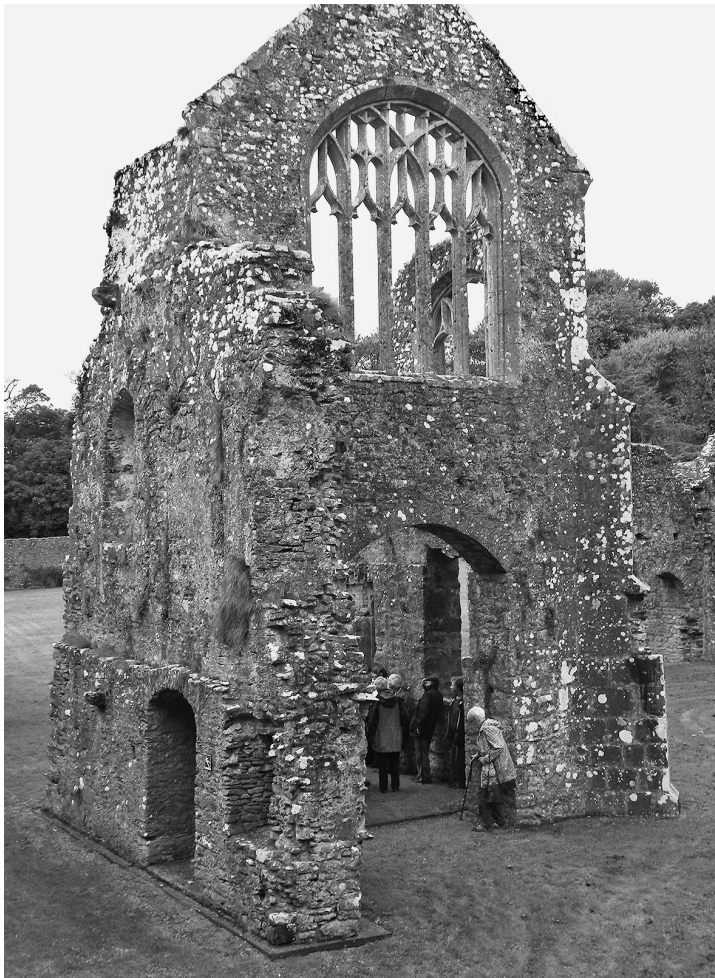


Lydstep Palace, a ruined medieval hall-house, visited by the Cambrians on Saturday 24 September 2011.

Photograph: David Young.

house was built by Lord St Davids in 1894 in ‘robustly eclectic style’. After lunch, with a cessation of rain and better visibility, we viewed Caldey Island, and the north side of Lydstep Bay, extensively quarried in the nineteenth century for a limestone capable of taking a polish. The recent discovery of a Mesolithic child’s footprints exposed in the peat shelf exposed at low tide there was described.

Arriving at Lamphey the party walked or were ferried down from the main road to **Lamphey Palace**. This was in effect a country retreat of the medieval bishops of St David’s and our guide was Rick Turner, Inspector of Ancient Monuments. He gave a full account of its architectural history as well as the post-Dissolution families associated with the site with pauses for discussion on points raised by the President. Tea was taken at **Lamphey Court**, now a hotel, but still with its fine Greek Revival-style portico. Heather James read out an account of the house and its builder received from Thomas Lloyd who was unable to be present. The coach brought the party back along The Ridgeway where Frances Llewellyn pointed out what remained of a line of Bronze Age barrows. The Annual General Meeting was held at the Fourcroft Hotel on the evening of Saturday 24 September.



Lamphey Palace, a country retreat of the medieval bishops of St David’s. *Photograph: David Young.*

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

On Sunday morning, Heather James led a walk around **Tenby's** surviving medieval town walls, towers and gatehouse. The party then divided into smaller groups alternately visiting **No. 1 Lexden Terrace** at the kind invitation of Mrs Marion Hutton and **The Tudor Merchant's House**. Lexden Terrace was built in 1843 but in a Regency style and Mrs Hutton described the history of the house and terrace whilst members freely explored all five floors and admired the sea views and terraced gardens on the rocky crag above South Beach. The National Trust have recently installed new interpretative displays at Tudor Merchant's House, a fifteenth-century stone building. The Meeting concluded with a talk and tour of **St Mary's Church**, Tenby, one of the finest in Wales. Due to a slight misunderstanding on timetable, members were inadvertent guests at a wedding in the church which slightly delayed Thomas Lloyd's talk. John Tipton, former Hon. Curator of Tenby Museum was also on hand to guide and inform members.



The Tudor Merchant's House, Tenby, visited by the Cambrians on Sunday 25 September 2011.

Photograph: David Young.

Eisteddfod Lecture 2011 • Darlith Eisteddfod 2011

The lecture, of which an abstract in both Welsh and English is published below, was delivered at the Wrexham National Eisteddfod in 2011 by Nia Powell, Lecturer in Welsh History in the School of History, Welsh History and Archaeology at Bangor University. It is anticipated that a fuller paper will be published in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* in due course.

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WRECSAM – Y DREF FLAENAF YNG NGHYMRU

Nod y ddarlith oedd dathlu twf a datblygiad nodedig Wrecsam yn ystod yr unfed ganrif ar bymtheg a'r ail ganrif ar bymtheg. Gan gydnabod gwaith arloesol haneswyr megis J. Y. Y. Lloyd, Alfred Neobard Palmer ac A. H. Dodd, defnyddiwyd tystiolaeth newydd i egluro'i safle erbyn y 1670au fel tref fwyaf Cymru. Yr oedd ganddi eisoes, mor gynnar â'r 1560au, ryw 2,000 o drigolion, a olygai ei bod yn dref sylweddol yn ôl safonau'r cyfnod, ac yn agos at frig y rhwydwaith o drefi bychain sy'n cael eu hystyried erbyn hyn yn ganolog i'r profiad trefol Ewropeaidd. Yr oedd llai na 2,000 o bobl yn 90% o gymunedau trefol gogledd Ewrob oddeutu 1600, ond ynddynt y trigai hanner ei threfwyr. Er gwaethaf safle daearyddol Wrecsam o fewn pymtheg milltir i Gaer, 'roedd ei phoblogaeth wedi tyfu erbyn y 1670au i 3,400 o leiaf, ac efallai i gymaint â 5,660 yn ôl gwahanol ddulliau o gyfrif. Ar unrhyw gyfrif, serch hynny, nid oedd unrhyw ganolfan drefol arall yng Nghymru yn fwy o ran nifer y boblogaeth a chymharai'n dda â threfi yr ystyrir eu bod yn 'ganolfannau rhanbarthol' yn Lloegr yn ystod y cyfnod modern cynnar. Wrecsam, hefyd, a welodd y twf mwyaf trawiadol o ran canran yng Nghymru rhwng yr unfed ganrif ar bymtheg a'r ail ganrif ar bymtheg—twf cyfangwbl syfrdanol o gymaint â 183 y cant.

Tref y ffin, heb os, oedd Wrecsam yn gorwedd rhwng rhanbarthau ucheldirol ac iseldirol a rhwng Cymru a Lloegr, a chafodd ei lleoliad a'i thwf effaith amlwg ar ei chyfansoddiad hiliol yn ystod y cyfnod hwn. Mae tystiolaeth cyfenwau o gofnodion treth 1543 yn dangos mai tref drwyadl Gymreig oedd Wrecsam, a 30 yn unig o'r 295 enw ar restr y trethdalwyr sydd heb ddwyn enwau Gymreig. Mae tystiolaeth o ewyllysiau cyn 1600 yn ategu hyn, gyda'r dull tadenwol, Cymreig yn cael ei arfer hyd yn oed ar adegau pan oedd cyfenw yn y dull Seisnig gan riant, gan awgrymu Cymreigeiddio hefyd yn ystod yr unfed ganrif ar bymtheg. 15 y cant yn unig o'r rhai a wnaeth ewyllys cyn 1600 sy'n defnyddio'r arddull cyfenwol, a 6 y cant yn unig sy'n dwyn cyfenwau amlwg Seisnig fel Munckfield neu Collingburne. Er hynny, yn ystod y cyfnod 1600-40 gwelwyd cynnydd yng nghyfran yr enwau Saesneg mewn ewyllysiau i 17 y cant, ac i 22 y cant erbyn y 1660au, gan awgrymu cynnydd sylweddol yn y mewnfudo o'r tu hwnt i'r ffin â Lloegr yn ystod yr ail ganrif ar bymtheg. Serch hynny, yr oedd Wrecsam hefyd yn denu mewnfudwyr Cymreig, ac mae'n bosibl i hyn gael effaith negyddol ar dwf Caer—dinas o ryw 4,000 o drigolion ar ddechrau'r unfed ganrif ar bymtheg, ond a fethodd dyfu ar yr un raddfa â chanolfannau trefol tebyg iddi yn Lloegr. Mae'n bosibl bod Wrecsam yn fwy deniadol fel ffynhonnell cyfle i boblogaeth Gymreig ei chefnwlad na Chaer, o gofio gelyniaeth chwedlonol Caer tuag at y Cymry yn ystod y canol oesoedd, fel bod mwyafrif poblogaeth Wrecsam â gwreiddiau Cymreig er gwaethaf mewnfudo cynyddol dros y ffin o Lloegr. Gellid awgrymu, felly, bod Wrecsam, hefyd, wedi tyfu ar draul Caer.

Cyfrannodd nifer o ffactorau eraill at wneud Wrecsam yn ddeniadol fel ffynhonnell cyfle. Yr oedd iddi eisoes draddodiad hir fel canolfan farchnata bwysig a oedd yn cysylltu dau ranbarth tra chyferbyniol eu cynnyrch—o dda byw yr ucheldiroedd i'r gorllewin i yd a chnydau'r iseldiroedd tua'r dwyrain – ac yr oedd ei marchnad wythnosol yn elfen hanfodol i gefnwlad a oedd yn ymestyn mor bell â siroedd Caernarfon, Meirionnydd a Threfaldwyn. Yn ei Beastmarket wythnosol yr oedd calon economaidd gogledd Cymru'n curo, gan ddenu prynwyr o mor bell i ffwrdd â swyddi Stafford, Amwythig, Northampton a hyd yn oed

Caint. 'Roedd yn ganolfan hollbwysig lle troswyd cynnyrch bugeiliol yn arian parod. Yr oedd Wrecsam hefyd yn ganolfan farchnata ar gyfer nwyddau eraill. Fel tref a eithriwyd o fonopoli brethynwyr Amwythig ar gyfer prynu a gwerthu gwlanen fain, neu *flannel*, yr oedd yn denu prynwyr o mor bell â Stafford, Macclesfield a Nottingham yn y 1590au, ac 'roedd hyn eto yn gyfrwng dwyn arian parod i ogledd Cymru. Presenoldeb yr arian parod hwn yn Wrecsam yn ystod diwedd yr unfed ganrif ar bymtheg a dechrau'r ail ganrif ar bymtheg a'i gwnaeth hi'n bosibl i strydoedd prysur ddatblygu, megis y Stryd Fawr, Stryd yr Hôb a Stryd yr Eglwys, ac adlewyrchwyd hyn hefyd yn soffistigedigrwydd cynyddol siopau parhaol. Amlygwyd amrywiaeth y nwyddau a werthwyd yn Wrecsam mewn arolwg gan John Norden ym 1620 ac mae tystiolaeth o ewyllysiau'n ategu hyn, gan ddangos presenoldeb adwerthwyr yn amrywio o ddilledydd merched ym 1606 i feistr-gyllelydd, gwneuthurwyr clociau, gofaint cloeon a chyflenwr siwgr mâl a baco Virginia erbyn y 1680au. Yr oedd Wrecsam hefyd yn ganolfan gyfreithiol a enwyd yn Neddf Uno 1536 fel un o ddau leoliad yn sir Ddinbych i gynnal y Sesiwn Fawr. Gallai poblogaeth y dref ehangu o ryw 550 dros dro pan fyddai'r llysoedd yn eistedd yn ôl eu harfer am chwe diwrnod, gan gynnig cyfle euraid i fasnachwyr parhaol. Fel canolfan gyfreithiol yr oedd hefyd yn denu gwŷr proffesiynol megis ysgrifwyr, twrneiod a chyfieithwyr. I wasanaethu'r gymdeithas fasnachol a phroffesiynol gynyddol hon, yr oedd ysgol yno yn ystod y 1590au cyn i Valentine Broughton waddoli sefydliad addysgol ym 1603, ac adlewyrchid llythrennedd cynyddol y dref yn y berthynas agos rhwng nifer o drefwyr a dyneiddwyr Cymreig fel John Edwards o'r Waun a David Powel o Riwabon. Ymhlith gymdeithas gryno ond niferus o'r fath, datblygodd syniadau gwleidyddol a chrefyddol avant-garde yn ogystal, gan ddenu elite piwritanaidd Cymreig yn ystod yr ail ganrif ar bymtheg, megis Walter Cradock a John Jones, y teyrnleiddiad o Faesygarneidd ym Meirion.

Ond nid yw lleoliad manteisiol y dref ar gyfer masnach ffyniannus, twf y sector proffesiynol a ffocws ar gyfer syniadau newydd yn llwyr esbonio twf syfrdanol y dref rhwng y 1540au a'r 1670au. Ar y cyfan, y mae maint tref yn ystod y cyfnod modern cynnar wedi'i gymryd fel arwydd o'i ffyniant; po fwyaf y maint, mwyaf oll y ffyniant. Mae cofnodion treth ar gyfer Wrecsam yn y 1540au yn dangos patrwm gwahanol, gyda chyfartaledd y cyfraniad treth yn isel ar 19.6d y pen er gwaethaf y gweithgarwch masnachu, a chan 3 y cant yn unig yr oedd eiddo a aseswyd i fod yn werth mwy nag £20. Yr oedd cyfoeth, felly, wedi'i rannu'n gymharol gyfartal rhwng ei thrigolion ar lefel isel, patrwm sy'n debyg i rai o drefi eraill y gororau fel y Trallwm neu Lanidloes. Mae hyn yn cyferbynnu â threfi porthladd arfordirol yn ne Cymru megis Caerfyrddin, lle'r oedd cyfartaledd y cyfraniad treth yn 90.5d y pen, gyda bron i 20 y cant â chyfoeth a aseswyd i fod yn werth mwy nag £20, a thystiolaeth o begynnu o safbwynt cyfoeth. Fodd bynnag, dim ond o 4 y cant yn unig y tyfodd poblogaeth Caerfyrddin. Yn erbyn yr hyn a ddisgwyllir yn ôl y farn arferol, felly, 'roedd twf y boblogaeth yn nhrefi Cymru rhwng 1540 a 1670 yn groes i lefel cyfoeth yn ystod y 1540au. Yn achos Wrecsam, mae'n bosibl bod ei strwythur galwedigaethol yn cynnig un esboniad posibl, gan ei bod yn ganolfan diwydiannau trwm a diwydiannau cynhyrchu bwysig y tu hwnt i'w swyddogaeth fasnachol, gyfreithiol a gweinyddol. Y cyfleoedd yr oedd diwydiant o'r fath yn eu cynnig oedd y prif atyniad i fewnfudwyr ddod yn drigolion parhaol o'r dref. Un ffactor pwysig a wnaeth hyn yn bosibl oedd strwythur cymharol rydd Wrecsam erbyn y cyfnod modern cynnar, heb unrhyw gorfforaeth ffurfiol nac urddau crefft i rwystro sefydlu busnesau a galwedigaethau newydd. Yr oedd y rhain yn cynnwys prosesau i droi deunyddiau crai yn gynnyrch gorffenedig, gan gynnwys gwehyddu sidan. 'Roedd nifer o'r prosesau, fodd bynnag, yn fudr a drewllyd, gan gynnwys clwstwr o broseswyr brethyn yn y dref, yn amrywio o nyddwyr, gwehyddion, llifwyr, panwyr, a deintwyr i orffenwyr brethyn. 'Roedd yna hefyd grynhoed o broseswyr lledr yn Wrecsam, yn amrywio o farceriaid i gryddion, cyfrwywyr a menigwyr. Mwy arwyddocaol, serch hynny, oedd y diwydiannau trwm a oedd wedi'u canoli yno, gan gynnwys y ffwrneisiau haearn a oedd yn cynhyrchu nodwyddau neu'r bwcleri a ganmolwyd mor hael gan John Leland ym 1538. Mae cyfeiriadau at nifer o efeiliau a ffwrneisi diwydiannol yng nghofnodion treth y

1670au yn dystiolaeth o barhad y crynhoad hwn o weithfeydd metel yn ystod yr ail ganrif ar bymtheg. Erbyn y 1590au, yr oedd gan Wrecsam hefyd waith solpitar ar gyfer cynhyrchu powdwr gwn ac erbyn y 1660au, os nad ynghynt, yr oedd papur hefyd yn cael ei gynhyrchu yn y cyffiniau. Er bod y prosesau cynhyrchu hyn yn fudr, dyma oedd yn cynnig cyfle ac yn denu mwy o niferoedd i Wrecsam nag i drefi a oedd yn gyfoethocach yn ystod y 1540au, ond lle'r oedd yr elite masnachol yn fwy cyndyn o agor y dorau. Byddai'r cyfartaledd cyfoeth cymharol isel yn adlewyrchu'r ffaith mai galwedigaethau cynhyrchu oedd gan y mwyafrif, heb elite masnachol yn tra-arglwyddiaethu.

Yr hyn sy'n arwyddocaol ynglŷn â Wrecsam yn ystod y cyfnod modern cynnar yw bod prosesau cynhyrchu a diwydiant trwm wedi eu canoli yno yn yr un lleoliad, a hyn yn cael ei gyplysu â phoblogaeth fawr a oedd ar gynydd. Y mae i hyn, yn ei dro, oblygiadau pwysig ac ehangach. O ran strwythur, 'roedd Wrecsam yn nes o lawer at y byd diwydiannol modern nag a gydnabyddir yn gyffredinol yn achos trefi'r cyfnod modern cynnar, ac mae hyn yn herio'r farn mai proto-ddiwydiant y tu allan i dref sy'n nodweddu'r cyfnod modern cynnar. Gellir ystyried bod Wrecsam y cyfnod modern cynnar, felly, yn grud cynnar i 'chwyltro diwydiannol'. Pe bai ond am hyn yn unig, yn ogystal â maint ei phoblogaeth, dylid ystyried mai hon oedd 'tref flaenaf Cymru' cyn 1700.

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WREXHAM—THE FOREMOST TOWN IN WALES

The lecture sought to celebrate the remarkable growth and development of Wrexham during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Acknowledging the pioneering work of historians such as J. Y. Y. Lloyd, Alfred Neobard Palmer and A. H. Dodd, new evidence was used to explore its emergence, by the 1670s, as the largest town in Wales. Already during the 1560s it had approximately 2,000 inhabitants, a substantial town by the standards of the period, and ranking close to the top of the network of small towns that are now considered to be central to the European urban experience. As many as 90 per cent of towns in northern Europe had a population fewer than 2,000, but formed half its urban dwellers. Despite Wrexham's location within fifteen miles of Chester, it had grown by the 1670s to have a population of at least 3,400, perhaps as many as 5,660 depending on methods of calculation. By any calculation, however, it was not surpassed by any other urban focus in Wales in terms of population number and compared well with towns deemed to be 'regional centres' in England during the early modern period. It was also the town that saw the largest percentage growth of 183 per cent in Wales between the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Very much a border town between highland and lowland regions, and between England and Wales, its location and growth had a clear effect on its racial composition during this period. Surname evidence from 1543 taxation records reveals that Wrexham was then a thoroughly Welsh town, with only 30 of the 295 taxpayers bearing non-Welsh names. Testamentary evidence before 1600 confirms this with the Welsh patronymic method of naming used even when a parent may have had a surname, indicating that Cambricization may also have been a feature during the sixteenth century. Only 15 per cent of those who made a will before 1600 used the surname format, and only 6 per cent bore patently English names such as Munckfield or Collingburne. Yet, during the period 1600–40 the proportion of English surnames in wills rose to 17 per cent and to 22 per cent by the 1660s, indicating a considerable increase in immigration from beyond the English border during the seventeenth century. Wrexham was, nevertheless, also a magnet for Welsh incomers, and this may well have had a negative impact on the growth of Chester—a city of some 4,000 people in the early sixteenth century that failed to grow at the same rate as other urban foci of similar size in England. Wrexham may have been more attractive as a source of opportunity for the Welsh population of its hinterland than Chester, with its apocryphal antipathy towards the Welsh during

the medieval period, so that the majority of the Wrexham population would have been of Welsh origin despite increasing immigration from the English side of the border. The growth of Wrexham would thus also be at the expense of Chester.

Several other factors contributed to make Wrexham an attractive centre of opportunity. Long recognized as an important marketing centre linking two regions of contrasting produce—from the livestock of uplands to the west to grain from lowlands to the east—its weekly market was a vital element for a hinterland extending as far as Caernarfonshire, Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire. At its weekly Beastmarket beat the economic heart of north Wales, attracting buyers from as far away as Staffordshire, Shropshire, Northamptonshire and even Kent. It was a vital centre where pastoral produce was converted into ready money. It was also a marketing centre for other commodities; its exemption from the cloth purchasing monopoly of Shrewsbury drapers in the case of flannel attracted buyers from as far away as Stafford, Macclesfield and Nottingham during the 1590s. The presence of this ready money at Wrexham during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries also allowed the development of busy streets, such as High Street, Hope Street and Church Street and was reflected in the growing sophistication of permanent shops. The variety of goods sold at Wrexham was highlighted in a survey by John Norden in 1620, and is supported by testamentary evidence indicating the presence of a variety of retailers from a ladies' draper in 1606 to master cutlers, clockmakers, locksmiths and a purveyor of powdered sugar and cut Virginia tobacco by the 1680s. Wrexham was also a legal centre, named in the 1536 Act of Union as one of two locations in Denbighshire to hold the Great Sessions. The population of the town could expand temporarily by some 550 when the courts were in session for six days at a time, providing a golden opportunity for permanent traders. As a legal centre it also attracted professionals including scribes, attorneys and translators. To serve this growing commercial and professional society it had a school during the 1590s before the 1603 endowment of Valentine Broughton, and the burgeoning literacy of the town was reflected in close relationships between several townsmen and Welsh humanists such as John Edwards of Chirk and David Powel of Ruabon. This concentration of people also bred avant-garde religious and political ideas, attracting a Welsh puritan elite during the seventeenth century, such as Walter Cradock and John Jones, the Merionethshire regicide.

A fortuitous location for flourishing trade, the growth of a professional sector and a focus for new ideas does not entirely explain the phenomenal growth of the town between the 1540s and 1670s however. The size of a town during the early modern period has generally been taken as an index of its prosperity, the greater the size the greater the prosperity. Taxation records for 1540s Wrexham displays a differing pattern, with the average contribution per taxpayer being low at only 19.6d despite the trading activity, and only 3 per cent having property assessed at over £20. Wealth was thus spread out relatively evenly among its inhabitants at a low level, a pattern similar to some other border towns such as Welshpool and Llanidloes. This is in contrast to coastal port towns in south Wales such as Carmarthen, where the average contribution per taxpayer was 90.5d with almost 20 per cent assessed to have over £20 in wealth, with evidence of polarization of wealth. Carmarthen's population, however, grew by only 4 per cent. Contrary to received opinion, population growth 1540–1670 in Welsh towns was thus in inverse proportion to assessed wealth during the 1540s. In the case of Wrexham, a possible explanation may lie in its occupational structure which reveals it as a focus for manufacturing and heavy industry over and above its trading, legal and administrative function. It was the opportunities offered by such industry that formed the main attraction for immigrants to become permanent residents of the town. One important factor that made this possible was the relatively free structure of Wrexham by the early modern period, with no formal corporation and no guild organization to thwart the establishment of new businesses and occupations. These included processes that converted raw materials into finished products, including silk weaving. Several processes, however, were dirty and stinking including the cluster of cloth processors in

the town, from spinners, weavers, dyers, walkers and tenters to shermen. There was also a concentration of leather processors at Wrexham, from tanners to corvisers, saddle-makers and glovers. More significant, however, were the heavy industries that were concentrated there, including the iron furnaces that produced needles and bucklers, much praised by John Leland in 1538; references to numerous industrial hearths and forges in taxation records of the 1670s attest to the continuing concentration of metal-working during the seventeenth century. By the 1590s Wrexham also had saltpetre works for the production of gunpowder, and by the 1660s, if not earlier, paper was also produced in the vicinity. It was these manufacturing processes, dirty as they were, that provided opportunity, and attracted population to Wrexham in greater number than to towns that were wealthier during the 1540s but whose mercantile élites assumed greater exclusivity. The relatively low average personal wealth would reflect a manufacturing occupational base without a dominating mercantile élite.

What is significant in early modern Wrexham is the concentration of manufacturing processes and heavy industry in the same location coupled with a large and expanding population. This, in turn, has important and wider implications. In terms of structure, Wrexham was far closer to the modern industrial world than is generally recognized for an early modern town, and challenges the view that the early modern period was characterized by extra-urban proto-industrialization. Early-modern Wrexham can thus be considered an early cradle of an 'industrial revolution'. For this alone, in addition to the size of its population, it should be considered 'the foremost town in Wales' before 1700.

NIA POWELL

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, digitising and the 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 six) should be returned by mid October at the latest for determination by the Trustees at their meeting in early November. Late or new applications may be considered at the following Trustees' Meeting in February of the following year, but only if there is an under-allocation of funds.

The Association granted awards to the following during 2011:

Margaret Dunn received a grant of £1000 on behalf of the North West Wales Dendrochronology Project for its final phase on suitable houses in the Conwy Valley and other areas of Gwynedd. Results to date have provided a mass of new information and have interested and involved many local volunteers and owners.

Gary Lock received £1500 for two weeks excavation at Moel y Gaer hillfort, Bodfari, Denbighshire. Excavation locations have been selected on the basis of previous geophysical survey and the project complements others arising from the 'Heather and Hillforts' project by Denbighshire County Council.

Meggen Gondek of Chester University received £500 for digitizing several years of survey work by students on the historic mining landscape of Halkyn Mountain, Flintshire to help prepare the work for publication.

Toby Jones received £1000 for analysis of the animal bones associated with the Newport Ship, part of a projected academic publication covering all aspects of this important shipwreck, now being conserved at Newport (Mon.)

HEATHER JAMES

THE BLODWEN JERMAN PRIZES

The Association offers two prizes in memory of Mrs Blodwen Jerman, to raise the profile of the Association and to encourage young people to become members.

Prize 1 (universities) 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 *Archaeologia Cambrensis*. At the discretion of the judges, runners-up may be offered one or two year's free membership of the Association, including the journal. Entry forms may be downloaded from the Association's website (www.cambrians.org.uk) and entries should be submitted by the 31 December each year. All entries will be returned to candidates after the judging. The Trustees will appoint a panel of three suitably qualified judges each year.

Prize 2 (schools) is 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. Further information and application forms can be gained from the WHSI website (www.whsi.org.uk). The Heritage Initiative involves a nation wide annual competition and entries should be submitted by 31 January each year. 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 web sites or CDs or DVDs are also welcomed.

REPORT ON THE BLODWEN JERMAN COMPETITION IN 2011

Prize 1 (universities)

Two dissertations, both from Bangor University, were presented for the senior prize in December 2010. They were read and commented upon by a panel of adjudicators, Richard Suggett, Rosemary Davies and Lawrence Butler. Lawrence Butler acted as co-ordinator. The dissertations submitted were:

Cerys Elizabeth Hudson, Bangor University, 'The British Media and the Revival of Genealogy, 2004–2010'.

Lynsey C. Toase, Bangor University, 'The curse of Nanny Roberts: a material culture study of an Anglesey cursing pot'.

The adjudicators recommended that the prize should be awarded to Cerys Hudson. Her dissertation concerns an interesting contemporary phenomenon. Her starting point was the revival in the study of genealogy prompted by the television programme ‘Who do you think you are?’ launched in 2004. She looks at the commercial ancestry websites, assessing their benefits and their sometimes unrealistic implications that it is easy to find one’s ancestors and their colourful past. The expanding impact of the internet on genealogy is covered in depth, based on data she has gathered from many record offices. Finally she considers ways in which genealogy is used to affirm one’s own identity as a study and how it can widen its horizons and improve its methods. Cerys Hudson was presented with her prize at the Annual General Meeting in Bangor, at the Anglesey Summer Meeting.

LAWRENCE BUTLER

Prize 2 (schools)

The winner of the schools competition for 2010 was Orielson School, Pembrokeshire, for their project on ‘An ‘Unsung’ Hero: Oswald Thomas Hitchings OBE, BA, ARCO, 1876–1938’. Hitchings, a local music teacher, became one of the most important code-breakers in the First World War—said by one authority to be worth four divisions to the British army. The subject was presented by the pupils in the form of a play and much material has been collected for the school’s museum; a booklet is planned. The winner of the 2011 competition was Fitzalan High School, Cardiff for their project ‘Iron Age Hill Forts’. This was produced by the school’s Archaeology Club and was submitted as a PowerPoint presentation, showing their site visits, recording, their model of Lodge Hill hillfort and general information on the Iron Age.

MURIEL CHAMBERLAIN

G. T. CLARK PRIZES, 2012

These prizes are awarded every five years for the most distinguished published contributions to the study of the archaeology and history of Wales and The Marches, in five categories: Prehistory, Roman, Early Medieval, Medieval and Post-Medieval. The adjudication panel is made up of the previous prize-winners. These were, for 2007: Chris Musson and Frances Lynch (Prehistory), Heather James (Roman), Patrick Sims-Williams (Early Medieval), David Robinson (Medieval) and Richard Suggett (Post-medieval). Heather James has sought and co-ordinated their recommendations which are:

Prehistory

Alex Bayliss, Frances Healey and Alasdair Whittle, for the publication of *Gathering Time: Dating the Early Neolithic Enclosures of Southern Britain*, 2 vols (2011).

Roman

Barry C. Burnham and Jeffrey L. Davies, for the publication of *Roman Frontiers in Wales and The Marches*, 2010.

Early Medieval

Nancy Edwards, for the publication of *A Corpus of Early Medieval Inscribed Stones and Stone Sculpture in Wales, Volume II, South-West Wales* (2007).

Medieval

John Goodall, for the publication of *The English Castle, 1066–1650* (2011).

Post-medieval

Richard Bebb, *Welsh Furniture, 1250–1950: A Cultural History of Craftsmanship*, 2 vols (2007).

HEATHER JAMES

Financial Statements 2011

The following financial statements are taken from the published *Trustees Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2011*, approved by the Trustees on 12 July 2012.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

	Restricted funds 2011 £	Unrestricted funds 2011 £	Total funds 2011 £	<i>Total funds 2010 £</i>
Incoming Resources				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
Voluntary income	–	14,908	14,908	<i>15,735</i>
Activities for generating funds	–	34,985	34,985	<i>42,842</i>
Investment income	124	13,496	13,620	<i>11,637</i>
Total Incoming Resources	<u>124</u>	<u>63,389</u>	<u>63,513</u>	<u><i>70,214</i></u>
Resources Expended				
Charitable activities	–	33,115	33,115	<i>61,120</i>
Governance costs	–	2,440	2,440	<i>3,601</i>
Total Resources Expended	<u>–</u>	<u>35,555</u>	<u>35,555</u>	<u><i>64,721</i></u>
Net Incoming Resources before revaluations	124	27,834	27,958	<i>5,493</i>
Gains and losses on revaluations of investment assets	115	13,182	13,297	<i>3,828</i>
Net movement in funds for the year	239	41,016	41,255	<i>9,321</i>
<i>Total funds at 1 January 2011</i>	<i>4,999</i>	<i>282,760</i>	<i>287,759</i>	<i>278,438</i>
Total Funds at 31 December 2011	<u>5,238</u>	<u>323,776</u>	<u>329,014</u>	<u><i>287,759</i></u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2011

	2011 £	2010 £
Fixed Assets		
Investments	260,193	<i>219,896</i>
Current Assets		
Cash in hand	68,821	<i>67,863</i>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	<u>329,014</u>	<u><i>287,759</i></u>
Charity Funds		
Restricted Funds	5,238	<i>4,999</i>
Unrestricted Funds	323,776	<i>282,760</i>
Total Funds	<u>329,014</u>	<u><i>287,759</i></u>

The Cambrian Archaeological Association, 2011–12

Cymdeithas Hynafiathau Cymru, 2011–12

Registered Charity Number 216249

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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 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 Association's 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

Copies of recent volumes are available but 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. L + 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

Glasgow (1968); Vale of Usk (1970); South Brecknock (1974); Winchester (1975); South Pembrokeshire (1976); Aberystwyth, South Montgomeryshire and North Radnorshire (1977); Gwent and the Forest of Dean (1978); Lleyn and Snowdonia (1979); Swansea, Gower and West Glamorgan (1980); Chester (1981); Cumbria and the Lake District (1982); Vale of Glamorgan (1983); Anglesey (1984); Old Carmarthenshire (1985); Avon (1986); Hereford (1987); Llandudno: The Cantref of Rhos (1989); North and West Brecknock (1990); Dolgellau (1991); Gwent (1994); North-West Brittany (1996); Jersey (1997); Aberystwyth (1997); York (1998); Galway (1999); Swansea (2000); Forest of Dean (2001); Caernarfon and Lleyn (2002); Milton Keynes (2003); Rouen (2004); Bala (2005); Chester (2006); Carmarthen (2007); Conwy Valley (2008); South Wales Valleys (2009); Canterbury (2010); Vale of Glamorgan (2010), Gascony (2011); Tenby (2011); Anglesey (2012); Birmingham (2012).

Reflections on the Past: essays in honour of Frances Lynch, edited by W. J. Britnell and R. J. Silvester. Softback, 245 × 175mm, viii + 520 pages, with approx. 300 drawings and photos, some in colour, ISBN 978 0 947846 08 4. £20.00 + £5.00 p&p. Copies of this Festschrift, published by the Cambrian Archaeological Association in July 2012 in honour of Frances Lynch Llywellyn, are available from the Treasurer (Mrs J. E. Britnell, CPAT, 41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR. Tel. 01938 553670, email jennyb@cpat.org.uk).