

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF WELSH ESTATES (ISWE)



College of Arts and Humanities
Bangor University

Summer 2017

GRANT SECURED FOR WELSH ESTATE COLLECTIONS TOOLKIT

The Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates has secured a grant from the [Bangor University ESRC Impact Acceleration Account](#) (IAA) for a project to work towards the creation of an online toolkit to make it easier for users of archives to locate, access and interpret estate archives.

The collections of records accumulated by landed estates over the course of their existence form a significant part of the nation's archival holdings. Created by families which often exerted a dominant influence over their locality and community, estate archives provide an outstanding resource for researching the history, culture and landscapes of Wales and aspects of local, national and global interconnectivity – ranging from politics, religion and industry, through to architecture, music and farming.

However, these archives, which often span multiple periods, languages and geographical locations, and vary in size, character and composition, are notoriously complex and can be difficult to engage with for a range of user and potential user groups. The project aims to find ways of breaking down the barriers to discovery, access and use, to enable estate archives to play a full part in the cultural and intellectual life of Wales.

The content and design of the online toolkit will be generated through a series of knowledge exchange workshops in north, south and mid Wales, which will bring together networks of archivists, academics and users and potential users of archives to discuss the issues

of accessibility, discoverability and usability through a programme of interactive group activities.

The project is led by [Mr. Gwilym Owen](#), Lecturer in Law, together with [Dr. Julie Mathias](#), Lecturer in Information Studies, Aberystwyth University, and [Dr. Shaun Evans](#), Director of the Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates. It is supported by the [Archives and Records Council Wales](#) and the [National Library of Wales](#), county archives and family history societies. The workshops will be hosted by the National Library of Wales, [Glamorgan Archives](#) and [Bangor University Archives and Special Collections](#).

It is envisioned that the toolkit will be made publicly available as an important component of the online resources attached to the Heritage Lottery Fund project which Bangor and Aberystwyth Universities are currently developing with the National Library of Wales and other partners.

The Bangor University ESRC IAA is designed to support academics at Bangor to demonstrate the tangible contributions that their research makes to society and the economy, including through the building of relationships and networks with potential users of research to facilitate co-production of knowledge.



Downing Hall, Whitford, Flintshire, from Thomas Pennant's *A Tour in Wales* (1793) – BUASC X/AA PEN

p.1	pp. 2 - 5	pp.6 - 14	pp.14 - 15	p.15	pp.16
Grant Success	News	Events	Forthcoming Events	Support our Work	Wales Map Symposium



NEWS

MAJOR RECOGNITION FOR UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

ISWE is pleased to announce that [Bangor University Archives and Special Collections](#) has been awarded [Archive Service Accreditation](#).

Accredited status is the primary measurement of good practice and agreed standards for archive services across the UK, assessing an organisation's ability to develop, care for and provide access to its collections.

The archives at Bangor are responsible for the management and custodianship of some of Wales' most significant estate collections, which provide an essential evidence-base for the projects developed by ISWE.

The Accreditation was officially bestowed during a ceremony in December, which was attended by Dr. Sarah Horton from the Welsh Government's Museums, Archives and Libraries and Division (MALD),

Vice-Chancellor and ISWE Advisory Board Member Prof. John G. Hughes and a group of regular archive users.

Many congratulations to Elen Wyn Simpson and her team on this fantastic achievement.



OFFICIAL RESEARCH CENTRE STATUS

ISWE's contribution to the University has been recognised through the award of 'Official Research Centre Status'. This status recognises the wide-ranging multidisciplinary makeup of the Institute, comprising colleagues from fields as diverse as Law and Forestry, Music, English Literature, Welsh and History. Most crucially though, it acknowledges the fact that ISWE is positioned to make significant long-term contributions towards the delivery of the University's Strategic Plan, in keys areas including research, education, public engagement and societal contribution.





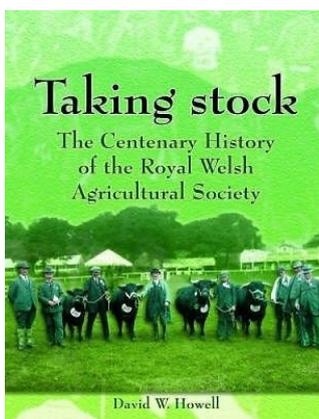
APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY RESEARCH FELLOWS

ISWE is delighted to announce the appointment of four new Honorary Research Fellows to assist and advise on the intellectual development of the research centre.

Prof. A.D. Carr has long been associated with Bangor University, having directed the highly-acclaimed Diploma in Archive Administration between 1979 and 2002, becoming Professor of Medieval Welsh History in 1999. His research into the social and economic history of north Wales during the medieval period is highly acclaimed, including pioneering analysis of the development of estates (notably Mostyn and Penrhyn) based on intricate engagement with late-medieval deeds. When first published in 1982 his *Medieval Anglesey* was recognised as an exemplar for regional history. His lifetime's work on gentry culture and estates is soon to be collated and published as *The Gentry of North Wales in the Late-Middle Ages*.

Prof. David W. Howell has had a distinguished career as one of Wales' foremost scholars in rural and agricultural history. Born in Pembrokeshire and spending most of his career at Swansea University, he has published several major works,

including *Land and People in nineteenth-century Wales* (1978), *Patriarchs and Parasites: the landed gentry of south-west Wales in the eighteenth century* (1986) and *The Rural Poor in Eighteenth-Century Wales* (2000).



John Glyn Parry is a graduate of Bangor University who is widely acknowledged as one of the leading archivists in Wales. From 1976 to his retirement in 2012 he played a prominent role in archival developments and projects at the National Library of Wales. He is a leading authority on the records of the Welsh courts, his volume *A Guide to the Records of Great Sessions in Wales* (1995) providing an indispensable resource for enhancing understanding of this important collection and the judicial processes

which underpinned its creation.

Prof. Prys Morgan is a distinguished historian who has played a prominent part in the public life of Wales during the last half century. He has published widely on cultural history, including his seminal treatment of eighteenth-century Wales in *The Eighteenth Century Renaissance* (1981). For a decade he was editor of the *Transactions of the Honourable Society of the Cymmrodorion*, a society which he now serves as President.

The appointment of the Honorary Research Fellows provides the Institute with a wealth of expertise



on Welsh history and archives, which will be of considerable value as we look to carve out a distinctive role in the intellectual life of Wales over the forthcoming decades.

ENCOUNTER: EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR COUNTRY HOUSE AND ESTATE RESEARCH

ISWE has signed up as a member of the [ENCOUNTER Network](#). This was founded in October 2015 at Gammel Estrup Manor Museum, Denmark by a group of European researchers, curators and professionals in the heritage sector. The aim of the network is to form European partnerships between scholars and cultural institutions who share a

professional interest in research and interpretation of the history of country houses and estates. It aims to explore and highlight regional variations and similarities in the history of castles and manors across Europe from 1500 to the present and provides a forum for discussing how estates and estate landscapes are preserved and interpreted as cultural heritage today. The network aspires to cross traditional boundaries between history, archaeology, art history, architecture and heritage

management to form international partnerships between researchers and heritage professionals in universities and museums.





NEWS

ERASMUS+ SCHEME OPENS AVENUES FOR INTERNATIONAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Dr. Lowri Ann Rees spent a week at [Maynooth University](#) in late February as part of an Erasmus+ staff mobility for teaching placement. Her time was shared between the [Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates](#) and the Department of History. The scheme allowed Dr. Rees to observe and partake in teaching, at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. She led a seminar for the MA in Irish History whereby students explored the Rebecca Riots of south-west Wales and its impact on the landed interest. Students drew perceptive comparisons and contrasts between the Welsh and Irish experience during a lively and engaging

exchange of ideas. Dr. Rees was also able to take the story of Penrhyn Castle's plantation-owning past to share with students enrolled on a second-year undergraduate module on slavery and anti-slavery. Students thoughtfully considered challenging views and opinions whilst exploring Richard Pennant's role as slave owner. During the week, Dr. Rees also had the opportunity to observe lectures, and partake in seminars and workshops. Reflecting on the experience, she commented that:

"I have learnt so much from the good practices I observed whilst at Maynooth. This has encouraged me to develop new teaching methods on my return to Bangor. It was a real pleasure to discuss my research-led teaching with such enthusiastic and engaging students".

With thanks to Bangor University and Maynooth University for guidance and support, and Erasmus+ for sponsoring this mobility.



SALE CATALOGUE COLLECTION

In January Bangor University Archives and Special Collections was pleased to have the opportunity to extend its collection of estate Sale Catalogues (SC). This collection now includes over 1,000 catalogues relating to the sale of lands, properties and household goods in Wales between 1777 and 1984.

Many of the earlier sales were a consequence of lack of heirs or a desire to sell outlying lands in order to archive estate consolidation. However, most of the catalogues at Bangor date from the 1870s through to the first part of the 20th century, a period which witnessed a seminal

shift in landholding from the territorial dominance of large estates to owner-occupation and freehold farming. Often annotated with notes from the auction (including purchaser details) and accompanied by detailed maps and plans of the individual lots, the Sale Catalogues provide an outstanding resource for analysing changes in Welsh landownership.

The three catalogues added to the collection in January relate to sales of land belonging to the Broom Hall, Bodegroes, Glynllifon and Bodvean estates (all Caernarfonshire) during the 1930s. We are grateful to Mr. Michael Tree, Chairman of HHA Wales, for depositing the records in the archives.

To find out more about the sale and fragmentation of estates in the late-19th century see:

John Davies, '[The end of the great estates and the rise of freehold farming in Wales](#)', *Welsh History Review* 7, 2 (December 1974), pp. 186-212

To search the collection of Sale Catalogues (SC) please visit the [online catalogue](#)





ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

BECOME AN ASSOCIATE OF THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF WELSH ESTATES

We recognise that many individuals and organisations external to the Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates share an interest in progressing our intellectual aims and aspirations. Partnership and collaboration with these colleagues and stakeholders is fundamental to

our development. We therefore offer an Associate membership status as a form of affiliation for both internal and external individuals and organisations who *actively support and contribute towards* our objectives.

Associate membership is offered as a means of enhancing our academic reach and collaborative capacity, both within Bangor University and importantly, through engagement with a network of external partners

in other research organisations and in the cultural heritage, archives, historic house and rural affairs sectors. Our Associate members will play an important role in helping us to embed the all-Wales reach of the Institute; and assist in demonstrating the far-reaching relevance of our work, including in international terms.

For more information and details on how to apply please visit the [‘Membership’](#) section of our website.

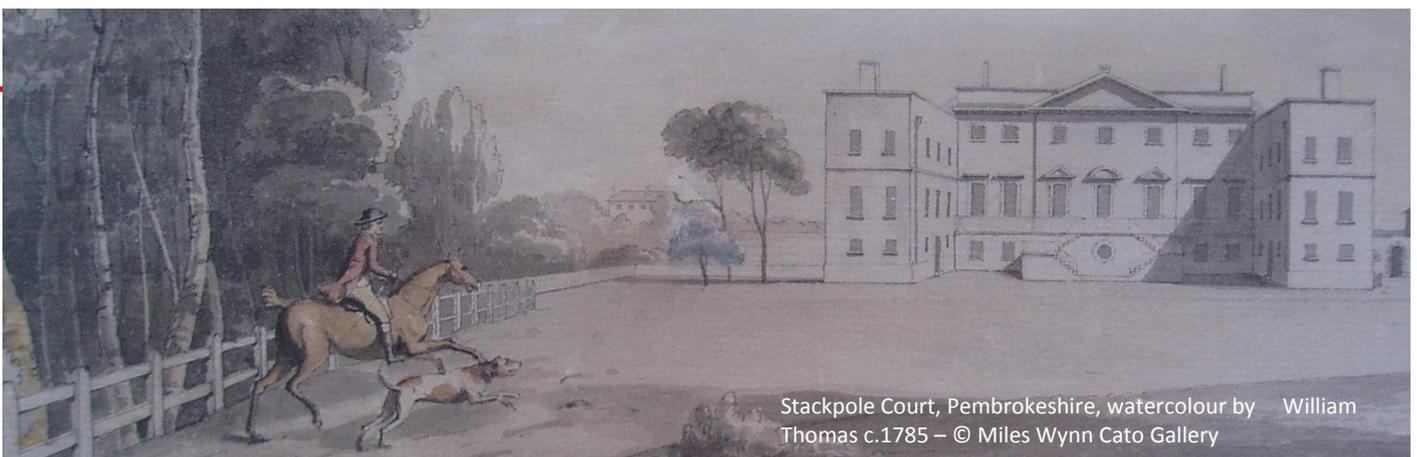
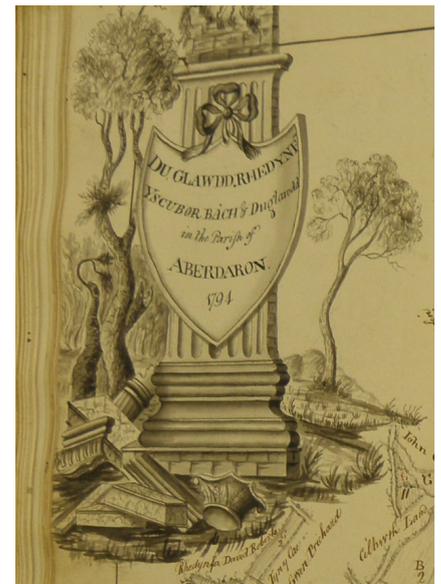
ISWE WELCOMES MOVES TO SAFEGUARD HISTORIC PLACE NAMES OF WALES

Section 34 of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 established provisions for the compilation and maintenance of a list of historic place names in Wales. In response to this the [Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales](#) (RCAHMW) has signaled its intent to lead on the creation of [place names index](#), which will draw upon pre-20th century source materials to identify the names held by, or given to, locations and sites across Wales. The index will incorporate various forms

and spellings of place names over time.

In addition to building upon the pioneering work of the Melville Richards [Place-Name Archive](#), held by Bangor University, the initiative will also be heavily dependent upon the vast pool of place name data recorded in estate archives, including surveys, maps, deeds and rentals.

ISWE has signaled its intention to work closely with RCAHMW’s new Place Names Officer, and groups such as [Cymdeithas Enwau Lleoedd Cymru](#) | [Welsh Place-Names Society](#), to develop the resource, which will play a significant role in safeguarding an important aspect of local heritage across Wales.



Stackpole Court, Pembrokeshire, watercolour by William Thomas c.1785 – © Miles Wynn Cato Gallery



EVENTS

36TH HARVARD CELTIC COLLOQUIUM



7-9 OCTOBER 2016, HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE MA

The Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates (ISWE) was delighted to play an important part in the prestigious [Harvard Celtic Colloquium](#), hosted at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA last October. The Colloquium provided a unique opportunity for ISWE to outline its intellectual approach on a vibrant international stage.

In his John V. Kelleher Lecture, Professor Jerry Hunter (Professor of Welsh and Pro Vice-Chancellor for Welsh Medium and Civic Engagement at Bangor University) highlighted the distinctive historical insights afforded by underutilised Welsh-language source materials in a highly engaging presentation entitled 'The Red Sword, the Sickle and the Author's Revenge: Welsh Literature and Conflict in the Seventeenth

Century'. This included an analysis of the poetry of the royalist Rowland Vaughan (c.1590 -1667), including the verse he composed in praise of his own *plas* and estate at Caer-gai, Llanuwchllyn, Merionethshire.

Dr. Shaun Evans (Director of the Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates) gave a provocative presentation on the theme of 'Metamorphosed into Englishmen?' Welsh ancestral patriotism and the gentry of Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century Wales', which challenged the established narrative that the Welsh gentry became increasingly anglicised across the period, instead arguing that their sense of Welsh identity remained firmly tied to their enactment of power, status and honour.

Finally, Professor Andrew Edwards (Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities) delivered a fascinating account of the temporary transfer of part of the National Gallery's collection to Bangor University and nearby Penrhyn Castle for safekeeping during the Second World War.

The three papers were very well received, instigating discussions with

other members of the academic community on the formation of international collaborations, including in preparation for the 16th International Congress of Celtic Studies which is being held at Bangor in 2018.

Alongside the colloquium, Professors Edwards and Hunter hosted a special Bangor University Alumni event at the Harvard Faculty Club which was attended by around thirty alumni. Organised by the University's Executive Director of Development, Sheila O'Neal, the occasion provided a further opportunity to promote exciting developments at the University, including the establishment of ISWE.

For the duration of the visit the University was delighted to have the company and support of two distinguished members of ISWE's Advisory Board – Professor Robin Grove-White and Mr. George Meyrick of Bodorgan, in addition to Professor Peredur Lynch (Professor of Welsh at Bangor) – who played an important part in building relationships which will be of benefit to the University for a long time to come.




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36th Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium
7-9 October 2016



PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY



PENRHYN LECTURE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

THE PENNANTS OF PENRHYN IN JAMAICA: POWER, PROFIT AND PEOPLE

2 NOVEMBER 2016

ISWE was delighted to co-host this year's [Bangor University Archives and Special Collections](#) Lecture.

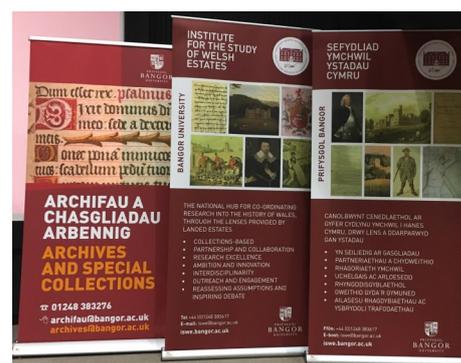
The annual public lecture exists to showcase the research potential of the rich [archival collections](#) held by the University. This year's guest speaker was Dr. Marian Gwyn, who completed her PhD at Bangor in 2014 on the subject of 'The Heritage Industry and the Slave Trade', focusing on how the transatlantic slave trade can be presented at heritage sites in Wales and England, including at historic houses which had links to plantations in the Americas. In a powerful presentation, delivered within a packed Eric Sunderland Lecture Theatre at Bangor University, Dr. Gwyn provided a lucid account of the Pennant family's management of their sugar plantations in Jamaica, linking their involvement to issues of power, politics, profit and people.

The Penrhyn archive, which provided the foundation for Dr. Gwyn's research is one of the most comprehensive estate collections in Wales, providing a range of insights into the history of north west Wales – and further afield – from the medieval period through to the 20th century.

ISWE and the University Archives are committed to working together to unlock the research potential of the collection, which is on the verge of being made fully searchable for the first time thanks to the '[Sugar and Slate](#)' cataloguing project which archivist Sarah Vaughan has been working on over recent months. This initiative has unearthed significant 'new' evidence which has the potential to offer fresh perspectives on a range of important themes and issues.

The availability of this new research resource comes at a time when the spotlight is being thrown on various aspects of the heritage pertaining to the Penrhyn estate. The campaign to secure UNESCO World Heritage Status for the [Gwynedd Slate Industry](#) brings together partners who share an interest in recognising

the historical significance of the Penrhyn family's slate quarrying ventures, and its profound impacts on the communities, economy, landscape, infrastructure, built environment and politics of the region. Simultaneously the National Trust is investing in an important 'transformation' project to revolutionise how [Penrhyn Castle](#) and its occasionally troubled history is presented to visitors. The research and archival resources offered by Bangor University will play an important role in the development of both initiatives.



Extract from a plan of the Denbigh estate of John Pennant, Jamaica, by Thomas Blinshall, 1767-68 – BUASC Penrhyn Add. 2786.



EVENTS

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES UNLOCKED FOR HISTORY UNDERGRADUATES

On 29 March ISWE hosted a special workshop for second-year undergraduate students in the [School of History and Archaeology](#). The purpose of the event was to highlight the research opportunities linked to the Institute, which students may wish to pursue as part of their dissertations. Following a brief introduction by the Director of the Institute on the incredible diversity of research topics which can be explored through local archives and cultural heritage collections, the students were treated to three information-packed talks by representatives from some of ISWE's key partners.

Elen Wyn Simpson (University Archivist) provided an extremely useful package of guidance on how to identify and use estate collections at the University Archives, including an explanation of the various online finding aids. Lynn C. Francis from [Gwynedd Archives](#) gave a detailed account of the estate collections held at Caernarfon and Meirionnydd Record Offices, pointing out the information contained within various record types which could provide an evidence-base for innovative research. Finally Nerys Jones from the National Trust highlighted opportunities for students to engage with research themes of relevance to the exciting Transformation Project at [Penrhyn Castle](#), which is seeking to revitalise heritage interpretation and the visitor experience at the site.

Thanking the contributors, Dr. Euryng Roberts reflected on the 'splendid overview of potential areas of research and collections of archives held locally'. He commented on his hope that the workshop would lead to some interesting and original work and stressed that the initiative should be continued in future years as a way of developing both undergraduate research training and work placement opportunities.



ADVISORY BOARD

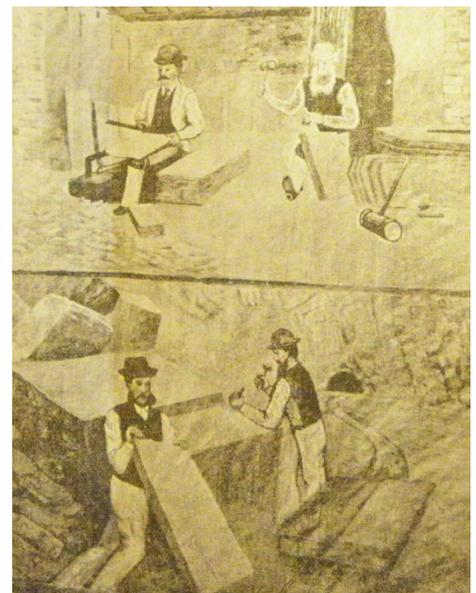
On 20 September 2016 ISWE's Advisory Board assembled for its second meeting. Chaired by Prof. Robin Grove-White, the Board is an external body consisting of community members who share a concern for the development of ISWE into a vigorous intellectual entity capable of making a positive difference to Welsh society and culture.

The role of Advisory Board members is to:

- Provide advice and insight into external organisations of potential significance to ISWE's future;
- Reflect on ISWE's development;

- Act as a sounding board for ISWE's strategic planning;
- Advise on philanthropic funding development;
- Play ambassadorial roles on ISWE's behalf in the wider world.

We were delighted to be able to hold the meeting at Bodorgan Hall, Anglesey, courtesy of Mr. George Meyrick who is a member. Members were pleased to be joined by Mr. David Wynne-Finch, Chairman of [CLA Cymru](#) who had earlier in the year invited ISWE to address their 'Polisi Cymru' Forum.



Workers at Penrhyn Slate Quarry, Bethesda - BUASC X/KF 103 PEN.



STUDENT VOLUNTEERING WITH THE NATIONAL TRUST

On 14 March ISWE hosted a [workshop](#) at Bangor University to promote volunteering and work placement opportunities available to students at the nearby National Trust properties of [Penrhyn Castle](#) and [Plas Newydd](#).

The workshop was well attended by students from across the University. Sarah Worth, the National Trust's Volunteering and Community Officer, provided an engaging presentation on the role of the National Trust, the importance of volunteers and the rich variety of positions and experiences available (encompassing all parts of the organisation's activities).

She was followed by Matthew Rowland, a third year History and Archaeology Student, who reflected on his

positive experiences as a volunteer at Penrhyn Castle and Clare Brass from the University's Employability Team, who pointed out the numerous benefits of volunteering. At the end of the event a long line of students queued up to register their interest.

The workshop forms part of an increasingly close partnership between the National Trust and Bangor University, and provided an opportunity to engage students in the work of ISWE. We plan to make the workshop an annual feature and to identify routes for a collaboration which delivers benefits for the National Trust and in the spheres of research, teaching, work experience and career development.

Many thanks to Dr. Lowri Ann Rees and Dr. Karen Hearn for their support and for allowing this workshop to be incorporated into their Work Placement Module.



REFLECTIONS OF VOLUNTEERING AT PENRHYN CASTLE MATTHEW ROWLAND

(3RD YEAR STUDENT, SCHOOL OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY)

Volunteering at Penrhyn Castle for a little over a year has provided me with a variety of different experiences and skills, some of which I learned for the first time, some I have improved. Approaching the end of my time studying history with archaeology at Bangor University, this article sums up just a few of the reasons why volunteering in the area's most controversially fascinating house has contributed to my career path; wherever it may lead.

Regurgitating facts from a piece of paper is something anybody is capable of. Regurgitating facts from memory, although trickier, is something that many are capable of. Regurgitating facts accurately whilst striking the balance between providing too little and too much information, and presenting the facts to only those who want to receive them, is a skill that comes with experience. Through learning this skill as a Room Guide at Penrhyn my confidence has improved, and so has my ability to interact with people – something that is going to be vital for me going into the future, whether in job interviews or a job itself.

Being on the inside of Penrhyn Castle sparked an interest in the history of the site, though not in what is on display (I go over that again and again when I turn up to room guide). I am not saying I know it all; I learn or notice something new every time that I visit. However, I found myself walking to whichever dramatically decorated room I would be spending the day in thinking: "this is great, and people are interested in this, but what about the maids, the servants, the controversy? Do the visitors think about any of that or are they too captivated by the wealth?" As a result, I chose to write my dissertation on the topic of the presentation of servants to the public in National Trust properties, using Penrhyn Castle and Erddig as case studies.

By now it is quite clear that my interests lie in many aspects of the world of heritage. It is an interest which has largely grown within the high, daunting walls of Penrhyn Castle, from speaking to guests, conservationists and other volunteers. My next step is to study an MA in Cultural Heritage Management at York University, with a view to finding museum work afterwards, before possibly looking towards opportunities in the National Trust later on. Of course plans can change, but what certainly will not change is the foundation of experience that volunteering at Penrhyn Castle has provided me.



EVENTS

FEMALE LANDOWNER WHO STOOD UP TO REBECCA RIOTERS IN CARDIGANSHIRE

The 2016 annual [Women's Archive Wales](#) conference was held at Bangor University on 8-9 October. Dr. Lowri Ann Rees was invited to deliver a paper on Jane Walters of Glanmedeni, a landowner who crossed paths with the Rebecca Rioters during the height of the riots in 1843. Aspects of this paper later appeared as an article in the Welsh History Month Welsh Women series, published in early 2017 in the *Western Mail*. An online version of this article can be found [here](#).



WORKSHOPS AND ENGAGEMENTS

ISWE is also continuing to develop its links with stakeholders in the archive, cultural heritage and rural affairs sectors. In November it was pleased to be represented at the [Archives and Records Council Wales](#) Annual Forum, held at the Conrah Hotel, Aberystwyth (the rebuilt mansion of the Davies of Ffosrhydgaled estate). Once again the forum demonstrated the innovation of the archives sector in Wales and provided opportunities to discuss projects focusing on estate collections.

In November Dr. James Walmsley (Forestry) and Dr. Eifiona Lane Thomas (Environmental Management)

attended a workshop at the University to strengthen research collaborations with [Natural Resources Wales](#) (NRW). The workshop featured a presentation by Dr. Shaun Evans on ISWE's aims and aspirations, pointing to the opportunities for developing an exciting programme of impactful interdisciplinary research which contributes towards the vitality of rural Wales. Following the workshop ISWE has been in discussions with NRW about projects linked to NRW's [Ancient Woodland Inventory](#).



'FIVE NATIONS' FORUM

In November, Dr. Lowri Ann Rees and Dr. Shaun Evans were pleased to visit Queens' University, Belfast, for a roundtable meeting with the heads of equivalent research centres based in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Yorkshire and the Thames Valley. The discussions focused on the emergence of an exciting 'five nations' approach towards the study of historic houses and estates. Collaboration with these centres will remain an integral part of ISWE's development.

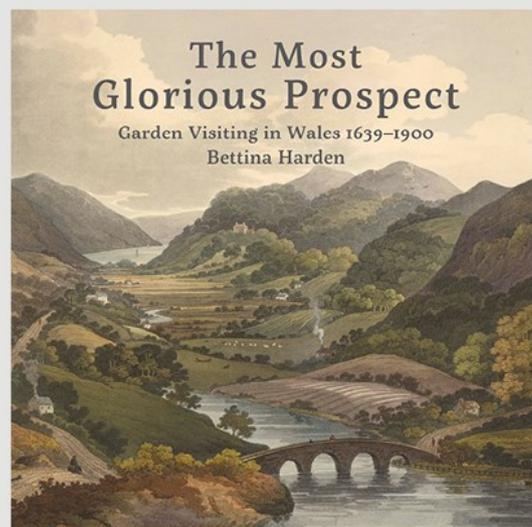
In January Dr. Lowri Ann Rees acted as external examiner for a PhD viva within the Department of History at Maynooth University. The thesis explored the experiences of the aristocracy in County Westmeath, 1879-1923. In adopting a case study approach, the thesis explored a wide range of topics that resonated on the national level, from rural unrest and the Land War, and the role of the aristocracy in politics, to the impact of the First World War, War of Independence and Civil War during the early twentieth century.



SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIA

Colleagues from Bangor University have also been partaking in the [Shankland Lectures](#), a series of public talks organised by the [Stephen Colclough Centre for the History and Culture of the Book](#) to highlight treasures from the University Library and Archives. The 2016 series included talks by Stephen Rees on 'Fiddle Tunes from Anglesey' and from Prof. Carol Tully on '19th century European travellers to Wales'. In the November instalment, Dr. Shaun Evans gave a presentation entitled 'Useful for singeing fowls & lighting fires': the social life of Welsh estate collection – past, present and future', which reflected upon the creation and development of the estate archives at Bangor and their future research potential.

[ISWE's own 2016/17 seminar series](#) was an outstanding success, featuring lively presentations by Bettina Harden, Dr. Liz Green and Dr. Lloyd Bowen on subjects including Garden History, the role of the National Trust in promoting Wales' historic landscapes and buildings and issues of status and honour in Jacobean Flintshire. To conclude the series we look forward to Siôn Edward Jones' presentation on his recently-submitted doctoral research into the ['Tithe War' in Wales, c.1886-89](#), in collaboration with the [Cynefin project](#).



Bettina Harden's new book on the history of garden visiting in Wales is available to purchase from [Graffeg](#)

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

ISWE continues to strengthen its relationship with Wales' county historical societies. On 21 November 2016 Dr. Shaun Evans was invited to give a presentation to the [Anglesey Antiquarian Society](#) on the subject of 'Mostyn: the creation of a North Wales dynasty c.1500-1700 – Anglesey connections and the Caerwys Eisteddfodau'. The talk was introduced by Prof. A.D. Carr who undertook seminal research into the Mostyn family and estate during the 1970s.

Two members of the ISWE team addressed members of the [Flintshire Historical Society](#) at their January and February meetings. In January, Shaun Evans gave a paper on his recent research into the history of the [Pentrehobyn](#) and [Trevor Hall](#) estates, followed by Nia Powell in

February who gave a thought-provoking reinterpretation of the so-called 'Acts of Union'.



Trevor Lloyd (1745-1804) of Trevor Hall, Llangollen by William Parry (1743-91) – © Pentrehobyn Estate

ISWE is looking forward to participating in the [Ceredigion Local History Forum's](#) Spring Meeting on the subject of ['Mansions and their Estates in Ceredigion'](#) on 22 April. Gwilym Owen and Shaun Evans will be holding a session with Julie Mathias (Aberystwyth University) on Welsh estate archives as part of the proceedings.

Dr. Shaun Evans will address the Friends of Clwyd Archives at their AGM at [Denbighshire Record Office](#), Ruthin, on 25 April on the subject of ['Rent capons, silver plate and church pews: promoting status, honour and authority in North East Wales, c. 1500-1700'](#). Dr. Evans is delighted to have been invited to accept the position of Patron by the society, which aims to support the work of the record offices in Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham.

EVENTS

NANNAU: A RICHARD TAPESTRY OF WELSH HISTORY

16 NOVEMBER 2016

CORSYGEDOL HALL, DYFFRYN ARDUDWY,
MEIRIONNYDD

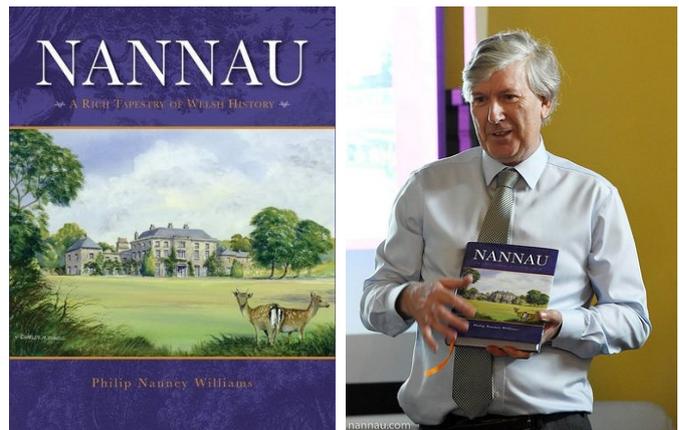
In November ISWE was delighted to play a part in the launch of an important new book focusing on the history of the Nannau family and estate.

The author, Philip Nanney Williams, made considerable use of the Nannau Estate Collection held by [Bangor University Archives and Special Collections](#) during the course of his research for the publication and we are delighted that he has agreed to add to this archival collection by depositing the significant corpus of additional Nannau-related materials he has accumulated over the last decade.

The launch attracted a large crowd to Corsygedol where the publication was officially launched by Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM, Chancellor of Bangor University and ISWE Advisory Board Member. This was followed by a synopsis of the links between Corsygedol and Nannau by the author and two short addresses by the Directors of ISWE and the [Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales](#) on the role of estates in the history, culture and landscapes of Wales.

In addition to providing an opportunity to explore one of Wales' foremost historic houses the launch was accompanied by a special exhibition of materials from private collections which were brought together to illuminate Nannau's rich history. This included family portraits dating back to the 17th century, family heirlooms crafted from the *Ceubren yr Ellyll*, the mounted head of a 'black sheep of Llwyn', images of the White Ox of Nannau and memorabilia from the family's coming of age celebrations.

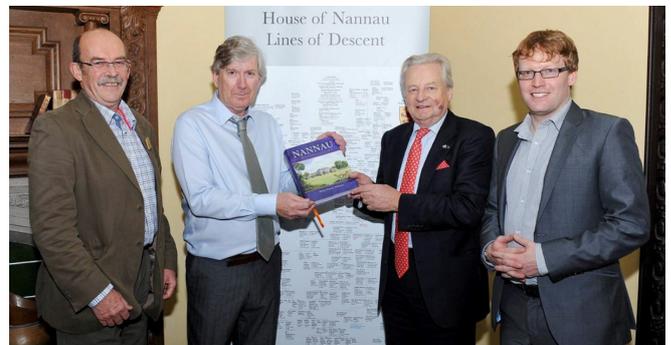
To order a copy of the book visit <http://nannauhistory.com>.



Philip Nanney Williams with his new book



The event attracted a large crowd to Corsygedol



Peter Ogden (CPRW) and Shaun Evans (ISWE) with Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas and Philip Nanney Williams



CORSYGEDOL: A BRIEF HISTORY

SHAUN EVANS

Bonedd dilygredig; Immaculata gens ('untainted gentility'; 'spotless race') – so proclaimed the Welsh and Latin versions of one of the mottos used by the Vaughans of Corsygedol in the 16th century. It was a claim to honour based on a perceived descent from Osbwrn Wyddel: the Irishman who according to tradition, settled in Ardudwy in the 13th century, marrying a daughter of Corsygedol and founding a lineage which established a strong foothold in north west Merionethshire. The family which became the Vaughans gradually emerged as a dominant force in the locality. The coat of arms assigned to Osbwrn Wyddel is displayed in the carved shield above the fireplace in the main hall at Corsygedol, with the date 1576.

During the Wars of the Roses the family were strong supporters of the Lancastrian cause. Gruffudd Fychan ap Gruffudd ab Einion (d.1483) of Corsygedol achieved fame for his staunch defence of Harlech Castle between 1461-68. He later became a firm supporter of Henry Tudor and is accredited with giving protection to Jasper Tudor and constructing 'Y Tŷ Gwyn yn Abermo' as a strategic centre to assist his countryman's invasion.

The arrival of the Tudors following Henry VII's victory at Bosworth provided further opportunities for cementing the family's position of power. The dynasty emerged as a mainstay of local government, with

each generation amassing an array of office-holding positions which provided a platform for the enactment of their authority. The display of Elizabeth I's coat of arms at Corsygedol signified that the family were one of the official representatives of the Tudor State within the locality. Beyond their governmental responsibilities in Merioneth, in 1545 Rhys Vaughan became the first of the family to represent the county in Parliament. His descendent Richard Vaughan (d.1636) achieved notoriety at Westminster because he was so large and unwieldy that the folding doors of the House of Commons had to be specially opened to let in 'the fat Welsh knight'! During the 18th century the position of MP for Merioneth virtually formed part of the family patrimony, such was their hold on the seat.

Land formed an essential component of gentility. The influence and extent of the Corsygedol estate gradually extended from its heartlands in the parishes of Llanddwywe and Llanenddwyn and from Harlech and Barmouth to surrounding areas. In 1525 for example, William Vaughan obtained 100 tenements to add to an estate which already spread across 7,000 acres. The deeds in the estate archive indicate that the family's landholding base continued to expand across subsequent centuries. Marriage also played an important role in enhancing the family's territorial influence, both within the region and to other parts of Wales. Many of the family's marriage alliances are celebrated in heraldic displays at Corsygedol. The

Vaughans inherited the Plas Hen (Talhenbont) estate in Caernarfonshire through marriage to the heiress, acquired Bodidris in Denbighshire and manufactured strong links with the influential Nanney family over multiple generations.

The earliest surviving portions of the current Corsygedol Hall date to 1576, though considerable alterations were undertaken by Gruffudd Vaughan in c.1592-93, with further modifications made on a regular basis by succeeding generations. William Vaughan (d.1633) added the ultimate architectural status symbol to the complex in 1630 through the erection of the three-storey stone gatehouse. The local influence of the family was also expressed at nearby St. Dwywe's Church. The school founded in Harlech by William Vaughan in c.1590 is poorly documented.

From the medieval period and right into the 18th century the family were staunch patrons of Welsh cultural activity. There are masses of Welsh praise-poetry addressed to members of the family, including by the family of local bards known as 'Phylipiaid Ardudwy'. The Vaughans were also collectors of Welsh manuscripts and books, as evidenced by the number of Corsygedol texts now held by the National Library of Wales. Corsygedol's engagement with Welsh cultural heritage thrived during the lifetime of William Vaughan (1707-75). He was appointed first President of the newly-established Honourable Society of the Cymmrodorion in 1751 and his friend Lewis Morris (1701-65)



composed poems which praised Corsygedol and Nannau as arenas which served to safeguard Welsh language and literature.

The primary Vaughan of Corsygedol lineage ended on the death of Evan Lloyd Vaughan in 1791. Corsygedol subsequently passed into the hands of the Mostyn family. The Mostyn family sold the Corsygedol estate in c.1858, with substantial parts of it later purchased by the Ansell family who in turn sold it 1908. Corsygedol is currently the home of Mr. Edmund S. Bailey and provides an attractive venue for wedding receptions and

private functions.

Further research:

Most of the archival material relating to the Corsygedol estate is consumed within the Mostyn Collection at Bangor University Archives and elsewhere. An edited version of William Vaughan’s family history, compiled in 1770 is printed in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 6 (1875), pp. 1-16. For more recent research centred on the family and estate please see articles published in the *Journal of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society* and in *History of Merioneth: Volume II – The Middle Ages*, J. Beverley Smith and Llinos Beverley Smith (eds.), (Cardiff, 2001).



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CARTO CYMRU 2017: ‘MEASURING THE MEADOWS’

FRIDAY, 12 MAY 2017

ISWE is delighted to be partnering with the [National Library of Wales](#) and the [Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales](#) to deliver the 2017 Wales Map Symposium.

This year’s symposium, hosted by the National Library in Aberystwyth, will bring together an international cohort of experts to evaluate the development of estate mapping and its value in portraying the historical landscapes of Wales and elsewhere.

Tickets for the event cost £20 (which includes a buffet lunch).

To reserve your place call the National Library of Wales on 01970 632548;

Or to book online, visit <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/EILMJF>

**EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL 2017
YNYS MÔN**



Peter Lord

‘PORTREADU POBL MÔN’

‘PORTRAYING THE PEOPLE OF ANGLESEY’

Dydd Gwener, 11 Awst 2017, 1.30yp, Pabell Prifysgol Bangor

Friday, 11 August 2017, 1.30pm, Bangor University Tent

Maes yr Eisteddfod, Bodedern, Ynys Môn, LL65 3SS

CROESO I BAWB

ALL WELCOME





ISWE PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM 2017: 'JUSTICE AND JOY'

SATURDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER

ISWE is collaborating with the [Brecknock Society](#) to hold a one day symposium entitled '*Justice and Joy*': *Breconshire estates from the perspectives of landlord and tenant*. This builds on similar regional events which have explored the historical influence of estates in North East Wales, Carmarthenshire and Merionethshire.

The event will be held at [Penpont](#), Breconshire. Event details and booking information will soon be

available via [ISWE's website](#) and mailing list.

ISWE SEMINAR SERIES 2017/18

ISWE's research seminar series will resume in the autumn – a full list of dates and speakers will be posted on [ISWE's website](#).

ISWE PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM 2018: 'SPHERES OF INFLUENCE'

In February ISWE has arranged a joint day school with the [Anglesey Antiquarian Society](#) and [Gwynedd Archaeological Trust](#) to explore the impacts of estates on the history, culture and landscapes of Anglesey,

from the medieval period to the twentieth century.

Details of the event will be posted on [ISWE's website](#).

To receive notification of events by email, please sign up to ISWE's mailing list by sending a request to Dr. Shaun Evans at iswe@bangor.ac.uk.

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

ISWE is emerging as a fresh intellectual presence in the life of Wales: a new national collaborative hub dedicated to promoting innovative research into the history of Wales, through the lenses provided by landed estates.

Your philanthropic support makes a real difference to what we can achieve.

If you share our aims and aspirations and would like to contribute towards our mission, your support could play an important role in:

- nurturing the next generation of world-leading researchers, to ensure that the study of Welsh History remains a vibrant academic discipline;
- unlocking the incredible stories hidden within estate collections in archives and country houses right across Wales;
- promoting the history and heritage of Wales to new and wider audiences, through public events, outreach activities and publications;
- conserving, recording, digitising and exhibiting important parts of the nation's documentary heritage, held within our Archives and Special Collections.

Donor support is crucial in allowing us to accelerate our progress. With your support we can develop a programme of research which has huge potential to animate and challenge understandings of Wales' past, and make it relevant to an array of new and wider audiences.

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