

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF WELSH ESTATES (ISWE)



College of Arts and Humanities
Bangor University

Issue 1

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UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL – EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES: MAPPING THE FUTURE OF BANGOR UNIVERSITY’S ESTATE COLLECTIONS

BANGOR FUND GRANT SET TO TRANSFORM USE OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

ISWE and the Archives and Special Collections Department were delighted to receive a grant of £5,000 from the Bangor Fund in November 2015. Funded through the generous contributions of donors and alumni, this Bangor Fund grant will play an important role in unlocking the research and educational potential of the significant corpus of family and estate collections held within the university archives.

Because of the extent and complexity of the collections, much of their content has heretofore remained ‘hidden’. The object of the project is to explore, discover and unravel this fantastic resource. Across 2016 the project team will work to develop a clearer understanding of the composition, content and character of the estate collections, by undertaking a systematic overview. This will identify items of special interest, allow for profiles to be constructed for each collection and highlight themes and subjects which span different collections.

These findings will allow the collections to be more easily incorporated into teaching programmes across the university and will provide the foundation for the construction of a package of research project outlines, which ISWE will aim to progress over the forthcoming years.

Furthermore, funding has been made available to promote the collections as an important part of Wales’ cultural heritage. This will be achieved through the creation of enhanced online content, including the digitisation of documents, and through a Research Open Day which will showcase the value and potential of the estate collections.

The project team is eager to get started with the project. If you would like to join the team as a volunteer, please email iswe@bangor.ac.uk to enquire.

To find out more about the Bangor Fund and how you can make a difference, visit http://www.bangor.ac.uk/giving/annual_fund.php.en.



BU Archives and Special Collections: ‘Hunting scene’ from Memoirs of the life of the late John Mytton, Esq. of Halston, Shropshire (1837).

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WHAT IS ISWE?

For centuries, estates have formed an important part of Welsh life. It was here that much of the social, cultural, political, economic and industrial fabric of the communities of Wales was stitched together. The impacts of estates on the history and landscapes of the nation have been profound.

Almost every square foot of the Welsh landscape has at some point or another been influenced and shaped by the priorities of an estate: think buildings of all types, roads, fields, hedges, walls and boundaries, woodlands, parks and gardens and industrial sites such as mines and quarries.

ISWE at Bangor University is dedicated to promoting research into the history, impact and functioning of estates on a Wales-wide basis.

Founded in 2013, we operate as a vibrant partnership between the College of Arts and Humanities and Archives and Special Collections Department. The following principles guide much of our work:

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH:

ISWE is the national coordinating hub for developing and promoting research focused on Welsh estates. We are committed to developing a world-class and multidisciplinary research profile, driven by projects and initiatives inspired by Wales' incredibly rich estate heritage – including archives, landscapes, architecture, literature and a variety of visual and material culture.

OUTSTANDING COLLECTIONS:

Bangor University is uniquely well-placed to host ISWE. Our archives house one of the nation's most extensive and significant collections of family and estate papers, which provide an outstanding platform for innovative projects. We aim to build upon the university's existing body of expertise to fully unlock the exciting potential to be found within estate collections throughout Wales.

PROSPERING THROUGH PARTNERSHIP:

ISWE is committed to building partnerships with organisations outside the university, to develop projects and initiatives which will deliver mutual and far-reaching benefits. Whether it be working with the custodians of Wales' country houses and estates, linking up with local and national cultural heritage organisations, or forming joint projects with other universities, collaboration is at the core of everything we do.

YOUR HERITAGE:

We recognise that our subject matter, namely the history of communities across the length and breadth of the nation, also belongs to the people of Wales. ISWE is passionate about making a contribution towards the communication and enrichment of

Welsh history; a history which we believe should play an integral part in Welsh society, today and into the future. As we discover, investigate and unravel the histories of Welsh estates we want to ensure that our findings and experiences are widely shared and easily accessible. We will continue to develop and expand our programme of public events held in the University, and in communities across the length and breadth of Wales.

We are also working with partners to increase the heritage profile of Wales' landed estates; promoting the country house powerbases dotted across our landscapes and giving a voice to the experiences of those who lived and worked on Welsh estates across the centuries.

To find out more about ISWE, visit <http://iswe.bangor.ac.uk>



BU Archives and Special Collections: Penrhyn 10.



NEWS

COUNTRY HOUSES AND ESTATES IN THE HISTORY OF WALES

PRYS MORGAN DELIVERS SPECIAL ISWE LECTURE AT 2015 NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

We were extremely proud to be represented at last year's National Eisteddfod of Wales held in Meifod, Powys, in early August. A special ISWE lecture was introduced by the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. John Hughes. The lecture was delivered by the distinguished Welsh historian Prof. Prys Morgan. In his

lively address, Prof. Morgan reflected on the historical influence of the Lloyd family of Dolobran – a country house situated within earshot of the Eisteddfod Maes. Prof. Morgan integrated the story of the Dolobran estate into a broader narrative of the impact of the gentry and their country houses in Welsh communities from medieval times through to the present day. In doing so, he highlighted many of the key themes, questions, issues and debates that will guide ISWE's research priorities over the coming years; and underlined why fresh evaluations of the role of estates in

the history and development of Wales are so important.

A full transcript of the lecture is available on our website at <http://iswe.bangor.ac.uk/news/iswe-at-the-eisteddfod-25103>



Prof. John Hughes with Prof. Prys Morgan at the National Eisteddfod.

VALUE OF WELSH ARCHIVES HIGHLIGHTED AT ARCW FORUM

ISWE was delighted to attend the Annual Forum of the Archives and Records Council Wales (ARCW) in November. The event, held at Maesmawr Hall Hotel in Caersws, was attended by representatives from archives and record offices from right across Wales. The fantastic package of presentations provided an opportunity to hear about some of the innovative community engagement, educational and

conservation initiatives that are currently taking place in Welsh archives. This includes the all-Wales Cynefin Project (see <http://cynefin.archiveswales.org.uk/en/>) which aims to repair, digitise and transcribe over 1,200 tithe maps and their associated schedules by September 2016! Once complete, this ambitious voluntary crowdsourcing project will produce a fantastic online resource for the study of Welsh estates.

At ISWE, we recognise that the collections relating to landed families and estates, housed in archives right

across Wales, form an indispensable asset. Having archival collections which are well cared for and easy to access, discover and use, provides an integral foundation for everything we hope to achieve. Dr Shaun Evans, ISWE Project Manager, used his presentation at the Forum to discuss the ways in which ISWE can work with archives in Wales to deliver shared aims and objectives. Over forthcoming months, the ISWE team will be working with ARCW and individual archive services across Wales to discuss and develop a range of projects focused on Welsh estate collections.



NEWS

LAUNCH OF SCOTTISH CENTRE HERALDS UNPRECEDENTED ACADEMIC INTEREST IN ESTATE HERITAGE

Two members of the ISWE team were pleased to accept an invitation to attend the launch of the Centre for Scotland's Land Futures at Dundee University back in August. The establishment of the Centre means that there are now dedicated national and regional research centres focusing on the history of land use, estates and country houses in Ireland, Scotland, the Thames Valley, Yorkshire and Wales.

This context is exciting for ISWE.

Working in partnership with other research centres allows us to develop thematic projects which span national and regional borders, and provides us with opportunities to organise more ambitious joint events on an international scale. Most importantly though, this joined-up approach means that all of the research we produce at ISWE can be situated and contextualised within a broader debate about the historical role of estates, allowing meaningful comparisons to be made between different local, regional and national experiences – variations which are otherwise often difficult to identify.



Thomas Hudson, portrait of Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn, 3rd Bart. (1692-1749), c.1745 [Copyright Miles Wynn Cato Gallery].

WORKSHOP EXPLORES ROLE OF THE LAND AGENT

In October a workshop on the history of the land agent was hosted by Dundee University. 'The Land Agent in transnational context: an interdisciplinary context' was organised by ISWE's Dr Lowri Ann Rees together with Dr Annie Tindley (Centre for Scotland's Land Futures) and Dr Ciaran Reilly (Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates).

Known as 'land agents' in Ireland and Wales, and 'factors' in Scotland, the role and duties of these middle men were highlighted through a range of stimulating papers. They included specific case studies of agents and estates, reflections on the impact of

external factors such as riots, rebellions and revolutions and the coming of the railways, and the issue of land agency home and abroad in the Caribbean. Lively discussions took place following each of the three panels, and striking parallels were drawn between Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Dr Lowri Ann Rees and Mr Einion Thomas represented ISWE and gave papers on their research into the Middleton Hall and Penrhyn estates.

A publication based on the proceedings of the workshop is currently being put together by the organising committee who hope to arrange a similar event in the near future, to continue the debate.



Tomb at Llandygai Church to Benjamin Wyatt (1745-1818) and his son James Wyatt (1795-1888), long-serving agents on the Penrhyn Estate.



DISCOVERY SHEDS NEW LIGHT ON EARLY WELSH PORTRAITURE

During his recent research into the Mostyn family and estate across the 16th and 17th centuries, Dr Shaun Evans came across a small panel portrait at Mostyn Hall in Flintshire. The portrait is a fairly typical example of the early-17th century provincial vernacular, but as with so many of the portraits displayed in Welsh houses, the identities of the sitter and painter were ‘unknown’. In the 18th century, Thomas Pennant concluded that this was a portrait of Robert Wynn (d.1598), the builder of Plas Mawr, Conwy. However the date inscriptions on the panel make this attribution impossible. Instead, they confirm that the portrait was painted in 1621 when the sitter was aged 53 – which makes

Sir Roger Mostyn (c.1568-1642), the influential head of the Mostyn family, a primary candidate. A more conclusive assertion can be made about the identity of the painter. The presence of two ‘RH’ monograms on the panel confirm that it was painted by Randle Holme (c.1570-1655), the deputy-herald for Cheshire, Lancashire and north Wales whose thriving workshop provided much of the paraphernalia required for the funerals of the gentry living within the extensive hinterland of the city of Chester.

Dr Evans worked alongside early provincial portraiture expert Prof Robert Tittler (Concordia University, Canada) to unravel the story of the portrait. It is the first portrait that can be definitively attributed to Holme; and in this respect the discovery makes an important

contribution towards understandings of Welsh visual culture.

The findings were published in S. Evans and R. Tittler, ‘Randle Holme the elder and the development of portraiture in North Wales, c.1600–1630’, *The British Art Journal* XVI, 2 (2015), pp. 24-29.



With thanks to Mostyn Estates Ltd.

FUNDING SECURED FOR CONSERVATION OF PENRHYN ESTATE MAPS

Bangor University Archives were pleased to hear that they were successful in their recent application to the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust (NMCT). Thanks to a partnership between the Welsh Government and the NMCT, a grant will enable much needed conservation work to be undertaken on valuable maps belonging to the Penrhyn estate collection held within the Archives.

The ‘Penrhyn Additional Maps’ collection provide rich evidence for analysing issues such as estate management, land use and tenure, ownership patterns, building history, landscape studies and cartography on one of the most prominent

estates in north Wales. The maps date from the mid-18th century to the early-20th century. Some of the maps are also important for documenting the social history of the city of Bangor. For example, one of the maps (Penrhyn/2219) was produced as a consequence of the cholera epidemic in Bangor in the 1850s and provides a valuable research tool for analysing the episode.

The aim of the project is to undertake essential conservation work on a number of maps within the collection. Due to the fragile state of the maps, the Archives have not been able to allow access to these valuable documents for some time. The funding will contribute towards the Archives’ mission of making the records in their custodianship as well cared for and widely accessible as possible.



BU Archives and Special Collections: Penrhyn 2202 - Plan of Penrhyn lands in the parish of Bangor, c.1760.



NEWS

ISWE SUPPORTS CAMPAIGN TO REESTABLISH ACCESS TO CARMARTHENSHIRE RECORDS

In June ISWE held its second annual study day, this time at the National Botanic Garden of Wales in Llanarthne, Camarthenshire. The event featured a series of fascinating presentations on the history of various landed families and estates in south-west Wales. The day was well-attended by members of the public and the presentations elicited important group discussions on the imperative role county archive services play in sustaining research

into local and Welsh history.

A number of the delegates used the opportunity to express serious concerns about the situation at Carmarthenshire Archives which had been closed to the public for some months due to the discovery of mould among the collections. This point was emphasised by ISWE's Dr Lowri Ann Rees who stated that the collections held at Carmarthenshire Archives had been integral to her doctoral research into the history of the Middleton Hall estate.

As a result of the proceedings, ISWE's Nia Powell committed to making representations to the relevant authorities in order to obtain more details about the situation and to encourage a solution that would see

the collections cleaned and made accessible to both researchers and members of the local community. Letters were sent to Carmarthenshire County Council, the Welsh Government's Museums, Archives and Libraries Division (previously CyMAL) and Deputy Minister for Culture, The National Archives and a number of AMs and MPs.

In November ISWE was pleased to hear that Carmarthenshire County Council has committed £2million towards the building of a new purpose-built archive in the county, which will hopefully ensure the long-term sustainability of the collections.

STUDENT FIELDTRIP TO MAENAN HALL

A group of second and third year students from the School of History, Welsh History and Archaeology enjoyed a visit to Maenan Hall, near Llanrwst, in December. The fieldtrip, which formed part of the Wales and Europe in the Renaissance module, provided the students with an opportunity to enhance their understanding of gentry culture in 16th century Wales, through the case study provided by the experience of the Kyffin family. In a highly informative guided tour, the owner of Maenan Hall, Mr. Christopher McLaren, drew attention to various architectural features which had recently been researched by the Discovering Old Welsh Houses Group (DOWHG), and invited the students to interpret the rich 16th century

heraldic plasterwork displays to be found in the house. To conclude, the students were asked to analyse a number of documents relating to the history of the family and estate, held within the Maenan Hall Manuscripts collection at Bangor University Archives. All of the students agreed that the visit had enriched their learning experience.

16th century plasterwork display, including the coat of arms of Elizabeth I, at Maurice Kyffin's Maenan Hall.



CAERYNWCH PAPERS DEPOSITED AT UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

In February 2015 Bangor University Archives was delighted to receive a small collection of estate papers relating to the prominent Caerynwch estate near Dolgellau. The deeds and documents were produced by the Vaughan, Humphries and Richards families of Caerynwch across the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries and provide valuable insights into impact of the estate on Merionethshire society across the period. The Archives and Special Collections team are currently exploring opportunities for cataloguing the collection. Other papers relating to the Caerynwch estate are held by the Meirionydd Record Office branch of Gwynedd Archives and the National Library of Wales.



ISWE SEMINAR SERIES 2016

FIRST HAND ACCOUNTS SHED LIGHT ON THE TENANT AND LAND AGENT EXPERIENCE

Early in 2016 we were delighted to welcome speakers to our seminars at Bangor to share their experiences of working and living on three of the most prominent estates in north Wales.

On 28 January we were joined by Megan Hughes Tomos who provided a rich oral history account of: 'Ystâd trwy lygaid y tenant' ['An estate through the eyes of a tenant']. The relationship between landlord and tenant has represented an important aspect in the lives of communities across the length and breadth of Wales for centuries; and it has had a profound impact on the consciousness of Welsh society. In her presentation, Megan discussed her family's experience as tenants on

the Rhug estate in Corwen, Merionethshire, during the mid-20th century. Her father, William Hughes Jones, farmed at Plas-yn-Ddôl as a tenant to Lord Newborough for a considerable part of his life. In an extremely interesting rendition, Megan shared her memories of the episodes and occurrences which shaped her family's relationship with the land and locality.

Our seminar on 11 February focused on another of the key roles in the estate community: the Land Agent. Land Agents or Stewards have played an instrumental role in the management of Welsh estates for hundreds of years. We were delighted to welcome Richard Thomas and Tim Bowie, the current agents of two of north Wales' most influential estates – Mostyn and Bodorgan – to reflect on their experiences over recent decades and provide an insight into the priorities and functioning of estates in 21st

century Wales. Themes included the development of Llandudno into a major retail and tourist destination and the construction of Trac Môn on Anglesey. Our speakers also focused on issues such as agriculture, legislation, local produce, environmental sustainability, the Welsh language and relationships with tenants. They were also pleased to respond to a package of questions from the sizable contingent of Forestry students in the audience.

The ISWE seminar series will recommence in autumn 2016. For more details visit our events page at <http://iswe.bangor.ac.uk> or contact iswe@bangor.ac.uk.



Fforwm Undydd / One-day Forum

CYMRU A'R ALBAN MEWN YSGRIFAU TEITHIO O EWROP

WALES AND SCOTLAND IN EUROPEAN TRAVEL WRITING

Dydd Sadwrn, 16 Ebrill 2016 / Saturday, 16 April 2016

Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru / National Library of Wales
Aberystwyth

Dyddiad cau ar gyfer cofrestru yw 6 Ebrill / The closing date for registration is 6 April.

Y ffi gofrestru ar gyfer y fforwm, gan gynnwys coffi yn y bore, cinio a the yw £15 (£10.00 i'r di-waith) / The registration fee for the forum, including morning coffee, lunch and tea, is £15 (£10.00 unwaged).

e-bost / e-mail: a.elias@cymru.ac.uk

RECONSIDERING ESTATES

On 29 January Nia Powell gave a public lecture to the Bangor Branch of the University of Wales Guild of Graduates at Hen Goleg, Bangor University. This lecture, delivered in Welsh, focused on ISWE's ambition to interrogate embedded narratives for the development of a deeper understanding of the role played by estates in the history of Wales.

On 18 March Dr Lowri Ann Rees delivered a 20 minute presentation on ISWE's ambitions as part of a Pot Pourri session organised by the Anglesey Antiquarian Society at Oriel Ynys Môn, Rhosmeirch, Llangefni.



CURRENT PROJECTS

EINIION WYN THOMAS: THE DEVELOPMENT OF GAME ESTATES IN NORTH WALES IN THE LATE-19TH CENTURY

Prior to his retirement last year, Einion had served as University Archivist at Bangor for 12 years. Einion played a key role in the formation of ISWE. In September he started a postgraduate research degree in the School of History, Welsh History and Archaeology. His project focuses on the impact of the Game Laws on rural society in north Wales across the late-19th century, and in particular, how Welsh landlords utilised these laws to develop game estates.

The Rhiwlas estate, near Bala in the old county of Merioneth provides an important case study for the research, especially during the custodianship of Richard John Lloyd Price (1843-1923). After inheriting the estate in 1862 he set about transforming Rhiwlas from an overwhelmingly agricultural estate into one of the most famous sporting estates in England and Wales.

The subject provides a gateway for analysing an array of historical themes and issues. The developments at Rhiwlas had a profound impact on the landscape, with the plantation of coverts and woodlands to provide cover for game and the construction of rabbit warrens and pheasantries, to name just a couple of examples. The project also aims to uncover new narratives relating to the recreational interests and cultural values of the Welsh gentry and the financial management of their landholdings.

Furthermore, the project provides a fascinating lens through which to analyse relationships between landlords and their tenants, the impact of the introduction of gamekeepers to Welsh estates and the role of poaching.

Einion is using a rich assortment of estate records held at Bangor University Archives, Gwynedd Archives and the National Library of Wales to support this research, in addition to Quarter Sessions records, newspaper articles, Parliamentary Reports and the evidence taken before the Royal Commission on Land in Wales and Monmouthshire (1896).



Richard John Lloyd Price of Rhiwlas, Vanity Fair (10 October 1885).



Gamekeepers on the Rhiwlas Estate c.1880s [With thanks to Einion Wyn Thomas].



SARAH VAUGHAN: SUGAR AND SLATE - CATALOGUING THE PENRHYN ESTATE COLLECTION

In 2015 work began on a project to complete the cataloguing of the Penrhyn estate papers held at Bangor University Archives. The Penrhyn collection is one of the most comprehensive and illuminating estate collections in Wales and provides an outstanding resource for analysing many aspects of history over a 700 year period. Hardcopy catalogues were produced following two major deposits at the university in 1939 and 1966, but over subsequent decades, a substantial volume of additional material remained uncatalogued. Thanks to funding from the National Cataloguing Grants Programme, the Archives and Special Collections Department has been able to appoint Sarah Vaughan as a Project Archivist

to study and provide item-level descriptions for an estimated 47 linear metres of uncatalogued Penrhyn material. Once complete, the catalogue entries will be made available to search via the online catalogue (<http://calmview.bangor.ac.uk/Calmview>).

The uncatalogued papers date between the 17th and 20th centuries and comprise an incredible range of materials, including an impressive assemblage of fly fishing hooks! The raft of deeds, correspondence and other documents relating to the management of the house and estate is particularly informative, including a collection of estate survey books created in the 1920s which, as well as providing detailed information on individual properties and their tenants, occasionally feature hand-drawn sketches and plans of buildings on the estate. The collection also contains masses of material pertaining to two of the family's primary focuses of investment: their slate quarries at

Bethesda and their sugar plantations in Jamaica (including slave registers, lists of crops, correspondence and financial documents).

Sarah posts monthly updates on her discoveries at http://www.bangor.ac.uk/archives/sugar_slate.php.en#updates.



Sarah at Penrhyn Castle.

SAM GARLAND: NEWS IN LATE-17TH CENTURY BRITAIN - THE MOSTYN NEWSLETTERS

Since its launch in 2009 the 'Mostyn Project' has supported three doctoral studentships which have focused on various aspects of the rich historical collections relating to the family and estate. In his PhD project, Sam Garland has been utilising the fantastic collection of manuscript newsletters which were sent to Thomas Mostyn of Gloddaith (c.1652-92) as a case study for exploring the broader subject of news in late-17th century Britain.

Though an occasional feature of

society and politics prior to the late-17th century, through the 1660s to the early 1700s, regular news emerged and developed as a more permanent aspect of British culture, and was consumed enthusiastically by an increasingly-politicised public.

Historians have traditionally looked to this period to explain how the news press developed its modern characteristics. In so doing, the focus of their attentions have overwhelmingly looked to the development of the print periodical, and its effect on society. However, through his analysis of the Mostyn newsletters, Sam is arguing that older forms of news dissemination (such as scribal and oral) in fact offer an earlier representation of the characteristics that have been

attributed to print. Whether it is in terms of accepted authenticity of content, extent of coverage, or contemporaneity, these older forms of news provide a level of stability and modernity that can only rarely be seen in the print papers of the day.

Through his case-study approach, Sam is examining specific time-frames and events to consider the impact of news on politics and society, and how traditional news forms offer a comparatively more 'modern' approach to the provision of news information across the later-17th century.

For more information on the 'Mostyn Project' see <http://www.imems.ac.uk/mostyn.php.en>.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ISWE Annual Study Day 2016: North East Wales:

25 June, 2016 - Mostyn Hall,
Flintshire

Following the success of the three previous ISWE study days, held in Caernarfonshire, Merionethshire and Carmarthenshire, this year's event will focus on the historical impact of landed estates in Denbighshire and Flintshire.

To receive notifications of this and all future ISWE events, sign up to our mailing list by emailing iswe@bangor.ac.uk.

Public lecture:

24 June 2016:

Dr. Shaun Evans will deliver the Discovering Old Welsh Houses Annual Lecture on the subject of 'Status, Honour and Authority in 16th and 17th century Wales: The Mostyn Family Influence'.

2.30pm, Llandrillo Community Hall, Llandrillo, nr. Corwen. For further information go to - <http://www.datingoldwelshhouses.co.uk>.



EVENTS

PONTIO'S OPENING SEASON REFLECTS ON THE HISTORY OF THE PENRHYN AND BRYNDDU ESTATES

Bangor University's new Arts and Innovation Centre is featuring two productions based on the history and culture of north Wales estates as part of its first events programme.

Chwalfa (February 2016)

This drama, adapted from T. Rowland Hughes' (1903-49) novel on the Great Strike at Penrhyn Slate Quarry, brought together members of the community and established

performers to portray the experience of the north Wales quarrymen during the nation's longest running industrial dispute between 1900-03.



Mr Bulkeley o'r Brynnddu (26th April 2016)

Held by Bangor University Archives, William Bulkeley's (1691-1760) diaries provide a vivid picture of life in 18th century Anglesey. This dramatic and musical production, based on excerpts from the diaries, seeks to depict the world and experiences of the gentleman from Brynnddu, Llanfechell.

For show times, booking information and further details, please visit www.pontio.co.uk or call 01248 382828



OUR LOGO EXPLAINED

Coming up with an appropriate logo for ISWE was not an easy feat! The design that we eventually adopted features two key elements, which we believe represent some of our core priorities, values and concerns.

The plough:

This delicate tool was an integral component on Welsh estates for hundreds of years. It represented a primary mechanism through which man connected with the land and was synonymous with care and cultivation of property. In medieval times, the employment of agricultural imagery in Welsh praise poetry was commonplace, with patrons regularly honoured for their good management of the land and the provision of sustenance for the surrounding community. The plough continued to make an immense contribution to the economic viability of estates long into the 20th century. We thought it fitting that the plough form a central part of our brand, on account of the thousands of individuals who have farmed the land of Wales, over countless generations.



Image: Teamsman Thomas John Ellis (1896-1973) behind the plough with horses 'Rain' and 'Storm', working on the Mostyn Estate in Flintshire

The country house:

Country houses – *plastai* – stand as bastions in the landscape in almost every corner of Wales. They were

the powerbases at the centre of the nation's landed estates. Many of these buildings are still in the possession of their long-standing ancestral residents; others are cared for by organisations such as the National Trust; far too many have been demolished or are in serious risk of decay and obliteration.



BU Archives and Special Collections: 'Ynysmaengwyn' from J. Baker, A Picturesque Guide Through Wales (1795).

The building which features in our logo is based on the appearance of one such house which has succumbed to demolition: Ynysmaengwyn in Tywyn, Merionethshire. This exceptionally fine brink house was rebuilt from 1758 on a site which had played an important role in the locality for centuries. In medieval times, and long after, its residents were fervent patrons of the Welsh bardic order and in spite of several failures in the male line, its succession of occupants – noticeable the Wynn and Corbet families, and John Corbett (1817-1901) – continued to contribute towards the functioning of the surrounding area from the 16th century onwards. Sometime after 1951 the estate was given to the council, who were unable to maintain the upkeep of the building. The house was used for army training and firefighting practice before eventually being pulled down in 1965.

Collections relating to the Ynysmaengwyn estate are held at the National Library of Wales and the Meirionnydd Record Office branch of Gwynedd Archives.

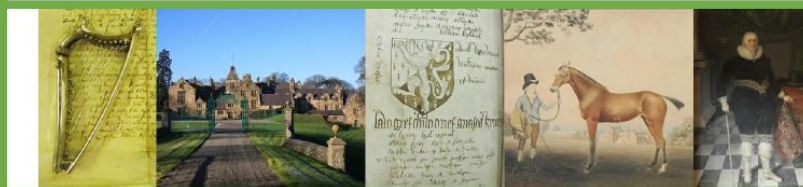
We believe that Wales' country houses form an important part of our national heritage and can play a critical role in showcasing the diverse histories of the localities in which they are situated. Through research, engagement and collaboration we are committed to unlocking that potential.



Pwyllgor Apêl Eisteddfod yr Urdd Sir Fflint 2016

Dr. Shaun Evans

THE MOSTYN FAMILY INFLUENCE: DISCUSSING ASPECTS OF OUR AREA'S PAST



Darlith Gyhoeddus
Dydd Llun, 14 Mawrth 2016
7.30pm

Public Lecture
Monday, 14 March 2016
7.30yp

Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton, Penyffordd, Sir y Fflint, CH8 9JQ

CROESO IBAWB

ALL WELCOME

*£3 rhodd lleiaf tuag at yr apêl eisteddfod
£3 minimum donation towards the eisteddfod appeal*

NEW APPOINTMENT

In September, ISWE was delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Shaun Evans as Project Manager.

In this new role, Shaun is responsible for working with ISWE colleagues to drive forward the development of the institute.



CONTACT

If you would like to discuss any aspect of ISWE's development, your comments and suggestions would be most welcome.

Write to: Dr Shaun Evans, Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates, Bangor University, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DG

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