

**DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST  
NEWSLETTER WINTER 2011**

**NEWYDDLEN GAEAF 2011  
YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL  
DYFED**



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Dyfed Archaeological Trust is an independent organisation dedicated to the effective protection, investigation, recording and promotion of the historic environment.

Dyfed has a highly motivated professional workforce with a wide range of skills and experience. This is complemented by long established contacts and partnerships with external specialists enabling Dyfed to offer extensive consultancy and other archaeological services.

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Cynhyrchwyd y  
newyddlen hon gyda  
chymorth grant gan  
Cadw

Cover: Capel Begewdin, a  
ruined holy well chapel in  
Carmarthenshire.

Clawr: Capel Begewdin,  
capel adfeiliedig â ffynnon  
sanctaid yn Sir  
Gaerfyrddin.

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed yw corff annibynnol sy'n ymroi i ddiogelu,  
ymchwilio, cofnodi a hybu'r amgylchedd hanesyddol yn effeithiol.

Mae gan Dyfed weithlu proffesiynol ac uchel eu cymhelliant syd ag amrywiaeth mawr  
o sgiliau of phrofiad. Ategir hynny â chysylltiadau a phartneriaethau—sy'n bod ers  
tro byd—ag arbenigwyr allanol sy's fodd i Dyfed gynnig gwasanaethau ymgynhori a  
gwasanaethau archaeolegol eraill.

Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo,

Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF

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## MORE EXCITING DISCOVERIES AT FAN ROUND BARROW

Trial excavations at Fan round barrow near Talsarn, Ceredigion, in October 2010 revealed two cremation burials accompanied by 4000 year-old grave goods, including two Bronze Age Pygmy Cups and a large urn, and were reported on in the Winter 2010 Newsletter. Further excavations during October 2011 revealed more evidence for Bronze Age burial, including a cremation accompanied by a large urn and a Pygmy Cup, a cremation with a broken Pygmy Cup, and a pit with a large urn. It is unclear whether the latter is also a cremation as it was lifted as a large block of soil and will be 'excavated' in the laboratory. It was considered that nineteenth century discoveries of a Pygmy Cup and spearhead were also from this round barrow, but further research has shown that they came from a nearby site. However, even discounting these discoveries, the finds from Fan represent a significant collection of Bronze Age artefacts and add greatly to our knowledge of the period. The cremations now have to be analysed, radiocarbon dates obtained, and various specialist reports written. The results of all this work will be presented in a future newsletter.



Excavation of one of the  
Fan  
cremation burials and urn.

Cloddio un o gladdiadau  
amlosgi Fan ac wrn.

## RHAGOR O DDARGANFYDDIADAU CYFFROUS YNG NHRUG CRWN FAN

Datgelodd cloddiadau prawf yng nghrug crwn Fan ger Talsarn, Ceredigion, ym mis Hydref 2010, ddwy gladdiad amlosgi ynghyd â nwyddau claddu 4000 mlwydd oed, gan gynnwys dau Gwpan Pigmi o'r Oes Efydd ac wrn mawr, ac adroddwyd arnynt yng Nghylchlythyr Gaeaf 2010. Datgelodd rhagor o gloddiadau yn ystod mis Hydref 2011 fwy o dystiolaeth dros gladdiad yr Oes Efydd, gan gynnwys amlosgiad ynghyd ag wrn mawr a Chwpan Pigmi, amlosgiad gyda Chwpan Pigmi wedi'i dorri, a phwll gydag wrn mawr. Nid yw'n glir a oedd yr olaf yn amlosgiad hefyd oherwydd fe'i codwyd fel bloc mawr o bridd a chaiff ei 'gloddio' yn y labordy. Ystyriwyd bod darganfyddiadau'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg sef Cwpan Pigmi a blaen gwaywffon hefyd o'r crug crwn hwn, ond mae ymchwil pellach wedi dangos eu bod yn dod o safle cyfagos. Fodd bynnag, hyd yn oed wrth ddiystyru'r darganfyddiadau hyn, mae'r darganfyddiadau o Fan yn ffurfio casgliad sylweddol o arteffactau Oes Efydd ac yn ychwanegu'n helaeth at ein gwybodaeth am y cyfnod. Bellach mae'n rhaid daddansoddi'r amlosgiadau, cael dyddiadau radiocarbon, ac ysgrifennu amrywiaeth o adroddiadau arbenigol. Caiff canlyniadau'r holl waith hwn eu cyflwyno mewn cylchlythyr yn y dyfodol.

## THE HOLY WELLS OF SOUTH-WEST WALES

Holy wells are some of the most fascinating archaeological sites in Wales, but they are also some of the least understood and least studied. Some are neglected and overgrown, others reduced to muddy hollows, and many are lost and forgotten. Many wells have their origins in pre-Christian times, and the traditions of votive offerings and curative properties survive at some sites. Christianity adopted pagan wells, and it is not uncommon to find a holy well close to a church, or a well dedicated to a saint.

A recent survey by the Trust identified almost 200 holy wells in south-west Wales. Of these, almost 100 sites were visited in order to obtain information on their condition. This work demonstrated the wide range of holy wells across the region. Some were never anything more than a natural spring, but others had elaborate structures or buildings associated with them. Traditional practices are still performed at a few wells. It is envisaged that as part of this survey the best holy well sites will be designated as scheduled ancient monuments, and it is anticipated that the Trust in partnership with communities and others will be able to find the means to restore some of the sites.



The three wells at Ffynnon Ddrewi, Ceredigion, are said to cure different ailments.

The remains of Ffynnon Gybi, Ceredigion, a listed building.

Dywedir bod y tair ffynnon yn Ffynnon Ddrewi, Ceredigion, yn gwella gwahanol anhwylderau.

Gweddillion Ffynnon Gybi, Ceredigion, adeilad cofrestredig.





There are records that a chapel stood close to St Leonard's well, Pembrokeshire.

Caerllan is a simple holy well located close to a church.

Ceir cofnodion y safodd capel ger ffynnon Sant Leonard, Sir Benfro.

Mae Caerllan yn ffynnon sanctaidd syml ger eglwys.



## FFYNHONNAU SANCTAIDD DE-ORLLEWIN CYMRU

Rhai o'r safleoedd archaeolegol mwyaf diddorol yng Nghymru yw ffynhonnau sanctaidd, ond maent hefyd yn rhai o'r rhai y deellir lleiaf amdanynt ac a astudir lleiaf. Mae rhai wedi'u hesgeuluso a'u gordyfu, rhai'n ddim byd ond pantiau mwdlyd, ac mae llawer wedi'u colli a'u hanghofio. Mae llawer o ffynhonnau'n tarddu o'r cyfnodau cyn Cristnogaeth, ac mae'r traddodiadau o offrymau addunedol a rhinweddau gwellhaol yn goroesi ar rai safleoedd. Mabwysiadodd Cristnogaeth ffynhonnau paganaidd, ac nid yw'n anarferol gweld ffynnon sanctaidd ger eglwys, neu ffynnon wedi'i chysegru i sant.

Nododd arolwg diweddar gan yr Ymddiriedolaeth bron 200 o ffynhonnau sanctaidd yn ne-orllewin Cymru. O'r rhain ymwelwyd â bron 100 safle er mwyn cael gwybodaeth am eu cyflwr. Dangosodd y gwaith hwn yr ystod eang o ffynhonnau sanctaidd ar draws y rhanbarth. Nid oedd rhai ohonynt erioed yn unrhyw beth ond tarddell naturiol, ond roedd gan rai strwythurau neu adeiladau coeth yn gysylltiedig â nhw. Caiff arferion traddodiadol eu perfformio o hyd o flaen ychydig o ffynhonnau. Rhagwelir fel rhan o'r arolwg hwn, y caiff safleoedd gorau'r ffynhonnau sanctaidd eu dynodi yn henebion cofrestredig, a disgwylir y bydd yr Ymddiriedolaeth, mewn partneriaeth â chymunedau ac eraill, yn gallu dod o hyd i'r modd o adfer rhai o'r safleoedd.

## MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL AT CARREG CENNEN CASTLE

The Trust in partnership with the Brecon Beacon National Park and Cadw held a hugely successful festival based on the theme of the use of wood and woodlands at Carreg Cennen Castle in July 2011. The 3000 festival goers participated in woodturning, basketry, falconry, archery and spinning, as well as taking part in guided tours of the castle and the nearby woodland. Musicians and storytellers were on hand to entertain the festival goers.

The festival was part of the Festival of British Archaeology, organised by the Council for British Archaeology. Menna Bell organised much of the festival on behalf of the Trust. Menna is on a one-year community archaeology training placement sponsored by the Council for British Archaeology and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.



## GŴYL GANOLOESOL YNG NGHASTELL CARREG CENNEN

Mewn partneriaeth â Pharc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog a Cadw cynhaliodd yr Ymddiriedolaeth ŵyl lwyddiannus dros ben yn seiliedig ar thema defnyddio pren a choetiroedd yng Nghastell Carreg Cennen ym mis Gorffennaf 2011. Cymerodd y 3000 o bobl a fynychodd yr ŵyl ran mewn turnio coed, gwaith basged, hebogyddiaeth, saethyddiaeth a nyddu, yn ogystal â chymryd rhan mewn teithiau tywysedig o'r castell a'r coetir gerllaw. Roedd cerddorion a chwedleuwyr wrth law i ddiddannu'r bobl a fynychodd yr ŵyl.

Roedd yr ŵyl yn rhan o Ŵyl Archaeoleg Brydeinig, wedi'i threfnu gan Gyngor Archaeoleg Brydeinig. Trefnodd Menna Bell lawer o'r ŵyl ar ran yr Ymddiriedolaeth. Mae Menna ar leoliad hyfforddi ar archaeoleg am flwyddyn a noddir gan Gyngor Archaeoleg Brydeinig ac a ariennir gan Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri.

## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Results of excavations at three south Pembrokeshire early medieval cemeteries – Brownslade, West Angle and Porth Clew – have been reported on in previous editions of this newsletter. Katie Hemer of Sheffield University has analysed the stable isotopes of burials from these cemeteries as part of her PhD in order to reconstruct individual life histories. Essentially the analysis identifies an individual's place of residence for the first seven years of life. Remarkably of the eighteen individuals studied only three were local to their place of burial, i.e. they were born and brought up in south Pembrokeshire. One was from central or north Pembrokeshire, one from southeast Wales and two from central or northwest Wales. Seven were from elsewhere on the west coast of Britain or continental Europe, but probably western Ireland, western Cornwall or the Hebrides. Most startling was the identification that four individuals almost certainly originated from the Mediterranean region, with two perhaps from Morocco/Algeria or western Turkey.

Archaeological and historical evidence indicates trade and other contact from the Mediterranean and along the west coast of Europe, but this is the first time that evidence demonstrates widespread population movement. It may be that these three coastal sites are unusual, and that evidence from inland sites would not show the same results. The analysis, however, clearly indicates the enormous value of new scientific techniques to archaeology.

## PWY RYDYCH YN MEDDWL YR YDYCH CHI?

Adroddwyd am ganlyniadau cloddiadau mewn tair mynwent ganoloesol gynnar yn ne Sir Benfro - Brownslade, Gorllewin Angle a Phorth Clew - mewn rhifynnau blaenorol o'r cylchlythyr hwn. Mae Katie Hemer o Brifysgol Sheffield wedi dadansoddi isotopau sefydlog claddiadau o'r mynwentydd hyn fel rhan o'i doethuriaeth er mwyn ail-greu hanesion bywydau unigol. Yn y bôn, mae'r dadansoddiad yn nodi man byw unigolyn am saith mlynedd gyntaf ei fywyd. Yn nodedig, o'r deunaw unigolyn a astudiwyd dim ond tri ohonynt oedd yn lleol i'w man claddu, h.y. cawsant eu geni a'u magu yn ne Sir Benfro. Roedd un ohonynt o ganolbarth neu ogledd Sir Benfro, roedd un o ddeddwyrain Cymru a dau o ganolbarth neu ogledd-orllewin Cymru. Roedd saith ohonynt yn dod o rywle arall ar arfordir gorllewinol Prydain neu gyfandir Ewrop, ond fwy na thebyg o orllewin Iwerddon, gorllewin Cernyw neu Ynysoedd Heledd. Y peth mwyaf rhyfeddol oedd adnabod bod pedwar unigolyn yn tarddu, bron yn sicr o ranbarth y Canoldir, gyda dau, o bosibl, o Foroco/Algeria neu orllewin Twrci.

Mae tystiolaeth archaeolegol a hanesyddol yn dangos masnach a chysylltiadau eraill o'r Canoldir ac ar hyd arfordir gorllewinol Ewrop, ond dyma'r tro cyntaf i dystiolaeth ddangos symudiad eang o ran poblogaethau. Efallai bod y tri safle arfordirol yn anarferol, ac na fyddai tystiolaeth o safleoedd mewndirol yn dangos yr un canlyniadau. Mae'r dadansoddiad, fodd bynnag, yn dangos gwerth enfawr technegau gwyddonol newydd i archaeoleg yn glir.

## **CEREDIGION ARCHAEOLOGICAL DAY SCHOOL**

The Dyfed Archaeological Trust are hosting an event for everyone interested in Ceredigion's past

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at the Morlan Centre, Aberystwyth  
10.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.**

A day of presentations, exhibitions and discussions on the results of recent archaeological research and investigations in Ceredigion.

Projects that will be covered include:

Excavations of Bronze Age burials at Fan barrow, Talsarn and Pant-y-Butler, near Cardigan

The archaeology of the wetland margins of Cors Fochno and Cors Caron

Roman lead smelting at Llangynfelin

Recent and future work at Cardigan Castle

**£3 to include tea, coffee and biscuits** Book early to avoid disappointment

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## **YSGOL UNDYDD ARCHAEOLEGOL CEREDIGION**

Mae Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed yn cynnal digwyddiad i bawb sydd â diddordeb mewn gorffennol Ceredigion

**Dydd Sadwrn 24 Mawrth 2012 yng Nghanolfan Morlan,  
Aberystwyth 10.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.**

Diwrnod o gyflwyniadau, arddangosfeydd a thrafodaethau ar ganlyniadau ymchwil ac ymchwiliadau archaeolegol diweddar yng Ngheredigion.

Y prosiectau a gânt eu cynnwys yw:

Cloddiadau claddiadau Oes Efa yng nghrug Fan, Talsarn a Phant-y-Butler, ger Aberteifi

Archaeoleg glandiroedd gwlypdiroedd Cors Fochno a Chors Caron

Smeltio plwm Rhufeinig yn Llangynfelin

Gwaith diweddar ac yn y dyfodol yng Nghastell Aberteifi

**£3 sy'n cynnwys te, coffi a bisgedi** Archebwch yn gynnar er mwyn osgoi cael eich siomi

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