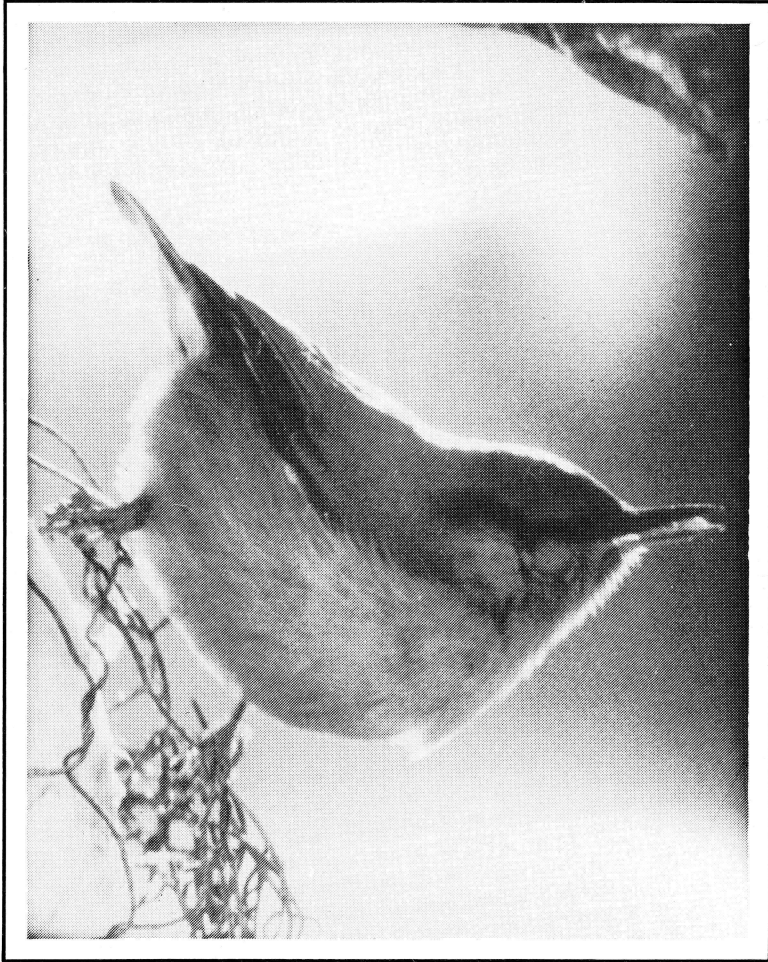


MONTGOMERYSHIRE FIELD SOCIETY



T. H. Edye



ANNUAL REPORT AND NOTES 1981

MONTGOMERYSHIRE FIELD SOCIETY



OBSERVE PRESERVE RECORD

A.D. 604 1946

President:

Vice-Presidents: Mr. W. M. Condry, M.A., M.Sc.; Mr. Langshaw Rowland, O.B.E.

COUNCIL:

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Mrs. J. W. Brown	Mrs. M. Richards
Rev. J. W. Burford	Mrs. M. G. Steele
Mr. R. Edwards	Mr. K. Stott
Mr. G. Linhard	Mr. & Mrs. Trant
Mr. R. Lovegrove	Mrs. M. Williams
Mrs. M. Lowe	Mr. E. H. Wolfe
Mrs. A. Markwick	Mr. Wyndham Evans

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Geology: Miss E. M. Hignett, B.Sc.,
Oswestry.

Ornithology: Mr. W. M. Condry, M.A., M.Sc.
Eglwysfach, Machynlleth.

Lepidoptera: Mr. F. C. Best, M.A.

Local adviser: Mr. K. E. Stott,

Botany: Miss D. Pugh,
Pant.

Zoology: Miss Ruth M. Badcock, M.Sc.,
Senior Lecturer in Biology, Keele Univ.,
N. Staffs.
(Fellow of the Entomological Society)
Llanerfyl.

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Report Editor: Rev. J. W. Burford,
Llandyssil.

Excursions Sec.: Mrs. M. G. Williams,
n. Frochas.

Minimum annual subscription: £1.50; family subscription: £2.50; junior members: 50p

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

1980 started as a sad year for the Society through the sudden death in January, of our President, Mr. Cecil Vaughan Owen, within days of his 80th birthday. He was a faithful and long standing member, who had served for 5 years on the Council before being elected President in 1975, following the death of Miss Macnair. He will be greatly missed for his sound advice and humour. The excursions which he led in the Llanidloes and Plymlimon areas, were unfailing highlights of each year's programme.

We were also saddened during the year by the deaths of three other old and loyal members, Mrs. H. Langshaw Rowland, wife of our vice-President, Miss Irene Rees and Mrs. Whalley Morgan. With their loss and some resignations, our numbers have dropped slightly to 220.

Following a resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting, Mr. William Condry was invited to become President. Owing to pressure of other commitments he was unable to accept, but writes, "Please convey my thanks to your committee and members for the very great honour they have done me in inviting me to be your new President." The office is at present vacant.

We extend a warm welcome to our new members, Mr. and Mrs. Holden, Mr. K. S. Mason and Mrs. H. Lane, who have already shown themselves keen to help in our activities. We hope they will find interest and enjoyment in our meetings.

MEETINGS AND EXPEDITIONS

During the year 3 indoor meetings and 7 excursions were held, which included:

21st February—Members' Meeting.

Mrs. Bowen showed scenes at Llangynog, Pennant Melangell and Lake Vyrnwy which thoroughly whetted our appetites for the May excursion, and in their green lushness contrasted with the sun-baked rock and red soil of Mr. Linhard's interesting slides of Zimbabwe and South Africa. Mr. Edye's excellent bird photographs culminated with a delightful but sad sequence on the life and death of a swan, while Mr. Wolfe's fine plant pictures kept us up-to-date with the most interesting local finds of last season. Mrs. M. G. Williams showed pictures of Fair Isle and also some striking local views of weather phenomena. Was it really just a coincidence that after seeing them the blinds went up on to a white world caused by the start of the worst blizzard of the winter?

21st March—Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman's report was read, the balance sheet adopted and all officers re-elected en bloc. Mrs. M. G. Williams resigned as excursions' secretary, but is continuing to act in this capacity, with help for individual expeditions until a replacement is found. She was presented with a token in recognition of her work over the past 7 years.

Much interest was exhibited in slides of last year's expeditions shown by Mrs. Williams and Mr. Edye, after which tea was served by Mrs. R. Edwards and helpers.

21st November—Talk on Lake Vyrnwy Reserve by Mr. Bob Berry

Mr. Berry, who is Warden of the R.S.P.B. Reserve at Lake Vyrnwy, has quickly become familiar with the area round the lake in all its moods. His fine slides contrasted the rigours of the moorlands under snow with sun-dappled woodlands in summer. He gave a comprehensive account of the flora and fauna recorded there, and explained how it is modified by woodland management.

An account of the excursions, from Mrs. M. G. Williams follows this report.

We are much indebted to those members who contributed to the February and March meetings, to Mr. Berry and the leaders of our excursions for the time and trouble they spent to ensure our enjoyment, and to Mrs. M. G. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Shane, Mrs. Ann Markwick and Mr. Ion Trant who organised the various excursions. Thanks are also due to Mrs. Roy Edwards, Miss D. Pugh, Mrs. M. Richards and Mrs. R. Marshall for providing refreshments at our indoor meetings.

Council meetings were held in March, prior to the A.G.M. and in June at Gregynog Hall, where we are indebted to Dr. Hughes for hospitality and to Mrs. M. Lowe for making arrangements.

ACTIVITIES

Mr. Burford has once again produced an Annual Report, which not only provides a record of last year's activities and finds, but also makes entertaining reading. It was enhanced this year by the fine colour photograph of a hedge brown butterfly, taken and printed by Mr. R. S. Forshaw and mounted by Mrs. Ann Markwick. Once again we are indebted to Powys County Council, who have made this publication possible through a grant from the Welsh Church Acts Fund.

Mrs. P. Burke, Mrs. J. Roper, Miss D. Pugh, Miss M. Hignett and Mr. E. Wolfe have continued recording plants in eastern Montgomeryshire for the new Shropshire Flora project. As the field work for this has now finished, Miss Pugh, our botanical adviser and a B.S.B.I. recorder, has undertaken the organisation of a similar scheme for Montgomeryshire. She has already received offers of help from Miss R. Pearce and Mr. P. Benoit in the west of the area, and from the Shropshire recorders in the east. Any further offers, particularly for central Montgomeryshire, will be much appreciated.

Miss D. Pugh, Miss M. Hignett and Mr. R. Cartwright continue to serve on the management committee for the Llanymynech Rocks Nature Reserve, where the main occupation this year has been organising opposition to a proposal to upgrade the footpath into a bridle path, which would quickly destroy the fragile limestone grassland the reserve was formed to protect.

All our indoor meetings have been held in Welshpool High School, and the accommodation on the ground floor, at our last meeting, was felt to be a considerable improvement. We tender thanks to the headmaster, Mr. E. V. Harper and the Local Education Authority for making this facility available at a very reasonable charge.

EXCURSIONS 1981

Saturday, May 30th. Lake Vyrnwy. Leader: Mrs. Molly Bowen.

The party first visited the Visitors' Centre to see the many fine exhibits depicting the plants and wildlife of the district. Here they were met by the R.S.P.B. Reserve Warden, Mr. R. Berry, who described the birds now to be seen and heard both on the margins of the lake and the woods and uplands surrounding it.

Thus armed, members spent an enjoyable afternoon and found much to see on their way up to the waterfalls of Rhyd-y-Meinciau — in good form after the rainy month.

A welcome tea at the Lake Vyrnwy Hotel concluded a very pleasant meeting and thanks were expressed to Mrs. Molly Bowen for making the day such a success.

EILEEN SHANN

Thursday, June 11th. Guilsfield area. Leader: Mr. Roy Edwards

The party first climbed up to the 2 acre hill fort, Gaer Fawr, of which little is known beyond the probable date of its origin some time in the 6th century BC; but Miss Hignett was able to give us much more information about what was going on there 400 million years ago in the Ordovician period with its teeming sea life, fossils of which are abundant there. In the small quarry on the way fossil brachiopods were seen to be in good supply. Unfortunately Mr. Edwards was unable to climb with us, so Mr. and Mrs. D. C. H. Jones acted in lieu as our guides. The hill, with its many scrub trees, is an ideal cover for wild life. The walk continued across the camp, a more open area with only scattered trees, and around the west side along one of the terraces, where the defences are more elaborate than on the steeper, eastern slope.

The threatening rain held off and we descended, dry, to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Woodcock at Trelydan, where an excellent meal had been prepared. Mr. Edwards and Mrs. Sproston were thanked, in their absence, for compiling information about the Gaer, Mr. and Mrs. Jones for their guiding, and our hosts for their kind hospitality.

MR. & MRS. DON JONES

(Members contributed generously towards the cost of their refreshment, and the money was kindly returned to the Society's funds.)

Saturday, June 27th. Ynyslas Dunes at Dyfi Nature Reserve. Leader: Mr. R. B. Bovey

Choosing a bright day, the members enjoyed a pleasant drive down the Dovey Valley, and all the way along the steeper roadside slopes the foxgloves were lovely. Mr. Bovey, the Warden, met the party outside the information centre set up by the Nature Conservancy; he showed us, first, the places where measures were being taken to repair and to prevent erosion of the dunes by wind and by holiday makers.

Mr. Bovey then led the party along the landward side of the dunes towards the slacks. Owing to the lateness of the season, the flowers were not so advanced as usual, and the marsh helioborines, though very numerous, were not yet in flower. Early orchids were there in profusion — pyramidal, early marsh and southern marsh; the hybridised specimens were difficult to identify. Typical sand dune specimens included pink centuary, sea and Portland spurge, stone crop, rest harrow, hare's-foot trefoil, and hound's tongue. In the boggy places, marsh pimpernel and adder's tongue. The continuous grazing by rabbits kept all the plants very short, enabling at least 54 different species to persist; and, besides the rabbit droppings, Mr. Bovey pointed out polecat droppings, and said that these animals are known to frequent the rabbit holes in the dunes. In the wet places, it was difficult to walk without stepping on the newly-emerged frogs.

As we were returning to the Acorn Café in Borth for tea, the engine of the bus suddenly petered out; this caused consternation in the party who were most anxious to get Mr. Wolfe home in time for his 75th birthday supper. After some anxious moments, the bus re-started, but tried our patience once again before we reached Newtown at 8pm.

J. TRANT

Saturday, August 8th. Pendugwm Woods. Leader: Mr. Langshaw Rowland.

It was with considerable pleasure that members once again met Mr. Langshaw Rowland for a tour of the woods, which he owned and managed for so long. At the 2 bridges he demonstrated a recently thinned oak wood and the Coronation larch plantation, and talked of his policy of ploughing all profits back into management.

We then climbed to the Summer House, where Mr. Rowland pointed out the extent of the woods and outlined their history. He expressed the hope and belief that members will continue to have access to this part of the woods, as well as to the nature reserve.

A further walk took members to the linear arboretum, now sadly losing much of its interest and charm through the loss of labels, and mechanical trimming of the ride. Interesting plants seen here included common spotted orchid and red bartsia, which presumably obtain their lime requirements from the hard-core brought in to construct the roads.

E. M. HIGNETT

Saturday, September 5. Point of Ayr & Dee Estuary. Leader: Mr. G. A. Williams.

Under ideal weather conditions the route north via the Horse-Shoe Pass, purple in the September sunshine, was in itself satisfying.

The coast was reached at Gronant where the sand dunes are subjected to severe erosion by the feet of holiday makers. In spite of this the dunes show typical sand dune vegetation, the number of species being somewhat reduced in numbers. A walk from the dunes, along the shingle spit forming the Point of Ayr gave views of the estuary and of the salt marshes formed on the leeward tide.

Further up the estuary, Mr. R. Roberts, the Warden of the Hydro Electric Nature Reserve at Connah's Quay, showed the members around the reserve. This has been visited previously by the society, but not in September when there are large numbers of birds using the estuary as a stopping place during Autumn migration. The rich feeding grounds of the salt marshes make it an excellent place for observing birds, often rare species that only rest briefly in these islands.

A group feeding together, a Red shank, Sandpiper, a (male) Ruff and a (female) Reeve, seen as the party left the reserve is a memory that the members will carry away with them.

Mr. Roberts and his wife gave the members a much appreciated cup of tea at their home.

Mr. E. Wolfe proposed a vote of thanks to all who had made the expedition such a success.

E. ROGERS (LLANIDLOES)

Saturday, October 10th. Long Mountain area. Leader: Miss Hignett.

Members alighted from their cars where the rocks outcrop and studied the formation and rock type and searched for fossils. Those found were identified by our leader as of palaeo-ozoic age indicating that some were of the order of 330 million years old.

Graptolites of two kinds were found at Cletterwood and on Rowley Hill. The party travelled on to Brockton, crossing the Rea valley and making two further stops at Bromlow and Rorrington where trilobite (three-lobed crustacean) fossils were found.

K. HOLDEN

Our thanks are due to the following members who have compiled lists of birds and plants noticed on the outings: F. E. Burke, Mrs. Burke, K. E. Stott, Bert Webster, and Graham Williams, (not included in the Report, but preserved among the Society's records).

Our late president, Mr. Cecil Vaughan Owen, first led an excursion for the Montgomeryshire Field Society on **25th April, 1953.**

He was a natural leader, and his knowledge of the district, recounted often

with a mischievous humour, made his expeditions such a highlight of the summer that they were repeated, almost without break, for more than 25 years. He knew the Llanidloes and Plynlimon area so well that he was able to vary his walks year by year, while he himself was so well-known and esteemed there, that no difficulties of access or catering ever seemed to arise.

He will be sadly missed for this contribution he made to the activities of the Society, and it seems fitting that in this first report, following his death early in the year, we should remember some of his excursions in the following photographs.



19th August 1972. Taken above Marsh's Pool on a walk from Llangurig to Glyn Brochan when Enchanters Nightshade, Sweet Cecily and Dyer's Greenwood were found.



8th September, 1973. Taken at the lead mines of Plynlimon on one of the hottest days of the year, when the ascent to the summit, and a diversion to the source of the Wye proved a feat of endurance for many members considerably younger than the leader.



28th July, 1979. Taken during the lunch break at the pretty old mill at Llanidloes with Mrs. Chapman our hostess. Afterwards a long walk uphill past Nant-y-geifr, then steeply down by Cwmpen-Llydan lakes through head-high bracken, proved another marathon trek.

PLANT RECORDS FOR 1981

- 127. *Azolla filiculoides* (Water Fern). This plant appeared in quantity right across the canal at Berriew SJ10. Recorded by C. J. Harris. On further investigation it was found intermittently nearer Welshpool in SJ20.
- 233/1. *Pyrus pyrastrer*. (Wild Pear). One tall tree near an old track over Yr Allt, SJ21. Specimen sent to N.M.W.
- 542/1. *Onopordum acanthium*. (Scotch Thistle). Two plants on waste ground near the altered junction of the Guilsfield B4392 road with A483. Also a few plants in a field behind the nearby inn.

D.P.

PLANT RECORDING IN MONTGOMERYSHIRE

The M.F. Society is starting a plant-recording project for the former county of Montgomeryshire (Vice-county 47) on a National Grid basis, using the tetrad as a unit in line with other county floras. A meeting to explain the system will be arranged in the near future. No extensive knowledge of plants is required — help will be given in identifying species. Volunteers are needed to help in surveying the whole area of this varied and comparatively unspoiled county. Offers of help will be gratefully received by the BSBI Recorder for Montgomeryshire, Miss E. D. Pugh, Homestead, Pant, Oswestry, Shropshire. Tel. Llanymynech 830209.

D.P.

A NOTE ON THE GEOLOGY OF THE LONG MOUNTAIN

At Cletterwood Quarry the stratification of the sedimentary rocks can clearly be seen. This shows that earth movement has caused them to dip towards the top of the mountain.

A search for fossils yields remains of *Monograptus*, a single-branched Graptolite; *Orthoceras*; a straight and primitive ammonite; and *Cardiola Interrupta*, a lamellibranch. These indicate that the rocks belong to the Silurian system and so are about 330 million years old. Smaller graptolites found in a small quarry on Rowley Hill show the rocks to be younger than those of Cletterwood, as would be expected in the middle of a syncline. In Rorrington Dingle a few fragments of the trilobite *Ogygia* are to be found, showing the rocks to be of Ordovician age, that is, about 30 million years older than those of the Long Mountain. Although these rocks are the same age as those of Welshpool, they are of a different character, forming hill country instead of valleys and the fossils are a different species of trilobite. This suggests that even 360 million years ago there was a discontinuity of deposition, possibly along the side of a major fault in the present locality of the Severn valley.

MARY HIGNETT

NOTES ON THE POINT OF AYR SUPPLIED FOR THE VISIT ON SEPTEMBER 5th

East of the river Clwyd the prevailing westerly winds carry sand eastwards and also cause extensive beach drifting. The strong longshore drift manifests itself in extensive development of shingle beaches, culminating in the classic hooked shingle spit of the Point of Ayr.

The sand dune system, being subjected to the prevailing winds, is naturally unstable and coupled with recreational pressures from holidaymakers this has resulted in severe erosion in some areas, characterised by the breakdown of dune faces, 'blow-outs' and gullying.

Past records show that the gradual accretion of the dune/shingle ridge system in a seaward and easterly direction has gone on for some considerable time and there is clear evidence of earlier recurved spits on the low lying land adjoining the present coastline (e.g. on Prestatyn Golf Course!).

On the protected leeward side of the shingle spit/dune system at Point of Ayr, a salt marsh has developed and is continuing to increase in size.

Vegetation.

Throughout most of their length the dunes have formed ridges parallel to the coast, interspersed with damp or wet hollows ('slacks'). The predominant vegetation of the dunes and which act as stabilising agents are Marram Grass, Sea Lyme Grass, Sea Couch Grass and Sea Holly.

The salt marsh's vegetation is similar in composition to the much more extensive saltings at the head of the estuary and dominant plants include Glasswort, Sea Purslane, Common Salt-Marsh Grass, Sea Aster and Annual Sea-blite. Cord Grass is dominant over quite large areas of the Dee marshes and its spread since 1945 is generally considered the main factor behind the seaward spread of the saltmarsh.

Bird Life.

The mudflats adjoining the Point of Ayr have notably high densities of invertebrates and form rich feeding grounds for waders and wildfowl. Between 15,000 and 30,000 waders feed on these muddy areas at low tide and roost at high tide on the shingle spit at the Point of Ayr and on the salt marsh nearby. Osytercatchers can be especially numerous and 500 to 1,000 wildfowl, chiefly Mallard and Shelduck, also take advantage of the rich food supply contained in the mud.

Large gatherings of migrating Terns rest at high tide on the shingle spit and numbers reach maxima of between 3,000 and 4,000 at times in the autumn. The largest colony of Little Terns in Wales breed on the shingle spit between Point of Ayr and Gronant and are guarded by a full-time RSPB warden with much help from volunteers; in 1981 between 60 and 65 young Little Terns were fledged which is the highest number in Wales for several decades. Ringed Plovers also nest on the beach.

G. A. WILLIAMS

PENDUGWYM WOODS

The following note written by our Chairman for the local newspaper in December 1980 may be of interest to new members.

One of Montgomery's most popular and easily accessible nature reserves, in Pendugwm Woods by Pontrobert, near Llanfair Caereinion, was presented to the Montgomeryshire Field Society, with the North Wales Naturalists' Trust as the holding and managing body, by Mr. Langshaw Rowland in 1970.

This generous gesture by Mr. Rowlands, a well-known forester and keen conservationist, was a mark of his appreciation of the work done on behalf of wildlife by the late Miss Janet Macnair, Guilsfield, founder of the Field Society.

Since then, members of both bodies visiting the reserve have been welcomed by Mr. Rowland to walk also in his private woodlands and to make free use of the summer house. This, situated on a sunny ledge on the hill-top, is well equipped with deck chairs and contains records of the plants, birds and insects which have been identified in the woods.

Recently Mr. Rowland, who lives at Gresford, has been unable to travel to Pendugwm often enough to preserve the amenity of the woods, so he has reluctantly decided to sell. It is typical of this public-minded man that one of his concerns should be that the sale does not deprive his visitors of the pleasures his hospitality has afforded, and he has consequently made the continued use of the paths and summer house, by his friends, a condition of sale.

So, through his forethought, member of the Montgomery Field Society are assured that they can enjoy visits to Pendugwm as previously, and may count on help and advice from the new head woodman, Mr. Hesketh Parry. He is a former employee of Mr. Rowland and planted several of the woods, including 'Coronation'.

THE LAST WEEKEND OF APRIL 1981

	Max:	°C	Min:	Rainfall m.m.
April 24th	6°		-1/4°	3.8 rain
25th	2°		-1/2°	8.8 sleet &
26th	3 1/2°		-1 1/4°	11.9 snow

April 20th gave a forecast of gale force winds in the Channel; the 21st of cold wintry weather with sleet and possible snow on the hills; Friday the 24th reported that the cold air over Europe was reluctant to move and there were more cold fronts over Scotland, and it was exceptionally cold for this time of the year; already sleet, snow, and icy roads were reported with 6ft. snow drifts and abandoned cars.

April 25th was the first outing of the Summer programme, so the organisers were becoming worried, Mr. and Mrs. Shann who were taking the bookings for the coach and our leader-hostess, Mrs. Peggy Goodman, who telephoned me Friday evening and wondered about cancelling, since the snow was already settled in the Corwen area and it was bitterly cold. At Frochas we had a very cold overcast day, some snow flakes with a rising wind and fast falling barometer.

On Saturday 25th, we awoke to a white world and fast falling snow. From 8 to 10 a.m., the telephone wires were busy; Mrs. Goodman's advice was to cancel, the Mid-Wales Motorways were quite willing to cancel the coach, so we were very grateful to all who helped to pass on the message to the members who had booked.

The wintry weather from the Arctic continued with blizzard conditions of rain, snow and bitterly cold northerly winds. The 26th was even worse, with

more snow and gale force, bitter north-easterly winds and in Powys 5ft drifts were reported and all vegetation flattened to the ground. The 27th was bright with sunshine on a white world, here five inches of snow on the fields and one inch on the trees. The reported "vile weekend" moved south to the Midlands and West Country bringing chaos, power cuts and 10 ft. drifts. (In contrast, on the 10th April we had enjoyed a day T. of 18¼°C and a night of 9½°C.)

M. G. W.

THE WEATHER AT "TYNEWYDD" CWM GOLEU, WELSHPOOL 1981

(Tynewydd is situated at about 800ft and is sheltered on the South side by the Byrwydd which rises to 1200ft. It is slightly sheltered on both the East and West sides, and is open on the North side).

Records kept since 1977.

JANUARY. A large anticyclone was centred to the north of the Azores and strong winds from the north-west affected the British Isles. There was cold weather with small falls of snow on the 5th (1 inch) and on the 13th (½ inch). The Azores anticyclone began to move south and decline on the 16th, so that winds over Britain backed to the south-west or west. From the 22nd temperatures were above average and there was no rain for the remainder of the month, but there was fog at the end of the month. Mean temperatures were above normal and rainfall (2.4 inch) was below average.

FEBRUARY. An anticyclone was centred near the Alps at the beginning of the month. It was mild with maximum temperatures above 10°C. On the 8th and 9th a cold front moved south-east bringing a change to colder weather with showers of sleet or snow. There was 2 inches of lying snow on the morning of the 9th. Then followed a period of dry weather with frost at night. On the 21st a depression moved south-east to be over south-west England on the 22nd. This brought snow (4 inches) and easterly winds. On the 27th a further depression approached from the south-west and this brought rain followed by milder weather which gave a thaw of lying snow. Both mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures were below average. It was a relatively dry month.

MARCH. The month started with showery weather and normal temperatures. On the 5th fronts moved from the south-west and rain spread to all areas with south-westerly winds and temperatures above average. On the 9th and 10th there was fairly persistent rain giving about 1½ inches for the two days. On the 13th and 14th a depression moved east and the rain became more showery with some hail. As the low pressure transferred to the North Sea, winds became northerly and it turned colder with sleet showers on the 16th. On the 17th and 18th a deep depression moved slowly east towards Norway and it became milder. A sequence of depressions then moved north-east across Scotland bringing rain (over 1 inch on the 21st) and gales. Towards the end of the month the air became drier and maximum temperatures above 13°C were recorded. Mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures were well above normal. It was the second wettest March over England and Wales since records were started in 1727; only 1947 was wetter.

APRIL. The wet weather which had prevailed for most of March ended as an anticyclone moved northwards over England to Scandinavia. This was followed by another anticyclone over the Continent and warm weather advanced from France giving maximum temperatures over 15°C from the 10th. A dry spell followed this until the high pressure transferred to Greenland

on the 21st, causing cold air to come down from the Arctic Circle and this led to snow showers on the 25th and heavy snow (about 4 inches) with gale force north easterly winds on the 26th. There was, however, a rapid thaw of lying snow and it had all gone by the 28th. Mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures were below normal. It was relatively dry with 1.9 inches of rain.

MAY. The weather was dominated by low pressure which maintained an unbroken spell of unsettled weather. It was cold at the beginning of the month but a change to warmer weather began on the 6th as a depression moved from the Atlantic to N. W. Scotland and there was rain with maximum temperatures about 15°C. On the 11th a maximum temperature of 21°C was recorded. This was followed by a colder interlude with heavy rain on the 16th. By the 19th southerly winds brought warmer weather with showers from France. The remainder of the month was dominated by cloudy weather with showers. Mean maximum temperature was below normal and mean minimum temperature was above normal. Rainfall was about normal.

JUNE. Southerly winds brought warm humid weather at the beginning of the month with heavy rain (¾ inch) and thunder on the 2nd. There was a series of depressions moving across Scotland to Scandinavia and the associated fronts brought bands of rain across the area. On the 11th an anticyclone moved from Greenland across Britain to France by the 14th. This produced a warm dry interlude with maximum temperatures over 18°C. This was followed by a depression moving eastwards towards Scandinavia and then a new anticyclone moved slowly east over the Atlantic giving cool, cloudy but mainly dry weather. A ridge of high pressure covered the British Isles on the 22nd when maximum temperatures above 20°C were recorded. On the 23rd the anticyclone receded and a cold front moved south to give cooler weather in an airstream which began in Arctic latitudes. It was mainly cloudy but dry until the end of the month. Mean maximum temperature was about 2°C below normal. Rainfall was below normal. June was unusually cloudy and London had its dullest May and June together since before 1929.

JULY. The cool cloudy weather of late June continued until the 16th when an active cold front moved south-east across the country bringing heavy showers. Showery weather continued as weak fronts moved eastwards. A depression moving into the North Sea on the 22nd June gave rise to northerly winds bringing cooler weather. It remained mainly cloudy but dry for the rest of the month. The 29th (the Prince of Wales' wedding day) was dry and warm. The mean maximum temperature was slightly below normal while the mean minimum temperature was near normal. Rainfall (1.1 inch) was well below normal. Sunshine totals according to the Meteorological Office records were below normal for the fifth consecutive month.

AUGUST. An anticyclone moved east across England bringing warm weather with long sunny periods. On the 6th there was heavy rain (¾ inch), the day on which there were violent thunderstorms in Central and Southern England and over 3½ inches of rain was recorded at Manchester Airport. It remained cloudy and misty in this area until the 10th when an anticyclone brought sunnier and warmer weather for a few days before it again became cloudy with a little rain. From the 17th high pressure gave dry weather with a lot of cloud until the 25th when it became sunnier and warmer again with maximum temperatures around 25°C. There was mist and fog on the 29th and 30th. Both mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures were above normal. Rainfall (1.3 inches) was below normal.

SEPTEMBER. An anticyclone to the north east of Scotland gave a dry, sunny and warm start to the month. However, there was mist at night which cleared quickly after dawn. Pressure fell gradually and by the 7th fronts approaching from the south-west brought rain (about ½ inch). Then the pressure began to rise again giving sunny and warm weather until the 10th

when a cold front moved eastwards giving rain (about ½ inch). Westerly type weather followed giving rain, with thunder on the 12th, until about the 18th. A complex depression to the west of Scotland moved eastwards bringing gale force westerly winds and heavy rain (about 1 inch on the 20th). As the depression moved away there was a quieter spell of weather before another unsettled spell began on the 23rd. On the 25th another deepening depression moved north-east from the south-western approaches and this gave about an inch of rain before there was a return to showery weather as the low pressure area moved away, although further troughs maintained unsettled weather until the end of the month. Both mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures were well above average but it was a very wet month. The rainfall (5.9 inches) was about twice the normal.

OCTOBER. For the second successive year October was a very unsettled month and there were no spells of quiet, anticyclonic weather. The month began with a sequence of depressions travelling north-east from the south western approaches across Britain to Norway. There was, however, not much rain in this area until the 8th. On the 9th there were gale force south-westerly winds and heavy showers. From the 10th to the 15th cold and showery north-westerly winds affected this area. A transient ridge of high pressure gave a drier, brighter day on the 18th before a vigorous depression brought heavy showers on the 20th. This was followed by a return to cold showery weather before another depression advanced quickly from the west on the 24th, giving rain. Further cold, showery weather returned on the 25th. The unsettled weather continued until the end of the month. Mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures were well below normal. According to Meteorological Office records there have been few colder Octobers this century. Rainfall (5.5 inches) was well above average, and like September it was about twice the normal.

NOVEMBER. The month began with high pressure centred over southern Europe and this gave mild south-westerly winds across Britain. In this area there was a lot of drizzle until the 4th when there was a dry, quiet but rather cold spell with ground frost at night. This was the first spell of anticyclonic weather since early September. By the 15th the high pressure area had moved away to eastern Europe and Atlantic fronts moved across the British Isles bringing rain. Gale force westerly winds affected this area on the 20th and then followed an unsettled period with showers, heavy on the 26th and 27th. Both mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures were well above normal. Rainfall (2.4 inches) was below normal.

DECEMBER. A large anticyclone was centred to the south-west of Ireland when the month began and a warm front brought mild, cloudy weather. The high pressure area retreated westwards on the 3rd and cold air advanced south across Scotland and on into England by the 7th as depressions moved south-east. Snow fell in this area on the 8th. A further depression moving east over Northern France brought more snow on the 11th and 12th. Very low temperatures occurred in the clear weather behind the depression. At Shawbury there was a maximum of -12°C on the 12th followed by a minimum of -25°C at night. Here the corresponding temperatures were -2°C and -11°C. The next depression deepened considerably as it moved east across Wales on the 13th bringing more snow and gale force south-easterly winds. As the depression moved away the cold weather returned with more night frosts. Then on the 19th milder weather advanced slowly east to give a slight thaw ahead of a slow moving depression which returned westwards on the 21st, renewing the cold weather. After Christmas Day had been sunny but cold, the wintry weather gradually abated with a deep depression situated to the south-west of Britain. Troughs moving slowly north-east brought rain, preceded by snow. The month ended with a thaw of lying snow. December was the coldest and snowiest since 1878. Both mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures were far below normal.

SUMMARY

January made a promising start for the year with spring-like conditions by the last week. February was neither particularly cold nor wet, but March was very wet. It was, however, a relatively warm month and in general the spring was mild with a fine Easter. This was followed by blizzards over the weekend of April 25th-26th. May, June and July were generally cloudy with lower than average temperatures. August, however, brought summer weather. September and October were very wet, but November had some sunny days and these gave rise to fine autumn colours in the woods and hedgerows. In general the autumn was wet with almost twice the normal rainfall and it was rather cold due to a very wet and cold October. December, however, brought heavy snowfalls and record low temperatures. There was lying snow on 24 days during this month.

COMPARISON OF RAINFALL FIGURES FOR 1981 (mm)

	Trefeglwys Primary School	Tynewydd Cwm Goleu 800ft.	Bryn Frochas 700ft.	Guilfield 282ft.
January	126.9	61.5	62.6	47.0
February	95.9	81.7	73.5	71.0
March	181.2	157.4	148.6	140.0
April	46.7	48.7	45.6	50.5
May	76.1	72.0	65.9	73.8
June	36.4	51.3	52.5	45.6
July	31.6	28.2	21.1	28.3
August	29.6	32.2	26.5	30.9
September	193.8	150.7	133.1	124.6
October	217.3	139.6	122.1	98.3
November	98.2	59.8	53.2	43.5
December	110.1	86.7	68.6	65.8
Total	1243.8	970.2	873.1	819.3
C/f 1980	1164.8	1030.4	929.1	896.6

COMPARISON OF RAINFALL FIGURES FOR 1981 (Inches)

	Corris 550 ft.	Llanidloes (Trefeglwys Road)	Tynewydd Cwm Goleu 800 ft.
January	8.98	4.2	2.42
February	5.80	3.9	3.21
March	22.54	7.6	6.19
April	2.13	2.5	1.90
May	6.54	3.3	2.84
June	5.62	1.4	2.00
July	4.98	1.3	1.10
August	2.89	1.2	1.25
September	14.49	6.2	5.92
October	17.43	6.5	5.49
November	11.57	3.6	2.34
December	4.47	4.4	3.46
Total	107.44	46.1	38.06
C/f 1980	103.73	—	40.57

RAINFALL FIGURES FOR THE PLYNLIMON AREA FOR 1981 (mm)

	Dolydd 308m or 1000ft.	Moel Cynnedd 358m or 1164ft.	Carreg Wen Turf Wall 580m or 1885ft.	Llanidloes (Trefeglwys Road)
January	177.8	231.0	310.0	106.5
February	145.0	177.3	175.4	100.0
March	396.5	480.6	547.3	193.3
April	63.7	67.9	106.2	63.8
May	132.4	162.6	169.8	82.7
June	66.7	83.7	105.5	35.2
July	76.1	133.0	162.8	31.8
August	45.5	68.1	107.8	31.3
September	247.9	287.5	307.5	157.2
October	375.1	493.9	534.5	165.4
November	216.6	269.9	328.5	91.5
December	156.3	177.2	235.0	112.3
Total	2099.6mm 82.7in	2632.7mm 103.6in	3090.3mm 121.7in	1171.0mm 46.1in
C/f 1980	1977.1mm 77.8in	2440.4mm 96.1in	—	—

These figures supplied by Mr. Jim Hudson from the Institute of Hydrology, Llanbrynmair, Staylittle.

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**RAINFALL FIGURES FOR THE UPPER SEVERN DIVISION
OF THE SEVERN-TRENT WATER AUTHORITY**

	1981		C/f 1980	
	mm	inches	mm	inches
Llanfair				
Caereinion	991.0	39.01	1186.7	46.7
Llangynog	1290.9	50.82	1264.8*	49.8
Llandinam	932.4	36.71	982.8	38.7
Llanfyllin	1001.9	39.44	975.2	38.4
Llanidloes —				
Glyn Brochan	1362.45	53.64	1454.9*	57.3
Esgaireira	2087.4	82.18	2129.5	83.8

Figures supplied by Mr. S. Pritchard.
* Excluding December figures.

COMPARISON OF TEMPERATURES FOR 1981 (°F)

	Corris 550 ft.		Bryn 700 ft.		Guilsfield 282 ft.		Tynewydd 800 ft.	
	Mean	Range	Mean	Range	Mean	Range	Mean	Range
January	40.0	29-50	40.5	25-52	40.3	22-57	40.5	29-51
February	36.9	22-50	36.8	19-53	37.9	18-55	36.8	17-51
March	45.7	31-62	45.6	31-58	48.7	32-60	45.5	31-58
April	46.6	30-67	45.0	28-66	47.6	26-68	45.7	29-59
May	51.3	31-71	51.0	31-71	52.2	28-70	50.8	34-71
June	54.2	38-73	55.1	41-76	55.1	36-82	55.1	41-73
July	58.5	45-76	59.2	44-76	61.9	38-83	58.7	44-75
August	60.9	41-78	61.1	43-79	59.2	36-87	61.1	43-77
September	54.7	40-73	58.0	43-75	57.2	38-81	56.8	43.74
October	45.1	32-58	45.8	31-60	46.1	26-64	45.8	31-61
November	44.9	32-55	45.3	29-58	43.1	26-58	45.6	34-57
December	32.8	14-48	31.2	14-48	30.0	*-52	31.5	12-50
Average								
Mean for year	47.0	—	47.9	—	48.3	—	47.8	—
Yearly range	—	14-78	—	14-79	—	*-87	—	12-77
C/f 1980	48.2	21-84	47.5	21-78	47.6	16-85	48.0	23-78

* Minimum temperature below the lowest temperature registered by this thermometer.

**EARTH TEMPERATURE 1 FOOT DOWN FOR 1981
RECORDED AT CWM GOLEU**

	1981		C/f 1980	
	°C	°F	°C	°F
January	5.2	41	3.4	38
February	4.3	40	5.0	41
March	6.2	43	4.7	40
April	8.5	47	7.1	45
May	10.7	51	10.5	51
June	14.1	57	13.5	56
July	16.0	61	14.7	59
August	16.6	62	16.0	61
September	14.6	58	14.6	58
October	10.3	50	10.5	51
November	8.2	47	7.7	46
December	4.6	40	5.7	42
Average				
Mean	10.0	50	9.5	49

MEMBERS

Badcock, Miss
 Bateson, Mr.
 Bebb, Mr. & Mrs.
 Beedles, Mrs.
 Benoit, Mr.
 Best, Mr.
 Bourne, Mr.
 Bowen, Mrs.
 Brown, Mr. & Mrs.
 Bryan, Mr.
 Burke, Mr. & Mrs.
 Burford, Rev. & Mrs.
 Chandler, Mr. & Mrs.
 Chapman, Mr. & Mrs.
 Chard, Mrs.
 Collins, Mrs. & Miss
 Cleal, Rev. & Mrs.
 Condry, Mr.
 Davies, Mrs. D. & Sons
 Davies, Mrs. C. I.
 Davies, Mrs. E. M.
 Davies, Miss J.
 Davies, Miss P.
 Davies, Mrs. S. E.
 Davies, Mr. C. V.
 Davies, Mr. & Mrs.
 Earle, Mr. & Mrs.
 Edwards, Mr. & Mrs.
 Edye, Mr. & Mrs.
 Evans, Mr. & Mrs. W.
 Eyres, Mr. & Mrs.
 Farnall, Mrs.
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 Froggatt, Miss M. E.
 Froggatt, Miss J.
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 Goodman, Mrs.
 Grant, Mr. & Mrs.
 Green, Mrs. D. J.
 Green, Mr. & Mrs.
 Herbert, Mr. & Mrs.
 Higgins, Mr. & Mrs.
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 Hodsmen, Mr. & Mrs.
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 Hughes, Miss
 Hughes, Mrs. L. C.
 Hughes, Mr. & Mrs. W. A. E.
 Humphreys, Miss H. K.
 Humphreys, Mrs.
 Jary, Mrs.
 James, Mrs. D.
 Jehu, Mr. & Mrs.
 Jones, Mr. D. S. H.
 Jones, Mr. & Mrs. D.
 Jones, Mrs. F.
 Jones, Mr. & Mrs. G. L.I.
 Jones, Miss G. P.
 Jones, Mr. G. C. E.
 Jones, Mr. P. H.
 Jones, Miss E. I. M.
 Jones, Mrs. L.
 Jones, Mrs. M. E.
 Jones, Miss M. R.
 Jones, Mrs. E. M.
 Jones, Miss O. M.
 Jones, Mrs. A. Owen
 Jones, Mrs. M. J.
 Jones, Mrs. S. M.
 Jones, Miss V. M.
 Joseph, Mr. & Mrs.
 Kinsey, Major
 Lees, Mrs. V.
 Lewis, Miss M.
 Linhard, Mr.
 Lloyd, Mr. & Mrs. W. G.
 Lovegrove, Mr. R.
 Lowe, Maj. & Mrs.
 Lum, Mrs. M.
 Macdonald, Mrs.
 McGavin, Miss
 Markwick, Mr. & Mrs.
 Marshall, Mrs. R.
 Mason, Mr. A.
 Mason, Mr. K. S.
 Matthews, Mr. & Mrs.
 Meade, Mr. S.
 Millward, Mrs.
 Moore, Mr. & Mrs. D.
 Morgan, Mrs. N.
 Morgan, Mrs. W.
 Morris, Mr. E. R.
 Morris, Mr. J. G.
 Morris, Mrs. A.
 Oakley, Miss
 Ormond, Mr.
 Owen, Miss E.
 Parish, Mr. & Mrs. D.
 Parr, Mr. & Mrs.
 Pearce, Miss
 Pearce, Mrs. & Family

MONTGOMERYSHIRE FIELD SOCIETY—ACCOUNTS 1981 (1 Jan to 30 Nov)

EXPENDITURE		CURRENT ACCOUNT 1981	
	£		£
Subscriptions.....	11.50	RECEIPTS	
Stationery & Duplicating	21.64	Balance at Bank 1 Jan. 81	132.20
Postage & Phone	53.26	Subscriptions:	
Indoor Meetings	31.00	Cash & Cheques.....	149.45
* Annual Report 1980	271.19	Bankers Order.....	136.05
Funeral Donation V. Owen	10.00	Donations.....	5.00
Donation Exc. Sec.	10.00	Surplus on Teas.....	290.50
Deficit on Outings	9.60	WCF Grant 1979 Report.....	150.00
		Unpresented Cheque	19.65
Balance at Bank 30 Nov. 81	418.19		
	179.45		
	<u>£597.64</u>		

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 1981		MISS MACNAIR MEMORIAL ACCOUNT 1981	
	£		£
Balance at Bank 1 Jan. 81	229.06	Balance at Bank 1 Jan 81	368.17
British Bonds Div. (1/2 Year)	22.10	Donation	9.00
Bank Interest (1/2 Year)	11.41	Bank Interest (1/2 Year)	18.36
	<u>£262.57</u>		
Balance at Bank 30 Nov 81			
	<u>£395.53</u>		

INVESTMENTS
British Savings Bonds £520.00 Jubilee Issue

Hon. Treasurer: M. A. Markwick
Hon. Auditor: E. S. Lowe
13th December 1981

* WCF/PCC Grant applied for (£1745.60 now received Jan 82).
Note: Because the AGM was fixed for January 16th 1982, I found it necessary to close the accounts at the end of November, so that I could balance and have them audited and duplicated before the AGM.
The January AGM was cancelled too late for the accounts to be altered back to the normal year. M. A. M.

Phillips, Mr. & Mrs.
Powis, The Earl of
Pryce, Miss A. M.
Pugh, Miss D.

Rees, Miss A.
Reeves, Mrs. E.
Richards, Mrs. M. G.
Richards, Mr. & Mrs.
Rogers, Mrs. D. L.
Roper, Joyce
Rowe, Mrs.
Rowland, Mr. L.
Russell, Mr. & Mrs.

Sanders, Miss F.
Sayce, Mrs. K. M.
Sayce, Mrs. I.
Shann, Mr. & Mrs.
Smith, Mrs. G. A.
Snodin, Miss
Sproston, Mrs.
Steadman, Mrs. M.

Steadman, Mrs. K. E.
Steele, Mrs.
Stone, Mrs.
Stott, Mr.
Swift, Mr.

Taylor, the Misses
Thomas, Mr. & Mrs.
Thomas, Mr. & Mrs. R.
Tibbott, Mrs.
Todd, Mrs. M.
Trant, Mr. & Mrs.
Turner, Mrs.
Townsend, Dr.

Warburton, Mr.
Wynn, Sir Watkin Williams
Webster, Mr. & Mrs.
Williams, Mr. & Mrs. A.
Williams, Mr. G.
Williams, Mrs. D.
Wolfe, Mr. & Mrs.
Woodcock, Mrs.
Worthington, Miss

CECIL VAUGHAN OWEN — An Appreciation

Cecil Vaughan Owen, our much-loved, late President, and our unfailingly fascinating expedition leader, is with us no more; but how very fortunate, both for us and for the many other people who knew him, that his later years, which he spent in Montgomeryshire, should have coincided with the current surge of interest about our countryside.

His own enthusiastic and searching interest in everything related to man's settlement and evolution, and thus to man's effect on the living things surrounding him, added a dimension to our field studies which enabled us to appreciate much more fully the ecology of the animals and birds and plants with which we like to become better acquainted.

An expedition led by C.V.O. was sure to bring fascinating surprises, for in his company so many details of the countryside became significant. His own knowledge was the fruit of much careful observation and constant enquiry in the field; and he was always ready to give his attention to any feature that one thought one might have discovered.

We are greatly the richer for that part of his life which he shared with us.

I.F.T.