

# Council for British Archaeology

Cyngor Archaeoleg Brydeinig

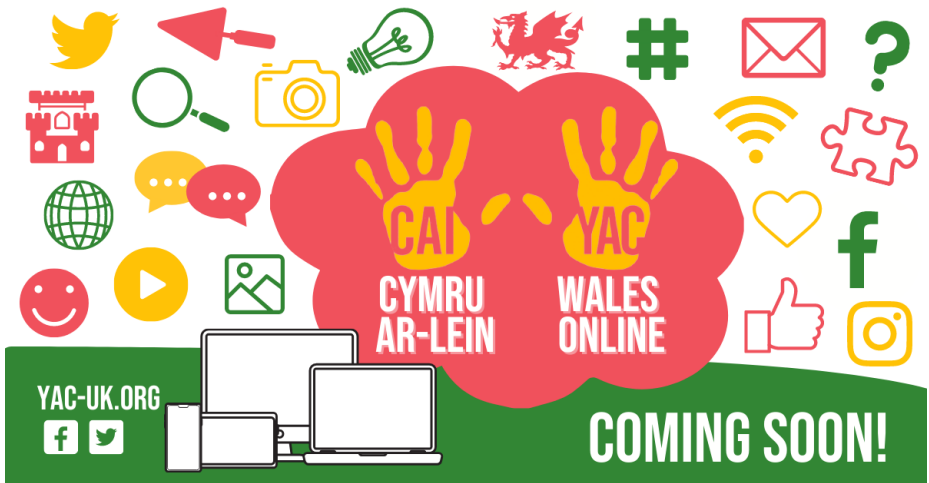
**Wales/Cymru**



*Tudor rose, St Cybi's Church, Holyhead: a drawing by Dylan Roberts (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW)*

## **Newsletter 62 Autumn 2021**

<http://www.councilforbritisharchaeologywales.wordpress.com/>



## Wales Online YAC!

The first-ever nationwide, fully online, branch of the Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC), Wales Online YAC, has been established by The Council for British Archaeology (CBA), with the support of Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT). The online branch will allow more young people than ever to engage with and enjoy archaeology, from all over Wales.

This brand-new branch is an extension of the existing YAC model, which is formed of a network of 70 local groups across the UK, allowing 8–16-year-olds to meet regularly, and get involved in archaeological activity. The groups give young people a unique opportunity to learn more about archaeology in their area whilst making new friends through an action-packed programme of activities and events.

YAC currently has around 1500 active members, and groups are run by over 500 dedicated volunteers nationwide. As the only UK-wide club offering young people the opportunity to engage with archaeology, YAC has a demonstrably positive impact on the lives of many young people. Many YAC members go on to work in the archaeology, heritage, and museum sectors, or to benefit from the positive impact of archaeology in their lives outside of work.

The decision to establish YAC Wales Online was a result of a consultation between CBA, CPAT, current YAC Leaders and other organisations working with young people in Wales. This led to the development of a series of recommendations and resources aimed at boosting current resilience and ensuring future expansion of the YAC. The headline takeaway from this was the need for a nationwide, fully online YAC branch for Wales. This will allow young people who are unable to access a physical club, due to rurality or other reasons, greater opportunities to engage with archaeology. This consultation and the launch of the new online branch was funded by the Welsh Government Cultural Recovery Fund.

There are currently several YAC Branches throughout Wales: South East Wales YAC, Cynon Valley YAC, Brecon Beacons YAC, YAC at the Garden, Offa's Dyke YAC, Marches YAC, and Bangor Gwynedd YAC. It is hoped that Wales Online YAC will bridge the geographical gaps between the branches, and will also allow the YAC in Wales to develop, raising the profile of the club and the incredible opportunities it provides for young people.

The activities of the first online branch will be informed by the experience of the YAC and CBA during the coronavirus pandemic, where previous hands-on activity was moved online. YAC volunteers across the country got to grips with online meeting platforms and apps, developed innovative at-home resources, and even developed a network of remote test pits.

The CBA and CPAT are hoping to attract as many potential members as possible, as well as new volunteers to run the branch. It is also hoped that further YAC Online branches will be founded in other locations in the UK in the future.

Rachel Arbury



clwb **archeolegwyr** ifainc  
young **archaeologists'** club

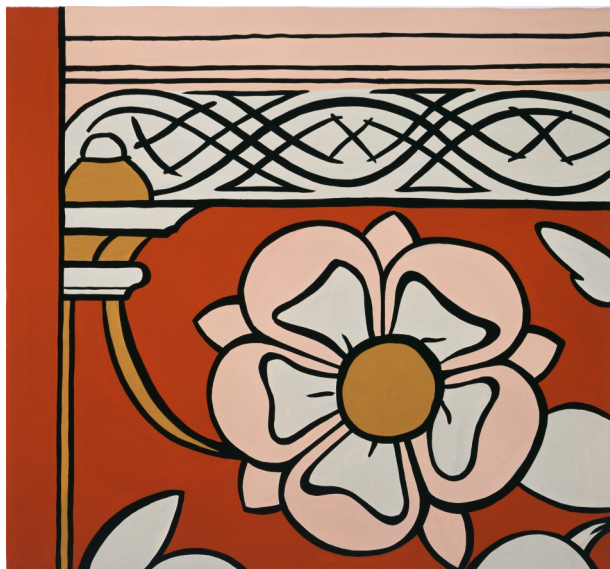
# RCAHMW's New Book on Wallpaintings

Richard Suggett

**Richard Suggett, *Temlau Peintiedig: Murluniau a Chroglenni yn Eglwysi Cymru, 1200–1800 / Painted Temples: Wallpaintings and Rood-screens in Welsh Churches, 1200–1800* (RCAHMW, 2021). xii + 366 pages with 256 illustrations. RRP £29.95. Foreword by Rt Rev. and Rt Hon. Rowan Williams**

This bilingual book was written ('unlocked' might be the better word) during the Coronavirus lockdown that began in late March 2020, when libraries, archives and places of worship were firmly closed. Some churches and chapels, already in a precarious position through declining congregations or the need for expensive repairs, may never reopen. This would be a great loss to us all, churchgoers or not, as this book aims to show by charting a history of the parish church through one of its more ephemeral but oddly resilient features: painted images, texts and decoration.

The book begins by discussing the great late-medieval rebuilding of parish churches in Wales before moving on to consider the nature and roles of



painted screens and painted walls within these newly roofed and refurbished churches. Numerous 'set-piece' paintings are described and there are case-studies of the extraordinarily painted interiors at Llancarfan (by Jane Rutherdale) and Llandeilo Talybont (by Tony Parkinson), the latter church now re-erected at St

*A Tudor rose at St Cybi's Church Holyhead. A drawing by Dylan Roberts with colours restored (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW)*



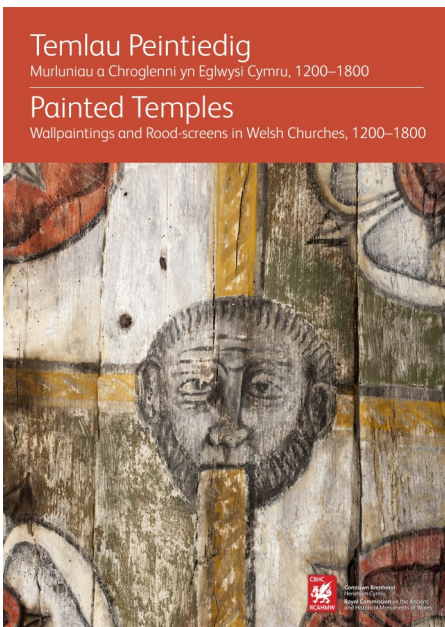
*The Seven Deadly Sins at St Cadoc's Church, Llanccarfan (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW)*

Fagans with the recreated wallpaintings providing visitors with 'the shock of the old'. The story of painted decoration then continues beyond the Reformation into a period when churches were visually transformed through the demolition of rood-lofts and the obliteration of wallpaintings. As the painted image was supplanted by the painted word, so the polychrome church interior became predominantly black and white, apart from the few splashes of colour provided by painted monuments and the Royal Arms – a forceful visual expression of the new relationship between church and state.

The painted inscriptions of the post-Reformation church are of absorbing interest and the 'chosen sentences' express not only religious sentiments but unmistakably the increasing importance and status of written Welsh in the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Painters emerge as named personalities in the seventeenth century, and the verse autobiography of Thomas Jones of Hereford and Brecon (published in 1641) is a wonderful and unexpectedly idiosyncratic record of the precarious and picaresque world of the artisan adorer of churches.

Inscriptions were less visible in the later eighteenth-century as churches became a more cluttered social space, with competing pews and wall monuments. The walls and ceilings became increasingly bleached of colour in the later eighteenth century, as inserted plaster ceilings hid the trusses of the old open roofs and limewash was applied liberally inside and outside the church. The rediscovery of the colour of the medieval church by antiquarian-minded parsons in the mid-nineteenth century was a revelation, though not without controversy, as high churchmen and low engaged in battles over the propriety of colour and imagery in churches.

All Royal Commission books are collaborative, and this book draws on the records of wallpaintings made for posterity by Commission staff over many years, especially Tony Parkinson, whose gazetteer of mural decoration in



Wales has been revised for this book. Drawings and photographs are as important, if not more so, than wordy descriptions. There are several meticulously colour-matched reconstruction drawings by Dylan Roberts, which succeed in conveying the original colour and visual impact of paintings that have inevitably faded. Iain Wright overcame many technical challenges and difficulties of access shortly before his retirement to take the photographs that are an essential component and glorious adornment of this book.

Note: the expected date of publication is December 2021. Friends of the Royal Commission are entitled to a 10% discount.

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# CLIMATE RESILIENCE

## Heritage Summit

Online / October 27th / 10:00 to 16:00 (BST)

Organised in partnership by:



Cadw is working with Historic Environment Scotland, Historic England, English Heritage, National Trust, Dept. for Communities NI and National Trust Scotland to deliver this free on-line event, as part of a line-up activities for COP26.

Our heritage is resilient by definition but increasing frequency and intensity of climate hazards are beginning to require additional funding and resource in order to understand and protect significant places and assets from hazards.

The event will bring together academics and practitioners, regulators and charitable bodies to discuss and present their efforts to explore the exposure, vulnerability and impacts of climate hazards on the historic environment.

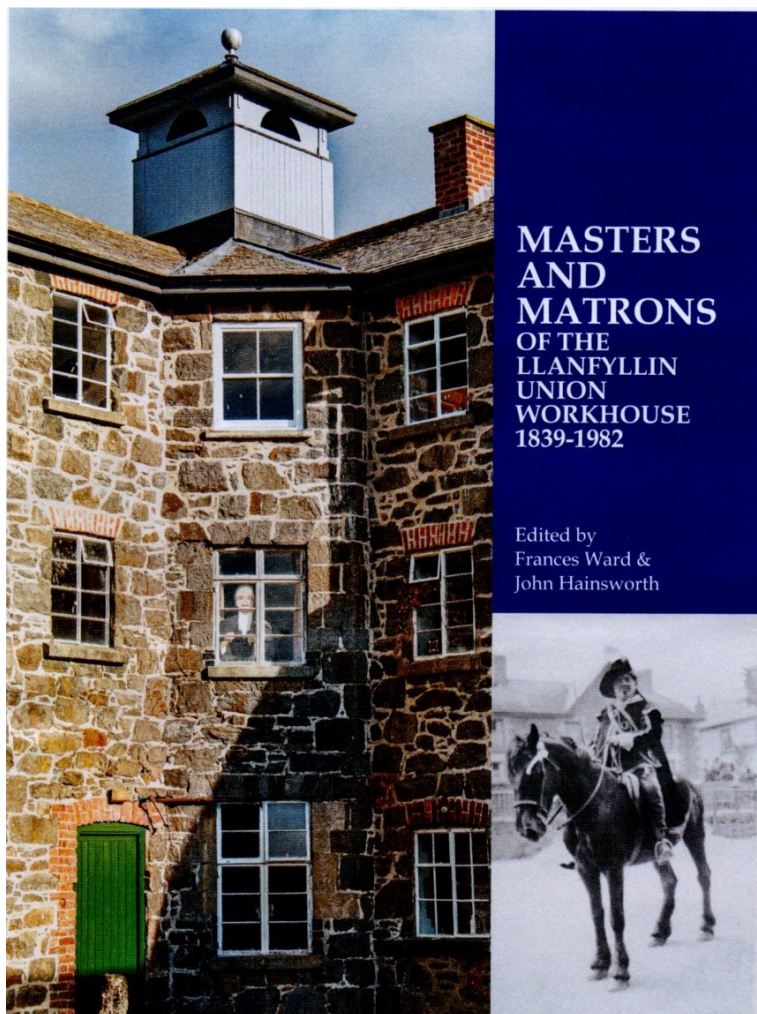
As well as talks on risk, this event will showcase the possibilities of working with climate data to develop tools with which assessments can be made on options for adaptation and thresholds for change.

The link to the booking site is here :

[Climate Resilience Heritage Summit Tickets, Wed 27 Oct 2021 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

## Masters and Matrons

'This building is among the finest surviving examples of the workhouses built across England and Wales under the notorious Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. It was begun in 1838 and designed by Thomas Penson, one of the leading architects working in the Welsh Marches. Built for up to 250 inmates, it served the northern part of Montgomeryshire including the Tanat, Cain, Vyrnywy and Banwys Valleys. It was recently re-listed by Cadw at Grade II\*.' Also known as Y Dolydd it was bought in November 2004 and





restored by the Llanfyllin Dolydd Building Preservation Trust. The work of restoration and conservation still continues. The trust published a history of the workhouse in August 2021, which can be purchased for £9.50 using the form below.

## **Masters and Matrons of the Llanfyllin Union Workhouse**

- Ground-breaking research about workhouse masters: the first time a study like this has been carried out.
- Unexpected stories, including those of:
  - Richard Edwards who fled to Liverpool leaving massive debts;
  - David Rowlands whose son fathered children with two workhouse inmates;
  - Tom Astley who had a pet monkey, and a dubious sense of humour.

**To buy a copy, complete the order form and send it to**  
Frances Ward, Peniarth Uchaf, Meifod SY22 6DS

### **ORDER FORM**

**Please tick**

- 1 copy: £9.50 + £2 postage (£11.50)
- 2 copies: £19 + £3 postage (£22)
- 3 copies: £28.50 + £3 postage (£31.50)

**Payment (please tick your chosen method of payment)**

- By bank transfer (CAF Bank):  
Llanfyllin Dolydd Building Preservation Trust, 40-52-40, 00013419
- By cheque (enclosed) payable to:  
Llanfyllin Dolydd Building Preservation Trust

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# What's Wat's Dyke: Wrexham Comic Heritage Trail

Howard Williams

Running for over 63km from north Shropshire to the Dee Estuary, Wat's Dyke is Britain's third-longest ancient monument but is often ignored and neglected. Yet Wat's Dyke holds clues to understanding the origins of the Anglo-Welsh borderlands! How, why, when and where was it built, and by whom? Where can you see it today? Under the auspices of the Offa's Dyke Collaboratory, archaeological illustrator John Swogger and early medieval archaeologist Professor Howard Williams (University of Chester) are pleased

and proud to launch the What's Wat's Dyke? Wrexham Comic Heritage Trail. This is a digital comic for folks of all ages and backgrounds. It will show visitors and locals where you can visit surviving stretches of this enigmatic linear earthwork. It will explain what we know about Wat's Dyke but also what we still don't know!



One of the comic panels

In our video-launch for the comic heritage trail, Howard and John take you to each of 10 locations where you can see Wat's Dyke in and around Wrexham.

Watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQrF63xKPAw>

For the first time, we will reveal our John's 10 amazing comic panels, one for each location, and take you through what we chose to represent, and what you can see on the ground.

Check out John's other work: <https://johnswogger.wordpress.com/>

Explore the What's Wat's Dyke? Wrexham Comic Heritage Trail via this link.

There is a map to navigate and 10 comic panels:

<https://offaswatsdyke.wordpress.com/whats-wats-dyke-wrexham-comic-heritage-trail-by-john-g-swogger-and-howard-williams/>

Alternately, if you want to access the entire comic as a digital pdf:

<https://offaswatsdyke.files.wordpress.com/2021/07/wats-dyke-booklet.pdf>

Check out Howard's and John's rationale and academic context for this comic, published in the book *Public Archaeologies of Frontiers and Borderlands*: open access from Archaeopress.

For John's published discussion on the use of comics to engage audiences with the stories of borderlands, see Offa's Dyke Journal 1.

This video and the comic premiered as part of the CBA Festival of Archaeology 2021.

**Note 1:** a Welsh language version is forthcoming.

**Note 2:** we hope to print some copies for use in forthcoming events.

**Note 3:** we gratefully acknowledge funding for this project from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities Research Funds and Department of History and Archaeology Research Funds from the University of Chester and from the Offa's Dyke Association.

**Note 4:** full acknowledgements to those who offered advice and support will be included in our forthcoming publication of this collaborative project.



Comic panel from What's Wat's Dyke  
Wrexham Comic Heritage Trail  
(see pages 10-11)

If you are receiving this newsletter by post, you either do not have or have not given us your most recent e-mail address. Given the recent increase in online archaeological activity, if you would now like to provide us with an e-mail address which you are happy for us to use for CBA Wales mailings, please contact the Membership Secretary, [kathy.laws@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kathy.laws@hotmail.co.uk)

### Newsletter Editor

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### Archaeology in Wales

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**ARCHAEOLOGY**

Wales/Cymru