

Llŷn

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



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Llygad Llŷn

Llŷn AONB Newsletter

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WELCOME

Welcome to the latest edition of Llygad Llŷn – the annual newsletter for the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This newsletter provides information about an area designated as one of Wales's protected landscapes since 1957.

The last few months have undoubtedly been a difficult period due to the pandemic – however some interesting projects have been ongoing with many service and agencies working together to conserve and protect the area's special qualities. Information about these projects is available in this newsletter – as well as a summary of some projects supported by the Sustainable Development Fund. This is a Welsh Government Fund that supports sustainable projects in the five AONBs in Wales.

We are keen to hear your opinion on Llygad Llŷn, and welcome your feedback on the work of the team. We also welcome ideas about new projects and any joint-working opportunities. Get in touch!



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MORE INFORMATION

For more information about other designated AONBs throughout Britain, visit the National Association's website - www.landscapesforlife.org.uk

CONTACT DETAILS

Llŷn AONB Unit
Environment Department
Gwynedd Council Offices
Ffordd y Cob
Pwllheli
Gwynedd
LL53 5AA



Phone 01758 704 155 | 01758 704 176

E-Mail ahnellynaonb@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

Website www.ahne-llyn-aonb.org



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LLŶN AONB TEAM – The Llŷn AONB Service has two members of staff:

Bleddyn Prys Jones
Llŷn AONB Officer

Bleddyn leads on Gwynedd Council's core AONB work, national issues and the work of preparing and implementing the Management Plan.

Elin Wyn Hughes
Llŷn AONB Projects Officer

Elin leads on projects deriving from the Management Plan and administrates the Sustainable Development Fund. Other duties include arranging training and events to raise awareness of the AONB and assisting with the reviewing of the Management Plan.



Improving the AONB Environment

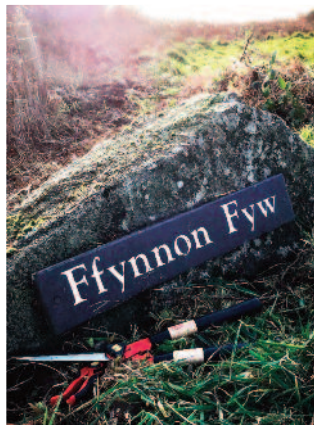
The AONB Service, our co-workers at Gwynedd Council, our partners and volunteers have been busy during the last few months successfully completing numerous projects. These projects have varied from maintenance works on important historic sites and improving access to them, tackling an invasive species on Afon Soch and organising a series of rural skills training.

Working in Partnership

In co-operation with Keep Wales Tidy, we have been hosting clearing sessions on historic sites in the AONB in order to improve the environment. Some of these sites are of historic interest – and others are within villages. Volunteers have played a great part in these projects – thus developing skills and creating new networks. Spending time in the great outdoors also is very beneficial for wellbeing!

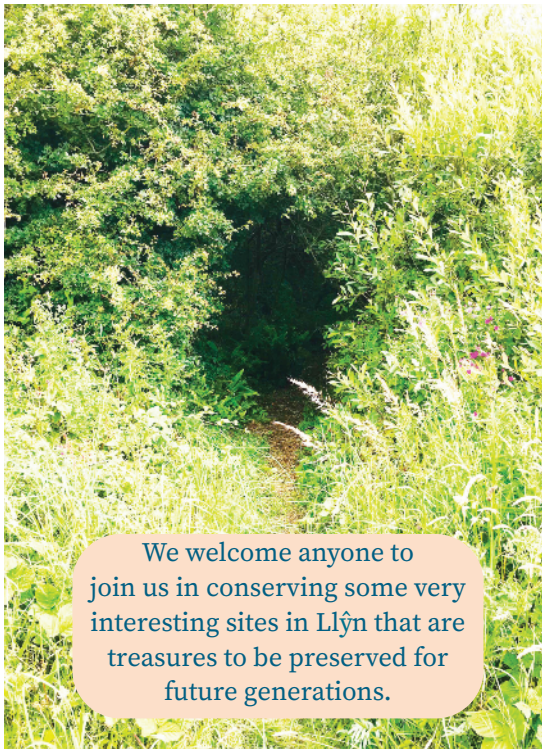
Historic Sites

Every Friday during the winter, we worked on some of the area's wells such as Ffynnon Fyw and Ffynnon Arian, both at Mynytho – and Ffynnon Saint in Aberdaron. Ffynnon Saint is a new site for us in terms of the work of the AONB Unit, having never carried out clearance work there until now. It's a very interesting well – and of great historical importance. Its name and location suggest that it is associated with early Christianity in Llŷn – and would certainly have been on any pilgrim's path to Enlli. It is said that Ann Griffiths, Bryn Canaid (a well-known medicine woman) also used this well for her medicine (her story is well documented in a Welsh book by Dr Emyr Wyn Jones, *Lloffa yn Llŷn*).



Ffynnon Fyw Mynytho





We welcome anyone to join us in conserving some very interesting sites in Llyn that are treasures to be preserved for future generations.



Trefor

Work was also undertaken in Trefor. As well as being within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a part of the village is also a designated Conservation Area - with interesting small streets of great character. These streets were built during the latter half of the 19th Century - with the opening of the Eifl Quarry in 1850. In its heyday - this was the largest granite quarry in the world!

As part of this project in Trefor - litter was collected around the bus shelter and a new bin installed. Litter was also collected from the stream - litter that was undoubtedly on its way down to the coast.

Daniel Griffith from Keep Wales Tidy has been working with us on all the above work. We look forward to work in new sites hopefully in the near future.



Eglwys Carnguwch

Improvements were made at Carnguwch – to a historic site and the surrounding public footpaths. Eglwys Carnguwch (Eglwys = Church), which is dedicated to St. Beuno, stands at the foot of Mynydd Carnguwch in the Llithfaen area. It is located in a tranquil and rural spot, above a slope that leads to the banks of Afon Erch (Afon = River). The works included installing new gates and signage. The cemetery was also cleared and branches cut back.

We are thankful to the landowner's cooperation as well as the group that care for the site – it is always great to work with local communities to ensure worthwhile projects.



Llithfaen Wall

With additional funding from Welsh Government improvements were made to a boundary wall in Llithfaen that goes up from the village to the direction of Tai Cae'r Nant and Nant Gwrtheyrn.

Over the years, the wall's fragile condition had deteriorated with some sections falling into the road. The wall was re-built – with the fantastic stonework making a striking impact on the surrounding landscape. Many key partners were involved with the project along with the Llŷn AONB Unit; with Gwynedd Consultancy (www.ygc.cymru) and Gwynedd Council's Highways and Municipal department contributing and co-ordinating the work. Landowner's cooperation was also important as well as support from Nant Gwrtheyrn Centre.





Rural Skills Training Programme

Every year, we offer courses to improve the skills of building or restoring dry stone walls and the traditional “cloddiau”. These are important historic structures – that are an integral part of the area’s special landscape. They are also interesting in terms of their connection to many centuries of agriculture.

A dry stone walling course was held on the Eifl during September 2019, in partnership with Coleg Glynllifon. John Till was the instructor – and the location was the wall known locally as ‘Wal Fawr’ in Llithfaen. This wall was built around 1815 at the time of the enclosure act – probably by soldiers who had returned from the battle of Waterloo.

The “cloddiau” course (the traditional stone faced earth banks) was held at Porth Gwylan farm, Tudweiliog led by Dilwyn Williams – in association with the landowner, the National Trust. Porth Gwylan sits above a beautiful beach of the same name – a haven for all kinds of wildlife.

We are grateful to all who helped our training programme to be a success – especially the instructors for their time and the landowners for their co-operation.



Treating Non-native Invasive Species

invasive species



Our work on raising awareness of invasive non-native plants continues – treating a few sites where these plants have taken hold.

Giant Hogweed

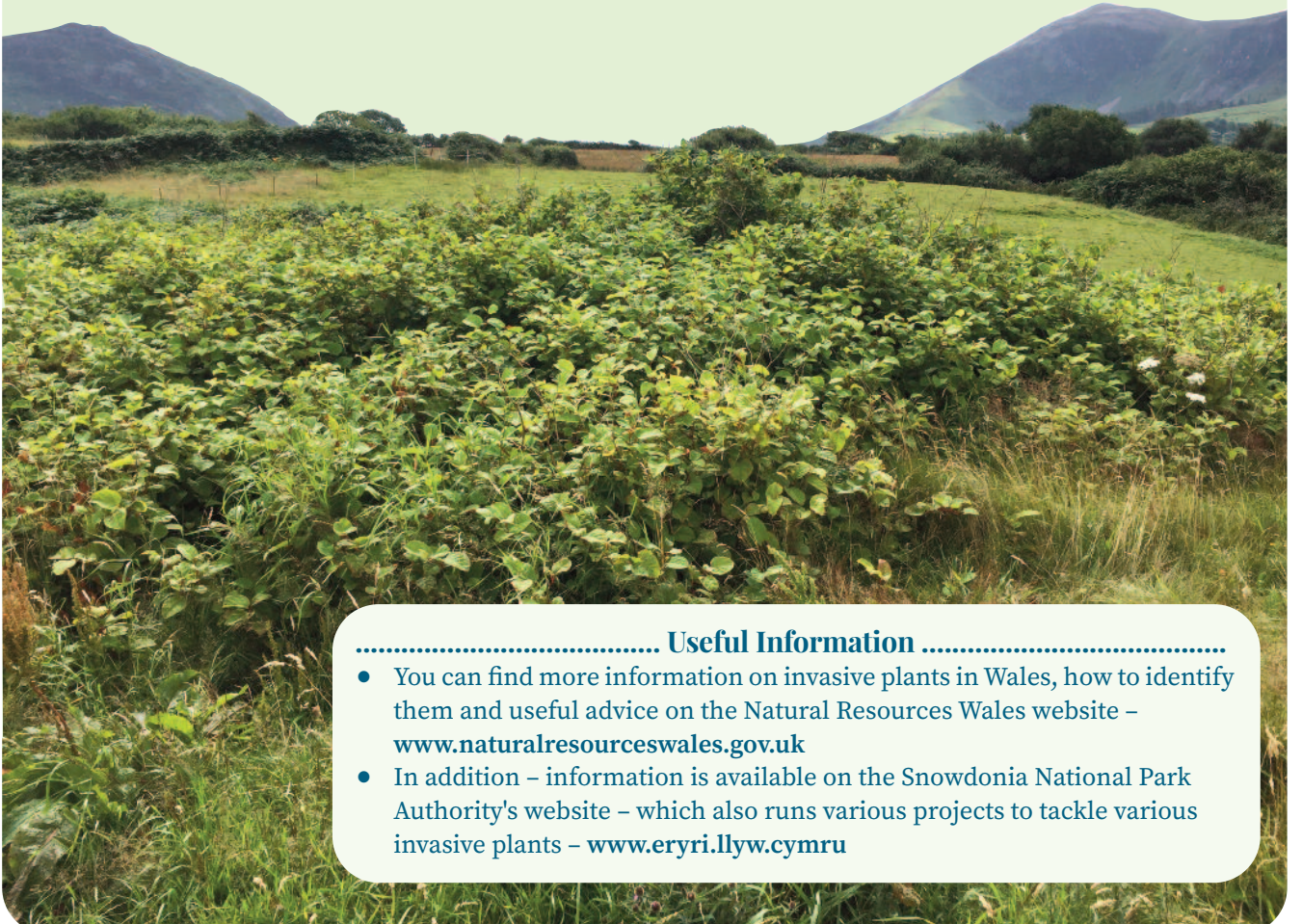
We are continuing to work with Natural Resources Wales to treat Giant Hogweed in the Llandegwning area. This plant (which really can be a giant!) grows on the banks of Afon Soch and poses a risk to the river’s ecosystem. As well as affecting the environment – this plant can also be harmful to human health if its sap touches your skin.

Japanese Knotweed

We are also working with Gwynedd Consultancy (www.ygc.cymru) to treat Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) at two sites – the beach area at Trefor and at Bryn Mynach, Nefyn.

Japanese Knotweed is an invasive plant in a league of its own. Native to Japan, Taiwan, and northern China – it is common in Britain since its introduction as a garden plant during the 19th Century. It is found in urban areas, especially on waste land, railways, roadsides and river banks.

Japanese Knotweed tramples and replaces native plants and can also cause serious economic damage. Its rooting system blocks ditches and drains, and the buds are strong enough to penetrate tarmac and cause structural damage to buildings.



..... Useful Information

- You can find more information on invasive plants in Wales, how to identify them and useful advice on the Natural Resources Wales website – www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk
- In addition – information is available on the Snowdonia National Park Authority's website – which also runs various projects to tackle various invasive plants – www.eryri.llyw.cymru

The Sustainable Development Fund

This Welsh Government fund has existed since 2001 – and is available to sustainable projects in the five AONBs in Wales. Here in Llŷn, a wide range of projects have been supported – and have all benefitted the communities here in terms of the environment, the economy, socially and culturally.

Below are some examples of successful projects – and gives an idea of the types of projects that can be supported.

the sustainable development fund

Llŷn Coastal Bus	(£22,083.00)
Hafod Ceiri, Llithfaen	(£5,300)
Improvements to Capel Peniel, Ceidio	(£4,000)
Improvements to Llandegwning Church	(£2,000)
Nefyn Maritime Museum	(£5,600)
Tafarn yr Heliwr, (or Sportsman) Nefyn	(£11,500)
Improvements to the wall and cemetery at Clynnog Fawr Church	(£6,000)
Plas Carmel Project	(£13,700)
Mynytho Village Hall	(£1,240)
Gwyl Fwyd Pwllheli / Pwllheli Food Festival	(£6,000)
Be' Nawn Ni Heddiw?	(£1,000)
The Llŷn Three Day Challenge	(£3,800)
Eglwys Newydd, Aberdaron	(£8,000)
Edern Playing Field	(£13,700)
Meillionydd Archaeology Project	(£2,990)

The Fund is open for 2020/21, therefore if you have an idea for a project and wish to discuss further, contact us on ahnellynaonb@gwynedd.llyw.cymru



Exploring Trefor

Walking Tour

Every year, the Llŷn AONB conduct a series of guided walks to raise awareness of all the features that make this area so special. These walks are also of course an active opportunity for people to enjoy the outdoors and socialise in a fun and informal way.

This is a taste of a walk that took place in Trefor – jointly with Cymdeithas Ted Breeze Jones. Twm Elias recounts the story....

The walk was in two sections; Coed Elernion and Clogwyn y Morfa. Everyone parked and we met on a section of the old road near the new road at Penlon, Trefor, and then we all walked together to the entrance to Coed Elernion. However, before commencing we had to wonder at the wonderful violet glow of the bluebells that decorated the slopes of Gyrn Ddu nearby and above the road in one direction and on the slopes of yr Eifl behind the trees in the other direction.

The birds were in full swing, a mixed choir of native birds such as tits, chaffinches, blackbirds, wrens, robins and thrushes and also some visiting birds, for example several blackcaps and willow warblers.

There was also a variety of flowers and ferns, including bluebells, greater stitchwort, buttercups, red campion and a few clusters of wood anemones. These were more than likely a sign, that the woodland itself was ancient, although the trees in this section of

woodland were fairly young; mainly hazel, birch, rowan, blackthorn and hawthorn. This is to be expected in a semi-natural woodland such as this, where there had been felling and clearing and re-growing at times.

As we followed the path things changed around every corner nearly and it was possible to identify bird song and calls such as dunnock, chiffchaff, woodpigeon and spotted woodpecker in the distance, and when we came to a fairly large area of ash trees we heard a snippet of something very similar to a redstart.

Hazel shrubs had been coppiced at one time for sticks and bitter vetch was dotted around the woodland, and as we arrived in an open area that was being cut to create a meadow there was a straight row of hazel that had been coppiced as a border. Traces of an old hazel hedge?

There was a second meadow area further down with beautiful cuckoo-flowers near the path. We took a closer look at the stalks supporting the flowers and found one or two small orange spots on





some of the plants. These were butterfly eggs – the orange-tip.

We made our way back to the entrance and returned to our cars. We then went down through the village of Trefor to the beach car park. There were several herring gulls and lesser black-backed gulls on the beach and oystercatchers in competition. Willow warbler and blackbird in the nearby hedge and the 'wed-wed or woid-woid' song of the whitethroat. Also the rock pipit. This little brown bird tends to be limited to shoreline rocks and is a little bit bigger and greyer on its back and head than the meadow pipit – that is so common on ffridd land.

We commenced along the Coastal Path towards the foot of Yr Eifl. In the distance, the cuckoo was singing its two notes and another

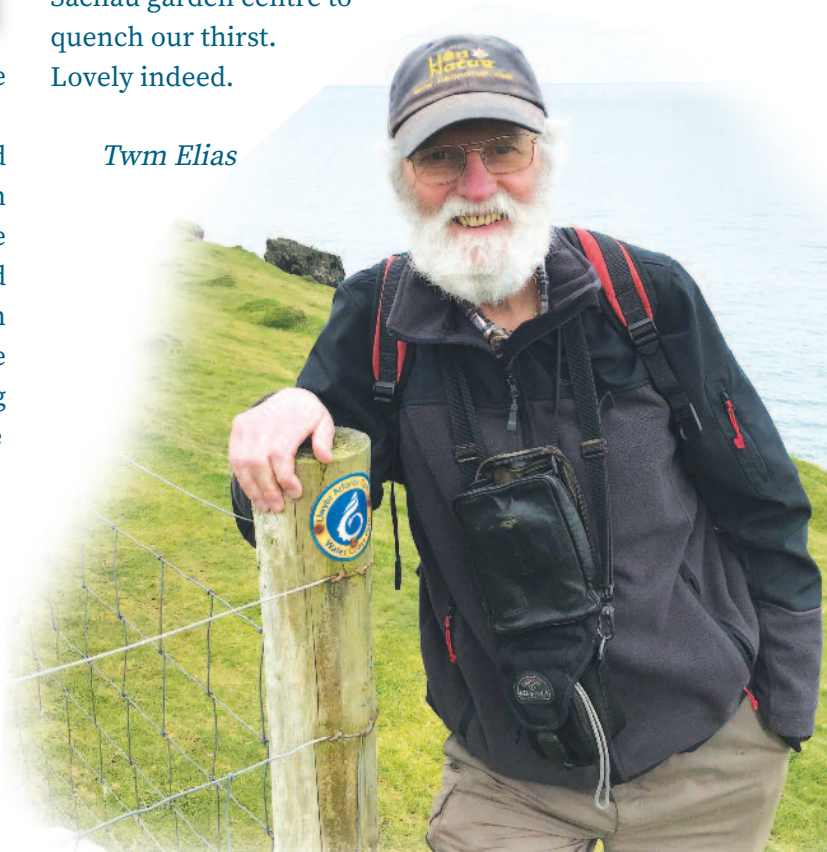
whitethroat rapidly singing. We saw a pair of oystercatchers nesting at the top of the nearby cliff. The male was on the top keeping an eye on us and the female was nesting on a shelf underneath. We saw thrift, sea campion, and a layer of white lichen on the cliffs and it was lovely to see so many of the little blue flower, spring squill, in the pasture above. This is closely related to the bluebell and in our part of the world is limited to pasture or heathland on shoreline cliff tops.

As we went on we had a good view of shags nesting on a shelf, and a little further on cormorants and shags roosting on the flat end of a column of rock called Ynys Bach, with herring gulls nesting on shelves underneath them and two rock doves sheltering from the wind.

On we went further along the path, and had a striking view of Ynys Fawr and her sisters from the top of the cliff and these also had birds. As we reached the far end of the cliffs towards Gorllwyn, a flock of jackdaws rose up and we heard the cry of the chough in their midst before they disappeared out of sight around the corner.

We heard about the history of the Gwaith Mawr quarry before turning and following the path up towards Trefor. We reached the outskirts of the village and turned left along the old quarry tramway path and back to the beach and the car park. We saw a glimpse of a jay and also a kestrel on our way. A very good day and some of us as is our custom at the end of a walk, went for tea. Off we went to Tyddyn Sachau garden centre to quench our thirst. Lovely indeed.

Twm Elias



The History of Llyn Mills

Over the past few months, Glyn Roberts of Bryncroes has been commissioned to research into the history of old mills in the area on behalf of Llyn AONB. Glyn has a wealth of interesting information and has been busy collating all information, and continuing to research. He has discovered a great deal about these old industrial buildings and we are very grateful for the stories and the pictures he has found.

Glyn has been sharing his knowledge in various talks – and also through a series of articles in the local newspaper, Llanw Llyn. If there's an opportunity to attend a talk by Glyn – we'd highly recommend!

Here are some interesting facts about Melin Horon (Melin is Welsh for Mill)

Melin Horon

Located in Nanhoron, this mill is also known as Melin Newydd Nanhoron. The present building dates back to 1823 – with a possibility that a mill has been here since the 18th Century. There is a record of a miller named Thomas Jones buried at Llangian Church as far back as 1768. According to the Nanhoron estate papers of 1777 – Felin Newydd contained a "mill, kiln and court".

Richard Edwards, owner of the Nanhoron Estate, was responsible for rebuilding the mill in 1823 and a plaque with the date is still visible above the door. The inscribed letters refer to Richard and his wife Annabelle.



Melin Horon



Records from 1841 indicate that the miller was William Owen, from Llanbedrog – who had five employees.

Owen Jones was the miller in 1871. Owen was also a cartman, carrying goods by horse and cart. The Nanhoron family would get a load of coal from a ship at Llanbedrog – Owen carried it back from the beach to the Plas. Owen died during the 1890s and his wife Ann and son Robert worked the mill until 1904.

About 1904, the sons of Carneddau farm, Rhydyclafdy, came to Felin Horon. William and Henry Thomas were also great breeders of horses – their stallions having won many awards at agricultural shows. In addition, the brothers would work around the area's farms with their threshing machine (said to be among the first to purchase a large thresher in Llŷn.)

Here is an idea of the bustle of the mill in the 1911 census: –



William Thomas	46	Farmer and Miller
Henry Thomas	40	Farmer
Dorothy	37	Housekeeper
Griffith Jones	21	Servant
Owen Ellis	21	Servant
Evan Griffith	17	Servant
H T Williams	20	Servant
Owen Hughes	15	Servant
John Griffith	68	Miller
Thomas Aincow	69	Fitter

Details in a newspaper report in 1916 also show how thriving it was – with William Thomas in court seeking to excuse for one of his employees not to have to go to the First World War.

William Thomas died in 1919 – with Henry (or "Harri") continuing with the business. Local stories suggest that Harri was quite a character and tremendously strong. He died in 1947 at the age of 77.

(Thank you to all the current owners and occupiers for their permission and cooperation on this project).



News from Plas Glyn y Weddw

The gardens at Plas Glyn-y-Weddw, which is one of Wales's oldest and most popular art galleries, are being given specialist attention by a professional gardener.

The Plas was built in 1857 for Lady Elizabeth Jones Parry from Madryn. The gardens were an important part of the development and exotic trees such as the giant sequoia and a variety of camellias were planted.

During Lady Parry's time, three full time gardeners cared for the gardens and grounds but during recent years, the Plas which is run by an independent charitable trust, has been depending on volunteer support to keep the gardens in order.

Donald Ellis who cared tirelessly for the gardens as a volunteer for nearly twenty years passed away in 2018, leaving a huge gap. Following difficulty in recruiting new volunteers to help in the garden, and staff shortages during the busy summer months, there was an urgent need to give the gardens care and attention they received under Donald's guardianship.

During the autumn of 2019, James Williamson, a self-employed gardener living in Pwllheli has been employed on a day a week basis to care for the garden. James is an ecology graduate and his experience and dedication has been fundamental in formulating a management plan for the garden. Over recent months he has been busy pruning and tidying the hydrangea and azalea shrubs and giving much needed nutrients to the rose and camelia beds.

James will play an active role in implementing an exciting pilot project now under way at Plas Glyn-y-Weddw thanks to seed funding by the Arts Council for Wales, the project focuses on the Plas's surroundings. Through this project led by artist Jacques Nimki with help from volunteers, the part of the garden above the open air theatre is being developed into a forest garden, fruit trees will be planted with a few native species such as rowan and silver birch. Herbs will also be planted and both herbs and fruit planted on site will be used in the café.

A three bay composting store has been created and James has plans to create a tree nursery for re-planting in the woodland.

Undoubtedly, the garden will be worth seeing during the spring and summer months when all plants will be in bloom.

If you are interested in volunteering as part of this exciting project please phone 01758 740 763 or email enquiry@oriel.org.uk



News from the Bardsey Island Trust – (www.enlli.org)

WELCOME to the new wardens!

New wardens were appointed in August 2019 – Mari Huws and Emyr Owen. Many of you will remember Mari when she was the Visitor Officer during the 2016 season with the then Warden, Siân. Mari has been coming to Enlli with her family since she was a child and knows the island like the back of her hand. Emyr has also been visiting for many years with his family, and in recent years his father Aneurin has stayed as one of the Chaplains. They bring a deep understanding of Enlli and are full of energy and enthusiasm to undertake the work needed to keep the work of the Trust going. We wish them all the best and look forward to supporting them in their roles and life as part of the Enlli community.

For more information – please see our website.



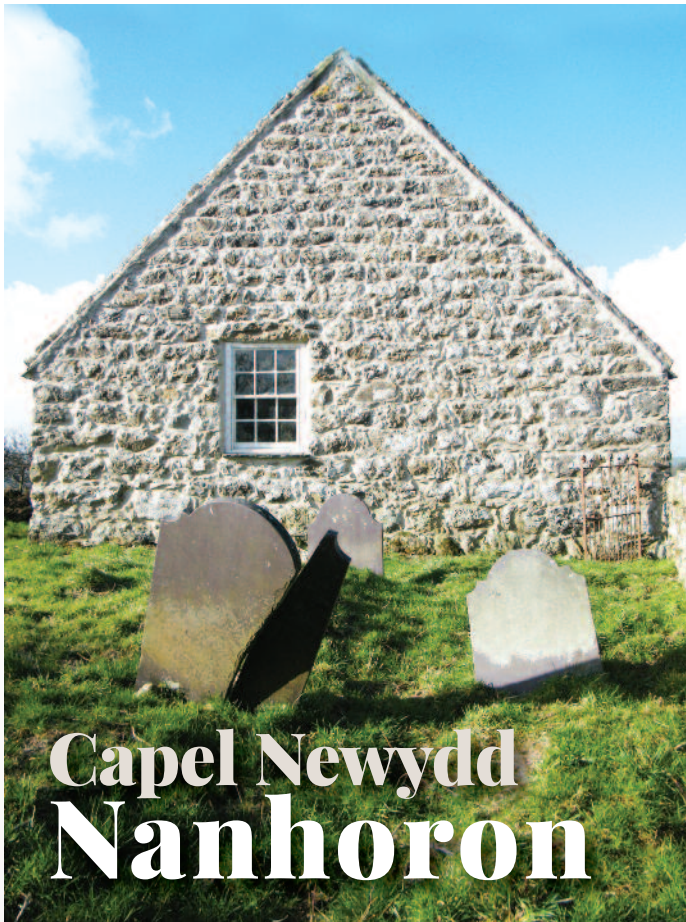
Photography Competition!



Will you be visiting the magical valley of Nant Gwrtheyrn over the coming months? For a chance to win a voucher worth £25 take a photo of, or at, Nant Gwrtheyrn from any angle and share it on social media. Tag Nant Gwrtheyrn on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter using the hashtag #NantGwrtheyrn. If you're not on social media send the photo to marchnata@nantgwrtheyrn.org
The winner will be announced in October.

Good Luck





Capel Newydd Nanhoron

One of our greatest treasures here in Llŷn is the simple rectangular building with its earthen floor known as Capel Newydd, Nanhoron. Dating back to 1769, it is probably the oldest surviving example of a Nonconformist chapel in north Wales. As such, it is listed by Cadw as a Grade 1 building, a status given only to buildings of greatest historic interest.

There is a long-held tradition that it was Mrs Edwards, widow, of Plas Nanhoron, who had given the land to build the chapel, but the deeds clearly show that this was not the case. When the congregation of Nonconformists who used to meet and worship in the farmhouse at Lôn Dywyll (later called Llwyn Onn) in Llangŷn decided that they wanted to build a chapel, they did so on a plot of land that was part of a small farm called Gwag-y-noe in nearby Nanhoron. One of the members, Lewis Williams of Gwag-y-noe, owned his own farm and in July 1769 he sold one of his fields on which to build the chapel. The new building was ready by the 6th of October of that year when the Minister and three of the members went before the Justices of the Peace at Caernarfon to license it as a meeting house for Nonconformists.

Mrs Catherine Edwards of Plas Nanhoron did later become one of the members and a staunch supporter of the cause. According to tradition, in July 1780 she had gone to Southampton to meet her husband, Captain Timothy Edwards, off his ship but was informed that he had died and was buried at sea. It is said that she was supported in her loss by the Nonconformist minister at Southampton and his family and that that caused her on her return to Nanhoron to become a member of the congregation at Capel Newydd.



After the Independents had built Capel Horeb at Mynytho in 1872, where the population was larger, the congregation at Capel Newydd dwindled. By 1953 the chapel's condition was deteriorating and under the leadership of Gwilym T. Jones, then Clerk to Caernarfon County Council and Secretary of the Caernarfonshire Historical Society, a fund-raising campaign was undertaken to restore it. A trust – Ymddiriedolaeth Capel Newydd – was established and various grant applications proved successful. In September 1957 Capel Horeb transferred the ownership and care of the building and cemetery at Capel Newydd to the Trust and the newly refurbished building was officially opened in July of the following year. Sadly, Gwilym T. Jones had died in 1956 before the work was completed.

The Trust then established is still going and was registered as a charity in the year 2000. As further work is now needed to care for the old chapel a fund-raising campaign is underway to safeguard it for the future. To this end various activities will be organized, details of which will be found in the local press in due course. The purpose of this note is to draw your attention to the work ahead and to appeal to anyone who feels that they can help in any way to contact the officers of the trust at this email address: capelnewyddnanhoron@outlook.com

John Dilwyn Williams, Chairman
Meinir Pierce Jones, Secretary
R. H. Wyn Williams, Treasurer