

Llyn

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



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Llygaid Llyn

Llyn AONB Newsletter

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WELCOME

special area

Welcome to the latest edition of Llygad Llŷn – the annual newsletter for the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

In this issue you will find information on recent developments, projects supported by the Sustainable Development Fund and details of this year's photography competition.

The past year has been very difficult for many of us. The Covid 19 pandemic has had a significant effect on our communities leading to deaths, illness, social restrictions and hardship. It is very much hoped that the vaccines, sanitization and changing behaviour will enable matters to improve and that no further lockdowns are introduced.

In addition to the direct effects of the pandemic there have been other, consequential, effects on the area here in Llŷn. There was a clear increase in the number of people walking local paths, cycling and taking part in informal recreation. Less traffic and general activity had a beneficial effect on the natural environment and wildlife. On the other hand there have been concerns regarding how busy it became last summer and the increase that has been seen in local house prices.

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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Follow us on Instagram!
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AONB LLŷN TEAM – three members of staff work for the service:

Llŷn AONB Officer Bleddyn Prys Jones

The Llŷn AONB Officer leads on Gwynedd Council's core AONB work and deals with national issues.

Llŷn AONB Projects Officer Elin Wyn Hughes

The Project Officer leads on the AONB Unit's project work, deals with the Sustainable Development Fund and promotes the AONB.

AONB Countryside Warden Kevin Roberts

Recently the AONB Unit has received support from Welsh Government for the appointment of a Countryside Warden. The Warden will lead on access and nature projects within the AONB.



Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places

For several years now the 5 AONB's in Wales have received a grant from Welsh Government towards the costs of environmental projects. The scheme is called **Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places** and the themes for last year's projects (2020-21) were decarbonisation and sustainable tourism. Here in Llŷn we managed to obtain a grant for three projects, namely:

Improvements at Machroes near Abersoch –

The AONB Unit worked in partnership with the Council's Maritime Unit on this project to undertake improvements near the beach area at Machroes near Abersoch. The works included new concrete and tarmac on an untidy area near the car park and slipway, surfacing an uneven path and a new beach warden cabin. In addition new steps were put in place to improve safety and access to a nearby picnic site and vegetation clearance and tree pruning on the site itself.



Electric vehicle and charging points

Exchanging petrol and diesel vehicles for electric ones will decrease environmental pollution and contribute to the Council's aim of becoming carbon neutral. An electric car was purchased for the AONB and Countryside Unit staff with the capital grant. In addition electric charging points were installed at the Council offices at Ffordd y Cob, Pwllheli. These will be used by the new car as well as new electric vehicles the Council will be purchasing in future.



environmental improvements



Beach toilets Morfa Nefyn

The toilets at Morfa Nefyn beach were in a really poor condition and expensive to maintain. Capital grant funds were used to completely refurbish the toilets, installing solar panels to make it more sustainable and improving access to the building. This project was undertaken in cooperation with the Council's Highways and Municipal Department.



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government

The Llŷn AONB Sustainable Development Fund

What is it?

This is a Welsh Government Fund, and each AONB in Wales receives this money to allocate it to various projects in the community.

Successful projects need to encourage sustainability, and contribute positively to communities in ways that are environmental, economic, social and cultural.

How much money is available

The Fund can contribute up to 70% of a project's total costs. Some projects require as little as £100, with others asking for some thousands. It depends on each project.

Who can apply

Any group, committee, trust or society can apply for funding. Therefore there are many examples of past successful projects, such as from schools, community councils, community shops or taverns, young farmers' clubs, fishermen's' associations and village hall committees. Individuals can also apply as a private applicant – as long as their project reaches the criteria and includes the wider community.

How do you apply?

We strongly encourage you to contact us to discuss any ideas before getting a copy of the guidelines and application form. We accept applications all year round. Applications under £3,000 are decided upon by the Llŷn AONB Unit staff. Applications for larger sums are decided upon by our Grants Panel. The Grants Panel are a sub-group of the Llŷn AONB Joint-Advisory Committee.

Good News for 2021/22!

For this financial year – there is a total of £100,000 in the Llŷn AONB Sustainable Development Fund. We thank Welsh Government again for this support – the money will benefit the AONB in many ways.

How can I get more information?

We share a lot of information about projects that have been supported on Instagram. You can follow us on @ahnellynaonb

You can also contact staff from the Llŷn AONB Unit to discuss any ideas.

Under the current circumstances, the best way to contact us is by e-mail:- ahnellynaonb@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

Examples of Successful Projects

In order for you to see what can be supported by the Fund, here are some examples of past successful projects.

PROJECT TITLE:

IMPROVEMENTS TO STOREHOUSE (STORWS) ON YNYS ENLLI

Applicant: Ymddiriedolaeth Ynys Enlli / Bardsey Island Trust Total: £6,210



For those of you who have had the pleasure of visiting Ynys Enlli, one of the first buildings that you will have seen as you reach the island's shore is the old storehouse. It is a building with strong historic connections. The building was a valuable resource for fishermen and it was used during the construction of the lighthouse at the beginning of the 19th Century. The condition of the storehouse had deteriorated,

and a project was supported to undertake emergency repairs as well as engage with the local community to assess what it can be used for in the future. We look forward to see how the storehouse will be developed during the next few years.

Ynys Enlli is a perfect place to enjoy nature, rich history and total tranquillity. There are ruins here of an old abbey built during the 13th Century.

It was used until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1537. Pirates then were mostly associated with the island, until a community of farmers and fishermen was established in the 18th Century. The Island was owned by Lord Newbough at the time. The island has been known since the Middle Ages as a place where 20,000 saints are buried and it was believed that three pilgrimages to the island was the equivalent to one pilgrimage to Rome. For more interesting information, visit www.enlli.org

PROJECT TITLE:
GARDEN AT
YSGOL BOTWNNOG
Applicant:
Ysgol Botwnnog
Total: £3,600

A project was supported to improve the garden at Ysgol Botwnnog. Old equipment and overgrowth were cleared from the site and new tools and gardening equipment were purchased. This project will ensure that all pupils will have valuable experiences in terms of growing seasonal vegetables and learn about healthy eating. The project will also educate young people about the weather and climate, and how to create habitats for wildlife. Any project that develops such valuable skills for young people and promotes the enjoyment of healthy activities in the AONB will score very well in terms of the Fund's criteria.



PROJECT TITLE: MÊL ENLLI (ENLLI HONEY)
Applicant: Private Applicant
Total:- £1,609

Here is another project on Ynys Enlli, this time led by one of the island's wardens. Mêl Enlli is a small enterprise that keeps bees on the island. The aim is to increase the island's bee population – which will enhance biodiversity and strengthen the economy – and raise awareness of the importance of bees as a species. Of course, the intention also is to produce pure and delicious Welsh honey for all to enjoy! The Fund's contribution has helped to ensure the necessary equipment needed to care for the bees and harvest the honey.



PROJECT TITLE: WAR MEMORIAL AT ABERDARON

Applicant: Aberdaron Community Council and St. Hywyn's Church
Total: £1,623

Back to the Mainland, and to the cemetery at St. Hywyn's Church, Aberdaron. There is a war memorial here that remembers all those from the area who lost their lives during their service in both World Wars. The memorial is located in an exposed area by the beach, therefore naturally its condition has deteriorated over the past few years. There was a very worthwhile project to restore the memorial so that the sacrifice of all people can be acknowledged. This Fund is especially suitable for projects that restore significant historical features such as this.



PROJECT TITLE: DEVELOPMENT AT LÔN Y PLAS

Applicant: Bardsey Island Trust/ Ymddiriedolaeth Ynys Enlli
Total: £1,639

This was a project to re-open an old historic path on Ynys Enlli. The path is known as Lôn y Plas. It can be seen clearly from the island's mountain. Farmers used this path to carry seaweed with a horse and cart to the fields, to be used as fertilizer. As the path had lost its agricultural use over the last few decades, it became over-grown. Work was undertaken to clear the brambles and install new oak gates. This work will certainly improve the area's environment and strengthen the current network of paths on the island. This was a very worthwhile project that promotes biodiversity as well as the experience of visitors.



PROJECT TITLE:
CAPEL NEWYDD NANHORON
Applicant: The Trustees of
 Capel Newydd Nanhoron
Total: £1,185



This site has been of great interest to the Llŷn AONB Unit over the years. It is one of Llŷn's most remarkable treasures. The historic chapel named Capel Newydd Nanhoron dates back to the late 18th Century and its original features are very much still intact. It is a listed building by Cadw (Grade I). The site has been closed to the public for some time. The chapel's trustees have recently led a project to undertake a professional survey of the site in terms of its safety and condition. This project will enable the trustees to see what needs to be done to secure the building for the future and to ensure that it is safe for the public to visit in the meantime.



PROJECT TITLE:
**FLOWER PLANTING,
 BOTWNNOG**
Applicant:
 Botwnnog Community Council
Total: £160

A rather small sum of money, but a huge project in terms of its outcome. Daffodil bulbs were planted on various sites in Botwnnog, Sarn Mellteyrn and Bryncroes during the winter of 2020. This was a period of anxiety, uncertainty and anguish. This project enabled people to take part in activities that were beneficial to their wellbeing and also improved the environment. Botwnnog Community Council led the project with Councillor Gareth Williams working hard to co-ordinate the work and move things forward. We hope that the residents as well as the pollinators will be happy with the outcome!

PROJECT TITLE: IMPROVEMENTS AT PORTH CYCHOD

Applicant: Porth Ysgaden Fishermen’s Association **Total:** £2,243

Porth Cychod was one of Llŷn’s many small and vibrant ports in days gone by. It is a beautiful area near Tudweiliog, on the Coastal Path. Clearance work was undertaken on the site, with old fishermen’s huts that had seen better days. The improvements have had a great visual impact on the landscape as well as the surrounding environment. Porth Cychod is a very sensitive site in terms of designations. It is within the AONB, but also near a Site of Special Scientific Interest (Porth Towyn to Porth Wen) – designated due to the special wildlife habitat. It is also within the boundary of the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation. This is a designation based on the rich marine wildlife. More information can be found here – www.penllynarsarnau.co.uk.

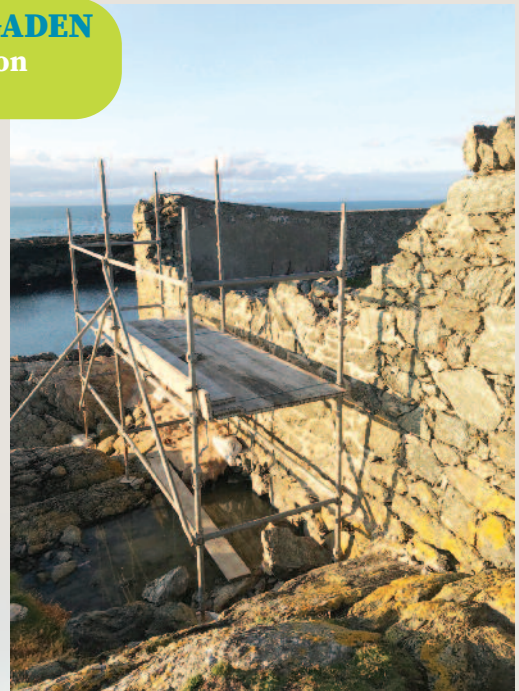


Llun: Gwenan Griffith

PROJECT TITLE: IMPROVEMENT AT PORTH YSGADEN

Applicant: Porth Ysgaden Fishermen’s Association **Total:** £3,140

This was another project that improved the environment and cleared a site at an iconic harbour. Porth Ysgaden has a very interesting past. There are many interesting features here, such as the old lime kiln, listed by Cadw (Grade II). Also there is a gable end of a house – the only feature that still stands of the toll officer’s house. There is an old coal yard here also, now a boatyard. Storms from the Irish Sea have caused the yard to deteriorate over the years, and some walls had collapsed.



The Sustainable Development Fund contributed to the work of re-building the walls and installing new gates.



PROJECT TITLE: TAFARN YR HELIWR
Applicant: Tafarn yr Heliwr Committee
Total: £7,559

Work is well under way to develop a community pub in Nefyn. The Fund has supported many aspects of the work over the years, including initial surveys on the building, and internal developments by a local carpenter. Recent support has enabled the committee to develop a new website and purchase various equipment. It is a very exciting time for the venture – and we look forward to see the tavern develop as a valuable resource to the community and for visitors alike.

There's more exciting news relating to Tafarn yr Heliwr and we are so pleased to share the news. A Community Development Officer has been appointed to work on the venture. We wish Gwenno Rice Roberts all the best in her new post!

Also, it was confirmed that Tafarn yr Heliwr has been offered a grant of £155,283 by the Coastal Communities Fund (Welsh Government) and the National Lottery. A huge congratulations to the committee.

You can hear more about the developments on social media including their Instagram account – @yrheliwrnefyn



PROJECT TITLE: PLAS CARMEL
Applicant: Plas Carmel Committee **Total:** £33,400

Here is another project supported over the years by the Sustainable Development Fund. Plas Carmel is located near Aberdaron. The site includes an old chapel (listed by Cadw – Grade II*) with its original features still intact. The chapel dates back to around 1810. There is also an old traditional rural shop here.



Work is currently ongoing to restore the shop and develop it as a place where you can come and learn more and celebrate the area's rich and interesting heritage.



This project has reached many of the Fund's criteria, especially in terms of preserving the area's heritage and benefiting the area's economy and culture. Plas Carmel is located by a popular beach named Porthor as well the Coastal Path – therefore it will offer a great experience if you intend to explore this part of the Llyn Peninsula in the future. More information can be found on Instagram – @plascarmel



Wild Goats

The wild goats of the Eifl. These are animals that have roamed these mountains and surrounding areas for centuries. Residents and visitors to the area are now very familiar with these creatures when exploring the Coastal Path or visiting Nant Gwrtheyrn. They have also been seen on several occasions wandering into the villages of Llithfaen, Pistyll and Trefor. They are as iconic as the goats on the Great Orme in Llandudno, and the ponies on the Carneddau Mountains. But where have they come from, and when?

There are stories locally that the goat derive from the period when the Eifl Quarry was in its heyday from the mid-19th Century onwards. This was the largest granite quarry in the world at one time and workers from all over came to the area – some bringing their goats. It is also mentioned that the goats may have been transported here from other areas of north Wales. It would have been very useful for a shepherd on the Eifl to have goats to graze the rock face. The goats could eat the vegetation located on dangerous edges and easily move on. For sheep, this would have been far more difficult. The presence of the goats therefore prevented the sheep from wandering to graze dangerous places and result in losses for the farmer.

These creatures have attracted a lot of attention lately. Over the last year with the whole community under Covid-19 restrictions, the goats have found it easier to roam. This was particularly the case in February this year, with many goats roaming in the village of Trefor during cold weather. They probably wandered down for food and shelter. Here are some photos by Gareth Jenkins of some of the goats who decided to stay for a while on the school fields and on the football field.

It is assumed that the number of goats are on the increase, and there is a concern regarding the sustainability of the situation and the effect on the area's biodiversity. Discussions have begun to possibly survey these animals in detail to find out more about them and to get an idea of their numbers and condition. There is also an intention to look at their grazing habits and the effect on different habitats. The Eifl landscape is sensitive with several sites designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest based on various special wildlife.

We'll be sharing the latest research updates on our Instagram account in due course – [@ahnellynaonb](#).



New Countryside Code Launched



Llŷn is one of the most beautiful areas in Wales and an ideal place to explore. Whether you are a resident or a visitor, a useful national guide has been published to make sure you wander safely and respectfully – whilst having a great time of course! The information below is based on a press release by Natural Resources Wales (April 2021).

On 1 April this year, a new Countryside Code was published by Natural Resources Wales and Natural England, 70 years since the first booklet was published in 1951. The Code allows people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy the health benefits and well-being that nature offers, respecting the environment and people who live and work there.

More people are enjoying the outdoors than ever before, and the code has been revised to help people enjoy the countryside in a safe and respectful way.

The new Code has been influenced by nearly 4,000 responses from stakeholders to an online survey, which sought views on best practice for visiting the countryside and protecting the natural environment, and received a huge response.

The changes include advice on how to create a friendly environment, clearer rules that underline the importance of clearing dog fouling, encouraging people to stay on footpaths and not feed farm animals. It also gives advice on activities such as wild swimming, and how to obtain permission.

Key changes to the Countryside Code include:

- New advice for people to be friendly and share the place, as well as enjoying your visit, having fun and creating memories
- A reminder not to feed livestock, horses or wild animals.
- Instructions to remain on marked footpaths, even if muddy, to protect crops and wildlife.
- Information on permission to do some outdoor activities, such as wild swimming.
- Clearer rules for dog walkers to take dog mess home and use their own bin if there are no public waste bins.

Instead of a list of rules, the Code is a guide for the public – which recognizes the significant health and well-being benefits of spending time in nature.

Chief Executive of Natural Resources Wales, Clare Pillman said:

“For 70 years, the Countryside Code has been the cornerstone of our relationship with the great outdoors – a trusted and vital tool that helps people to enjoy their natural environment safely and respectfully. I would like to thank all our partners in Wales who have played their part in shaping the updated code we’re launching today.

“With more and more of us making the most of our beautiful countryside and with warmer weather and longer days on the horizon, sticking to the code has never been more important. Whether you’re returning to much-loved places, or heading to a destination for the very first time, please make sure you prepare for your trip in advance and to stick to the code when you get there.”

The Countryside Code was updated in the summer of 2020, in order to respond to issues that emerged during the lockdown, such as increased littering and the harassment of farm animals. The updated version aims to help everyone enjoy parks and open spaces in a safe way, encouraging them to care for our natural environments and the livelihoods of those who work there.

The updated Countryside Code can be found on the Natural Resources Wales website - www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk



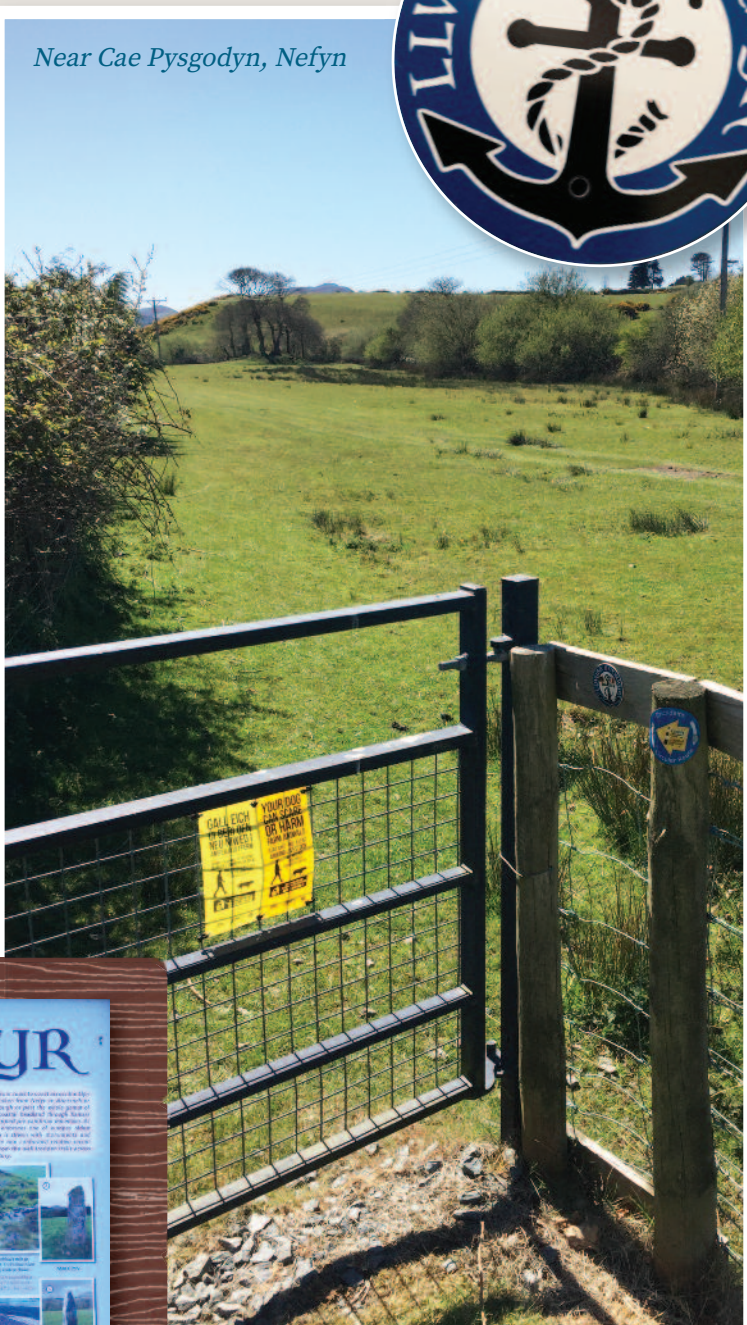
The Mariners' Trail



Here's an interesting trail to explore, set up by Nefyn Town Council with a grant from the Welsh Government's Coastal Communities Fund. The Mariners' Trail is based on old paths that sailors used to walk back and forth between the Nefyn and Llanbedrog/Abersoch areas in the 19th Century.

The route leaves the historic town of Nefyn to Abersoch across the peninsula and measures approximately 12 kilometres. It is also of course possible to walk from Abersoch to Nefyn! The starting point is the car park on Stryd y Plas (near Fron) and then along the outskirts of Cae Pysgodyn towards Boduan. Cross the A497 before proceeding through Cors Geirch to the Ceidio and Madryn area and then on to Nanhoron, Mynytho and then Abersoch.

Signs along the route include the unique logo. A route map can also be found on this website: – www.crwydro.co.uk .



Near Cae Pysgodyn, Nefyn



Mariners' Trail Information Board

It is also advised to use an Ordnance Survey Explorer map (scale 1: 25,000) and to wear suitable clothing and footwear. Naturally the path can get wet or muddy in some places like Cors Geirch during the winter months.

There is plenty to see and enjoy on the Mariners' Trail. There are great views of the peninsula, the coast and sea from many places and the route passes through interesting natural habitats including rough grazing areas, marshes, forests and heaths. There are also many archaeological and historical remains to be seen along the way. Here are a selection of nature or historic sites on or near the trail:

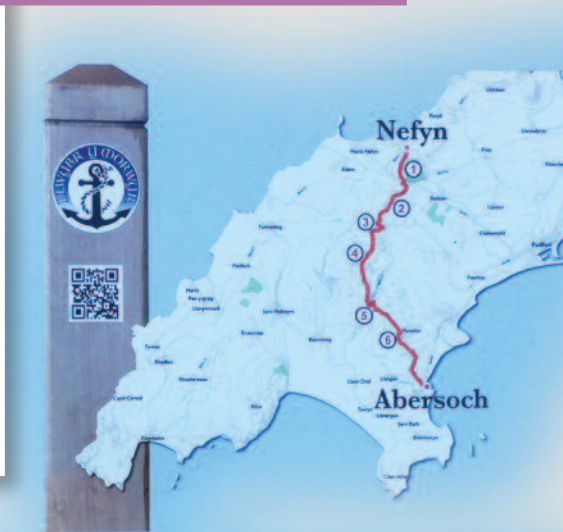
Garn Boduan – On top of Garn Boduan, near Nefyn, stands the remains of a large Iron Age hillfort. The remains of around 170 stone roundhouses can be seen here – and there are also superb views in all direction.

Cors Geirch – Due to the rare species of wildlife within this wetland site it has been designated as a Special Protection Area and RAMSAR site. The animals and invertebrates which live here include the marsh fritillary, geyser whorl snail, water vole and hornet robberfly. Cors Geirch is also home to a range of wetland birds including the song thrush and skylark.

Garn Fadryn – Garn Fadryn is at the centre of the Llŷn Peninsula and there are wide ranging views from the summit. There are remains of an Iron Age hillfort and a castle from the Middle Ages to be seen here. According to Gerallt Gymro (Gerald of Wales) the castle was built in 1188 – forming part of a cluster of early stone castles built in Gwynedd during the 12th Century.

Ffynnon Sarff, Mynytho – This is a small well on the edge of Mynytho common – named, according to folklore, because a snake used to live within it. More on the well's history is mentioned in Myrddin Fardd's book; "Llen Gwerin Sir Gaernarfon" (1908).

On the outskirts of Cors Geirch



2021 Photography Competition

We are holding a photography competition this year, titled “My Llŷn Peninsula”.

We wish to give you an opportunity to show what is so special about the area, and encourage others to appreciate its special qualities.

We are flexible in terms of what the theme means to each competitor – it can mean something different to everyone. You could send photos of features such as the wildlife, the beautiful landscape, the dramatic coast, interesting old buildings, stone walls or even the weather. You could also send us a photo of a place very close to your heart for a particular reason – share your story!

Each applicant can send up to two photos.

These are the prizes:

PRIZES

- 1st** – Gift Voucher – Porth Tocyn Hotel, Abersoch (£100)
- 2nd** – Gift Vouchers – Various Shops in Pwllheli (£75)
- 3rd** – Gift Voucher – Tyddyn Sachau Garden Centre (£50)

Send your photo(s) by e-mail to ahnellynaonb@gwynedd.llyw.cymru and state your full name and where the photo was taken.

We will be sharing some of the photos on Instagram.

Closing Date – Friday, 3rd September 2021

Good luck!

Competition Rules

- Winners will be decided by an independent panel, selected by the Llŷn AONB
- A maximum of two photos allowed per entry
- Individuals cannot apply more than once
- The competition is open to all ages
- The competition is not open to anyone directly associated with arranging the competition
- The competition is not open to professional photographers
- The AONB Unit will use any photo in the future, unless the applicant states differently
- By entering the competition, all applicants agree to the competition rules

