

Llyn

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



No 12 • 2018

www.ahne-llyn-aonb.org

Llygad Llyn

Llyn AONB Newsletter

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**Exploring
Coed Elernion**

**Eglwys Newydd
Aberdaron**

Madryn College

**'We Will
Remember Them'**

**2018 Activities
Programme**
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Welcome to the latest edition of *Llygad Llŷn* – the annual newsletter for the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). In this edition, you will find information about the area and the AONB designation, receive updates about projects and receive information about upcoming events.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Llŷn is one of five AONB's in Wales, designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. The other areas are the Gower Peninsula, Anglesey, Clwydian Range and Dee Valley, and Wye Valley. The designation's main purpose is to protect, maintain and nurture an area's natural beauty. This includes protecting wildlife and plants, as well as the area's geological features and landscape. It is also important that archaeological features, historical remains and architectural features are also protected. For more information about each Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Wales, England and Northern Ireland, visit the website for the Society of AONB's – www.landscapeforlife.org.uk.

Llŷn Peninsula

The main basis for designating parts of Llŷn as an AONB back in 1957 was the varied and interesting coastline and the beautiful landscape. Around a quarter of the peninsula, a total of 15,500 hectares is designated. Most of that land is coastal, but it also reaches inland to include Foel Gron and Garnfadryn. Although the main basis is the natural beauty of the landscape and coastline, many other qualities belong to the area such as the varied wildlife, historical remains, the sea, the unique culture and the Welsh language which continues to thrive.

The Llŷn AONB Joint-Advisory Committee

The Llŷn AONB Joint-Advisory Committee was established in 1997 in order to contribute to the work of protecting and caring for the AONB. Among the members are local Councillors, members of Community Councils, and representatives from local agencies and organizations such as Cyfeillion Llŷn, the Agricultural Unions and the National Trust. At the meetings, held about 2-3 times a year, members will discuss relevant national and local issues. They also contribute to the work of preparing the Management Plan and are informed about the work of other organizations relevant to the AONB.

The AONB Management Plan

During 2017, the work of reviewing the AONB's management plan was completed. The Plan includes an assessment of the area's condition, analysis of key issues and policies and future actions. See the website for further details – www.ahne-llyn-aonb.org

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Cover photo
Foel Tŵr by Gareth Jenkins

The Llŷn AONB Team

The Unit has two members of staff:

Bleddyn Prys Jones
Llŷn AONB Officer

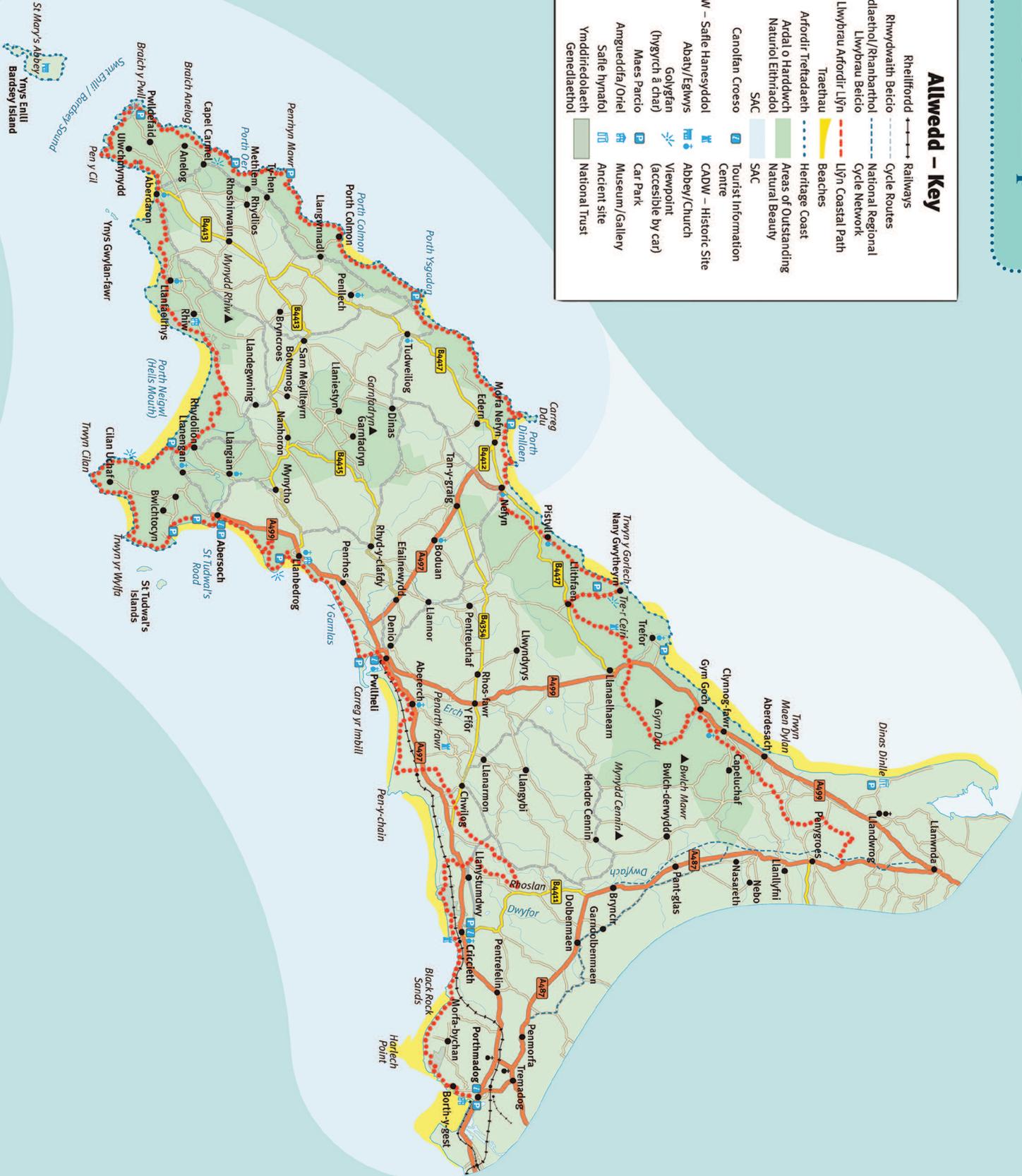
As the Llŷn AONB Officer, Bleddyn leads Gwynedd Council's core AONB work, national issues and the work of preparing and implementing the Management Plan

Elin Wyn Hughes
Llŷn AONB Projects Officer

As Projects Officer, Elin leads on work deriving from the Management Plan and administers the Sustainable Development Fund. Elin also arranges events to raise awareness of the Llŷn AONB and assists with updating the Management Plan

Allwedd – Key

	Railways
	Cycle Routes
	National Regional Cycle Network
	Llyn Coastal Path
	Beaches
	Heritage Coast
	Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
	SAC
	Tourist Information Centre
	CADW – Historic Site
	Abbay/Church
	Viewpoint (accessible by car)
	Car Park
	Museum/Gallery
	Ancient site
	National Trust
	Genedlaethol



Improving the AONB Environment

Lime Kiln at Porth Ysgaden

At the beginning of the year, the AONB Service arranged for the Keep Wales Tidy charity to undertake a clear-up project in Porth Ysgaden on the northern coast of Llŷn.

In the past, Porth Ysgaden was one of Llŷn's busiest small ports and a key site to import essential goods such as coal, salt and lime. Farm produce was also exported from this port.

Interesting remains from this period can still be seen here, such as the gable end of a house which was home to the toll officer.

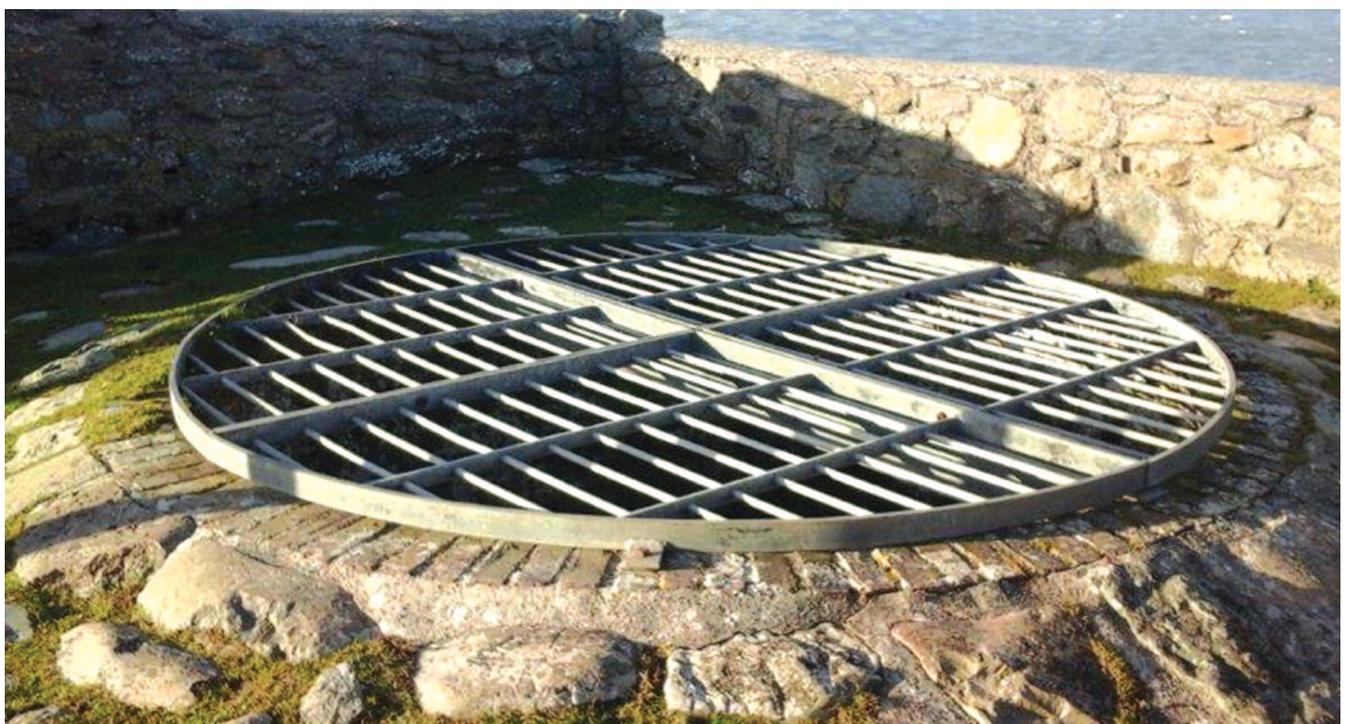
A lime kiln is also located here, and this is the interesting building that was the focus of this project. It is believed that the current kiln dates back to the 19th Century but records show that a kiln was functional here in 1754. The structure has been listed by Cadw (Grade II) due to its unusual size and design.



Over the years, litter was thrown to the kiln through the opening at the higher end. It was a shame to see the historic building, which is in such a prominent site on the Coastal Path, being disrespected this way.

Lee Oliver and Gruff Jones cleared the kiln and also the old well below and as a Service we are grateful for their work and are pleased to see an improvement on the site.

We are also thankful to Mr Wynne-Finch, Cefnamwlch Estate for his permission and collaboration.



Undergrounding Electricity Cables

In 2006, a scheme was launched by OFGEM* which gave electricity supply companies and the National Grid allowances to install cables and other equipment underground in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Since the commencement of the scheme, several schemes have been realised throughout Britain and the landscape of the Parks and the AONBs have substantially benefited from the scheme. The latest scheme to be completed in the Llŷn AONB was on Trwyn Cilan. As well as being in the AONB, Trwyn Cilan is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is common land with Open Access. The AONB Service identified that cables were prominent in the landscape and were obtrusive. In conjunction with the National Trust, which owns the land, the underground installation scheme was realised by SP Manweb in 2017 which improved the site's appearance and surrounding views. SP Manweb has also been working on a scheme to install cables underground at Y Foel Gron,



Mynytho. Again, this is a prominent site of common land with excellent views to every direction and underground installation will create a clear visual improvement. It is aimed to complete this scheme during 2018 and also to realise smaller underground installation schemes in Sarn Bach and near Dwyros, Aberdaron.

* OFGEM: Governing body that supervises gas and electricity markets.

Carreg y Defaid

Clear-up work was also undertaken on a very important site for Llŷn AONB. On the peninsula's southern coast, the boundary of the AONB starts at Carreg y Defaid near Llanbedrog - another popular site on the Coastal Path. Not far from the beach and back towards the main road, there is a small woodland, and a lot of fly tipping occurred here until recently.

There were all kinds of litter, varying from domestic and commercial waste to large electrical appliances. A project was led by Tidy Towns and Street Enforcement, Gwynedd Council to clear the site and we wish to thank them for their work and their contribution towards improving the environment of the AONB.

Photography Competition

The theme of our latest photography competition was I Love Llŷn.

photography competition

1st



Congratulations to Elen Griffith for winning the first prize, a boat trip to Ynys Enlli, with a photo of her daughter Nanw (above) at Porth Colmon.

Congratulations also to the following:-

2nd



Stones at Porth y Nant by Eve Goodman

EQUAL 3rd



Stonechat at Porth Neigwl by John Delap



EQUAL
3rd

Trefor by
Phil Pownall

Porth
Neigwl
by
Dawn Jones



Harvesting
by Mared Jones

Highly
Commended



Porth Neigwl
by John Delap

Many thanks to all
who took part, and
to Gareth Jenkins
for assisting with
the judging.

Exploring Aberdaron

The AONB led three guided walks during 2017. One was around Moel Penllechog and Llanaelhaearn where we explored the area's granite quarrying industry. We also took a circular route in the Tudweiliog area and visited the Church and many other beautiful locations such as Porth Ysgaden and Porth Ysglaig.

Here are details of the walk at Aberdaron.....

The starting point is the National Trust's car park at Porth Meudwy and then follow the track down to the beach.

This is an interesting and rather busy cove, with fishermen and walkers on the Coastal Path coming and going. It is from here also that boat trips leave for Ynys Enlli as it was for the pilgrims in years gone by. The name "Meudwy" is associated apparently with those pilgrims. It is interesting also to note that many sources suggest that the names of two nearby dwellings (Bodermid Isaf and Bodermid Uchaf) derive from the English word "hermit".

Either side to Porth Meudwy are steep steps joining the Coastal Path - one side leading to the direction of Aberdaron and the other to Pen y Cil. Follow the path to Pen y Cil and Enlli.

Soon, you'll be above the ruins of a harbour at Porth y Pistyll (or Trwyn Dwmi as it is known locally). The quarrying of this granite rock began in 1907. It is said that the site was difficult to reach in those days - and workers had to use ropes and ladders to reach it. The industry came to an end here at the end of the 1930's.

There are many delightful and interesting names for the different features around Llyn's coast and this part of the Peninsula has wonderful names with some deriving from intriguing legends, such as Porth y Gloch. According to folklore, the bell from Bala's abbey was lost here to the bottom of the sea whilst being transported for safekeeping to Enlli, in the days where the monasteries were being destroyed. There is still a local saying or comparison used to this day, for if something is stuck - it is like the old bell from Bala.

There is also Ogof Ddeuddrws nearby, where it is possible to sail through one entrance and out the other side. Ogof Morgan is another name - which is possibly connected to one of the area's most prominent smugglers during the 16th Century.

In a while, you will reach Pen y Cil heathland, located above steep slopes. From here, Ynys Enlli can be seen in all its glory with the dangerous sound (or swnt) around it. There are many tales of shipwrecks here, such as the boat of Enlli - the "Supply" which was lost in November 1822. This was the boat that



transported all of the needs of the island's lighthouse. Six people perished including the captain and his daughter. The story can be found in an elegy composed by a local poet at the time, Ieuan Lleyrn.

Onwards over Mynydd Bychestyn you will pass the Parwyd, which is a very steep cliff that is mentioned in a local ghost story. In a while, you will reach the road and a cottage named Bryn Canaid. It is here that Ann Griffith lived - who is still remembered to this day as an unofficial medicine woman. A record of her burial can be found in the register at St. Hywyn's Church,

Aberdaron on October 25th 1821 – she was 87 years old. She is remembered for her incredible abilities to treat various diseases and disorders using only the natural resources around her such as the wild plants, seaweed, waters from different wells, winkles – and leeches! All her ingredients were kept in a hole carved into a large rock in front of the house with an iron door.

From Bryn Canaid, the road leads on past Pwll y Cyw, Bodermid Isaf and Tir Glyn before a turning to the right, down to the car park where you began.

This is a pleasant route, which takes around two hours. The Coastal Path in this area is in a good condition, but some parts are narrow and craggy, therefore care should be taken.

Earlier this year, botanist Bethan Wyn Jones, who contributes regularly to nature programmes on BBC Radio Cymru, held a talk about Ann Griffith at Sarn Mellteyrn Memorial Hall on behalf of the AONB Service. It was an enjoyable and engaging evening as we heard about which ingredients she used to treat certain conditions such as asthma, chilblains, indigestion and arthritis. More information about her can be found in a book called “Lloffa yn Llŷn” by one of her descendants, Emyr Wyn Jones (Emyr Feddyg).



Porth Meudwy



Coed Elernion, Trefor

Coed Elernion in Trefor, is an ideal woodland to explore. It is owned by the Woodland Trust.

This woodland, with parts of it being ancient woodland, is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and therefore is legally protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Most of the site is wet woodland, and types of oak tree habitats. Amongst the special wildlife and plants are badgers, bats and bluebells.

This is a convenient site, especially for families and children. There are footpaths in good condition through parts of the woods, which lead you on a circular route from the entrance. There are boardwalks over the wettest parts and bridges over the main river (Afon Tal). At the centre of the site, there are open fields with a bench if you wish to rest and enjoy the tranquillity and the special wildlife.



Please note that there is only one access to this woodland. The access can be found on the first road leading down to Trefor from the direction of Pwllheli (the second road if you are travelling from Caernarfon). You will find a small gate on the left hand side of the road about 150 meters from the junction. There is no formal parking site, but public transport travels past regularly.

On the Woodland Trust's website - (www.woodlandtrust.org.uk), you will find lots of interesting and useful information about Coed Elernion. You can also find information about other woodlands throughout Britain that you could visit, and a summary of how these sites are protected and cared for.

Elernion is a very interesting name, also the name on nearby houses down towards Trefor. Elernion was itself once a township, and a record of this dates back to 1352. Glenda Carr, in her book about local place names 'Hen Enwau o Arfon, Llyn ac Eifonydd' states a possible connection between the name and Saint Aelhaearn himself.

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Foel Tŵr, Mynytho

This is a great walk if you wish to see panoramic views of Llŷn and beyond. Foel Tŵr is located near the village of Mynytho and is relatively easy to recognise from afar as it has the ruins on top of an old windmill. This is an interesting historic feature, listed by Cadw (Grade II). Apparently it was not in operation for long due to crosswinds, and after it was struck numerous times by lightning.

There is a limited parking space at the foot of Foel Tŵr, but you could park and walk there from the village. From the direction of the primary school (Ysgol Foel Gron), continue past the playing field on the road towards Nanhoron and Rhydyclafdy. You will pass houses with quite interesting names such as Yr Aipht (Welsh for Egypt) and China – which are certainly connected to the area's mariners.

There are many houses in this part of Llŷn with names connected to other parts of the world and are an interesting link with the past. Cornwall is another local name, that is likely to be connected with the lead mine at Llanengan and the many who migrated from Cornwall to work there.

Shortly after you pass China, take the first right up a small lane that will lead you to the entrance. There is a sign by the National Trust – “Foel Melin Wynt”.

The path upwards is quite steep but short. Care

should be taken as the path is uneven and rocky in places.

There are many other interesting locations to visit in the area. Back in the village itself, you could explore Foel Gron which is just as spectacular in terms of scenery. Foel Gron is a Special Site of Scientific Interest due to its geology and wildlife. This site is also Common Land. A path leads up just past the school.

There are a few historic wells in this parish. Ffynnon Fyw is located down past Capel Horeb. It is very impressive in terms of its architecture, with two parts – one which was used for bathing and the other to drink. It is said that the water had remedial qualities to aid certain eye conditions. The AONB Service has undertaken many clearance projects at this site over the years.

Between Mynytho and Nanhoron, there is a track leading to Capel Newydd. It's possible that this is the oldest non-conformist chapel that has survived in north Wales and dates back to the late 18th Century. Again, the AONB Service has undertaken projects on this site to clear overgrowth and improve the path which leads to it. The Chapel is listed by Cadw (Grade I), which is the status given to the most special buildings/structures.

(Thanks to Gareth Jenkins for the photo of Foel Tŵr).

The Sustainable Development Fund

This Fund provides grants for projects that benefit the environment, the economy, culture or the community in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There is emphasis on innovative projects and ones that develop and trial new ways of living more sustainably. Up to 75% of costs could be contributed.

Here is a taster of some of the projects that were supported over the past few months here in Llŷn....

St. Beuno's Church, Clynnog Fawr

St Beuno's Church is located in the centre of the village of Clynnog Fawr on the northern coast of Llŷn. This is a historically important location on the Pilgrims' Path.

Following the damage that was caused after part of the surrounding wall in the cemetery collapsed, the Clynnog Fawr Community Council has led a project to improve the Church site over the past few months.

In addition to funding from the Sustainable Development Fund, funding was also contributed by the Community Council itself and Gwynedd Council.



St Peter's Church, Pwllheli

A project was supported to undertake internal improvements in St Peter's Church in Pwllheli. This is a striking building in the town centre which has been listed by Cadw (Grade II). As well as a place of worship, the Church is home to a number of important services such as Pwllheli Food Bank. Also, every Wednesday morning, a Rural Market is held where local and fresh produce and craft work etc. are on offer - under the care of the workers from Popty Prysor, Canolfan y Gwystl.

Canolfan y Gwystl is a day centre for adults with learning difficulties and the Market is undoubtedly an opportunity for users to be part of society and to practise valuable skills.

To find out more about the Church and all its services, visit -

www.facebook.com/BroEnlli

Balchder Bro

This is a project led by Ysgol Llanbedrog, which held a series of interesting activities to develop an appreciation among pupils of their area and to celebrate all of the special features we have here. Catrin Williams and Tess Urbanska were welcomed to the School to hold fun-filled art workshops and Myrddin ap Dafydd held a literature workshop giving pupils a taste of the meanings of place names and teaching them about associated folklore and traditions.



Also, the children were busy planting Daffodil bulbs in troughs around the village.



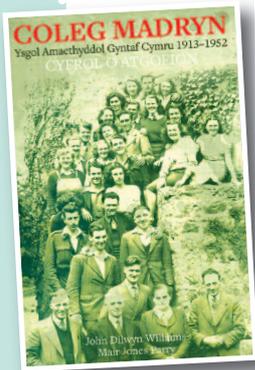
Coleg Madryn – Wales' First Agricultural School 1913-1952

During November 2017, the reunion of the Coleg Madryn and Glynllifon Ex-Students Association was held at the Nanhoron Hotel, Nefyn. On the night, there was an opportunity to launch a special book - Coleg Madryn, Ysgol Amaethyddol Gyntaf Cymru 1913-1952 (Coleg Madryn, Wales' First Agricultural School 1913-1952).

This book by John Dilwyn Williams and Mair Jones Parry is a very valuable source of information about an important and significant organisation in its day. It provides an interesting snapshot of life in the college from those early years on the historic site of Madryn mansion, up to 1952 - when it re-located to a new site in Glynllifon.

The book itself includes the history of the school's establishment and has a collection of some of the ex-students' memories with a series of photographs.

As well as funding from the Sustainable Development Fund, several other agencies and organisations had contributed towards the work. The book was published by Gwasg Carreg Gwalch and it is available from local retailers.



Mair Jones Parry, Elin Wyn Hughes (Llŷn AONB) and John Dilwyn Williams
Photo by Dewi Wyn

Edern Playing Field

Work is in progress at present to re-develop the playing field in Edern. For a number of years, the park has been closed but an active crew of volunteers have been collecting funds for its regeneration and development as a safe and fun space for families in the area. Funding from the Fund was of assistance to landscape the park's surroundings, to plant trees and to create paths.

Eglwys Newydd, Aberdaron

Eglwys Newydd in Aberdaron is located a stone's throw from the centre of the village nearby Bodernabwy Farm.

This is an interesting and striking building that was constructed in 1841 following a decision by villagers to leave the original church above the beach. That church has been consecrated to Saint Hywyn and dates back to the fifth century - it is likely that it had been in poor condition at the time and at risk of being lost to the sea.

At the beginning of the year, a project by the Friends of Eglwys Newydd was supported to undertake improvements in the building and local joiners adapted and widened the access and also adapted the seats. This will maintain the building for the future and ensure that it is suitable for different services and concerts.

The Church's interesting history and the latest news can be found here:-

www.eglwys-newydd-aberdaron.org.uk



Meillionydd Project

During summer 2017, it was a pleasure to welcome back staff and volunteers from Bangor University to Llŷn to undertake their archaeological project on the Meillionydd site in Rhiw.

Funding from the Sustainable Development Fund assisted in holding open days on the site, which offered an opportunity for the public and school pupils to learn more about life in one of Llŷn's primitive communities. These photos show



the children of Ysgol Pont y Gof having a taste of these discoveries in the company of Rhys Mwyn and Llŷr Titus.

Further details about the project, discoveries over the years and latest information can be found on this website - <http://meillionydd.bangor.ac.uk>

'we will remember them'

'We Will Remember Them'

THE FIRST WORLD WAR IN LLŷN (1914-18)

Elfed Gruffydd recently worked on a research project, looking at the impact of the World Wars on behalf of the AONB Service. He has published many articles in Llanw Llŷn on the subject and has also given talks locally. Here is a summary of some of the local facts and stories on the War:

- Llŷn lost over 400 men, a portion of a whole generation - and they are commemorated at the North Wales Memorial in Bangor and at memorials across the region.
- A month after the war was announced, a meeting was held in Tudweiliog and two dozen men volunteered to join the army.
- Rev. John Williams, Brynsiencyn, and David Lloyd George's wife addressed a crowd in Pwllheli (only five enlisted).
- 1,300 soldiers came to Pwllheli and the area on exercise early in 1915. It was said in the press that 'the town's women should be prevented from communicating with the soldiers ... in case they fell to temptation.'
- Refugees from Belgium received a warm welcome. A concert was held in Abersoch to raise funds to support them and soon thereafter, the Belgians themselves were presenting items. When leaving Llŷn, they said that they would never forget the kindness of the local residents.
- Over 300 people joined the "Llŷn and Eifionydd" Battalion as volunteers, and the Colonel noted that he had visited 53 companies, but none had done 'such a perfect job as the Pwllheli Company'.
- Exemption was granted for the sixth son of Ifor Davies, Glandulyn, Abersoch, by the tribunal as four of his sons were in the army and one in the navy.
- Thomas Salisbury, a gamekeeper on the Madryn estate, and his wife lost three sons in the war, nevertheless, his fourth son had to go to battle.
- Britain imported 60% of its food and there was a threat to the merchant ships that carried supplies. The appeal was to 'Produce!' but servants had been lost from the land due to conscription and farmers found it difficult to produce.
- Food became expensive for the housewife and toward the end of the war, meat, butter and cheese were rationed but a supply of flour and cheese arrived from Canada.
- The work of the warreners was essential to prevent rabbits from infesting and ruining the crops; the meat was also an important food source.



Aberdaron



Dinas



Sarn Mellteyrn

'we will remember them'

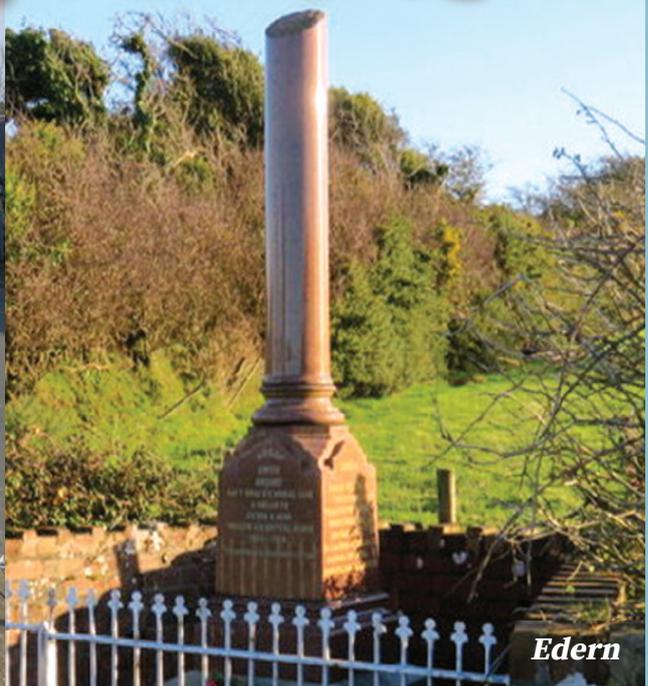


Pwllheli

- The Madryn Agricultural College was established in 1913 and it was a way of introducing new and more effective methods of farming during the war.
- There was a campaign to cultivate the land and grow crops, e.g. drain land surrounding the Soch river and land was yielded from the Pwllheli golf course.
- The local community became closer and honour was brought to cultural societies. Concerts and activities were arranged to raise funds to support local soldiers.
- Charities were set up and flag selling days were arranged for the benefit of the British Red Cross and the Russian Flag Day.
- School children would collect eggs and they would be sent, dozens at a time, to the hospitals.
- Sailors would come ashore after shipwrecks. Once, 14 landed in Aberdaron and they were given shelter, food and clothes before being sent to Pwllheli to catch the train.
- There was demand for manganese in the weapons industry, and temporary success was had in the mines of the Rhiw area.
- David Lloyd George used every public opportunity he had to promote the war. His annual speech at the Bangor National Eisteddfod in 1915 gained fierce support from the crowd of 9,000 people.
- Early in 1919, Griffith of Hirwaun House, Pwllheli offered a silver spoon with an inscription on it for any child born between 5 and 11 on the morning of 11 November 1918.



Nefyn



Edern

2018

Events

Here is a list of events arranged by the Llŷn AONB Service. They are a great opportunity to enjoy and celebrate the area and to socialise.

Talks on Local History

Llŷn Smugglers with Twm Elias

**Friday Evening, May 18th -
Sarn Mellteyrn Village Hall, 7:30pm.**

Llŷn, with its remote beaches and secret coves has been a haven to smugglers over the centuries.

This talk will give an insight into those turbulent times, by presenting interesting stories and colourful characters.

History of the Bodfel Estate with John Dilwyn Williams

**Wednesday Evening, June 6th -
Llanor Village Hall, 7:30pm.**

This talk in the company of a local historian, will be looking at one of the old estates in Llŷn. This area is dotted with country houses and estates that have centuries of very interesting history.

The history of the Bodfel mansion in the parish of Llanor, dates back to the 16th Century, and was home to a notable family who sponsored poets.

Llŷn Place Names with Twm Elias

**Friday Evening, June 15th -
Sarn Mellteyrn Village Hall, 7:30pm.**

Place names in Llŷn and Snowdonia contribute greatly to the area's character. They are all Welsh names, and often have historic connections or derive from interesting tales.

It's sad to see many examples locally of names on houses and locations changing to foreign names. It is our duty to keep these native names alive, appreciate them and to prevent parts of our history from being forgotten. Join us for a cup of tea and a chat with interesting company!

Entry to these talks is free of charge with refreshments available as well as a simultaneous translation service for non-Welsh speakers.

Guided Walks

Sunday, September 9th - Coed Cwm Gwared

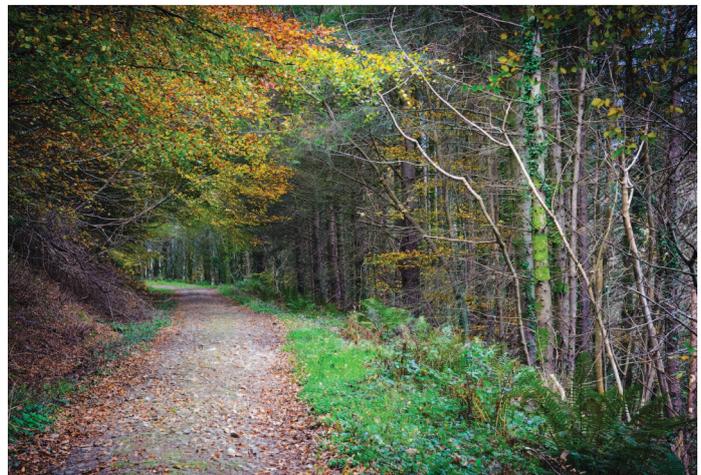
Twm Elias will be leading a nature walk through this special woodland, situated between the mountains of Bwlch Mawr and Gyrn Goch. The site is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest base on the wildlife there. This circular route starts and finishes at Gyrn Goch.

Sunday, September 16th - Plas yn Rhiw

Cynan Jones, owner of The Mushroom Garden / Yr Ardd Fadarch - (www.snowdoniamushrooms.co.uk) will join us through the woodland at Plas yn Rhiw. There will be an opportunity to enjoy the wealth of wildlife there and look in particular and learn about different fungi with an expert.

Sunday, September 23rd - Nefyn

This is a circular walk in the company of Meinir Pierce Jones, a native of Nefyn, who is also the manager of the Llŷn Maritime Museum. We will begin and finish the walk at the Museum. Nefyn has a rich history with the herring fishing and ship-building industries that thrived for centuries. We will also hear many interesting stories such as the visit from the King of England, Edward I in 1283.



Booking is essential for these walks.
Contact us for more details.

Call 01758 704 176

E-mail ahnellynaonb@gwynedd.llyw.cymru