

Llyn

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



No 11 • 2017

www.ahne-llyn-aonb.org

Llygad Llyn

Llyn AONB Newsletter

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Published by
Llyn AONB Service



Printed by
Gwasg Carreg Gwalch,
Llwyndyrys and Llanrwst



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Cover photo
Yr Eifl from Aberdesach

Welcome to the 2017 edition of Llygad Llyn – the annual newsletter for the Llyn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The newsletter's purpose is to provide background information about the area and its special designation and to report about the recent work of the Llyn AONB Team – as well as other partners who work for the benefit of the area.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

AONB stands for an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Llyn 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.

Llyn Peninsula

The main basis for designating parts of Llyn 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 Llyn AONB Joint-Advisory Committee

The Llyn 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 Llyn, 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. Also, there is a Sub-Committee (known as the Grants Panel) that decides on applications for a grant from the Sustainable Development Fund.

The Llyn AONB Team

The Unit has two members of staff:

Bleddyn Prys Jones

Llyn AONB Officer

As the Llyn 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

Llyn 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 Llyn AONB and assists with updating the Management Plan.

Contact Details

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Llŷn Cycle Routes

At the beginning of March this year, the Llŷn Cycle Routes were launched at Sarn Mellteyrn with a new Information leaflet. Four routes are part of the scheme – four in Llŷn and one in Eifionydd. The routes were developed originally back in 2003/04 by Visit Wales as part of a cycling holiday project – but they had not been maintained or promoted for a long time.

As cycling is a beneficial activity and a sustainable way of travelling, it was decided to use a share of the AONB Service's project funding to re-launch and promote the cycle routes in 2016/17.

The project was developed jointly with Sustrans, a charity for sustainable travel. Sustrans undertook a review of the routes and related signs to recognise any short-comings and make recommendations in terms of re-launching the routes. Following this, new signs were ordered and installed to clearly show the directions of the routes (both ways). Also, a new leaflet was created with Sustrans, to promote the routes with local people and visitors.

The leaflet contains general information about the routes (including distance), a map and useful information about the facilities along the way. Also, there is information about useful local contacts and advice on how to cycle safely.

We hope that the routes will encourage people and children to travel by bike – which is a great way of exercising, saving money – and enjoying the area's beauty!

For a copy of the new leaflet, they are available from many local attractions such as Plas Heli, Nant Gwrtheyrn and Porth y Swnt in Aberdaron. Also, a PDF copy is available on the AONB's website or you can contact the AONB Service for a copy through the post.

We hope that the leaflet will be popular with local people and tourists alike and that they can be shared through local tourism based businesses such as Bed and Breakfast and self-catering accommodations and camping / caravan sites.



Bleddyn Jones, Llŷn AONB Officer and Elin Hughes, Llŷn AONB Projects Officer

Our contact details if you need more information or copies of the leaflet are:

Phone 01758 704 176/ 155

E-mail ahnellynaonb@gwynedd.llyw.cymru



Developing the Coastal Path



improving the AONB's environment

As part of the continuing work of developing and improving the Coastal Path around Penrhyn Llŷn, new sections were recently opened in the Aberdaron and Rhiw areas.

By now, the Path has been completed between Aberdaron and Porth Ysgo and another between Treheli (Rhiw) and Porth Ysgo from the other direction. The work is continuing to create a Path between Penarfynydd and Porth Ysgo.

This work has opened up a part of the coast which had no previous access to it and according to Rhys Roberts, Coastal Path Project Officer, Gwynedd Council,

“This Path offers fantastic views of Aberdaron, Enlli and Cardigan Bay”.

All of the work was funded by the Wales Coastal Path project, through Welsh Government.



A copy of the map showing route of the Coastal Path in Llŷn is available on the following website www.llwybrarfordircymru.gov.uk

Porth Ysgo, Maen Gwenonwy, Ynysoedd Gwylanod and Enlli in the distance.

Clearing at Porth Neigwl

Clearing work was recently undertaken again at Porth Neigwl on 19th March with Keep Wales Tidy arranging a successful clearing event.

25 volunteers were present and 10 Bangor University students and here once more is a fine example of joint-working to protect and improve our special environment.

Such days are held regularly at various locations in Llŷn and anyone is welcome to come along and help.

You can contact Lee Oliver (Gwynedd Project Officer) for more information lee.oliver@keepwalestidy.cymru or look at our website in the section where events are advertised – www.ahne-llyn-aonb.org



Ffynnon Aelrhiw



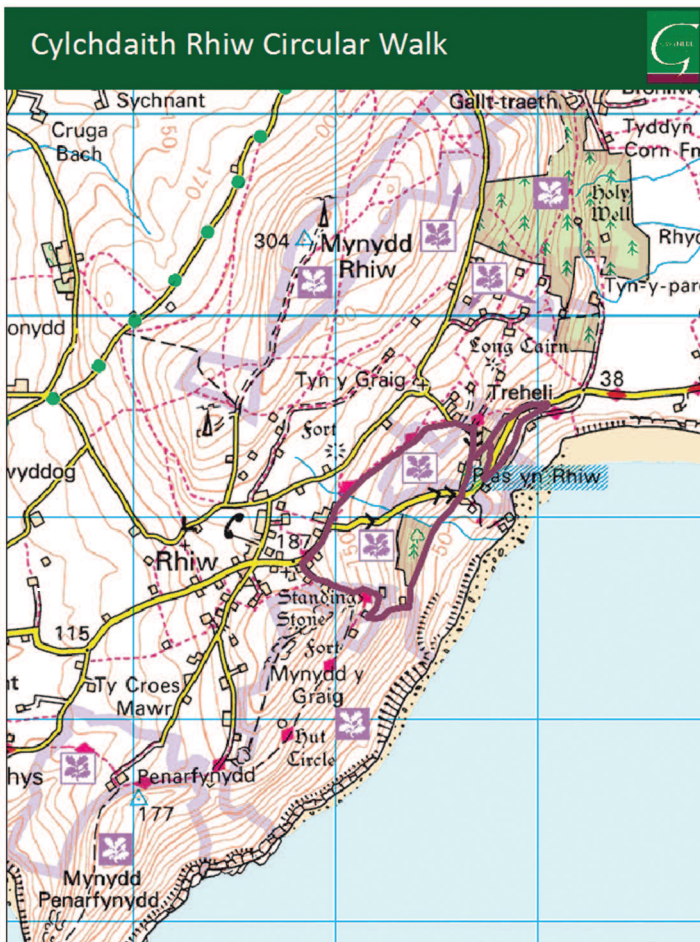
Access Project



Ffynnon Aelrhiw is located on the slopes of Mynydd Rhiw and is one of the area's most historic and holy wells. In the past, people would visit hoping to be cured from many conditions and according to folklore, its waters were beneficial to certain skin diseases. Ffynnon Aelrhiw has been listed (Grade II) by CADW due to its significance.

Until recently, the well was seriously overgrown and in a poor condition – eventhough the AONB Service have cleared the site on numerous occasions.

This year, a new project was undertaken to maintain it, protect it from livestock and improve access to visitors. With Welsh Government funding for access projects, local contractors opened a ditch to improve drainage. Also, the well itself was cleared, railings to protect from livestock were renewed and a path was created leading up to it from a public footpath. The aim is for the well to be protected for the next few years and that many visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate it.



The well is located in a popular position, being part of the same circular routes as our guided walk in Nant Gwrtheyrn (see page 8-9). The walk starts and finishes at the car park in Plas yn Rhiw and it's an exceptionally beautiful walk with many interesting features along the way, looking down on Porth Neigwl.



Improving the AONB's Environment

improving the AONB's environment

Over the years, the Llyn AONB Service has implemented many projects relating to road signs and milestones. By now, nearly every village in the area has the traditional black and white sign and many fingerposts have been restored.

Also, a survey was commissioned into the character of our rural roads. The report highlighted the importance of keeping the traditional signs but also came to the conclusion that some signs impaired the character of these roads. There were some unnecessary signs in some locations, others were in a poor condition and some poles did not have any signs on them at all.

At the end of 2016, following a discussion with the Highways and Traffic Department, some of the Service's project fund was used to remove certain "matrix" (flashing) signs from the villages of Edern, on the outskirts of Sarn Mellteyrn and Botwnnog. These signs had been installed quite a while ago but had not been working for some time and were in disrepair. These photos show Sarn Mellteyrn and Edern before and after removing the signs – and they clearly show the visual benefit of removing such untidy signage.

The AONB Service hope to do further similar works in the near future.



Exploring Llŷn's Coast

Nant Gwrtheyrn



Nant Gwrtheyrn was the location of one of our guided walks during 2016. It was an interesting walk with the meeting place at the car park above the Nant.

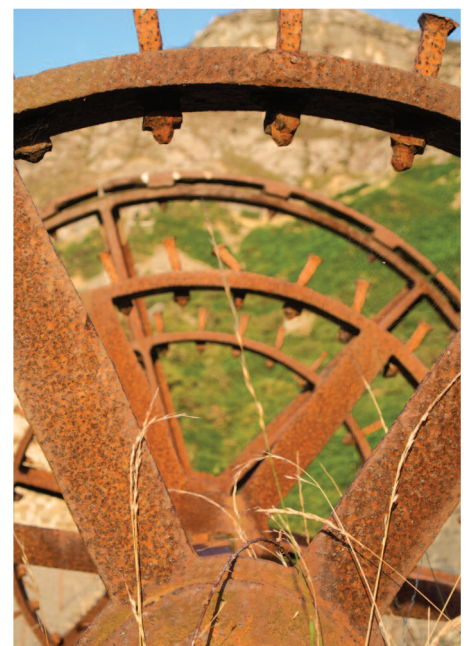
By now, Nant Gwrtheyrn is a National Language Centre and Heritage Centre and people come here from all over to attend Welsh learning courses. Also, the site is a popular and ideal location for all kinds of conferences and weddings.

At the beginning of the 19th Century, it was a very different place. Only three families lived in the Nant and the ruins of one of the cottages, Tŷ Uchaf, can be clearly seen below as you walk down. Things changed with the large scale development of cities such as Liverpool, Manchester and Birkenhead. There was great demand at the time for building materials and granite sets to build solid roads and three quarries were opened – Cae'r Nant, Porth y Nant and Carreg y Llam. People moved here and by the 1886 census, the Nant's population grew significantly to over 200 people.

Terraced houses were built for the workers as well as a shop and chapel and all those buildings today have been tidily adapted for the comfort of visitors. The houses have been transformed into modern accommodation, the old shop is now the main office and the old Seilo Chapel is the Heritage Centre and you'll find inside a wealth of information and interesting exhibitions about the area's history and the development of the site up to the present day.

After walking for about 15 minutes from the car park, we had arrived the village and our walk continued down towards the Coastal Path past Caffi Meinir, which is a convenient site with excellent facilities. The café's name refers to one of Wales's most tragic and famous stories, the tale of Rhys and Meinir.

We continued to the beach and joined the Path at Porth y Nant, where you can clearly see interesting remains from when the quarries were in their heyday. In a while, we were ascending Gallt y Bwlch and into a small woodland which was a haven on a very windy day. This is natural and ancient oak woodland which is a designated Site of Special Scientific



Gallt y Bwlch and Carreg y Llam from Porth y Nant.



Cae'r Nant Quarry and the old farmhouse at Tŷ Uchaf.

Further details and maps of all circular routes in Llŷn and Gwynedd can be seen on this website - www.ymweldageryri.info

Interest. It is rather unusual due its coastal location and it is clearly influenced by the wind.

Onwards through the woods and we could see Carreg y Llam in the distance. This is an enormous cliff that clearly shows evidence of the quarrying's golden age. This is another designated Site of Special Scientific Interest, based on the fact that it is one of North Wales's most important nesting sites for sea birds including the Chough. It is said that the name Carreg y Llam originates from the story of King Gwrtheyrn himself. Legend has it that he escaped here from Kent in the 5th Century, after betraying his people – and that he leaped over into the sea whilst being persecuted.

Even though the Coastal Path continues past Carreg y Llam towards Pistyll and Nefyn, our walk joined a lane that leads up to the public highway between Pistyll and Llithfaen. From this lane, the path continues over the fields and back towards the car park. Panoramic views of Llŷn can be seen from here.

This was a circular route of about 2.5 hours and if you wish to give it a go we'd recommend a moderate level of fitness and care should be take on some fairly steep parts of Gallt y Bwlch.

It is part of a series of circular routes developed recently by Gwynedd Council with funding from the Coastal Communities Fund and there are clear signs along the way.



PHOTOS: GARETH JENKINS

Wales' Year of Legends

2017 is Wales's Year of Legends – and to coincide with this, our guided walks will celebrate some of this area's fantastic legends.

Come with us on a journey to hear magical legends and tales (some of them miraculous!) of characters such as Dic Aberdaron, Cilmyr Droed-Ddu, Huw Andro and some of the numerous Saints who have left their mark. You can also hear about the fearless Celts of Tre'r Ceiri and hear what is the area's connection with King Arthur and tales of the Mabinogi.

Saturday, September 16th 2017

Trefor and Clynnog Fawr

(mountains of Bwlch Mawr, Gyrn Goch, Gyrn Ddu and Moel Penllechog)

Saturday, September 23rd 2017

Aberdaron

Saturday, September 30th 2017

Tudweiliog



St. Beuno Church, Clynnog Fawr



Porth Cychod



St Hywyn Church, Aberdaron

If you wish to join us, you'll need to get in touch beforehand to book and receive further details:

Phone 01758 704 155 | 01758 704 176

E-mail ahnellynaonb@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

What's going on in 2017

In addition to the Llyn AONB guided walks, there are other events happening all year around to suit all tastes, from Agricultural Shows, Ploughing Match or Eisteddfod. Here is a taste of what's on. Further details can be found on this website – www.ahne-llyn-aonb.org

what's going on in 2017



Monday, Mai 1st – Nefyn Agricultural Show

Saturday, May 6th – Sarn and District Ploughing Match (at Meillionydd Bach, Y Rhiw)

Saturday, August 12th – Tudweiliog Agricultural Show



National Trust

Saturday, June 17th –

Blas y Môr Porthdinllaen

Tasting local seafood, music, paddle-boarding and children's activities

Saturday, July 1st –

Blas y Môr Aberdaron.

Tasting local seafood, music, paddle-boarding and children's activities

Friday, August 4th –

Fun Day at Porthor

Wednesday, August 9th –

Fun Day at Llanbedrog



Llyn Maritime Museum and Heritage Centre

A series of interesting talks at the Museum, Stryd y Mynach, Nefyn – 7:30pm. Entry is £3.50 including tea/coffee and biscuits. In every Welsh medium talk, a simultaneous translation service will be available.

Thursday, August 3rd – Croesi'r Iwerydd yn Ghost Rider Crossing the Atlantic in Ghost Rider (Nerys Kimberley and Ken Fitzpatrick) at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, August 10th – Archaeological Dig at Meillionydd (Raimund Karl a Katharina Moeller) at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, August 17th – Oes 'na le i hogyn fynd yn llongwr? (Dr Huw Roberts) (Would you like to take a young lad as crew member?) at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, August 24th – The Wreck of the Royal Charter ((Peter Day) at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, August 31st – My Love Affair with Lord Nelson : Y Garwriaeth (Meinir Pierce Jones) at 7.30 p.m.



The Sustainable Development Fund

This Fund provides a grant for projects that benefit the environment, the economy, culture and community in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There is emphasis on innovative projects and ones that develop and explore ways of living more sustainably. We could provide up to 75% of your costs.

Here are a few examples of projects supported during the last few months in Llŷn....

Llŷn's Wells

With support from the Fund, Keep Wales Tidy has recently led a project relating to very important historical features here in Llŷn.

The area has numerous wells that are connected to centuries of history. There are extraordinary stories relating to some, as well as interesting reports of various rituals and beliefs. Some are in good condition and have been restored over the years and celebrated. However, there are some that have either been forgotten, in a poor condition or damaged. This means that a large part of our heritage is in danger of being lost forever.

This project explored the area's wells, assessed their condition and recorded current information about them.

A store of useful information was created and an interesting record for the future. Discussions have already taken place about a further project that will use the survey's result to undertake restoration work and interpretation at specific sites.



Ffynnon Dudwen



Ffynnon Sarff

Milestones at Llanbedrog

Another interesting feature that contributes greatly to the area's character is its milestones. Llanbedrog Community Council worked hard on a project to restore some stones that had deteriorated and also replaced another that was damaged. This is a fine example of a project that has contributed to maintaining important features of our heritage.

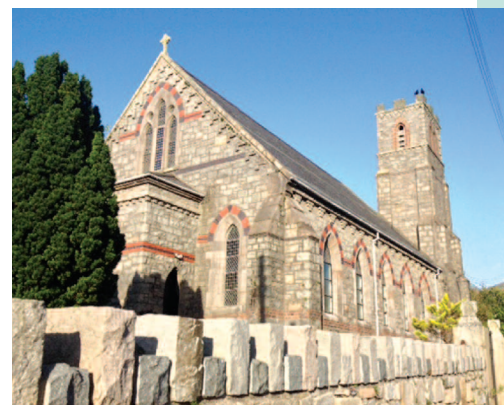


Hendragarreg

There is an exciting project underway at Trefor, relating to one of the village's historic buildings. St. George's Church was opened in 1881. It was designed by George Farren, who was an engineer and manager at the Eifl quarry – therefore it is an impressive building of special interest and is listed (Grade II) by CADW.

Although currently closed, local residents have a clear and exciting vision for its future. By now, the building is called Hendragarreg, and a committee are currently researching how to revive it and gain the best use for the benefit of the community.

Consultations have already taken place with the community, and at the moment the Fund is supporting a project to commission a Feasibility Study by an architect, that will offer an independent and professional assessment of the community's proposal, in terms of the Church itself and the surrounding area.



Talks on Local History, Bryncroes

A series of interesting talks were held at the beginning of the year at Canolfan Bryncroes, with the Fund's support. The committee have for some years now arranged a series of talks about local history and archaeology. They provide an opportunity to socialise and learn more about the historic environment – completely free of charge!

Amongst the guest speakers this year were John Dilwyn Williams who talked about the Glynllifon Estate and the history of Plasdy Bodegroes, Efailnewydd. Elfed Gruffydd attended to talk about the effect of the World Wars on Llŷn and Tom David was invited to speak about the old Siop Bella' at Sarn Mellteyrn.

Another talk was by Glyn Roberts, who presented "Llythyrau Penygraig", which are a series of letters sent during the 19th Century by Thomas and Elin Jones from New York state, but originally from Rhydlios. The letters were to Thomas's brother, who still resided in the parish of Bodferin and they contain an interesting insight into their new life in America. The Meillionydd Estate was another subject that he presented.

John Dilwyn Williams, Glyn Roberts and Elin Wyn Hughes.



the sustainable development fund



Developing the Garden at Plas Glyn y Weddw

At Plas Glyn y Weddw, Llanbedrog, clearing work has been undertaken in parts around the House that were overgrown. On a patch of land on the side of the road leading up to the Plas, laurel and brambles were removed and new plants were introduced including camellias – a plant that was a prominent feature of the gardens in the olden days.

Also, part of the garden near the cafe was cleared and plants that cover the ground include native wildflowers.

This is an example of a project that has improved prominent sites that had become overgrown. The Plas is a very popular attraction with the Coastal Path nearby. This work will also create a haven for wildlife.

Traditional Iron Gates

In the last edition of Llygad Llyn, we heard about the old traditional iron gates that can be seen dotted around. They contribute greatly to Llyn's character but are now declining in numbers.

Many of them have been replaced with tube gates that are galvanised, and they do not have the same style or character as the previous traditional types. From those that have survived, many are in a poor condition, damaged or rusted – and others have been removed in order to widen gateways for modern machines.

This is an example of a recent project in the parish of Llanengan where a new traditional gate created by a local craftsman was installed. With contribution from the Fund, the costs to the landowner were significantly lower. The previous gate was in a poor condition and an obvious improvement has been made in a very popular location.

If any landowner wishes to undertake such a project, please get in touch to see how the Sustainable Development Fund can contribute to your costs. The location will need to be in a public area (such as on the side of the road or a path).



the old



... and the new



Storytelling and Creating, Bus Tours and a Pub-Crawl at Pwllheli

An application was received this year for the Fund to support a project by Tŷ Newydd Writing Centre, Llanystumdwy. The Centre's aim was to provide artistic experiences to participants and educate about the area's special features such as our history, culture and wildlife.

A bus trip with Myrddin ap Dafydd and Twm Elias was arranged in the Nefyn area, another with Mair Tomos Ifans and Bethan Wyn Jones at Aberdesach. Many historic sites were visited such as Coetan Arthur and St. Mary's Church at Penllech and many interesting facts and stories were shared.

A literature event was also held in some of Pwllheli's historic taverns. Twm Morys and Gwynedd Glyn shared some of the history of the Whitehall and Penlan Fawr through poetry and music.

Also, workshops were held at the primary schools in Llanaelhaeran and Pentreuchaf where the children were inspired by local legends and created artwork based in their stories.



For more information about the Fund, contact the Projects Officer. We can discuss any project and assist with your application form.
Phone 01758 704 176

Tre'r Ceiri

One of the AONB Service's aims is to raise awareness of important local historical sites. In cooperation with the Llyn Landscape Partnership, interpretation panels have been installed recently near some of the area's most popular and prominent hillforts (Garn Boduan, Garn Fadryn a Thre'r Ceiri).

Also, information panels were placed in some of Llyn's old harbours such as Porth Colmon and Porthor. In their heyday these were bustling locations of trade and they are still popular destinations to visit during the holiday season.

At present the AONB Service is working on a project to raise awareness and improve access to Tre'r Ceiri. This hillfort is of one of special importance due to its size and because it's so well preserved. It dates back to the Iron Age and according to historians and archaeologists around 400 people lived there at one time. The remains of the substantial outer walls and many of the round houses can still be clearly seen today. Over the years many archaeological finds have been made – artefacts such as flints, pottery and a bronze brooch.

Some interpretation has already taken place – information panels have been placed in the Nant Gwrtheyrn car park and Llanaelhaearn (which are base point for paths up to the fort). Also a circular walk, which is one of a series recently launched by Gwynedd Council, visits Tre'r Ceiri. To add to this it was decided that a leaflet which people could carry with them on visits to the site would be useful, containing information about the hillfort and discoveries made there.

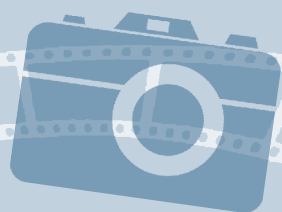
Therefore a local company was commissioned to design and publish an information leaflet. It contains a map of the fort showing paths leading up to the site and information about Tre Ceiri's development and importance.



competition

“I ♥ Pen Llŷn” Competition

Our photography competition is back again in 2017.
The theme this year is “Pen Llŷn to Me”
You can send up to two photos to the following e-mail:
ahnellynaonb@gwynedd.llyw.cymru



Prizes

- 1st** – A boat trip for 4 people to Ynys Enlli
- 2nd** – Gift Voucher (£50)
Siop Tonnau, Pwllheli
- 3rd** – Gift Voucher (£30)
Caffi Meinir, Nant Gwrtheyrn

Closing Date
Friday October 6th 2017

For the competition rules,
please see our website www.ahne-llyn-aonb.org