

Llyn

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



No 13 • 2019

www.ahne-llyn-aonb.org

Llygad Llyn

Llyn AONB Newsletter

In this issue

Eglwys
Santes Fair

Rural Skills
Training

Tackling
Giant Hogweed

The Latest News
from Plas Carmel

Cefnamwlch
Burial Chamber



WELCOME

Welcome to the latest edition of Llygad Llŷn – an annual newsletter for the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This newsletter provides information about the area, designated as one of Wales's protected landscapes since 1957. You will find lots of information here about the AONB Service's latest projects and the collaboration that takes place to maintain and protect the area and all its special qualities. There is also information about events held to raise awareness of the AONB as well as a summary of some projects that have benefited from the support of the Sustainable Development Fund.

The AONB Service is particularly grateful to have had the opportunity in recent months to work with Gareth Jenkins from Pwllheli on a photography project. Using his special talent, Gareth took wonderful pictures of the splendour of Llŷn.

This project has ensured a fantastic store of pictures that will be very effective when promoting the area and raise awareness of different sites or interesting features. Unless otherwise stated, featured in this newsletter are Gareth's photos. Enjoy!



Published by
Llŷn AONB Service



Printed by
Gwasg Carreg Gwalch,
Llwyndyrys and Llanrwst



Photos
Gareth Jenkins
(unless stated otherwise)

Cover photo
Yr Eifl from the direction of Gyrn Ddu

CONTENTS

Dark Skies in Llŷn	3
Improving the AONB Environment	4-7
Wildlife	7
Exploring Trefor	8
Interesting Sites in the AONB	9
The Sustainable Development Fund	10-14
Update on the CHERISH Project	15
Map of Llŷn AONB	16

WE WANT YOUR OPINION!

We are very eager to hear your feedback about the latest edition of Llygad Llŷn. We also welcome your feedback on the work of the Llŷn AONB Service and welcome ideas for new projects and a chance to work together. Please get in touch!

CONTACT DETAILS

Llŷn AONB Service,
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

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.

Dark Skies in Llŷn

dark skies in Llŷn

Inappropriate and excessive night lighting is now known as a type of environmental pollution. Vast lighting affects the character of areas, the well-being of people and wildlife.

During 2018 a dark sky survey was carried out in Llŷn on behalf of the AONB Service by Dark Skies Wales. A grant was received from the Welsh Government for this work. The survey showed that the night sky was very dark in some areas with very little light pollution. With this information it is intended to investigate the possibility of aiming for an international dark sky status for Llŷn.

Snowdonia National Park Authority has already received International Dark Sky Reserve status. Also, Anglesey AONB and Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB are also working towards applying for the designation. As a result, it was decided to develop a joint project between the North Wales AONBs and the Snowdonia National Park Authority to raise awareness, host events and work on the dark sky designation. A project officer was appointed to lead the work and Dani Robertson from Anglesey started in post in January 2019.

The Dark Sky Status is an international recognition given by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) to places around the world where the night's natural dark sky is of a high standard and light pollution is low. These places offer an opportunity to see the stars and wonders of the universe at their best and a haven for visitors and astronomers. For more information about the work of the International Dark Sky Association visit www.darksky.org.

The latest news on the Dark Skies project can be found on our website and in the local press or you can contact the project officer, Dani Robertson - Dani.Robertson@eryri.llyw.cymru.



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.

Cefnamwlch Burial Chamber

Funding by Welsh Government was secured for access improvement projects and work was completed at Mynydd Nefyn and Cilan. Work was also undertaken in the parish of Tudweiliog – on the site of the Cefnamwlch Burial Chamber.

This burial chamber or “cromlech” in Welsh is often referred to as Coetan Arthur and can be found on Mynydd Cefnamwlch as you travel from Sarn Mellteyrn to the direction of Tudweiliog.

This project improved the footpath that leads to the burial chamber by rebuilding a boundary wall and clearing obstructing trees. A fingerpost was also erect in the road and new railings installed around the structure itself.

This is one of many burial chambers in Llŷn – impressive structures that were likely constructed to bury people of some status or importance in the societies in which they lived.

We are as a Service very grateful to the Wynne-Finch family, Cefnamwlch Estate for their kind permission and co-operation with this project.



Photo: Llŷn AONB



Photo: Llŷn AONB



Rural Skills Training

Photo: Llŷn AONB

improving the AONB's environment

Porth Gwylan



Photo: Llŷn AONB

The traditional cloddiau (raised stone-faced earth banks) and dry stone walls are prominent structures in the Llŷn landscape. They are man-made structures to divide the fields and create boundaries to the rural roads. They were originally constructed over hundreds or even thousands of years.

In partnership between the Llŷn AONB Service, Coleg Meirion Dwyfor Glynllifon and the National Trust, a series of training events were held to learn the skills required to maintain the cloddiau and dry stone walls. One event was held at Porth Gwylan farm in Tudweiliog. The dry stone walling training was held at Llithfaen, on parts of the Wal Fawr – a structure on the Eifl which has some history to it*.

We wish to thank everyone who worked with us on this project and the landowners. We also thank of course the trainers Dilwyn Williams and John Till for their work – regardless of the weather!



*The Wal Fawr was erected at the beginning of the 19th Century following an Act put in place to enclose parts of the common lands. It is believed that it was built by unemployed soldiers who had returned from the Battle of Waterloo. There was great uproar in the area. Many cottages were built on the mountain and the land also provided people with very valuable resources. A riot began in Llithfaen and trouble for one man in particular, named Robert William Hughes who lived in Cae'r Mynydd. "The King against Robert William Hughes, for a Riot" was the charge and he was sent to spend the rest of his days in Botany Bay.



Photo: Llŷn AONB

Ffynnon Saint

Clearance works and access improvements were also undertaken at another historic site on Mynydd Rhiw. Ffynnon Saint (literally translates to Well of Saints) is one of numerous wells in Llŷn where pilgrims gathered on their way to Enlli – they were also a vital resource to the surrounding community.

Myrddin Fardd refers to Ffynnon Saint in his book 'Llên Gwerin Sir Gaernarfon' (1908) and states that it was a practice for women on Ascension Day to visit the well to wash their eyes and throw a pin into the water as a sign of gratitude.

A group of volunteers worked tirelessly to undertake this project with support from Rob Jones, Gwynedd Council. Overgrowth was cleared from the structure and the surrounding path was cleared.

Old Artefacts of Llŷn

The AONB Service has recently been working on a research project to gather information about the large number of historic artefacts that have been found here in Llŷn but have been moved from the area to be stored or displayed. The findings are very interesting – and it is exciting to see what kind of things have survived...



King John Williams



King John Williams II – 1899



King Love Pritchard

Crown of Bardsey

One item in particular that has received considerable attention over the years is the crown of the King of Bardsey, now stored in a museum in Liverpool. It has a very interesting history – and an item that relates to a tradition on the island at the far end of the Llŷn Peninsula.

It is unclear when a king was crowned on Bardsey for the very first time, but the tradition is believed to have started with a visit from Lord Newborough at the beginning of the 19th Century. A party was held and hats given to the islanders with additional ribbons to a king and queen – who would have been some kind of community leaders.

A later account from 1826 states that Lord Newborough visited again for a ceremony to crown a new king named John Williams (King John Williams I) who lived at Cristin Uchaf. We can speculate that Lord Newborough was responsible for the crown and had brought it along for the ceremony.

John Williams I reigned from 1826 up to his death in 1841. He drowned whilst trying to cross to the mainland – aged 42. His son and heir was only three days old at the time (John Williams II).

This heir has also a sad ending to his story, as quoted here from the website of the Bardsey Island Trust (www.enlli.org);

“It is said that he (John Williams II) reigned for a short period, possibly until 1918, and that he then emigrated to the mainland. Drink took its toll on him – spirits that came ashore following shipwrecks in the First World War.”

He was taken to the workhouse in Pwllheli and died soon after.

Evidence states that this crown was certainly used between the 1820's up to the death of the last king, Love Pritchard in 1927. This is another interesting character with many stories about him. It is said that he was made king in 1918. He moved to the mainland during the 1920's, as did many of the islanders.

As stated, the crown is now stored in a Liverpool museum – and there have been many campaigns in the past to have it returned to Wales. It was displayed for a short period, nearly a decade ago at the Storiol Museum in Bangor.

Other Artefacts

Amongst other artefacts in Llŷn – many have been found in the most prominent historic sites such as Tre'r Ceiri and Castell Odo. These artefacts vary from pottery to every-day tools. There are a large number of remains also found at the axe factory on Mynydd Rhiw – a site that dates back to the Neolithic period.

More recently, numerous objects vary from photographs, letters, diaries, legal documents, deeds, accounting books, clothing, agricultural tools and household equipment.

There are also artefacts found around the coast such as those from a ship named Cyprian, wrecked on the north coast of Llŷn in October 1881. Also, part of an anchor from the Roman period found at Porth Felen shows evidence of trading in this area thousands of years ago.

The aim of the AONB Service is to use this initial research and develop a further project relating to the artefacts of Llŷn raise awareness of them – and to celebrate our special heritage. An update about our projects is on our website.

Tackling Giant Hogweed

During 2018, the AONB Service worked with Natural Resources Wales on a project to eradicate Giant Hogweed, an invasive species, from the banks of Afon Soch.

There are many sites in Llŷn where invasive species have established – plants such as the Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed. These species were introduced from Asia to Britain during the 19th Century as decorative plants for gardens. By now they have spread into the wild and are a nuisance on sites such as wasteland, public footpaths, parks and river banks.

The Giant Hogweed was imported to Britain from Russia and South Georgia. It can grow up to 10 feet tall. It damages the environment by affecting surrounding native plants – and it is also dangerous to public health as its sap can burn the skin.



Photo: Llŷn AONB

Wildlife



The Gwynedd Marine Code (that can be seen on the website for the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation – www.penllynarsarnau.co.uk) is a guidance for ships and boats users – including motor boats, yachts, dinghies, personal watercraft, kayaks and canoes.

If you have any concerns about an animal which seems to be stranded on a beach, you can contact the **RSPCA** on 0300 1234 999 or the **British Divers Marine Life Rescue** (www.bdmlr.org.uk) on 01825 765 546 (07787 433 412 out of hours).



Reports were received recently of people unnecessarily intervening with wildlife around Llŷn's coast. We all have every right to enjoy our special environment and appreciate the amazing variety of wildlife around us – but it is extremely important to do this in a way that is not harmful.

In this instance, seals are the animals under the spotlight. Reports were that people were discovering pups alone and apparently stranded on the area's beaches. The pups were then encouraged into the water, when no such intervention was necessary – as the mother was most probably out hunting for food. Unfortunately, in one case, a pup drowned (as they cannot swim at such a young age).

We kindly ask everyone to enjoy but also to respect the wildlife around us, act responsibly and adhere to the Countryside Code. Keep your distance – and regardless of any feeling that you should intervene, please think carefully.



Photos: Gareth Jones

Exploring Trefor



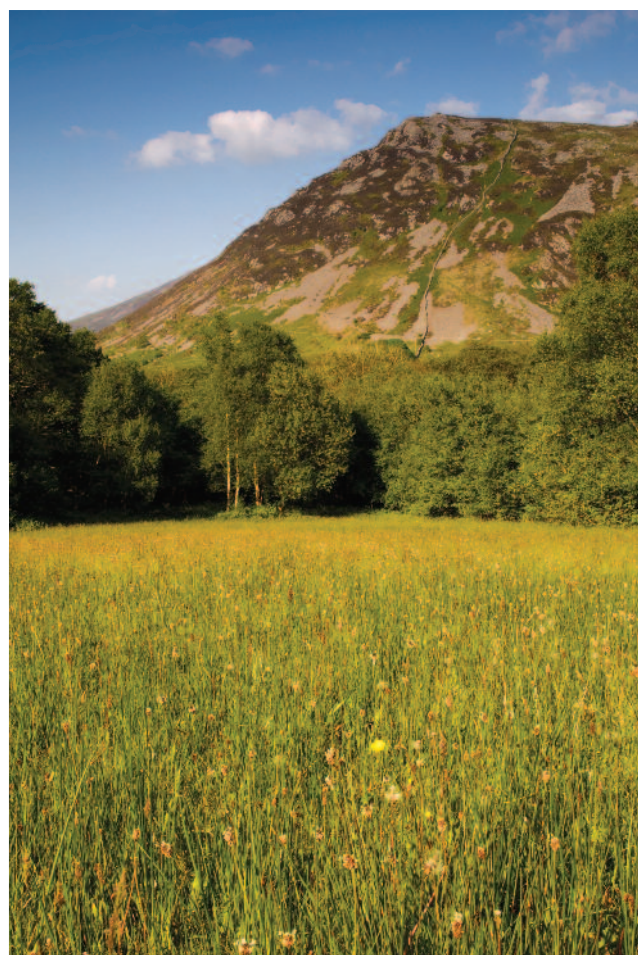
Exploring Trefor

On May 18th– we will be leading a guided walk in the Trefor area. This is a joint-walk with Cymdeithas Ted Breeze Jones.

The first part of the walk will be at Coed Elnernion, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest at the foot of the Eifl mountains. We will then walk along the coast and Clogwyn y Morfa and sections of the Coastal Path. This is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of wildlife and learn about different habitats.

Registering beforehand is essential by phoning 01758 704 176 or e-mailing ahnellynaonb@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

This walk is one of many upcoming events that are social activities to enjoy and appreciate Llŷn’s special qualities. Keep an eye open in the local papers and social media throughout the year for more information or contact us.



Interesting Sites in the AONB

St Mary's Church, Penllech



During September 2018, the doors of St Mary's Church, Penllech was open to the public as part of CADW's annual Open Doors event. CADW is the Welsh Government's historic environment service.

Open Doors offers the opportunity for local people and visitors to explore the hidden gems of Welsh history and culture, with sites across the country which are usually closed to the public open to be explored free of charge.

St Mary's Church is located in the old parish of Penllech between Tudweiliog and Llangwnnadr. Even though it is outside the AONB boundary – it contributes greatly to the area's historic environment and is listed by CADW (Grade II*) It was built originally in the middle ages, and some parts from that period still exist. Samuel Jones rebuilt it in 1840. It is called St Mary's Church, but it is also referred to at St Belyn's Church. There is little information about Belyn, but Belyau was one of Brychan Brycheiniog's daughters and a sister to Nyfain (Nefyn). Not far from the church is Tyddyn Belyn.

A charity named Friends of Friendless Churches is now caring for this building. This charity campaigns for historic churches across Wales and England that are redundant and under threat – and around 50 are in their ownership. There are many other churches in Gwynedd that belong to them – such as St Baglan's Church (Llanfaglan near Caernarfon), St Brothen (Llanfrothen), St Beuno at Penmorfa and St Cynhaearn's Church (Ynyscynhaearn). There are also four on Anglesey – at Llantrisant, Llanbeulan, Llanfigael and Tal y Llyn near Aberffraw.

To learn more about the charity and its work and to see how you can support – visit this website – www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk . Also – to learn about CADW's Open Doors events, visit www.cadw.llyw.cymru



Photo: Cai Erith

Capel Mair, Uwchmynydd

During the hot weather in 2018, some interesting historic sites became more noticeable, such as this one at Uwchmynydd. These are the remains of Capel Mair (photograph by Cai Erith).

This site is near the stairs that lead down to Ffynnon Fair at Uwchmynydd. The pilgrims would come to rest at this chapel before crossing to Enlli. Their crossing began at Ogof y Gath near Ffynnon Fair and across the Swnt to Bae'r Hendy. The chapel was also used as a chapel of rest before crossing to the island.

The artist Moses Griffith (who was born at Trygarn, Sarn) travelled across Wales during the 18th Century with Thomas Pennant – a notable naturalist, traveller, author and antiquarian. A drawing by Moses Griffith in 1777 shows a dilapidated building at that time.

The Sustainable Development Fund

This fund was established in 2001 by Welsh Government and is a source of funding that supports projects that bring benefits to communities that are in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Eligible projects bring benefits that are environmental, cultural, economic and social to those communities. Here is a taste of some projects that were supported in Llyn over the past few months ...

Tafarn yr Heliwr Nefyn



An exciting project has been underway in Nefyn, to develop and re-open Tafarn yr Heliwr (also known as The Sportsman). This is a historic tavern, located on the High Street within a designated Conservation Area.

More recently, it was a lively and successful pub. It was mentioned in a song by the band Anweledig and was a great social gathering place for many live bands. It was such a shame to see the building deteriorating and the doors shut.

A public meeting was held during January 2018 to see if local people would be interested in buying and restoring Tafarn yr Heliwr as a community tavern. Soon after this, a committee was set up to run the project and sell shares.

Tafarn yr Heliwr has now been bought – and even though there is still much work to be done – the hard work of the Committee and the support to the venture has been an inspiration. A very exciting period is on the horizon.

Support from the Sustainable Development Fund helped the Committee to create information leaflets to raise awareness about purchasing shares, and to pay quantity surveyor fees to assess the condition of the building and prepare plans.

See here for up to date news on the developments – www.tafarnyrheliwr.wordpress.com





Sarn Memorial Hall Exhibition

An old photo exhibition was held at Sarn Mellteyrn Memorial Hall during August 2018 with support from the Fund, and it was a great success. The Hall's Committee were very busy with the arrangements and it provided a great opportunity for people to socialise and see how locations and buildings have changed over the years.

Part of the exhibition also conveyed the horror of the Great War and its shadow over the area.

Other parts of the exhibition showed old agricultural equipment and tools – as well as stories and photos of people who left Llŷn during the 19th Century in search of better life. There was information for example, of Capel Enlli in the state of New York. It was built in 1848 when many from Aberdaron and Enlli began a new life in the areas of Remsen and Steuben.

Another interesting part of the exhibition were the watercolour drawings of Frances Elizabeth Wynne of the Cefnamwlch Estate. Frances was an amateur artist, born in 1835 a daughter to Charles Wynne Griffith Wynne, the owner of the Cefnamwlch and Foelas estates.

Over two thousands of Frances's photos are kept in the National Museum. Around two hundred were displayed at the exhibition, which showed landscapes and locations in Llŷn as well as ordinary people at work. Many photos also showed her family members enjoying on Llŷn's beaches such as Porth Ysgaden and Towyn and on Mynydd Cefnamwlch.

Mary Wynne-Finch, a relative of Frances, officially opened the event. There was then an opportunity to enjoy a talk by John Dilwyn Williams about Frances's background, her family history and special talent.



Llŷn Coastal Bus

Another project supported during the year was the Llŷn Coastal Bus – which provides transport on the coast between Trefor and Abersoch. This valuable service enables residents and visitors to enjoy the area's stunning scenery whilst travelling sustainably. The wonderful Coastal Path is also promoted – as well as many other special qualities such as the wildlife, historic sites and interesting small harbours. In addition, this service boosts local businesses.

If you wish to take advantage on this fantastic service and see the latest timetable – please visit www.bwsarfordirllyn.co.uk .



Gŵyl Fwyd Pwllheli / Pwllheli Food Festival

At the beginning of June this year, the first Pwllheli Food Festival will be held. This is an event that will celebrate and raise the profile of local produce, promote sustainability and boost the local economy. In addition, the event will strengthen the community spirit and will encourage pride as well as giving an opportunity and valuable experiences to volunteers.

With support from the Sustainable Development Fund, the event's organisers have been able to develop aspects such as licensing, stalls hire, promoting, marketing, creating a website and entertainment.

For up to date news, see here – www.facebook.com/gwylfwydpwllheli

The Llŷn Three-Day Challenge

Two local charities, O Ddrws i Ddrws and St. David's Hospice worked together on an innovative project in 2018. The Llŷn Three-Day Challenge was held – a guided walk on the Coastal Path between Abersoch and Porthdinllaen – with the funds raised shared between those charities.

Support from the Sustainable Development Fund helped this project in terms of marketing successfully and for training the volunteers supporting the event.

Two courses were held at Canolfan Fenter Congol Meinciau in Botwnnog – First Aid and Health Walk Leader's Certificate. Many skills and experiences were given to the volunteers who will no doubt find them useful in the future.

A sum of almost £3,000 was raised and here, Sioned Williams on behalf of St David's Hospice reflects on the event;

"This was the first guided walk that we organised and we are very pleased with the result. Our aim is to build on our experiences and hold another event next year, to celebrate the natural beauty of our coastline here in Llŷn."

We hope to see this event return in 2019 and wish the project and the two charities every success – keep an eye in the local press and social media for the latest developments.





Mynytho Hall

Mynytho Hall

Without a doubt, our village halls are valuable resources that sustain our communities. They provide convenient locations for all kinds of social events and it is vital that they are in a suitable condition, are energy efficient and have suitable access for all.

The Committee for Mynytho's village hall lead a project to research into the building's condition. This is an important social and cultural gathering point – immortalized in a poem by R. Williams Parry – displayed on a plaque on the gable end of the building.

Amongst the popular events at Neuadd Mynytho, are the local Eisteddfod every April, and a Flower and Produce Exhibition held every August.

A report was commissioned into the condition of the building, recognising the necessary work and the related costs. Committee members also held an open day to distribute questionnaires to the community. This part of the project was very important – engaging with local residents and recognising their needs and aspirations.

The latest developments and upcoming events can be seen here –

www.facebook.com/neuaddmynytho



Poetry and Arts Festival at Aberdaron

During 2018, the Sustainable Development Fund's support was given to hold a poetry and arts events at Aberdaron. This Festival was established in 2014 and the aim is to bring people together to appreciate literature and arts, music, people and places that relate to the poet RS Thomas and the artist ME Eldridge – the husband and wife who had strong connections with the area.

The fund was helpful in terms of advertising, translating costs and hire of facilities.

The event by now has grown and is a special celebration of the local culture and heritage and offers many benefits to small businesses in the area.

The Festival will return in 2019 during June 21st – 23rd. Amongst the contributors will be the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams. In addition, there will be a programme of music and poetry with Côr Meibion Carnguwch and the poet Menna Elfyn – and the former Archbishop of Wales, Rev. Barry Morgan will hold a service at St.Hywyn's Church with a warm welcome to all. A bus tour will offer the opportunity to visit sites of interest with wonderful views of Enlli, Porth Neigwl, Porth Ysgo and further towards Eryri and Bae Ceredigion.

For a full list of events and tickets visit

www.rstthomaspoetry.co.uk



Be' Nesa' Llyn is an interest-free loan fund. A group of local business people, using their own money – who strongly felt the need to help Pen Llyn residents to enable them to live and work in the area, established it in 2015.

This scheme offers financial support of up to £5,000 for local people to create their own business, or to boost a business that already exists.

As well as offering financial support, the group of Be' Nesa' Llyn offer business support by sharing their own experiences and skills with successful applicants.

The Be' Nesa' Llyn scheme is administered by Menter Môn from their office in Porthmadog and you can contact Rhys Gwilym for more information:

- E-mail – rhys@mentermon.com
- Phone – 01766 514 057

Prosiect Plas Carmel

The Plas Carmel Project is an exciting development that has received support from the Sustainable Development Fund over recent months. The project's aim is to secure the historic and unique Carmel chapel, located at Anelog near Aberdaron, restoring the chapel house and restoring the old shop as a cafe and community hub with resources to interpret the area's rich history.

Here is an update from Jen Rowlands, Community Co-ordinator for the Plas Carmel Project.

.....

Much of the work currently involves preparing bids for money from different sources. Changes are already visible on the site – the chapel roof and the house have been renovated, and the garden has been tidied. Members of the Rhiw Young Farmers Club have been busy planting trees and landscaping around the site.

We have been holding a series of talks in the vestry of Capel Bethesda, Rhoshirwaun to bring the community together and raise money for the project. Glyn Roberts talked about the wonderful artist Frances Wynne, and Elfed Gruffydd highlighted losses in the Great War and memorials in the Llŷn area.

Ioan Roberts talked about Philip Jones Griffith, the renowned news



Volunteers from Y Rhiw, Young Farmers Club

photographer from Rhuddlan, whom he has published a book about, and Colin Evans talked about the history of Ynys Enlli over the years. His talk included the experiences of his family of farming and fishing on the island and his own plans for the development of the lighthouse buildings. To finish the series, Nerys Kimberley and Ken Fitzpatrick shared their story of travelling 4000 miles over the Atlantic from America to Pwllheli.

Although the Chapel is not yet in a good enough condition to hold regular meetings, there was one short service in July when four generations of the same family were seen in the audience and it was a pleasure to see them there. Reverend Eleri Jones, who serves Bethesda Chapel, Rhoshirwaun, led the service.

Many new members recently joined the project, and we are keen to see more people coming on board. If you would like to suggest new ideas or receive more information about the project, you can contact me by e-mail – jenrowlands65@gmail.com. You can also contact Alun Jones, Chairperson of the Plas Carmel Project: **Phone 01758 760 295 / E-mail: alundwyros@btinternet.com**

Eglwys Llandegwning

A project was undertaken to improve the site of Eglwys Llandegwning. This Church, consecrated to Saint Gwynin, dates back to the beginning of the 19th Century. It is an impressive building and many of its original features are well preserved – CADW has listed the Church (Grade II).

Cyfeillion Eglwys Llandegwning have lead this project, which included removing a fence that surrounded the cemetery. It was in a poor and dangerous condition and it was replaced with a new one. Landscaping was also undertaken with volunteers from Ysgol Botwnnog planting native trees – a haven for all kinds of wildlife.



For more information about the Sustainable Development Fund, contact the Llŷn AONB Projects Officer **01758 704 176.**

Update on the **CHERISH** Project



Dr Toby Driver
Senior Investigator (Aerial Survey)
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

A new five-year EU-funded project called CHERISH (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands and Headlands) is studying the coastal heritage of islands, headlands and the intertidal zone along the Irish Sea coasts, looking at the impacts of coastal

erosion and extreme weather events. The two Welsh partners, the Royal Commission and Aberystwyth University are working across Llŷn looking at threats to coastal heritage on Ynys Enlli/Bardsey Island, the Tudwal Islands and at Abersoch. In 2017 new airborne laser scanning was flown for Ynys Enlli/Bardsey Island and the Tudwal Islands, allowing the offshore archaeology to be accurately mapped for the first time. Follow-up work on Bardsey has involved the CHERISH team recording eroding archaeology on the isthmus near the slipway, taking peat cores from wetlands to recover evidence of past climates and sampling storm-thrown deposits of boulders cast up onto the fields by wind and waves.

The Warren beach near Abersoch also has its treasures. In 2018 a previously unrecorded set of prehistoric animal footprints, including those of deer and cattle possibly dating back to 5-7,000 BC, was exposed on the beach with startling clarity. Nearby a large wooden nineteenth-century wreck sometimes appears after winter storms. However a second wreck closer to the low-water mark was also newly recorded in 2018. Local records suggest these wrecks are named the Maria and the Fossil, beached in the later nineteenth century, but further scientific survey planned for CHERISH will shed more light on their history. Updates will be posted online and shared in our newsletters!

Contact us: Email: cherish@rcahmw.gov.uk
Visit our website and follow CHERISH on social media: www.cherishproject.eu
 Facebook: CHERISH Project
 Twitter: @CHERISHProj



