

Llechi Cymru

Update

June 2026



SAFLE TREFTADAETH Y BYD
Llechi Cymru
Wales Slate
WORLD HERITAGE SITE



Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.



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Foreword

Welcome to our new look quarterly update. Our new format focuses on specific areas in The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site, making it easier for you to find out what we're up to on your doorstep.

Sometimes we'll expand on a particular item – as so many people ask us about the National Slate Museum redevelopment, we decided to give that project the extra column inches this time.

We're full of admiration for the young people who've been learning about slate heritage whilst taking part in all sorts of adventurous activities in the slate landscape, from climbing Craig yr Undeb to gorge walking as part of our Young Slate Ambassadors programme, working with Yr Urdd's Outdoor Activity Service. Open to young people aged 13-16 who live in Gwynedd, to join the programme of autumn activities you can express your interest and register here: **[Young Slate Ambassadors](#)**.

We recently had the opportunity to work South Eryri Mountain Rescue Team as part of our safety messaging campaign. Thanks to the team for contributing to **[this video](#)**.



1. Dyffryn Ogwen

As part of the Llewyrch o'r Llechi programme, Cyngor Gwynedd celebrated the official opening of **Pont Sarnau** in Bethesda, an important milestone as part of work to improve active travel routes in Dyffryn Ogwen. The new 26 metre structure replaces the old footbridge which had reached the end of its days. The old Pont Sarnau provided vital access for walkers for over a century. As well as Cyngor Gwynedd, representatives from Bethesda Town Council, Arfon and Dwyfor Local Access Forum, main contractor OBR and others were in attendance for the opening.

We've been working with **Dyffryn Ogwen History Club** to create content for a Pont Sarnau information board, which will outline the bridge's history. This is being designed and created by a local company.



Pont Sarnau, Bethesda



Old Penrhyn Quarry Hospital (Image: Donald Insall Associates)

Following months of specialist work by Recclesia, considerable conservation work on the **Old Penrhyn Quarry Hospital** is drawing to a close. The structure has now been conserved for future generations. The intention is to develop interpretation in order to share the significance of the structure and the story of its people with those who visit the site.

Renovation work on **Yr Hen Bost** continues, with the roof for the new extension due for completion in the coming weeks. It's exciting observing the building's development.

It was good to be able to support **Glanogwen Church's** 170th anniversary celebrations and draw attention to the church's role in slate heritage by holding a lecture with Dr Dafydd Roberts on Dyffryn Ogwen Anglican Churches (11 June).

Our Learning and Skills Development Officer held **creative workshops** on the history of Dyffryn Ogwen quarries, the railway and Porth Penrhyn at Glancegin and Hiracl schools. Thanks to our partners MSparc, Cwmni Fran Wen, the National Slate Museum, Gwynedd Archives Service and to the artist Jwls Williams for contributing to these sessions.

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our **Mindfulness walk** along Lôn Las Ogwen on 30 May. In collaboration with Eryri National Park Authority, led by Leisa Mererid.



Mindfulness walk along Lôn Las Ogwen

New bins have been installed around Bethesda. We're working closely with Bethesda Improvements Action Group in choosing 'Pesda' words to include in **slate inserts** which will be placed in town centre pavements.

Congratulations to **Caban Gerlan** on their very successful training session on erecting crawiau / pileri (slate fencing), supported by the LleCHI LleNI community grants programme. Thanks also for the warm welcome to Lottery officers and the Llechi Cymru team – we heard about further activities at the centre and LleCHI LleNI events and activities.



2. Bro Peris

Conservation work has begun at **Hafod Owen**, beginning with restoration work to the building's roof. We intend to start restoration work on the Fire Queen Shed during the coming months.

The Welcome Block is operational and proving to be a great asset to **Parc Padarn** during the busy summer periods.

As part of our series of three guided walks between April and June, **From Slate to Sea** - tracking the journey of slate from Dinorwig Quarry to Felinheli - participants learnt about the area's history and nature. In collaboration with GwyrddNI and led by Martin Davies of Ardal.

On April 18 LleCHI LleNI, Menter Fachwen and Martin Davies jointly led **a walk in memory of the late Gareth Roberts**, the local historian who contributed so much to our understanding of the area's history.

A huge thank you to **GISDA** for completing an incredibly valuable project organising heritage sessions and creative workshops for young people in the Deiniolen area.

As part of the development of a unique piece of **community artwork** for Llanberis, artist Howard Bowcott led a creative workshop at Ysgol Dolbadarn in March. We also had a drop-in session at Y Ganolfan, in collaboration with The National Slate Museum. We collected ideas on what text will be chiselled onto the surface of the new sculpture. A fence has been erected at the site of the sculpture and the artwork is being built in the artist's studio. We look forward to the artwork's installation.

New bins have been installed around Llanberis. **Resurfacing work** on the walkway in village centre continues.

We've been working with the community to develop new content for **heritage panels** in Llanberis and have now appointed a company to undertake their design and making.



From Slate to Sea



New bins, Llanberis

3. Dyffryn Nantlle

The **interpretation panel** for the Blondin sculptures in Penygroes is being designed and made by local company Gringo. Content for the art page on Llechi Cymru's website, explaining the inspiration behind the sculptures, is also being developed.

The REACH Heritage Exhibition on 20 and 21 April at Yr Orsaf, Penygroes provided another opportunity to view the work of Carwyn Rhys Jones' **Prosiect Prentisiaid** (interview and photography skills sessions) before the children's work is exhibited nationally at St. Fagans in the autumn.

Children from the area had the opportunity to make contact with pupils in another World Heritage Site through the **Footsteps of Giants** project, connecting the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast with The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales. Two primary schools collaborated over a period of six weeks - Portrush in Northern Ireland and Llanllyfni in Dyffryn Nantlle.



School workshop, twinning project



Prosiect Prentisiaid (apprenticeship project)

In partnership with **Project Dorothea**, planning permission was secured for the creation of a **new car park** near Petris Square, Talysarn, in order to provide alternative access to Dorothea Quarry with the intention of easing the effect of visitor parking on local residents. Work continues to try and secure funds in order to realise the project.

It was good to see **Menter Tŷ'n Llan** celebrating the area's wider quarrying connections via interpretation work, including a slate englyn by Mei Mac. Supported by the LleCHI LleNI community grants programme.

4. Bro Ffestiniog

Yr Aelwyd continues to go from strength to strength since becoming a hub for the whole community, from being home to CRAIG youth club and welcoming 100 young people weekly, to hosting yoga classes, children's parties, Ysgol y Moelwyn sessions and a variety of other community activities.

Renovations to **Caffi Bolton and Siop Ephraim** are progressing well, with contractors working hard to deliver this exciting project.

A UK Government official visited Blaenau Ffestiniog to see the town's **Llewyrch o'r Llechi** projects and had the opportunity to meet representatives from Cwmni Bro whilst visiting Yr Aelwyd and the buildings on Church Street.

We were delighted to work in partnership with Cwmni Bro, Cymdeithas Hanes Bro Ffestiniog and JW Greaves to secure funding for the employment of a **Heritage Development Officer** for the Bro Ffestiniog area for a period of one year. Cadi is now in post and is already playing a very active role within the community.

Conservation work at **Maenofferen Mill** is continuing, with the next phase of protective works underway to ensure the stability of the structure for the next 10–15 years. This will provide an opportunity to identify a sustainable alternative use for the building in the future. A drop-in session to discuss the future of Maenofferen Mill was held at Yr Aelwyd in June, led by Cwmni Bro and Slate Heritage International. It was wonderful to see such a strong turnout, with so many people coming along to learn about the conservation work taking place and to share ideas for the future of this iconic building. Later in the month guided tours of the site were also organised.



Drop-in session



Maenofferen Mill. Image: Elfed Wyn ap Elwyn

New bins have been installed around the town and walkway resurfacing work continues in the Square.

Congratulations to Marged from Tref Werdd and the Criw Cwiltio, who worked hard to create a **Community Quilt** celebrating the quarrying heritage of the area. With support from a LleCHI LleNI community grant. The quilt is on display at Caffi Antur.

Ffestiniog Town Council and Cwmni Bro were supported in preparing their expression of interest for the **Town of Culture 2028** competition.

5. Porthmadog Area

Following the installation of Howard Bowcott's striking artworks at four locations in Porthmadog last year, **Porthmadog art interpretation content** is now available on the [**Llechi Cymru website**](#). The information can be accessed via QR codes installed on the individual artwork pillars or directly through the Llechi Cymru website.

A **photography workshop**, "A Fo Ben Bid Bont" was held in Maentwrog on 3 May in the company of Dylan Arnold.



Splitting and dressing slate



Howard Bowcott artwork

On 4 July, there was an opportunity to learn about the history of **Gorseddau and Bwlch y Ddwy Elor quarries**, both of whom exported slate from the harbour at Porthmadog. Dr Dafydd Gwyn gave a talk at Tyddyn Mawr Tea Rooms, and quarrymen from the National Slate Museum demonstrated the craft of splitting and dressing slate. Meic Watts was also present, showcasing his remarkable carved slate work, and visitors had the chance to find out about new books on the area and to speak with the Snowdonia Slate Trail team. The event was a collaboration between LleCHI LleNI and The National Slate Museum's 'Museum on the Road'.

Since the start of the LleCHI LleNI project, **36 school workshops** have been delivered in the Porthmadog and Penrhyndeudraeth area, giving local young people opportunities to take part in activities [**like this**](#). In addition, Mr Phormula has led rap and beatboxing sessions in the language unit at Ysgol Eifionydd, pupils from the unit also took part in a walking tour to see Porthmadog's slate public artworks.

Local families had the chance to take part in a **STEM workshop** at Porthmadog Library with Sbarduno, which explored the formation of slate and other rocks.

Working with Eryri National Park Authority, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales survey team has been documenting elements of the World Heritage Site, using laser scanning and UAV photogrammetry to record the **1864 slate mill at Cwm Pennant**, supporting future conservation through 3D survey work.

6. Abergynolwyn

Officers from the Slate Team are working closely with a sub-committee of **Llanfihangel y Pennant** Community Council on plans to install a replica slate wagon outside Y Ganolfan. A planning application to Eryri National Park Authority is currently being progressed.

We were pleased to support **Abergynolwyn Silver Band** with a LleCHI LleNI community grant to fund activities and enable the submission of a planning application for a cultural centre.

Historian Dr Dafydd Gwyn led a **Treck & Track** event on 27 March – a historical guided walk and a short train journey – in partnership with the Tallyllyn Railway.

Local residents had the opportunity to develop their photography and artistic skills at a **photography workshop** with the renowned photographer Carwyn Rhys Jones on 23 May.



Carwyn Rhys Jones workshop



Treck & Track



7. Tywyn

Congratulations to the **Talyllyn Railway**, who this year celebrate 75 years since establishing the world's first preserved railway. Talyllyn Railway was the first railway to be operated by volunteer enthusiasts, in 1951.

August saw the first meeting of **Hwb Tywyn** at Tywyn Library, with officers from Ardal Ni and Gwynedd in the Community.

The **interpretation panel** for the Tywyn Wagon has been installed, the town regeneration project manager worked with Tywyn Town Council on the design and installation.

There's now a page interpreting the **Tywyn Wagon artwork** on [Llechi Cymru's website](#), where you can learn more about the wagon, the words carved into it; you can also learn more about the words (by Manon Steffan Ros) carved into the slate paving nearby.



Interpretation panel, Tywyn



Ysgol Penybryn

Creative workshops were held at **Ysgol Penybryn**, between 13–15 May. Pupils had the chance to map quarries of the Bro Dysynni area with artist Jŵls Williams, and compose music with Geth Tomos of Cerddamdani.

Our Learning and Skills Development Officer carried out **school visits and workshops** to help develop an educational resource pack for the Talyllyn Railway, with contributions from pupils at Dyffryn Dulas and Dysynni schools.

We have set up a '**Cosy Caban**' at Tywyn Library, offering a variety of activities to entertain young children. (For those of you in the north of the county, there's also a Cosy Caban at Caernarfon Library.)



8. National Slate Museum

Llewyrch o'r Llechi has contributed towards the Museum redevelopment project. Llewyrch o'r Llechi is a cultural investment programme funded by the UK Government and led by Cyngor Gwynedd. It is part of a series of improvements resulting from the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site designation.

As work on the **National Slate Museum redevelopment** continues at pace, the museum team have been busy engaging with stakeholders through via a range of activities. In May, the **Urdd Eisteddfod** visited Anglesey, where more than 2,000 people stopped by the Museum's stand during the festival. This provided a valuable opportunity to connect (and have fun!) with a wide and varied audience.

The event was also a great opportunity to thank the project's funders, as many visitors were keen to learn how the redevelopment is being made possible. Polaroid photos were taken of lottery players and other supporters, helping to put faces to the people contributing to the Museum's future. The stand also welcomed visits from newly elected First Minister, Rhun ap Iorwerth MS, and Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Sport, Heledd Fychan MS.



Images: National Slate Museum

As part of **Volunteers' Week** the team organised a special 'thank you' event; volunteers were invited to take part in a workshop led by Museum blacksmith, Liam, at his temporary forge at Cei Llechi. Volunteers were then treated to afternoon tea at Becws Melys.

Engagement work has included 'Toddi a Taro' and 'Her yr Olwyn Ddŵr' sessions with local primary school pupils. GCSE engagement includes The Great Strike of Penrhyn and Quarry Hospital sessions. Sessions for parents and babies were arranged in Llanberis, with further sessions to begin in the autumn.

Redevelopment updates: on site, **conservation projects** are moving forward. Around 400 metres of rail track are currently being lifted, recorded, labelled, and assessed.

Work has also begun on the site's **cast iron windows**. Whilst visually striking, their design is rooted in practicality - each of the 113 small panes could be replaced quickly and cheaply if damaged. In addition to roof work, chimneys and mortar, two concrete slabs have been laid for the new welfare unit and shop.



Images: National Slate Museum



For information on **forthcoming events** at the Museum [click here](#).

Whilst conservation and redevelopment work takes place at the Museum, visit **Museum on the Move** at the following locations: [click here](#).



9. Recent Events and Activities

We organised or contributed to the following:

- Eisteddfod yr Urdd, Ynys Môn (helping at the National Slate Museum's stand)
- Travel and Tourism Show 2026, Birmingham NEC (with Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways and Talyllyn Railway)
- Presentation on the WHS to staff and volunteers at Ffestiniog Welsh Highland Railways, Boston Lodge
- Celtic Rainforests Conference, Bangor University
- LleCHI LleNI presentation to Global Heritage MA course students, Bangor University
- WHS learning and skills group meeting
- Youth Empowerment 'talkshop', Local to Global (UNESCO UK)
- LleCHI LleNI presentation to Llanfairpwll Supper Club
- Meeting to share information and good practice with Friends of 'Valentia Transatlantic Cable' who are working on an application to UNESCO for WHS status
- 'Caban Dehongli' presentations on public art and interpretation as well as contributions from the Snowdonia Slate Trail and the National Slate Museum
- UK Industrial World Heritage Trail launch
- Introduction to Crawiau / Pileri (slate fencing), Tyddyn Isaf, Tal y Bont, Bangor (with Kehoe Countryside Services on behalf of Eryri National Park Authority and Llechi Cymru)
- WHS Course for Ventures and Businesses, Neuadd Ogwen, Bethesda
- Maenofferen Mill site visits (with Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog and Slate Heritage International)
- Lime Working course, Plas Tirion, The Natural Building Centre, Llanrwst (on behalf of Eryri National Park Authority)
- Partnership Models and Collaborative Working 'talkshop', Local to Global (UNESCO UK)
- Llewyrch o'r Llechi Partners meeting with Parc Padarn and visit to National Slate Museum
- Lecture with Dr Dafydd Gwyn and Meic Watts, with the National Slate Museum demonstrating slate-splitting and carving, Cwmystradllyn
- Lime Working course, Plas Tirion, The Natural Building Centre, Llanrwst (on behalf of Eryri National Park Authority)



10. Events to Come and Further Information

- 16/07/2026** Introduction to Crawiau / Pileri (slate fencing), Tyddyn Isaf, Tal y Bont, Bangor (with Kehoe Countryside Services on behalf of Eryri National Park Authority and Llechi Cymru)
- 22/07/2026** Troedio'r Tir - Cilgwyn circular walk with Rhys Mwyn
- 15-16/08/26** Sioe Dafydd Jôs and Proffeser Llusern – fun performances for families. Tanygrisiau
- 24/08/2026** Troedio Tir y Doctor Dail, Thomas Parry (history and nature guided walk for adults and children 10+) led by Claire Mace. Tregarth
- 26/08/2026** Doctor Dail (Thomas Parry) workshop (wellbeing workshop for adults and children +10) led by Claire Mace. Tregarth
- 31/08/2026** Dfydd Jôs the Quarryman - fun show for families. Y Ganolfan, Porthmadog
- 02/09/2026** History of Herbal Medicines with Elin Tomos and Twm Elias. Canolfan Cefnfaes, Bethesda
- 08/09/2026** Our Heritage, games and making (a session for Welsh learners). Tywyn Library
- 13/09/2026** 'A fo Ben Bid Bont', photography workshop led by Dylan Arnold. Cwmorthin
- 19/10/2026** Falcon Hildred exhibition and film. A collection of detailed studies of the historic slate town of Blaenau Ffestiniog, celebrating the career of the renowned artist. Blaenau Ffestiniog Library
- 22/10/2026** Celebrating The Slate Landscape, WHS Annual Meeting. Plas Tan y Bwlch
- 26/10/2026** Blaena' Bendigedig: creative workshop for families with artist Jwls Williams, drawing inspiration from the Falcon Hildred exhibition. Blaenau Ffestiniog Library
- 30/10/2026** A creative mixed-media workshop for adults with artist Jwls Williams, drawing inspiration from the Falcon Hildred exhibition. Blaenau Ffestiniog Library

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