

# Llechi Cymru

# Update

# March 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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CYMRU



 **Cadw**



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# 1. Llewyrch o'r Llechi Project

A cultural regeneration programme in The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site, funded by UK Government. For background information on the programme, including those projects outlined below, see our most recent annual report: [click here](#).

## Hwb Dinorwig

The redevelopment of the **National Slate Museum** is underway, with the old shop and café having been demolished. Structural and conservation work is progressing on site. Hard-hat tours of the site are being promoted on the museum's website — go and see the developments for yourself! Work is underway between the museum and Llechi Cymru to develop Gilfach Ddu as a gateway to the rest of the World Heritage Site, encouraging people to travel out to communities and the slate landscape and learn more about our rich history. The museum has been working with the LleCHI LleNI team, including a session in January where the LleCHI LleNI project manager shared information and opportunities with museum staff.

Improvements at **Parc Padarn** are progressing, with the first phase of upgrades to the car park now complete, along with the opening of the new welcome block and the completion of conservation work on the A1 Incline and winding house. Contractors have been appointed to undertake conservation work on the Hafod Owen building, upgrade work on the Fire Queen shed will begin soon.



Welcome block, Parc Padarn

## Hwb Ogwen

**Neuadd Ogwen** has gone from strength to strength since receiving investment from the Llewyrch o'r Llechi programme, with a wide range of events now being held there which would not have been possible without upgrades to the building's fabric. One highlight in recent months was the 'Un Pnawn Tywyll' event as part of the LleCHI LleNI wellbeing activities programme. This 'day rave' offered an opportunity to recreate the atmosphere and feel of 1990s quarry raves - in a much safer environment(!) - with images of the slate landscape projected onto the hall's walls. Over 300 people attended the event - a great opportunity to engage with a new audience.

Work is continuing on site at **Yr Hen Bost**, with the extension frame now in place and progress continuing with the rest of construction work.

Upgrades to **Lôn Las Ogwen** are also progressing, with the cattle underpass now completed and gates removed from the path in order to enhance accessibility. The new Pont Sarnau bridge has been installed, this will be opened to the public once nearby footpath improvements are complete.



Un Pnawn Tywyll, Neuadd Ogwen



Pont Sarnau, Dyffryn Ogwen

## Hwb Ffestiniog

Upgrade work on **Yr Aelwyd** has been completed, the building has reopened as a vibrant community centre, welcoming a large volume of users through its doors each week, including a new youth club catering for 120 young people and children. Guests and members of the community celebrated at the building's official opening.

Work has begun on upgrading two vacant buildings on the **High Street**; Siop Ephraim and Caffi Bolton will offer business space, creative space and residential space whilst retaining their distinctive historic character.

The **Llechwedd Path** has already been completed. Recently, Gwynedd Ymgynghoriaeth Consultancy (YGC) won the CIHT Cymru Wales 2025 Active Travel Award for the scheme.



Yr Aelwyd, Blaenau Ffestiniog

## Town Centre Improvements

**Slate inserts** in Tywyn and Porthmadog have been installed; the Tywyn inserts feature original words by local poet Manon Steffan Ros, those in Porthmadog include a selection of works by poet Eifion Wyn, chosen by pupils at Ysgol Eifion Wyn.

**Pedestrian signage schemes** are almost complete in Tywyn, Penygroes, Llanberis and Bethesda; the Blaenau Ffestiniog scheme is under way.

The **outdoor gym** has been completed in Llanberis and is now open to the public.

Howard Bowcott is currently creating a striking **sculpture** which will celebrate the slate history and heritage of Llanberis. Located near the lake, it's hoped this will be installed in time for the summer holidays. An enjoyable drop-in session with the artist and National Slate Museum took place at the local community centre in February, where attendees had the opportunity to share memories and contribute words to be incorporated into the sculpture. An engagement session with Ysgol Dolbadarn is also planned.

Audio packs featuring local historical narratives have been installed on **smart benches** in Porthmadog, they will be coming to Tywyn soon.

QR codes have been installed on Howard Bowcott's **sculptures** in Porthmadog, directing people to the art interpretation page on Llechi Cymru's website. The intention is to interpret all Llechi Cymru artworks in this way, creating a digital art trail through the slate landscape.

New **bins** will be installed in the spring in town centres in Llanberis, Bethesda and Blaenau Ffestiniog.

Improvements to **Pont Cae'r Ddol** in Llanberis are now complete.



Community session, Llanberis



## Conservation Programme

Conservation work is drawing to a close at the **Old Penrhyn Quarry Hospital** site in Bethesda, although there have been some delays due to bad weather at the start of the year! Vital work has been carried out to ensure the site's stability and accessibility for years to come, combining modern techniques with traditional skills to safeguard this important structure. Site visits have been running, sharing the project's progress with the community and stakeholders.

## Meetings: Llewyrch o'r Llechi

Regular meetings are held in Bethesda, Llanberis and Blaenau Ffestiniog with local members, town and community councils and local social enterprises, to update on Llewyrch o'r Llechi project progress, ensuring we are prioritising matters of importance in each community.

Meetings with all Llewyrch o'r Llechi partners are held every six months, celebrating successes, sharing good practice and providing updates. The most recent meeting in Blaenau Ffestiniog gave partners an opportunity to see Yr Aelwyd in its renewed form.

## 2. World Heritage Site

Neuadd Ogwen, Bethesda, hosted our fully booked **Llechi Cymru Annual Event**, showcasing successes in The Slate landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site.

One very special event was **Dafydd Wigley's powerful and emotive lecture**: The Battle for Slate Quarrymen's Dust Compensation (Yr Aelwyd, Blaenau Ffestiniog).

Cyngor Gwynedd, UNESCO UK, Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site and Croeso Cymru were among those contributing to our most recent **thematic workshop**, (Plas Tan y Bwlch), discussing marketing and markets in the World Heritage Site.

The most recent meeting of our **'Benefitting from the WHS' subgroup** was held in person, at Boston Lodge, hosted by Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways. During a guided tour after the meeting, attendees learnt about the recent National Heritage Lottery Fund project, which has revitalised and safeguarded buildings at the site.



Lecture, Dafydd Wigley



WHS Benefitting group, Boston Lodge

Amgueddfa Lechi staff visited our conservation project at Hen Ysbyty Chwarel Y Penrhyn (Dyffryn Ogwen) for a **guided tour**. The project forms part of the wider UK Government-funded Llewrych o'r Llechi regeneration programme, which is also contributing to the redevelopment of Amgueddfa Lechi.

Congratulations to **Talyllyn Railway** on their success in attracting significant investment through The National Lottery Heritage Fund for their ambitious project to improve facilities.

Llechi Cymru contributed to the **Bangor History Festival** with a discussion panel (History of The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site – chaired by Lord Dafydd Wigley, with excellent talks from Elin Tomos, Dr Dafydd Roberts and Dr Dafydd Gwyn). During the afternoon the LleCHI LleNI project organised activities for younger audiences.

Llechi Cymru contributed to the recent Gwynedd, Eryri and Conwy **Ambassadors event** at Boston Lodge.

A variety of partners and stakeholders attended the most recent meeting of our **World Heritage Site Education and Learning subgroup**, at Plas Tan y Bwlch. These sessions are invaluable in assessing slate landscape-related educational provision across the WHS.

In January we attended a **conference** in Dublin for prospective World Heritage Sites in Ireland, organised by The National Monuments Service and Government of Ireland. Our presentation detailed our experiences in Gwynedd developing and managing a World Heritage Site. We also took part in workshops with attendees.

Each year Llechi Cymru and Cadw staff contribute to **Bangor University's Global Heritage MA** course, discussing how The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site is managed.



Conference, Dublin. © Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland



Lecture, Bangor University

In January, the first meeting of our informal '**Caban Dehongli**' group took place. This is a monthly opportunity to come together for an hour to discuss interpretation matters. Different partners lead the discussion, focusing on a different topic each time. The aim of these sessions is to share knowledge and resources, offer advice and good practice and to collaborate.

The **2026 Gwynedd Culture Conference** was held in Portmeirion recently, a great opportunity to network and hear about sector priorities for the coming period. It was also great seeing Llechi Cymru's projects featured amongst updates.

To mark the **UNESCO International Day of Education**, we reflected on our current educational provision. Llechi Cymru has developed various educational resources with children and young people from slate communities. Over the past 18 months, we've worked with 1,000+ school pupils in workshops across The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site. We also contribute to Bangor University's Global Heritage MA, deliver sessions for other universities and support postgraduate research projects.

View minutes of our most recent Llechi Cymru Partnership Board meeting [here](#).

# 3. LleCHI LleNI: Our World Heritage Site, Our Pride, Our Future

Congratulations to **young apprentices** from the Dyffryn Nantlle primary school catchment area who launched an exhibition of their artwork at Yr Orsaf in December 2025. The exhibition is the result of a project working with artist and photographer Carwyn Rhys Jones to collect oral histories and photograph former quarrymen. There is a lovely film of the project on our YouTube channel [here](#).

Thank you to the families who came in great numbers to our **STEAM sessions** held jointly with Gwynedd Libraries and Sbarduno during February half term in Caernarfon, Porthmadog and Tywyn. Children had the opportunity to create a lava lamp whilst learning about the geology of the Llechi Cymru landscape.

The LleCHI LleNI Learning and Development Officer led 12 **school workshops** between January and March, in collaboration with Cwmni Fran Wen, Amgueddfa Lechi, Gwynedd Archives Service and MSparc. Thank you to Cefn Coch, Borth y Gest and Glancegin schools for the warm welcome. An example of these activities (Cefn Coch) can be viewed on our YouTube channel [here](#).

**Rapper and beatboxer Mr Phormula** facilitated lively sessions in language units at Tywyn, Eifionydd and Tryfan secondary schools during March. It was an opportunity to learn about the history and vocabulary of quarrymen whilst improving Welsh language skills.

The **Young Slate Ambassadors** programme has begun, working in partnership with Yr Urdd Outdoor Service. Young people aged 13–16 will have the opportunity to come together each month to explore the slate landscape, learn about our heritage and develop a wide variety of skills. In February, the group spent a stunningly sunny Saturday in Cwmorthin with Heneb, learning about the area's history.

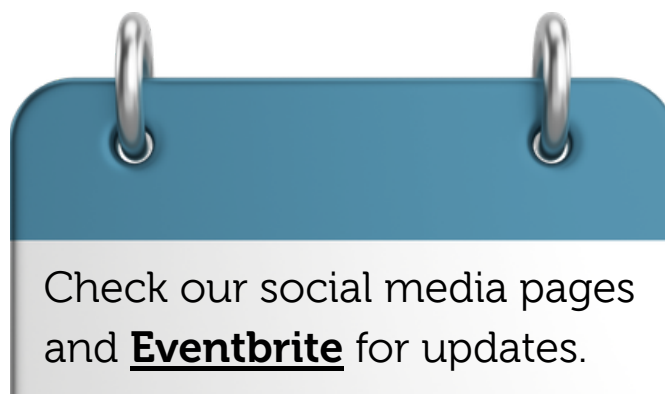


Young Slate Ambassadors



Young Apprentices

# 4. Dates for the Diary and Further Information



- 27/03/2026** Walking Tour and Train Journey with Dr Dafydd Gwyn, Abergynolwyn
- 06/04/2026** Portable Caban and Magic Carpet (families session), Tywyn Library
- 11/04/2025** From Slate to Sea 1 (history and nature walking tour), Dinorwig to Brynrefail
- 18/04/2025** Memorial Walking Tour for Gareth Roberts (history), Rhiwlas
- 09/05/2026** From Slate to Sea 2 (history and nature walking tour), Brynrefail to Llanrug
- 23/05/2026** Photography workshop with Carwyn Rhys Jones, Abergynolwyn
- 30/05/2026** Mindfulness walk with Leisa Mererid, Bethesda
- 11/06/2026** History lecture on Glanogwen Church and the slate industry, Bethesda
- 13/06/2026** From Slate to Sea 3 (history and nature walking tour), Llanddeiniolen to Felinheli
- 20/06/2026** Walking the Slate Rainbow (Pride Month walking tour), Coed Dinorwig, Llanberis
- 04/07/2026** Lecture with Dr Dafydd Gwyn, Tyddyn Mawr, Cwmystradllyn
- 09/08/2026** Our heritage, games and creating (session for Welsh learners), Tywyn Library
- 24/08/2026** Walking the Land of Doctor Dail (Thomas Parry).  
History and nature walking tour for adults and children aged 10+, Tregarth
- 26/08/2026** Doctor Dail Workshop (Thomas Parry).  
Wellbeing activity for adults and children aged 10+, Tregarth

For the latest information, follow us on social media (click icons below).

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