

Wales Slate

Update

September 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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Welcome

Welcome to our September quarterly update!

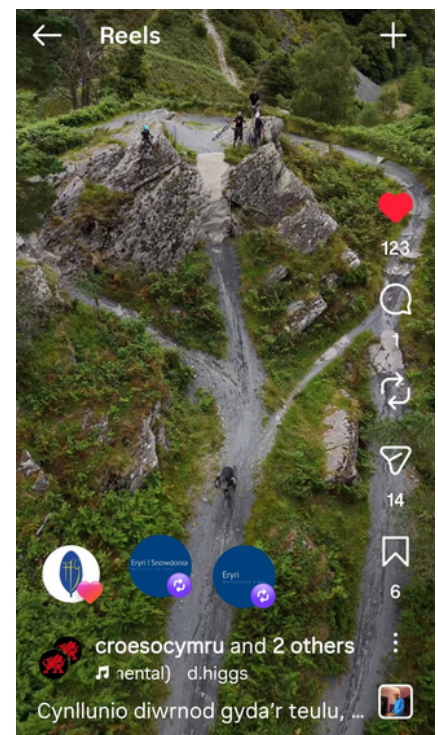
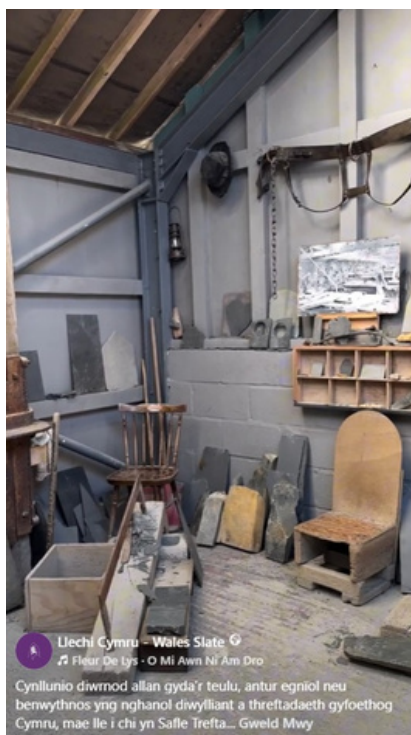
Celebrating the Slate Landscape - join us to hear about the latest developments from the Wales Slate World Heritage Site and partners: **Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog, Thursday 22nd October 2026, 5.00 – 7.15pm. Doors open and refreshments from 4.30pm.** Hear about our significant capital projects, conservation initiatives, activities with communities and schools. With stalls from slate partners and a performance by musician Geth Thomas. Tasty refreshments and a warm welcome for all. **FREE**, but spaces are limited, please book by 15 October via [Eventbrite](#) or email llechi@gwynedd.llyw.cymru. Welsh to English translation service available on the night.

Our **World Heritage Site Management Plan review** is now complete. Click on the links below for more information:

[The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site 2026 Management Plan Review](#)

[WHS Action plan Progress Report 2020 - 2025](#)

With the National Slate Museum closed whilst their exciting and ambitious redevelopment project is underway, an opportunity arose to **promote the full range of visitor experiences at locations throughout the World Heritage Site**, helping spread economic benefits more evenly. Alaw and Rhys Iorwerth were commissioned to create articles geared towards different audiences, supported by a social media campaign:



Click below to read the articles:

[The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales – your summer of discovery](#)

[An action-packed summer amongst the slates](#)

[Summer in The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales: a perfect family destination](#)

[An industry which shaped a culture](#)

Our Learning and Skills Development Officer has been developing new resources for schools, based on the themes of 'Quarrymen's Nutrition and Wellbeing' and 'Inventions and Ingenuity'. These resource packs will soon be available to download from our website. Other educational resources are already available on the Llechi Cymru website, [People's Collection Wales](#), and YouTube.



Happy Birthday to the LleCHI LleNI project! The World Heritage Site's community project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Wales Slate partners, celebrated its second anniversary in September.

As part of the project, over the past two years we have taken part in **237** events celebrating our quarrying heritage, caring for the landscape, developing skills within our communities, and promoting wellbeing.

So far, **5,759** people have participated in the project, including **3,311** children and young people. The LleCHI LleNI schools programme has delivered **93** workshops in **22** schools and has been supported by **111** learning and educational resources created as part of the project.

We have awarded **more than £127k in grants** to **22** community groups across Gwynedd. We look forward to the next three years!



1. Dyffryn Ogwen

Renovation work at **Yr Hen Bost**, Bethesda continues to progress, with major changes now clearly visible on the building. It's exciting to see the project coming to life and transforming the site.

Following the official opening of Pont Sarnau bridge (Bethesda), a **new interpretation panel** has now been created and installed. The panel celebrates the history of the old bridge, enabling residents and visitors to learn about the area's heritage. Thanks to Cymdeithas Hanes Dyffryn Ogwen for their support.

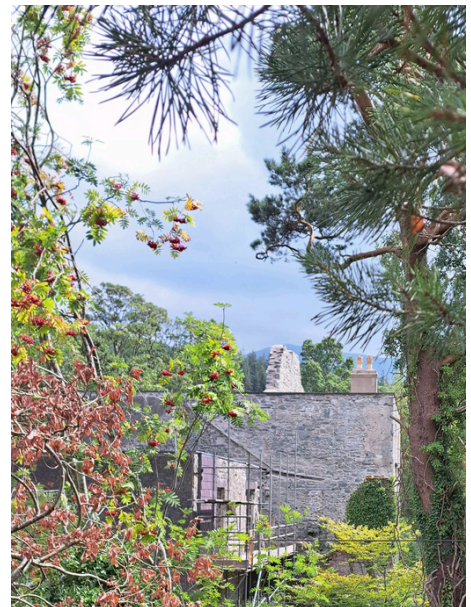
In partnership with the Bethesda Improvements Action Group, **Llys Dafydd** has been selected as the location for the 'Pesda' slate inserts. These will add a distinctive and proud feature to the town centre, reflecting Bethesda's character and identity.

Conservation work at the **Old Penrhyn Quarry Hospital** is drawing to a close. Interpretation and signage work will continue over the coming months to complete the project. A celebration event will be held at Neuadd Ogwen on 29 September in partnership with the Partneriaeth Ogwen and Menter Môn. To book your place, please email gofod@ogwen.org.

Thank you to everyone who came to Neuadd Ogwen Hall on 22 June to learn more about The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site at our **training course for staff and volunteers from local organisations and businesses** who work with the public.



Course for businesses



Old Penrhyn Quarry Hospital

LleCHI LleNI supported an exciting project led by Storiell, in partnership with **Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen** to engage with Bethesda's unique visual heritage and introduce this to new audiences through exploring entrepreneurial aspects of the slate landscape. Using a mural created by artist Nader Kohdobi (Mr Kobo) as a focal point, pupils learned how to carry out research, create QR and augmented reality (AR) codes, in developing those skills needed to become contemporary artists.

An Introductory **Crawiau / Pileri** (slate fencing) course was held in Tal y Bont on 16 June, led by Kehoe Countryside Services as part of our Traditional Skills scheme, a collaboration between Eryri National Park Authority and Llechi Cymru.



Introduction to Crawiau / Pileri (slate fencing)



Activities. Image: Katherine Betteridge
@katherinebetteridgecreatix

Various activities were held in the area based on an 1862 book written by local quarryman Thomas Parry, entitled *Llysieuath Feddygol* (Herbal Medicine), and its 'Eli Gwyrdd' recipe (Green Ointment). The programme included masterclasses in historical research, foraging and remedy-making, storytelling and poetry as well as a discussion on the history of early Welsh medicine. All activities were led by Claire Mace and delivered in partnership with Bangor University Archives, Ysgubor Moelyci, Partneriaeth Ogwen and Neuadd Ogwen.



2. Bro Peris

The **National Slate Museum** redevelopment project is progressing at pace. Conservation work across the site will preserve unique and special features for future generations. The new shop and welcome building are taking shape. At the southern end of the site we are preparing the ground for our new cafe and learning centre.

Throughout the summer, engagement, interpretation and learning teams worked across the World Heritage Site to raise awareness of the project and gather stories for a new UNESCO Gateway exhibition, engaging with more than 2,500 people.



Images: National Slate Museum

Work is progressing to upgrade the Fire Queen Shed in preparation for welcoming the engine back to **Parc Padarn** early next year. Following the conservation work on the shed, interpretation work will share the story of the engine. Some of you may also have noticed that conservation work is underway on the Hafod Owen building in Parc Padarn, ensuring its safeguarding for the future.

During Pride Month, the LleCHI LleNI project was proud to host a **Rainbow Slate Walk** with Ailsa Orlik in Coed Dinorwig.



Rainbow Slate Walk

As part of the development of a **unique community artwork for Llanberis**, artist **Howard Bowcott** worked with the local community to gather ideas and stories which helped shape the project. We are delighted to announce that the striking sculpture 'Darllen y Graig' (Reading the Rock) has now been installed by the Ger y Llyn car park, creating a distinctive new feature celebrating the area's heritage and history, as well as the domestic lives of quarrymen.



Bydd cynnwys dehongli'r gwaith celf ar gael yn fuan ar wefan Llechi Cymru, gan roi cyfle i drigolion ac ymwelwyr ddysgu mwy am yr ysbrydoliaeth a'r ystyr y tu ôl i'r cerflun.

Mae gwaith hefyd ar droed i gwblhau'r safle, gyda bwrdd gwybodaeth a meinciau newydd wrthi'n cael eu paratoi i'w gosod ger y gwaith celf. Bydd hyn yn creu lle croesawgar i bobl aros, mwynhau'r olygfa a gwerthfawrogi'r gwaith celf.

A film was created to document the development of Howard Bowcott's sculpture and can be viewed on the Llechi Cymru YouTube channel: [Darllen y Graig by Howard Bowcott](#). The film is one of a series of short videos from the 'Creative Circuit' series, produced to document the wide range of artworks throughout the slate World Heritage Site slate landscapes.



3. Dyffryn Nantlle

The interpretation panel for the **Penygroes Blondins sculptures** has now been installed, presenting information on the history and significance of the sculptures.

There's also an interpretation page for the artwork is on the Wales Slate website, explaining the inspiration behind the sculptures and their connection to the area's slate heritage: [Blondins Sculptures, Penygroes | WALES SLATE - LLECHI CYMRU](#).



Blondins sculptures, Penygroes



Cilgwyn walk with Rhys Mwyn

It was wonderful to see so many people attend and enjoy our guided tour exploring the history of **Cilgwyn Quarry** and the surrounding area with Rhys Mwyn on 22 July.

As part of a joint project with Heneb: The Trust for Welsh Archaeology, children and young people in the Nantlle Valley had the opportunity to learn about archaeological techniques at **Dorothea Quarry**. Thanks also to Project Dorothea, Cadw, and Bangor University for their support and guidance.



4. Bro Ffestiniog

Thank you to **Ysgol y Moelwyn** for the welcome as we presented on opportunities for young people aged 13 to 16 as part of the Young Slate Ambassadors Scheme.

Work on **Caffi Bolton and Siop Ephraim** is continuing, we're expecting the completion of both projects during the coming months. We look forward to seeing these developments come to fruition under the leadership of Antur Stiniog.

Storyteller and entertainer **Chris Baglin** has developed a brand-new show script for the LleCHI LleNI project, portraying the quarryman 'Dafydd Jôs'. He entertained audiences at the Hwyl yn y Parc Festival in Tanygrisiau, Ffestiniog. The character will be touring the slate landscapes over the coming year.



Chris Baglin



Falcon Hildred and Carole

An exhibition of renowned artist **Falcon Hildred's** work will show at Blaenau Ffestiniog Library during the autumn. The collection celebrates the town and its status as part of the World Heritage Site. The exhibition will be open to the public from late October. A short film documenting his remarkable work has also been produced: [click here](#).

Conservation work at **Maenofferen Mill** is continuing, and community engagement events have been held in recent weeks providing local residents with the opportunity to learn about the project and contribute ideas for the future use of the site.

Yr Aelwyd continues to go from strength to strength in the town, providing countless activities and a safe space for local young people. An innovative project is currently being developed on the exterior wall of Yr Aelwyd, where a unique artwork will be created. This will be a '**rain art**' mural worth seeing... when it rains! The mural will only be visible when the wall is wet!



5. Porthmadog Area

Musician Geth Tomos from **Cerdd-amdani** visited schools in the area to co-write songs with pupils, a fun and engaging way to learn about our local culture and heritage. Listen to one of the songs (Ysgol y Gorlan, Tremadog) [here](#).

A special performance by **Dafydd Jôs the quarryman (Chris Baglin)** was held at the Gŵyl y Banc Festival in y Ganolfan, Porthmadog – an opportunity for children to learn through listening to and contributing to entertaining stories and songs.



Cerdd-amdani video



Tywyn slate inserts

6. Bro Dysynni

It was lovely to see the enthusiasm of **Ysgol Penybryn** pupils as they composed and performed music during a session with Cerdd-amdani on 8 July.

Local **Welsh learners** had the opportunity to come together and learn about slate heritage and develop language skills in a session organised by the LleCHI LleNI project and Tywyn Library on 8 September.

A [short film](#) was produced celebrating Tywyn town centre improvements that have taken place as part of Shared Prosperity Fund investment in the area.

An information board has been installed detailing information on the slate wagon sculpture and slate inserts in the centre of **Tywyn**, the latter featuring words by Manon Steffan Ros.

7. Events to Come and Further Information

29/09/2026	Old Penrhyn Quarry Hospital celebration event and premier of 'Ein Hanes Ni' film. Neuadd Ogwen
30/09/2026	Introduction to the Welsh language and Ffestiniog and Porthmadog slate stories The Stables, Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog
06/10/2026	Session 1: Virtual Caban: Creating New "Old verses" with Meirion MacIntyre Huws. Zoom (a session composing Welsh poetry)
09/10/2026	Excavating and mining in Dyffryn Nantlle: History tour with Dr Dafydd Gwyn Gŵyl Cynhaeaf Arall Festival. Talysarn
22/10/2026	Celebrating the Slate Landscape: Wales Slate annual update Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog
26/10/2026	Creative workshop for children in the company of Jŵls Williams, taking inspiration from Falcon Hildred's exhibition. Blaenau Ffestiniog library
28/10/2026	Stories and Legends, Halloween Magic and Enchantment with Mair Tomos Ifans for families and primary school-aged children. Llanfair Slate Quarry, Harlech.
30/10/2026	Creative workshop for adults in the company of Jŵls Williams, taking inspiration from Falcon Hildred's exhibition. Blaenau Ffestiniog library
31/10/2026	Halloween Mindfulness walk with Leisa Mererid. Lôn Las Ogwen
03/11/2026	Session 2: Virtual Caban: Creating New "Old verses" with Meirion MacIntyre Huws. Zoom
25/11/2026	From Slate to Sea: talk based on the walking tours, Y Ganolfan, Llanberis
26/11/2026	An evening of sea shanty singing with Gwilym Bowen Rhys. Llofft, Felinheli
01/12/2026	Session 2: Virtual Caban: Creating New "Old verses" with Meirion MacIntyre Huws. Zoom

Look out for further information on the opening of Falcon Hildred's exhibition at Blaenau Ffestiniog Library - coming soon!

E-mail: llechi@gwynedd.llyw.cymru. Website: www.llechi.cymru.

For the latest updates, follow us on our social media (click the icons below). Check [Eventbrite](#) for upcoming events and activities.

