News Letter - Cylchlythyr

Gaeaf 2015/6 Winter

Excellent Christmas present

We are delighted to announce that the museum has earned accreditation status by the Arts Council / Museums Archives and Libraries Wales (MALD) .

Achieving accreditation status shows that the museum has reached clearly defined national standards relating to the management and provision of resources; caring for its unique collections and what the museum has to offer visitors, local people and children and other users. Many thanks to our archivist Patricia Layzell - Ward who led the team and gave a great deal of her time and effort into the process. Also our mentor, Nêst Thomas, Principal Officer Museums and Arts at Gwynedd Council for her support and advice.

Anrheg Nadolig ardderchog

Rydym yn falch dros ben o gyhoeddi bod yr amgueddfa wedi ennill statws achrededig gan y Cyngor Celfyddydau / Amgueddfeydd, Archifau a Llyfrgelloedd Cymru (MALD).

Mae cyflawni statws achrededig yn dangos fod yr amgueddfa wedi cyrraedd safonau cenedlaethol a ddiffiniwyd yn glir yn ymwneud â rheoli a darparu adnoddau; gofalu am ei gasgliadau unigryw a'r hyn sydd gan yr amgueddfa i'w gynnig i ymwelwyr, pobl a phlant lleol a defnyddwyr eraill. Diolch yn fawr i'n harchifydd Patricia Layzell-Ward a arweiniodd y tîm a rhoddodd llawer iawn o'i amser ac ymdrech i mewn i'r broses. Hefyd ein mentor, Nêst Thomas, Prif Swyddog Amgueddfeydd a'r Celfyddydau yng Nghyngor Gwynedd am ei chefnogaeth a chyngor .

Events - Digwyddiadau

During the winter we have started receiving inquiries regarding group visits. Several events are being planned and we hope to make use of our mobile display.

During December Porthmadog featured in the S4C television series "Arfordir Cymru – Llŷn" (Coast of Wales). Presenter Bedwyr Rees described the estuary and the maritime history of the area. He pointed out many features and place names and ventured far up the Dwyryd.



Childhood in Porthmadog

In his autobiography “Blas y Môr” (Taste of the Sea) Commander John Penri Davies tells us about launch day at the port at the beginning of the last century.

“But what about the Port boys on launch day? For days they had been at it trying to beg, steal or borrow a boat, and if they were lucky, they would row around the quay waiting for the big moment. When the ship launched into the harbour they would row like mad and rush for the bow to grab the blue ribbon that had been fastened to the wine bottle; paying no heed to the huge wave which could swamp their boats. But this was nothing compared to afterwards walking down Port’s street with a bit of blue ribbon on their chest and seeing everyone staring at them in admiration”.

Plentyndod ym Mhorthmadog

Yn ei hunangofiant " Blas y Môr " mae’r Cadlywydd John Penri Davies yn ddweud wrthym am ddiwrnod lansio yn y porthladd ar ddechrau'r ganrif ddiwethaf .

“Ond beth am fechgyn y Port ar ddiwrnod lans? Roedd yr rhain wedi bod wrthi am dyddiau yn crefu am gael benthyg cwch, ac os oeddynt yn ffodus, roeddynt yn rhwyfo o gwmpas y Cei yn disgwyl am y funud fawr. Pan syrthiau’r llong, yna rhwyfo fel yr andros tua’i bow a rhuthro am y ruban glas a fu ynghlwm wrth y botel win, gan wynebu’r perygl i’r cwch ddymchwelwyd yn y don anferth. Ond beth oedd hyn o’i gymharu â cherdded i lawr stryd y Port gyda phwt o ruban glas ar y frest a sylwi ar bawb yn syllu arnynt mewn edmygedd?”





Launch of the “Gestiana” broadside on in 1913

After “swallowing the anchor” then working in the maritime industry Commander Davies returned to the area to run the “Griffin” pub in Penrhyndeudraeth and later retired to live in Criccieth.

Ar ôl " llyncu’r angor " yna gweithio yn y diwydiant morwrol dychwelodd Cadlywydd Davies i'r ardal i redeg tafarn y " Griffin " ym Mhenrhyndeudraeth ac yn ddiweddarach ymddeol i fyw yng Nghricieth .

Accreditation and the Future

One of the conditions of attaining accreditation is that we catalogue all our artefacts. Thanks to a contribution from the Rebecca Trust we have purchased the MODES software which is the industry standard and the project is underway.

Before re-opening at Easter we will get all the volunteers together and familiarise ourselves with the requirements of our new status. There will also be an open evening and members of the public will be welcome.

Artefacts

The last surviving locally built hull was that of the "Fleetwing" a brig, built by Richard Jones at Borth y Gest, in 1874. During her busy life she worked in many trades, phosphate rock from Aruba and general trade to Brazil, West Indies, West Africa and the Mediterrenean. In 1911 the "Fleetwing" was bought by the Falkland Island Company arriving at Port Stanley on 30th October 1911 with a cargo of coal and then used as a storage hulk for wool and other commodities. By the 1970s she had started to deteriorate and was unemployed and lay there, a sad reminder of our proud seafaring heritage. Local maritime historian, the late Aled Eames, made inquiries whether it was possible to bring her home but a report by Mike Stammers, director of Liverpool Maritime Museum, who visited Port Stanley in 1979 as a member of a group studying the condition of the many hulks lying there, stated that she was in a poor condition. After a later visit by him he declared that it was not feasible to save her.

During and after the Falklands War local men stationed there in the forces sent back news of her. It was said that the cold, demoralised Argentinian soldiers had started cutting her up for firewood. One local resident Wyn Warren, of Tremadog, took some photos and brought home some pieces of timber which he gave to his neighbour Richard Chalk. These were recently presented to the museum. They may look like some scrap bits of driftwood but they are full of history. The late Aled Eames had the round piece, which is a trenal, trunnel or treenail used to peg the planks to the frames, to a wood specialist who identified it as made from Maentwrog oak. In 2007 the remains of this fine vessel were bulldozed to form part of a new seawall.





Another artefact, from this vessel, recently received was a square piece, possibly part of a frame (rib). This was presented by Gareth Davies, Porthmadog born and now living in Australia. While sailing around Cape Horn on a Dutch sailing ship last year he visited Port Stanley and met a local historian who gave him a piece of timber which he had salvaged. This was brought back to Porthmadog, a mile from where the ship was built.

These artefacts may appear insignificant but they are visual reminders of our maritime history. Unfortunately the museum is running out of storage space and non nautical objects are having to be turned away. A heritage centre or repository is needed to preserve other aspects of the town's history.

Work over the Winter – Gwaith dros y Gaeaf

One day a week, sometimes more often, a group of volunteers can be found at the museum carrying out maintenance, revamping displays and thinking of ways to improve how we show our artefacts and interact with our visitors.

We will be reopening for the 2016 season the Saturday before Easter on 19th March. Even if you have been before call in again as there are several new artefacts and displays.

Associated Trades on Display - Crefftau cysylltiedig ar Arddangos



Adeiladu llongau a chrefftau cysylltiedig - Gwneuthurwyr Hwyliau – Raffau – Blociau - Gofaint Longau a Ffowndrïau
Shipbuilding and associated trades - Sailmakers – Blockmakers – Ropemakers – Riggers - Shipsmiths and Foundries

Volunteers and Supporters needed

Working as a volunteer with the museum can be enjoyable and rewarding. You will meet interesting people when acting as a steward or helping to care for the exhibits. If you think you might be interested please call in or contact us by e-mail at volunteering@porthmadogmaritimemuseum.org.uk or telephone Moragh on 01766-770034

Or the secretary

Angen Gwirfoddolwyr a chefnogwyr

Gall gweithio fel gwirfoddolwr gyda'r amgueddfa fod yn bleserus ac yn werth chweil. Byddwch yn cyfarfod â phobl ddiddorol wrth weithredu fel stiward neu helpu i ofalu am yr arddangosion. Os ydych yn credu y gallech fod â diddordeb galwch heibio neu cysylltwch â ni drwy e -bost ar gwirfoddoli@porthmadogmaritimemuseum.org.uk

neu ffoniwch Moragh ar 01766-770034

Neu'r Ysgrifennydd



Any suggestions, articles (short) and news items for inclusion in future editions would be gratefully received.

Robert Dafydd Cadwalader
Secretary enquiries@porthmadogmaritimemuseum.org.uk

Byddwn yn diolchgar am unrhyw awgrymiadau, erthyglau (byr) ac eitemau newyddion i'w cynnwys mewn rhifynnau yn y dyfodol.
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