



**Amgueddfa'r Môr PORTHMADOG Maritime Museum**

# **News Letter - Cylchlythyr HAF 2017 SUMMER**



## *Open for the Season*

Summer months are here but the weather has been mostly unsettled. This actually seems to improve our visitor numbers as on hot sunny days folk tend to stay on the beaches. The Wales Coastal Path passes alongside the harbour by the museum and there is a steady stream of walkers. There are hidden electronic counters at various points along the path and last year 66,290 users were recorded at Borth y Gest.

Crabbing is a popular family pastime along the quayside and this is great fun. The poor harrassed creatures are always released back to the water - to be caught again the next day! Many of these families visit the museum and on rainy days the children's activity area is well used.

Local residents visit and often bring artefacts and descendants of local seafarers who moved away call in to make inquiries about their ancestors.

It is good to see that the tourist information office has reopened, now run by the North Wales Tourism Organisation.

## *Agored ar gyfer y Tymor*

Mae misoedd yr haf yma ond mae'r tywydd wedi bod yn ansefydlog yn bennaf. Mae hyn mewn gwirionedd yn gwella ein niferoedd o ymwelwyr oherwydd ar ddiwrnodau heulog poeth y mae'r teuluoedd yn aros ar y traethau.

Mae Llwybr Arfordir Cymru yn pasio ochr yn ochr â'r harbwr ger yr amgueddfa ac mae yna niferoedd cyson o gerddwyr. Mae cownteri electronig cudd ar wahanol lefydd ar hyd y llwybr a'r llynedd cofnodwyd 66,290 o ddefnyddwyr yn Borth y Gest.

Mae dal crancod yn weithgaredd teuluol poblogaidd ar hyd y cei ac mae hyn yn hwyl fawr. Mae'r creaduriaid yn cael eu rhyddhau yn ôl i'r dŵr ar ddiwedd y dydd - i'w ddal eto trannoeth! Mae llawer o'r teuluoedd hyn yn ymweld â'r amgueddfa ac ar ddyddiau glawog mae'r ardal weithgaredd y plant yn brysus.

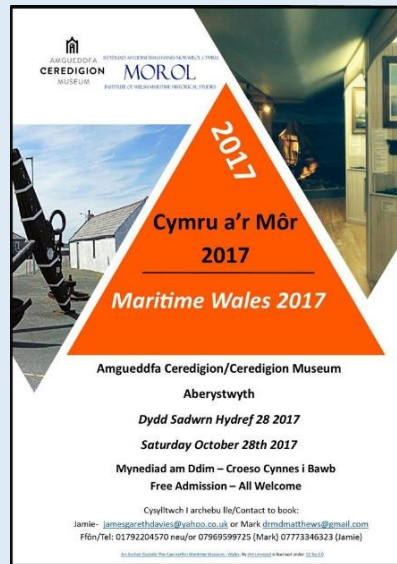
Mae trigolion lleol yn ymweld ag yn aml yn dod ag arteffactau ac mae disgynyddion morwyr lleol a symudodd i ffwrdd yn alw i mewn i wneud ymholiadau am eu hynafiaid.

Mae'n dda gweld bod y Swyddfa Wybodaeth i Dwristiaid wedi ailagor, sydd bellach yn cael ei redeg gan Sefydliad Twristiaeth Gogledd Cymru.

Yn y rhifyn hwn, mae gennym, yn ogystal â rhai eitemau newyddion, erthygl am gysylltiad rhwng Porthmadog a'r achubaeth o 338,00 o filwyr o Dunkirk yn 1940 a rhai nodiadau hanesyddol ar yr harbwr yn afon Dwyfor i'r gorllewin o'r porthladd.

In this edition we have, in addition to some news items, an article about a connection of Porthmadog with the rescue of 338,00 soldiers from Dunkirk in 1940 and some historical notes on the harbour at the river Dwyfor to the west of the port.

The Museum will have a stand at the conference – Come and visit us!  
Bydd gan yr Amgueddfa stondin yn ystod y gynhadledd - Dewch i ymweld â ni!



## Year of Legends 2017

In 2017 Wales celebrates its past, its present, and its incredible future as ever before, with attractions, events and activities in legendary venues across Wales.

We will be taking part with story-telling and dressing up.

## Blwyddyn Chwedlau 2017

Yn 2017 mae Cymru'n dathlu ei gorffennol, ei phresennol, a'i dyfodol anhygoel fel erioed o'r blaen, gydag atyniadau, digwyddiadau a gweithgareddau mewn lleoliadau chwedlonol ar draws Cymru.

Byddwn yn cymryd rhan mewn adrodd straeon a gwisgo i fyny.



Wele'n cychwyn dair ar ddeg,  
O longau bach ar fore teg;  
Wele Madog ddewr ei fron,  
Yn gapten ar y llynges hon.  
Mynd y mae i roi ei droed,  
Ar le na welodd dyn erioed:  
Antur enbyd ydyw hon,  
Ond Duw a'i dal o don i don.

*Ceiriog*

AMGUEDDFA'R MÔR PORTHMADOG MARITIME MUSEUM



Mae'r amgueddfa yn ymddiriedolaeth elusennol ac mae angen cyfeillion, noddwyr, gwirfoddolwyr a chynorthwyr mewn rolau chefnogaeth er mwyn sicrhau'r dyfodol

**Eich Hanes, Treftadaeth a Thraddodiad!**

*The museum is a charitable trust and need friends, sponsors, supporters, volunteers and helpers in support roles to ensure the future*

**Your History, Heritage and Tradition!**



Call in at any time when we are open during the season or if you see the door open during the winter.  
Phone the secretary 07866633927



**PORTHMADOG FUN RUN**

*Dydd Sul 17eg Medi - Sunday 17th September, 2017*



*16-17 Medi bydd yr Amgueddfa yn cymryd rhan yn "DRYSAU AGORED"  
Digon o Weithgareddau i Blant - MYNEDIAD AM DDIM dros y penwythnos !!!*

*16-17 September the Maritime Museum will be taking part in CADW's "OPEN DOORS"  
Plenty of Activities for Children - FREE ADMISSION over the weekend !!!*

*You can download previous editions of this newsletter from our website <https://portmm.org/>*

*Gallwch lawrlwytho rhifynnau blaenorol o'r cylchlythyr hwn o'n gwefan*

*Visit us on Facebook - Ymwelwch a ni ar Facebook*



## The Dunkirk "Little Ships"

The Dunkirk evacuation, code-named Operation Dynamo was the evacuation of Allied soldiers from the beaches and harbour of Dunkirk, France, between 27 May and 4 June 1940. The operation became necessary when large numbers of British, French, and Belgian troops were cut off and surrounded by the German army during the Battle of France in World War II.

Some were ferried from the beaches to the larger ships by a flotilla of hundreds of merchant marine boats, fishing boats, pleasure craft, and lifeboats called into service for the emergency.

One of these famous "little ships", the BREDA, was later owned at Porthmadog by the Beer brothers. She was a well-known sight tied up by the Ffestiniog Railway station and was used as commodore vessel at local regattas. During the 1960's she was hired to take part in the cult TV programme "The Prisoner".

The BREDA was built at Lowestoft in 1931 by J.W.Brooke and co for Mr.G.J. Smart, Westcliff on Sea and named DAB 11. During the 1930s she was sold twice before taking part in Operation Dynamo. Dab II was taken to Dunkirk by Lieut. R. W. Thomson RNVR, who crossed the Channel no less than three times in six days. On his last return journey he brought back a load of Dutch soldiers, from the City of Breda, who had fought a gallant rearguard action westward of Dunkirk.

In 1958 she was bought by the Beer Brothers and brought to Porthmadog where she was a familiar resident of the then quiet harbour until 1970. The present owner, Mr Simon Brown purchased her in 2003 and she is now based on the Thames at Twickenham. Her full history with several photos can be found on his website at <http://www.mspolotska.com/history/>



*Y BREDA ym Mhorthmadog dan yr enw POLOTSKA wrth ffilmio "The Prisoner". Mae'r hogan fach yn y llun bellach yn un o'n gwirfoddolwyr yn yr amgueddfa. - The BREDA at Porthmadog During the 1960s in the guise of POLOTSKA while filming "The Prisoner". The little girl in the photo is now one of our volunteers at the museum.*

## Y "Llongau Bychain" Dunkirk

Enw'r prosiect i achub milwyr Prydain a chynghreiriaid o'r traethau a harbwr Dunkirk, Ffrainc, rhwng 27 Mai a 4 Mehefin 1940, oedd Operation Dynamo. Roedd yn angenrheidiol pan gafodd nifer mawr o filwyr Prydain, Ffrengig a Gwlad Belg yn cael eu amgylchynu gan fyddin yr Almaen yn ystod Brwydr Ffrainc yn yr Ail Ryfel Byd.

Cafodd rhai ohonynt eu cludo o'r traethau i'r llongau mwy gan flotila o gannoedd o gychod morol masnachol, cychod pysgota, cychod pleser a badau achub a galwyd i'r gwasanaeth ar gyfer yr argyfwng. Roedd un o'r "llongau bychain" enwog hyn, y BREDA, yn eiddo i'r brodyr Beer yn Porthmadog yn ddiweddarach. Roedd i'w gweld fel arfer wedi clymu i'r cei ger orsaf Reilffordd Ffestiniog ac fe'i defnyddiwyd fel llong "Commodore" yn y regattas lleol. Yn ystod y 1960au cafodd ei llogi i gymryd rhan yn y rhaglen deledu cwlt "The Prisoner".



Adeiladwyd y BREDA yn Lowestoft ym 1931 a enwyd DAB 11. Yn ystod y 1930au cafodd ei gwerthu ddwywaith cyn cymryd rhan yn Operation Dynamo. Teithiodd DAB II i Dunkirk dan ofal Lieut. R. W. Thomson RNVR, a groesodd y Sianel dair gwaith mewn chwe diwrnod. Ar ei thaith ddiwethaf, daeth yn ôl â llwyth o filwyr Iseldiroedd, o ddinas Breda.

Ym 1958 fe'i prynwyd gan y brodyr Beer ac fe'i dygwyd i Borthmadog lle roedd hi'n gwch gyfarwydd yn yr harbwr tan 1970. Prynodd y perchennog presennol, Mr Simon Brown, hi yn 2003 ac mae hi bellach yn gorwedd ar y Tafwys yn Twickenham. Mae ei hanes llawn gyda nifer o luniau i'w gweld ar ei wefan

<http://www.mspolotska.com/history/>



## Activity at Dwyfor

This river rises in Cwm Pennant and enters the sea about two miles west of Criccieth. The little harbour at the mouth of the river was a hive of activity years ago. According to the late David Thomas in his classic book "Old Ships of Caernarvonshire" twelve ships were built at Criccieth and ten at the River Dwyfor.

Apart for one they were single masted cargo carrying sloops ranging from 18 to 77 tons. The exception was the brigantine ABERKYN built upstream of the harbour. At 100 tons she was a large vessel for the time and wandered far afield. The smaller ships probably carried slates from Ynys Cyngar and brought limestone back, beaching at Afon Wen to the west, Ysgain Fawr to the east and in the lee of Criccieth castle. During spring tides, they would have unloaded or laid up in the small harbour.

Fishermen kept the larger boats here and huge amounts of herring were unloaded at Criccieth up to the Great War. Boat building at Dwyfor continued up to the 1930s. William Edwards of Tan y Graig built dozens of rowing boats and canoes for the tourist trade here. He was the son of Sion Edwards who carved several figureheads for Porthmadog ships.

After the Criccieth Pier and Harbour company failed in its attempt to build a large port in the lee of the castle an application was made, in 1901, to obtain an act of parliament to construct a groyne to the west of the entrance of the river to stop the building up of the shingle bank. This failed but the fishermen and boatmen cleared several large boulders, built training walls and the little wharf. At least one steam coaster berthed there to unload coal.

### Cambrian News 9th June 1905

Marine.—Dredging and other operations for deepening the estuary of the Dwyfor River have been going on for some months, and the persevering efforts of Mr D. Cadwaladr and his co-workers have so far exceeded as to enable small vessels to enter the harbour. Recently a cargo of coal was unloaded there.

132

Today the mouth of the river is a tranquil place much frequented by walkers. The land either side is now owned by the National Trust.

## Gweithgareddau yn Nwyfor

Mae'r afon hon yn tarddu yng Nghwm Pennant ac mae'i aber tua dwy filltir i'r gorllewin o Gricieth. Roedd yr harbwr bach yng ngheg yr afon yn fwrlwm o weithgaredd flynyddoedd yn ôl. Yn ôl y diweddar David Thomas yn ei lyfr clasurol "Hen Longau Sir Caernarfon" adeiladwyd deuddeg llong yng Nghricieth a deg yn Afon Dwyfor. Ar wahân i un, roedden nhw'n slŵps masnachol un mast yn amrywio o 18 i 77 tonn. Yr eithriad oedd yr ABERKYN brigantin a adeiladwyd i fyny'r afon o'r harbwr. Ar 100 tonn roedd hi'n llong fawr ac yn crwydro ymhell. Yn ôl pob tebyg roedd y llongau llai yn cario llechi o Ynys Cyngar ac yn dod â chalchfaen yn ôl, gan lanio ar y traethau yn Afon Wen i'r gorllewin, Ysgain Fawr i'r dwyrain ac yng nghysgod castell Cricieth. Yn ystod llanw'r Gwanwyn, byddent yn dadlwytho neu eu gosod i fynnu yn yr harbwr bychan.

Roedd y pysgotwyr yn cadw'r cychod mwy yma a dadlwythwyd llawer iawn o benwaig yng Nghricieth hyd at y Rhyfel Mawr. Parhaodd adeiladu cychod yn Nwyfor hyd at y 1930au. Adeiladodd William Edwards o Dan y Graig dwsinau o gychod rhwyfo a chanwiau ar gyfer y fasnach dwristaidd yma. Ef oedd mab Sion Edwards a cherfiodd nifer o blaenddelwau ar gyfer llongau Porthmadog.



Ar ôl i Gwmni'r Piar a Harbwr Criccieth fethu yn ei ymgais i adeiladu porthladd mawr yng nghysgod y castell, gwnaed cais, ym 1901, i gael deddf seneddol i adeiladu morglawdd i'r gorllewin o geg yr afon Dwyfor i atal gro adeiladu. Methodd hyn ond cliriodd y pysgotwyr a'r cychwyr sawl clogfaen mawr, adeiladwyd waliau hyfforddi a'r cei bach. O leiaf cafodd un coster stêm ddadlwytho glo wrth y cei. Heddiw mae ceg yr afon yn lle tawel iawn sy'n boblogaidd gyda cerddwyr. Mae'r tir naill ochr a'r llall y geg bellach yn eiddo i'r Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol.