



Ffederasiwn  
Amgueddfeydd  
Cymru

Museums  
Federation  
Cymru

# Y Mag



Hello and welcome!

This is the re-launch of the Museums Federation Cymru's quarterly journal 'Y Mag'. After a swift hiatus Y Mag is back to bring you all the important news from the sector in Wales.

In this edition we have news on the Wild Escape at Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and Art Gallery, Museums Inspiring Memories from Amgueddfa Cymru and even an article on how to include Virtual Reality in your museum.

There is lots to offer in Wales and even more to be learned from one another.

## What's New

- The Wild Escape at Cyfarthfa Castle
- The Welsh Museums Festival
- Voices from the Edge
- Virtual Reality and 360° Video in Museums
- Elliott Attwood – The Mash Awards 2023
- Forgotten Voices – Female Activism in South Wales Coalfield
- Museums Inspiring Memories
- GEM Cymru and the new Curriculum for Wales
- Their Finest Hour
- Your Voice Advocacy and the Dylan Thomas Centre

# The Wild Escape at Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and Art Gallery



©WellbeingMerthyr / Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and Art Gallery in collaboration with Light on the Water Productions

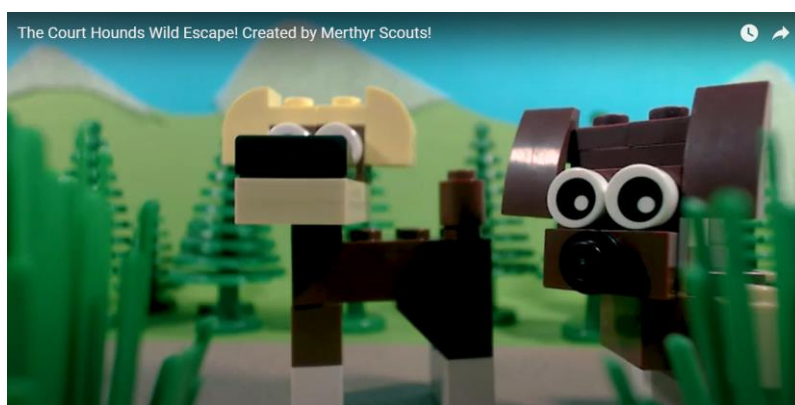
The Wild Escape project at Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and Art Gallery engaged with approximately 126 KS2 learners between both outreach and onsite facilitation.

The Wild Escape is made possible by lead support from Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants, with additional support from The Federation of Museums and Galleries in Wales, Art Fund and a group of generous individuals and trusts.

Our project centred on the creation of a Lego stop motion film featuring our King Penguin taxidermy and the Cyfarthfa Court Hounds painting. Ensuring that the New National Curriculum for Wales was at the centre of the pupils learning. They were introduced to the animal's histories, and the ways in which environmental factors such as pollution, human intervention and development of vast industries can have a detrimental effect on the planet, resulting in global warming and damage to the ozone layer. Whilst industrial history is embedded into our Education sessions at Cyfarthfa, we are making a conscious effort to acknowledge that whilst Merthyr was once the biggest industrial town, it could also be considered one of the birthplaces of climate change or global warming, through mass industrialisation.

In collaboration with *Light on the Water Productions*, with support, pupils were able to develop and enhance their digital literacy skills, alongside humanities and art and design. Pupils were enthused by William of *Light on the Water Productions* during his presentations, exciting the pupils of what they could create! The completed videos have seen approx.1500 views to date.

The key outcomes of these sessions were for learners to understand how they can begin making conscious choices to reduce their carbon footprints through outlets such as recycling and car sharing. These conscious choices were embedded into the stop motion sessions through examples like using scrap cardboard boxes and offcuts to create sets and props.



©WellbeingMerthyr / Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and Art Gallery in collaboration with Light on the Water Productions

Whilst reflecting on what they pupils had learned through the project, one learner wrote that "[they] hopes all cars go electric" in response to the question "what is the hope for your animal". Other responses included "that Doug's hope won't melt" and "that they won't go extinct". This project has also allowed us to have the confidence and motivation to talk about environmental change, both through the workshops but also through our personal efforts with regards to mass printing, sourcing environmentally friendly and reusable resources.

Watch our video here:

[Our King Penguin's Wild Escape! Created by Cyfarthfa Park Primary School - YouTube](#)  
[The Court Hounds Wild Escape! Created by Merthyr Scouts! - YouTube](#)

## Charlotte Barry

For more information please contact Charlotte Barry - Barry, Charlotte  
[Charlotte.Barry@wellbeingmerthyr.co.uk](mailto:Charlotte.Barry@wellbeingmerthyr.co.uk) or Chris Parry -  
[Christopher.parry@wellbeingmerthyr.co.uk](mailto:Christopher.parry@wellbeingmerthyr.co.uk)

# The Welsh Museums Festival's Half Term Take-over



Free Halloween resource for the Welsh Museums Festival

The Welsh Museums Festival is back this autumn and has more to offer than ever before - from a 'climate rave' in Rhayader to a potion-making workshop in Ceredigion there'll be something for everyone this half term.

Between Saturday 28 October and Sunday 5 November a whole host of activities and events are set to take place in museums the length and breadth of Wales. This year's theme celebrates the diverse history and culture of Wales, and the positive contribution made by museums in nurturing the well-being of local communities and future generations.

Events already lined up include art-based workshops in Rhondda Heritage Park offering opportunities for families to create their own blue plaques and Museum of Cardiff's storytelling sessions with Cath Little and Mymuna Bint Mahamoud. New events are uploaded onto the website each day, so take a look to see what's happening! Perhaps it will inspire you to also take part?

A brand-new Halloween activity booklet has also been created especially for this year's festival, including fun facts about Halloween traditions in Wales and across the world, as well as games and puzzles. This new educational resource has been devised to help connect children to their Welsh heritage, which includes promotion of the Welsh language, and basic information on different Halloween customs from around the world.

Altogether, the resource offers an opportunity to improve knowledge of foreign cultural traditions and demonstrate the complexity and diversity of history, in a fun way. Hopefully, the resource will inspire children and their families to go on to learn, research and create - ultimately supporting their journey towards becoming informed citizens of Wales and the world.

We're also kicking off a brand-new Wales History Trails Passport Challenge. Aimed at children and young people, this challenge encourages families to create their own history trail over the coming year. Those who visit six museums will be entered into a draw to win a prize, including some swish earphones. The challenge starts during this year's Festival and will run for a year so there is plenty of time for children to fill their passports, and get their name into the prize draw!

If you would like to learn more about the Festival, then contact Carys Mair Thomas at [info@museums.wales](mailto:info@museums.wales)



# GŴYL AMGUEDDFEYDD CYMRU WELSH MUSEUMS FESTIVAL

# Voices from the Edge

Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum, with support from AIM and Welsh Government's Re:Collections funding, are delivering the *Voices From the Edge* project, which will help us better understand, apply and embed anti-racism and decolonisation in our practice by building stronger relationships with global majority communities. The project is a partnership between the museum and Llwy Gariad, a collective of global majority artists and creatives in west Wales.

Rose Thorn, Project Coordinator explains, "We will form a co-creative partnership for future projects with the museum, such as an exciting new opportunity to work with the British Museum in 2024. We hope that our collective voice will create a global majority presence at Ceredigion Museum, so that we can better access and proactively contribute to Welsh culture and heritage"

This exciting 8-month project is an opportunity for global majority people living in rural west Wales to form a supportive creative space for participants who identify as black, African, Asian, brown, mixed-heritage, indigenous to the global south, and or have been racialised as 'ethnic minorities'.

At the monthly meetings participants will gather to encourage cultural exchange through sharing food, music, walks, art making, talks, readings, performance. They will also explore emerging themes

around identity, belonging and our presence here

Carrie Canham, curator of Ceredigion Museum said, "Voices from the Edge is the museum's first step in building mutual trust and understanding with global majority people living and working in rural west Wales. People from the global majority are invited to engage with the museum in an advisory capacity in a meaningful way that leaves a legacy of access and sense of belonging to this cultural space."

Councillor Catrin MS Davies said "We're very grateful to the Association of Independent Museums and Welsh Government for their support for this project, which will help deliver the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan and Ceredigion County Council's equality and diversity commitment. It will be exciting to see how this project develops and hear the voices of our global majority community."

**Carrie Canham, Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum**

[Carrie.Canham@ceredigion.gov.uk](mailto:Carrie.Canham@ceredigion.gov.uk)



*Image permission from Rose Thorn*

# Enhancing Museum Experiences in Wales through (affordable) Virtual Reality and 360° Video



There is no doubt that museums in Wales store invaluable culture, history, and art. We tell stories to the public so that they will engage with our culture. But in today's rapidly evolving world, museums must adapt their story-telling to the changing needs and expectations of their diverse audience, especially if they want to attract a younger audience.

*Part of Rhondda Heritage Park's collection have been scanned in high res and placed into a VR experience.*

Integrating virtual reality (VR) experiences, 360° video experiences and augmented reality (apps on phones) into museum exhibits, or dedicating a room to such experiences and technology is one approach. A strategic shift to “up-tech” a museum would benefit the museum and also captivate the young.

We recently produced virtual reality experiences for Rhondda Heritage Park and proceeded to take them into schools, community centres, additional needs environments and youth groups. Almost without exception, young people, of all abilities, engaged with the technology. Feedback was exceptionally positive.

Most museums in Wales (and elsewhere) are behind with the technology. And at the same time, without realising it, keeping museums the preserve of parents and their young children and the older generations. Teenagers don't often visit of their own accord.

Today's younger generations are inherently drawn to technology. It resonates with their interests, making museum visits more exciting and relevant. This allure can encourage young people to engage with culture, history, and art in ways they find enjoyable and relatable. These technologies cater to their learning style.

I believe that some museums may see technology such as virtual reality and 360° video as threat to their existence, which is perhaps part of the reason for keeping in at bay.



A person from Butetown who was unable to visit Rhondda Heritage Park was still able to interact with Wales coal mining past through VR.

In our experience the push back of virtual technology, especially virtual reality, comes down to a lack of knowledge with regard to the technology itself and a failure to appreciate it's popularity amongst the young.

Perhaps most importantly the technology also enables museums to be far more inclusive and offer content for everyone, regardless. Incorporating features such as audio descriptions, eye tracking and "pulled through" experiences, means that most disabilities are catered for. Teachers at additional learning needs environments have flagged 360° video as a potential tool to help young learners with anxiety issues or those who suffer sensory overload.

It is a fact that as we get older we become more immobile. Care homes rarely have the capacity to regularly take their residents to museums. Why not take heritage to care homes in the form of a virtual reality or 360 ° video experiences? Virtual reality offers a unique opportunity for older visitors to take a sentimental journey that they are no longer able to make. Museums can create positive emotional experiences for their elderly communities.

One "problem" of virtual reality and 360° video experiences is the "prohibitive cost". True, a fully interactive, virtual reality experience "project", from start to finish can be expensive. Fifty thousand and up is average. But simple interactive learning experience can be made for much less. And fully immersive 360° video experiences, on the other hand, can be created for a few thousand pounds. A "fleet" of headsets, half a dozen is plenty, costs less than 3000 pounds. Plus, there are many relevant and free downloads. On-going maintenance and upkeep must be considered. Technology changes and software updates must be managed, so there are some on-going costs. But surely those costs are worth it in order to draw-in the teenage crowd.

**By Richard Jones** –  
[richard@visionfountain.com](mailto:richard@visionfountain.com)

Richard Jones is Creative Director at Vision Fountain ([www.visionfountain.com](http://www.visionfountain.com)) specializing in Immersive Story-telling. Richard was finalist 2023 at the Lottery Awards (Heritage).



Children from an additional learning needs school experience VR.

# Elliott Attwood – The Marsh Awards Joint Winner 2023

The Firing Line Museum of The Queen's Dragoon Guards and The Royal Welsh is celebrating the success of one of its museum volunteers, Elliott Attwood. It has been announced that Elliott is The Marsh Awards Joint Winner for Wales receiving his award at a ceremony that took place at The British Museum on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023. The museum was represented by Chairman Jonathan Beatson-Hird and Assistant Regimental Curator Hannah Searle.

The British Museum and the Marsh Charitable Trust celebrate the work and achievements of museum volunteers across the UK.

**Sarah Saunders, Head of Learning and National Partnerships at the British Museum, said:**

“Volunteering brings so many benefits to the nation's museums and galleries and the communities they serve, helping to promote health and well-being, and learning and enjoyment. Volunteering brings so many benefits to those people who generously give their time freely, from making new friends to gaining confidence

in a new skill. I'm sure that this year's Marsh Awards winners will inspire new volunteer projects giving people across the country increased opportunities to get involved in supporting their local museum.”

The winners each receive a cash prize of £500, donated by the Marsh Charitable Trust.

The judges consisted of staff from the Marsh Trust, staff and volunteers from the British Museum and a representative from Beamish Museum, County Durham. Due to the British Museum's involvement in the ceremony and judging, volunteers from the British Museum are ineligible for the awards.

Elliott started volunteering for the Firing Line Museum of The Queen's Dragoon Guards and The Royal Welsh in 2021 at the age of 18 (one of our youngest volunteers). He is an enthusiastic volunteer with a passion for history. He has quickly gone on to become an asset to our team at the museum.

*Assistant Regimental Curator Hannah Searle, Museum Volunteer Elliott Attwood and Firing Line Chairman Jonathan Beatson-Hird @Hannah Searle, Firing Line Museum*





Elliott was initially a little shy around the team but he has used the museum's talks programme as a way of coming out of his shell and has demonstrated a real capacity and confidence for enthusing visitors with the history contained within our displays.

He is an active and willing team member who has also dressed up in period uniform in order to engage the public with the regimental collection. He has a natural ability for delivering the historic talks and has even continued to add significant value to our talks programme by researching and developing his own talk on the subject of the British Army on the Rhine and The Cold War; even using his own personal artefacts to complement the theme of the talk.

He has successfully managed to balance his first year of university study with his museum volunteering and has demonstrated the potential of embracing work within other areas of museums to continue to help bring history to life for many people. The Firing Line Museum team is incredibly proud of Elliott.

## Rachel Adams, Museum Manager

Firing Line Museum of The Queen's Dragoon Guards and The Royal Welsh –  
manager@cardiffcastlemuseum.org.uk



*Elliott Attwood collecting his award ©Hannah Searle, Firing Line Museum*

# 'Forgotten Voices' Female Activism in South Wales Coalfield

The RCTCBC Heritage Service 'Forgotten Voices' project, began in 2022, with the aim to record and share the female experience of the 20<sup>th</sup> century south Wales coalfield.

This project follows our mission to 'develop, safeguard, and make accessible the material culture of the community in a friendly and accessible environment for the benefit of the people and visitors to Rhondda Cynon Taf.'

The project was inspired by the significant gap in research and understanding of the women's history objects in the collections at the Rhondda Heritage Park Museum: A Welsh Coalmining Experience and Cynon Valley Museum and Gallery. While the collections data base recorded manuscripts, documents, and images highlighting the political experience of women, there was little further information about the context of the objects.

Thus, our objectives were to research items of significance, engage with the public and record interviews to preserve knowledge and history.

Our objects of significance focused on the female experience and involvement in the 1926 Lockout and 1984/5 General strike. From a research perspective, it was important to consider any similarities and differences between the involvement and impact of women during these national events.

This project was made possible by funding from The Federation of Museums and Galleries of Wales and the National Manuscript Conservation Trust (NMCT).

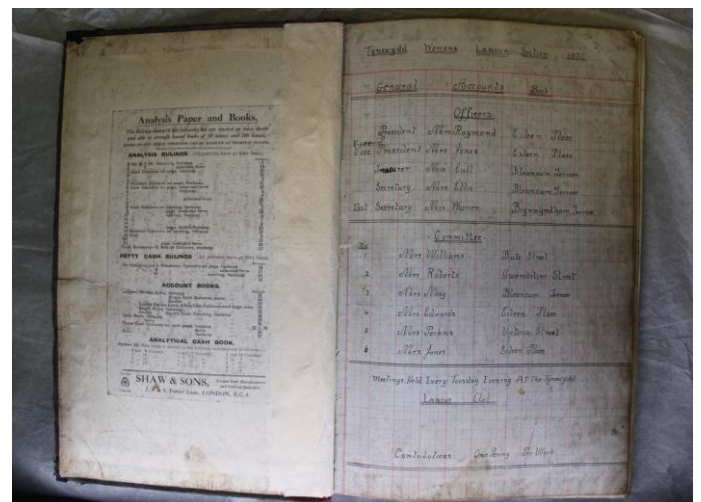
Funding opportunities such as this allow us to improve and develop how we use and share our collections and work closely with the community to increase engagement in heritage.

## Objects of significance

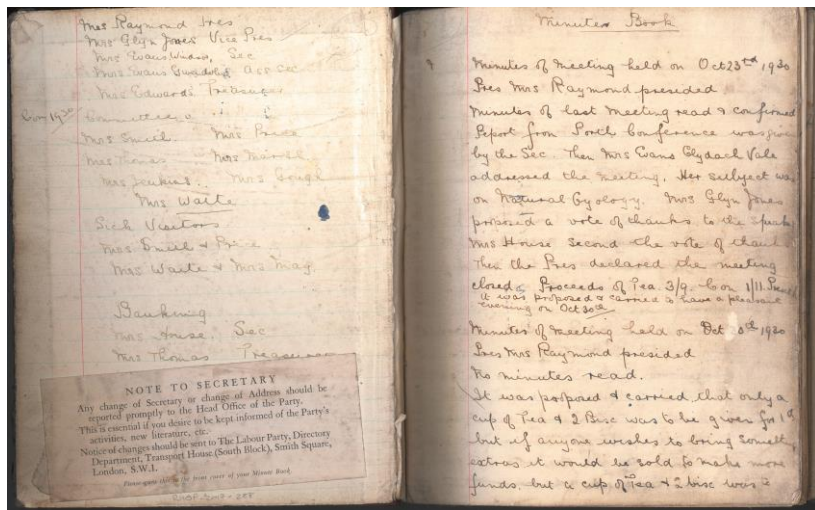
The significant women's history objects in our collections include minute books and finance records for the Treherbert and Tynewydd Women's Section of the Labour Party between 1920 and 1930.

In the early 1900s Women's political and unionist groups formed in Rhondda and became very popular alongside the men's branches. The women were involved in a multitude of roles such as fundraising, visiting speakers, campaigning for local candidates and lobbying council on certain issues.

The Treherbert and Tynewydd manuscripts are very significant as they tell the story of how local women organised themselves as political activists, what they did, what they discussed and debated (from the general strike to issues of birth control),



©RCTCBC Heritage Service



©RCTCBC Heritage Service

and who was involved.

In terms of the 1984-85 strike, our collections contain photographs of strikes and marches, newspaper cuttings, National Coal Board minutes, miners' food vouchers, Women Against Pit Closures newsletters and more.

### Conservation funding

Unfortunately, the objects were not in a stable condition at the point of acquisition due to previous inappropriate storage conditions. In 2020, RCT Heritage Service applied for separate funding from the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust (NMCT) for qualified conservators at Glamorgan Archives to repair the objects.

The conservation treatment was informed by the desire to stabilise important women's history objects to enable handling (for research and digitisation) and ensure the appropriate condition to facilitate any plans for future display.

Prior to conservation, the books had mould, damaged spines, detached and torn pages and covers. They were not suitable for handling or public display. The restoration included dry cleaning the pages, consolidating mould damage with appropriate chemicals, repairing tares, and filling missing tares with Japanese paper, using wheat starch paste as the adhesive.

The volumes were then rebound using the original boards with, where needed, replacement spines and cloth or leather covers. The objects were then returned to the Rhondda Heritage Park Museum.

### Object research

While the basic entries for the women's history objects were recorded, it was evident they would benefit from additional information and interpretation.

RCT Heritage Service consulted with a local historian on the contents of the women's Labour group minute books. This improved our understanding of the realities, actions, and experiences of women in the household, in politics and their communities.

Furthermore, RCT Heritage Service volunteers researched the contents and recorded significant information and events, focusing on the 1926 General Strike. One of the volunteers was particularly interested in this research area, as his great grandmother assisted in a soup kitchen in Treherbert in 1926.

Another aim of the project was to record oral history interviews relating to the female experience of the 1984-85 strikes, to be catalogued as part of the collection. They would become permanent records of historical experience which can be used for research, interpretation, and education and also used to understand and interpret other objects in the collection.

## Public engagement

The next part of the project involved engaging with the public, sharing the collection, and recording oral history interviews.

Our funding from the Welsh Museums Federation, allowed us to partner with Vision Fountain on this element. Vision Fountain specialise in progressive styles of storytelling, working with museums, galleries, and community groups using experimental photographic techniques, combining audio-visuals with digital technology.

Together, we organised 'sharing history' sessions targeted at women who had experienced the 1984-85 strike. The sessions took place across welfare halls and community centres in the Rhondda and Cynon Valley. We asked them what they remembered about the strike, how they were involved, how it impacted their lives and their communities. We spoke with women whose husbands were miners, who had been pregnant during the strike, who worked throughout. A collection of mining related museum objects was present to help participants share their stories and memories.

By interacting with the objects, the participants were adding information and value,

which would be beneficial to the overall understanding and exploitability of the objects.

## Partnerships

Collaborating with Vision Fountain allowed significant digital elements such as oral history recording and

photography, capturing historical content that is informative, emotional, and can be preserved and presented in perpetuity.

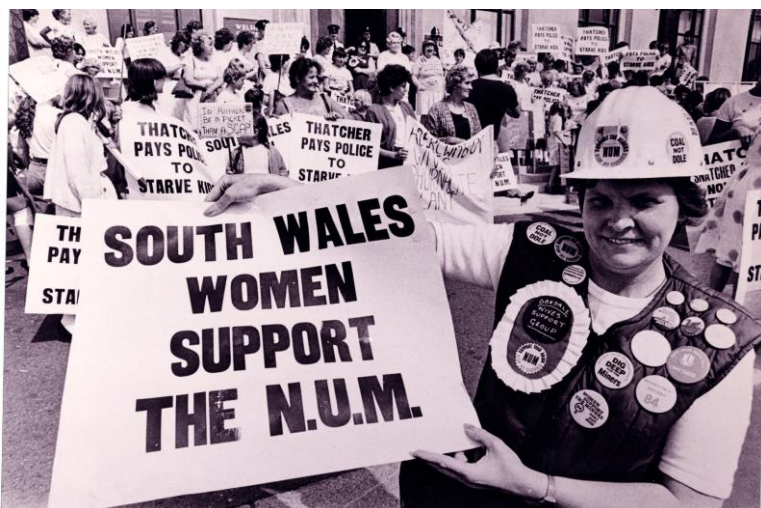
We also worked with the Purple Plaque campaign, which recognises remarkable women in Wales by installing plaques to commemorate their achievements. As part of the project, a purple plaque for Rose Davies, Labour activist from Aberdare (1882 – 1958), was installed on the Cynon Valley Museum building.

## Long-term outcomes and developments:

- Building a catalogue of women's oral history interviews – for education, research and interpretation
- Creating a women's history education loan box to be used by schools and community groups
- Sharing the objects, research, and public engagement content for the 40th Anniversary of the Miners' Strike in 2024.

## Rhian Hall – Heritage Collections Manager

Rhian.Hall@rctcbc.gov.uk



©RCTCBC Heritage Service

# Museums Inspiring Memories



©Amgueddfa Cymru

Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, Museums Inspiring Memories is a three-year partnership project between Amgueddfa Cymru and Alzheimer's Society Cymru, exploring how we can use our seven museums, National Collections Centre and collections to improve the health and wellbeing of people affected by dementia.

Using information gathered at over 30 consultations and engagements between December 2022 and March this year, we and our Dementia Voices in Heritage Group (made up of people living with dementia, unpaid carers, care staff, heritage sector colleagues and representative organisations) are currently focussed on developing a dementia-awareness training package for the heritage sector.

In recent months, the team has been hosting pilot activities at a number of our museums to gather participants' feedback as to how we can make our 'offer' more accessible, welcoming and supportive. These have included Curatorial-led talks in the community, a visit to the barracks and Roman garden at the National Roman Legion Museum, a seasonal Wellbeing Walk at St Fagans, a series of Dementia Friendly Underground Tours at Big Pit National Coal Museum and others.

Over the coming 9 months, we also look to develop, test and launch:

- a package for paid and unpaid carers, family members and loved ones of those living with dementia to support and encourage the use of heritage places, spaces and resources with those they care for
- an 18-month programme of accessible activities to take place at all Amgueddfa Cymru museums and in the community

To learn more or to find out how you could get involved, please get in touch by email on [MIMs@museumwales.ac.uk](mailto:MIMs@museumwales.ac.uk) or by phoning 02920 573 418.

More information can also be found on our webpage: [Museums Inspiring Memories](#). Here you can find an [executive summary of our baseline report](#) and a [link to our first blog](#).



©Amgueddfa Cymru

# GEM Cymru and the new Curriculum for Wales

## *A new era for learning in museums and a new relationship between schools and cross-sector services in Wales*

With funding from the Welsh Government's Culture Division (thank you to them!) GEM Cymru have been busy supporting local heritage organisations in Wales by undertaking a number of projects recently:

### **How to adapt formal learning programmes for family use**

- Training delivered by Sarah Shaw, aimed at helping museums not 're-invent the wheel' with new curriculum inspired family learning
- 2 half day sessions for 44 delegates with 83% good or excellent feedback. Conversations with colleagues was found to be particularly useful

### **Creation of a Curriculum for Wales toolkit**

- Dr Marian Gwyn commissioned to undertake consultation, research, testing and the production of an online toolkit for museums
- Includes ARWAP advice and best practice, how to integrate Cynefin guidance and lots of examples of best practice and website links

### **Microgrant funding scheme**

- Accredited museums were invited to apply for up to £1,200 for projects related to their learning programme

- 13 applications approved, ranging from designing wellbeing sessions through to new digital material
- Over 1,300 children participated from 43 schools with 73 teachers and 38 museum staff members taking part.

### **Case studies publication**

- 15 case studies describing new approaches to museum learning relating to CfW adaptations
- Examples from the microgrant recipients plus a National Museum case study
- Also a primary school teachers' perspective alongside a HE provider viewpoint

### **Designing of an INSeT template**

- After feedback in 2021, it was felt that museums, archives & libraries needed something to advocate heritage learning for local schools.
- Dr Marian Gwyn was commissioned to research and produce a PowerPoint that could be used by staff to present at a school training day, staff meeting or onsite event for teachers.



©Rhondda Heritage Park Museum

- Dr Huw Griffiths from the University of Wales, Trinity St David's was filmed at Carmarthenshire Museum giving his perspective on what local heritage can offer schools

### Curriculum for Wales awareness cross-sector training

- Again, after consultation with staff in the heritage learning sector, it was strongly felt that training in the CfW was needed.
- Keystone Heritage were commissioned to undertake the research, production and delivery of a training module.
- 165 delegates over 4 sessions attended with a 98.5% satisfaction rate and a subsequent 95% increase in CfW confidence from delegates

Please see links for the resources mentioned above:

<https://tinyurl.com/3a3rt5vz> (eng)

<https://gem.org.uk/our-work/projects/gem-cymru-cwricwlwm-newydd-i-gymru> (cym)



© Hay Castle

### The future:

GEM Cymru have successfully applied to the Welsh Govt, Culture Division for funding over the next two years to continue this work:

- There will be a museum learning mentoring scheme whereby an experienced museum learning professional / freelancer or consultant will be working alongside staff in selected museums that apply. Successful museums will receive up to 5 days of mentoring and a small budget to develop CfW resources
- There is also a Learning Support fund grant scheme where museums can apply for a grant of up to £1,500 to develop new CfW relevant resources, create new work or develop / adapt their current service
- GEM are undertaking a research project where the impact of the CfW on museums will be evaluated and assessed. Alongside focus groups, examples of good practice and written evidence, there is an individual survey in the field at the moment: [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NVL\\_TBDF](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NVL_TBDF) (eng)  
  
[https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DT\\_FZM6C](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DT_FZM6C) (cym)
- GEM will be offering Hybrid Learning training in the late Autumn / early Spring (dates t.b.c.) where delegates can find out about the steps needed to design, develop and deliver their digital learning resources and activities in tandem with their existing on-site offer.

**Robin Johnson** - GEM Cymru museum consultant - [Robin@gem.org.uk](mailto:Robin@gem.org.uk)

# Their Finest Hour



Medals ©Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum have become project partners with “Their Finest Hour” - a University of Oxford project - that aims to collect and digitally archive the everyday stories and objects of the Second World War that have been passed down from generation to generation. <https://theirfinesthour.english.ox.ac.uk/>

Following on from our popular “Faces of the Fallen” and “All that is left of them” First World War projects, many people asked

whether we were going to organise a similar project for the Second World War. Thanks to funding from the Welsh Government through the Federation of Museums & Art Galleries of Wales, we can now say, 'yes'!

We held a two day community call out collection days at the Museum on September 23rd and 24th complete with WW2 reenactors and were visited by over 200 people.

Over the course of the weekend. We met a number of people who had travelled to Caernarfon from as far away as Aberystwyth to bring their artefacts and stories to us. Interesting items included a small pair of clogs given to a member of the Navy when they managed to catch fish to feed starving Dutch people during the War. Also a mystery object which the wife of the soldier had polished every day and we identified it as a brass artillery shell fuse that has been fired.

Many of us have Second World War-related stories and objects that have been passed down to us from our parents, grandparents and other family members. Their Finest Hour project launched in July 2022 and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, it aims to empower local communities to digitally preserve these stories and objects before they are lost to posterity.

We thought this was an important project to contribute to because the stories and objects of the men, women, and children who were part of the 1939-1945 generation will be forgotten. Very few families in the British Empire and the Commonwealth Dominions were untouched by the war. In what was a truly global conflict, over 8.5 million people from the Empire and Dominions served in all major theatres of the war.



Fuse ©Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum



The Royal Welch Fusiliers were awarded 27 battle honours for World War II.

We have now also started a database on our website of the Royal Welch Fusiliers who took part in WW2. We dedicate this database to the memory of the more than 1,200 Royal Welshmen that were killed in action or died of wounds during the conflict.

This database will grow as more photos come to light. If you have photographs of family members who served in the RWF or from other sources that are not already shown and would like to donate the images, then please send them, with as much information as possible, to [image@rwmuseum.wales](mailto:image@rwmuseum.wales)

Thank you for your support of this incredibly important project.

**Shirley G Williams** - [shirley@rwmuseum.wales](mailto:shirley@rwmuseum.wales)

Swyddog Addysg Amgueddfa - Museum Education Officer

Amgueddfa'r Ffiwsilwyr Brenhinol Cymreig / Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum

## Your Voice Advocacy trial a new museums qualification

The following article has been written by the Your Voice Advocacy group who have been working on a project with the Dylan Thomas Centre. It has been written in an Easy Read format, with larger font and shorter sentences, to create better accessibility.

**We are Your Voice Advocacy (YVA).**



Photograph taken by Your Voice Advocacy

We are a group of people with learning disabilities.

We are doing a museums qualification with the Dylan Thomas Centre.

It has been interesting for the group to be helping the centre try out the qualification.

The qualification is new. We are the first group testing it.



Photograph taken by Adam Dawkins

This is the outside of the Dylan Thomas Centre.

\*

Some of the YVA advocacy group have been doing a qualification here.



Photograph taken by Richard Williams

This is the group showing the entrance.

\*

The group meet at the Dylan Thomas Centre every week.



This is Matthew, showing how welcome the public are to the exhibition.

\*

We have been learning new skills, like photography.

Photograph taken by Kara Williams



This is Elvis and Holly. Holly is a therapy dog.

All support and therapy animals are welcome here.

\*

This is in the learning space.

Which is where we have our Advocacy group.

Photograph taken by Matthew Heit

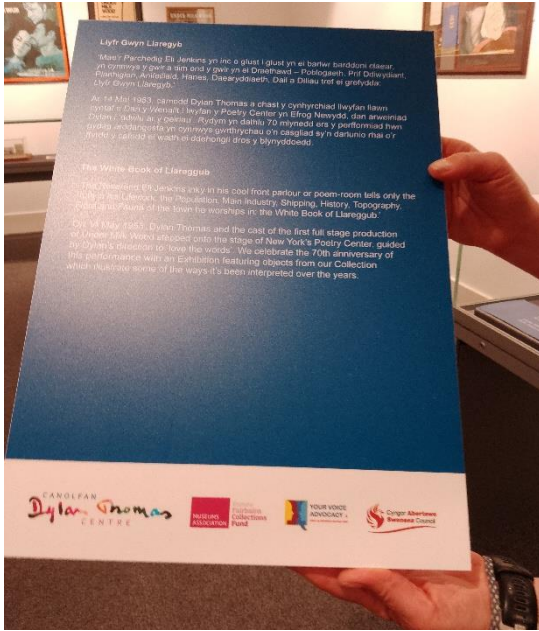


This is the group talking about hat from Dylan Thomas' school.

\*

We help support the Dylan Thomas Centre with Easy Read and access.

Photograph taken by Elvis Presley



This is plaque shows what is in the exhibition.

\*

Your Voice Advocacy's Logo is on the exhibit to show we have given feedback and advice.

Photograph taken by Richard Williams

You can find out more about Your Voice Advocacy here [www.yourvoiceadvocacy.org.uk](http://www.yourvoiceadvocacy.org.uk)



Ffederasiwn  
Amgueddfeydd  
Cymru

Museums  
Federation  
Cymru