



# Y Mag



Hello and welcome!

The July edition of YMag will cover feedback on Small Grant projects such as creating a more practical and accessible library at Storiell, new outreach and marketing activities by the Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum, and Narberth Museum providing performances of the Mabinogion to highlight its contemporary relevance.

There's also mention of important projects such as the Museum Spotlight Survey and the Welsh Museums Festival.

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

## What's New

- Lloyd George Museum: A Museum Reimagined
- Project Library at Storiell
- Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum – 'Reaching out'
- Narberth Museum 'Stories of the Mabinogion and their contemporary relevance'
- Vision Fountain 'Wales: A home from Home - Multi-Media Exhibition'
- Museum Spotlight Survey 2024
- The Welsh Museums Festival, October 2025

# Lloyd George Museum 'A Museum Re-Imagined'

Nestled in the quiet village of Llanystumdwy, the Lloyd George Museum has reopened its doors, unveiling a bold new vision for telling the story of one of Britain's most influential—and controversial—statesmen. Following a £280,000 transformation, the museum now offers a dynamic and immersive experience that brings the life and legacy of David Lloyd George into sharp, modern focus.

Thanks to generous support from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, Cyngor Gwynedd, and the Countess Lloyd George Fund, the museum's exhibition has undergone a comprehensive redevelopment. At the heart of this transformation is the work of renowned exhibition designers Mather & Co, who have reimagined the museum's layout and storytelling approach.

## A Museum Reimagined

Gone are the static displays of the past. In their place, visitors will find four thoughtfully curated thematic zones:

- **The Politician:** A chronological journey through Lloyd George's political career, from his early days in Parliament to his pivotal role during the First World War and beyond.
- **The People:** A compelling look at how media and public opinion shaped—and were shaped by—Lloyd George's decisions.
- **The Man:** A personal glimpse into his early life and family, offering a more intimate portrait of the man behind the politics.
- **The Legacy:** An exploration of the long-term impact of his policies and international recognition, inviting reflection on the complexities of his influence.

Among the standout artifacts are Lloyd George's draft of the Treaty of Versailles, the first edition of the groundbreaking 1909 People's Budget, and his Chancellor of the Exchequer uniform. Visitors can also explore the many ceremonial freedom casks gifted to him by towns and cities across the UK.

## Transformation

Megan Cynan Corcoran, Museums Development Officer for Cyngor Gwynedd, reflected on the project:

"Redesigning the Museum's displays has been both a privilege and a responsibility. This investment has enabled us to present historical narratives alongside artifacts in a way that encourages critical reflection—not only on David Lloyd George's legacy, but also on the wider social and political contexts of his time. This marks the beginning of an ongoing journey to tell more inclusive, multifaceted stories that acknowledge both the achievements and the contested impacts of the past."

Councillor Medwyn Hughes, Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet Member for Economy and Community echoed the excitement:

"I am delighted that the Museum continues to attract visitors from near and far. We now offer a contemporary experience with engaging graphics and immersive audiovisual activities, encouraging reflection on Lloyd George's significant decisions and their lasting legacies."

## Design Rooted in Place

The museum's exhibition redesign pays homage to its surroundings, incorporating the building's original architectural features—soaring ceilings and exposed beams—into the new layout. For Mather & Co's 3D Designer Hanna Lorenz, the project was deeply meaningful:

“Breathing new life into spaces beside his childhood home and within sight of his final resting place is to connect past, present and future.”

## Looking Ahead

Whether you're a history enthusiast, a curious traveller, or a local revisiting a familiar landmark, the revitalised Lloyd George Museum promises a rich, thought-provoking experience. We are now looking forward to further development over the next few years.



Wedi ei ariannu gan  
Llywodraeth y DU

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# Project Library at Storiel Museum

This Small Grants project focused on re-organising and sorting out a vacant space for an accessible research room for the public and staff.

Storiel has a collection of books, years of exhibition content, research and educational resources that we wanted to make more accessible. Through this project we achieved this by improving display and storage conditions, increasing access for staff, volunteers, Friends and the general public.

Also, high resolution scanners for scanning archival collections are also now accessible which will improve access to collections for all.

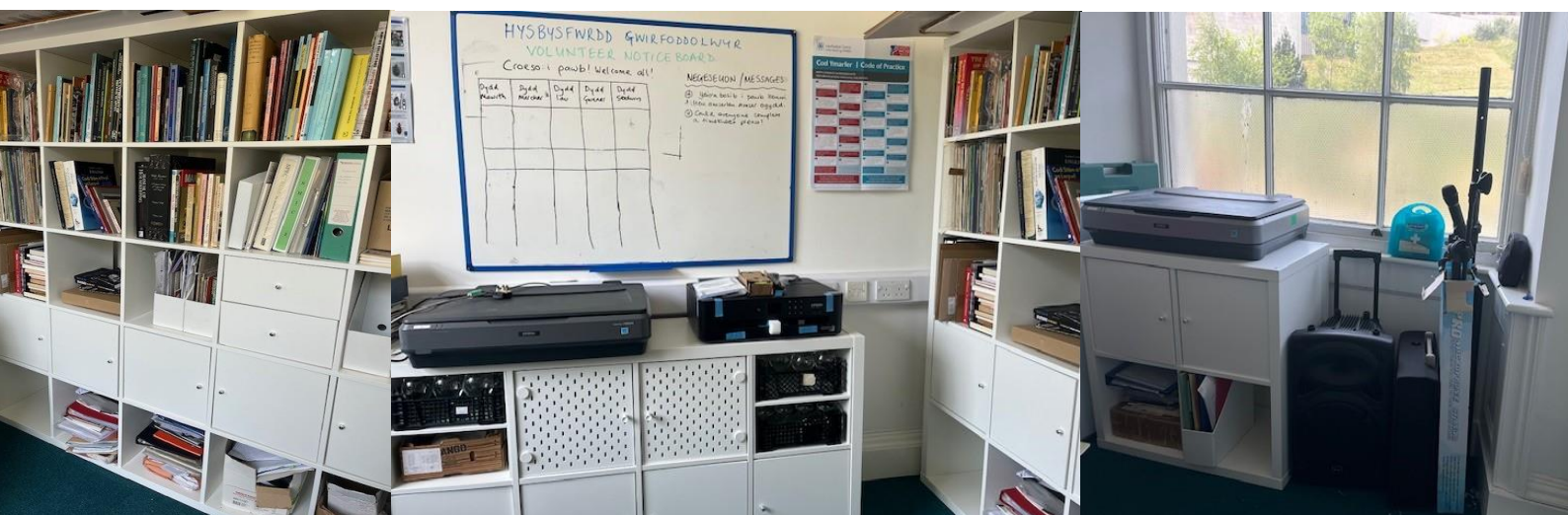
The storage shelving was bought early January 2025 and assembly started the same month. This did take longer than anticipated as there were lots of other projects going on including capital works and high profile exhibitions!

However, once this was complete the sorting and filing began. There was 20 years worth of paperwork to organize, from years of exhibition planning papers and useful documents.

In May the space was open for use. We can use it for meetings, find relevant books and sources, scan archives, photos from the collection, and previous exhibition materials so we can digitize them for the future research.

This small project value has had a big impact on the usability of the space but it has enabled better access to books, educational resources and previous exhibitions research which has already proved useful to staff. The project has enabled better understanding and better access to 'a Wales of culture'. The next step now is a usable space to advertise it so that Friends, volunteers and general public can also use it.

*The Small Grants scheme is made possible with funding from the Welsh Government through the Culture Division, and with support from the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales.*



Images by Storiel.

# Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum – Outreach and Marketing Activities using volunteers to reach new audiences

Another project funded by the Small Grants Scheme in which the Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum used to expand their marketing and outreach opportunities at their Museum. Our “Friends of the RWF Museum” wish to attend large events such as No Man’s Land in Bodrhuddan Hall and wished to purchase a bespoke printed gazebo, table and chairs. We are going to have a presence this year at the large event (<https://www.bodrhyddan.co.uk/no-mans-land/>) on 12th and Sunday 13th April 2025.

We also wished to purchase 4 pop up banners reflecting the history of the RWF and these have been on display in our introductory room at the Museum before they too will go on show at outreach events.

Finally, we took delivery wish to award families with bespoke RWF Museum dragon badges when they complete the family trail we have developed with previous funding. This will also help get our name out as a fun place to visit.

## Project outcomes:

- Purchase gazebo by September 2024 to enable Friends group to do outreach activities at Wrexham, at No Man’s Land (Bodrhuddan Hall) and to mark 80th anniversary of the end of WW2 next year. This to be used in at least 6 Museum and Friends events by end of May 2025.

We had a delay in the delivery of the gazebo as the images we chose were not high enough resolution for printing on the gazebo so it arrived later than we anticipated. It will be used at Bodrhuddan Hall this month.

- Design and purchase pop up signage to use at the Museum and at the events outlined above. Purchase to be made by September 2024 and used at least 6 Friends and Museum events by end of May 2025. These went on immediate display at the Museum and will be used with outreach and large events as well as our RWFest.



Image by the Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum.

We received a Federation grant towards our marketing and outreach goals which paid for a printed gazebo, some pop up banners and red dragon badges.

We were keen to support our newly formed Friends group who volunteer their time to support the Museum at events such as our RWF Fest each year. The gazebo is of a size to make it useable at large events and closer to home at Caernarfon Castle – to attract visitors and give us a mobile location so as to be able to spread the word and to sell items from our museum shop at different venues.

The popup banners were also a visual aid to attract visitors and to impart information on an informal basis.

We were able to add photos with names our WW1 Fallen project which is ongoing and brings in the largest engagements with our website. More people are made aware of our project.

As we had previously had a family trail developed we wished to award children and families who took part with our specially printed 3D red dragons. These have proved to be very popular.

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## **Narberth Museum 'Stories of the Mabinogion and their contemporary relevance'**

This Small Grant funded project commissioned local practitioners to provide story-telling sessions to children and adults focusing on the Mabinogion while also addressing contemporary themes. On this project we worked with project facilitator Peter Stevenson. Peter is an experienced storyteller, artist and author and as part of some of his talks he utilizes a Crankie (the old storytelling art form using a moving scroll, much like a moving panorama). We ran two separate sessions – one for an invited school group and a more informal drop-in session for adults.

Peter told stories from the Mabinogion, using the Crankies to illustrate, and within the storytelling he addressed contemporary themes such as identity, masculinity, female empowerment, transformation, self-awareness and the importance of kindness, tolerance and friendship.

Each child was equipped with an empty matchbox, two burnt matches, paper and colouring pencils and then encouraged to tell a story of their own using their crankies-in-miniature. The children were then invited to tell their stories, using their crankie, and this gave them a sense of participation as well as developing confidence. At the end we were able to display the children's work for a brief period of time and then these were returned to the school.



The project benefitted the museum and wider community in a variety of ways:

- 1) it forged strong links with the local school, encouraging further interaction in the future.
- 2) It helped address contemporary issues with a younger audience through the updating of ancient stories, making younger people look at their lives in a new way as well as connect with their heritage.
- 3) A small display to support our Mabinogion exhibition.

Lessons learned - if we were to run a similar event in the future, we would hold it only for school children as this was the main audience we were looking to educate. Projects such as this are ideal for supporting cynefin.

The project delivered these (the teaching of Welsh history and relaying a sense of place, culture and identity. Tales within the Mabinogion are located in Narberth and so the historic links to the community was strong. We also aimed to engage with younger people and feedback from the teachers and children showed that the day was both educational and entertaining.

The funding was purely to pay Peter and source some art materials. However, the outcomes were much larger than the small amount of money that the project cost as the children took away with them a real sense of place as well as a new way of thinking, using an entertaining, fun and interactive method to inform.

Using the Welsh history and the Welsh language (one volunteer was there who spoke Welsh to encourage the use of the language). The sharing of Welsh culture, and utilizing it in a way that gave it a contemporary spin, was paramount to the event.

The stories were selected to tackle various issues from the stories that have a contemporary relevance, namely female empowerment, identity and transformation and the importance of kindness and acceptance. The session encouraged acceptance of people as they are and not to treat people perceived as different with unkindness.

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Images by Narberth Museum.

# Vision Fountain 'Wales: A home from Home – Multi-Media Exhibition'

*An Extraordinary Multi-Media Exhibition Celebrating Wales as a Nation of Sanctuary*  
Over the past 18 months, Vision Fountain—a community interest company with a passion for heritage and storytelling—has embarked on an ambitious and deeply moving project exploring the global culture of Wales. Supported by the Heritage Fund, *Wales: A Home from Home* reveals how the country has become a sanctuary for generations of people from across the globe.

From Italian migrants who walked to Wales in the 1920s to Yemeni families whose ancestors served during World War II, this powerful exhibition showcases personal stories that span continents and decades. The voices of Iraqi Kurds who made new lives in Wales in the 1970s stand alongside those of Sikh doctors and Hindu families who arrived from India via East Africa. More recently, the project has captured the experiences of Syrian refugees, Ukrainian families displaced by war, and residents from Hong Kong seeking freedom and safety.

All of these people share one thing in common: they call Wales home.

Through in-depth interviews, creative workshops, and collaborative storytelling, *Wales: A Home from Home* celebrates the courage, culture, and resilience of those who have sought sanctuary here. The exhibition weaves together oral histories, portrait photography, archival materials, 4K video, 3D models, and immersive 360° footage to bring their experiences to life. The result is a multi-sensory experience that moves seamlessly between print, screen, art, and virtual reality.



Images by Vision Fountain.



Crucially, Vision Fountain has delivered workshops in primary schools, additional learning needs environments, and young carers groups—inviting young people to connect with these powerful stories through both traditional and cutting-edge digital arts.

Currently on display at the Senedd in Cardiff until 12 July 2025, Wales: A Home from Home offers a poignant, timely reflection on Wales as a “Nation of Sanctuary.”

A touring pop-up exhibition - featuring immersive video and virtual reality experiences, as well as print and screen - will be travelling to venues across Wales into 2026.

Highlights include the moving story of Eva Gibbor, who came to Wales on the Kindertransport, and a virtual reality art gallery showcasing artworks created by children during the workshops, alongside the stories of the project's participants.

## Host the Exhibition

If you represent a museum, gallery, library, arts space, school, community venue, or cultural institution and would like to host Wales: A Home from Home, Vision Fountain would love to hear from you.

To enquire about hosting the exhibition, please contact:

Richard Jones [richard@visionfountain.com](mailto:richard@visionfountain.com)  
[www.visionfountain.com](http://www.visionfountain.com)



Marco Tambini's great uncle walked and worked his way across Europe from Italy., Marco runs Express Cafe in Port Talbot.



Brig Paul Singh, the first Sikh to wear a turban in the Met Police. Singh lives in Briton Ferry, Neath.



Muhammed Sheddad, from Aden, Yemen, followed his father who fought with the UK in the second world War.



Tim Strang's father and grandfather were born in Chile.

# Museum Spotlight Survey 2024

The Museum Spotlight Survey 2024 is now underway!

The Welsh Government have appointed Emma Chaplin Heritage and Museum Services to carry out the survey which will once again be carried out with museums who participate in the Accreditation Scheme.

Our team consists of Emma Chaplin, Phil Parkes, Jane Henderson and Esther Roberts and we are here to support you to complete the survey and ensure that Spotlight data continues to be a vital tool for articulating and planning museum needs and strategy for Wales.

The data you shared for Spotlight 2022 has proved enormously useful for government, sector bodies and individual museums so your participation is highly valued. The survey is now open and will close on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 at 5pm. Please take the time to complete it.

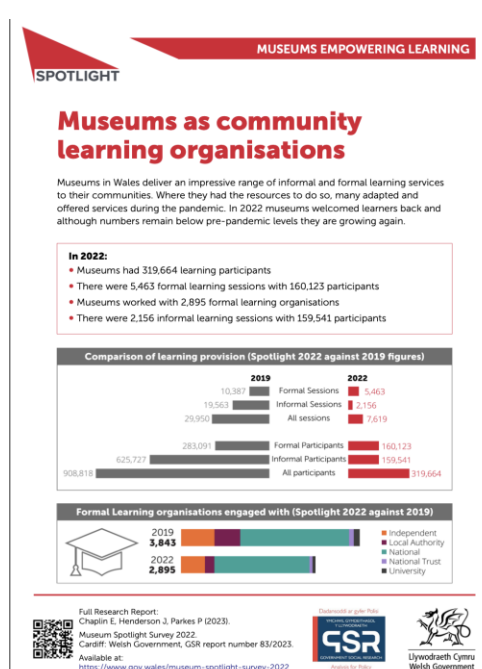
If you participate in the Accreditation Scheme (including museums who have working towards and provisional status) and haven't received your email invite to complete the survey, please check your mailboxes for 16<sup>th</sup> June and /or contact us on [spotlightwales2024@gmail.com](mailto:spotlightwales2024@gmail.com)

## Support available

The survey comes with a quick start guide and if you completed it last time (Spotlight 2022) we have a PDF copy of the answers that your museum gave then to assist you to complete the questions in Spotlight24.

## Here to help

We know how busy everyone is and we want to make it as simple as possible for you to complete Spotlight so if you have any questions about the survey do not hesitate to contact us on [spotlightwales2024@gmail.com](mailto:spotlightwales2024@gmail.com) and one of the team will respond within 3 working days.





# The Welsh Museums Festival, October 2025

The Welsh Museums Festival is funded by the Welsh Government. It is an annual event presented by the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales, which is the advocacy body for museums and galleries and those working in this sector within Wales. It currently represents over 100 unique Accredited Welsh museums, from small independents to national museums.

## Join us this October half-term

The Welsh Museums Festival returns this year, between Saturday 25 October and Sunday 2 November 2025, bringing the spirit of Croeso and Hwyl to communities across Wales.

This annual celebration of Welsh heritage and culture offers museums an unparalleled opportunity to showcase their collections with genuine Welsh warmth while creating joyful and memorable experiences that strengthen community connections.

## Why Take Part?

Last year, 47 museums took part and held over 350 individual events. From large national institutions to local collections, 89% of last year's participating museums and galleries said they would definitely take part again. This is because the festival is an opportunity to support their local community with free events and to increase visitors to their venue.

## Festival Support

The Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales provides comprehensive support including promotional materials like stickers and pencils, Halloween activity packs, coordinated marketing campaigns, and grant funding of up to £500 to organise events / an event.

## Popular Features

With 85% of festival visitors attending with children, it's particularly effective at engaging families who might not otherwise visit museums. Activities, like craft workshops, are often very popular, with 25% of visitors in 2024 telling us this was their favourite part of the festival. Hwyl is the theme this year, but museums can design programmes that reflect their unique collections and community interests.

## Get Involved

To register your interest, get in touch with Carys Mair Thomas, the festival coordinator:

[carys@carysmair.com](mailto:carys@carysmair.com)

<https://museumsfestival.wales>



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