



live{

# Llŷn Iweragh Ecomuseums

Winter Newsletter 2022





The LIVE teams on the Llŷn and Iweragh peninsulas have been very busy over the last 6 months hosting, attending and speaking at various events, festivals and conferences. It has been an exciting time and has almost made up for the few months at the beginning of the project where we were grounded entirely!

In addition to the various events, our team has continued to develop local networks and work with community groups aiming to protect biodiversity, local businesses interested in managing their land for biodiversity and anyone with an interest in local wildlife.

The group collaborates closely with a range of local and national initiatives, and they are always keen to meet people, share knowledge, and get new ideas. If you want to get in touch, please email the project at [live@ucc.ie](mailto:live@ucc.ie). If you see any of the team out and about, say hi!

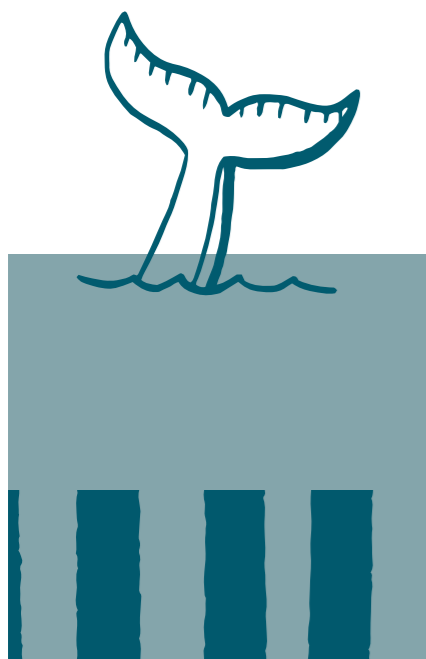


## Celtic Mist Trip

Last summer, Knowledge Gatherer, Christina, was lucky enough to spend a week sailing with the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG) aboard their boat 'Celtic Mist'. Here is her account of her trip.

'Donated to the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group in 2011 by the family of Charles J. Haughey, SY Celtic Mist is used to train IWDG members on annual surveys along the Irish coast. So, when I saw leg 6 of this year's survey would be sailing around the Iveragh coast, I jumped at the opportunity!

Our first dolphin sighting on the five-day trip was of the "Fenit Three" and a small pod of Bottlenose dolphins in Brandon Bay. While the first belong to the [Scottish Moray Firth](#) population who have remained in Fenit Bay for the past few years, the latter were likely part of the [Shannon dolphins](#). Both populations consist of residential, isolated dolphins, making them unique in spending most of their lives in particular areas close to shore. However, at least one other coastal, more mobile population roams along the West coast of Ireland. Iveragh is frequently visited by Scottish and Irish bottlenose dolphins.



Having seen fin whales feeding off Bray Head the previous week, I was disappointed not to see any from the boat. What we found though, were common dolphins... a lot of common dolphins. We saw them on their own and accompanying foraging and feeding minke whales and even one humpback whale, which was identified as HBIRL107 of the IWDG catalogue just off the Blasket Islands. When the feeding frenzy cooled down, one juvenile minke decided to check us out instead and circled around the boat. This was definitely an encounter you do not get to see every day and will surely stay in our memories.

From Derrynane to Castletownbere and Baltimore, we spotted many more common dolphins, seals and one single sunfish. Sightings of whales and dolphins are unpredictable even though I've seen many more animals in these areas before, that's not a guarantee of seeing them another day. One animal that was spotted regularly throughout the whole trip

though, was jellyfish. One species in particular was astonishing in its beauty, coming in all variations of brown and orange: the compass jelly.

While the trip showed the unpredictability of cetacean encounters (because you never know when and where you will come across them), it was a fantastic opportunity to get my sea legs back and enjoy the beauty of South Kerry and West Cork from a very different angle.'





## Cider & Scything

Towards the end of September, the weather on Llŷn felt particularly autumnal, with warm sun, cold northerly winds and heavy showers for our cider and scything day at Plas yn Rhiw. With most of the apples ripe for eating, we had a good choice of fruit for making juice with; almost 30 varieties of apples to choose from. Thanks to help from many eager pickers, crushers and juicers we managed to produce about 50 litres of juice, all of which was drunk by the participants and described by more than one person as 'the best juice they'd ever had', a compliment indeed.

Lee Oliver from the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust ran scything sessions throughout the day, looking at the history of scything, how the tools have changed over time and giving people the opportunity to learn the correct technique. The orchard at Plas yn Rhiw is in a flower-rich grassland and scything might be an option worth considering for future management rather than cutting with machinery.

The creative part of the day was provided by Jo and Rachel Porter, who created autumnal willow crowns and wreaths. Using natural materials collected locally, people had a lot of fun creating their crowns of ivy, lavender, hydrangeas and many other plants that they could find nearby.



## Llŷn fungi forages 2022

2022 has been a good year for fungi with a mild wet autumn producing some fantastic displays across Llŷn. Cynan Jones joined us again to lead the fungi forages on some of the Ecomuseum sites with some rare and fascinating fungi being found. The walks and talks explored a variety of habitats including mature native woodlands, unimproved fields, coastal slopes and some conifer plantations, all supporting different types of fungi. Unimproved land that has received no chemical fertiliser can be home to some of our most colourful mushrooms; the waxcaps. These mushrooms are named for their shiny waxy looking cups, coming in a variety of colours including golden, yellow, red, black and white. Some of our other exciting finds included huge parasol mushrooms, coral fungus and the fly agaric, a mushroom that looks like it's come straight from the pages of a fairy-tale book.





## 11th International Conference on Monitoring and Management of Visitors in Recreational and Protected Areas (MMV11)

The International Conference on Monitoring and Management of Visitors in Recreational and Protected Areas is one of the largest conferences in Europe of its kind and it closely relates to the aims and objectives of LIVE: identifying opportunities for ecotourism, promoting natural and cultural heritage as part of a sustainable tourism strategy, and sharing best practice knowledge on environmental education and interpretation programmes. From September 19th – 22nd, the conference took place for the 11th time – this year in Jūrmala, Latvia - and attracted an audience from across Europe and beyond, including universities, community and environmental organisations, and sustainable / ecotourism practitioners. As part of her knowledge gathering role, Leonie Schulz attended the conference to present some of our work, promote the natural and cultural assets of both areas (Llyn & Iweragh peninsulas), and to exchange ideas with attendees. She has written an account of the conference here.

‘After a warm welcome on the evening of the first

day, I took the opportunity to get to know some of the other conference participants and to find out about similar projects. As my work specifically focusses on developing ideas for regenerative tourism, it was great to discuss these and get some more inspiration from other projects. The next three days were filled with presentations by keynote speakers and attendees, Q&A sessions, panel discussions, field-trips, and plenty of networking opportunities. There were about 75 presentations, which were organised as parallel sessions. This presented me with both an opportunity to select the most relevant presentations and a challenge because there were so many interesting ones, ranging from ‘landscape quality monitoring and key performance indicators’ to ‘managing and creating recreational resources’, and from ‘eco-innovations and technological advances in managing visitor flow in nature areas’ to ‘outdoor recreation advocacy as a social movement for sustainable development and change’.



I chaired a session on new visitor trends and consumption patterns and presented our work within that session. My presentation was about the ecomuseum concept in general, the #Ecoamgueddfa more specifically, and potential challenges and opportunities for applying regenerative tourism principles with examples from both areas (Llyn & Iweragh peninsulas). I presented some preliminary results from our current [visitor survey](#), which gathers ideas on regenerative tourism activities, i.e., activities that help an area thrive as both a destination and a home. In this survey, visitors to both peninsulas commented that they would like to contribute to the area’s regeneration and preservation of natural and cultural heritage by supporting local initiatives, buying local produce, learning and practicing the local language (Cymraeg / Gaeilge), litter picks and beach cleans, and volunteering in local conservation projects. The session ended with a discussion on the differences between sustainable and regenerative tourism. This discussion emphasised the importance of looking at both sustainable and regenerative tourism in combination, not in isolation.

The conference inspired me to further refine our methods and ways to think about tourism as a force

for good in destination communities. I particularly liked the presentation by Agnese Balandiņa from the Ķemeri National Park Nature Centre of the Nature Conservation Agency, Latvia, who presented best practice examples of increasing added value to visits of protected areas and showcased their educational model. We got to see it in action when we visited Ķemeri National Park. The conference was a great way of sharing our work with other networks and learning from other best practice examples. If you’re interested in finding out more about the different topics that were discussed during the conference, please have a look at the conference book of [abstracts](#).





## Conference: How local authorities can address the biodiversity emergency

In mid-September Knowledge Gatherers Calum and Fiach attended a biodiversity conference aimed at local authorities in Limerick. LIVE had a stand at the two-day event, showcasing our work and giving Calum and Fiach the chance to explain more about the LIVE project to attendees.



## Here are some of the key takeaway messages from the conference:

- The importance of fixing a definition for biodiversity (Variation within species, between species and across ecosystems) was discussed extensively.
- Monitoring is key to demonstrating effectiveness of action. Baseline studies are essential otherwise you can't show that change has occurred as a result of actions undertaken.
- Positive experiences of nature in young people can and often does translate to environmental care. For this reason, many groups like An Choill Bheag (the little forest) are working with schools to plant and experience woodlands.
- Biodiversity should be integrated into planning. For example, drains and meadows shouldn't be separate. Road and building runoff is toxic so proper design can integrate functions with swales directing water from roads and buildings into vegetated areas where run off is slowed and filtration for contaminants can occur. This has the added ecosystem service of reducing flooding, not to mention health benefits.
- "How do we know when we're done?" – Úna Fitzpatrick. The All-Ireland Pollinator plant is nearing 100% Local Authority county council sign up in Ireland (currently 95%). The next step will likely be more accountability and recognition for action.
- Some great practical advice about swift boxes incorporated into building architecture and books like 'Designing for Biodiversity' were suggested.

Hearing from people working towards a better future from around Ireland was really inspiring for our knowledge gatherers and they felt the ideas, and actions pledged, mean that the outlook is positive for the future of Ireland's biodiversity. In saying that, there is a long way to go, and progress will require buy-in from the entire country.



## Llŷn Education pack

The benefits of education and learning in the outdoors is well established. For this reason, a number of organisations in North Wales, including the LIVE project, worked together to create a set of resources for school groups and young people allowing them to look more closely at their local environment.

The education packs include a set of activities relating to the land, sea or river catchment. These include things like species surveys, strandline scavenger hunts, writing a haiku or finding out more about choughs. The aim is to offer an introduction into ecology. Primary schools on Pen Llŷn will receive a physical copy of the packs with a small box of equipment to help with some of the activities, and all the resources will be available for download on the [Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau website](#).

The packs were officially launched on a blustery November morning on Criccieth beach with Ysgol y Gorlan. 28 children braved the conditions with Amlyn Parry (Marine projects officer from Gwynedd Council) and LIVE team member Robert Parkinson to explore the beach looking at some of the marine creatures and the impact pollution and litter can have.



## Ellen Hutchins Festival

Over the past year and a half, Knowledge Gather for the LIVE project, Jane Sheehan, has been researching Iveragh's pioneer marine biologist, Maude Delap. The project aims to fill knowledge gaps surrounding Maude Delap and to share and honour her scientific legacy while promoting the natural and cultural heritage of Iveragh. Though a century separates them, there are many similarities between Maude Delap and another Irish female pioneer – Ellen Hutchins.

Ellen Hutchins was Ireland's first female botanist. A pioneering naturalist from Bantry Bay born in 1785, Ellen specialised in seaweeds, mosses, lichens and liverworts. Her gift at identifying species, coupled with her ability to finely produce finely detailed watercolours and preserve and press specimens, led to Ellen's success in botany. Her work helped document the flora of West Cork, which was comparatively unknown at the time. She discovered several new species, three of which, different species of lichen are named after her. To commemorate and celebrate the work carried out by her, The Ellen Hutchins Festival is held in Bantry Bay in West Cork every August. In August of this year Jane attended the 7th annual 9-day

festival to learn more about Ellen Hutchins's legacy and how events like this can celebrate historic figures and promote natural capital.

The festival has many different walks, tours and workshops which focused on elements of history, science, biodiversity, wildlife and art and took place at several locations spread across the Bantry Bay area. Throughout the festival, an exhibition on Ellen Hutchins was on display in Bantry Library. This contained archival material such as possessions and letters belonging to her were displayed in a wonderfully designed cabinet.

The Ellen Hutchins Festival is a fantastic example of how we can celebrate and promote our natural heritage and the legacy of women in science. The experience of attending the festival and witnessing its success inspired the question of how we could better celebrate the legacy of our pioneering naturalist Maude Delap on Iveragh.



# Be. Cultour

Following a successful application to join the Be.Cultour programme, a scheme which is funded through the European Horizon 2020 scheme, the team working on the LIVE project in Wales attended a conference in Brussels in October to discuss sustainable tourism and the place of tourism within the circular economy. It was a great opportunity to meet people from various regions across Europe who are passionate about developing regenerative tourism models that protect the heritage, culture and environment of their regions and put local people at the centre of the developing economic models.

On the first day, there was a visit to the Zuid-Limburg area in the south of the Netherlands which has developed a very diverse, but integrated tourism offer, developing specific themes for their campaign in order to appeal to different audiences. [www.visitzuidlimburg.com](http://www.visitzuidlimburg.com). This is the only mountainous area in the Netherlands and is traditionally popular with walkers and cyclists. There is now a wider effort to promote the industrial history of the area, and a particular emphasis on promoting the history of the coal industry which was a major employer in the area until the 1980s. The art-deco cinema in the town of Heerlen hosted an informative presentation by the head of tourism for the region that showcased the success of their branded marketing campaign in a thematic, easy to follow way.



During the second day there was a workshop at the office of ERRIN: European Regions Research and Innovation Network in the centre of Brussels discussing the future of regenerative tourism. There were interesting presentations from three tourism experts, and lively discussions about areas where over-tourism was having a very negative impact on communities, infrastructure, and services in cities such as Venice, Barcelona and Edinburgh. Everyone agreed that there must be a balance to ensure that these cities maintain viable communities if they are to survive, and that the people who traditionally live and work there are not pushed out. There were interesting discussions about the problems and threats of opening new locations in more peripheral areas for tourism and that it is very important to develop good practice to offer quality experiences to the visitor, but also protects the natural and built environment, and the communities that support them.

Valuable connections have developed through this network, and we hope there will be further opportunities to learn and share information and visit the most progressive projects.





# Learning Landscapes / From the Ground Up

One weekend in early October, we were lucky enough to attend, and have stands at, two events local to Iveragh. In Waterville, the annual Iveragh Learning Landscapes weekend, which this year included an exhibition from Stories of Change, and in Tralee the ‘From the Ground Up’ festival.

On the Friday, three members of the LIVE Team - Orla Breslin, Aoibheann Lambe and Calum Sweeney - attended a ‘From the Ground Up – A

Celebration of Biodiversity, Leadership and Community Wellbeing’. This community event in Tralee was organised by Transition Towns Kerry and other partners.

This event celebrated the successful completion of two local training programmes - ‘Transition Farming’ and ‘Biodiversity & Climate Change Community Leadership’.



These courses are training a new cohort of local eco-leaders. LIVE had a stand at an open gathering, similar to a market, for community groups and activities across Kerry, which was held in Aras an Phobail in Tralee. The team presented some of the projects we are working on, met new and interesting community biodiversity groups and caught up with some of our own stakeholders who were attending the event. Local schools also came by with students engaged in a paper-based activity that encouraged them to talk to stall holders.

That evening in Waterville, LIVE project manager, Lucy Taylor, presented the project during the opening of Iveragh Learning Landscapes and participated in panel discussion on the various environmental initiatives being undertaken on the peninsula. Sitting alongside Luke Myers of Kerry Social Farming, Anna Kellagher of Sea Synergy, and Stephen O’Shea of the Pearl Mussel project an interesting discussion about the work of each panelist ensued. The Fair Seas Campaign also launched a video on the evening, which captured stakeholders from around Kerry discussing issues around marine protection. Danni Washington,

TV presenter with National Geographic, provided the final word and summed up the discussions and networking had throughout the night.

The following morning, as part of the same event in Waterville, which was a collaboration with Stories of Change, we set up our stand for the day and were delighted to speak to many local people whose work and interests aligned with those of the project. Altogether a fabulous weekend, with loads of very positive conversations and connection made.



# National Trust Visit

During October some of the National Trust's Llŷn staff made the trip across to the Iveragh to learn more about the area, some of the attractions and how the LIVE project works with local communities in Ireland.

On our first morning, we drove through the spectacular Killarney National Park west onto the Iveragh peninsula where we met up with LIVE project staff Lucy, Calum, Aoibheann, Linda and Peggy (Lucy's dog). We explored an ancient sunken forest which was being exposed as the sediments shifted where Calum was going to be counting the tree stumps using a drone to get an idea of how extensive the remains were.

That afternoon we travelled along the coast to visit Derrynane House where we had an Irish history lesson with a tour around the home of Daniel O'Connell. This property with its gardens, manor house and café is reminiscent of National Trust properties back in Wales and a useful insight into how it's possible to do similar things but in different ways. During our time at Derrynane house we met up with a group visiting from Skye (Scotland) whose

ecomuseum was partly responsible for inspiring the LIVE Ecomuseum project. As a group, we walked along the coast onto Abbey Island, a small island accessible at low tide and the resting place of Daniel O'Connell. The graveyard had recently been extended because of local people's desire to be buried near home. The strong connections people on Iveragh have with their 'square mile' reminded me of people on Llŷn, one of many similarities.

The third day started on Valentia Island jutting out into the North Atlantic. We were introduced to the story of Maude Delap and her innovative research into jellyfish, most of which was done at Knightstown on Valentia. Jane, who has been researching and telling the story of Maude Delap as a LIVE Knowledge Gatherer inspired the whole group, and although the weather was cold and damp everyone was absorbed by her talk. Clodagh (a resident of Valentia) took us on a tour of the island, visiting the working quarry / grotto, the cable station, a cutting-edge interpretation centre telling the story of the undersea cable between Europe and America and on to the Skellig Experience centre.



Being able to compare the different ways of telling a story was interesting, how traditional methods and cutting-edge technology both have their place in storytelling. Fiach (also a Knowledge Gatherer on the project) joined us for our visit to Valentia lighthouse and walk to see some 385 million year old tetrapod prints preserved in rock! Both Llŷn and Iveragh conducted joint chough counts earlier on in the year and it was great to spot a few with Fiach as we walked the coast path.

Our final day provided some of the most spectacular views of the visit as we walked up to Bray head with views out to sea of the Skellig Islands. We met up with Christina whose expertise is in cetaceans, who with her telescope was searching for marine mammals out to sea and mentioned some of the exciting sightings she'd had from this very position. We weren't so lucky!

During our journey home we talked a lot about the differences and similarities between home and the Iveragh, the scale, types of visitors and attractions both locations have. One thing that we all agreed on was that we'd like to visit again next year. Thanks again to everyone on the Irish side for your warm welcome!





# Iveragh Business Meitheal

On 19th of October 2022, the Iveragh team held an information event for our business stakeholders. ‘Meitheal’ is an Irish word for communities coming together to help each other, traditionally for agricultural activities such as bringing in the hay, and this meitheal gnó / business meitheal was just that - an open initiation to all the businesses across Iveragh to come together to learn and share.

Despite extremely bad weather causing some cancellations, we had approximately 70 people present in the Sea Lodge Hotel in Waterville for this three hour event with information stands and talks from a range of agencies, organisations and local networks from across Iveragh.

National agencies included Fáilte Ireland, Local Enterprise Board and Údaras na Gaeltachta, local networks included Valentia Island Development Company, Skellig Coast Tourism Network and Visit Waterville, as well as our partners Kerry County Council and South Kerry Development Partnership. There was a strong presence from different Irish language groups and organisations, as well as Kerry Local Link – a community transport initiative that is looking to grow existing bus routes and develop new routes across the peninsula.

The feedback we received from the event was fantastic – through conversations had on the day and follow-up surveys. There is a general consensus that we need to work together locally to ‘package’ Iveragh as the wonderful destination it is, through itineraries and more collaboration between attractions, activities and accommodation providers, to encourage visitors to stay longer. There is an appetite for positive action on the ground between businesses and communities across Iveragh, which will feed directly into our activities, in particular the Ambassador Programme, which started in November 2022, the new Iveragh website, and the overall legacy of the LIVE Project.

Special thanks to Joe McGill (Radio Kerry/McGill’s Brewery) for being a fantastic MC, Sea Lodge Hotel Waterville for hosting, Caitlín Breathnach (Taskforce Iveragh), Danielle Favier (Fáilte Ireland), Oonagh Walsh (Skellig Coast Tourism Network) and Lucian Horvat (VIDCO) for their continued support and advice in the organization of this event, and to everyone who attended this meitheal on what was a dreadfully wet and windy day.

## Iveragh Ambassador Programme

In November we were delighted to launch our Iveragh Ambassador Programme with an event in Skellig CRI in Cahersiveen library. Our first event was on the theme of Coastal Wildlife and took attendees through the various resources available to local businesses around Cetaceans, Seabirds and Winter Waders. Discussions after the event were engaging and very in-depth and we hope this continues throughout the series.

The aim of the ambassador series is to shape and share the resources and outputs we are creating on outdoor experiences for the off-season visitor. We’d like to invite south Kerry stakeholders to join us to fine tune the digital resources and itineraries that LIVE has developed for the Iveragh peninsula - learn how they can be of use to you to market your business and your region, discuss how to promote the Iveragh peninsula outside of peak tourism seasons, and develop visitor experience packages. We aim to meet twice a month for indoor and outdoor sessions on a particular theme or topic. These events will be designed to complement and enhance your own

local knowledge about Iveragh’s natural heritage, its landscapes, seascapes, mountains, walks and trails, and all of the biodiversity that lives within it.

The indoor sessions will focus on themes such as sustainable tourism, collaborative marketing, and effective use of digital resources to promote your area while the outdoor sessions will be based around a walk-and-talk. We will focus on sharing knowledge about the natural and cultural heritage of Iveragh and getting to know different locations, heritage sites, and walking trails. We will discuss the theme from the indoor session, the practical application of turning digital resources into outdoor experiences. This programme will contribute to the development of a bank of digital resources that can grow and adapt to the needs of the community over time and will continue into Spring 2023. We encourage potential attendees to join us at any time and each event will be advertised via our monthly email or our social media pages.



# Llyn Archaeology Festival 2022

The Autumn can only mean one thing for the LIVE team in Wales – Llyn Archaeology Festival time! The 2022 festival built on the firm foundations of the inaugural festival in 2021 – however we wanted to extend the festival offer in 2022 and decided very early on in the year to run the festival over a period of weeks starting off in September.

## Meillionydd Exhibition September 12 - 16

The festival kicked off with a week-long Meillionydd Exhibition at Oriel Plas Glyn y Weddw in Llanbedrog. Bangor University have been excavating at Meillionydd – a late Bronze Age double ring work enclosure near Mynydd Rhiw since 2010 and the exhibition showcased some of the fascinating finds from the site. A total of 191 people visited the exhibition over a period of five days. It was fantastic to see so many people from all over the world interested in the history of the site. We also welcomed 50 school pupils from Ysgol Crud y Werin, Aberdaron and Ysgol Llanbedrog who were introduced to the history of Meillionydd by Dr Kate Waddington of Bangor University, and archaeologist and punk rock star Rhys Mwyn. The children also had a go at weaving and created models of Iron Age objects out of clay.

## 3D Modelling Workshops - September 23 – November 11

Second in the line-up was ‘Capturing the Iron Age in Pen Llŷn’ – a weekly series of 3D modelling workshops held at Oriel Plas Glyn y Weddw in Llanbedrog. These workshops were funded via the LIVE Project and Being Human Festival – the UK’s national festival of the humanities. During the workshops, participants learned how to digitise excavated objects from Meillionydd. A total of 47 participants took part over a period of 6 weeks including year 11 pupils from Ysgol Eifionydd in Porthmadog. All digitised objects will be on permanent display alongside the LIVE hillforts virtual tour at Porth y Swnt in Aberdaron in the new year.

## Archaeological Guided Walks October 31 – November 4

Last in the month’s long line up were the guided Archaeological Walks with Rhys Mwyn. This year, we wanted to offer walks that were accessible to all – they varied from those that were accessible for wheelchairs users and buggies, to hill walks. The Garn Fadryn walk was postponed due to a Yellow Wind warning but the Nefyn Historical Hunt and Aberdaron Archaeology walk went ahead with 21 participants.



Knowledge Gatherer and Archeologist Aoibheann Lambe made the trip across to Llyn from Iveragh for part of the festival. She has written an account of her trip and we must say, it has made the rest of the Iveragh team quite envious!

‘The rarer types of monuments found on the Llŷn Peninsula are also recorded in Ireland – Stone Age ‘axe factories’, hillforts and portal tombs. The peninsula, located on the coast just below the Isle of Anglesey, which is itself famous for its decorated passage tombs, has examples of ringfort-like enclosures whose Welsh name translates as ‘Irish houses’. An ogham stone as well as rock art is also found on Llŷn. As the occurrence of the same types of monuments on both Llŷn and in Ireland are evidence of prehistoric connections, the opportunity to travel to Llŷn for its 2022 Archaeology Festival was very welcome indeed! Another reason for going was to see how our partners on Llŷn organize and project manage such a festival. The whole experience, I am delighted to report, was enjoyable, educational and, above all, inspiring.

The festival ran over five days, from Monday 31 October to Friday 4 November. Local polymath



(archaeologist, musician, radio presenter, tour guide and author of Real Gwynedd), Rhys Mwyn and Gwenan Griffith of LIVE were the backbones of the festival. The openair events in a line-up which ranged from gentle-paced village tours to strenuous mountain hikes were led by Rhys and all the events were scheduled to take place before lunchtime.

The hour has ‘gone back’ just before the festival began and so the mornings were perfect for events, leaving the rest of the day free to explore the cairns and hilltops that Rhys had pointed out during his tours. Now, while it is a treat to be led to a site by a local knowledgeable guide, many of the sites on the peninsula can be explored using the interactive story maps which can be found on the LIVE website! My visit to the ‘axe factories’ with knowledge gatherer Leonie Schulz was greatly enhanced by availing of the [Mynydd Rhiw Archaeology Walk](#) - an interactive digital trail which was created by knowledge gatherer, Katharine Moeller.



The festival was also very sociable and the attendees interacted with one another and it was a warm and friendly crowd. The tours also armed them with information to pass on to any visitors. After our guided walk around the village of Aderdaron with a visit the druid's house on the cliffs as well as a stop by a holy well, we sheltered from the elements in the cosy local bakery. As with all outdoor activities, the weather does not always oblige. The hike to Garn Fadryn hillfort and Iron Age enclosures was postponed due to the heavy winds and rain.

The indoor activities comprised virtual 3D workshops which had already been running for a number of weeks previously as part of the 'Being Human' festival. Handling real Iron Age artefacts excavated at the double ringwork enclosure of Meillionydd, with Rhys on hand to explain the nature of each object, and with instruction from two post-graduate students at Bangor University, we made virtual 3D models of a number of these objects during the workshop. Although I already had experience of making such models, I found these workshops very beneficial and learned some useful tips.

Rhys Mwyn brought me on a private tour to rock art sites and introduced to me to landowners along the way who kindly invited me back anytime I wished and back I went. Not all the sites I visited were archaeological. A farmer showed me a neighbouring farm with a multi-million rotating milking parlour, something like a 'magic roundabout' where the cows step on the device and are automatically milked until the full rotation is completed at which time they step off. It doesn't always work to plan. A thatched story house in a remote area is used for storytelling. Now that was magic. And in the lively village of Nefyn, the community has taken over two of the pubs, the produce from a community garden used for the kitchen of one of the businesses. What a great idea which we could adapt here on Iveragh.

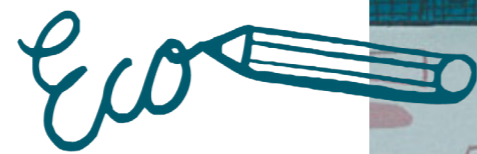


An unexpected bonus of the trip was hearing Welsh, the first language on Llŷn, being spoken at all the events. Ba mhór agam an Bhreatnais a chloisteáil á labhairt le linn mo thaisteal ar Leithinis Llŷn sa Bhreatain Bheag. Cé ceolmhar a fhuaimneann sé! Ag an am céanna, mhothaigh mé brón (agus náire) nach labhraím ach Béarla sa bhaile. Bhí Breatnais á labhairt ag gach aon duine ar bhuail mé leo ar Leithinis Llŷn. Chomh iontach agus a bhí sé an Bhreatnais a chloisteáil á labhairt mar theanga bheo. Gheall mé dom féin go ndéanfainn comhiarracht a bheith líofa sa Ghaeilge ar fhilleadh abhaile dom agus Gaeilge a labhairt gach lá as seo amach.

The Archaeology Festival on Llŷn was a wonderful experience and one that will stay with me, not just as a memory, but as a model for our own archaeology festivals on Iveragh, with the first to take place in the Autumn of 2023.'

So that's it for 2022. We would like to thank Oriel Plas Glyn y Weddw for hosting the exhibition and 3D Modelling workshops seamlessly, to Rhys Mwyn for leading the walks and for all the participants who took part. Until next time, diolch.





## Keeping in touch with Llŷn Iweragh Ecomuseums

Launched in January 2021, we are very proud of our website, [www.ecomuseumlive.eu](http://www.ecomuseumlive.eu). While primarily a tool for sharing information about the project, we are delighted that it looks so well aesthetically. Recently we have revamped the site, and it now contains more information and outputs from our work through the year. Some of the new additions to the website include a video gallery, the addition of several new blogs and storymaps and an events calendar which contains the dates and details of all our upcoming events.

Our project is bilingual with both English and Welsh as working languages. In addition, the website and some of our resources and social media content is also available in Irish. We would like to have more Irish content but have not yet secured a regular translator for this work. Promoting Irish and Welsh as living languages is integral to the aims of LIVE, so we hope to resolve this in the near future.

In addition to the website, we have also got a very active social media presence. Llŷn Iweragh Ecomuseums can be found on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. We share information about events, local stories of interest, and tidbits of information about our research. Please follow us to keep up to date with the project.

If you would like to contact us directly, you can also do so by email at [live@ucc.ie](mailto:live@ucc.ie).



[www.ecomuseumlive.eu](http://www.ecomuseumlive.eu)

