



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

Nant Gwrtheyrn Mixing with the Stars

The afternoon of Wednesday, 22 February, was an afternoon of 'Straeon yn y Sêr' (Stories in the Stars) and 'Cytser Cymru' (Welsh Constellations) here at the Nant, with the celebrations noting Welsh Dark Skies Week 2023. It's probably the tale of the two lovers Rhys and Meinir which springs to mind when we think of Nant Gwrtheyrn, but it was stories about the stars and the planets above us that the author and storyteller Fiona Collins and Dani Robertson (Snowdonia National Park's Dark Skies Officer) shared with us on this occasion.

We heard local tales and stories connected to the stars, as well as a glimpse of the stars and the planets from a scientific perspective and their Welsh names. As Fiona herself put it, "in my view, science is now the new magic."

The event was particularly timely with nearby Bardsey Island's recent designation as an International Dark Sky Sanctuary (one of only sixteen in the world!). We were reminded of the importance of protecting and respecting the dark sky in order that we may enjoy what we can see above us when our own lights don't impair our view of it.

It was an afternoon to remember for those of all ages who came by to take part, and we will certainly view the stars differently having learnt so much about them from Fiona and Dani.



From Bengali Sylheti to Pen Llŷn

Visiting the doctor or hospital can be an anxious time at the best of times, but the inability to discuss matters in our first language can add to the stress. This is what inspired Dr Anna Eleri Livingstone, a family doctor in London, to learn the Bengali Sylheti language in the 1980s to enable her to interact with patients from Bangladesh who couldn't speak English when she was a GP in Tower Hamlets.

Dr Livingstone herself was born in London but cites her own experience of Wales and the Welsh language, resulting from her mother's upbringing in Llanddewi Brefi, as the reason for learning to speak her patients' language.

Anna fought against the injustice and racism which faced her patients for decades and continues to support them today. Following her recent retirement Anna decided she would like to learn the Welsh language, and came here to the Nant in March for her first Welsh lesson. "The heart's in Wales," said Anna, and "I like the feeling of community that the ability to speak the language gives you."

As her patients inspired her, Anna herself continues to inspire others. According to Sian Jones, who leads the lessons, "She has inspired the class and me as an individual. Her perseverance in learning the Welsh language has been infectious."



More news....

Job Vacancies at the Nant

It's difficult to imagine a more idyllic location to work in than Nant Gwrtheyrn, and there are currently a number of excellent opportunities to join the team at Caffi Meinir.

Lisa was at VENU, Pwllheli in March as part of the Gwaith Gwynedd Jobs Fair, and posts are still available here at y Nant.

These posts include opportunities for Cooks (flexible working hours), Front of House Staff (evenings and weekends), Kitchen Staff (evenings and weekends, 16+), Waiting Staff (weekends, 16+) and Bar Staff (weekends, 18+). All posts include a very good salary package and flexible working hours. The ability to speak Welsh is desirable, or the willingness to learn the language. To apply, simply email your CV to post@nantgwrtheyrn.org or for further information please call us on 01758 750334.

Doing the Little Things to Start the Language Journey

The annual Saint David's Day celebrations provide an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of the Welsh language among those who don't speak it, and this year was no exception. It was decided this year to follow the advice of Saint David himself by 'doing the small things'.

Nant Gwrtheyrn and the Ecomuseum came together to produce brand new Welsh learning pocket guides. Their purpose is to help learners to speak Welsh in various situations and locations such as the café, at home, on holiday, down the pub, and more. The Cymraeg for Beginners series is aimed at those who want to take the first steps to make practical use of the language.

The pocket guides are available from the Nant itself as well as the six Ecomuseum sites, and they're free of charge! Who knows, that first small step and the confidence to order a cuppa or a meal in Welsh could well be the boost someone needs to inspire them to learn the language properly.

