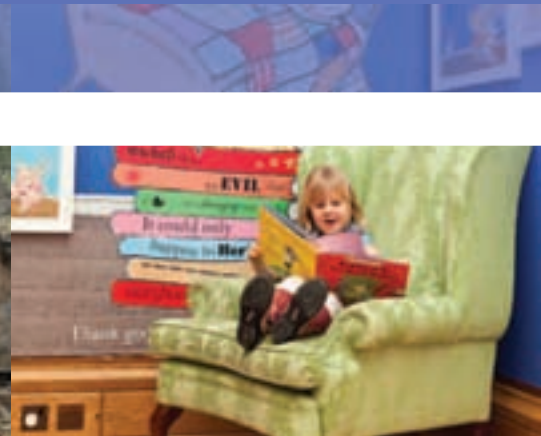


national
museum
wales
amgueddfa
cymru

Amgueddfa Cymru: Inspiring Wales



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Published in 2010 by
Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales
Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NP, Wales.

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Text: Heledd Fychan
Editing and production: Mari Gordon
Design: A1 Design, Cardiff
Printed by: Zenith Media



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Printed on Challenger White Pulpboard made from ECF pulp from sustainable forests.

National Museum Cardiff

Discover art, archaeology, natural history and geology. Explore our past in Origins: In Search of Early Wales, enjoy works from one of the finest art collections in Europe, find out how life evolved in Wales and which dinosaurs roamed the land.



The National Roman Legion Museum

The Museum lies within the ruins of the Roman fortress and offers the only remains of a Roman legionary barracks on view anywhere in Europe plus Britain's most complete amphitheatre. Dress as a Roman and discover from our own Roman citizens how they lived – and how they changed life in Wales forever.



The National Wool Museum

The Museum, located in the former Cambrian Mills in Dre-fach Felindre, explains why wool was historically the most important and widespread of Welsh industries. You'll see the Mighty Mule, a wall of blankets and an exhibition of shawls. Shirts, bedcovers, woollen stockings and socks were all made here and sold in the surrounding countryside – and to the rest of the world.



St Fagans: National History Museum

The country's most popular heritage attraction offers you a walk around Wales. During the last 50 years over 40 original buildings from different historical periods have been re-erected in the 100-acre parkland including houses, a farm, a school, a tollhouse and a splendid medieval church.



The National Waterfront Museum

The National Waterfront Museum is housed in a magnificent building that elegantly combines old and new architecture. Wales's newest national museum, it tells the story of industry and innovation in Wales now and over the last 300 years with cutting-edge, interactive technology and traditional displays.



your national museums

Entry is free to Wales's seven national museums

The National Slate Museum

The Museum is in the Victorian workshops built in the shadow of the Elidir mountain, site of the vast Dinorwig quarry. Here you can travel into the past of an industry and way of life that has chiselled itself into the very being of this country.



Big Pit: National Coal Museum

In its heyday Big Pit employed 1,300 workers. Now you can follow in their footsteps through award-winning interactive exhibits and of course our famous underground tour. Led by a real miner, it will give you a living, breathing taste of what life in Wales was like for those who made their living at the coal face.



Amgueddfa Cymru also has a **National Collections Centre**. Based in Nantgarw, it houses part of our industrial collections including boats, cars, steam rollers and other large vehicles as well as smaller items such as ship models and paintings. Items can be viewed by appointment.

For more information about the museums, please visit our website: www.museumwales.ac.uk.

introduction

bringing our museums to life

Museums are great places to visit. They can be fun, educational and surprising. They can appeal in different ways to different people, and help inspire them, no matter how young or old they are. And best of all here in Wales entry is free to all the national museums, meaning that it is possible for everyone to enjoy them.

Our museums are far more than buildings or storehouses. Though we have an important role to play as guardians of the nation's collections, equally important is our work in interpreting and communicating these collections to the people of Wales and its visitors. Through a huge variety of learning activities, we bring our museums to life so that there's always something different on offer when you visit.

But we don't just confine our work to our sites. We share our work through partnerships and research work, both within Wales and beyond.

Our staff go out into schools and communities and actively engage with people of all ages and backgrounds. We also publish information about the collections on our website Rhagor, and are leading partners of the exciting new website People's Collection Wales, so you can even enjoy our work from the comfort of your own home!

Learning is at the heart of Amgueddfa Cymru, and this paper is a celebration of that work. Our vision is to become a world-class museum of learning, and with your continued support we will achieve this. Our museums are your museums and we want to ensure that as many people as possible experience the national collections and our work. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Paul Loveluck President of Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

Moel y Gaer >

The Celtic Village at St Fagans is a popular attraction for visitors, schoolchildren, students and archaeologists. It comprises two wattle and daub structures, based on evidence from Moel y Gerddi in Gwynedd and Moel y Gaer in Flintshire, and one stone structure based on evidence from Conderton in Worcestershire. They were built in 1992 by Dr Peter Reynolds, the leading expert in roundhouses at the time, and have been preserved, with essential modifications, ever since.

As the Moel y Gaer reconstruction neared the end of its life, we decided to demolish the structure and rebuild it, basing our efforts on current archaeological theory.

This exciting work started on St David's day and visitors were able to experience the process and talk to the builders as well as our own interpreter, Ian Daniel. It proved to be a popular attraction and was reopened at the end of July. A blog and programme of activities and talks meant people were able to follow the latest developments as the building progressed.

Bryn Celli Ddu

At 4.30 am on 22 June 2010, 135 year 5 pupils, parents and friends from Ysgol Llanfairpwll gathered to witness our premier midsummer solstice phenomenon.

As part of the Archaeology Department's research programme, Dr Steve Burrow had demonstrated that the Neolithic passage tomb at Bryn Celli Ddu on Anglesey is orientated on midsummer sunrise. For twenty minutes on the longest day the sun's rays illuminate the passage and a light-show plays across the burial chamber-wall.

This was the fourth year the Museum celebrated the event. In 2007 we invited Emeritus Professor Gwyn Thomas to recite his 1960s poem *Bryn Celli Ddu* at the site; in 2008 Ysgol Llanfairpwll pupils worked with Crown Bard Iwan Llwyd to compose a poem, and last year some 75 pupils and parents gathered at the monument for the first modern-day community pilgrimage.

This year sound and music specialist Dylan Adams worked with the pupils to compose celebratory sounds, which were performed in the open air. The 2008 poem was recited, in memory of Iwan Llwyd, who passed away earlier this year.

We were especially privileged to host archaeologists from Newgrange, Ireland – the largest burial tomb in Europe – where the mid-winter solstice is embraced, and from Maes Howe, Orkney.

By engaging with local people we are ensuring that research into the lifestyles, and in this case rituals, of our ancestors is shared with the modern-day community around Bryn Celli Ddu.

A Military Spectacular

In July, the legendary King Arthur returned to the National Roman Legion Museum at Caerleon as he took centre stage at the Military Spectacular. This annual summer event, which usually focuses on the Roman period, is extremely popular with people of all ages and brings Caerleon's history to life for a weekend.

The Museum decided to do things a bit differently this year in order to offer our regular visitors something new, and used the event to explore the links between Arthur and Caerleon. Geoffrey of Monmouth said in his book *History of the Kings of Britain*, published in around 1135, that Arthur held court and was crowned at Caerleon, and talks of him and Guinevere, who eventually became a nun at Caerleon. But, whether he was a real 6th-century warlord or a product of a medieval author's mind is still debatable as no physical evidence of his existence has ever been found. However, Arthur has captured the imagination of people all over the world and, real or not, it's a fascinating story that deserves to be told.



There were
1,253,630
visits to our
website during
2009/10

bringing the past to life

There are 4.7 million individual objects in the national collections. Our staff help different groups and individuals relate to and understand them by creating imaginative interpretations and fun ways of learning. We encourage first-hand experience of museum objects and concepts, to inspire a greater understanding and appreciation of the past and to bring it to life.

Breathing Places >

All the national museums supported the BBC's Breathing Places campaign by creating special 'breathing spaces' for visitors to enjoy. The main aim of the project is to encourage people to do something that will help nature on their doorstep, and appreciate the world around them. Each museum responded differently, with some choosing to develop nature trails or green spaces and even taking part in the Tree O'Clock event, which was an attempt to set a new Guinness world record for planting the most trees in one hour.

'I'm going to come back when I'm an old man and tell my children about that tree I planted. I wonder how tall it will be by then?'

An 8-year old visitor to St Fagans.

Spring Bulbs

The Spring Bulbs for Schools project allows school pupils to become scientists, by helping them investigate and understand climate change. Schools across Wales work with Amgueddfa Cymru by nurturing and monitoring bulbs supplied by the Really Welsh Company, and measuring the impact of the changing seasons on flowering times in Wales.

In 2009-10, 2,677 pupils, 63 schools and 17 home-educated young people gained a better understanding of climate change through this project, while creating data that contributes to the understanding of the larger picture.

The International Year of Biodiversity

Amgueddfa Cymru is one of the over 20 organizations in Wales actively involved in protecting biodiversity, who have come together to play a part in this global campaign. The aim is to increase awareness of the significance of safeguarding the amazing diversity of life on our planet and to encourage others to pledge to 'Do One Thing' to help the cause. Biodiversity is fundamental to our existence; without it we won't survive.

All of our museums are involved in highlighting this campaign to visitors, and a number of different activities have been organized including behind the scenes museum tours, trails, climate change exhibitions and talks.

Future Animals

What will pets and farm animals look like in a thousand years time? With climate change and an increasing human population will we need smaller, cleaner, transportable pets? How about a micro -dog the size of a mobile 'phone, or would you breed a lightweight tortoise for speed? These were some of the questions addressed in the exhibition *Future Animals* at National Museum Cardiff earlier this year.

Future Animals was a creative project funded by Beacons for Wales, and was the result of collaboration between Amgueddfa Cymru, Cardiff University School of History and Archaeology, the artist Paul Evans and Techniquet. Featuring everything from a zip-up sheep to a guard koala, from penguin skittles to cuddly snakes, the display included imaginative drawings by young people from Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr, St Alban's RC School in Pontypool and Cardiff ITEC Solutions. Visitors could even design a 'future animal' of their own and put it up for others to see!

The exhibition was the result of three full-day workshops in December 2009 when the children were encouraged to think about pets and farm animals of the future. A team of archaeologists, a learning officer, a genetic scientist and an award-winning artist were all on hand to interpret their creations and to offer helpful information and advice.

Artist Paul Evans said: 'As well as being creative fun, the workshop was also designed to incorporate an ethical dimension. We asked the young people about the rights and wrongs of all this. Is it right for us to change the way animals look and behave just so that we can have a cute or cuddly companion or a docile source of food?' Jacqui Mulville, a specialist in the archaeology of animals, added: 'To bring alive the role that humans had in "designing" past and present animals using our specialist knowledge of the archaeology, history and genetics of dogs was really satisfying. The students' response to our challenge to then create future animals was fabulous and it was fun to see how archaeology and genetics can inspire such fantastic visions for our future.'

'Future Animals is fantastic! A fun, imaginative way to get across complex ideas!

Great to see Cardiff University and the Museum working so well with schools!

A visitor to the exhibition.



Amgueddfa Cymru museums had 1,639,827 visits from April 2009 to March 2010

understanding our landscape

Museums are only concerned with objects and history, right? Wrong! Amgueddfa Cymru's staff are also constantly involved in research and field work, while exploring new ways to promote a greater understanding of the world around us. Sustainability is hugely important to us. Not only do we work on innovative ways to develop sustainable museums, but we also have a role to play in promoting sustainability to the wider community. Through a number of different activities we encourage our visitors to appreciate, respect and explore the landscape around them so that future generations can have the same enjoyment.

The Beddgelert Meteorite >

In the early hours of 21 September 1949, many people in north Wales and Cheshire saw a brilliant light travelling rapidly across the sky. This was the Beddgelert Meteorite, and 2009 marked 60 years since a guest at the Prince Llewelyn Hotel witnessed its landing. This particular guest heard a series of dull explosions followed by three or four seconds' silence, ending with a buzzing sound 'like a light aeroplane', which grew in intensity until the sound of shattering roof slates was heard.

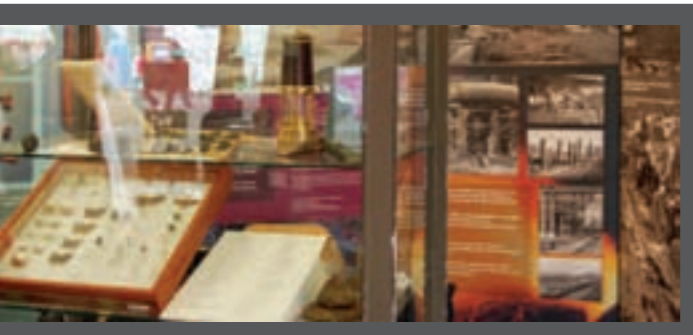
A neat, round hole was later found in the slates of the hotel roof and the dark-coloured stone, which had made a jagged hole in the ceiling, was identified as a meteorite – only the second ever known to have landed in Wales. Marking the anniversary of this rare event, Amgueddfa Cymru in partnership with the Faulkes Telescope Project at Cardiff University and BBC Wales, displayed information on the meteorite at Beddgelert Village Hall and asked people to recall any stories from their families and friends about the event to paint a clearer picture of what happened in Beddgelert all those years ago.

Everywhere in Chains

This community heritage toolkit was launched in November at the National Waterfront Museum. Produced by Amgueddfa Cymru, the toolkit has been created out of a multi-faceted project run by the National Waterfront Museum called Everywhere in Chains – Wales and Enslavement, set up to commemorate the bicentenary of the Slave Trade Abolition Act in 2007. The free electronic resource has been designed to help people understand Wales's role in the transatlantic slave trade. It aims to encourage individuals, groups and organizations to examine the history of the trade, including its modern legacies, through museum collections. It also offers ideas, activities and workshops for setting up community projects that delve into topics such as black history and Welsh heritage.

Partnership working has been at the very heart of this project. Since it began in 2007, the Museum has worked closely with a variety of community groups and organizations to fully reflect the historical and contemporary perspectives on this major element of world history.

The Heritage Minister, Alun Ffred Jones, said: 'I welcome the launch of the Everywhere in Chains toolkit, following on from the exhibition marking 200 years since the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act was passed, as it is important that we continue to find effective ways of raising awareness of the transatlantic slave trade. This toolkit represents a lasting legacy for heritage organizations in how to interpret sensitively one of the darkest eras of our history and I would like to congratulate all those involved in the project.'



National Events

National events, such as the Urdd Eisteddfod, the Royal Welsh Show and the National Eisteddfod, are great opportunities for Amgueddfa Cymru to visit various communities in Wales and promote the links between the locality and the national collections. Curators work with learning officers to develop a whole variety of activities and displays to bring the story of the area to life.

The People's Collection Wales

Amgueddfa Cymru is committed to ensuring that access to as much of our collections as possible is available online, and we are delighted to have played a major role in developing the People's Collection Wales project, alongside the National Library of Wales, the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and others.

Funded by the Assembly Government, the People's Collection Wales uses web technology to bring items from museums, archives and libraries together, creating an exciting new resource that expresses our collective national history. Individual users, as well as community groups and local history organizations, are also encouraged to create their own collections of objects and stories.

The website includes images, documents, stories and videos. Visitors can explore objects from Wales's national collections and combine them with their own personal items, adding their own voice to our understanding of the events, places and people of Wales. To experience it for yourself, go to www.peoplescollectionwales.co.uk.



Over
33,500 people
participated in off-site educational activities in 2009/10

beyond buildings

We work with venues all over Wales, giving thousands more people the opportunity to engage with the national collections. Through working in partnership with a whole variety of organizations and communities we bring our collections and research alive so that everyone can find out more about their area's history and landscape.

The Start project

A total of 665 children from seven schools in Cardiff's Communities First areas visited National Museum Cardiff as part of the 'Start' project funded by the Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts.

The first Start visit took place over seven days in November 2009. Each schoolchild visited the Museum for a whole day and took part in two half-day workshops. They visited the exhibition *The Sight of Sound: Art and Music since 1900* and explored the historic art galleries.

The second visit was in April 2010, when the children visited *Artes Mundi 4*, an exhibition of contemporary international art. Again they visited over a seven-day period and were introduced to some of the key works and themes by a group of museum interpreters. They spent half a day in the gallery taking part in a workshop, making small books and collecting ideas through drawing and writing. This was followed the next day by a workshop with an artist back at school.

'Art can take you away from where you are, you can be anywhere you want to be.'

A pupil from Trowbridge Junior School

Refugee Week

For the second year running, an exciting mix of music, dancing and crafts took to the stage at the National Waterfront Museum in June to mark Refugee Week 2010. The week is a unique platform where different communities and sections of society can come together to offer new and creative ways of understanding the refugee experience and celebrate cultural difference.

The National Waterfront Museum's Community Learning Officer, Sue James, said: 'We're delighted to host the launch again, we had such great feedback from last year and lots of people from all walks of life came along to join in the celebrations.'

Speaking about the event, Hawar Ameen, Coordinator of Refugee Week in Wales, said: 'This launch event is a great platform for us to deliver positive, educational messages that counter fear, ignorance and negative stereotypes of refugees. We hope it will unite different cultures and bring people from around the world together.'



Diwali Mela

Visitors to National Museum Cardiff were greeted by Indian dancers, storytellers, Bollywood music and Rangoli displays as the Hindu Cultural Association Wales and India Centre Cardiff celebrated Diwali Mela or the 'Festival of Lights'.

Open to all and free of charge, the event saw Cardiff's Hindu community coming together to showcase Indian traditions and values. The day ranged from folk songs and Henna tattooing to sari draping demonstrations and a range of arts, crafts and spice stalls.

Heidi Evans, Events Officer at National Museum Cardiff, explains 'It's one of the days in the Museum's events calendar when the Main Hall is completely taken over by celebration, colour and enjoyment. It's definitely a spectacle that shouldn't be missed!'

Geiriau Glo

Geiriau Glo is the latest in our series of web-published resources that enable tutors of Welsh for Adults to use the museums to help their students improve their Welsh language skills. Launched at the National Eisteddfod in Ebbw Vale, Geiriau Glo, which is based around a visit to Big Pit, has already been very well received.



We had **236,284** formal learning visits to our museums in 2009/10

reaching out

We want more and more people to be able to visit our museums, and participate in activities. That's why our staff work with communities across Wales on various projects, which often result in people visiting one of the national museums for the first time in their lives. This work also leads to a number of exciting events that see communities bringing their culture into the museums, meaning that others can learn more about their traditions and way of life.

The Sandford Award >

All our museums have now been granted the prestigious Sandford Award for heritage education. Our most recent recipient, the National Slate Museum, received a glowing report from the judges, who were very impressed by what they saw, and granted the award in recognition of the excellence of the education service provided.

Museum Volunteer of the Year

We provide a number of volunteering opportunities, and our volunteers play a key role both behind the scenes and with visitors. This year Del Elliott, one of our volunteers at National Museum Cardiff, was presented with the Marsh Trust Award for UK Museum Volunteer of the Year. The Award recognises best practice and innovative ways in which volunteers work in museums and galleries to engage the public with collections. It is an opportunity to celebrate the work and achievement of volunteers.

Sian Layton, Amgueddfa Cymru's Volunteer Co-ordinator, who nominated Del for the award, said: 'Del has volunteered for Amgueddfa Cymru since June 2009, facilitating informal handling sessions of objects in the gallery Origins: In Search of Early Wales. We put Del's name forward because of his ability to communicate his enthusiasm for the objects and the prehistoric period to a wide range of audiences, inspiring a sense of "wonder" in visitors. This has been borne out by the positive comments received from visitors and staff.'

'I'm delighted – although being given an award for something that's so pleasurable seems wrong!' added Del. 'Thank you to Amgueddfa Cymru for giving me the opportunity to develop my personal skills and improve my confidence. It's a privilege to be able to meet the different visitors that come to National Museum Cardiff – it is truly a two-way thing – and I'd encourage everyone to take up volunteering.'



We had 259,446 informal learning visits to our museums in 2009/10

celebrating learning

Learning is at the heart of everything we do at Amgueddfa Cymru. In working towards our vision of becoming a world-class museum of learning, we are constantly thinking of new ways to bring our collections to life so that more and more people can enjoy them. We also take seriously our role in developing our staff, to ensure that we are able to provide the best possible experiences for our visitors.



highlights

On 21 May artist Yael Bartana won the fourth ever Artes Mundi Prize – the UK's largest art prize. This biannual, international prize celebrates emerging artists from around the world, and the exhibition of the eight shortlisted artists at National Museum Cardiff was accompanied by tours, school and educational group visits and activities for families.





highlights

On Saturday 21 November 2009 TV presenter Lucy Owen and her family opened *Green Drops and Moonsquirters: The utterly imaginative world of Lauren Child* at National Museum Cardiff, featuring Charlie, Lola, Clarice Bean and the other famous characters from the best-selling books. Children sat at Charlie and Lola's kitchen table to make meals with food from their fridge, dressed up in their favourite outfits and sampled the famous pink milk. The exhibition was accompanied by a host of events and activities for families.



highlights

(left and this page) Julia Griffiths Jones is artist in-residence at the National Wool Museum, and this year she has been exhibiting five specially created pieces of work at the Museum.

Visitors can follow a new activity trail, linked to different pieces of Julia's work, and respond to the Museum, the collections and the art in a creative and personal way.

(below left) The exhibition *From Coal to Pole* celebrated 100 years since Captain Scott left Cardiff for the South Pole, and explored Cardiff's links with Scott's famous expedition.

It is our vision to become a world-class museum of learning, and we rely on private funding from individuals, companies and Trusts and Foundations to help us ensure the continuation of some of our most popular activities. This support allows us to extend and improve our collections, provide learning opportunities for young people, make our collections accessible across the world and much, much more.

Amgueddfa Cymru would like to extend appreciation and thanks to the following supporters:

Donors to the William Dyce Appeal

All those who remembered Amgueddfa Cymru by leaving a legacy

All those who endowed seats in the Oakdale Workmen's Institute at St Fagans: National History Museum

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Those Patrons who wish to remain anonymous

In memory of Patrons who sadly passed away during the year

The Rt Hon. the Lord Raglan

Michael Griffith



highlights

(above) Saturday 28 November 2009 saw the launch of *Everywhere in Chains - Wales and Enslavement* at the National Waterfront Museum. This free electronic resource helps groups use museum collections to understand Wales's role in the slave trade. Amgueddfa Cymru worked closely with other museums and a variety of community organizations on a multi-faceted project marking the bicentenary in 2007 of the Slave Trade Abolition Act.

(right) Mair Price, whose story appears in Big Pit's magazine *Glo: Mineworkers*, told her story at the launch of the magazine at the Eisteddfod.

