

Perthyn (Belonging)

Welcome to the Llŷn Area of Linguistic Significance in 2024

On Llywelyn ein Llyw Olaf Day on 11th of December 2023 an important step was taken by Aberdaron, Botwnnog and Tudweiliog community councils when they decided unanimously to designate the three areas as Areas of Linguistic Significance. By now Nefyn Town Council has joined them and others are planning to do so soon. By doing this they are showing their intent to sustain and strengthen the Welsh language in Llŷn.

There is concern that Cyngor Gwynedd's policies has not done enough to safeguard Welsh communities over the decades. Therefore these community councils have joined Cyfeillion Llŷn under the umbrella of the *Perthyn* project to look at the possibility of attaching a language condition to housing developments, create new opportunities for Welsh and establish a different type of tourism which would have a beneficial effect on Welsh in the future.

Sion Williams, Chair of Botwnnog community council said on behalf of the council: "In order to get more local control over decisions, we will need a reasonable percentage of the second homes premium and tourism industry tax, to be used for the work of sustaining and strengthening the Welsh language in Llŷn".

The *Perthyn* project is part of Welsh Government's wider plans to help the Welsh language in communities where there are many second homes. Reserach has confirmed that it is in such areas that the Welsh language suffers most from the negative effects of tourism, and the effect is seen most prominent in Abersoch.

Jeremy Miles MS stated that the Welsh language "belongs to us all" in a speech to denote sixty years since Saunders Lewis' "Tynged yr Iaith" (*The Fate of the Language*) lecture in 1962. Jeremy Miles put down a challenge to every individual to take action in order to strengthen the language. Poet R.S Thomas declared that saving the Welsh language was easy: "The only thing we need to do is speak it, and speak only it." He spoke as one who had learnt the language and who was aware of difficulties and the dangers of bi-lingualism. This was also the message of Phill Wyman (*Dim Saesneg/ No English*) which was supported by Dwyfor Welsh learners in the "Beca" film which can be seen on the new Cyfeillion Llŷn Website.

With bi-lingualism Saunders Lewis saw a "smooth and respectful death and non-grieving burial" for the Welsh language and this is what is happening here today. He also stated that the continuation of the Welsh language in Llŷn, which has been in existence since the 6th century, was a matter of life or death for Wales. *Perthyn* calls for the creation of new Welsh spaces in order to achieve the Welsh Government's target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.

A month prior to the National Eisteddfod at Boduan a public meeting was held at Glan y Môr School, Pwllheli to ask for everyone's cooperation in extending the same Welsh welcome to tourists in 2024 as that provided to people attending the Eisteddfod in 2023. The aim is to

strengthen the Welsh language in Llŷn so that we are able to present and share this unique treasure we have with tourists that come here from other parts of Wales and indeed the rest of the world.

At the meeting reference was made to Anna and Bryn Fôn running Plas Carmel cafe through the Welsh language and being supported by all. Also Myrddin ap Dafydd explained the Eisteddfod Welsh language rule and Liz Saville Roberts related how learning the Welsh language opened a door to a new family and that learners need to be listened to. Howard Huws from Cylch yr Iaith talked about the effects of tourism on communities across the world. Since then the intention of establishing Llŷn as a Welsh attraction where the tourism industry flourishes and the Welsh language also flourishes in it's wake has been supported by individuals, groups, businesses, groups, councils and organisations across the sector, locally and nationally.

Perthyn was launched at a night of art and entertainment at Llangwnnadl which had been organised by Anna and Bryn Fôn and their friends. More information is available on the Cyfeillion Llŷn website which is a Welsh digital online portal developed as part of the *Perthyn* project. There is a welcome to anyone to join via the website: www.cyfeillionllyn.org

Presented by Cyfeillion Llŷn on behalf of Aberdaron, Botwnnog, Tudweiliog and Nefyn Community Councils with the support of Cylch yr Iaith, Dyfodol yr Iaith and Cymdeithas yr Iaith.

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