



GWRYCH TRUST CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Twenty years ago this month, twelve year old Mark Baker, after seeing the destruction caused by New Age Travellers and others to a building he went past every day on his way to school decided not to wait till 'they' did something but got on and formed the *Gwrych Castle Preservation Trust*. Twenty years later, the Gwrych Trust has a 25 year lease for five acres of the site which has enabled it to begin restoration on the first section of the castle with the Countess's Writing Room in the Water Tower being used regularly for writing groups, the formal gardens regularly opened and included in the Gardens North Wales Festival.

All of this would not have been possible without the team of amazing volunteers; some retired, some still at school, some voluntary, some as part of programmes from Job Centre Plus and other organisations, some with a love of history, some with a love of gardens, some to help with tours and events, some to gather archival materials. But the one thing all the volunteers have in common is that they love Gwrych Castle and work hard to restore, renovate and revive it, making sure Gwrych Castle is restored to the prominent feature it once was not just in Abergele but along the North Wales Coast. *Please help us to complete our vision by joining the Trust!*

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF THE GWRYCH CASTLE VOLUNTEER TEAM?

There are numerous opportunities:

- gardens, woodlands and general horticulture
- maintenance of the estate
- structural rebuilding
- during events – selling refreshments, selling and taking tickets, selling merchandise
- fund-raising
- archival research on various projects
- conducting guided tours
- architectural work
- educational work with Gwrych and local schools
- marketing and advertising
- join our gardening and woodland clubs!

To find out more about volunteering email:
gwrychtrust@gmail.com

GWRYCH LOGS FOR SALE

Logs from the Gwrych Castle Estate can be purchased on site at £30 per load!

GWRYCH CASTLE AND GARDENS DAILY OPENING TIMES

Gwrych Castle Gardens are open to the public from 9am to 4pm every day for self-guided tours at £5 for adults and £2.50 per child (cash please). Guided tours are also available around the ruin of the main building with an expert guide. To be sure of the chance of a guided tour please email prior to arrival and await confirmation. £10 per adult and £5 per child. Cream teas, taken in the Countess's Writing Room, can also be booked at £15 per head. Spend a special day at Gwrych Castle! Soon to be announced will be weekly guided tours around the castle and gardens. Keep an eye on the website and Facebook page for announcement. If you would like to be a tour guide, please get in touch! Proceeds from all openings and events go back into the restoration of the castle.

MEDIEVAL WEEKEND AT GWRYCH CASTLE SATURDAY 19TH & SUNDAY 20TH AUGUST

Join Fighting Knights, Archery and Mediaeval Troubadours at Gwrych Castle. With over 50 medieval market stalls, Birds of Prey displays, children's sword fighting school, storytelling of historic events that happened on the estate and our very own magician, Gwrych Castle's Medieval Festival is fun for the whole family!

£6 for adults, £3 for children and £15 for a family
Car parking available at Manorafon Farm

AUTUMN & WINTER EVENTS 2017

- 16th and 17th September – the first International Drone Competition which has attracted competitors from all over the world to come to Abergele. The estate will be open to visitors to come along to watch this amazing miniature Red Bull racing where drones will race in and out of the ruins of the castle.
- 1st October – for our four legged friends, we will be holding a family fun dog show.
- Halloween – there will be a whole series of events so keep an eye on the website or follow us on Facebook and Twitter
- December – the return of Father Christmas plus a new event, a Victorian Christmas Fayre!
- New Year's Eve – another amazing party complete with fireworks.
- As well as our popular ghost hunts throughout the year

Keep checking the website and Facebook page for more details and for the ticket release dates:

www.facebook.com/gwrychcastle

www.gwrychtrust.co.uk

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Company Registration No: 4331307



EXCITING NEW PROJECT TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE ENDING OF THE GREAT WAR:

Gwrych and The Great War: People and Place

What we are in need of to make this project a spectacular event is:

- People with family memories or memorabilia of Gwrych Castle and Abergele from 1913-1919
- Archives and potential archivists who are willing to record the stories, copy the physical memorabilia and go rummaging through archives of this period
- Writers of an genre, style and ability who would like to try their hand at turning archives into poems, play, stories, song, etc
- Anyone interested in theatre – performing, directing, backstage, supporting others – to help turn the writing into theatrical pieces to be performed around the Gwrych estate in the summer of 2018

Potential themes and directions – diaries of the time read aloud as monologues; amusing, challenging, interesting family anecdotes; changes that have occurred in the PTSD and other mental health issues are viewed since 1919; social upheaval caused by Great War – death of third of male population, increase in taxes, death duties, people no longer trusting the ruling classes.

Take part in the project: gwrychtrust@gmail.com

If you would be interested in helping to fund this project Big Give Christmas Challenge are match-funding anything we raise. Pledges are being taken between now and 1st September via:

<https://secure.thebiggive.org.uk/pledge/gwrychcastlepreservationtrust/imited> (read instructions carefully) and donations will be gathered from 28th November until 4th December



GWRYCH CASTLE CALENDAR 2018

Out now and available
via our website or
through selected local
shops!

£10 per calendar

A3 Portrait

KEEPING SAFE AT GWRYCH CASTLE

Firstly we would like to thank everyone who complied with estate worker and volunteer's requests to keep dogs on leads before the signs went up. The reason why changes have occurred is that Gwrych Castle Estate is entirely private and is in the ownership of several landowners. Manorafon Farm and Abergele Golf Club have also requested that dogs be kept on leads whilst in the castle grounds. The main drive through the estate is a Permissive Access only (section 31 of the Highways Act 1980). Permission to use this driveway has been kindly given by the owners of the estate and is something we continue to uphold. It is not a dedicated right of way and so can be closed at any time. The castle has been a target of theft, vandalism and trespass over the years and it is our aim to protect it for the benefit of future generations.

We ask that any visitor could please keep their dogs on leads, clean up any dog fouling and take any litter home as we want to keep the grounds of the castle as tidy and lovely as possible. Conwy Council has kindly placed signs at all entrances to the estate to announce that dog wardens will be patrolling the area as well as the police. We want all of our visitors and volunteers to be safe and secure in the knowledge that everything has been done to achieve this. In the last twelve months there have been two serious incidents with dogs being injured and also a very saddening fatality when a puppy fell from one of the towers.

Please keep safe and keep to the rules!

COME AND WRITE IN THE COUNTESS'S WRITING ROOM

Two opportunities on a Thursday to come and explore and enjoy creative writing in an inspiring location. The classes are run by Barefoot at the Kitchen Table, aka Abergele-based writer, Diane Woodrow:

- Either 1.30-3pm or 6.30-8pm
- Cost £7.50 per person with £2.50 going to Gwrych Preservation Trust
- Booking essential as space is limited

Please email gwrychtrust@gmail.com

**Thank You For All Of Your Support
Over The Past Twenty Years!**