



Pensychnant

Spring Programme 2025

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Follow us on www.facebook.com/Pensychnant
Join www.facebook.com/groups/Pensychnant's Wildlife

Very rarely, events may need to be cancelled due to inclement weather, or other precautions, or may be fully-booked. Phone if you need to be sure. If you pre-book for events we will endeavour to keep you informed of any changes.

WILDLIFE RECORDING 2025

"In the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught"

Baba Dioum, Senalagese environmentalist and poet (1968)

At Pensychnant, we propose to make 2025 a year of biodiversity recording in the belief that we cannot conserve that which we do not understand. Not that we haven't been recording wildlife up till now. Cofnod (North Wales Environmental Information Service) tells us that Pensychnant has 29,916 records of 1,719 species, from algae to a Red Squirrel last seen in 1967. Pensychnant is one of the best recorded sites in North Wales. However, for certain, there are many, many species which we could add. Please help. We have started a new Facebook Group, 'Facebook/Pensychnant's Wildlife', for you to share your sightings; or you can add them to www.cofnod.org.uk; or, better still tell us in person when you visit.

The 2025 programme of biodiversity events has been supported by Carneddau Landscape Partnership and Heritage Lottery Fund.

Thanks Carneddau!
Thanks HLF!



PARTNERIAETH TIRWEDD Y
CARNEDDAU
LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP



Nightjars ocured
at Sychnant in
1990's

Photo: Ronald Thompson



Unless otherwise stated, Pensychnant's events will be conducted in English. However, you are welcome to communicate in either Welsh or English and we will do our best to accommodate your choice.

Saturday 8th March, 10 - 1pm

ALISON LOCK: WRITING INTO SPRING.

Join Alison Lock for a Creative Writing and Nature morning, seeking inspiration from the grounds of Pensychnant, taking time to observe. There will be gentle writing exercises and techniques to help us use our imagination. All welcome. No experience needed.
£30 Booking essential via www.pensychnant.co.uk. Proceeds to Pensychnant.

Saturday 8th March, 2-5pm

BUTTERFLY TRANSECT WALKS AND MONITORING SCHEMES

BY VIC HITCHINGS

In 2025 Pensychnant aims to do more wildlife recording, and to encourage you do so. At a time when three quarters of our butterfly species are declining, butterflies seem a good subject to start with - everyone likes butterflies. And now is the time to learn, before the butterfly season starts in April. Transect walks form the core of the U.K. Butterfly Monitoring Scheme with more than a thousand now recorded annually. Experienced butterfly expert, Vic Hitchings will discuss butterfly transects and two other survey systems, the Wider Countryside Survey and Reduced Effort Surveys used to methodically record butterflies. We will discuss transect methods, their purposes and uses, data input, and look at 10 years results from Vic's transect Mynydd Marian. £20 including tea/coffee & cake (concessions available). Booking essential.

Wednesday 26th March

CONWY SEED FAIR

Pensychnant will again have a stall at Conwy's traditional street fair. We will have lots of plants and other goods for sale. Please support us!

PENSYCHNANT'S SUMMER SEASON 2025

Every Weekend (plus bank holidays), 29th March - 28th September. 11 -5pm

We are opening slightly earlier this year, for Mother's Day ☺

What more beautiful place could there be to wander or just relax amidst nature? Pensychnant will be open every weekend with wildlife art by Philip Snow, Barbara Winrow, and others, and Karen's acclaimed cake stall, serving tea/coffee and locally home-made FairTrade cakes in the sunshine on the lawn (or indoors by the fire). Treat yourself!

Redstarts and Pied Flycatchers are (hopefully) expected and there will be an abundance of wildlife and natural beauty to enjoy.



Photo: John Harting

Weekends (& Bank Holidays), 29th March - 27th April, 11-5pm

ALISON HOLT, TEXTILE ARTIST: THE THREADS OF NATURE

This exhibition reflects the richness and diversity in the North Wales countryside. Drawing with a basic sewing machine, Alison Holt creates freehand embroidery and silk painted landscapes; richly detailed and textured, capturing a moment of pattern, light and colour.

Alison was winner of the People's Choice award in the Pencychnant Summer Open Exhibition 2024 with "One Frosty Morning". It was universally agreed that her artwork is astounding.

Artist in Residence: Alison Holt will be at Pencychnant on the first day of her exhibition (29th March) to talk about her work.



Friday 4th April, 1 - 4:30pm.

NEEDLE-FELTING WORKSHOP: CATS & DOGS WITH BERYL NAYBOUR

Learn how to make a needle-felted cat or dog of your choice. Cost £30 includes tuition, all material, Fairtrade tea/coffee and cake. Booking essential with Beryl Naybour on 07928 484584 or naybourberyl@gmail.com

Friday 4th April, 7:30pm.

“INTO CHILE” BY DR. RICHARD BIRCH

Chile's wildlife is very diverse because of the country's elongated shape, spanning a wide range of latitude and altitude, from the Pacific to the High Andes.

Cambrian Ornithological Society meeting. £1

Weekends (& Bank Holidays), 5th April - 18th May, 11-5pm

KEVIN MOORE: DYING BY INCHES

Kevin's current work explores aesthetics in nature and the environment down to the smallest details, capturing nature's tiny creatures, often once deceased, evoking a perception of the fragility of life. His confident brushmarks juxtapose the miniature size of his subjects, resulting in large scale depictions of wildlife; elevating their tiny forms into iconic representations.



Artist in Residence: Kevin Moore will be at Pencychnant on the first day of his exhibition to talk about his work and the inspiration behind it.

Weekends (& Bank Holidays), 5th April - 18th May, 11-5pm

NADINE CARTER-SMITH: DRAWN TO RETREAT

An exhibition of experimental ink and watercolour drawings. Inspired by life, Nadine's work explores everyday things, including childhood, motherhood, grief, people, work, the therapeutic qualities of expression, art and the calming environment that surrounds her on the Carneddau. Her work is rarely planned, she picks up a pen and sees what happens.....



Artist in Residence: Nadine will be at Pencychnant on the first day of her exhibition (5th April) to talk about her work and the inspiration behind it.

Sunday 6th April, 10am

NATURE BIMBLE

Not really a walk, the first of a series of short ambles to explore Pencychnant and just see what we can see. *What life this, if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare.* We hope to do more wildlife recording at Pencychnant, so this can be a start. If its sunny we should see some of the early insect pollinators. Back in time for elevenses from Karen's cake stall ☺



Monday 7th April, 7:30pm

MOTH GROUP

Informal meeting of North Wales Moth Group. Donations appreciated ☺

Tuesday 8th April, 2pm

“CRYPTIC CREATURES OF CREUDDYN” BY SIÔN DAFIS

In a partnership between Conwy Council, NRW and Butterfly Conservation, Siôn Dafis is searching for some of Britain's rarest moths, Cistus Forester, Silky Wave, Chestnut-coloured Carpet, Horehound Plume and other species of the limestone grasslands of the Ormes, Bryn Euryn and Nant y Gamar. Siôn will give a talk about the project. Donations appreciated ☺



Wednesday 9th April, 6-9pm

SILVER-SMITHING WORKSHOP WITH EVIE ROBERTS

Learn how to make your own stacking ring, using sterling silver. All tools and materials provided. £65 including tea & cake. Booking essential on www.emporiumconwy.co.uk

Thursday 10th April, 7pm

“VULCANISM”

An illustrated lecture about vulcanism. Details to be announced.

North Wales Geology Association Event.

Sunday 13th April, 10am

NATURE BIMBLE

Another short amble to explore Pencychnant and just see what we can see and to start to make some wildlife records for Pencychnant. Back in time for elevelenses from Karen’s cake stall ☺



Weekend 19-20th April,

DRY-STONE WALLING TRAINING COURSE

A professional level dry stone walling course, from foundations to coping, led by a master-craftsman waller of Dry Stone Walling Association of North Wales. £100 Details from Paul Smyth, 01766 513213 pasmyth@btinternet.com Booking via www.craftcourses.com

Saturday 26th April, 11 -5pm

SPRING FAIR

Various craft stalls: pottery, wood-craft, paper-craft, silver work, jewellery, paintings, photography, books, cards, bric-a-brac, and (of course!) tea & cakes in the garden.....

If you have good bric-a-brac or books to donate, we would be grateful.

Sunday 27th April, 10am.

PIED FLYCATCHER WALK

A short wander in Pencychnant’s woods to see the Spring migrants and resident birds. By now nesting should be well underway: Pied Flycatcher, Redstart, Cuckoo, Linnet, Chough, maybe Great Bustard,.....

Tea & cake available afterwards ☺

Donations appreciated ☺



Tuesday 29th April, 10am

BLUEBELL & PRIMROSE WALK

A short walk to see Spring springing. Hopefully the spectacular bank of primroses at Oakwood will be in full bloom. This simple pleasure is all too rare in today’s world. About 2½ miles on local footpaths. (Just one short but steep downhill for those of us with achy knees). Booking advised.

Donations appreciated ☺



Wednesday 30th April, 2pm

“WILDLIFE RECORDING” BY JULIAN

Anyone can record wildlife. By recording wildlife you are helping to conserve the nature that you love, and by looking, you may come to love it more. In a quick whizz, we will learn the simple processes of wildlife recording, but also consider why it is important, look at some examples, and consider some outcomes.



Friday 2nd May, 7:30pm.

“WHERE WRYNECKS SING” BY JIM ASHTON (WILD HORIZONS)

Wild Horizons designs and builds ecologically rich gardens and landscapes in UK and abroad. Jim Ashton will talk about a 3-year nest box project for the conservation and study of Wryneck in Poland.

Cambrian Ornithological Society meeting. £1

Weekends (& Bank Holidays), 3rd May - 29th June, 11-5pm

NESSIE RAMM: CHANGED PRIORITIES AHEAD

Nessie Ramm is a contemporary artist who paints the road verges of Britain in botanical detail on to metal road signs. She is a fellow of the Society of Botanical Artists and in 2025 is working with Plantlife UK as their first Creative Friend. Her work conveys the unexpected beauty of road verges, and emphasises the value of these unloved spaces as wild habitat. Her paintings are richly joyful - but also a deep call for us to renew our relationship with nature.

Artist in Residence: Nessie Ramm will be at Pencychnant on the first day of her exhibition (3rd May) to talk about her work and the inspiration behind it .



Sunday 4th May, 10am

BIRD SONG WALK WITH CAROLE WALKER

Carole has watched and enjoyed birds all her life, but the most part of bird watching is listening. Carole will teach us the songs of some of our familiar garden and woodland birds on a short walk around Pencychnant. Free. Donations appreciated ☺ Tea & cake available afterwards.



Monday 5th May, 7:30pm

MOTH GROUP

Informal meeting of North Wales Moth Group. Donations appreciated ☺

Tuesday 6th May, 1-4pm

SILVER-SMITHING WORKSHOP WITH EVIE ROBERTS

Learn how to make your own seaglass pendant, using sterling silver to make a bezel setting for your chosen piece of glass. All tools and materials provided. £65 including tea & cake. Booking essential on www.emporiumconwy.co.uk

Weekend 10th & 11th May, 11 - 5pm.

BIODIVERSITY FAIR

With stalls by various local and national wildlife recording and conservation groups, representing a full range of British taxa from microbes to mammals this will be a celebration of our biodiversity. Cofnod will have a stand, recording all our sightings on their Online Recording System. *Thanks Cofnod!*

Various activities for adults and families:

- *Bioblitz show-and-tell, with hundreds of species to see (especially moths). Good photo opportunities.
- *Wildlife Safaris in the fields led by experts outstanding in their fields.
- *displays and advice about wildlife, identification and conservation.
- *Wildlife through the microscope!
- *Children's games and crafts.
- *Tea & cake available ☺

Between us we hope to be able to identify a few species and answer at least some of your questions: Everything from invisible dust mites to hawkmoths, and whatever else we can find.

Donations appreciated ☺



If you would like to have a stand or display to represent your group or taxon, please let us know.



Tuesday 13th May, 1 - 5pm.

HAND-PRINTED LINOCUT WORKSHOP WITH LIZ TOOLE

In this half day workshop Liz Toole will guide you through the process of lino cutting and printing a single-colour greetings card or mini print. No experience necessary. All materials and tea & cake provided £46. Enquiries and bookings please email Liz Toole at liztooleart@gmail.com

Friday 16th May, 1 - 4:30pm.

NEEDLE-FELTING WORKSHOP: WITH BERYL NAYBOUR

Learn how to needle-felt with Beryl Naybour. £30 includes tuition, all material, Fairtrade tea/coffee and cake. Booking essential with Beryl Naybour on 07928 484584 or naybourberyl@gmail.com

Sunday 18th May, 10am

NATURE BIMBLE

Another short amble to explore Pencychnant and just see what we can see and to start to make some wildlife records for Pencychnant. Back in time for elevenses from Karen's cake stall ☺

Sunday 18th May, 1 - 4pm

MOSAIC WORKSHOP

Come along and make your own mosaic butterfly with Mel Roberts. It will be a fun afternoon, including FairTrade tea & cakes. All materials provided. £45 Book with Mel of Mazin Mosaics: mazinmel@yahoo.co.uk or 07516495452

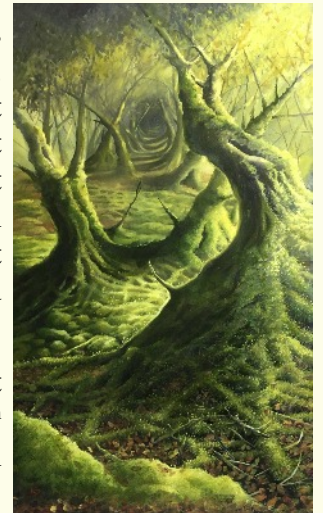


Weekends (& Bank Holidays), 24th May - 29th June, 11-5pm

ROSEMARY ASHARMAN: EYES WIDE SHUT

Rosemary Sharman was winner in Pencychnant's 2024 Open Exhibition. Primarily an oil painter, Rosemary likes to look at various subjects that may, at times, question or convey her concerns about our present times and state of mind. She hopes that this exhibition raises these issues with the viewer on some level, and exposes mankind's present ineptitude to grasp the fragility of the world around us.

Artist in Residence: Rosemary will be at Pencychnant on the first day of her exhibition (24th May) to talk about her work and the inspiration behind it.



Sunday 25th May, 10am.

CUCKOO WALK

According to legend, centuries ago, the parish council of Dolwyddelan decided to build a high wall around the parish to keep the cuckoos therein all year round. We will be checking Pencychnant's walls! Hopefully we will hear the cuckoo, a species which has declined by 65% since 1980's. About 2½ miles. Not far but some steep rocky places. Bring provisions. Bring binoculars. Booking advised. Donations appreciated ☺



Wednesday 28th May, 2-5pm

BUTTERFLY IDENTIFICATION BY VIC HITCHINGS

In this course Vic will look at how to identify the butterflies of North Wales. Whilst their visual appearance is the prime identification method, successful identification is best achieved by using a variety of data sources, including flight periods, flight patterns and geographic distributions. North Wales has 33 resident butterfly species and 3 common migrants. Two other recently recorded species will also be included. It is suitable for beginners to those more familiar with North Wales butterflies.

£20 including tea & cake. Booking on www.pensychnant.co.uk



Tuesday 3rd June, 6-9pm

SILVER-SMITHING WORKSHOP WITH EVIE ROBERTS

Learn how to make your own spoon-bowl pendant, using a sterling silver spoon of your choice. All tools and materials provided. £60 - £65 including tea & cake. Booking essential on www.emporiumconwy.co.uk

Sunday 8th June, 10am

NATURE BIMBLE

Another short amble to explore Pensychnant and just see what we can see and to start to make some wildlife records for Pensychnant. Back in time for elevenses from Karen's cake stall ☺



Friday 30th May, 1 - 4:30pm.

WILLOW WEAVING WORKSHOP WITH CRAFTY AS HEL

Suitable for the complete beginner or those wishing to enhance their basketry skills - you will make 3 to 4 dragonflies to take home to adorn your gardens. £35. All tools and materials are provided plus fair trade tea/coffee and cake. Booking essential with crafty-as-hel-ynys-mon.sumupstore.com

Saturday 31st May, 10 - 5pm.

RECORDERS' DAY

A largely self-guided day to record wildlife at Pensychnant. Whatever your taxon of interest, or level of expertise, all records will be valuable. I want to make Pensychnant the best recorded site in North Wales. This isn't a serious competition, but we want to make as complete a species list as possible for the nature reserve. Cofnod will collect all records.

Thanks Cofnod!



Sunday 1st June, 10am

NATURE BIMBLE

Another short amble to explore Pensychnant and just see what we can see and to start to make some wildlife records for Pensychnant. Back in time for elevenses from Karen's cake stall ☺



Monday 2nd June, 7:30pm

MOTH GROUP

Informal meeting of North Wales Moth Group. Donations appreciated ☺

Sunday 15th June, 11 -5pm

OPEN GARDEN FOR NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Pensychnant will open for the National Garden Scheme again. Tea & cakes available on the lawn in the sunshine. Plants for sale. £4 entrance in aid of MacMillan Nurses, Marie Curie and other caring charities. Helen from Crafty-as-Hel will have a drop-in stall to make easy willow crafts.



Weekend 21 -22nd June,

DRY-STONE WALLING TRAINING COURSE

A professional level dry stone walling course, from foundations to coping, led by a master-craftsman waller of Dry Stone Walling Association of North Wales. £100 Details from Paul Smyth, 01766 513213 pasmyth@btinternet.com Booking via www.craftcourses.com

Sunday 22nd June, (time to be arranged)

BRACKEN-ROLLING WITH SHIRE HORSE

A rare opportunity to see working heavy horses crushing the bracken in Pensychnant's fields. Tea & cake available at the house.



Saturday 28th June, 11-5pm.

NATIONAL MEADOWS DAY

97% of Britain's wildflower meadows have been destroyed since the War. Pensychnant has created three new ones. This day will be a blatant celebration of Pensychnant's meadows, with instructive guided walks on the creation and traditional management of meadows, plant identification, invertebrate sampling and recording, crafts and children's activities.

FairTrade tea & cakes available on the lawn in the sunshine amidst flowerbeds buzzing with bees and hoverflies. Free but donations appreciated ☺



Sunday 29th June, 10am

NATURE BIMBLE

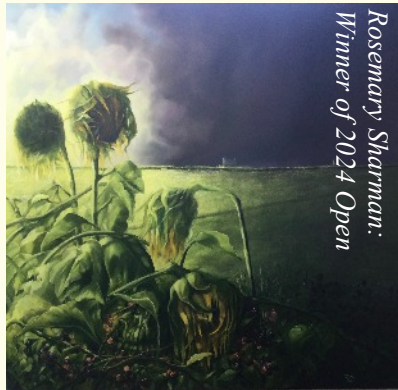
Another short amble to explore Pensychnant and just see what we can see and to start to make some wildlife records for Pensychnant. Back in time for elevenses from Karen's cake stall ☺



PENSYCHNANT'S OPEN ART EXHIBITION 2025

Weekends (plus bank holidays), 5th July - 28th September, 11 -5pm

Pensychnant's 'Open' 2024 was undoubtedly our best exhibition ever, with some of the best artists from all over Britain, painting in diverse media and styles. For 2025, all of the pictures will again be on the theme of Nature, Conservation and the Environment; some celebrating the beauty of nature and its importance to our well-being; others show the threats to nature. This exhibition will be worth seeing! And you can vote for your 'People's Choice' which will be announced at the end of the show.



Call for Artists: If you would like to be part of this exhibition in 2025, you can submit your entries online via www.artopps.co.uk/opportunities/pensychnantopen2025 All proceeds from entries support the charitable work of Pensychnant.

Monday 7th July 7:30pm

MOTH GROUP

Informal meeting of North Wales Moth Group. Donations appreciated ☺

Saturday 5th July, 7:30 -10pm.

ELFIN BOW: INTERWOVEN

Songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, Elfin Bow, will be joined by composer and instrumentalist, John Silvers, and songwriter and vocalist, Tracey-Anne Green, for a songwriter's circle-style performance of 'Interwoven.' It promises to be an intimate, uplifting and magical concert, as each artist shares the stories that have inspired their music. 'Interwoven' are three friends, brought together by music, sharing their profound desire to weave their musical magic and shine a light in the dark corners of the world.

This outdoor concert will be special. Songwriter and great, great granddaughter of Abraham Henthorn Stott, Elfin Bow, will perform, for the first time ever, new music inspired 'to honour both the history of Pensychnant and the community that is interwoven into the life of the house'

Tickets £15 available at www.pensychnant.co.uk.

Wine and Pimm's will be available at the event but you are welcome to bring your own refreshments..



Sunday 6th July, 10am

NATURE BIMBLE

Another short amble to explore Pensychnant and just see what we can see and to start to make some wildlife records for Pensychnant. Back in time for elevenses from Karen's cake stall ☺



Wednesday 9th July 2pm

NESSIE RAMM ABOUT MEADOWS

Nessie Ramm will talk about her work as a contemporary artist and ambassador for the conservation of roadside verges and other unloved spaces. Her work conveys the unexpected beauty and diversity of road verges, and uses repurposed road signs to convey a strong conservation ethic. The discussion will include short presentations by other local groups - North Wales Meadows Group, The Vardre Meadows, and Feronia's plug-planting schemes. Free. Donations appreciated ☺ Tea & cake for sale.

