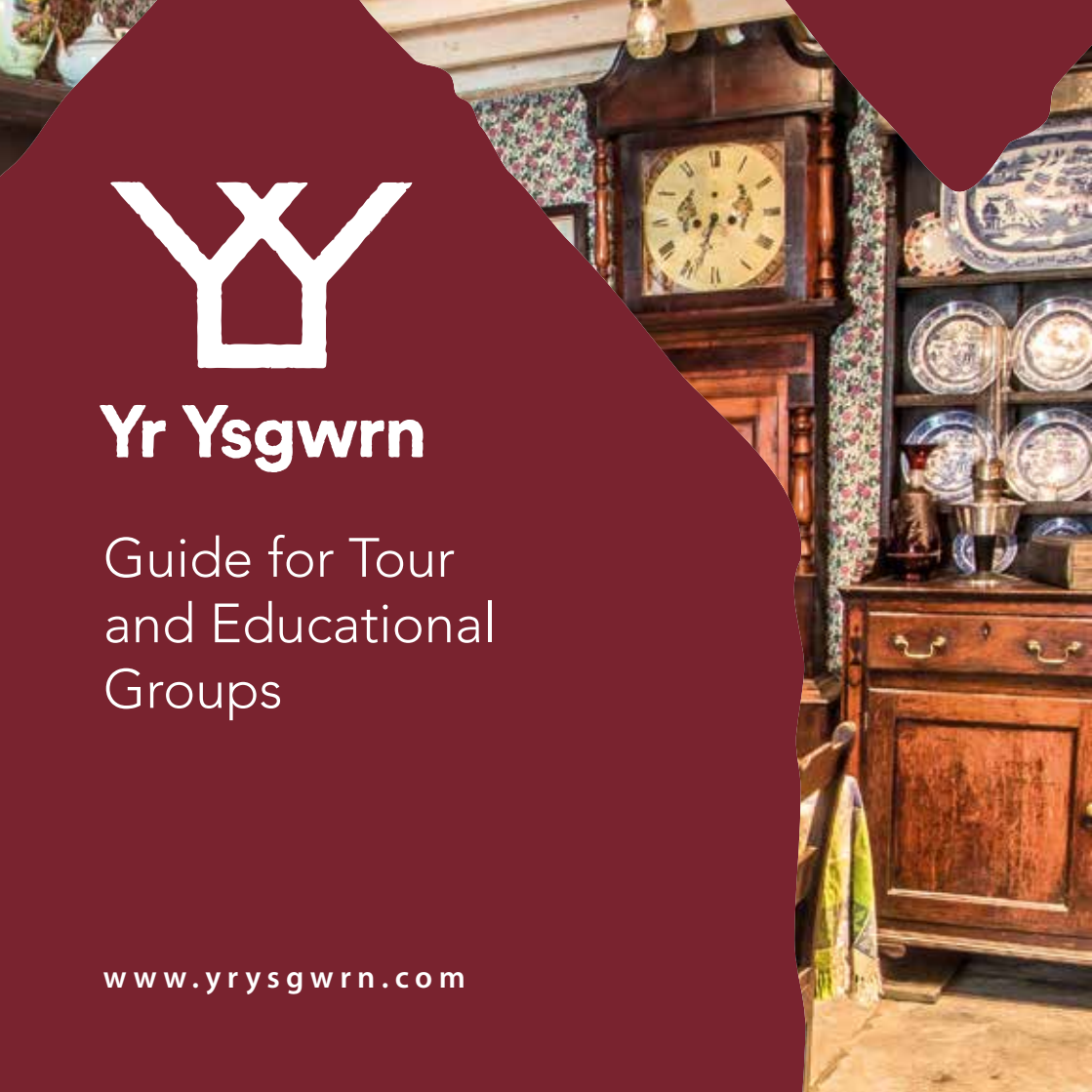




Yr Ysgwrn

Guide for Tour
and Educational
Groups

www.yrysgwrn.com



Ellis Humphrey Evans

(1887–1917) is a hugely important figure in Welsh cultural life. Until recently, his compelling story was unknown to many. That's all changed with the recent opening of **Yr Ysgwrn**, his farmhouse home, as a major new visitor centre.



What's the story?

Born in 1887, **Ellis Humphrey Evans** is better known by his bardic name **Hedd Wyn** (Blessed Peace). A people's poet, farmer and soldier, his writing was inspired by nature, religion and later the horrors of World War One. He died during the conflict.

Hedd Wyn has a towering – and hugely poignant – place in Wales's cultural life because he died before knowing he had won the greatest prize in Welsh literature: the bardic chair for the winning poem at the **1917 National Eisteddfod**.

Today Hedd Wyn's former home at **Yr Ysgwrn**, a farm near Trawsfynydd in the beautiful Snowdonia National Park, has been reborn as a unique cultural attraction. The poet's life and work are just part of the multi-dimensional visitor experience that can mean many different things. Alongside its literary significance, Yr Ysgwrn sheds light on **early 20th-century Welsh rural life and social history**, as well as the **local impact of World War One**.



Why visit?

New beginnings



Opened to the public in 2017 after a sensitive £3.7 million restoration, Yr Ysgwrn is still comparatively new on the scene, giving group organisers the opportunity to be the first to introduce it to their clients.

An immersive experience



Yr Ysgwrn is an experience, not just a museum. Using a combination of guided group tours led by experienced local guides, films and innovative interpretive techniques, Yr Ysgwrn's story is told in an accessible and engaging way – both for visitors familiar with Hedd Wyn's work and those with little or no prior knowledge.

A powerful story



Hedd Wyn's heart-rending tale never fails to stir the emotions. He began writing poems aged just 11, honing his craft and winning numerous accolades at regional eisteddfodau across Wales. Then World War One intervened. He traded the peaceful hills of Wales for the deadly trenches of the Western Front. His fate symbolises that of a lost generation.

Hedd Wyn succumbed to injuries sustained at the Battle of Passchendaele before he could learn of his victory at the 1917 National Eisteddfod for his poem Yr Arwr (The Hero), which became his most famous and celebrated work.

A cultural journey



Visitors will discover the rich bardic tradition of the eisteddfodau, competitions of poetry, song and

storytelling. They will also learn more about the lyrical Welsh language and the unique ways in which it is used, such as the cynghanedd, a challenging poetic form that a self-taught Hedd Wyn mastered at the young age of 12.

Wales at war



Yr Ysgwrn also tells the story of the 33 local men who fought and died in World War One, and the impact that the war had on this small, tightly knit, grieving community. A film projected onto the wall of the old barn brings the period to life, along with photographs of the soldiers who never came home. There's also an exhibition adding further depth and detail through interactive exhibits and period artefacts.

Country life



Still part of a working farm, Yr Ysgwrn's rural roots run deep. The old farmhouse, occupied by descendants of Hedd Wyn until 2012, has been restored to how it would have looked in the early 20th century. A fascinating time capsule, it has the atmosphere of a home rather than a museum, giving visitors evocative insights into how people lived, worked and played in Welsh agricultural communities at the time.

Location, location, location



Easily reached from the main A470 north-south trunk road, Yr Ysgwrn nevertheless occupies a secluded, tranquil spot nestled into the foothills of Snowdonia. Visitors can enjoy the beautiful views from the airy, glass-sided café, or on waymarked walking trails that loop through the surrounding farmland.



Highlights

You'll hear the story of poet Hedd Wyn, whose love of language and verse was cut short by war. It's emotional and enlightening.

The famous Black Chair, awarded posthumously to Hedd Wyn at the 1917 National Eisteddfod. It was so called because the empty chair was draped in a black sheet. You'll also see the other five bardic chairs he won for his work.

At the heart of the farmhouse, the sympathetically restored cegin (kitchen) transports visitors back to the early 20th century.

A guided tour through the farmhouse blends insights into everyday life at Yr Ysgwrn with extracts of Hedd Wyn's poetry.

Read verses of Yr Arwr (The Hero), Hedd Wyn's greatest work, which was inspired by his experiences of war and longing for a more peaceful and harmonious future.



One of Yr Ysgwrn's most unusual exhibits – 26 layers of wallpaper built up over decades around the old barometer in the kitchen – offers a memorable illustration of the passage of time.

Watch the film in the barn to learn more about Hedd Wyn's wartime experience and the impact the conflict had on the local community.

Yr Ysgwrn's setting commands inspiring views over Snowdonia, with the option to explore further on waymarked walking trails.

Enjoy freshly baked cakes and refreshments in the café while watching films which shed light on Yr Ysgwrn's history together with Welsh literary and cultural traditions.



Visiting Yr Ysgwrn: For groups from the UK and overseas

Yr Ysgwrn is fast becoming a must-visit for tours that take in Wales's history and heritage, sitting comfortably alongside attractions like castles, narrow-gauge railways and historic houses. It's an iconic and revealing visitor experience that ranks alongside places like Caernarfon Castle and Portmeirion.

For tour organisers there's also the advantage of Yr Ysgwrn's location in the heart of the Snowdonia National Park. It's close to popular destinations like Blaenau Ffestiniog, Coed y Brenin Forest Park, Harlech Castle, Porthmadog and Portmeirion, making it easy to include in any North or Mid Wales itinerary. There's also an excellent choice of places to stay nearby in towns well stocked with accommodation for groups – for example, Bala, Barmouth, Betws-y-Coed, Caernarfon, Criccieth, Dolgellau and Llandudno.

IMMERSE
YOURSELF IN
HISTORY IN THE
HEART OF
SNOWDONIA



Yr Ysgwrn



Visiting Yr Ysgwrn: For schools and educational groups

Yr Ysgwrn is an immersive educational resource that encourages learning through seeing, experiencing and doing. As a living classroom it covers a wide range of topics, from the specifics of Hedd Wyn's life and work to wider discussions of Wales's bardic and literary traditions. It also provides relatable, human insights into the impact of World War One and the realities of day-to-day life in rural Welsh communities over 100 years ago.

Bespoke tours are designed around the needs of the audience, making Yr Ysgwrn suitable for students of all ages and educational backgrounds. To learn more about educational visits, including risk assessment, teacher resources and possible financial support, go to: www.yrysgwrn.com/schools/information



1. Beudy Llwyd (café and visitor centre)
2. Bungalow (private dwelling)
3. Yr Ysgwrn
4. Beudy Tŷ
5. Boiler house
6. Pigsty
7. Agricultural barn

Need to know

Yr Ysgwrn can accommodate tour groups of up to 50 people, with visits lasting at least two hours (longer if visitors wish to explore the walking trails). For educational visits, an upper limit of 30 is recommended.



There is **free parking** close to the main reception and the site can be accessed by buses up to 12m/39.3ft in length.



Tours are tailored to fit the needs of your group and can be delivered in both **English and Welsh**.



Yr Ysgwrn's buildings are accessible to **wheelchair users** and visitors with mobility issues. There is also a wheelchair available onsite, plus an accessibility vehicle for travelling between the visitor centre and farmhouse.



Only guide dogs are permitted on site.

... Need to know



The site is open to the public daily between Easter and October, and also open to groups by prior arrangement from November to Easter. Entry is **£7.50 (adults), £3.50 (children), £17 (family ticket)**. For **group visits it's £10 (adults), £5 (children)**. Group visits include tea/coffee and cake plus an introductory talk. Please check the website for up-to-date details of opening hours.



Special group packages with refreshments or buffet lunch are available by prior arrangement. Please get in touch for details and booking.



There is **mobile phone reception** across the site, plus **free WiFi** in the café and visitor centre.

Group and educational visits must be arranged in advance. Please get in touch to discuss your requirements.

Getting here



Yr Ysgwrn is located on a minor road about 1 mile/1.5km (and signposted) off the A470 near the village of Trawsfynydd.

How long, how far to Trawsfynydd from:

Aberystwyth - 47 miles, 1hr 16mins

Birmingham - 110 miles, 2hrs 29mins

Birmingham Airport - 119 miles, 2hrs 40mins

Brecon - 99 miles, 2hrs 30mins

Caernarfon - 31 miles, 52mins

Cheltenham - 154 miles, 3hrs 33mins

Chester - 59 miles, 1hr 33mins

Cardiff - 141 miles, 3hrs 30mins

Fishguard - 102 miles, 2hrs 52mins

Llandudno - 39 miles, 1hr 7mins

London - 231 miles, 5hrs 33mins

Manchester Airport - 90 miles, 2hrs

Prince of Wales Bridge (M4 Severn Bridge) - 147 miles, 3hrs 30mins

Swansea - 118 miles, 3hrs 16mins

Information from Google maps.

Yr Ysgwrn and the Snowdonia National Park



Yr Ysgwrn and the Snowdonia National Park Authority are a perfect fit. The farm owes its recent rebirth to the Park, which secured the future of the site's special historic and cultural value – and the universal messages it conveys – by acquiring it in 2012.

As well as being an area of epic beauty and wide, open spaces, the Park is a living landscape where farming continues to play a major role in shaping that landscape and sustaining local communities. In Hedd Wyn's time it was hard to make a living here, and the farm had to be as self-sustainable as possible. Through a tenancy agreement, the Park now has the opportunity to practise sustainable land use to protect the environment whilst continuing to maintain Yr Ysgwrn as a working farm as well as a cultural icon.

As Gerald Williams, nephew of Hedd Wyn, said: 'The Park will go on forever. I hope Yr Ysgwrn will too.'

www.snowdonia.gov.wales





Yr Ysgwrn

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