

Trip 110718

PNTA visit to St Fagans National Museum of History

Just under 30 of our members took the coach to St Fagans on July 11th on a lovely dry and largely sunny day. We were given a welcoming talk which said the purpose of the Museum was chronicling the historical lifestyle, culture and architecture of the Welsh people. The museum has over 40 old buildings which have been moved to the site to capture the work and lifestyles of ordinary people through the ages. It also has St Fagan's Castle, an Elizabethan building with its garden.

The introductory talk also gave a detailed account of the latest project - the 'reconstruction' of the two halls from a court used by Llewelyn the Great in Anglesea. The original site only offers the basic foundations of the past buildings, but by utilising what is known of similar buildings of the era, around 1200AD, a design has been created. We were only allowed to view the near completed construction through the fence as public opening is not planned until October 2018. The Perspex windows are not typical of the era, but will hopefully keep the bats at bay.

There was not time to look in detail at all houses but we were able to visit the Tudor Trader's House from Quay Street, Haverfordwest. There were many photos on display of Gerald Nash and his team painstakingly dismantling the building, at the site of the Old Post Office at Haverfordwest, before reconstruction at St Fagans.

In the round houses, akin to the ones at Castell Henllys, we learnt how the smoke from the fire minimized the pests in the thatch, and how the warm air dried out the inner lining of gorse branches, so they could provide insulation.

We also had an interesting visit to the Pen-rhiw Chapel from Velindre and were told how it had been saved and redecorated.

There were ample places to eat and drink on the site and, for those with limited mobility, there was an internal bus system.