

Volunteers bring Iron Age building back to life

29/07/2016



Paratoi i frwydro yn Bryn Eryr

A recreated Iron Age farmstead at one of the UK's largest living museums was welcomed into the 21st century this week with its official opening at St Fagans near Cardiff.

Bryn Eryr (or 'Eagle Hill', in English) is a recreation of a small Iron Age farmstead from Anglesey in north Wales, and is the first building to be completed as part of Making History - the biggest redevelopment project in the history of National Museum Wales.

Thanks to National Lottery players, St Fagans is benefiting from the largest grant ever given by HLF in Wales – £11.5million – and as a result is undergoing a major upgrade, which includes plans for a new gallery and brand new builds like Bryn Eryr.

This will mean that for the first time at the museum, visitors can explore life in Wales right through from the earliest human beings to modern day life.

Following more than three years' hard work from over 1,000 volunteers, Bryn Eryr has risen from the ground into the fully furnished roundhouse visitors can now enjoy – none of which would have been possible without the hard work of volunteers including schoolchildren, teenagers, students and those with learning difficulties.

Under the watchful eye of experts, the volunteers have de-barked wood for Bryn Eyr's beams, grown and cut grain for the thatched roof, lime washed its six foot thick hand-built clay walls and even turned stinging nettles into strong rope to be used in the building process.

Why not visit Bryn Eyr for yourself this summer? There are plenty of things to see and do at St Fagans for all the family – bring your imagination and get ready to travel back in time!

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Ffion Davies, Volunteer Coordinator at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, celebrates the hard work of volunteers who brought St Fagans' latest historic building to life.

27/07/2016