

## Case Study

# Royal Charter Shipwreck Project – KS2

Partnerships: Cadw, Oriol Ynys Mon, Royal National Lifeboat Institute and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales.

Team members: Erin Robinson, Cadw

Schools: Ysgol Llangaffo, Ysgol Moelfre, Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones

## Description of study

Three schools on Anglesey spent several months studying their local shipwreck; the Royal Charter, in a joint partnership project between Cadw and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW).

The Royal Charter set the world record in the nineteenth century for sailing to and from Australia in under 60 days, at the time of the Gold Rush. After its last stop in Ireland and on its way back to Liverpool, the ship got caught in the 'Great Storm of 1859', also known as the 'Royal Charter Storm' and was wrecked off the coast of Moelfre on the north shores of Anglesey. No women or children survived and the few men who survived were saved by Maltese sailor Joseph Rodgers who bravely tied a rope to his waist and jumped in to the sea to create a pulley system from the ship to the rocks, helped by residents of Moelfre.

Primary schools Ysgol Moelfre, Ysgol Llangaffo and secondary school Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones in Amlwch took part in the educational aspects of the Shipwreck project. Classes visited the churchyard of St Allgo's to see and survey the gravestones of the Royal Charter victims. They also visited the RNLI's Seawatch Centre in Moelfre to learn about safety at sea and see some of the artefacts, pictures and information from the Royal Charter shipwreck that they have on show in the centre. Pupils also visited Oriol Ynys Mon for the museum's 'Royal Charter' workshop, researching questions about the artefacts the museum has on display. The schools were also visited by professional divers who dived the wreck site. Local diver Peter Day visited Ysgol Llangaffo and Ysgol Moelfre with Reverend Ken Wilson, both of whom also look after St Allgo's church. Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones was visited by diver and authors Chris and Lesley Holden, who researched and published a book on the shipwreck. A celebration event to mark the end of the first year of the project was held at RNLI Moelfre's Seawatch Centre.

A great amount of the research carried out by the schools has been conducted using the People's Collection Wales website, Wales' online museum, where information and pictures of the beautiful gold artefacts and the everyday objects found at the wreck site can be seen.

## Classroom Activities

### Shipwreck:

- Find an object from the shipwreck on People's Collection Wales website (you can use the [Learning Links – Shipwrecks](#) to help you find relevant items): What colour is it, what is it made out of, what is it and what was it used for? Who do you think this belonged to and what do you think that person was like- young, old, rich, poor? Draw a picture of this person with the object and write a sentence describing them.
- Write a prayer by Rev Hughes for the families and the victims of the shipwreck. To go with the prayer, draw or find a picture of a grave or the Vicar at the church.
- Design a front page of a newspaper to report on the Shipwreck. What would the headline be? What would the sub-headings be? Find or draw pictures and add captions. Describe what happened to the ship, who was saved and how and what happened afterwards.
- Design a poster for the Ship before it set sail for Australia. What made this ship special and better than the others (60 days, word record etc.) and why did people want to go to Australia (gold etc.).
- Years 3 & 4 Literacy work: Allocate a scene each of the story as a sentence. They then draw a picture of what that scene is, what the sentence describes. Add to the sentence to make it into a passage with lots more description, working with adjectives etc.
- Create a timeline on the whiteboard about what happened and when.
- With all work created, make a digital timeline/'e-book' with the work. Children add in photos, pictures from the People's Collection Wales website and also scanned pictures of their own work, photos of field trip and add in text and sound-bites of narration.
- Create a play about the Royal Charter on its way back to Liverpool.
- Create a debate between the Captain, a sailor, a passenger and the owners about why they should continue to Liverpool or if they should try to avoid the storm.

### The Great Storm:

- Study short snippets of eye witness accounts from a range of people the storm affected- farmer, astronomer, reporter, a family. Put these eye-witness accounts into chronological order.
- Each take one snippet and underline all of the verbs/nouns/adjectives/words you don't understand.
- Create a timeline on the whiteboard about what happened and when.
- Role play- each become an 'eye witness' and write three sentences about what you a) hear, b) see and c) feel about the Great Storm and draw a picture.
- Debate - take two eye-witnesses to discuss how they feel about the Great storm and whether it was a good thing or a bad thing, e.g. Farmer lost all of his crops, astronomer saw an 'amazing event'.

## Timeframe

### February – July 2013

27<sup>th</sup> February, Ysgol Llangaffo fieldtrip, (St Allgo's church to see graves of victims, Seawatch Centre to see artefacts, activity and tour of lifeboats, Oriel Ynys Mon for talk, video and activities around Royal Charter collection)

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> March, Ysgol Moelfre fieldtrip and classroom activities & talk from Peter Day- diver of the shipwreck

12<sup>th</sup> March Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones presentation & talk from Chris & Lesley Holdren, divers of the shipwreck and authors of Royal Charter book

13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> March & 16<sup>th</sup> May Ysgol Llangaffo classroom activities

19<sup>th</sup> March- classroom activities Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones

5<sup>th</sup> June- Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones fieldtrip (Field trip to Seawatch Centre for talk on Royal Charter images and artefacts, walk to Royal Charter monument and a talk and visit to Royal Charter collection at Oriel Ynys Mon)

16<sup>th</sup> July – presentation afternoon, RNLI Seawatch Centre & pupils work on display in visitor centre for summer months.

## Participants

Ysgol Llangaffo – 29 pupils, two teachers (+ 2 on field trip)

Ysgol Moelfre – 30 pupils, one teacher (+3 on field trip)

Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones – 50 pupils, one teacher (+3 on field trip)

Others:

Three divers and the parish priest of St Allgo came to speak to the children/give presentations

Two RNLI staff/volunteers spoke to the children at Seawatch Centre during site visit

One member of staff spoke to pupils at Oriel Ynys Mon, plus video on Royal Charter and activities/work sheets about the artefact collection from the wreck

## Achievements

- Pupils have chosen to study other shipwrecks for homework projects.
- Many pupils from Ysgol Llangaffo entered artwork on the Royal Charter into the Urdd Eisteddfod and won prizes.
- Additional research was done on the project without Cadw presence including posters, artwork, replica models etc.
- Ysgol Llangaffo conducted further research and discovered that St Allgo (the namesake of the church where many of the Royal Charter victims are buried) was the brother of St Gaffo, the namesake of the school's village and their parish church.
- An exhibition of pupils work is now on display in RNLI Seawatch Moelfre.
- Work on this project has encouraged at least four Welsh Baccalaureate students from Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones to base their Individual Investigation projects on their local history and heritage.

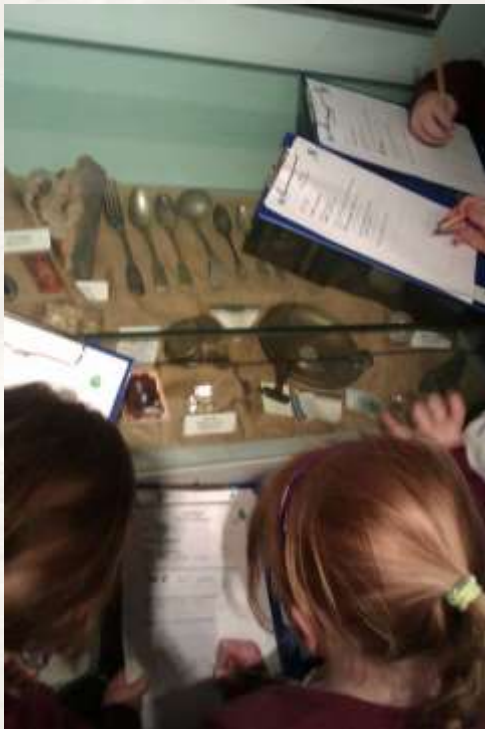
Emails from teacher:

"It has been a pleasure working with you on the shipwrecks project, I've enjoyed it immensely and I know the children have as well. I'm sure it will be something they remember from their time in Ysgol Llangaffo."

## Future Development

- With preparation work, the project could work well without the need for a member of Cadw staff present for activities. However, the initial introduction to the project, including clear notes on how many of the activities can link to many cross-curricular subjects, needs to be presented by an enthusiastic project officer who is also able to promote the subject as a worthwhile one to study with the pupils.
- A list of contact details for local societies could be collected to be shared with teachers for good resources and people to speak to the pupils- having different people in to speak to the classes worked well and generated excitement for the project.
- Also, encouragement to use the project for after-school activities and clubs would work well including competitions such as Urdd etc.
- When working with People's Collection Wales, it was easier when a specific computer lab/room was used and there was one computer per pupil or pair. Where the teachers had already set up a profile before the session, this saved time also.

## Examples of KS2 pupils work on the shipwreck project:



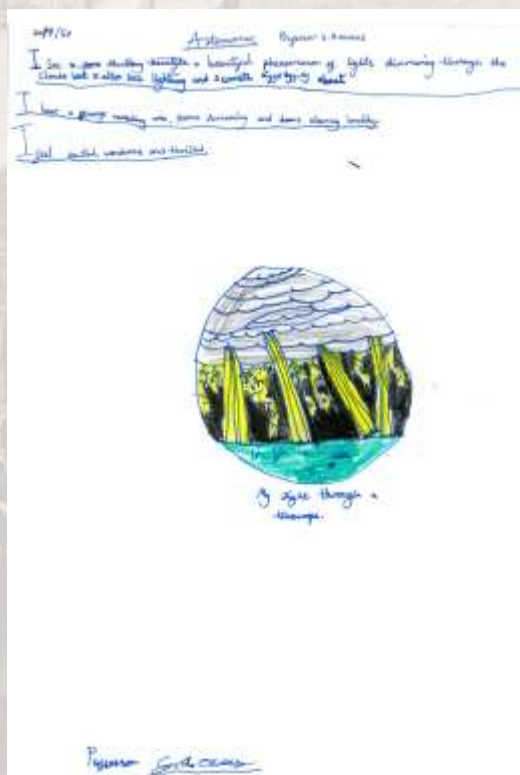
Pupils at Oriol Ynys Môn.



Pupil's worksheet from Oriol Ynys Môn.



Pupils looking at grave of a sailor.



Drawing – 'My sight through a telescope'.

**Examples of KS2 pupils work on the shipwreck project:**



Drawing of the Royal Charter during the Great Storm of 1859.



Collage of the Royal Charter during the Great Storm of 1859.