

PRESS RELEASE



PRINCE OF WALES OPENS DOORS IN WALES

Among the many and varied buildings taking part in Open Doors this year, is Llwynywermod, the Welsh home of HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.

In contrast to grand houses taking part in Open Doors such as Erddig and Llanerchaeron, Llwynywermod, near the village of Myddfai, in Carmarthenshire, is a former three-bedroom farmhouse, which was converted into the Prince's residence by Craig Hamilton Architects using traditional building techniques. It was once the coach-house to the now ruined 13-bedroom country house of the Griffies-Williams family that stood nearby and was bought by the Duchy of Cornwall in November 2006. Tucked away in the Brecon Beacons National Park, Llwynywermod is not visible from the main road and is accessible only by prior booking as part of the Open Doors programme.

Open Doors is organised by the Civic Trust for Wales on behalf of Cadw, the Welsh Assembly Government's historic environment service. Some venues require visitors to book in advance in order to ensure that they secure a place on a guided tour. Other sites are less specific and visitors can just turn up. The full listing of sites taking part in the Open Doors programme is available by logging on to www.civictrustwales.org/ehd

The Prince of Wales' commitment to heritage and sustainable development is exemplified by Llwynywermod, which has been renovated using the expertise of skilled Welsh craftsmen and women. Materials used in the renovation were sourced from within Wales wherever possible, in addition to stone and Welsh slate recovered from the site. The property was built using local skills and traditional building methods to help keep it cool in summer and warm in winter. Cob walls and natural sheep's wool insulation help retain heat while still letting the building breathe. It is a flagship for this year's Open Doors programme and is joined by other buildings and projects around Wales which showcase how green and sustainable values can be utilised in the heritage sector.

This year, the range of buildings taking part more varied than ever. From private houses to archaeological sites, religious buildings and castles, to examples of the best of contemporary architecture, Open Doors is the perfect opportunity to explore our heritage and learn about Wales' special buildings. New and established sites are taking part in the programme. In addition to sites waiving their charges, other properties offer visitors a chance to see behind the scenes of some very familiar buildings that are normally closed to the public.

Open Doors, is the largest annual free celebration of architecture and heritage to be held in Wales. It is part of European Heritage Days – a cross continent initiative which involves 49 countries and is Wales' largest volunteer event in the heritage sector.

Visit the Civic Trust for Wales website www.civictrustwales.org/ehd for full listings of all events and properties taking part in Open Doors throughout September.

For more information about Llwynywermod, visit the Duchy of Cornwall website <http://duchyofcornwallholidaycottages.co.uk/cottage/west-range.php>

Ends.

For more information on Open Doors please contact Jo Coles or Derw Thomas at the Civic Trust for Wales on 029 20 343 336 or post@civictrustwales.org