

Return of key marks reopening of historic chapel

BBC BROADCASTER Huw Edwards officially returned the key to an historic chapel in the heart of Ceredigion when it was officially reopened on Friday.

Hen Capel Llwynrhydowen has received a £267,000 restoration and interpretation programme from Addoldai Cymru, the Welsh Religious Buildings Trust.

The small chapel has an important place in the social, religious and political history of Wales.

The Grade II-listed building has now been repaired and consolidated and is ready for a new phase in its life, as a centre for activities for the local community.

Mr Edwards, patron of Addoldai Cymru, and Cyfeillion yr Hen Capel (Friends of Hen Capel) was joined by local dignitaries and residents for the official reopening.

It took place almost 140 years after the congregation was locked out of the chapel and cemetery for disobeying their Tory landlord — an event (Y Troad Allan) that catapulted the Unitarian chapel into the newspaper headlines.

The bitter, three-year lockout ended in triumph when the key was finally returned to the congregation — a ceremony that was repeated on Friday when Mr Edwards handed the key back to Welsh Government Minister Wyn Thomas.

This story is now being interpreted through digital and traditional presentations with the support of The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.



Broadcaster Huw Edwards is flanked by David Lloyd, chairman of Addoldai Cymru, and Welsh Minister Wyn Thomas

Photos: Beisan Haf Evans

Above: Pictured at the old chapel's official reopening are (from left): Cllr Peter Davies, chairman of the friends; Huw Edwards; Andrew Davies, Towy Projects; David Lloyd, chairman Addoldai Cymru; Heini Thomas; Wyn Thomas; Sue Fielding, project manager of chapels, Royal Commission Ancient Historical Monuments of Wales; Roger Clive-Powell, architect Cei Llwyd; Dylan Iorwerth; Gruff Owen, manager Addoldai Cymru; James Grimster, Orangeleaf; and Christine Moore, Addoldai Cymru development officer