

2019



MAKING A DIFFERENCE TODAY FOR TOMORROW



WWW.GROUNDWORKNORTHWALES.ORG.UK



Foreword by
Karen Balmer, CPFA
Chief Executive

Groundwork North Wales is a charity working to transform lives in disadvantaged communities. We do this by supporting people to get back into work and gain skills and qualifications. We build stronger communities by improving green spaces and conserving the natural environment. We bring out the best in young people by helping them improve their local area and we reduce fuel and furniture poverty, in turn tackling climate change through people using less energy and reusing and recycling more.

As a nation, we continue to face unprecedented levels of political and economic uncertainty, and the social reality is that ongoing austerity is likely to drive increased levels of poverty and further reductions in the scope and quality of services in local communities. This makes our mission to transform lives in those communities most in need more pressing, but ever more challenging given our historic reliance on grant and public funding. Whatever our economic future, many people will need support to gain confidence, skills and the opportunity to find rewarding work, and to enjoy healthy and rewarding lives. In order to continue to support the communities of Wales to thrive in difficult times, we will, as an organisation, need to continue to evolve and diversify to ensure our services are sustainable and our organisation remains financially viable.

We started on a journey to diversify our income base several years ago when we recognised the need to generate funds through enterprise activities which would offset the increased risk and competition attached to a shrinking pool of public grants and contracts. In particular, we looked to grow our training offer and are now recognised pan-Wales as a well-established and highly reputable training provider capable of delivering business-to-business courses bilingually across Wales. Profits from this service are re-invested back into the charity to help sustain our work with those facing disadvantage through long term unemployment, supporting individuals to gain new skills and qualifications.

Our furniture recycling subsidiary, Refurbs, has also diversified its activities to ensure it can provide affordable furniture to families and individuals in or at risk of furniture poverty. Securing contracts to do house and garden clearances is providing an additional income stream, which has created new jobs and volunteering opportunities across the region. Looking forward, we hope to be able to expand our affordable furniture offer to a wider customer base and reduce the poverty premium faced by those on a low income who cannot afford those essential household items which are taken for granted by many.

Our passion for engaging people with the natural environment and supporting them to think about their environmental impacts has always been the golden thread that runs through our activities on the ground. The last 12 months have been no different and we have delivered a varied and diverse range of projects and activities across North Wales to achieve this. This report provides a glimpse into some of this work and the impact it has had on our communities.

Of course, none of this would be achievable without your support, whether you are a funder or someone who buys our services, we remain grateful for your investment and belief in our organisation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, alongside our dedicated team of staff and volunteers, for making a difference today for tomorrow.



BUDDSODDWYR | **INVESTORS**
MEWN POBL | **IN PEOPLE**



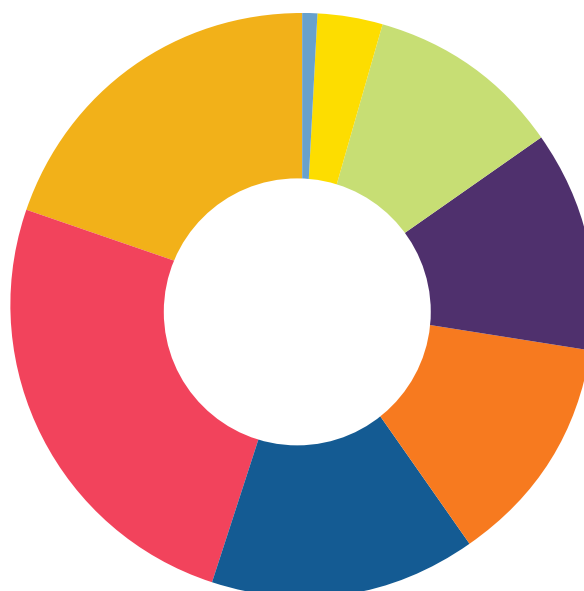


A note of thanks from
John Troth, OBE
 Chair

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Groundwork North Wales, I would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the staff team and volunteers for their tireless dedication to the achievement of our mission in an increasingly difficult and demanding business environment. I would also like to thank our many partner organisations both locally and nationally in Wales for helping us to deliver such an impact in the communities we serve. Together we will continue to develop our products and services to meet the future needs of Wales and its natural environment.

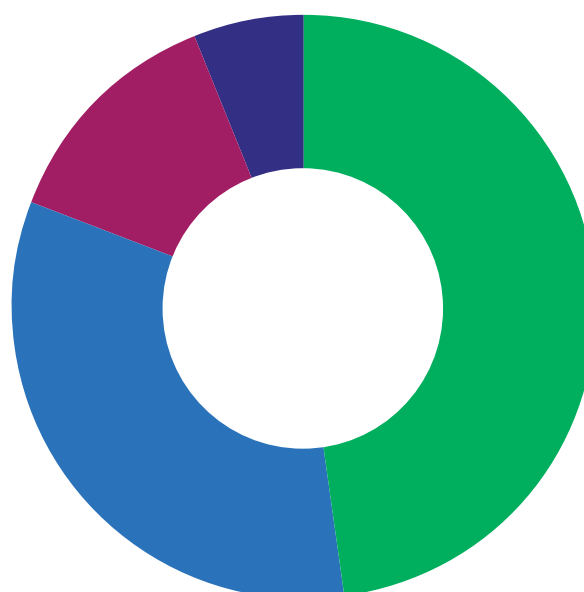
WHERE DOES OUR FUNDING COME FROM?

European Funding	£21k
Other Public Sector	£68k
Welsh Government	£207k
Lottery	£234k
Private Sector	£248k
Charitable Trusts	£284k
Local Authority	£483k
Other Income	£377k
Total	£1.92m

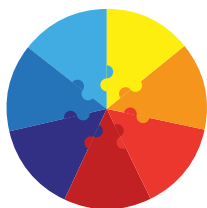


WHERE DOES OUR FUNDING MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

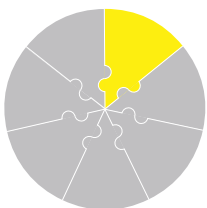
Economic Well-being	£923k	48%
Environmental Well-being	£634k	33%
Social Well-being	£250k	13%
Cultural Well-being	£115k	6%
Total	£1.92m	100%



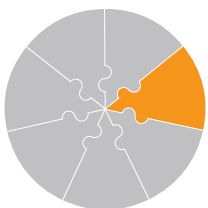
WELL-BEING GOALS AND OUR IMPACTS



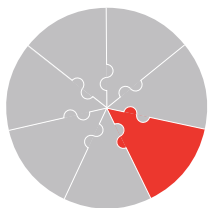
The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015



A Prosperous Wales



A Resilient Wales



A Healthier Wales


This act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.



TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS - **93**




Money saved on domestic fuel bills **£75,461**



5,229 energy efficiency measures installed

111 jobs created/safeguarded



Training weeks provided **907**



Land improved or maintained **913,103 m²**



Trees planted **2,276**

Biodiversity improvements **69**



Diversion from landfill **743 tonnes**



4,466 young people engaged in outdoor activities



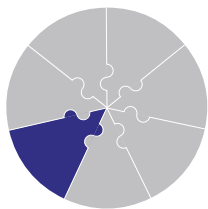
2,872 people involved in physical activity



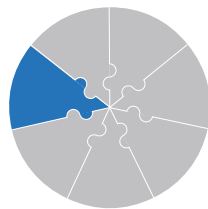
2,095 people engaging with the natural environment



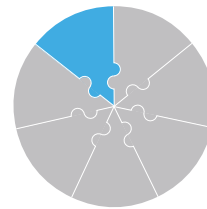
A More Equal Wales



A Wales of Cohesive Communities



A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language



A Globally Responsible Wales

2,764
volunteer days
by adults

5,7659
volunteer
days by
young
people



238 schools
supported

Families engaged in
activities and projects

1,287



Adults and young
people engaging
with Minera a local
heritage site

2,477



38 community
cleanups



598 formal
qualifications gained



988 community
organisations
supported



2,191
young people involved in
our Celtic heritage and
culture programme

63 education and
training courses
delivered in the Welsh
Language

225,116

kg of CO₂
emissions
saved



4,278

number of
people helped
to reduce the
waste they send
to landfill





SOCIAL WELL-BEING



Social well-being is the extent to which an individual feels a sense of belonging and social inclusion; a connected person is a supported person in society. Lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs are all important to social well-being and quality of life. Our social wellbeing programmes support individuals to live healthier and happier lives now and for the future.

CAFFI CYFLE

Caffi Cyfle is our latest venture at Alyn Waters Country Park, Wrexham.

Following a successful tender to Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC), we were thrilled to be able to take the café on and to continue to support the volunteer opportunities provided to adult social services. It is our aspiration to develop Caffi Cyfle, to support people with learning difficulties to gain new skills and experiences. The café provides the catering for Venue in the Park, the conference suite at Alyn Waters, which forms part of Groundwork North Wales' agreement with WCBC. Visitors to the café can enjoy freshly prepared and locally sourced homemade food and cakes.

Venue in the Park, the conference space at Alyn Waters, continues to provide a venue for organisations and businesses to host meetings, seminars and other events in a modern, purpose built setting with beautiful views and access to excellent catering.

"Caffi Cyfle at Alyn Waters is an excellent place for individuals with learning difficulties to learn new skills, and has provided them with some much appreciated opportunities and work. And the new name, Caffi Cyfle, embodies that spirit. Groundwork North Wales is very well placed to continue that work, and we look forward to working with them in future." Cllr Joan Lowe, the lead member for health and adult social care at WCBC.

Case Study - Martin

Martin, a young man from Wrexham who lives independently in supported living, volunteers at Caffi Cyfle two days a week. He is learning new skills and making a full contribution helping to run the café and has an important role serving customers and preparing food.

"I am glad I am still able to go to Alyn Waters and Caffi Cyfle. I like making the cakes and serving the customers. I do washing and drying the pots sometimes. I like being busy".

Martin's mum Jackie said, "It is such a relief that Martin has the opportunity to go to Caffi Cyfle and it is good to see that he has a good relationship with staff at the Café".



HOLIDAY CLUB



Playing is a natural and enjoyable way for children to keep active, stay well and be happy. Freely chosen play helps children and young people's healthy development. To have good physical and mental health and to learn life skills, children need various

unstructured play opportunities from birth until they are teenagers. Play improves the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being of children and young people. Through play, children learn about the world and themselves. They also learn skills they need for study, work and relationships such as confidence and self-esteem, resilience, interaction and social skills.

Our outdoor holiday club seeks to support children to enjoy the freedom and experience of playing in the natural environment.

Children experience freedom when they play outside. Outdoor play is a natural way for children of all ages to do physical activity. It's good for children's health and well-being to be physically active through play. Being active burns energy and can help prevent illnesses in adulthood. Being outdoors is good for eye health. Spending time outdoors reduces short-sightedness (myopia) in children and young people. As they grow up, children experience rapid and different physical and psychological changes. These changes can influence their future health and well-being. Enjoying regular exercise through play can prevent illnesses as an adult including obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, cancer.

Feedback from one of our parents. *"Finally, I found a holiday club that the kids loved going to and provided a learning experience above and beyond anything they had experienced elsewhere. They socialise with children of all ages and from all backgrounds and have new experiences like catching frogs, building campfires and learning to play different outdoor sports."*

Our 2019 CIW Inspection Report states: *"Groundwork North Wales Holiday Club provides excellent child care. Children thrive and are exceptionally happy, settled and really enjoy attending"*



OUTCOMES

HOLIDAY CLUB



- **568** children got physically active
- Over **47** days of active sessions
- Over **5,000** hours of outdoor physical activity delivered



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Economic well-being is defined as having present and future financial security. It means individuals and families can meet their very basic needs such as housing, food and fuel. Our programmes support the economic well-being of individuals, groups and families who are particularly vulnerable, helping them to make better, more informed choices, grow in confidence, and to improve their skills and prospects of employment.

TOYOTA DRIVE

Toyota Drive is transforming the lives of young people in Flintshire. Delivered in partnership with Toyota Manufacturing UK and Flintshire County Council, the programme creates new opportunities for young people (aged 16-24) to join an employability programme including training qualifications and bespoke support.



Case Study - Toyota Drive

M, a young man aged 21 from Flint, was interested in a career in agricultural engineering but had not been successful in getting the right training. After completing Toyota Drive he gained new qualifications in Customer Service, First Aid, Health and Safety and Road Safety/Bikeability and started a volunteer placement with an environmental programme where he was asked to stay on and has since become a valuable and key team member.

"My confidence and motivation have really improved and I'm much more positive about the future, plus I've gained loads of new skills and qualifications. I would really recommend the Toyota Drive Programme"



ENERGY SERVICES

Our energy programmes work for communities across North Wales, offering practical support to people, often those most at risk of fuel poverty, to help make homes more environmentally friendly and cheaper to run.

Complementing our energy programmes is Groundwork Switch, a service that helps people to get the best deals in the domestic energy market. We work with energyhelpline to offer an independent price comparison service which provides customers with fast, free and friendly advice on their best gas and electricity deal.

Case Study - Big Energy Saving Week



Big Energy Saving Week is an annual campaign co-ordinated by Citizens Advice in partnership with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

This year we helped local communities to save money and energy use by taking a vintage Routemaster, the Big Energy Saving Bus, on a driving tour of Wrexham and Flintshire. Households were targeted where the risk of experiencing fuel poverty was likely to be high.

During the week we offered direct help and advice on saving money and energy, by encouraging people sign up to additional schemes such as our Project LEAP home energy assessment service for tailored one-to-one advice and the installation of small measures.

"The Big Energy Bus was a great opportunity to reach out to people and engage with vulnerable customers who need us the most. It attracted lots of interest and we engaged with people who perhaps wouldn't have normally stopped to find out more." Tracey Jones, North Wales - Dŵr Cymru



OUTCOMES

TOYOTA DRIVE



25 Formal qualifications gained

12 young people supported to learn and achieve



22 " " " "

training weeks delivered



£3,745

value of the volunteering given to the local community

ENERGY SERVICES



£75,461 saved in domestic energy bills

573 Green Doctor visits



225,116 Kg of CO2 saved



1,140 households helped to reduce energy and water



ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING

Being aware of the impact of our interaction with nature and respectful of our surroundings improves our Environmental well-being . Our programmes help reconnect people to green spaces to improve their overall well-being, as well as taking action to protect the natural environment and fight climate change.

IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY IN COMMUNITIES IN GWYNEDD

Stepping Stones and Pollinators for Maesincla

Local communities are changing their green spaces in Caernarfon, Gwynedd with 2 projects designed to bring people together to transform their communal green spaces, helping to re-connect people with nature and understand the importance of biodiversity.

The Stepping Stones project is funded by the Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme and engages with people living on the Peblig Estate to improve the environmental value of open spaces on the housing estate. Our Pollinators for Maesincla project is supported through the Peoples Postcode Lottery and involves planting a variety of native wildflowers and Welsh fruit trees on unused grassed areas to make these spaces rich in biodiversity. Both programmes provide valuable volunteering and learning opportunities involving the whole community.



Case Study - Elaine

Elaine is involved in attending regular volunteer sessions on the projects and has lived locally for many years. She has been involved in transforming the green spaces around where she lives through planting trees and helping increase biodiversity on the site.

"This project is so important to give the children a better environment to grow up in and teaching them how to protect it."



"I have really enjoyed the outdoor work because I am helping my community and for me the volunteering has helped with my anxiety and means that I can get outside, leave the house and get some fresh air."

OUTCOMES

POLLINATORS FOR
MAESINCLA AND
STEPPING STONES

350 

people benefitting from
improved public space

185 volunteers including
local school children
actively involved



104
trees planted



TACKLING POVERTY AND REDUCING WASTE

Tesco Bags of Help Community Grant Scheme

TESCO

Through the Tesco Community Grant Scheme, Groundwork UK is supporting local community projects, where the money raised from Tesco plastic carrier bag sales is being used to fund local projects in communities that bring real environmental benefit to their local area. Groundwork North Wales is delivering the scheme locally to communities across North Wales.



Given To Shine is just one example of how this funding has transformed lives and helped the environment. Given To Shine provides practical support for those struggling financially and is committed to reducing unnecessary and single-use waste, protecting our

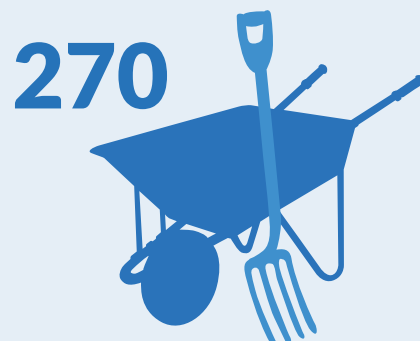
planet. Through Tesco and Groundwork, they funded a programme tackling period poverty in Wrexham. The project focuses on educating and empowering school girls, offering them ten years of reusable protection whilst diverting mainstream products from landfill. This programme alone prevents approximately 11,000 items of single-use protection being sent to landfill, per person.

The Directors of Given To Shine want to thank Groundwork, Tesco and every voter who made their grant possible, stating *"thanks to Groundwork, we've been able to purchase cloth pads for 80 school girls, eliminating period poverty for up to 10 years and giving them autonomy over their period products. These girls can now fulfil their potential without their periods holding them back."*



OUTCOMES

TESCO COMMUNITY
GRANT SCHEME



270

environmental and
community projects
delivered across North
Wales

£630,000

of funding delivered for
environmental and
community improvements



CULTURAL WELL-BEING

Cultural well-being lies at the heart of a healthy society and keeps communities vibrant and viable. Our programmes give the opportunity to express our Welsh culture and heritage through participation in recreational, creative and cultural activities that improve everyone's social, physical and mental health and well-being. There are social benefits that heritage brings through the sense of identity and belonging that it gives to communities

MINERA LEAD MINES & COUNTRY PARK

Regenerating and sustaining the local heritage and community engagement.

Heritage sites make a vital and positive contribution to a local area, giving a sense of place and continuity in a fast changing world for future generations. In 2018 we reopened Minera Lead Mines and Country Park as a visitor attraction and outdoor events space. Our team have worked hard to bring the visitor centre and facilities back to life, developing a new and exciting programme of activities and events through consultation with the local community to allow visitors to engage with the natural heritage.

"Minera Lead Mines Community Heritage is a great project as it shows clearly how local heritage can be a catalyst for lots of different activities and bring people together behind a common purpose. The National Lottery Heritage Fund is pleased to support Groundwork North Wales in its plans to recruit volunteers of all ages, offer skills training and, thanks to National Lottery players, enable people to enjoy the history on their own doorstep." Richard Bellamy, Director of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Wales



Visitors to the site and the local community have been encouraged to get involved with the site through social media. Local Minera resident Tom Andy Anderton says of Minera Lead Mines; *"Another part of Wrexham's industrial history, who says Wrexham has nothing to offer? A really beautiful and interesting part of our countryside."*

Pauline Evans recalls the site as a child in the 1950's and 1960's. *"This was my playground as a child, playing hide and seek in and around the pit, hiding in the big chimney. We would play all day all around there, making dens, playing in what we called the white sand, wonderful memories. A wonderful free childhood."*



Minera Lead Mines and Country Park provide a unique insight into the industrial past of the beautiful Clywedog Valley. Nature has now returned to the once thriving industrial area, giving visitors the opportunity not only to learn about the mining heritage of the area but to enjoy the natural landscape encompassing 53 acres of grassland and wooded areas. The archaeologically recovered remains of the lead processing areas from the 18th and 19th centuries can be explored, as well as the restored beam engine house, winding engine and boiler houses.

Events and activities at the site have included a Halloween spooktacular, minibeast hunt, crafty kids, nature scavenger, history walks, nature bingo and volunteer days. The events and activities aim to incorporate the natural landscape of the site to inform the participants about the area's rich heritage.



The activity sessions, the opening of the visitor centre and engagement through social media have given the opportunity for the local community and visitors to have a say in how they would like to see the site developed. We aim to provide access all year round through the development of a sustainable management plan; enabling people to not only appreciate the industrial heritage of the area but, through engagement with the natural landscape of the site as a visitor or volunteer, develop new skills or discover an interest in the heritage. Recently, Susan Elan Jones, Labour MP for Clwyd South, took the opportunity to visit Minera to see the impact reopening the site has had on the local community.



"It has been wonderful to see the Visitor Centre and the entire Minera Lead Mines Country Park site so full of families enjoying everything the site has to offer. I am looking forward to the Engine House being open later in the year. I would encourage anyone looking for a great day out to visit Minera Lead Mines, supporting the conservation of our local heritage" Quote from Susan Elan Jones, Labour MP for Clwyd South

OUTCOMES

MINERA LEAD MINES AND COUNTRY PARK

1,463 

people benefitted from the
improvements to the site

491 & 392
CHILDREN ADULTS



have engaged in the
industrial heritage through
the natural landscape



167 young people
279 adults

improved their well-being
by engaging in outdoor
activities at the site





**Creating Homes
Creating Opportunities**

We have been providing furniture both new and pre-loved to people for over 17 years. As well as our mission to reduce furniture poverty, our staff and volunteers are passionate about the environment and climate change. Our day to day activities include soft furnishing deconstruction, reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

FURNITURE POVERTY

10 million furniture items are sent to landfill each year in the UK - 3 million of these could be re-used by people in crisis!

What is furniture poverty? It is the inability to afford or access the basic essential items that provide a household with a decent quality of life. It's a sliding scale where at the lowest extreme, a household has none or very few of the basic items needed and at the other end a household may have what they need for now, but if something needs repair or replacement they will not have the savings.

The essential items

Bed, bedding and mattress; table and chairs; sofa and chairs; wardrobe; carpets in living rooms and bedrooms; curtains or blinds; washing machine; fridge and freezer; cooker; TV.

Last year at Refurbs we sold over 4,118 items of pre-loved furniture and household appliances to people in need of affordable essential items.

Tackling Climate Change

Waste prevention and recycling reduces the amount of waste sent to landfill, which lowers the amount of greenhouse gases emitted as the waste decays. Landfill causes pollution to the local environment by contaminating the ground water and aquifers, contaminating the soil, and producing methane. Methane is a greenhouse gas 21 times more powerful than carbon dioxide (CO₂) and is said to be the leading cause of global warming.

Our environmental objective to divert waste from landfill is fulfilled through the collection and refurbishment of pre-loved furniture through Local Authority contracts and donations.

In 2018-19 we were pleased to secure Flintshire County Council's void property cleaning and clearance contract, which incorporated a supported employment programme for Flintshire residents. Alongside the fulfilment of Flintshire's bulky household waste collection, this contract helped us to increase the diversion of usable household products from landfill as well as supported 4 unemployed Flintshire residents in its 1st year. Our soft furnishings deconstruction programme has also seen the breaking down of 6,005 items into their component parts, diverting 263 tonnes of waste from landfill, saving 312,260kg of CO₂ emissions.



OUTCOMES



17 regular
volunteers
supported



4,116
volunteer
hours



of waste
diverted
from landfill

Impacts and Outputs

For every 100 Items reused the social and environmental impact can be calculated as follows:

	£ Savings to the homeowner	Kg of CO ₂ saved
100 white goods	£15,000	2,912 kg
100 tables and chairs	£8,000	3,249 kg
100 chairs or sofas	£22,500	5,200 kg
100 beds and mattresses	£10,000	6,600 kg
100 small appliances	£3,000	574 kg

*These calculations are based on the Reuse Network standard calculations

BI-LINGUAL TRAINING SERVICES FOR ORGANISATIONS, BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS

We deliver an extensive range of accredited training courses available through the medium of Welsh and English, all meeting Ofqual and Qualifications Wales requirements and delivered to the highest standard.

With many years experience of delivering training courses, all of our qualified trainers deliver with a practical and engaging approach that recognises that people have different learning styles. We can tailor training to cover in depth those areas that are particularly relevant to individual business needs and to the work environment.

We are accredited to make awards under IOSH, Lantra, Quallsafe and First Aid Awards Ltd schemes and we are a recognised national training provider for public sector bodies on the National Procurement Service's Customer Corporate Training Learning and Development Service Framework across Wales.

Organisations can also be assured that by choosing to use Groundwork Training they are contributing to our charity's ability to sustain our work, improving the well-being of people and communities in North Wales.



**In 2018/19
we delivered:**



42 Courses delivered in the Welsh Language
966 First Aid qualifications
586 Health and Safety related qualifications
223 Safeguarding qualifications
176 Food Safety qualifications
201 Other qualifications



VENUE IN THE PARK

Following a successful tender to WCBC we are now leasing the café and conference facility at Alyn Waters Country Park. Caffi Cyfle (meaning café of opportunity) provides supported volunteering opportunities for people with learning difficulties. Sustaining this venture, our profits from the hire of Venue in the Park contribute to our ability to maintain this and to support communities that are most in need.

Venue in the Park the purpose built conference and event space at Alyn Waters Country Park offers beautiful views into the country park and is situated only three miles north of Wrexham town centre. The fully equipped conference and event space with free Wi-Fi can accommodate up to a maximum of 75 people for your business or private event.

A perfect setting for those looking to host strategy days, board meetings, corporate events, training, team building, networking and private events or just for those wanting to get away from the office and enjoy time to think clearly in a stress free natural environment.

The space can be hired 7 days a week between 9.00am and 4.30pm.

Venue in the Park provides additional opportunities for the in-house work and volunteering programme based at Caffi Cyfle which can provide your event with fantastic refreshments, with an emphasis on using fresh, sustainably sourced local ingredients and supporting Welsh suppliers.



“Venue in the Park is a great flexible space, ideal for our training day with lots of natural light and an outdoor area we can use.” Local training organisation

The café is situated next to Venue in the Park and is open 7 days a week 9.00am till 4.30pm.

ENVIRONMENTAL, CULTURAL AND WELLBEING EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

We have been providing high quality educational programmes for schools in North Wales since 1995. Our main programmes below can be offered as outreach or from our Environmental Education Centre at our woodland site near Wrexham.



Helps pupils understand how nature recycles waste and how humans deal with waste, thus encouraging behaviour change through recycling and reusing.



Encourages resource efficiency and behaviour change, the effects of climate change and exploring alternative energy sources.



This programme investigates river processes, river habitats, ecosystems, pollution prevention and water safety.



Pupils live the life of a Celt for a day. Celtic life, culture and society are brought to life in a fun interactive programme.



An introduction to first aid training for children with links to how the heart and circulatory systems work.



Credit: Graham Davies



WILD GROUND

ENVIRONMENTS FOR NATURE: ENVIRONMENTS FOR PEOPLE

Wild Ground engages, inspire and enthuses local communities to act together to protect wildlife and enhance habitats, eco-systems and bio-diversity. We run and manage 15 nature reserves with a special interest in conserving amphibian and reptile habitats. Our work involves ecological land management, providing training courses, running community events, working with schools and colleges to provide educational activities and running an inclusive volunteer programme.

OUR BACK YARD

Our Back Yard is a National Lottery funded project running in Connah's Quay, Flintshire aimed at empowering communities to improve their natural environment for current and future generations. The project aims to increase people's pride in their neighbourhood, to strengthen community cohesion, provide opportunities for people of all ages to be more active in the open air, increase learning and volunteering opportunities and create improved habitats for wildlife.



Our Backyard



ARIENNIR GAN Y LOTERI
LOTTERY FUNDED

Two of the nature reserves run and managed by Wild Ground are part of this programme, Broad Oak and Llwyni Valley. Activities at the nature reserves have included: litter picking, bracken bashing, minibeast hunts, access improvements, fencing and path maintenance, nature walks and campfire cooking.

THE NATURAL CLASSROOM:



Thanks to funding from the Ernest Cook Trust, Wild Ground ran a Natural Classroom Programme to capture young people's interest in wildlife in and around North East Flintshire, teaching them traditional classroom subjects such as literacy and numeracy, but in a practical outdoor setting. The programme aimed to connect young people with, and to value, their local wildlife, focusing on those with mental and physical health issues and young people who have difficulty learning in a traditional classroom environment.

The programme delivered many outdoor learning sessions for schools and groups and gave teachers new skills to lead outdoor education sessions beyond the life of the project.

"Giving our young people the opportunity to get involved with the Natural Classroom was invaluable. Getting them out of the college classroom to a nature reserve helps them to feel more involved in their local community, it boosts their confidence and lessens the isolation that a lot of young disabled people experience. Learning about conservation and nature in an actual outdoor setting gives them practical knowledge and improves their skills in a way that will hopefully also boost their opportunities in future to take part in voluntary or paid work experiences." Sue McGrane, Leonard Cheshire Disability

OUTCOMES

WILD GROUND

3,395

hours of
volunteering
achieved



724,423 sqm

of land improved or
maintained



weeks of training
delivered in wildlife
and conservation

OUR BACKYARD

Outdoor wildlife
and conservation
events



341

volunteer hours

Bags of rubbish
collected



THE NATURAL CLASSROOM



649 young people outdoor
classroom sessions

192 people engaged in
family nature sessions

40 young people from
specialist schools took part in
outdoor learning and social
forestry

