

2021



NORTH WALES
GOGLEDD CYMRU

Charity Registration Number
1004132

WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE WELL-BEING





Foreword by Karen Balmer,
CPFA, Group CEO

As CEO of Groundwork North Wales, I am delighted to introduce our 2020-21 Annual Report.

At the time of writing, we are slowly emerging from a period of unprecedented challenges brought about by the impact of COVID-19 on individuals, businesses, voluntary organisations, and communities. The pandemic has disproportionately affected those individuals and communities that already faced the most disadvantage and inequality.

Now more than ever there is a recognition of the importance of the natural environment and the quality of the green and blue space around us. Now more than ever there is a need to create opportunities for people to achieve their potential. And now more than ever we must continue the drive to minimise waste and reduce poverty.

Our work focusses on these areas as our priorities and we will continue to work with partners, public bodies, and our local communities as we move into the post-Covid recovery period.

Our team have been hugely resilient and creative in finding new ways to deliver services digitally or in Covid safe practices and I am immensely proud of them for all they have achieved throughout the pandemic.

Some of our more significant achievements through this difficult time included the distribution of over £88k of fuel vouchers and support to 2381 individuals and families in fuel poverty; while 77 gardens of key workers and those in poor health or shielding were given a “make over”; over 100 bicycles destined for landfill were refurbished, and 1684 trees were planted!

January 2021 saw our subsidiary charity Refurbs embark on the refurbishment of a former bank in Buckley into a Repair & Reuse Centre. The project in partnership with Flintshire County Council and funded through the Welsh Government’s Circular Economy Fund took just 3 months to complete but due to restrictions at the time only became fully operational in the Spring. We are hoping that in the year to come this flagship project for the county will be able to deliver wide reaching impacts in the field of reuse and recycling.

Looking ahead our ambition is to support the green recovery, grow our services, deliver more social impact and continue to make a difference to the people of Wales. We will also be taking positive steps towards being a Carbon Net-Zero organisation.

None of our work would be possible without the support of our partners and funders, staff and volunteers and we are immensely grateful to everyone who has supported our work in the last twelve months and who will continue their support in the months and years to come. We look forward to building a better and greener future with you all.

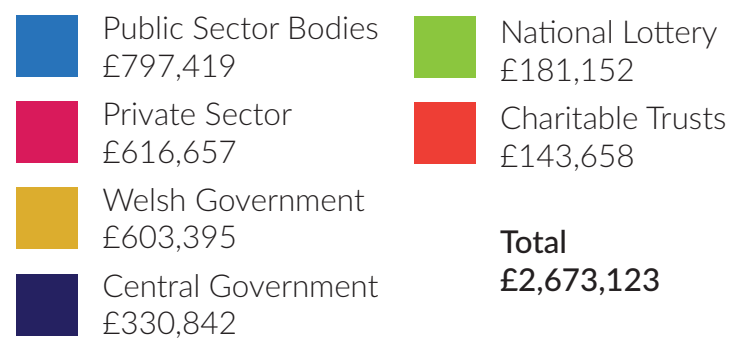
A note of thanks from Nigel Reader, Chair

I was delighted to be appointed as Chair of the Groundwork North Wales Group in November of 2020.

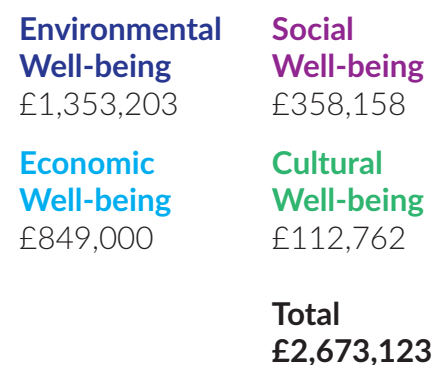
It has been a challenging time because of the coronavirus pandemic and the associated restrictions. However, I have done my best to meet with the staff and stakeholders and to learn at first hand of the work that the Group has continued to deliver, undefeated by the current challenge. I am grateful to our volunteers for their continued loyalty and invaluable support; to our funders whose generosity has enabled us to continue to operate effectively in these unprecedented times; and to our partners whose collaboration has added robustness to our collective capacity for improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the communities we support. I look forward to supporting the team in the year ahead and to building on the successes of 2020-21.



WHERE DOES OUR FUNDING COME FROM?



WHERE DOES OUR FUNDING MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



The Groundwork North Wales Group, which includes Wild Ground and Refurbs, are accredited with the Investing in Volunteers Award. The Investing in Volunteers Quality Standard recognises excellent practice in working with volunteers.

Volunteering helps individuals gain work experience and build skills increasing job prospects. Our volunteering programme offers chances for individuals to improve their local environment, through supporting green spaces as community assets that everyone can benefit from and enjoy, and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill.

"I would encourage anyone who is out of work or who is looking for a career change even if you want to learn some new skills, to just go for it! It was one of the best things I have done in a long time, and I wish I had done it sooner!"
Paul Dodd Refurbs volunteer

"When you have a nature reserve like this on your doorstep (Plas Power) and plenty of work that needs doing, it's really fulfilling to be involved".
David Hinchcliffe Plas Power project volunteer



Volunteers
actively engaged -

80



2,632
volunteer
hours by adults

Value -
£17,214

Volunteer participation and frequency of volunteering has been severely curtailed due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Registered office: 3-4 Plas Power Rd, Tanyfron, Wrexham, LL11 5SZ

Groundwork North Wales / Gogledd Cymru is a company limited by guarantee and registered in England & Wales. Charity registration Number 1004132 / Company registration Number 2614714

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SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING

We support the social, cultural, environmental, and economic well-being of the vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities, helping to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

LOVE YOUR SPACE

The Love Your Space project was in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. The project enabled us to offer garden maintenance to officially shielding residents and NHS Key Workers in Flintshire and Wrexham, who were unable to manage their outdoor space, because of age or infirmity or having the time and energy outside of work, causing additional anxiety and stress to residents.

The project greatly helped residents' well-being, as they now had an outside space that they were able to enjoy and relax in.



77 garden improvements were completed

104 people recording improved overall well-being

CASE STUDY - Steve
Groundwork North Wales were contacted by Steve's neighbour. Steve had struggled to maintain his large garden due to health complications. Steve's neighbour Frances said: *"It's a dramatic transformation! Steve's mood has improved considerably and now he is able to sit in the garden with a book".*



We Care focuses on enhancing pride in local communities, through raising awareness and understanding of the impact the actions of individuals have on the local environment.

The project was designed to develop lasting behavioural change towards the local environment, to enable local communities to have a greater understanding and appreciation of the wider environment and its impact on climate change.

Individuals involved in the project can gain skills and experiences through practical environmental volunteering. Communities are empowered to develop a sense of ownership and have pride in the places where they live. These activities across Flintshire and Gwynedd have seen 279 people engage with their local environment and support development in their local areas.



28,000 people have benefited from the improvements

In total **13** public spaces have been improved



410kgs of waste has been removed from public spaces

Judith Humphreys, Penygroes Councillor, Gwynedd *'Groundwork North Wales' presence has been invaluable. This area has suffered from decades of economic and social decline and there is a growing effort locally to regenerate and reinvigorate the community. Support such as this has contributed to a new sense of hope in an area which has faced years of deprivation.'*



ENERGY REDRESS COVID-19 CRISIS FUND

Many people have experienced fuel poverty more than ever this year with the pandemic seeing people and families spend more time at home. Through the Energy Redress Covid-19 Crisis Fund we were able to administer vouchers to supplement these costs to qualifying individuals and families.

The project worked with community partners including housing associations, Age Connect, Macmillan, Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board, Citizens Advice Bureau, and local voluntary councils.

£106k administered in vouchers

745 vulnerable individuals helped

1750 vulnerable families benefited



Feedback from recipients of the voucher scheme was heartfelt. *'The voucher will really make a big difference to us as a family, as I will be able to put the heating on without being worried about the cost.'*





WILD GROUND

Charity Registration Number 1080838

Environments for nature: Environments for people

Working to engage, inspire and enthuse local communities to act together to protect wildlife, and enhance habitats and eco-systems. With nature reserves owned and managed across North Wales, our focus is the protection of amphibians and reptiles, specifically the protected great crested newt.

The work undertaken by Wild Ground on our various sites not only supports the current ecological needs of the sites but enhances it, ensuring all work carried out benefits the site and community, now and for future generations.



NATURE ONLINE

The Nature Online project was funded by the Wales Respond & Recover Fund, administered by the Community Foundation Wales.

The Covid-19 pandemic caused us to pause all our public facing activities which meant we could not run our training courses and family events, our main methods of engaging and educating the community. The funding allowed Wild Ground to develop nature-themed community engagement activities for delivery online.



communityfoundationwales.org.uk

WILD ABOUT JOHNSTOWN

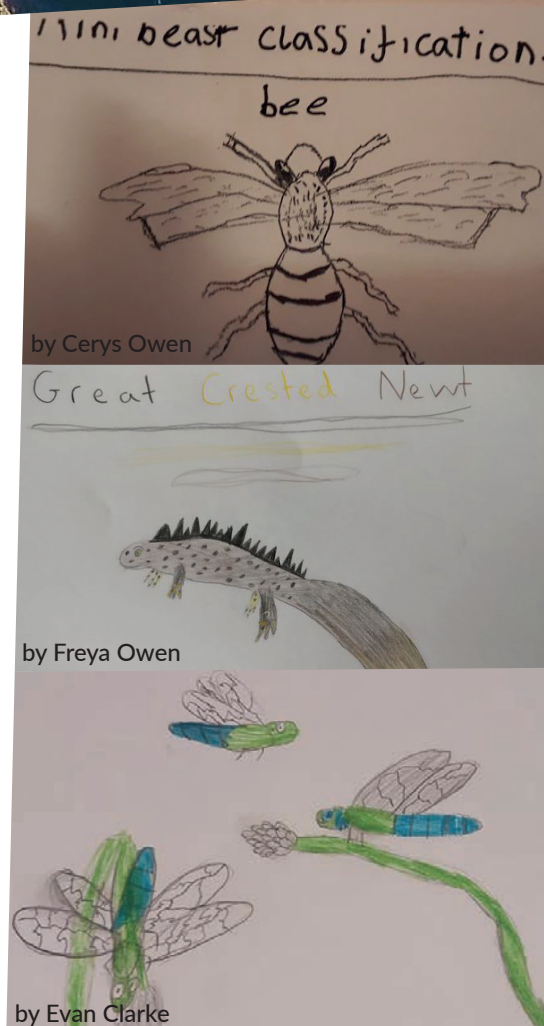
The project aims to make our nature reserves in Johnstown more pleasant places to visit, to improve habitats for wildlife and to provide all members of the community with opportunities to get involved. The reserves include Aberderfryn, Stryt Las and Brandie Brook.

The project involves a mixture of wildlife-themed volunteering, community events and activities on the reserves. Unfortunately participation and frequency of volunteering, community events and activities was impacted by Covid-19 restrictions and guidelines.

Practical tasks include habitat improvement, tidying, and the creation of new interpretation panels.

A new pond-dipping area has been created and a wildlife art competition was launched for local children to enter, entries from which decorate the new interpretation panel for the area at the Stryt Las nature reserve.

Councillor David Bithell (Community Councillor for Johnstown ward and Rhos Community Council) chose Cerys Owen's bee picture as the overall winning entry.



Cynllun Cymunedau y Dreth Gwarediadau Tirlenwi

WcVA CgGC

Arwriaeth gan Lywodraeth Cymru Funded by Welsh Government

Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme

Gwirfoddoli Cymru
Volunteering Wales



Charity Registration Number 1093176

Creating Homes - Creating Opportunities

Refurbs promotes the benefits of reducing, reusing, and recycling as a key part of society's ability to reduce the greenhouse gases linked to climate change.

Through reusing and recycling of household items Refurbs also help households with low incomes to furnish their homes for less. These initiatives allow Refurbs to offer work placements, training, and volunteering opportunities for the local community.

REPAIR AND REUSE CENTRE WITH CAFÉ AT BUCKLEY

The long-term aim of the Repair and Reuse Centre with Café in Buckley is to promote education and behavioural change on waste and recycling, provide volunteering opportunities for local people and to create jobs. The facility will promote community cohesion through repair and reuse initiatives.

The centre has created an attractive and interesting venue in the heart of the town centre, while supporting the strategic regeneration plan of one of Flintshire's town centres and most importantly it provides a place for the community to come together.

The successful bid was promoted by the Buckley Town Centre Working Group who represent both Flintshire County Council and Buckley Town Council.

Ruth Tulley

Regulatory Services Manager, Flintshire County Council

"Working in partnership, we will drive behavioural change on waste and recycling initiatives with the aim of reducing the amount of waste thrown away. The project will also be a focal point for bringing the community together and supporting town centre regeneration projects."



PAINTING PILOT

The painting pilot is a partnership project between ClwydAlyn Housing Association and Refurbs. It is designed to engage residents who are furthest from the job market to volunteer and to take part in activities at their place of residence.

The project encourages residents to choose colours for communal locations for painting and renovating. Work has been carried out across ClwydAlyn properties across North Wales including Norfolk House in Colwyn Bay and The Foyer in Wrexham.

The project played an important part in the participants' mental health and well-being by giving the residents the opportunity to learn a new skill, build their self-confidence and self-esteem and to feel a sense of achievement.

Due to the pandemic, it was necessary to scale back works and in agreement with ClwydAlyn a revised delivery plan was developed. The project will continue in 2021-22 where we anticipate that we will be able to complete all the work outlined by ClwydAlyn and engage many more residents, once restrictions have fully lifted.

Clare Budden

CEO at ClwydAlyn Housing Association

"The project was extremely well received by residents and managers. This was evident with a strong desire from residents to paint more of the internal and external areas."



ClwydAlyn





GROUNDWORK TRAINING

Groundwork Training provides bi-lingual training services for organisations, businesses, and individuals. We can provide our training online through distance or blended learning and face to face. Organisations who use Groundwork Training services are supporting our charity's ability to maintain our work to improve the overall well-being of people and communities facing disadvantage.

Groundwork Training has over 10 years' experience delivering training courses. All our qualified trainers deliver courses with a practical and engaging approach that recognises different learning styles. We can tailor training to cover in more depth those areas that are particularly pertinent to specific business needs and work environments.

With all our courses, our quality assurance processes ensure that we deliver consistent and effective training, ensuring compliance with legislative requirements. Matching the expertise of our trainers to specific business, organisational or individual needs ensures we provide exactly what is required.

In 2020 The Groundwork Training Team adapted quickly to the pandemic swiftly switching their training course delivery from face to face to online. Our team have

- delivered 247 courses online through distance or blended learning
- taught 1575 people via distance or blended learning

In March 2021 due to the success of our blended learning approaches in delivering courses online Groundwork Training were featured in Estyn (the education and training inspectorate for Wales) thematic review on 'developments in remote and blended learning practice'. We were pleased to become finalists in the GO Excellence in Public Procurement Awards 2020/21 in the Category COVID-19 Outstanding Response Award for our blended learning response to training through the pandemic.

EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMMES

Alongside the business to business training services we continue to deliver employability programmes. Working with different agencies Groundwork Training are delivering and contributing to over 8 employability programmes.

The work on our employability programmes aims to empower people with the confidence and skills needed for the workplace. The courses delivered include

- Confidence building
- Personal development
- Curriculum vitae writing
- Interview skills
- Digital literacy

Our Pathways Courses include

- Customer Service
- Health & Safety
- Administration
- Cleaning
- Retail
- Health & Social Care
- Early Years

DWP Wrexham Confidence

Building Course supports the learner to their develop self-esteem and their confidence, and to plan to achieve personal goals. Learners receive a Level 1 Agored Cymru qualification in Personal Development.

Course participant

"I had an emergency cerebral excision so my brain injury from my stroke was extensive, yet I still continue to study, learn and grow. I have to remember to look at how far I've come and all I've done, in my condition and be proud. Thank you for reminding me of that".



Pre Kickstart Course

allows the learner to develop self-esteem and confidence and be more prepared to enter the Kick Start programme (a 6 month job placement). We have been commissioned by various Communities for Work Teams to deliver this course across North Wales.

Course participant

"I found the course very helpful. The sections on interview technique was useful to help prepare my answers and build my confidence, and the section on transferable skills really made me aware of the skills I have developed in previous work and in personal pursuits."



Approved training provider



y gwasanaeth caffael cenedlaethol national procurement service



QUALSAFE AWARDS
REGISTERED CENTRE
Centre No.: 0906583



WELL-BEING GOALS & OUR IMPACTS

The Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015. This act is about improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales.



- Tir wedi'i wella neu'i gynnal
- Land improved or maintained

852,907 m²



- Cysiau wedi'u cyflwyno ar-lein o bell neu drwy ddyysgu cyfunol

- Courses delivered online through distance or blended learning

Gwerth talebau trydan a roddwyd

£88,606

Value of electricity vouchers issued



- O wastraff wedi'i glirio o fannau cyhoeddus
- Waste removed from public spaces

1,330kg



57

- Cwrs wedi'u cyflwyno yn ddwyieithog
- Courses delivered bi-lingually

Cymru sy'n gyfrifol ar lefel fyd-eang
A globally responsible Wales

Cymru â diwylliant

bywiog lle mae'r Gymraeg yn ffynnu
A Wales of vibrant culture & thriving Welsh language

Cymru o gymunedau cydlynus
A Wales of cohesive communities

Cymru sy'n fwy cyfartal
A more equal Wales

557

- Pobl yn ymgysylltu â'n treftadaeth naturiol a mannau gwyrdd
- People engaging with our natural heritage & green space

1,054

- O gymwysterau ffurfiol wedi'u hennill
- Formal qualifications gained



80 • Gwirfoddolwyr • Volunteers

£21,777

- Arian a arbedwyd ar filiau tanwydd y cartref
- Money saved on domestic fuel bills

831

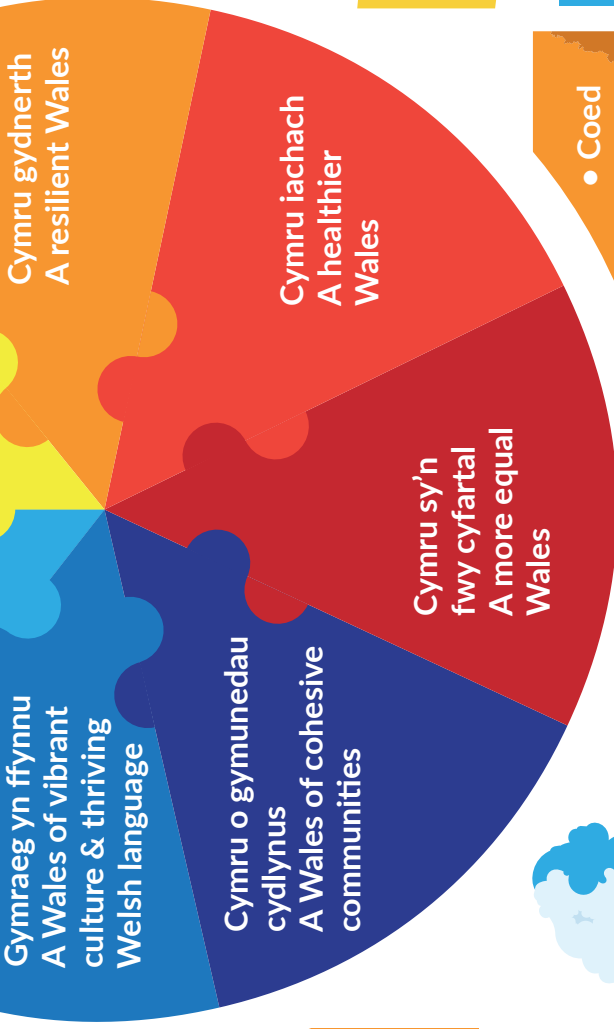
tunnell / tonnes



- Deunydd a allgyfeiriwyd o safleoedd tirlenwi
- Diverted from landfill

NODAU LLESIANT A'N HEFFEITHIAU

Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol 2015. Nod y ddeddf hon yw gwella llesiant cymdeithasol, economaidd, amgylcheddol a diwylliannol Cymru.



- Dros 25 o brosiectau wedi'u marchnata yn ddwyieithog
- Bi-lingual marketing on over 25 projects

- Swyddi a grewyd / diogelwyd
- Jobs created / safeguarded

62

- O gymunedau wedi'u tacluso
- Community clean ups



194

- O deuluoedd wedi ymgysylltu mewn gweithgareddau a phrosiectau
- Families engaged in activities and projects

- Pobl sy'n cymryd rhan mewn cysriau o bell neu ddysgu cyfunol ar-lein
- People taking part in distance or blended learning courses online

1,575



- O ysgolion wedi ymgysylltu
- Schools & community groups engaged

130

- Coed a blannwyd
- Trees planted

1,684

- Wythnosau o hyfforddiant a ddarparwyd
- Training weeks provided

290



364

- Pobl a gymerodd ran mewn gweithgarwch corfforol
- People involved in physical activity

27,125kg

- Arbedion carbon domestig a nodwyd
- Domestic carbon savings identified

1,013

- Mesurau effeithlonrwydd egni a osodwyd
- Energy efficiency measures installed

CO₂