

CREATING THE SPARK

CREU CONWY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025



DIWYLLIANT
CONWY
CULTURE

Welcome to the Creu Conwy April Newsletter 2025

Through the Culture, Libraries and Information section and the delivery of Creu Conwy – Creating the Spark, a Cultural Strategy for Conwy County Borough an enormous amount of culture-led activity has been in progress over the last 6 months. Much of the activity has been made possible with thanks to the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and working collaboratively with partner organisations. The focus on supporting community wellbeing, capacity building for a more connected cultural sector and cultural programming that supports our town centres has continued.

LLENWI - Art Trail Launch

Large scale murals have been installed in Abergele, Bae Colwyn, Conwy, Llandudno and Llanrwst, creating a trail around the county as part of the LLENWI project. Through LLENWI (which in Welsh means to occupy or fill space), blank walls have been transformed into what we hope will be focal points for communities and visitors.

Local digital and 3d Artist Livi Wilmore was commissioned with traditional sign writer Tomos Jones from Momo Signs and together they have worked with over 250 people from across the county to develop concepts that are unique to each community. The hand painted murals come to life through QR codes, opening up a digital 'augmented reality' world that has been inspired by community contributions.

Livi shared, 'We brought in a wonderful poet, Dr Rhys Trimble and he's worked with us and people from the community to come up with poems that are inspired by the Welsh language and people's special memories relating to each area. We tried to tease out the more quirky, random things from people and as a result each installation is completely different'.

To find out more about this project, which has been funded by Welsh Government's Brilliant Basics scheme visit - www.conwyculture.com



LLENWI logo



Mural being painted in Colwyn Bay



QR code at the Conwy mural being scanned

Funding Secured for New Arts Project

Arts Council of Wales have awarded Conwy Culture Service with a grant of £46,000 for Cymunedau Creadigol – a new project which will offer inclusive community arts opportunities for a range of ages. Participants will have the chance to explore their creative skills in artist residency style settings across the county.

There will be five artist commissions through the project and we will be seeking to appoint a freelance project support coordinator who has experience of similar projects. For more information, please email – creu@conwy.gov.uk



Amdani! Conwy – Celebrating Volunteering

The Spirit of 2012 funding for Amdani! Conwy has now come to an end. The project, which was a partnership with Community Voluntary Services Conwy (CVSC) and Disability Arts Cymru pioneered inclusive approaches to volunteering. In total over 80 volunteers were recruited over the 2 years and the feedback from hosts and volunteers was overwhelmingly positive.

'Volunteering is great. You get to learn a lot of things and it keeps you motivated. All the staff are good from Amdani because they never let you down or leave you out - I know it's hard to do for different reasons but one of the most important bits of your life is independence.' Amdani! Conwy Volunteer

Learning from the project is being taken forwards and future inclusive volunteering projects are being explored with Community Voluntary Support Conwy. We'd like to thank all the volunteers, host organisations and our partners for all their contributions to the project. The impactful project film can be viewed here in [English](#), [Welsh](#) and [BSL](#).

Taith - Creative Journey's to Wellbeing!

We are excited to launch the Taith resource pack, which has been developed to support people's mental wellness through accessible activities and creative prompts! The project has been delivered in partnership with colleagues from the Mental Wellness Team and Conwy Mind. Through a series of artist-led group sessions participants have had the chance to explore how being creative can support their wellbeing. Learning from the group contributed to the development of the resource, which is [downloadable here](#). Printed copies are available through our libraries. The project, which has also supported Arts in Health and Mental Health First Aid training for local artists, has been funded through the Arts, Health and Wellbeing Lottery fund from Arts Council of Wales.



Amdani! Conwy volunteer at Llandudno library



Front cover of Taith Project packs

Creu Conwy Town Teams – Delivering Culture for their Communities

Through Creu Conwy's UK Shared Prosperity Fund project, Town Teams made up of local groups and organisations have been supported to come together to develop and deliver projects that reflect local interest and needs. In addition to delivering an impactful programme of activity there has been the opportunity for collaboration and joint working.

'The Creu Conwy cross working approach has fostered long lasting relationships between organisations & businesses that have never worked together before. We now have better ideas of each other's strengths, resources & expertise.' Town Team Member

An event took place in February to bring Town Team members from across the county together to share learning and celebrate achievements. The Town Teams are continuing to meet and future approaches and plans are being explored.

Full details of the diverse range of Town Team led projects, which included, reinterpreting local history, the installation of highly successful exhibitions, celebrating Welsh language and culture through performances and a range of events, can be found here: [Conwy Culture](#) | [Creu Conwy Town Teams](#)



The Longest Yarn exhibition above / Dafydd ap Siencyn Festival in Llanrwst below



Left: Purple plaque for Ethel May Hovey

Winter Sounds

Winter Sounds has delivered an eclectic programme of events across the county! Over 700 people made it out on cold, dark evenings to enjoy live music in their communities. The line-up included:

- Welsh folk music and dance with band VRi, hosted by the Dance Collective at St. Mary's Church in Betws y Coed .
- The Al Lewis Band with support from Alis Glyn at St. Mary's Church in Conwy hosted by Pwyllgor Aberconwy.
- A family friendly gig, with performance opportunities for local artists organised by the Motorsport Lounge in Llandudno.
- Llanfairfechan Community Hall hosted an Afro-Latin inspired night with Banda Bacana and spoken word with Martin Dawes.
- Underground Artist Movement held a Grime event at their Bae Colwyn venue, with Mr Phormula and other artists performing.
- Beacons Cymru worked with the community in Llanfairtalhaiarn to put on a night of young Welsh talent with TewTewTennau and Bau Cat.

'Thank you for the opportunity to be part of Gigs y Gaeaf, our Twmpath event was a huge success. The Dance for Parkinson's group loved performing with VRi and it was a privilege to make this happen in the incredible space of Eglwys y Santes in Betws y Coed'. Angharad Harrop, Dance Collective

We'd like to thank all of our delivery partners, Events Conwy and the Amdani! Conwy volunteers who supported the events. Follow this link to view a short film that shows just some of the brilliant events that took place - [here](#)



VRi, hosted by the Dance Collective in Betws y Coed



Al Lewis Band in Conwy. Photo Credit: HARRI CENNIN ROBERTS PWYLLGOR CYMRAEG ABERCONWY

Libraries Warm Welcome

Libraries continue to offer Warm Welcome sessions, where activities and refreshments are available for anyone who wants to spend time in a warm and friendly space. These sessions bring volunteers and library users of all ages together and play a key role in promoting libraries as safe spaces where people can access digital and employment support along with general information. To find out more visit: <https://conwylibraries.com/support-libraries/warm-welcome>

In addition to regular sessions that promote reading for all, dementia friendly creative journaling sessions took place to promote the Reading Well for Dementia collection, funded by Welsh Government.

Take pART 2025

Take pART, Venue Cymru's incredible celebration of all things arts and culture for children, families and young people took place in January. The Library team welcomed almost 700 people to their stand and lots of fun was had with a puppet theatre, story writing, bunting making and creating beautiful felt art with artist Gill Prendergast. There was also Shared Reading sessions for the grown-ups in the chill out zone.



Warm Welcome at Llanfairfechan library



Warm Welcome at Llanrwst library



Beyond the African Institute – Conwy’s Museum Service Activity

The Beyond the African Institute project has explored the fascinating link between Bae Colwyn’s Congo House/African Institute and Nelson Mandela. Cameroonian artist Mfikela Jean Samuel was commissioned to create an artwork. Pupils from local schools attended sessions with Mfikela to create murals inspired by the painting and learn about this important local Black History story.

Museum Development Officer Rachel Evans said ‘This project emphasises the importance of providing opportunities for anti-racist education where all voices and histories are heard and valued. This broadens our understanding of the vibrant tapestry that makes up our communities and contributes to the Welsh Government commitment to creating an Anti-Racist Wales by 2030.’ Mfikela’s artwork will be installed in Bae Colwyn Library. The project was funded through the Association of Independent Museums.



Mfikela Jean Samuel at Conwy Culture Centre



Mfikela Jean Samuel at Conwy Culture Centre

NEWS - Oriol Colwyn

A new exhibition of never seen before ‘gems’ from the personal archive of the late Terry Jones of Monty Python fame was installed in December. The exhibition titled ‘The Life of Terry’ was organised and curated by Paul Sampson, it has garnered much interest with many people traveling across the country to visit and support the ‘Python On The Prom’ campaign to raise a statue of Terry on the prom. Feedback from local cafes, retail and accommodation confirms that the exhibition has generated positive economic impact for the town.

Full details of past and forthcoming exhibitions and speaker events can be found at www.oriolcolwyn.org



Image from the Archive of Terry Jones

Northern Eye the ‘Inbetweener’

A mini Northern Eye Photography Festival was held in November. The event is normally held every other year but following the postponement of the Aberystwyth ‘Eye Festival’ the Oriol Colwyn team produced the ‘INBETWEENER’ festival and again assembled a first-class selection of speakers and guests for an immersive weekend of photography, this time on the prom in Colwyn Bay at Porth Eirias.

The usual biennial Northern Eye festival will return to Theatr Colwyn on the 4th and 5th of October this year. World-famous photographer Martin Parr has been announced as one of the guest speakers this year, with more announcements coming soon. Early Bird Tickets are on sale and full details can be found at www.northerneyefestival.co.uk



The Northern Eye the ‘Inbetweener’ exhibition poster



National Broadcast Archive at Conwy Culture Centre

The Archive Service hosted an exhibition at Conwy Culture Centre by artist Lydia Silver, the work was inspired by the National Library of Wales' Broadcast Archive audio-visual collection.

The National Library of Wales' entire digitised audio-visual collection is available through the Clip Corner terminals at Conwy Culture Centre and Llanrwst Library.



Artwork on display at Conwy Culture Centre by Lydia Silver

Events Conwy Supporting Communities

Through the Creu Conwy UKSPF project, Events Conwy have been able to invest in mobile events equipment which is now available for community hire. The equipment includes a mobile stage lift, to enable wheelchair access, a trailer stage, PA equipment and much more.

This will enable communities to put on high quality events that are more inclusive and accessible. The equipment has been successfully piloted and can be accessed online via: [Conwy County Borough Council - Events Equipment](#) or for full details contact: events@conwy.gov.uk

Archives on Tour

For Explore your Archive week in November, the team took to the road visiting each of Conwy's community libraries with a roadshow designed to introduce archive collections and services to new users.



Clip Corner terminals at Llanrwst library



Venue Cymru mobile event equipment in Llandudno



Archive member of staff at outreach event

Creu Conwy is funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This document is also available in the Welsh language



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01492 576139



creu@conwy.gov.uk

