

# CREATING THE SPARK

## Creu Conwy Newsletter

Summer 2024



DIWYLLIANT  
CONWY  
CULTURE

Welcome to our Summer 2024 newsletter – and snapshot of culture, arts, and heritage activity from the first half of this year. In addition to the great community-facing activity, a Theory of Change has been developed for the Creu Conwy Cultural Strategy and work is ongoing to better capture the social impact of culture and the difference it makes. Our UK Shared Prosperity Fund project is also supporting the counties cultural sector – conversations have taken place with over 80 organisations and this is helping to inform training and development opportunities.

### Amdani! Conwy going from Strength to Strength

Our Spirit of 2012 inclusive volunteering partnership with CVSC and Disability Arts Cymru now has over 80 volunteers registered and almost 100 volunteering placements have been supported!

The project is gearing up to recruit more volunteers in September. Recent highlights include:

- Supporting Ukrainian volunteers organise cultural events for their community
- Our disabled volunteers collaborated with actors, writers and filmmakers from Hijinx and TAPE to produce a new training film about inclusive communication.
- Work with St Grwst Church and Jones the Dance to bring BSL supported dance to Conwy's rural and d/Deaf communities with the support of Arts Council of Wales Nosan Allan | Night Out Scheme.



Amdani! Conwy Volunteer



Amdani! Conwy Volunteers

"Amdani! have been invaluable connectors, they have met and matched our energy in making this a success and through their volunteer ambassadors gathered a really significant D/deaf audience" – Kama Roberts, Producer, Jones the Dance.

[Click this link to find out more about Amdani!](#)

### New Access to National Broadcast Archives

A National Broadcast Archive "Clip Corner" terminal is now open at Conwy Culture Centre and Llanrwst Library! This enables access to the National Library of Wales's audio-visual collections that include over 400,000 items of archive radio, television, and film material – previously this archive could only be accessed at the National Library in Aberystwyth.



Peace Petition Exhibition

### Peace Petition – Centenary Celebration

After World War I, 400,000 Welsh women signed a peace petition! 100 years on Conwy Archives have been working with the Welsh Women's Peace Petition project, activity has included; the launch of an exhibition in Conwy Culture Centre, co-created by artist Rachel Evans and local school children, and events for volunteers interested in transcribing the petition.

### New Exhibitions and Celebrating Local History

Objects from the recently discovered Abergele Bronze Age Hoard are now on display at Conwy Culture Centre. Activity relating to the finds will take place at the Culture Centre and Abergele Library.

Following the launch of the Congo House/African Institute exhibition at Colwyn Bay Library, further funding has been awarded to explore the links between the Institute and Nelson Mandela - this will enable engagement with schools and support the commissioning of public art that will raise awareness and celebrate this important aspect of local history.



Abergele Bronze Age Hoard

[Find out more about Conwy Archive Service.](#)

# Llenwi – Destination Signage

Community workshops and online engagement have offered the chance to contribute imagery, words, and stories to inspire the content for place-based 'destination' signage. Project artists Livi Wilmore and Tomos Jones with support from poet, Dr Rhys Trimble will be using the ideas to inform the artwork and digital elements for the installations which we hope will become local landmarks.



Llenwi Rhys Trimble Session

Working with partners, sites in Abergele, Conwy, Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, and Llanrwst have been identified and where necessary planning consents are in process. The project will be completed before the end of March 2025 - [Click to find out more.](#)



A Bay View Xtra Exhibition

## Oriel Colwyn

Over the last 6 months, in addition to a busy schedule of workshops, Oriel Colwyn has produced 6 photographic exhibitions. A highlight was 'A Bay View' which was inspired by Daniel Meadows' historic 1973 'Omnibus' project. Working with photographer Mark McNulty a pop-up photo studio was set up in an empty Colwyn Bay shopping centre unit. Over 300 people dropped in to be photographed and were featured in a portrait exhibition installed in the foyer of the Coed Pella Council building. Due to the success 'A Bay View Xtra' follow-up project was developed and a further 640 portrait photographs were taken at Prom Xtra and the Colwyn Bay Pride Event – with the work exhibited at Oriel Colwyn.

Oriel Colwyn continued to support Coleg Llandrillo photography students and supported with both the FdA & BA end of year exhibitions in the gallery space during February and May respectively. These exhibitions and opening events were very well attended and support new visual arts students as an important part of our ongoing work.

'Talk Photo' a new programme of free fortnightly photographer talks, introduces world-renowned high-profile photographers to local audiences. They have proved extremely popular and this series will be continuing through to the end of the year.

The 'Royal Photographic Society Documentary Photographer of the Year', exhibition will open at Oriel Colwyn at the beginning of August. If you missed the Bay View exhibitions they will be available to view at Porth Eirias from August also.



Oriel Colwyn Exhibition

[Click this link for more information](#)



Dance session led by Kseniia.

## Creu Conwy in the Community

The Creu Conwy Cymunedol project reflects our commitment to reach people who may face barriers to accessing culture and creative opportunities. To date delivery through the project has included:

- Dance sessions for the Ukrainian community led by Artist Kseniia Fedorovykh. These took place in the Trinity Centre, Llandudno

- A partnership between Ysgol Bod Alaw and Llys Elian Care home with sessions led by artist Amber Smit - pupils and residents of the care home have been exploring tales of the Mabinogion through visual art.

- Making Sense CIO delivered sensory artist-led sessions at learning disability centres – Canolfan Marl & Canolfan Riviere.

Forthcoming activity through the project will be linked to the Recovery College (Conwy Mental Wellness group), Cartrefle care home in Llanrwst, Verses Arthritis group, a disabilities group in Abergele and Confidently You (an employability group)



Mary Thomas Workshop

# Creative Alliances Leading the Way

The 5 Creu Conwy Town Teams have developed collaborative culture-led projects – funded through our UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund project activity includes:

- **Conwy:** Cranes of Peace – a collaboration between Bro Celynin Ministry and Pencyhnant Nature Reserve that celebrates the relationship between Conwy and Himeji in Japan. Following a series of community workshops 1,500 origami cranes are on display at St Mary's Church.
- **Abergele:** Working with a theme of mythical Beasts and Dragons a series of bilingual workshops have taken place. A Dragon created by Pea Restall / Peculiar Gallery was showcased as part of an exciting weekend of events in Pentre Mawr Park.
- **Llandudno:** Llandudno Museum has led on creative activities linked with the forthcoming Longest Yarn exhibition – an 80 meter long knitted tribute to commemorate the D Day landings, which will be installed in October.
- A successful Twmpath event was led by Dance Collective, celebrating the cultural twinning with the Basque Country. The live music and dance event was enjoyed by 160 people and a performance on Llandudno promenade attracted a large audience.
- **Llanrwst:** An end-of-term celebratory community cinema screening was held at the Library. Planning is underway for; the Dafydd ap Siencyn festival, an empty shop window art project, and a planetarium project.
- **Colwyn Bay:** a project is underway to safeguard local heritage resources with plans being progressed for winter 'lumiere' installation and parade. Bayside Radio are creating podcasts relating to local music scene history.



Cranes of Peace - St Mary's Church



Llanrwst Film Night

## Nurturing our Music Industry Talent

Winter Sounds Ifanc has sought to create networking, skills development, mentoring and performance opportunities for 16 to 25 year olds aspiring to work in the music industry. Beacons Cymru were commissioned and they linked with Menter Iaith Conwy and Tape Community Music and Film to deliver the activity which included:

### Basecamp Music Industry Day

Held in March at Tape's Old Colwyn Centre, the programme, which featured talks, workshops, and performances was planned and co-produced with 4 young people. – 50+ people attended and [this film](#) captured some perspectives from the day!



Basecamp Event

### Young Promoters Network

3 Young People were mentored and coached through all aspects of putting on their own successful, live music events. In addition to the hands-on experience, they had the opportunity to access an Arts Award accreditation.

"It's been really amazing and has helped me to develop links locally. I am now working with people I met as part of the process of putting on this event to develop another studio space to support local young people to get experience and I really hope that this will support my desire to build on a local scene." – Winter Sounds Ifanc YPN Participant

### Winter Sounds 2024

Looking ahead we're excited to be working with a range of venues, community organisations, Amdani! Conwy and Conwy Events team to bring another festival of live music to the county later this year.



Trials of Cato at St. Grwst Church, Winter Sounds Sounds 2022

# Libraries Supporting Communities and Digital inclusion

Libraries have been busy attending events in their communities to promote the core offer and wider provision of **job-seeking support, information** and **digital access** in Conwy county.

This work is being supported by the new 'Digital Conwy', forum, the partners (who include; Conwy Libraries, Creating Enterprise, Coleg Llandrillo, North Wales Police, Age Connect, and many more) are meeting regularly to share knowledge and resources to combat digital exclusion in Conwy County. [Click this link for more information.](#)



Llanfairfechan - Dementia Event

## Creative Journeys to Wellbeing



Tim Pugh Workshop

Taith, an 'Arts in Health' project is being delivered in partnership with Conwy Mind and Conwy's Mental Wellness Team with funding through Arts Council of Wales. The lead Katie Ellidge has worked with participants to co-produce a programme of flexible artist-led activity. Sessions have included mixed media, cyanotypes, and environmental art. Feedback to date has been very positive. Quotes include:

"Coming to these sessions has given me a purpose and something to look forward to at the end of the week".

"I always thought I wasn't creative and couldn't do this type of thing but coming to these workshops has given me so much more confidence in myself".

"I generally feel anxious and worried but I love how calm and happy I feel after coming to these sessions".

The project will also include 'Arts in Health' development opportunities for artists and a mental wellness resource inspired by the sessions is in development.

## Creu Conwy Ifanc

The Young Creatives diverse programme of artist-led activity for 0 - 25 year olds has recorded over 1600 participants!

[This short film](#), illustrates the difference creative opportunities make, the commitment of the artists leading the sessions, and the immense creativity and enthusiasm of the participants. Feedback from recent activity funded through Arts Council of Wales, Welsh Government's Children and Communities Grant and Conwy Arts Trust is being reviewed to inform plans. Delivery through to the end of this year will be supported by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



Young People from TAPE creating the film

"As a family of six with four children under 7 I am very grateful that we are able to attend as family events usually are out of our budget. One of my children is autistic and is non-verbal and if you could see how happy she is being creative in Wendy's classes, it's magical" - Criw Celf Bach attendee.

[Follow this link to find out more.](#)



Graff Club



Screening of the Creu Conwy Ifanc film at TAPE



Neurodiversity event



Prom Xtra 2024

Creu Conwy is funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

This document is also available in the Welsh language.