

Annual Report

MANTELL GWYNEDD

2023 - 2024



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COVER PHOTO:

Barmouth Oasis Nursery. The Outdoor Learning & Engaging with the Environment project received £2,460 from Mantell Gwynedd's Voluntary Sector Fund

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A message from the Chair...

In November 2023, following a six year tenure as a member of Mantell Gwynedd's Management Board, I was privileged to be appointed Chair of the Board. I was appointed Chief Executive of St David's Hospice in 2014 and therefore feel well placed to understand the challenges and opportunities facing the third sector in North Wales and beyond.

I wish to express my thanks to Gwen Griffith, the former Chair of Mantell Gwynedd, whose commitment to Mantell Gwynedd and the wider sector is well documented. Gwen has left an incredible legacy after her many years on the Board and as Chair. It is nothing short of a privilege to be able to step into the shoes of such a highly regarded individual. As you will see from this year's Annual Report it has been a successful and very busy year at Mantell Gwynedd and we have witnessed yet another year of progress and growth.

Undoubtedly, one of the highlights of the year was the successful bid to obtain £1.5m of Shared Prosperity Funding for the benefit of the third sector in Gwynedd. The close collaboration between ourselves and the Economic Development Department of Cyngor Gwynedd was pivotal in establishing the Voluntary Sector Fund. I wish to express my thanks to them for their co-operation. I was privileged to Chair the Grants Panel responsible for the dissemination of the funding and I was incredibly heartened to see the high quality of third sector bids and applications which were so worthy of support.

The work of Social Value Cymru continues to go from strength to strength. The principle of measuring social value continues at a pace and alongside this so does Social Value Cymru. Since the establishment of the team in 2016 we have been leading on the social value agenda across Wales. I was delighted that Mantell Gwynedd's Management Board took a decision earlier this year to invest further funding into this important work. The team has now expanded to include four members of staff.

As you will see from the Annual Report, the work of the Gwynedd Volunteer Centre has also expanded and the Well-being Team at Mantell Gwynedd has also been incredibly busy.

I express my heartfelt thanks to the Management Board for their support and commitment. However, my greatest thanks is to the Mantell Gwynedd team of staff who, once again, has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the third sector, and to every single organisation and all the volunteers who ensure that Gwynedd is a better, healthier and happier place to live.

Trystan Pritchard
(Chair of the Management Board)



Activities

What does Mantell Gwynedd do?

The aim of Mantell Gwynedd is to support voluntary and community groups, to encourage individuals to volunteer and to be a strong voice for the third sector in Gwynedd.

Mantell Gwynedd is a registered charitable company with local membership and it is also part of the Third Sector Support Wales network – a Wales wide network of County Voluntary Councils together with the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA). The organisation also takes on numerous other projects all with the same objective – to support and promote volunteering and the third sector in Gwynedd.

Mantell Gwynedd activities include the following:

- Promote and support volunteering opportunities
- Represent the third sector and work collaboratively with strategic partnerships
- Support individuals and organisations to engage more effectively with public bodies
- Provide governance support to organisations e.g constitutional and financial matters
- Support organisations to better measure their value, especially social value
- Operate as a link between individuals and third sector organisations e.g Social Prescription
- Provide support to run projects and to pilot projects on behalf of the third sector as and when needed
- Support partners by employing staff
- Administer grant funding and provide advice on sources of funding
- Promote the development of social enterprises and the sustainability of organisations
- Promote and co-ordinate third sector consortia arrangements
- Sharing information with the third sector via the monthly Bulletin, information sheets, the website, social media and any other appropriate medium
- Offer a programme of training to support organisations and volunteers in their work
- Offer practical services such as the loan of equipment, a photocopying service, meeting rooms and office space
- Offer payroll services
- Promote collaboration across sectors



Membership

£10

Membership is open to all voluntary groups... working in Gwynedd and the membership fee is £10 per year.

Gwynedd Volunteer Centre



Volunteering



The main function of the Gwynedd Volunteer Centre is to promote and celebrate volunteering, recruit and support volunteers and advise and develop good practice in Volunteering

Volunteers Week 2023

Every year the Gwynedd Volunteer Centre organises a range of activities during Volunteers Week which is a national event to celebrate volunteering.

This year, we returned to Portmeirion for the highlight of the Week with our 'Celebration and Thank You Event'. Our guest speaker was Emyr Williams, Chief Executive of Eryri National Park Authority who discussed the importance of the contribution of volunteers to the National Park.

Scam Awareness

During the year the Volunteer Centre worked in partnership with North Wales Police and Gwynedd Council to arrange a series of sessions to raise awareness about scams. Almost 100 people from local organisations and volunteers attended to hear about the challenges and how we can share important messages of good practice with the wider community.

New Wales Volunteering website

The new Volunteer Wales website was launched in 2023 with a fresh look to connect volunteering opportunities with volunteers across Wales. This is the main database of volunteering opportunities in the country.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) session

In October, an update workshop was held by the Disclosure and Barring Service for local volunteering organisations. Following the COVID-19 lockdown there was an obvious need to be reminded of the process and arrangements for DBS checks especially for volunteers. An interactive session was held to reinforce the procedures highlighting when it is appropriate to carry out a check on volunteers. The session was also an opportunity for organisations to revisit their safeguarding policies and arrangements.

CASE STUDIES

Volunteering experience – "Julie Jones"

This is the story of "Julie" from Caernarfon who has received support from the Volunteer Centre. "Julie" came to Mantell Gwynedd for a chat and to get information about the wide range of opportunities available.

"Julie" is a mother and has worked all her life in local schools and cafes. Unfortunately, she had to give up work before the time of COVID-19 and as a result of this "Julie" began to feel very lonely and isolated. By the time she came to visit the Volunteer Centre, she was ready to give back to her community and have some routine and structure to her week.

"I didn't go out much for a very, very long time. Something had to change. I couldn't go back to work but I thought about volunteering. That's when I went to see Carwyn for a chat.

I only wanted to volunteer for a few hours on a few days. I have experience working in a school and cafes so I was looking for something where I could use my skills.

I got great options of what was available, which meant I didn't have to travel far and flexible roles. We decided on the local Food Bank and Porthi Dre as they offer opportunities in the town and times that suit me. Before starting volunteering I didn't see many people, only close friends and family.

I was quite shy and nervous before I started volunteering. I had no idea what to expect, but within two weeks of starting with both organisations, I started to feel much better! I make a difference by helping others even though I only do a few hours a week. Mornings at the food bank are very busy and it is a very important service for people. People come here not only to collect food but to go to the warm hub for a drink and a small lunch.

If I hadn't started volunteering, I would still be stuck in the house. Volunteering has opened so many doors for me. Although I didn't know what volunteering was, I didn't appreciate its importance or the effect it has had on me. I think everyone should volunteer!"



166
Enquiries supporting individuals through the Volunteer Centre

98
volunteers registered through the Volunteering Wales website in Gwynedd



Gwynedd Volunteer Centre



GWYNEDD YOUTH VOLUNTEERING GRANT

Mantell Gwynedd continues to administer the Gwynedd Young Volunteers Grant which is run by a panel of young people. The idea behind this model of putting young people in control of the fund is to give new skills for them for the future.

During the year, 7 young people from Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle joined as members of the Grant Panel. For the first time in the fund's history, the panel agreed to extend the grant period to two years. The main reasons for this decision was to offer more funding and time for organisations with a greater opportunity to better measure the impact of the funding on young people and the community.

The panel approved funding for two entirely different projects worth £5,000 each and located in the north and south of the county.

GRANT PRIORITIES

Applications must meet at least one of the aims of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The aim of the act is to improve the way in which Wales achieves economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being and it recognises volunteering as a key activity that contributes to these aspects of well-being. The Gwynedd Young Volunteers Grant, with its unique way of ensuring the commitment of volunteers, can support young people to contribute towards each of the seven well-being goals:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales with a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales



Volunteering

HERE IS A BRIEF INSIGHT OF THE FUNDED PROJECTS:

MULTI-SPORT CAMPS - NATHAN CRAIG FOOTBALL

The grant will be used to expand our current provision along with training young volunteers to lead and train sports sessions. We hold multi-sport camps all over Gwynedd for children between the ages of 5 and 14 during the school holidays. We aim to recruit up to 30 new young volunteers to run the sessions over the 2 years.

HERITAGE WAGON PROJECT - TALYLLYN RAILWAY

The idea of the project is to create a replica of a wagon lost to time that used to run on the Tallyllyn Railway. The Gunpowder Wagon is the wagon in question and none have survived, therefore, our crew of young people will set out to reproduce this unique vehicle using traditional construction techniques. The aim is to tell part of the history of the Bryneglwys Slate Quarry where the Railway was built. The project will directly benefit our young volunteers, to teach them about unique heritage skills giving visitors opportunities to understand the history of the railway and our place within the Wales Slate World Heritage site.



Gafael Llaw i Wirfoddoli Project

The Shared Prosperity Fund provided the UK with £2.6b of funding which comes to an end in March 2025. £24.4m was allocated to Gwynedd with £4.2m earmarked for improving adult numeracy skills. As part of the Resilient Communities project, which is funded by Shared Prosperity Fund, Mantell Gwynedd launched the Gafael Llaw i Wirfoddoli project.

The Gafael Llaw i Wirfoddoli project has enabled Mantell Gwynedd to employ a full time officer to provide 1:1 support for individuals who have additional support needs but who are keen to volunteer. The Officer commenced his role in January 2024.

The project works alongside a number of key agencies and organisations across Gwynedd so that new opportunities can be accessed for adults who wish to volunteer but who have additional support needs. The project has accepted referrals from mental health teams, Job Centres, Careers Wales, colleges and other local educational providers and also self referrals.

As this Annual Report goes to print over sixty individuals have benefitted from the support of the Gafael Llaw i Wirfoddoli Officer and have progressed to volunteering as a result of that support.

This is the story of Evan, one of the individuals who has become a volunteer thanks to the support of the Gafael Llaw i Wirfoddoli Officer.



EVAN'S STORY

Evan lives in Cwm y Glo and came to the Gwynedd Volunteer Centre with his parents to ask about volunteering opportunities. Evan had attended Ysgol Pendalar when younger because of severe autism. He is a very shy individual.

After chatting with Evan it became apparent that he has a very keen interest in music and owns over 500 music albums. It was agreed that an opportunity would be sought at one of the town's charity shops in Caernarfon and contact was made with Sense charity shop on Pool St. Sense believes that everybody should be able to participate in events and day to day activities regardless of their disability or additional support needs.

Evan was supported throughout the whole process and today Evan is responsible for the shop's entertainment collection, keeping the stock tidy and organising albums according to genres.

The fun and newly found confidence which Evan has experienced has changed his life. Despite initially only volunteering on Monday mornings, Evan now volunteers three days a week.

Eira, Evan's mother said "I've seen a huge difference in Evan. He's so much happier in himself. The officer at Mantell Gwynedd and the staff at Sense have been Evan's saviours. We are so very grateful for the support. This has meant that Evan now has a happy life"



Compassionate Cymru

In 2018 the Welsh Government set out its aspirations for Wales to become the world's first "compassionate country". Since then, work has been ongoing to spread the compassionate approach throughout Wales. The vision of Compassionate Cymru Garedig is for Wales to become a considerate and caring nation which comes together to develop compassionate ways to support people's health and wellbeing. Compassionate Cymru Garedig works with individuals, organisations and communities to help improve the ways in which people die, care and grieve in Wales. The aim of Compassionate Cymru Garedig is to help people collate and share information and offer care and support in a compassionate way within their communities. It concentrates specifically on end of life care and support at whatever point in life that may happen.

Mantell Gwynedd is pleased to be a part of this unique development and in collaboration with Public Health Wales funding has been secured to employ a Compassionate Cymru Garedig Officer who is employed by Mantell Gwynedd and works across Gwynedd, Môn and Conwy.



This is a two year project lasting until 2025 and it is hoped that a Caffi Colled will have been established in Arfon Dwyfor and Meirionnydd by then which will be sustainable beyond the lifespan of the project funding.

During 2022-23 a Directory of Services was compiled detailing services which offer end of life care and support which are available to children, young people and adults.

During the year Caffi Colled was set up in Bethesda under the care of Chaplain Sara Roberts. This Caffi Colled now meets regularly throughout the year and offers invaluable support to individuals.

Here's what some of the Caffi Colled participants had to say:

"I have taken advantage of the opportunity to socialise with other individuals who are in the same position as me. Having lost my husband during Covid it was incredibly hard to rejoin social events as a single individual rather than a couple. The Caffi Colled is not a sad place at all but is an opportunity to share sad and happy memories over a cuppa and a biscuit and sometimes a tasty cake. It is an opportunity to support others when needed."

"It is a blessing to be able to come together at Caffi Colled. A huge thanks to everybody, especially Sara and Carina, for making it happen. Personally I find it an obliging group where I can share my sadness and where I can listen and learn from others in a safe space."

"It may not always be obvious but Caffi Colled is a salvation for those who are now suffering having given an abundance of love in somebody else's life."

Health & Well-being

The Building Strong Bridges project is funded through Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and enables Mantell Gwynedd to employ a full time Health and Well-being Facilitator.

The facilitator post ensures there is a bridge between the Health Board and third sector organisations who provide services within the health and well-being sector.

The Facilitator:

- Facilitates meetings and supports Networks and Forums
- Raises awareness of opportunities to influence
- Ensures that there is a third sector perspective at partnership meetings and other events
- Holds a series of Network events throughout the year

During 2023-24 a series of Well-being and Volunteering Network meetings were held. These meetings are central to supporting third sector organisations e.g. to attract funding and apply for grants for projects which, in turn, lessen dependence on statutory services; they are a contact point for information sharing and updates as well as sharing good practice and a means to raise awareness of influencing opportunities; they are essential to ensure third sector organisations have a voice and enable organisations to promote their contribution to the health and well-being agenda at a county level and beyond.

During 23-24 the main topics of discussion at network meetings were:

- Safeguarding (20.04.23)
- Interactive Speed Dating event (15.06.23)
- Raising Voices : raising awareness of long term conditions such as MS and epilepsy (26.07.23)
- Iechyd Da event at Dolgellau (12.10.23)
- DBS Workshop (24.11.23)
- Funding opportunities deriving from Shared Prosperity Funding to develop literacy (19.12.23)
- Resilience – an introduction to Dŵr Cymru's Resilience project (06.03.24)

The Facilitator engaged with over 150 organisations during 23-24.

During the year the Facilitator contributed to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board's North Wales pre conception strategy, collaborated with other Facilitators across North Wales to hold a regional wellbeing event which attracted over a hundred attendees, and ensured that the views of third sector organisations in Gwynedd were central to local, regional and national developments.

Good Health Event - Dolgellau, October 2023

- 30** stallholders from 26 organisations exhibited at the Good Health event in 2023.
- The age range of attendees was between **3 and 81**
- Individuals attended from across the region including from Wrexham, Caernarfon, Carmel, Tywyn, Harlech, Brithdir, Llanelltyd, Porthmadog and , of course, Dolgellau.

“ FEEDBACK FROM THE GOOD HEALTH EVENT 2023

"Everything fabulous, as usual!"
Lynne 2Wish

"Most useful was the information sharing and seeing which agencies and what kind of support is available."
Jackie, Action for Children

"Great event. Thanks for having us."
BCUHB, Stroke Prevention Team

"Great event!"
North Wales Police

"It was really useful for me to attend and I'm very grateful to Mantell Gwynedd for putting on this free event. Good to see it so well attended. Useful to meet other organisations as well as the public. Great to see school pupils attending!"
Sarah, Marie Curie UK

"Good range of stalls, lots of charities plus the Police and NHS."
Annabel, Adferiad

"It would be good to have events like this one right across Gwynedd during the year."
Cerys

"Useful networking opportunity and volunteering enquiries – would love to attend the next one please."
Age Cymru

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Social Prescription

Social Prescription enables GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer individuals to a range of non-clinical services. Social Prescription also plays a key role in preventative work e.g. promoting awareness of screening, falls prevention, and referring to and promotion of health awareness courses.

Social Prescription seeks to address peoples' needs in a holistic way. It supports individuals to take greater control of their own health and well-being. Social Prescribing schemes can involve a variety of activities which are typically provided by voluntary and community sector organisations.

There are many different models of Social Prescribing but most involve a link worker or navigator who works with people to access local sources of support. Mantell Gwynedd is well placed as an umbrella organisation to undertake this work particularly given its vast database of opportunities and its connections with, and knowledge of, third sector providers. In addition to this, as it does not itself provide any front line services, there is no vested interest or conflict as it refers to other organisations.

The Mantell Gwynedd project is currently funded by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

ARFON COMMUNITY LINK: REFERRALS FROM 1ST APRIL 2023 - 31ST MARCH 2024



The role of the Arfon Community Link Officer at Mantell Gwynedd is to:

- Empower individuals to re-connect with local communities
- Build confidence and resilience
- Improve health and well-being
- Improve the individual's quality of life
- Reduce medical appointments and the prescribing of medication
- Reduce Isolation
- Increase awareness of what is available to help and support individuals
- Engaging individuals to take control of their own lives

Since the project started in 2016 there have been a total of 1,621 individuals who have been supported. During 2023–24 a total of 204 individuals have been supported.



CASE STUDY A

Mrs R was referred to the Community Link Officer by her Occupational Therapist. Mrs R had debts, housing problems, mobility problems, mental health issues and was socially isolated.

The Community Link Officer contacted Mrs R and spent time with her to assess her needs and discuss what help and support was available.

After a lengthy discussion, referrals were made by the Community Link Officer to:

- BCU Dietetics to improve weight and lifestyle
- Shelter to help with debt management
- Housing association to request handles to aid getting in and out of the house safely
- Local Council to request that the bin could be picked up from doorway to reduce the risk of falling

Mrs R stated that she was struggling and was afraid that she would start drinking again having been sober for 2 years. The Community Link Officer made a follow up call to check the waiting list for alcohol dependency support.

Grant applications were submitted by the Community Link Officer to purchase a mobility scooter to help Mrs R to be independent and enable her to visit her mother. She was also helped to fill in a bus pass application.

The Community Link Officer contacted Mrs R for an update and she said *"I have my independence back and being able to visit my mother means so much to both of us. I also catch the bus to see my sister, something I had not done in years. I have still stopped drinking, and I am still losing weight slowly but surely and attend some activity sessions in the local hall. Things have improved because of your help, thanks so much."*

CASE STUDY B

Mr B was referred to the Community Link officer by his GP. The reasons for referral were for support after bereavement, low self-esteem, isolation, and lack of any social engagement.

The Community Link Officer contacted Mr B to discuss what help and support was available.

After a discussion with Mr B:

- Contact details and dates were given to him about a Bipolar support group
- Dates were provided for bereavement support groups
- Referral was made to join the EPP self-care COPD course
- Timetable for swimming in local leisure centre and dates for free swimming

When the Community Link Officer contacted Mr B for an update he said that he had started swimming regularly and a COPD health course had provided useful tips and support. In addition to this Mr B received support to help deal with his bereavement. Mr B stated *"it is still hard, but it is not consuming me every minute of the day anymore"*.

Mr B visits the local hub which has helped him with the cost-of-living challenges especially with the rising food and fuel prices and he has joined an online Bipolar support group which has been an enormous help.

Mr B said, *"Many Thanks to the Community Link Officer for the information and help. I feel much better physically and mentally. I feel I'm coping a lot better. I was so surprised at how quickly things got sorted after talking to the Community Link Officer. Four organisations contacted me that week to arrange visits and discuss support. Thank you for being patient with me and just really listening and understanding."*

Social Value Cymru



The well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 set solid foundations for the work of measuring social value by placing a responsibility on public, private and third sector bodies to work differently. To do this there was a need to work out which were the important areas that needed measuring and managing. It is only by understanding the social value of activities that we can effectively get to grips with managing the way in which we create well-being. Today these principles have been further enhanced in the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act. The aim of this most recent legislation is to ensure we work together to improve ways in which we deliver public services and well-being in Wales. Measuring social value is central to all of this.

Since 2016 Mantell Gwynedd has been at the forefront of developing and measuring social value.

During 2024 Mantell Gwynedd's Board took a decision to invest some of its financial reserves in Social Value Cymru. This has resulted in an additional member of staff being recruited to the team during 2024 which means there is now a team of four individuals who are qualified through Social Value International to undertake social value work. One of the team has International Trainer status and undertakes training for organisations across the globe.

In 2019 Mantell Gwynedd achieved the national kite mark for embedding social value in all of its work. This was the first time an umbrella organisation achieved this kite mark.

Later in 2020 Mantell Gwynedd won a national award from Social Value UK for its partnership working which was aimed at maximising social value.

In 2024 Mantell Gwynedd achieved the Level 2 kitemark from Social Value International. This latest kitemark demonstrates Mantell Gwynedd is consistently striving to maximise social value in all its work.

The Social Value Cymru team at Mantell Gwynedd is able to offer a wide range of services with regards to measuring social value. This includes full SROI reports as well as specifically tailored training for organisations.



CASE STUDY 1: Y Dref Werdd, Blaenau Ffestiniog

Y Dref Werdd was established in 2006 as part of the Communities First programme with a view to protecting and enriching the environment in Bro Ffestiniog. When Communities First came to an end, Y Dref Werdd was registered as a company so that this work could carry on. Since then the company has grown and whilst it continues to protect and enrich the area it also offers support to the people of Blaenau Ffestiniog and Penrhyndeudraeth, especially in relation to matters such as food, poverty, financial support, lessening loneliness and much more.

Social Value Cymru was commissioned to undertake Social Return on Investment work on the HWB, the Drop In service and the FFIWS project.

During 2023 96 individuals were supported through the HWB project and 22 children benefitted from from the Cymuned a Chynefin project during the summer holidays. 514 individuals were supported through the Galw i Mewn project and there were 800 visits to the Ffiws project.

Positive changes were reported through these projects, including improvement in mental and physical health, feeling less isolated, better self respect and, for some, financial independence.

The SROI work showed that Y Dref Werdd created between £7.37 and £9.57 of value for every £1 invested.

"The study into our our work by Eleri and Mathew has been a fantastic experience. Our aim is to be able to show the results of the report so that we can attract statutory funding in order to continue with some aspects of our work in the areas of Bro Ffestiniog and Penrhyndeudraeth."

Gwydion ap Wynn, Manager

CASE STUDY 2: Emotional Health and Well-being Resilience project – Cyngor Gwynedd

Social Value Cymru was commissioned to evaluate a pilot project co-ordinated by Cyngor Gwynedd during February and March 2024 that offered a programme of activities for parents and children aged up to 3 years old. The sessions were provided by Codi'r To and Caffi Babis. Cyngor Gwynedd was successful in obtaining a grant from the North Wales Collaborative for Health and Well-being to support an Emotional Well-being Health Resilience pilot project. The aim of the pilot was to explore how promoting and running various activities delivered by a variety of organisations but branded as Cyngor Gwynedd, had an impact on attendance as well as the mental health and well-being of parents and the relationship between children and parents. A variety of artistic and sensory sessions were held at Botwnnog, Caernarfon, Bangor, Deiniolen and Tywyn. The evaluation highlighted how the sessions led to some positive changes for parents, including a sense of belonging to a community, improved mental well-being and also positive impacts on the relationships between parents and children. The evaluation also demonstrated positive outcomes for the children including developmental skills and helping to prepare them for education. The benefits of having various activities branded under the council brand was also highlighted.

"We obtained grant funding to extend the support available to parents during the perinatal period by offering various sessions delivered and supported by a variety of organisations. In order for us to understand what difference this type of intervention has on parents' mental health, Social Value Cymru's evaluation was very important to us. It enabled us to plan for the future and weigh up the pros and cons of how to develop the sessions further."

Manon Elwyn Hughes, Health and Well-being Support Manager

Grants

LONELINESS AND ISOLATION GRANT 23-24

In February 2020 Welsh Government published its first strategy for getting to grips with loneliness. The Loneliness and Isolation Grant was established to help create more opportunities to bring people together.

Mantell Gwynedd received **£20,000** for distribution in Gwynedd during 2022-23 and during 2023-24 a further £20,000 was received.

13 organisations received funding during 2023-24 to hold events which might reduce loneliness and isolation.

Neuadd Y Groeslon - £788.50

The funding supported a fortnightly cuppa and chat group.

Cyfle, Pwllheli - £878.40

Cyfle used the funding to support Camau Cyntaf, a project which promotes the health and well-being of young mothers in rural areas.

Theatr y Ddraig, Y Bermo - £2000

A fortnightly Film Club was funded with other opportunities such as community dancing for those aged 50 or over. A number of other activities were also funded.

Epilepsy Wales - £2000

The funding was used to support local groups and volunteers. Individuals came together in a supportive environment in different locations across Gwynedd.

Canolfan Pennal - £2000

A weekly café was held to offer socialising opportunities in Pennal. The location also offered free wi-fi as well as a warm and cosy place to meet and chat.



Cwmni Bro Antur Aelhaearn - £2000

The funding provided an opportunity to socialise at Canolfan y Babell in Llanaelhaearn where information was shared about local support services and other useful information for local residents.

Y Dref Werdd, Blaenau Ffestiniog - £1360

A variety of activities were held with the funding, all of which provided opportunities and to improve mental health and well-being of individuals in the Blaenau Ffestiniog area.

Canolfan Noddfa, Caernarfon - £2000

A hot meal and entertainment was provided over a number of weeks for residents in the Peblig Ward of Caernarfon.

Neuadd Arthog - £530

The funding enabled the Knit'n Natter group to meet up and socialise regularly as well as providing an opportunity to try out many other arts and crafts.

Neuadd Goffa Cricieth - £2000

The funding supported a weekly Arts and Crafts group as well as funding visits and presentations from support agencies.

Cymdeithas Bala a Phenllyn - £738.10

A weekly Lunch Club was established at the community kitchen which provided an opportunity to socialise.

Sefydliad Coffa Llanrug - £2000

The funding supported social events with light refreshments for the local residents.

Snowdonia Active, Brynrefail - £1500

Babi Actif was established at Caban Brynrefail with the funding, as a means of supporting young mothers.



WARM WELCOME GRANT

During 2022 Welsh Government expanded its support for individuals and families to address the Cost of Living crisis. Recognising it was a challenging time for many, Welsh Government invested £1m for use across Wales to help ensure there were warm spaces available in communities.

During 2022-23 Mantell Gwynedd supported 19 organisations with the Warm Welcome Grant and during 23-24 a further 13 organisations have received support from the **£20,000** which was allocated to Mantell Gwynedd to share.

SHED Ltd, Felinheli - £2000

A monthly afternoon meeting was organised at the SHED for the older residents of Felinheli as well as a cinema for children with additional needs.

Neuadd Aberangell - £1550

A community group was re established along with a space for informal socialising.

Menter y Plu, Llanystumdwy - £2074.51

A Sunday Club has provided a space for men to come together to chat and take part in activities.

Cyfle, Pwllheli - £900

Continued support for young parents in rural areas to reduce social isolation and homelessness.

Canolfan Abergynolwyn - £1064

Supported a fortnightly afternoon tea and an event to celebrate St David's day.

Tywyn Baptist Church - £1266.49

Drop-in sessions for young people as well as refugee support.

Canolfan Y Fron - £1800

An additional day's opening every week for hot meals as well as the opportunity to socialise.



Tecstiliau Cwmni Buddiant Cymunedol, Bethel - £2000

New community opportunities for individuals to participate in art and craft classes as well as technology opportunities.

Eglwys y Plwyf Pennal - £500

Winter activities were extended and a space for a cuppa and cake on a Saturday morning provided additional socialising opportunities.

Abbey Road, Bangor - £2000

The funding supported Abbey Road's "Hello" project which offered a warm space enabling socialising, lessening isolation and promoting well-being during the long winter months.

Porthi Dre, Caernarfon - £1590

An Art and Craft group was held on a fortnightly basis at the Community Hub in Caernarfon.

Snowdonia Donkeys, Moel y Ci - £1110

The funding was used to support the "Big Ears" project which offered a warm space over the winter months for parents and young children.

Canolfan Fenter Congl Meinciau, Botwnnog - £2350

Three separate clubs were set up with the funding; a Day Club for older residents, an evening Whist Club for all ages, and a Children and Young People Club during the school holidays.



Grants ...

VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUND

£1.5M



MANTELL GWYNEDD VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUND

The Shared Prosperity Fund has provided £2.6 billion of funding across the UK and comes to an end in March 2025. £24.4 million was allocated to Gwynedd with £4.2 million of that allocation being earmarked for raising numeracy levels amongst adults.

Mantell Gwynedd was fortunate to receive **£1.5m** to set up and administer the Gwynedd Voluntary Sector Fund for the benefit of third sector organisations in Gwynedd.

Mantell Gwynedd appointed a Voluntary Sector Grant Officer in August 2023 and the Fund was opened for applications in September 2023. 88 applications were received with a total value of £5.8m.

Successful applicants, a total of 36, were informed in November 2023 with a tight deadline for completing their projects by December 2024. The successful organisations were:

Cyngor Cymuned Dyffryn Ardudwy a Thalybont - £26,060

To purchase and install playing field apparatus.

Friends of Wern Mynach, Bermo - £2,487

To purchase and install a rain collection system at the community garden.

Ymddiriedolaeth Llwybr Llechi Eryri - £9,600

To undertake a feasibility study with a view to conforming with National Footpaths standards.

Clwb Rygbi Dolgellau - £38,504

To purchase and install LED lights in the fields/club.

Meithrinfa Oasis Bermo - £2460

To develop a forest school with the children who attend the community garden.

Canolfan Gymdeithasol Bro Ffestiniog - £123,030

To undertake renovation work including installation of new windows and doors and a new central heating system.

Sistema Cymru, Codi'r To - £22,639

To develop tutoring opportunities for playing brass instruments in Caernarfon and Bangor.

Clwb Rygbi Pwllheli - £27,070

To purchase and install LED lights in the club's fields.

Community Arts Project, Bangor - £7,125

To create an exhibition at Pontio.

Côr Meibion Prysor - £129,304

To renovate capel bach in Trawsfynydd.

Neuadd Penmorfa a'r Cylch - £93,115

To renovate the community hall.

Neuadd y Pentre, Bontddu - £76,351

To renovate the community hall.

Banc Bwyd Arfon, Caernarfon - £17,334

To appoint a Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Caban Pentre, Deiniolen - £79,872

To create a multi purpose community space named Caban Cynfi.



Clwb Rygbi Bro Ffestiniog - £55,336

To purchase and install solar panels, a new boiler and repair the entrance pillars.

Cymdeithas Chwaraeon Bro Eifl - £80,000

To purchase and install playing field equipment.

Neuadd Groeslon - £9,960

To purchase and install new flooring.

Partneriaeth Awyr Agored - £8,688

To recruit and train Volunteer Ambassadors.

Menter Fachwen - £10,000

To purchase and install a new heating system at Tŷ Elidir, Llanberis.

Neuadd Ogwen, Bethesda - £24,430

To fund activities and opportunities for children and young people as well as funding adaptations to washing facilities and the lift.

Neuadd Llanllyfni - £6,250

To purchase and install solar panels.

Ynni Llyn - £35,317

To recruit an Energy Advisor.

Pwyllgor Cae Chwarae Rhydyclafdy - £72,000

To develop a new playing field for the village.

Seindorf Dyffryn Nantlle - £120,350

To renovate the Band's community venue in Talysarn.

Capel Bedyddwyr Tywyn - £24,999

To purchase and install solar panels and a battery storage facility in the chapel/activity centre.

Hafod Ceiri, Llithfaen - £98,795

To adapt the chapel into a cafe facility.

Canolfan

Gymdeithasol

Talysarn - £5,418

To purchase and install solar panels on the Ganolfan.

Neuadd Rhiwlas - £40,995

To install solar panels as well as a battery storage facility.

Canolfan Tregarth - £7,442

To purchase new windows and chairs.

Canolfan Gymuned Y Parc - £15,417

To undertake a feasibility study and fund plans to upgrade the Ganolfan.

Neuadd Pentref Carmel - £11,250

To purchase and install solar panels on the Neuadd.

Fforwm Pobl Hŷn De Gwynedd, Tywyn - £3,040

To fund a series of activities as well as purchasing new equipment for the Fforwm.

Seindorf Deiniolen - £7,780

To develop tutoring for children and young people in Deiniolen and surrounding area.

Canolfan Adloniant Aberdaron - £20,154

To improve the facilities and develop the Ganolfan.

Sied Egryn, Llanegryn - £25,154

To improve and extend Sied Egryn

Clwb Pêl-droed Caernarfon - £56,983

To purchase and install solar panels at the club.



Funded by
UK Government

Feedback ...

VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUND

"The collaboration between Mantell Gwynedd and Sioned, Dylan and the entire Economic Development Department at Cyngor Gwynedd has been pivotal to the success of the Voluntary Sector Fund. It shows what is possible when we work in partnership across sectors – all for the benefit of the third sector. I extend my thanks to the entire team".

Bethan Russell Williams,
Chief Officer, Mantell Gwynedd

"The well-being of the children at the Cylch Meithrin and being able to provide a cosy and safe environment for those children is our priority as a village hall committee. Fundraising to keep the village hall going and paying the bills is a continuous challenge to us, so these solar panels will make a huge difference to us and to everybody who uses the hall, including the Cylch Meithrin. Thanks to Mantell Gwynedd for your support".

Heulwen Jones,
Cadeirydd y Neuadd Bentref Llanllyfni

"Composing music after many years of poor mental health has given me the opportunity to express myself again and gain confidence. I now look forward to connecting with a wider audience. I hope to do this through "siopau chwarae" where artists (and those who are not artists) work collectively to Sound your Voice- Be Heard-Re-Connect – Regenerate."

Ellen,
Cyfarwyddwr Community Arts Project, Bangor.

"I am certain that the LED installation at the Clwb Rygbi will be of huge benefit to the local community. It is vital that the Club provides the best possible facilities so that children and young people can develop their skills. The new system will also hugely benefit rugby players of every age. Clwb Rygbi Pwllheli are grateful to Mantell Gwynedd for their input and support".

Wil Martin, Clwb Rygbi Pwllheli



"Receiving the grant from Mantell Gwynedd has enabled us to carry on supporting the local community by offering a warm and cosy space for a cuppa and a chat on a weekly basis, recommence the market/craft fair, as well as the monthly car boot sale. The community centre supports Betsi Cadwaladr staff as well as Cyngor Gwynedd's Dechrau'n Deg staff, to hold events for families. We are able to support local organisations by offering a community space at a reasonable price. The grant application process was easier than we expected and Mantell Gwynedd staff more than willing to help and answer any questions. Thank you for a really efficient service".

Carys Pritchard,
Canolfan Gymdeithasol Talysarn

"As a result of installing the solar panels funded by Mantell Gwynedd's Voluntary Sector Fund the committee has seen its running costs greatly reduced. The panels were installed in February and despite a shortage of sunshine through the clouds, the bills have still reduced. We anticipate saving around £500 annually with the 12kw system and hoping for more sunshine which will bring about even greater savings. These savings have enabled us to employ an occasional cleaner and we have been able to keep down the rental costs for community groups which has enabled the Cylch Meithrin to obtain some financial security".

David Roberts,
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Neuadd Carmel

Mantell Gwynedd's Payroll Service

Mantell Gwynedd has offered a third sector payroll service for many years.

Financial matters, and particularly payroll matters, can be very complicated for small organisations who often depend on volunteers for their day to day running.

The payroll service provided by Mantell Gwynedd offers reassurance to organisations that proper procedures and protocols are in place and ensures there is somebody at the end of a telephone line to offer support and assistance when required.

In recent years, especially with changes to pension requirements, the payroll service has been more important than ever to small organisations.

This is what some of the organisations who benefit from our Payroll Service have to say:

Cylch Meithrin Tregarth

Without your help and guidance, I would not have been in a position to complete all the tasks needed. The role of Mantell Gwynedd in supporting volunteers like me must be invaluable to the communities you serve.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Amgueddfa Forwrol Llŷn

"The payroll service is essential to us at the Amgueddfa Forwrol Llŷn and Mantell Gwynedd's service is first class."

Cylch Meithrin Twthil

"The payroll service from Mantell Gwynedd has enriched our knowledge about payroll. We have managed to start a pension scheme and the staff now have access to online payslips which saves paper and also means they can access their information quickly.

The support we receive every month from Mantell Gwynedd is fabulous and the personal support is of a very high standard."

Cylch Meithrin Carmel

"The payroll service has been a huge benefit to Cylch Carmel. Mantell Gwynedd has always helped with queries and issues that have arisen within the payroll. Communication is outstanding and we would struggle without the service. The payroll service removes the pressure on the Cylch committee each month and for the staff."

Future Plans

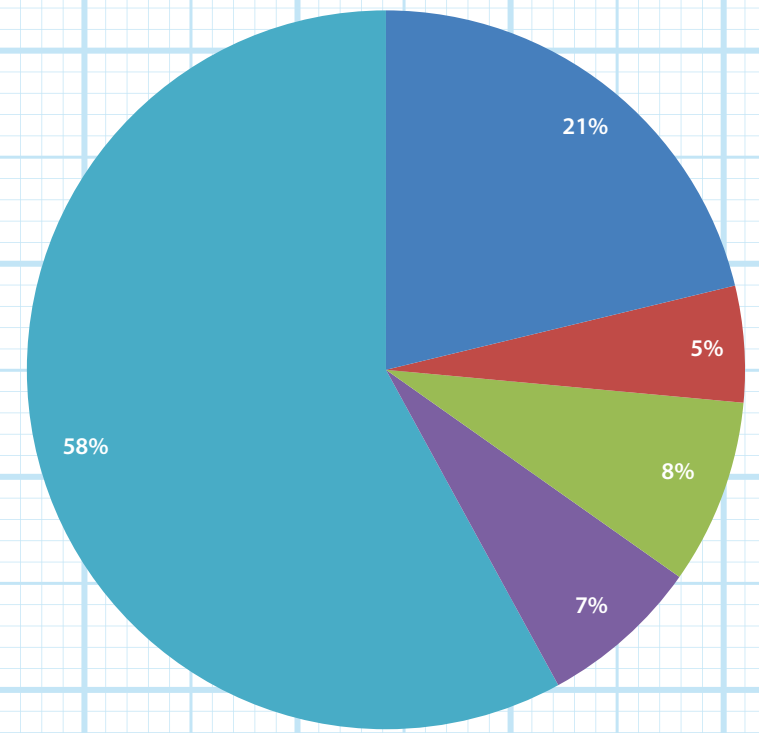


- We will continue to deliver the requirements of the Third Sector Support Wales Partnership Agreement. Mantell Gwynedd is a member of Third Sector Support Wales, a network of support organisations for the third sector in Wales. Our shared goal is to enable the third sector and volunteers across Wales to contribute fully to individual and community well-being, now and for the future. Mantell Gwynedd will provide support under each of the four pillars of work – Good Governance, Volunteering, Sustainable Funding, and Engagement and influencing.
- Covid-19 provided a new focus in terms of partnership working and particularly cross sector working. We have continued with these collaborative approaches for the benefit of the people of Gwynedd. The partnership working between Cyngor Gwynedd and ourselves during 23-24 around the Shared Prosperity Fund resulted in the creation of the Voluntary Sector Fund administered by Mantell Gwynedd and worth £1.5m to the sector. This is evidence of how the sector benefits when partners work constructively together. We will continue with partnership approaches for the benefit of the sector.
- Through our Social Value Cymru project we will continue to encourage and support the sector to measure its social value. Through this work we are able to demonstrate how the third sector can help unlock the potential of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. In addition to the 2015 legislation The Social Partnership and Public Procurement Act (Wales) puts responsibility on public bodies to make sure that spending on goods, works and services is done in a way that benefits everyone not just focus on costs. It sets up the Social Partnership Council and will ensure that procurement in Wales involves social responsibility. This is a significant step as we consider how Social Value Cymru develops. In line with this, Mantell Gwynedd's Board invested further funding into this area of work during 2024 which has seen the expansion of the Social Value Cymru team. We will continue to emphasise the importance of measuring social value within the sector.
- We will endeavour to expand on our Social Prescription work to ensure that third sector organisations are provided with the opportunity to deliver support to individuals with non-clinical needs. By doing so we hope that third sector organisations are able to contribute fully to the well-being agenda, thus fulfilling the aspirations of The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 which places the third sector at the heart of the design and delivery of services. We will continue to measure the social value of this work so that we are well placed with sufficient evidence as we proceed to look for funding to continue with the project. We will continue to source funding to expand the current project.
- We will look at practical ways of supporting the third sector to comply with the legislative requirements of The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. We will take every opportunity to support and promote the Welsh language within the third sector and will continue to build on Mantell Gwynedd's good work in this area.
- We will work with others to tackle the challenges of climate change and to promote good practice within the sector.
- As we face huge economic challenges we will work with partners to help tackle the cost of living crisis.

Financial Summary

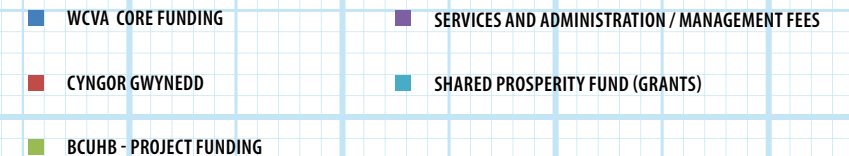
How Mantell Gwynedd is Funded

Each year Mantell Gwynedd secures its funding from a wide variety of sources e.g. Government Bodies, Charitable Trusts and Lottery Funding.

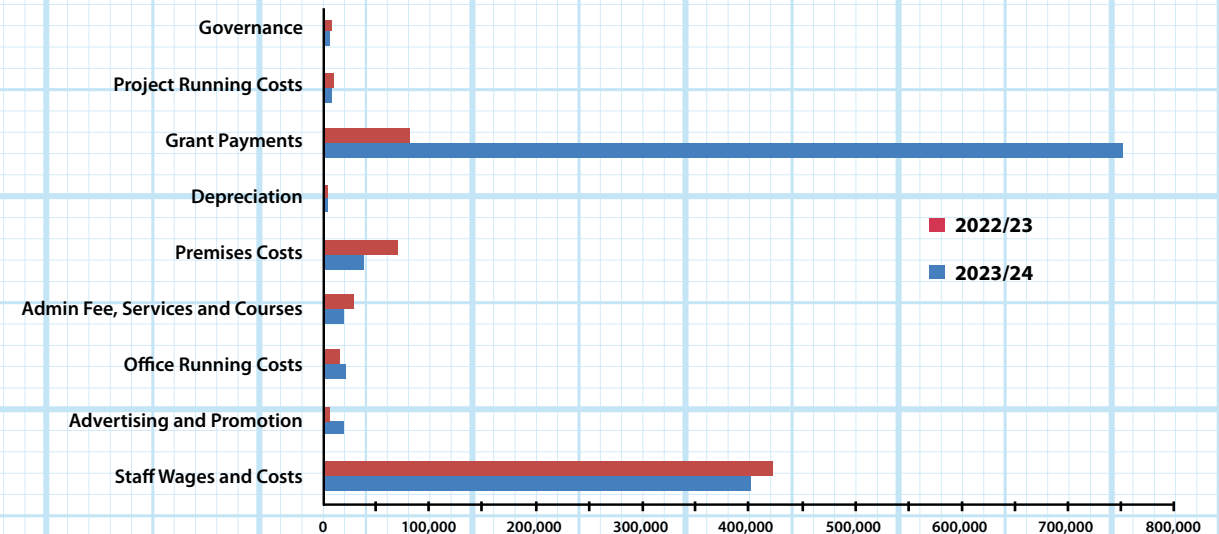


Total Income during 2023/24
£1.2m

Total Expenditure during 2023/24
£1.2m



A COMPARISON OF MANTELL GWYNEDD EXPENDITURE DURING 2022/23 - 2023/24



Contact Mantell Gwynedd for a copy of the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024

Management Board 2023/2024

OFFICERS

Chair: Gwen Griffith

Disablement Welfare Rights Trust (until November 2023)

Chair: Trystan Pritchard

Chief Executive St David's Hospice (from December 2023)

Vice Chair: Meinir Evans

Canolfan Felin Fach (from December 2023)

Treasurer: Elwen Roberts

Creating Enterprises

Vice-Treasurer: Annie Williams

Retired Principal Coleg Harlech (from December 2023)

MEMBERS

Y Tad Deiniol

"Yn Ein Blaenau"

Betty Williams

Retired Member of Parliament

Councillor Paul John Rowlinson

Cyngor Gwynedd Representative

Staff 2023/2024

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Bethan Russell Williams

Chief Officer

Ceren Williams

Deputy Chief Officer and Head of Finance
and Operations Team

DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES

Carys Williams

Grants and Development Officer/Finance Assistant

Eleri Lloyd Roberts

Social Value Manager

Mathew Lewis

Measuring Social Value Officer

Gareth Jâms

Social Value Development Officer

Katie Jones

Measuring Social Value and Development Officer
(from July 2024)

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Sioned Llywelyn Roberts

Health and Wellbeing Facilitator

Rhian Griffiths

Community Link Officer (Arfon)

Carina Roberts

Community Coordinator and Grants Officer

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Tracy Lynne Rotheram

Administrative Officer

Arwen Elysteg Evans

Administrative Assistant

(until June 2023)

GWYNEDD VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Carwyn Humphreys

Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator

Jordan Thomas

Helping Hand To Volunteer Officer

(from January 2024)