

Lottery Community Fund – Great News for Golygfa Gwydyr!

September 1st marked the start of an exciting new chapter for Golygfa Gwydyr. Thanks to a grant from the Lottery Community Fund, we've been able to launch our new four-year project:

Nurturing Nature, Cultivating Community.

This is fantastic news for Golygfa Gwydyr and, most importantly, for our local community. The funding means we can continue our programme of wellbeing, social and environmental activities, while also developing Caerdroia into an even more welcoming, sustainable and biodiverse forest resource for everyone to enjoy.

Over the next four years, we want to see even more local people getting involved so we'd love to hear from you. Whether you have an idea, would like to volunteer, want to join an activity, or are simply curious about what we do, come and talk to us. Drop us a message or call in at our community hub in Llanrwst. Golygfa Gwydyr belongs to the community, and we'd love you to be part of our new project.



Connecting People, Place & Nature

In July 2024, Golygfa Gwydyr began an exciting 18-month Nature Networks project, made possible through joint funding from the Welsh Government and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Since then, it has been wonderful to see so many people getting involved. More than 1,400 people took part in 75 events and community activities, helping to improve wellbeing, discover more about our natural environment and celebrate the rich heritage of the Gwydir Forest.

The project has also strengthened our partnership with Natural Resources Wales, helping to improve biodiversity and the resilience of the forest. Together, we've made real progress in restoring habitats and promoting more sustainable ways of managing and enjoying this special place.

Most importantly, the project has helped bring people closer to the forest – and to each other – building a stronger sense of connection, community and shared ownership of the wonderful environment on our doorstep.



Food Bank Support

We were saddened to see the Conwy Food Bank close this summer, but we're pleased to say we've recently found a new partner, *Hope Restored*, who will be helping us provide food parcels each week. This means we can continue to support local people and families who are struggling.

If you are in need of a food parcel, please get in touch with us. We'll do our best to help and make sure you get the support you need.

Wellbeing in Nature: Volunteer Sessions

A big thank you to all of the volunteers that helped us at the forest garden. We completed a number of dead hedges which is a sustainable technique that repurposes woody brash into a natural eco-friendly hedge that supports wildlife. Dead hedges supply shelter for nesting; attracts insects which can be food for mammals and the rotting wood encourages mosses, lichens and fungi; and also protect young Yew trees that were planted earlier in the year.

Volunteers also helped with weeding the fruit beds and training the raspberries to climb and spread, planting 10 Cherry trees on the path to the Giants chair, and path clearance.

We combined the volunteer work with some mindfulness in the forest for people to relax and check in with their own wellbeing afterwards.



Calm Christmas

Our second Calm Christmas series of festive activities and mindfulness was once again successful. We enjoyed sessions of wreath making, card making, metal work and leather work. Christmas can be a time of fun and joy but can also be a time of sadness and stress. These sessions aim to be mindful, nourishing and include self-care.

We look forward to organising the sessions again this year in November and December. Keep an eye out for new and traditional activities.



Explore & Draw

In January we were able to support and work with local artist Chloe Needham and Creu Conwy to hold a 6-week nature-based art course at Golygfa Gwydyr. Participants braved the winter weather for a drawing session up at Caerdroia before holding a very successful pop-up exhibition of their work back at Golygfa Gwydyr.

January can be a tough time of year that creativity can help with so keep an eye out for art/creative sessions in January 2027.

Counselling Sessions

We have been able, and can continue, to offer a limited number of free counselling sessions with qualified counsellors. For more information please email: sianw@golygfagwydyr.org

Wellbeing Sessions for Autumn 2026 – Winter 2027

- **Permaculture with Kirsty**
October 1st at Caerdroia, Gwydir Forest
- **Forage with Jules**
October 15th at Caerdroia, Gwydir Forest
- **Calm Christmas**
Keep an eye out for sessions in November & December
- **A Creative New Year**
Keep an eye out for sessions in January



Caerdroia

Six new panels have been placed around the forest site, they contain information about: the site in general; the forest garden; wellbeing; fractals; the story of the forest fire; and the countryside code. We also made a new bench by the entrance to the forest garden utilising wood felled on site.

The management and clearance of storm damaged trees following Storm Darrah in 2024 and further storms in 2025 and 2026 continues. The storm naturally opened up the site for the development of the forest garden where fruit trees and berries continue to be planted. A good harvest of rhubarb, blackberries and herbs has been had this summer along with the wild plants that can be foraged.

Over the summer we ran forest school sessions with Caru Coed. Each session was fully booked and enjoyed thoroughly by children and their parents. We look forward to seeing more people up at the forest garden soon.



Meet a volunteer – Ron



After retiring a few years ago, I was looking for something that would get me out and about, help me meet people, and give me the chance to take part in activities that are both relaxing and rewarding. I've always enjoyed practical, hands-on work, so I was delighted when Golygfa Gwydyr gave me the opportunity to take part in a chainsaw course, which led to me gaining my NPTC Level 2 Chainsaw Certificate.

I can now put those new skills, along with the old ones, to good use by joining regular volunteer forest sessions with Golygfa Gwydyr. It's great to be able to do something practical that helps look after and improve our local forest, while spending time with a friendly group of people. Volunteering with Golygfa Gwydyr has given me a real sense of purpose – and I'm looking forward to getting stuck into more forest activities!

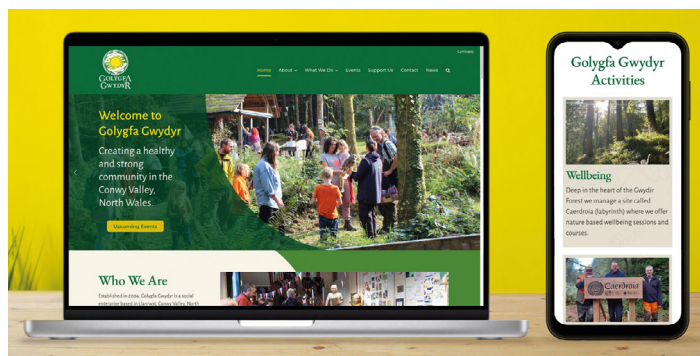
Trefriw Walking Festival (TWF)

This summer we collaborated with TWF who held a walk from Sawbench car park up to Caerdroia where they had lunch and dream catcher session. Hopefully this will lead to more collaborative walks in the future.

New Golygfa Gwydyr Website

Have you had a look at our newly updated website yet? It has a brand-new look and feel, and it's much easier to find what you need. There's plenty to explore from upcoming events and read about the work that Golygfa Gwydyr does. Have a look and let us know what you think.

▶ golygfa-gwydyr.org



Discover the Night Sky

Exciting news: Plans are underway to continue our Discover the Night Sky project. Look out for future opportunities to learn about the importance of protecting our dark skies. There are a constellation of ideas on the table from the return of the planetarium, learning about nocturnal wildlife, to a biofluorescence night walk at Caerdroia, and series of expert-led talks.

We'll share full details soon. Is there a night-sky related activity you would like to see? Let us know!

✉ sarahs@golygfa-gwydyr.org

What's Available

- Toilet, WiFi, Tea & Coffee
- Wellbeing Activities & Courses
- Counselling Opportunities
- Woodland Management
- Community Woodfuel Co-operative
- Working Parties
- Massage Therapy
- Volunteering Opportunities

Mondays

Craft Group: 10:30 - 12:00

Tuesdays

Music Sessions: 10:00 - 12:00

Thursdays

Men's Sheds: 10:30 - 12:30

Fridays

Friendship Group: 13:30 - 15:00



Warm Hubs

We ran three Warm Hub sessions each week from December 2025 to February 2026 – crafts on Mondays, music on Tuesdays, and our Friendship Group on Fridays. Food, drinks and biscuits were enjoyed by all, with catering from Caffi Doti, Scilicorns Bakery and Fiona Puleston. Thanks to CCBC for the funding and to our session leaders for running such great activities.

Warm Hubs 2026 are still to be confirmed – keep an eye on our socials and local notice boards for updates. sarahs@golygfagwydyr.org

Donation from Llanrwst FC

A huge thank you to Llanrwst Football Club for the kind donation towards our community work.



Your Co-op

Thanks to everyone who selected Golygfa Gwydyr as their choice for a local donation. If you have not there is still time. The scheme closes in November when the funds collected by Coop will be divided between local causes. Please use the link below to sign-up.

membership.coop.co.uk/causes/95835

Meanwhile the Golygfa Gwydyr Band continue to play in the Coop foyer every last Friday of the month. Plan your shopping around us and dance your way up the food aisles.

Migneint Scroll

Our craft group contributed their creative skills as part of the 15-metre fabric map tracing the River Conwy from source to sea. It's on display at Bodnant Gardens until 8th November 2026, before it moves to Ty Aberconwy.

Our craft group meets every Monday at 10:30 all are welcome to come and learn a new craft or finish an old project.

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Established in 2004, Golygfa Gwydyr is a social enterprise based in Llanrwst, North Wales. We are a non-profit, community led organisation. Our values are based on community participation, anti-discriminatory and person-centred practice. We generate income from room hire, ticketed events, courses and fundraising but are largely dependent on grant aid.



Roger Davies

Company Secretary & General Manager

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