

OGWEN

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www.ogwen.org



Annual Report

2020



Introduction

This report is a record of the work of Partneriaeth Ogwen during the period between December 2019 and December 2020. It looks at the work and core projects of the Partnership but also at the efforts of Partneriaeth Ogwen's staff and volunteers in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It has been a challenging year but we can also note that it was a year of successful community activity with Partneriaeth Ogwen leading the way in helping our community in an exceptionally difficult period.

Partneriaeth Ogwen's vision

Partneriaeth Ogwen's vision is to create a resilient community and organisation that acts innovatively, for the benefit of the communities, economy and environment of Dyffryn Ogwen. We aim to do this by:

- **Strengthening the foundations of the organisation by increasing the staffing capacity to provide services and projects of the highest quality.**
- **Securing and creating new income streams.**
- **Strengthening our internal policies and procedures to protect our staff and volunteers.**
- **Prioritising projects that create economic, environmental and social benefit with a focus on transferring community assets, buying new assets to create income and projects that make our community stronger and more sustainable and resilient.**
- **Collaborate in innovative ways with local, national and regional partners.**

The theme of sustainability is central to all our activities and this includes environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability.

During 2020, we conducted a piece of community research work that garnered the opinions of members of our community on matters like language and culture, community, the environment and the economy. Based on this piece of work, we have now produced a document 'Theory of Change' (Llwybr Trawsnewid) for the organisation and this will guide our work during 2021 and beyond. These documents are available on our website, but essentially Partneriaeth Ogwen's vision will be:

To create together a future where the economy, the language and the culture, the environment and our community will flourish.

Based on the research and experience of Partneriaeth Ogwen during 2020, community wellbeing and kindness will be fundamental to our actions with an emphasis on collaboration for the benefit of everyone who lives in Dyffryn Ogwen.

Staff, Management Committee and Members of the Board of Partneriaeth Ogwen

Staff

Chief Officer – Meleri Davies

Clerk and Administrative Manager – Donna Watts

Clerk and Administrative Officer – Bethan Griffith

Property Caretaker – Dylan Jones

Cefnfaes Development Manager – Cynan Jones

Maintenance Officer – Adam Quaek

Dyffryn Gwyrdd Manager – Huw Davies

Wellbeing and Environment Officer – Judith Kaufmann

Wellbeing and Environment Officer and Local Marketing Officer – Tom Simone

Dyffryn Gwyrdd Administrator and Administrative Officer – Angharad de Bruin

Community Developer 2019 – Fflur Wyn

Cadwyn Ogwen Development Officer – Patrick Rimes

Cadwyn Ogwen Support Officer – Lucinda Enston

During the summer of 2020, we also employed four young people to work with Partneriaeth Ogwen for eight weeks to develop community projects. Cadi Roberts, Elin Cain, Lisa Tomos and Caleb Rhys were employed on a variety of projects. We remain in contact with these four and we will be employing Caleb and Lisa over the next few months on other community projects.

Directors of Partneriaeth Ogwen

Dafydd Meurig

Dafydd Owen

Rheinallt Puw

Bethesda Community Council (Represented by Pearl Evans, Neville Hughes, Mary Jones, Griff Charles Morris and Godfrey Northam)

Llanllechid Community Council (Represented by Geraint Hughes and Kevin Glyn Williams)

Llandygai Community Council (Represented by Dafydd Owen and Mair Owen Pierce)



The Staff of Partneriaeth Ogwen in 2020 before appointing members of the Dyffryn Gwyrdd and Cadwyn Ogwen teams

Management Committee

The Management Committee is a delegation from the full Board of Partneriaeth Ogwen and is representative of the three local community councils. The Management Committee meets every two months to monitor Partneriaeth Ogwen's work programme. The Management Committee is:

Geraint Hughes – Llanllechid Community Councillor

Neville Hughes – Bethesda Community Councillor

Dafydd Meurig – Chair of Partneriaeth Ogwen and County Councillor

Jane Temple Morris – Llanllechid Community Councillor

Dyfrig Jones – Bethesda Community Councillor

Dafydd Owen – County Councillor

Mair Pierce – Llandygai Community Councillor

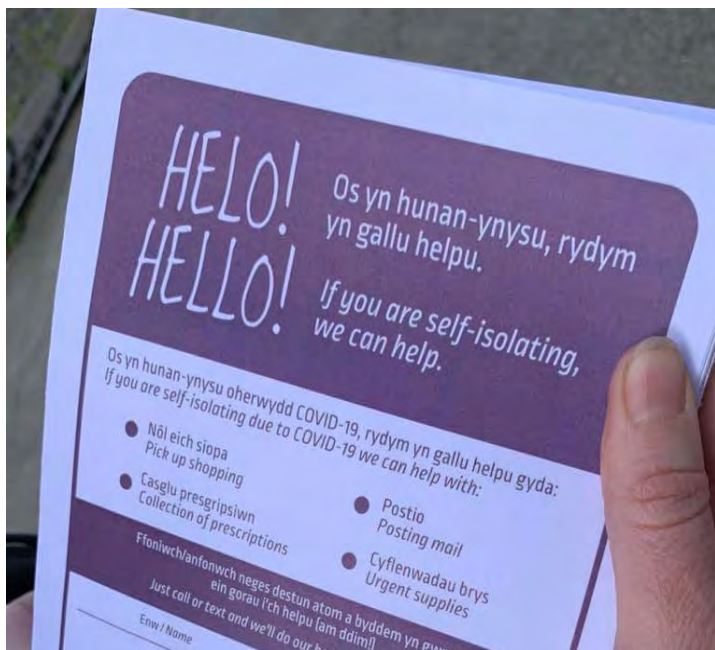
Rheinallt Puw – County Councillor

Community



Responding to the Covid-19 crisis.

A week before the first lockdown in March 2020, the staff of Partneriaeth Ogwen came together to redirect their energy, projects and grants to help our community during the emergency. Since then, the staff and local volunteers have worked tirelessly and their efforts were recognized when we were included on the 'Social Enterprise UK - Roll of Honour', having been nominated by the Wales Co-operative Centre and DTA Wales.



Volunteering

A week before the lockdown, Partneriaeth Ogwen had collected together a pool of 100 volunteers, who were willing to volunteer to help families who were self-isolating. The telephone numbers of these volunteers were written on over 3000 leaflets, which the staff and volunteers of Partneriaeth Ogwen managed to deliver to homes throughout Dyffryn Ogwen. Over the following months, Partneriaeth Ogwen managed to support the volunteers by creating WhatsApp discussion groups and getting anti-infection materials from Gwynedd Council. This was an example of community action where we managed to help individuals throughout the area by shopping for food or collecting prescriptions, all within a very short time.

Supporting the food bank

One of the side effects of the pandemic will be increasing poverty. Before the pandemic there was no food bank in Dyffryn Ogwen and local people had to travel either to Bangor or Caernarfon to receive food parcels. In March 2020, a local volunteer set up a food distribution service in Neuadd Ogwen with generous contributions from local individuals. Collaborating with her, Partneriaeth Ogwen opened an appeal on a crowdfunding platform, which raised £2000 from our community to buy food for the fund. Ynni Ogwen also donated £3000 to the fund. We applied for grants and managed to attract £10,000 from the National Lottery, which now pays for the time of the coordinator and food for the food bank.

More recently, Partneriaeth Ogwen’s Dyffryn Gwyrdd team have been working closely with the coordinator to take in food donations through FairShare. Food distribution sessions are held every Sunday evening from Neuadd Ogwen and every Tuesday evening from the Dyffryn Gwyrdd Centre in the High Street.

Since setting up the fund, we have:

- welcomed 935 users
- distributed 140 food parcels
- saved 2.36 tonnes of food from going to landfill.

The Dyffryn Gwyrdd team continues to work with the Food Bank to prevent food poverty and links this in with their environmental volunteering work.

HELLO! HELLO!

Os yn hunan-ynysu, rydym yn gallu helpu.
If you are self-isolating, we can help.

Os yn hunan-ynysu oherwydd COVID-19, rydym yn gallu helpu gyda:
If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 we can help with:

- Nôl eich siopa
Pick up shopping
- Casglu presgripsiwn
Collection of prescriptions

- Postio
Posting mail
- Cyflenwadau brys
Urgent supplies

Ffoniwch/anfonwch neges destun atom a byddem yn gwneud ein gorau i'ch helpu (am ddim!).
Just call or text and we'll do our best to help (for free!)

Enw / Name	Rhif Ffôn / Telephone Number

Mae coroneirws yn heintus. Cymerwch bob gofal i sicrhau mai dim ond caredigrwydd rydych yn ei ledaenu. Dylid osgoi cyswllt corfforol (pellter 2m). Golchwch eich dwylo yn rheolaidd.
Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly.

Os ydy eich symptomau yn gwaethygu, ffoniwch 111!
If your symptoms worsen, call the NHS Helpline on 111!



Meleri Davies, Chief Officer of Partneriaeth Ogwen and Lucinda Enston, Cadwyn Ogwen Support Officer, with representatives of Zip World and the Blas Lôn Las café and the Zip World electric vehicle.

Cadwyn Ogwen

Soon after the lockdown was announced, the Menai Seafood Company and Cosyn Cymru approached us to discuss ideas about how to help local businesses during the emergency. Local businesses were increasingly worried about their ability to supply customers in lockdown and people were worried about how they could get food if they were self-isolating. In response to these concerns, it was decided to redirect the 'Carwen' project (the community electric car provided by Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig) and an Arfor grant (Gwynedd Council) towards setting up the Cadwyn Ogwen scheme – a new and innovative scheme to sell, deliver and promote local produce. An online platform was set up at www.ogwen.cymru/Cadwyn-Ogwen to sell the produce of local firms, which included the Menai Seafood Company, Cosyn Cymru, Blas Lôn Las, Amy's Kitchen, The Bakehouse, Cynnyrch Chwarel Goch, Siop Ogwen, Bethesda Bakers, Blodeuwedd Botanics, Fferm Pandy, Inc Pinc, Bethesda Community Wholefoods, AmserAl, Lois Cupcakes, Derw Coffee, Côr y Penrhyn, Keffir Cymru, Rik Midgley Ceramics, Cwrw Ogwen, The Mushroom Garden, Popty Bakery and Cŵyr Copa. The scheme sells goods on the website and every Thursday the packages are delivered to local homes.



Patrick Rimes –Cadwyn Ogwen Development Officer with Alun and Jan – two of Cadwyn Ogwen's volunteers in 2020 with Carwen – the Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig community electric car

For the first four months of the scheme, the deliveries were made in Carwen the community electric car that was on loan to us for a year from Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig. This car was powered from a community electric charging point outside the library, where Ynni Ogwen has installed 6 kW of solar panels. Carwen has now moved on to another community and so the deliveries are now made in an electric van that is on loan to us from Zipworld.

Cadwyn Ogwen is an enterprising example of the circular economy at work. During **the first four months of the scheme**, it achieved as follows -

- 1000 deliveries to local homes in Dyffryn Ogwen.
- £25,000 worth of produce sold and this money kept in the local economy.
- Two new jobs created (Development Officer and Support Officer) and volunteering opportunities.
- 216.9 kg less CO₂ in the air in Dyffryn Ogwen by making deliveries in an electric vehicle.
- An open air Cadwyn Ogwen fair was held in August to sell the goods of Cadwyn Ogwen craftsmen.
- Collaboration with Coleg Llandrillo Menai and the North Wales Business Academy to offer training courses to the Cadwyn Ogwen businesses.



Statistics based on the first four months of the Cadwyn Ogwen scheme

Community research

Between August and October 2020, one of the officers of the Byw a Bod project led a piece of community research work to assess the opinions of our community on social, linguistic and cultural, environmental and economic issues. 139 individuals filled the online questionnaire and the report on the research will inform our work in the future.

Some of the salient statistics are noted below –

- 82% felt that they belonged to this community
- 83% felt that someone was there to help them if they needed it
- 87% believed that there is an opportunity in Dyffryn Ogwen to create a sustainable society and environment

This was qualitative research and our intention is to repeat the practice every three years.

Language and Culture

Sustaining the Welsh Language



J. Elwyn Hughes being interviewed by Ieuan Wyn

The Welsh language is a natural and organic part of the work of Partneriaeth Ogwen. Welsh is the internal administrative language of the organisation and Welsh is the administrative language of the new projects we set up. We offer Welsh medium employment and volunteering opportunities to local people and we are proud of the fact that a large number of learners are volunteering and improving their Welsh with us. During 2020, the Chief Officer was a member of a Sub-group for Increasing the Use of Welsh that advised Welsh Government ministers on the effect of Covid-19 on the Welsh language. The report of this research will be published at the end of 2020.

Over the years, we have organised a number of events to promote the Welsh language, including Ras yr Iaith (race for the Welsh language), Saint David's Day Parade and celebrations of Owain Glyndŵr and Princess Gwenllïan. We have also organised literary events in the name of Siop Ogwen, an opportunity to celebrate new Welsh books. Because of Covid-19, it was not possible to hold face to face events this year but we organised online activities. The Dyffryn Ogwen Welsh Language Reading Club was set up by one of the Byw a Bod officers during this period, giving members a chance to discuss a variety of Welsh books in online discussion sessions. As well as the club, interviews were organised to discuss a variety of books, including an interview between Angharad Griffiths, editor of 'Un yn Ormod', and the local therapist Gwen Ellis. A special interview was filmed too between the chaired bard Ieuan Wyn and J. Elwyn Hughes about his latest book 'Trysorau Coll Caradog Pritchard'. The Reading Club has now attracted about 10 members each month and it is led by a local volunteer. Similarly, weekly art sessions have been organised for children with the local artist Elen Williams during September, October and November 2020, giving children a chance to create crafts over Zoom. These activities take place in partnership with Siop Ogwen with the aim of maintaining and promoting Welsh as a vibrant community language.



Online Art Workshop for Children with the artist Elen Williams

Bethesda Bicentenary

2020 marked 200 years since the foundation of Bethesda but because of Covid-19 our community was unable to celebrate this milestone. As part of the Byw a Bod project, one of the officers was asked to lead on a bid for £10,000 from the Lottery Heritage Fund to promote the celebration in the community and use it as a hook to raise awareness of our local heritage. The bid was successful and the project will be developed between December 2020 and the end of March 2021.

Environment



Members of Partneriaeth Ogwen staff and the Dyffryn Gwyrdd Steering Group celebrating the success of the Dyffryn Gwyrdd bid to the National Lottery Community Fund.

Dyffryn Gwyrdd

After years of work developing sustainability projects in Dyffryn Ogwen and with support from Ynni Ogwen in funding the Dyffryn Gwyrdd Coordinator in 2019-2020, Partneriaeth Ogwen led in submitting an innovative bid to the National Lottery Community Fund to finance the Dyffryn Gwyrdd Scheme. This project is a scheme to tackle poverty through community environmental action. The bid for just under half a million pounds was successful and a team of staff has now been appointed to develop the project. It will tackle poverty at several levels but there is a specific focus on tackling fuel poverty, transport poverty and food poverty, with a supplementary emphasis on empowering our community by bringing everyone together to volunteer with environmental projects. The Dyffryn Gwyrdd Steering Board includes a number of local community partners and together we will collaborate to tackle poverty locally.

Since the project started, we have –

- Appointed a team of staff including the Project Manager, an Administrator and two part-time Wellbeing and Environment Officers and conducted a practical induction training session for the new team including a Fungus Hunt in Parc Meurig
- Supported the Food Bank and organised weekly food sharing evenings through the FairShare scheme
- Formed a partnership and a food contribution point at the Londis shop, Bethesda
- Ordered a community electric car
- Led tree planting sessions locally, planting 250 trees - 200 oaks and the rest fruit trees
- Led environmental events including an electric bike event when over 50 local people came together to discuss electric bikes
- Formed a partnership with Byw'n Iach to create a community garden and allotments at Plas Ffrancon
- Formed a new partnership with Caffi Coed y Brenin, 'Community Friend' to deliver hot meals and provide some company for older people in the area with an ICF grant from Gwynedd Council.

Ynni Ogwen and Heuldro Ogwen

Partneriaeth Ogwen continues to provide secretarial services to the Board of Ynni Ogwen under a service level agreement. During 2019, Partneriaeth Ogwen collaborated with Ynni Ogwen to develop a community solar energy scheme. Ynni Ogwen have now installed 21 kW of solar panels on six community buildings in Dyffryn Ogwen, including the Dyffryn Ogwen Library and Partneriaeth Ogwen's own offices. This reduces Partneriaeth Ogwen's carbon footprint in line with our vision of a sustainable Dyffryn Ogwen. Partneriaeth Ogwen will continue to find opportunities to collaborate with Ynni Ogwen in the future, including developing charging points or solar panels on more of our buildings or property in the village.

Community Transport Electric Car

Following a successful bid to Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig, the Partnership managed to get an electric car to be used in our community between November 2019 and November 2020. This pilot scheme was an opportunity to raise awareness of electric cars and the practice of car sharing. During the year, 64 individuals joined the CoWheels scheme – the company that leased the vehicle to us – and Carwen travelled 6,000 miles in community use between November 2019 and February 2020. During this period too, the car was taken on educational visits to several local schools, raising young people's awareness of electric cars. Volunteers were also recruited to drive the vehicle for community purposes, including collecting prescriptions for the elderly during the pandemic. The lockdown restricted our ability to hire out the car and it was redirected to supporting the Cadwyn Ogwen scheme with deliveries to 1000 homes between April and September. The pilot scheme was a great opportunity to increase the demand for sustainable community transport and the information gained will help us when we acquire a Dyffryn Gwyrdd electric car at the end of 2020.

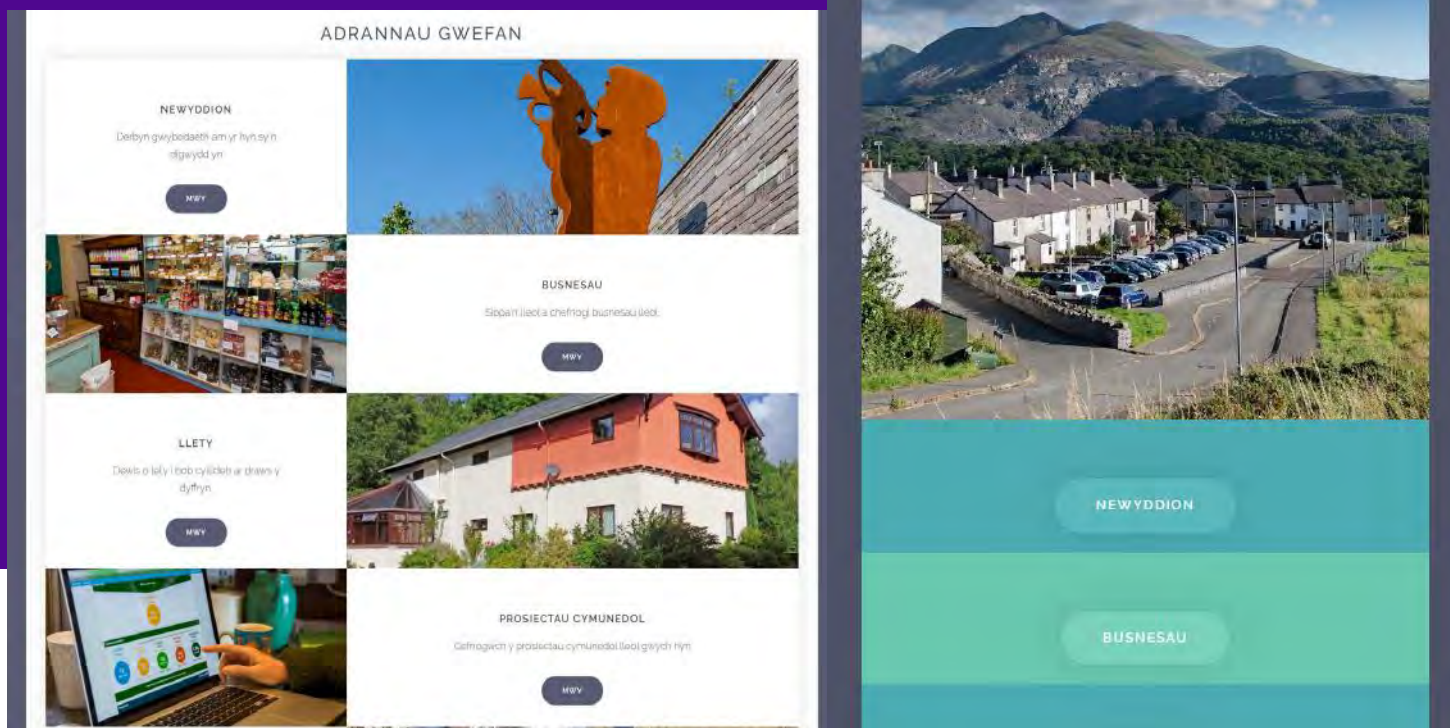


Huw Davies – Manager of the Dyffryn Gwyrdd Project with Carwen the Community Car by the charging point and Ynni Ogwen solar panels at the Dyffryn Ogwen Community Library

GwyrddNi

During 2020, Partneriaeth Ogwen was a partner in another lottery bid, to the National Lottery's Climate Action Fund. The bid was led by Datblygiadau Egni Gwledig to develop a joint project between Cyd Ynni, Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog, Siop Griffiths, Ynni Llŷn and Partneriaeth Ogwen to tackle climate change from the bottom up. This bid was successful and the project worth £560,000 will employ a team of staff to set up Climate Change Assemblies in each community over the period of project. A Climate Change Coordinator will be based in the Partneriaeth Ogwen office in Bethesda with the task of setting up a Climate Change Assembly locally. The aim will be to encourage our community to take ownership of the climate change agenda locally.

Economy



Business support

A number of Partneriaeth Ogwen's projects relate to developing the foundation economy locally, with priority being given to nurturing small local businesses. Cadwyn Ogwen has kept over £30,000 in the local economy this year with the money going back to local businesses at a difficult time. We also collaborate with the larger businesses in the area including Welsh Slate, CLJones and Zip World on schemes like www.ogwen.cymru. The following are examples of our collaboration with the business sector in 2020.

The www.ogwen.cymru website and the Community WiFi Scheme

The www.ogwen.cymru website continues to grow as a resource to promote community action and local businesses. The website was the fruit of collaboration with the High Street Business Forum and the support of four commercial sponsors, ZipWorld, Welsh Slate, CLJones and the Bethesda Community Council. Partneriaeth Ogwen has also invested our own money in the scheme to employ a Local Marketing Officer to develop content for the website, look for further sponsorship and create communication campaigns. The Officer has also been providing practical support to local businesses, e.g. photography, marketing advice etc.

Business Courses

We have also collaborated with Coleg Llandrillo Menai and the North Wales Business Academy to offer taster courses to local businesses. The Social Media and Introduction to Bookkeeping courses were successful.

Business Events

Covid-19 has limited the number of events we could hold this year but we have developed opportunities to bring local businesses together. In August 2020 we held a Cadwyn Ogwen Fair, where about 300 people attended a local food and crafts fair.

Consultancy Work

The Partnership has now gained years of experience of community development and there is now a wide range of skills and experience within the team. In 2020, we have started to develop this to offer practical help to local businesses and organisations. With the support of the Arfor fund, a member of the administrative staff was employed with the intention of being able to offer bookkeeping services etc. to local businesses. During the period, we have helped Neuadd Ogwen with grant applications and business planning and supported the Menai Seafood Company with digital marketing work. We have also helped organisations outside the Dyffryn Ogwen catchment area, including work mentoring Siop Griffiths in Penygroes through the Enterprising Solutions scheme and provided community engagement for the Elinor Gray-Williams Architectural Practice. As the number of public grants reduces, we will develop the commercial services that we can offer in 2021.

Twristiaeth Gymunedol a Bws Gwennol

Canolfan Cefnfaes will be home to Partneriaeth Ogwen's community and sustainable tourism projects. During 2020, a successful expression of interest statement was submitted to the European 'Co-operation and Supply Chain' fund for an electric shuttle bus to take tourists up to Nant Ffrancon in the peak holiday season. A full bid was submitted at the beginning of December 2020. If the bid is successful, the bus will be a new service that will, we hope, solve some of the parking problems up by Llyn Ogwen and it will also bring economic benefit to Bethesda as tourists park in the village. It will also bring environmental benefits by reducing carbon emissions in the National Park. The shuttle bus will also be available to local community groups and organisations outside the tourist season.

Asedau

Canolfan Cefnfaes

During 2020, we prepared a business plan and submitted two capital bids to the National Lottery and the Welsh Government's Community Facilities Fund. The lease will be signed in December 2020. The aim is to develop the property as a Sustainability Centre of Excellence. The building is divided into three sections – an economic section with business units and 'Makerspaces', a boutique bunkhouse and a multipurpose room for community use and training. During 2020, we have collaborated with Gwynedd Council to develop the potential to set up Makerspaces in Cefnfaes where the community will be able to attend creating sessions with access to specialist equipment and machines, e.g. a laser cutter and a 3D printer.

During the period too, one of the Byw a Bod Officers led a community engagement campaign on behalf of the project with over 100 responses to community questionnaires on the future of the building.

Canolfan Dyffryn Gwyrdd – 27 High Street

Between November 2019 and January 2020 M-SParc rented a 'Makerspace' in the Dyffryn Gwyrdd centre, holding public events for children and adults who wanted to experiment with a 3D printer, a vinyl printer, a laser cutter and other equipment. The purpose of the 'M-SParc On Tour' residence was to promote innovation and entrepreneurship. The residence was a success with weekly activities including Makerspace sessions with a number of people coming into Dyffryn Ogwen to make use of the resources.



Before the lockdown, the centre was home to the staff of Partneriaeth Ogwen's Dyffryn Gwyrdd project and staff from Cyd Ynni, Community Energy Wales and Wrap Cymru rented desks. When the offices reopen, the centre will be the permanent home for the staff of the Dyffryn Gwyrdd project. Subject to a Covid risk assessment, we will offer collaborative space to other organisations as required.

Gerlan Car Park

Yn 2020, we continued to work with Bethesda Community Council on the Gerlan Car Park project. We helped by preparing a business plan and commissioning Ymgynghoriaeth Gwynedd Consultancy to design and manage the car park project. The Council has now submitted a planning application and an application to the Welsh Government for permission to borrow the capital required. Partneriaeth Ogwen will continue to help by seeking grants to help with the car park's development costs.

Siop Ogwen

Partneriaeth Ogwen is the founder of the community shop Siop Ogwen, which has evolved from the small craft shop located in our office back in 2014. Although the shop is now an independent legal entity that operates as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, Partneriaeth Ogwen continues to manage, administer and develop the shop. During 2020, Partneriaeth Ogwen managed to attract support from the Rank Foundation, through the Slate, Coal and Countryside scheme, to appoint a community apprentice to work in Siop Ogwen. The apprentice was responsible for working in the shop from day to day and working on schemes to regenerate the High Street.

Foundational Economy

Partneriaeth Ogwen is part of two foundational economy projects financed by the Welsh Government's Foundational Economy fund. During 2020, we collaborated with the Menai Seafood Company on a project to promote seafood locally and worked on the Dolan project, a joint project between Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog, Siop Griffiths and Partneriaeth Ogwen to promote and nurture the foundational economy. As part of the Dolan project, Partneriaeth Ogwen's staff have been collaborating on projects like Kickstart and a community tourism scheme. These projects will come to an end in March 2021 but Partneriaeth Ogwen will continue to collaborate through Dolan.



Menai Seafood Company in the Cadwyn Ogwen Fair, Summer 2020



Skills and Young People



The Byw a Bod Team – Lisa Megan, Caleb Rhys, Cadi Roberts ac Elin Cain

Byw a Bod Scheme

During the summer of 2020, Partneriaeth Ogwen was part of a Byw a Bod project run by Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig. Four young people were employed over a period of eight weeks, which led to four different community projects, including;

- coordinating a committee to apply for a Lottery Heritage Fund grant to celebrate the bicentenary of Bethesda
- conducting a community consultation on Canolfan Cefnfaes
- setting up the Dyffryn Ogwen Reading Club and organising online literary events
- carrying out a piece of community research to assess the opinions of our community about the economy, community, language and culture and the environment.

During the period, the four young people gained practical experience of community development work and they have all committed themselves to work with Partneriaeth Ogwen in the future, whether employed or as volunteers. This was an important project in terms of developing young community leaders and we are discussing with Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig how to build on this project at the moment.

Llechi, Glo a Chefn Gwlad

Partneriaeth Ogwen is part of a national project called Llechi, Glo a Chefn Gwlad which brings together nine social enterprises from different parts of Wales. At the end of 2019, we managed to attract funding from the Rank Foundation and the National Lottery to finance a three year project that will offer opportunities for 27 community apprentices to work with the nine organisations on community development and foundation economy projects. In 2020, Fflur Wyn was employed as Partneriaeth Ogwen's first Community Leader and she worked on a variety of projects to develop Siop Ogwen and support the High Street. During her period with us, she organised 'World Book Day' events and online craft sessions for children during the pandemic. The second apprentice will start in January 2021, focussing on supporting the development of Cadwyn Ogwen.



Fflur Wyn –Community Apprentice as part of the Slate Coal and Countryside project

Property

The assets owned by Partneriaeth Ogwen have remained constant in 2019-2020. Our property portfolio is a combination of buildings as follows:

- Buildings we have bought through a grant and/or loan (26 and 27 High Street)
- Buildings for which we are responsible through a 'beneficial ownership' agreement with Bethesda Community Council .
- Buildings that we lease from Gwynedd Council (Dyffryn Ogwen Community Library)

We are about to sign a three-year lease on the Canolfan Cefnfaes building. Details on the development of these projects are given in the Projects section below.

Swyddfa Ogwen

Partneriaeth Ogwen owns 26 High Street, Bethesda, which is divided into three floors. The top residential floor is rented by local tenants. The basement floor is rented by the North Wales Police and the Dyffryn Ogwen Police Community Support Officers work from there.

The ground floor is usually the office for Partneriaeth Ogwen's core staff but because of the Covid-19 restrictions the staff have been working from home since March 2020. We anticipate that the office will be closed at least until January 2021. The pandemic has meant that we have not been able to hire out the community room since the end of March.

The Partneriaeth Ogwen office is a community information point. Our presence on the High Street makes a difference in terms of giving the public a chance to contact their local councils, register any complaints or make general enquires. We intend to reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.



Canolfan Dyffryn Gwyrdd

Before the lockdown, Community Energy Wales, Cyd Ynni and the Dyffryn Gwyrdd staff rented space in the Dyffryn Gwyrdd Centre. We also used the space to hold activities. Between November 2019 and January 2020 M-SParc rented a 'Makerspace' in the Dyffryn Gwyrdd centre, holding public events for children and adults who wanted to experiment with a 3D printer, a vinyl printer, a laser cutter and other equipment. The purpose of the 'M-SParc On Tour' residence was to promote innovation and entrepreneurship and the collaboration with M-SParc continues in connection with Canolfan Cefnfaes.

During the lockdown, the centre was used each week to distribute food through the FairShare scheme.

Dyffryn Ogwen Community Library

During 2020, we have continued to make improvements to the property and develop community use of the space. One section of the building is now sublet to a local sex education company. In March 2020, Ynni Ogwen installed solar panels on the roof of the library, which means that the building is powered by local community energy. This power also charged the community electric car that was piloted here during 2019-2020. We have also commissioned an energy efficiency study of the building by Sustainability Wales. The report will strengthen any grant applications to improve the property beyond 2020.

Before the lockdown, the room was used by organisations including the Dyffryn Ogwen Camera Club, Cyd Ynni, Dyffryn Gwyrdd and others. We hope to start hiring out the community room again in January 2021. The Llanllechid, Llandygai and Bethesda Community Councils continue to contribute towards the running costs of the building in order to ensure that the library remains open.

Canolfan Cefnfaes

We now have the final lease and Partneriaeth Ogwen will take possession of the building for a period of three years from January 2021. Details are given in the projects section above.

Shops, Flats and Studios for Local Tenants

Partneriaeth Ogwen continues to administer nine units on Bethesda High Street under a 'beneficial ownership' agreement with Bethesda Community Council.

All units are occupied and the tenants include:

Cwrw Ogwen – a local company that brews beer

Black Dragon Karate – a martial arts and leadership training business

Menai Seafood Company – a local seafood business

Annie's Orphans – a charity shop selling second-hand clothes, toys and books

We also hire out two studios to local creative companies;

9Bach – musical artists from Gerlan

Dyfal Donc – designers of contemporary art and craft work from Bethesda.

Five flats are also let to local tenants. The rental income from these properties goes towards the maintenance costs of the buildings and the running costs of Partneriaeth Ogwen, which include employing a Property Caretaker for one day a week.

Carneddau Project and Unesco World Heritage Site Bid

Partneriaeth Ogwen is a member of the Partnership Board of the Carneddau Partnership project, which has received a substantial grant from the Lottery Heritage Fund and we are looking forward to working together with the employed staff on the development of the project in due course.

We continue to work with Gwynedd Council officers who are leading the Unesco World Heritage Site bid for the slate quarrying areas and we are a member of the community working group that is developing some projects, including a mural on the High Street. Partneriaeth Ogwen organised an online workshop on the Architectural Heritage of the Slate Quarrying Areas jointly with the Elinor Gray-Williams Architectural Practice in November 2020 with the aim of feeding community input into the development of the Unesco World Heritage Site Bid Design Guidelines.

Clerking

Partneriaeth Ogwen provides clerking services to three Community Councils - Bethesda Community Council, Llandygai Community Council and Llanllechid Community Council. The clerking work includes organising the council meetings, preparing the documentation and taking the minutes, dealing with correspondence and enquiries from the public and managing councils' finances. The clerks also lead on extra work such as coordinating the graziers' payment system for the Mynydd Llanllechid Committee and organising the councils' finance sub-committees. With the growth of Partneriaeth Ogwen, we have restructured the clerking services to release some of Donna Watts' time to act as the Administrative Manager for Partneriaeth Ogwen. Since September 2020, Bethan Wyn Roberts now acts as the clerk for the Llandygai and Llanllechid Community Councils. Bethan also continues to support Donna with Bethesda Council's clerking work. They both provide high quality clerking services to the three Community Councils in the area.

With the support of the Bethesda and Llandygai Community Councils, the Maintenance Officer continues to keep our streets maintained and clean, responding directly to any community concerns about litter in the area.



Adam, Partneriaeth Ogwen's Maintenance Officer, collecting litter

Marketing, Engagement and Publicity

Partneriaeth Ogwen maintains two websites, www.partneriaethogwen.cymru and www.ogwen.cymru / www.ogwen.wales. We also maintain four Facebook accounts - Ogwen360, Ynni Ogwen, Egin Ogwen and Siop Ogwen and we update these pages regularly. We also have the Twitter accounts @SiopOgwen and @YnniOgwen and all these accounts are followed by over a thousand followers. All the marketing and publicity work is shared between Partneriaeth Ogwen's core staff but at the end of 2019, a Local Marketing Officer was appointed to work part-time helping us with the work of developing www.ogwen.cymru. This is a temporary post but it has been an opportunity to create a community website that is a resource for our community. The website is now home to Cadwyn Ogwen's platform too, with about 700 weekly visits. Since the Cadwyn Ogwen platform was launched, the number of 'page impressions' has increased from about 100 to 2000 a day. In November there were 22,201 'page views'. The Marketing Officer also provided business support services locally with photography work and providing marketing advice. Partneriaeth Ogwen also receives invitations to speak with local and national organisations about our projects. These presentations included a BCT Wales conference - 'Strong, Welsh, Communities' and Wales Co-operative Centre online events. In February, Partneriaeth Ogwen reached the Climate Coalition short-list for community sustainable development work. Although we did not win the award, it was a privilege to represent Wales in the awards in the Westminster Parliament. The organisation also achieved recognition as the Chief Officer won two national awards during 2019-2020, 'Wales Sustainability Champion' in the Sustain Wales awards and the 'Clean Energy Pioneer' award from Regen at the British level. At the end of 2020, the work of Partneriaeth Ogwen was recognised by the Wales Co-operative Centre, DTA Wales and Social Enterprise UK as we were included on the Social Enterprise UK Roll of Honour for our work setting up Cadwyn Ogwen and other support to our community in the face of Covid-19.



Donna Watts, Rheolwr Gweinyddol a Meleri Davies, Prif Swyddog Partneriaeth Ogwen gyda'r Aelod Seneddol Hywel Williams yng Ngwobrau 'Green Heart Heroes Awards – The Climate Coalition' yn San Steffan.

