



**Bryniau Clwyd a  
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**  
Clwydian Range  
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**Sustainable Development Fund 2015 – 16**  
**Year 15 Annual Report**



## **Sustainable Development Fund Annual Report 2015-16**

The Sustainable Development Fund in the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB supported 27 projects in the financial year 2015/16, awarding a total of £58,414.12. The total value of the projects supported by SDF was £184,397.12 which includes additional cash funds levered in and contributions in kind.

### **Performance Indicators**

- 100% of the applicants were informed of the decision of the Assessment Panel or the nominated local authority and NRW officers within the stipulated target times.
- 100% of applicants for projects under £3,000 were notified of the nominated officer's decisions within the stipulated target time.
- 2 jobs were created as a result of SDF projects (CRDV 15 Landscapes for Life and CRDV 19 Apprenticeship Scheme), plus local contractors engaged in the delivery of 15 projects.
- Volunteering opportunities were created through 12 SDF projects.

### **Output Measures**

- 7 projects have carried out training days or awareness raising sessions on sustainability and SDF with businesses.
- Amount of money levered in from the public sector - £58,290.00
- Amount of money levered in from the private sector - £41,704.50
- Amount of money levered in from the voluntary sector - £25,988.50
- All projects meet the principles of sustainable development.

## **Application Process**

Wherever applicable the SDF in the AONB was administered in accordance with the Manual of Guidance on Voluntary Sector Grants and the framework documents provided by Natural Resources Wales.

All successful applicants received a grant offer letter offering SDF grant aid and an acceptance form detailing the conditions of the grant offer. A claim form was also sent, to be returned on completion of the project along with any relevant invoices.

Inspection of completed projects was carried out wherever applicable. Where it was not appropriate to inspect a project a local authority officer made an assessment to ensure all aspects of the project were delivered satisfactorily and within the agreed time scale

## **Contentious Applications**

There were no contentious applications

## **Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB SDF Assessment Panel.**

Representing the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB – Mr. H Sutcliffe (AONB Officer), Mr. D Shiel (Asst. AONB Officer), Mrs Ceri Lloyd (AONB Sustainable Development Officer), Ms K Holthofer (AONB Communications Officer).

## **Partnership Members**

Mr. Michael Skuse – Chair

Mr Andrew Worthington

Cllr Bob Dutton

Cllr Carolyn Thomas

Ms Christine Evans

Cllr Hugh Jones

Cllr Huw Jones

Cllr Stuart Davies

Mr John Roberts

Mr Roger Cragg

CRDV	Project Name	Applicant Organisation	Total Project Value including Match	SDF Amount Awarded	Match Amount	Match Funding Breakdown			Percentages		Approved on
						Public	Private	In-kind / Vol	SDF	Match	
	Administration			£ 5,455.00							
1	Countryside Grants Scheme	CR&DV AONB	£ 5,540.00	2,770.00	2,770.00	2,770.00			50%	50%	03.06.2015
2	Llandegla Church Interpretation	Llandegla Church	£ 24,750.00	2,750.00	22,000.00		22,000.00		11%	89%	03.06.2015
3	Llandegla Chapel	Llandegla Chapel	£ 9,690.00	1,563.00	8,127.00		8,127.00		16%	84%	03.06.2015
4	Moel y Gaer Bodfari	Oxford University	£ 3,590.00	1,000.00	2,590.00	-	2,590.00	-	28%	72%	03.06.2015
5	Prestatyn Walking Festival	Prestatyn Walking Festival	£ 5,000.00	500.00	4,500.00	2,500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	10%	90%	03.06.2015
6	Alyn & Wheeler project Leaflets	North Wales Wildlife Trust	£ 2,008.50	1,500.00	508.50	-	-	508.50	75%	25%	03.06.2015
7	Actif Woods Wales	Small Woods Association	£ 17,700.00	5,500.00	12,200.00	11,700.00	-	500.00	31%	69%	03.06.2015
8	Friend of website	Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley	£ 2,300.00	2,000.00	300.00	-	-	300.00	87%	13%	03.06.2015
9	30th anniversary Trig Point event	CR&DV AONB	£ 5,861.88	5,361.88	500.00	-	-	500.00	91%	9%	03.06.2015
10	Excalibur Marathon	Claire House Children's Hospice	£ 8,563.50	1,500.00	7,063.50		6,063.50	1,000.00	18%	82%	03.06.2015
11	Wrexham Heritage Fair	Wrexham Heritage Forum	£ 1,160.00	600.00	560.00	560.00	-	-	52%	48%	03.06.2015
12	Cilcain WI - A Century of Memories	Cilcain Women's Institute	£ 23,350.00	1,500.00	21,850.00	7,100.00	-	14,750.00	6%	94%	03.06.2015
13	Tomen y Rhodwydd	Denbighshire Countryside Service	£ 13,802.25	1,992.25	11,810.00	9,960.00		1,850.00	14%	86%	03.06.2015
14	Countryside Discovery	The Country Trust	£ 9,185.00	3,635.00	5,550.00	4,700.00	500.00	350.00	40%	60%	03.06.2015
15	Landscape for Life	Denbighshire CC - Lets Walk Cymru	£ 15,550.00	4,000.00	11,550.00	10,300.00	-	1,250.00	26%	74%	03.06.2015
16	Ederynion Action Plan	Corwen Tourism Group	£ 4,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00	75%	25%	03.06.2015
17	Shepherds Hut	Shepherds Hut Company	£ 1,600.00	1,000.00	600.00	-	600.00	-	63%	38%	03.06.2015
18	Community Transport	CR&DV AONB	£ 708.93	708.93	£ -	-	-	-	100%	0%	03.06.2015
19	Apprenticeship Scheme	Denbighshire Countryside service	£ 7,000.00	5,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00			71%	29%	03.06.2015

20	Future Landscapes Programme	Natural Resources Wales	£	-	£	-											
21	Climate Change Teacher Training	Plas Derw Trust	£	4,500.00	£	1,400.00	£	3,100.00	£	-	£	-	31%	69%			
22	Corwen Walking Festival	Corwen and District Business Association	£	2,327.00	£	987.00	£	1,340.00	£	200.00	£	140.00	£	1,000.00	42%	58%	
23	Clwydian Range Breakfast Trail	Clwydian Range Food Trail	£	2,748.00	£	1,584.00	£	1,164.00	£	-	£	684.00	£	480.00	58%	42%	
24	Plas Madoc Community Engagement	CR&DV AONB	£	2,367.19	£	2,367.19	£	-	£	-	£	-	£	-	100%	0%	
25	Young Rangers	CR&DV AONB	£	1,934.87	£	934.87	£	1,000.00	£	-	£	-	£	1,000.00	48%	52%	
26	Ysgol Hiraddug Mountain School	Ysgol Hiraddug	£	2,760.00	£	2,260.00	£	500.00	£		£	500.00	£		82%	18%	11.12.2015
27	Market Street Car Park	Denbighshire County Council	£	6,400.00	£	3,000.00	£	3,400.00	£	3,400.00	£		£		47%	53%	11.12.2015
<b>Totals</b>			£	<b>184,397.12</b>	£		£		£	58,290.00	£	41,704.50	£	25,988.50			
<b>SDF Total</b>					£	<b>58,414.12</b>											
<b>Total levered in</b>					£	<b>125,983.00</b>											

CRDV	Project Name	Applicant Organisation	Total Project Value including Match	SDF Amount Awarded	Match Amount	Match Funding Breakdown			Percentages		Approved on
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	<b>Totals</b>		£ 184,397.12			£ 58,290.00	£ 41,704.50	£ 25,988.50			
	<b>SDF Total</b>			£ 58,414.12							
	<b>Total levered in</b>				£ 125,983.00						

### **CRDV01 – AONB Countryside Grant Scheme**

Applicant – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

SDF – £2,770 (50% of total £5540)

Match funding – Private funds 50%

The Countryside Grant Scheme is run annually and is available to farmers for boundary restoration and conservation schemes, providing 50% funding up to a maximum of £1,000 for individual projects. The project is delivered in conjunction with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) who carry out farm visits and advise on schemes, as well as undertaking finished project inspections on behalf of the AONB. FWAG are paid consultancy fees for this work.

In 2015/16 there have been 2 schemes undertaken – one near Prestatyn which was the restoration of a small area of heathland. Work included the removal of scrub and clearance of tress. The other scheme was near Nannerch and included the fencing of a small area of woodland to exclude stock and some thinning.

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 schemes supported</li><li>• 0.5 Ha of heathland restored</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 x local contractors engaged</li><li>• 1 FWAG officer paid to run scheme</li></ul>

## CRDV 02 – Llandegla Church Interpretation

**Applicant** – Llandegla Parochial Church Council

**SDF** – £2,750 (11% of 24,750)

**Match funding** – Private funds £22,000

St. Tecla's Church Llandegla, adjacent to the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail have recently undertaken work to enhance the Church as a community resource including creating more usable space and installation of kitchen and toilet as well as external access improvements. As part of this work the group wanted to establish a visitor information centre focusing on local historical, cultural, environmental and business interest.

Funding enabled the group to engage a local designer and illustrator to design 12 bespoke interpretation panels telling the story of the village from the local drovers, ghost stories, Tecla's well and Church. The designer worked with 6 volunteers who researched and gathered photographs to be included on the panels.



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £22,000 cash levered in</li><li>• 6 x Volunteers engaged in research</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved community use of a community facility</li><li>• Local designer engaged in production of interpretation</li></ul>



### **CRDV 03 – Llandegla Chapel**

**Applicant** – Pisgah Chapel

**SDF** – £1,563 (16.1% of total £9,690)

**Match funding** – Private funds/ Cory Environmental Trust in Britain £8,127 (83.9%)

Sustainable Development Funding has enabled the Chapel in Llandegla to repair approximately 40m of wall around the graveyard in dry stone and move and re-set headstones adjacent to the repaired wall, to protect the headstones, allow for easier maintenance of the vegetation in the graveyard and open up space to install a picnic bench. Funding also enabled the Chapel to carry out urgent repair of about 10m of roadside mortared wall.

The Offa's Dyke National Trail runs past the Chapel, walkers are now enticed to use the Chapel as a picnic area.

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £8,127 cash levered in</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved community use of a community facility</li><li>• Local contractor employed to carry out work</li></ul>

**CRDV 04 – Archaeological excavations and Art project at Moel y Gaer Bodfari**

**Applicant** – Oxford Institute of Archaeology  
**SDF** – £1,000 (28% of £3,590 project total)  
**Match funding** – Private funds £2,590 (72%)  
 Cambrian Archaeological Association



This project enabled the continuation of archaeological excavations at Moel y Gaer Bodfari for 2015.

The excavations were an excellent opportunity for members of the public to visit the hillfort, which is not normally accessible to the public. An Open Day was organised which had 25 people attending 10 people also attended a guided to the site. There was also an opportunity for volunteers to excavate.

2015 saw the development of an art project linked to the excavations. Two artists, Stefan Gant and Simon Callery, worked alongside the excavators. Stefan is a video artist and Simon works on large scale canvases and three dimensional interpretation of the time and space of the site. The interpretation has broadened the audience of this site.



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £2,590 cash levered in</li> <li>• 25 of volunteers trained</li> <li>• 2 awareness training sessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of open days</li> <li>• Art installations</li> </ul>

## **CRDV 05 – Prestatyn Walking Festival**

**Applicant** – Prestatyn & Clwydian Range Festival of Walking

**SDF** – £500 (10% of total £5,000)

**Match funding** –£3,500 (70% of total) Prestatyn Town Council, Local Sponsorship / Advertising , Time in-kind contribution - £1,000 – 20%

The Prestatyn & Clwydian Range Festival of Walking received funding to assist with the running of the festival from 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May. This year was the 12<sup>th</sup> year of the festival which has grown significantly since its opening year.

The festival provides 3 days of opportunities to explore Prestatyn and the Clwydian Range. New for this year the festival hopes to link with a Town Council led Roman event which was run for the first time last year.

The festival held 25 walks over the weekend with over 500 people taking part. The festival also held a number of events for schools with over 400 children attending. 10% of participants came for outside of the local area.



<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £3,500 cash levered in</li><li>• 5000 leaflets for distribution in visitor centres, libraries, shops, attractions and also at shows and events,</li><li>• 25 Walks</li><li>• 6000 brochures produced</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engagement with community in the development of walks in the local area</li><li>• Promotion of the Clwydian Range as a destination for high quality walking opportunities.</li><li>• Support for local business</li></ul>

**CRDV 06 – Alyn and Wheeler living landscapes interpretation**

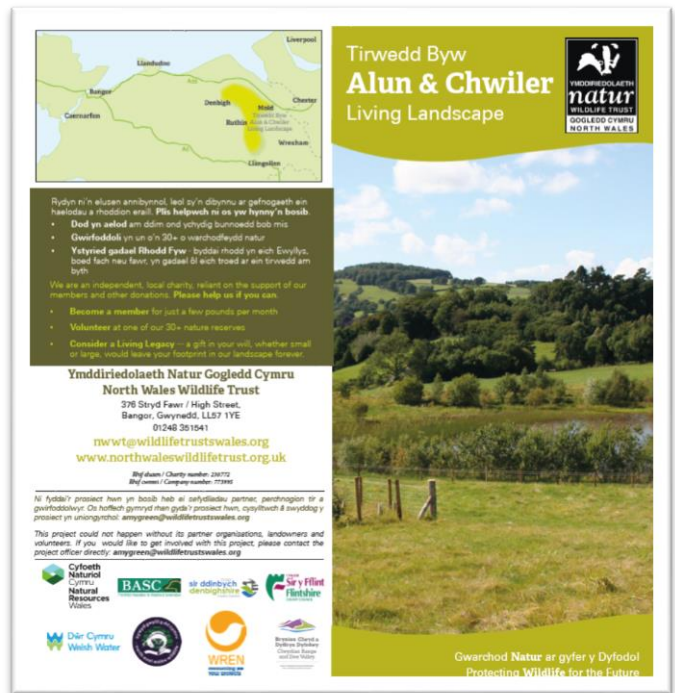
**Applicant** – North Wales Wildlife Trust

**SDF** – £1,500 (75% of total £2,008.50)

**Match funding** – WREN (in form of project officer time) 25%

The Alun and Chwiler living landscapes project is the result of a funding bid by a partnership of organisations including North Wales Wildlife Trust, the AONB, NRW, DCC, BASC and NEW Wildlife. It is a landscape scale project aiming to improve the wildlife habitat in the river corridors of the Alun and Chwiler by engaging with landowners to introduce habitat improvements on their land, as well as locals to get involved in volunteering in the area.

The Sustainable Development Fund has enabled the project to create interpretive materials including leaflets and pop-up banners. The aim of the interpretation was to help project partners promote the project and gain interest from landowners and potential volunteers, as well as inform locals and visitors about what is happening in the area. The project has not only improved habitats but also benefited local communities through better connection with their local environment.



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5000 leaflets for distribution in visitor centres, libraries, shops, attractions and also at shows and events,</li> <li>• Production of 4 pop-up banners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A greater understanding of the importance of the river valleys of the AONB.</li> <li>• A greater level of engagement in the delivery of the project</li> </ul>



**CRDV 07 – Actif Woods Wales**

**Applicant** – Small Woods Association

**SDF** – £5,500 (31% of total £17,700)

**Match funding** – Natural Resources Wales £3,510 (20%), Big Lottery Fund £8,190 (46%), Volunteer in-kind £500 (3%)

Funding was provided for the Actif Woods Wales programme providing a safe, non-judgemental outdoor space allowing participants to experience a wide range of physical, social and wellbeing benefits.



Specifically the funding has supported on the ground delivery of woodland activities for chronic health conditions, short term salaries of project coordinator and activity leaders, equipment and tools for activities, transport, refreshments and further training opportunities to build the capacity of leaders and partners.

The programme was aimed at building capacity at a local level by providing training for leaders to continue activities once the initial project comes to an end. Networks of local organisations and activity leaders, who have ongoing relationships with the beneficiary groups and support organisations, have been established. The project seeks to make the activities sustainable by enabling local support organisations to include woodland activities into ‘business as usual’ where their core objectives are to improve health.

The project partners included Macmillan Cancer Support, the Alzheimer’s Society and Groundwork and sessions took place in 3 AONB sites;

Sessions took place at:

- Ty Mawr Country Park
- Llandegla
- Chirk Castle



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £11,700 cash levered in</li> <li>• 102 Actif Woods sessions across 5 sites</li> <li>• 96 participants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements in health for participants</li> <li>• Building confidence in participants</li> <li>• Capacity of groups to continue beyond the life of the funding through volunteer training</li> </ul>

## CRDV 08 – Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Website

**Applicant** – Friends of the Clwydian Range

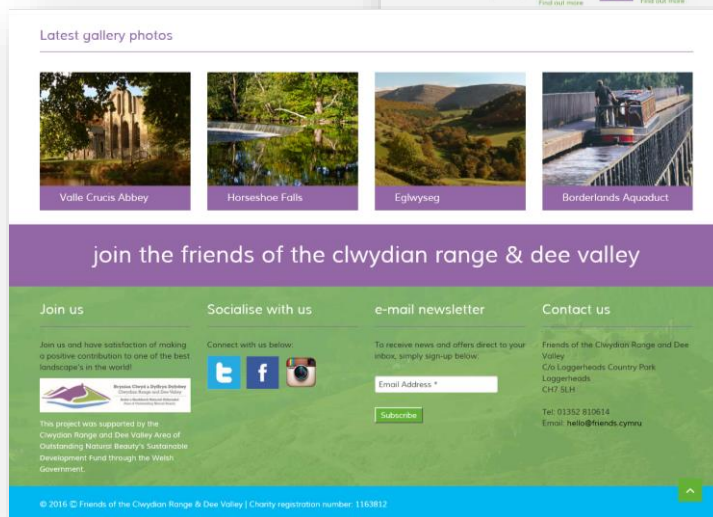
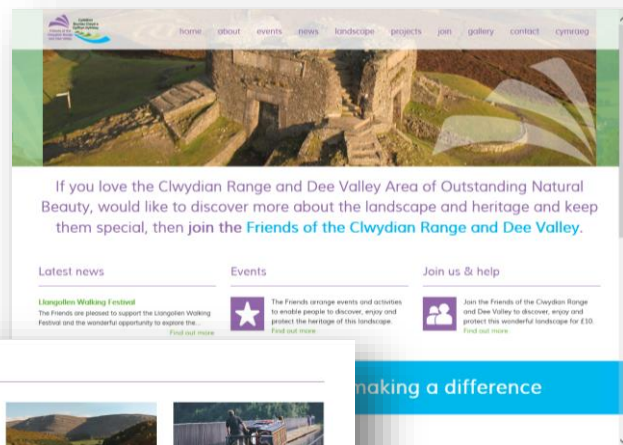
**SDF** – £2,000 (87% of total £2,300)

**Match funding** – Private funds £300 (9% of total)

The project has funded a bespoke website for the recently established Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.

The website promotes the Friends and the events throughout the year. It helps to promote the special qualities of the landscape, towns and villages of the AONB and promotes opportunities for people to get involved with and support the work of the AONB.

The website has a clean and fresh feel and compliments the branding of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website produced</li> <li>• 2 x training days</li> <li>• 135 x people engaged in project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater awareness of the work of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB</li> <li>• Promotion of opportunities to visit the AONB and to engage in events</li> </ul>

## **CRDV 09 – Clwydian Range AONB 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

**Applicant** – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

**SDF** – £5,861.88 (92% of total)

**Match funding** – In kind contribution – Volunteers £500 (8%)

As part of the Clwydian Range celebrating 30 years of being designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty a series of fairly large scale events were planned for 2015 however due to financial climates and capacity of AONB staff planned events were scaled back considerably and it was felt that the funding should have a lasting legacy for the AONB. The project therefore was twofold;

### **Trig Art in the AONB**

The project engaged with local artist Tim Pugh to decorate three Trig Points throughout the Clwydian Range. Each trig point took on a different theme and engaged with communities to dress the Trigs using natural or recycled local material.

### **Yr Oriel / Gallery - Loggerheads**

Loggerheads Country Park a gateway to the Clwydian Range had a very tired and unused education room. AONB Officers felt a lasting legacy for the 30<sup>th</sup> Celebrations would be to transform the room into a multifunction Gallery showcasing the art of local artist and art groups.

The Gallery is already has a programme of exhibitions planned for the year which includes the Llanferres Art Group, Llangollen Art group, Criw Celf and the Clwydian Art Group.



<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 Artist in residence session across the AONB</li><li>• 6 people engaged in Art Project</li><li>• Oriel Gallery established</li><li>• 7 Art Groups engaged</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greater awareness of the AONB designation</li><li>• Celebration of special features of the AONB</li><li>• Facility for local groups to exhibit and sell local art</li></ul>



**CRDV 10 – Excalibur Marathon**

**Applicant** – Claire House Children’s Hospice

**SDF** – SDF – £1,500 (18% of total £8,563.50)

**Match funding** – Volunteer in-kind (£1,000), Private Funds - Regatta Great Outdoors (£3,500), own funds (£2,563.50)

Claire House Children’s Hospice held its annual Excalibur event on Saturday 30th May, with over 300 eager participants trekking or running through the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB for the UK’s toughest off road marathon.

Participants took on either a full marathon or half marathon route, walking or running up to 26.2 miles through the Clwydian Range, starting at Loggerheads Country Park.



All participants took part to raise money for Claire House Children’s Hospice. The event has so far raised £20,000 to provide support to children and young people with life limiting medical conditions and their families from North Wales and beyond.



Over 65 volunteers attended the event, helping out with registration, marshalling and cheering on the participants. Event sponsors Regatta Great Outdoors were also there on the day to cheer on the runners and hand out well deserved medals on the finish line.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £6,063.50 cash levered in</li> <li>• 300 people engaged</li> <li>• 65 volunteers engaged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with volunteers</li> <li>• Support for local business</li> <li>• Opportunities for participation in outdoor activity</li> </ul>



## **CRDV 11 – Wrexham Heritage Fair**

**Applicant** – Wrexham Heritage Forum

**SDF** – £600 (51.7% of total £1,160)

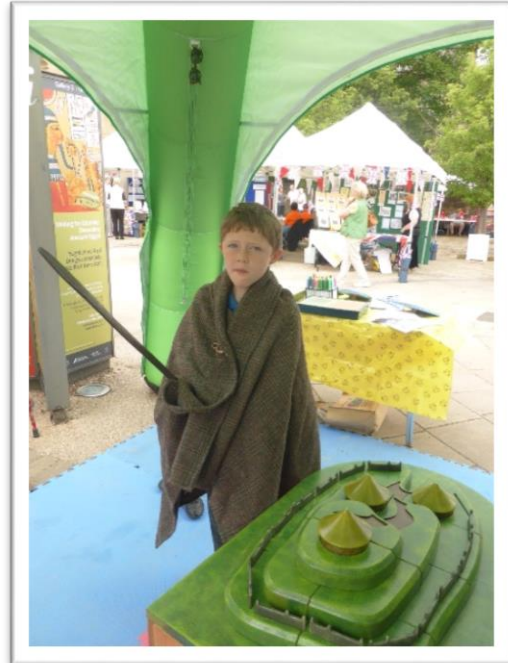
**Match funding** – Private funds £560 (52%)

The Sustainable Development Fund provided financial assistance towards Wrexham Heritage Fair organised by Wrexham Heritage Forum.

The fair included stalls of fifteen local groups and displayed heritage materials from all across the county of Wrexham with the aim of celebrating and informing the general public of the diverse and rich heritage of Wrexham as well as making new connections and extending membership.

In particular the funding supported the hire of stalls and tables, entertainers and guest speakers.

The fair took place on 14<sup>th</sup> July and attracted over 1000 people



<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £560 cash levered in</li><li>• 1000 people engaged</li><li>• 20 volunteers engaged</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raised awareness of heritage of the AONB and Wrexham area.</li></ul>

## **CRDV 12 – Cilcain WI – A Century of Memories**

**Applicant** – Cilcain Women’s Institute

**SDF** – £1,500 (7% of total £23,350)

Match funding –Volunteer in-kind (£14,750 – 63%), Heritage Lottery Fund (£7,100 – 30%)

The WI celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2015, and the Cilcain WI its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This project was developed to mark these anniversaries.

This project has created a digital archive of the village, locating family attic-archived material and individual and family stories, and recording and storing them to reflect change and development in village life. Themes underlying stories include changes in local industry and farming, changes effecting everyday life such as transport, shopping and entertainment, and changes affecting church, chapel and the village school.

Materials and stories were collected digitally by interviewing villagers and scanning attic-archived material. SDF enabled the group to purchase equipment including a computer, software and recording equipment to undertake the project.

A core group of people have been trained in the use of equipment and Liverpool Apple Store have committed to running 48 hours of training for 8 adults.



<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £7,100 cash levered in</li><li>• 48 hours of training delivered</li><li>• 8 people received training</li><li>• Digital Archive established</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raised awareness of heritage of the Cilcain across the community</li></ul>

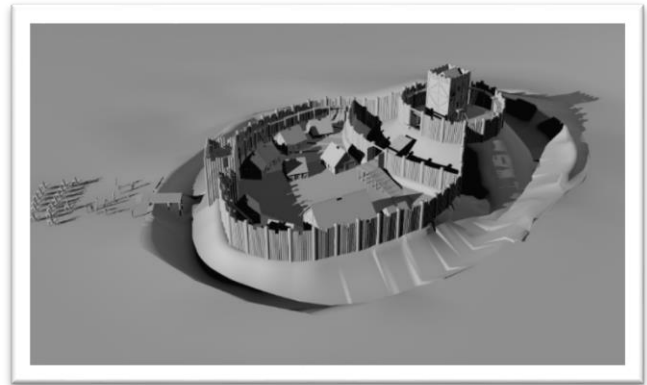
**CRDV 13 – Tomen Y Rhodwydd**

**Applicant** – Denbighshire Countryside Service

**SDF** – £1,992.25 (15% of total £13,802.25)

**Match funding** –Volunteer in-kind (£1,850 – 13%), Natural Resources Wales (£7,850 – 57%), Denbighshire Countryside Service (£2,110 – 15%)

Tomen y Rhodwydd is a Motte and Bailey castle situated on private land with no public access close to the village of Llandegla. The landowner has a great interest in the site, is happy for people to visit the site and has kindly formalised the existing access arrangements through a designated permissive path. Previously visitors would gain access to the site without permission or ask at the farm gate.



The project has created permissive access from the minor road to the north of the site, across a field to the site of the Motte and Bailey, hedgerow management and restoration to improve the biodiversity and aesthetics for visitors to the site will be completed in the in Winter 2016.

Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust undertook a Geophysical survey of the site in early 2016 which has improved our understanding of the site and fed into the reconstruction drawing and site interpretation.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £9,960 cash levered in</li> <li>• Installation of a roadside waymark post waymarking the permissive access.</li> <li>• Design and installation of an interpretation panel at the entrance to the site, giving detail relating to the Motte and Bailey, its history and context.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archaeological work to improve our understanding of the site.</li> <li>• Improved Public access to the site</li> </ul>

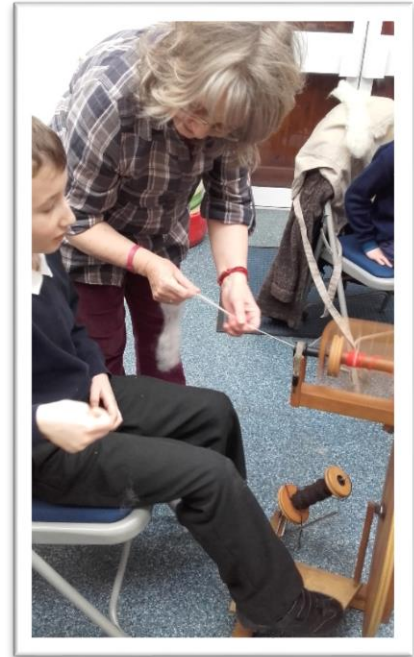
**CRDV 14 – Countryside Discovery**

**Applicant** – The Country Trust

**SDF** – £3,635 (40% of total £9,185)

**Match funding** – Volunteer in-kind (£350), Outdoor Learning Wales, Cluster Groups Project Grant – secured (£4,700), Sainsbury’s Carrier bag scheme (£500)

The Country Trust, a registered charity, worked in partnership with 3 host farms, 1 estate and woodlands and Country Parks within the AONB to offer children from 9 nearby schools with an above average number of disadvantaged children, the chance to discover how food is produced in the countryside which surrounds the towns and cities in which they live.



Each school involved had an opportunity to visit a working farm in different seasons. The farm visits were paired with a visit to a local Country Park, Heritage Site, woodland or similar to give children an appreciation of their local surroundings.

Children learned how farms work and are managed in different season, how food is produced and that farms and their management are an integral part of the countryside and the AONB. The benefits of buying locally, reducing food miles and supporting the local economy were also discussed. Links with the Healthy Schools Programme have been established and it is hoped farms which supply schools will be visited.



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £5,200 cash levered in</li> <li>• 9 Farm visits to 4 farms and</li> <li>• 225 children engaged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater understanding of farming and the food chain</li> <li>• Appreciation of the outdoors</li> </ul>



## CRDV 15 – Landscapes for Life

**Applicant** – Denbighshire County Council – Let’s Walk Cymru

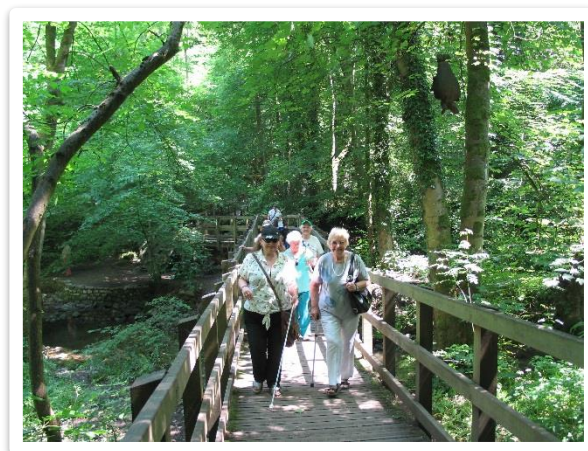
**SDF** – £4,000 (26% of total £15,550)

**Match funding** – Volunteer in-kind (£1,250), Let’s Walk (£10,000), Denbighshire CC (£300)

The aim of this project was to remove barriers, enabling people to improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing through walking and other countryside activities, using the AONB landscape as inspiration. The potential of the countryside in making a positive contribution to health is increasingly proven, especially in preventing, reducing the risk and managing health conditions.

Walking enables people to gradually develop fitness so they are able to walk longer, faster and further at their own pace. Many people do not recognise the health benefit that something as simple as taking a regular walk would have to their health. The Troedio Clwyd / Let’s Walk Denbighshire Group has a successful record in encouraging people to walk, engaging with people who do not normally visit the outdoors or undertake physical activity.

This project built on the established platform of the Troedio Clwyd / Let’s Walk scheme and delivered additional areas of work through:



- 383 Nordic walkers at Loggerheads in 2015/16
- Set up Walking Programme in the Glyn Ceiriog cluster with more than 30 participants attending from the area – the group is now applying for funding to set up on their own. 530 walkers attended the Glyn Ceiriog walks in 2015/16
- Working in Partnership with Llangollen Health Centre, a weekly walk set up from the centre – met with the Doctor’s and Health Practitioners from the centre to promote the walk.
- Vision Impaired groups from Rhyl and Prestatyn – taken on trips to Loggerheads – this group has a regular monthly walk with 10 plus participants attending. Wrexham group have been on a walk to Alyn Waters. A vision impaired group from Snowdonia will be coming on a walk to Moel Famau.
- Tir Morfa School attend a walk each month with children from years 10 and 11 – they are led by our leaders and the walks take in Moel Famau, Corwen, Llangollen and Ruthin.
- Walk Leaders course held at Plas Newydd in Llangollen – 10 participants attended.
- Rhyl Friday walkers taken on a trip to Moel Famau – for some this was their first time to the South of Denbighshire.
- Working in Partnership with Mind in Corwen – walks take in various parts of South Denbighshire.
- Total of 233 walking episodes in South Denbighshire and Wrexham.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £10,300 cash levered in</li><li>• 1 x job directly supported</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved health of participants</li><li>• Greater quality of life</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1186 participants in walks</li> <li>• 233 Walking events in Southern part of AONB</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established mechanisms for continued walking events</li> </ul>
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**CRDV 16 – Edeyrnion Action Plan**

**Applicant** – Corwen Tourism Promoting Edeyrnion Group

**SDF** – £3,000 (75% of total £4,000)

**Match funding** –Volunteer in-kind Mentre Bach £1,000 – 25%

The Corwen Tourism Group wanted to deliver elements of the Edeyrnion Outdoor Leisure and Tourism Action Plan 2015-18 which was produced with support from the AONB in 2014. In particular the group wanted to develop three streams;

- 1) Marketing Strategy and Toolkit
- 2) Marketing and Social Media training
- 3) Shepherds Hut Analysis

A number of working group session have been held to build a consensus around the key marketing points of the Edeyrnion Valley centred around the Special Features laid out in the AONB Management Plan and Sustainable Tourism Strategy. This has been brought into a single unifying document that highlights the special character of this part of the AONB and provides the images and text for businesses to use this in their own promotional media.

The project also set up a mailchimp system for the business group and delivered training in its use. This has transformed the way the business group co-ordinate their activity and has helped in expanding the membership. This simple tool will contribute significantly to the sustainability of the group.

A third element of the project was to look at the business model around the Shepherds Hut, based at Moel Famau. The Edeyrnion Group were keen to explore the feasibility of bringing a similar model to the Corwen area and to learn from the success with Shepherds Hut. The Shepherds Hut Company have met with the group and a report has been produced that highlights the benefits of this approach. There is potential to develop a similar model in the Dee Valley perhaps taking Telford or the railway as its theme.



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toolkit Produced</li> <li>• Toolkit launch event</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased capacity of the Edeyrnion Business group</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 x Business engagement session</li> <li>• 2 x Marketing media training</li> <li>• Shepherds Hut Business Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consensus of the key marketing points for the area based around the protected landscape</li> <li>• Greater awareness of the special qualities of the landscape</li> </ul>
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**CRDV 17 – Shepherds Hut**

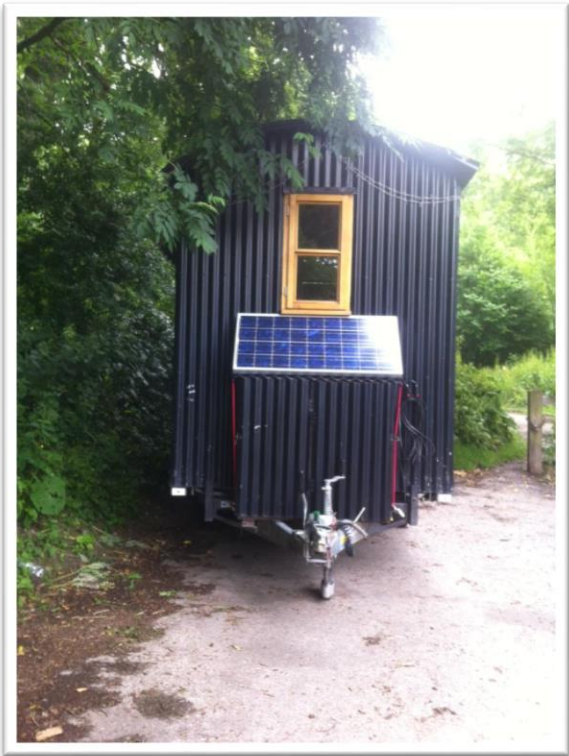
**Applicant** – The Shepherds Hut Company

**SDF** – £1,000 (63% of total £1,600)

**Match funding** – Private funds £600 (37% of total)

Through the support of SDF the Shepherds Hut has installed a solar renewable energy supply. The project has enabled the Shepherds Hut Company to address some of the logistical difficulties of operating in a remote location. It has also reduced the operating costs and improved the environmental sustainability of the facility. The panel is mounted on a moveable frame so that it can gain as much exposure to the sun as possible.

As well as providing the Shepherds Hut with an energy supply the facility promotes and showcases renewable energy production and re-enforce messages of sustainability to a large audience



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £600 cash levered in</li> <li>• 1 x Solar panel installed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased sustainability of the business</li> <li>• Promotion of renewable energy to visitors to Moel Famau.</li> </ul>

## **CRDV 18 – Community Transport**

**Applicant** – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

**SDF** – £708.93 (100% of total)

**Match funding** – N/A

A barrier to groups wanting to access the countryside is often the cost of transport. The Sustainable Development Fund supported the AONB to establish a small fund available for groups for the hire of minibuses to enable them to travel and gain better access to the AONB.

This is the third year the AONB has provided this service for community groups. In 2015/16 fund were accessed by 11 groups who would not otherwise have been able to visit the AONB. The Tea and Toast Group at Plas Madog for example were able to visit Loggerheads, Plas Newydd and Chirk Castle throughout the year. Volunteer groups for Rhyl have also been able to travel into the AONB to support conservation work at Moel Hirraddug and Moel Famau



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 11 groups supported</li><li>• 13 sites in the AONB visited</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased opportunities for disadvantaged groups to visit the AONB</li><li>• Greater confidence and capacity within groups</li></ul>



### **CRDV 19 – Apprenticeship Scheme**

**Applicant** – Denbighshire Countryside Service

**SDF** – £5,000 (71% of total £7000)

**Match funding** –Denbighshire CC (£2,000 - 29%)

The Sustainable Development Fund enabled the AONB’s successful Apprenticeship Scheme to be extended a further six months and established a full programme of training which included, First Aid, Off Road diving and a number of other practical training courses such as chain saw and strimmer. It has also provided experience of working with volunteers, conservation management, and access work.

John Reaney completed his apprenticeship at the end of March and has since been retained by the Countryside Service at Loggerheads as an Assistant Warden. John first joined the AONB as a Young Ranger and the Apprenticeship has given him the experience needed to start a career in the environmental sector



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £2,000 cash levered in</li><li>• 1 six month training placement provided</li><li>• 5 formal training sessions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 x job created/supported</li></ul>

## **CRDV 21 – Climate Change Teacher Training**

**Applicant** – Plas Derw Trust

**SDF** – £1,400 (31% of total £4,500)

**Match funding** – Private funds £3,100

The Plas Derw Trust a ‘not for profit’ local outdoor education provider wanted to pilot a project to develop the best way to train teachers to deliver Climate Change in a local and national context to Key Stage 2 students. The project aim was to enable teachers to feel comfortable and confident in talking to children about climate change and global warming as well as enabling them to relate it to the landscape of the AONB. The project utilised the Resources developed by the AONB in 2014.

The project delivered 11 individual sessions (of varying sizes up to assembly level) and trained 54 teaching staff. A target of 50 was set at the beginning of the project. In turn this training now has the potential to benefit 754 children.

The subject is controversial and the messages out there are mixed and sometimes confusing. It is really important to provide a coherent, and consistent message, especially in a local context.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £3,100 cash levered in</li><li>• 11 sessions delivered</li><li>• 54 teaching staff trained</li><li>• 754 children participated</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased awareness of issues around climate change and its impacts on society and the environment.</li></ul>

## **CRDV 22 – Corwen Walking Festival**

**Applicant** – Corwen and District Business Association

**SDF** – £987 (42% of total £2,327)

**Match funding** – Nat West Community Fund (£200 – 9%), Own funds (£140 – 6%) - Volunteer Time (£1000 – 43%),

The Corwen Walking Festival is an event that promotes the area of the Dee Valley and Berwyn Mountains as a place that offers exceptional walking opportunities. The 2015 festival was the fourth annual Walking Festival in Corwen which successfully attracted private sponsorship and volunteer support. This year festival organisers approach the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley for funding towards the design and print of the festivals programme.

The festival is an important element in establishing Corwen as a centre for walking and has led to the success of Corwen as a Walkers are Welcome Town. The festival also promoted the wide range of Walks available in the southern part of the AONB from the remote Berwyn Mountains to more accessible themed walks along the River Dee, Caer Derwyn as well as utilising the Railway along the Dee Valley.

The festival worked with local businesses to ensure that the economic benefits were maximised. Local outlets were encouraged to provide packed lunches and evening meals and many walks included a visit to a local pub or café.



The festival hosted 20 walks and welcomed 215 people to the event this year.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £340 cash levered in</li><li>• 20 walks promoted</li><li>• 250 people engaged</li><li>• 30 volunteers engaged</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engagement with community in the development of walks in the local area</li><li>• Promotion of the Dee Valley as a destination for high quality walking opportunities.</li><li>• Support for local business</li></ul>

**CRDV 23 – Clwydian Range Breakfast**

**Applicant** – Clwydian Range Food Trail

**SDF** – £1,584 (58% of total £2,748)

**Match funding** – Private funds £684 and time in-kind £480

The aim of the project was to source a range of locally and produced breakfast ingredients and to promote this across the hospitality sector in and around the AONB.

A launch for the Clwydian Range Breakfast took place on Tuesday 22nd March 2016 at Loggerheads Country Park. Over 60 delegates from food producers to accommodation providers, hospitality businesses and retail attended the event to celebrate the vast array of excellent food produced in the area.

Guests were treated to a delicious breakfast almost entirely made up from produce within five miles of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB.



The event provided the opportunity, for guests to compare costs v the supermarket, and meet the producers. Many attending have made new contacts with a view to stocking new products.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £684 cash levered in</li> <li>• 60 businesses engaged</li> <li>• 1 Promotional event</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of the value of locally produced Food and it link to the landscape.</li> <li>• Increased membership of the Clwydian Range Food Trail – 40 members</li> <li>• Improved supply networks for local produce</li> </ul>

**CRDV 24 – Plas Madoc Community Engagement**

**Applicant** – The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

**SDF** – £2,367.19 (100% of total £2,367.19)

**Match Funding** – N/A

Every Monday morning a Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Warden with a group of primarily over 60's (but not exclusive) who are not very physically able and have varying health issues including one deaf member. It is a time for the group to socialise in an outstanding landscape. Funding provided through the sustainable development fund has enabled the Officer/Warden to get the group out of their homes and into the AONB, the countryside on their doorstep on organised trips to AONB sites such as Valle Crucis



Abbey, Loggerheads Country Park, Plas Newydd as well as visits to the group to their community centre in Plas Madoc giving informal talks.

Social interaction is a very important part of the group and to aid this a sign language interpreter was funded has been organised by the AONB which has been very helpful as one member of the group is deaf.

Funding has specifically supported transport costs, admission costs and group support (British Sign

Language)

The sessions have not only had a positive impact on the group's physical and mental wellbeing it has also made the AONB relevant and valued to people on the doorstep. It has increased their confidence to explore places they either have never been before or not seen for a long time. The variety of outings and regularity, as well as access to green open space and far reaching views, has increased their quality of life.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 15 visits sessions supported</li><li>• 11 visits to the AONB</li><li>• 90 people engaged</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opportunities to explore the local landscape</li><li>• Confidence and capacity to explore further</li><li>• Improvement to physical and mental health – countering issues of isolation</li><li>•</li></ul>



**CRDV 25 – Young Rangers**

**Applicant** – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

**SDF** - £934.87 (52% of total £1,934.87)

**Match funding** – Time in-kind contribution £1,000

This project was a joint application made by AONB Officers who worked in the North and South of the AONB to

- a) Continue the development of the Young Rangers group based around Moel Famau and Loggerheads
- b) Establish and develop a new group in the south of the AONB, namely in the Llangollen and Corwen areas.



The Young Rangers programme has provided an opportunity for young people to participate in the work of the AONB and has provided a range of experience of countryside management to a number of young people

The Young Rangers programme is open to people between the age of 11 and 18 years old and consists of a variety of practical activities, including conservation tasks and access work.



This year the AONB successfully established its second Young Rangers group based in the Dee Valley with 8 participating in the organised activities.

The funding specifically supported the production of a promotion flyers, clothing and equipment as well as some of the practical sessions including; Dormouse survey, Bat survey, woodland management and kayaking.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Young Ranger programmes produced</li> <li>• 12 sessions across the AONB</li> <li>• 20 young people engaged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase opportunities to engage in outdoor activity</li> <li>• Training and experience in environmental work</li> </ul>

**CRDV 26 – Ysgol Hiraddug Mountain School**

**Applicant** – Mr Gary Hulson, Headteacher, Ysgol Hiraddug

**SDF** – £2,260 (82% of total £2,760)

**Match funding** – In Kind £500 – 18%

This project has assisted Ysgol Hiraddug to realise the potential of Moel Hiraddug as a community and educational resource.

The AONB’s Sustainable Development Officer met with teachers of the school to set research topics such as history, geology and wildlife prior to a full day’s workshop at the school to create artwork which was then included on the interpretation panel situated in the local community.



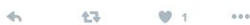
The project engaged with two local designers to research, design and produce the panel which will included details about the history, geology, flora and fauna of the site as well as orientation of the site.



Wow Blwyddyn 6!!!



6:50 a.m. · 9 Mar 2016



The project also funded new waymarkers and fingerposts to help navigate the local community from the village to the top of Moel Hiraddug. Local residents and visitors now have better awareness of the location and the recreational opportunities it provides. The fingerposts were installed as an in-kind contribution by Denbighshire Countyside Service staff.

Ysgol Hiraddug School have realised the potential of the mountain and in the future hope to link this work with the Lead Creative Schools initiative, in which the Arts council of Wales is supporting the schools local myths and legends project. In this context

the school we will be bringing in local artists and story writers to work with the children to develop skills in areas such as creative writing, music, drama and art.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x Interpretation Panel</li> <li>• Sustainability awareness raising session with local school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased awareness of the local landscape</li> </ul>

- Commission of local designers/illustrators

- Engagement of the school with the wider community



## **CRDV 27 – Market Street Car Park, Llangollen**

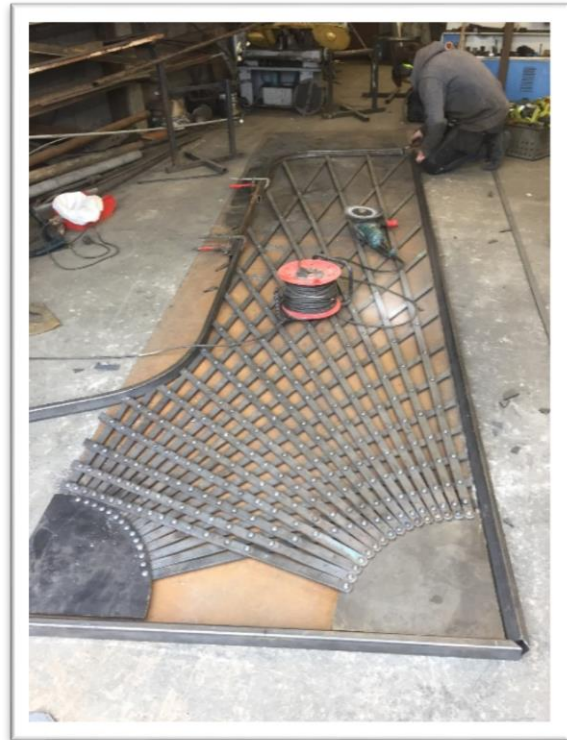
**Applicant** – Denbighshire County Council

**SDF** – £3,000 (47% of total £6,400)

**Match funding** – Private funds - £2,000 Llangollen Town Council, £1,400 Denbighshire County Council

Working with the Local Authority and the Town Council this project has interpreted aspects of the old Smithfield Market, now Market Street Park in Llangollen. Once a busy livestock market the site is now a key gateway into the AONB for many thousands of visitors arriving in Llangollen. For many it is their first experience of the landscape of the area.

The project will repair the original gate posts into the market and replaced the existing barriers with bespoke metal work that much more reflects the agricultural origins of the area. The project contracted a local metal artist to create a gateway feature that has interpreted the past use of this space in the town as a livestock market, the importance of the A5 to commerce in the town and the agricultural community.



The project will develop and re-enforced a sense of place for Llangollen highlighting the links between the town and the rural communities beyond which are sometimes less obvious but equally important today.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 x Interpretative installations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 x local contractor engaged</li><li>• Raised awareness of heritage and special features of the AONB</li></ul>