

Conwy Culture Centre Update

March 2020



COVID19 – Important Message:

In line with Conwy County Borough Council wider services and Government advice regarding the spread of COVID-19, the Conwy Culture Centre will unfortunately have to temporarily close in order to support social isolation. It will still be possible to contact us via email, diwylliant.culture@conwy.gov.uk and, for the time being, we will do our utmost to help. Our response times may change if staff are re-deployed to priority services. We will update as soon as anything changes and will hopefully be able to open in the not too distant future

Building and exhibitions update:

The Culture Centre building was opened on the 9th of December 2019 with an informal soft launch, with plans for an official ceremony in May 2020. Landscaping working has been largely completed on site, with the installation of the Sensory Garden last month. This garden will also be accompanied by a brass rubbing trail with twelve posts located on the Culture Centre grounds. As spring approaches we look forward to

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Ariennir y Ganolfan Diwylliant gan Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy, Llywodraeth Cymru (yr Is-adran Amgueddfeydd, Archifau a Llyfrgelloedd), Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru – Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig 2014-2020, a ariennir gan Gronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu Gwledig a Llywodraeth Cymru, Cronfa Cymunedol Gwyn y Môr mewn partneriaeth ag Ymddiriedolaeth Celfyddau Conwy, a Chyngor Celfyddau Cymru.

The Culture Centre is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Conwy County Borough Council, the Welsh Government (Museums, Archives, Libraries Division), the Welsh Government Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government, Gwyn y Mor Community Fund in partnership with Conwy Arts Trust, and Arts Council Wales.

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developing this area of the Culture Centre site together with local group Incredible Edible and their talented group of volunteers.

The response since we've opened our doors has been positively outstanding – as of the 9th of December over 9,300 people have come through our doors to visit the new Centre. We wish to thank everyone who has supported the project, both our most loyal followers and newest ones, for their continued support and patronage. Here's to a busy 2020 and beyond!



People of Conwy Exhibition open to the public:

On the 9th of December the Culture Centre's flagship exhibition, the People of Conwy, was opened to the public. A small opening was held to showcase the work and thank the participants for taking part in the project along with photographer Graham Hemborough for producing the wonderful portraiture for this exhibition, TAPE Community Music and Film for organising translated language pieces for each interviewee, and HistoryPoints for making the audio pieces accessible via digital means.

The exhibition is scheduled to run until July 2020, so don't forget to pop in and visit!

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Conwy Archives:



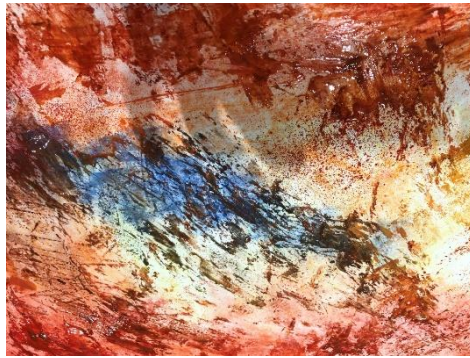
In late February, Conwy county's Archive and Museum collections were relocated to the underground stores at the Conwy Culture Centre. These purpose built stores will ensure that the collections will remain preserved and well looked after for future generation to enjoy. Ownership of the Old Boarding School site has now been passed over to Penderyn Distillery, who are currently redeveloping the site for use as a shared distillery and heritage interpretation space regarding the history of the old

school site.

Currently the Conwy Archives team are settling into their new home at the Culture Centre, and are very busy unpacking and getting things ready for opening. We thank you for your patience and the Archive team look forward to seeing you there when they open shortly!

Activities at the Centre:

Since opening our doors the Community Room has hosted a variety of activities. These include our 'Art and Mind' workshop, a 10-week long programme run by Ticky Lowe for residents living with and experiencing mild to moderate stress, depression and anxiety.



Other wellbeing activities included an art workshop for members of the deaf community, as well as yoga sessions.

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We wish to thank everyone who both helped set up and participate in all these activities with us thus far. Look out for news on any upcoming activities, workshops and taster sessions at the Culture Centre going forward by following us on social media: look out for Diwylliant Conwy Culture on Facebook or follow us on Twitter by searching for @DiwylliantConwy.



Gathering the Stories / Casglu Straeon:

On the 5th of February, Huw and Lal Davies of Davies Community Films hosted a screening of their exciting community film project – Gathering the Stories. The oral history project shared stories of residents living in Conwy town and its outskirts through a range of first person narrative sort film formats. The event was well received by the general public, with over 56 people in attendance.

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Outreach:

A strong community outreach programme has been our focus from the very beginning. Our partnered work with CultureHubs has seen community engagement in rural areas such as Cerrigydrudion, Penmachno and Llansannan using heritage as a source of creative inspiration for a range of activities. Our engagement with local and regional history groups such as Deganwy and Aberconwy history groups has seen a positive response, with members keen to visit the Centre in the coming months. We wish to thank all those who welcomed us to their communities and we look forward to working with them in the foreseeable future.

Taster sessions:



Since our last newsletter the Culture Centre team have been busy getting together a programme of fun and engaging activities together to promote the Culture Centre project to the wider world. To date, the project has delivered an outstanding 192 taster sessions with an amazing 8,487 individuals having taken part! The project has seen us engage with a variety of groups across schools, residential homes, community groups and much more! We wish to extend our thanks to our partners, our residential

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artists and to all those who have come to see us and support us. Let's have many more sessions in the future

Welsh Language Group:



It has been over one year since the Welsh language group at Conwy formally met up together in the town, which has seen the group continue to grow ever since. As of February of this year, the group have announced an additional session every month for Welsh learners to practice conversational Welsh. The group meets at the Conwy Culture Centre on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month – if you or anyone

you know might be interested in taking part feel free to pop in and say hi!



Raising awareness via social media:

Our Facebook Page (Diwylliant Conwy Culture) has now hit 828 likes, with 890 followers following the latest news and happenings at the Culture Centre. A big thank you to all of our followers!

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