

Conwy Culture Centre Update May 2019



Building and exhibitions update

Following our newsletter in January the building project has made great progress and is on track for an autumn opening. Those passing the old school site will have no doubt noticed the dramatic changes which have taken place at the developing Centre building. The Culture Centre team is busy working on the interior of the Centre by working up designs for the interactive heritage and library displays.

Our first temporary exhibition will be called People of Conwy and will celebrate the life stories of a selection of people who have contributed to the People of Conwy roadshows and our artists' storyshops. We have commissioned Portrait photographer Graham Hemborough and will feature snippets from interviews with the people featured.



Conwy Culture Centre will open in autumn 2019 and will feature a new Area Library for Conwy, Deganwy and Llandudno Junction together with the county Archive and Museum Collections, interactive displays and a dedicated community and arts space.

The Centre will be based on the junction of Town Ditch and Bangor Road, Conwy,

Get involved!

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Exciting news for outdoor classroom and sensory garden



LDT (Landfill Disposals Tax) Communities Fund has awarded us £44,354, with further contributions from The Thomas Howell's Education Fund for North Wales and Welsh Historic Gardens Trust to create a new accessible and dementia-friendly community garden and outdoor classroom at the new centre. The garden will use accessible paths, seating, and interpretation to support local biodiversity, increase tree canopy cover and provide accessible opportunities to enjoy the natural and cultural heritage of the area. Visitors will also get the chance to use a nature-themed brass rubbing trail, funded by Thomas Howell's Education

Fund for North Wales, which ties in to the sensory garden and wider landscape.

Bodlondeb estate has a history of horticulture and allotments and nearby is the site of the former Cistercian Abbey of Aberconwy; a site of self-sufficiency, medical learning and healing. The garden will include wheelchair-accessible planters containing 'Physic Garden' plants: medicinal native herbs like those which may have been grown by Aberconwy's monks. The project will use these plants as a teaching and therapeutic resource linked to the Culture Centre's wellbeing collection in the library.

The project is a partnership with Incredible Edible, a local Conwy voluntary organisation whose mission is to encourage 'growing your own' and sustainable living. The project is also working with Alzheimer's Society and DeafBlind Cymru to ensure that the garden is an accessible and welcoming space for a range of audiences affected by sensory loss. A programme of events and training will accompany the project including everything from vegetable growing and foraging to storytelling and how to make your own medieval poultice!

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Taster Sessions

As the first year of our Activity Plan draws to an end it has been great to reflect on the success of our programme of arts and heritage taster sessions. So far 88 sessions have taken place all around Conwy, with a grand total of 2,235 people having taken part! A massive thank you to our resident artists as well as the public for taking part in our activities – here's to more sessions in the future!



Welsh Language Group



We want the Culture Centre to be a place where people can come to use, enjoy and practice their Welsh in a supportive and relaxing

environment so we have started working towards this with help from Menter Iaith and have set up a Welsh speakers group within the town. The sessions are free and open to all Welsh speakers, fluent and learners alike at all levels. Currently our sessions are on a monthly basis at Conwy Library, located within the centre of the town.

This month the group have had two meetings take place instead of its usual one. The first was a guided nature walk around the grounds of Boldondeb Park, led by a Welsh speaking member of staff.

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The second session, which will take place on the 9/5/19 will consist of Welsh nursery rhyme sing-along by pupils of Ysgol Porth y Felin, between 2-4PM. For more information about these session, please contact Conwy Library!

Our Heritage Ambassador Programme

Working with Conwy Youth Service and with the Welsh Government-funded Fusion Project has allowed us to deliver a range of culture, arts and heritage courses for young people and adults throughout the county. To date a total of 11 AGORED and more than 60 Arts Award accreditations have been delivered for our young people, with a further 10 adult accreditations delivered in researching family and neighbourhood history.

We are in the process of planning some celebratory and preview events and gearing up for the grand opening this autumn, so make sure you watch this space for regular updates on opportunities to take part. If you want to join our mailing list please contact us!

Archive and Volunteer update



The Archive and Volunteer team have been hard at work getting the collections ready for the move. Our volunteers have been very hard at work at the Archives and this shows: so far our 30

volunteers have produced 2,411 hours of work helping us get everything ready for the big move. A massive thank you to everyone who has helped us with this; don't forget if you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering with us – please get in touch!

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