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Mae Cymru Gynaliadwy (Rhif cofrestru 1200330).  
Sustainable Wales is a charitable incorporated organisation  
(registration number [1200330](#)).

Founded in 1997 as an unincorporated charitable trust.  
Wales' longest established Sustainability Charity

## Trustees Summary

After emerging from the pandemic and in our 25<sup>th</sup> year as a non-incorporated charity, we slowly reorganised as a newly formed Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Our new Trustees are Richard Thomas who has acted as Chairman for this period, Elen Jones, Luke Evans and Margaret Minhinnick.

This encouraged a new Trustees Advisory briefing, updated Policy Documents, stationery, and website details. Meetings were held some on zoom, some hybrid and some 'live'.

Local Community roles and job descriptions began being fashioned around Community Development and Community Education re: sustainable development.

Successful grant applications were made to the 'Postcode Lottery' and 'Warmer This Winter', together allowing the employment of an 18-month part-time post, including some resources for local project development. The Trustees agreed a contractor would be preferred, but were willing to be flexible, to keep the talent pool broad. In January 2023, interviews were held and the successful candidate started in February.



Fairtrade featured highly not only during Fairtrade Fortnight, with the visit from politicians MS Jane Hutt Welsh Government Minister for Social Justice and Sarah Murphy MS for Bridgend Borough; but with the organisation of Sustainable Wales' 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in the Atlantic Hotel, Porthcawl, including two guest speakers from a coffee producing region in Uganda.



Sustainable Wales (SW) relies on the support of volunteers and advisors. The development of SW's Welsh Baccalaureate competition was launched in memory of two of them:

- Professor Alwyn Jones - was a philosopher and Director of Studies for University of South Wales' first 'green' degree and supported SW from the beginning.
- Professor Steve Harris - a scientist and research academic who also worked at the University amongs other things developing a Citizen Science programme, and was a passionate contributor to our charity.



Activities are further outlined below. All include project development, communication, advocacy and community involvement.

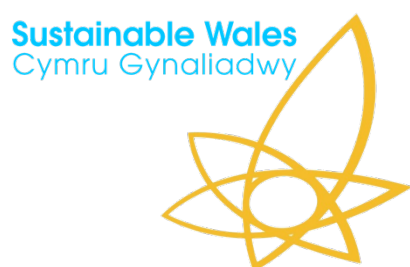
Though the UK is on the path to achieving Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 – the target passed into law in 2019 to end the UK's contribution to climate change. Emissions have already been reduced by almost 50%, since 1980 levels, but the Net Zero pathway requires a massive 78% cut in emissions by 2035. The Climate Change Committee say progress is being undermined by the government permitting new coal, oil and gas developments.

Achieving Net Zero goes beyond the energy we produce – we'll need to reconfigure our transport systems, homes, businesses, and land, to change how we move people and goods, how we heat our buildings, and how (and what) we produce and consume.

There, as ever, is much to do.

The Trustees would like to thank all our volunteers and advisors, including those in SUSSED cooperative, whose financial contribution is invaluable.

*Margaret Minhinnick, Richard Thomas, Luke Evans and Elen Jones*





## PROJECT ACTIVITY

### Fairtrade

#### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sustainable Wales Celebration in Fairtrade Fortnight.

The Atlantic Hotel, Porthcawl was requested to use local, organic and fairtrade ingredients in their menu choices for that evening. The First Minister, Mark Drakeford, had agreed to attend, but inevitably had to withdraw, after the announcement of his wife's death.

Welcomed by Bridgend Borough Council Leader, Huw David and the Deputy Mayor of Porthcawl, Councillor Jonathon Pratt our special guests, were two fairtrade producers from Mount Elgon tree growing enterprise in Uganda, Jenipher Sambazi and Nimrod Wambette.



Jenipher's Coffi is grown up to 3,000m above sea level by over 3,000 farmers who work hard to grow this very high-quality coffee, despite the challenges of climate change.

Ten days later, after a very busy schedule meeting people around Wales, Nimrod and Jenipher returned to Porthcawl, to take part in the 'Coffee and Climate Film' we were starting to make.



Before the ‘Social and Public Procurement Bill’ was being debated in the Senedd, Margaret contacted Sarah Murphy MS ahead of the debate and encouraged her to obtain a commitment from the Minister to meet various interested stakeholders (WCVA, Size of Wales, Amnesty, Hub Cymru Africa, Fairtrade Wales etc.). This Sarah did and during the debate the Minister agreed.

## Global Citizenship Awards



The charity partnered with the University of South Wales and the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC) to run this first-of-its-kind competition on the themes of Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, piloting in Porthcawl.

This year we saw 120 year-12 students from Porthcawl Comprehensive School visit USW’s Treforest Campus. During the visit, which included a campus tour, the students had lectures on sustainable fashion, climate change solutions, transforming urban mobility, and mapping and monitoring biodiversity change.

Building on the idea that sustainable development requires a safe and secure natural environment to support active, educated and healthy humans so they can manufacture and trade in a fair and responsible economy, both Alwyn and Steve recognised the significant pressures that unsustainable human activity continues to have on the world. And they both worked to educate the next generation on what some of the solutions could be.

Judging of the competition entries was done by Dr Stewart Eyres, Deputy Dean of Faculty of Computing, Engineering & Science at USW; Robert Minhinnick, award



winning writer and long-standing adviser to Sustainable Wales; and Professor Merryn Hutchings, Emeritus Professor at the Institute for Policy Studies in Education, Seren Cook and Emma Jones were announced as the winners.

Two prizes of £250 each were awarded in Steve and Alwyn's names for the best entries and were published on Sustainable Wales' website.

Fairtrade Wales provided us with a small budget to pay for chocolate bars which were distributed to all at the presentation and £10 SUSSED vouchers for the runners up.



## Green Room Workshops, Presentations and Training

SW funded by the **Renew Wales** programme, were able to offer **Innovate Trust**, from Cardiff, an all-day workshop, covering **living more sustainably**, fairtrade and campaigning to reduce local air pollution.

An **Air Pollution workshop** for West Park Primary School Eco Committee, Porthcawl was held. Children were then able to fix our bilingual banners onto the school railings, reminding parents to turn off the car engine when collecting their children from school.



**What is Fairtrade?** A PowerPoint presentation followed by coffee and cakes was organised for the **Porthcawl Chamber of Trade**. The speaker Elen Jones, SW Trustee and importer of Jenipher's Coffi.

Amongst numerous others, **meetings** have taken place with Porthcawl and Borough Councillor Neelo Farr, Bridgend County Borough Council's Councillors John Spanswick and Rhys Goode, their Climate Response Manager, Stuart Baldwin and also the Porthcawl Chamber of Trade.

Our support for **Pencoed College's Sustainable Living Festival** included a display of everyday ethical and green goods available, posters and leaflets recommending a series of pledges people could make to reduce their carbon footprint.

The Charity joined with our sister organisation, SUSSED holding a local, green and fairtrade stall at the three day **Between The Trees, Festival**, held at Merthyr Mawr, Bridgend.



Culture - The Green Room and Gorwelion  
[www.sustainablewales.org.uk/gorwelionhome](http://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/gorwelionhome)

**Launches of Gorwelion Shared Horizons** were organised by **Robert Minhinnick** with contributing authors and held in:

**Aberaeron**, Royal Feathers Hotel; **Cardiff** Chapter Arts; **Swansea** Elysium Gallery; **Abertiefi**, Cardigan, The Cellar. At the Between The Trees Festival, **Methyr Mawr Bridgend**. Also during 'The Big Green Week' in Senedd-Dy, **Machynlleth** with **Jane Davidson's** also launching her book. 'FutureGen: lessons from a small country'.

<https://janedavidson.wales/book>



## The Green Room events included:

During Porthcawl's Elvis Festival our guest reader was **Peter Finch**, photographs from Peter Morgan with the regular 'open mic' attendees.



The artist **Paul Peter Peich** event saw Norman Harris and Robert Minhinnick present their personal memories of Paul.

Later, guest writer, guitarist and singer from Aberaeron was **Karen Brewer**. New work events were also staged supporting local writing.

Guest reader **Mike Jenkins** brought the year to a radical conclusion.

Audio podcasts of Green Room events are [available on our site](#).

## Supporting DEC's (Disaster Emergency Committee) fundraising appeals.

Sustainable Wales and the Porthcawl Chamber of Trade joined together to organise a fundraising appeal to collect money for the **DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal** and also for the devastating **Earthquake Appeal Turkey & Syria**, placing collection boxes in the local shops. DEC promised to double these figures. SUSSED processed the online and cash donations to these campaigns.

One third of the country – an area the size of the UK – had been submerged, according to the government of Pakistan, with floods sweeping away entire communities and leaving more than a million homes destroyed or badly damaged. A series of devastating earthquakes hit southern Turkey and north-west Syria killing over 20,000 people and injuring many more.



## Grants

Sustainable Wales received £1000 award from **Arnold Clark Community Fund**, which contributed significantly towards the re-painting and renewal of the office and shop.

Important applications to the **Peoples Postcode Lottery** £25,000 and also a **Warmer This Winter** £10,000 grants were also successful.



## Regeneration of Porthcawl

Concern regarding this massive seafront development remains. SW maintains our emphasis - that the development is sustainable, mindful of future generations and that the project is developed with the community and decision-making is more than at tick-box exercise.

After receiving the successful ‘**Peoples Postcode Lottery**’ application to pay for a **Local Sustainable Development Coordinator** we hoped to encourage the development of a community group partnership to assist discussion.

To this end SW decided to start the formation of partnership of community groups in Porthcawl, **Better Porthcawl**, aiming to encourage the planning department in BCBC to use the Co-Production technique to effectively engage with the community for better outcomes. Better Porthcawl Our early activities are outlined on the website at

[www.sustainablewales.org.uk/porthcawlregen](http://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/porthcawlregen)



This has potential to be an exciting collaborative approach which will enable the Council to respond to their obligations outlined in the ‘Well Being of Future Generations Act’ 2015 and reinforced in ‘Planning Policy Wales’ Feb 2021 –

[https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-11\\_0.pdf](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-11_0.pdf) p16. para 2.16

*Positive planning occurs at a level where detailed knowledge of how places ‘work’ is available and provides a valuable decision-making resource. It is crucial when, in developing plans, planning authorities engage with people in*

*their own communities, facilitating a collective, participatory process which focuses on achieving sustainable places. This requires engagement which goes beyond the statutory minimum for consultation set out in planning legislation and in accordance with the involvement principle set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.*

Meanwhile Margaret was able to present, on behalf of the Trustees, for three minutes only, via 'Teams' at BCBC's Scrutiny Committee, re: 'Appropriation of Land at Sandy Bay'. She restated the Council's responsibilities regarding sustainability and the five ways of working outlined in the 'Well-being of Future Generations Act'. Afterwards Janine Nightingale, senior Planner, agreed to a co-production approach!

Later we were able to attend the open-space stakeholder workshop organised by the Borough Council in the Grand Pavilion along with a few other group representatives.

## New part-time Post established

Receiving also the **'Warmer This Winter'** grant enabled us to widen the role of the **Local Sustainable Development Officer:**

1. offer, support, develop or encourage local community groups/businesses to respond to climate change/sustainable development.
2. promote public involvement (i.e. community and local authorities as is expected in the Senedd's Well-Being of Future Generations Act) especially with the Regeneration of Porthcawl.
3. encourage a young person's climate campaign group to form, some of whom would take part in the production of a climate film made in and for Porthcawl.
4. fundraising to be an important role (be it crowdfunding, grants etc.).



Ella Williamson began to build contacts for the Partnership (e.g. A Voice for the Future of Porthcawl, Porthcawl Athletics, The Porthcawl Chamber of Trade, SUSSED, The Porthcawl Civic Trust) and also a positive relationship with Jacob Lawrence, a regeneration officer at BCBC. During this period Better Porthcawl attended the Bridgend Borough Council's Open Space Stakeholder

Workshop.

## Maintaining networks and partnerships has occurred primarily via Zoom or Teams and includes:

Well-Being of Future Generations Office, Climate Cymru Partnership, Community Energy Wales, Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations and Wales Council for Voluntary Action, Fairtrade Wales and Co Pro Cymru.

Active support for SUSSED and their volunteers and the Porthcawl Chamber of Trade and other local groups remains, helping with information and practical assistance.



## Social media and Communications

We use a combination of social media, newsletters and our own website blogs to showcase news items, promote campaigns and highlight our events. The email newsletter links to items on our website and campaigning posts on social media.

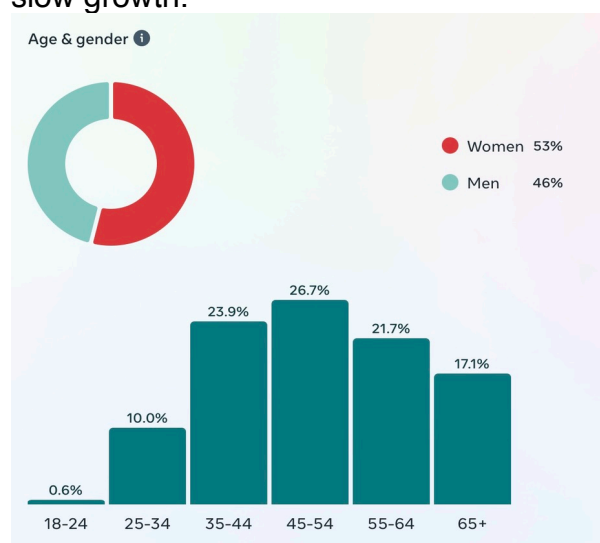
The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sustainable Wales was promoted with links to a special page <https://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/blog/2023/2/23/sustainable-wales-25th-anniversary-history> The original 90s logo was resurrected and used on our website at the start of 2023. The background of the website was rebranded with a 25<sup>th</sup> logo to appear across 2023.



Original SW Logo

Throughout the period social media and our website promoted a wide range of stories: the winners of the 2022 Global Citizenship Competition with schools, Gorwelion readings events, regular Green Room events and community meet ups.

The period saw continued growth of our social media platforms such as twitter and facebook. We have 4892 Facebook followers, and the Facebook reach peaked in March 2023 from around 1000 to 6000 users per post. This was without paid promotion of posts. The normal reach in this 2022-23 period is around 500 users per post. Our Twitter followers remained at around 2300 in the period with continued slow growth.



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### Summary of main activities and summary of finances (2022/23)

The 2022/23 year saw a marked increase in financial activity, relative to the past few years.

Firstly, income from all sources continued to bounce back after the pandemic, as unrestricted income more than doubled from 2021/22 financial year, to over £9,600. Fundraising from the Green Room (12%) and other events (28%), contract work, such as with Renew Wales (23%), and donations (8%) continue to provide a predictable and regular source of income, as they have over the last decade.

Additionally, in this period Sustainable Wales received a notable 'donation' from their sister organisation, retail arm and community cooperative SUSSED Wales (equal to 26% of all unrestricted income). One of the original objectives of SUSSED since its founding, had been to generate additional income to support the charity's activities and goals, and given the SUSSED's recent strong sales their board agreed they were finally able to do so.

Regarding expenditure, non-contract/labour costs remain low, in part thanks to the office-sharing arrangements with sister organisation, SUSSED. Premises costs did rise slightly as the charity undertook much needed office repairs and renewals, but this was fully budgeted for and funded by the Arnold Clark Community Fund grant.

The most notable part of the statement of financial activities, is the receipt of two large grants of £25,000 (Postcode Lottery Grant) and £10,000 (Warm This Winter), that allow SW to expand its activities over the next 18 months. The (Warm This Winter) grant includes the creation of campaign videos, with a call to action on the impacts of climate change, loss of biodiversity and lack of energy security.

Crucially, the grants also provide match-funding towards contracting a part-time Local Sustainable Development Coordinator, which means the charity now has a dedicated coordinator to manage local groups and further the organisation's objectives, enabling all parties to identify new projects and sources of income, to ensure the continued viability and financial sustainability of SW.

After accounting for restricted funds, SW carries forward £33,700 of cash to 2023/24 with no outstanding creditors, meaning that, combining with the charity's persistently low outgoings, there are sufficient reserves to operate for a number of years.

Note that during this period, all the charity's assets were fully transferred to the new registration 1200330, as part of the restructuring from a charitable trust to a 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation'.