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“As a society we choose to react to crises rather than preventing them”, said Director Sustainable Wales, Margaret Minhinnick. She added: “COVID-19 has given us a glimpse into a global economy decimated by crisis”.

WWF’s head in the UK, Tanya Steele said: “Post-Brexit trade deals that fail to protect nature would leave Britain “complicit in increasing the risk of the next pandemic”.

www.sustainablewales.org.uk

twitter @SusWales

www.facebook.com/sustainablewales

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmIFd3JhZon9p6GhdeW3Rkg>

Registered Charity 1065789/0 Unincorporated Charitable Trust

Who we are

Margaret Minhinnick Director

Trustees

Richard Thomas Chair until Jan 2020

Sarah Murphy Chair since Jan 2020

Peter Morgan Vice Chair

Melanie Johnson

Paul Woodford

Tara King

Luke Evans Treasurer

Advisors

Robert Minhinnick Martin Little

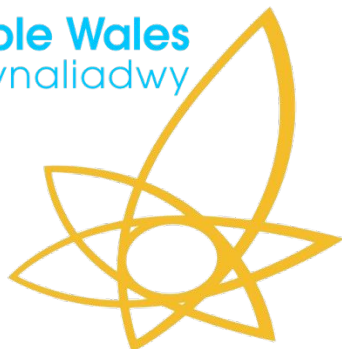
Martin Fitton Porthcawl Cllr Alex Harris

Other Volunteers include

Catrin Dalton, Gaynor and John Hanson, Hilary Williams, Peter Adamson, Alison Felton, Debra John, Jayne MacDonald, Saulat and Rhiannon Abbasi and members of the Wilderness Allotments Association, Daniel Williams, Jon Berry, Richard Williams, Kevin Cornelius, Josh Jefferey, Kristian Evans.

Numerous performers and speakers (c.60) at the Green Room.

Sustainable Wales
Cymru Gynaliadwy



the future is here
y dyfodol sydd yma



Sustainable Wales

Sustainable Wales - Cymru Gynaliadwy (SW) is a community-driven charity that has been based in Porthcawl and Bridgend County Borough for over twenty years. It is progressive in outlook, internationally aware and aims to encourage solutions for the unsustainable way we live - to enhance community well-being, social progress and environmental security for the long-term.

The projects and activities are instigated from the grassroots by volunteers responding to the need for community resilience with a 'people and planet' focus. They concentrate on 'lifestyle' and 'quality of life', and our collective responsibilities, creating engagement activities/practical opportunities for people to get involved in the green and ethical agendas. Alongside, advocating 'good practice' by citizens, producers and politicians.

The NGO encourages local ownership, participation and a self-help entrepreneurial spirit –seeing this as a practical way to 'mainstream' sustainable development. Current activities outlined are here... <https://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/current-projects>. (Activities are focused locally but are potentially replicable).

SW is also involved in a number of partnerships locally and nationally.

The Political Context

a) The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals -



represent the global goals that governments, civil society organisations, and businesses around the world have agreed to achieve together by 2030.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

b) The Welsh Government 'Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act

<https://www.futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/>

c) The Environment Wales Act <https://gov.wales/environment-wales-act-2016-factsheets> is a commitment to position Wales as a low carbon, green economy, ready to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

d) '**Successful Futures**' Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) seeks to give learners at all stages of education an understanding of the impact of their choices on other people, the economy and the environment.

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/successful-futures-a-summary-of-professor-graham-donaldsons-report.pdf>

Chairperson's Remarks

In 2019 Greta Thunberg, the Friday school strikes and Extinction Rebellion continued to feature widely around the world. We were all dealing with Floods, Temperatures and in Britain, Brexit. Then, in the early part of 2020, most of the world had direct experience of the begins of the Covid 19 pandemic. These issues are the backdrop to our Annual Report 2019/20.

This year Sustainable Wales (SW) saw 2 new editions to our board of Trustees, Tara King and Myself. Later in January 2020, I was delighted to be invited to take on the role of chairperson, after long-standing Richard Thomas. Richard remains as a Trustee, but found his work commitment left him no time to remain as Chairperson of the charity.

Political changes, alongside austerity measures, mean the organization needs much more of a hands-on approach from all our volunteers. Personal contacts were the most effective way to attract new people to help in 2019/20.

In the soaring Paris heat, summer 2019, the Director had a wonderful opportunity to present the charity and our activities to a group of American students studying in the American University there.

The year then ended with the onset of the Covid 19 virus. We were forced like everyone else to close in order to keep people safe. This meant that we were also unable to maintain financial collaboration to the part-time contract for the Development Officer's post we were sharing with SUSSED.

(SW) maintains its support to SUSSED cooperative, Bridgend Local Energy Group (BLEG), the Fairtrade groups and to local culture via the Green Room.

Our NGO joined the wider Climate Emergency Campaigns (Extinction Rebellion and the school strikes) with constructive and informed challenges to the local council, Bridgend Borough Council.

The group developed a local Climate Emergency petition, with template resources adaptable to challenge any local authority, available on our website.

(April 2019 has seen the Welsh Assembly Government announce its agreement that we have a Climate Emergency.)

Later BLEG responded to the Bridgend Council's consultation re: Revised Local Development Plan feeling that there wasn't a strong direction posed regarding the climate.

SW also helped organise, alongside the Porthcawl Fairtrade Group, a **Fairtrade Fashion Show** for the community.

The Global Slavery Index estimates that 36 million people are living in some form of modern slavery today; lots of these people are making clothes for western brands.

Despite there being international standards and national laws that should protect people, human rights abuses are prevalent throughout the fashion industry.

Our sister organisation, SUSSED, stands up for trade-justice and continues to provide a wide-range of ethically sourced, local and green goods for the Porthcawl and environs including food, fashions, gifts and household items. The shop also offers information and support for fairtrade stalls requested throughout the year by community and school groups.

The partnership together has retained the status of a Fairtrade Borough and Porthcawl town, received a renewed award certificate from Fairtrade Foundation in January.

My thanks go to all our fantastic volunteers for their wonderful contributions over the year including ideas, actions, donations, accountancy, performance, editing, PR, IT and general assistance. They (c.60) offer a solid commitment to our work-without whom we could not survive.

I look forward to their friendship during the forthcoming year.

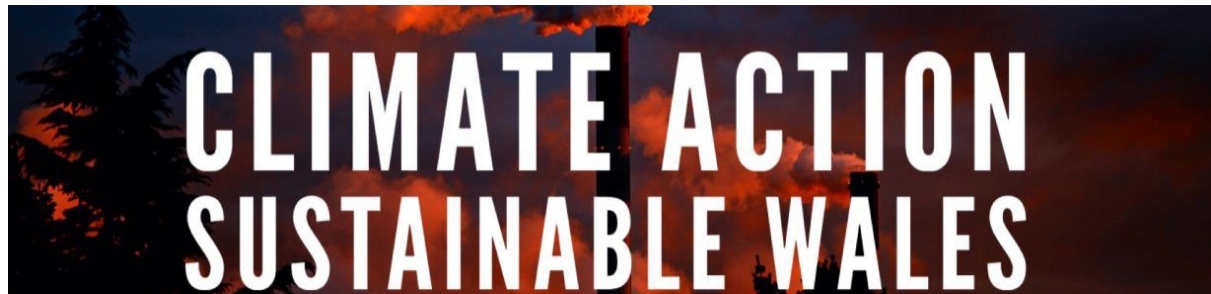
Sarah Murphy, Chairperson Sustainable Wales.



Directors Report 2018-19

Projects & Activities

Theme - Climate Change, Climate Action



Bridgend Local Energy Group (BLEG)



Bridgend Local Energy Group (BLEG)

<https://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/bleg> .

1. The Group has continued to work on the idea of a 'green' energy efficient electric bus for Porthcawl, powered with the 'free' renewable energy offered by a local supplier, Cenin at Parc Stormy, Porthcawl.

<http://www.ceninrenewables.co.uk/>

The Porthcawl Medical Centre also maintain support of the project as are Community Transport Bridgend. A c£95,500 application made to the Welsh Government's Foundation Economy grant scheme unfortunately just failed, according to the feedback we had. Subsequently the group attempted to gain meetings with relevant staff and politicians in Bridgend County Borough Council, to discuss further support for the proposal. Those meetings were cancelled due to health problems and then came the Pandemic.

Multiple benefits would have accrued:

- Local people are able to access local services including health, social and retail centres - increasing access to the Porthcawl Health Centre and to Porthcawl town centre.
- A locally innovative and sustainable mode of community transport is introduced - reduced costs (compared to £10 Taxi each way – see report)
- Reduction in Co2 and some local air pollution.
- Reduced costs for doctor's visits for the NHS
- Local traders and health services benefit from being able to continue to service local residents who may otherwise not be able to access them.
- A local multi-sector collaboration is established across foundational sectors including energy, retail, health, transport.

- A part-time post for Sustainable Wales
- Public promotion of renewable energy and the need to go 'green'.
- New roles for volunteers – exciting opportunity for BCT drivers!
- The project will be a blueprint for other communities to establish low-carbon, community-led accessible transport at a time when public services face increasing budget pressures and risk of closure.

2. April 2019 saw the group post a formal response from BLEG to the 'Regeneration of Porthcawl' outline plan, recommending Bridgend County Borough Council developed it as a low carbon community

<https://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/blog/porthcawlregen19>

3. BLEG also challenged Bridgend Borough Council to adopt a **climate change emergency motion** and urgent action plan.

<<https://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/blog/climatecouncil19>

Followed by a Climate Change petition

<https://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/climatepetition>

4. It was noted that BCBC did not yet seem to be incorporating the urgency of climate emergency into planning re: development control.

They then added a voice to the Bridgend Council's **revised Local Development Plan**, which appeared extremely weak on climate change, and represented thus another missed opportunity.



5. A couple of meetings were held with senior staff from SERO Homes

<https://www.serohomes.com/> builders of low carbon communities. They had seen our work challenging Bridgend Council's development proposal at Salt Lake to be zero carbon.

6. Two members attended a Planning Aid Wales workshop on developing a local energy project.

Theme - Culture

The Green Room



Sustainable Wales maintained its use of the Green Room for cultural, creative and café events until Lockdown in mid-March 2020. (This was interrupted in June/July 2019 by Robert and Margaret's absence in Paris).

Events included a lecture on 'Saint Non' by Dr Tracy Evans, which attracted a large contingent of Welsh speakers; readings and music from Steve Griffiths, Steve Garrett, Frances Presley, Zoë Brigley and Laura Wainwright. Phil Cope attracted a large audience for his lecture on 'local wells'.

Robert and Dan Llywelyn Hall combined with a reading from 'The Dunes' at the Between the Trees Festival in Merthyr Mawr, August '19, which was also very successful for sales of SUSSED stock, with Josh the main volunteer.

<h2>ZOË BRIGLEY</h2>  <p>The last Green Room of the year...</p> <p>Poet Zoë Brigley (Thompson) grew up in Caerphilly in the Rhymney Valley of Wales, and is now an Assistant Professor at the Ohio State University in the US. She won an Eric Gregory Award in 2003 and received a Welsh Academy bursary in 2005. Her first book of poems, <i>The Secret</i> (Bloodaxe Books, 2007), was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation, and was longlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize in 2008. Her second collection, <i>Conquest</i> (Bloodaxe Books, 2012), was also a Poetry Book Society Recommendation, as is her third collection, <i>Hand & Skull</i> (Bloodaxe Books, 2019).</p> <p>& Post Election Open mic WWW.SUSTAINABLEWALES.ORG.UK</p>	<h2>STEVE GRIFFITHS STEVE GARRETT</h2>  <p>Steve Griffiths is a poet and social activist. His <i>Weathereye: Selected Poems</i> contains the best of seven collections over forty years.</p>  <p>Steve Garrett is a Cardiff-based social entrepreneur, writer & musician. He set up Riverside Farmers' Market in 1998 and mentors small businesses.</p> <p>Open Mic including film and music. WWW.SUSTAINABLEWALES.ORG.UK</p>	<h2>NON WITH TRACY EVANS</h2> <p>FRI. 26 APRIL 8PM</p> <p>£4 or donation All welcome Croeso cynnes i bawb</p> <p>Above SUSSED 4 / 5 James St. Porthcawl CF36 3BG T: 01656 783962</p> <p>WWW.SUSTAINABLEWALES.ORG.UK</p>
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<h2>FRANCES PRESLEY</h2>  <p>Frances Presley is a writer who now lives in London. Her innovative work is published by Shearsman.</p> <p>Her many previous poetry collections include <i>Paravane</i>, <i>Myne</i>, <i>Lines of sight</i> and <i>halse for hazel</i>.</p> <p>In Frances Presley's new exhilarating and intellectually stimulating collection, the life and work of Ada Lovelace — innovator in the science of computing, but also lover of birds and music — is both focus and trigger.</p> <p>www.francespresley.co.uk With films and poetry about Extinction Rebellion & Open mic WWW.SUSTAINABLEWALES.ORG.UK</p>	<h2>THE LIVING WELLS OF WALES PHIL COPE</h2>  <p>Latest speaker at Sustainable Wales' Green Room at 8pm, Friday, January 31, is Phil Cope, author of 'The living wells of Wales: new photographs and old tales of our sacred springs, holy wells and spas'.</p> <p>& Open mic WWW.SUSTAINABLEWALES.ORG.UK</p>	<h2>YOUNG WELSH POETS</h2> <p>ZOË BRIGLEY DR LAURA WAINWRIGHT</p>   <p>FRI. 14 FEB 8PM</p> <p>£4 or donation All welcome Croeso cynnes i bawb</p> <p>Above SUSSED 4 / 5 James St. Porthcawl CF36 3BG T: 01656 783962</p> <p>WWW.SUSTAINABLEWALES.ORG.UK</p>
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Theme - Ethical Consumerism - the foundations for the economy of tomorrow

Community Cooperative SUSSED



Ethical shopping has continued to grow in the UK. This market change has been pioneered locally by our sister organisation, consumer cooperative, Porthcawl-based SUSSED, whom the charity helps manage. Ethical shoppers will remain in that pivotal role for more sustainable products and businesses.



SW provides significant support with information, promotion and accounts. This is especially so in Fairtrade Fortnight. SUSSED importantly, financially supports SW's administration and office space. For more information on activities see the [Annual Reports on the SUSSED website.](#)



Celebrating
25 years

Fairtrade and UK Fairtrade Fortnight

To celebrate locally, Sustainable Wales working with SUSSED and the Porthcawl Fairtrade Partnership, championing with food, fashion, stories and stalls.

Throughout Fairtrade Fortnight, shoppers discovered at SUSSED, several 'storybombs' (in English and Welsh) obtained from

Fairtrade Wales. Free samples - coffee, tea, sugar and chocolate were placed alongside.

The 'storybombs' told some extraordinary stories from women producers and their need for a 'living income'. The 'storybomb' could then be taken, usually by children, and placed somewhere else for others to uncover and so on. (Read Me, Share Me, Hide Me Again).

The charity also held a Welsh Fairtrade Pop-Up Café, diners able to select from a menu chosen to celebrate March 1st, whilst showing support for people in developing countries.

The Porthcawl Fairtrade Fashion Show held in Trinity Church Hall was attended by c. 250 people including the MP Madeleine Moon, who also made an excellent impromptu speech. Local musician Roger Clatworthy entertained the audience prior to our models taking to the 'catwalk'. Our Director MC'd and provided the information, SUSSED provided the fashions and other volunteers staffed a fairtrade stall. The event was a resounding success.



Theme – Food

The Green Room Pop-up Café

The café operates approximately once per month and offers a varied homemade range of savouries, cakes, drinks - all at reasonable prices. Our volunteer bakers aim to use mainly fairtrade, organic and local ingredients offering tantalizing cakes, homemade bread, super soups, salads, sandwiches and snacks for coffee, lunch and tea. The menus including vegan and vegetarian choices and are often themed e.g. St David's Day, Fairtrade Fortnight, Easter, Xmas etc. The takings support the charity.

Income

Bridgend Association Voluntary Organisations Youth-Led Grant £1650 was received towards the costs re:

Film Production

Theme: Climate Change and its impacts in Bridgend/Porthcawl and surrounds. Plans were to achieve a 6-8 mins high quality film involving under 25-year olds, to promote and to distribute widely. The participants were identified and ready to meet and then the Covid-19 'lock-down' occurred. We hope to complete at a later date.

RENEW Wales Contract

'No fit State Theatre Company' received updated policy support from the Director and she attended the Coordinators training via video conference in March – all paid by Renew Wales. <https://renewwales.org.uk/> aims are to help community groups take action on climate change.

Website, PR, Communication, Social Media

Sustainable Wales continues to build its audience on social media and publish important campaign information on www.sustainablewales.org.uk. SW is active on facebook and has maintained c. 4500 followers. Comments and shares are also growing across the period and this increased trend of interaction continues onto our twitter feed (having grown to 1960 followers).

Campaigns launched online included a climate action petition hosted on our website on our revamped climate action section.

Website traffic noticeably dipped during the lockdown; but activity increased on social media in the same period. Overall trend is upwards in traffic to the website with social media often driving the increasing unique visits.

Traffic

Wed, Jan 1 – Thu, Aug 20, 2020

Year To Date

Unique Visitors

5,327

+28.9% yr/yr

Visits

4,215

+16.7% yr/yr

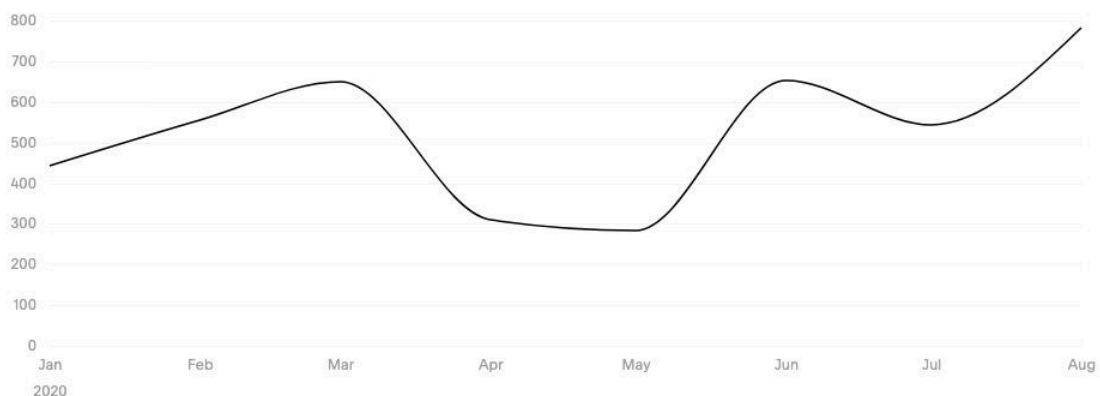
Pageviews

9,302

+17.1% yr/yr

Visits

Monthly





Emphasis on the climate action agenda provided an opportunity to create a petition online that was pitched as a universal toolkit which allowed anyone to use the template letters and materials to campaign to their particular local council.

Sustainable Development Policy Statement



The charity operates an environmental and ethical management policy: keeping final waste disposal and energy use to a minimum, using recycled paper products, reducing and reusing, purchasing renewable energy (we are powered by Good Energy), local goods and services when possible, banking with the Cooperative Bank at the local Post Office and also selecting fairtrade and biodegradable products. This

policy is reviewed and updated regularly.

Partners and networks include

SUSSED, Bridgend Association of Voluntary organisations, WCVA, Renew Wales, Community Energy Wales, Tools For Self-Reliance, Porthcawl Chamber of Trade, Bridgend and Porthcawl Fairtrade Partnerships, Fairtrade Wales, Wales Centre for International Affairs, Wales Environmental Link, Wales Cooperative Centre, Fairtrade Foundation.



Treasurer's Report 2019-20

Summary of main activities and summary of finances

In 2019/20 financial year SW made a **net profit of £3,939**.

Total **expenditure** rose by £1,250 (YOY) to **£2,728** for the year. This was expected, owing to Sustainable Wales (SW) providing 50% of the cost for contracting a development manager since November, a role that was split between the charity and sister organisation, SUSSED Wales. The development manager contract was terminated as of March 2020 due to the Covid-19 crisis and the subsequent closure of the SW office, with a view to revisit the staffing situation when conditions allowed. Other expenditure remained largely flat, as SW's sister organisation, the ethical retailer SUSSED Wales, continued to cover the lion's share of overheads.

Total **income** also rose by £2,550 (YOY) to a total of **£6,666**, offsetting the additional labour costs. As per the previous years, unrestricted (i.e. not grant-funded) income was derived primarily from two sources:

- 1) Consultancy, mentoring and coordination work, classified as "contract work" via the Renew Wales programme, with aim of enabling and inspiring community groups to take action on climate change;
- 2) Fundraising, such as through ticketed events hosted at the Green Room; the semi-regular Green Room Café; stalls, raffles, tombolas etc. at external events, as well as some donations. This includes a contribution of £1,500 from SUSSED Wales, covering events processed by SUSSED volunteers via the shop till.

The charity also received **£1,650 of restricted funding** from BAVO Youth Led grants, to fund activities relating to a climate action campaign and producing a film, to be developed in partnership with local young people. However, as the Covid-19 crisis has severely limited the types of activities that can take place, BAVO approved a request to postpone the completion of the project to a later date.

This long-term use of the shared space with SUSSED Wales (including all IT equipment, stationery etc.) means that the value of SW's tangible fixed assets remains close to zero, as per the balance sheet, and that entirety of the SW's assets are now stored in liquid cash, with £29,500 in all bank accounts as of 05/04/2020.

This does however highlight the extremely important role that SUSSED plays in this continued financial sustainability of the charity. Moreover, SUSSED's retail outlet serves not only as an important contact point for communicating SW's message to a wider audience and a distribution point for SW goods and services (e.g. tickets for annual fundraiser) but SUSSED's volunteers continue to provide a large degree of non-financial support to organisation.

Whilst it is too early to tell what the long-term impact of the Covid-19 pandemic will be on the charity and the wider sector, SW's consistently low levels of expenditure (particularly fixed costs), coupled with its healthy bank balance mean the charity is in a strong financial position to weather this crisis and absorb the inevitable fall in income from fundraising at live events. Moreover, although grants continue to be a useful source of income, particularly with regards to financing project expenses, the charity is not dependent on this type of funding to remain profitable or solvent – although grants may provide an alternative to support from SUSSED in the future.