

Canolfan Wirfoddol Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

Reg. No: 1160733



ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

YSTRADGYNLAIS VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Of: Old Remploy, Wind Road, Glanrhyd,
Ystradgynlais, Swansea Valley, Powys, SA9 1AF.

Tel/Ffon: 01639 849192 / 845475

Email/ Epost: ystradgynlaisyvc@hotmail.com

Website: www.ystradgynlaisvc.org.uk

**Public Opening Times: Monday to Friday 8.30am-
4.30pm
And Saturdays 10am-1pm**



Our Social Enterprise and Trading Arm –

Antur Ystradgynlais Enterprises Limited

Rhif y Cwmni/Company No: 7157972

Registered Office at: YVC, Old Remploi, Wind Road, Glanrhyd, Ystradgynlais,
Swansea Valley, Powys, SA9 1AF. Tel/Ffon: 01639 845475 / 849192

Antur Ystradgynlais Enterprises Limited –

- Incorporated 15 Feb 2010. Company number 7157972 and registered at the main Volunteer Centre address. The company was set up as a not for profit limited company and social enterprise, allowing the YVC to take on a lease for one large site to house all project and recycling activity, and offer more space overall.
- With 4 directors and a company secretary, this has enabled the YVC to take on the former Remploi factory in Wind Road, Glanrhyd under a 30 year lease, purchased Dec 2014 for £1.00 and an annual peppercorn rent.

A new charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) was registered with the Charity Commission on 3rd March 2015 : as YSTRADGYNLAIS VOLUNTEER CENTRE number 1160733. It was recorded as taking over the unincorporated charity of the same name under number 515094, keeping our 32 year history of working with the community but improving our legal responsibility through using the same name.

Management Committee & Staff Members 2018-2019 under the CIO

Trustee Chairperson: Geoff Ready
Trustee Vice Chair:
Treasurer: Glyn Davies
Minutes Secretary: Lyn Ryan

Consultation – Observer :

Town Council Rep: Mr Nigel Craddock

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YVC STAFF:	Simon Busby	- YVC Manager
(@ 31/3/19)	Elizabeth Davies	- Volunteer/Client Coordinator
	Carol Gordon	- Volunteer Outreach Coordinator
	Leanne Davies	- Receptionist
	Josie Bailey	- Recycling & Retail
	Leigh Martin	- Van Driver
	Paul Daniels	- Drivers Assistant
	Karl Lewis	- Recycling Technician

Antur Ystrad Directors @ 31/03/2019:

Simon Busby
Josie Bailey

Report by the Chair Person:

Geoff Ready, Chair

Structure Chart @ 31/3/18:

Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre

The Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre (YVC) registered number 1160733 is an independent registered *CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)* accepted by the Charity Commissioners on 3/3/15 to replace the original unincorporated charity 515094 of the same name in existence for 32 years.

The Trustees of the Management Board meet regularly with the Manager(s) to review projects and activities, and to discuss anything necessary for the forthcoming period. Decisions are made collectively here but the Manager can call on trustees for assistance at other times as necessary. Sub-Committee meetings are held by smaller groups as deemed useful by the Manager and trustees to deal with any specific issues or incidents as they arise. There are currently Sub committees for:

Buildings & Maintenance	Personnel & Policy
Finance & Funding	Recycling
Fundraising Activities & Events	IT & internet

Delegations:

The Centre Manager has broad delegation authority including: making payments, raise invoices, order equipment and stationery within reason, co-sign cheques to run projects, and organise promotional and fundraising activities and events, as well as recruit and support the volunteers who assist with all these. For larger amounts over £1,000 estimates are requested first, and a discussion can be made with trustees if deemed necessary.

The YVC has a number of policies and statements to ensure with proportionate compliance with statute and good practise including: Health & Safety, Vulnerable Persons, and Reserves, Risk Assessment to Environmental, Grievance, Confidentiality and Data Protection. These are kept under regular review (at least annually) and we work with other volunteer bureaux and community supports within the Powys Network to assist in keeping these up to date and relevant. In addition YVC commission the professional services of HR advisor and other specialist as required.

The Aims and Objectives of the YVC are:

- To recruit, place and support volunteers within the local community, matching their skills to client's needs, providing meaningful volunteering opportunities in supportive environments so that volunteers can make a positive contribution.
- To promote volunteering opportunities, local activities and events.
- To provide a centre and facilities for community use and activity, bringing the community together and supporting a sense of belonging.
- To initiate and support new initiatives and enhance the health and wellbeing of the local community.
- To reduce waste and promote recycling/environment activity and awareness, and encourage reuse of products that would otherwise be disposed of through fly tipping.

Overview by the Chair



“ YVC is proud to be part of the voluntary sector working with our members and local partners to support the wellbeing of people and communities in Ystradgynlais and its surrounding areas. 2018/ 19 has been a period of austerity and consolidation. Indeed a challenging year that saw many changes to ensure we continued to provide a valued service to our communities and to support local environmental objectives.”

[Geoff Ready, Trustee & Chair of YVC 2018/19]

2018/19 was a year of survival that required hard decision and decisive action to consolidate the charity's operations to meet financial pressures and staff reductions. Our priority focus was that YVC continued to provide services to our community. To raise income and reduce running costs we released capital through the sale of our Ystradgynlais high street volunteering premises and reduced overheads in the closure of our retail service in Neath town centre. Taken together with changes in staff management and roles, we were able to ride the storm to ensure the charity continued to operate.

Overcoming these pressures has been one of our most challenging achievements of this year. Trustees would like to thank all the staff and volunteers for their hard work and personal sacrifices over this period, whom in spite of these uncertainties showed great strength and commitment to ensure the future of the charity. We would also like to thank Powys Association of Voluntary Organisation (PAVO) for their support and flexible approach in facilitation and oversight of the changes.

In retrospect, the integration of the volunteering and recycling services into a single access centre at the Old Remploy site has however enabled us to build a solid local foundation and make further efficiencies so that YVC may continue to make a difference in providing support to individuals, its partners and the wider community.

Looking forward our immediate priority is for:

- YVC : at an organisation level to bed-in the changes and bring greater financial and other stability to the operations of the charity;
- Trustee's: to build capacity, skills and attract new talent on the board through recruitment of additional Trustees;
- Staff – to build confidence, capability and stability through training and skills transfer;
- Partners- strengthen through better collaboration and joint working, sharing of resources etc.;
- Outcomes: devise systems to measure the impact our work makes in making a difference to our community and local environmental objectives.

Achievements

While the priority over the year was to effect the integration of the YVC business and manage the transition we continued to provide a good level of service in Ystradgynlais and neighbouring communities. These include:

Volunteering *Some Amazing People Make A Difference*

Volunteering makes a difference it can have a real and valuable positive affect on people, communities and society in general. It also helps people build confidence, learn new skills, discover hidden talents and build self-esteem. Volunteering also makes a major contribution to the economic, social and educational wellbeing of its communities.

Over the year we have:

- provided of a focal point for people volunteering in the local community and recruited an additional 41 volunteers;
- supported 47 placements providing some 4,000 volunteering hours in the local community;
- extended and strengthened volunteering opportunities to include a greater number of diverse organisations with more potential to gain permanent paid employment. A list of partners offering volunteer placements is at **Appendix 1**.

Contributioun to the local Economy

Over 2018-19, we estimate **our volunteers** gave around **4000 hours** to their local community resulting in around **£40,000** in monetary terms.

Demographics of New Volunteers 2018/19

AGE	No	Status	No	Other -	No.
<18 years old	5	Disabled	3	Welsh speaking	3
Aged 18-25	6	Employed	3	Needing extra Support	0
Aged 26-34	7	Unemployed	24	Non British	
Aged 35-50	14	Non employed	3	Male	28
Aged 51-65	7	Students	4	Female	13
Aged 65>	2	Retired	4	Total No. of New Volunteers in Year	41

Placement Case Studies

“Volunteering has increased my confidence and I feel more able to open up and express myself. I have gained a lot of skills included communication, admin, teaching others and dementia understanding”



[Melissa]

After caring for her gran for almost seven years Mellissa knew that she wanted a career in caring. Being less than 18 Melissa commenced her career journey studying Health and Social Care at a local college. Melissa also wanted to gain practical skills in direct care of the elderly and frail. YVC was able to facilitate and support her over her placement in Cwrt Enfys care home. We are very proud of Melissa's achievements and the home has acknowledged her work in an award

Melissa has a good rapport with residents and commits 30 hours weekly to Cwrt Enfys Care Home.



“A chance visit to the centre to look at furniture made me aware of how many volunteering opportunities were available and this spurred me to offer my services as a volunteer – I wanted to make a difference in the local community. “

[Carol

Gordon]

Carol had just moved to the area and was keen to meet new people in her new community. Carol saw the volunteering opportunities at the YVC as a way of achieving this. Carol helped on a cross range of administration, marketing and networking initiatives. Today Carol is employed as YVC Volunteer Outreach Coordinator. Carol's networking skills have been a major asset to the YVC in reaching out to engage new partners. Carol has brought a fresh prospective and energy to the Volunteering Projects



Recycling

The Centre plays a pivotal role in waste reduction as well as educating people on the importance of the three '**Rs**' – **Reduce , Reuse and Recycle** – for creating a sustainable community. We continue to promote recycling by doing as much as we can to minimise the waste produced on a day to day basis. The recycling project has worked with youngsters, adults with disabilities, the retired, working and unemployed, probationers and young offenders.

Our volunteers gain self-confidence and awareness, improve social skills and make new friends whilst in the workshops, and we have many varied volunteers who enjoy the mix of activities.

Over the last few years we have saved an average mixed total of around **300 Tonnes annually** . This is a major achievement in reduction of waste to landfill. Our thanks go to those people in the community who have enabled this to be possible.

Over the reporting period we have :

- collected over 30 tonnes in household goods;
- re/up cycled some 60 tonnes of household and other goods for reuse by local residence of Powys and border local authority areas;
- raised income of £48,515.00 through recycling sales to support/ cover the running costs of the Centre ;
- received approximately £840 from *Powys County Council* environmental department in landfill credits
- helped people in need in the community through supply of free or subsidised household and other goods.

Waste Management & Compliance

The YVC holds a Waste Carriers Licence issued by the Environment Agency. We deploy sound waste management controls promote and educate local people, business and the wider community in the benefits of recycling. All weights are recorded for monitoring and statistical purposes.

We have established a commercial arrangement with Powys County Borough Council (CBC) for recycling to residents in Powys. Our service level agreement with CBC enables us to claim monthly recycling credits at **£35 per tonne for reuse** among Powys householders. We also make a substantial contribution to the reduction in landfill waste in the areas of Neath Port Talbot and Swansea and will be working with these authorities to agree similar commercial arrangements.

Recycled products

- **Ystrad Tools**

- We continue to receive donations of tools to sort, clean, repair, re-handle, sharpen and refurbish for sale to help sustain our own costs.

- **Furniture store**

- We collect unwanted furniture from Powys, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Swansea areas; we can do small repairs and simple refurbishments. We Repair, Recycle, Refurbish and Resell furniture within the local community

- **Wood Store**

- We collect unwanted timber to save from landfill, clean and sort it, and sell it.
- We produce firewood from offcuts and kindling and have purchased a kindling machine enabling us to streamline the process, as well as making sawdust briquette pellets

Community Recycling

- We operate a recycling facility for:
 - Used spectacles
 - books
 - foreign coins
 - Postage stamps
 - clothes & textiles
 - ink cartridges & mobile phones



Case Studies

Helping those in most need

We are regularly called on to support social services and community partners in rehousing a cross section of people from, families in crisis, to those needing emergency new housing because of; domestic violence, eviction - to people who are destitute and have had to flee their homelands (immigration) so as to avoid persecution. Over the year we have helped many families in need through: the provision of household furniture, bedding, clothes and other support. We also ensure families are signposted to other agencies and support groups for financial and other

help. We also make a valued contribution to assist integration people into the community.



Partnerships

We know first-hand that for voluntary organisations to meet the challenges of the future we must work together, to organise and look ahead to prepare for the future. We continued to collaborate and connect with local people, organisations and services through strong partnerships.

- The Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre is currently working in partnerships with:
 - WCVA – Wales Council for Voluntary Action
 - PAVO – Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations
 - SCVS – Swansea Council for Voluntary Services
 - NPTCVS – Neath Port Talbot CVS

Some of Our Working Partners/Memberships:

PAVO; NPTCVS;
Job Centre Plus
Probation Service

SCVS;
Apple A Day
Remploy

Western Valleys Communities First
Powys County Council



South Wales Stick Makers – we continue to provide a resource to our partners to facilitate activities at the centre - for example workshops for people who want to learn the craft of stick making. The workshops are highly valued and popular. The group promote and foster the craft of stick making and other crafts through demonstrations and presentations. Feedback from participants is positive, many reporting interesting and rewarding experiences from the workshops.

- **A Resource in the Community:**

- All local voluntary groups, clubs and workers are able to use our facilities, leave leaflets and posters, etc.
- We are happy to advertise information for other national, educational, charitable and voluntary organisations.
- We also offer access to the internet, communicate by email with other bureaux and organisations in and around, as well as outside of Powys.
- We also have a local slot in the Wales wide volunteering website at <https://powys.volunteering-wales.net> where we post our volunteering opportunities.

- **Networking:**

- The Powys Network of Bureaux and Community Support office (PCSN) continue to work together as a team to share experiences, policies, and standard procedures.
- The Centre also works with several other local groups where voluntary and community input is an important part of the remit, and where networking can further benefit the volunteers and the community.
- Work in partnership with local organisations and charities.

Scope & Geographical coverage:

YVC serves Ystradgynlais and neighbouring communities of Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Swansea and borders of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

We are inclusive and diverse in our support but our priority focus is people living in or at risk of poverty and/or social isolation in areas of Ystradgynlais (Powys local authority) and close border localities of Neath Port Talbot, and Swansea.

Banking& Finance :

The Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre holds more than one bank account locally although the financial statements include everything as one total.

We have-

Community Account Co-op	-	Fundraising & Reserves
Barclays Community Account	-	Holding for day to day use

- The reserves as held are being built on annually to account for any major repairs or maintenance that could arise, unexpected bills and for staff redundancy if the charity had to close.
- Although currently still being built up it is hoped we would hold enough of a fund to pay off debtors due for up to 3 months before any closure dates or as part of an exit strategy if needed.

Donations/Contributions:

Several individuals have kindly made various donations to the YVC through the year in recognition of various assisted community services. A Gift aid claim is made annually. All donations made are listed as received and kept on file within the office. With training planned, it is hoped we can increase our Gift Aid scheme as this is an area that can make so much more from a little donation with every 25p in the £1 tax free through HMRC.

We gratefully acknowledge and thank all the Trusts, Charitable Funders, clients and others who have given their support and had faith in us this year.

Financial Report for 2018/19.

A copy of the 2018/19 accounts is attached.

Our thanks are offered to our accountants Messrs Harvey, Peters & Co, of Pontardawe, who have again worked with us to independently examine the accounts.

Information and Contact

- Website / Promotion & Publicity is managed and monitored between staff & volunteers
 - Our website is www.ystradgynlaisvc.org.uk
 - We have a Facebook Profile Page
 - an eBay account [ystradvc](#)
 - We promote volunteering opportunities with the all-Wales volunteering website at <https://powys.volunteering-wales.net> .



Appendix 1

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER PLACEMENTS

1st Swansea Valley Oak Scout Group
Brecon Beacons National Park
Brecon and District Credit Union
British Heart Foundation
The British Red Cross Shop
Brynamman Cinema
Cwm Du Glen & Glanrhyd Plantation Nature Reserve
Canolfan Maerdy
CATCH
Clydach Heritage Centre
Community Car Scheme
Contact the Elderly
Crisis
Cwrt Enfys
Cymru Versus Arthritis
Dementia Matters
Diabetes UK
Enfys Foundation
Fieldbay Ltd
Guide Dogs
Girl Guides
Hafal
Hafan-y-Coed Abercrave
Llamau - Youth Homeless Helpline
Lluest Horse and Pony Trust
Mari Lwyd Ystradgynlais
Melin Community Trust
Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Mountain Movers
Multiple Sclerosis Society Swansea and District
National Trust at Aberdulais Falls
National Youth Advocacy Service
Neath Port Talbot CVS
Neath Port Talbot Carers Service
Neuro Cafe a
Neath Port Talbot CVS
Pantry Food Bank
Pontardawe Arts Centre
Powys Citizens Advice Bureau
Powys Community Health Council
RNIB Cymru
Snap Cymru
Swansea Prison (Pact Cymru)
Wales Ape and Monkey Sanctuary
The British Legion

The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales (Brecknock Wildlife Trust)
Theatr na nog
Tiddlywinks
Wales Air Ambulance
Western Beacons Mountain Rescue
Ystalyfera Development Trust
Ystradgynlais Disability Sports Club
Ystradgynlais Hospital
Ystradgynlais Library
Ystradgynlais Rugby Club
Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall
Ystradowen Community Centre