ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026



Registered CIO: 1160733

Chairmans Report

My name is Andrew Pemble, and I am the Acting Chair of Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre. Although I took up the role in October 2026, I present this report on behalf of the Board of Trustees, covering the period April 2025 to March 2026. This has been a year of significant change, renewed focus, and important groundwork for the future of the Centre, and it is my privilege to reflect on the progress made in an increasingly challenging economic environment — one that continues to affect our community and many charity based organisations.

Before highlighting key developments, I want to express sincere thanks to the community, whose ongoing support enables the YVC to reach people where help is most needed. I also extend heartfelt appreciation to our staff and volunteers, whose commitment underpins everything we do. Their efforts throughout 2025/2026 laid essential foundations for the changes now fully underway, and the Board is deeply grateful for their dedication.

The period April 2025 to March 2026 saw the Centre continue to deliver essential support to the community while strengthening the foundations of several key services. Our recycling initiative remained a central part of our green ethos, with furniture, household items, clothing, and other donations being received — and often collected by our drivers and vans — prepared for resale, and offered at affordable prices. This work not only reduces landfill and promotes reuse, but also ensures that individuals and families in need can access essential items at low, or sometimes, no cost. The income generated through these efforts directly supports the wider mission of the YVC.

Our Food Bank continued to be a vital lifeline for those facing hardship, providing consistent and compassionate support during a time of increasing financial pressure for many households. We saw continuing demand, and the dedication of volunteers ensured that we could respond effectively and sensitively to those who rely on this service.

The Café — and the Centre more broadly — experienced a period of transition in management during the year. We extend our thanks to past managers for their contributions, and we look forward with excitement as we implement a refreshed strategy focused on supporting those who are economically challenged, as well as providing a warm, welcoming space for companionship and community connection. The Café remains an important social hub, and the changes underway will strengthen its role in the year ahead.

During the review period, we also began the early stages of reinvigorating our network of partnerships with likeminded organisations, both nonprofit and commercial. These relationships are essential to expanding our reach and enhancing the support we can offer across Ystradgynlais and the surrounding area.

We also recognise that the funding landscape has become more challenging, with fewer grant opportunities available to charities across Wales and the UK. This presents a real test for organisations like ours who have a partial dependency on grants. However, while this may be testing for us, it is also an opportunity. Rather than deter us, these changing dynamics have energised the Board and Management Team to explore new ways of managing costs, diversifying income, and developing sustainable funding opportunities that will protect the Centre's long-term future.

Internally, we revisited our approach to diversity, with particular attention to gender balance. The work undertaken in 2025/2026 — still in its early stages at that time — has continued into the current year and resulted in a Management Team and Board of Trustees with a strong and healthy balance of men and women. This diversity brings broader perspectives, stronger decision making, and the organisational
resilience we know comes from inclusive leadership.

During the period under review, the Centre continued to operate and deliver services to the community. Following the reporting year, and as part of a wider organisational refresh, the Board and new management team undertook a comprehensive review of our governance, safety processes, and compliance arrangements. This review identified several areas where our systems could be strengthened to meet the revised standards we now set for ourselves.

We now have a much more robust governance framework in place, with clearer processes, stronger oversight, and a renewed focus on compliance. These improvements position the YVC on a firmer footing for the future and reflect the Board's dedication to maintaining a safe, resilient, and well managed organisation for the benefit of the community.

2025/2026 has without doubt been the start of a period of positive change for the YVC. With work currently underway with the new Board and Management Teams, a multiyear strategy is being formed to ensure the YVC evolves with the demands of the challenging world many people are experiencing. This strategic focus is seeing a strengthening of our services, a deepening of our partnerships, and a commitment to ensuring the Centre continues to be a safe, welcoming, and dependable place for all who use us. We approach the year ahead with optimism, determination, and a clear sense of purpose.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Introduction

This Annual Report outlines the positive impact we have made within the community of Ystradgynlais and surrounding areas across Powys and Neath Port Talbot during the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre (YVC) is a registered charity that works alongside volunteers and third-sector organisations to support and enhance the wellbeing of people in Ystradgynlais and neighbouring communities.

Collaborations

From our experience, we know that voluntary organisations are strongest when they work together to plan, adapt, and prepare for the future. We continue to build meaningful connections with local people, community groups, and services, working in partnership to support and strengthen our communities.

Working Partners

PAVO	Powys County Council	Community Dreams	Probation Service
WCVA	Job Centre	Legacy in the Community	Community Repaint
POBL	Severn Wye		
Tesco			

We continue to work closely with local schools, churches and community organisations, who help us support local individuals and families throughout the year.

Funders

Community Groups

South Wales Stick Makers

Crafty Crew

We continue to provide a welcoming space and resources for community groups such as South Wales Stickmakers and The Crafty Crew, helping to facilitate regular activities and bring people together.

Our Charity

Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre (YVC) has long been at the heart of the community, providing opportunities for volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to get involved, whether through community projects, events, or day-to-day support. Over the years, the YVC has grown to include a range of initiatives aimed at meeting the diverse needs of the local community.

Ystrad Recycling was one of the centre's earliest projects, the aim is to promote environmental awareness and sustainability. We do this by encouraging our local community to recycle and reduce waste. This initiative has helped the local environment and has also provided those who are passionate about green living with the opportunity to volunteer.

Recognising the need to support families facing food insecurity, **Ystradgynlais Foodbank** was established to provide essential food supplies to individuals and families in crisis. The foodbank relies heavily on volunteers and donations, ensuring that no one in the community goes hungry.

Ti a Fi Café offers a warm, welcoming space for individuals to come together and connect with others. The Café has some amazing volunteers, who do everything from taking orders and serving meals to clearing tables and washing up. It's a real community hub where there's always a warm welcome and a friendly face.

Adding to the range of projects, the **YVC Shed** was created as a space for people to come together, share skills, and work on practical projects. It offers a supportive environment for those who enjoy hands-on activities, helping to combat social isolation while encouraging creativity and collaboration.

Thanks to these projects, Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre keeps bringing people together, offering support, and helping to build a strong, connected community.

Aims & Objectives

- **To support and promote volunteering** by recruiting, placing, and supporting volunteers within the local community, helping individuals find meaningful opportunities that match their skills and interests.
- **To strengthen community well-being** by providing services such as volunteering, furniture recycling, the foodbank, Ti a Fi Cafe, the YVC Shed and the Community Garden which address social, practical, and economic needs.
- **To reduce social isolation and improve quality of life** by creating welcoming spaces where people can connect, build friendships, and participate in community projects.
- **To empower individuals through skills development**, offering volunteering roles and community activities that help build confidence, experience, and employability.
- **To promote sustainability and environmental awareness** through recycling initiatives, upcycling projects, and responsible resource use within the community.
- **To collaborate with local agencies and organisations** to provide coordinated support and ensure the needs of vulnerable individuals and families are met effectively.

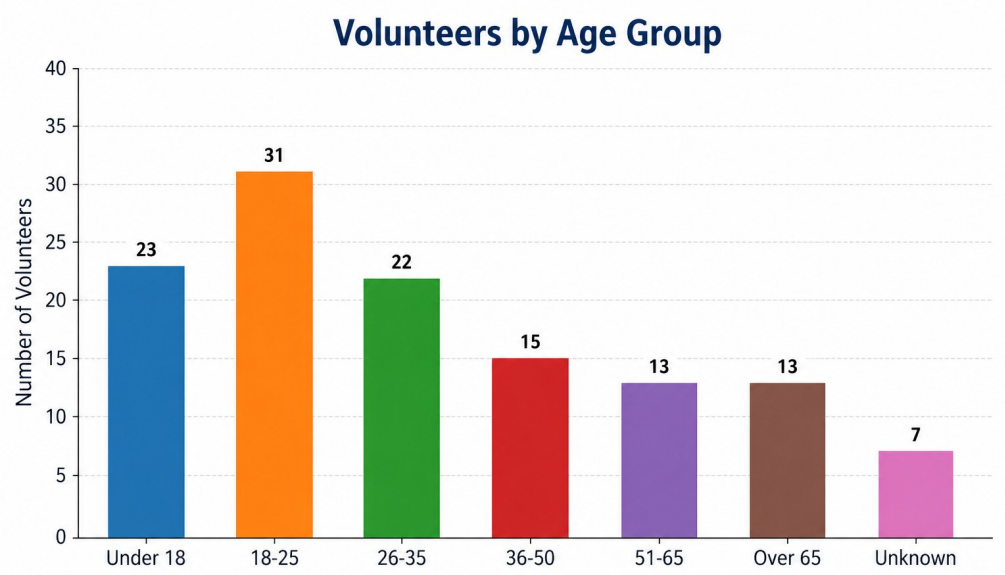
Volunteering

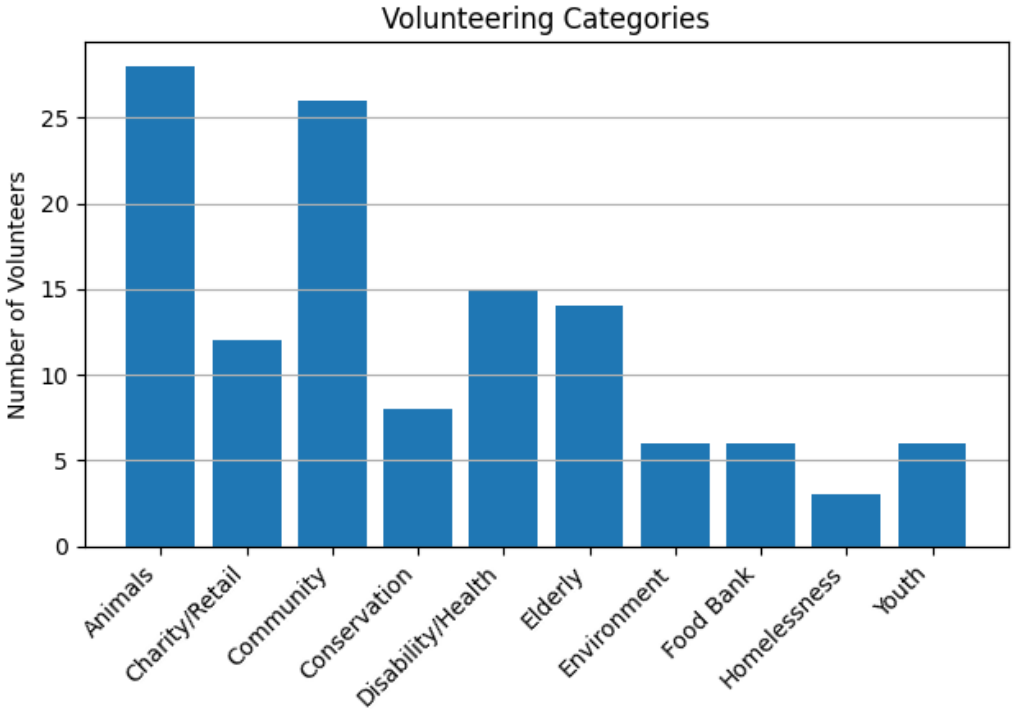
Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre creates a community where people can come together through volunteering. We make this happen by showing people how valuable volunteering can be and also offer a wide range of opportunities for everyone to get involved so they can gain skills and experience.

In March 2026, we hosted our Volunteer Voices Event in partnership with PAVO, bringing together volunteers and community organisations to celebrate the valuable contribution volunteers make to our communities. The event provided an opportunity to recognise and thank volunteers for their time and dedication. We were pleased to welcome the High Sheriff of Powys, Sally Roberts, who helped us celebrate the achievements of volunteers and organisations including the YVC Shed, South Wales Stickmakers, Community Dreams, The Josef Herman Foundation, Ystradgynlais Welfare and Friends of Llangiwg Church.

New Volunteers Placed

124





Recycling

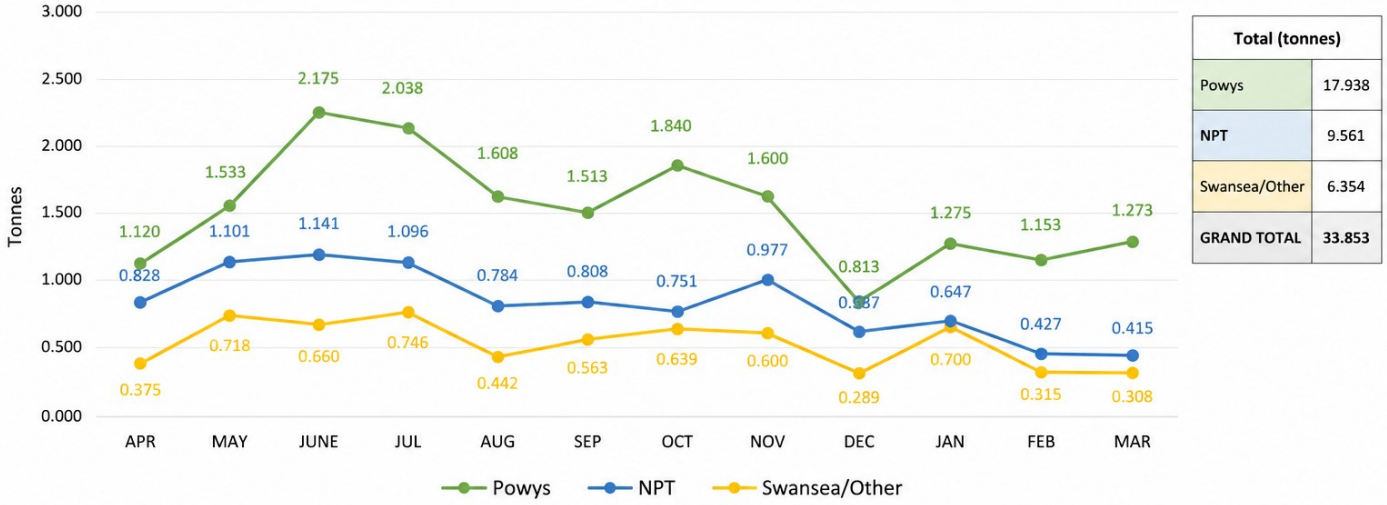
Ystrad Recycling is a community-driven initiative that encourages sustainable living by promoting recycling, reusing and reducing waste, while also providing volunteering opportunities for those passionate about protecting the environment. Additionally, we repurpose household and other goods for resale or use within the community.

Furniture Recycling—Tonnage by Month

	APR	MAY	JUNE	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	Totals (tonnes)
Powys	1.120	1.533	2.175	2.038	1.608	1.513	1.840	1.600	0.813	1.275	1.153	1.273	17.938
NPT	0.828	1.101	1.141	1.096	0.784	0.808	0.751	0.977	0.587	0.647	0.427	0.415	9.561
Swansea/Other	0.375	0.718	0.660	0.746	0.442	0.563	0.639	0.600	0.289	0.700	0.315	0.308	6.354
TOTAL (tonnes)	**2.323**	**3.352**	**3.976**	**3.880**	**2.834**	**2.884**	**3.230**	**3.177**	**1.689**	**2.622**	**1.895**	**1.995**	**33.853**

Note: Original figures in kg converted to tonnes (÷ 1,000)

Furniture Recycling—Tonnes by Month



Total (tonnes)	
Powys	17.938
NPT	9.561
Swansea/Other	6.354
GRAND TOTAL	33.853

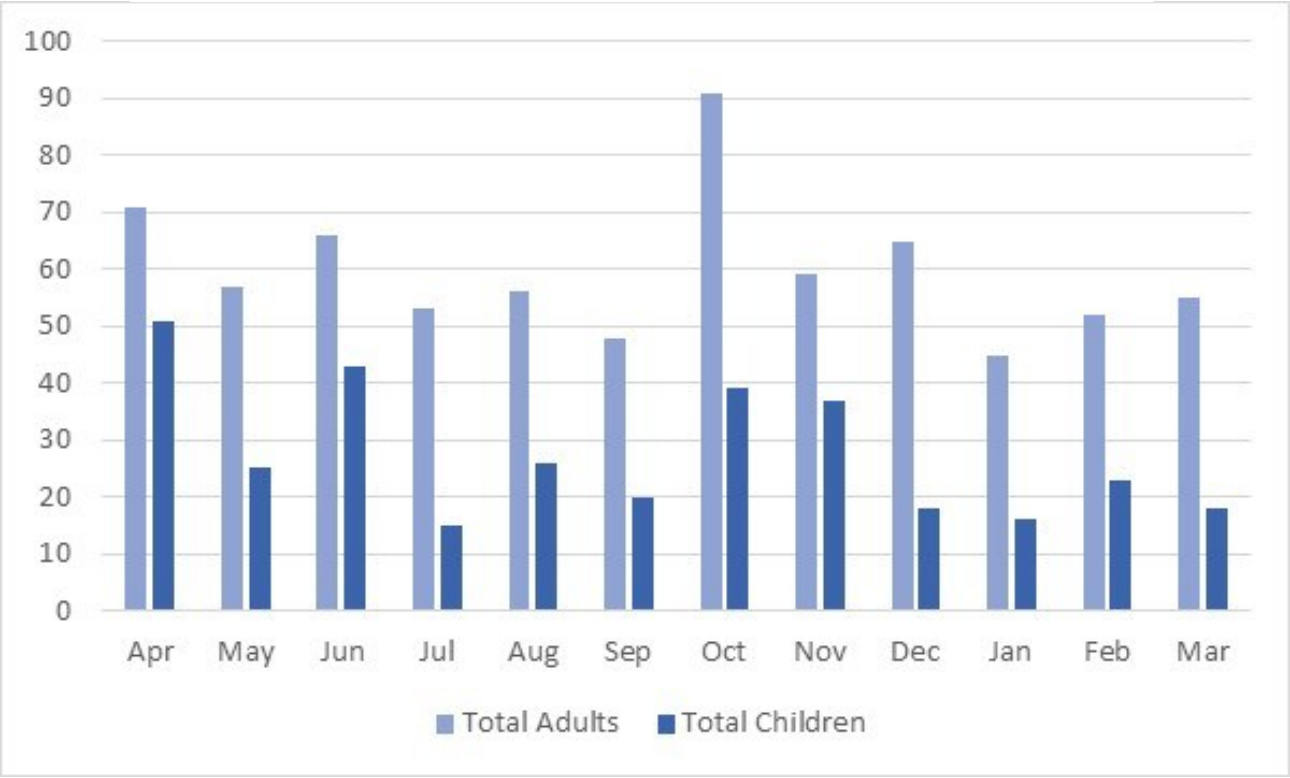


Ystradgynlais Foodbank

The Ystradgynlais Foodbank supports individuals and families experiencing financial hardship by providing essential food and household items. It plays a vital role in tackling food insecurity and promoting the wellbeing of the local community. The service is made possible thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers who give their time each week to keep things running smoothly, as well as the generosity of our supporters whose donations help us continue this important work.

We also work in partnership with Tesco, who provide a donation basket in store, allowing customers to donate essential food items directly to the Foodbank.

Total Number of Food Parcels Provided



Ti A Fi Cafe

Ti a Fi Café continues to provide a welcoming and affordable space for the local community to meet, enjoy freshly prepared food and drinks, and spend time together. The café offers a range of homemade meals, cakes and refreshments, with takeaway also available.

The café relies heavily on the support of its dedicated volunteers, who give their time each week to help with serving customers, preparing food, cleaning and the day-to-day running of the café. Their commitment and friendly approach help create the warm and welcoming atmosphere that makes Ti a Fi Café such an important part of the community.



YVC Shed

The YVC Shed has continued to grow from strength to strength, with membership numbers increasing every month. We're lucky to have a wonderful group of members who join us each week, whether to work on their own projects or simply to enjoy a chat and a cuppa. Over the past few months, they've dedicated their time to creating beautiful Christmas decorations, which were a big hit at the local Christmas fairs.













Buying Social

Ystradgynlais Community Recycling is proud to operate as a Social Enterprise.

Social Enterprises are making a positive impact across the world, and our mission is to drive meaningful social change. When you choose to buy from a social enterprise, you're supporting a business that gives back to the community. We help create jobs, improve people's life opportunities, offer training and employment, support local communities, and contribute to protecting the environment.

Helping those in need

We regularly work with local agencies and community partners to support individuals and families in need. Through Ystrad Recycling, we help provide essential furniture, electrical items and other household goods to people who are moving into a new home, experiencing financial hardship or needing support to replace essential items.

This support can make a real difference to people who may otherwise struggle to afford the things they need to create a safe and comfortable home. We are proud to be able to provide practical support to those in our local community, while also helping to give unwanted items a new lease of life through reuse.





Committee Members

Trustee Chairperson:	Gabe Thomas
Treasurer:	Steve Rose
Trustee Members:	Nick Gould
	Andrew Pemble
Accounts:	Fergusons and Peters
Human Resources:	Mr D Williams

YVC Staff

Keiron Burke	- YVC Manager
Josie Bailey	- Recycling Manager
Elizabeth Davies	- Volunteer/Client Coordinator
Karl Lewis	- Recycling Van Driver
Aidan Wilcox	- Recycling Technician
Caroline Burke	- Café Manager
Aidan Radjenovic	- Café Assistant
Robyn Henderson	- Café Assistant



Contact Us

Ystradgynlaisvc.org.uk

01639 845 475

yvcvolunteering@gmail.com

Wind Road, Ystradgynlais,
Swansea, Powys, SA9 1AF

www.facebook.com/ystradgynlaisvolunteercentre

www.facebook.com/recycling.ystradgynlais

www.facebook.com/ystradgynlaisfoodbank