



07/11/2017

Dear Denbighshire Asset Management Group,

Llangollen Community Garden was established in 2012 by local volunteers. Taking on an overgrown wilderness, volunteers have worked hard to create a wonderful community asset.

- Year-on-year development has built a flourishing community space, with a variety of crops, a social area, and a children's play area, which is open to all.
- Every year an average of 800 volunteer hours have been invested in the garden.
- Over 120 children have taken part in our youth group sessions, from schools, Brownies, Guides and Beaver groups.
- Provides training and support for adults in the community.

The community garden has received terrific community support. From work on site to tools and greenhouses, local people have contributed in whatever way they could. The community garden has proven to be a financially self-sustaining asset. The site has been kept in a tidy condition, much improved compared to the state it was taken over in. The site boundaries are managed suitably.

We have organised or facilitated at least 32 events since starting at the garden. These events are always well supported by the community. Our most recent Apple pressing event was attended by over 50 people. Events have included bonfire evenings, woodland skills, traditional building techniques, pollinator events, open-days, community BBQs, Welsh language events and more. The full list of events is attached.

We have provided growing skills sessions for the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers and local schoolchildren. These events have been planned and provided by volunteers, and have proven to be very popular with the groups involved. Over 120 youth group members have taken advantage of our sessions provided free of charge.

Supported by Keep Wales Tidy and Cadwyn Clwyd we have been able to provide formal training sessions for adults. By making best use of paid for and volunteer skills, we have been able to deliver over 750 hours of formal training in this way.

The community garden eases pressure on the oversubscribed allotment waiting list. Waiting times for allotments in Llangollen can easily be 10 years. For people without any garden, the community garden is their only option. By providing tuition, tools and a space to grow we provide opportunities for all of the community to get involved in food production.

Having spent time developing the growing environment including increasing soil fertility, developing biodiversity and encouraging pollinators, it is simply not possible to re-locate the garden with enough speed to retain volunteer enthusiasm. We would reluctantly admit that any move to relocate the community garden will almost certainly result in the closure of this community asset.

Research has shown that community gardens reconnect people with nature, improve mental health, promote healthier diets, provide opportunities for exercise, instigate support networks, strengthen communities, and overall support the delivery of government agendas relating to social inclusion, health, climate change, education, regeneration and local economies.<sup>123</sup>

A number of our members can give very personal examples of how volunteering at the community garden has helped them with mental health issues and feelings of social exclusion. We encourage you to consider how the community garden is helping to increase community capacity and resilience in line with the DCC asset management strategy, specifically looking at outcome 4 of the strategy.

The community garden also directly helps the Council fulfil its duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. It explicitly meets the criteria by ensuring long-term thinking, improving physical and mental wellbeing of the wider community, and increasing biodiversity. All of this is provided due to the work of Llangollen Community Garden volunteers, at no cost to the Council.

As key stakeholders in the development and management of this land, we are disappointed to have not been consulted ahead of this meeting. We have invested significant time and resources into turning the land into a valuable community asset, and had reasonable cause to believe that our licence agreement would be renewed on an ongoing basis. We believe it is imperative that any change of use of the land should be discussed with us, and we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you, to further explain the importance of the community garden to our local community and demonstrate the benefits.

Given the range of benefits provided by the garden, and the range of potential future benefits, we ask that you reject any offer to dispose of this asset.

Warren Davies

Llangollen Community Garden / Gardd Cymunedol Llangollen

Tel/Ffon: 07525 016503

Web: [www.llangollengarden.co.uk](http://www.llangollengarden.co.uk)

FB: [www.facebook.com/LlangollenCommunityGarden](https://www.facebook.com/LlangollenCommunityGarden)

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sustainweb.org/growinghealth/evidence/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/system/files/true\\_value\\_report.pdf](https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/system/files/true_value_report.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/asset/document/the-value-of-public-space1.pdf>

## **Extra Garden Events at Llangollen Community Garden**

Please note that these events are in addition to weekly gardening sessions, and separate management and planning meetings.

### **2017**

#### **Apple Day**

22<sup>nd</sup> October 10.30am – 2.30pm  
Attended by over 50 people  
Pressing local apples to make juice

#### **Llangollen Buzz**

27 May 11am – 4pm  
A free family fun day celebrating pollinators  
Held at Plas Newydd due to large size.  
Organised and supported by garden volunteers.

### **2016**

#### **Christmas Wreaths**

Sunday 18 December  
Practical session using greenery found in the garden.

#### **Family Bonfire**

Saturday 12 November – an open evening event.

#### **School Visit Ysgol Y Gwernant**

Friday 10 June  
37 children plus teachers attended garden  
Programme of 5 outdoor activities run by garden volunteers.

#### **Maypole & Bonfire**

Saturday 7 May from 6.30pm – open event

#### **Spring Bonfire**

Saturday 19 March – an open evening event

### **2015**

#### **Christmas Wreaths**

Sunday 20 December  
Practical session using garden greenery .

#### **Story Telling**

Saturday 18 July 7 – 9 pm  
Fiona Collins & Storytellers  
Open free event run during Fringe Week

#### **Lime Rendering**

Saturday 20 June 10am – 4pm  
An open workshop led by Ty Mawr Lime

#### **Brownie Visit**

Wednesday 20 May 5.30 – 7pm  
24 Brownies plus 6 leaders  
Activities led by garden volunteers including willow weaving

#### **Open Garden**

Saturday 18 April 11am – 2pm  
Open Social Event – Come & see the garden in Spring

<b>Keep Wales Tidy Awards</b>	26 February 2015 Attended event at Pierhead Cardiff Garden awarded finalist status in Recycling & Innovation Award for 2014
<b><u>2014</u> Project Visit FCFCG</b>	7 October Sarah Collick (Project officer for Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens) and members from a community group visited garden to get inspiration for new project
<b>Green Wood Work 2</b>	Sunday 28 September & Sunday 21 September Run by garden & hosted at Bodfari Woodland Centre (with financial support from Cadwyn Clwyd) Open Workshops – wooden stool and bench making
<b>Straw Bale Workshop 2</b>	Saturday 5 August Practical workshop in Sustainable Building (roofing) Led by members Felin Uchaf – Llyn Peninsula Open event (financial support from Cadwyn Clwyd)
<b>Straw Bale Workshop 1</b>	Saturday 5 July Sustainable building workshop : building with straw (see above)
<b>Beavers Visit</b>	Monday 2 June Beavers plus leaders visited for organised activities
<b>Green Wood Work &amp; Willow</b>	Sunday 1 June & Saturday 31 May Using a shave horse & Weaving from willow – open workshop Led by Bodfari Woodland Centre at garden (supported by Cadwyn Clwyd)
<b>Welsh learners Gardening</b>	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> May, 6.30-8.30pm Fun session for learners to practise using their spoken Welsh in a 'real life' setting.
<b>Guide Visit</b>	Wednesday 30 April 6.30 – 8.30pm Practical activities led by garden volunteers (return visit from 1 <sup>st</sup> Llangollen Guides)
<b>Project Talk</b>	Friday 14 March at Howey Builth Wells Garden presentation – 15 min talk with photographs given at All Wales Gathering of Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens
<b>Wild Weekend</b>	Saturday 8 March

<b>Event</b>	Practical Work Day with emphasis on Pollinators (small grant from Keep Wales Tidy)
<b><u>2013</u></b>	
<b>Family Bonfire</b>	Friday 15 November Open Social Event
<b>Project Presentation</b>	Sunday 29 September at Glyn Ceiriog Inspirational Projects : short photo presentation/talk On garden at N Wales Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens Regional Gathering
<b>Rainbows Visit</b>	Tuesday 24 September 5.30 – 6.30pm 19 Rainbows plus leaders attended for practical garden activities led by our volunteers
<b>Guide Visit</b>	Wednesday 18 September 16 guides plus leaders attended Programme of activities run by volunteers
<b>Summer BBQ</b>	Friday 9 August from 6pm Open Social Event to celebrate new garden
<b>Friends of Earth N Wales Network</b>	Saturday 22 June Visit & practical project work at garden
<b>Bee World</b>	Saturday 18 May 9am – 4pm Practical Project Day & Open Day to show case garden attended by Susan Elan Jones MP planting for pollinators
<b><u>2012</u></b>	
<b>Wild Weekend</b>	Saturday 27 October 9.30am – 2.30pm Practical Project Open Day Emphasis on wildlife : bat boxes & brash hedge 21 adults & 5 children attended during day Our very first event !
<b>First Volunteer Day</b>	Saturday 29 September 10am – 12.30pm Community Garden begins 8 volunteers & visit from DCC

Note : Although License agreed in late May 2012 we chose not to begin major clearing work until after nesting season had finished. A number of site visits and a little initial clearing was done prior to promoting our first open volunteer day in September.

For images and further details of the garden please visit our website:  
[www.llangollengarden.co.uk](http://www.llangollengarden.co.uk), and our Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/LlangollenCommunityGarden](https://www.facebook.com/LlangollenCommunityGarden).