

Annex 1

New Quay Memorial Hall - Annual Report - 2024

Registered Charity number 1179995

Charitable Incorporated Organisation CIO

Trustees

Dr. Julian Evans – Chairman

Roger Clissold - Treasurer & Special Advisor

Sioned Davies

Pat Walton

Dorothy Lee

Moira Attrill – Secretary

Objectives and Aims

Our objectives and aims are to provide and maintain a Community Hall for the benefit of the area in and surrounding New Quay Ceredigion, without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including the use of the facilities for meetings, classes, markets and other forms of recreational and leisure time activities.

Annual Report 2024

In November 2023 the Hall Management Committee were awarded £144,000 from ‘**The National Lottery Rural Futures Community Fund.**’ This money now supports a full-time Development Officer whose task is to develop and enhance activities in the Hall and to develop the resource as a Community Hub over three years.

This report highlights the main events and achievements made by

Hwb Cymunedol Cei Newydd in its first year of funding from The National Lottery Rural Futures Community Fund

The CIO is very grateful to the Fund for giving them the opportunity to address some significant issues in the local community.

The project began in November 2023 with the appointment of a Development Officer. This appointment did not work out and, after 3 months in post, the officer resigned. With the agreement of the Lottery and following a recruitment process that attracted no suitable applicants, Sharon Evans, a former Trustee of the Hall took on the post. This appointment has brought focus, drive and stability to the project.

The project is focused around 4 key themes:

- 1. Money Matters – helping with the cost-of-living crisis.**
- 2. Health Matters – helping individuals avoid social isolation.**
- 3. Education Matters – sharing skills and knowledge to benefit all.**
- 4. Community Matters – raising awareness of the Hub as a place for all.**

1. Money Matters - Financial and personal advice has been delivered by Citizens Advice.

Quarterly sessions offering guidance held at the Hub on a Friday morning during the weekly Market.

Community clothes rails and a children's toy box/ book stall have been set up. The clothes rails offer 'pre-loved', clothes in excellent condition, which are donated then passed on at 'give what you can afford' prices. This approach helps the Hub to reach out to those who may feel uncomfortable about receiving charity.

The toy box/children's book stall is available at the Friday Market and items are available for a small donation or free of charge.

A Beaver Group has started at The Hall just before the summer holidays as a taster session and has gone from strength to strength.

They meet on a weekly basis at The Hub and have already had a sleepover at the hall, done local activities, and gained various badges.

Volunteers are now needed so that New Quay Beavers can continue.

2. Health Matters - Isolation is a serious issue for people living in rural areas. This is especially the case for older people. The following strands of The Hub's work help towards overcoming isolation. A Tuesday monthly Lunch Club has been started and is increasingly popular.

A Warm Hub was established in late 2023. It was open weekdays throughout the winter 2023/2024 offering the community (of all ages) a warm space, with free teas and coffees and a friendly welcome to chat and meet friends, old and new. Around 12-15 people come on a regular basis, making new friends, chatting and playing games - many of whom don't have family for help or support. Since coming to the warm hub, many have now joined other activities at the Hub.

The Rowing Club hold indoor sessions at The Hub. The sessions bring together the sea rowing members who would normally not be able to exercise as a group during the winter months. Sessions are open to non-club members, encouraging those new to this form of exercise to join a friendly and supportive group.

The Friendship Group meets weekly on a Thursday to offer a warm friendly environment, for chatting, crafting, coffee and cake! It has been a great way to encourage intergenerational activity. The adults have included the children in their games and drawing. All have thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The friendships have continued outside the group, and the Development Officer has been impressed by how the children have gained confidence and are happy to chat to the older members of the group. Both adults and children have learned new crafts which will help the children as they get older.

3. Education Matters - some of the educational activities that have developed at The Hub include .Dysgu Bro – Digital Skills, a series of weekly sessions to help people use devices : computer, tablet or mobile phone for simple, personal and work tasks.

People learn how to find and use information on the internet, understand how to be safe and responsible online, communicate socially and professionally using email, messaging and social media.

The Hub has also hosted First Aid Courses and a Safeguarding course Levels 1 & 2

Age Cymru Dyfed attend the Friday Market regularly and bring a range of booklets and information, engaging with the stall holders and visitors. A bilingual Age Friendly Directory

has recently been published which includes a range of information on transport, housing, social inclusion, as well as information on community support and health services.

Storytime - Stori Amser

Stori Amser is aimed at pre-school children and runs for one session a month and in school holidays. Adults stay with the children throughout Storytime, but the session is run by volunteers.

Story tellers get together to decide which stories they read. An English and Welsh story is read and after reading both books, they chat with children about the books and children ask questions. Children then have an activity relating to the book that has been read.

4. Community Matters The Hub provides a mix of signposting and direct support projects.

Renewed connections have been made with the local nursery and three local schools (Ysgol Feithrin Cei Newydd, Ysgol Bro Sion Cwilt and Ysgol Cei Newydd). They have participated in several events and celebrations at The Hub. In extending invitations to the schools, local families awareness of The Hub has in turn been raised.

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In March the Hub celebrated St David's Day and involved Ysgol Feithrin and Ysgol Cei Newydd. Mostly in Welsh costume, the children walked around the village, finishing at the Hall with a short concert, before returning to school. Traditional Welsh food was served, including cawl, bread and cheese, bara brith and Welsh cakes at the market.

The Hub has hosted many other celebrations and events which have been well attended and supported by all members of the community, be they school children, parents, business owners, voluntary organisations, dignitaries and of course our New Quay residents.

The weekly Friday Market is an important place for people to meet up and chat. It has come to be an important and very popular event at The Hub.

The Friday Market was established in 2018 and provides a low-cost outlet for locally grown seasonal fruit, vegetables and plants, homemade cakes and savouries and artisan products. The market appeals to local people and visitors alike. The market has been a launchpad for other initiatives through the conversations that happen as people meet each other.

The Hub has worked hard to put on sessions that bring people together. The Lego Club is an example of an activity that, initially aimed at children, is now attracting adults as well. Similarly the weekly Bingo was started after community requests for an accessible venue.

From the outset, The Hub has worked closely with a large cross section of local organisations, businesses, schools and the wider community in general. New Quay Town Council, New Quay Library, Blood Bank Wales, Royal British Legion and Working4NewQuay.

Other local groups meeting weekly or monthly at the Hall include 'Seaside Sisters' WI group, New Quay Camera Club, Badminton, Family Support groups, New Quay Snooker Club, Clonc – Welsh learners conversation group, New Quay Rowing Club and Indoor Bowls.

The success of the Lottery bid was celebrated with an afternoon party. The Hub welcomed lots of school children and locals. It was an opportunity to thank everyone who had worked so hard on the bid. Two long standing volunteers at the Hall were presented with certificates by CAVO - (Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations)

Closer ties have been formed with CAVO, who have been supporting the Trustees during the lengthy recruitment process and readily offer their help with queries. CAVO highlights further grant opportunities and sign-posts new services to the wider community through their regular communications.

CAVO have established an 'Anchor Group' which the Development Officer attends. This group consists of members of CAVO, Ray Ceredigion, Pennant Community Centre, Borth Community Hub and Aberporth Community Hub. It has been a great way of joining up with other community groups to share ideas, acting as a sounding board for issues and hearing about new opportunities.

Plans for Year 2 and Beyond

The Hub will continue to meet the needs of local people. Poverty has affected the area greatly and there will be new challenges to meet. With The Hub's strong community connections, it feels confident that it is well placed to either respond to needs itself or nurture links with other organisations.

The priorities for Year 2 are to:

- Strengthen existing commitments at the Hub and to follow through the targets that the Trustees set out in their lottery application.
- Increase the number of volunteers working together.
- Increase the number of activities and sessions.
- Broadening the age range of users of The Hub. This will include providing activities for secondary age children and new mother and baby groups.