



Partneriaeth Rheilffordd  
Cymunedol Dyffryn Conwy  
ac Arfordir Gogledd Cymru

Conwy Valley and North  
Wales Coast Community  
Rail Partnership

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

CONWY VALLEY AND NORTH WALES COAST  
COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP



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# THE PARTNERSHIP

## WHO WE ARE AND OUR AIMS

**Welcome to the Conwy Valley and North Wales Coast Community Rail Partnership.**

We are an accredited Community Rail Partnership, awarded by the Community Rail Network (CRN), Department for Transport and Welsh Government. Mr Philip Evans, Chair, and Haf Jones, Vice Chair, welcome you to this report which highlights the work we do in connecting communities to their railways.

Our partnership members include Transport for Wales (TfW), Avanti West Coast (AWC), Network Rail (NR), British Transport Police (BTP), Station Adoption representatives, Community Rail Network, and Groundwork North Wales as the host.

The business activity plan is delivered by all members, led by the Community Rail Officer. Our plan aims to:

- 1. Provide a voice for the community**
- 2. Promote sustainable, healthy, and accessible travel**
- 3. Bring communities together and support diversity and inclusion**
- 4. Support social and economic development**

Conwy Valley and North Wales Coast Community Rail Partnership (CRP) covers the line from Blaenau Ffestiniog through to Llandudno, and Holyhead to Shotton.



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



**MR PHILIP EVANS**

It is a pleasure to once again introduce our report covering the CRP's activities over the past 12 months.

We have made good progress in establishing new contacts with people and organisations in the areas which have been added to our extended CRP along the North East Wales Coast Line to Shotton. In addition, we are welcoming new people onto the steering group who will provide additional expertise, experience and give balance to the geographical extent of our operating area. This report highlights, in particular, the excellent work being done to encourage young people to appreciate the rail system and importantly safe practices around the railway. In doing this, we have established sound links with several schools and enabled students from varied backgrounds to experience travel on the lines within our area. Other engagement work with specific groups continues to be a key priority as we move forward.

This coming year marks the celebration of 200 years of public rail travel, and we were delighted to have been invited to the Wales & Borders launch of Railway 200 in Aberystwyth. We have supported Transport for Wales' commitment to this series of events and have played a key role in facilitating the historical exhibition at Llandudno Museum. This exhibition records some aspects of those involved in running the system over the years and highlights the social impact of the coming of railways.

My thanks are due to the Vice Chair, Haf Jones, and Karen Williams, our Community Rail Officer, for their unstinting support and enthusiasm over the past year. We are appreciative of the work done by our host organisation, Groundwork North Wales and our industry partners, Transport for Wales and Avanti West Coast. Both operating companies are important supporters of Community Rail and are always ready to provide specialist help or advice as well as hosting specific events for partnerships to foster new ideas and collaborative working.

I hope you will find the report informative and enjoy reading about the activities.

**Philip C Evans JP FIoL**

**Chair, Conwy Valley & North Wales Coast CRP**



# PROJECTS 2024-25



## WINDOW SEATER



Window Seater is a geolocated audio guide which connects you with amazing stories outside your train window. The Conwy Valley Line has been newly incorporated into the Window Seater storytelling application, which was inaugurated last September at Llandudno Station. This event was attended by representatives from Transport for Wales, **20 station adopter volunteers** and **9 members of the tourism sector**, along with Marcus Allender from Window Seater. Participants experienced a journey along the Conwy Valley Line, enriched with historical narratives and stories of the towns and villages along the route. This initiative was funded by Transport for Wales and the Conwy Valley and North Wales Coast CRP. Additional information about Window Seater can be accessed at Llandudno Station by scanning the QR code located in the booking hall.

# PROJECTS 2024-25

## ARTWORK FOR FLINT STATION WITH CROES ATTÍ DAY CENTRE, FLINT



In December, we launched ‘Memories of Flint’, an arts-based initiative, funded by Transport for Wales and in partnership with Flintshire County Council’s Croes Atti Day Centre. The centre provides vital support for individuals living with Dementia, offering sessions that promote routine and enhance cognitive skills.

Over the course of **12 weeks**, local artist Sharon Wagstaff guided **12 participants** in the creation of paintings and drawings depicting historical buildings and notable locations within the area during **2-hour sessions** held at Croes Atti. These artworks were then compiled into large scale vinyl displays, now featured in the waiting area of Flint railway station. The official launch was attended by family members, friends and participants and the Mayor of Flint, Councillor Mel Buckley.

# PROJECTS

## 2024-25

### ARTWORK FOR FLINT STATION WITH CROES ATTÍ DAY CENTRE, FLINT

#### FEEDBACK

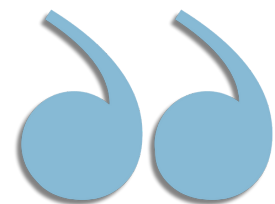


**Mayor of Flint, Councillor Mel Buckley:** *“It was an honour and delight to be asked along to the unveiling of the art project at Flint train station, in collaboration with TFW and Croes Atti Day centre. The artwork adorns the wall of the waiting area for all to see and memorialises such an important project that the service users put their all into with some pretty amazing results.*

*“Community cohesion events such as this are very important and welcomed in our town of Flint. Diolch to all those involved in the project, and I hope it brings a smile to many faces of the many travellers for the many years to come.”*

**Melanie Lawton, Strategic Head of Community Rail at Transport for Wales:** *“Flint station is at the heart of the community and is currently undergoing transformation with Access for All, a new community facility, a community garden and the addition of artwork into the waiting room that connects the railway to the community.*

*“It’s wonderful to see a celebration of our vibrant history, heritage and culture. Congratulations to the participants who have really brought the station to life with their artwork”.*



Quotes are written verbatim.



# PROJECTS 2024-25

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As part of our ongoing commitment to community engagement, our partnerships with external organisations continue to create valuable experiences for young people. This year, we have supported **137 young people** across a number of projects.

- **YOUNG CARERS' SUMMER TRIP TO THE SEASIDE**



- **DANGERPOINT LIFE SKILLS ACTIVITY CENTRE**



- **EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITY - YOUNG CARERS' TRIP TO PORTHMADOG**



# PROJECTS 2024-25

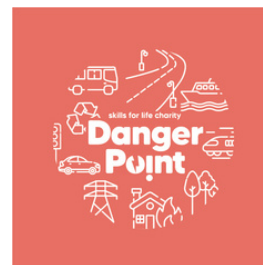
## YOUNG CARERS' SUMMER TRIP TO THE SEASIDE



During the summer, we organised a day trip for young carers, providing them with an opportunity to enjoy a well-deserved break. The group travelled by train on the Conwy Valley Line from Llanrwst to Llandudno, where they spent the day at the seaside. British Transport Police (BTP) kindly attended to deliver a rail safety briefing and hosted a Q&A session. Upon arrival in Llandudno, the young carers enjoyed a fish and chip lunch, followed by an afternoon of beach activities including pebble painting, rock building and games. The day offered a valuable chance for relaxation, fun and respite from their caring responsibilities.



# PROJECTS 2024-25



## DANGERPOINT LIFE SKILLS ACTIVITY CENTRE



Earlier this year, we collaborated with DangerPoint Life Skills Activity Centre in Talacre to provide young carers with a fun and educational outing.

Participants travelled along the coast from Llanrwst and Colwyn Bay to attend the session. Throughout the afternoon, they gained confidence and essential skills in;

- Responding to emergencies in the home
- Calling emergency services appropriately
- Using public transport safely
- Understanding equality and diversity



# PROJECTS 2024-25



## DANGERPOINT LIFE SKILLS ACTIVITY CENTRE

## FEEDBACK

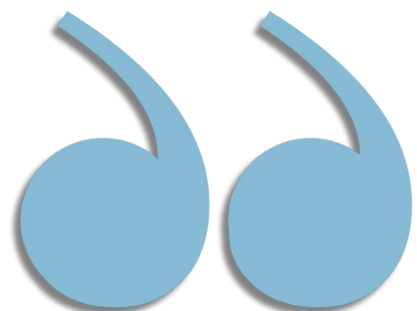
The feedback we received highlighted the success and impact of the event:



*“Thanks for today L & E had a great time and have been telling us all about fire and gas safety since getting home”*

*“S really enjoyed today; thank you”*

*“T enjoyed the trip, thanks Conwy Valley Railway for your support”*



Quotes are written verbatim.

# PROJECTS

## 2024-25

### EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITY - YOUNG CARERS' TRIP TO PORTHMADOG



As part of its ongoing support for young carers, the Conwy Valley and North Wales Coast CRP, in partnership with Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways (FfWHR), organised a special excursion during the Easter holidays. The event aimed to provide a memorable and enriching experience for the young carers, recognising their significant responsibilities at home. Participants travelled via the Conwy Valley Line from Llandudno Junction and Llanrwst to Blaenau Ffestiniog, where they boarded the FfWHR Quarryman steam train to Porthmadog. The scenic journey, conducted in a heritage-style passenger carriage, offered breathtaking views and a unique travel experience – particularly appreciated by some of the young carers with a keen interest in steam railways.

Upon arrival in Porthmadog, the group was treated to a buffet lunch at Spooners Restaurant, generously provided by the team. After lunch, the children enjoyed recreational time in the nearby park before making the return journey using FfWHR and Transport for Wales services.

This activity provided not only an opportunity for relaxation and enjoyment, but also helped acknowledge the important role young carers play within their families and communities.

# PROJECTS 2024-25



## COMMUNITY WALKING PROGRAMME IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CONWY MIND



The Conwy Valley and North Wales Coast CRP successfully secured funding from Avanti West Coast to establish a collaborative project with Conwy Mind. This funding enabled the launch of a tailored walking programme aimed at supporting the mental health and wellbeing of individuals accessing Conwy Mind services. The initiative integrated themed walking activities to address issues such as social anxiety, depression, isolation, loneliness, confidence, low mood, and to foster community engagement. Each walk was led by a Mental Health Practitioner/Walk Leader.



# PROJECTS 2024-25

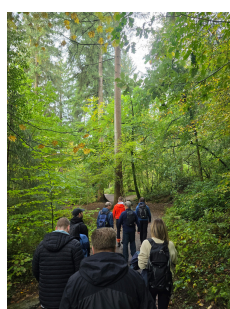
AVANTI  
WEST COAST



mind  
Conwy

## COMMUNITY WALKING PROGRAMME IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CONWY MIND

Walks were specifically designed for distinct groups: men, women experiencing the effects of menopause, and young people, with some walks incorporating map-reading training to build practical skills and confidence. Participants used public transport to attend the sessions and were rewarded with scenic views along the routes.



Women on the menopause walks explored areas such as Conwy Mountain and participated in a beachcomber walk along Llandudno's West Shore, concluding with refreshments at St David's Hospice Café Dewi.



In total, the **'Rails to Trails'** initiative supported **107 participants** across **21 guided walks**, with locations including Conwy Mountain, Gwydir Forest in Llanrwst and coastal walks in Llandudno. The programme also encouraged the use of public transport, enabling participants to connect with others and build new friendships. Notably, some of the women who took part in the menopause walks have since organised a group trip to Chester, inspired by the positive experience of rail travel.

# PROJECTS 2024-25

## PARTNERSHIP WITH YSGOL Y GOGARTH

Over the past year, we have continued our valued partnership with Ysgol Y Gogarth, supporting a range of inclusive and creative initiatives aimed at enhancing both educational and community engagement.

- **CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT - LLANDUDNO STATION**



- **ST DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATION**



- **EDUCATIONAL RAIL TRIP**



- **ONGOING ART PROJECTS - RAILWAY 200**



# PROJECTS 2024-25



Ysgol Y Gogarth pupils took part in decorating the Christmas tree at Llandudno Station. Using decorations provided by the Conwy Valley and North Wales Coast CRP, pupils designed and placed their own colourful ornaments on the tree, contributing to the festive atmosphere and participating in the town's Christmas parade.

## CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT - LLANDUDNO STATION



In March, students from Ysgol Y Gogarth proudly celebrated St David's Day by singing traditional Welsh songs for passengers on the Conwy Valley and Manchester train services. Their enthusiasm left a lasting impression, particularly among train enthusiasts. Our Rail Officer also visited the school's Humanities classes to assist in planning an educational rail trip.

## ST DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATION



# PROJECTS 2024-25



As part of their learning experience, four classes from Ysgol Y Gogarth participated in a rail journey from Llandudno to Betws Y Coed. This trip provided a hands-on learning opportunity and was supported by Transport for Wales (TfW), who donated helpful accessibility items such as sunflower lanyards and Orange Wallet holders. These tools support individuals with hidden disabilities or communication difficulties when using public transport, particularly those on the autism spectrum.

## EDUCATIONAL RAIL TRIP



Our collaboration with Ysgol Y Gogarth continues through creative art projects tied to Railway 200. These projects are set to brighten and decorate the platforms at Llandudno Station, contributing to a more welcoming and vibrant travel environment for all.

## ONGOING ART PROJECTS - RAILWAY 200



# COMING UP...

## COMMUNITY ART COLLABORATION - RAILWAY 200

As part of our ongoing commitment to community engagement and the celebration of Railway 200, we are proud to highlight a collaborative art project involving residents of Llys Eleanor and pupils from Ysgol Ty Ffynon in Shotton.

This project centres on creating a vibrant artwork reflecting the history of the railway. Ten pupils from Years 3 and 4 are actively involved, supporting residents from the care facility in producing expressive paintings and drawings.

The initiative is supported by local artist Sharon Wagstaff, whose continued involvement follows the success of our earlier Flint project. Weekly sessions are held to foster creativity and intergenerational connection of colourful and meaningful artworks that celebrate both heritage and community spirit.

These initiatives reflect our continued efforts to enrich the lives of local communities through safe, inclusive and meaningful rail experiences.

We hope that you have enjoyed reading this report, which showcases just some of the projects we've delivered over the past 12 months.

**To explore more of our work and stay updated on future developments, please visit our website and stay connected with us on social media.**

***Thank you for your continued support.***

# CONTACT US



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## Website

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## Socials





# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



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**TRANSPORT FOR WALES**

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