



AGW Newsletter

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Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig - What's been happening?

by Eleth Peate, AGW Marketing Officer.

Welcome to the latest edition of Arloesi's newsletter. Over the last few months we've had many new projects approved. In the last LAG meeting, 12 projects were approved, which means we're going to be very busy! We've also got some updates on our ongoing projects for you.

LoRaWan: Exploring the benefits of LoRaWAN technology and the internet of things.

The first Internet of Things playground in Wales has launched in Gwynedd this month.

The Internet of Things simply is about connecting devices over the internet, letting them talk to us, with applications, and with each other. LoRaWAN is the technology that is used for the network and it allows for things to talk to the internet without 3G or WiFi.

This technology could be very useful in the agricultural world, with potential to develop new ways of monitoring the environment or keeping an eye on livestock movement.



Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig are working in partnership with Glynllifon Farm College and Gwynedd Council's enterprise 'Digital Gwynedd' to trial this new technology and see what the potential benefits for farmers could be.

Rhodri Owen, Farm Manager at Glynllifon Farm College explains "We're always looking for new ways to help farmers. To do that we need their input, so together we can find solutions with the help of this latest technology."

In February we hosted a workshop at Glynllifon College for anybody interested in learning about the potential of LoRaWAN and the Internet of Things. We showed real examples of the technology working on the farm and figured out how it could help businesses.



Over the next few months Glynllifon College will be testing various ways of using this new technology on the farm. This information can then be shared with the industry across Gwynedd, to make sure other farmers make the most of the technology available.

[Click below for video:](#)



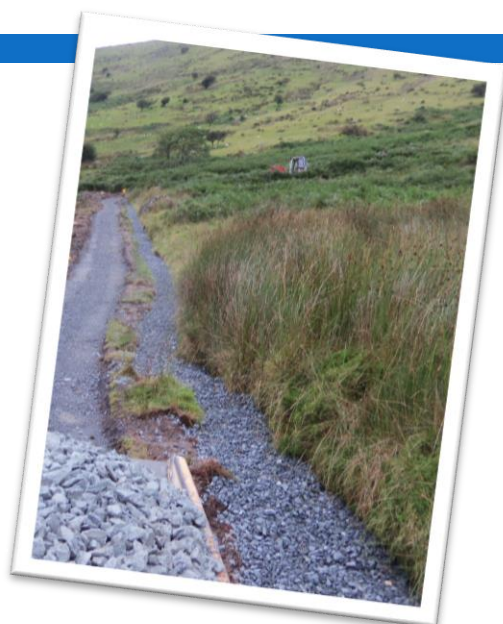
We also hosted another workshop in March which was intended for people who wanted a deeper understanding of how sensors are configured to send data to the internet or to apps on your mobile phone.

Councillor Ioan Thomas, Cabinet Member for Economic Development added "These workshops have been a great opportunity for farmers and anyone interested in the Internet of Things and LoRaWan to learn more about the technology's potential. The possibilities are endless, and the benefits will be remarkable for Gwynedd businesses."

Visitor Giving: Would tourists make a small contribution to protect the area they are visiting?

Snowdonia is under threat, we need to ensure that it retains its beauty, natural diversity and unique appeal. That's why Snowdonia Giving is making sure it's giving a little back to protect its future.

Over the past 18 months, Snowdonia Giving has worked very closely with almost 60 local businesses to raise money to help support its wonderful environment, wildlife and community.



On the 5th of February at the Royal Victoria Hotel in Llanberis, Snowdonia Giving was proud to announce that they have raised £10,500, this is in addition to the £3500 that was raised last year!

The money raised will be going towards the Cwellyn Path repair work. There was significant damage to the path at

the beginning of the season, and the Snowdonia National Park Authority is estimating the repairs will cost £40,000.

Snowdonia National Park have generously agreed to match Snowdonia Giving's total pound for pound, which means this vital project will now receive £21,000!

Rhian Hughes from Arloesi explains "The money we've raised will be of great help to this project. The necessary work will be completed much quicker thanks to this cash injection, which means visitors will be able to enjoy this peaceful path once again."

Currently, each year Snowdon welcomes approximately over half a million visitors. This totals more than the visitors to Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike Everest combined! This obviously has an impact on the environment and Snowdonia Giving provides an opportunity for visitors to give a little in return for their enjoyment.



Snowdonia Giving is a pilot scheme that gives visitors the option of making a voluntary donation to local projects. This is done by adding a small sum onto the cost of items such as accommodation, a meal or an activity. Typically, this is no more than a £1 per transaction and is often less.



Helen Pye from Snowdonia National Park said "The pressures on the areas paths from increasing footfall, and from extreme weather events are significant, and that's why we're so grateful to the visitors who have given something back and to the business who have been piloting this scheme. Incentives such as this are increasingly important in managing such areas, especially in a period when core support for such work is difficult. It has been heart-warming to see businesses and visitors getting behind this scheme that helps look after such a special place. The work Snowdonia Giving is doing is very important, and its success will be a fantastic blueprint for other areas facing the same problem."

In January 2017 Snowdonia Giving announced they had raised £3500. This first round of money went towards funding an accredited course, ran by the Snowdonia Society, and taught traditional conservation skills on the mountains for 48 young people.

The latest sum of £10,500 which Snowdonia Giving has raised during the second round of fundraising shows how much the project has grown and evolved in the last year.

Digital House: Digital technology enabling people to live independently.

A luxury, accessible holiday bungalow will soon be available for people with additional needs and their families in Waunfawr, near Caernarfon. With the help of the latest digital technology, the house will provide a purpose-built base from which individuals with learning or physical disabilities can enjoy a holiday in Gwynedd.

Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig and Antur Waunfawr are working in partnership to help kit the bungalow with experimental digital technology.

The design process and selection of technological features is currently ongoing, using an approach known as Design Thinking. Richard Speight from RDS Training is guiding the process and explains: "This is a way of actively involving and learning from the experiences of the end users of a product or service. It is based on the simple idea that with the right methods and mindsets anyone can be a designer, and that designing with people produces better results than designing for people."

[Click below for video:](#)



These gadgets will help with a range of things, such as giving the guest the freedom to open their own blinds in the morning with the touch of a button, turning the lights on and off with a motion sensor, or controlling the television with their voice. For many people with learning or physical disabilities, these day to day things can be difficult. The use of smart home technology can make everyday tasks more achievable, giving individuals with disabilities much more independence.



Katie Hughes-Ellis from Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig explains "We're very excited to be working with Antur to develop new and innovative technology for the bungalow. Once ready, the house will demonstrate the value of digital gadgets, and will be an example of what's possible. Visitors to the house could then install similar technology at home, giving them more independence even when the holiday is over."

It is often difficult to find holiday accommodation that is suitable for individuals with disabilities, and even more difficult finding ones that are luxurious and don't feel clinical. The house, which is based on Antur Waunfawr's Bryn Pistyll site, will be furnished to four-star standards and Antur is also working alongside textile artist Cefyn Burgess, to add to the bungalow's Welsh cultural identity.

Menna Jones, Antur Waunfawr's Chief Executive explains "Our aim is to enable people with learning and physical disabilities to benefit in terms of their independence, and the equipment and resources will give them the opportunity to have a very special time at the house. But we're also hoping they can learn new skills by using new technology, and return home having learnt something new, enjoyed themselves, and will aim to come back again in the future."

As well as being holiday accommodation the house will also be available for respite care during off-peak months. Surrounded by a nature park, gardens, an accessible play area, a cafe and crafts shop, it will be a very special place.

Time to Venture: A new source of entrepreneurship

Would-be entrepreneurs are taking their first steps into the world of business with the help of a new project, Time to Venture.

Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig are supporting a group of people from Gwynedd to realise their dreams of running their own business, by offering them specialist training and support from a business mentor. Three of the members will also have their salary paid for 1 day a week for 6 months.

The Time to Venture project mimics the "20% time" concept used by some large private sector companies such as Google and 3M. It allows staff to spend a fifth of their time developing projects outside their usual work programme and has led to innovations such as Gmail and the Post-It Note.



[Click below for video:](#)



One of the participants is Jacqui Parry from Pwllheli, who works as a teacher at Ysgol Glan y Môr Pwllheli. One of her main hobbies is cooking, and her idea for a business has stemmed for this. She is looking into the idea of creating a 'desserts in jam jars' business. These could be made as orders for customers or may be sold in local markets.

Jacqui explains "It's always been a dream of mine to start my own business, but I never had the courage to go ahead with it. When you're working full time it's difficult to look into things, but now that I'll only be working 4 days a week I'll have much more time to concentrate on my idea. This project has given me an opportunity without the usual risks, because I'll still receive my full salary."

As well as having more time to develop their ideas, they will also have a business mentor to guide them through this developmental stage of their business idea. Their mentor, Caryl Lewis from Cwmni Celyn, will be helping them to decide if the idea is viable, "They're all very passionate about their ideas, and it's fantastic to see the entrepreneurial spirit in them all. I'm looking forward to working with them to see where these ideas will take them."

Another taking part in this project is 15-year-old school girl Lois Jones. She came up with an idea for a sheep trekking business after seeing a similar idea on tv and thought her family farm in the heart of Snowdonia would be the perfect place to establish such a business. On the farm they keep traditional Welsh mountain sheep and Welsh Black cattle, but they also have a small flock of Zwartbles sheep. Originally from the Netherlands, they

are a breed of sheep known for being very docile and friendly, making them perfect for Lois' business idea of sheep trekking.

"The specialist training we'll receive through this project is going to be very useful when I hopefully go ahead with my business idea. How I market the business is going to be vital, and luckily we're going on social media and marketing courses which will really help me." Said Lois.

[Click below for video:](#)



The last person taking part in the project is Eryl Price Williams, who works as an administrative assistant for Gwynedd Council. She has a big interest in crafts and upcycling and is keen to explore how getting people involved in creative activities could help those who suffer from mental health problems have a positive focus. She's hoping to offer workshops which will give people the opportunity to learn these new skills.

"I believe there is a wide market for these types of sessions, from hosting children's birthday parties to arranging craft sessions with people suffering from dementia. The power these kinds of sessions can have are incredible, and I think they will be very popular." Said Eryl.

To keep up to date with how all the would-be entrepreneurs are getting on follow Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig on facebook, twitter and Instagram.



Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig: What's coming up?

A total of 12 projects were approved in the last LAG meeting which means we will be very busy over the coming weeks. Here are a few of the projects in the pipeline...

Drone School – This will be a project to create a Drone School at Llanbedr Airport for young people aged 14-19. The young people will learn how to use drones safely in a controlled environment.



Vending Machine – we will be trialling a vending machine filled with local produce to sell to customers directly at



locations around Gwynedd. We're currently looking for food and drink producers from Gwynedd to take part in the project, so spread the word!

Place Making Plans – This project will help to create a better understanding and interpretation of the slate industry within select communities as well as creating a narrative for telling the story of the slate industry in North Wales.



Virtual Reality - The project will focus on the latest technology to create a virtual world based on the situation of a person living with dementia. Users of the technology will be part of the digital world and will interact fully via a sensor on their hands, which will allow them to open doors, lift objects and feel as if they are living with dementia all through the medium of Welsh.



ARLOESI GWYNEDD WLEDIG:

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www.youtube.com/channel/UCvaOsrGsUqfx9JO45oVBzGg

Want to know more about Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig? Click on the following documents:

- [What is LEADER Gwynedd](#)
- [AGW Specific Objectives](#)
- [AGW Eligibility Criteria](#)

Have an idea you think AGW should pilot? [Complete this Enquiry Form.](#)

Click on the following links for further info:

- [Rural Development Programme for Wales 2014-2020](#)
- [Rural Community Development Fund](#)

