



Edition 4

Hello and welcome to the Newport Green and Safe Spaces e-bulletin



This newsletter is being delivered to you by Natural Resources Wales on behalf of the One Newport Public Services Board partnership.



Photo Credit: Chris Harris/Living Levels Partnership

I hope you've been enjoying the Summer months and have been able to spend some time in nature. There are lots of new exciting projects in the pipeline and I hope to see you at the next workshop in September. Here's a few updates to share with you in the meantime:

- The Green and Safe spaces intervention is aiming to link up with the [new Leisure Centre](#) on the riverfront around the potential plans for a green roof, green wall, and native planting.
- A small group from this Network have been exploring the idea of a Green Social Prescribing pilot in Newport. Green Prescribing can mean a prescription from a GP for a structured outdoor activity to improve health and well-being, including walking, conservation projects, gardening etc. The idea was presented to GP's at two Neighbourhood Care Networks (NCN's) to gauge our health colleagues' interest, and we are now exploring this concept on a Gwent wide level, learning from a pilot taking place in Caerphilly.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of the updates in this newsletter - a celebration of all the fantastic partnership work and projects which are invaluable to the [Green and Safe vision for Newport](#).

Please don't hesitate to get in touch and let me know if you have anything you would like to include in upcoming e-bulletins. I'm here to help support and promote your projects any time.

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**Newport has healthy thriving ecosystems
where all communities feel connected to nature and
have easy access to safe, quality green and blue space
for health, wellbeing, play and recreation.**

#MyWildNewport

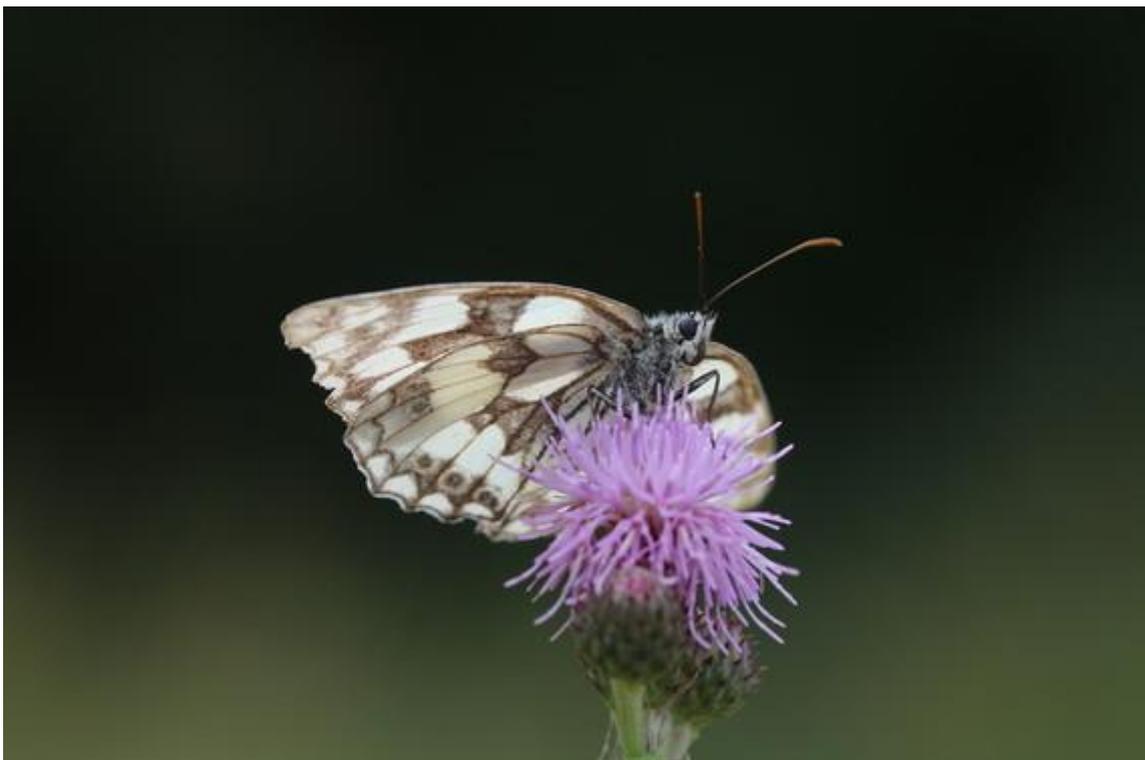


Photo Credit: Chris Harris/Living Levels Partnership

With kind permissions from Gwent Wildlife Trust, I hope we can all revive the #MyWildNewport tag on social media, and #EinCasnewyddGwylt in Welsh.

A previous Gwent Wildlife Trust project, [My Wild Newport](#) had much the same goals as this Network is aspiring to achieve: that Newport is a vibrant, green city with wildlife right on our doorsteps, and for more people to improve their health and wellbeing by exploring Newport's green spaces outdoors!

It had wonderful momentum on social media as a hashtag, and so as a Network let's bring it back! Please encourage everyone, whether working, living or visiting Newport to use it when posting their favourite nature discoveries, and whilst you are out and about doing all the wonderful work you do.

Let's showcase the wildlife right on our doorsteps and what a vibrant city Newport already is and what we are doing to make it even more so.

Here's a few examples of My Wild Newport on Twitter and I look forward to seeing and sharing your posts!

[Beautiful Beechwood Park](#)

[Community Garden](#)

[Litter Picking](#)

Please note, should any new funded project develop around 'My Wild Newport', please contact Gwent Wildlife Trust to be involved and included.

Green Volunteering



I have drafted a list of green / environmental / nature related volunteering opportunities across Newport with the aim to take a more structured approach in promoting green volunteering opportunities more widely, across platforms, and across the Green and Safe Network.

Here we can build on more and more people discovering the outdoors over the last 18 months, to build people's connections with nature, gain new outdoor skills, and promote practical ways people can get involved.

GAVO can support you in registering opportunities onto the [Volunteering Wales](#) website, if they're not already on there.

Please do [get in touch](#) if you'd like support recruiting volunteers or help to promote, or if you'd like to see the list of volunteering opportunities I've collated so far.

Let's get even more Green Flag Awards for Newport



The Green Flag Award is all about connecting people with high quality parks and green spaces. There are also lots of other benefits to achieving a Green Flag Award such as: it can generate excellent publicity, it acknowledges and recognises hard work, and it can help support and secure funding and grants.

Full Green Flag Award

An enormous variety of green spaces can apply for the full Green Flag Award, from small urban parks to huge country parks, university campuses, housing estates and even cemeteries. Newport currently has 3 full Green Flag Awards: Belle Vue Park, Beechwood Park, and Gwent Cemetery.

Green Flag Community Award

The Green Flag Community Award is for spaces such as allotments, woodlands, local nature reserves and community gardens which are managed by volunteers and community groups. Newport has had 2 Green Flag Community Awards: Lysaght Community Garden, and St Mary's Garden, Maindee.

So, let's get even more Green Flags for Newport! If you are interested in applying for either a Full Green Flag Award or Green Flag Community Award, please contact [Lucy Prisk](#) from Keep Wales Tidy. I am also able to help support so please don't hesitate to [get in touch](#). The closing date each year is **31st January**.

Projects across Newport

I would love to hear from you to include your projects in the upcoming e-bulletins. Here are updates from a few, and I hope you find it energising to see so much going on in Newport!



Newport Bee Friendly City

As an officially accredited Bee Friendly City, Newport City Council continue to strive to increase and enhance habitat for pollinators all throughout the authority area. This year the Council have **increased the number of pollinator sites by 21** locations taking this to a **total of 55** sites throughout Newport, with 19 out of 20 wards having designated pollinator sites. The sites vary from large green open space meadows to pollinator friendly flower displays on roundabouts. Wonderful work! Check out this video about [Percoed Reen pollinator site](#).

No Mow May

We hear more from Lucy Arnold-Matthews, Newport City Council Biodiversity and Education officer, about the “No Mow May” campaign, a national campaign by the organisation [Plant Life](#). Its aim is to tackle the decline in pollinating insects by increasing habitat, encouraging Local Authorities, landowners and residents to implement changes to mowing regimes.

“The initiative was a welcome request from Welsh Government at a time where Local Authority Grounds Maintenance departments were struggling due to Covid regulations and social distancing.



Working closely across departments and with the [Monmouthshire and Newport Local Nature Partnership](#), taking a whole authority area approach to “No Mow May” was certainly a bold move. The restrictions around social distancing measures and staffing provided us with a one off opportunity to take a step back and let nature do its thing. It has helped us to identify more species rich areas and areas to prioritise a change in long term grass management. This year we have recorded more rare and nationally scarce species of bee (Shrill Carder Bee, Brown Banded Carder and Small Scabious Mining Bee) in more locations across Newport. We have also recorded more species of Orchid showing in places that would ordinarily have been mown.

Not everyone was happy, but the large majority of responses from residents has been overwhelmingly positive. The Council have learned a lot from this year to take forward. The contact centre recorded the highest number of compliments in May ever. All in support of No Mow May”.

A few Newport residents said:

“Absolutely brilliant! Been so glad to see the council supporting this initiative!”

“Looks lovely and should be left for longer!! Pollinators still need it throughout the summer Grasses are just as important to certain butterflies and moths”



Greening City Centre

New rainwater gardens to replace hard surfaces, and planting to enhance biodiversity, were installed in June 2021 following some delays caused by Covid-19. Rainwater gardens (constructed areas planted with native plants and grasses to capture and slowly soak in rain water runoff and pollutants) and planting are now along the river front, near the Admiral building, and on Queensway roundabout as part of the Greening City Centre ‘Green Arc project’.

Newport City Council and Natural Resources Wales worked in partnership to secure funding to support the development of Green Infrastructure (GI) within the City Centre.

The pilot has been a successful test run to kick start expanding Green Infrastructure in a highly urbanised area, with nature-based solutions for sustainable drainage and enhanced biodiversity within the heart of the city. It has helped highlight the value of green and blue infrastructure for health and wellbeing benefits.

Technical designs have already been drawn up for further sites. Future plans include creating rainwater gardens:

1. Near Newport City Footbridge area
2. Near planned new leisure facility Uskway, riverfront
3. As part of separate funding bid, rain gardens have been designed and approved for Devon Place footbridge, for spring 2022

Lysaght Community Garden

The Lysaght Community Garden continues to grow, and the community gardening group were thrilled to have new raised beds, topsoil, poppy seeds and additional native hedgerow. Linc Cymru also installed an outside tap to supplement their existing water butts, a roaring success, described as ‘a godsend’ by tenants.



The group have expanded the range of fruit and vegetables they are growing this year and the pollinator meadow is looking healthy and happy and hundreds of poppy seedlings scattered around the monument are starting to push through.

The new fencing funded by Linc also provides a lovely safe space the tenants now call ‘their secret garden’ and they are really looking forward to organising the next community day where people will be invited to ‘pick their own’ and receive a goody bag including a recipe.

Caroline, one of the key volunteers said “*We hope to encourage inter-generational use of our Community Garden, our vision is for it to be a place for everyone to come together to learn from each other, to share gardening skills and knowledge, breaking down barriers between age groups and building new friendships*”.



Home Growing Food kits

With funding from Integrated Wellbeing Network, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB), we created a pilot of home growing food kits in Ringland to encourage having a go at growing healthy fruit and vegetables at home.

The kits came with a ‘how-to guide’, a choice of seeds, small plants, compost, and biodegradable pots. At the

same time, we asked people a few questions about getting involved in the local community and what they would like to see more of. Groups of children from Flying Start at the Hub also had lots of fun planting up sunflower seeds.

Many thanks to Estelle Lewis, Newport City Council East Hub, for persevering when Covid-19 restriction made it difficult to source the items.

A partnership between Newport City Council East Hub, Newport's Integrated Wellbeing Network, Newport City Homes, Natural Resources Wales, we will look to trial this again next year and perhaps in other areas of Newport.

Greening Maindee

[Maindee Unlimited](#) have been very busy indeed with their Greening Maindee work to turn neglected and forgotten sites into vibrant green spaces benefitting people and nature. Here are a few updates below:



Orchard Walk

An orchard has now been replanted along a pedestrian corridor with assorted fruit trees kindly donated by Keep Wales Tidy, to replace the trees that had been stolen. Next steps are to boost biodiversity and provide food growing space for residents near Rodney Road.

St Marys Community Garden

St Marys community garden is maturing beautifully, the space has become an oasis for urban pollinators, and has been warmly received by the community. All of the raised beds within the site have been adopted by local groups and residents from diverse ethnic backgrounds and a ladies group meet regularly to socialise and hone their gardening skills.



Maindee Triangle Café

An exciting time for Maindee Triangle! After 4 years of hard work and planning, construction is now underway to convert the former toilet block into a thriving and vibrant café, community space for all, and areas for families to enjoy in a relaxed natural setting set amongst nature friendly planting. The anticipated launch date is September 2021.

Maindee Walkway

This pedestrian corridor links Maindee with the riverside and was overgrown and heavily littered. It's now a Mediterranean style garden with drought tolerant, hardy plants. There's also an edible urban garden with soft fruits, herbs and vegetables for residents to harvest and cook with.





Eveswell Community Centre has been transformed with food growing raised beds, an orchard, a rain garden and a variety of different planting beds, with the 'Food For Life' programme in mind.



Boat Planter: Upcycled fiberglass boat donated by Usk Mouth Sailing Club 'anchored' into place on Corporation Road/Wharf Road

Greening Maindee future plans:

- **Halstead Street Pocket Park** – To create a vibrant pocket park, owned by Newport City Homes, that will significantly improve the streetscape for residents, and prevent bouts of fly tipping.
 - **Wildlife Themed Mural** – A large nature themed mural is planned on the gable wall of a house at the entrance to the walkway.
 - **Maindee Streetscape and Green Route Explorer Bid** – there's proposals to create a walking route linking up all the greening project sites throughout the neighbourhood.
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Events and Activities

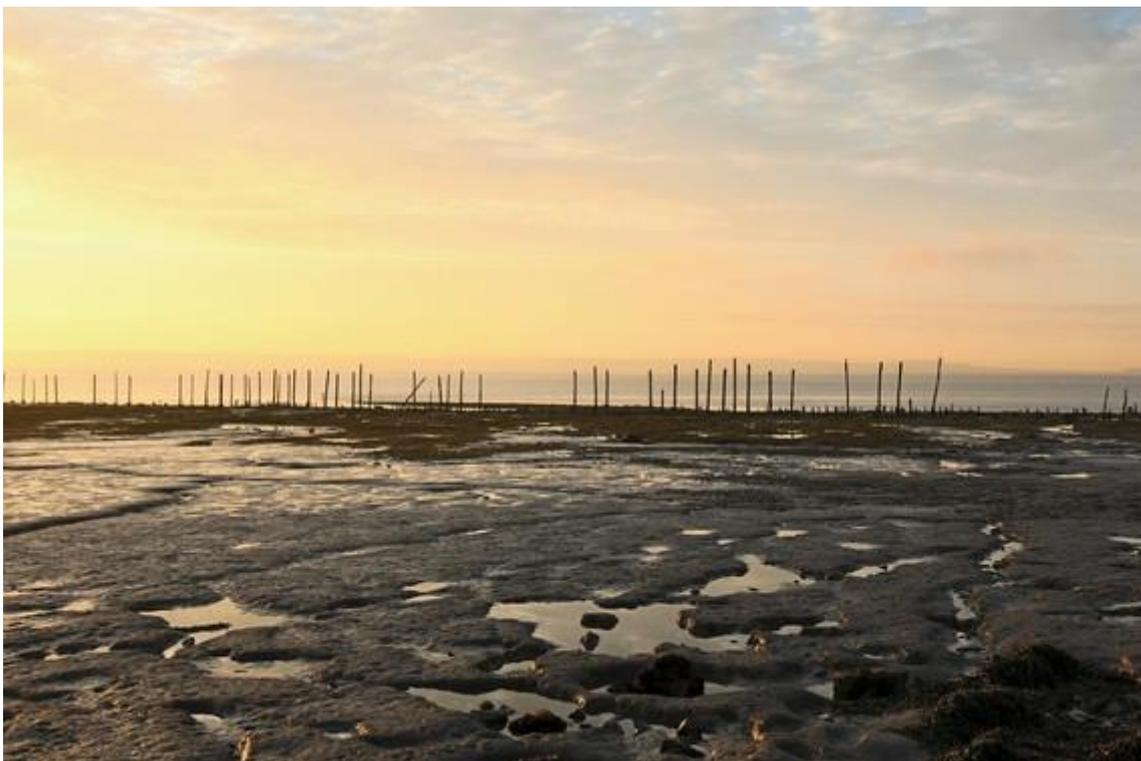


Photo Credit: Chris Harris/Living Levels Partnership

Living Levels

The Severn Bridge - the bridge that changed the world

25th August 7pm - 8.30pm

Virtual Event: Zoom [BOOK HERE](#)

Extended! 'Life on the Levels' Exhibition @ Newport

Venue: Newport Museum & Art Gallery, John Frost Square, Newport NP20 1PA

[BOOK HERE](#) Due to Covid 19, reduced opening hours apply and visits are limited to 1 hour timeslots. Booking is essential and you will only be admitted during your timeslot.

Natural Mindfulness - Birds and Our Wellbeing

3rd September 9.30am - 12.00noon

Venue: Newport Wetlands Reserve, West Nash Road, Newport NP18 2BZ

FREE but **Parking:** RSPB Members FREE, Non-members £3.00 [BOOK HERE](#)

Coming up...

'After the Monks: The Tudor Levels'

'Daily Life and Death in the Iron Age'

'Sea walls: battles of defence and responsibility'

'The Morgan Family of Tredegar'

'Chepstow Walking Festival walk'

'The Roman Origins of our Christmas and its Customs'

Keep checking the [Living Levels What's On](#) page for updates! See all the latest news from the Living Levels Project [here](#) and sign up to their newsletter.

Weekly Guided Walks in Pill

Weekly Wednesday walks in Pill for people aged 50+, led by [Living Streets](#) charity. Places need to be booked so please contact Laura - details are on the poster.



The poster is set against a vibrant pink background. At the top left, a silhouette of a person in a helmet and goggles is shown. The title 'Walking Friends Wales' is prominently displayed in a white box. Below this, a central white box contains the main text, including the benefits of walking, the schedule (11am and 1pm), and the meeting location (Pill Millennium Centre). To the right of this text, there are silhouettes of a person walking a dog and another person walking. At the bottom left, a silhouette of a person pushing a stroller is shown. The bottom right features the Living Streets logo and a vertical stack of three boxes with the words 'LIVING' and 'STREETS'. The footer contains small print about the charity's registration and website.

Walking Friends Wales

Getting active keeps us healthy, and walking is easy and free, so join us for

Weekly Wednesday walks at 11am or 1pm
Meet at Pill Millennium Centre

Are you aged 50+ and want to enjoy walking more? Walking Friends Wales helps get you walking and stay mobile by exploring your local area.

To book, call Laura Service on **07730 760054** or email laura.service@livingstreets.org.uk

Walking Friends Wales is funded by the Healthy & Active Fund, a partnership between Welsh Government, Sport Wales and Public Health Wales.

LIVING STREETS

We are Living Streets, the charity for everyday walking. Our mission is to achieve a better walking environment and inspire people to walk more.

Living Streets (The Pedestrians' Association) is a Registered Charity No. 110848 (England and Wales) and SC038608 (Scotland), Company Limited by Guarantee (England and Wales), Company Registration No. 3386409, America House, 2 America Square, London, EC2N 2LJ.

livingstreets.org.uk

Newport Live: Sport in The Park



Sport in The Park is back for Summer 2021! [Newport Live](#) is running family fun activities and games in four outdoor spaces this summer. Suitable for ages 3 - 11 years, FREE to attend, advanced booking required and all details are on the poster, or check out the website for more activities.

Other points of interest

Replacement Local Development Plan



Take a look at the latest [Newport Replacement Local Development Plan newsletter](#) to keep up to date.

Candidate Sites

Submissions Open: 30 June 2021 – 27 August 2021

As part of the ongoing work preparing the replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Newport City Council are now opening the Call for Candidate Sites. You can make a submission and find out [further information here](#).

Candidate Sites may be proposed for a range of uses that the RLDP makes provision for, perhaps most relevant to this Network, could include:

- Renewable energy;
- Biodiversity; and
- Green infrastructure

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA)

The Scoping Report for the ISA has now been drafted and is available for comment. You can submit your comments on the Scoping Report and find out [further information here](#).

City to benefit from extra 230 litter bins

Newport City Council plans to install 230 new litter bins across the city. The work is part of the council's commitment to increase bin provision and reduce the levels of litter on our streets.

40 bins have already been installed last month, with a further 190 planned. [Read more here](#).

Greater Gwent State of Nature report



The Greater Gwent State of Nature report has looked at the breadth of wildlife in Gwent, recording the ecological successes and identifying those species most at risk.

The report is intended to inform the forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Action Plans and other conservation work. It is hoped that the information within the report will be used to direct further recording and monitoring, as well as future conservation action.

The report, funded by the Welsh Government's Enabling of Natural Resources and Well-being Grant (ENRAW), has covered the five Local Authorities of Greater Gwent; Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. [Read more here](#).

Delivery of the South East Area Statement

The [South East Area Statement](#) has these four themes:

- Climate Ready Gwent
- Healthy Active Connected
- Linking Our Landscapes
- Ways of Working

See a summary of key actions undertaken by partners across Gwent in 2020/21 below. Please do [get in touch](#) if you'd like to find out more.

Delivered: Area Statement Programme South East 20/21

Stocks of natural capital are safeguarded and enhanced

- Further work on the Gwent State of Nature Report
- Resilient Greater Gwent's SINC review: 314 SINC's reviewed and 40 LWS created
- Green Infrastructure Assessments and guidance developed for each LA through use of NRW Strategic Allocated Funding
- Landscape profiles inform the Southern Ebbw Forest Resource Plan (FRP)

Wales has Healthy Places for People, Protected from Environmental Risks.

- Healthy, Active Connected Network formally established September 2020
- Creation of Newport Green Spaces directory
- Coed Lleol scoping project
- Integrated wellbeing network social and green prescribing pilots
- Gwent Healthy & Sustainable Travel Charter launched
- Development of NRW flagship site Cwmcarn Forest Drive

Ecosystems are resilient to expected and unforeseen change

- Resilient Greater Gwent INNS project: 40ha surveyed 1700 sites treated
- SEWRU project: Enhancing upland habitats creating scrapes and pools through heather management and bracken control across the 200sqkm upland area
- Funding received from WG N2K SMS projects Wye Valley woodlands and Aberargoed grasslands
- Gwent Green Grid Partnership project given the green light by WG £2.2 million
- Afonydd Cymru complete foundation surveys across Gwent Rivers Wye and Usk, also complete habitat restoration

A regenerative economy with sustainable levels of production and consumption

- Climate Ready Gwent Network increased from approx. 30 core members to over 250.
- 62 new dual electric vehicle 22kw fast charging units have been installed at 34 sites across Gwent.
- Second Carbon Positive Workshop delivered.
- Climate Ready Gwent supporting the CLES project on progressive procurement.
- Gwent specific Carbon Literacy training developed and rolled out to 220 staff across the public sector

Green Recovery



Public Health Wales Green Opportunities

Take a look at the [Green Opportunities Summer 2021](#) edition from Public Health Wales' Health and Sustainability Hub, providing the latest insight, best practice and learning to aid Wales' green recovery from COVID-19, identifying sustainable opportunities to support population health.

The summer 2021 edition focuses on sustainable and active travel.

Training and Resources



- Check out Natural Resources Wales [upcoming training courses](#) for outdoor educators on topics such as 'Trees and Woodlands: What Matters' for practical ideas and activities to get your learners enthused about trees.
- [Resilient Ecological Networks: a guide for practitioners in Wales](#) Natural Resources Wales have published a three-step guide and decision support framework for designing Resilient Ecological Networks based upon the principles of the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR). The guide is suitable for: Local Authorities and other public sector bodies, environmental non-governmental organisations and community groups, businesses, and land managers.
- [Trees for Cities](#) offer a range of free resources and a [Wild Teaching Toolkit](#) to encourage children's sensory engagement with nature and tree planting.
- [Living Levels offer learning resources](#) specifically tailored to the history, culture and environment found in our unique Gwent Levels landscape.
- [Food for Life Get Togethers](#) are regular community activities that connect people from all ages and backgrounds through growing, cooking and eating good food. Visit the website to find out more, and check out the tools, materials, ideas, tips and advice on [growing](#), [cooking](#) and [food sharing](#) activities once restrictions allow.

Funding

[Funding Wales](#) is a new funding search platform created by Third Sector Support Wales. You can search hundreds of grant and loan finance opportunities from local, national and international sources. From small grants to large capital projects, it can help you find the funding you need.



Here are a few funding opportunities below.

[Keep Wales Tidy - Local Places for Nature](#)

- **Starter packages** for community or volunteer groups looking to create a Pollinator Garden, Fruit and Herb Garden, or Urban Garden.
- **Development packages** for community-based organisations that are ready to take on a bigger project and build a Food Growing Garden or Wildlife Garden.

[The Woodland Trust – Free Tree Planting Packs](#)

The Trust has a range of free tree packs to suit schools, youth groups and communities with two delivery periods per year, in March and November.

[National Forest for Wales - The Woodland Investment Grant](#)

The Woodland Investment Grant will provide funding to create new woodlands and enhance and expand existing woodlands. Grants are available between £10,000 to £250,000 to fund the creation and enhancement of publicly and privately owned woodlands with the potential to become part of the National Forest for Wales.

The funding can cover items such as trees and plants; activities to engage local communities in the woodland; creating and enhancing public access, ranging from accessible footpaths and or nature trails. Application window closes **27 August 2021**

[GAVO - Cash 4 U Youth Led Grant](#)

The scheme supports small projects and activities, which are led by your people, providing volunteering opportunities for the causes they care about within their communities. Grants are available for up to £2,500 per project. Application window closes **17 September 2021**.

[UK Government - Community Ownership Fund](#)

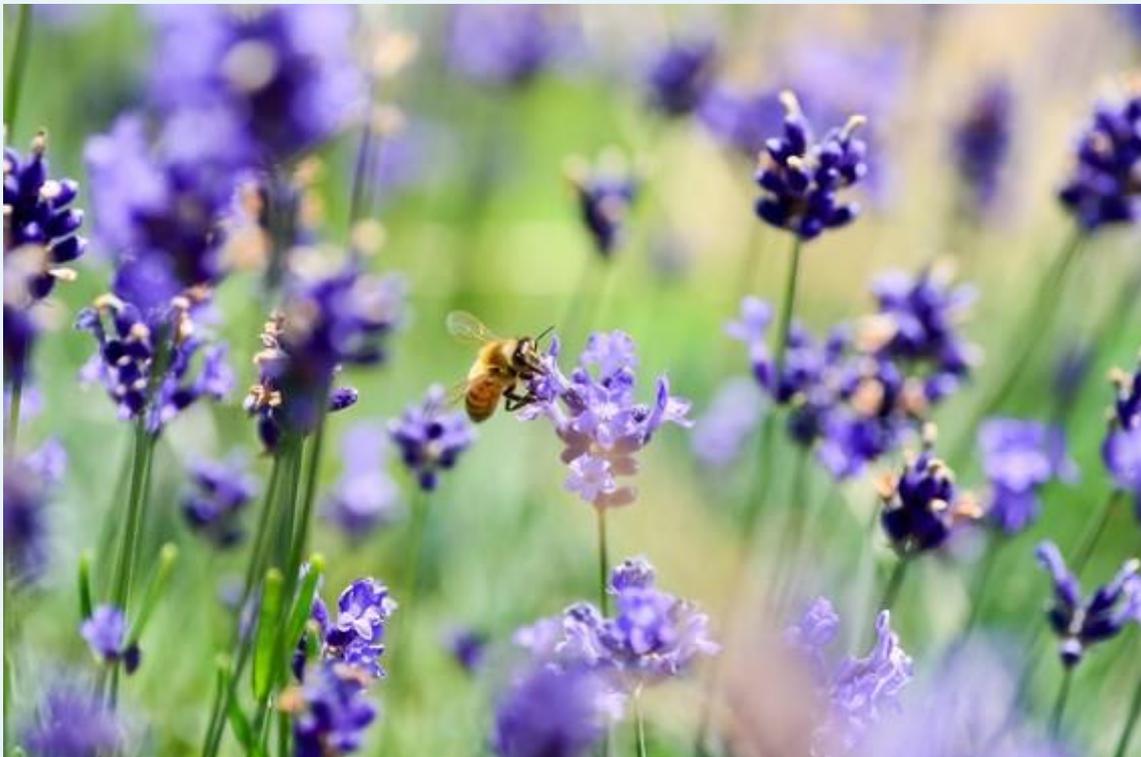
This fund supports community groups to take ownership of assets and amenities at risk of being lost, including for example, parks, sporting and leisure facilities or other buildings/venues. Please note, there will be further bidding rounds in December 2021 and May 2022.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

- [Local Places for Nature – Breaking Barriers](#) is intended to help organisations working with excluded and disadvantaged communities *to identify and remove barriers* to community involvement in nature. The aim is to co-produce the programme of the future, to enable participation in nature, co-creating ideas, plans and projects that will create a local place for nature. Grant are between £30,000 and £100,000.

Submit a project enquiry by **6 August 2021**, submit a full application by **2 September 2021**

- [Local Places for Nature](#) to enable communities in Wales to restore and enhance nature. Grants available of up to £250,000.
- [Community Woodlands](#) to restore, create, connect and manage woodlands in Wales. Grants available from £10,000-£250,000.



For more information contact Harriet Bleach

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Natural Resources Wales

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