



# Action in Caerau and Ely

Annual Report  
24/25



Our Ambitions,  
For Our  
Community,

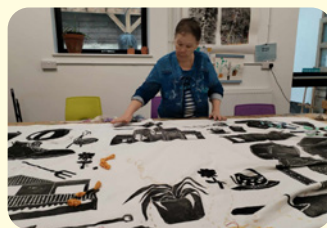


Through Our  
Own Efforts.

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# Message from the Chair

ACE continues to work with a multitude of organisations to make a positive difference to the residents of Ely & Caerau and those in other parts of Cardiff. Funding has been difficult to secure, as many charities have seen this year. ACE has linked up with other organisations to deliver projects through partnerships and maximize funding opportunities. Sadly the ACE Arts project has had to close due to lack of available funding.

The CAER Heritage and Learning Centre has become well used by groups such as Flying Start and Love Our Hillfort, and hosted a number of courses run by Cardiff Council Adult Learning and Cardiff Met to name a few. The course subjects have ranged from Bookkeeping and Starting your own Business to Paediatric First Aid and Creative Writing. A number of successful cooking and healthy eating courses have been hosted by the Centre. The annual dig in Trelai Park yielded more intriguing objects and was well supported by Cardiff University, local schools, and a large number of enthusiastic volunteers.

The development of our outdoor space at Diana Garden has continued, with the help of dedicated volunteers, and groups from firms that have volunteering programmes. It has become a venue for outdoor activities run in partnership with Ely & Caerau Children's Centre and various ACE projects, as well as providing a supply of fruit and vegetables for the community fridge and the café.

Our new Postcode Gardener community greening project has supported work around the area, and assisted in the development of gardens at the Trelai Pavilion with the Grand Avenues project, and the Peace (formerly Memorial) Garden at the Dusty Forge. The latter project has had input and funding from Keep Wales Tidy, Grow Cardiff, and Community Payback teams.

Our Community Support team has been very busy and has worked with the Yourspace social prescribing teams in the South West, West, and North Cardiff clusters, and the Grand Avenues team, as well as the local community. They have been successful in helping many people get benefits and support that they are entitled to which has greatly improved their wellbeing.

Everyone at ACE is determined to continue to work together with our community to make life better and bring positive change. Thank you for your support, as always.

*Marian Dixey - Chair*





# Equal





# About ACE

## Our Vision

To create 'vibrant, equal and resilient communities for all, where people find fulfilment in themselves, each other, and the place where they live'.

## Our Values



**Local people know their community best.**



**Everyone has something unique to contribute.**



**Everyone's contribution should be valued equally.**



**Poverty should not be accepted as a fact of life.**



**Social injustice should be challenged and changed.**

## How We Work



We work with communities to achieve lasting positive change for an equal and just Cardiff by:

- Mobilising local people behind a shared vision.
- Co-producing projects and services that make use of assets and meet needs.
- Driving positive social change, making our communities fairer and more inclusive.
- Securing income and maximising community assets for sustainability and community resilience.
- Working closely with private, public and third sector organisations to secure the benefits of their resources for our communities.



# Resilient





# Ely and Caerau Community Plan

With input from 1,234 people, the Ely and Caerau Community Plan brought people together to make a positive difference at a local level. Each of the 40 actions in the Community Plan were designed in response to needs and ideas shared by the community. The work was completed in March 2024 and a full report on the impact of all 40 actions can be found on our website: [www.aceplace.org/community-plan/](http://www.aceplace.org/community-plan/)

The Community Plan directed approximately £2 million of grant funding, secured from various sources including the Welsh Government, the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, and Cardiff Council, into the area. You can find a breakdown of funding on the same webpage.

We also shared highlights on the Community Plan Facebook page.



A dedicated group met 4 times to review the progress of all 40 actions during 2023 and 2024, offering support and challenge where needed.

The Community Steering Group is made up of local residents (3 adults and a young person) and representatives from schools, churches, Cardiff Youth Service, Police, GP surgeries and charities active in the local area including ACE, Save the Children, Citizens Cymru and Barnardo's. They heard regularly from staff in Cardiff Council on the actions they were responsible for, including parks and community safety teams.

Many groups who came together to make this happen have continued working together on new projects to support the community, creating a legacy of collaboration that will continue into the future. We want to say a big thank you to everyone involved in this work - together we made a lot of positive change happen for people of all ages across Ely and Caerau.



**Community Action 6.4**  
**Celebrating our community**  
4 Festivals and fun days were attended by over 1,300 people, plus another 12 community fun days took place over 2024, with thousands enjoying coming together as a community.

**Community Action 2.3**  
**Bike safety**  
16 young people took part in a week-long motocross event, learning new skills. Legal

and safety rules for e-bikes were shared through all local secondary schools and on social media.

**Community Action 2.4**  
**Action on Anti-Social Behaviour Hotspots**  
South Wales Victim Focus installed free video doorbells for 20 residents experiencing the effects of anti-social behaviour. CCTV and local street lighting was also upgraded.

**Community Action 3.2**  
**New Youth Space**  
Cardiff West Community High School opened a brand new community Youth Space in the school, with regular youth club nights run by Cardiff Youth Service (extra to existing clubs).

**Community Action 1.9**  
**Parent Power Place**  
A group of parents and carers with experience of children's

services come together regularly to talk, listen and share experiences and advice.

**Community Action 4.1**  
**Barnardo's YEWS**  
Barnardo's Youth Engagement and Wellbeing Service supported young people to gain essential life skills. One young person said 'I can open up and talk about how I am feeling'.



Ely and Caerau  
Community Plan  
Full report available now!  
[www.aceplace.org/community-plan](http://www.aceplace.org/community-plan)



SCAN ME



# ACE Partnerships

## with the LPB (Learning Partnership Board)

In the last few years, ACE has developed closer relationships with Ely and Caerau Children's Centre (ECCC), Save the Children, and the local Learning Partnership Board (LPB).

In the collaborative 'Ehangu/Dan y Coed' project in 2023, local families worked with us to design a project to create spaces suitable for outdoor play for families with children aged 0-5. We worked together to design and deliver creative outdoor play activities in nature, in three outdoor spaces that we developed for the purpose. The project was a great success, with 160 adults and 244 children benefiting from outdoor play. We then applied together for lottery funding, which enabled us to continue Dan y Coed play activities on 2 sites in 2024/25.

Save the Children reflected on the strength of these partnerships in their report:  
"Effective collaboration... relies on shared values, trusting in the process and others, being open to working differently and shifting mindsets - with a desire to connect and strengthen relationships."

This strong partnership is now working together to ensure that local families' voices are heard and acted on in our Learning Partnership Board. Save the Children secured funding from Welsh Government for 'Camau Bach, Newid Mawr/Little steps, Big change'. Together we listened to 81 children and young people and 88 parents and carers about how they share their ideas and how they want their voices to be heard. Now we are testing a new way of working across 7 local schools, where school councils and parents groups will share their views directly with the Learning Partnership Board meetings each term. Through effective partnerships, the LPB can respond to these ideas and help bring about real change.

Through being open minded, sharing values and learning to work together, we are collaborating in really exciting work that brings the voice of the community to the heart of the Learning Partnership board, and beyond to a growing network of organisations and campaigns where local voices can have an impact.





# The Big Dig Trelai Park

## More secrets revealed at archaeological dig in Trelai Park

CAER Heritage took to Trelai Park again this summer for another fascinating four-week community archaeology dig to explore the Bronze Age settlement that is beautifully preserved beneath the park. The CAER team, along with 430 volunteers, 9 local schools with 224 pupils, 6 community groups and Cardiff University students all got their hands dirty, continuing the exciting string of discoveries by uncovering a second Bronze Age roundhouse, a Bronze Age burial ground containing cremations and evidence from the Roman Period, giving us a fantastic window into the lives of Ely & Caerau residents over the last 3,500 years. The big dig community open day brought hundreds of people together at the site to find out more about the heritage of the park, see the ancient artefacts that were unearthed, and have fun with creative activities and games. In all, 1423 people attended the dig in 2025!

The dig this year produced plenty of exciting finds including flint tools, pottery, part of a Bronze Age axe, a flint arrowhead, a quern stone, and other objects that were used by the people that lived there. All the finds have been taken to the CAER Heritage Centre where the post-excavation work is taking place with the Love Our Hillfort volunteers helping to clean and analyse them.

Volunteer Hannah Secker, a student completing her A-Levels who would like to study Archaeology said: "It's unbelievable finding artefacts that could be 3,000 years old and thinking about the people that have walked on this ground before us".

Love Our Hillfort volunteer and Cardiff University Archaeology student Dan Queally said: "It's not just the archaeology I've learned about, it's about seeing the difference a project like this can make to people here and now".

CAER has been running for almost 15 years now. It's brought together archaeologists and students from Cardiff University with ACE members, local schools, residents, community groups and more. This year's dig has really put Trelai Park on the archaeological map and we're so grateful for the ongoing support from Cardiff Council, who gave us permission to dig in the



Photo: Vivian Thomas  
park, and above all the local community, without whom nothing that CAER has done would have been possible.

If you're interested in your local history, we're at the CAER Centre every Wednesday from 10am-12pm cleaning finds from the dig. Everyone is welcome to come and get involved.



CAER Volunteer Hannah with the quern  
stone from the Bronze Age!  
Photo: Vivian Thomas



# CAER Heritage & Learning Centre



in Childcare', with more planned for the rest of the year, all based on local people's interest and needs. The NHS brought their Dietary Requirements cooking course and their Recovery & Wellbeing College to the CAER Centre. We have also hosted other courses on making healthy meals where attendees take home with them the food they make during the course.

In 2025 the CAER Centre has flourished as a hub of learning in our community, hosting higher education and training courses, school group visits and regular community groups, providing a variety of opportunities for learning for all ages and continuing to explore our community's fascinating heritage.

Weekly groups include CAER Carers Club, Love Our Hillfort and the CAER Gardening group. Flying Start runs weekly wellbeing sessions and toddler groups. Other regular community courses, activities, and events, include 'Get Cooking' sessions and 'New Era' music workshops for young people.

We hosted several community days in partnership with Cardiff University's School of Music, the School of History, Archaeology and Religion and the Postcode Lottery.

In partnership with Cardiff University we also hosted several courses. These included Community Archaeologist Specialist Training courses, accredited training courses hosted with 'Reaching Wider', Cardiff University's adult learning outreach programme, including the popular 'Health & Social Care', 'Starting Your Own Business', 'Criminology', 'Archaeology Ceramics', 'Excel and Computer Skills' and 'Careers

The dedicated volunteers at CAER Heritage Love Our Hillfort group have facilitated Archaeology themed Open Days at the centre and have been taking part in the Council for British Archaeology's Catalysts for Change project, aimed at bringing together community archaeology groups from across the U.K. to share their experiences and knowledge of co-creating research. They also showcased the vibrant heritage centre garden at events and co-produced and implemented several garden projects, including beginning work on a Roman medicinal garden outdoor educational resource and making several improvements to the garden that will support wellbeing through improving accessibility to outdoor activities.

## **Treasures of Trelai Park.**

The exhibition was open to the public on Mondays and Wednesdays in the CAER Centre from 2nd February until 1st May. We were delighted to welcome visitors to see the wonderful finds from the dig and the beautiful art inspired by those discoveries on display. The exhibition was co-created by local young people and community members, including the amazing ACE Arts Youth Group, Cardiff West Community High School students, Love Our Hillfort volunteers, and MIGHTY Community Artist Programme participants.



Photo: Vivian Thomas

# Community Support

"It opened my mind to healthy, planet-friendly eating and unusual ways to make things. Thank you so much, this has been 2 hours of happiness each week."

## Good Food Hub



In 2024/25 we set up our new Good Food Hub, promoting our food, nutrition and health work in the community. Our database now has 60 people, many of whom regularly attend events to improve their health and well-being.

### Let's Get Cooking!

With funding from Hubbub and Cardiff Council, we launched a series of 'Get Cooking' courses at the Caer Heritage Centre, helping residents cook easy, healthy, affordable food. In partnership with Cardiff & Vale Dietetics Team and our Community Food Practitioner, Caroline Holroyd, we ran four 5-week Agored-accredited 'Preparing a Healthy Meal' courses with different interactive themes including 'Fakeaway', 'Tasty Budget', 'Autumn Seasonal & Winter Warming Cooking'. Hubbub also funded the development and delivery of our own bespoke 6 week programme, 'Food for Health & Planet', on healthy, sustainable, planet-friendly cooking.

We supported 30 people to build their skills, knowledge and confidence to cook from scratch, with 15 achieving an Agored entry level 3 qualification. We are now working to build this interest in cooking, health and nutrition with National Lottery community funding secured for our Good Food Club until July 2026. Our Hubbub programme is also set to continue with additional funding awarded to run workshops on improving community health through cost effective, balanced and wholesome cooking ideas.

### Living Well

Our 'Living Well' project addressed healthy eating and exercise through 7 workshops. Funded by Cardiff & Vale Health Board via C3SC as part of their Good Food & Movement Framework, these sessions included

food demos, nutrition education, quizzes and games alongside Yoga, Tai Chi, Qigong and garden activities. 30 people from the local community attended our sessions. 98% said they would be encouraged to try cooking a similar dish at home and everyone learned more about healthy food and nutrition. Cookery books were kindly donated by the National Literacy Trust. Through the project we have also set up a new Food Network for Ely and Caerau, which will build links and collaboration between local food projects.

### Community Events

During summer 2024 we teamed up with our amazing community partners to host three family-friendly food events, which welcomed over 60 adults and children, creating opportunities to cook, learn, and connect around healthy food.

- A 'Wild Cooking' workshop at Diana Garden with Ely & Caerau Children's Centre where children cooked outdoors on our rocket stove creating a tasty, healthy lunch.
- Our 'Family Grow & Create' event with Grow Cardiff in the Dusty Garden mixed hands-on foodie crafts, healthy snack-making, and lessons in growing your own food.
- A 'Creative Food & Fun' session with Herbert Thompson Primary School brought families together for nature exploration, healthy cooking, and playful foodie games.





## ACE Advice and Support

Hafan is a new project that began in 2024, aligned with YourSpace, our successful social prescribing project. Referrals are made directly by local GP's for patients with health conditions, exacerbated by living in cold homes. They receive bespoke energy advice, benefit checks and help that eases immediate pressures and builds lasting solutions by increasing household income through unclaimed benefits and energy efficiency. The project has generated £987,000 in unclaimed benefit income, creating £19.75 value for every £1 invested.

### ACE Benthgy

Our library of things, ACE Benthgy, continues to grow, with 600+ active members and around 50 items borrowed each month. Our carpet cleaner and hedge trimmer remain our most commonly borrowed items, and DIY and gardening tools are still the most popular categories. Our library stock is ever-growing - from children's bug-hunting kits and party-ready chocolate fountains to cement mixers and wood chippers. Membership is free. We're open Monday and Friday mornings in the Restore space, and alongside the Repair Café on the fourth Saturday of each month. You can also browse and reserve items online (see web address and QR code below) and we welcome drop ins, where you can ask questions, and see what's available.

[ace.benthgy.cymru](https://ace.benthgy.cymru)



## Restore

Restore at the Dusty Forge is open every Wednesday morning, offering free fresh and ambient food from our Community Fridge, affordable toiletries and cleaning products, and a pet food bank. By redistributing quality surplus food, we cut waste and support our community as we all face rising costs. Over the last year we diverted 2,500 kg of food from landfill and welcomed 500 visits from local residents. We aim to extend opening hours in the year ahead.

*"It makes such a difference you being here, you should all be really proud of what you do." - Drew*

## Grand Avenues

Grand Avenues is a partnership between ACE and HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). As part of the project, people on probation are supervised in local community hubs by a small, dedicated team of probation practitioners. Working alongside community partners, they provide a wide range of support to people on probation and their families, including with finance, training and employment, and healthcare. Grand Avenues supports and encourages people to meaningfully contribute to the local community.

## Café Barr



Café Barr continues to provide a warm, welcoming space at the Dusty Forge, where people can connect over delicious and healthy food. Local volunteers cook three free community meals each week:

- Monday evening three-course meal with FoodCycle
- Tuesday community lunch club
- Wednesday breakfast freshly cooked by volunteers with the Grand Avenues team (our HMPPS partnership).

Volunteers and participants build cooking skills and gain accredited qualifications. Anyone can drop in. 60 - 100 people join weekly, reducing isolation and helping stretch household budgets.



## The Dusty Shed



The Dusty Shed now runs four weekly sessions: 10-12 men and women participate in each woodworking and social activity session on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as well as Wellbeing Wednesdays for men to discuss the challenges they face in later life and offer peer-to-peer support. We're also sharing skills, constructing bird boxes and planters for organisations and schools developing 'green' community spaces.

## Repair Café

For six years our Dusty Repair Cafe team has 'popped up' monthly. Our dedicated team of volunteer fixers have shared their skills free of charge to check out 700+ broken items and



mended three-quarters of them! Our friendly fixers' skills range from repairing everyday electrical household items and garden equipment to offering IT software advice and undertaking basic bike and scooter repairs. Family heirlooms

restored have included specialist woodwork and ceramics as well as revival of elderly soft toys and specialist textiles. 'Kind, friendly - helpful above and beyond' reported one satisfied customer.

# Together for St. Mellons and Trowbridge

Together for Trowbridge and St. Mellons (T4TSM) is one of 13 Invest Local Programmes in Wales funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. It is a 10-year programme that builds on the strengths, skills and talents in the community

to create positive and long-lasting change. ACE acts as grant-holder for a steering group of local residents and representatives from community-based organisations, who lead on the delivery of the programme.

During 2024-25 the staff member working for the programme moved into another local role and the steering group have been exploring ways that they can meet the aims of the programme without a member of staff, which has included

providing grants and support to local groups and organisations and paying for sessional hours to carry out localised community development activities in the Trowbridge area.







## Dylan's Story

# Gardening pulls me back on track

I got involved in the garden here at Trelai Pavillion about 5 months ago. I come down here to see my probation officer; they told me about the garden. Because I haven't got a garden of my own, to have this on your doorstep is a good alternative.

It just allows me to switch off. I don't have a built in release valve. So I have to do something to switch myself off, it doesn't come easily to me. So doing something with my hands takes my mind off life's stresses. I don't know the nuts and bolts of it, I just know it works.

The planters were put in by Keep Wales Tidy and the lads on probation. I come in and maintain what we've set up - do a bit of watering, a bit of weeding. I've planted some cucumbers and tomatoes, the herb garden, some strawberries. As it's our first season, I think we are all learning as we go along and learn from each other as well. I'm not an expert but I have got an NVQ in gardening, I did it in prison. It's out of date now but when you're qualified, you're qualified! We'll always keep learning, and I'll always be here at the garden.

I think the social interaction is what I enjoy most. Because I have problems switching off from life. I suffer

with my mental health, with anxiety and depression, I've had it for over 30 years. Sometimes it gets out of hand and I can't get it back, and I feel like I'm in a vicious circle of anxiety, and I think situations are worse than they are. For me, gardening pulls me back on track. I don't think my life would be as good without the gardening. I don't have much family that I'm in contact with so I have worked at putting things in place, having some community around me. It's a lot to build your life again from scratch.

We're only getting started here, we've been here less than a year, but in 5 years this garden will be just as amazing as the one in the Dusty Forge. We're trying to get some lavender in for the bees... we've already got lots of bees in here but I don't think you can ever have enough wildlife.

I would say to anyone thinking of getting involved in gardening, give it a try, you might like it. I like it. There's no pressure and you might enjoy it and you might make some good friends too. I certainly have.

*Dylan (not his real name) is a volunteer with a community garden group supported by Grand Avenues Project and HM Prison and Probation Service, and ACE's Postcode Gardener project.*



# Diana Garden

In the last twelve months community engagement has gone from strength to strength in Diana Garden. We have had regular twice weekly gardening sessions with ten community volunteers attending regularly to maintain the garden, prepare beds and plant and harvest a range of fruit and vegetables. Weekly gardening sessions not only help maintain the garden but also act as an important way of connecting with others and improving self confidence and self esteem. We learn from each other and develop new skills.

We also organised various seasonal community events with community members contributing to the activities and providing refreshments. We will continue to organise events for the coming year with collaboration from other providers

We feel that Diana Garden is more than a green space: it is a community-led sanctuary where residents of all ages can learn, connect, and thrive in nature. With



mentoring from the Egin programme, we have created an action plan to address some of the challenges of the space, such as the lack of electricity and water supply, ensuring the garden continues to grow as a model of urban regeneration, biodiversity, and local resilience. We are applying for Egin funding to take the next step in the development of the garden. The Egin programme is a Wales-wide initiative that supports and empowers community groups to take action on climate change and live more sustainably. The word "Egin" means "shoots" or "sprouts" in Welsh, reflecting the program's goal of helping new community ideas for climate action to generate and take root.

# Postcode Gardener

In partnership with The Co-operative Bank, Friends of the Earth has funded ACE to employ a Postcode Gardener. Postcode Gardeners inspire people to get together, get planting and keep growing. They help grow plants for flowers, food and wildlife along streets and in public spaces where people can enjoy them. At the project launch in March 2025, local people participated in planting trees, sowing seeds, and mapping out potential areas for greening. So far, we have grown plants in 19 places - from sunflowers in Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau to vegetables at the pavilion in Trelai Park. We've planted wild flowers near the CAER centre and made bird boxes with families at Diana Garden.

154 community members have got involved in growing with our Postcode Gardener. We've worked with 19 groups, including Upfront Gardens CIC, Urban Long Forest, Coed Caerdydd, Sow the Sun, Love our Hillfort group, Diana Garden and CAER centre garden volunteers, Dusty Shed, Cardiff West Community High School, Grand Avenues, Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau, Grow Cardiff and St. Vincent de Paul (SVP). Dozens of people have taken home hundreds of seeds in small pots through our 'seed blitz' activities at family fun



days and festivals over the summer.

A highlight for summer 2025 was our Diana Garden Family Fun day - 258 people attended! Together with partners we helped people enjoy pebble painting, leaf bunting, portraits, wild cooking, bird box making and planting. The new planters at CAER

Courtyard helped us bring together wood working volunteers at Dusty Shed, CAER garden volunteers and young children with their parents at 'Flying Start' to create accessible growing experiences for all ages. Our local 'Green Spaces Network' is a great source of ideas for where to plant next, and these connections continue to flourish.





# Peace Garden



The Peace Garden began with an idea for a quiet space to remember ACE colleague Caroline Barr, and other loved ones who have passed away. We wanted to create a calm place for people to reflect and take time to look forward with hope. We now have a beautiful garden buzzing with life, which seems a positive space and a good fit for that purpose.

The initial focus group met in October 2022, standing in an overgrown semi-wilderness. To say it was overwhelming was an understatement. However, ideas and plans were abundant, and with the hard work of the Diana Garden staff and volunteers, Charlotte, John and Tang, and strong partnerships with the Probation Community Payback team and Keep Wales Tidy, the

wildlife garden came to fruition in spring 2025. We opened the Peace garden officially in July, as part of the celebration of 10 years at the Dusty Forge.

We were supported in the development of the wildlife garden by a Keep Wales Tidy grant and they have supplied growing boxes, a pond, seating, bee friendly plants, shrubs and trees.

We were keen to make the space wheelchair friendly. This was made possible by the Probation Community Payback team and volunteers who constructed a solid path, giving access to the garden for all. The woodworking skills of John Naylor and The Dusty Shed members also provided a secure fence and gate to the Peace garden. Local community members who are keen to be custodians of the Peace garden will maintain the space alongside ACE staff.



"Working with Steve at ACE on the Peace Garden project has been an absolute joy. To see a piece of waste ground turned into a thriving, peaceful haven has been truly inspiring. It's now a place where nature is welcomed, wildlife can flourish, and people can find a moment of calm and quiet reflection. Watching that transformation take shape has been one of the most rewarding experiences I've had.

I'm so grateful to Steve and the amazing volunteers who put their energy, heart, and passion into making this vision a reality. I can't wait to work with Steve again on future projects that bring even more positivity and beauty into our communities."

**David Foley**  
Keep Wales Tidy – Roving Officer for Cardiff





"I am overall better, as things are much more positive compared to when I last went to the GP at the start of the year. I'm glad I'm back doing something with my days, it's relieving."

"It makes such a difference to know someone is reaching out. They might not have all the answers but I feel listened to."

# Health and Wellbeing

"Thank you for just being there, it's refreshing to be able to speak to someone and just be able to get things off my chest which I find difficult to express to my family."

## Yourspace Wellbeing Support

Yourspace is a social prescribing and community development service, providing 1:1 wellbeing support and developing new community-led wellbeing activities. The service is commissioned by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and we work closely with local GP's and health services to support people with a range of health, social and wellbeing needs. Referrals are seen promptly and wellbeing connectors offer a range of signposting options with an engaging person-centred approach.

The service started in South West Cardiff in 2019 and has supported 296 people in this area during 2024-25 to improve their wellbeing. Our development workers have been adept at developing a range of activities to meet needs, including events, outings and activities such as walking and support groups. A sample of 70 people completed a wellbeing scale, which showed 83% had improved their wellbeing.

In 2024-25 the Yourspace service in North Cardiff grew, following a smaller scale pilot in this area. With more Wellbeing Connectors and a Community Development Worker now on the North Cardiff team we have been able to provide direct support to 172 people during 2024-25, as well as setting up wellbeing groups including a walking group, men's group and a



neurodiversity support group. A sample of 64 people completed a wellbeing scale, which showed 86% had improved their wellbeing.

During 2024-25 the service also expanded into West Cardiff, with a smaller service delivered by one part-time wellbeing connector and a part-time development worker. Following work to identify needs and local partnership opportunities, the team started a walking group, bereavement support group and financial wellbeing drop-in for the area; and provided direct support to 46 people. A sample of 9 people completed a wellbeing scale, which showed 78% had improved their wellbeing.



# A Day in the Life of a Wellbeing Connector

It's an early start this morning, as the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meeting begins at 8:30 am. The MDT is a crucial forum, organised by Cardiff North Primary Care Cluster, that brings together professionals such as GP's, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Pharmacists, and Independent Living Services. With patient permission, we use this virtual roundtable to discuss appropriate and holistic care plans. Our Wellbeing service is represented here, offering an ideal opportunity to better understand the roles and contributions of our fellow professionals.

Yourspace is allocated three new referrals today, with patient details securely delivered via an electronic database.

This is where our direct work begins. These three individuals will be contacted within the next three days, marking the start of their journey to improved wellbeing.

The Wellbeing Connector has three scheduled visits for the day.

- One appointment is a supporting visit to help a patient access assistance from the local Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).
- The second visit is a crucial first face-to-face appointment, offering an opportunity to discuss the patient's goals and aspirations for their wellbeing.
- The final appointment is unfortunately cancelled by the patient and rescheduled for a later date.

Following the visits, it's back to the office for a quick sandwich, followed by typing up case notes and making any necessary follow-up calls. There are always messages and emails from colleagues to address. As the day draws to a close, there's a valuable opportunity to have a quick catch-up with other connectors, sharing insights and best practices.

## Bereavement Support

ACE leads on a partnership project, funded by Welsh Government, to enhance bereavement support in Cardiff for people from ethnic minority communities and those with a learning disability, both groups that are less likely to access existing support. Our partners at Community Care and Wellbeing Service provide bereavement counselling, courses and support groups which are sensitive to people's culture and faith and available in a range of languages. Our partners Cardiff People First have been active in setting up peer support groups and activities for people with a learning disability.

In 2024-25 the project provided bereavement counselling for 101 people and ran 14 bereavement

and mental health workshops, working with local faith centres and community organisations. Over 230 people attended courses, from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds including Pakistani, Somali, Syrian, Iraqi, Lebanese, Egyptian, Arabic, Bengali, Palestinian, Sudanese, Italian and Welsh. The courses were successful in breaking down barriers and 'taboo' around discussing sensitive topics and have also resulted in the setting up of peer support groups where people could come together and support each other through grief. 34 local residents with a learning disability took part in peer support activities, providing informal and safe settings for them to talk about people they had lost and their feelings around a bereavement.



# ACE Places



We run two community centres and a wildlife garden. These vibrant and welcoming spaces host a range of activities to help people in financial crisis, provide holistic wellbeing support and social prescribing, help overcome barriers to learning and employment, make art, celebrate our local heritage, bring people together through cooking, growing and food, volunteering and much more! We also support a thriving network of community groups for all ages that promote mutual support and positive wellbeing.



## Our Place: Dusty Forge

460 Cowbridge Rd West, Ely, Cardiff CF5 5BZ

### A place for help and support

At the heart of the building sits our 'community living room', a friendly, informal and flexible space with a constant supply of tea and coffee and the buzz of folk getting to know each other and hatching new plans and visions. The Dusty Forge acts as a base for a wide range of projects, groups and activities run by staff and local volunteers.

#### Practical Support

Our practical support includes Crisis Hour, ACE Bentyg community hire, Re-Store's reuse and recycle hub, and the monthly Repair Cafe. We have a weekly ACE meal and a community fridge.

#### Health and wellbeing

A range of wellbeing and social groups and activities take place here, including our own 'Yourspace' service (page 18) as well as community-led groups.

#### Green space at the Dusty Forge

'Grow Well' is a therapeutic gardening project led by Grow Cardiff, sharing gardening skills. The Peace Garden is our memorial garden, a calm space to take time out, to reflect and have time to look forward with hope.

#### Room Hire at the Dusty Forge

The Dusty Forge offers a range of rooms for all your meetings and events needs. For further enquires: T: 029 20003132, or E: [dusty@aceplace.org](mailto:dusty@aceplace.org).

### Also based at the Dusty Forge

#### Dusty Shed

The Dusty Shed aims to promote health and wellbeing by reducing the loneliness and isolation of individuals, particularly but not exclusively men aged 50+. Individuals can share, learn and socialise with each other in an inclusive environment. Visit [www.thedustyshed.org.uk](http://www.thedustyshed.org.uk).

#### Repair Cafe

The Dusty's Repair Cafe runs monthly pop-up events offering a friendly free repair and re-use service supported by Repair Café Wales. Volunteer hosts and fixers welcome customers bringing broken items and share their skills on the spot. The repair cafe is every 4th Saturday, each month.





# CAER Heritage

Church Rd, Caerau, Cardiff CF5 5LQ

## Working with people to discover more about their local heritage

The CAER Heritage Centre on Church Road in Caerau is a hub for heritage activity and community learning, as well as hosting a number of community groups and activities.

The Caerau And Ely Rediscovering (CAER) Heritage Project, launched in 2011, is a collaboration between ACE, Cardiff University, local schools, residents and community groups. Local people explore a rich landscape that includes an Iron Age hillfort, Neolithic causewayed enclosure and the medieval church of St Mary's. They take part in archaeological excavations, historical research, artefact analysis, exhibitions, art, heritage trails, accredited courses and experimental archaeology.

### What's On

We have weekly activities including:

- Love our Hillfort
- Gardening Group
- CAER Carers Club
- Flying Start Stay & Play

We have regular courses from Cardiff University, and other community activities and events.

### Venue Hire

The centre has a main hall, smaller meeting rooms and facilities, that are available for hire. You can email [caerheritage@aceplace.org](mailto:caerheritage@aceplace.org) to find out about booking a space



# Diana Garden

Hiles Rd, Ely, Cardiff CF5 4JB

## A Community Garden Where You Can Grow, Eat & Thrive Together

Diana Garden is a remarkable example of how local people can revive and re imagine public space. Once a derelict playground, the garden has been transformed into a thriving, green community hub - where people of all ages grow food, learn new skills, and connect with nature and one another.

### Your Community Space

This isn't just about gardening. Diana Garden is a hub where you can:

- Learn new skills through hands-on experience
- Support your wellbeing with therapeutic outdoor activity
- Make genuine connections with your neighbours
- Contribute to something meaningful in your local area
- Find out more every Tuesday - 1pm to 4pm.





# ACE Volunteers



ACE has worked with over 80 volunteers, spread across 20 different areas of work at the Dusty Forge, CAER Heritage Centre, Diana Gardens and the Yourspace Team in Cardiff North. The volunteers are dedicated, supportive, passionate and determined to help improve the lives of people living in Caerau, Ely and the wider areas of Cardiff.

ACE would like to say a continued THANK YOU to all our volunteers for another year of incredible commitment, compassion and hard work. We currently have seven Lead Volunteers who provide extra support to staff in the running of the volunteer projects. Ten Volunteer Trustees sit on our ACE Board, providing strategic oversight of our activities.

This year the Volunteers and Project Leads have grown their projects and started new groups. ACE has showed appreciation and gratitude to them during both Student Volunteering Week and Volunteers Week, where all volunteers were invited to a series of celebration events and all received a personalised award, homemade with love gifts and a personalised pen.

This year the volunteers took part in the ACE volunteering survey where:

- 100% of volunteers said they feel supported in their volunteering role(s) by ACE staff.



- 100% of volunteers said they feel valued and appreciated as an ACE volunteer.

Some of the volunteers have shared their positive experience(s) they have had while volunteering with ACE:

*'I had to reinvent my life and community, I did this by volunteering at ACE.'*

*'I have been given many opportunities whilst volunteering with ACE one of which led to employment.'*

*'Connecting with the community every week and getting to see the real difference that archaeology and heritage can make, invaluable to my enjoyment and pride in my degree.'*



## Volunteer Focus

This year ACE has focused on each volunteer's journey, making sure each volunteer is on the right path for them. With support from the Volunteer Development Officer and Project Leads, ACE can ensure the best volunteering opportunities and experiences.

Sarah from the Tuesday Lunch Club expresses how this method has supported her in reaching her goals for employment and community support.



*'Volunteering with the ACE lunch club has enabled me to regain my confidence in a working kitchen after a long break caring for a disabled parent and raising young children. I have since signed up for culinary school and look forward to once again working in the industry. Helping the*

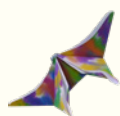
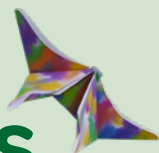
*community by making meals for them is very rewarding and living locally with young children has helped to connect me to the community where I live. Utilising my skills and knowledge to produce meals from food that would otherwise be wasted has regained my passion for food and definitely propelled me forward to rejoin the culinary workforce going forward'. Sarah Standing, Tuesday Lunch Club Lead Volunteer*







# ACE Arts



ACE Arts continued weekly workshops

throughout spring and summer of 2024, with an average of 10-12 participants per week. The groups worked on a piece commissioned by the Carer's group, which was displayed at their summer event. A series of art workshops hosted by Welsh National Opera were a great success. Participants created small models and characters which were displayed in the Dusty Forge art corridor.



ACE received Arts and Health Funding from Arts Council Wales for six months from Sept 2024 - March 2025, for a new partnership with Cardiff South West Primary Care Cluster, Yourspace and Chapter Arts centre and Disability Arts Cymru. Arts and Wellbeing sessions were held weekly at Chapter Arts Centre and the Dusty Forge. The 'Creating SpACE' project enabled us to work with patients from the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board cardiology department and community members during our regular art sessions.

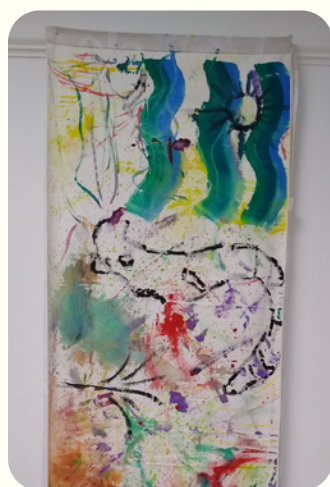
During this time, ACE Arts hosted a therapeutic artist from the University of South Wales and 6 freelance and voluntary

artists, including one artist recommended by our partners at Disability Arts Cymru. The project was complimented so well by Yourspace Wellbeing Connectors, who supported sessions and sign-posted participants to the sessions.

The project culminated in a beautiful exhibition at Chapter Arts Centre, showcasing work created by participants. We invited our friends at Valleys Kids in Porth to join our celebratory exhibition, who brought 14 people to see the art work and celebrate ACE Arts.

In the last 6 months of ACE Arts, we hosted over 60 creative workshops and welcomed over 80 participants who attended regular activities, and over 200 during exhibitions and celebratory events such as our creative winter garden party and arts activities at our Dan Y Coed outdoor play sessions and summer festival event.

Despite valiant efforts, ACE was unable to secure ongoing funding for art projects, and we sadly closed ACE Arts in March 2025, after more than 9 years of regular art activities at the Dusty Forge. Our Artist in Residence, Nic Parsons, continues to work with ACE occasionally on a freelance basis and contributes to the success of our Dan y Coed project with young families. We continue to seek opportunities for our art workshop to be used to bring creative activities to our communities at the Dusty Forge.





# Shape your Future

Shape Your Future provides flexible 1:1 mentoring and small bursaries to help residents overcome barriers to work. In partnership with Cardiff Council's Into Work Service, we're tackling in-work poverty in Ely and Caerau. Support is tailored to each person's goals - funding training, qualifications, equipment and costs that unlock better-paid, flexible and more meaningful work, including self-employment. Between April 2024 and March 2025, 144 residents received bursaries to gain qualifications or purchase essential tools to progress their careers.

## K's Pathway Back to Work



### Overview

K's journey back into construction shows what is possible when practical help and belief in someone come together. With focused mentoring, hands-on employment support and close employer liaison, K moved from uncertainty about his future into a skilled Telehandler role with Kier Construction, backed by a Blue CSCS Tradesman card.

### Background

Referred by his Probation Officer through the Grand Avenues programme, K was working as a turkey farmer after time at Prescoed Prison. He knew his future was in construction, drawing on previous Lantra training and site experience.

### Tailored Support

We began with an honest conversation about K's skills, confidence and goals, followed by a visit to Kier's Fairwater site so he could picture himself back on site.

Shape Your Future funding covered the cost of securing a birth certificate when ID barriers blocked progress. When Kier could not accept his Lantra qualification, we arranged an accredited course with Barry Training Services, which K passed with full marks. Medical clearance delays with his GP were overcome by booking an independent assessment and Fit for Work certificate. Regular contact with Kier's Project Manager kept everyone focused on the end goal.

### Outcomes

On 9 June 2025 K started as a Telehandler with Kier, with his Blue CSCS Tradesman card in hand and a clear route back into his chosen trade.

K's story shows how joined-up, person-centred support can turn barriers into stepping stones, opening the door to a skilled job, renewed confidence and a genuine second chance.

### Donna Hurley, Shape Your Future Lead:

The Shape Your Future Bursary has been a vital resource in offering rapid, flexible support in a non-stigmatising approach, focusing on exploring interests, identifying and developing skills, building confidence and employment progression. The Shape Your Future support model has also demonstrated the effectiveness of personalised mentoring in reducing reoffending and supporting reintegration.



# The ACE Way



ACE continues to share all that we've learnt from 14 years at the heart of Ely and Caerau through our 'ACE Way' training and mentoring programme. Relationships are being built with community organisations right across Wales leading to new opportunities to collaborate, share knowledge and influence government to better support communities. A few highlights from this year include:

- **Training:** Providing community development training for our friends in Blaenau Ffestiniog who are leading the way in building local economic activity in their community.
- **Mentoring:** Working with Caerau Development Trust in Bridgend to write a business plan in support of their ambition to take on the local community centre through an asset transfer.
- **Networking:** Co-facilitating Cardiff CAN (Community Anchor Organisation Network) with C3SC. This collaboration of 15 community based organisations is busy sharing learning and building a research programme to evidence our shared impact in Cardiff.
- **ACE History:** Developing a series of podcasts and written material sharing ACE's history and key lessons along the way. We started by hosting a reunion of community development 'legends' from Ely's recent past!

*'I'd like to just get in touch to be able to say a massive thank you for the training, it was great and gave everyone a chance to really think about their practice and how we create a vision with community voice being central. We look forward to discussing the idea of connecting with communities across Wales and the community democracy idea.'*  
- Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog

Ely legends! Community workers from the last 50 years gather to reminisce in CAER Heritage Centre at the beginning of the ACE History project (from left to right: Dave Wyatt, Nigel Billingham, Eva Elliott, Barry Doughty, Lee Patterson, Gloria Yates, Mark Drakeford, Howard Williamson, John Winslade, Mel Witherden, John Rose and Dave Horton).

*'I have just gone through the business plan in full and I just want to say thank you for your work with us! I have learnt loads, I can see things a lot clearer and concise now too. I'm really grateful to you for the effort you've put in with us and I can't wait to start putting some of the plans we have set out in motion now and hopefully get the centre to where I know we can get it!'*  
- Caerau Development Trust, Bridgend.



The Cardiff CAN network on a visit to Cathays Community Centre (a CAN member).



# Sara's Story

## Regaining Hope

(with ACE by my side)



of each other, so I don't have to hide behind a mask. It's early days yet, but already I feel a little happier. I'm enjoying getting to know different characters and some people in the group are becoming friends."

"Before coming to ACE, I had lost hope, then the walk was the only thing I did", said Sara. "The walking has improved my pain, and increased my mobility. I now take care of myself better. It is lovely to be able to wear clothes in my wardrobe for the first time in years."

Sara, an accomplished artist, first linked in with Yourspace Social Prescribing at ACE in May 2025. Before this, she was struggling with pain from a previous injury, feeling lonely and isolated, and struggling to leave her house at all. Having left a violent relationship and experienced the death of her closest friends, her mental health deteriorated.

Eventually Sara explained her situation to her GP, saying "I'm struggling, not coping, feeling so lonely". The GP made a referral to Yourspace, and within a few days Sara met Danielle, one of our Wellbeing Connectors, in a nearby cafe. Danielle suggested Sara join the Roath Park walking group that had been set up by Yourspace. Danielle picked up Sara and they joined the walk together for the first time. Sara said, "I wouldn't have gone unless Danielle had given me a lift and joined in with the walk".

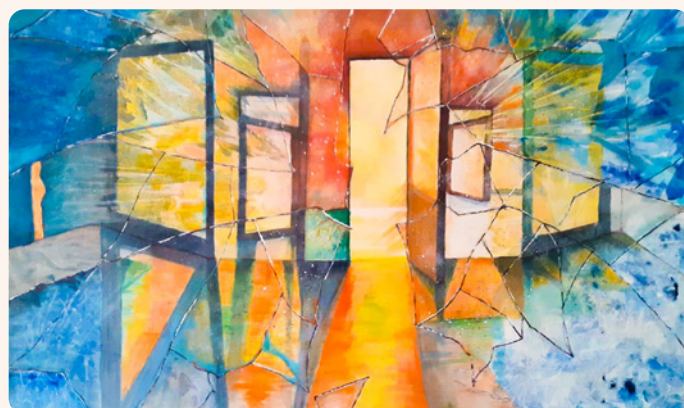
The weekly walk is the highlight of Sara's week. She has made friends with a fellow walker, who now gives her a lift. She has been to an art exhibition with another artist in the group, and they have plans to visit the Wales Millennium Centre together. Sara described the safety of the group:

"It's nice to be in a group where everyone has issues. We listen to each other's stories and are supportive

"Also, ACE has also helped with hidden secrets. I've never spoken about the violence and all that before. It's been a good way to practice, gently, opening up, speaking my truth to the walking group with the support of ACE."

Previously, Sara's painting would sometimes be obsessive work, without sleeping or eating. "Now painting holds hope for me, my work has become lighter and more colourful".

"Yourspace is an excellent service for people who feel isolated," said Sara. "They are supportive, kind and very friendly. If you need support or clarity over anything, Connectors are there. The whole team is lovely. I feel I can tell them anything without feeling judged."



Painting by Sara Allwright.  
Top: 'Girding Waking Splinters'.  
Right: 'Spirits to Move'.



# Our impact in numbers

## Advice and Support

ACE has supported **186 households** through our drop in and casework service. This resulted in a total of **£987,000** additional income being received by community members through benefits advice, grants, and crisis support.



**£987,000**

total additional income received  
by community members



That's an average of  
**£5,306**  
per household

## CAER Heritage

**1423  
People**



**1423 people** visited the archaeological dig in Trelai park last summer. **430 volunteers** got their hands dirty at the dig, helping discover our unique heritage.



## YourSpace Wellbeing Service

**514  
People**



514 people accessed 1:1 support to improve their wellbeing.

### Improved wellbeing



**84%**

A sample of 143 people completed a wellbeing scale, which showed 84% had improved their wellbeing.

## Bereavement Support

ACE leads on a partnership project, funded by Welsh Government, to enhance bereavement support in Cardiff for people from ethnic minority communities and those with a learning disability.

**101  
People**

In 2024-25 the project provided bereavement counselling for 101 people.



**230 people**  
from a range of  
diverse cultural  
backgrounds

attended 14  
bereavement and  
mental health  
workshops.

**34 local  
residents**

with a learning  
disability took part  
in peer support  
activities.



## Shape Your Future

- in work progression



# 144 People

have received mentoring and bursary support to overcome barriers, moving forward in work.

## 114 people



increased income through work progression or self-employment.

## 108 people



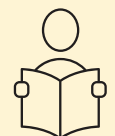
gained a qualification through bursary support.

## 10 people



progressed within their existing role.

## 21 people



attended non-accredited training.

## 90 people



gained new employment.

## ACE Volunteers

ACE worked with over



# 80 regular volunteers

who worked across 20 projects, which had 7 Lead Volunteers.

## ACE Benthgy - Library of Things

Number of times items borrowed in 2024/25

# 473

ACE Benthgy has seen a big jump in numbers of people borrowing items from our library - saving members money and helping the environment. Our numbers increased to 473, an increase of approximately 90% from the previous year.

Active Memberships (up from 400 last year)

# 600

## ACE Arts



# 60

**80 participants** took part in creative activities supporting wellbeing and mental health.



# Communities





# ACE Trustees

As of October 2025

**Marian Dixey (Chair)** lives in Fairwater. She is an active volunteer.

**Mel Witherden** is a retired third sector/charity consultant.

**Oonagh Scott** grew up in Ely. She is a successful business woman.

**James Roach** lives in Ely. He is an active volunteer and contributes finance skills.

**Chris Lannen** is a qualified Financial Advisor.

**Leyton Smith** lives in Caerau. He is an active local volunteer.

**Eva Elliot** is an Honorary Research Fellow at Cardiff University School of Social Sciences.

**Janice Refalo** lives in Caerau. She is an active local volunteer.



**Omobonike Atobatele** lives in Ely. She is an active volunteer and student.

**Carol Owen** has 30 years of experience as a Senior Public Health professional with the NHS.

**Jessica Davies** grew up in Ely and Caerau and is an active volunteer.

# ACE Volunteers

## Project Volunteer

Afia Ali (Poppy)  
Alice Clarke  
Andrew Williams Way  
Ann Thomas  
Auriol Miller  
Blanca Lidea Castro Salas  
Catherine Naamani  
Doris Lau  
Dylan Bond  
Em Collins  
Frances McCarthy  
Gareth Howells  
Gemma Carleton  
Glyn Everett  
Gillian Pugh  
Helen McCarthy  
Irene Jones  
Jeff Clarke  
Kyle Thomas  
Mary Cleaton  
Matthew Cunnah  
Michael Hack  
Patrick Barry  
Penny Owens  
Rhian Phillips  
Scott Bees  
Sian Davies  
Steve Lyons  
Suzanne McEwan

Tania Clarke  
Victoria Misell  
Wai Keung Tang

## Student Volunteers

Nadia Aslam  
Jay Lloyd-Evans  
Sirui Li  
Hannah Huxley  
Kwan Yw Chow (Tony)  
Sophie Bell  
Dan Queally  
Joesph Daniel

## Lead Volunteers

Diane Katy (Lead)  
Diane Matheson (Lead)  
Sarah Standring (Lead)  
Frankie Curtis (Lead)  
Janice Refalo (Lead)  
Kathleen Wolfe (Lead)  
Penny Smith (lead)  
Charlotte Ross (Lead)

## Trustees

Mel Witherden  
James Roach  
Oonagh Scott  
Marian Dixey  
Leyton Smith

Janice Refalo  
Eva Elliot  
Omobonike Atobatele  
Jessica Davies  
Carol Owen

## Many thanks to previous volunteers who supported us in 2024-25

John Naylor  
Robert White  
Jack Wyatt  
Christina Dunn  
Doug Smith  
Doug Stowell  
Scott Morgan  
Danny Westcott  
Jessica Rudd  
Helen Green  
Derek Cleaver  
George Stunderland  
Chez Allen  
Frances McCarthy  
Liubov Yurtsuniak  
Benjamin Wainwright  
Kyle Bebb  
Natasha Hayes  
Jacquie Young  
Caroline Woodman

## Community members volunteering on the CAER Big Dig

Malcolm Thomas  
Megan O'Brien  
Marianne Piper  
Claire Newbery  
Cathy Nowell  
John O Sullivan  
Sharon Parry  
Anne Jones  
Andy Evans  
Kim Iannucci  
Anthony Morgan  
Lynn Glaister  
Alexander Franklin  
Alison Jenkinson  
Sara Shiel  
Jessica Hughes  
Ellen Perry  
Kirsten Mcternan  
Mike Hellyar  
Richard Shearman  
Euryan Davies



# ACE Staff

As of October 2025

## Core

**Michelle Powell**

ACE Director

**Dave Horton**

ACE Learning and Training Director

**Hazel Cryer**

Operational Development Manager  
– Health Portfolio

**Sam Froud-Powell**

Operational Development Manager  
– Community Support Portfolio

**Julie Evans**

HR & Admin Coordinator

**Hasan Roap**

ACE Finance Officer

**George Keane**

Communications and Web Content  
Officer / Dusty Shed Officer

**Dale Ovenstone**

Estates Officer

**Sharon McGrath**

ACE Receptionist

**Julie McDowell**

ACE Receptionist

**Maria Ross**

Assistant Administrator

**Taela-Mae Davies**

Volunteer Development Officer

## Health

**Ann Bailey**

Community Health Development  
Worker

**Clare Westcott**

Wellbeing Connector

**Danielle Afferion**

Young People's Wellbeing  
Connector / Wellbeing Connector

**Ginny Brink**

Wellbeing Connector

**Marged Ioan**

Wellbeing Connector

**Mags Lyons**

Service Coordinator Wellbeing  
Support

**Louise Gray**

Service Coordinator Community  
Development

**Sam Deere**

Community Health Development  
Worker

**Scott Bees**

Community Health Development  
Worker

**Sabrina Driscoll**

Wellbeing Connector

**Sophia Farrugia**

Wellbeing Connector

**Robert Jones**

Yourspace Monitoring and Admin  
Assistant

**Susan Beese**

Wellbeing Connector

**Suki Shinto**

Wellbeing Connector

## Community Support

**Nerys Sheehan**

Community Support Coordinator /  
Grand Avenues Coordinator

**Stacie Leek**

Hafan Project Development Officer

**Megan O'Brien**

Community Support Admin  
Assistant

## Heritage and Environment

**Lois Atkinson**

Caer Centre Development Officer

**Steve Lyons**

Diana Garden Development Officer

**Becky Matyus**

ACE Partnerships Coordinator

**Rob Fuller**

Postcode Gardener / Community  
Health Development Worker

**Thanks to the former ACE Staff  
who have moved on in the last  
year:**

Chris Farr

Eileen Ellis

Holly Findlay

Rachel Hart

Jamie Hallett

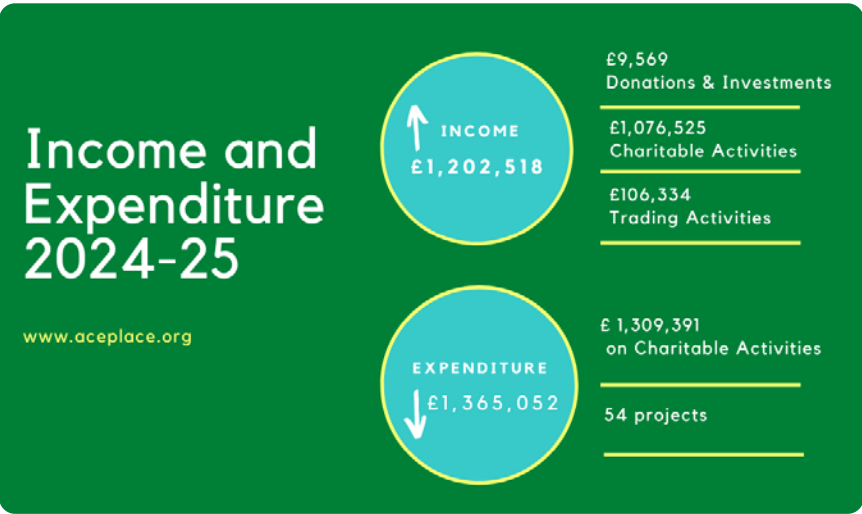
Ruth Mumford

Nicola Parsons

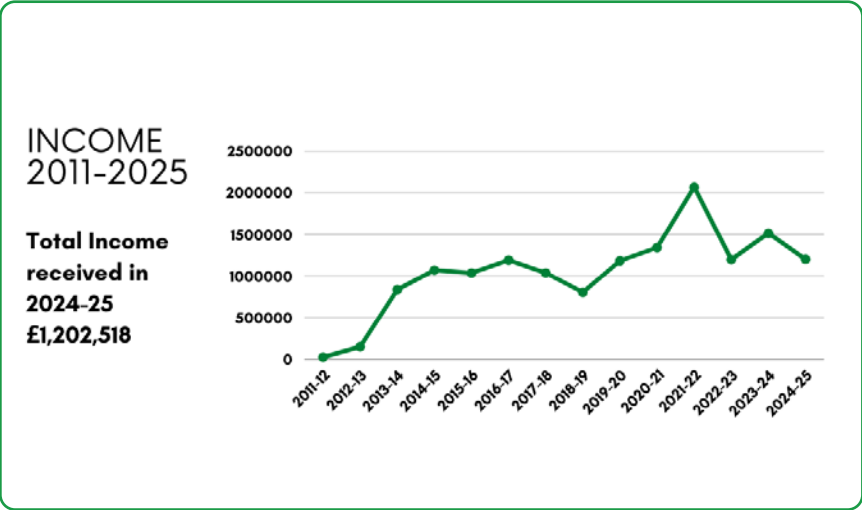
Hannah Bees



# Financial Report

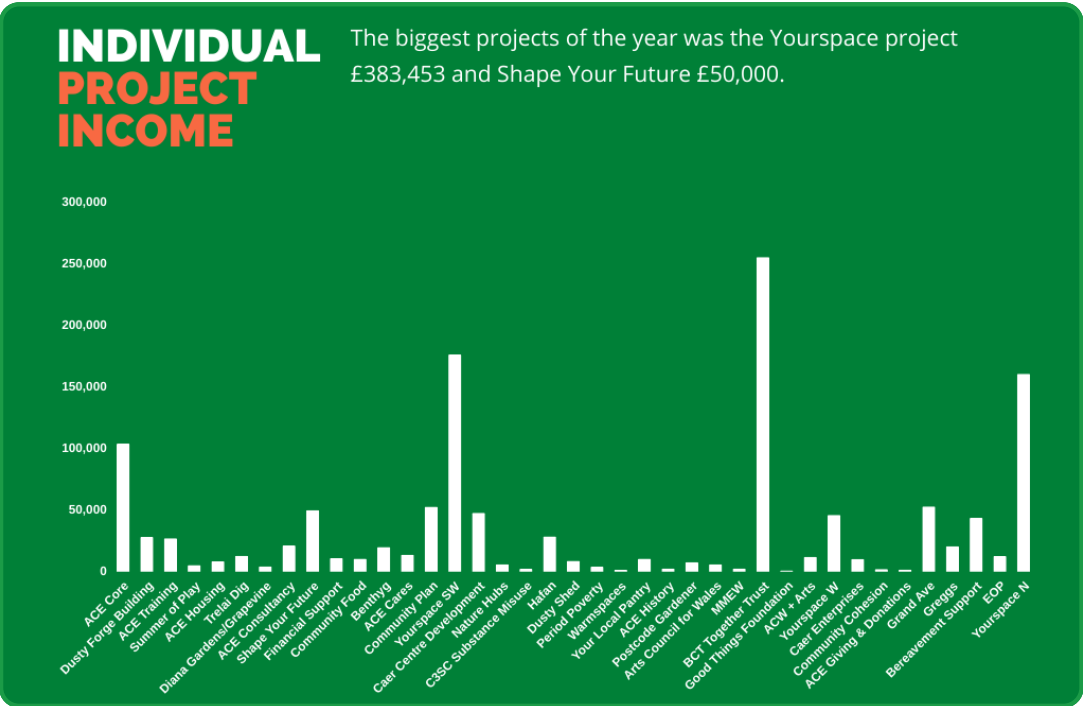


ACE received a total income of £1,202,518 in the 2024 - 25 financial year. Income was generated primarily through charitable activities (£1,076,525), supported by £106,334 of self-generated trading income through social enterprise, rental, consultancy and training activities, and £9,569 in donations and investment income. Total expenditure for the year was £1,365,052, with £1,309,391 spent directly on charitable activities. Funding during 2024 - 25 supported 54 projects, maintaining a similar level of delivery to the previous year.



Some of the biggest projects delivered this year included the Yourspace project (£383,453) and Shape Your Future (£50,000), alongside a wide range of community, wellbeing, family and engagement programmes.

Over the last 14 years, ACE has contributed more than £14 million to the local economy. From 2018 - 25, income generated through direct ACE activities - including social enterprise, grant funding, contracts, fundraising, donations and legacies - totals approximately £9.4 million





# Funders and partners

## ACE Funders



## ACE Partners





ace What's On...	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>Crisis Hour</b> 10 am - 11 am <b>Tajj Talk</b> 80-Men's Group 11 am - 12:30 pm <b>Grow Well</b> 11-2 pm <b>Crochet Club</b> 10 am - 12 pm <b>Benthyg</b> 10-2 pm <b>Trelai Walking Group</b> 11 am - 12:30 pm (meet at Hub)	<b>Flying Start</b> 9.15 - 11.15 am <b>Dusty Shed</b> 10 - 2 pm <b>'Souper' Tuesday</b> 12 pm	<b>Grand Avenues</b> 9 am - 5 pm <b>Llandaff North</b> Walking Group 10.30 am - 12 pm <b>Dusty Shed</b> 'Sit & Chatter' 10 am - 2 pm <b>ROATH PARK</b> WALKING GROUP 10-11.30 <b>Grief Space</b> 10-12 pm	<b>Coffee Morning</b> 10 - 12.30 pm <b>Retreat</b> 10-12.30 pm <b>Into Work</b> Drop-in 10-2 pm <b>Dusty Sheds</b> 10-2 pm	<b>Dusty Shed</b> 10-2 pm <b>Grand Avenues</b> 9-5 pm <b>Crisis Hour</b> 10-11 am <b>BENTHYG</b> 10-2 pm	<b>Repair Café</b> - Every 4th Saturday of the month 10 am - 1 pm
AM						
PM	<b>Food Cycle</b> 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm	<b>Diana Garden</b> 1-4 pm <b>Brownies +</b> <b>GUIDES</b> 6-7.30 pm	<b>Diana Garden</b> 1-4 pm	<b>Victoria Park</b> Walking Group 2 - 3.30 pm		<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b> THIS WEEK... <b>Volunteer drop</b> in Thursday 10-12



ace

Action in Caerau & Ely  
Gweithredu yng Nghaerau a Threlai

Action in  
Caerau  
and Ely

Our Place: Dusty Forge  
460 Cowbridge Rd West, Ely  
Cardiff CF5 5BZ  
Tel: 029 2000 3132

✉ info@aceplace.org

🌐 www.aceplace.org

📘 ACE - Action in Caerau and Ely

📷 actionincaerauandely



