

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



Introduction

Our Annual Report highlights the differences we have made to the community of Ystradgynlais and neighbouring communities across Powys and Neath Port Talbot during the year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. YVC is a registered charity and we work with volunteers and the third sector to improve the wellbeing of people in Ystradgynlais and neighbouring communities.

Collaborations

We know first-hand that for voluntary organisations to meet the challenges of the future we must work together, to organise and look ahead to prepare for the future. We continue to collaborate and connect with local people, organisations and services through strong partnerships.



Working Partners/ Memberships

PAVO	Powys County Council	Community Dreams	Western Valleys Communities First
WCVA	Job Centre Plus	Legacy in the Community	Community Repaint
NPTCVS	Probation Service	POBL	
SCVS	Remploy		



South Wales Stick Makers

We continue to provide a resource to our partners to facilitate activities at the centre - for example workshops for people who want to learn the craft of stick making.



Our CHARITY

Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre has long been at the heart of the community, providing opportunities for volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to get involved, whether through community projects, events, or day-to-day support. Over the years, the YVC has grown to include a range of initiatives aimed at meeting the diverse needs of the local community.

Ystrad Recycling was one of the centre's earliest projects, the aim is to promote environmental awareness and sustainability. We do this by encouraging our local community to recycle and reduce waste. This initiative has helped the local environment and has also provided those who are passionate about green living with the opportunity to volunteer.

Recognising the need to support families facing food insecurity, **Ystradgynlais Foodbank** was established to provide essential food supplies to individuals and families in crisis. The foodbank relies heavily on volunteers and donations, ensuring that no one in the community goes hungry.

Ti a Fi Café offers a warm, welcoming space for individuals to come together and connect with others. The Café has some amazing volunteers, who do everything from taking orders and serving meals to clearing tables and washing up. There's always a warm welcome and a friendly face.

Adding to the range of projects, the **YVC Shed** was created as a space for people to come together, share skills, and work on practical projects. It offers a supportive environment for those who enjoy hands-on activities, helping to combat social isolation while encouraging creativity and collaboration.

Thanks to these projects, Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre keeps bringing people together, offering support, and helping to build a strong, connected community.

Chairmans Report

Welcome to the YVC annual report for 2024-2025

As trustees we would like to offer our thanks to the staff and volunteers for their ongoing commitment and dedication to the Centre.

There have been many new developments over the past twelve months or so. For example, the Ti a Fi Cafe continues to grow from day to day and is still attracting new customers as well as regular return visitors. The Christmas lunches were once again a great success as was the Craft Fare. We have succeeded in obtaining Lottery funding to employ extra staff. We will continue to try and develop the café, with a view to applying for funding to employ extra staff as required.

The Men-Shed is now well established and the numbers are growing each week, and it is very good to see the number of ladies that are now attending and working in conjunction with the men. The Shed has also taken on the job of tending the garden raised beds and are growing a variety of vegetables and other products.

During the past year the Centre has purchased a new van, which has been sign written, to improve our image and give us free advertising when the van is out and about collecting and delivering items. Having a new van has expanded our capacity to collect and deliver items both donated and sold. In the past year we have received grant funding from PAVO and Coalfields and the Food Bank was supported by the sum of £500 from the town council.

The activity of the Centre is offering opportunities to develop relationships with new partners and strengthen our relationships with existing ones for long-term sustainable projects.

Going forward, we are making available professional development courses to our staff and are looking at the possibility for Lottery funding to upgrade the building.

I must not overlook giving credit for much of the success of the past year to Keiron, the Centre's Manager. He has always been willing to lend a hand whenever it was needed.

As always, the Board is seeking new members and volunteers to help carry forward all the good work being undertaken by Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre.

This brief highlight of a selection of activities and developments is to show the overall health and vitality of the Centre and its contribution to the life of the town. There are many more things I could list, but I feel the most important is many thanks for all the incredibly hard work and commitment from staff and volunteers. You should all feel justifiably proud of everything you're achieving.

Gabe Thomas, Chairman

Objectives

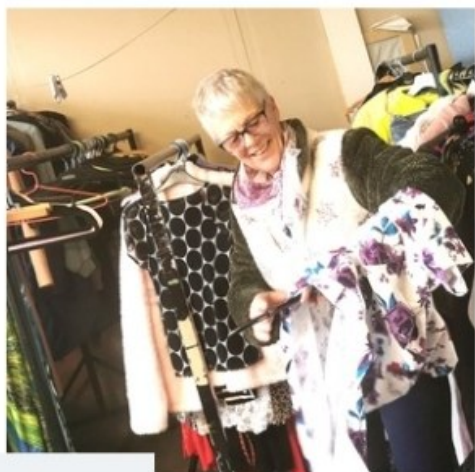
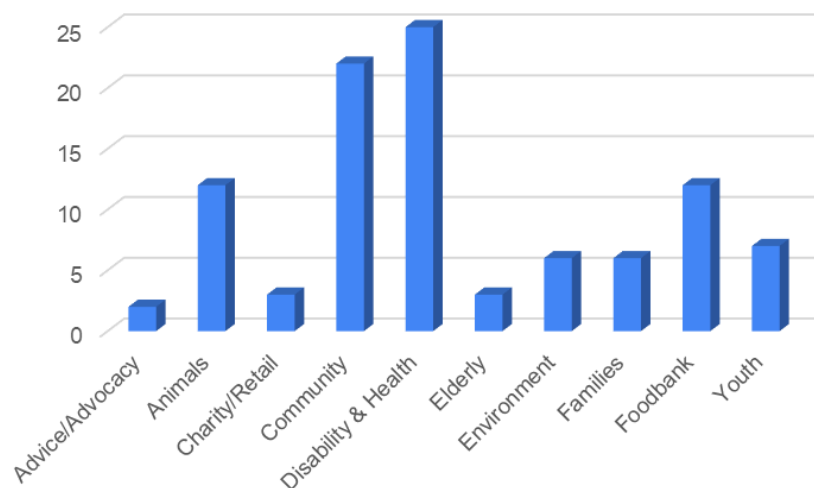
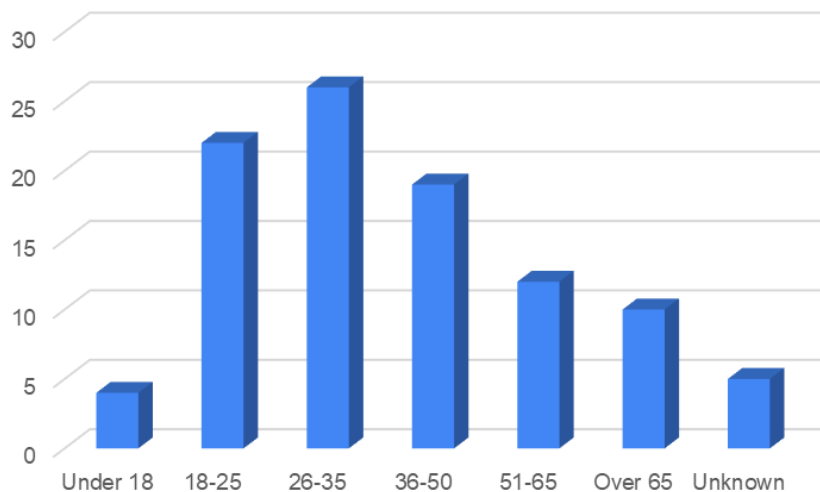
- ◇ **To support and promote volunteering** by recruiting, placing, and supporting volunteers within the local community, helping individuals find meaningful opportunities that match their skills and interests.
- ◇ **To strengthen community well-being** by providing services such as the foodbank, furniture recycling, and the YVC Shed, which address social, practical, and economic needs.
- ◇ **To reduce social isolation and improve quality of life** by creating welcoming spaces where people can connect, build friendships, and participate in community projects.
- ◇ **To empower individuals through skills development**, offering volunteering roles and community activities that help build confidence, experience, and employability.
- ◇ **To promote sustainability and environmental awareness** through recycling initiatives, upcycling projects, and responsible resource use within the community.
- ◇ **To collaborate with local agencies and organisations** to provide coordinated support and ensure the needs of vulnerable individuals and families are met effectively.

Volunteering

Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre creates a community where people can come together through volunteering. We make this happen by showing people how valuable volunteering can be and also offer a wide range of opportunities for everyone to get involved so they can gain skills and experience.

**New Volunteers
Placed**

98



Recycling

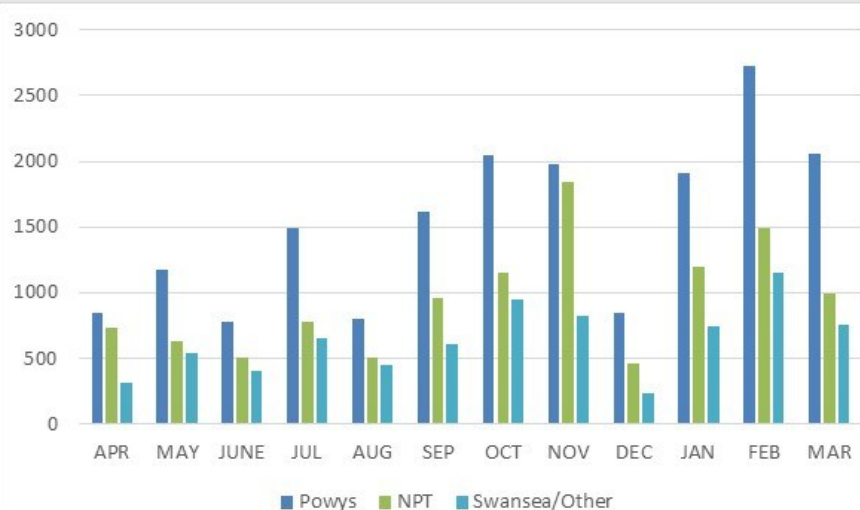
Ystrad Recycling is a community-driven initiative that encourages sustainable living by promoting recycling, reusing and reducing waste, while also providing volunteering opportunities for those passionate about protecting the environment. Additionally, we repurpose household and other goods for resale or use within the community.

Total amount saved from landfill

Powys 18,293.20 Tons

NPT 11,259.50 Tons

Swansea 7618.50 Tons

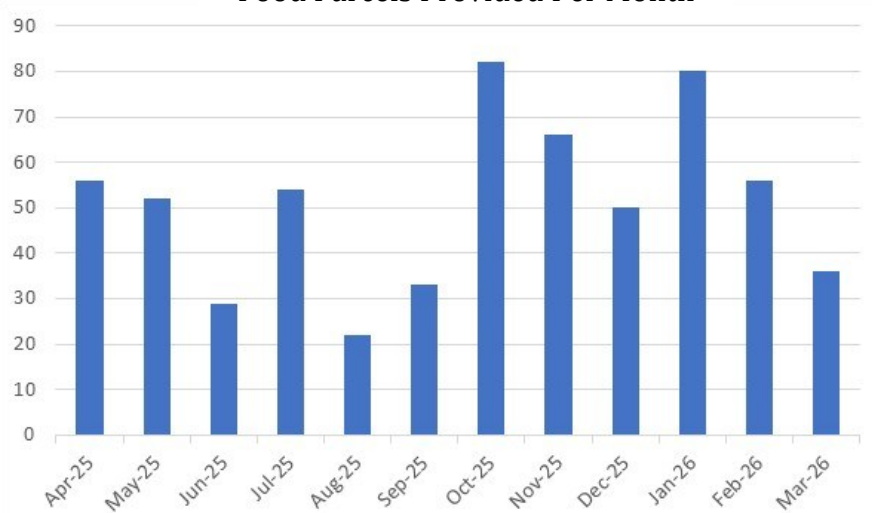


Ystradgynlais Foodbank

The Ystradgynlais Foodbank supports individuals and families experiencing financial hardship by providing essential food and household items. It plays a vital role in tackling food insecurity and promoting the wellbeing of the local community. The service is made possible thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers who give their time each week to keep things running smoothly, as well as the generosity of our supporters whose donations help us continue this important work.



Food Parcels Provided Per Month



Ti A Fi Cafe

Ti a Fi Café is a fantastic place to come and relax as well as to meet new friends. There is always a warm welcome from our amazing Staff and Volunteers who are always on hand to help. The café serves lovely homemade food and drinks all freshly prepared and cooked on site.



Café Footfall



YVC Shed

The YVC Shed has continued to grow from strength to strength, with membership numbers increasing every month. We're lucky to have a wonderful group of members who join us each week, whether to work on their own projects or simply to enjoy a chat and a cuppa. Over the past few months, they've dedicated their time to creating beautiful Christmas decorations, which were a big hit at the local Christmas fairs.



Buying Social— Ethical and Sustainable

Ystradgynlais Community Recycling is proud to operate as a Social Enterprise.

Social Enterprises are making a positive impact across the world, and our mission is to drive meaningful social change. When you choose to buy from a social enterprise, you're supporting a business that gives back to the community. We help create jobs, improve people's life opportunities, offer training and employment, support local communities, and contribute to protecting the

**Helping
those in
need**



We are regularly called on to support social services and community partners in rehousing a cross section of people from families in crisis, to those needing emergency new housing because of; domestic violence or eviction, to people who are destitute and have had to flee their homelands (immigration) so as to avoid persecution.

We have helped many families in need through the provision of household furniture, bedding, clothing and other support. We also ensure families are signposted to other agencies and support groups for financial and other help. We also make a valued contribution to assist integration of people into the community.





Meet Our Team

Committee Members


Trustee Chairperson:	Paul Emmanuel/Gabe Thomas
Treasurer:	Steve Rose
Trustee Members:	Hywel Jopling Nick Gould
Accounts:	Fergusons and Peters
Human Resources:	Mr D Williams

YVC Staff

Keiron Burke	- YVC Manager
Josie Bailey	- Recycling Manager
Elizabeth Davies	- Volunteer/Client Coordinator
Karl Lewis	- Recycling Van Driver
Aidan Wilcox	- Recycling Technician
Caroline Burke	- Café Manager
Aidan Radjenovic	- Café Assistant
Howard Betsworth	- Informal Volunteering Officer

Antur Ystrad Director

Keiron Burke





Contact Us



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www.facebook.com/ystradgynlaisvolunteercentre

www.facebook.com/recycling.ystradgynlais

www.facebook.com/ystradgynlaisfoodbank