



Gwynedd

COMMUNITY ARTS

# Scrap Book

2020 - 2021

## Year of Covid Lockdowns





# Welcome

Thank you for looking at our scrapbook,  
we hope that you'll enjoy it!

Who would have thought back in March 2020 that we would have faced one of the most challenging years in our history. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us, our health, work and life as a whole. Obviously, our way of working in community arts has been transformed. It has been a time of tremendous change, at a rapid pace during a time of fear and uncertainty. It was necessary to adapt and develop to an isolated and socially distanced situation. There was a need to learn how to use technology in a new way, and to try to be inventive and creative to continue to reach the people of Gwynedd.

With such an exceptional year, it is important that we reflect and record the work that has been done over the last twelve months. Therefore, this scrapbook was created to try to keep images, history and impressions in one neat little place. Despite all the challenges, sharing and celebrating the creativity that has taken place is vital to encourage further development and to spark our future work.

Enjoy this booklet and remember that Gwynedd Community Arts are here to support Gwynedd's communities through the arts. So keep in touch, let us know if you have an idea for a project, or if you need support; it's a difficult time and if we can help you **we will do our very best!**

## Ffion & Gwawr

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Gwynedd Council

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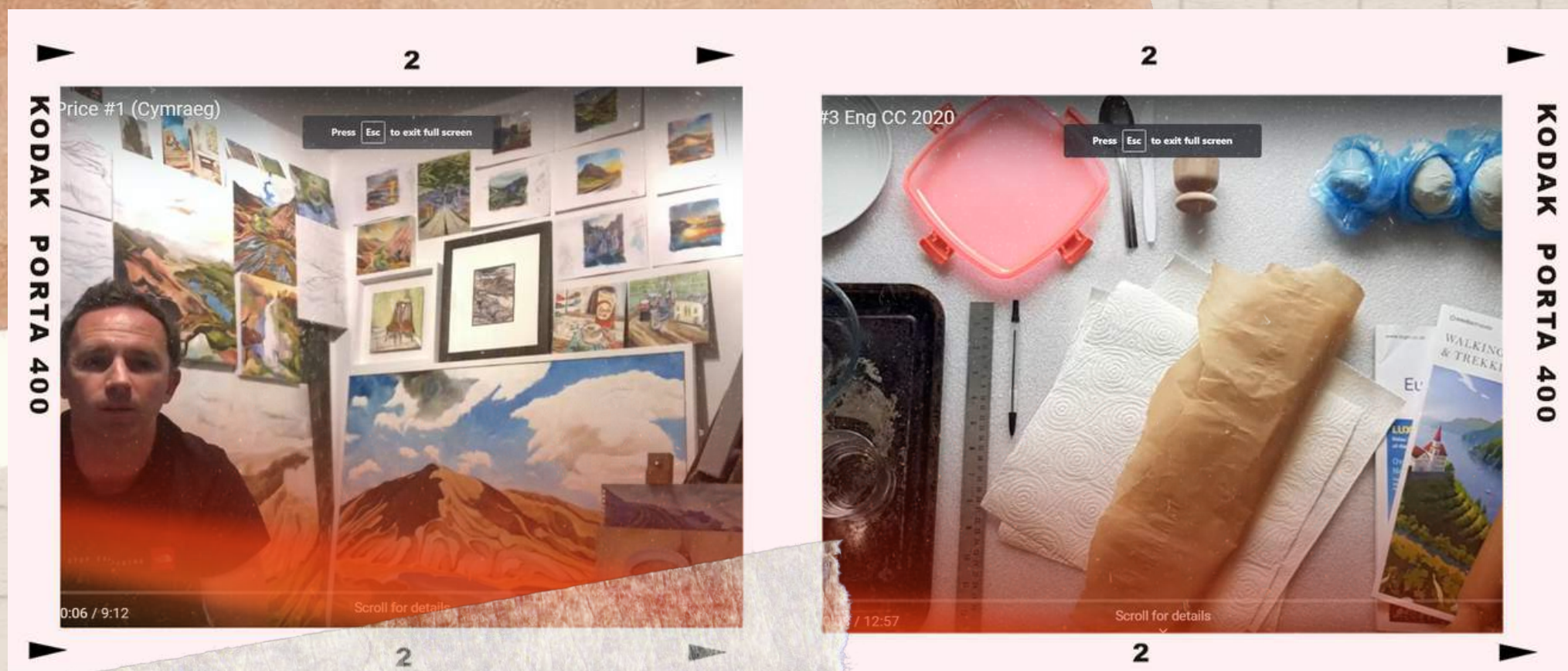
[FfionStrong@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:FfionStrong@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

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# Criw Celf



Criw Celf art  
masterclasses on video...

Prior to the start of the first lockdown, a couple of art workshops were held in person for Criw Celf project members. This scheme supports children and young people who demonstrate a special talent and interest in art through workshops, exhibitions and events. Instead of cancelling the workshops, they were video recorded and e-mailed out to our members, and everyone received a pack of art materials through the post to help create from home!

The Artists:

Glyn Price - Lisa Eurgain Taylor - Catrin Griffiths - Tess Urbanska

## Criw Celf Bach Workshops...

Criw Celf Bach workshops, which are usually workshops for 7-11 year olds in Bangor, Llanbedrog and Aberdyfi, were also converted into video workshops and were created by two of our usual tutors:

Tess Urbanska a Jane Baraclough



Criw Celf: 48 young people

Criw Celf Bach: 70 children

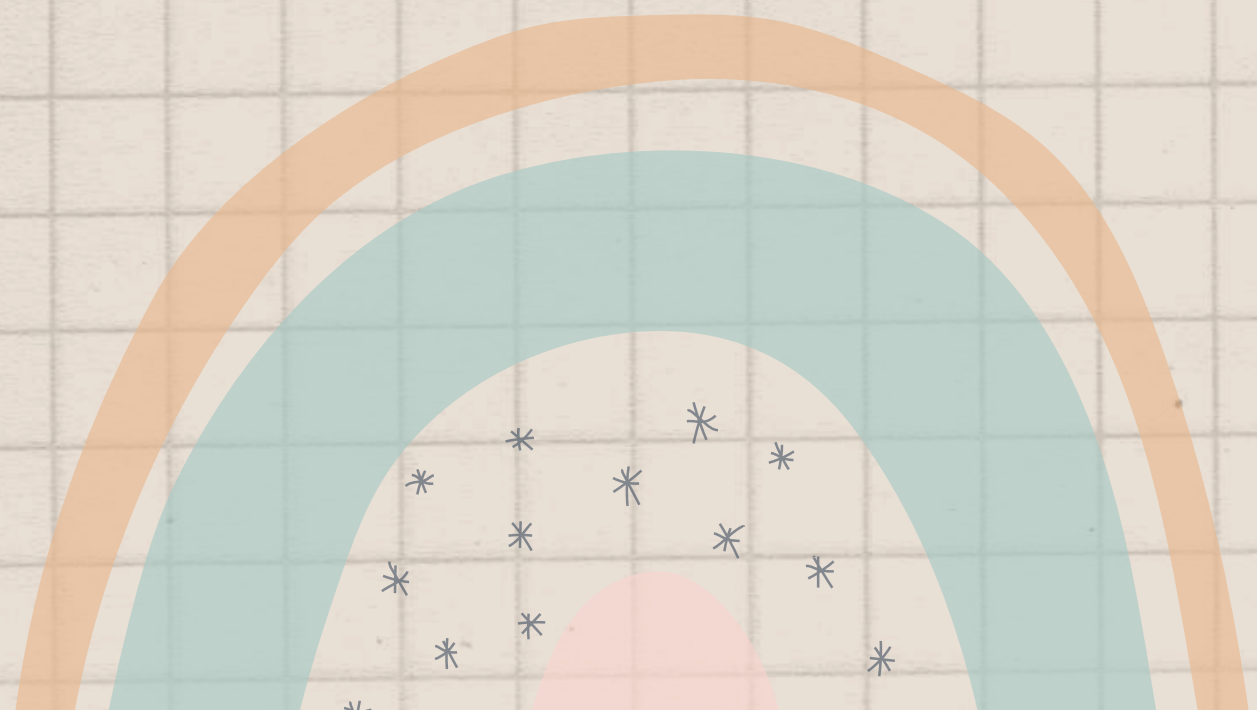


# Afon Enfyys Mural



Mural to thank key workers  
outside Storiell, Bangor

The rainbow became a symbol of hope and a way of thanking our key workers in 2020. It was wonderful to be able to contribute to these images by commissioning Femke Van Gent, a local artist, to design and create a special mural for one of the exterior walls of Storiell in Bangor. Pop over to visit the mural when you have a chance!

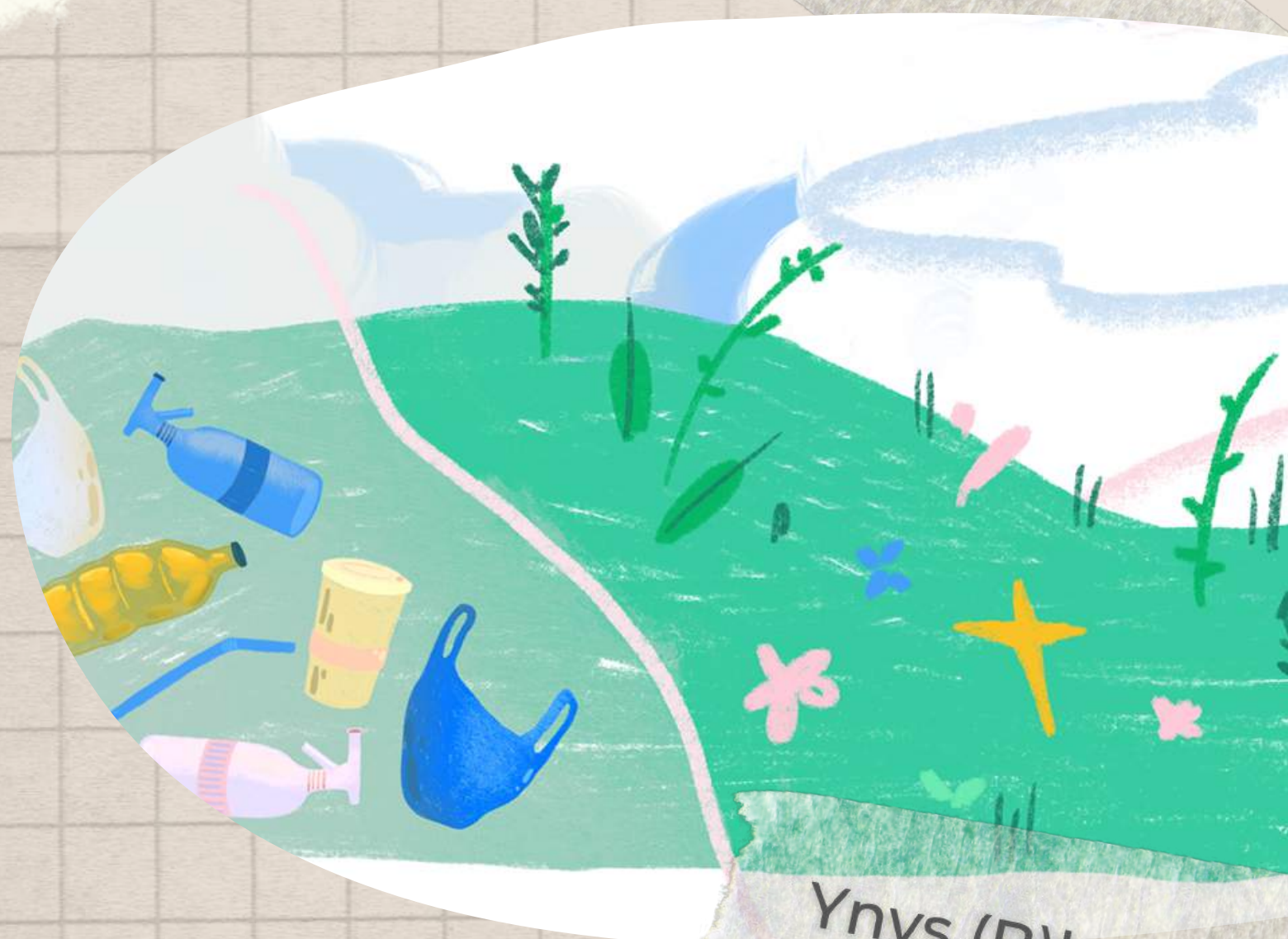




# Ynys Blastig



Ynys Blastig Mandala in the sand on Morfa Bychan beach



Ynys (B)lastig

The Ynys Blastig (Plastic Island) project has also continued over the last year. Special educational resources have been created and a website and podcasts will be available. The purpose of Ynys Blastig is to try to reduce our use of plastic in a creative way and make us consider how we can help protect our environment.

Thanks to Iola Ynry, Sioned Evans, Ceri Lloyd and Iwan Fon for all their work on the scheme this year.



Ynys Blastig Seal



# Craft for Well-being



Lora Morgan, craftsperson with the craft packs



Screenshots of some of the workshops and a photo of the contents of the library kits

As we know, being creative is very beneficial, and it was a pleasure to be able to offer craft workshops online after the onset of the pandemic with the Craft for Well-being scheme.

Lora Morgan, craftsperson and proprietor of Siop Sifafins, has been running the online workshops from her shop in Caernarfon. They have been very popular, with a group of friendly craftspeople meeting regularly to co-create all sorts of beautiful creations.

As well as the workshops, Craft for Well-being has been part of the Gwynedd Carers Festival and the Carrying On Conference. In addition, 60 free craft kits were also created for Gwynedd residents who were unable to join the online sessions. Thanks to the Library Service for distributing these for us through their click and collect scheme!



# Creativity Kits



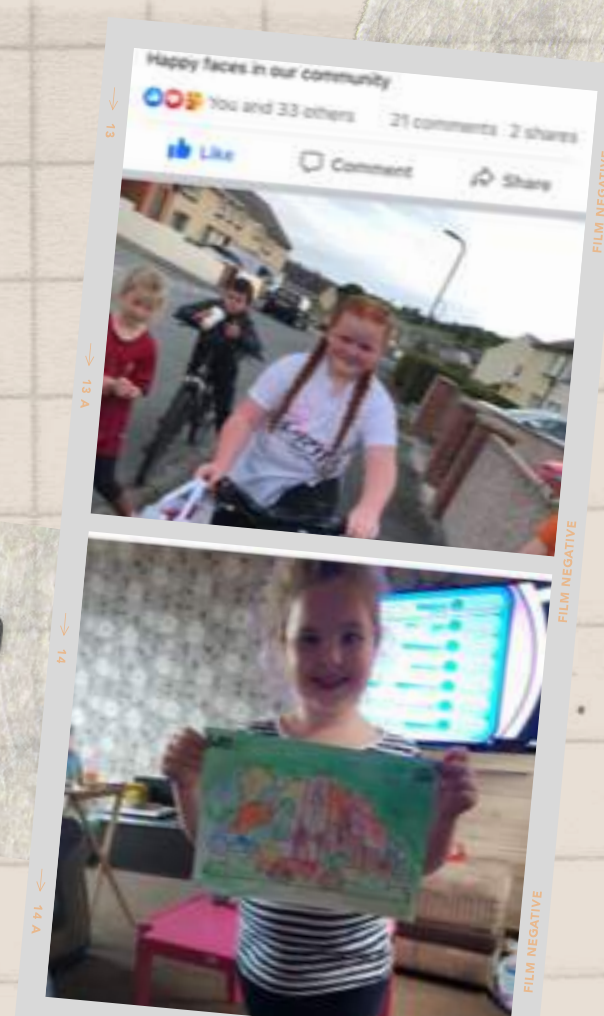
Packing, packing and more packing!

With everything under lockdown, it was not possible to conduct creative activities as normal. Staying home was a challenge for families, especially when the schools were closed. Therefore we created hundreds of Creativity Kits full of arts and crafts materials, seeds, leaflets, etc. Each kit also included a special booklet created to offer ideas and inspiration to children and families! Working with charities, food banks, organisations and schools, hundreds of kits were distributed in the Bangor, Deiniolen, Bethesda, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Barmouth and Pwllheli areas.

Creative hampers are now in the process of being created for Gwynedd care homes; one of the groups most affected by the pandemic are older people and care home staff, so hopefully the hampers will help a little!

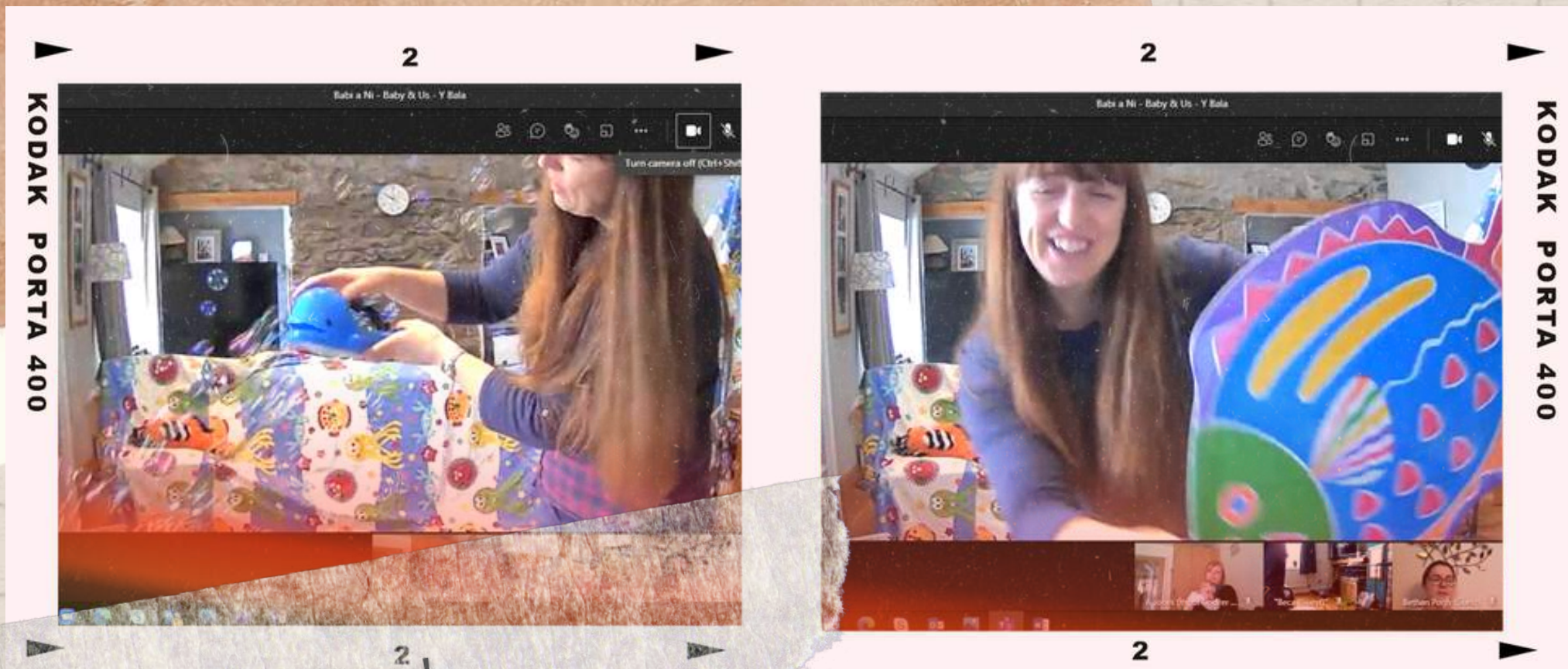
The contents of kits for Maesgeirchen families in partnership with MaesNi

Some Bangor children with their kits!





# Baby & Us



'Under the Sea'  
Baby & Us Session

Bala Group:  
11 families

Talysarn Group:  
11 families

Another group that has found it particularly challenging over the last year are new parents. It has been a very lonely time and the experience of attending medical appointments and giving birth has been isolating and difficult for many. Babies and new parents gain a lot from socialising and sharing experiences but this has not been easy this year. As a result, we set about working with Flying Start and Health Visitors in the Bala and Talysarn areas to run a new club online, called Baby & Us. This was an opportunity to play, sing and dance as well as have a chat and get to know each other. Everyone received a lovely pack through the post full of toys, colourful props and a booklet full of ideas and songs.

Baby & Us Leader: Claire Lynch  
Toys Craftperson: Nerys Jones

Artist and craftsperson Nerys Jones was commissioned to create small sewn toys for young children. It was a pleasure to be able to support a freelance artist at this time and to have unique little toys created for the packs. Click on this link to view the content of these colourful packs!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lodx-ZvPRak>





# Well-being for Me



Glyn Price, Chloe Roberts, Chloe Ward  
a Gwawr Wyn Roberts, Well-being for Me  
Team

Mental well-being is paramount and yet, these lockdowns have had a negative impact on mental well-being for many. In an attempt to support the well-being of Gwynedd residents, we devised and ran a project called Well-Being for Me in January 2021. A support community was established through a closed Facebook group. Every day, we shared activities, quotes, links, videos and special workshops selected to support well-being through the Five Ways to Well-being:

- **98** people took part in Well-being for Me
- **83%** of those participants who completed a questionnaire measuring their well-being reported an increase in the well-being having taken part in the project.

- Connect
- Keep Learning
- Give
- Take Notice
- Be Active



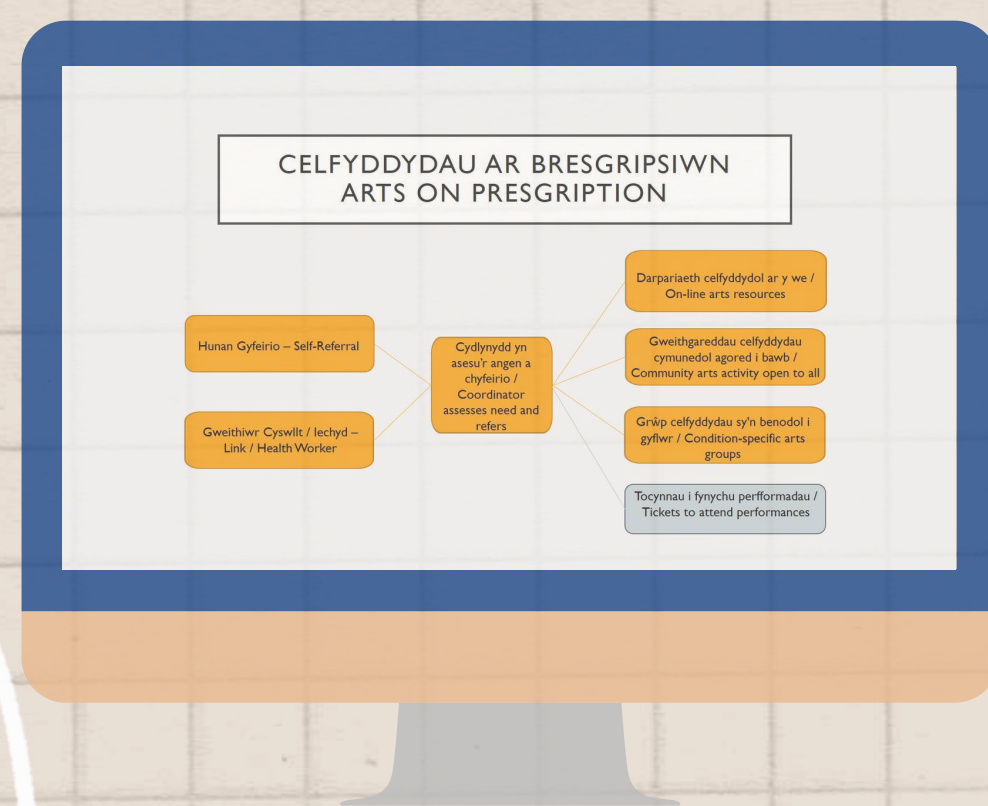
A participant's  
art work



# Arts on Prescription

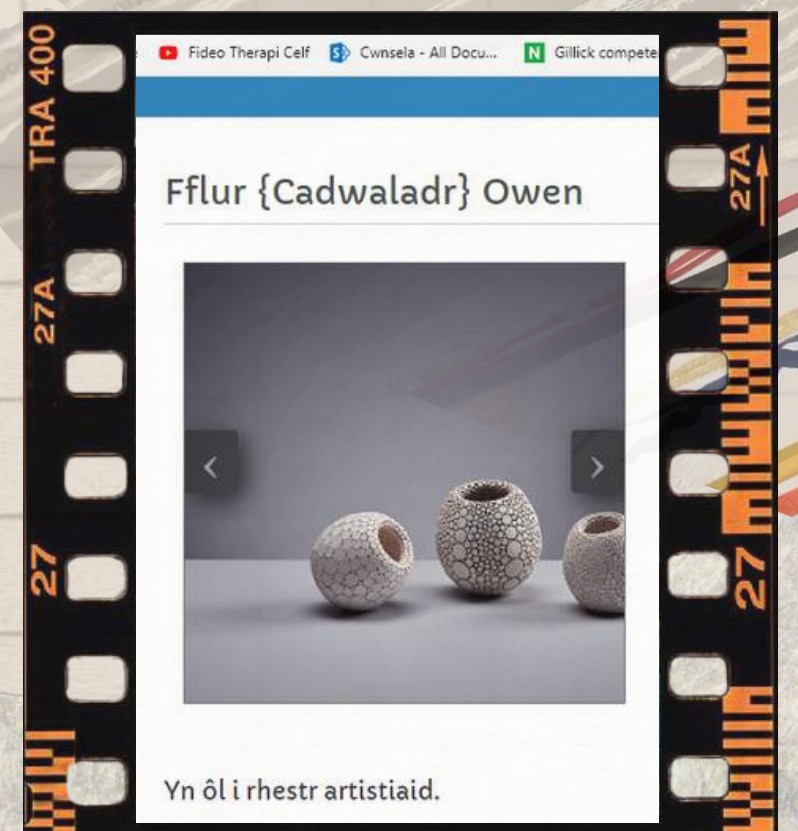
## Celfyddydau ar Bresgripsiwn GWYNEDD Arts on Prescription

Important research into how best to set up an arts on prescription scheme for Gwynedd has been taking place over the last year. Cwmni CELyn was appointed to conduct research on our behalf, and an online consultation took place to gather the views of the public and health workers and organisations. Planning for trialling an arts on prescription model has begun and a pilot scheme will be undertaken next year.

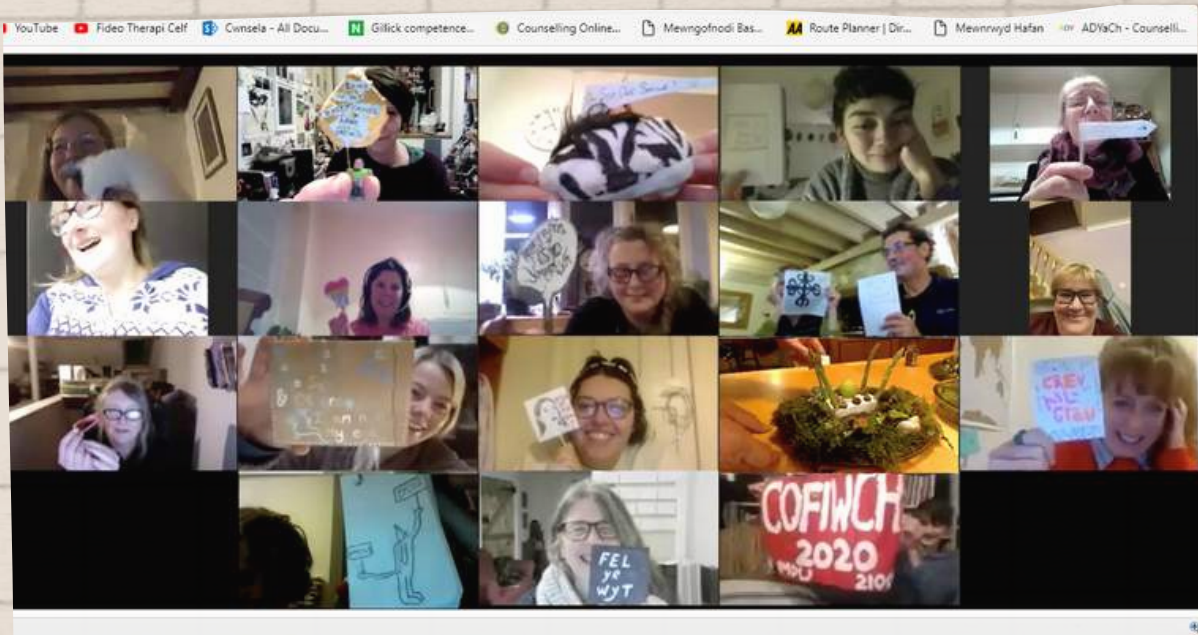




# Creative Gwynedd



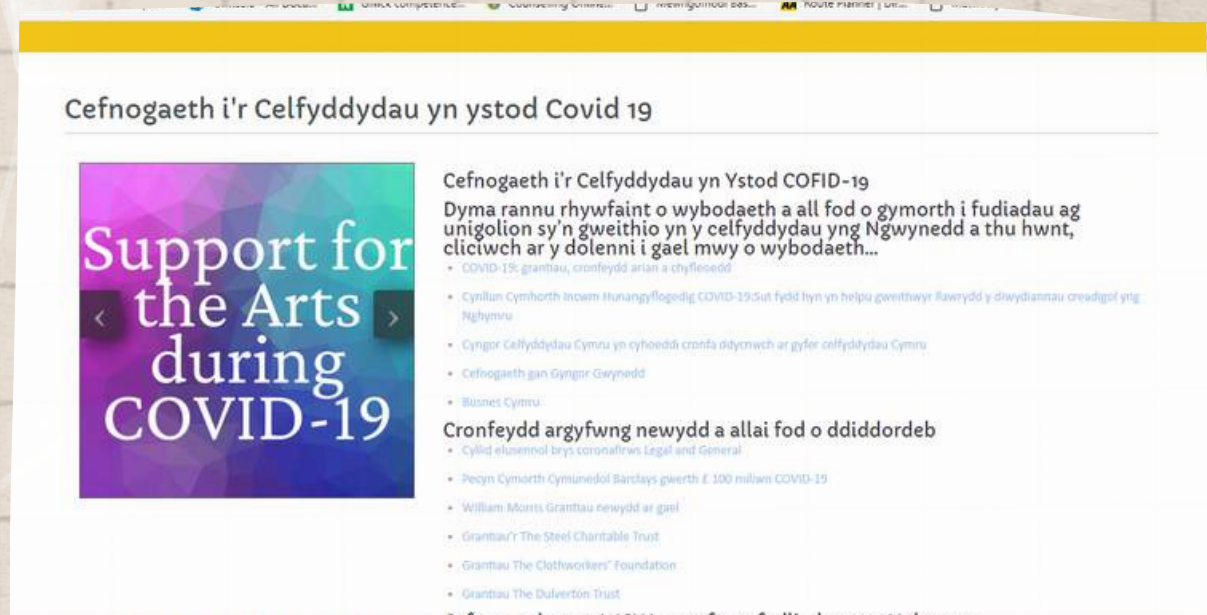
Free profile - Fflur Owen



Mini Utopias Bach



Coflaid Covid



Sharing information online

Creative Gwynedd has sought to support the sector through various means during the past year. In the early days of the pandemic, a WhatsApp group was created to keep in touch and share information; it proved to be a good way to support each other.

Practitioners and creative companies had the opportunity to create a free profile on the Creative Gwynedd website to promote their work. Not everyone had an online presence, so it was a good way to help some to start promoting themselves digitally and to increase their online presence.

Seed funding was distributed to various creative practitioners to support them to respond to and develop a new way of working as a result of COVID.



[www.creativegwynedd.com](http://www.creativegwynedd.com)



@CelfGwyneddArts



Gwynedd Greadigol - Creative Gwynedd

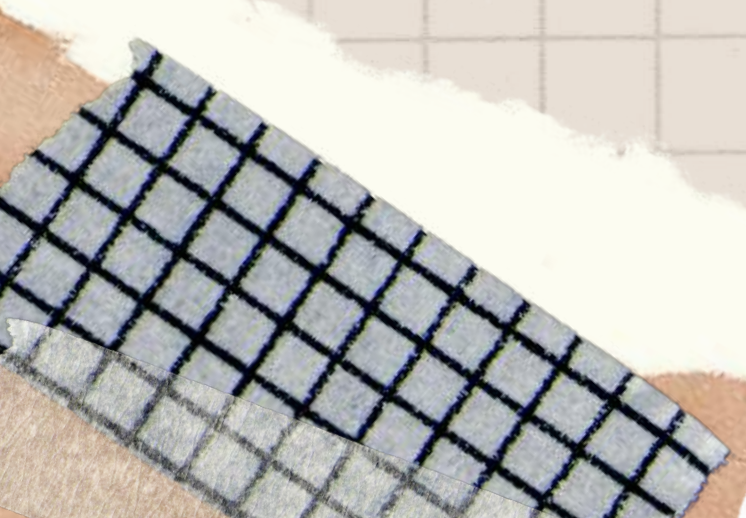


# Song & a Chat



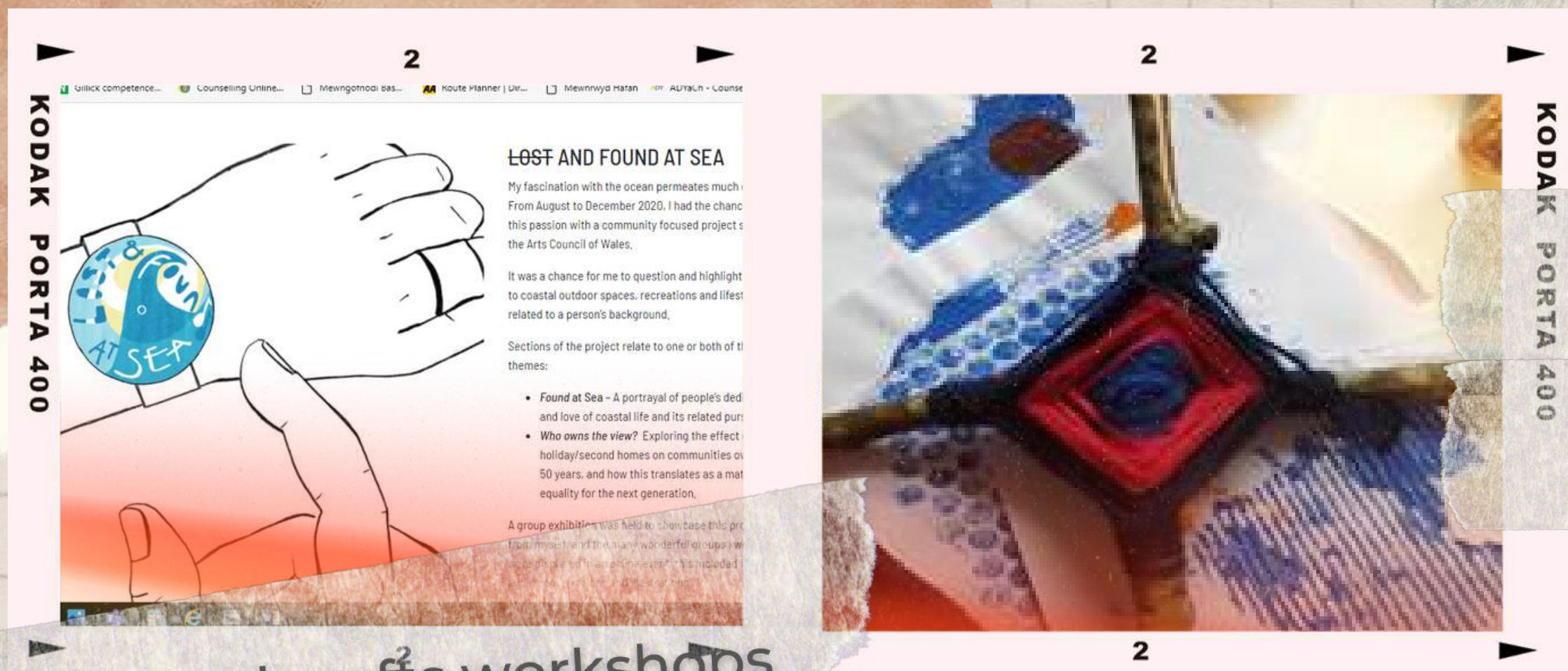
Elin Taylor staging a cello performance in a Gwynedd care home garden

Song and Chat is a scheme that aims to reduce loneliness through music. The work is led by Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias and has been running for many years in the communities of Gwynedd. Despite COVID restrictions, it has been able to reach out to the people of the County by working through video, virtual sessions and concerts, posting CDs and through staging music performances in the gardens of care homes for older people.



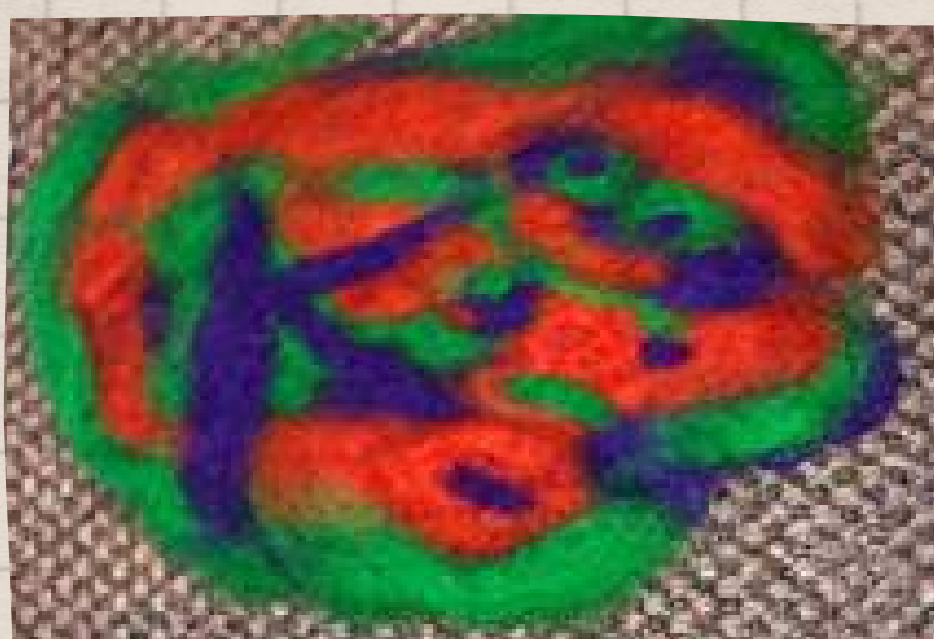


# Young People



## Online arts and crafts workshops with Jess Balla and Lora Morgan

Last year has been very challenging for young people. At an important time in their development, where spending time with their friends and trying to be more independent is key, COVID has been a huge barrier. It was important, therefore, to offer them opportunities to take part in creative activities with their friends and others of the same age. By working in partnership with Gwynedd Youth Service, we supported an online music composition project with Martin Daws and Agent Orange, a project to explore the theme of the 'Sea' with artist Jess Balla and develop entrepreneurship skills in creating craft products with Lora Morgan.





# Ontrac



An example of an Ontrac activity artwork

The Ontrac art project for young people in Gwynedd was run in partnership with the ADTRAC scheme. This was an online training scheme to support young people not in education, employment or training to recognise their identity, build self-awareness and increase resilience through art. Activities were devised to raise the young peoples' awareness of the Five Ways to Well-being and support them to incorporate these into their daily lives. The young people gained two qualifications each on completion of the training, many congratulations to all of them and hopefully they will find it useful when looking for work or further training.





# Clwb Enfys & Makaton Choir



Everyone busy art-making and sharing their creations!



Iolo and his St Davids day themed artwork

It was great to be able to offer financial support to the work of our colleagues in the Adults, Health and Well-being Service, contributing to the virtual Clwb Enfys (Rainbow Club) and Makaton Choir.

*"Receiving the budget from you enabled us to offer creative activity sessions for adults with a learning disability or autism. Clwb Enfys was set up to run online client activities with artist Elen Williams. We also had the opportunity to employ a Makaton trainer establishing a new Makaton Choir. This year has been very challenging for adults on our registers as they are unable to go to school, college, work or day services. These sessions offered a way to share skills and experiences and keeping in touch with colleagues and friends in difficult and lonely times"*

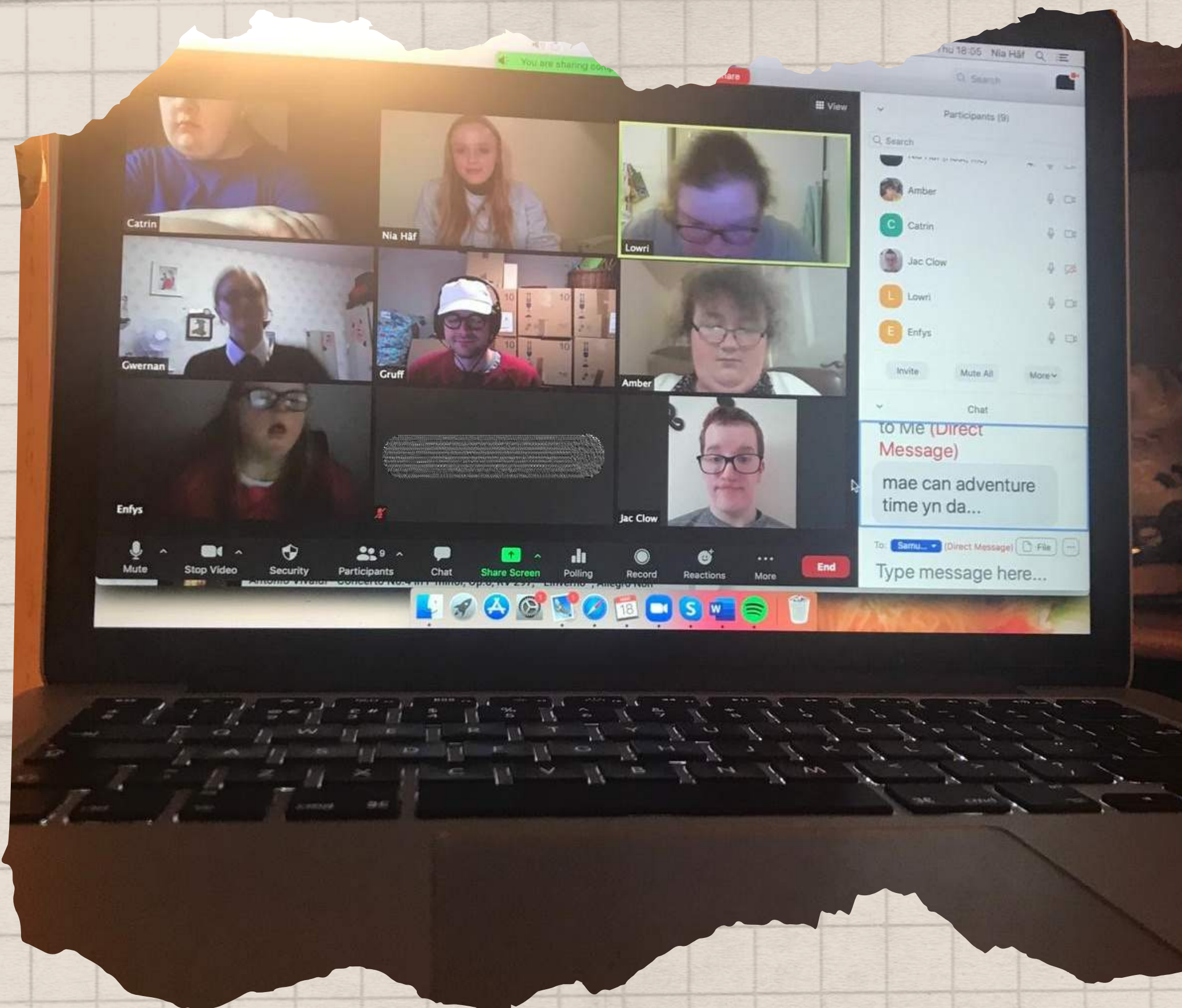
Eryl Williams, Wellbeing Officer, Gwynedd Council said.



The Makaton Choir



# Fi Di Fi



Encouraging young people to use the arts as a means of expression has been Fran Wen's Fi Di Fi project's focus for many years now, with some input and financial support from Gwynedd Community Arts. Here is what happened this year in the words of Frân Wen...

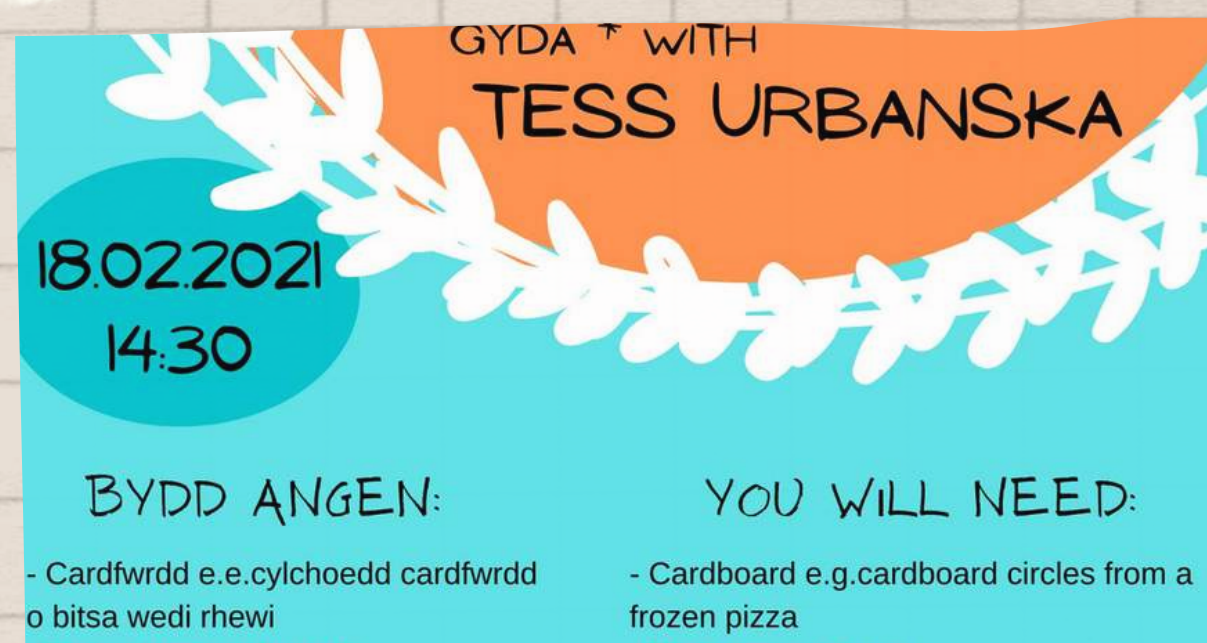
"In response to the challenges of 2020-2021, we adapted our Fi Di Fi program to new digital media, to ensure that we continued to offer well-being activities through the arts, and support young people through the challenging times. Social-arts sessions via zoom were held with young people from the Bangor BAME community, mindfulness activities via Instagram, and a new project creating mail magic during lonely times. Seeing young peoples' confidence develop was a pleasure, and gives us hope that we have been able to support a wide range of young people through the lockout period. "



# Online Events



9Bach Gig



Tess Urbanska Art Workshop



Plu Gig



Mr Phormula Gig

Despite the lockdown periods, a number of gigs and live events were organised in partnership with Creative Gwynedd. Being able to offer performances and opportunities for the people of Gwynedd to take part in creative sessions was vital. Being able to offer a platform and work for creative practitioners was also very important in these difficult times with job opportunities scarce or stopped for our performers.

Creative Gwynedd established a channel on the AMAM website and streamed gigs and creative sessions from it and through Facebook. There was a varied programme, including music, art, craft, dance and creative writing, all focusing on artists from Gwynedd ...

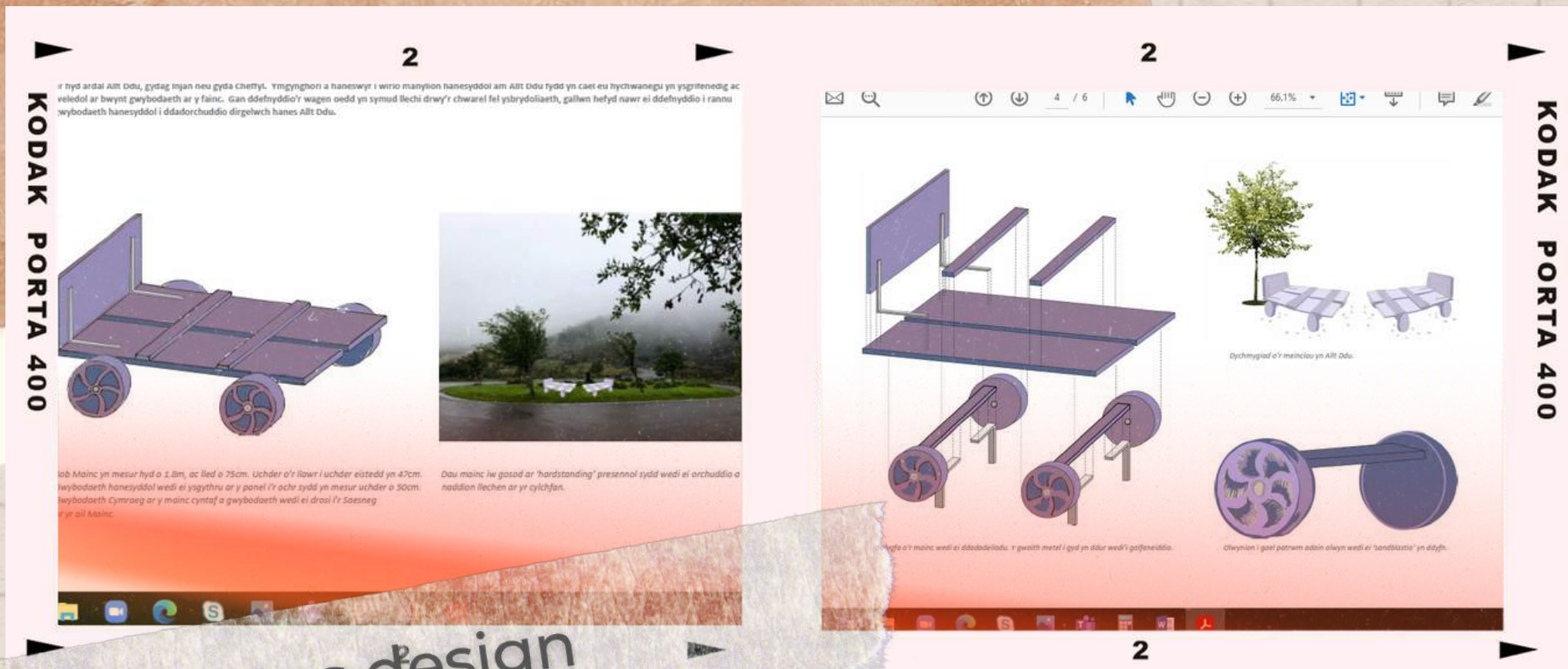
- Plu
- Mei Gwynedd
- 9Bach
- Mr Phormula
- Mared Williams
- Tegid Rhys
- Dawns i Bawb
- Creative Writing with Sian Northey
- Art with Tess Urbanska
- Craftmaking with Lora Morgan

AM <https://www.amam.cymru/gwynedd-greadigol>

f Gwynedd Greadigol - Creative Gwynedd



# LleCHI



## The Inigo Jones design for Yr Allt Ddu, Dinorwig

Community Arts have been offering support and advice to some of the LleChi project arts schemes in Bethesda, Deiniolen and Dinorwig. Gwynedd Council, on behalf of several stakeholders, is developing a nomination to secure World Heritage Site Status for the Slate Landscape of North-west Wales. Alongside the work of developing the nomination, Gwynedd Council is working across Gwynedd's quarrying communities to seek to empower, reconnect and regenerate those communities through heritage.

## The Arts Projects:

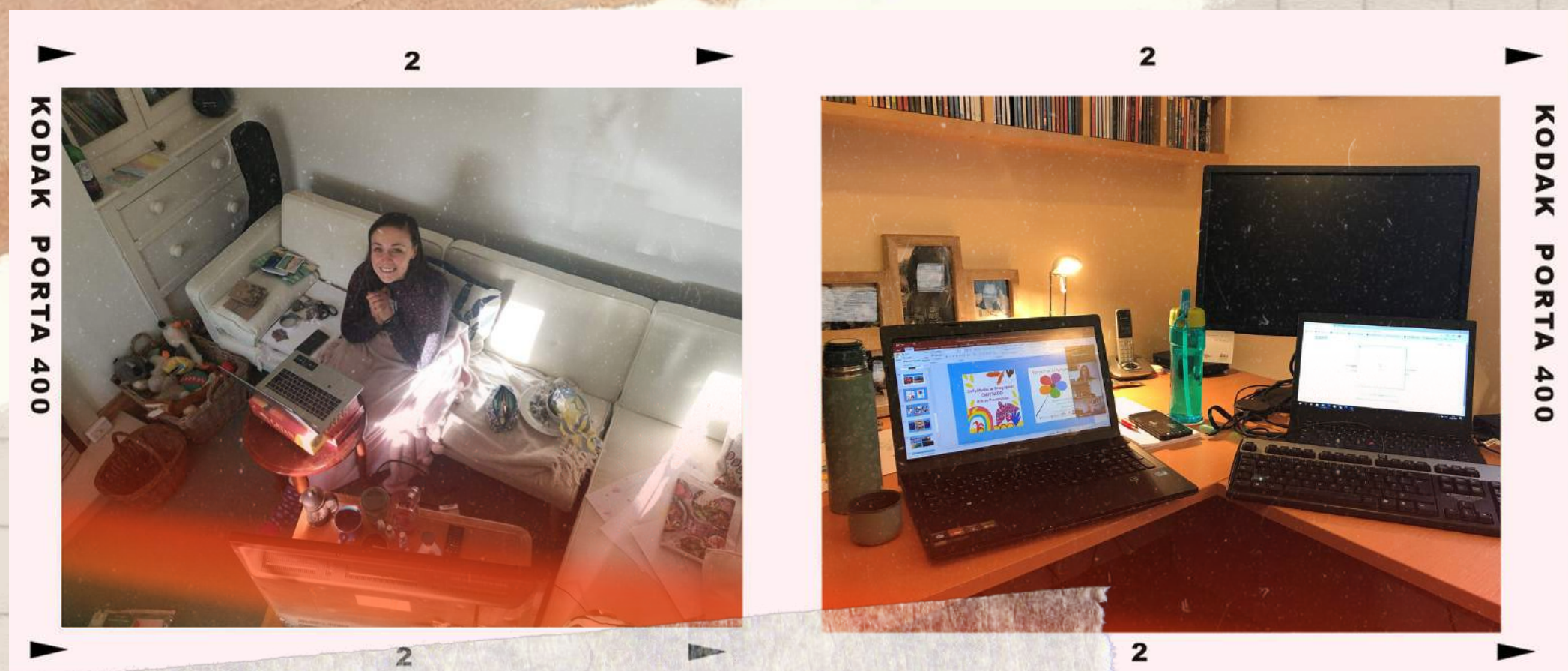
- At Allt Ddu, **Dinorwig**, special slate benches in the form of a slab wagon, which would have carried slate through the quarry by engine or horse, are to be created and installed as part of the quarry history interpretation scheme.
- In **Bethesda**, arrangements are being made to project photographs of the High Street 'past and present' onto the Annie's Orphans building as part of Penrhyn Quarry's 200th anniversary celebrations. A permanent mural will be painted on the wall after the celebrations.
- Over at Tŷ Elidir, **Deiniolen**, planning work is underway to conduct a special graffiti mural project with young people to celebrate the area's quarrying heritage.



## Artist impression



# Carrying On Conference



Chloe Ward & Gwawr Roberts coordinating the conference from home - with flasks of coffee and technology galore!

Registrants: 106

Presentations -  
Activities: 9

On 26 February 2021, it was a pleasure to host an online conference entitled Carrying On. The purpose of the conference was to celebrate and share the creativity that had taken place in Gwynedd despite the pandemic. It was a busy and full day with presentations from a number of Gwynedd arts organisations. We had a combination of presentations and taster activities, an opportunity to listen and participate. Thank you to everyone who took part and attended; a lot of inspiration and ideas were shared!

Presenters: Gwynedd Council / Arts Council of Wales / Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias / Dawns i Bawb / Well-being for Me / Craft for Well-being / Fran Wen / Pontio / Plu

Some feedback:

Realised the power of the arts - the emotions I felt today - tears, pride and laughter. Enjoyed the opportunities to move and respond.  
(attendee)

Thank you for organising, with a spirit of sharing and sincerity (attendee)

The entire day was special, with spiritual and valuable presentations to be heard throughout the day. Everyone was excellent! (attendee)

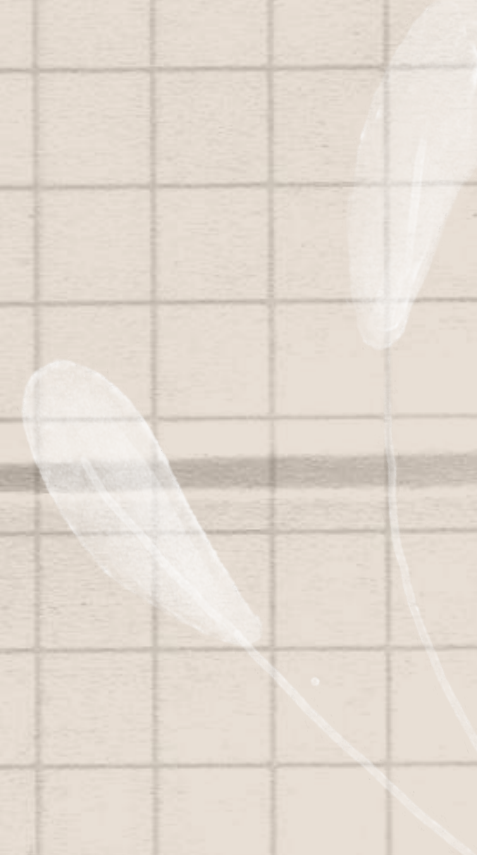

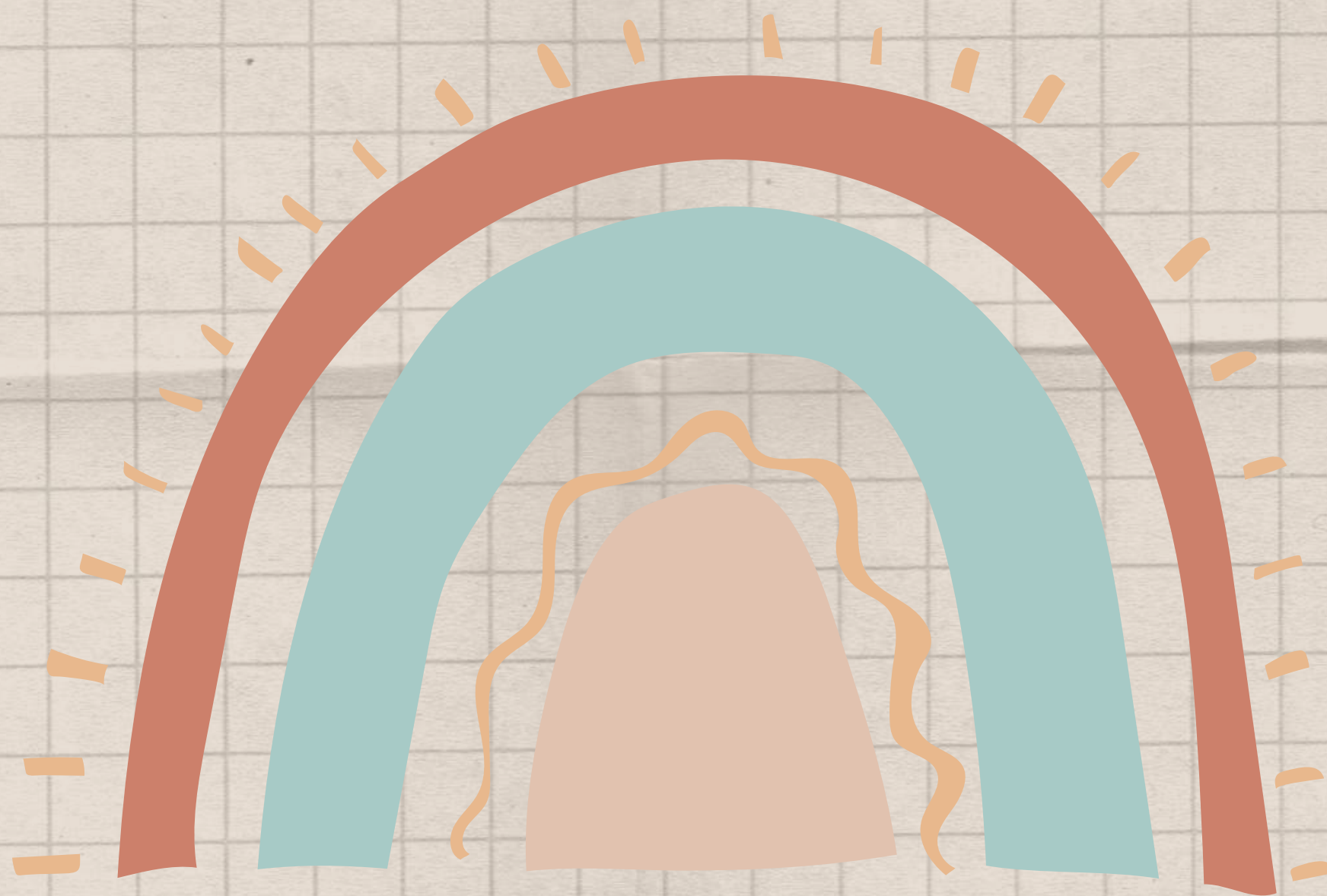








# Thank you

for browsing our scrapbook!



## Ffion & Gwawr







# Contact Details

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