

## Warring Arts Report 2018 / 19

### Information

**Creative Programme:** Arts for All

**Funders:** ACW / HLF Now and Then

**Date/s:** Oct 2018 – April 2019

**Venue:** Venues across the Tanat Valley

**Artists:** Nic Knapton, Alwyn Wesson-Caberwal, Josie Ewing, Nina Duckers, Niall Evans, Sharon Calder, Kama Roberts, Chris VanDyke, David Roberts, Sioned Murphy, Iris Gordijn, Pete Beresford, Ruth Weston

**Enablers:** Juli Evans, Jane Thomas, Haf Roberts

**Volunteers:** Richard Kretchmer, Pauline Page-Jones, Zarena Allan, Ruth Weston

### Background & Context:

The Warring Arts project has been inspired by the immense changes that the First World War had on our arts and culture and the dramatic change in all art forms that happened in response to the terrors and social changes that took place that then led to the roaring 20's and the continuing influence on today's society.

The First World War and the period afterwards was a time of great social upheaval. The project aims to create an understanding of the impact of the war on arts and culture and people's attitudes and look at how this was shaped through cartoons, songs, films, dance styles etc. and how they were used not only as morale boosters but also as a way to recruit young men. At the time the role of women was also changing and censorship was in place. The wars toll on people's wellbeing was reflected in the changes to painting, with the birth of abstract and expressionist art, jazz became popular and sporting events rose in their perceived entertainment value, literature developed a short and rapid style and film became popular entertainment.

### Project Report

The Warring Arts project was inspired by the impact of the First World War on our arts and culture. In response to the terrors and social upheaval, dramatic changes occurred in all art forms leading to the roaring 20's which still have an influence on today's society. A range of artists engaged with the communities of Welshpool and Llanfyllin delivering workshops in drama, craft, photography and painting. We also delivered training days for people interested in recording oral history training and we arranged a trip to the National Library of Wales. The project culminated in a roaring Tea Party showcasing all the art works and performances produced.

## Evaluation

Warring Arts encompassed a very wide range of artistic disciplines during the lifespan of the project including drama, poetry, photography, painting and mural making. Digital oral recording, a visit to the National Library of Wales, research and recording stories also played a large role in this project.

All three strands met the needs that had been identified (delivering high quality Arts related projects); Working with communities on cultural diversification and appreciation; Working with "hard to reach" participants; Building relationships; Partnership working; Inter-generational working; Health & wellbeing; and fostering lifelong learning opportunities.

Key achievements include delivering high quality workshops and learning experiences, enabling a high level of positive cultural appreciation and working with a high number of participants (and ages/abilities) from all sections of the community.

There were some issues throughout the life of the project in delivery due to the Arts Managers maternity leave – although this was handled it did mean a delay in delivery of the project and an extension to ensure the outputs of the project were met.

## Outcomes / Outputs

Outputs - Application	Outputs – Actual
We will deliver 60 session	We delivered 60 sessions
We will look to work with 150+ participants and for the community event	We worked with 256 individuals
We expect an audience of 250+ and 250+ visitors to the exhibition	We have an audience of 95 at the performance / exhibition and at the individual exhibition
Provide 2 training day	We provided 2 training days
Film	We created a film that was an overview of the whole project and 6 individual short films about the changes of art forms
Found materials through research and using local collections of art work and cultural events	We collected stories from people we spoke with but found very little in terms of actual physical artefacts – this was mostly due people not keeping those types of memorabilia
Visit to the National Library of Wales	68 people visited the NLW

Aims	Aims – Evidence
Outcomes for People  - The project activities will be interesting, fun and rewarding	Feedback from participants showed that the project was interesting, fun and rewarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Enjoyed all of it</li><li>- Interesting</li><li>- Good fun</li><li>- Inclusive</li><li>- Fun</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Informal</li> <li>- The project made me feel happy</li> <li>- It was exciting</li> <li>- Brilliant</li> <li>- Understanding about war in Britain</li> <li>- Enjoyed the performing</li> <li>- Project helped me feel good</li> <li>- Helped me to make friends</li> </ul>
<p>- Participants will develop their knowledge and understanding of WWI through the activities of the project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The changes for women came across very strongly. School children knew that women got the vote after the war but were amazed that before the war women couldn't wear trousers. People talked about how, after doing a lot of 'men's work' during the war, there was no going back to the traditional role for women</li> <li>- Participants also talked about the way men were affected and shell shock, what we would now call PTSD, was common and had a devastating effect on the lives of men returning from the war</li> <li>- One of the things that struck us after talking to older people was that they almost all said that no one talked in their family about the war. They thought that their parents and grandparents wanted to get on with life and didn't want to bring back the horrific memories. When they talked about WW2 they said that in rural Wales their families felt relatively unaffected, many of them staying on the farm</li> </ul> <p>Participants said the project helped them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Think about things in a different way</li> <li>- That they learnt new things</li> <li>- Developed skills</li> </ul>
<p>- Participants will develop and learn a range of skills through the activities and thus be able to better look after, manage and share their heritage</p>	<p>Skills were learned during the arts workshops and we also delivered two training days in recording oral history – using audio and film.</p> <p>The feedback from these trainings sessions was very positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enjoyable</li> <li>- Would not have gained these skills without it</li> <li>- Facilitator was excellent</li> <li>- I learnt IT skills, digital SLR skills</li> <li>- Great to do practical stuff</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Learn how to edit</li> <li>- Very interesting</li> <li>- Chris was exceptionally helpful and explained technical stuff well</li> <li>- Good team working</li> </ul> <p>The artist observed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All 3 participants seemed 'switched on' to the idea of carrying out related work or projects in the future, as they now had an understanding of how such work could be done:</li> <li>- Carol: Wants to make recordings of historical interviews and record storytelling</li> <li>- Edward: Wants to get similar training underway for the RSPB</li> <li>- Cordelia: Wants to use the audio and video recording methods alongside her normal photography/capturing work</li> </ul>
- Participants, particularly young people aged 11 – 25 will have more positive attitudes towards heritage	<p>This who took part enjoyed the workshops and found it interesting to learn about history, particularly in relation to something they were interested in. For example the 6<sup>th</sup> form group:</p> <p>Over the last two weeks Nina Duckers has been visiting the AS Photography students looking at Warring Arts Project. Students were given a history of photography in relation to world wars, both through technical equipment and the use of the photographic images within propaganda. Students went on to create a series of images inspired from this new knowledge and understanding. Images are being shown in the RDC. My thanks to Nina for her inspiration in this task.</p> <p>Lou Bass - Teacher of Photography</p>
<p>Outcomes for Heritage</p> <p>- Heritage will be better interpreted and explained through the activities, community event and exhibition</p>	<p>Primary school children engaged with the song writing aspect of the project. Older people participants interacted well with the different artefacts used to introduce the project (photos, objects).</p> <p>We've created some fun worksheets as part of the projects for people to use in the future.</p> <p>We've also created 6 digital films that explore the changes to art forms in response to WWI.</p>
- Heritage will be identified/recorded – by asking the community if they have any artefacts that relate to the themes of the	<p>We collected a number of stories from people but no artefacts. There were many things that people didn't keep, unlike medals and photos, the aftermath and the recording of it is not something people had the means to</p>

project	do.
<p>Outcomes for Communities</p> <p>- More people will have engaged with heritage - through the activities and attending the event and exhibition</p>	<p>We worked with a range of people of who had not explored the themes and issues we raised during this project before. There were a number of participants who said they wouldn't have engaged in the subject matter if not for the project</p>

We shared the outcomes in the following ways:

<b>Output - Application</b>	<b>Output – Actual</b>
There will be a community event that will showcase the work created in the aim of letting those in the audience learn something new about their heritage and be entertained at the same time	We had a tea party which 80 people attended which also included an exhibition of the work created and information about the Great War
An exhibition will take place after the event which will include audio, footage of the performance and images of other memorabilia and other documents and research that we uncover as part of the project	<p>The work was exhibited during the Llanfyllin Christmas Market event. We only had 15 in attend even though 400 were at the event but the exhibition was placed in area where little footfall was experienced.</p> <p>The work was also exhibited at the tea party event.</p>
Online – social media, our website, other heritage and relevant websites from updates throughout the life of the project and to document and share the heritage we uncover	Photos, documents, films etc. are on our social media channels and website
Offline – through press releases that will periodically be released throughout the life of the project	Press releases were released throughout the project

## Participation Figures

Sessions: 60

Participant Places: 832

Actual Participants: 256

Training Sessions: 2

Participants: 4

National Library of Wales Visit: 64

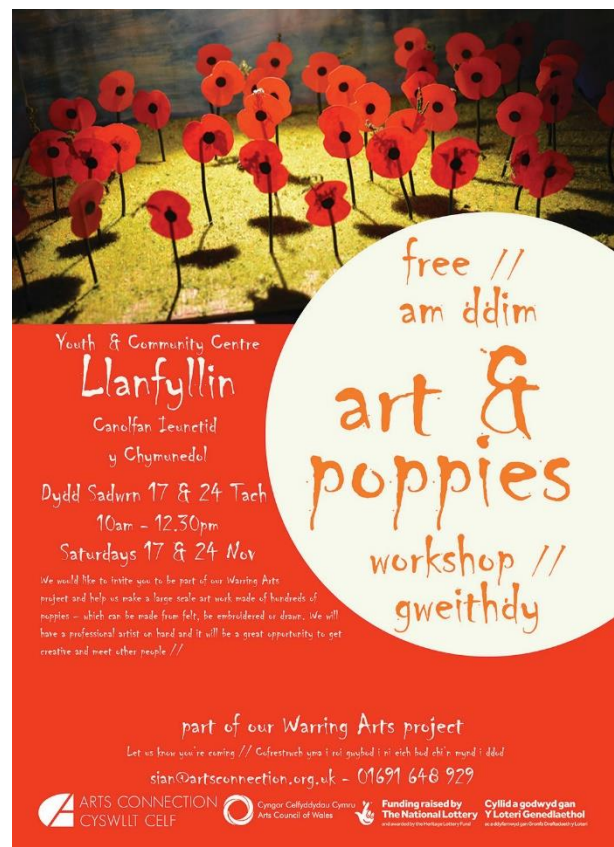
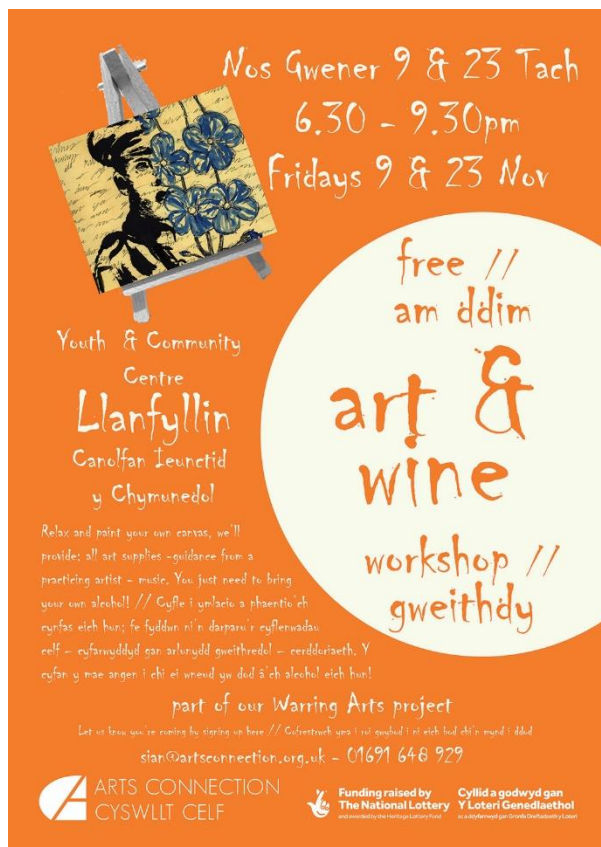
Tea Party Performance & Exhibition: 80

Exhibition: 15

## Acknowledgment

We included acknowledgement and / or the logo in the following ways:

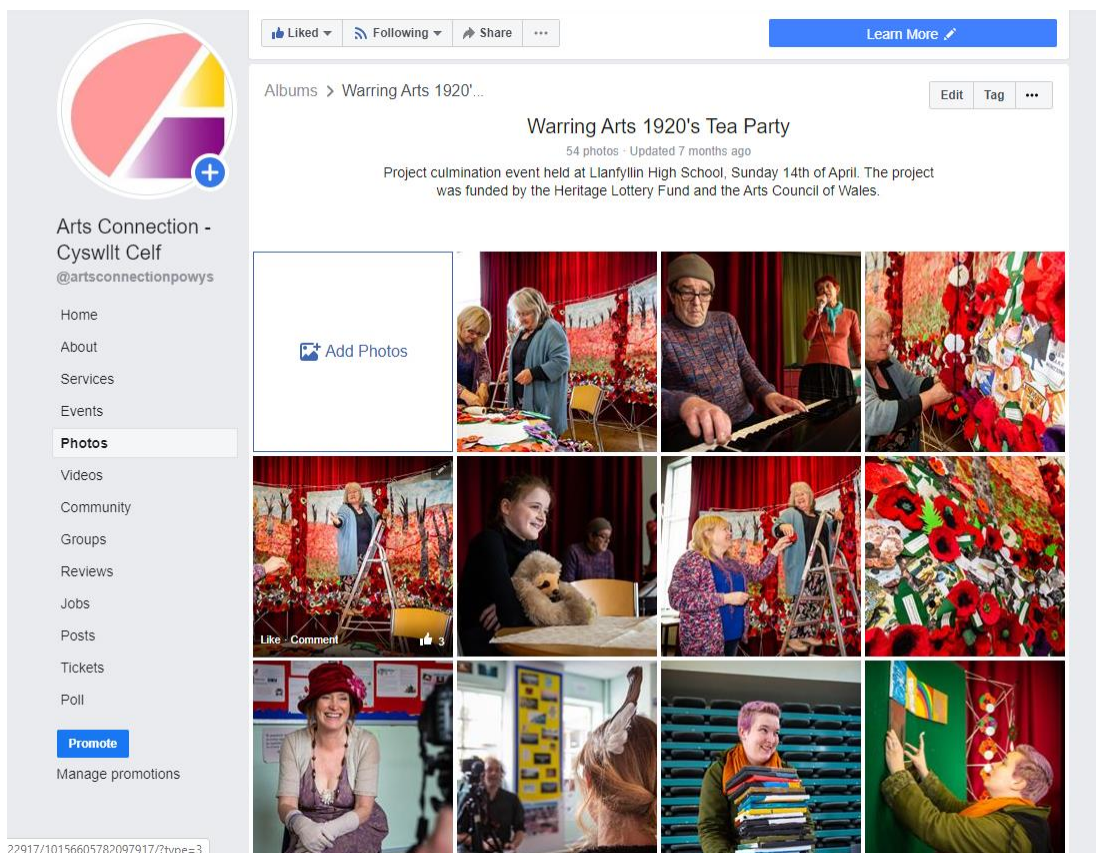
On posters / flyers







On all social media posts related to the project



On all press releases relating to the project

**National Lottery support for Arts Connection – Cyswllt Celf and their Warring Arts project to mark First World War Centenary**

Arts Connection – Cyswllt Celf has received a National Lottery grant of £10,000 for a project, Warring Arts, in the Tanat Valley. Awarded through the Heritage Lottery Fund's First World War then and now programme, the project will focus on arts and culture and how it was shaped and changed in response to the First World War.

To mark the Centenary of the First World War, we will be working with a range of groups and also delivering free arts workshops for everyone to attend.

These include:

- Art & Wine Evenings at Llanfyllin Youth & Community from 6.30 – 9.30pm on Fridays 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> November
- Art & Craft Sessions at Llanfyllin Youth & Community from 10am – 12.30pm on Saturdays 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> November
- Art & Craft Sessions for parents with young children (crèche available but numbers are limited) at Llanfyllin Youth & Community from 9.30am – 12pm on Fridays 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Nov

If you wish to attend please let us know on 01691 648 929 or at [sian@artsconnection.org.uk](mailto:sian@artsconnection.org.uk). We would also encourage you to bring any photographs, newspaper clippings, documents, posters, letters, keepsakes, as well as family tales passed down to help them build a clear picture of what life was really like during and after the First World War.



Included on the list of funders in our Annual Report



On any paperwork sent to participants



**INVITATION** - please let Siân Walters know you're coming either at [siân@artsconnection.org.uk](mailto:siân@artsconnection.org.uk) or at the Arts Connection office, Youth & Community Centre, Llanfyllin or ring 01691 648 929

**Warring Arts Project** - The Warring Arts project has been inspired by the immense changes that the First World War had on arts and culture and the continuing influence today

We would like to invite you to be part of the project and help us make different art works in response to the changes in art styles from WWI into the 1920's. We will have a professional artist on hand and it will be a great opportunity to get creative and meet other people.

If you have any memorabilia - stories, photos, posters, newspaper clippings from WWI and the 1920's please bring them with you - this could include photos for example of Llanfyllin Show.

The piece will be on display at Llanfyllin Christmas Market on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November from 4 - 7.30pm at the Youth & Community Centre.

**DATES** - FRIDAYS - 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> Nov

**VENUE** - Cross Keys, Llanfyllin

**TIMES** - 10am - 12pm

On reports relating to the project - on our website and other publications

<https://artsconnection.org.uk/warring-arts-2018-19/>