

Croeso Teifi Annual Report

February 9th 2020 –February 8th 2021

Reference and Administration

CroesoTeifi charity registration number: 1173014.

St Mary's Old School Hall, Pontycleifion, Cardigan, Wales, SA43 1DR.

Celia Lang-Secretary

Trustees:

Sharon Carter: Chair

Rev. John Bennett: Vice-Chair

Vicky Moller: Project Director

Louise O' Neill

Hywel Davies

Tim O' Neill: Treasurer

Structure and Management

Croeso Teifi is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members other than its charity trustees.

Objectives:

The objects of the CIO, for the public benefit are:

To provide aid to refugees, those seeking asylum or granted leave to remain in the U.K., who reside or wish to reside temporarily or permanently in the town of Cardigan and the surrounding area, and to promote their harmonious integration into the local communities.

The main activities undertaken to further these objectives are:

- assistance with provision of accommodation, furnishings, clothing and other requirements essential for security and wellbeing.
- arrangement with the refugees of education, providing English and Welsh language tuition, training and work activity leading to fulfilment, skills and employment.
- facilitation of access to local services e.g. health, banking, schools, job centre, as well as social activities and the sharing of friendship, knowledge and skills leading to linguistic and social integration.
- working with support organisations and members of the local community to share any or all of the above charitable purposes.

For the Public Benefit:

The trustees have understood the guidance on Public Benefit and use it to guide decisions, such as to ensure funds are used to maximise the number of people we can benefit.

The activities of Croeso Teifi explained below have helped to build community cohesion through bringing diverse people to work together as volunteers.

The publicity, fundraising and information events have extended awareness of global situations in particular the situation of Syrian refugees forced to leave their war torn homes for camps in Lebanon. Preparing for and bringing a refugee family to Cardigan has advanced cultural awareness, as has the provision of social opportunities for cultural exchange.

The work of the charity has provided opportunity to extend welcome, empathy and kindness, which have enhanced individual self-esteem as well as pride in the local community.

Achievements of Croeso Teifi:

This year has been marked by the Covid-19 pandemic which has tested the wider community and the nation. Whilst Croeso Teifi has endeavoured to maintain support for both families, we have had to rely on the internet to ensure that they are well, that they understand the varying levels of social restrictions and to maintain contact during the pandemic peaks. This has been maintained through text messages, phone calls and facetime and we understand that they have been able to speak to their families in Syria similarly. Both families appear to have coped very well with the situation although schooling was rather problematic as access to a laptop was difficult for the family with older children. As a result, we provided the family with a laptop and had it serviced to ensure that it was working up to speed. Child Two was struggling with English and so we have put in place a programme of three English lessons a week provided by Croeso Teifi members. This was initially provided face- to –face when restrictions were eased midway through 2020 and family visits were possible. However, with the return of lockdown, these have been carried out via zoom.

The second father still has his part-time job with the new barber which has opened in Cardigan but has twice been furloughed during lock downs. This is the situation at present until we await confirmation of the reopening of these businesses from the Senedd. He has had to postpone his driving test owing to covid restrictions and at this point we are awaiting for a date when he can safely take the test. However, with support, he has purchased a car and Croeso Teifi have provided a donation for insurance purposes. His wife has used her artistic talents to illustrate her Syrian recipes with a view to publishing a Syrian cookbook, costs to be covered by Croeso Teifi. With support, she has added a few personal stories to go with some of the recipes and thank you to those involved for instigating this idea and pulling it all together.

During the first lockdown, the parents of the second family wanted to thank the people of Cardigan: “You helped us in our crisis and we want to help you in yours”. They cooked meals for a local care home and a home for vulnerable adults. The ITV news featured their story and they received a special mention during the Citizens UK conference on December 6th 2020, for their outstanding contribution.

The first family are enjoying life in Cardigan. They have now moved to larger premises in Cardigan and the father has passed his driving test. He has bought a car and Croeso Teifi has made a donation towards his insurance costs. He works for a local builder two days a week and we are grateful to this individual for giving him invaluable paid building experience.

Both mothers attend a zoom online English class run by Coleg Ceredigion.

One of the adults is in need of urgent medical treatment for an ongoing and debilitating condition. In order to prevent a possible permanent disability the trustees have taken the decision to pay for private treatment to halt the deterioration. We are still awaiting a date for this private surgery, which should take place sometime in March.

In response to the generous donation of £9000 last year, we built a new group of First Friends with the specific remit of welcoming a third family to Cardigan. Our application was approved by the Home Office and Ceredigion County Council late February 2020 but then everything was put on hold with the pandemic. In October the Home Office announced that flights to resettle vulnerable families would resume but Ceredigion County Council felt that given the high rate of virus transmission in the area, it would be considered unsafe to welcome a family in these conditions and so the process has been put on hold. However, recent communication with the Council recognizes Croeso Teifi’s commitment and hopes that we will be able to welcome our third family in the next six months or so, once the rate of transmission of the virus has dropped to acceptable levels in our communities.

The Wider Community

The wider community is a vital part of everything we do and we wish to especially thank those who have contributed in any way.

In particular the plight of asylum seekers in Penally has featured in our discussions and three individuals from Penally were invited to meet the trustees. They told their stories so eloquently and we were all felt very privileged to have met them. Humanity never ceases to surprise with its ability to endure and reach out to others. Croeso Teifi were able to source five guitars and donate them to the camp in order to provide some sort of musical relief. Furthermore, Croeso Teifi also provided a funding platform to enable fundraising for the Penally asylum seekers group. The money raised provides tailored help to camp residents: eg medical assessments leading to relocation, emergency power to camps during a power cut. The funding appeared in Croeso Teifi’s account after the end of this financial year and so will feature in the financial year 2021-2022.

Croeso Teifi has also paid for a laptop for a young refugee from Ireland, now resident in Fishguard.

I think that we can all say that being involved in Croeso Teifi has impacted on us in such a positive and meaningful way, and most importantly the deep friendships with people from a wholly different culture and religion that have developed as a result. The opening minutes of the Conference on December 6th 2020 featured a UNHCR 4 minute film about our two families and the work we do in Cardigan. Over 300 people attended this zoom and it was an emotional tribute to our journey.

Sharon Carter (Chairperson)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
CROESO TEIFI

No (if any)
1173014

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	09/02/2020		08/02/2021


Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	78	-	-	78	1,597
Events/Fund Raising/Collectiona	-	-	-	-	42
Second Family Universal Credit	-	-	-	-	1,000
Grants	-	2,532	-	2,532	3,411
Henhurst Trust Donation for third family	-	-	-	-	9,000
Other	890	-	-	890	1,043
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	968	2,532	-	3,500	16,093
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	968	2,532	-	3,500	16,093
A3 Payments					
Teaching		282	-	282	2,135
Translation	-	-	-	-	495
Administration/First Friends	789	-	-	789	381
Insurance	255	-	-	255	255
Petty Cash	-	-	-	-	100
House	-	-	-	-	478
Family 1 & 2 Support	4,599	-	-	4,599	2,935
Microgrant	-	-	-	-	1,233
Dr Dewi Davies - second family arrival, etc	-	-	-	-	1,805
Second Family Universal Credit	-	-	-	-	1,000
House Move	480	-	-	480	-
Refugee Support	629	-	-	629	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	6,752	282	-	7,034	10,818
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,752	282	-	7,034	10,818
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 5,784	2,250	-	- 3,534	5,275
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,064	10,388	-	20,452	15,177
Cash funds this year end	4,280	12,638	-	16,918	20,452



Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	4,280	12,638	-
	Petty Cash	102	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	4,382	12,638	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

NOTE CATAGORIES B2 TO B5 NOT APPLICABLE/NOT USED FOR THIS AGM REPORT

	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Prepared by Croeso Teifi Treasurer		T.J. O'Neill	04/05/2021

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		S. Carter	04/05/2021
		J. Bennett	04/05/2021

Tresurer's Notes on Accounts

1. Accounts prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.
2. Reference made to Charity Commission/gov.uk CC but format adapted/summarised for AGM Report requirements
3. Verified by Tom Wells date 1st May 2021