



Caru Gwenyn
Bee Friendly



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Case Studies

Caru Gwenyn Cletwr

Cletwr is an award winning community-run cafe and shop, based halfway between Machynlleth and Aberystwyth.

Volunteers from the community run a gardening club that maintains the grounds around their buildings. From its origins, Cletwr has both community and sustainability at its core. It is therefore not surprising that the gardening club knew the importance of pollinators and wanted to share this with others. They thought being part of the Bee Friendly scheme would give them the opportunity to consolidate and showcase what they were doing. Leading by example, they are hoping to encourage the rest of the community and visitors to join in the fun and take action to help pollinators.



Although growing space is limited, they have tried to maximise opportunities where they can. The garden includes: a shrub and flowerbed by the electric charger; a main flower border outside the shop and café; a small bed by the bottle bank; a herb planter; a shrub, a flower bed and a rockery behind Cletwr; and a herb and fruit garden by the kitchen door, as well as several pots.



All of these have been planted with pollinators in mind. In a corner between the village road and the car park, they have created a small wildflower patch from plants that self-seeded, native wildflower plug plants and yellow rattle seeds. An information panel explains the role wildflowers play in providing both food and shelter for insects. This patch is cut in the autumn, allowing the flowers to bloom and set seed.

They have planted a native hedge which they hope in time will provide shelter for hibernating insects as well as a food source. In autumn, they do not cut back all plant stems and seed heads as these will provide a place for insects to overwinter. They are going to create signs to explain this. Their youngest garden member, aged 10, has created a bilingual, illustrated sign for a bug hotel. They also plan to create an information sign for the bug hotel.

A large bilingual poster was on display outside their shop/cafe for several months. It provided people with suggestions on how they could make their garden more pollinator-friendly. This poster was also published in their newsletter. For their local paper, *Papur Pawb*, they have written an article on how people can make a pollinator-friendly garden and encouraging them to do pollinator counts. Outside the shop, they have a plant stand where people can donate pollinator-friendly plants to share in the community.



They held a competition called “Paradwys i Beillwyr/A Paradise for Pollinators” for people to create a special place for pollinators in their gardens. They asked people to send in photos and a few words about their ‘Paradise’. During Wythnos Natur Cymru/Wales Nature Week they displayed entries in a slide show on their Cletwr Facebook page. Linked to the ‘Love Where You Live’ campaign in Ceredigion, they encouraged people to paint stones on a pollinator theme. Some of these can be seen around their garden.

They set up a special Facebook page for the competition, linked to Cletwr Facebook page. They have retained it as a place to draw attention to what they’re doing for pollinators. They hope this will alert people to relevant websites and news items and inspire them to take action.

They intend to hold a pollinator festival, an event for all the community and visitors to join in and celebrate the joy of nature and pollinators. This will include fun activities for children and walks around the garden talking about plants and enjoying spotting different insects. Using information from their poster, they will develop a leaflet on how people can make their gardens pollinator-friendly. They also hope to arrange talks on related topics soon, e.g. an illustrated talk on moths.

