



Community Regeneration Initiative

Menter Y Felin Uchaf

Rhoshirwaun

Pwllheli

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The Felin Uchaf Centre Appeal

Seven years ago a small group of people embarked on a visionary enterprise, to create a centre on the Llŷn Peninsula that would bring together the knowledge and skills needed to forge a new approach to learning about our natural and cultural heritage. Their aim was to enable people to explore the landscape, history and traditions of the peninsula in a living, hands-on way that would provide both a renewed connection with our past and an enlightened approach towards planning a way ahead. When we can appreciate where we have come from we have a firm foundation on which to aspire toward the future.

Since then the Felin Uchaf Centre has become one of the most inspiring social enterprises in Wales, earning recognition and awards for its pioneering approach to environmental and cultural education and community involvement. It's volunteering and skills training programmes have attracted many hundreds of people of all ages, from both the local community and the furthest corners of the world. Many more come to experience the beautiful new buildings created entirely by volunteers, the new woodland, the organic herb and vegetable gardens and to walk the winding footpaths around the farmland. The landscape has completely transformed from being an open, windswept place to becoming a rich tapestry of hedged and wooded fields, ponds and wild meadows, a sheltered haven for wildlife and a welcoming resource for local schoolchildren and visitors alike.

The year round rural and heritage skills learning programmes and volunteering opportunities provide young people from across Gwynedd with practical skills and know how that help them find gainful employment or toward higher education. From school and college leavers in need of real work experience placements to homeless young people in need of mentoring and direction: the Felin Uchaf Centre is here to provide a vital service for the community.

The Charity has recently been awarded funding to create a **new visitor centre** and **rural skills training workshop**. When they are completed the new buildings will provide the centre with the capacity to provide the best possible learning resources and visitor facilities. Helping more people to access valuable training and welcoming more visitors to experience the natural environment and appreciate the unique cultural heritage of the Llŷn.

Perhaps you may have already visited the centre, you may have experienced the magic of a fireside storytelling or music evening in the roundhouse, or you may have learned about the work here through one of the talks and presentations given throughout the year to our many partners, societies and community groups across Gwynedd. Or perhaps this is your first opportunity to find out more about this visionary initiative.

Whatever your connection with Felin Uchaf or the Llŷn Peninsula I think you will agree that securing the future of such an important initiative is imperative. With your support we can ensure that Felin Uchaf continues to serve and regenerate the community and help people find a renewed connection with their heritage.

To secure the land and buildings at Felin Uchaf we need to raise £220,000. It is our aim that this will be raised through the help and support of individual patrons, sponsors, friends of the Charity, trusts, foundations and companies. Please would you help us to achieve our fundraising target by making a donation or pledge at the level you can afford using the gift form enclosed.

Thank you and I look forward to welcoming you to Felin Uchaf in 2012

Dafydd J Davies-Hughes,
Project Manager