

SWANSEA COMMUNITY GROWING NETWORK

Annual Report 2022-23

Staff and Resources

As reported at the last AGM, our Project Worker, Katherine Aylett, left the post at the end of July 2022 after working with SCGN since November 2020. We are very grateful for the commitment and support she gave to the network over a very difficult period (pandemic!). The committee felt that the network's finances were not sufficient to enable us to recruit a new Project Worker so agreed to share some of the work involved in organising and promoting events, and communicating with network members, until the necessary funding could be secured.

Seven committee members were elected or re-elected at the last AGM and three further members were co-opted since then. The committee met five times from April 2022 to March 2023 to plan activities and manage the resources, and twice since then.

During the year, the main income source was Welsh Government funding (£1,500) that came via Swansea Council's Nature Conservation Team, primarily to support events. A small contribution (£125) was also received from the Peas Please scheme. The expenditure in the year was primarily for Project Worker fees (£1,125 for the period from January to July) plus event costs (£600). Expenditure for the year exceeded income by £100 with a closing balance at the end of March 2023 of £1,583.

Events and Activities

During 2022-23, SCGN continued to actively support the development of the Bwyd Abertawe food partnership – Katherine gave a lot of support in the early part of the year, as part of her role, and a number of SCGN committee members helped throughout the year – leading to BA securing funding and being able to recruit staff later in 2022.

During the course of the year, SCGN organised five events:

6th July 2022 - SCGN organised a scything workshop hosted and delivered by Climate and Community at their Murton site. This provided a great learning experience with Jules and the team leading attendees through the basics of the scythe and its maintenance, including using scythes on their community project site.

17th October 2022 - SCGN held its annual gathering and AGM at Summit Good in Dunvant. This was attended by about 30 people - many involved with a wide range of different projects from across Swansea. The activity packed day included a tour of the amazing site and a number of workshops on vegetable storage, dry flower management, orchard care, nutrition testing, and wild plant paper making. The event was made possible through funding from Welsh Government's ENRaW grant (via Swansea Council) and the Peas Please initiative.

20th October 2022 - SCGN supported an *Introduction to Permaculture and Networking Evening* event at the Environment Centre in collaboration with a Peas Please grant funding recipient and local permaculture experts.

29th October 2022 - The evening event at the Environment Centre was followed up with a *Permaculture in Action* visit to a private garden just outside Swansea where we were treated to some amazing practical insights and inspiration.

11th March 2023 - SCGN organised a visit to the new Cae Felin CSA in Morryston which included a tour around the large site and an overview of future plans. The team from Climate and Community led a coppicing workshop and Cae Felin staff and volunteers invited visitors to help with tree planting. Despite the rainy weather, those attending had a great time and we look forward to returning as this impressive project develops over the coming years.

Communications, Networking and Membership

Without a project worker it has been difficult to maintain the same level of communications and networking through emails, the website and social media – though some of this work was done by committee members over the year – particularly to promote events. Witchhazel picked up the email account and dealt with enquiries for a couple of months after Katharine left and also very kindly pulled together a newsletter in September last year before stepping down from the committee at the last AGM. We are very much indebted to Witchhazel for her tremendous support to SCGN over many years.

Unfortunately, after the 2022 AGM, there was a period of several months when the email account was not being managed, and no newsletters were produced Both these issues were rectified in Spring 2023 with a newsletter being published in June.

Social media engagement has continued to expand: the SCGN Facebook page currently has over 1,600 followers and the Facebook group has over 600 members. SCGN membership has also continued to grow, mainly following events, and there are now around 180 on the SCGN mailing list.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022/23

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
<i>opening balance at 1st April</i>	£1,683	£3,714	£5,425	£606	£2,081
INCOME					
Swansea Council / Welsh Government grants	£1,500.00	£1,425	£0	£1,060	£0
Community Foundation Grant	£0.00	£0	£0	£975	£0
Renew Wales mentor host fees	£0.00	£0	£249	£1,160	£290
event income	£0.00	£0	£0	£325	£269
Awards for All Lottery Grant	£0.00	£0	£0	£5,657	£0
other income / donations	£125.00	£22	£145	£40	£50
TOTAL	£1,625.00	£1,447	£394	£9,217	£609
EXPENDITURE					
project officer fees	£1,125.00	£1,875	£1,875	£2,185	£1,250
Renew Wales mentor fees and expenses	£0.00	£0	£171	£845	£227
events costs	£600.00	£1,528	£53	£1,292	£608
stationary, equipment, insurance, etc.	£0.00	£76	£5	£76	£0
TOTAL	£1,725.00	£3,479	£2,104	£4,398	£2,085
<i>closing balance at 31st March</i>	£1,582.85	£1,683	£3,714	£5,425	£606