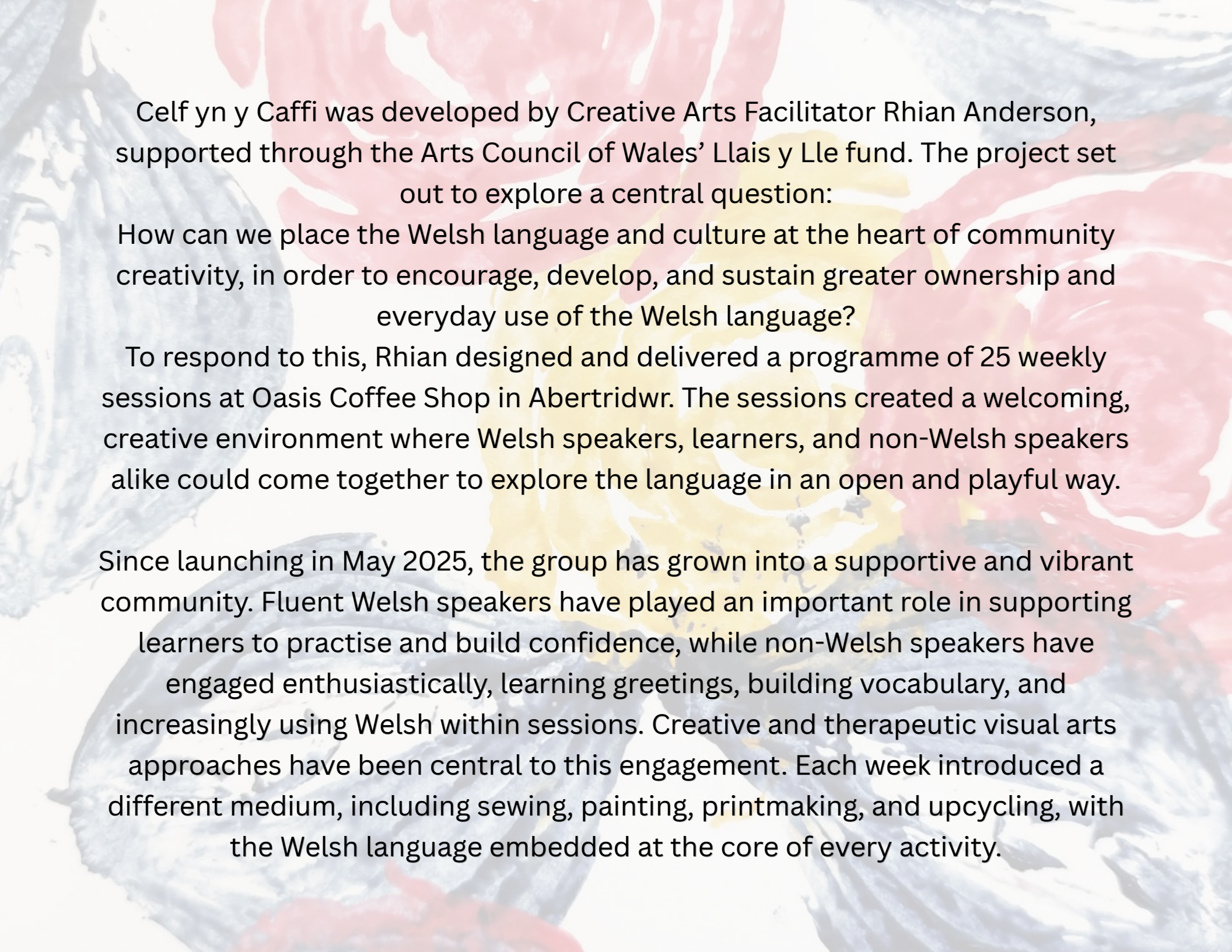




Celf yn y Caffi
Rhian Anderson

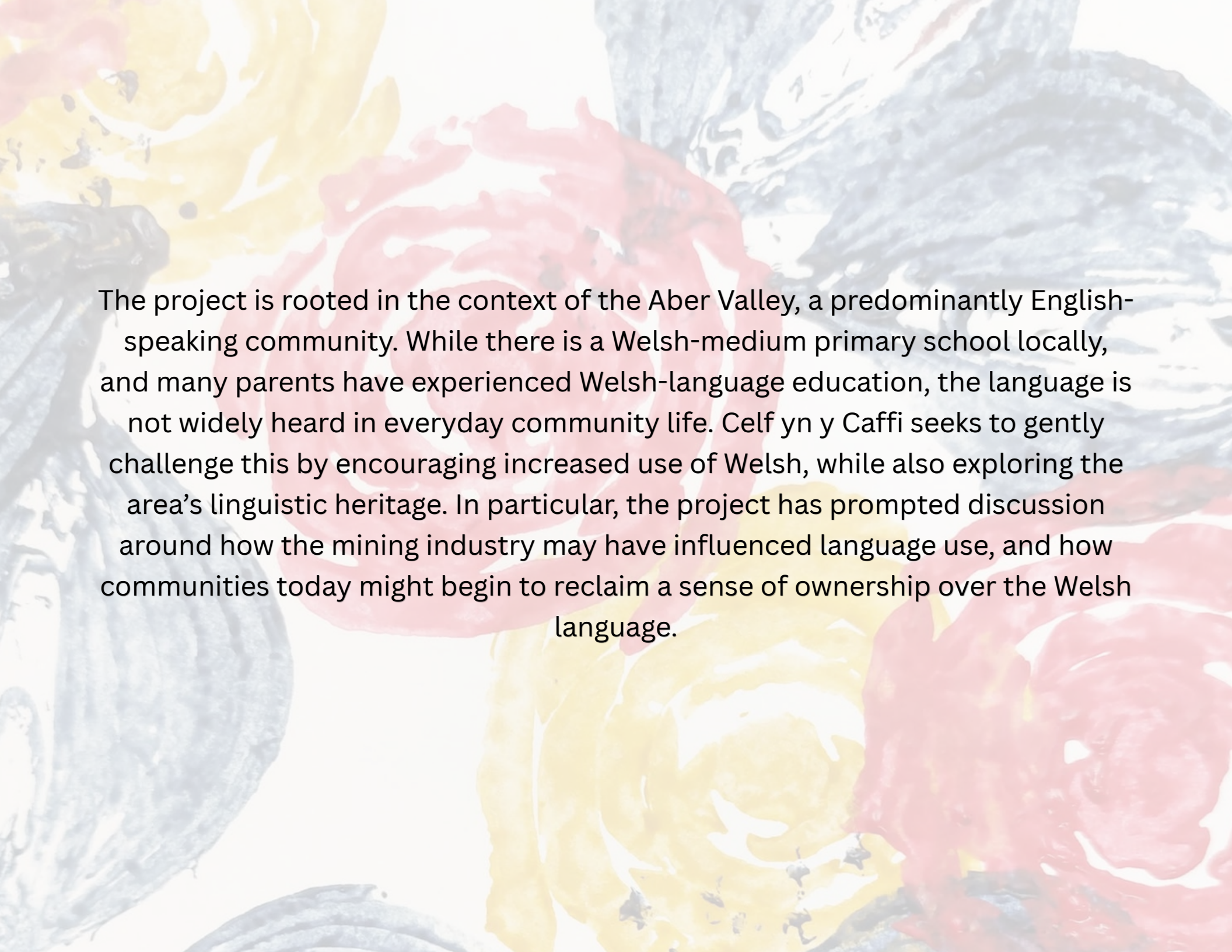


Celf yn y Caffi was developed by Creative Arts Facilitator Rhian Anderson, supported through the Arts Council of Wales' Llais y Lle fund. The project set out to explore a central question:

How can we place the Welsh language and culture at the heart of community creativity, in order to encourage, develop, and sustain greater ownership and everyday use of the Welsh language?

To respond to this, Rhian designed and delivered a programme of 25 weekly sessions at Oasis Coffee Shop in Abertridwr. The sessions created a welcoming, creative environment where Welsh speakers, learners, and non-Welsh speakers alike could come together to explore the language in an open and playful way.

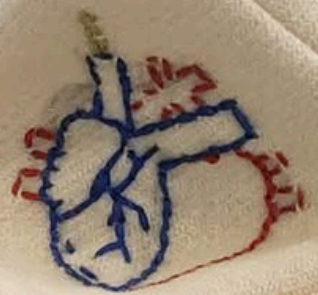
Since launching in May 2025, the group has grown into a supportive and vibrant community. Fluent Welsh speakers have played an important role in supporting learners to practise and build confidence, while non-Welsh speakers have engaged enthusiastically, learning greetings, building vocabulary, and increasingly using Welsh within sessions. Creative and therapeutic visual arts approaches have been central to this engagement. Each week introduced a different medium, including sewing, painting, printmaking, and upcycling, with the Welsh language embedded at the core of every activity.



The project is rooted in the context of the Aber Valley, a predominantly English-speaking community. While there is a Welsh-medium primary school locally, and many parents have experienced Welsh-language education, the language is not widely heard in everyday community life. Celf yn y Caffi seeks to gently challenge this by encouraging increased use of Welsh, while also exploring the area's linguistic heritage. In particular, the project has prompted discussion around how the mining industry may have influenced language use, and how communities today might begin to reclaim a sense of ownership over the Welsh language.



And to the sun we all will bow.



WYBYWYD

WYBYWYD
IACHAU
HEULWEN
NATURE
CYTGORD
CHARMONT
PACERDYD





Calico Dress by artist Menna Buss



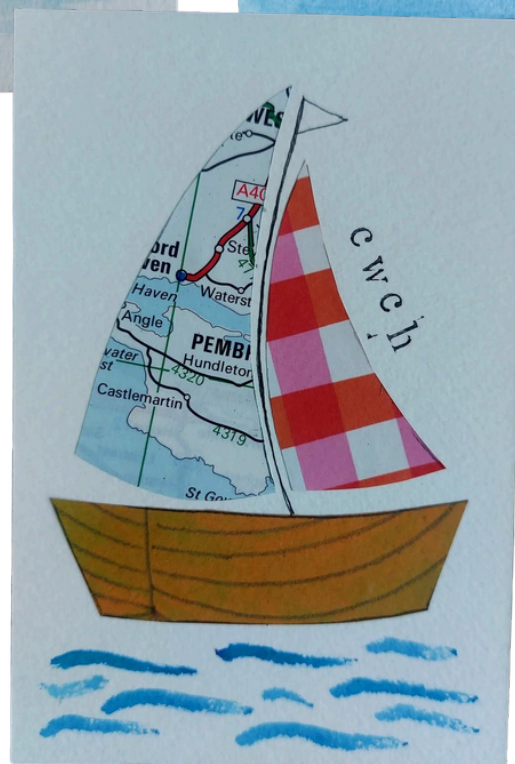
A key highlight of the project was a field trip to the National Botanic Garden of Wales, where participants spent time exploring the grounds and engaging in sketching and watercolour work in the Glasshouse.

The visit provided an opportunity to extend the group's creative practice beyond the usual setting, while continuing to embed the Welsh language within new experiences. A central purpose of the trip was to view The Calico Dress Cymru (Gwisg Calico Cymru) a collaborative community embroidery project and the first "daughter dress" of the internationally renowned Red Dress Project.

Led by Welsh textile artist Menna Buss, the piece acts as a "wearable time capsule," capturing personal stories and expressions of Welsh identity, heritage, and creativity.

During the visit, the group had the opportunity to meet Menna, who encountered participants as they embroidered daffodils inspired by her work.

This informal meeting sparked meaningful conversations about future collaboration, and opened up the possibility of working together in the next phase of Celf yn y Caffi to create a new collaborative textile piece celebrating Welsh language experiences in the Aber Valley.











Y SUL GWEDD'R NADOLIG.

laddodd yr holl fechgyn oedd yn Bethlehem, gyffiniau, o ddwy flwydd oed a wrth yr amser yr ymofynasai efe doethion. Yna y cyflawnwyd yr dasid gan Jeremias y prophwyd, d, Llef a glybuwyd yn Rama, ofain, ac ochain mawr, Rahel yn hlant, ac ni fynnai ei chysuro, am

Y SUL GWEDD'R NADOLIG.

Y COLECT.

uoog Dduw; yr hwn a roddaist i unig-anedig Fab i gymmeryd ein, i'w eni ar gyfenw i'r amser yn bur; Caniattâ i ni, gan fod ad-genhedlu, a'n gwneuthur yn trwy fabwys a rhad, beunydd ym trwy dy Lân Yspryd, trwy yr un-arglwydd Iesu Grist, yr hwn sydd yn teyrnasu gyd â thi a'r unrhyw h yn un Duw yn oes oesoedd.

Amen.

YR EPISTOL Gal. iv. 1.

A HYN





Darganfod y
Gymraeg trwy
gelf a chrefft

Celf yn y Caffi

THE
oasis
coffee shop | community hub | arts centre

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Welsh
language
through arts
and crafts



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Am ddim!!
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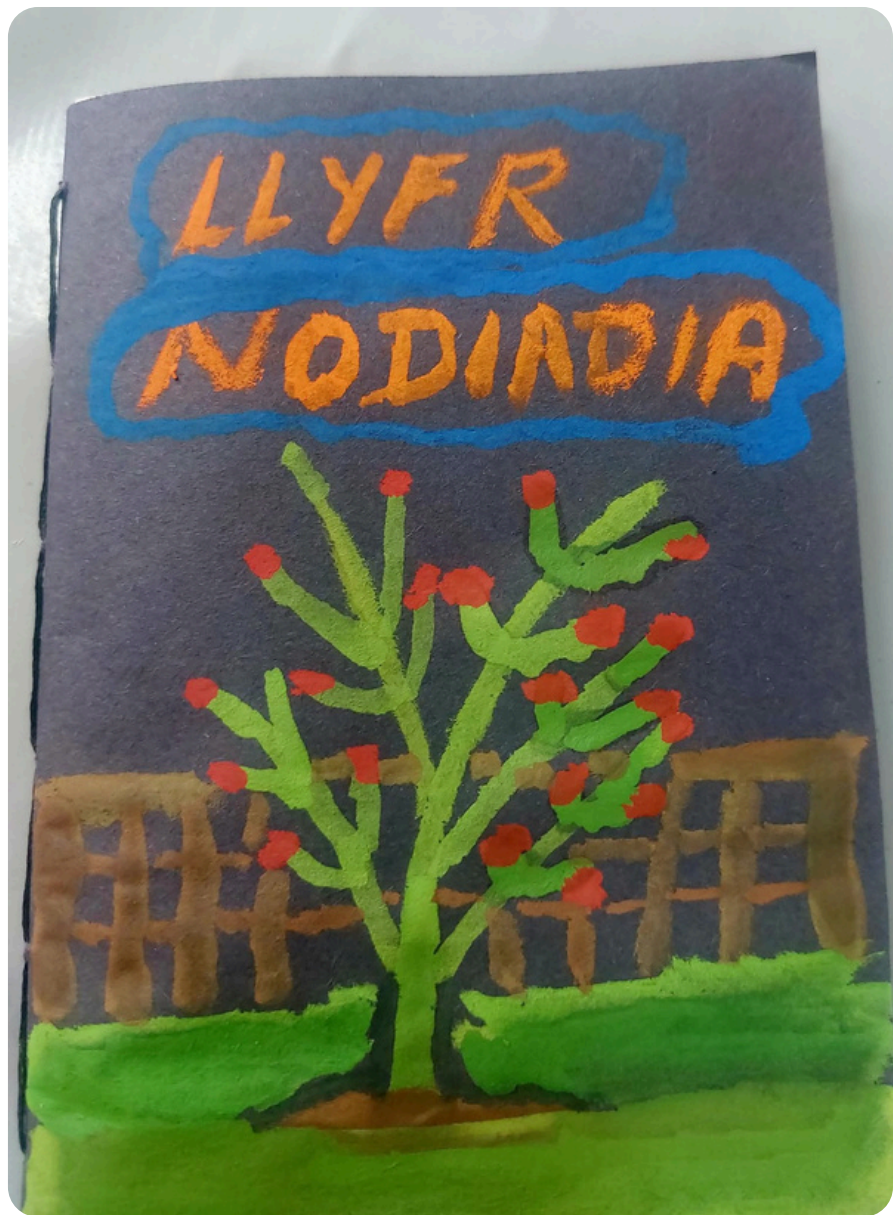




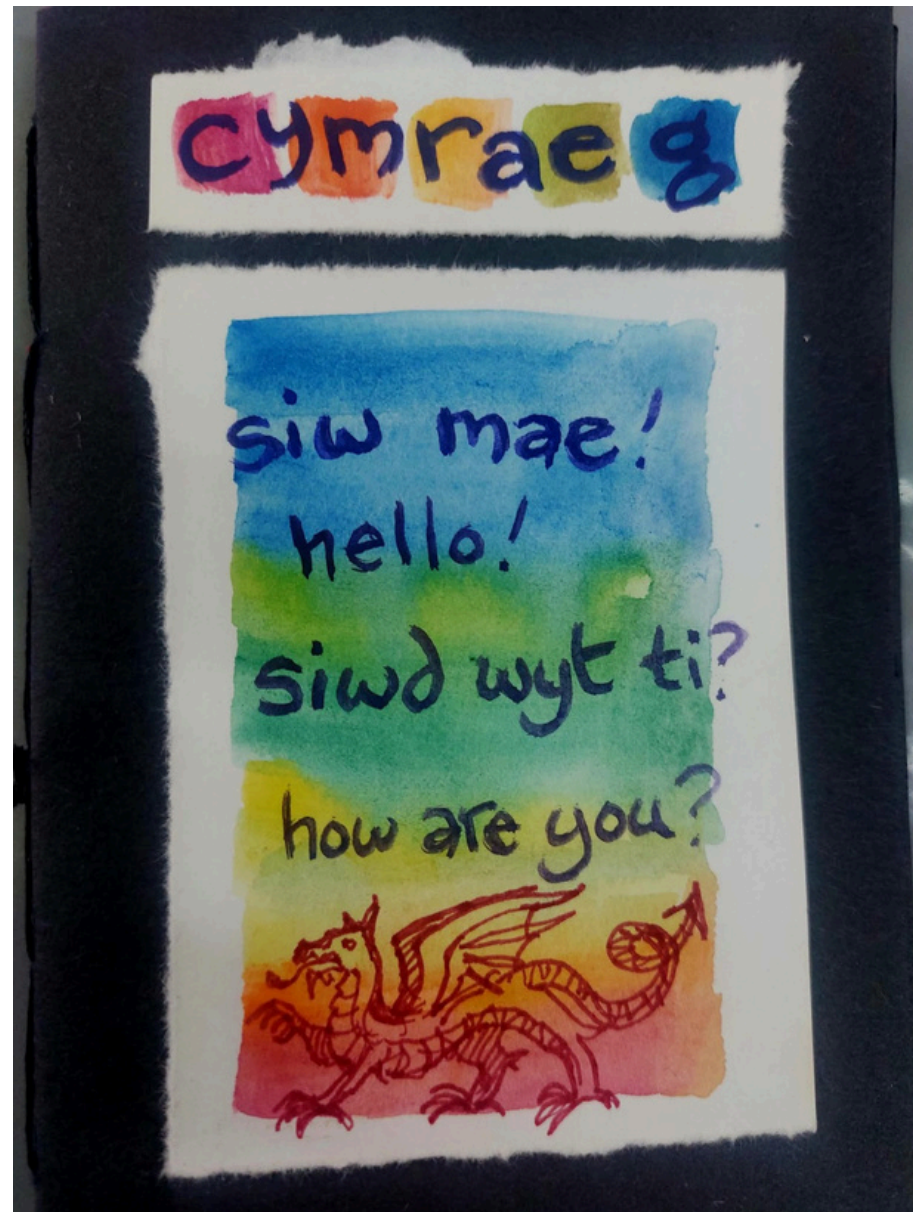
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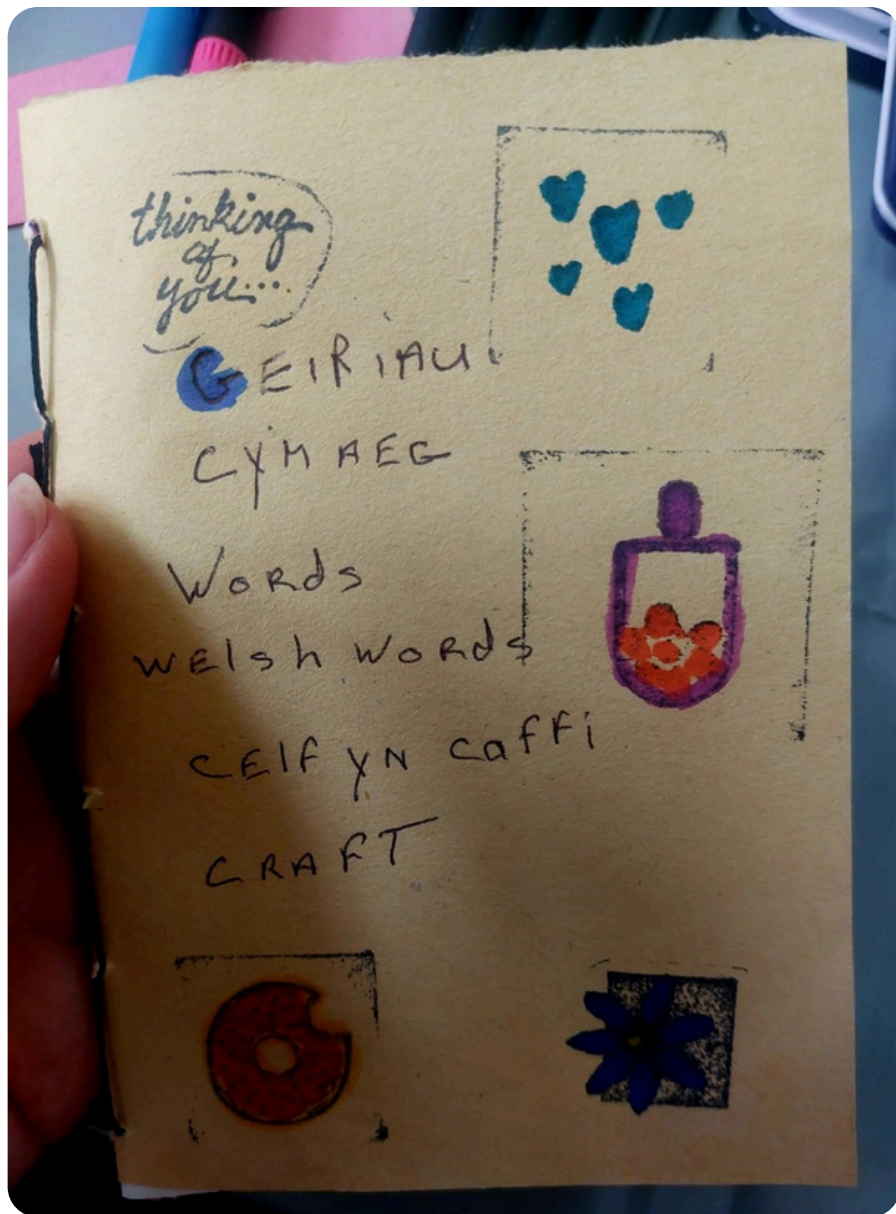
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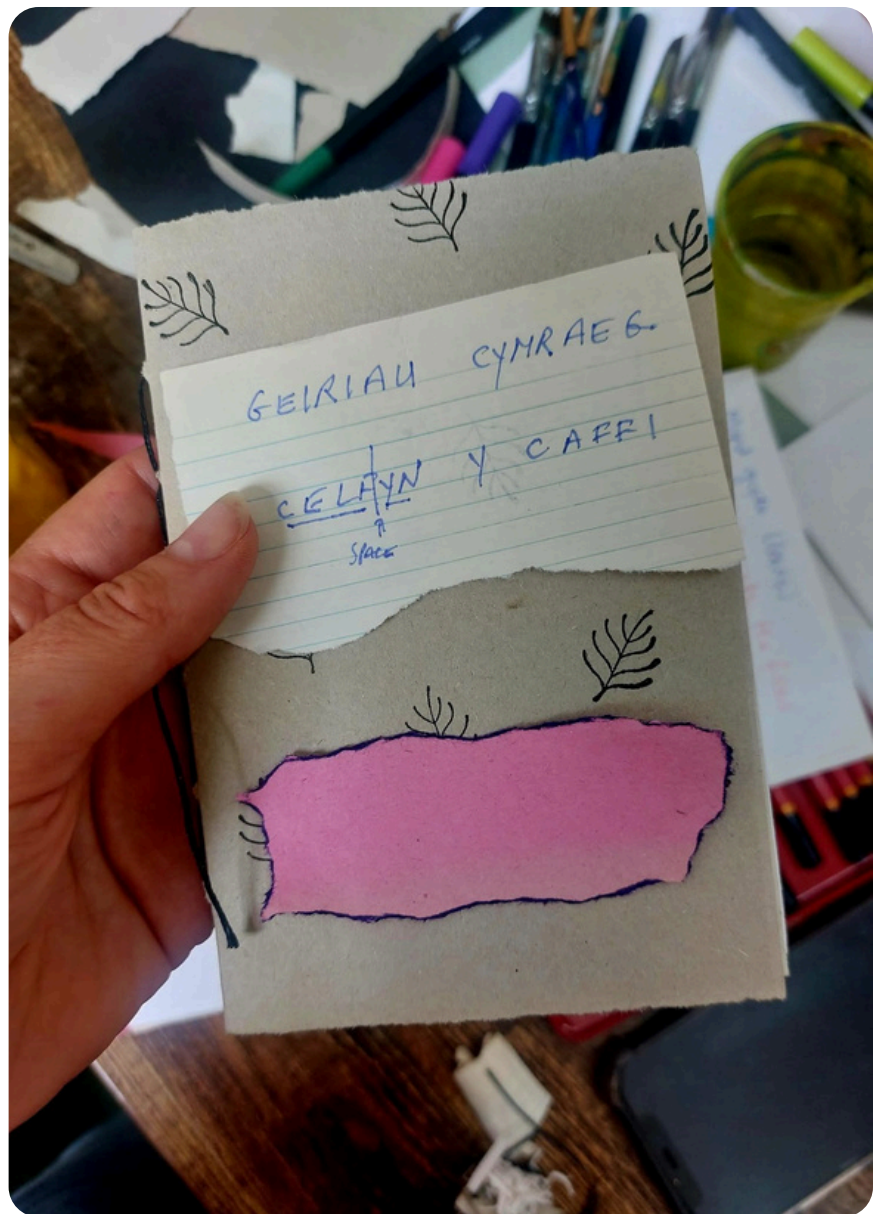














Siol Fagu



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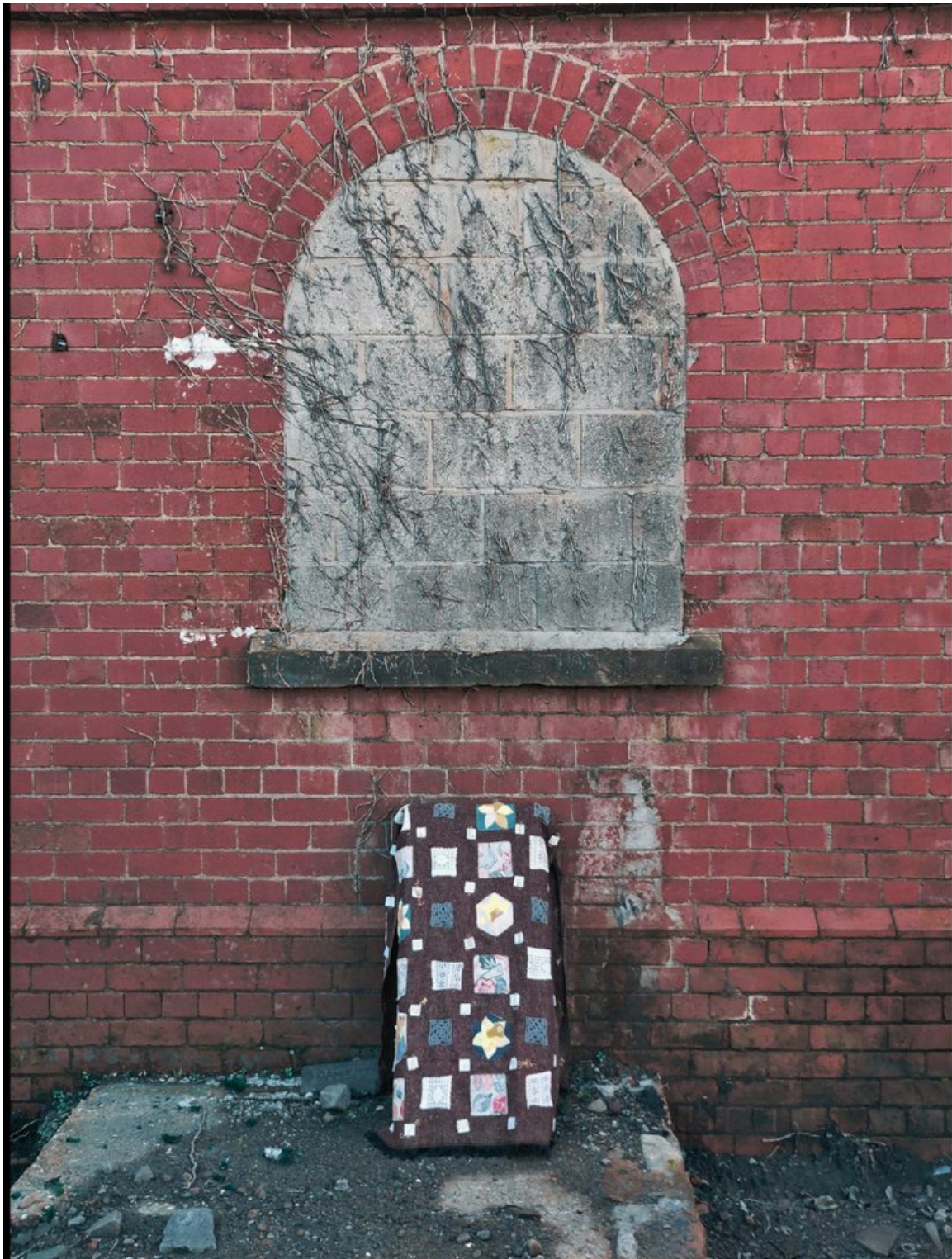
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Rhian is a complete darling & such a natural teacher
oozing great advice, support & wonderful ideas...I've
thoroughly loved & enjoyed every week 😊xxxx super
relaxing, great fun & such fab company too xxx 😊💖

As the project draws to a close, the impact of Celf yn y
Caffi is perhaps best reflected in the voices of those
who have taken part.

Dw i'n caru Celf yn y Caffi!

I had a lovely afternoon learning some meaningful Welsh words and incorporating them into art and craft activities made it even more enjoyable and meaningful.

Thank you Rhian xxx

Rhian thank you from someone who is not very artistic or creative. I have loved coming to your classes. The help and encouragement given has built my confidence. I've learnt so many new Welsh words and made new friends. Once again thank you

xxx

Sesiwn ymlaciol ac agored i gael defnyddio fy Nghymraeg mewn ardal lle nad ydw i'n cael cyfle yn aml iawn.

Diolch Rhian am ddangos bod y Gymraeg i bawb, ac mewn ffordd creadigol, croesawgar a hwyl.

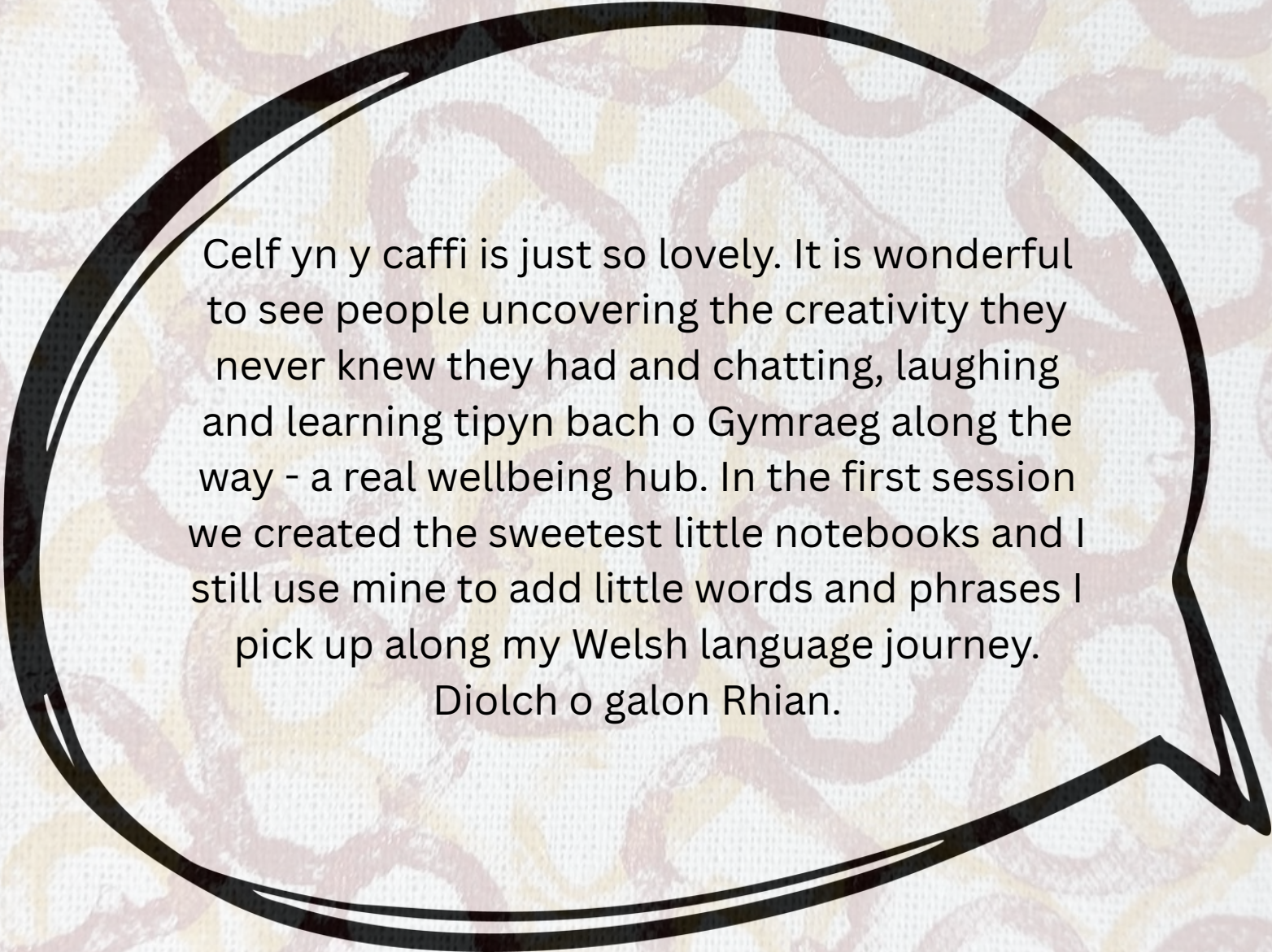
I look forward to Rhian's classes every week. There's no pressure, just enjoy anything that Rhian has for us plus coffee and cake and chat.

What's not to like?

From someone who has never been artistic and knew no Welsh I've absolutely loved my Thursday classes. My Welsh is improving, colours already learnt, even framed my art work! Amazing company as well. Keep doing what you're doing. It's so much fun. Xx

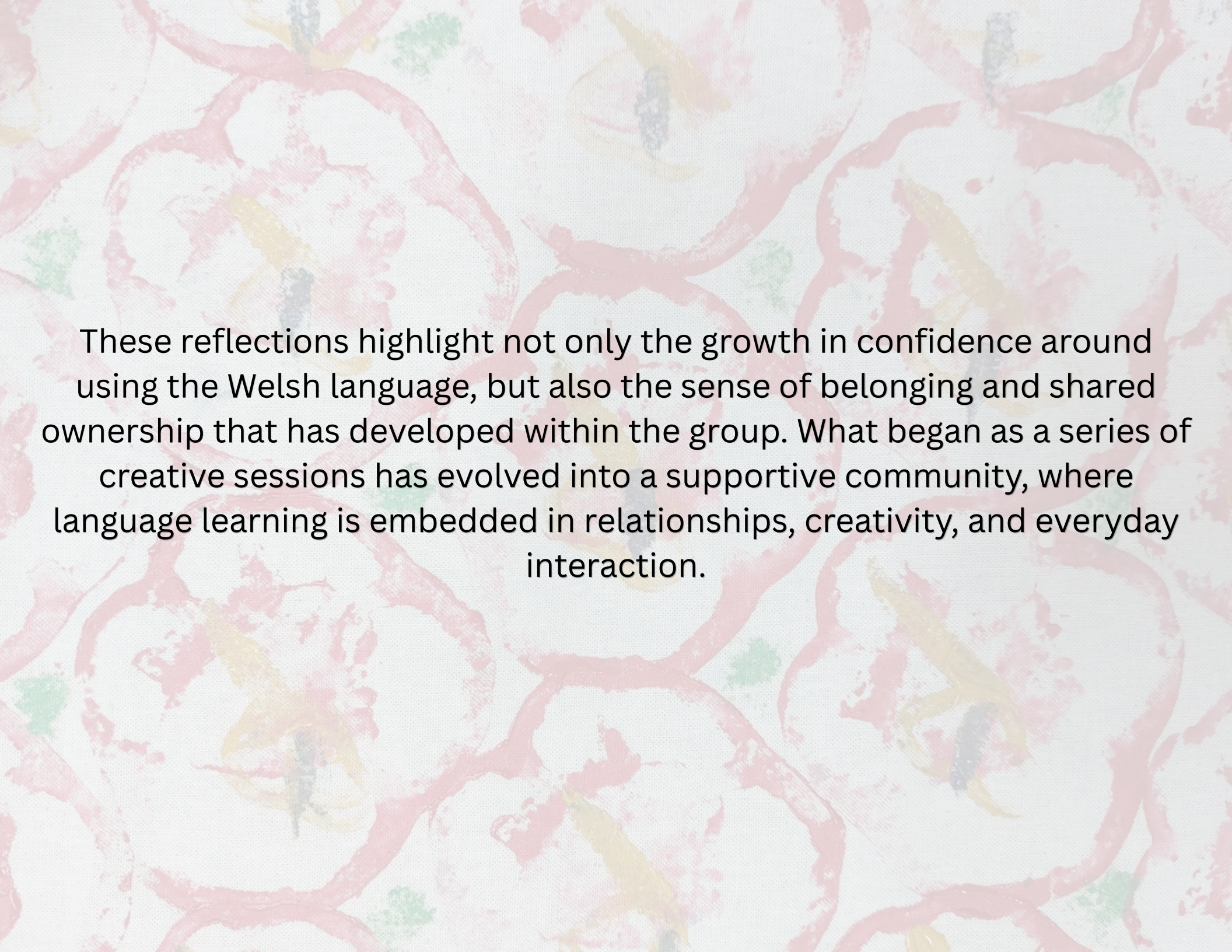
Rhian creates a warm, welcoming, and inclusive atmosphere that supports the development of both creative skills and confidence in using the Welsh language. Attending her sessions has been a valuable way for me to support my own Welsh learning, especially as the language is used in such a relaxed and informal setting.

I'm always so proud of you and the motivation you have to create these amazing community art groups. Even if I don't always have the time to join in myself, it genuinely makes me smile seeing the joy you bring to everyone who does attend. You're doing something really special, and I'm wishing you the very best of luck 🍀

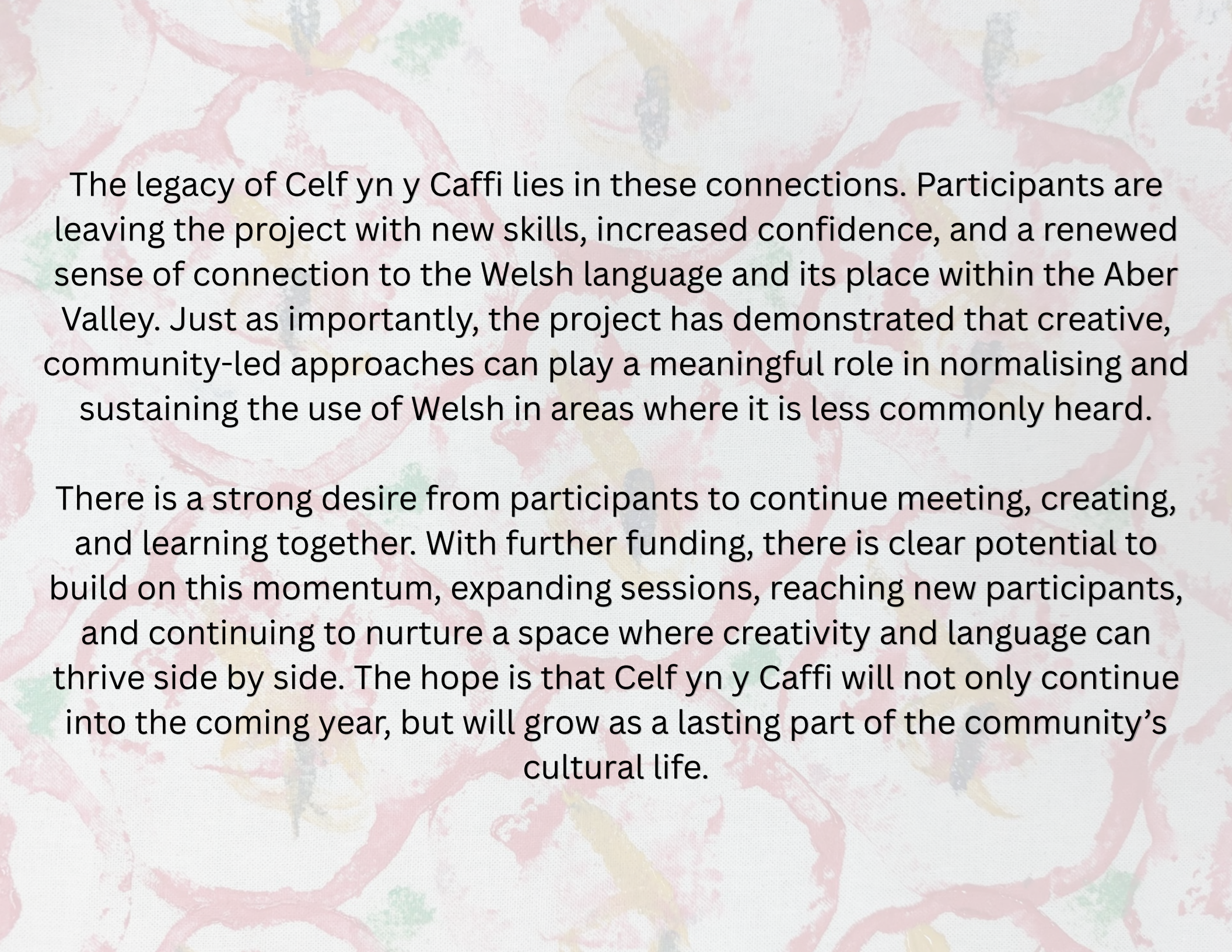


Celf yn y caffi is just so lovely. It is wonderful to see people uncovering the creativity they never knew they had and chatting, laughing and learning tipyn bach o Gymraeg along the way - a real wellbeing hub. In the first session we created the sweetest little notebooks and I still use mine to add little words and phrases I pick up along my Welsh language journey.

Diolch o galon Rhian.

The background of the slide is a light cream color with a subtle, repeating pattern of abstract brushstrokes. The strokes are primarily in shades of pink and red, with some yellow and green accents. They are thick and expressive, giving the background a textured, artistic feel.

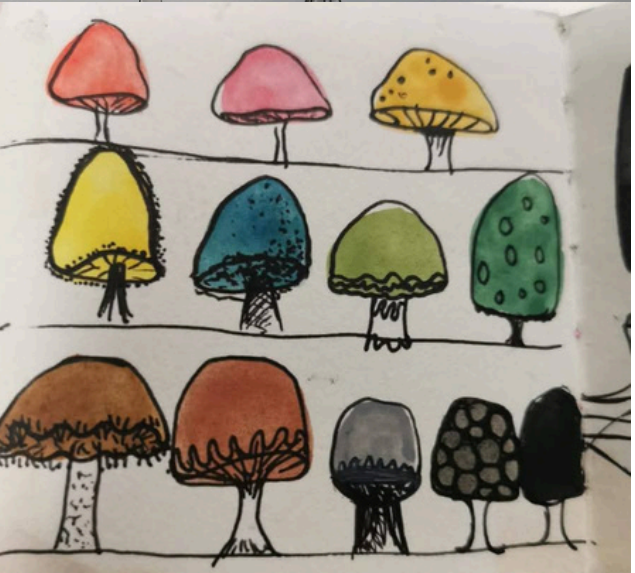
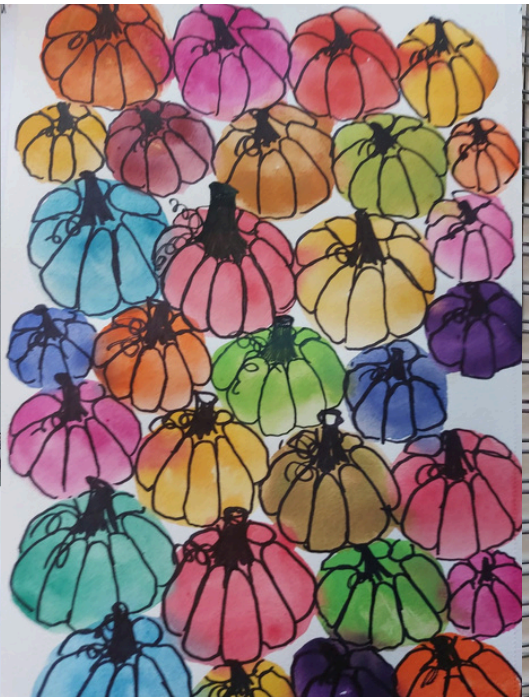
These reflections highlight not only the growth in confidence around using the Welsh language, but also the sense of belonging and shared ownership that has developed within the group. What began as a series of creative sessions has evolved into a supportive community, where language learning is embedded in relationships, creativity, and everyday interaction.



The legacy of Celf yn y Caffi lies in these connections. Participants are leaving the project with new skills, increased confidence, and a renewed sense of connection to the Welsh language and its place within the Aber Valley. Just as importantly, the project has demonstrated that creative, community-led approaches can play a meaningful role in normalising and sustaining the use of Welsh in areas where it is less commonly heard.

There is a strong desire from participants to continue meeting, creating, and learning together. With further funding, there is clear potential to build on this momentum, expanding sessions, reaching new participants, and continuing to nurture a space where creativity and language can thrive side by side. The hope is that Celf yn y Caffi will not only continue into the coming year, but will grow as a lasting part of the community's cultural life.









NADOLIG
LLAWEN

NADOLIG
LLAWEN



















Grado



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales



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