



Cymru Can Newsletter: Culture and Welsh Language



Appeal from Derek: A vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Years of austerity have hit the cultural sector hard, resulting in cuts to services and venue closures. The situation in Wales compares poorly to other European countries.

There is no time to wait if we want to safeguard our culture for future generations.

That's why I made the subject of culture a major part of the Future Generations report 2025, my statutory advice to public bodies published in April.

Culture shapes who we are, provides a sense of belonging, and influences the kind of future we want to create. It binds us together, creating vibrant and connected communities.

Wales is the only country in the world to recognise cultural well-being in our statutory definition of sustainable development within the Well-being of Future Generations Act. It's considered equally alongside social, economic and environmental well-being, and is not just considered a 'nice to have.'

But, despite this, our cultural sector is facing real pressures. The COVID-19 pandemic and deep cuts to funding have left their marks.



- [Wales now ranks third from bottom](#) of European countries for spending per person on recreational and sporting services, and second from bottom for cultural services.
- Our national treasures including castles and other heritage assets are at serious [risk due to climate change](#) and are being [sold off due to dwindling budgets](#).
- Culture and the arts are becoming more inaccessible for certain communities such as those with poor transport links, and low-income households where affordability is a barrier.
- Many public bodies are still not including culture and language in their well-being objectives - only 10.5% of public body well-being objectives, with most of these set by organisations that have a statutory cultural role.

These challenges show us that we need bold, collective action to protect what matters most.

That is why in the Future Generations report 2025 I am calling for:

- **A Culture Bill in the next Senedd term**, to make culture a statutory requirement for public bodies, backed by a **Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Arts and Sport**.
- **A Community Right to Buy Act**, so local people can take ownership of valued buildings, land and community assets.
- All public bodies to **strengthen the use of Welsh in the workplace** and build a stronger bilingual culture through clear plans.
- **Commitments to sign up to the Placemaking Wales Charter** and embed its principles in decision-making.
- All public bodies to **boost community action through producing organisational volunteering strategies** in partnership with employees and the voluntary sector.





There are positive signs.

Welsh Government has developed new priorities for culture, and the announced investment and collaboration opportunities should support culture to thrive at the heart of our communities.

The Eisteddfod Genedlaethol in Wrexham welcomed approximately 150,000 people to celebrate the largest cultural festival in Europe, a reminder of the strength of our culture in Wales.

In the Autumn, I will be **publishing new research** outlining detailed steps we can take to enhance the statutory protection for culture.

I am also bringing cultural stakeholders together at a **Culture Forum**, on 18th September in Aberystwyth and online, to reflect on the actions we can take across the public sector and beyond to strengthen cultural well-being.

Culture is not just something we inherit; it is something we create together, every day.

We must keep culture alive, thriving and evolving. Cymru Can.

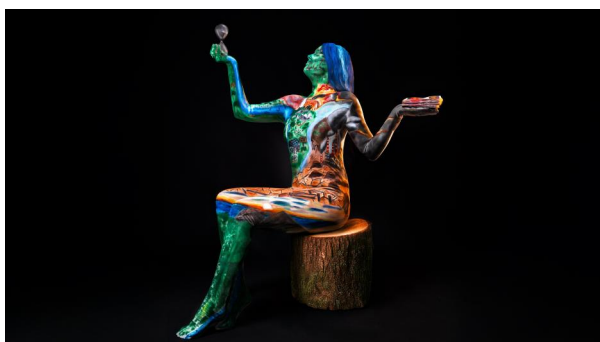
Read my [Future Generations Report 2025](#) for my full findings and recommendations on to Welsh Government and public bodies on supporting our [Culture and Welsh Language](#).

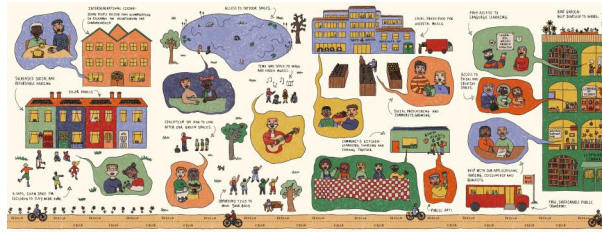
Artists' responses to the Future Generations Report

I have made it [my mission](#) to support public bodies in championing culture, creativity and the Welsh language, ensuring they enrich the fabric of our communities and bring people together.

That's why [I invited five artists to respond creatively](#) to the issues and themes of my [Future Generations Report 2025](#).

Selected via an open call and invited to respond to the report while expressing their own views, [the artists brought the report to life](#), grounding national challenges in the real-life experiences of communities in Wales and offering both inspiration and challenge to those delivering public services.





- Paskaline's Tik' Tok' (Living Canvas for Climate Change), transforms the human body into a visual narrative, illustrating the causes, impacts, and solutions related to climate change. The model's pose, gazing at an hourglass, serves as a reminder that the window for impactful action against climate change is narrowing, urging immediate and conscious efforts to preserve our planet.
- Flatboy's (Seren Thomas) Map of Dreams (a version of which features on the cover of the Future Generations Report), captures the artist's hopes for what a Wales which fully understands and operates on a social model of health could one day look like, illustrating the importance of co-production, prevention and alleviating inequalities to the future health of Wales. The map takes inspiration from initiatives already operating in Wales.
- Kyle Stead's spoken word piece, What's Our Future, is set against the backdrop of Rhondda Fach from Maerdy Mountain, and highlights the need for improved mental health support, greater investment in arts and culture, and the lived reality of neurodivergence.



"I'm passionate about well-being in Wales because I believe we can do better.

Art is a powerful tool for change because it can offer fresh or different perspectives.

I want public bodies to know that we provide value and we shouldn't be fighting for scraps, pitted against each other because of a lack of resources, space and finances."

- Teulu Von Flap's performance to film, *Balancing Act/Gweithred Cydbwyso*, sees the family try to keep and tip physical balance through play, focusing on factors that will contribute to future health and well-being such as climate, culture, food inequality, housing crisis, health and culture, through the lens of family dynamic.
- *Mi*, is a piece of music by RightkeysOnly, which addresses climate action from a disability accessible perspective. Combining samples of birds, bellowing wind and tree branches with synth bass lines and electronic strings, the artist wanted to gift the natural world with a voice it does not often have. *Mi* also highlights "how we can work together to build a climate friendly Wales that is inclusive of the Disabled communities that call it home."

Read the Future Generations Report 2025, including the artists' work and our findings and recommendations around culture in Wales, [on our website](#).



Twf- The Welsh Language at Work Charter

Wales is committed to achieving one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Cymru can achieve this but only if we expand Welsh language capacity in workplaces and embed Cymraeg into everyday life.

In my [Future Generations Report 2025](#), I've called for **all public bodies in Wales to develop a clear plan to increase the internal use of Welsh**, allowing staff to live their working lives increasingly through the medium of Welsh and fostering a stronger bilingual culture in the workplace.

TUC Cymru have launched the [Twf Charter](#), a framework to help workers, their trade union branches and employers to work together to create inclusive bilingual workplaces.

By signing the Twf Charter, the trade union branches and employer are jointly endorsing a framework for increasing Welsh at work, helping to safeguard jobs, protect Welsh speaking communities and contribute to a positive future for Cymraeg as a living language in all areas of our lives.

Find out more about how the Twf Charter is supporting inclusive bilingual workplaces on [their website](#) and read my recommendations around culture and Welsh language in the [Future Generations Report 2025](#).



Join our conference- Leading Fair Food Futures

In collaboration with Miller Research, the Food Farming and Countryside Commission, and Prof. Kevin Morgan, the Leading Fair Food Futures event will examine how Wales could lead the way in securing a more sustainable food system.

Ahead of the Abergavenny Food Festival, the conference will be discussing how we can reform our food system to support our health and NHS, the role of food literacy in shaping life-long habits and what we can learn from other government approaches.

From farm to fork, [food is critical to achieving Wales' well-being goals](#) for the health of our people and our planet.

In the [Future Generations Report 2025](#) I've called on Welsh Government to develop a long-term plan to improve Wales' food security and ensure equal access to local, affordable, healthy and sustainable diets.

Join us on **Friday 19 September** in Abergavenny – [secure your tickets now](#).

Speakers include:

- **Sue Pritchard:** Chief Executive, Food, Farming and Countryside Commission
- **Professor Kevin Morgan:** Cardiff University, author of [Serving the Public: The good food revolution in schools, hospitals and prisons](#).
- **Kim Smith:** PhD Researcher at Centre for Food Policy and founder of TastEd
- **Tim Jackson:** Ecological economist and writer. Director of the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity
- **Derek Walker** – Future Generations Commissioner for Wales



Ystadau Cymru Conference and Awards 2025

In partnership with Ystadau Cymru, we invite you to join the upcoming **Ystadau Cymru Conference and Awards - A Decade of Action: Aligning Estate Management with the Wales We Want** online on **6 November 2025**.

With reflections from the first ten years of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, together attendees will:

- explore how estate managers have driven the sustainable development agenda forward
- unpack the Future Generations Report 2025

- shine a spotlight on inspiring case studies that have long-term thinking at their heart

[Book your free place](#) for the 6 November 2025 conference and awards.

[Nominate a collaborative project](#) from the public sector estate, that embodies sustainability, innovation, and long-term thinking, by 5pm on 8 September 2025

Find more information on the event and how to nominate projects that are acting today for a better tomorrow, no matter how big or small, on the [Ystadau Cymru website](#).



Contact us

Want to catch up on previous issues of the newsletter? You can find them on our website [here](#).

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