

Crest Co-operative

A 15 year history of working in the community



From selling second hand jewellery to providing services to hundreds of North Wales residents



How it all began...



Kinmel Bay, 1998

A new co-operative was hailed as an inspiration to local businesses and disabled people by Chris Ruane MP.

Crest Co-operative was formed as a result of a project run by Scope. It began as two innovative businesses - Red Box, which produced handmade jewellery and CTS, a graphic design and printing service.

The businesses provided disabled and unemployed individuals, with opportunities to gain skills and qualifications.

The project co-ordinator was Sharon Jones. Over the years she worked to grow and develop the co-operative into a sustainable social enterprise.



She was determined to never move away from the original aim —to establish

community businesses, to help disabled and unemployed people to increase



their skills and gain employment. In 1998 Crest Co-operative employed 3 staff and today the social enterprise employs 36 full time staff, 7 part time, has created work opportunities for more than 1,000 unemployed people and provided supported work placements for more than 100 adults with learning disabilities.

Today former project co-ordinator Sharon Jones is well known in the region, as the Chief Executive of Crest Co-operative.



ON THE ROAD TO RECYCLING

Llandudno 2001

Crest Co-operative established a composting scheme. Sacks of garden waste were collected from the kerbsides of residents in Llandudno,

Deganwy and Llanrhos. Crest set up the composting site at Canolfan-yr-Orsedd and residents who had contributed to garden waste collections were able to collect compost free of charge.

Trash and Carry

Kimmel Bay 2003

Crest secured funds from the WCVA to launch a new recycling initiative. Trash and Carry provided arts and craft materials to community groups, schools and youth clubs.

The materials were donated by industrial companies and would have otherwise been sent to landfill.



Foil, paper cups, cotton, glass and paint, were just some of the items that were sold in the store.

Chain reaction, 2003

A bicycle recycling scheme ran alongside the well-established composting project and the popular Trash and Carry shop.

Members of the public donated unwanted bikes and staff worked to build safe, fully functioning bikes.

The bikes were distributed free of charge to community groups and charities.



The Llandudno community boardwalk, 2004



In 2004 Crest Co-operative were awarded WREN and Conwy County Borough Council funding. This allowed Crest to build a 100m long nature walk, including a garden and pond.

The boardwalk was open to Llandudno residents and visitors to the Canolfan Yr Orsedd day centre. It was designed with full disabled access and included picnic benches that were designed for disabled visitors. A kids club was held at the new boardwalk and schools were invited to visit the site.

Moving to Llandudno Junction Against the Grain, 2004



In 2004 it was announced that the UK produced 7.5 million tonnes of

wood waste each year.

Crest Co-operative took the opportunity to tackle this and launched Against the Grain.

Wood waste that would be destined for landfill was removed from industrial sites by staff at Crest. It was sold at a new retail outlet on Ferry Farm Road, Llandudno Junction.



Green waste, 2005

Crest Co-operative teamed up with Conwy County Borough Council to offer a free kerbside, garden waste recycling service. Garden waste was then recycled to make compost. This could be purchased by members of the public at Crest's Llandudno Junction head office. The green waste contract ran for 4 years.



From rags to re-use. Entering the world of textile recycling, 2009



After the green waste contract ended Crest Co-operative launched a new recycling enterprise.

In 2009 Crest Co-operative purchased recycling banks to encourage textile re-use in the local community. The banks were sited at community centres, local schools and in rural areas, where residents did not have a kerbside collection service.



Ragamuffins was launched in the same year. Children's clothing that was collected in textile banks and was fit for re-use was sold to the community at low prices. The new Llandudno Junction store soon proved to be popular with the local community.



Crest Community Store

In 2010 Crest Co-operative's retail enterprise expanded and re-branded as Crest Community Store. Re-claimed timber and



textiles could still be purchased at the shop. However the new store stocked pre-owned furniture and household goods. Crest Co-operative offered furniture collections to local residents and re-sold good quality items back to the community at low prices.

Working to regenerate communities, 2010

An award winning partnership began in 2010. Crest Co-operative teamed up with housing association Cartrefi Conwy to recycle kitchens and bathrooms. The project was hailed as the first of its kind in the UK and was honoured at prestigious national award ceremonies. The partnership is still strong today and Crest Co-operative are currently working to transform empty properties, by clearing waste and re-using unwanted materials.



Crest Co-operative has also worked with Clwyd Alyn and Denbighshire County Council to re-use household items, clear properties and promote social inclusion.



FareShare, 2010

The first Welsh franchise of national charity FareShare was launched by Crest Co-operative in 2010.

Since the project started more than 170 tonnes of in-date food has been saved from landfill and re-distributed to the North Wales community.

Kerbside recycling services— working with Conwy County Borough Council— Conwy county 2010

Crest was awarded a contract to collect unwanted textiles from the kerbsides of 50, 000 Conwy residents in 2010. Today the recycling scheme has expanded and now includes media (CDs, DVDs etc) and small electrical items (WEEE).



Moving to the high street

Colwyn Bay 2011

As the popularity of the community store grew, the need to reach more Conwy residents increased.

Crest Community Store branched out onto the Colwyn Bay high street in 2011.



Crest Community Fund—2012



The Crest Community Fund was launched in 2012 and has already benefited 16 Conwy community groups. Good causes can apply for grants of up to £500.

In the same year Crest gained recognition from Prime Minister David Cameron

**BIG SOCIETY
AWARDS**

2012

Electrical re-use

In 2012 Crest Co-operative opened an electrical re-use centre. The social enterprise started to collect unwanted electrical items from the homes of Conwy residents.

Washing machines, fridges, freezers, ovens and many more electrical items, could now be repaired and tested by a team of electrical engineers on site at Crest.



They could then be sold to the public at low prices in Crest's two community stores.



**Retail
expansion
2013**

**Crest Community Store,
Mostyn Broadway opened in 2013 and
has already helped an increased number
of North Wales residents to
furnish their homes on a budget.**

**Customers can find furniture, electrical
items, nearly new clothing for children
and adults and low cost
household goods.**



The people Since 1998 Crest has...

- Helped more than 1, 000 unemployed people
- Supported more than 100 adults with learning disabilities
- Provided more than 64, 000 hours of volunteering opportunities
- Provided more than 37, 000 hours of community payback on behalf of the probation service



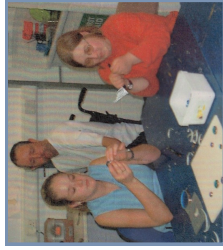
15 years of Crest Co-operative timeline

1998



Co-operative
established

1999



Jewellery making, graphic design
Social inclusion

2000



2001



Kerbside composting

2002



Against the Grain
Community Boardwalk

2003



Trash and Carry
Chain Reaction

2004



2005



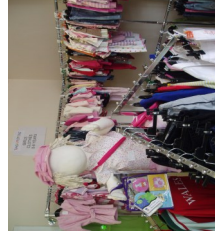
Green waste recycling on
behalf of the council

2006

2007

2008

2009



Ragamuffins
Textile banks

2010



Council kerbside
recycling — textiles and
media
Cartrefi Conwy
partnership began
FareShare



2011



Colwyn Bay
shop opened
Kerbside WEEE

2012



Crest Community Fund launched
New look purple textile banks
Mascot born
Electrical re-use centre

2013

Against the Grain continued

Trash and carry continued



2013

Llandudno store opened

