



Artregen is a voluntary, charitable organisation which was set up by Soroptimist International of Cwmbran & District and the Women's Institutes of Cwmavon and Pontnewynydd in 1998 to help in the regeneration of Pontypool through the Arts. We were later joined by the Arts Development Officer of Torfaen. Other volunteers and professionals have come in and out of ARTREGEN to give us pertinent advice and support.

We initially commissioned a mural to commemorate the Millennium. This looked at Pontypool past, present and future. This was designed and made by 13 and 14 year olds under the supervision of a professional artist. We then produced a book of memories of those who had worked or been patients in the Old Pontypool & District Hospital, which was closed & then demolished. A memorial seat was also erected in Pontypool Park from stones saved from the Hospital. A professional writer and sculptor visited senior schools and worked with students on the written and art productions. We were involved in the re-siting of an 18th century arbour from a former farm in Trevethin to the Park. We have also assisted in the restoration of a 19th century Italianate fountain in the Italian Gardens in the park and the creation of a sculpture trail along the river path.

We staged "Opera in the Park" with singers and musicians of the Welsh National Opera from 2006 – 2009, 2011 & 2017

We have staged several concerts and readings and re-enactments. An "Evening of Poetry & Music" by the Poet Laureate, The Welsh National Poet & a Musician, a one man show recounting Dylan Thomas's last visit to New York and for the last 5 years, in conjunction with Pontypool Museum, an Open Air painting competition in Pontypool Park

We were awarded a grant, which enabled us to complete the Hospital memorial. We produced an information board, landscaped and planted medicinal plants around the memorial seats.

We are currently restoring & cleaning the Japan Ware murals and hopefully create more murals for a mural trail. We hope this will attract tourists to the old industrially important market town of Pontypool.

Although we are only a small group of volunteers we try to bring a high standard of events and activities to the area.