

# Green Light



"The Newsletter of  
the Environment  
Centre, Swansea"



## NEW Training Sessions at The Environment Centre

Issue: 149

May 2010

Local News	2
What Can I Do?	3
Events Diary	4

**Do you want to find out more about climate change? Do you wish you had the confidence to talk to people about it? Or maybe you want to have the tools to make your community more sustainable? Then the Environment Centre has the training for you!**

We are bringing 3 great training opportunities to Swansea for the first time. They are delivered by experts in their fields and include a delicious locally sourced buffet and fairtrade tea & coffee.

### COIN Climate Change Condensed on Saturday 12th June

This Climate Outreach Information Network (COIN) training course uses the latest education and action learning techniques with partner and group exercises and discussion to inform those new to the subject or who would like to make sure they have the latest facts & theories.

**Cost:** £15 public / £25 local authority/charity workers / £50 business. Book by 28th May.



### COIN Climate Change Speaker Training on Saturday 3rd July

New speakers will gain the confidence so that they can speak powerfully without being a scientific expert by talking of their own experiences, hopes and fears. Seasoned speakers will obtain new skills for communicating more effectively. This intensive one-day course gives participants the text, information, skills and confidence to prepare and deliver a persuasive half hour talk on climate change. The training also includes advice on dealing with sceptics and 'difficult' audiences.

**Cost:** £40 public/ £75 local authority/charity workers / £105 business. Book by 18th June.



### Planed Sustainability Toolkit Training on Thursday 24th June

Do you work with communities? Do you want to help the communities you work with or live in develop sustainable projects? Then this course is for you!

The toolkit provided by Planed (Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development) focuses on engaging communities and getting them to participate in the identification and development of sustainable projects & opportunities. The Toolkit has been designed in collaboration with the New Economics Foundation. The training is particularly relevant for all working with community groups on a developmental level also it is a very powerful awareness raising tool.

**Cost:** Just £10! Book by 10th June.



These are great tried & tested sessions and will be in high demand, so you will need to book early! To book contact James or Hannah on 01792 480200 or [bookings@environmentcentre.org.uk](mailto:bookings@environmentcentre.org.uk)

Visit us online at [www.environmentcentre.org.uk](http://www.environmentcentre.org.uk)



# Local News

## ActionAid Events this Summer

A buffet supper will be held at the Swansea Mansion House Uplands at 7pm on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. The supper, which will be accompanied by a glass of wine, will be followed by some cool jazz musical entertainment provided by instrumental saxophone and guitar duo **the Simmons Brothers**. The tickets cost £10 and can be bought from Ann Barnes (Tel. 01792 290874).

The annual **Summer Lunch** will be held at West Cross on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of June. Details of these events will be announced later.

Funds raised by the group this year are being used to support Action Aid projects in Malawi (helping a school and community overcome problems caused by climate change) Uganda (helping a village cope with re-location) and Haiti (helping to provide basic education for some very poor children).

actionaid



## “Gowercyclefest” 18th to 25th September 2010

This Cycling Festival is a first for the Gower and is being organised by Wheelrights. It has been inspired by the highly successful Gower Walking Festival (see page 3), which each year attracts a large number of walkers to this lovely area. If walkers are attracted why not cyclists? Is not this a good area for cycling? The Gower Peninsular is some 12 miles (as the crow flies) from west to east and 5 miles from north to south. There is a wealth of variety and interest in this small bit of land; a short cycle ride can take you from one end to the other. This variety includes the topography: the long flat sweeps of Swansea Bay and the gentle incline of the Clyne Valley cycle path are relieved by ups and downs on the Peninsular. The hills, however, are not long, but some are sharp. (For the “gentle”: rides to be gentle you may need to get off and push up the steeper hills!)



They have organised 18 rides ranging from easy (gentle) half day excursions to more challenging rides. Most are in the Peninsular, but the longer rides take you further afield to the north and east. They aim to cater for a range of abilities: from families with small children, through those who cycle a little but are not very fit, to the more experienced. They are also providing a couple of mountain bike rides: an easy one and a more challenging ride for experienced mountain bikers. (Both take you up the Gower “Alps”: from which there are splendid views.)

For more details visit [www.wheelrights.org.uk](http://www.wheelrights.org.uk)

## The Climate Change Debate on Facebook

Are you under 25? Do you have an interest in climate change? Why not join the debate about climate change - Wales' Climate Change Champions want to hear from you! They have created a Facebook Group, just search for Wales' Climate Change Champions within Facebook. This group aims to encourage young people in Wales to tell the Climate Change Champions what they think about climate change, discuss climate change issues and share information about relevant projects across Wales and give their views on Welsh Assembly Government policies. Why not join in and visit them on Facebook now!

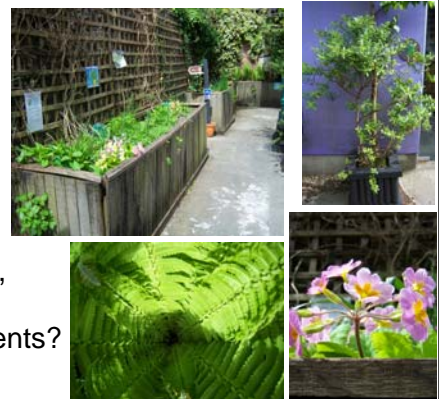


## In the Environment Centre’s Garden

It is lovely in our garden now Spring is here. We thought you would like to see a few pictures.

Our garden might be small but it is packed full of features. We have a wormery, wildlife pond, solar powered water feature and lots of interesting plants and wildlife. We are very grateful to the member of Swansea and district Organic Gardeners who have been taking care of our garden for over ten years. We really do appreciate all their time, effort and expertise.

If you are interested in gardening, why not go along to one of their events? Jayne is their secretary and can be contacted on 01792 869098.





# What Can I Do?

Great ideas for "doing your bit" for the planet...

## Wildlife Fans Wanted!

### The Bishopwood Bioblitz from 5am on Saturday May 22nd until 5am on Sunday May 23rd.

A 24-hour biodiversity blitz and ocean vigil is being held at the Bishop's Wood Nature Reserve in Caswell and the nearby coastal path. People of all ages are invited to take part and join experts in putting together an inventory of the reserve's woodland and grassland species, as well as the coastal and marine life along the shoreline. Searches for bats, butterflies, moths, dawn chorus birds, lichens, elm trees, spiders, seaweed and shore fish are among those being organised. Teams will leave from a central marquee area tasked with discovering and surveying particular kinds of plant and animal life. The Environment Centre café will be there too. The event coincides with International Biodiversity Day and is being organised by Swansea Council's Nature and Conservation Team and the Swansea Biodiversity Partnership. For further information of when particular searches are taking place or to book call 01792 635784 or email [jo.mullett@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:jo.mullett@swansea.gov.uk)



## Join Wales Sustainability Week!

Wales' first Sustainability Week will take place from 17th to 23rd May. Individuals, organisations from all sectors and communities are being invited to take action to make Wales more sustainable and to celebrate what they are already doing!

The Welsh Assembly is organising the week to encourage and motivate other organisations to become involved in promoting sustainable development in Wales, and to learn from the experience and examples of others.

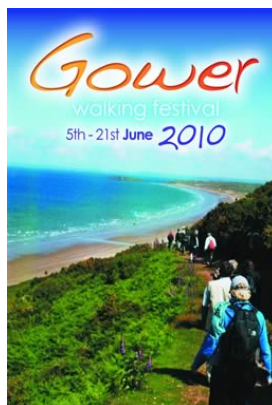
It is hoped this will become an annual event and will provide many organisations and communities the opportunity to undertake action in support of sustainable development and to showcase their best practice. Jane Davidson, Minister for the Environment, will launch the week and the Sustainable Swansea Awards in Swansea on 17th May. They are developing a calendar of sustainable development events - if you would like to be included email details to: [Sustainable.development@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Sustainable.development@wales.gsi.gov.uk)



## Get Out your Walking Shoes!

From 5th to 21st June 2010

The 2010 Festival will be the biggest and best yet! Organised by the Mumbles Tourist Association, the Festival's continuing popularity means that there are now 56 guided walks on the programme, spread out over seventeen days, around glorious Gower, Mumbles and other local settings. New for this year is a cycle and walk combined with lunch and tour in the Gower Wildflower Centre, a speed-dating walk and a literary themed walk around Uplands. The walks are so varied there really is something for all! For an online brochure visit [www.visitmumbles.co.uk](http://www.visitmumbles.co.uk). The website also has an availability search. You can also book by phone on 01792 361302.



## At The Centre

April was a busy month for us. On April 22nd we celebrated **Earth Day** with a benefit gig for the Centre in the Vault in the No Sign Bar. It was a great night, all 4 bands were brilliant and a good time was had by all. We raised £200 for the Centre. Well done Carys Kelly and her large band of volunteers!

On Saturday 24th we supported Gorseinon's very first **Food Festival**. Helped by the lovely weather the event was a brilliant success with thousands of people attending the event organised by Gorseinon Development Trust.

This month we will be hoping for more great weather when we run a fair-trade refreshment stall at the 24 hour **Bioblitz** in Bishopwood, Caswell. It too is the first of its kind - see Local News.

The end of March saw us say goodbye to **Kathy Tate**. Who started with us as a volunteer and then went on to hold posts in Black Environment Network and Sustainable Swansea. Her enthusiasm and friendly face will be sadly missed.

**Sustainable Swansea** have just recruited two new faces Dai Power and Delyth Higgins. There will be more about them and the 2010 Awards in the June Edition. We also said goodbye to Jessica one of our **volunteers**. We wish her well with her new job and the new life in Bristol! This is the end of an era for **Green Light**, this will be the last copy of our newsletter that is sent on paper to members. From now on other than a few copies in the Centre, distribution will be entirely electronic. So, **please let us have your email address**, or tell us if you do not have access to the internet.

*Jenny Edwards, Acting Centre Manager*

## Launch of The Sustainable Swansea Awards 2010

This prestigious awards scheme will once again showcase what local schools, businesses, organisations, partnerships and individuals are doing to help make Swansea a more sustainable place to live and visit. The scheme will be launched on **May 17th** and application forms will then be available online. More in our next edition.



**Local Produce Markets:** (Great places to help the local economy and reduce your food-miles)

**Saturdays, 9.30am-12.30pm:** 8th at Bishop Gore school, Sketty, 8th at the Village hall (Busy Bees) Penllergaer (until 1.30pm), 8th at Oystermouth Square, Mumbles, 15th at Penclawdd Community Centre, Penclawdd, 29th Llangennith Parish Hall  
**Sundays, 9.30am-12.30pm:** 9th at Pennard Community Centre, Pennard  
**Wednesdays, 9.30am-2pm:** 12th at The Institute, 45 St Teilo St, Pontarddulais

Every Monday 12.30pm  
**Stepping Out** Walking for health and wellbeing in Penllergare Valley Woods. Meet at kissing gate from the council offices car park. Call Ben Monk Penllergare Trust 07879 011534 or ben.monk@penllergare.org

Every Thurs **Volunteer Workday in Penllergare** Meet at the Pit Stop cafe A48 entrance. See contact above.

Wed 5th 10am-12noon **Bird and Wildlife Walk** Enjoy Clyne Gardens in full bloom and look out for wildlife. Meet at Clyne Park (Woodman Pub entrance), Blackpill, Swansea. Bring binoculars if you have them., tel. 01792 205327 £1.50 adult / 50p child.

Wed 5th 7pm **Seedlings Swap and Compost Talk** at the Environment Centre. Bring your seedlings and plants to exchange plus talk, discussion on worm composting. Tel. Jayne, Organic Gardeners, 01792 869098.

Sat 8th 9.30am **Lower Lliw Reservoir Guided Bird Walk** From Lower Lliw Reservoir car park, nr. Felindre Bird life walk by the reservoir (subject to weather) Tel. 01792 204031.

Sat 8th 9.30am-4pm **Earth Oven Construction Course** at Down to Earth. Practical course in constructing and firing a cob (clay) oven. Please contact book on 01792 346566.

Sat 8th **Wilderness Gourmet Course** One-day course; Prepare a meal outdoors, making use of seasonably

available wild foods and cooking over wood fires. £90 adults, £60 concessions. Tel. for details 01792 547213

Sat 8th 2.15pm **Introducing Penllergare** Meet Swansea council offices car park, Penllergaer. Guided walk around historic estate. Free but donations appreciated. Sturdy footwear. Tel. 01558 650416.

Sun 9th 10am-4pm **Basket Making Course** at Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre, Caswell Learn to make a simple willow basket in a day. Not for young children. Tel. 01792 361703 to book.

Sun 9th 10am-12noon **Rosehill Quarry Task Day** Help maintain this beautiful open space and wildlife area. Tel. 01792 477863.

Sun 9th 10am **Birdwatching Walk at Ynys Dawela Reserve** from Brynamman Public Hall (cinema) Car Park, Station Road, Brynamman. Beginners welcome. Warm weatherproofs and boots. No dogs pls. Tel.01792 816250

Tue 11th 7.30pm **Tree Climbing Adventures with Nepalese Vultures** Retrace Steve Lucocq's amazing journey and help these wonderful birds through photos, music and video. Donations welcome. At the Environment Centre. Tel.01792 635784.

Wed 12th **Bird and Wildlife Walk** see 5th.

Wed 12th 4.30-6pm **Junior Park Rangers Club** Environmental games for

children 4-11 years old. Meet Clyne Park (Woodman Pub entrance), Blackpill. Booking essential on.01792 635485

Wed 12th 7.30pm **Bluebell Walk** A 5 mile evening walk up Ilston Cwm and through the woods. Meet at Gower Inn, Parkmill. Tel.01792 547030.

Sat 15th 9.30am-3.30pm **Family Workday with Compost Conundrums** Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Suitable clothing and packed lunch required. Fee £2. Tel. Swansea Community Farm on 01792 578384.

Sat 15th & Sun 16th **WWT Low Tide Mud Safari** Start time to be confirmed. Not suitable for very young children. Booking essential. £5/adult, accompanied children free. Tel. 01554 741087.

Mon 17th 2pm **Shore Ecology Walk** Join Dr. Isaac to look at the strand line, sandy shore animals and sand dune plants. Meet library entrance, Civic Centre. Wellies or equivalent. Tel.01792 295337.

Tue 18th to Fri 21st 10am-4pm **Straw Bale Building Course** 4 days at Swansea Community Farm. Involves carpentry, general building, using straw bales. £50 fee. Booking is essential on 01792 578384 .

Wed 19th **Bird and Wildlife Walk.** See 5th.

Fri 21st 9.30am-4pm **Practical Solar Electricity Course** on solar electricity systems and off grid applications at Down to Earth Tel.01792 346566.

Sat 22nd to Sun 23rd **24 Hour Biodiversity Blitz** at Bishop's Wood, Caswell, Gower. See page 3.

Sun 23rd 9.30am **Burry Green Circular Walk** 7 mile walk in the heart of Gower. May be muddy. Meet at St. Helen's beach car park, Swansea. Tel.07817 063899.

Tue 25th 7pm **Transition Swansea Public Meeting** at the Environment Centre. To include a film screening & short talk. Tel.01792 206223

Wed 26th **Bird and Wildlife Walk** See 5th.

Wed 26th 7.30pm **Clyne History and Woodland Walk** A 4-5 mile walk through the springtime woods of Clyne following tracks from the industrial past. Meet at The Woodman pub, Blackpill, Swansea Tel.01792 296219.

Thu 27th & Fri 28th 10am-3pm **Carol Kibble Wildlife Pastels Workshop** At WWT National Wetland Centre. £30. Tel.01554 741087.

Sat 29th & Sun 30th 9.30am-4pm **Green Woodwork Course** Introductory course at Down to Earth Project. Tel.01792 346566.

Sat 29th 9.30am-5pm **Introduction to Bushcraft Course** Suitable for over 8 year olds. £90/£60 Tel. Dryad Bushcraft on 01792 547213.

Sun 30th 10am **Pennard Cliffs, Pwll Du & Bishopston Valley Walk** 7 miles taking about 4½ hours. £3. Bring lunch. Booking essential with National Trust, 01792 390636.

**The Environment Centre**

Tel: 01792 480200

Pier Street, Swansea, South Wales, SA1 1RY

Fax: 01792 480400

Website: [www.environmentcentre.org.uk](http://www.environmentcentre.org.uk)

**Organisations and Projects based at the Environment Centre**

Black Environment Network: 01792 468271  
 MOre Green: 01792 470283 Bikeability: 07968109145  
 BTCV: 01792 456224 Bat Conservation: 01792 643152  
 Undercurrents Foundation: 01792 455900

Available on 01792 480200: Swansea Fair Trade Forum, Sustainable Swansea, DJ Transport Consultants, One People, Swansea Environmental Education Forum & Swansea Community Recycling Alliance Partnership.

