

Green Light



"The Newsletter of
the Environment
Centre, Swansea"



Wise Up to Waste!

Monday 21st to Saturday 26th June
A week of special events in Swansea

Issue: 150

June 2010

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For the second year running, the City & County of Swansea's Recycling Team, in partnership with the Environment Centre, various community groups, schools and local reuse projects, are organising events during Wise up to Waste week.

From **Monday 21st June to Saturday 26th June** you can participate in a number of events across the City & County of Swansea to learn how to adopt a more sustainable approach to waste management.

The key message of the week is Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and will be promoted during events such as swap shops, recycling advice and information, an auction of reused furniture for individuals on benefits, litter picks, a funky junk and a bike repair workshop.

There will also be recycling information displays at Oystermouth Library, Gorseinon Library and the Environment Centre.

Not only will you have the chance to learn ways of saving money and have opportunities to get rid of unwanted items around the house but there are a number of events that will help inform you on ways in which you can reduce the amount of waste you produce and the effects that your household waste has on the environment.

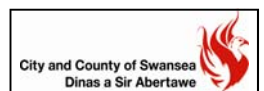
If you have a burning question based on local waste management issues then come along to quiz a panel of waste management experts at **Swansea Waste Forum's Question Time**. If you have any questions then submit them on the waste forum website (www.swanseawasteforum.org) or email them to recycling@swansea.gov.uk.



The City & County of Swansea will be promoting their ever-expanding kerbside recycling service during this week. A **Plastic Recycling Kerbside Collection Service** is now available to residents of Swansea. Clean plastic waste can be placed into pink bags and positioned onto the kerbside to be collected on the opposite week to green bag collection.



For more information and event listings then check out the Recycling Team's website at www.swansea.gov.uk/recycling or phone 01792 635600.



Visit us at www.environmentcentre.org.uk & send stories & events to info@environmentcentre.org.uk



Local News

The Sustainable Swansea Awards 2010: Could you be a Winner?

This year's Sustainable Swansea Awards were launched on 17th May by Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing. The award scheme is run by Swansea Environmental Forum to recognise the achievements of local people that demonstrate a genuine commitment to good environmental practice and sustainable development.

The launch was held at Swansea Community Farm, which won one of the first Sustainable Swansea Awards, back in 2005. Other previous winners include AB Glass and Pitstop Carwash and groups such as the Blaenymaes Drop-in Centre and the MOre Green Project.

There are seven categories in this year's award scheme:

- Community Project Award**
- Waste Wise Business Award**
- Low Carbon Organisation Award**
- And the Champion Award** for individuals.
- Sustainable Schools Award**
- Biodiversity Award**
- Low Carbon Community Award**



The awards scheme is sponsored and supported by The Cooperative Membership, Welsh Assembly Government, Wales Green Business Centre, the City and County of Swansea, Countryside Council for Wales, Swansea Environmental Education Forum, South Wales Evening Post, Swansea Council for Voluntary Service, Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd. and the Environment Centre.

More details on the Sustainable Swansea Awards Scheme and application forms are available at www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net or by calling the Environment Centre on 01792 480200.

Volunteers' Clean Sweep

Dyffryn Clydach Volunteers have reinstated the bridge that crossed the Canal at Red Jacket, 1 mile East of Jersey Marine. The replacement bridge was donated by BP and they were supported by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Environment Wales, Welsh Assembly Government and Keep Wales Tidy to carry out the work.

They have also participated in CSV Action Earth's *Make a Difference Day*. Indeed Dyffryn Clydach Volunteers are one of the few groups to have participated in the Make a Difference Day ever since its inception, 16 years ago.



The volunteers worked for 2 days near Neath Abbey, helped by both local children and parents. The 40 participants collected 40 bags of rubbish from the valley. Morrisons Supermarket, one of the sponsors, said "We were delighted to support the Valley Clean Sweep."

Anyone wishing to join them on their regular activities can call Stephen Absalom on 01792 813465.

Wales Biodiversity Week 5th-13th June

Pledge 4 Nature! Give wildlife a helping hand in Wales. . . and win a prize! To celebrate Wales Biodiversity Week and the International Year of Biodiversity, Wales Biodiversity

Partnership are offering a prize to one lucky pledge holder! To take part, simply fill in the form online. Various local events have been organised as part of a Wales-wide celebration of nature with wildlife-inspired events to enthuse and engage people in protecting and conserving the natural environment on their doorstep. It's easy to help wildlife, so get involved! There are some events on page 4, For more details contact Jo Mullett on 01792 635784 or visit www.biodiversitywales.org.uk



National Bike Week 19th-27th June

Margam Park Bike Festival 26th June from 11am to 4pm. Activities and stalls throughout the day, including cycle rides for all ages and abilities, childrens' bike ramps, cycle training skills for all ages and abilities, Dr Bike- Bike maintenance, led themed walks and a Treasure Hunt for children. All activities are free, but there is a £3.50 charge for car parking, no charge for bikes though and you can get there on the Sustrans connect2 cycle route. More at www.npt.gov.uk/cycling

For **other events** including a wide range of rides of different lengths and difficulties and cycle training sessions, go to www.bikeweek.org.uk and do a search using your postcode.





What Can I Do?

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

Reminder: Gower Walking Festival

From 5th to 21st June 2010

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. This includes on the 12th June, the 17th Gower Gallop, which is a challenge walk run by Swansea Outdoor group.

Visit www.visitmumbles.co.uk or call 01792 361302 for details.



Book Now for a Course at the Centre

Planned **Sustainability Toolkit Training** on Thursday 24th June

Do you work with communities? Do you want to help communities develop sustainable projects? Then this course is for you! The training is particularly

relevant for those working with community groups on a developmental level. It is very powerful for awareness raising too. 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.

Cost: Just £10! Book by 10th June.

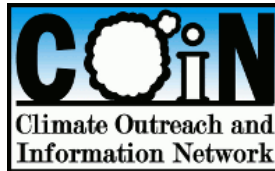
COIN **Climate Change Speaker Training** on Saturday 3rd July

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.



Make your Nature Count!



The RSPB wants to know what sings, chirps, snuffles and barks in your garden with its summer wildlife survey. "Make Your Nature Count". Running from the 5th-13th June 2010 they are asking people to count the summer wildlife in their gardens.



Not only do the RSPB want people to record birds, it also wants to know about some of the other wildlife like badgers, foxes and moles.

Launched for the first time last year, almost 3,000 people in Wales took part. Similar to the way in which the *Big Garden Birdwatch* has identified trends among wintering bird populations, the RSPB hopes, in time, this count will build a picture about the wildlife that visits our gardens during the summer.

To take part visit www.rspb.org.uk/naturecount or telephone 02920 353 007 for a bilingual survey form.

At The Centre

May was another busy month for us.

May 17th saw the launch of the **Sustainable Swansea Awards 2010**. A good crowd joined Jane Davidson AM at the Community Farm to mark the occasion. More about the awards scheme on page 3.

Sustainable Swansea also has two new faces Dai Power and Delyth Higgins.

They will tell you more about themselves in next month's issue. Unfortunately at the end of this month we will say goodbye to John Casey the Trailblazers 2 Volunteer Co-ordinator. The funding has sadly come to an end for this project, but it is hoped the successful youth volunteering scheme can be revived when more resources are secured. Thanks John, and good luck for the future!

However, we have welcomed a new **volunteer** to the team, Michael Yau.

Amidst some gorgeous weather on May 22nd Bishopswood's first 24 hour **Bioblitz** was held. The Centre offered refreshments to attendees and passers by. Thank you to Carys, Gareth W and Bob for helping with the stall.

We are running the first of our **new training courses** this month. We are delighted to welcome Planed and COIN to the Centre to deliver their training. Both these organisations come highly recommended. The booking deadlines and more details are in the text to the left of this box. At the time of writing we still have places available on both courses.

The **Gower Walking Festival** kicks off on June 5th and for the first time on the 19th includes an event jointly led by the Centre. The cycle, tour and walk includes a cycle with Wheelrights and a short scenic walk with me. See article above.

Jenny Edwards, Acting Centre Manager

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

Saturdays, 9.30am-12.30pm: 5th at Bishop Gore school, Sketty, 5th at the Village hall (Busy Bees) Penllergaer (until 1.30pm), 12th at Oystermouth Square, Mumbles, 19th at Penclawdd Community Centre, Penclawdd, 26th Llangennith Parish Hall
Sundays, 9.30am-12.30pm: 13th at Pennard Community Centre, Pennard
Wednesdays, 9.30am-2pm: 9th 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.

Tue 1st 10.30am-12noon
Junior Park Rangers Club at the Discovery Centre, Brynmill Park. Wildlife trail for children 4-11 years of age. Booking essential. Tel. Adam or Arron, 01792 635485.

Sat 5th to Sun 13th **Wales Biodiversity Week** See page 2.

Sat 5th to Mon 21st **Gower Walking Festival** See page 3.

Sat 5th 1pm-3.30pm **Healing with Herbs** at Swansea Community Farm Looking at the herbs & flowers found in our gardens and about their uses to treat common ailments. Tel Kari, 01792 578384.

Sun 6th 10am-12noon
Bishop's Wood Walk Discover the mysteries of this local Nature Reserve (part of Wales Biodiversity Week & Gower Walking Festival)

Tue 8th 7.30pm, **Rockpool Revelations** at the Environment Centre. A talk exploring the hidden and often overlooked life of Gower shores with Judith Oakley, marine biologist and photographer. Donations welcome. Part of Wales

Biodiversity Week and World Oceans Day. Tel Jo Mullett, 01792 635784.

Fri 11th 10.30am **Crymlyn Bog Guided Walk** Crymlyn Reserve Centre, Dinam Road, Port Tennant. Part of Wales Biodiversity Week. Tel Jamie Bevan, 01792 634960

Sat 12th various times. **Gower Gallop Challenge Walk** A test of stamina and navigation skills around the hills and coast of Gower. Choose from 12.5, 20 or 30 mile walks. Part of Gower Walking Fest Tel Sue Alston, Swansea Outdoor Group, 01792 296219.

Sat 12th 9.30-11.30am **Adult Cycling Beginners Class** East Car Park, Civic Centre, Swansea Cycle training course for adults. £5 charge, please book in advance. Tel Veronica Wheelrights, 01792 206617.

Sat 12th 9.30am-5pm
Introduction to Bushcraft Course a range of basic tools & techniques. Suitable for anyone over the age of 8. £90 adults, £60 concs. Tel Dryad Bushcraft, 01792 547213.

Sat 12th 11.15am **Whiteford Point Strandline Safari and Beach Clean** Cwm Ivy car park, Llanmadoc Celebrate World Oceans Day with Judith Oakley by searching for shark and ray egg-cases, and helping with a beach clean and strandline survey. Booking essential. Tel 07879 837817.

Sat 12th 10am-4pm, **Escape to the Farm** at Swansea Community Farm, a family-friendly and free day out. Meet

the animals, taste some seasonal treats & pick up goodies to take home. Tel Kari 01792 578384.

Sat 12th 12noon, **Discover Nature on Cadle Heath** Explore the plants and animal treasures found on this often overlooked urban common in the heart of Swansea. Tel Jo Mullett 01792 635784.

Sun 13th 10am-12noon,
Rosehill Quarry Task Day Families and accompanied children welcome Tel Jannie, 01792 477863.

Sun 13th 12.15pm **Swansea Bay Seashore Safari** from the promenade behind Civic Centre, Swansea. Join marine biologist Judith Oakley. Booking essential on 07879 837817.

Sat 19th to Sun 27th **Bike Week** See page 2.

Sat 19th 9.30am-3.30pm
Family Workday at the Farm Get the whole family in their wellies and taking part in the roles and responsibilities of a small working farm. Tel. Alyson, Swansea Community Farm, 01792 578384

Sat 19th 9.30am-4pm **Cleft Oak Fencing Course** at Down to Earth Project site, Murton, Gower. Tel. 01792 346566.

Sat 19th and Sun 20th 11am-3pm **Coracle Fishing Displays** at Gower Heritage Centre, Parkmill. Tel. 01792 371206.

Mon 21st to Sat 26th **Wise up to Waste Week** See front page.

Tue 22nd 7pm **The Big Issues: Swansea Bay Strategy** Get an update on the Swansea Bay Strategy and plans to improve

the quality of bathing water and coastal facilities. Everyone welcome at the Environment Centre. Tel. Jenny, Swansea Environmental Forum, 01792 480200.

Wed 23rd 10am-12.30pm
Bike Volunteer Open Day at the Recycle Bike Project, Lower Catherine Street, Swansea. Learn how to fix a puncture and minor repairs on bikes, refreshments provided. Tel. Amina, 01792 468271.

Thu 24th 6-8pm **Waste Question Time** A free event open to all. Come and quiz our panel of experts. Part of Wise about Waste Week. Tel. Carys Kelly, Swansea Waste Forum, 01792 480200.

Thu 24th **Planned Sustainability Toolkit Training** at the Environment Centre. Book by 10th June. Tel. 01792 480200 to book.

Sun 27th 10am **Whiteford Burrows Walk** from Whiteford car park, Cwm Ivy, Gower. Join the Wardens on a circular walk of approx 5 miles taking about 3 hours. £3, booking essential. Tel National Trust, 01792 390636.

Sun 27th 12.15pm **Bracelet Bay Seashore Safari** Meet at the entrance to Mumbles Pier with marine biologist Judith Oakley Booking essential. Tel. 07879 837817.

Tue 29th to Wed 30th 9.30am-4pm **Cob (Earth) Building Course** at Down to Earth Project on Gower. How to design and build cob walls. Tel. 01792 346566 to book.

The Environment Centre

Tel: 01792 480200

Pier Street, Swansea, South Wales, SA1 1RY

Fax: 01792 480400

Website: 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.

