

Green Light



"The Newsletter of
the Environment
Centre, Swansea"



Have Fun With The 3R's

Issue: 167
February 2012

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Learning is much easier if you're having fun too!

Swansea Council's Recycling Team is thrilled to announce the launch of their **new Waste Education classroom** in Clydach. The purpose of the classroom is to educate children and young people living in Swansea about the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling their waste through fun and creative activities.

The classroom is based at one of the Council's Clydach depots, which is also the site where bulky furniture collections are taken to be sorted before reuse or recycling. All the classroom furniture was collected from surplus stock in Swansea schools, with walls and fixtures being painted with paint from a re-use scheme run by Res-a-Rec furniture – its creation really was an example of reuse at its best!



The Classroom opened on Wednesday the 2nd November 2011 with a visit by pupils from Clydach Junior School. During the first workshop pupils learned about the process of recycling paper. At the end of the session pupils had a go at making their very own recycled paper to take home with them – a very messy but fun process! The Play Resource Centre also showed everyone how we can reuse rubbish creatively. A variety of guests turned up throughout the day to see what the classroom has to offer. An informative, fun day was had by all.

Since the launch date the recycling team have received requests from numerous schools to visit the new facility. Bookings are available **FREE** of charge for schools or community groups with a variety of workshops on offer for different ages and abilities.

All the Primary Schools in the County are also currently benefiting from a road show by the **Gregory Brothers**. The interactive show spreads the message about the importance of recycling and not dropping litter through catchy songs and dance.

To learn more about the new Waste Education Classroom or to book please e-mail the recycling team at recycling@swansea.gov.uk or call (01792) 635600.



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



Courses at The Environment Centre

We have a varied year round programme of environmental courses. Visit us online for the latest news and availability.

All our courses are supported by: The Countryside Council for Wales and the City and County of Swansea Change Fund.



Urban Permaculture

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th February 2012

9.30am - 4.40pm

A weekend course at the Environment Centre with Witch Hazel Wildwood, project co-ordinator of Coeden Fach Community Tree Nursery



Permaculture is a design technique engendering observation and planning, action and implementation in the best way for us, the environment and also the earth's resources

Learn how to apply the permaculture design system in an urban setting eg. for garden design, sustainable energy systems, community design and even life plans.

VACANCY

Low Carbon Swansea Project Manager

An experienced manager is required to run the newly established Low Carbon Swansea project.

The Project is developing a coordinated, integrated and sustainable approach to reducing carbon emissions across all sectors in the City and County of Swansea area. This post is based at the Environment Centre.

Full details at:

www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net

Closing date 8th February

Part funded by the European Social Fund.



Urban Permaculture weekend Places are **£40** each. Fees include tea and coffee, but lunch is not included. Spaces are limited. Tel: 01792 480200 or email: bookings@environmentcentre.org.uk

Introduction To Willow Weaving

Saturday 3rd March 2012

2pm - 4pm

At the Environment Centre, Swansea

Come and learn the ancient art of willow weaving on our adult workshop. Learn how to make simple stars, butterflies, flowers, woven hearts, or even a small frame basket. An enjoyable and relaxing few hours spent working with willow.



£10 per person

- All Materials Included
- Booking Essential



To book your place please use the contact details below:

bookings@environmentcentre.org.uk
Tel. (01792) 480200

The Environment Centre, Old Telephone Exchange, Pier Street, Swansea, SA1 1RY

www.environmentcentre.org.uk

Registered Charity no. 1039378

Willow Craft For Kids

Wednesday 15th February 2012

10.30am - 12.00pm

At the Environment Centre, Swansea

For children aged 7 - 12, get crafty this half term! Have fun weaving willow into shapes such as dreamcatchers and flowers or fish and boats or have a go at creating something of your own, everything you make you take home with you.



To book your child's place please use the contact details below:

bookings@environmentcentre.org.uk
Tel. (01792) 480200

The Environment Centre, Old Telephone Exchange, Pier Street, Swansea, SA1 1RY

www.environmentcentre.org.uk

Registered Charity no. 1039378

£7.50 per child

- All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian
- Booking Essential
- Refreshments Included



Awel Aman Tawe Need Your Help

As previously reported here, they have full planning permission for the turbines, but they also require an additional consent called Section 194, as one of the two turbines is on common land and the access track. Without it, the community wind farm cannot go ahead.

One of the key criteria in Section 194 applications is public access and enjoyment of the common. To achieve this, they've secured landowner agreement to use the proposed wind farm access track as a cyclepath, bridleway and disabled access. At present, most of the track exists, but is in poor condition.

To help them move forward they need emails of support. Either send a support letter to Awel dmccallum@awelamantawe.co.uk or write directly to the Welsh Government. The address is: Welsh Government, Decisions Branch, Planning Division, Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ.

The deadline for responses is **February 5th 2012**.



Celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight 2012

27th February -11th March

Mon 27th February – Fairtrade Coffee Morning

Kick off Fairtrade Fortnight with a visit to the Oxfam shop on Union Street, Swansea for a cup of Fairtrade coffee between 10am and 12.30pm. Call 01792 654287.

Tue 28th February to Fri 9th March – Fairtrade Stalls

Find out more about fair trade or buy fair trade products at one of a number of community venues across Swansea.

Tue 28th February – 'Journey' Exhibition & Discussion

Swansea artist Josie Mackenzie will be at the Oxfam Bookshop, Castle Street, Swansea exhibiting and discussing a textile piece she has created which traces the journey of tea from Sri Lanka to our kitchens. The event starts at 7pm and it will be on display at the Oxfam Bookshop throughout Fairtrade Fortnight.

Fri 2nd March – One Fair Day Fashion Show

Models will be showing off a range of fair trade clothing and accessories, set to an imaginative backdrop of graffiti art, with a live DJ and rap soundtrack. There will also be opportunity to sample and buy a range of fair trade goodies. The event takes place at the National Waterfront Museum, Oystermouth Road, Swansea, starting at 6pm. Tickets are £5.50 for adults and £3.50 for children. Proceeds to the Joshua Foundation. To book call 07919 626629.

Sat 3rd March – Walk the Swansea Bay Fair Trade Way

A walk from the Oxfam Bookshop along the seafront to The Red Cafe in The Mumbles for a Fairtrade lunch. All walkers will receive a energy boosting fairtrade banana. Meet at the Oxfam shop at 11am. Call 01269 596933.

Fri 9th March – Fairtrade Evening at Tapestri

Enjoy a fair trade celebration buffet with Fairtrade ingredients, wine, juice, tea and coffee, and a rare opportunity to meet a Fairtrade banana producer. This special event, supported by Co-operative Membership, will take place from 7pm in the Tapestri Café Bar on Orchard Street, Swansea. Tickets are £5 each and must be booked in advance and paid for by 23rd Feb. Call 01792 480200.



At The Centre

Welcome to first 2012 edition of Green Light. 2012 is promising to be an exciting year for us. We have some great **courses** coming up - including the three featured on page 2.

Our first course of 2012 was a real success. Jonathan Upton gave us a great introduction to the fascinating world of understanding why people do what they do and how we can influence them. It had excellent reviews, so look out for more soon!

If you are looking for a **new job**, then have a look at the job advert on page 2 too. We are looking for someone with environmental management and energy know how to run the new SEF "Low Carbon Swansea" project.

In December we also welcomed a **new volunteer**, Lydia Beamn, to the Centre's volunteering team. However,

we are sad to say that **David Judd** has decided to step down as a trustee after many years of service. We will miss his enthusiasm and amazing costumes!

Family activities for **Half Term** feature heavily in our diary on page 4.

Our **Willow For Kids workshop** promises to be great fun (see page 2).

At the end of this month we will be celebrating all things Fairtrade with the beginning of **Fairtrade Fortnight**.

There are many events, see to the left of this box for a selection. We are organising a **Fairtrade Night at Tapestri**, for £5 entry you will get to hear all about Fairtrade bananas from someone who actually grows them and get to eat a delicious fairtrade buffet.

This special evening is being sponsored by the **Co-operative membership**. Please book early to avoid disappointment!

Jenny Edwards, Centre Manager



The **co-operative membership**
Cymru/Wales

For more details of these and other events visit: www.fairtradeswansea.org.uk

Local Produce Markets:

Saturdays: 9.30am-12.30pm: **4th Sketty** (Bishop Gore School canteen, De la Beche Road), **11th Mumbles** 9am-1pm (The Dairy Car Park, Oystermouth Square), **11th Gorseinon** 9.30am-1pm (Canolfan Gorseinon Centre, Millers Drive), **18th Penclawdd** (Penclawdd Community Centre), **25th Clydach** 10am-1pm (The Moose Hall, Beryl Street)
Sundays: 9.30am-12.30pm: **12th Pennard** (Pennard Community Centre)
Wednesdays: 9.30am-1.30pm: **15th Pontarddulais** (Institute, St Teilo's Street)

Thu 2nd 9.30am–5pm **World Wetlands Day Activities** Join in an international celebration of wetlands. Themed walks and activities at WT National Wetland Centre Wales, Llanelli. Usual admission fees apply. Tel. 01554 741087.

Sat 4th 1.30pm **Make and Mend: Clocks!** Monthly 'upcycling' workshop for adults. Create funky hand-made clocks from recycled materials. All abilities welcome. Costs £3.50 and advance booking required. At National Waterfront Museum, tel. 01792 638950.

Sun 5th 10am **Morning Walk around WWT Wetlands** . Using the hides around the estuary and lake. Beginners and new members welcome. Warm weatherproof clothing and boots may be necessary. Please leave dogs at home. Tel. Marlay, RSPB, 01792-816250

Sun 5th 10am–12noon **Rosehill Quarry Task Day** Help maintain this beautiful open space and wildlife area. Tel. Jannie Cherry, Rosehill Quarry Group, 01792 477863.

Sat 11th 10am **Kites and Dippers: Conservation on the Reserve** Planting hawthorn, hazel and blackthorn with the RSPB warden. For children 8-18 years. Non-members welcome but please call first. Tel. Vicky, 01792 846443.

Sun 12th & 26th 10am–1pm **Birdwatching at Blackpill Wildlife Centre** Join members of RSPB local group bird-watching across Swansea Bay. Tel. Maggie, 01792 229244.

Sat 11th to Sun 19th 9.30am–5pm **Half Term Holiday Fun** at WWT National Wetland Centre. For all the family with activities including: Migration Walk (11am), Wales Endangered Species Walk (1pm), and Craft Workshop (3–5pm). Usual entrance fees apply. Tel. 01554 741087.

Sun 12th 2pm **Darwin Day Lecture** by evolutionary geneticist Dr Pamela Styles followed by a guided walk looking at adaptive features & similarities of birds. At WWT, usual admission . Booking essential, on 01554 741087.

Tue 14th 1–2pm **JPR Orienteering** in Brynmill Park For 5–11 years old. Meet in the Discovery Centre. Book at www.swansea.gov.uk/jpr as . Tel. Parks Development Team, 01792 635485.

Tue 14th & Wed 15th 10am–3pm **Forest Fun Play Days** at Park Woods, Parkmill. Den building, camp fire, arts and crafts for children 8-11 years. £20 per child per day. Booking essential. Tel. Forest School, 01792 367118.

Wed 16th 10.30am-12pm **Willow Craft for Kids** at the Environment Centre for 7-12 year olds. See page 2.

Thu 16th 10am–3.30pm **Bird Observation Training Day** Find out how to observe birds at this free event suitable for families and individuals in Cwmdonkin Park, Uplands. Tel. Steve Hopkins, Parks, 01792 205327.

Thu 16th 11am–12noon **JPR Build a Beetle Castle** in Coed

Gwilym Park, Clydach. For aged 5–11 years old. Book at www.swansea.gov.uk/jpr as places are limited. Tel. Parks Development, 01792 635485.

Fri 17th & Sun 19th 10.30am–12noon and 1–4pm **Bird Box Making Workshop** at WWT National Wetland Centre. Drop in to make your very own bird box to take home. Receive expert one-to-one instruction to help you complete your box. £5 per bird box. Usual admission fees also apply. Tel. 01554 741087.

Fri 17th 1–3pm **National Nest Box Project** Drop in to make bird nest boxes to be put up on Kilvey Hill. All tools & materials provided. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. A Swansea Nature Network event to mark BTO National Nest Box Week. Meet at White Rock Car Park, Pentrechwyth Rd. Tel. Lea, Nature Conservation, 01792 635749.

Fri 17th 7.30pm **Birds of Northern India** Talk by Alan Rosney at the Environment Centre. Entry £1. Tea, coffee and biscuits available 50p. Visitors welcome. Tel. Russell Evans, RSPB, 07977 258158.

Sat 18th 10am–3.30pm **Family Work Day** at Swansea Community Farm. Get the whole family in their wellies and take part in the running of a small working Farm. Children under 8yrs must be accompanied. Fee £2 per person. Book in advance. Tel. 01792 578384.

Mon 20th 7pm **Curry Evening** in aid of ActionAid at Mumbai

Restaurant, Blackpill. £14 each. Tickets available from Ann Barnes, 01792 290874.

Fri 24th 7.15pm **Gower Ornithological Society Talk** At the Environment Centre by Paul Llewellyn on an aspect of wildlife conservation . Tel. Jeremy, Gower Ornithological Society, 01792 551331.

Sat 25th and Sun 26th 10am **Urban Permaculture Course** Learn how to apply the permaculture design system in an urban setting see page 2.

Sat 25th 10am–3.30pm **Conservation Day** at Swansea Community Farm. Take part in seasonal conservation tasks Includes light refreshments. Ages 8-16 years, £1/person. Tel. Alyson, 01792 578384.

Sat 25th 11am **Ramble and Rugby** 6 mile walk, getting back to the pub in time to enjoy the England v Wales rugby match. Bring packed lunch, your rugby jersey and money for a drink. Meet at Joiners Arms, Three Crosses. Tel. Peris, Swansea Outdoor Group, 07926 165768.

Sat 25th 11.30am–4pm **Walk to the Worm** Discover the wonders of Worms Head. Cost is £4 adult, £2 child. Booking essential. Tel. National Trust, 01792 390636.

Mon 27th to Sun 11th March **Fairtrade Fortnight** Great programme of varied local activities. Including a fashion show, talks, coffee mornings, walk and exhibition. Visit the website for more details www.fairtradeswansea.org.uk

The Environment Centre

Pier Street, Swansea, South Wales, SA1 1RY
 Tel: 01792 480200 Fax: 01792 480400 Website: www.environmentcentre.org.uk

Organisations and Projects based at the Environment Centre:

MORE Green: 07967421662 BTCV: 01792 456224
 Wales Green Business Centre: 01792 846000
 Undercurrents Foundation: 01792 455900
 Groundwork's Positive Energy project: 01792 468271

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

