



# Danywenallt Newsletter 2007

YHA Danywenallt National Park Study Centre. Tel: 01874 676677 www.breconbeacons.org



## GREEN FLAG ECO-CENTRE AWARD FOR DANYWENALLT!



Carreg Hirfaen School, Toni, Francesca, Ron and Gareth standing in front of the Eco Centre Green flag.

### New for 2007!

- Bird box videocam – we were very excited when we discovered a nest with an egg inside (possibly a blue tit) our new bird box. Unfortunately the nest was abandoned so no chick appeared. However we will keep our fingers crossed for this year. Toni will be installing a TV monitor in the conservatory so you can watch any movements in the bird box more easily.
- Spot that bird! Help us keep track of which birds visit Danywenallt by filling in the tally chart on the dining room window. Every month these records go to Gareth, the National Park's Biodiversity Officer, who uses the information to find out more about the variety of wildlife in the Park. We give him the information about the mammals we find too.
- We now have a computer in the conservatory which you can use to find out about the National Park, youth hostels, the weather and interesting information about the area. There is also a program about the Talybont hydro electricity project with games and information about renewable energy.
- Our new minibuses are now running partly on biodiesel. Enjoy a greener journey fuelled by chip fat!!

Everyone at Danywenallt wishes you a very happy and successful 2007 and look forward to seeing you all in the coming year.

Teachers– please turn over for details of new courses, education resources etc

All the staff are excited and proud that Danywenallt has been awarded a Green Flag and is now a proper Eco Centre. Over the last two years we have been taking part in a scheme which has helped to lessen our impact on the environment. It is very similar to the Eco schools scheme which your school may be taking part in. We have been trying to reduce the amount of waste produced, recycle more, use less energy and encourage all our visitors to become more environmentally friendly.

Last October we were assessed and passed with flying colours (well green anyway!) The assessors were very impressed with the amount of recycling and how energy and water use has been reduced. This was due to **you!**

**A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL FOR USING THE RECYCLING BINS, TURNING OFF THE LIGHTS AND NOT WASTING WATER.**

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE NATIONAL PARK!

The Brecon Beacons National Park is 50 years old this year. In 1957 this beautiful area of Wales was made a National Park and given special protection. We aim to conserve the natural beauty, wildlife and culture of the area and help people understand and enjoy this special area.



Building our new willow dome

Thank you once again for all the cards, photos, descriptions and poems you have sent us following your trip to Danywenallt. We really enjoy reading them all.

# Danywenallt Newsletter 2006 Teacher's Page

All of us at Danywenallt want your stay to be as enjoyable and as successful as possible. We are always looking for ways to meet the needs of schools and to improve the quality of our service. If you have any queries, comments or suggestions please contact the Education Officers, Ron Layton or Francesca Bell, YHA Danywenallt National Park Study Centre, Talybont -on-Usk, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7YS. Tel: 01874 676677 /01874 620463 or e-mail [ron.layton@breconbeacons.org](mailto:ron.layton@breconbeacons.org) or [francesca.bell@breconbeacons.org](mailto:francesca.bell@breconbeacons.org)

Look on the Brecon Beacons National Park website– [www.breconbeacons.org](http://www.breconbeacons.org) for further information about

- The Brecon Beacons National Park
- National Park Education Services at Danywenallt and other YHAs in the Brecon Beacons
- Educational day visits to the National Park Visitor Centre and Craig-y-nos Country Park

## Safety

Safety during visits is of course paramount. The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority is registered with the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) and annually inspected. All our courses are fully risk assessed. These risk assessments are regularly updated and copies sent to group leaders if requested. Activities are also risk assessed on the day by qualified and experienced activity leaders.

## Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship

The new Talybont Renewable energy HEP unit at the reservoir is now well established. We intend to use this as a teaching and demonstration resource. This will be a fantastic opportunity to see renewable energy in action at first hand.

We have also recently had a renewable energy audit. In our future plans we now hope to install solar panels to pre heat water. We also hope to install a grey water filtration system for the toilets in the annex.

## Additional resources for evenings/ follow up work

- Bird box construction
- Countryside Code Activities
- Self guided Eco Trail
- Mammal data

Please let Ron or Francesca know if there are any further resources we could provide.

## Dyn ni'n dysgu Cymraeg

Ron and Francesca are currently in their third year of learning Welsh. We will continue to provide as much as possible in Welsh for the Welsh speaking schools. To all the teachers and children who have helped us expand our vocabulary over the last year—diolch yn fawr!

## Safer access to Talybont

Over the winter, work has been carried out on the A40 Talybont turnoff and should be completed by March/ April. The whole junction has been improved making it much safer for vehicles travelling to/from Talybont.

## Courses for 2007

The courses below are available for 2007. Course descriptions are available from us which detail the content and learning objectives of each course. All our courses are linked to the National Curriculum and Curriculum Cymraeg and cover aspects of the QCA documents where relevant. We regularly review our courses to incorporate developments in the curriculum such as Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship. Please contact us for further details.

Activity Name	Notes
<b>Creatures From the Deep</b>	Half Day Stream visit requires mini-bus
<b>Earth Walk™</b>	Half day or evening
<b>Historical Hunt</b>	Half Day
<b>Mammals and Minibeasts of the Wood</b>	Evening & morning
<b>Mountain Challenge</b>	Full day Strong footwear with good grip is essential Requires minibus
<b>Puzzles and Problems</b>	Half day Good icebreaker
<b>Rivers</b>	Half day Requires minibus
<b>Story Sticks</b>	Short-half day or evening
<b>Survival Challenge</b>	Half Day or evening
<b>Tor y Foel Trek</b>	Full day Good strong footwear essential
<b>Waterfall Walk</b>	Full Day Requires minibus
<b>Nature's night hikers</b>	Evening Not suitable from May to mid- September
<b>Early People' Day</b>	Full Day Requires minibus
<b>Farm Visit</b>	Half day Requires minibus
<b>Eco- trail</b>	Short half day Evening