

Wildlife Where You Live



Newsletter Autumn 2013



It's difficult to believe that 3 years have passed since the 'Wildlife Where you Live' project began.

The 12 participating communities have completed a huge amount during this time. Here are just some of their achievements.

THE HIGHLIGHTS

1233 participants have taken part in WWYL over 3 years. WWYL has worked with **42 local organisations** including youth groups, schools, Women's Institute groups, Bont Woodland group, and Cilcennin village development group.

Participants took part in more than **130 nature awareness activities**, from fungal forays and bird walks to bug hunts and pond-dipping.

Over **60 environmental improvement projects** were implemented around the 12 communities, and **8 demonstration projects** completed at Denmark Farm.

"Before the garden was built the whole area was.... overgrown. Now it has a bird watching house, pond, otter den, benches.... I really enjoyed the celebrations, especially helping to make the bug hotel." (*Llanafan celebration/ nature reserve opening, Nov 2012*)

Denmark Farm

At Denmark Farm, WWYL volunteers helped us to create a demonstration community garden, lakeside hide, natural play features and a woodland shelter. They also learned coppicing skills and forest gardening techniques, and made a butterfly mosaic.



A Time to Celebrate!

All communities celebrated their WWYL achievements at an evening event in their local hall or school with a buffet, displays and photos, storytelling and children's activities. Plenty of ideas for future wildlife and environmental projects were generated, helping each community to stay involved beyond WWYL.



Bird-feeder making, Ciliau Aeron celebration

WWYL Spring Forum

Representatives from each of the communities met for an evening of networking and information-sharing at Y Talbot in Tregaron. Several of the communities spoke about their experiences and achievements with WWYL and their plans for the future. Guest speaker, Pete Hill from the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust, gave an insight into the ecology and habitat requirements of these fascinating creatures.

We need the pollinators. It's as simple as that" (*Ciliau Aeron pollinator planting, May 2013*)



Cilcennin and Ciliau Aeron

Participants made and installed bug hotels, carved benches, and designed and printed a local walk booklet, one of a series planned for the future.

Aberarth

Community volunteers made bird boxes, and installed bat boxes around the village. Despite its fantastic coastal location, Aberarth has very little outdoor space for community use, but local residents are continuing to push hard with their vision for a wildlife-friendly community garden and play area.

Borth

The project worked with Craig yr Wylfa school to enhance their wildlife area with a log pile, bog plants and bird boxes. Pollinator-friendly planters were installed in the community hall grounds and the community garden planted fruit trees, chosen to withstand the salt-laden winds!

Cellan

The project worked with Cellan Millennium hall and community garden, to plant fruit trees, shrubs and pollinator-friendly plants. A pergola bench was also installed, and wildlife-mosaics now adorn the planters and outside wall of the hall.

Llanafan

Denmark Farm co-ordinated a project with Tai Ceredigion near Maesyfelin in Llanafan, which now has a new nature reserve with pond, hide and otter holt, plus community garden. At the Canolafan site, WWYL volunteers worked with Pentir Pumlumon to lay a hedge and plant fruit trees and wildlife-friendly shrubs.

Llangeitho

Made and installed bird boxes, bug hotel and carved benches.

Llangybi

Pollinator friendly planters have been installed along the main road through the village. Participants also made wildlife mosaics and re-developed the pond in the 'Lush a Lleol' community garden.

Pontrhydfendigaid Bont Youth group worked hard to plant pollinator-friendly raised beds in the grounds of Pantyfedwen hall. The community also planted wildlife shrubs and made dormouse boxes for Coed Dolgoed. These are being checked regularly for new furry residents.

Llanddewi Brefi

The **Green Dragon Project** redeveloped an underused area of conifer plantation. An overgrown hedge was coppiced, a drystone bank restored, and a dragon's head was weaved with natural materials. The project also created bird-boxes and a carved bench.

Llanilar

The WWYL project worked with Llanilar Millennium Lake and local volunteers to remove unwanted vegetation, plant trees and create a number of wildlife and people-friendly features.

Tregaron

The project worked with Bryntirion care home and its volunteers to create bird boxes, wildlife mosaics, planters and raised beds. The residents and their visitors will now be able to enjoy home-grown fruit and veg, while watching the local wildlife.

All 12 communities also carved interpretation boards to provide locals and visitors with information about their new wildlife-friendly features.

WHAT NEXT?

Although the WWYL project has now finished, many of the communities are continuing with their own projects. Organisations such as CAVO and Environment Wales can provide further information and **sources of funding** for your own community projects.

To continue **learning more about wildlife**, take part in nature surveys such as the RSPB's Big Garden birdwatch. The BBC's 'Things to Do' website provides lots of information about nature surveys and other activities, or why not join your local bat or birdwatching group.

Become a volunteer - Denmark Farm has a monthly volunteer group carrying out anything from wildlife gardening to trail maintenance. Visit our website to find out more.



Carved interpretation board, Cellan

COURSES AT DENMARK FARM

Continue to develop your wildlife knowledge with our full programme of courses. Here's a snapshot of what's on offer. Please see website for full list.

Ferns	21 Sept
Mosses, liverworts and lichens	27-29 Sept
Pond and stream invertebrates	5 – 7 Oct
Identification and ecology of fungi	1 – 3 Nov



Natural play area at Denmark Farm, created by the WWYL project