

THE WICKED PROJECT

QUARTERLY REPORT, MARCH – JUNE '07



TIR COED



ARIENNIR GAN Y LOTERI
LOTTERY FUNDED



COMIC
RELIEF



The Princess Royal Trust
for Carers



Background

The WICKED project (Woodland Initiatives – a Catalyst for Kids’ Education & Development) is running for 3 years, from March 2007 to February 2010. WICKED delivers woodland skills training and respite activities for young people within the four rural counties of Powys, Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire through three separate initiatives:

- **The Acorn Initiative** for young carers, aged 11-19 years who provide care for an ill or incapacitated family member(s).
- **The Tree Wise Initiative** - This will lead to the creation of woodland-based wider curricular training programmes for groups of up to six 14-16 year olds, who are, or are at risk of, being excluded from school and for whom work placements are difficult to find.
- **Working your Woods Initiative** - This will lead to work-based training for young people aged 16-19 years who are not currently in education, employment or training.

Approximately 600 young people will directly benefit from the WICKED project over the 3 year period. In addition, approximately 40 Youth Workers and Support Workers that are involved with the target groups will be trained in green woodwork skills, Forest School Skills and in leading survival challenges, as appropriate to their group.

The WICKED project is being delivered with the financial support of the following:

The Big Lottery Fund (“Reaching Out” programme);
Comic Relief (administered by the Princes Royal Trust for Young Carers);
The Countryside Council for Wales;
The Hilton Foundation;
Millennium Volunteers;
The Dulverton Trust.

Introduction

During the initial weeks of the WICKED project the following was carried out:

- young peoples’ organisations that had demonstrated support during the project development stage were revisited,
- other initiatives working with young people within the project counties were contacted,
- consultations were carried out with potential Service Providers and Support Workers via an “Expression of Interest” form,
- flyers were compiled to promote the “Acorn” and “Working Your Woods” initiatives to young people,
- feedback forms were compiled for the 3 project initiatives - these relate to the project Outputs,
- hand tools and equipment was purchased for the three project initiatives,
- 2 video cameras were purchased to enable the gathering of feedback,



- Hard Disk Drive back-up systems were installed at both Tir Coed offices,
- “Quickbooks” software was purchased to support financial monitoring,
- A CAF Gold Account has been opened to maximise Tir Coed’s finances during the 3-year life of the WICKED project.
- Tir Coed has registered as an Open College Network accreditation provider to enable accreditation of young people who participate in the Tree Wise and Working your Woods initiatives.

The Tir Coed team has been meeting on a monthly basis, under the guidance of John Wildig, Company Secretary, to discuss progress and issues arising. From the 1st of April, 2007, Tir Coed has been able to employ a part-time Administration Officer to work for 8 hours per week. Chris Fletcher has already proved to be an invaluable addition to the Tir Coed team, having taken control of the financial administration of the WICKED project. Due to an over-estimation in the calculation of the Project Officers’ National Insurance costs, a balance in revenue funds has arisen. The Big Lottery Fund has agreed that this balance can be used to increase the Project Officers working hours to 30 hours per week (rather than the estimated 26 hours per week). These extra hours have been vital as both Project Officers have been hard pressed to manage all aspects of the project within the given hours; indeed, at the time of writing this report, both have accumulated a considerable number of working hours to be taken off in lieu. These hours in lieu will be taken as soon as is practically possible.

Below is a summary of our main activities during this first quarter, categorised according to the three initiatives of the WICKED project. Achievements against the Targets for the activities (gathered by various methods, including self-assessment forms, verbal, trainer feedback & photographic evidence), as well as Feedback, is included.



The ACORN initiative:

Activities under this initiative have started in all counties, other than Pembrokeshire, during this first quarter. Due to funding problems, Pembrokeshire Young Carers are not in a position to support activities for their young carers, however, with luck the situation will improve soon.

However, the numbers of young people attending have been fewer than were predicted by the Young Carers organisations. Therefore, in consultation with Young Carers officers and young people, and in order to avoid excluding the younger age range from WICKED project activities, it was decided during the May Team Meeting to lower the bottom range of the age limit to 8 years old. This has been agreed with the Big Lottery Fund.

On the advice of Young Carers' Officers, it was also decided not to offer more than 2 consecutive days of activities as it is difficult for Young Carers to commit to long periods away from their caring roles.

Powys

Forest School sessions at Cefn Wood, near Crossgates.

Led by Nicky Warwick and supported by members of the Mid Wales Forest School group. April 10th, 11th, 12th, 21st, 28th and May 5th, 2007.

The mid-Powys Young Carers group was a mixed group, both in age, experience and ability. Most had been to Forest School sessions previously and therefore had an idea of what to expect.

Much of the activities were centred around the bird population of Cefn Wood, including listening games at the cathedral den and repairing some of the damaged bird boxes. All of the group had the opportunity to use a range of hand tools, from potato peelers to billhooks, and were allowed to develop ideas individually. For some this meant making a bird box or mallet to take home, while others preferred the campfire crafts on offer. This group particularly enjoyed cooking around the campfire, which also provided an unthreatening, informal space for the group to interact, much being revealed in a very casual way.

Made items (depending on size) would be finished around the campfire, where they could be openly viewed and commented on, inspiring and encouraging others to have a go at something they maybe thought they couldn't achieve.

Of the 7 participants, 2 young people attended all sessions, 4 young people missed one session, 1 young person only attended 2 sessions.

TARGET	TARGET ACHIEVED	COMMENTS
At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	Yes, all 7 participants produced a hand-crafted item.	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity	Yes - Video footage of young people describing	



& themselves on a video recording.	what they have made, and method used.	
90% of activity participants have at least an 80% attendance rate.	Yes, average attendance rate of 90% of participants = 88.6%	
At least 60% of young people show improvement in environmental awareness:		
Participants can name at least one tree species	Yes, all participants named at least one tree species.	
Participants know that woodlands support wildlife – can name at least one type of fauna	Yes, all participants named at least one type of woodland fauna.	
Participants know at least one way that woodlands benefit the environment	71% knew one way that woodlands benefit the environment.	
At least 60% of young people show improvement in health and well-being:		
At least 60% of young people feel happier than when they began the Project activity	No, only 57% of young people felt happier	4 – happier 2 – the same 1 – less happy
At least 60% of young people intend to pursue similar healthy activities again	Yes, 71% wanted to pursue more woodland activities	5 – yes 2 – maybe

Feedback:

Likes – *“Working with new people.
Everything. I liked it all.
Making my mallet.
I liked it in the wood workshop and eating Marshmallows and lighting fires.
Lighting a fire and making swords.”*

Dislikes - *“The toilet.
Missing one Saturday session.
Walking.
Making bird boxes.”*



What did you make – *“Dream Catchers, bird boxes, loads of noise, a mallet, bow and arrow, a giant spear, a den, a walking stick, a sword.”*



Powys Young Carers have recently participated in a 3-day Arts in the Woods workshop. A full report on the outcomes of this activity will be recorded in the next quarterly report.

Ceredigion

Forest School sessions at the Forestry Commission Visitors' Centre, Bwlch Nant yr Arian. These sessions were delivered in partnership with Forestry Commission Wales. Sessions were led by Leigh Denyer (Forestry Commission Education Ranger), supported by Judith Bray (a qualified Forest School leader).

May 30th, 31st, June 1st, 16th and 23rd

Unfortunately, these sessions were very poorly attended. It appears that there were 3 main reasons for this:

1. The Young Carers had been put off by the term Forest "School" and had viewed this activity as an extension of the school classroom;
2. The Young Carers found it difficult to commit to three consecutive days of activities;
3. There were issues with transporting the young people to site which the Project Officer was unaware of until the 1st session.

However, the 2 Young Carers that had signed up for the sessions were very enthusiastic and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. A further 2 Young Carers had been recruited by the 4th session; unfortunately, due to high winds and torrential rain, the 5th session had to be cancelled.

Lessons learnt :

- a) Choose a new title for the Forest School sessions, e.g Forest Fun Days!
- b) Offer no more than 2 sessions per week, preferably not on consecutive days;
- c) Assist with cost of transport, if this is a barrier to participation.

One of the Young Carers who attended all the Forest School sessions was sufficiently motivated to write a letter to the Ceredigion Young Carers Manager to thank her for allowing the sessions to continue, although there were only 2 participants. She felt that the other Young Carers had missed out on a fantastic experience.

Due to the fact that the final session was cancelled at short notice, the Project Officer was unable to get the participants to complete Part 2 of the Self-assessment form and Feedback Form. A table of outcomes for this activity will therefore be included in the next quarterly report.



Carmarthenshire:

2-day Arts in the Woods Activity at the Green Art Studio, Troserch Woodlands, Llanarthne, near Llanelli. Led by Ada Garton and Greg Wilkinson. April 10th & 11th, 2007.

7 young people from Carmarthenshire Young Carers attended the activity, with 6 attending for both days.

The activities ranged from willow work to den-building.

All of the group had the opportunity to use a range of hand tools, both in the willow work and den and raft-building. The group was split into 2, with one group making willow objects in the Art Studio and the other exploring the woodland. As the choice of activities was very different, some participants preferred one activity over the other.

This activity appeared to present an opportunity for the young carers to build on their relationships with each other, the beautiful surrounding facilitating open debate about their roles as carers.

Out of the 7 participants, 6 returned on the second day. As we did not manage to get a feedback form from the participants who only attended the first day, the table below is based on 6 participants.

TARGET	TARGET ACHIEVED	COMMENTS
At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	Yes, all 7 participants produced a hand-crafted item.	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	Yes - Video footage of young people describing what they have made, and method used.	
90% of activity participants have at least an 80% attendance rate.	Yes, average attendance rate of 86% of participants = 100%	?? I think that this target needs rethinking!!
At least 60% of young people show improvement in environmental awareness:		
Participants can name at least one tree species	Yes, all participants named at least one tree species.	
Participants know that woodlands support wildlife – can name at least one type of fauna	Yes, all participants named at least one type of woodland fauna.	
Participants know at least one way that woodlands benefit the	Yes, all participants knew one way that	



environment	woodlands benefit the environment.	
At least 60% of young people show improvement in health and well-being:		
At least 60% of young people feel happier than when they began the Project activity	Yes, 66% of participants felt happier	
At least 60% of young people intend to pursue similar healthy activities again	No, only 50% wanted to pursue more woodland activities	3 – yes 2 – maybe 1 - No

Feedback:

Likes – “Building the shelter”.
“Everything.”
“Willow Work”.

Dislikes - “Walking uphill”
“Making the shelter”
“Nothing”.

What did you make –
“A Shelter and seats”
“willow things”
A football and lamp”



The WORKING YOUR WOODS initiative:

This initiative for young people, 16 – 19 years, who are not in employment, education or training, is delivered in three stages:

Stage 1 – 12 introductory taster sessions in Green Woodwork, Community Construction, Woodland Survival, Woodland Management and Wood Manufacturing;

Stage 2 – an opportunity to gain further experience in their chosen field of interest through a volunteering programme;

Stage 3 – Tir Coed will endeavour to identify work placements for the young people in a woodland-related profession with a suitable employer.

To date, this initiative has been the most difficult to set up and the most time-consuming of the 3 initiatives. However, in the long-term, it could also prove to be the most worthwhile in terms of giving young people a purposeful career path.

Although the original understanding was that young people, 16 – 19 years old, not in employment, education or training, would be referred to the initiative via Careers Wales officers; there has been a varied degree of support (and referrals) from Careers Wales within each of the 4 project counties, as well as a lack of dissemination of information within the Careers Wales internal network in some of the counties.

Furthermore, during the consultation period Tir Coed had been led to believe that Careers Wales staff would be available to attend taster sessions, acting as Support Workers. Although Tir Coed was fortunate to receive Officer support from Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion for some of the sessions, by the time of delivery, Careers Wales was able to offer less than expected in terms of staff support.

This led to the Tir Coed Project Officers themselves having to actively seek referrals to the initiative, as well as searching for Youth/Support Workers to accompany the young people on the activities and, in some cases, having to take on the role of Support Worker themselves.

With very limited run-in time, the Working Your Woods initiative was delivered within each of the project counties, but with varying success in terms of identifying sufficient numbers of referrals.

Powys:

The Working Your Woods initiative within Powys started during the last week of June. A full report of activities and outputs will be included in the next Quarterly Report.

Ceredigion:

The Working Your Woods initiative within Ceredigion proved to be very successful. 8 young people took part, which was the maximum number of participants possible. Gwyneth was fortunate enough to link up with a NEETs project running in the Llandysul area; this project referred 5 young people to the Working Your Woods introductory sessions, as well as offering the invaluable support of Steve Parkin, Tysul Youth Leader, for all 12 of the sessions.

1 referral came through Careers Wales, while the other 2 participants were self-referred.



Careers Wales within Ceredigion supplied one of their Officers to take on a Support Worker role for 6 of the sessions; this proved to be very useful as the Officer was able to discuss the young people's individual interests, while forming a long-term link with them to help develop these interests.

Other Support Workers who took part in the sessions included Youth Workers from Tysul Youth and freelance Sessional Workers.

The introductory sessions were as follows:

1. **2-day Green Woodwork** – this took place at Coed Tyllwyd, near Aberystwyth, led by Bob Shaw and Tony Eames.

All participants made a 3-legged stool, with some of the young people taking particularly well to the pole lathe and producing some very ornate turned legs. In addition, the young people could choose what other item they would like to produce. Some made rounders bats, while others made mallets, a chisel handle, a priest (fishing accessory) and one young man made a storage box for his God child. The young people were all very proud of what they had achieved over 2 days.

Young People Feedback:

Likes - *“All of it”*
“Bein’ back in the woodlans”

Dislikes - *“The early mornings”*
“Nothing it was all good”



2. **4-day Community Construction** – the young people built an impressive, covered seating area at Coed Maiddie B. Goddard, a Wildlife Trust site near Cardigan. The activity was led by Andy Bakewell and Trystan Merry-Howe.

The young people worked incredibly hard as a team to complete this structure, despite the unfavourable weather conditions. They were taught how to measure wood, also how to use a hand saw, chisel, battery-operated drill and other hand tools. During day 4 some of the young people asked to be able to carve the name of the project - “WICKED” – to place on the front of the structure, this was carried out with great precision and concentration.

Feedback:

Likes - *“Putting the roof on”*
“Completing the project”
“All of it”

Dislikes - *“When I was ill but the rest was great”*
“Carrying all the wood there”
“The rain”





3. **2-day Woodland Survival** – this was led by Mark Handford of Outlook Expeditions and took place in the Myherin Forest in north-east Ceredigion, by permission of the Forestry Commission Wales.
- Day 1 was spent building a shelter where the young people would sleep overnight. They worked in teams to build 3 shelters; some teams used tarps as an outer protection from the elements, while other teams preferred to use fir branches and fern leaves as a natural weatherproof layer – everyone stayed dry overnight!! The young people took charge of digging the toilet pit, while others prepared the evening meal – Pasta & Quorn Bolognese - around the campfire. One young person (who suffers from ADHD) spent most of the evening voluntarily chopping wood to feed the campfire.
- Day 2 was less successful – the young people were very tired, having stayed awake chatting to the early hours they were woken up at dawn by a swarm of midges! The early morning was spent striking camp, this was followed by a map-reading exercise.
- The young people didn't find this very stimulating and would have preferred to cover hunting and trapping techniques – this information has been fed back to the instructor for future WICKED Survival activities.
- However, the feedback from the young people was positive, despite the midges!

Feedback:

- Likes - *“Building the shelter”*
“Yousing a machety”
“All of it”
- Dislikes - *“The midges, they almost got me outraged”*
“The walking”
“Nothing”



4. **2-day Woodland Management** – the young people returned to Coed Tyllwyd for this workshop. On the morning of the first day, Bob Shaw led a walk through the woods and covered the following:
- how to identify various trees,
 - the different methods of woodland management,
 - how trees help the environment,
 - how woodlands support wildlife,



- end products that could be made from the various species.
The young people had difficulty in staying focused during the morning session (many of them had a very short attention span for anything that wasn't practically based); however, they were far more motivated after lunch when they were able to extract timber and see it being milled on the mobile saw.

The second day was spent working as a team to make a chair from the timber. As this task was completed at such a rapid pace, the young people were also able to make further individual items, many of them wanting to spend more time on the pole lathe.

Items produced included pipes, a priest, a newel post (for his grandfather's banister), a hat stand and a long axe handle.

The young people proudly took home their items.

Feedback:

Likes - *"Working with my hands"*
"Making a handle for my axe-head"
"Carving"
"Making stuff"

Dislikes - *"Doing the walk in the woods"*
"The rain"
"Filling in forms and working hard"
"Liked all of it"



- 2-day Wood Manufacturing** – this activity was held at the Coed Llambed workshop on the Industrial Estate in Lampeter.
During the first day the young people saw a large-diameter tree being processed into planks through a Wood Mizer saw. The young people then used these planks to make a 2-seater garden seat.
Tools used included a router, planer, sander and hand drills.
Each young person took home a 2-seater garden seat.
It was difficult at times to keep the participants focused, this was mainly due to the fact that they had to wait their turn for the tools and for the supervisors to become available.



Since the end of the introductory sessions, the Careers Wales Officer has been keeping in touch with the young people to support them with developing a career plan. Gwyneth has also been assisting them in pursuing their interests, as follows:

- One participant is currently volunteering at the Coppicewood College at Cilgeran; the College offers a Diploma course in Green Woodwork, starting in October. The young man is enjoying his voluntary experience and might follow the Diploma course this autumn.
- One participant has contacted Cardigan College with a view of following their Furniture Making course from September onwards.
- One participant has shown interest in attending volunteer days run by the Countryside Council for Wales at their Cors Caron reserve.
- One participant, who is under 15 years old and excluded from school, will be referred to Tir Coed's Tree Wise project from September onwards.

Gwyneth is also trying to set up a 4-day Chair-making course, led by Bob Shaw, for 4 of the participants who have expressed an interest. This course will be run in partnership with the U.C.W. Aberystwyth "Dysgu Gyda'n Gilydd" programme. The aim is to offer OCN accreditation as part of the course.

TARGET	TARGET ACHIEVED	COMMENTS
At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	Yes, all 8 participants produced at least 4 hand-crafted items.	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	Yes - Video footage of young people describing what they have made, and method used.	
90% of activity participants have at least an 80% attendance rate.	Yes, average attendance rate of all participants was 86.5%	4 participants had 100% attendance rate



At least 60% of young people show improvement in environmental awareness:		
Participants can name at least one tree species	Yes, all participants named at least one tree species.	
Participants know that woodlands support wildlife – can name at least one type of fauna	Yes, all participants named at least one type of woodland fauna.	
Participants know at least one way that woodlands benefit the environment	100% knew one way that woodlands benefit the environment.	
At least 60% of young people show improvement in health and well-being:		
At least 60% of young people feel happier than when they began the Project activity	3 participants did not complete final self-assessment form, however, all other 5 participants felt happier	
At least 60% of young people intend to pursue similar healthy activities again	Yes, 100% wanted to pursue more woodland activities	
Increased skills leading to improved employment opportunities for young people:		
At least 60% of participants receiving accreditation	5 out of the 8 participants have expressed an interest in accreditation	Progress with this target to be updated in next report
At least 60% of participants showing a positive attitude towards career development	Yes, average attendance rate of all participants was 86.5%	
At least 25% of participants progress to further training or employment	Currently, 5 out of the 8 participants are interested in further training	Progress with this target to be updated in next report

Feedback from Trainers:

“All participants seemed to focus very quickly on the tasks – they seemed well motivated and easy to work with – Most were very keen to learn how to use the tools & apply techniques.”

“Rewarding to see how much increased confidence young people develop given the time and sympathetic training required.”



“All of the group have increased their Environmental Awareness and indeed General Spatial Awareness during his week. The level of confidence to participate has increased as the week has gone by and as the structure has grown and developed.”

“Progress came in fits & starts. Some candidates really took on roles – i.e. “X” was excellent at chiselling & “Y” really enjoyed the electric screwdriver. The participants for the most part are thoroughly nice, energetic people; they just need respect, understanding & above all, something to do! I enjoyed their energy & sense of humour!”

Feedback from Support Workers:

“I noticed that all participants became more focused and interested as the sessions went on.”

“The whole group bonded almost immediately. “A”, “B” and “C” proved to be a very hard sub-group to motivate. This became easier when “C” wasn’t there.

“X”, “Y” and “Z” refused to leave on the second day until they had finished their work – to me, amazing. All of the group were keen to share stories & experiences with each other as on a number of occasions I heard them deal with differences of opinion in a calm, mature, adult way. No animosity whatsoever.”

“xxxx has been fostered to a family locally and I have known him for over 2 years through my organisation. He has been excluded from school and diagnosed with ADHD and has continued problems engaging with conventional education.

Since commencing the programme (WICKED) he has shown an increased ability to concentrate and see projects/tasks through to completion. He eagerly looks forward to the sessions and I hope that we can continue to support him with projects in the future that can build on his progress. Myself and other staff have noted many other positive changes in his behaviour and attitude also and firmly believe this is due to the programme.”

“I have been working with young people for over 8 years now and more specifically with disengaged youth over the last 5 years and this has been without doubt one of the most positive projects I have been involved with. The learning outcomes have been clearly visible and I hope to get involved in future projects if possible.”

Carmarthenshire:

Working your Woods in Carmarthenshire very nearly got cancelled before it began. Despite a good deal of planning and liaison with Careers Wales, the Youth Service and many other agencies, there were no referrals until the very last minute. A few days before the programme was due to begin, the Youth Offending Team referred 4 young people. However, there was a general lack of enthusiasm on the part of these young people, who were under pressure to participate in something from the Youth Offending Team Officers. One young man who showed promise joined the programme, via the Youth Club ‘Dr. Mz’, on the second week. However, to a lack of commitment from the other participants, he ended up completing 3 days of workshops on his own, and despite appearing to enjoy the activities, especially the green woodwork, he did not want to



participate in the following 2 weeks. During the third week, 3 x 15 year olds from Cross Hands Special Unit took part in a bench-making workshop, which was very successful and had press coverage from the Carmarthen Journal. However, as the Foothold Workshop, which was scheduled to host the final 2-days, had a minimum age for insurance purposes of 16, this workshop was cancelled.

We were lucky on the second week to have the support of 2 Careers Wales Officers, however, it was unfortunate that attendance was not any better, this despite the best efforts of both Officers to get young people referred onto the programme.

1. Woodland Survival Challenge

The survival challenge took place at Penllergaer Valley Woods, near Swansea and was lead by Andrew Price of Dryad Bushcraft. 2 members of the youth Offending team participated, 2 more who had been referred onto the programme never materialised. Both boys enjoyed the activity and the feedback was positive. However, feedback from a Youth Offending Team Officer suggests that the reason why the 2 boys didn't participate in the other activities on offer was because they were only interested in the Survival element of the programme.

TARGET	TARGET ACHIEVED	COMMENTS
At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	Yes, both participants produced a wooden spoon.	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	No – no video camera available at the time.	
90% of activity participants have at least an 80% attendance rate.	Yes, average attendance rate of 100%	
Feedback: Likes: “carving a wooden spoon” Disliked “ How heavy the bags were”		

2. Green Woodwork

This workshop took place at Woodhouse Wood near St. Clears and was lead by Jamie Miller. On the first day there were no participants, so the workshop was cancelled. On the second day one young person took part. The workshop was supported by 2 Careers Wales Staff who greatly enjoyed the experience and expressed an interest in supporting Working your Woods in future years.



TARGET	TARGET ACHIEVED	COMMENTS
At least 60% of young people show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem:		
Participants produce at least one hand-crafted item	Yes, both participants produced a wooden spoon.	
Participants are able to express their views about the woodland, the activity & themselves on a video recording.	No – no video camera available at the time.	
90% of activity participants have at least an 80% attendance rate.	Yes, average attendance rate of 100%	

Pembrokeshire:

7 young people took part within Pembrokeshire. 3 were referred through Careers Wales, 3 through other organisations and 1 participant was a self-referral. The attendance rate was very satisfactory for all 12 of the introductory sessions.

As Becky (who covers Carmarthenshire & Pembrokeshire) is currently on leave, a full report on Working Your Woods within Pembrokeshire will be forwarded at the earliest possible convenience.



TREE WISE Support Worker Training:

Training was delivered to 9 trainees who will be involved in running woodland-based wider curriculum projects to young people, 14 – 16 years, as part of the Tree Wise initiative.

The trainees were made up of:

- 2 employees of the Ceredigion Education Inclusion Service,
- 1 Ceredigion-based support worker,
- 3 employees of the Carmarthenshire Youth Service,
- 2 employees of the Pembrokeshire Pupil referral Unit,
- 1 employee of the Pembrokeshire Youth Service.

The training was delivered by Mike & Sue Appleton (sessions 1 – 6), they have extensive experience of delivering woodland projects to disengaged young people and have recently run a woodland-based wider curriculum project at Graybeards Woods. Sessions 7 – 9 were delivered by Stefan Proszynsky & Chris Olley of the Nant y Cwm community woodland group.

The content of the sessions was developed with the aim of giving the trainees the confidence and diversity of skills which would enable them to start delivering a wider curriculum project.

The training schedule was as follows:

- Session 1 - How to utilise a woodland to engage young people
 Site management
 Risk Assessment
 Health & safety issues
 Identifying ideas for woodland activities
 Managing a Campfire
- Session 2 - Safe handling of tools
 Tool care
 Using a Shave Horse & Pole Lathe
 Making CD racks
 Making mirror/cork boards
- Session 3 - Individual Willow work:
 Making a planter
 Making a platter
 Making hurdles
- Session 4 - Group willow work:
 Making a Coracle
 A talk about living Willow
- Session 5 - Environmental Arts:
 Pyrography
 Carving
 Staining/varnishing/painting
- Session 6 - Working Recycled materials:



Making musical instruments
Weaving plastic bags
Inspirational ideas for hands-on sessions with young people

Sessions 7 & 8 - Green Woodwork:
Making a Shave Horse

Session 9 - Completing any outstanding products

Feedback from Trainees:

High points:

"Learning so many different techniques and skills using woodwork."

"Each week, as we learnt a huge amount, and it was time to chill out ourselves."

"Coracle making and Shave Horse."

"Working in the woods with a great group of people, all equally keen. Working with Sue & Mike, trainers. Making such an array of items out of greenwood."

"... the fact that when shown the timetable at the beginning I never would have thought that I could have actually produced all the things on the timetable, but we did!!"

Low points:

"Not quite enough time, especially on Shave Horse – felt rushed. Enjoyed it all, so not really any low points."

"The rainy days and smelling like a bonfire."

"Being unable to attend 2 sessions."

"The end of the course and unable to finish some of our items."

"Start times, waiting arrival of all trainees to start."

"Rain in July, not enough hours in the day."

Was the level of training adequate to enable you to run your wider curricular project?

"Yes, a good base knowledge."

"Yes, lots of ideas and skills to develop a project."

"To a degree yes, but it wasn't very in depth – couldn't really be because of the amount we covered in the time, the number in the group, etc. I feel I know a fair bit, but hardly feel an expert! Tool handling feels a little woolly. However, I know so much more than I did & will use what I know to the best of my ability."

"I think it has given us a good foundation but we could all benefit from more training."

Tree Wise projects running during the academic year 2007-08, will be provided with the following by Tir Coed:

- Cost of site hire (1 day per week @ £30 per day),
- Materials @ £10 per head per session, based on a group of 6 participants,
- Specialist trainers to further the Project Leaders and young people's skills (based on needs identified by each group) for 3 sessions per term,
- Outdoor First Aid training for Project Leaders (if applicable).

A stock of tools was purchased for the training sessions. These tools, along with the Shave Horses that were made by trainees, will be shared between the Tree Wise projects that are scheduled to begin in September, 2007, within the counties of Ceredigion,



Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. The Ceredigion project will be run at Graybeards Wood, near New Quay.

The Carmarthenshire project will be run at Woodhouse Wood, St. Clears.

It appears that there may be 2 Tree Wise projects running in Pembrokeshire, one to be run by the Pupil referral Unit (possibly at Nant y Cwm Wood) and the other by the Youth service in the south of the county.

The projects will run for 1 day per week during school term.

Due to the long-term absence, because of illness, of the Powys Social Inclusion Officer, as well as a major reorganisation of Powys County Council personnel, it has been impossible to date to make any headway with the Tree Wise initiative within Powys. Gwyneth will endeavour to progress this as soon as possible.

END OF REPORT.

