

LATEST NEWS

It's all happening at Mosaic

Our Mosaic Cymru project team is on a high, having reached some important milestones just as the weather and the nights close in for the winter. In this edition, we highlight the success of our first Annual Event, and can report that we are half way to reaching our target of 60 Community Champions for National Parks in Wales. The support from our partners in the National Park Authorities in Wales and the YHA has been amazing, we couldn't have made it without them. We're now looking forward to next year's event in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

We're also happy to report that the Mosaic National Network is now making real strides towards delivering their latest programme of work - to develop their plans for the future and extend their skills. The Mosaic National Network's programme of work is being supported by funding from Natural England's Supporting Change programme, which is helping to ensure a lasting legacy from our past Mosaic projects.

From the legacy of the past to a look at the future. Our Mosaic Youth project is now underway, we are recruiting staff and securing partners. The Mosaic Youth project presents some new challenges for us, as we work with young people aged 16 to 25 to deliver improved employment prospects and improved health, all through work and play in the beautiful National Parks of Exmoor, the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales, the New Forest and Northumberland. We will have plenty to report in the New Year, and we hope that yours is a good one!

Mosaic Cymru – Our first Annual Event

Park pioneers met in the beautiful Brecon Beacons to launch the first of Mosaic Wales' annual get togethers. Community Champions from various parts of Wales gathered at Brecon YHA for a packed weekend of activities and learning about each other and the project.

Mosaic Cymru launched this year with the aim of establishing long-term links between Wales' three National Parks and black and ethnic minority communities (BME). We are recruiting 60 volunteer Community Champions to introduce 1,200 new visitors to the parks and help park authorities and the project's other partner, the YHA, make long-term changes to reach and include new audiences.

The Annual Event brought together people from a wide range of cultures from cities and towns, including Cardiff, Newport, Barry and Wrexham. Our new Community Champions took part in various events, many of them for

the first time, led by staff from Brecon Beacons National Park although we were also fortunate to have staff from Wales' other National Parks, Snowdonia and Pembrokeshire Coast join us too. A hill walk up Fan Frynich proved an energetic but rewarding challenge for many while others went for the more relaxing but stunning spectacle of red kite feeding with aerial displays by more than 50 birds.

The weekend also included a boat trip on the 200-year-old Brecon Canal and a chance to have a go at geocaching, an activity that combines walking with puzzle-solving using GPS technology. YHA staff added to the fun and team building with a rocket building and launch competition.

The Annual Event also provided opportunities to learn from the first Community Champion recruits of this three-year project, about their highlights and suggestions for the future, → *continued p.2*



continued from p.1 what they wanted to gain from Mosaic and what they wanted to contribute. Three Community Champions from the previous Mosaic projects, now part of the Mosaic National Network, passed on valuable knowledge and tips for the growing group of Community Champions in Wales.

Feedback praised Mosaic for being “an open door for BME people who do not have many opportunities.” “There’s a homely feel to Mosaic events, people are invited to feel welcome and comfortable”, said one Champion. The Annual Event was applauded for the opportunities it gave for trying new activities and socialising with others from different areas and backgrounds.

Now our staff and volunteers are looking forward to the next 12 months, building on the successful first Annual Event.

Stepping out together in the Brecon Beacons

Brecon Beacon National Park Authority’s (BBNPA) involvement in the pilot Mosaic project has had a positive impact on reaching out to various groups and recruiting Community Champions. An urban event in Cardiff in May attracted more than 40 people from all diverse groups and backgrounds and the information provided by Mosaic Project Officers and staff at BBNPA and Pembrokeshire Coast NPA was immensely helpful in raising awareness about the National Parks and Mosaic.

Since inception of Mosaic in Wales in January 2012, five people from Barry, seven from Cardiff and three from Newport have decided to become Community Champions for Brecon Beacon National Park. Coming from all different ethnic backgrounds this group all share a strong attachment and passion for the country side and natural beauty despite little or no experience of visiting National Parks.

After introductory training, one Community Champion organised a day visit to Brecon Beacon National Park for a diverse group of 30 people from Barry. In September, 10 Community Champions went to Brecon for the first Group Leader Visit training weekend.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park – gearing up for 2013

Eight Community Champions volunteering in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (PCNP) were among the 30 Champions who attended the first Mosaic Wales Annual Event in Brecon in October. They enjoyed the chance to explore a different National Park, and got a lot out of meeting other Community Champions from around Wales and the Mosaic National Network.

There are now fifteen PCNP Community Champions based in Cardiff and Newport. In early November, the Cardiff group met and decided to become a constituted community group to raise funds for more weekend visits and day trips to Pembrokeshire in 2013. They are now



keen to try out all sorts of new activities such as survival skills, water sports, art workshops and farm trips. The group will also work with PCNPA Discovery Team to organise joint activities such as cultural events and training.



Brecon Beacons Weekender - Zarin Rasul reports

Recently, a group of ethnic minority Community Champions and I were able to participate in a weekend away in the lovely Brecon Beacons National Park, courtesy of the Campaign for National Park’s Mosaic Project.

Our group stayed at the Youth Hostel in Brecon, a quiet countryside location. The aim of the weekend was to build relationships and rapport between new Community Champions and learn more about the Brecon Brecons National Park

so that we could pass that information onto other black and minority ethnic (BME) communities and encourage them to visit.

The weather was kind to us and we all had a wonderful time. Walking, climbing, a canal boat trip and much interaction allowed us all to come home feeling lifted, energized and relaxed. Our plan is to repeat the experience next year with some of our carers.

Zarin Rasul -
Ethnic Carers Advice and Advocacy Worker

Art and inspiration in west Wales

The Black Voluntary Sector Network Wales organises a series of Artist Forums around Wales each year. This autumn an event was held in Oriol y Parc, at the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) Centre in St. Davids. This forum aimed to bring together black and minority ethnic artists and creatives from all over south west Wales to share experiences and identify needs.

Paula Ellis, manager of Oriol y Parc was keen to make the most of the opportunity and contacted our Mosaic Project Officer Pat Gregory. As a result, Pat attended the forum to talk about Mosaic and the work of the PCNPA Discovery Team. She also brought down Alice Mukaka, one of the Cardiff Community Champions and a theatre

performer, so that they could build links with Pembrokeshire BME artists with a view to future collaboration.

In addition Pat publicised the event amongst artists in Swansea, taking the opportunity to promote a Swansea - Pembrokeshire Coast link. It was great to have two Swansea artists - Nazma Ali and Denise Kwan make the journey to the Forum. And although the event was small, it was a very positive experience for all the artists involved. At Mosaic, we were able to make links with local artists, and discuss the possibility of artists' residencies and events with a Mosaic link at Oriol y Parc; we left with a promise to visit Swansea in the New Year, where Nazma and Denise are keen to get together a Mosaic group.

Snowdonia Champions aim for gold in Bala

Community Champions from Wrexham aimed for gold during their day visit to Bala on the eastern edge of Snowdonia National Park.

The group had a go at archery as part of their discovery day in the stunning setting of Bala, less than an hour away from Wrexham. Accompanied by Mosaic Project Officer Siân Roberts and National Park Community Officer Carys Dafydd, they met park wardens Arwel Morris and Bill Taylor and learned more about the area, the role of the wardens and the opportunities available for visitors.

Bala means the spot where a river leaves a lake and the town is where the River Dee leaves Llyn Tegid, the largest natural lake in Wales. On a clear and crisp November day the lake provided a stunning and spectacular setting, surrounded by the Aran, Arenig and Berwyn mountains.

Arwel and Bill led the group on a short but interesting walk from the lake and along the riverside, pointing out wildlife and chatting about their area and experience. Thousands of people visit Llyn Tegid each year for to take part in watersports, enjoy the spectacular scenery and walk surrounding footpaths. The wardens are responsible for a wide area beyond the lake but their work includes advising visitors about safe and responsible use of the lake, assisting owners of lakeside land and working closely with local schools.



Bala is a stronghold of Welsh language and culture and in a brief visit to the town's Welsh language book and music shop, the group met Bethan Gwanas, Welsh language author, newspaper columnist and S4C Television broadcaster.

Lunch in the leisure centre café overlooking lake and mountains was followed by the archery session with Bala Watersports, providing lots of laughs for everyone and the day ended with hot drinks and traditional Welsh cakes back at the café.

Everyone agreed it had been a great day with stunning scenery, wonderful weather and a great chance to get to know the people and places of the park, allowing them to be much more confident in returning with friends and family. The group wants to say a huge thank you to Arwel, Bill and Carys and is looking forward to the next Community Champions trip to Snowdonia – an overnight visit in the spring.

Get some support

The Heritage Lottery Fund has announced a further commitment of £15million to support heritage skills through its Skills for the Future initiative.

Building on an already substantial investment of £26.8million, Skills for the Future opened for business again on 1 November 2012. It will support work-based training in a wide range of skills that are needed to look after buildings, landscapes, habitats, species, and museum and archive collections, as well as equipping people to lead education and outreach programmes, manage volunteers or use digital technology. Applicants will be encouraged to build in supplementary training, such as developing business planning or marketing skills, to prepare trainees for the modern heritage economy.

Matthew Hancock, Under Secretary of State for Education and Business Innovation and Skills, said:

“I’m pleased to see that the Heritage Lottery Fund has committed significant further funding in support of skills, through their Skills for the Future project. The high-quality work-based learning this scheme offers will I hope give people the expertise to work in highly-skilled jobs in the industry.

“Skills for the Future offers paid opportunities to people of all ages and backgrounds, and provides the double benefit of protecting and nurturing skills and attracting people who might not have previously considered a career in the heritage sector.”

First-round applications need to be submitted by noon on **31 January 2013** for a decision in May 2013. An online application pack is available at the Skills for the Future webpage www.hlf.org.uk/skills. HLF will be running a number of Skills for the Future pre-application workshops across the UK in November and December 2012.

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