

Mosaic in Wales
Community Champion Case Studies 2014



Who: Sha Siddiqi
Where: Snowdonia National Park
Lives: Bangor

What has been your best experience in a National Park?



“My best experience was taking new people to Snowdonia. Lots of the people I deal with are international students studying in the local university. They haven’t experienced anything like visiting the National Park. I took a group of 10 people to Llanberis and they really enjoyed it and all want to do it again.

We went for a walk up the Miner’s Path towards Snowdon. We didn’t go to the top because of the weather. We visited the lakes and stayed in Llanberis youth hostel so they had the experience of that accommodation. The next day we went to an adventure park called Tree Tops, did a bit of orienteering and visited the Electric Mountain. Finally we went to Portmerion, a famous Italian village in North Wales.

The group was amazed with the scenery, the lush landscapes and the different outdoor activities available in the area. Lots of them want to experience more of that – canoeing, kayaking, climbing, wall climbing, cycling and so forth. We will be planning the next trip over the coming months.”

How has visiting National Parks has improved your health or attitude to life?

“I’m a local – I’ve lived here now for 30 years. I’m familiar with the National Park. But what I enjoy about being a Community Champion is to get to know people and show them round the National Park. They are missing out on a lot if they don’t visit the National Park. I want them to experience all the wonderful scenery and activities available locally.”

What other green spaces have you visited since learning more about National Parks?

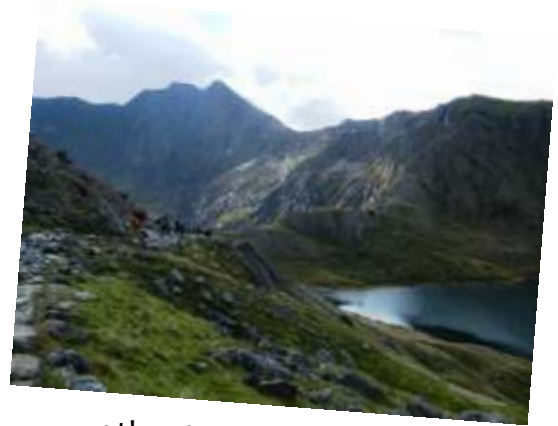
“I was already using green spaces before getting involved in Mosaic. However, I am exploring the idea of setting up a travel agency for people from China who need to come over here to teach at one of the universities. I’m motivated by trying to bring

In early 2014 we interviewed nine Community Champions with the Mosaic Project to find out more about the impact National Parks have had on them. Our Case Studies series documents these interviews. To find out more about Mosaic in Wales, please visit www.cnp.org.uk/mosaic

visitors to north Wales – and that is one thing that I’ve definitely developed as result of being a Community Champion.”

Would you say that you and your family have adopted a healthier lifestyle since getting more involved in Mosaic and National Parks?

“Since becoming a Community Champion I have taken my granddaughter to visit the Snowdonia and introduced a number of my family members to National Parks too.



I’ve taken other people too such as a friend from Saudi Arabia. We did a walk to Ogwen Valley. It was not what they were expecting at all coming from Saudi Arabia; a landscape that is very different. That’s been a common reaction among the groups and individuals that I take into the National Park – they are impressed with the scenery, so different from their own home countries.

I actually met a lady who is a director of government affairs in China when she was on a trip to the UK. I met her by chance in Bangor. I offered to take her into the

“National Parks are there for everyone, there is no charge, they are open to everyone to have wonderful experiences in and to be out and about in fresh air.”

Snowdonia National Park and we took in various sites. When she got back she emailed me to say that had been the highlight of her trip to the UK. By that time she had been to the Lake District and Scotland as well – but for her Snowdonia National Park was the highlight.

That’s why I like being a Community Champion. We should be promoting the beauty of the area. If she hadn’t met me she wouldn’t have experienced the beauty of this part of North Wales. It was only because I had recently been on the Mosaic project training that visiting National Parks was what I was thinking about. Without that I never would have approached her.

I’m really proud of the area and any opportunity that I get to show it to new people then I’m happy to take that.”

Why should people care about National Parks?

“National Parks are there for everyone, there is no charge, they are open to all to have wonderful experiences in and be out and about in fresh air. It is very important that National Parks and kept free for everyone - they are our national treasures.”