



Down to Earth Project Newsletter

Sustainable Swansea Award Shortlist

Down to Earth Project has again been recognised for its contribution to environmental and community sustainability! We're on the "short list" for the Sustainable Swansea

Award, in the Low Carbon Community Category, which focuses on organisations which raise awareness about a community's carbon emissions.

Judges Helen Nelson of Cynnal Cymru and Paul Jones from WAG visited the project on August 12th and we hope to see them again for the awards event in October.

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Down to Earth at Bae Fest

Don't miss us at Bae Fest this year—we'll be the ones with the giant tipi-tent and the rainbow Down to Earth parachute!

We'll be doing a range of taster workshops in green woodworking, dry stone walling, earth oven construction, circus skills and

lots more. You'll also have the opportunity to meet the team and find out all about our programmes and courses.

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Happy Local Pork and Lamb

If you're a real foodie, you'll love the incredible taste of our rare breed pig meat and this year's lambs.

They have ranged freely all their lives and been lovingly hand reared by D2E programme participants

and staff. For info and prices, please email info@downtoearthproject.org.uk or phone us on 01792 346566.

Open House at Down to Earth

On Sunday September 12 (1-4pm) we'll be opening our doors to the public as part of the Swansea Open House Event. It's a free event that provides a once a year chance to see inside buildings not normally open to the public, showcasing "the gems

of our built environment as well as providing a fascinating glimpse of what goes on behind closed doors"! Down to Earth Project staff will be taking guided tours at 2pm and 3pm—so please let us know if you intend to come. It's free

and suitable for all ages. Full details from www.swanseaopenhouse.com/index.html or from Tourist Information Centres in Swansea and from participating venues from late summer 2010. "People love our city; show it off!" say the organisers!

Partnership Focus: Gorseinon Youth Centre

"We've seen amazing changes in the young people involved in the building project" (Angela Payne, Gorseinon Youth Services)

Angela Payne first came to Down to Earth on an ESDGC training course, which inspired her to get us involved in working with her groups of young people.

Two years on and Angela has led a major development process for the Youth Centre in Gorseinon, working with Down to Earth Project and young people from the town to redesign and rebuild the centre's grounds—thanks to funds from Tidy Towns.

Gorseinon Youth Centre now has a cob seating area and an outdoor classroom all made by the young people using natural materials and sustainable/traditional methods. There are also raised beds in a vege-

table garden, with pigs clearing and fertilizing the ground for further planting...

"It's been a great project! All kinds of young people have been involved at different stages" says Angela. "Some enjoyed the design process, others created the garden and various groups helped with the green woodworking, dry stone walling and cob building. At first, the girls thought the project was more of a 'boy thing' – so it's been a fantastic learning process, with both the girls and boys growing in confidence as they found that, with the skills, they could all build a real building!"

Asked what difference the project had made, Angela replied

Beautiful Blue Cob Seating



that, "most importantly it has engaged quite a few people who don't normally get involved – it's been a platform for bringing new people into the centre....but we're also seeing a strong sense of ownership about the place, which we didn't see before - and we've been surprised at how problem solving skills learned in the building process have generalised into everyday things – some of the young people are more confident about tackling other issues themselves.

Courses

What would engage your group of learners, clients or participants? What practical skills would you need? What logistical issues should you address? Our courses could give you the answers—and if they don't,

why not tell us which traditional and natural building courses you'd like to attend? Check out the last few 2010 Down to Earth Project courses...there's Biodynamic Gardening, Dry Stone Walling, Build your own shave

horse and hedge-laying (see www.downtoearthproject.org.uk/Images/course-information-2010.pdf) as well as Reality Therapy Training with John Brickell (see last newsletter).



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Volunteers—making practical difference to schools

Would you like to get involved in creating a cleft oak fence & putting the finishing touches to the cob seating area at Bishopston Comprehensive school? Or, from September, working with Llanrhidian & Pennard primary schools to make their grounds more vibrant and

sustainable? Or, help with a range of biodiversity/building projects at the Down to Earth site? Full training will be provided in a number of green woodworking, traditional and natural building and land management techniques. For those wishing to work alongside pupils in schools, a CRB

check will be required (Down to Earth will organise). All prospective volunteers need to register and attend a volunteer induction day on our site. The next is in early October. Please let us know if you wish to attend or if you'd like us to let you know about future work days.....

With thanks to....

As ever, we wish to thank our funders for their support, without which our project would not be possi-

ble: BIG Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund, Gower Sustainable Development Fund, Swansea Development

Fund, WCVA, SCVS, Tudor Trust, DFID, Environment Wales, Welsh Assembly Government.

