

News and information for Wales from:
Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Baltic House, Mount Stuart Square,
Cardiff Bay, CF10 5FH
Helpdesk 0800 2888 329 www.wcva.org.uk



Supporting communities to grow

A new programme to help people set up and manage growing schemes in the heart of their community has been launched across Wales by the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG). Called Tyfu Pobl (Growing People), the three year programme will support a variety of schemes, including city farms, allotments, community gardens, community orchards and Community Supported Agriculture schemes. It is a direct result of booming interest in community food growing and creating natural green spaces.

The Welsh Government-funded programme will ensure that community groups don't work in isolation - local people will be encouraged to share their knowledge and expertise so that connections between new and well-established growing schemes are created throughout Wales. A new development team is already in place, with regional offices in Cardiff, Pembrokeshire, Newtown and Bangor. Meanwhile a Community Enterprise and Funding Coordinator to help combat the withering effects of the current funding climate by accessing funding sources and working with groups so they become more financially sustainable and less grant reliant.

As part of the programme, local growing groups will benefit from support and advice from the development team as well as fieldworkers drawn from existing groups and allotments mentors. A travel bursary scheme will also be available so groups can visit each other's sites and regional meetings to enable local growers and gardeners to meet up, learn new skills and swap ideas and inspiration.

An official launch event takes place on 23-24 September at Greenmeadow Community Farm in Cwmbran, which will kick off the new autumn programme of regional gatherings and training events. Training will be delivered around 4 main areas; sustainability, social inclusion, the setting up of a community growing project and the creation of community growing spaces for land owners. Further details are available from Katie Jones, tel 029 2022 5942, email Katie@farmgarden.org.uk. up of a community growing project and the creation of community growing spaces for land owners. Further details are available from Katie Jones, tel 029 2022 5942, email Katie@farmgarden.org.uk.

WCVA Trustee and Governance Conference 2011 – 26 October, Venue Cymru, Llandudno

Sharing the load is the title of this year's ever-popular Trustee and Governance Conference, taking place in Llandudno on Wednesday, 26 October.

The event will explore how trustee boards can work together and move forward in difficult times, and will feature an array of expert speakers and workshop leaders. Keynote speakers include Dorothy Dalton of *Governance* Magazine and Mike Lewis of the Welsh Refugee Council, while

workshops include Simon Boex (Fundraising Standards Board) on 'Resources, risk and reputation', Charity Commission representatives on 'The charitable incorporated organisation' and Rob Taylor (Age Cymru) on 'Life after merger'.

To view the full programme and booking form, visit www.wcva.org.uk or email eventsadmin@wcva.org.uk or call 0800 2888 329 with further enquiries.

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Vote in the Third Sector Awards Cymru 2011

Do you know a group you think deserves national recognition for its achievements? Nominate now in the Third Sector Awards Cymru 2011.

The Third Sector Awards Cymru, supported by Class Telecommunications, promote and celebrate the work of the third sector across Wales, work that continues to be dedicated and inspirational even in these difficult times. The Awards are your chance to reward that group you've always thought deserves recognition.

There are four categories:

The Class award for best communication - for

organisations with an effective or innovative way of communicating its message.

The green award - for groups with unique, innovative ways of reducing their carbon footprint.

The Health, social care and wellbeing award - for organisations that have helped people be healthier and happier in their community.

Most admired organisation - quite simply, for the group you most admire.

Don't let an inspirational group go unrewarded. Nominations are now open - cast your vote today at www.wcva.org.uk. Nominations must be received by 25 November 2011.

Boost for sustainable travel in Wales

The Welsh Government has announced that sustainable travel centres across Wales will receive a £6 million funding boost over the next 12 months.

There are five sustainable travel centres in the county, based in Cardiff, Mon a Menai, Haverfordwest, Carmarthen and Aberystwyth, each delivering measures encouraging people to walk, cycle or use public transport.

Wales Transport Minister Carl Sargeant said: 'This funding will go towards enabling local authorities to promote sustainable travel through a combination of initiatives including developing travel plans for the main employers in the area, providing more support for bus services and a vigorous promotion of cycling and walking

'By providing the individual with a realistic alternative option to the car and changing people's attitude towards transport we can achieve our aim of developing a truly sustainable transport system in Wales.'

Lee Waters, Sustrans Cymru Director, said: 'We know from our work and evidence that when you coordinate measures to give people more information about the transport choices available to them - and improve conditions on the ground to make it more attractive for people to travel sustainably - then it can deliver significant reductions in car use.

'Sustrans Cymru is working closely with Welsh Government to maximise the benefits of this of £6 million investment and we're confident it will contribute to the overall aims of reducing carbon emissions from transport and creating a healthier, more active population.'

The £6 million budget will be split across the centres, with £1.3 million set aside for Personalised Travel Planning interventions - which will see information go to homes telling people about alternatives to driving. The PTP will be trialled initially in Cardiff. Similar schemes have been carried out in England and helped cut car journeys by around ten per cent.



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Wales Council for Voluntary Action, Head Office - Baltic House, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff CF10 5FH, registered charity number 218093, company limited by guarantee 425299, registered in Wales.

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