

ISSUE 2

JULY 2009

## VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

### AWARD EVENING RECOGNISES COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru/ Welsh Dyslexia Project celebrates achievement and receives 2 awards.

To celebrate its new university status Trinity University College has launched the Trinity Awards in recognition of outstanding individuals who have made a substantial contribution to a community or voluntary initiative within the counties of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire.

At the Awards Ceremony, held at the Halliwell Centre, recently,

PDC/WDP's Chief Executive, Michael Davies, who undertakes the role in a voluntary capacity, was the recipient of the 'Learning in the Community Award for his contribution to dyslexia in Wales and the Welsh language.

The presentation was made by Mr. D H Davies, Chairman of the Awards panel, who was formerly Chief Executive of Dyfed County Council.

In WCVA's Volunteer of the Year award 2009 , Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru was nominated for its work as a volun-

tary organisation , and received a Highly commended Certificate, that was presented to Chairman of Trustees: Revd.Father Paul Mackness, by Ceredigion's M.P. Mark Williams, at a Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations ceremony held at Llanerchaeron.



Mr D H Davies, former Chief Executive of Dyfed County Council presenting Mr Michael Davies Chief Executive PDC/WDP

### RESIDENTIAL COURSE



Fifteen pupils from years 5 and 6 from Primary Schools in Cardigan, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire had a great time at Gweryll yr Urdd, Llangrannog for three days during the half term holidays in May. They had the opportunity to use all of the facilities, and they had fun going out on the horses and the motor bikes, swimming, using the ski slope, playing games and a disco.

But there was an educational side to the course as well. An interesting presentation was given about the different methods of writing information notes, facts, creative writing etc by Dilwyn Owen (Information Technology Teacher) and Anwen Francis the author of Siani'r Shetland. The children also studied the use of 'mind maps' and team building activities.

The children enjoyed the entertainment and the sports activities and they benefited from learning in an informal, supporting environment. The comments the children wrote on the feedback forms, conveys their feelings:

"I've had fun at Llangrannog"

"I liked everything",

"I want to come again".

Please Note

This was the second residential course that was held by the Welsh Dyslexia Project, through the medium of Welsh. The course was sponsored by BBC Children in Need with valuable support from a group of students from Coleg Ceredigion. We hope to arrange another course for dyslexic children in years 5 and 6 in Primary School during the half term holidays in October. Therefore, if you're interested in this course, please contact Non Edwards (Workshop and Conferences Co-ordinator Welsh Dyslexia Project).

E-mail: [admin@welshdyslexia.org](mailto:admin@welshdyslexia.org)

## MAL GOES THE DISTANCE



Mal Morris left grammar school in 1967 with just a handful of O-Levels. But 33 years later, and despite his many medical conditions, Mal decided to return to learning.

And now he's scooped the Niace Dysgu Cymru Distance Learner of the Year Award, presented by Rob Humphries, Director of the OU in Wales, at a ceremony in Bangor University.

Beginning with an Open University course in Health and Social Care in 2000, Mal (pictured above) worked his way towards an honours degree, which he finally achieved in 2005.

Mal's appetite for learning and encouraging others to learn saw him become heavily involved in The Open University Students' Association, including assisting students with additional needs at summer schools throughout the UK. He also studied lip reading for the deaf at Manchester Metropolitan University, enabling him to teach deaf adults at locations throughout North Wales. To further his voluntary work, Mal also took a course in Voluntary Management with Lampeter University.

Mal's nominator for the Distance Learner of the Year Award, part of the Inspire Awards 2009, Gerald Venables believes that the remarkable thing about Mal is that he didn't even embark on any study whatsoever until the year 2000, and combined with all his voluntary work it's amazing he has coped with so many things going on in his life at the same time.

Mal continues to rack up the honours gaining a Volunteer of the Year in Wrexham Award and The Open University Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award.

For Mal the message is simple: "There is so much to gain by returning to learning and for many it helps them to turn the corner and start a new life, get a new job and make many new friends along the way. To anyone considering starting a new course, I say go for it, it's never too late to learn!"

He adds: "As you can imagine, I was absolutely over the moon to receive this award, not only because it was the award for Wales, but it was also the fact that I won it in the same year as the OU's 40th birthday. Since winning the award I have been in various newspapers, and on the local radio station, and as always, singing the praises of the OU in Wales."

Mal is Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru/Welsh Dyslexia Project Volunteering Coordinator For Wrexham. Contact details: [Malmorris@welshdyslexia.org](mailto:Malmorris@welshdyslexia.org) 01978 358575



## MARKETING AND PROMOTING THE TELEPHONE HELPLINE

Non Edwards took over the role as Telephone Help Line Co-ordinator from 1<sup>st</sup> April and is looking forward to meeting and supporting all the volunteers and the callers using the helpline who need the advice and support from PDCWDP. Her aim is contact each volunteer by the end of July and to market the help-line number across Wales and recruit further volunteers as the project develops.

Recently, following a promotional event for Adult Learning Week, an interview with Non was broadcast on Pembrokeshire Radio promoting the project and the help line. The help line has also been mentioned on Carmarthenshire Radio each day from 25<sup>th</sup> May for three weeks and BBC Wales Charity broadcast produced a short promotional clip for showing across the BBC Wales network during June 21<sup>st</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>, which we received 55 calls.

We are still recruiting volunteers to cover the telephone help-line, one evening per month 5-8pm weekdays. The Project is funded by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) through the volunteering in Wales Project. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please call Non Edwards 0844 8800 926

**0808 1800 110**

## SCREENING TEST FOR DYSLIC TENDENCIES

There are three test kits for measuring Dyslexic tendencies, one for junior school children, one for secondary school children and one for adults. Each kit consists of a number of tasks some of which are timed and some are not. When the tasks are completed and scored, the "at risk quotient" can be determined and a report produced that identifies the risk areas and indicates what type of support would be most relevant

Tasks include:

Rapid naming	tests possible reading difficulties
Bead threading	assesses hand-eye co-ordination
One minute reading	for speedy and accurate reading
Postural stability	motor skill/balance/eye control
Phonemic segmentation	ability to detect rhymes
2 minute spelling	Spelling test
Backwards digit span	Tests memory
Nonsense passage reading	Ability to read words never seen before
One minute writing	Measures speed of writing
Verbal fluency	How many words beginning with the same letter in one minute
Semantic fluency	Same test but using words instead of letters in one minute

**INTERESTED  
IN  
BEING  
TRAINED TO  
CONDUCT A  
SCREENING  
TEST?  
CONTACT  
Non ON  
0808 1800 110**

## EVERYCLICK - FUNDRAISING

Everyclick enables you to access effective and engaging ways to give online to Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru. Everyclick represents an easy way to generate additional income for Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru without any upfront cost to you. Funds are generated by Everyclick users in a number of ways; [searching](#), [shopping](#), [donation](#) and [sponsorship](#). Where applicable Gift Aid is also collected. Each month Everyclick ensures that funds are distributed to recipient charities via Charities Trust.

Search the web and raise funds for PROSIECT DYSLECSIA CYMRU. Click on the link below.

<http://www.everyclick.com/prosiect-dyslecsia-cymru---welsh-dyslexia-project/357881/0>



## Heidi Powell meets Prince Charles



Volunteers from across Wales got royal recognition for their charitable work when they met His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales on Monday June 22.

Prince Charles met the volunteers during a one and a half hour visit to the Market Square in Llandovery, Carmarthenshire where he saw a showcase of the work done by Prime Cymru and chatted to some of the volunteers the charity has recruited. One of those is Heidi Powell Telephone Helpline volunteer for WDP/PDC and Prime Cymru Ceredigion.

Heidi told The Prince about her work with The Welsh Dyslexia Project based in Cardigan which supports people with dyslexia.

She said: "He seemed very knowledgeable about dyslexia and mentioned that it doesn't just affect people's recognition with words but also with numbers – he joked that he wasn't very good at mathematics himself."

It is so important for organizations like Prime Cymru to continue with this vital work.

BBC Wales Charity Broadcast produced a short promotional clip for showing across the BBC Wales network during June 21<sup>st</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>, which resulted in us receiving 55 telephone enquiries that week.



## Would you like to become an Workplace assessor?

The Workplace Assessors' Programme consists of:

- 1 x Workshop on the 7 Specific Learning Difficulties (there is a need for assessors to have a lot of specific information on the conditions they encounter.)
- 1 x Workshop on Reasonable Adjustments (ie the solutions they will recommend from their assessment.)
- 1 x Workshop on Screening (looking at 3 different screening packages)
- 1 x Workshop on the Assessment process, managing stakeholders and the external environment

It also includes learning materials, membership of BDA and thereby the forum with other workplace assessors for sharing information, issues etc; 1 x CPD event during the year specific to assessors;

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS

### **A:Home Tutor for Dyslexic Children and Young People.**

Following training, and accreditation, you will be added to our Tutors data base—and then eligible to charge for the service provided.

**B:Assessors in the Workplace...**We aim to train initially, 12 people from across Wales in becoming assessors, and once this has been achieved, we will be in a position to ask you whether you want to undertake assessments out in the sphere of the business community. You will be able to offer advice to businesses as to how to make reasonable Adjustments which will help both the Company and the dyslexic individual who is employed.

**C:Training to use Dyslexia Screening Tests** (on behalf of Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru/Welsh Dyslexia Project) and how to evaluate the test results, and to print reports etc,  
I should mention that THIS TRAINING RELATES TO SCREENING OF INDIVIDUALS at risk of being dyslexic, AND IS NOT A FULL PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT Non Edwards

## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT LOCAL EVENTS

CARDIGAN SHOW 29th JULY

PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY SHOW 18/19/20 AUGUST– Can you spare some time to help us man the stands at either or both shows.

RESIDENTIAL COURSE LLANGRANNOG OCTOBER HALF TERM-year 5/6 pupils

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

12TH SEPTEMBER – NATIONAL CONFERENCE, TRINITY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, CARMARTHEN

26TH SEPTEMBER – SPEAKER - NEIL MACKAY – NEWTOWN.

3RD OCTOBER – MATHS AND DYSLEXIA WORKSHOP, SPEAKER STEVE CHINN, LLETY CYNIN, ST CLEARS, CARMARTHENSHIRE.

9TH OCTOBER – DYSLEXIA IN THE WORKPLACE CONFERENCE AT THE NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS, LLANARTHNE, CARMARTHENSHIRE.

10TH OCTOBER – CATCH UP WORKSHOP WITH ANNE KENYON AT THE BRYNAFON COUNTRY HOTEL RHAYADER.

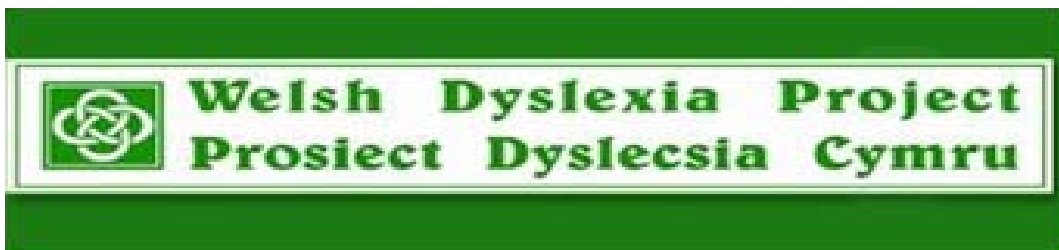
OCTOBER HALF TERM – RESIDENTIAL COURSE AT THE URDD CENTRE, LLANGRANNOG FOR DYSLEXIC CHILDREN SCHOOL AGE - YEARS 5 AND 6 (FREE COURSE).

14TH NOVEMBER – TOE BY TOE WORKSHOP RUN BY FRANK COWLING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PEMBROKESHIRE DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION.

For further information or to reserve a place on any of the above workshops please contact Ruth Davies, Project Manager on Telephone number - 0844 8800926 or email - [pm@welshdyslexia.org](mailto:pm@welshdyslexia.org)

We intend having a refresher course followed by a get together for volunteers, staff and Trustees sometime in September. The likely location will be the Newport/ Cardigan area and it is hoped that as many volunteers as possible can attend so that you can put faces to people and get to know your colleagues in Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymu

### *QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOLLOWED BY LUNCH*



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