



Conwy Connections Bulletin

Enhancing RSPB Conwy for People and Nature
August 2012

Welcome to our first Conwy Connections Bulletin

We're all extremely excited here at Conwy! We've been given the green light to plans that visitors, staff and volunteers have been dreaming up for years! The Communities and Nature project is supporting the RSPB with £179,000 towards a programme of work that we are calling Conwy Connections. Crown Estate has pledged a generous £55,000 to build a new observatory and the fantastic volunteers in RSPB Conwy Support Group have raised an impressive £30,000 towards the match funding in less than two years. This shows huge support for what we are proposing, for which we're very grateful.

Over the next 18 months, RSPB Conwy will be transformed with a fresh look and exciting new facilities, all gearing up to increase the connection between people and wildlife.

This regular Bulletin will keep you up to date with developments. We'd like you to be a part of this exciting journey. It's going to be great!



Conwy Connections is an initiative part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government and is a component element of the Countryside Council for Wales' Communities and Nature strategic project.

RSPB Cymru would like to thank those whose donations support RSPB Conwy nature reserve and visitor facilities, including Crown Estate, Environment Wales, Cemlyn Jones Trust, Conwy Town Council and the RSPB Conwy Support Group. RSPB Cymru is still raising funds for Conwy Connections. If you would like to take part in fundraising, have an interest in volunteering for RSPB Conwy, or would like to get involved in this project, do get in touch: conwy@rspb.org.uk



“But why change? It’s already great, just the way it is!”

Let’s see if we can impress you with our great plans...

We go greener with solar thermal

Completion: October/November 2012

Installing solar panels in the coffee shop is the first step of the project. Heating water is one of our biggest uses of electricity. Solar thermal for the Coffee Shop will make a big dent in the greenhouse gases that are emitted from the electricity we use. We will also save money on fuel bills that can be spent on wildlife conservation. The Coffee Shop will be closed for a few days in early October to install the solar panels. We’ll keep you posted.

Improved car park

Completion: November 2012

We will soon have a much improved car park! Re-designed, resurfaced, a wider entrance, more blue-badge parking spaces and a safe footpath so that you don’t have to dodge the traffic or the potholes anymore!

The reserve will be closed, only for a few days. Again, we’ll give you as much notice as we can.

The Jubilee Nature Observatory

Completion: Winter 2012/Spring 2013

This very special, green building will be built out of straw bales! It will offer a fantastic new indoor space, built into the bank with the lagoon opened out immediately in front of it. It’s going to be a great place to watch wildlife, and we’ll use it for events throughout the year.

Getting more from your visit

Completion: Spring 2013

There will be new interpretation in the hides, particularly the Tal-y-fan Hide, a new viewpoint overlooking the lagoon and a fabulous art installation. We can’t wait to see everything!

Y Maes

Completion: Sept 2013/Opening: Spring 2014

Y Maes is the centrepiece of the project. Situated between the Visitor Centre and the Coffee Shop, the current flat, brown-field site will be transformed into a sensory treat for everyone to enjoy. The hillocks and hummocks will provide elevated views across the reserve and the Conwy Valley. It will include a circular events space, a mosaic floor maze, picnic area, and natural play-space, including climbing area, water play and den building.



The Coffee Shop and Jubilee Nature Observatory, (artist: Alan Gray) has been selected as RSPB Cymru’s project to mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.

Stay with us throughout the building period...

Email us: conwy@rspb.org.uk

Phone us: **01492 584091**

Come see us! **LL31 9XZ**



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