



Conwy Connections

Bulletin

Enhancing RSPB Conwy for People and Nature

Dreams can come true!

Work is about to start and the plans are coming together! In the next few weeks, we'll start to see the first changes taking place on the reserve, as the solar thermal system is installed in the Coffee Shop, but there's been lots of work behind the scenes: the location of a new viewpoint from the Ganol Trail has been chosen, the Jubilee Nature

Observatory's plans are starting to take shape and we've been getting rather excited about receiving the final drainage drawings! To be honest, it still feels like a dream. It might become more real when we see the first glimpse of the mini digger!



Updates

Jubilee Nature Observatory

You might recall from our previous bulletin that the observatory will be built out of straw bales - a green, low-impact way of building. Well, the straw has been cut! It's coming from a Crown Estate farm in Cheshire, just over the border and will be stored there until we're ready for it.

Car Park

Tenders for the car park are in and we'll be selecting a contractor by the end of September. We aim to start the work in early November. You'll hear much more about our car park plan in our next bulletin.

Arty-Entrance

The artwork commission for the roundabout is underway and we've had a lot of interest and great ideas. The design is chosen, in conjunction with the North Wales Trunk Roads Agency in early October. Will it be a striking mural, a big metal structure or a bright pink flower?! Who knows?!

Bags of love!

It'll be the first anniversary of the 5p bag levy here in Wales in October and Tesco's bag levy is supporting a number of RSPB initiatives across Wales including Conwy Connections. So next time you forget to take your own bags to Tesco, you can be happy that your 5p levy is going to a great cause.



'WISH' Tokens, Daily Post - get collecting!!

Conwy Connections has been chosen as one of the groups for WISH token campaign!

What you need to do:

Look out for Wish tokens in the Daily Post from Tuesday 2 October to Monday 19 November 2012. Collect as many tokens as possible. Send them in to the Daily Post.

Depending on the amount of tokens collected, we will be allocated a proportion of the £25,000 prize pot. The bigger the share of tokens, the bigger the share of the prize pot!



Tell your friends, family, neighbours, the man with the dog...everyone...and get collecting!!

Your ideas count

Consulting with everyone throughout the planning process is very important... so we get it right. Here are the Wildlife Explorers busy brainstorming ideas for Y Maes. Thanks guys!



AM's visit

A big thank you to Janet Finch-Saunders, Assembly Member for Aberconwy who took time away from her summer holidays to visit us last month. Although the nature walk had to be cut short as we found ourselves under the eye of a storm, it was a very pleasurable morning. Thank you for supporting Conwy Connections, Mrs Finch-Saunders.

L-R: Arfon Williams, RSPB Countryside Manager - Owen Thomas, RSPB Fundraising Officer - Janet Finch-Saunders AM - Charlotte Stretton, RSPB Lead Field Teacher

We go greener

“Because we don’t think about future generations, they will never forget us.”

Henrik Tikkanen

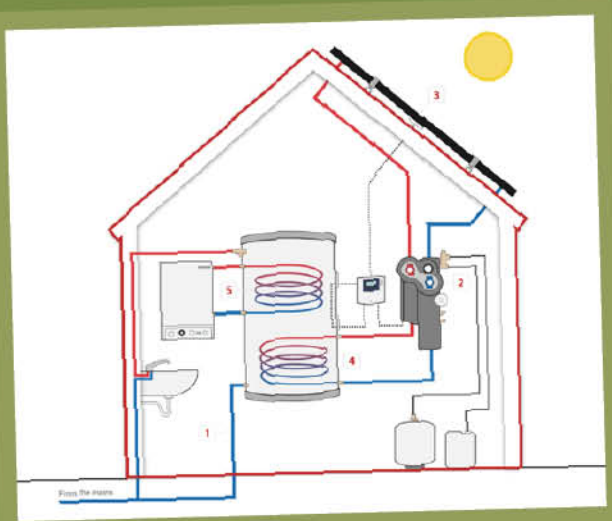
The first contract of the whole project has been awarded to St Asaph-based Carbon Zero. On 8-10 October, they’ll be here fitting the solar thermal panels to the roof of the Coffee Shop, which will provide us with hot water heated partly by the sun.

On Wednesday 10 October, the Coffee Shop will be closed all day. The Visitor Centre and the trails will be open as usual; the toilets will be closed for a short period that day while the new plumbing system is commissioned.

We hear the word ‘solar’ and we immediately think of saving energy through sunlight; but what does it actually mean and how does it work?

What is solar thermal?

Solar Thermal uses the warmth from the sun to heat the water inside the solar panels on the roof of the Coffee Shop. This is pumped along pipes to the hot water tank, heating up the water as it passes through to a preset temperature. The water temperature in the tanks is topped up by an immersion heater.



What’s special about the panels?

The solar panels being installed at the reserve have a highly reflective material fitted behind the tubes. These reflectors allow diffused light to fall onto the tubes even when the sun direction is not ideal. This increases the productivity of the tubes, creating more hot water.



How do the tubes work?

They are made of 2 concentric glass tubes. The space between these tubes is evacuated and then hermetically sealed. These tubes are coated with an ‘absorber’, aluminium nitrite sputter coating.

What does this mean as a saving for the RSPB?

An amazing 3,534 kWh per year will be produced by the solar thermal panels. What does that mean? It is the equivalent to powering a medium sized house’s electricity for a whole year! Our greening programme has already reduced our electricity consumption by 20% - we hope that our solar thermal system will reduce this further, meaning fewer greenhouse gases emitted and more money for wildlife conservation, not the electricity company!



Volunteering Taster Day

Sunday 7 October, 2-4 pm. Free!

Love Conwy? Love Nature? Join the team at RSPB Conwy as a volunteer. We have opportunities in the Visitor Centre and on the reserve.

Our Volunteering Taster Day is a chance to meet some of our volunteers to find out what it's really like, walk around the reserve and chat about how you might Step Up for Nature as a volunteer.

Alex Jones has volunteered at RSPB Conwy since he was an A-level student, and continues during his holidays now that he is a primary school teacher. He said



"As a volunteer, I get to meet loads of interesting people in a place that is full of wildlife. Whether I'm in the shop or helping children to discover bugs in the pond, it's a really fulfilling way to give something back to the RSPB."

www.rspb.org.uk/volunteering



Conwy Feast Farmers' Market

Saturday 27 October and Sunday 28 October. 10am to 4pm. Free entry!

This year we are pleased to be one of the sites for the Conwy Feast, which is fast establishing a reputation as one of the finest food festivals in the country! There'll be a Farmers' Market with vegetables, cheese, cakes, meat, honey and a host of other goodies, as well as a campfire, marshmallow toasting and craft activities for the children.

RSPB Cymru would like to thank those whose donations support RSPB Conwy nature reserve and visitor facilities, including The Crown Estate, Cemlyn Jones Trust, Environment Wales, Conwy Town Council and RSPB Conwy Support Group.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654

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