

"Coleg's Chronicles" Reporters

The New Team Behind the Newsletter

This term a new team of reporters was setup, their first job was to assign topics to different people. They then set out to interview key members involved in their topic and then produce an article from the results.

Their final job was to come up with the name "Coleg's Chronicles" and to present it for you.

One of our reporters Dawn had this to say "it's been hard work trying to gather all the information and then put it all together, but we've had a lot of fun, and I hope you've enjoyed reading it."



Dawn

Jim

Tor

Sophie

Nathanael

We would like to say...

A fond Farewell

It's that time of the year where we must say a fond farewell to some of our learners. Their journey has been filled with discovery and knowledge and they now embark onto the next stage of their lives. We wish you all the best in your future.

We would like to say a very fond farewell to our Guest Volunteers that been with us over the last 12 months. We like to say thank you for all your hard work and support. You will all be missed.

We would also like to say goodbye to Jim Light (Woodsman) Daniel Jones (Support Worker) and Steve Hansen (HR Manger). We wish you all the best in your future.

And a warm welcome

To Emma Blofield, who has joined us as Learning Support Assistant and to Karen Draper our new Assistant Head of Learning and Training.

We have a new set Guest Volunteers joining us in September and we look to welcoming them into our community.



Peter



Ryan



Dawn



Athene



Andy

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A message from our Principal

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter. It is packed with all manner of events and achievement and reflects the exciting opportunities that our learners are being provided with on a daily basis. Even the rain has not been able to dampen the spirit of the college. We have been able to applaud the success of our leavers, but whilst celebrating these very special and their many achievements it is also important to be looking ahead and planning for the future. With this in mind, we are already planning new ideas and aspects of the curriculum.

We are developing the farm and have implemented a new layout for the shop. We are also in the process of creating a Bed and Breakfast facility on Rhandirmwyn site, that will be run by the learners from October. We are currently investigating the possibility of creating an online meat delivery service that will allow the public to purchase meat that's been produced on our farm.

I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable summer holidays and look forward to seeing you in the new term.

David Sibbons

End of Year Celebrations

A Day of Celebrations



On the 18th of July we had our end of year assembly to display our work to all the staff and other students. It was also our graduation ceremony, where we received our Agored Cymru and City & Guilds accreditation. At the end of the ceremony our third year students were presented with scrolls to mark the end of their three years at Coleg and their completion of our 3 year Foundation Programme. We would like to say special congratulations to our third years on this achievement, they are Greg Potter, Ashley Vavoulas, Andrew Martin, Luca Simpson Rene, Sam Leesley and Peter Rhys Jenkins. Thank you to all the staff for helping to make this ceremony possible. We'd also like to say thank you to Richard and Huw for hosting the assembly.

In the evening we had a ball which was a blast, everyone dressed up in suits and evening wear. Jim, Nicola, Dawn Laurenz, Tor, Adrienn, Max and Sophie opened the evening with a waltz. Everyone said how good it was to see all of us dancing. We had a buffet meal and a live band called "The Anti-Depressants" featuring Iori Haugen on the drums. While the band took a break everyone got to do line dancing. It was a lovely evening. We would like to say a big thank to Iori for organising the entertainment and to the band for providing excellent music.



By Jim Nowell

Biography Retreat

Third year students visit the Emerald Isle

On the 30th of April our PDC tutors, Christine Koeller and Lewis Flindall, took all of our third year students along with some Guest Volunteers for a fantastic week in the South East of Ireland. Here's my diary of that week:

Day 1 (Monday) - We all went on the ferry from Fishguard to Roslare in Ireland. We then drove to Duffcarrig, in Gorey. When we got there we all helped to put our tents up and make our beds, I was one of the students to sleep in a tent. It was a long day, we all really enjoyed our chips and Guinness that evening and the last airbed went up at 12:45am on the Tuesday morning.



Day 2 (Tuesday) - We went for a tour of a Camphill Village called Duffcarrig. It was much bigger than ours and the residents were a lot older. Afterwards we got to see the sights in a minibus tour of the nearby coast line and Courtown Harbour. We then had ice cream and went to the beach. In the evening we relaxed with our suppers and discussed the day's events.

Day 3 (Wednesday) - In the morning we had a reflection workshop, where we reflected on the memory boxes that every student had brought with them. These boxes were filled with things that helped us to remember our time in Coleg Elidyr, we discussed the things that we had gained and what our tutors thought of our development. In the afternoon we had a barbeque and got to go swimming on the beach, it was a bit cold though! In the evening we went to the local pub.

Day 4 (Thursday) - I went to a drumming workshop held in Duffcarrig in the morning. We then went shopping to Wexford in the afternoon and on the way back - Christine went to visit Ballymoney to see Gwen's parents. In the evening we went for a meal in the Orphan Girl Public House. When we came back we packed our bags ready to go home.

Day 5 (Friday) - We got up really early so we could drive to the ferry and come home. We had breakfast on the ferry and got to visit the perfumery. We made it back to Coleg at about 3:30pm.

I enjoyed the trip except for the fact that we had only three toilets two of which were too small as we were staying in a kindergarten.

By Tor Gregory



Summer Fayre

Drowning in fun on Open Day - 16th June 2012

Once every year the Coleg opens its doors to the general public and parents of the learners. This is a great opportunity to show off, not only our beautiful Coleg grounds, but also all our different work areas and to showcase our individual work and achievements over the past year, not even the torrential rain could stop us. To wet the appetite, we had stalls for home made cakes breads and also a host of craft work produced by the learners and support staff could be purchased on the day. It was especially interesting to watch some of the students and staff actively involved in demonstrating their craft skills.



We are extremely grateful to The Owl Sanctuary of Festival Park, Ebbw Vale who very kindly brought along some magnificent birds of prey. The sanctuary rescues any injured, abandoned or unwanted birds of any species and after rehabilitation will re-release them into the wild wherever possible.

The birds proved very popular and visitors could not only see these wonderful birds up close but some lucky people were even allowed to handle them.



At the end of the day after the general public had left, we rounded off the event down on the farm with drinks, a BBQ and dancing to music for parents and staff in Coleg.

By Jim Nowell

Annual Monitoring Visit

A visit from Estyn Inspectors

Estyn's Annual Monitoring Visit of Coleg Elidyr took place in June and we are very happy to report how pleased the inspectors were with the progress made since our last AMV in September 2011. The college has made good progress against all 17 recommendations from that visit and made only 4 recommendations this time. This represents a great effort on the part of all the staff and learners. Well done everyone!

Richard Tither - Head of Learning and Training



Happenings around the Farm

I'm the assistant Cat Keeper
I'd like to tell my tale,
Of all the things that has been happening
At our College in the Vale.

Lambs that were born in April
Have grown like anything,
And now we've quite forgotten
How small they were in Spring.

The chickens too have now grown up
And lay eggs every day,
At night we have to lock them in
To keep the fox at bay.

And foxes aren't the only visitors
There's also mice and rats,
Poppy and Dafyd see them off
They're two ferocious cats.

Although they don't much like each other
With us they're really nice,
We're very pleased that they are here
To chase off all the mice.

There's lots of other visitors
That come here day and night,
There's owls and bats and buzzards
And even a red kite.

Some Wildlife can get trapped inside
But they need never fear,
there's always me to help them out
in Coleg Elidyr.

Inspired by Nathanael Meates

Versed by Dawn Nowell

Queen's Jubilee

A Royal Party

On the first of June we had a jubilee party in the All-inn. There was music playing on the screen. Long tables with lots of chairs were at the bottom of the All inn for people to sit and chat. The houses cooked and baked lots of food for everyone. Also, the shop gave lots of tea, coffee and juice to be shared. The All inn was covered in decorations. There were British flags hanging up, pictures of the Queen and big number 60's. The whole community came out of lessons for the last period of the day and celebrated together.

Rhian Jones explained that it was lovely to see everyone together but wished there had been a few more faces. She went on to say that it was hard to organise but she had some help from her swimming group. Her favourite part was the chance to socialise, the music and eating cake.

All in all it was a great celebration and fun for everyone who was involved. Great food, great drinks, great atmosphere, everything you want when you have a party.



By Sophie Scheeres

Ysgol Gynradd Cedewain

Cedewain see the sights

The school arrived in the morning and proceeded to the All-Inn for refreshments and an introduction to our life here at Coleg. Cedewain were given a tour of the site and were thrilled with their practical demonstration of Green Woodworking techniques from Lewis Flindall and their visit to the ICT suite.

The weather stayed bright all morning and they ended their tour at the garden where they were able to plant their own runner bean in a small pot with soil and take it home, it will be interesting to see how many runner beans now sprout from the floor of their minibus!



By Dawn Nowell



St John's assembly

Let there be music

By Dawn Nowell

Sarah Atkinson, the music group and I organised the assembly. We also led the assembly and set ourselves the challenge of performing various pieces in front of an audience. I sang my own written song with my guitar, Bruce Dickson performed his own Werewolf rap and Ashley Vavoulas accompanied the song "America" with his guitar while the entire audience sang along.

For the main part of the assembly the audience was split up into four groups with a mixture of learners, staff and Guest Volunteers. Each group were given a line of the song 'Frere Jacques' to play on the xylophone. The challenge was keeping the playing in time with each other. We then staggered our beginning and sung it in a round. This was very successful and everyone worked together as a team.

Welsh Harp Centre

Trainee's trip to the welsh harp centre - 23rd June 2012

We have visited the Welsh Harp Centre before with Lewis our Woodwork tutor but for the first time we actually managed to find the direct root there.

At the centre they have many different types of shapes and sizes of harps. They are also made out of different materials such as black wool nut wood, cherry wood, sycamore wood, birch and ply wood. It was interesting to see the detail carved onto the harps with the use of Pyrography, one in particular was a little bird carved into the sound board.

We were fascinated by the beauty of the harps and the smoothness of each harp's finish. This trip inspired us to pay a little extra time and attention to the finish of our projects and we have now managed to complete them. Thank you Lewis.



By Dawn Nowell

Professional Open Day

Coleg umbrellas to the rescue

We had a Professional Day on the 14th of June where a group of professionals came in the morning and a different group in the afternoon. In all, 30 professionals came from far and wide to see what we could offer to their students. Both Greg Potter and myself escorted them to the All-Inn where Andrew Martin and a small team of people were waiting to present our visitors with tea and coffee.

They were given an introduction to Coleg by Tom Thurtle, Richard Tither, Huw Sparkes and Caroline Andrews. Richard, Huw, Caroline, Greg and I then took them for a tour around the campus, where they were able to see all the work areas and get a demonstration from Lewis in Green Woodwork. Unfortunately, the heavens opened in the afternoon but luckily we had a supply of Coleg umbrellas to keep most of them dry and they got to see the site from the comfort of a minibus.

They had plenty of questions for us about what we thought of life in Coleg and I described the feeling of being part of close family in a beautiful place. We showed them around my flat in the Farmhouse, which they thought was very nice. All the responses from the individuals were positive and Richard stated that "...they all loved it. They said it was a caring place and were very impressed by all the resources".

By Jim Nowell