



Helping people with disadvantages to achieve independence through employment
Rhoi help llaw i bobl dan anfantais ddod yn annibynnol drwy weithio

AGORIAD LEADER



Employment Officer
Rhys Mann

A privileged experience

I've been with Agoriad for over four years now, and I enjoy my work greatly. It is not easy work but it gives me a real sense of achievement in seeing people develop, become independent and gain fulfilling employment.

Over the past year there have been many changes within Agoriad, and the project I have

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LLYS LLEWELYN IS A UNIQUE INNOVATION FOR ANGLESEY



*Flying the flag (destined for the newly installed flag pole at Llys Llewelyn)...
Mike Dillon with Non Devney, Catering Manager.*

A new social enterprise cooperation project between Agoriad Cyf, Anglesey County Council Social Services and Menter Môn has provided a refurbished and much improved Café and Heritage Centre at Llys Llewelyn, Aberffraw, on the island's south-west coast.

Building upon the ERDF and Anglesey Charitable Trust investment carried out by Menter Môn, the Café refurbishment represents the final chapter in the redevelopment of the whole site.

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LLYS LLEWELYN IS A UNIQUE INNOVATION FOR ANGLESEY

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Mike Dillon, a local business consultant, trustee of Agoriad and contracted by Menter Môn, has headed the project and has been assisted by Emily Robinson, an interior designer from Beaumaris. The result brings a much improved café to complement the holiday cottages, the exhibition gallery, the remodelled craft and gift shop and the laundry which offers cleaning, drying and ironing services to both visitors and local holiday businesses and communities.

The Llys Llewelyn heritage centre is built around an attractive cluster of cottages converted from a range of traditional 19th century stone farm buildings to offer warm, compact, modern and comfortable holiday accommodation. Aberffraw village sits in lovely countryside, just 200 yards from a sandy beach, 4 miles from the surfers' hot spot at Rhosneigr and Cable Bay and is ideally placed for the many resort and leisure attractions of the Island. The area is a haven for visiting bird-

watchers and coastal walkers with stunning views to enjoy (a walking festival route even starts from the heritage centre gate). The local roads are quiet and are a delight for serious and family cyclists. Golf, riding, fishing, tennis and a sports centre with an indoor swimming pool are all found a short drive away and Llyn Coron with great fishing lies a little east of the village.

Mike Dillon is upbeat about the changes to the Centre and the area around Aberffraw...

"We have restyled the image (of the Centre) to recall that Aberffraw was once the most important place in Wales with a golden age under



Mike Dillon: "The current exhibition gallery features stonework of both agricultural and carving works from Anglesey, one of the exhibits is seen here. It was uncovered some time ago on Anglesey and is believed to be Joanne (Siwan) the illegitimate daughter of King John of England and married to Llywelyn Fawr in 1206."

Llywelyn Fawr (1173-1240) who was the recognised ruler of most of Wales during his lifetime. Until the death of his grandson - Llywelyn ap Gruffydd in 1282, Aberffraw was an important regional seat of the Princes of Wales. No remains of the palace exist, but a garden at the South end of the village still bears the name of Gardd-y-Llys or "palace-garden." The eisteddfodau, or assemblies of the bards, were anciently held here. History is very important to the area but we've not lost focus of our objectives and Agoriad is able to provide training and very real job development prospects to progress local people into open



*Happy customer at the Café
"a nice place to spend some time."*

employment whilst at the same time providing a café and catering service, an exhibition area of interest and a craft and gift shop for both local and visiting people to this beautiful part of the island."

The Café has been refurbished to offer an alfresco area and the new interior is cosy, friendly and welcoming, where guests can enjoy the extended new menu, the great home-made cakes and puddings and the 'specials board' that changes every day to offer a variety of hot and cold lunches.

Outside catering has been introduced and this has proved very popular for local events. Families staying at the cottages and visiting groups of bird-watchers, cyclists and walkers are happy to order packed lunches as they enjoy the area around Aberffraw and with local people using the Tea Rooms Café as a meeting point a real social enterprise project is developing from the combined efforts of Agoriad, Menter Môn and Anglesey Social Services.

The new décor and the revised space is now ideal for evening group bookings and as the centre has a large meeting room with a DVD-driven large screen television it is proving popular with societies and groups who can enjoy their meetings and retire to the Café for a drink (there is now a licensed bar) and a meal.

Good daytime use of the meeting room has been made as a continuous programme outlining the history of North Wales is available, making it a great place to relax for a while during the visit to the centre. A visit is well worthwhile, and Agoriad hopes this unique alliance could prove a model for future social enterprise projects on the Island.

Mike takes the opportunity to thank all the contractors who have been involved in the project, "especially Mr & Mrs J Berry of Pretty Things Beaumaris who kindly donated the services of their talented interior designer Emily Robinson."

Are you finding difficulty in getting employment opportunities, or are you an employer looking to fill a position and willing to offer a work placement opportunity? Please call us to arrange for one of our Employment Officers to contact you.

01248 361392



THE PHILLIP CASE AWARDS



Anglesey & Overall Phillip Case Award Winners, Marco Cable Management

From left to right, Chris Wright (Production Manager), David Stuart, Lillian MacGregor (Human Resource Manager) and Cllr. John Chorlton, a member of the Anglesey Health and Housing Portfolio.



Powys Winners, Morrisons Supermarket, Welshpool

From left to right, Barrie Lewis, External Partnership & 3rd Party Provision Manager for Wales, Carole Buckley (H.R. Manager, Morrisons Supermarket, Welshpool), Sarah Barrett and Frank Cromie (General Manager, Morrisons Supermarket, Welshpool).



Flint Winners, Grampian Foods

From left to right, Graham Evans, Regional D.E.A. for JobCentre Plus, Sarah Roberts of Agoriad (representing Grampian Foods who were unable to attend on the day) and Gareth Griffiths.



Meirionnydd Winners, MCL Motorhomes

From left to right, Cllr. Meinir Jones, Vice-Chairperson of the Care Committee of Gwynedd Council, Hefin Jones and Tym Williams, General Manager of MCL.

Bangor Rugby Club recently played host to the annual Agoriad presentation day, whereby the achievements of many, ranging from employers to employees to various Agoriad service users were recognised by an appreciative audience.

The awards were retrospective and looked back upon the achievements made by many of those gathered during 2007.

This year, eight regional awards were made to the most supportive employers in relation to the work of Agoriad in Powys, Meirionnydd, Dwyfor, Arfon, Anglesey, Wrexham, Conwy and Flint during 2007. This in itself is a sign of the progress being made by Agoriad in reaching further and further into the heartland of the Principality.

As well as recognising local employers and their employees, the awards ceremony also focused on

the achievements of numerous individuals affiliated to Agoriad. Recognition was made to those who had gained meaningful qualifications through a number of schemes offered by Agoriad, ranging from the RURAL Project, Skill Build, Basic Skills, Caffi Coed y Brenin and Dŵr Cerist. But perhaps the loudest cheer of the day was reserved for our very own Phyllis Evans, who was presented with a long service certificate in recognition of 12 years very loyal service with Agoriad.

The culmination of the day was the presentation of the Phillip Case Award for 2007. This award is named in memory of one of the founder members of Agoriad, and is presented to the employer who has 'gone the extra mile' in relation to the vocational development of an individual placed with them through Agoriad. The Phillip Case Award winner for 2007 was Marco Cable Management of Llangefni for their assistance in the vocational development of David Stuart.



Arfon Winners, Silver Star Coaches

From left to right, Barry Thomas of Silver Star, Carl Naylor and Cllr. W. T. Owen, Chairman of the Care Committee of Gwynedd Council.



Conwy Winners, Cineworld of Llandudno Junction

From left to right, Gareth Roberts of Agoriad (representing Cineworld who were unable to attend on the day), Jamie McLeod and Tom Jones, Chairman of Agoriad.



Wrexham Winners, ASDA Supermarket, Wrexham

From left to right, David Ellis and Heather Jones, Employer Engagement Officer with JobCentre Plus.



Congratulations Phyllis!

Phyllis Evans - 12 years much appreciated service with Agoriad.

A privileged experience

led has been the introduction of a business Database to control and record client information to help with work placements and paid employment. This has saved a significant amount of time and paperwork

The database has been implemented alongside a new marketing initiative and it has given us the opportunity to integrate both the data and company listings into a working programme. If a Client is suitable or attracted to a particular job we know which and where the prospective employers are and can identify them at a key stroke. If a prospective employer wants to know which clients are available in any region we can quickly access the information. A new website has also been introduced which gives our Clients and prospective employers a clearer understanding of what we can do as an organisation and what services are available. Our new site is very attractive and easy to use; it even incorporates eBook functionality which is great to use and download.

All this has enabled Agoriad to become more efficient in the services it is able to offer its clients and employers.

Agoriad inspires me to take my role in helping others a step further and I was successful in obtaining a position with an NGO to carry out volunteering work in Africa.

I travelled out to Tanzania in early May this year to volunteer for a period of two months, starting my journey by train, travelling from Bangor to Birmingham, and from there flying out to Dubai before catching the connecting flight to Dar es Salaam to meet up with the rest of the volunteers.



In Dar es Salaam we had a week's training on customs, basic Swahili, instructions on setting up camp, shopping duties and food preparation. From there we travelled by Jeep on a 16 hour drive into Mvae near Singida, which is a rural village in the middle of

Tanzania. Our "accommodation" was an 18ft by 24ft tent and our task, helping the village fund and build a new medical centre. The nearest one to the village at the moment is a 14km walk.

This was an opportunity to be part of a culture very different from our own but in their own way the people shared all the aspirations we see here, of bettering themselves and their lives. Here in Wales we start from a much more advantaged position and it brings home a realisation that there is always someone less privileged than ourselves in whatever context we care to look at. There is also a great opportunity for us all to help our own disadvantaged people make a better life in our own society. My visit to Tanzania helped me realise what a privilege it is to be part of delivering the Agoriad objectives here in Wales.



AGORIAD ONLINE

Check out our new website at www.agoriad.org.uk



Here you will see more information and our attractive eBooks for you to download. You can also receive a regular copy of our newspaper "InSight" and you will find an archive of past copies online in eBook format by clicking News and you can register to get your own copy as it's published.

"DILLWYN HAS A FANTASTIC MANNER WITH OUR CUSTOMERS"

The Dwyfor regional winners of the Phillip Case Awards, the Big Rock Café & Hotel, Porthmadog have employed Dillwyn Parry since the Autumn of 2007 through the assistance of 'Workstep'.

Dillwyn is pictured here with "Big Rock" owner Graham Whiteman who says:

"Dillwyn originally came to us here at the Big Rock Café as part of a work placement through the 'Skill Build' scheme. We were particularly impressed with Dillwyn, in relation to his wanting to learn and wanting to impress. He also has a fantastic manner with our customers, who quickly took to him. As a result of his placement, we decided to employ Dillwyn through the Workstep scheme. Agoriad still monitors and reviews the progress being made by Dillwyn - its input is important to both Big Rock, as employers, and to Dillwyn... long may it continue!"



PATHWAYS - A NEW HELPING HAND FOR THOSE LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT

Agoriad is pleased to partner the revolutionary 'Pathways' programme, which will increase the choice and opportunities for individuals who are looking for employment.

Pathways is a new fast-track programme that uses tailored individual support to build on and enhance the New Deal programme aimed at improving the lives of specific groups of people, such as those on Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Severe Disability Allowance.

Agoriad delivers the contract throughout the Gwynedd and Anglesey regions and will be working directly and indirectly with A4E and support networks throughout the area.

The programme offers:

- One-to-one information, guidance and support
- 'Direction Events' - an innovative two-day motivational and confidence building event which will also provide comprehensive information on all of the support available in the area.

- Signposting to all of the locally available support programmes, organisations and projects.
- Occupational support - assisting clients to manage their condition in a workplace environment. Qualified occupational support workers will provide this.
- Choices - free resources, help, advice, support and training to help clients secure employment, including a full job-matching and recruitment service.
- Money advice - help with in-work benefit calculations and money management/debt advice.
- Working directly with local and national employers encouraging, helping and supporting them to employ people with health issues.
- Provision of 52 week in-work support to both the client and employer to ensure that the employment is sustainable.
- Access to additional financial support on entering employment and for up to 52 weeks after securing employment.

Contact Sarah Roberts for an informal chat or by email sarah@agoriad.org.uk

When you are introduced to Agoriad you can be confident that we will be helping to get you into the workplace. Our friendly people will initially interview you to find the best way we can help and with our recommendation of how you can continue. Call us on **01248 361392** for an informal chat.



COURSES 2008

WORKSTEP

The Workstep programme provides disadvantaged people with an opportunity to develop the level of contribution they can make to the workplace and the chance to progress to employment.

WORK PREPARATION

Agoriad provides this service for people with generic disabilities, learning disabilities and mental health needs throughout North Wales. Clients need to be referred by their JobCentre Disability Employment Advisor [DEA].

R.U.R.A.L

Redressing **U**nder-representation through **R**eskilling and **A**ctive **L**iaison.

This is an excellent project for people currently on Incapacity Benefit. It provides the chance to develop their experience with new skills and provides a base for the search for further training and employment opportunities.

CITY & GUILDS

Agoriad is a centre for City & Guilds to deliver Basic skills in adult literacy/numeracy and Start IT in line with the Welsh Assembly Government's drive to improve levels across Wales and of course this also increases our clients' ability to perform well in the work place.

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WORKRIGHT

ASDAN - Employability Qualification called Workright.

These qualifications provide a framework for developing and recognising employability skills which have been accredited by QCA, DELLS and CCEA. There are 2 levels: Entry 3 and Level 1.

AGORIAD AN OCN CENTRE

Since 2003, Agoriad has been recognised as an 'Approved Centre' for the delivery of National Open Colleges Network (NOCN) qualifications.

Agoriad has also developed its own nationally approved qualification through the above, known as 'Open Door'. This qualification is available at every NOCN level, through from 'Entry Level' to 'Level 3'.