Spring / Summer 2009

Gweini News

www.gweini.org.uk

CHRISTIAN HOUSING INITIATIVES

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS IN WALES

In this edition of Gweini News we give a snapshot of the range of Christian initiatives in Wales that provide social housing or meet the needs of the homeless. We start with Aelwyd, a Cardiff-based Christian Housing Association.

Aelwyd (which for non-Welsh speakers means "the hearth" – the heart of a home) is a Christian organisation providing rented homes for people in housing need, specialising in older people (over 55).

It started out as the Baptist Men's Movement Housing Association in 1966, at that time providing housing for retired Baptist ministers and missionaries but over the years expanded to care for older people in general. In Wales, the first housing scheme was built in Splott, Cardiff in 1978

However, the 1988 Housing Act meant that it was not able to develop further schemes in Wales as it was not registered as a separate Welsh Housing Association. At the same time, the United Reformed Church Housing Association was experiencing the same difficulties, while a third body – the Presbyterian Church of Wales - was also actively pursuing the idea of becoming involved in social housing.

The three groups began to meet together and discussions took place for over a year, culminating in the formation of Aelwyd housing Association, which was registered in March 1991.

Currently, all of Aelwyd's housing stock of 246 properties is situated in South Wales, and the vast majority of the units are flats for older people, with a small number of houses. All accommodation has been designed and built to a high standard and rents are set at affordable levels. Each unit

is self-contained with kitchen, bathroom, living room and one or two bedrooms. Many flats have an emergency communication system.

Aelwyd works closely with the local churches and communities in providing good quality service to their 300-or-so tenants. The work of the Housing Association is directed and overseen by a voluntary Board of Management, who are actively involved in strategic and policy decisions, and responsible for monitoring the performance of the Association.

GWEINI PEOPLE

Phill Vickery - not to be confused with the English rugby player - is part of the Gweini family in Pembrokeshire. He is a member of Broad Haven Baptist Church and the Father's House, a small emerging church in Haverfordwest. He chairs Pembrokeshire Gweini as well as the Housing Justice Wales group, which started meeting in 2008 to explore ways of developing the charity's aims in Wales.

Phill has worked as a social and community worker and is currently employed by his local authority three days a week developing carers' assessments.

His career has straddled the faith-based voluntary sector and statutory sector, and he has worked for Youth For Christ, Teamwork and the Church Army as well as several London boroughs. He has specialised in community development and work with the homeless and brings all this experience into the Gweini family.

Phill is originally from Cardiff and was pleased to return to Wales after 30 years away. He is a chef, passionate about Welsh cuisine and has cooked on Radio Wales on a few occasions. He and his wife Maggie also used to run Les Gallois, the only Welsh restaurant in London and he cooks at the bed and breakfast that Phill and Maggie run at their home.

Hope UK

Enabling young people to make drug-free choices

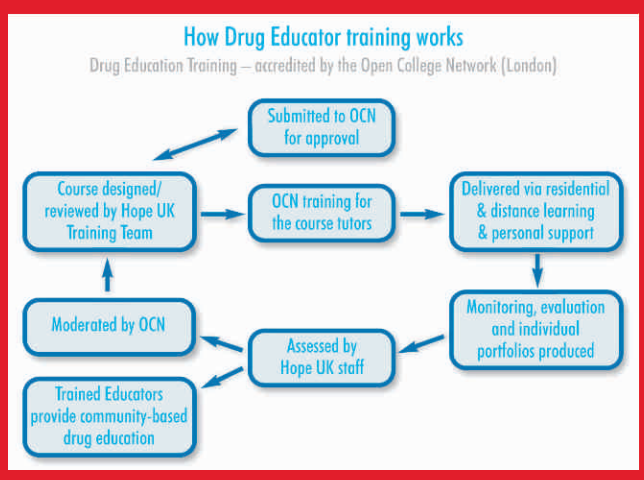
www.hopeuk.org

Hope UK Educators providing alcohol awarenes during the Pentecost Festival in central London

Gweini member Hope UK intends to expand its drug education and prevention activities so that its Drug Educators are reaching 500,000 children and young people a year by the end of 2011. There are already 12 Educators in Wales and the aim is to increase this number to 50 in that period so that every Welsh community has access to drug and alcohol education.

As a Christian charity, Hope UK's faith basis enables it to relate to Christian groups but its expertise in community based drug education means that 50 per cent of its work is outside church networks.

Alcohol and tobacco are included in its Drug Awareness and Training sessions. Delivery is principally by means of Educators trained with a course that has been accredited by the Open College Network. This 120-hour training programme equips individuals to deliver drug awareness sessions in a wide variety of settings - including parents' groups, churches, children and youth groups as well as schools. Accredited training is available for youth workers and a 2-day course for Family Workers will soon be accredited. A key principle is to adapt to the needs of the inviting organisation whether this be a 15-minute school assembly, church service or detached youth work.



Further information is available from:
Hope UK, 25(f) Copperfield Street, London SE1 0EN

Tel: 020 7928 0848 • Fax: 020 7401 3477

Email: enquiries@hopeuk.org • Website: www.hopeuk.org

Please get in touch if your organisation would like a visit from a Hope UK Drug Educator or explore the possibility of partnership work.

Spring / Summer 2009

Gweini News

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SUCCESS STORY

Cardiff Street Carers' Partnership

Over the last few months, the large numbers of Christians who are involved with caring for the homeless and vulnerable people on the streets of Cardiff city centre have been asked to form a partnership with Cardiff Council, with a view to integrating and developing the service for needy people.

The total number of people involved in this kind of ministry is over 200, from many churches and Christian organisations. An over-arching body has been formed, called the "Street Carers' Forum", and they have agreed a vision, mission and objectives.

They have also appointed a representative group to meet regularly with the Council officers, to plan the developments (you may wish to read the excellent 'blog' created by one of the group http://cardiffstreetcarers.blogspot.com/). The first step has been to shape an induction evening for all Street Carers, hoping to pilot it within months, and with a view to offering it regularly so that all Street Carers can be trained for their role on the streets.

The Council officers are also writing a proposal to the Council Executive, recommending that the Street Carers' Forum becomes an approved partner in relation to work in this area.

If you wish to be part of this initiative, or have something to share, please contact Paul Hocking on p.hocking@eauk.org

JIM'LL FIX IT

Do you remember…..

Jim Stewart pictured outside Y Senedd

November
- The Bank of England slashes its interest rates by 1.5% to 3%, the lowest rate since 1955.

December
- Woolworths falls victim to the credit crunch as administrators announce that all 807 stores will close by January 5th, with the loss of 27,000 jobs

January
- Barack Obama is inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States of America in a historic day in Washington, D.C.

February
- Community nurse Caroline Petrie is suspended for offering to pray for an elderly woman while at work.
- Pressure mounts on Sir Fred Goodwin, former chief executive of RBS, to return some of his £693,000 a year pension.
- Wales lose to France in a nervy encounter in the first Friday evening kick-off in the history of the Six Nations

March
- Tributes pour in for Jade Goody after the reality tv star loses her battle with cancer

April
- The G20 Summit in London is hailed a success as global leaders unite to combat the world recession

Have you seen?

Housing Justice's new publication "Rough Sleeping: Compassion v Coercion. Church, Community and Government responses"? You can find it on www.housingjustice.org.uk

Were you aware?

The National Assembly for Wales' Cross Party Group on Faith was launched on March 11th, 2008 to coincide with Gweini's 'Faith in Wales' report. It meets four times a year and highlights examples of good practice amongst Wales' faith communities.

Gwanwyn / Haf 2009

Gweini News

www.gweini.org.uk

MENTRAU TAI CRISTNOGOL

TAI A DIGARTREFEDD YNG NGHYMRU

Yn y rhifyn hwn o Newyddion Gweini, cyflwynwn ni gipolwg o'r ystod o fentrau Cristnogol yng Nghymru sy'n darparu tai cymdeithasol neu'n diwallu anghenion pobl digartref. Dechreuwn ni gydag Aelwyd, Cymdeithas Tai Cristnogol yng Nghaerdydd.

Sefydliad Cristnogol sy'n darparu tai wedi'u rhentu ar gyfer pobl sydd angen tai, gan arbenigo mewn pobl hŷn (dros 55 oed) yw Aelwyd – gair, wrth gwrs, sy'n cynrychioli calon y cartref i rai.

Dechreuodd fel Cymdeithas Tai Mudiad Dynion y Bedyddwyr ym 1966, ar yr adeg honno gan ddarparu tai ar gyfer gweinidogion a chenhadon y Bedyddwyr wedi'u hymddeol ond dros y blynyddoedd mae wedi ehangu i ddarparu ar gyfer pobl hŷn yn gyffredinol. Yng Nghymru, cafodd y cynllun tai cyntaf ei godi yn Sblot, Caerdydd ym 1978.

Serch hynny, golygodd Deddf Tai 1988 nad oedd yn gallu datblygu rhagor o gynlluniau yng Nghymru gan nad oedd wedi'i chofrestru fel Cymdeithas Tai Gymreig ar wahân. Ar yr un pryd, roedd Cymdeithas Tai'r Eglwys Ddiwygiedig Unedig yn profi'r un anawsterau, tra oedd trydydd corff - Eglwys Bresbyteraidd Cymru - hefyd wrthi'n dilyn y syniad o chwarae rôl mewn tai cymdeithasol.

Dechreuodd y tri grŵp gwrdd â'i gilydd a chynhaliwyd trafodaethau dros gyfnod o flwyddyn, gan derfynu mewn ffurfio Cymdeithas Tai Aelwyd, a gafodd ei chofrestru ym mis Mawrth 1991.

Ar hyn o bryd, mae pob un o stoc tai Aelwyd wedi'u lleoli yn Ne Cymru, a fflatiau ar gyfer pobl hŷn yw'r rhan helaethaf o'r unedau, gyda nifer bach o dai. Mae'r llety i gyd wedi'i ddylunio a'i godi i safon uchel ac mae'r rhenti wedi'u gosod ar lefelau fforddiadwy. Mae pob uned yn hunangynhaliol gyda chegin, ystafell ymolchi, ystafell fyw ac un neu ddwy ystafell wely. Mae gan lawer o'r fflatiau system gyfathrebu argyfwng.

Mae Aelwyd yn gweithio'n agos iawn gyda'r eglwysi a chymunedau lleol wrth ddarparu gwasanaeth o ansawdd ar gyfer eu tenantiaid sy'n dod at tua 300 o bobl. Mae gwaith y Gymdeithas Tai yn cael ei reoli a'i oruchwylio gan Fwrdd Rheoli gwirfoddol, sy'n cymryd rhan weithgar mewn penderfyniadau strategol a pholisi, ac sy'n gyfrifol am fonitro perfformiad y Gymdeithas.

POBL GWEINI

Mae Phill Vickery - peidiwch â'i gymysgu â chwaraewr rygbi Lloegr - yn rhan o deulu Gweini yn Sir Benfro. Mae'n aelod o Eglwys Fedyddiol Aberllydan a Thŷ'r Tad, sef eglwys fach newydd yn Hwlffordd. Mae'n cadeirio Gweini Sir Benfro yn ogystal â grŵp Housing Justice Cymru, a ddechreuodd gwrdd yn 2008 i archwilio ffyrdd o ddatblygu nodau'r elusen yng Nghrymu.

Mae Phill wedi gweithio fel gweithiwr cymunedol a chymdeithasol ac ar hyn o bryd mae'n cael ei gyflogi gan ei awdurdod lleol dri diwrnod yr wythnos i ddatblygu asesiadau gofalwyr.

Mae ei yrfa wedi croesi'r sector gwirfoddol seiliedig ar ffydd a'r sector statudol, ac mae wedi gweithio i Youth for Christ, Teamwork a Byddin yr Eglwys yn ogystal â sawl bwrdeistref Llundain. Mae wedi arbenigo mewn datblygiad cymunedol a gwaith gyda'r digartref ac mae'n dod â'r holl brofiad hwn i deulu Gweini.

Mae Phill yn dod o Gaerdydd yn wreiddiol ac roedd e'n falch o ddychwelyd i Gymru ar ôl 30 o flynyddoedd oddi gartref. Mae e'n gogydd, sy'n frwd am fwyd Cymreig ac mae wedi coginio ar Radio Wales weithiau. Hefyd roedd e a'i wraig Maggie'n arfer rhedeg yr unig dŷ bwyta Cymreig yn Llundain, Les Gallois ac mae e'n coginio yn y busnes gwely a brecwast y mae Phill a Maggie yn rhedeg yn eu cartref.

Gwanwyn / Haf 2009

Gweini News

www.gweini.org.uk

STORI LLWYDDIANT

Partneriaeth Gofalwyr Strydoedd Caerdydd

Dros yr ychydig fisoedd diwethaf, mae niferoedd mawr o Gristnogion sy'n cymryd rhan mewn gofalu am bobl ddigartref a bregus ar strydoedd canol dinas Caerdydd wedi derbyn cais i ffurfio partneriaeth â Chyngor Caerdydd, gyda'r nod o integreiddio a datblygu'r gwasanaeth ar gyfer pobl mewn angen.

Mae cyfanswm y bobl sy'n cymryd rhan yn y math hwn o weinidogaeth yn dod dros 200 o bobl, o sawl eglwys a sefydliad Cristnogol. Mae corff pontio wedi cael ei ffurfio, o'r enw "Fforwm y Gofalwyr Stryd", ac maen nhw wedi cytuno ar weledigaeth, cenhadaeth ac amcanion.

Hefyd maen nhw wedi penodi grŵp cynrychioli i gwrdd yn rheolaidd â swyddogion y Cyngor, er mwyn cynllunio'r datblygiadau (efallai hoffech chi ddarllen y 'blog' ardderchog sydd wedi cael ei greu gan un o'r grŵp http://cardiffstreetcarers.blogspot.com/). Y cam cyntaf oedd llunio noson gynefino ar gyfer pob Gofalwr Stryd, gan obeithio ei pheilota o fewn misoedd, gyda'r nod o'i chynnig yn rheolaidd fel y bydd pob Gofalwr Stryd yn gallu cael eu hyfforddi ar gyfer eu rôl ar y strydoedd.

Mae swyddogion y Cyngor hefyd yn ysgrifennu cais i Bwyllgor Gweithredol y Cyngor, gan argymell bod Fforwm y Gofalwyr Stryd yn mynd yn bartner cymeradwy i weithio yn y maes hwn.

Os ydych chi eisiau bod yn rhan o'r fenter hon, neu fod rhywbeth gyda chi i'w rannu, cysylltwch â Paul Hocking ar p.hocking@eauk.org

PIGION JIM

Ydych chi'n cofio.....

Tachwedd
- Mae Banc Lloegr yn torri ei gyfraddau llog gan 1.5% i 3%, ei gyfradd isaf ers 1955.

Rhagfyr
- Mae Woolworths yn cwympo oherwydd y wasgfa gredyd wrth i weinyddwyr gyhoeddi y bydd pob un o'r 807 o siopau'n cau erbyn Ionawr 5ed, gan golli 27,000 o swyddi.

Jim Stewart y tu allan i'r Senedd

Ionawr
- Mae Barak Obama yn cael ei urddo fel 44ain Arlywydd Unol Daleithiau America ar ddiwrnod hanesyddol yn Washington, D.C.

Chwefror
- Mae nyrs gymunedol Caroline Petrie yn cael ei gwahardd am gynnig gweddïo dros hen fenyw tra yn y gwaith.
- Mae'r pwysau'n cynyddu ar Syr Fred Goodwin, cyn brif weithredwr RBS, i ddychwelyd ychydig o'i bensiwn £693,000 y flwyddyn.
- Mae Cymru'n colli i Ffrainc mewn cystadleuaeth nerfus iawn yn y gêm nos Wener gyntaf yn hanes y Chwe Gwlad.

Mawrth
- Mae teyrngedau'n llifo ar gyfer Jade Goody ar ôl i'r seren deledu realiti golli ei brwydr yn erbyn cancr.

Ebrill
- Mae uwchgynhadledd y G20 yn Llundain cael ei chanmol yn llwyddiant wrth i arweinwyr y byd uno i ymladd yn erbyn dirwasgiad y byd.

Ydych chi wedi gweld?
Cyhoeddiad newydd Housing Justice "Rough Sleeping: Compassion v Coercion. Church, Community and Government responses"? Gallwch chi ei weld ar www.housingjustice.org.uk

Oeddech chi'n ymwybodol?
Cafodd Grŵp Trawsbleidiol Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru ar Ffydd ei lansio ar Fawrth 11eg, 2008 i gyd-ddigwydd ag adroddiad 'Ffydd yng Nghymru' Gweini. Mae'n cwrdd pedair gwaith y flwyddyn ac mae'n amlygu enghreifftiau o arfer da ymhlith cymunedau ffydd Cymru.

Hope UK

Gan alluogi pobl ifanc i wneud dewisiadau di-gyffuriau

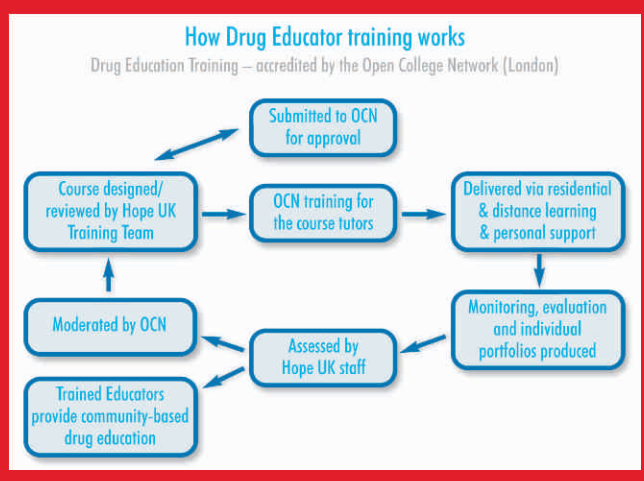
www.hopeuk.org

Addysgwyr Hope UK yn darparu ymwybyddiaeth am alcohol yn ystod Gŵyl y Pentecost yn Llundain Canolog

Mae aelod Gweini Hope UK yn bwriadu ehangu ei weithgareddau addysg ac atal cyffuriau fel bod ei Addysgwyr Cyffuriau yn cyrraedd 500,000 o blant a phobl ifanc y flwyddyn erbyn diwedd 2011. Eisoes mae 12 o Addysgwyr yng Nghymru a'r nod yw codi'r nifer hwn i 50 yn y cyfnod hwnnw fel bod pob cymuned Gymreig yn cael mynediad at addysg gyffuriau ac alcohol.

Fel elusen Gristnogol, mae sylfaen ffydd Hope UK yn ei alluogi i uniaethu â grwpiau Cristnogol ond mae ei arbenigedd mewn addysg gyffuriau yn y gymuned yn golygu bod hanner ei waith yn digwydd y tu allan i rwydweithiau'r eglwys.

Mae alcohol a thybaco'n cael eu cynnwys yn ei sesiynau Ymwybyddiaeth a Hyfforddiant Cyffuriau. Mae'r cyflwyno'n digwydd gan bennaf trwy Addysgwyr wedi'u hyfforddi ar gwrs sydd wedi'i achredu gan Rwydwaith y Coleg Agored. Mae'r rhaglen hyfforddi 120 awr hon yn paratoi unigolion i gyflwyno sesiynau ymwybyddiaeth am gyffuriau mewn ystod eang o sefyllfaoedd gan gynnwys grwpiau rhieni, eglwysi, grwpiau plant a phobl ifanc yn ogystal ag ysgolion. Mae hyfforddiant achrededig ar gael ar gyfer gweithwyr ieuenctid a bydd cwrs deuddydd ar gyfer Gweithwyr Teuluoedd yn cael ei achredu'n fuan. Un o'r prif egwyddorion yw addasu at anghenion y sefydliad sy'n gofyn am y gwasanaeth, boed yn wasanaeth ysgol 15 munud, gwasanaeth eglwys neu waith ieuenctid ar wahân.



Mae rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael oddi wrth:
Hope UK, 25(f) Copperfled Street, Llundain, SE1 0EN

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Cysylltwch â nhw os bydd eich sefydliad chi eisiau ymweliad gan Addysgwr Cyffuriau Hope UK neu edrych i mewn i'r posibilrwydd o waith partneriaeth.