



## Nominees for the Wales Volunteer of the Year Award 2010 from Gwynedd

Through this award, an opportunity is provided annually to acknowledge and appreciate committed volunteers who have made a difference in their communities. The Award is administered by the Wales Council of Voluntary Action, and in February this year, a challenge is set to people across Wales to nominate someone special who has inspired them by what they do as a volunteer. There are five different categories:-

- young person under 25
- adult
- groups (consisting of two or more).
- trustee
- green volunteer

Throughout Wales, nearly 200 nominations were received, five of them from Gwynedd – one young person and four adults. Mr Robin Llywelyn, Managing Director of Portmeirion, presented each of them with a 'Wales Volunteer of the Year—Highly Commended' Certificate in a 'Celebration and Thank You Tea' held in Portmeirion on Monday, 7th June.

### Young Person (under 25) Category.

#### 1. **Tanya Maynard— volunteering with South Gwynedd Domestic Violence Services.**



Tanya is a University student but still finds time to make a valuable contribution to for South Gwynedd Domestic Violence Services as a volunteer. She is involved in a host of different roles with the organisation including administrative duties and helping out in the refuge. She provides general support to women and children who have suffered from domestic violence, and helps them to move on with their lives and to make better decisions. With a young family of her own as well as her academic studies she deserves to be recognized for her volunteering

*(Nominated by Ffion Williams –Volunteer Coordinator for South Gwynedd Domestic Violence Services)*

### Adult Category

#### 1. **Mr. Craig Dobbins – volunteering with Barmouth Communities First**



Craig started coming to the Communities First 'Why Not Drop in' sessions as a client about two years ago, and since then he has gained an enormous amount of confidence and has blossomed! Now, with a leader, Craig assists to run the sessions and helps others who call there. Craig has taken upon himself a set of daily tasks which includes collecting plastic bottle tops which he donates to the Mawddach Rotary Club in order to raise funds for the restoration of Llanenddwyn Village Church and wheelchairs for the disabled. He also collects stamps in order to raise funds for equipment in Redditch Hospital – his home town. To draw attention to the fact that he collects various items, he makes his own posters on his personal computer and distributes them to local shops, offices and the general public. He is a very dependable, pleasant and helpful young man who gives of his time and energy unstintingly. He deserves high commendation for his efforts.

*(Nominated by Martin Williams - Barmouth Communities First)*

## Adult Category

### **2. Mrs Beatrice Easton – volunteering with Clwb Gelert, Beddgelert**



When Beddgelert village hall was renovated in 1989, Beatrice started running Clwb Gelert and over 20 years later – she is still at it! The members of the club look forward to their fortnightly meetings when they have an opportunity to enjoy an afternoon with friends. They also know that an interesting activity will have been organised for them – thanks to Beatrice! The activities include speakers, demonstrations, coach trips, meals out and an annual Christmas Party. Any senior citizen resident in Beddgelert is welcomed and the ages of the members range from 60 to 93 at present. She makes and provides tea and cakes for all the members and members know that she is available to listen and have a chat if needed.

She is also a founder member of the village hall committee and has served as a treasurer. She gives freely of her time and energies – and deserves to be recognized for her contribution throughout the years.

*(Nominated by Mrs. Hilary Roberts and Mrs. Kay Gauler)*

## Adult Category

### **3. Jenny Evans – volunteering with South Gwynedd Domestic Violence Services**



Jenny undertakes a host of different roles within the organisation including assisting with administration tasks, helping out in the refuge, provides outreach support to women and children and helps to organise activities and outings for children and young people as well as being involved in providing effective emergency service. Jenny is also very conscientious in driving service users to different appointments. She is an excellent ambassador for the organisation – and deserves recognition for her dedication to the organisation

*(Nominated by Ffion Williams –Volunteer Coordinator for South Gwynedd Domestic Violence Services)*

## Adult Category

### 4. John Jones - volunteering with Barnardo's Family Support Services.



John is one of the founder members of 'Clwb Padlo Blaenau'. He is a level 4 coach and a keen kayaker who enjoys promoting the sport to young people. John spends a huge amount of time on the local rivers and lakes during the summer and in the local swimming pool over the winter instructing the sport. The Barnardo's family support services runs a 'Dad's project' whose aim is to promote quality time for Dads and their children. Kayaking offers an ideal platform to encourage positive interaction between dads and their kids. In setting up the project links were made with the local kayaking club, and John enthusiastically accepted the challenge to be part of the venture.

His dedication to the sport has established a considerable following and interest in kayaking in the local area. Whilst kayaking could be said as John's primary interest since volunteering for our project he has organised a technology evening and assisted on climbing session. His selfless dedication is an inspiration to others, and it is an honour to be able to give him some recognition for his commitment.

*(Nominated by Mr. Francis Filzek – Barnardos Family Support Services)*

Congratulations to all of them for their commitment and loyalty to volunteering.

It is vital that the people who took the time and trouble to nominate these dedicated volunteers are not forgotten – without their efforts it would not be possible to sing the praises of these special people this year. So a big thank you to all the nominators – and remember there will be an opportunity for YOU to nominate at the beginning of next year!!