



TIR DEWI ROUNDAABOUT

Volunteer Newsletter



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Hello everyone,

I thought about starting this piece by talking about how Tir Dewi is changing, growing, evolving, adapting. But then I reflected that these themes have been ever-present for the past couple of years. So perhaps I'll just leave that and let you know when Tir Dewi is NOT changing, growing, evolving, adapting...

However we address it, this is a very exciting place to be and the work which YOU do is needed more than ever. And that need will only grow further as changes to BPS, market conditions, NVZs and so many other things begin to impact directly on farmers.

I hope that by the time our next Newsletter goes out, we are in a position to begin to venture out of our homes a bit more (although I must admit that I've become rather comfortable with being at home and not having to think about leaving!). This will include visiting farmers on case work but also the opportunity to go to Marts to promote Tir Dewi, to go to vets, GP surgeries, local post offices and so much more to give them a poster, or a few leaflets. We have missed all of this so much and it is all so desperately needed to let our farmers and their families know that

we are out there and ready to help with whatever their issue is.

This made my mind turn to the rather 'dry' topic of expenses. I don't know if you are aware, but, as volunteers, you are entitled to claim expenses for all journeys that you undertake on behalf of Tir Dewi. If you travel by public transport, then we will refund the ticket cost. If you use your own vehicle, then we will refund you a 'per mile' amount to cover the cost of using it.

Please make yourself familiar with the Volunteer Expenses form in the Volunteer Handbook and consider claiming expenses as you are asked to undertake more and more journeys in the future.

Many of you are reluctant to claim these, and we are, of course, enormously grateful for that sentiment too, but if you go through the process of claiming them and then tick the box saying that you wish to donate them back to Tir Dewi then we build a clearer picture of the value associated with it and we can present a stronger picture to our partners and funding partners.

If you have any questions, please call Anne, Delyth or me – always nice to have a chat!

Kind regards, as ever,

*Stay Safe,
Gareth*



Tir Dewi, South Wales

Having been with Tir Dewi for over 3 years I am now renewing DBS checks for those that are over 3 years old and asking volunteers to register with the DBS update service. This is a free online service for volunteers and once registered (you will need to register within 3 weeks of receipt of your DBS certificate) your certificate details will be kept updated online, avoiding the need for further checks and their associated costs.

Now that our volunteers are likely to be making more farm visits in the future, please can I remind all those of you making lone visits to adhere to our Lone Working Procedures by logging your visit details with

our Tir Dewi Helpline on 0800 121 4722.

A range of online training sessions have been well attended since our last newsletter edition. A wide range of topics have been covered by various providers including: Samaritans, Cruse Bereavement, Succession Planning, New Pathways, Rural Police, Farming Connect, Age Cymru, Nerth dy Ben, West Wales Mental Action for Mental Health, Stress Management.

We are likely to offer more training sessions over the Autumn/Winter. If you have any suggestions or training requests, please let myself or Delyth know.

Anne

BREAKING NEWS!

We are thrilled to be a regional finalist in The Rural Business Awards 'Best Rural Social Enterprise, Charity or Community Project category'. It is wonderful to see your hard work and dedication being recognised. A huge thank you to each and everyone of you! ★ Diolch o galon i bawb.



Meet Dafydd

Tir Dewi Volunteer

A wise, retired country vicar once told me before my ordination that I must always remember that it is a privilege to serve God and a humbling experience caring for the people under my pastoral care. During my ministry in three country parishes, I hope that I succeeded in my care of both rich and poor, the weak and the strong, the young and the elderly, those with terminal illness and close to death and those who confided in me with personal and family problems, the farming community who struggle quietly and carry on regardless.

Although I am not of retiring age, I decided in 2019 that I would leave ministry and concentrate on my pilgrimage with Christ and to develop my calling and to spend even more quiet time in the presence of God. Leaving ministry was one thing, but leaving the congregation was another. I had no-one I would visit and offer support and care, a shoulder to cry on and a hand they could hold for comfort, and a confidential listening ear. I was leaving a family of people whom I cared so much.

I had heard of Tir Dewi and the work they do for the farming community, and so I thought I would explore this road in my life. I had no hesitation in applying and



filling in the forms and going through the necessary procedures. In September 2020, I officially became a Tir Dewi Volunteer, and I am so grateful to Eileen and Anne for their unending support during the process. I am on Helpline duty once a week and although I have not had many calls, I take great comfort in knowing that I am on the helpline waiting to offer help with a confidential listening ear and hopefully able to offer comfort and support in their hour of need. I have suffered mental illness of the worst kind, so I know from experience what its like to suffer anxiety, stress, panic attacks and so on.

On a happier note, I have met some

wonderful people who volunteer for Tir Dewi. We meet up on Zoom when we have training and I feel very much a part of the Tir Dewi family. I have also joined the Welsh version of Tir Dewi in North Wales.

I have received a very warm welcome from Delyth, the volunteer coordinator for North Wales. Again, I have met

incredible people and have been present for training in the Welsh Language. I look at my role in a pastoral capacity, listening, talking, caring, and to assure the farming community that all is well, and the dark days would lighten and the burden on their shoulders will ease and hopefully be lifted.

Christmas Card Competition

Earlier this year we held a Christmas card competition through our social media channels. We are delighted to announce the winners and show you our winning Tir Dewi Christmas Card Designs.

The Winners!

Snowy Ewe by Rob Lawrence - Jones,
Christmas Farm by T-J Hill (age 8), and
Winter Landscape by Ivor Williams

These designs will be printed and available for purchase in order to raise funds for Tir Dewi in the near future.





A New Database for Tir Dewi

by Sharon Edge

For some time now we have been using a Database to record all our information on the cases we are working on. Over the last year since expanding into Powys and North Wales it has become apparent that we need something more capable of handling the existing workload plus to have the ability to grow with Tir Dewi, while at the same time being more user friendly for everybody.

After viewing several different types of databases systems we discovered Lamplight. A modular based system that will help us to bring everything into one place from individual case work, training, expenses, volunteer skills, geographic location (so we can match volunteers to cases by skills and location). This is just a few of the many advantages that will be gained in a system of this kind. There is even a phone app that can be added. We also have the advantage of being assigned a dedicated developer who will be working closely with myself and the Tir Dewi management team to capture the essence of our business.

I and our Social Media and Communications Manager, Meg Stone

have been working with the Lamplight developer, talking him through how we do things as volunteers, from the initial cry for help, through assigning volunteers, right up to the closing of a case. As a team we have been completing a detailed step by step process to help Lamplight to understand the way we work in Tir Dewi and the importance of our clients being the centre of who we are.

We have every confidence in Lamplight delivering what we need for now and in the future, to become a 'one stop shop' for everything Tir Dewi.

In the meantime, while we are waiting for Lamplight to become live, please bear with us and keep using the current database to add or update your cases. This is important as all the information will be captured and transferred to the new system when the time comes.

If you are experiencing any problems with the current database, or need anything amending or entering please contact me, Sharon, on sharon@tirdewi.co.uk.



Onwards and Upwards Tir Dewi North Wales

By Susan Jones

Chair of Tir Dewi Management Committee North Wales

Born and bred on Anglesey, I've always been involved in agriculture. First and foremost, a farmer's daughter and for more than thirty years, I've run an agricultural machinery business with my husband John. Time flies when you're having fun, as they say.

For almost as long, I've also been involved with the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society. For a quarter of a century, the society has been a big part of my life. I started getting involved when Anglesey was Feature County in 1998 and after many trips up and down the A470 to Llanellwedd, I'm now chair of the Marketing and Communications Committee and I sit on the Board of Directors.

The pandemic means we have been unable to hold the Society's iconic events, like the Royal Welsh Show and the Winter Fair. They're highlights of the farming calendar and a chance for people from across Wales to come together, to enjoy themselves but also to share ideas and to collaborate.

It was at the Royal Welsh Show that I first met Archdeacon Eileen Davies and Gareth Davies to talk about Tir Dewi. They told me about their ambition to follow in the footsteps of our patron saint, and expand the charity's services to the rest of Wales. That was back in 2018 when Tir Dewi was three years old, having been established in Pembrokeshire in 2015.

Today in 2021, we have achieved that ambition. Despite a global pandemic, Brexit and every other challenge and uncertainty that's been thrown at the industry, we are good to go here in North Wales. Tir Dewi is now up and running on Anglesey, in Caernarfonshire, and Meirionethshire.

Tir Dewi has grown rapidly over the last few years through the hard work of a very small but effective team. Our Area Manager, Delyth Owen, has been doing great work getting us set up. She has gathered together a brilliant cross-section of very able volunteers. We hold regular Zoom meetings for catch ups, training, and for meetings with guests from other organisations to share knowledge and experience. We have helped 10 families in North Wales since last summer, despite launching in the middle of the COVID-19 crisis.

Despite the considerable success we've

had, our biggest challenge has been letting people know that we are available to support farmers experiencing difficulties. Being unable to have a presence at livestock markets, agricultural shows and farming events means we can't speak and connect to people face to face.

I'm proud of the considerable achievements we've had so far, but there are plenty of challenges ahead. However, I am hopeful that as we emerge from the pandemic, restrictions will soon begin to be lifted and our farming community can come back together. Tir Dewi will be there and we'll be ready to reach more people to make a difference in their lives.

Delyth is hoping to organize an evening soon on Anglesey Showground so that our volunteers can come together and get to know each other.

