



# Getting Involved

## Volunteer Opportunities for Young People and Youth Organisations

### Do You...

- ◆ Have an interest in wildlife?
- ◆ Want to protect your local environment?
- ◆ Want to meet new people?
- ◆ Want to take part in community activities?
- ◆ Want to keep fit and healthy but can't stand the gym?
- ◆ Work with a group of young people looking for new experiences?
- ◆ Want to learn new skills, or even launch a new career?

**Then take a look  
at this!**

# North East Wales Wildlife



*Protecting Green Spaces for Wildlife & People.*

## Who are we?

North East Wales Wildlife (NEWW) was formed in 1986 by a group of local residents in Connahs Quay who wanted to save a local pond.



Since then NEWW has rapidly grown into a widely respected wildlife conservation charity operating throughout North East Wales. We now manage over 12 sites around North East Wales for the benefit of wildlife and people. Our sites are home to a number of protected species including Great Crested Newts, Badgers, and Barn Owls.

## What do we do?

Our work is very varied and can include anything from managing semi-natural ancient woodland to planting wildflowers in school grounds. We continue to create ponds around North East Wales for the benefit of all wildlife but particularly amphibians. We work with local groups and schools to provide public awareness of the local environment and host a number of highly sought after training courses including Advanced Amphibian training and Basic Butterfly ID.

Our dedicated staff and volunteers work in all weathers to maintain a high standard of conservation on all of our reserves through public engagement, habitat management and species monitoring.

# How can you get involved?

Our team of volunteers is ever expanding but there is always room for more! If you are aged between **14 and 25 years** there are a number of ways that you could get involved in the work that NEWW organise. Here are just a few ways that individuals can take part (*groups and organisations please see page 6 for details*):

- ⇒ **Volunteer Reserves Officer**– in 2009 NEWW started a new scheme that allowed the staff to take on a Volunteer Reserves Officer to support the staff in their day to day work. This is a great opportunity for a volunteer to work closely with conservation professionals and learn new skills which will assist them in finding future work in the industry. There is an application and interview process for the position of VRO and the position is open to all aged 18 plus.
- ⇒ **Regular Volunteering**– NEWW has established a working group of regular volunteers who assist the staff with a number of tasks from habitat management and conservation work to admin work. Regular volunteering is a good opportunity for those who are unemployed, or currently working or in education but have some free time to gain practical experience.
- ⇒ **Volunteer Reserves Wardens**– NEWW manage a large number of reserves around North East Wales and are always looking for keen and capable volunteers to help us to monitor and maintain the conditions on each reserve. These posts are given to volunteers at the staffs discretion.
- ⇒ **Work Placements**– NEWW are able to take on a number of work experience placements throughout the year (*More details overleaf*).

# Work Experience

NEWW are able to take on a limited number of work placements throughout the year for both students aged 14 plus and individuals not in school/ college/ university who looking to boost their CV or move into the environmental sector. Staff will endeavour to work with students to set up a programme or activities that best suits their needs.

We can offer short term placements from 1-2 weeks assisting staff to longer term placements such as 12 week placements working on a particular project (e.g. the wildlife benefits of ponds).

The placement availability is dependant on the projects being run at the time and staff availability. If you are interested in setting up a placement, contact the Volunteers Officer to discuss any potential placements available.

Staff are in contact with local schools, colleges and universities however we invite individuals to contact us with their ideas.

*“I have learned a lot and enjoy the work and also the staff are very friendly”*

**Dyfan Roberts**  
(Volunteer)



# How we can support you.

NEWW realise that an individuals ability to volunteer with an organisation may be restricted by certain limitations. We therefore work hard to overcome obstacles encountered by our volunteers in order to open up our opportunities to as many people as possible. At NEWW we:

- ⇒ Can provide refunds for any (reasonable) travel costs associated with volunteering for NEWW (e.g. Refund of bus tickets/ petrol).
- ⇒ Have a range of equipment and PPE that is made available for use by all of our volunteers when needed (e.g. IT equipment, waterproofs, wellies, etc).
- ⇒ Can provide references for work completed with NEWW (we log all of our volunteer hours and activities).
- ⇒ Work to the best of our abilities to set up alternative options if you cannot join the regular programme of events (e.g. contact you about events local to where you live).
- ⇒ Have a Volunteers Officer who oversees all volunteering activities with NEWW. This officer will be introduced to you on your first day or induction and will be your point of contact for any enquiries, problems or advice.
- ⇒ Have a well established team of staff who have a great variety of qualifications and experience between them who can offer advice and support to those looking to start a career in the environmental industry.
- ⇒ Have a volunteering policy in place that outlines our work with volunteers and their rights.



# Working with youth groups and youth organisations



For many years NEWW has worked with youth groups and organisations, providing them with a range of activities for their members to get involved with. Activities that youths groups have taken part in in the past include:

- ⇒ litter picks
- ⇒ removal of invasive species
- ⇒ hedge laying
- ⇒ tree planting
- ⇒ pond digs

The sessions are designed to meet the needs of each individual group taking part. NEWW also work with a number of school and college groups who are looking for practical experience on a whole class level.

We actively encourage youth groups to get involved with our activities however we do ask that any groups taking part in our activities are supervised appropriately by the groups youth leaders to enable our staff to facilitate each activity to the best of their ability. NEWW will provide risk assessments and equipment where necessary.




We organise many activities on all of our sites in Flintshire, Wrexham or Denbighshire. Our main reserve in Rhydymwyn, Nr Mold is the only site with toilet and kitchen facilities.



If you would like to set up some activities for your groups to take part in please contact the Volunteers Officer to discuss upcoming opportunities.

We are also able to offer volunteering and community work that will contribute towards qualifications such as NVQ's or OCN credits. Our staff are happy to write reviews in order for students to gain these credits.

A person wearing a dark jacket, light-colored shorts, and dark boots is using a long-handled tool to clear vegetation on a grassy slope. The person is walking towards the right, and the tool is extended towards the ground. The background shows a steep, grassy hillside under a bright sky.

*“I would advise anyone that is interested in wildlife and conservation work to do voluntary work”*

**Dyfan Roberts**  
(Volunteer)

# More Information

For more information about volunteering with NEWWildlife please contact us at:

Volunteers Officer  
North East Wales Wildlife  
Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve  
17 Nant Alyn Road  
Rhydymwyn  
Nr. Mold  
Flintshire  
CH7 5HQ

01352 742115

[info@newwildlife.org.uk](mailto:info@newwildlife.org.uk)

Or have a look at our website:

[www.newwildlife.org.uk](http://www.newwildlife.org.uk)

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