



NEW YEAR, NEW START

Happy New Year from the Urban Villages Communities First Team. Now the festivities are over and we have decided on our New Year's resolutions we are able to offer support with a range of topics. Are over are you suffering from a financial hangover following the Christmas period? Do you need a financial health check or help budgeting? Do you want to kick start your job hunting or gain a qualification? Contact the Urban Villages Communities First Team on 01978 813910. We are here to help.

GET ONLINE – FIND WORK

We have been working with local Community Interest Company 'G2G' helping people struggling to find employment due to not being able to use a computer. What started off as a six week programme proved so popular that extra sessions have been provided. Urban Villages have been working closely with Job Centre Plus to provide drop-in style workshops at Job Centre Plus for individuals claiming ESA. These sessions promote healthy lifestyles and included confidence building and encouraging people to be more involved in activity within their communities. Communities First area residents can now be referred by Job Centre Plus to the Urban Villages Team. This has so far resulted in new people from within the area gaining support in preparing for employment, using the computers for job searches and accessing accredited courses where relevant as well as practical support including CV writing and interview techniques. If you are interested in any of these projects; please contact us.

MINECRAFT CAME TO CEFN MAWR LIBRARY.

Pupils from the local school enjoyed a two hour a Minecraft based education session, delivered by G2G in Cefn Mawr Library. Pupils were able to make and explore a number of different Minecraft worlds, travel through time to discover how people live and some of the history from that age. They also explored different parts of the world to find out how people lived in places such as Rome, China and Egypt. The feedback was wonderful and G2G thanked the Library and the Urban Villages Team for their support.

ADHD/ASD SUPPORT GROUP

Does your child have ADHD/ASD? Would you like support from other parents/carers? Our group runs every Wednesday from 9:30am until 12pm at Plas Madoc Opportunity Centre, come and join our informal group for coffee and a chat. The group is well attended and the relaxed setting enables members to gain knowledge of available support and meet people facing similar problems such as social isolation. The group have enjoyed visits from Wrexham Family Information Service, an Educational Psychologist and took part in Bushcraft sessions provided by Come Outside. The group are currently working on a seminar highlighting gaps in support for parents/carers as seen from their point of view. For further information contact Rachel on 01978 813910

TRAINEES GET ON-SITE EXPERIENCE THANKS TO COUNCIL AND CONSTRUCTORS PARTNERSHIP

A GROUP of residents were given an insight in to construction thanks to a partnership between an ongoing building project and a community programme aimed at tackling poverty. The Urban Villages Communities First (UVCF) cluster – which covers Cefn Mawr, Plas Madoc, Penycae, Pant, Gwersyllt, Llay, Brymbo and Gwenfro has helped residents gain training for employment through its Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS). Earlier this week, a group of residents who benefitted from the CSCS visited the site of Chirk Court, where developers Anwyl are currently building an extra care facility for Pennaf.

Three sessions as part the CSCS training have taken place over the last six months, with a pass rate above 80 per cent. CSCS trainees Ben Hope and Barry Thomas, from Plas Madoc, and Brian Davies, from Rhos, were given a tour of the site, and also received talks on the construction industry and its practises from senior employees and project managers at Anwyl. The on-site visit was arranged by UVCF officers, who organised the event with Anwyl after the successful CSCS training. Ben Hope has already secured a two-week placement with Anwyl in January, and the developer hopes to take on another trainee soon.



STOP SMOKING - KICK THOSE BUTTS!

The team are now working in partnership with Stop Smoking Wales who are running a drop in and appointment service at the opportunity centre. The session is held every Thursday be-

Cllr Paul Blackwell
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