

# **MUMBLES DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

## **Mumbles Green Action Team**

The Mumbles Green Action Team (MGAT, affectionately known as *Maggots*), was set up by members of Mumbles Development Trust (MDT) specifically to manage the community self help environmental projects being organised by MDT in and around Mumbles.

MGAT is a community volunteer group involving representatives from local environmental organisations, the Local Authority and community volunteers who care about the environment and promoting sustainability on a local and global level.

Since MGAT was established in 2000, the team has organised and run many environmental schemes including:

- **Mumbles Back Lanes Improvement Project** – Started as a Millennium Award Scheme in 2000. The unique Victorian lanes backing on to many houses in the village, are maintained by the Trust with help from voluntary organisations such as the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV), local residents, and MGAT members.
- **Schools Projects** – MGAT have close links with the 6 local primary schools. We help them in their work to achieve high standards of healthy living and environmental studies by promoting links with organisations such as the RSPB, Woodland Trust, BBC Spring/Autumnwatch programmes, and Buglife.org. Through these links, the schools have undertaken a variety of activities that we have supported.
- **Beach Clean** – Annually since 2001, each second Saturday in September, MGAT organises a beach clean at Blackpill as part of the Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch survey, whose statistics are published nationally. This event is well supported by local families and MGAT volunteers.
- **Litter Picks** – MGAT organise regular litter picks with help from local residents and BTCV in areas such as Washinghouse Brook, the Back Lanes, and Oystermouth Woods.
- **The Mumbles Way Walk** – This new walk has been developed by MGAT member Neil Thomas, and links the beautiful woodlands and stunning seafront esplanade through and around Mumbles. They highlight the fascinating history of the area, and will be included in this summers' Gower Walking Festival. Neil has also created special walks for each of the local primary schools, which the children can use for outdoor learning.

**The Green Action Team welcomes anyone that would like to get involved in our projects as a volunteer, please contact us here at Ty Hanes, or by telephone: 01792 361012.**

## **Mumbles Development Trust and Cydcoed**

In November 2005, Mumbles Development Trust was awarded a grant by the Cydcoed, Forestry Commission of Wales scheme to manage nine woodland sites in the Mumbles area for 3 years.

The nine woodland areas are:

- Mumbles Head Nature Reserve
- Mumbles Ridge
- Underhill Park Woods
- Peel Wood
- Coltshill
- Oystermouth Castle Woods
- Woodland Avenue
- Washinghouse Brook
- Clyne Valley

Since the start of the project, a great deal of the planned work of the scheme has already been accomplished including;

- improving access and promoting recreational use,
- clearing rubbish,
- improving wild life habitat
- installing new pathways, boardwalks, gates and stiles,
- protecting the lime kilns
- taking out old or invasive trees,
- tree coppicing,
- laying and planting hedges,
- and treating knot weed.

This work has been carried out mostly by local professional contractors, as well as voluntary organisations such as the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, our own Mumbles Green Action Team volunteers, impressive support from local residents and advice from Swansea City Council.

### **Broadleaf Woodland Enterprise**

In order to sustain this woodland management work after the Cydcoed project has been completed, Mumbles Development Trust has established Broadleaf Woodland Enterprise CiC as a wholly owned subsidiary social enterprise to continue caring for our Mumbles woodlands.

Broadleaf Woodland Enterprise is to be based at Norton Leisure Field, where it is planned to establish a Community Woodland Centre providing :

- 'Green Classroom' for local schools,
- a programme of community workshops on woodland crafts for all to enjoy.

- and the opportunity to develop a unique range of Mumbles wood craft products for sale.

**The centre will be opened on September 17<sup>th</sup> 2007, by BBC wildlife presenter Iolo Williams.**

### **Norton Leisure Gardens**

Adjacent to the proposed Broadleaf Woodland Enterprise Centre and as part of the scheme of improvements, MDT has re-instated the lower Norton field allotments, creating smaller, more manageable plots which have proved so popular that they are already over-subscribed.

MDT is keen to promote and support the use of allotments, as well as developing community orchards and green gym activities in the woodland area surrounding Oystermouth Castle as they represent the 21<sup>st</sup> century equivalent of the small holdings that would have existed to support the Castle in medieval times.

Within the Oystermouth Woods, new pathways, gates and a picnic area have been installed that are safe for families with pushchairs, or wheelchair users to enjoy. Again, we have been encouraged and supported by the people whose properties adjoin this site, to whom we are most grateful.

### **Mumbles Woodland Walks**

One of the main features of the Cydcoed scheme is to improve public access and develop new woodland walks to help raise people's awareness of the importance of local woodlands to our community and engender a greater pride in their environment.

The patchwork of woodlands in and around Mumbles and West Cross are constantly under threat from potential development for housing and have often been used as unofficial rubbish tips.

By promoting a network of paths linking the Cydcoed project woodland sites and by installing new paths and signage MDT aims to ensure that the woodlands that surround Mumbles and that give the community its unique character, will be preserved and respected.

As a community self help group, the Mumbles Development Trust is committed to protecting and enhancing the beauty of our surroundings for future generations to enjoy.

**Robin Bonham**  
**Chairman, Mumbles Green Action Team**  
**Mumbles Development Trust.**

**June 2007**