

# The vision goes on

Looking back over the last 80 years, we can rightfully feel a sense of pride in our achievements. However, we all recognise that we have only taken a few footsteps on what is a long and arduous journey. The completion of that journey can only be made by those generations yet to come and through CPRW's involvement with young people.

This challenge has been recognised by CPRW ever since campaigns aimed at young people were promoted in the 1940s. Today we have developed and refined those early ideas and now not only inform but inspire young people to be the future stewards of the countryside.

Our residential Youth Conferences encourage young people between 16 and 21 to understand the changing nature of the relationships which link the environments to the people who depend on them and how to care for those landscapes with which they are familiar.

Our conferences provide a window into and a view of current environmental issues in ways which encourage young people to learn skills, to understand how to live sustainably and care for their



**Pupils of Ysgol Penmorfa, Prestatyn interviewing volunteers from their community**

environment, and most importantly take responsibility and discover how to influence decision-makers.

Although only 12, Angus Capel, from Mid Wales, is a shining example of how CPRW Conferences enable young people to share their concerns about the environment and rural issues which surround them.

*"Global warming and peak oil are on a global scale because all the countries in the world have made their contribution to both peak oil and global warming. The obvious truth is that global warming and peak oil are intertwined because the use of oil puts the pollution in to the air and so starts global warming."*

**Pupils of Ysgol Craig Y Don, in Coed Marl, Near Llandudno**



*I think on a global scale we need to stop using oil as much as we can because if we don't there will be no future for my generation and the generation after mine and so on. We need the governments and the major oil companies to come clean about how much oil is in their reserve.*

*Someone in my year in school said to me "the world's going to die so why not carry on the way we are" my reply was "I don't want our generation to be the stupid generation that kills the earth" most people in my school don't care for the environment but a few do and that's a good start to save the earth."*

Despite his tender years, Angus astonished everyone with his insight into the sustainability of a carbon-based economy and its effect on global warming, and his determination to make a difference and show others how we should all care for our environment.

Our future clearly depends on Angus and other young people like him. For our part we will continue to provide the resources and the support to help Angus make the difference he desperately wants to. It is our responsibility to ensure this enormous potential is not squandered.

Inspiring young children to appreciate their surroundings in imaginative ways is also the spotlight for our hugely successful North Wales 'Sense of Place' project. By bringing landscapes to life through poetry/storytelling and by sharing local history memories between different generations, this project enriched the syllabus of over 420 children between the ages of 3 and 15 across North Wales last year. By the end of this year the benefits of this project will have been spread across all six North Wales counties and the children's work collated into a travelling exhibition.

We hope that many of the young people touched by these initiatives will be tomorrow's torch-bearers for CPRW.



**Angus Capel**