

File 15 p. 145 • Beavers for cleaner rivers

Bevis Trust founder Nick Fox believes the experience of beaver reintroduction elsewhere proves that the animals will bring big benefits to the Welsh countryside: “Beavers have a key role to play in the ecosystem. They build dams in the slower-flowing small rivers – not in big rivers – and those dams act as natural filters for pollutants and sediment.”

“Opinions sought over beaver reintroduction in Wales”, *www.bbc.com*, 2017

File 15 p. 146 • What are national parks?

National Parks are the areas of British countryside which are considered to be the most special and beautiful. They are protected so that people can enjoy them both now and in the future. In the UK there are 15 National Parks, three of which are in Wales:

- Snowdonia National Park
- Brecon Beacons National Park
- Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

The Welsh National Parks contain spectacular and beautiful scenery. [...] They are rich in natural and cultural heritage, with a wealth of wildlife, geological, historical and archaeological sites. [...] People live and work in the National Parks. The farms, villages and towns are protected along with the landscape and wildlife. National Parks welcome visitors and provide opportunities for everyone to enjoy and learn about their special qualities.

The two purposes of National Park Authorities are laid out¹ by law:

- To conserve and enhance² the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks.
- To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of National Parks by the public.

www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales

1. established 2. *renforcer*

File 15 p. 147 • The biggest onshore wind farm in Wales

“Wales’ biggest onshore¹ wind farm has officially opened in south Wales, after three years in the making.

The Pen-y-Cymoedd wind farm cost £365 million to build and has 76 turbines, which means it can generate enough electricity to power one in six Welsh homes.

First Minister Carwyn Jones officially opened the wind farm, built between Neath and Aberdare, on Thursday.

“Wind power is a key part of our efforts to build a sustainable low carbon economy for Wales. I am pleased we were able to support this project, which has shown how the local community, the Welsh economy, and people right across the country can benefit from such a scheme,” she said.

The opening came just two days after Environment Secretary Lesley Griffiths said she wants Wales to generate 70% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

The rate² is currently at 32%, but Griffiths said it’s important for Wales to continue investing in renewable energy. “We know that this is the sort of energy we need to see going forward,” said Griffiths, “people know that we need to move away from fossil fuel,” she added.

Imogen Calderwood, www.globalcitizen.org, 2017

1. on the land (≠ offshore) **2.** *taux*

File 15 p. 150 • Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau among world leaders writing to pupils in Blaenau Ffestiniog

The Ysgol y Moelwyn pupils sent Welsh slate¹ to leaders of nearly every country in the world in a bid² to secure heritage status for north Wales quarries³. So far, the students have received responses from 15 leaders.

Among those was Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who said he was wowed⁴ by the slate. In the letter he said he “loved to receive letters from young people all over the world.”

Other leaders who responded include Prince Albert of Monaco and president of Brazil, Michel Temer.

Geography teacher Gareth Davies, who is coordinating the campaign, said it has instilled a sense of pride in pupils for their local area.

Adapted from *www.itv.com*, 2018

1. *ardoise* **2.** *attempt* **3.** *carrières* **4.** *impressionner*

File 15 p. 150 • “Plant!” celebrates its years!

In 2008 the Welsh Government made a pledge to plant a native Welsh broadleaf tree for every child born or adopted in Wales. The scheme is called Plant!

Since then, 15 new woodlands¹ have been created across Wales, with more than 380,000 trees planted. [...]

Every month, Natural Resources Wales receives the numbers of babies born and adopted in Wales.

It then arranges for a mixture of native broadleaf trees to be planted. Every baby is given the location of the woodland which contains their tree. They also receive a certificate soon after their birth or adoption, stating that a tree has been planted for them.

Kate Thomson, Plant! Coordinator for Natural Resources Wales said: [...]
We hope it will encourage young people to think about their environment and the role they have in managing it sustainably.

Adapted from *www.naturalresources.wales*, 2018

1. forest

1) Damers First School

Children in the Eco-Committee and Entrepreneur Club at Damers First School worked together to design, make and market an eco-product called Waxtastic No Plastic; the children even designed their own logo!

Waxtastic is a piece of 100% cotton material dipped in Dorset beeswax¹ and dried. It is used as an alternative to cling film² to wrap or cover all foods except meat. It is 100% eco-friendly.

The children sold their product outside a local supermarket, at a farmers' market and even at festivals over the summer holidays. They have raised an extraordinary 3,350 pounds so far and are planning to use this money to create a nature area (with a pond)!

2) Penshurst Primary School

At Penshurst we are keen to save water [...]. We placed bottles on display as a visual demonstration of how much water a family in Africa has each day, then throughout the day, we tried to use less water by not flushing³ as regularly and using hand gel to wash our hands instead of water. The children found the day really interesting!

www.eco-schools.org.uk

1. *cire d'abeille* 2. plastic film 3. *tirer la chasse d'eau*