

Wild Elements CIC, Bangor



Pictured, LtoR: Martin Wynne Jones, Supreme Ruler, Carreg yr Wyddfa Conclave No 633; Tansy Swerdlow, Manager; Tom , Director; Tony Stringer, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, OSM C&NW.

One of the many delights of being Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler is being allowed to visit well-deserving charities to present some additional funds collected from our members over the year, and supplemented by the O.S.M. Benevolent Fund.

This year, one such charity is Wild Elements CIC, situated under Menai Bridge, next door to Bangor University Treborth Botanical Gardens in Bangor.

Originally, I had misheard, and told everyone it was a naturists programme. Fortunately, on the day of presentation, it was raining, so everyone was well wrapped up.

On arrival, we were treated to coffee and a talk by Tom Cockbill and Tansy Swerdlow on the idea behind Wild Elements. The concept is to connect people, especially young children, with nature, and to encourage schoolchildren to get outside.

This can be performed at the Wild Elements site in Bangor, or on-site at any school. Since its inception in 2013, the project has grown to work

with many schools throughout the Wales area, particularly encouraging and developing STEM education among the young.



During lockdown, Tom took advantage of quieter times and with the help of some volunteers built an outdoor classroom ‘on a hill’ (see above). The classroom is constructed entirely of wood, sits on a small hill, and the underneath serves as an external wood store, all recovered and reclaimed from various sources that would otherwise have gone to landfill.



The Wild Woodwork Joinery Club

The classroom is developing as a woodworking workshop, and funding from the Order of the Secret Monitor will contribute to the purchase of new woodworking tools, so the woodworking club can expand their output and generate more funding.

One example, as shown on the right of the photograph above, is a rocking kangaroo, reclaimed from a skip and refurbished by members of the club, and will be on sale at a local event for £125.

Martin Wynne Jones, Manager of Bangor Masonic Hall, delighted with what he saw, will be in contact with the project in the future with a view to further development of the perimeter of the Bangor Hall.

Wild Elements CIC has developed into a valuable resource for all communities within North Wales and beyond, and is surely a project that is going places, with or without clothes, and the Order of the Secret Monitor, Cheshire and North Wales, is delighted to be part of that development.



Tom Cockbill and Tony Stringer in the Classroom on the Hill.

Visit www.wildelements.org.uk to find out more

With thanks to Tony Stringer, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Cheshire & North Wales.