

**Social**

**Enterprise &**

**Economic**

**Regeneration**



**Angharad Eynon** *SEER Development Officer*

Hello,

I have spent the last few weeks finding my feet in my new role as SEER Development Officer. In this time, I have met quite a few people within the village of St Dogmaels and its surrounding area, but there are a lot of people that I haven't as yet met. Therefore, I'd like to introduce myself.

My name is Angharad Eynon and I moved to the area 18 months or so ago and I live with my partner Jon, my two children Bethan & William and our faithful dog Keevie or "Ci fi" (meaning my dog) when referring to her in Welsh! I am a Welsh speaker and have lived in Wales all my life.

In terms of my career, my background for the best part of 10 years has been accounting and finance, but for the last 6 years or so, I have been a community and voluntary sector development officer for the county of Ceredigion which I have thoroughly enjoyed.

I joined the fantastic team of staff, trustees and volunteers at Hanes Llandoch in January and it has taken me 6 weeks to settle into my new role and to find my feet. Now that I am almost two months into my job, I feel it is time to tell people a little bit more about the SEER project and about what it aims to do.

The SEER project is based at the lovely St Dogmaels Coach House and with the abbey and mill pond nearby, it is an unique location to work from. The cafe at the Coach House and our upstairs community resource room do get busy, therefore, on occasions, I also work from home when there's paperwork to be done.

**So what is SEER?** Its full title is **Social Enterprise and Economic Regeneration**. It is funded by a European source of funding known as the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). Hanes Llandoch is one of 19 projects within Pembrokeshire to be funded under the Rural Development Plan (RDP) and we are already linking in to some of the other RDP projects within both Pembrokeshire and its neighbouring county Ceredigion.

**So what can SEER do for you?** If you have an enterprising idea that could help you become more economically active and your activity could support the economic regeneration of St Dogmaels and its surrounding area, then SEER could be relevant to you. The project can support individuals as well as groups.

**How do you know if your initiative meets SEERs objectives?** The best way to answer this is to give you a couple of case studies of projects SEER is assisting:

- One individual will be creating miniature medieval wooden artifacts to sell to the public, but linked into this is his desire to show others, especially children and young people at future craft fairs how to build these pieces. Observers will learn engineering as well as wood carving skills. The SEER project will be providing a platform for this individual to display his creations at various craft fairs in 2009 and at the Coach House. It will also assist in looking for grant funding that may be able to support the project idea to develop further.
- Another individual wishes to create decorative signs and other decorative pieces from wood. The SEER project will be helping him acquire some basic equipment to start this process and his first commission will be the creation of a wooden sign to make drivers in the village aware of the wildlife at the village mill pond.
- The SEER project has a training element attached to it and it has helped staff at the Coach House and other local enterprises such as B&B's to undertake a food hygiene course. This course has helped individuals and enterprises by increasing skill level which in turn helps the local economy.
- A local jewellery maker who creates unique and individual pieces will be displaying her creations at the Coach House. She will also be making jewellery pieces at the local craft festivals in St.Dogmaels in the hope that individuals will watch and learn jewellery making skills in action as well as creating more interest in the enterprise.
- The singing village is an established social group within St Dogmaels which has and is receiving SEER support. The group are doing so well that they are now almost in a position to be 100% self sustaining. They already have over 50 individuals benefiting socially from the events, but are keen for more individuals to join them. Part of the financial support given to the group by SEER has enabled them to hire local community buildings for their events – this in turn has helped support the local economy.

The team at the Coach House will be getting involved in at least two new festivals in the village this year. The Easter Craft and Produce fair will take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April and we have also been asked by Pembrokeshire County Council to get involved in the Pembrokeshire Fish Week which will be at the end of June/beginning of July. These events and festivals will hopefully give existing and new enterprises supported under SEER a platform to display their skills and produce.

If you would like to know more about SEER or to find out if you think we can help you develop an enterprise idea that has social aims or an initiative that will support the economic regeneration of St Dogmaels and its surrounding area, then please come and see me at the Coach House.

I hold **drop in sessions** at the **Coach House cafe** every **Thursday** between **10am – 12pm** or alternatively, you can ring or e-mail me to arrange a meeting some other time.

My contact details are:

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*I look forward to meeting you in due course – Angharad*

