

Gathercrow Event at Nant y Coy Arts – Easter 2007 **6th to 9th April 2007**

A Pembrokeshire business is trying to improve the image of the Scarecrow, which has been part of our heritage for centuries. In fact the earliest written record about the Scarecrow dates back to 1592. They have many different names in various parts of the country – in Devon they are known as ‘Murmet’, in Suffolk the ‘Mawhini’ and here in Pembrokeshire the ‘Bwganod’. In 1657, ‘Jack a Lent’ was mentioned in the Merry Wives of Windsor by William Shakespeare.

Amanda Miles, Nant y Coy Arts’ Art & Community Co-ordinator, has been looking into the history surrounding the Scarecrow. “Traditionally the scarecrow was a ‘bird scarer’ often seen as a solitary, ghostly figure stuck out in the middle of a field, dressed any which way.”

Modern farming methods have changed so much of our countryside these days. Hedgerows have disappeared, taking with them so much of the habitat for birds and wildlife. The RSPB often asks everyone to get involved with Bird counts nowadays to monitor what is happening to our feathered friends.

Crows have had a negative press for years now. They are in fact highly intelligent birds that use twigs to probe for food. In Oxford in 2002, ‘Betty the Crow’ astounded researchers in Oxford when she showed them how she could make a wire hook tool for getting at her food! This gives the chimpanzee a run for it’s money when it comes to intelligence!

Amanda Miles went on to say “ Why should we scare off these beautiful intelligent birds? Here at Nant y Coy we look at things a bit differently. We like to look outside the box! We want to transform this ugly duckling of a scarecrow into something beautiful to attract the birds and wildlife. so we have come up with the idea of a Gathercrow! Come and join us in re writing history and join us in liberation for the birds!”

The event takes place between Good Friday and Easter Monday 2007.

Note to the Editor: Nant y Coy Arts is situated on the A40 between Haverfordwest and Fishguard. With it’s 35 acres of Site of Special Scientific Interest and natural woodland, it’s a haven for birds and wildlife. Nant y Coy combines an Art Gallery, a Craft Shop, a Studio with Art courses and Artists in residence and a Café, all situated in a Grade II listed watermill. A Nature trail, including a Sculpture valley, is also accessible for a small fee.

Nant y Coy Arts – The Watermill – Treffgarne Gorge – Haverfordwest – Pembrokeshire
SA62 5LR – South-West Wales – UK

Tel: + 44 (0)1437 741 671 – Fax: +44 (0)1437 741 550
info@nantycoy.co.uk - www.nantycoy.co.uk