

## **Western Telegraph – Haverfordwest – June 2006**

### **The Mill with Art and Soul**

Nant y Coy Arts officially opened its doors in May 2006 following extensive redevelopment of a unique, grade II listed former watermill to offer visitors an intriguing gallery environment set within grounds of both historic interest and natural beauty.

The Nant y Coy Mill stands in a picturesque setting, below Great Treffgarne Rocks, two miles south of Wolfscastle in the heart of Pembrokeshire and is surrounded by over 35 acres of woodland.

Owner Margaret Merritt's vision for the mill embraces a high quality attraction for both visitors and local people. Nant y Coy satisfies the consumer trend for niche experiences – combining the intrinsic interest of a historic building in a beautiful setting, with unique arts related interest for visitors.

Margaret comments, "People can browse the exhibition galleries filled with ceramics, painting and sculpture, discover the gift shop with its' range of quality local arts and crafts, plus enjoy our cafe offering tempting, local fare. The delicatessen counter offers a choice of gourmet foods including locally smoked duck; organic chicken and trout; olives and specialist olive oils, chutneys, plus preserves and delicious salad dressings. A programme of art demonstrations and courses is also underway ."

Nant y Coy has all weather appeal with a nature walk that includes an outdoor Sculpture trail that follows the meandering Nant y Coy Brook through a wooded valley and then out onto hay and wild flower meadows with spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.

The original 4.5 ton waterwheel has now been restored to full turning order and Nant y Coy's refurbishment illustrates much of the best practice in sustainability

that forms a cornerstone of Wales tourism development programme. As the grounds include an area designated of special scientific interest, which affords increased protection to a variety of wild animals, plants and habitats, Margaret Merritt was keen to ensure that the redevelopment resulted in a sympathetic, efficient, and environmentally friendly building. When it came to selecting a heating system, biomass seemed an obvious choice, and a compact wood pellet system, combined with solar panels, provides all the necessary space heating and hot water through a combination of radiators and under floor heating. The business has already achieved Wales 'Green Dragon' environmental standard.

### **The Gallery**

Exhibitions in the galleries at Nant y Coy are curated with an emphasis on creativity and originality. Integrity, uniqueness and the qualities of the artist's expression will be the prime criteria for the choice of work.

Margaret Merritt continues, "We seek to show painters, sculptors, ceramicists and craft people who celebrate their skills with imagination and generosity - creating a lively, colourful and stimulating environment for all to share. In the winter months, people can now register interest on our website for weekend and weekday courses on many aspects of painting and drawing as a form of personal creative development. Our website event section will be constantly updated with course, exhibition and event details. Visit [www.nantycoy.co.uk](http://www.nantycoy.co.uk)"

The centre is open daily, 10.30am to 6pm.

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