



Llais y Goedwig Members Update

August 2010

Dear Llais y Goedwig members - A warm welcome to new groups and individuals who have recently joined the community woodland network. We are pleased to see that Llais y Goedwig membership is growing fast this summer.

Keep an eye on our website for the latest news www.llaisygoedwig.org.uk

What your Board has been doing...?

Llais y Goedwig is a membership organisation led by a Board of eight volunteers, who were elected at the AGM on the 21st November 2009. This summer the board members have been out and about meeting members and sharing their experience on the Woodland Management Roadshow (see below for more details).

The current board members are:

- Roger Davies (Golgyfa Gwydyr, Conwy) – Chair
- Jane Gronow (Individual member, Powys) – Treasurer
- Jenny Wong (Coetir Mynydd, Gwynedd) – Secretary
- Fay Sharpley (Pobl y Fforest, Camarthenshire)
- David Williams (Blaen Bran Community Woodland, Torfaen)
- Carolyn Swaine (Longwood Community Woodland, Ceredigion)
- Dave Petty (Coed Marros, Pembrokeshire)
- Alun Lewis (Ebbw Fach Trail, Blaenau Gwent)

If you have enquiries please send them to info@llaisygoedwig.org.uk or call 01654 703366

The Board has regular meetings the first Tuesday of every other month. All members are welcome to attend meetings, to submit suggestions or raise issues for discussion. The next meeting is on Tuesday 7th September in Machynlleth (11:00 am to around 4 pm) and you can find minutes of all our meetings on our website.

The Llais y Goedwig board are all volunteers – could you help too?

We are looking for members who want to get more involved in what we do – so if you have a little bit of spare time or a skill you feel you can share then please do get in contact. Whether its specific expertise, a friendly voice on the end of the phone, or if you could spend a few hours each month updating a page of the website we would like to hear from you. If you feel you can help then do get contact info@llaisygoedwig.org.uk or call 01654 703366

Llais y Goedwig planning for the future

FC Wales has awarded £46,000 to Llais y Goedwig. The funding will enable Llais y Goedwig to continue supporting community woodland groups in Wales and engage with both woodland and community development policy-makers and interest groups. Llais y Goedwig will carry out research to assess needs, prepare case studies and disseminate information through a newsletter and other publications.

Barbara Anglezarke, FC Wales Woodlands for People Policy and Programme Manager, said, *"The work carried out by community woodland groups in Wales – mostly by volunteers – is extraordinary. They are involved in all kinds of initiatives, from health promotion to education to arts activities and social enterprises – the list is endless.*

"We are delighted to be able to support Llais y Goedwig as champion for the community woodland movement. Having a single point for queries, guidance and advocacy for local groups will be a huge help."

The move is in line with the Welsh Assembly Government's strategy for woodlands and trees, Woodlands for Wales, which wants more communities to be involved in the decision-making and management of woodlands so that they deliver greater benefits at community level.

Roger Davies, chair of Llais y Goedwig, said, *"We've put a tremendous amount of work into setting up Llais y Goedwig and are pleased that FC Wales recognises that community woodland groups have so much to offer. The networking, support and guidance that we're now able to offer will help groups throughout Wales to grow from strength to strength."*

Action Plan: The Llais y Goedwig Action Plan has now been ratified and is available on our website. So if want to know more about our plans for the future then either go to our website and download the document or write to us and we can send you a copy.

New Office: By the end of September we will be moving to the Ecopark in Machynlleth. Keep an eye on our website for details of the move and we will let you know the new contact details as soon as possible. The office space is in-kind support from FCW.

Woodland Management Roadshow!

This summer we have been on the road with the Woodland Management Roadshow and it has been great to see many of you there.

The first three events have each been a great opportunity for local groups to meet, share ideas and learn more about their local woodlands from a community management perspective. The roadshow has been hosted by Troserch Woodland Society in South Wales, Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust in Mid Wales and Moelyci Environment Centre and Coetir Mynydd in North Wales. Each group has been very enthusiastic and has input lots of ideas and knowledge – for more information and photos of the first three events visit our website.



Photos: Event participants at the first Roadshow hosted by Troserch Woodland Society (Top left); Woodland biodiversity workshop with Rosie Carmichael (Top right); Theory of community woodland management (Bottom left).

At Each event, the process of managing a woodland has been broken down into its component elements to show how they all work together, from getting to know your woods to defining your objectives. The morning sessions are more theoretical while in the afternoon there are a series of in-depth workshops some of which are held out in the woods.

Speakers and workshop leaders have real local experience of community woodland management and each event has yielded some really interesting discussion

There is just one more Woodland Management Roadshow in this series. This will be hosted by Blaen Bran Community Woodland Group near Cwmbran, South East Wales. There is a great line-up of workshops on managing woodlands for biodiversity, involving the community, managing competing interests in a community woodland, and managing and planning for risk, tree safety.

There will also be the opportunity to find out more about how climate change and Welsh woodlands.

If you would like more information or would like to book your place on the roadshow then please contact us on 01654 703366, email info@llaisygoedwig.org.uk or go to our website for more information and to download the booking form www.llaisygoedwig.org.uk

Climate Change and community woodlands

What does climate change mean for woodlands in Wales? This is a complex question with no short answer but in order to help community woodland groups get a better grasp of climate change impacts, Llais y Goedwig have put together a Climate Change Reader. The project has been made possible by a Next Steps grant from Environment Wales.

Adam Thorogood, a Forestry post-graduate at Bangor University has sifted through many of the reports and articles covering climate change and woodlands and has put the most useful ones into the Reader. This resource will help community groups start thinking about climate change and what it could mean for their woodlands. The Reader is available on a wooden USB memory stick made from FSC certified wood and can be plugged into any computer in order to bring up more than 40 documents covering all aspects of climate change, from impacts on woodland biodiversity to carbon sequestration. There is a free memory stick for every member of Llais y Goedwig both full and associate, so if you haven't got one and would like one, contact Adam at adamthorogood@smallwoods.org.uk

This is the beginning of a bigger project focusing on climate change that aims to discover how well equipped community woodland groups are in terms of their knowledge and the resources available to them to prepare for current and future climate impacts. Woodlands could come under pressure from changing weather patterns or increased likelihood of pests and diseases and yet they could also provide vital goods and services such as biomass fuel

and carbon sequestration. It is important that Community Woodland Groups ensure their local woodland resources are managed sustainably as the climate changes.

Pathfinder Projects

At the request of the Minister for Rural Affairs, the Pathfinder (working title) initiative is exploring all the ways in which the public/communities can be involved in the management of the Assembly Government Woodland Estate - in whatever way best meets their needs. These can range from Permissions for a one-off or short-term activity, to Community Management Agreements for projects that involve the installation of infrastructure and a degree of management, all the way through to woodland lease and sale. The form of any agreement will match the requirements of both the group and FCW and ensure that the woodland benefits positively from the activity.

If this issue affects you or you are interested in finding out how you can get more involved in your local Forestry Commission woodland then get in contact with us and we can pass you on to relevant contacts within the Commission.

Coed Lleol Partnership

For the last two years the Smallwoods Association's Coed Lleol partnership project has been supporting the development of the grass-roots community woodland network in Wales that became Llais y Goedwig (funded through FCW and the Countryside Council for Wales). Coed Lleol staff have worked alongside the volunteer working group during the development of the organisation and provided a secretariat after the Launch of Llais y Goedwig in February 2009. There will be a handing over to Llais y Goedwig during September 2010.

"It has been great working with community woodland groups from across Wales" Said Zena Wilmot, Coed Lleol Partnership Coordinator, "Llais y Goedwig has developed hugely over the last two years and has grown into a strong membership-led organisation".

Coed Lleol will now be moving on to another project focused on two Strategic Regeneration Areas to explore how people who don't usually visit woodlands can be encouraged to do so for health and well-being benefits. It will focus specifically on groups with or at risk of developing chronic ill-health conditions. For more details of this project please go to

www.coedlleol.org.uk

The final Woodland Management Roadshow on the 11th September will be the culmination of these two years work and a tree will be planted to mark the occasion at a special site in Blaen Bran Community Woodland.

Get involved!

Llais y Goedwig membership is free for 2010! Please encourage any community woodland groups you know to join and take advantage of the benefits membership can bring. We need a strong and committed membership – get involved and help shape the organisation! If you want to know more then do get in touch. The Update is for everyone and if you wish to contribute to it then do send items to Zena (Coed Lleol).

Contacts for Llais y Goedwig:

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Or you can contact Zena directly on the following email:

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