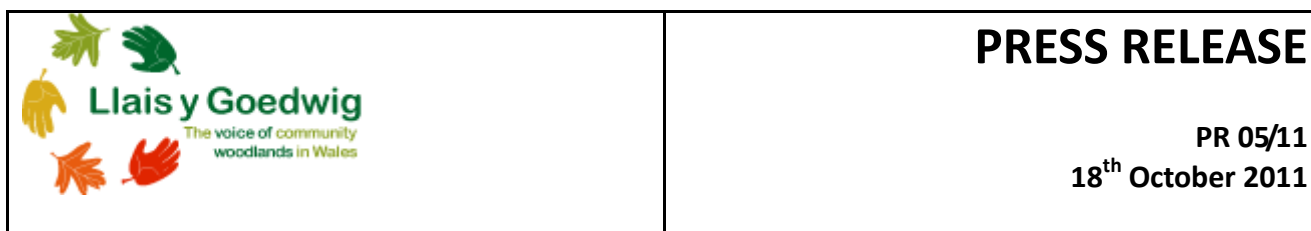


Mae'r datganiad hwn i'r wasg ar gael yn y Gymraeg. Cysylltwch â ni ar y manylion isod os hoffech gael y cyfieithiad. The press release is available in Welsh, please contact us on the details below if you require this version.



Woodland Skillshare day a big hit

The woods of Cwm Plysgog were a busy place last Saturday as the Coppicewood College played host to the very first Llais y Goedwig Skillshare day. Representatives of communities who have taken on the management of local woodlands, from as far as Holywell and Monmouthshire, met to exchange ideas, learn new skills and be inspired by what can be achieved when a local community works together. A tour of the Coppicewood College showcased the usefulness and beauty of well-managed coppice and everyone had a go swinging a slasher and snedding with a billhook though it was apparent that attending one of the College's courses would be needed to become an expert! A workshop on risk assessment showed how it is possible to get more people safely into the woods. And we discovered that making maps is something for everyone. Many thanks to Cilgerran Wildlife Centre for lunch and also for the showings of the Forest Film Festival Shorts from the celebration of the UN International Year of Forests.

Nick Barnes of Coppicewood College said: *"We are very happy that Llais y Goedwig asked us to host the Skillshare. We are committed to training and it has been gratifying to see how some of our graduates have gone on to set up businesses based on woodland skills. However, the skillshare was a two-way event and besides showing people what we do in Cwm Plysgog we also learnt a lot and have a couple of new ideas we are keen to try out"*

Coppicewood College have been teaching traditional woodland and rural skills since 2006, their woodland management course teaches a comprehensive insight into the traditional craft of coppice work through a practical based six month course in traditional rural skills. Places are still available for this season- ring 01239 881394 or see <http://coppicewoodcollege.co.uk> for more details.

Secretary of Llais y Goedwig, Jenny Wong said; *"This is the first event of this type we have hosted and it exceeded our expectations. The weather was fantastic and the woods beautiful but best of all it was an opportunity to learn some new tricks, meet friends and to remind ourselves of what can be achieved when local people decide to work together"*

Llais y Goedwig has a growing body of members across Wales, all of whom encourage active citizenship focused around local woodlands. Community woodlands are places which become the heart of a community and provide spaces for personal reflection, for play, learning, sanctuaries for wildlife and also as a source of firewood and timber for local people. Anyone with an interest in woodlands is welcome to the next Llais y Goedwig event which will be the annual conference and AGM in March 2012, in the meantime check the website www.llaisygoedwig.org.uk or ring 0845 4560342.

Llais y Goedwig is funded by Forestry Commission Wales, and their support is acknowledged.

Notes for Editors:

The press release is available in Welsh; please contact us on the details below if you require this version.

Further images available- please contact to discuss your requirements

Interviews are available in English and Welsh and visits to community woodlands can be arranged. Please contact us for further details on 08454560342 or email info@llaisygoedwig.org.uk.

Llais y Goedwig is Wales' community woodland network, an all-Wales association of community-led woodland initiatives. Established in 2008, Llais y Goedwig draws members from across the country, spanning the spectrum from voluntary organisations to cooperatives, united by a focus on community development and the stewardship of local woodlands. Llais y Goedwig's role as a national network is to develop advocacy and support for the work of its members as well as disseminating knowledge and information on best practice.

Community woodlands are used by people, they can be small or large, in rural or urban settings, privately or publicly owned, but most importantly they matter to local people and are a key feature of the local landscape. Some are spaces of enjoyment, amenity and leisure; others are more focused on economic development and enterprise or the arts and creative expression. Many diverse objectives are achieved through community woodlands from rural development to social inclusion. It is the role of Llais y Goedwig to facilitate communication and support between this very diverse and geographically distributed body of member groups.

For further information please contact:

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Nodiadau i Olygyddion:

Mae'r datganiad hwn i'r wasg ar gael yn y Gymraeg. Cysylltwch â ni ar y manylion isod os hoffech gael y cyfieithiad.

Mae rhagor o luniau ar gael – cysylltwch â ni i drafod eich anghenion os gwelwch yn dda

Cynhelir cyfweiliadau yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg a gellir trefnu ymweliadau i goedlannau cymunedol. Cysylltwch â ni am fanylion pellach ar 08454560342 neu e-bostiwch jo.cooper@llaisgoedwig.org.uk

Llais y Goedwig yw rhwydwaith coedlannau cymunedol Cymru, cymdeithas o gynlluniau coedlan wedi eu harwain gan gymunedau ar gyfer Cymru gyfan. Mae Llais y Goedwig, a sefydlwyd yn 2008, yn tynnu aelodau o bob rhan o'r wlad, yn rychwantu'r ystod o sefydliadau gwirfoddol o elusennau i gwmnïau cydweithredol, sy'n cael eu tynnu at ei gilydd gan ffocws ar ddatblygiad cymunedol a stiwardiaeth coedlannau lleol. Rôl Llais y Goedwig fel rhwydwaith genedlaethol yw datblygu eiriolaeth a chefnogaeth i waith ei aelodau yn ogystal â dosbarthu gwybodaeth am arfer gorau. Defnyddir coedlannau cymunedol gan bobl. Gallant fod yn fach neu fawr, mewn lleoliadau gwledig neu drefol, mewn dwylo preifat neu yn eiddo i'r cyhoedd, ond yn bwysicach, maent o bwys i bobl leol ac yn nodwedd allweddol o'r tirwedd leol. Mae rhai ohonynt yn lleoedd i gael mwyniant a hamdden, mae eraill yn canolbwyntio ar ddatblygiad economaidd a menter neu ar y celfyddydau a mynegiant creadigol. Cyflawnir llawer o amcanion amrywiol trwy goedlannau cymunedol o ddatblygiad gwledig i gynhwysiant cymdeithasol. Rôl Llais y Goedwig yw hwyluso cyfathrebu a chefnogaeth rhwng y corff amrywiol a gwasgareddig hwn o grwpiau o aelodau.

I gael mwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â:

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