



Llais y Goedwig Members' Update 13 September 2011

As the winds blow and the leaves adopt their Autumnal colourings, we welcome you to the September edition of the Llais y Goedwig update. The aim of the Update is to keep members in contact with the decisions made at Llais y Goedwig board meetings. The Board meets on the first Tuesday of every second month and we aim to get an Update out shortly after each meeting, so you should get six every year. Back issues of the Updates are downloadable from the website.

Remember that the Board meetings are open to all members, please get in contact with Jo in the office if you would like to come along, the next one is on the 1st November, in Machynlleth. If you really want to get stuck in, then we recommend getting involved in the Policy Working Group, more information on this below...

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Llais y Goedwig Skillshare event- Sat 15th October 2011

Have you got a woodland skill to share? Do you need to develop your woodland skills? If so read on ...

One of Llais y Goedwig's main aims is to provide opportunities for members to meet up, share ideas and support each other. Our next event will do just this, it will be a skillshare and will be a platform for members to showcase their own particular skill set to other members, as well as being a good excuse for a get-together.

The event will be hosted by [Coppicewood College](#) in Cwm Plysgog Wood, Cilgerran (near Cardigan) and will be on **Saturday 15th October**. Coppicewood College have been teaching traditional woodland and rural skills since 2006 and have been responsible for training up a number of people now heavily involved in Wales' community and small woodland sector. So what better place to hold a woodland skillshare? The college is one of the more active members of the Llais y Goedwig network, and staff member Nick Barnes spoke at the Cardiff launch of the organisation in 2009, so it seems fitting to visit Cwm Plysgog Wood now, two years on.

The event will be an informal gathering with plenty of space for networking and discussion between participants. We've had lots of feedback from previous events saying that networking is one of the most valuable aspects of the events we've run so far, so this time there will be plenty of opportunities for that! We want the content of the event to be member generated rather than shipping in guest speakers from elsewhere. We know that our members have a whole host of skills, aptitudes and stories to share. So, we're appealing to you to come forward; if you've got a skill to share that you think will be of benefit and interest to other members then please get in touch with Jo at the Llais y Goedwig office and we'll try to fit you into the schedule. It could be anything from the practical to the bureaucratic...we look forward to hearing your ideas and inspiration.

The poster and booking form should be attached with this update, and can also be found at <http://llaisygoedwig.org.uk/2011/08/23/llais-y-goedwig-woodland-skillshare/>

Please do get in touch with Jo to share your ideas or express an interest in attending.
jo.cooper@llaisygoedwig.org.uk 01654 700061.

Update from the First Meeting of the Llais y Goedwig Forest Policy group

First meeting of the working group

Twelve people attended the inaugural meeting of the LlyG Policy working group on the 21 July to work developing a Llais y Goedwig manifesto for people and woodlands in Wales (six people sent apologies). A whole range of topics were discussed and a good start was made, you can download the minutes of the meeting here: [Ideas from first policy meeting](#).

These are exciting times for community woodlands and the development of a manifesto will really help Llais y Goedwig to champion the needs of such groups and initiatives in the Senedd. We really need our members to help us develop the manifesto, it is after all a representation of the needs, demands and aspirations of the many community woodland groups across the country. The next step will be to collate feed back on the work already done and to set the date for another meeting.

Things now need to develop pretty quickly as we are hoping to be able to meet with the Minister over the few months. If you have any ideas you would like to put forward please contact Jo.

Permissive Access under Glastir – Targeting of Provision

The higher level, Targeted Element (TE) of the proposed Glastir Woodland Management scheme will open in January 2012 and seeks to purchase specified environmental services from a woodland for the benefit of the public. These services include the provision of permissive access. The Llais y Goedwig Board have been invited to meet with the WG team preparing for GlastirWM to discuss funding of permissive access (ie footpath works) in mid-October.

The Llais y Goedwig board welcomed the opportunity to comment on this aspect of Glastir as it relates to public access and community woodlands and have reviewed the briefing paper on this topic prepared by CCW. Most community woodlands contain permissive paths which serve the needs of local communities whether they are rural or urban for access to natural areas from which they derive a wide range of personal benefits (physical and mental well-being, education, theatre, bike riding).

The CCW paper as it stands is apparently focussed on

- (1) permissive access in service of tourism as it seeks to link 'local services' to 'specified strategic routes' and within 2 km of the new coastal path and
- (2) provision of access to deprived communities with a presumption that they are located in urban Communities First and Single Regeneration areas.

The intention is to prepare maps showing where footpaths are most needed according to these criteria with inputs from Local Access Forums.

As a first, general response to the paper the Board has suggested that the criteria need to be augmented to:

- a) recognise that 20% of deprived communities are in rural areas,
- b) serve the needs of local people and
- c) recognise that woodlands are destinations in their own right.

Other questions are whether any of you are members of your Local Access Forum or know who they are so you can check whether your woodland would be targeted for footpath grants.

Please get in touch and let us know how important access funding is to you and your reaction to the proposals (you can download more information from the LlyG website *here*). It really helps to get our points across if we can demonstrate that there is support and active participation from LlyG members on issues on which we have been consulted.

The paper and the Llais y Goedwig response can be viewed on the website: *here*. If you would like hard copies of these documents, please get in contact with Jo in the office (details below). Please send through any comments you have regarding Glastir and permissive access either to endorse the three points above or add your own ideas.

If you would like to be kept in touch with LlyG policy work then ask Jo to put you on the policy group mailing list, and have a look at the "Engage with Policy" page under "What we do" on the website: <http://llaisygoedwig.org.uk/what-we-do/engage-with-policy/>

Giving interviews for Llais y Goedwig- can you help?

From time to time Llais y Goedwig is contacted by the media (particularly in the run up to an event) requesting interviews- often with people who work in the woodland sector. If this is something you might be able to help with, and particularly if you are a Welsh speaker then please do get in touch. We have media briefing sheets and can coach you through what to look for and think about when being interviewed for radio, tv or print media. You don't have to be really knowledgeable about the organisation, and it would only be for subjects you felt comfortable with. We're trying to compile a list of possible Llais-y-Goedwig interviewees to represent the wide range of experience of our membership, so please do get in touch if you'd be able to help with this.

Help get our message to the press

We know we have lots of stories that are inspiring and interesting and we are sure these should be of interest to others. But we don't have a lot of experience of engaging media interest in them. Do any of you know of anyone who might have some experience or interest in the press who could volunteer some time to help Jo with approaching the media?

While you think about this please do let Jo know which papers in your area are the most effective in reaching you and your neighbours and any contact details for the relevant journalist.

Launch of LlyG publications

After a lot of hard work the 5 Advisory Notes and 5 Case studies are about to be officially launched on the website and we hope to be able to make a bit of a splash with this. There is also a new funding database just for members in the pipeline so watch this space!

The publications are being web publishing to keep costs and use of paper to a minimum and they can be downloaded free of charge. To cover costs we will be charging a £20 per year for paper copies of all publications to be sent to you as they come out.

Llais y Goedwig is on Facebook and Twitter

If you don't use these sites then don't worry- nothing will be posted there that isn't also available on the website, or in these updates. If you do then please do join/ like/ follow us, as it can be a useful way to spread the word about what's going on in the world of Welsh community woodland groups, and it can of course be quicker than waiting for an update. Please feel free to post in the language of your choice (from Welsh or English) in these forums.

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Llais-y-Goedwig/210634548981172>

To follow Llais y Goedwig on Twitter: @Llais_yGoedwig

International forest films

Following on from interest in the films from the International Forest Film Festival, held earlier on this year in Jackson Hole in the United States. Llais y Goedwig has acquired 10 hours worth of films from the festival and agreement that we can make these available to member groups. If you would like to see the films or host a public screening do contact Adam Thorogood: adamthorogood@llaisygoedwig.co.uk. Otherwise look out for screenings local to you. There will be a screening on Friday 14th October at the Wildlife Centre in Cilgerran, the evening before the Llais y Goedwig Skillshare.

Llais y Goedwig is a voluntary association of community woodland groups that formed in November 2009 to provide a voice for community woodlands. We want to share experiences, support each other and enhance local woodlands to benefit the people of Wales.

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Llais-y-Goedwig has produced a set of publications that cover some of the most important aspects of setting up and running a community woodland group, as well as detailed case studies of five existing groups in Wales. Full printed copies of these publications can be purchased for an annual subscription of £20, please see the tear-off slip below. Other Llais-y-Goedwig merchandise such as t-shirts and the climate change reader USB stick can also be purchased.

Tear off order slip

Just return this slip to Jo at Unit 6 with a cheque payable to “Llais y Goedwig” and we’ll send you the merchandise.

Name:

Address:

Group:

	Price	Quantity (and size if applicable)	Total
Annual printed publications subscription	£20		
Climate Change Reader on USB stick	£10		
T-shirt – men’s style	£10		
T- shirt- women’s style	£10		
<i>Add postage:</i>			
Climate Change Reader	50p		
T – shirt(s)	£2.50		
TOTAL:			