

Invitation

National Gathering - Community Woodlands in Wales

Fri 27th – Sat 28th March, The Priory & Wern Watkin Bunkhouse, Abergavenny

Join fellow community woodlanders and interested friends from across Wales for this year's Gathering, with a lively mix of practical demonstrations, thought provoking workshops, good food, good company and inspiring site visits. This year we head to the south-east of Wales, generously hosted by community woodland groups in Abergavenny and the Valleys. Venues include The Priory, in the heart of Abergavenny, and award winning Wern Watkin bunkhouse in the Brecon Beacon National Park.

Gathering programme

Friday offers opportunity to share stories, ask questions and hear of recent research related to the movement, with topics ranging from working with volunteers to the 'enterprise' in social enterprise. Complementing are hands on activities - green wood working, tool sharpening, woodland site visit, and informal drop in meetings. Sessions are hosted by community woodlands in collaboration with organisations including Confor, Community Land Advisory Service, Keep Wales Tidy, Woodland Trust, Natural Resources Wales, One Voice Wales and Millennium Seed Bank Partnership Kew.

Saturday catch up with a shared breakfast and update on Llais y Goedwig network plans with the all-important AGM, before striding out for a day in the woods walking and making including urban woodland adventures, rocket stove making, bee keeping, forestry machinery, woodland management and foraging.

Friday night dinner, bed, fire - Book to stay at Wern Watkin for Friday night, with a camping spot or hostel bed with stunning views over the mountains, delicious shared dinner and film screening.



Book your place:

Contact Rosie 07966 071073 info@llaisygoedwig.org.uk

Getting there:

Directions to The Priory [here](#) & Wern Watkin [here](#)





Book your place

- **Weekend ticket** - Llais y Goedwig Members £15. Non Members £25. Includes all activities & 3 meals.
- **Friday night camping, dinner & entertainment** £10 **Single sex dorm bed available for an extra £5**
- **Friday day pass** - Members £10. Non Members £15. Includes all activities & lunch.
- **Saturday day pass** - Members £10. Non Members £15. Includes all activities, light breakfast & lunch.

You can join Llais y Goedwig [here](#). Places are limited - book early to avoid disappointment.

Please note parking for The Priory is in a public pay and display car park that charges a small day fee for parking.

Gathering programme

Friday 27th March

- 9.30am -** Registration & refreshments
- 10.00am -** Welcome, a collaborative vision for community woodlands, and introduction to groups and special guests
- 11am -** Break
- 11.10am –** **Select one from:**
- **Workshop:** Positive Partnerships – community woodlands need good internal & external relationships. Expert in brokering in this field [The Green Valleys](#) talks best practice, with community woodland [Knighton](#) sharing tips.
 - **Workshop:** Welsh wood fuel – What does the latest research facilitated by LlyG into firewood used in Welsh homes tell us? Results on the extent/volumes/sources of firewood, plus discussion what this might mean for the future of Welsh woodlands, with [Bangor University](#), [Wild Resources](#) & [Llangattock Community Woodland](#)
 - **Demonstration:** Green wood working – crafting lost causes into useful objects with [Abergavenny Community Woodland group](#) + opportunity to have a go.
- 12.30pm -** **Networking lunch, information stalls, and drop in sessions -**
- [Long forest project](#) –opportunities with [Keep Wales Tidy](#) & [Brecon Beacons Trust](#) community hedgerow project
 - [Community Land Advisory Service](#) – info and drop in surgery for legal and planning enquiries
 - [Millennium Seed Bank Partnership Kew](#) – meet the National Tree Seed project officer for info & opportunities
- 1.15pm -** **Select one from:**
- **Workshop:** Working with volunteers – finding, keeping and managing them. Former BTCV, Groundwork, and Longwood community woodland project manager James Kendall hosts discussion on best practice. Guest community woodlands from across Wales share experience and ideas.
 - **Demonstration:** Tool maintenance and care with locally based [Tools for Self Reliance Cymru](#)
 - **Site visit:** [Friends of Castle Meadows](#) – challenges and successes of a small urban woodland working with local authority to provide services
- 2.40pm -** Break
- 3.00pm -** Depart for site visit to Wern Watkin
- 3.30pm -** Tea and cake at Wern Watkin
- 4.15pm -** Welcome to [Wern Watkin](#)



Friday 27th March continued...

4.30pm-

Select from:

- **Workshop:** The 'enterprise' in Social enterprise – what can be learnt from commercial forestry? LlyG hosts with guests including [Confor](#), [Wales Cooperative Centre](#) and [Golygfa Gwydyr](#) woodland
- **Workshop:** Welsh Woodlands available – A group looking for woodland to work on? Find out about woods available, asset transfer processes, and potential funding pots that could support work with [Natural Resources Wales](#), [Woodland Trust](#) and local authorities, hosted by LlyG.
- **Demonstration:** Health and wellbeing – local practitioners share experience on how they use their local woodlands for wellbeing, with informal demonstrations round the fire, hosted by [Actif Woods Wales](#).

6pm -

Drinks and drop in sessions -

- Wales Woodland Social enterprise working group – exploring setting up a formal working group, to take advantage of exciting upcoming opportunities
- Join the LlyG Board – LlyG are recruiting, find out what it involves...
- Wern Watkin site visit – site visit of the building & woodlands of this sustainably run centre
- Woodland Trust – exploring specific opportunities for partnerships, following on from previous session
- Circus Slack line – loosen and limber up with slack line walking in the woods

7.30pm -

Dinner and fire

8pm -

Film screening and discussion - International community woodlands – explore practice across the world

Saturday 28th March

7 – 9am -

Breakfast & information stalls at Wern Watkin

9.30am -

Welcome, introduction to the day, LlyG AGM

10.15am -

Select from:

- **Site visit:** [Beaufort Community Woodlands](#) – a tour of urban woodland site, now local nature reserve, led by Roy and John, with special guest Urban Forest Architect Dafydd Fryer, [Natural Resources Wales](#), giving the national perspective with the results of a 'World first' [survey](#) on urban tree cover in Wales, and its benefits.
- **Workshop:** Woodland Bounty: Join non wood forest product (NWFP) research project [StarTree](#) for walk in Wern Watkin's ancient woodland to undertake an NWFP audit, as well as cooking up the findings!
- **Workshop:** Make your own tin can rocket stove to take home (limited places)

12pm-

All depart for Llangattock Community Woodland

12.30pm -

Select two sessions from:

- **Demonstration:** forestry machinery in action with [Llangattock Woodland](#) and Volunteer manager Huw Lloyd
- **Site visit:** [Brecon Beacon National Park Beech Wood](#) – woodland management tour with NP Ranger Sam Ridge
- **Workshop:** Trees for Bees – introduction and hands on demonstration on bee keeping in your woodland with the [StarTree](#) project specialists and the resident Llangattock community woodland beekeeper

3.30pm -

Farewell tea and cake

Supported by:

