



Llais y Goedwig Members Update March 2010

Dear Llais y Goedwig members - A warm welcome to new groups and individuals who have recently joined the community woodland network. Spring is here and plans are afoot for lots of exciting activities for the summer, see below for more details!

New website now online!

The new Llais y Goedwig website has now been launched: www.llaisygoedwig.org.uk

The development of this new resource has been funded through an Environment Wales start-up grant.

Please do take a moment to log on see what is there. We hope the website will develop into a source of information and be a social network for all those interested in communities and woodlands in Wales. The website will soon be fully bilingual (once the content is finalised).

We are currently looking for volunteers who might be able to look after a section of the website (reviewing and updating content). So do let us know if you would be happy to manage a page or two . your help would be greatly appreciated. Equally if you see any opportunities that we are not aware of then do let us know so that we can flag it up to other members.

Planning for the future

Llais y Goedwig is now a company limited by guarantee. We have a Memorandum and Articles of Association (see the website) and have registered Llais y Goedwig with Companies House. An Action Plan has been prepared and the next steps will be the formulation of a full business plan.

We are currently looking into future support and funding. The Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) is working closely with us and will hopefully be able to give us funding support for another year.

Until October 2010 we have funding for events and secretariat support from the Smallwoods Association's Coed Lleol project (funded through FCW and the Countryside Council for Wales). After this we will be employing our own staff to take forward our aims and to support our members. We hope to have someone in place to work with Smallwoods Association staff over the summer in order to ensure a good handover by the end of the Coed Lleol project.

So if you or someone you know might be interested in working with us then do get in contact and keep an eye on the website and future updates.

Woodland Management Roadshow

Over summer 2010 Llais y Goedwig will be running four events focused on the management of community woodlands. These events will be hosted by community woodland groups in different parts of Wales and will cover basic principles of woodland management with

workshops focusing on specific regional issues. We have had a great response so far and four groups have come forward to host the first four of these exciting events:

- SW Wales** 10th July 2010 - Troserch Woods near Llangennech, Swansea
Mid Wales 24th July 2010 - Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, Dolforwyn
woods in Abermule
N Wales 7th August 2010 - Moelyci near Tregarth, Bangor
SE Wales 11th September 2010 - Blaen Bran Community Woodland, Cwmbran

Coed Lleol will be organising these events with us so please contact Debs or Zena (see contact details below) if you want to attend one of the workshops, or have any suggestions for speakers or topics.

Community Woodland Study

Wavehill Consulting have been appointed by Forestry Commission to conduct a survey of community woodland groups that will enable them to get a good estimate of the number of active community woodland groups in Wales.

They may be in touch to ask you a few questions to have a chat about your group. This should take no more than 5 minutes.

The survey is being supported by Llais y Goedwig and we have requested regular updates from FCW on progress with this study. Do let us know if you really do not want to take part in this survey and we can pass this on to Wavehill consultants. You can also tell us if you have any comments or problems or if you know of any community woodland groups who should be included in this survey.

Woodlands for Wales Action Plan

The Woodlands for Wales Action Plan sets out what needs to happen over the next five years to make progress towards achieving the outcomes of Woodlands for Wales (WfW), the Welsh Assembly Government's (WAG) 50 year strategy for trees and woodlands. The Action Plan identifies the key activities that need to be undertaken, what needs to be done and who is responsible for taking the lead for each action.

This document is now available from the following website:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-82RN8E>

As we mentioned in the last Llais y Goedwig update, we have been adopted as the *principal supporting organisation* for four action points of the Woodlands for People section of the Welsh Assembly Government's Woodlands for Wales Strategy Action Plan.

Communities and Nature (CAN)

The second call for tenders from the CCW CAN project has just been announced (18 March 2010). Projects of any size can be tendered as long as the group proposing them is eligible. Match funding is required to meet half of the total project costs but this can be in kind staff and volunteer time. The application process is long and involves three steps each of which you need to pass to get a project. The first stage is the Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) which assesses whether your group and project idea are eligible to tender. The second stage is an assessment of a brief description of your project idea and the third and final stage is assessment of your final project bid. The CAN staff are helpful and will advise

on all stages of the procedure and run workshops to help groups that pass the PQQ stage prepare bids. Expect the process to take a year so apply now for work to start summer 2011 .

Copies of all relevant documents are available to download from the website:

<http://llaisygoedwig.org.uk/resources/funding/ccw/>

Or you contact the CAN team directly:

CAN Team, C/O Enquiries CCW, Maes-y-Ffynnon, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DW. Tel: 0845 1306229

Web: <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/enjoying-the-country/communities-and-nature.aspx>

Next Steps consultation

One of our members drew our attention to the BWW Stakeholder consultation on the proposed First Steps grant scheme. This is a proposal by the Forestry Commission for new plantings and some management activities (fencing) for small parcels of land 0.05 - 2 ha. Up to £5,000 will be available as a simple one-off payment administered through a contract with a single external agency. As this grant seemed relevant to community groups looking at smaller projects, this would seem to be a good opportunity to give our views on how the proposed grant meets the needs of community groups.

Thank you to the members who contributed to this consultation . if you would like to see the return submitted to the Forestry Commission Wales you can download the document from this page of our website:

<http://llaisygoedwig.org.uk/what-we-do/consultations/>

Alternatively contact us and we can send you a hard copy of the document.

Board meetings: 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 the 4th May in Machynlleth (10:30 am to around 4 pm) and you can find minutes of all our meetings on our website.

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 and Deb directly on the following emails:

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Deb Wozencroft debwozencraft@smallwoods.org.uk