

# COETIR MYNYDD

Need logo here!

Newsletter 1: September 2003

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**Welcome** to the first newsletter of Coetir Mynydd. Please contact Jenny if you would like to present any ideas or suggestions of what we should be doing. We would especially like to hear from you if you are unable to come to the meetings. Ideas or comments you would like us to consider at the meeting will need to reach us before the meeting but even ones that come late we will consider.

Many thanks for your support so far !

## Company registration

All the paperwork for company registration has now been completed. We should be official by the beginning of October. Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association can be obtained from Jenny Wong - we should have the Welsh translation available shortly.

To become a member of the company you need to complete an application form which can be obtained from any of the Board. You don't need to pay again but if you haven't the annual membership fee is £5.

The company has a Board of Trustee Directors:

Chairman: Colin Jones – 24 Tan y Bwlch  
Vice chair: Gwen Griffith – 19 Llwybr Main  
Treasurer / IT: Mike Yates – The Vestry  
Secretary: Jenny Wong – Ynys Uchaf  
Funding: Mark Goddard – Hirdir Uchaf  
Community liaison: Einir Frodsham – Gors yr Eira  
Civil engineer: Bryn Williams – 19 Ffordd Capel Coch, Llanberis

The contact for the Company is Jenny Wong  
Ynys Uchaf, Mynydd Llandygai, Bangor, Gwynedd  
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## Logo competition

We need a logo for Coetir Mynydd. It seems like a good idea to have a competition for a logo idea. Anyone can enter, even if you can't draw. Just sketch your idea and we will have the winning one worked up into a logo. A competition needs a judge and a prize. Does anyone have ideas for these as well...?

Please send or give entries to Jenny.

## Volunteers needed

There is a lot of work to do and the Board would appreciate help in the following areas:

- Translation
- Book keeping
- Delivery of notices to Tan y Bwlch, Llwybr Main, Gefnan, Arafon etc.
- Ecological survey

## Sale of Parc yr Ynys/Ocar

Sally Goddard has agreed to act for us with regard to the purchase of the dam and woods from the Penrhyn Estate. The Estate have requested that we complete the sale by the 15<sup>th</sup> November so they can avoid the Purchase Order hearing. This should be possible depending on the engineers report on the dam and the timing or severity of repairs.

## Management planning

Ideally woods and conservation areas should have management plans. These are usually documents which list the objectives for management and a plan of operations to ensure that the objectives are met. For woods owned by a group a plan is especially useful as it can be used to generate consensus on what can and can't be done in the woods. A plan is also useful to cost up things that we all agree need to be done and will help in funding applications as well as planning voluntary activities.

## The FC management plan trial

Dr Evelyn Over, Woodland agent, Castle Caereinion

The Forestry Commission (FC) contribute to woodland management using Woodland Grant Schemes (WGS) which grant aid activities such as fencing out upland oak woods and managing natural regeneration. There are a number of problems with the existing WGS and in 2005 the FC are planning to replace this with a new management planning system as a means of supporting long term sustainable woodland management.

In June 2003, the FC asked agents throughout Wales for nominations to pilot test the new system of management planning. In consultation with the executive of Coetir Mynydd I nominated Parc yr

Ynys for this pilot study. In total over 100 woods were submitted and 21 woods were accepted ranging from large estates to a small ancient, semi-natural wood of 1.5 ha in the Wye Valley.

Parc yr Ynys was one of the accepted woodlands. The advantages of entering the scheme for Coetir Mynydd are:-

1. The pilot scheme has come at a stage when the group has successfully formed and is finding out the best way to manage the woods taking all community interests into account
2. If Parc yr Ynys was not accepted into the scheme, the group would need to wait a further two years until it would be able to have a new type Forestry Commission management grant.

The timetable for the management plan is:-

- Complete scoping report by 22<sup>nd</sup> September
- Meet woodland officer in early October (9<sup>th</sup>)
- Complete consultation process by 15<sup>th</sup> November
- Write long term policy, specific objectives, and five year plan of operations by 15<sup>th</sup> December
- Final plan agreed by end of January 2004
- Pilot plans on public register
- The pilot plans are signed and the work can go ahead from April 2004

For more information on the new woodland management planning process, look at [www.fcwales-planning.co.uk](http://www.fcwales-planning.co.uk) and the password is Management.

## Consultation

Bianca Ambrose-Oji, Bangor University

One of the most exciting things about the management planning process is the public consultation phase. It is during this time that you will be developing the objectives for Parc yr Ynys/Ocar and turning these into a real plan of action as woodland owners. It is during this stage that each one of you can have a real impact. Everybody who has an interest in the woods will have the chance to put forward their ideas about what might happen to Parc yr Ynys over the next 5 years.

If we work to the Forestry Commission timetable this means that there is a lot to do over the next eight weeks, but it should all be worth it because you will have agreed together what you are going to do with the woodland and how you are going to do it.

It will be the ideas and opinions put forward during the consultation process that will form the basis of the formal plan that you can then use to find funding

for any work you may want to carry out in the woodland.

To make sure that everyone who wants to be included in the consultation gets the chance, there will probably be between 2 - 4 meetings in total. The first meeting in the consultation process will be on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September**.

## Dam repairs

Mr Collinson, the Penrhyn agent has reported that the engineers have verbally reported to him that the dam is in better condition than first thought and only minor repairs are needed. Mr Collinson has promised to send us a copy of the report as soon as he has it.

The current position taken on the future maintenance of the dam and lake is that we will draw up a management plan once the purchase has been completed. There has been some concern regarding the silt in the reservoir, however since the silt does not effect the stability of the dam, removal will only be considered at specific areas in the interest of bank clearing or habitat creation. There has been an interest shown in installing a mini hydro-electric turbine at the dam to generate revenue and to use the excess water to drive the old water wheel at Felin Fawr, once the group is on an even keel these options will be given serious consideration.

## Information on the woods

We would like to gather together as much information about the woods as we can. We have a start on a list of birds and insects and several volunteers to help with botanical surveys. If anyone else has specialist knowledge of the woods then we would be very keen to hear from you. In particular we would like to know more of the history of the site.

