



## NEWSLETTER 2

May 2004

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### **Completion of purchase of Coed y Parc dam and woods**

The transfer of ownership of the Coed y Parc dam, lower Parc yr Ocar and Parc yr Ynys was completed on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

### **General meeting**

The next General meeting will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of June at the Memorial Hall.

### **Displays**

We would like to create some display boards for the Antur Mynydd Open Day. If anyone has any photographs that would be suitable please contact Jenny.

### **Insurance**

The delays in the purchase were generated by the difficulties we experienced obtaining insurance for the dam. After trying 12 different brokers for a while it seemed that the only insurers were Zurich who, after a six month delay gave us a quote of £2,600 per year for public liability insurance. This was obviously much more than we could afford. Fortunately the difficulties of insuring public access land has been recognised by Rural Arbor Products Ltd and they have put together a package of insurance to cover Woodland Owner's Public Liability. This is underwritten by ACE Europe Insurance and is a block policy running from the 1 July to 30 June for a premium of £53 per wood. After learning of the condition and size of the dam, Rural Arbor Products have offered us insurance for £38 to cover the period 30 April to 30 June.

### **Management plan**

Many thanks to everyone who came to meetings and contributed to the management plan. We had over 35 people contribute ideas and support to the management plan – we have been told that this is a very high level of involvement given that we have 105 members.

Evelyn Over, our woodland agent, has completed the draft management plan. The draft plan will be presented at the next General meeting for wider consultation.

The plan makes provision for up to £1000 from the Forestry Commission towards fencing, footpath improvements etc.. The details will be in the plan of operations attached to the management plan. We hope to be able to start work as soon as the management plan is formally adopted.

### **First Hydro**

Parc yr Ynys does not have sufficient trees to be considered woodland by the Forestry Commission and therefore is not covered by the FC grants. We therefore made an application to First Hydro for help with this area of land and they have offered us £600 towards the materials (fencing etc.) required for Parc yr Ynys.

### **Forest Education Initiative**

The FEI is run by the FC to support the development of educational use of woodlands.

[www.foresteducation.org.uk](http://www.foresteducation.org.uk)

We will be meeting with local FEI staff at Ysgol Bodfeurig on the 18<sup>th</sup> May to discuss ideas for involving the school in Parc yr Bwlch. Initial ideas are to have the school children make a bench from trees from Parc yr Bwlch and to look at the feasibility of establishing a Forest School in Parc yr Bwlch.

We should have a better idea of what is possible by the General meeting.

If people are willing to help with educational activities could they contact Helen Berry (Bryn Hyfryd, 600583, [helen.berry2004@virgin.net](mailto:helen.berry2004@virgin.net)) who is preparing an education strategy for Coetir Mynydd.

### **John Muir Trust**

The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places. It encourages the discovery and conservation of

wild places for all ages through various activities and projects. One idea is that the woods and other wild areas close to Mynydd Llandygai could be used by anyone (particularly children and teenagers) wishing to participate in the John Muir Award challenges. To take this forward we need people to act as leaders. The JMT run two-day leader training courses (which Coetir Mynydd can pay for) throughout the year with the next course in Wales being on the 13-14<sup>th</sup> November 2004.

[www.johnmuiraward.org](http://www.johnmuiraward.org)

## **Parc y Bwlch management plan**

The Board has met with Kim Burnham who is the FC officer in charge of Parc y Bwlch. Under the Woodlands for Wales strategy the FC are obliged to involve local communities as far as possible in management of Welsh Assembly woodlands. Kim is happy to work with Coetir Mynydd on generating ideas for the social aspects of the Parc yr Bwlch management plan. We intend to initiate gathering ideas for Parc y Bwlch at the General meeting. In the meantime, if you have any contributions you can send them to Jenny.

## **Cydcoed**

We have registered an interest in applying for a Cydcoed grant for woodland management in Mynydd Llandygai but have yet to establish quite what we will ask for, as the FC will do most of what is required in Parc yr Ocar. Cydcoed can 100% fund suitable projects and can help purchase land. They are particularly keen to establish new community woodland and to provide disabled access. We need to poll ideas on what we might do with this opportunity.

## **Web page**

Mike Yates has generously put together a web site for Coetir Mynydd. The site contains information on the natural history of the woods, the management plan, downloadable documents and various pictures. Please let Mike have any feedback on format and particularly if you have anything you think should be added to the site.

[www.coetirmynydd.dial.pipex.com](http://www.coetirmynydd.dial.pipex.com)

## **Information needed**

We are trying to build up as much information on the woods, dam and surrounding area.

The history of the dam and woods is of particular interest and we know that many of you have recollections, anecdotes, stories and even hard facts relating to the area. We would like to gather all these together for future generations before they are lost for ever. Anyone who would like to contribute information (or with ideas for who we should be speaking to) should contact Einir Frodsham.

Other information we need is on the natural history of the area. We are already building up an impressive list of species which have been seen in the woods, but these are far from complete. Everyone is welcome to add their own records / comments / observations and if possible these will be added to the web-pages.

## **Nanteos Woodland Group open day**

The Small Woods Association is hosting an open day 'Community Woodland Management – Practice and theory in Wales & Scotland' in Llanfarian near Aberywyth. The day includes a tour of Coed Tyllwyd which has been leased from the FC by the Nanteos Woodland Group and is being developed for woodland crafts. The day will cost £25 per person. If you would like to go please contact Jenny.

[www.smallwoods.org.uk](http://www.smallwoods.org.uk)

## **Affiliation**

CM is now officially affiliated with the following:

- FEI
- Community Woodland Network
- BTCV

## **Thanks**

We gratefully acknowledge support and grant funding from:

- Mantell Gwynedd
- Environment Wales

## **Charitable status**

CM is also in the process of becoming a Registered Charity. This will help with funding as it means that we can reclaim VAT on any purchases.

## **Contacts**

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