



NEWSLETTER 3 July 2004

e-mail: coetirmynydd@aol.com
www.coetirmynydd.co.uk

Summer events

Moth evening – Wednesday 28 July. We were very fortunate with the weather and it was a perfect night for moths (and unfortunately also midges!). By midnight we had seen and identified 92 species of moth and the final count is likely to be around 100. Of these there were several 'local' and one 'national notable' rated species. We will post the full list on the web site once we have it. Many thanks to John Harold for running this event and we hope there will be others in the future.



Visit to Capel Rhiw – date to be arranged. This is a visit to the woodland sculpture park and workshop in Blaenau Ffestiniog by invitation of David Nash. Please let Jenny Wong or Mike Yates know if you would like to come and we can contact you once David has given us a date. If we get enough people we can hire a minibus which will reduce costs.

Work parties

We need volunteers to help with various practical management tasks in the woods. All work will be covered by BTCV volunteer insurance with full risk assessment. This means that volunteers need to be over 18 years of age. Please bring hand tools such as bow saws, secateurs, strong gloves and wear old clothes.

Saturday 31 July: Vegetation control on Coed y Parc dam

Many thanks to the 14 people who came and worked on the dam. The weather was very kind and we were able to cut back and clear vegetation on the front face and crest of the dam.

Saturday 21 August: Control of exotic plants

This will be a day spent removing exotic plants in the woods in accordance with the management plan. We will be cutting Rhododendron and Beech (less than 20 cm in diameter).

Advance notice of AGM

Coetir Mynydd was formed as a company in October 2003 which means we need to have our first AGM in the Autumn. At the AGM we will be electing the Board, reviewing activities, accounts and funding for the past year and giving outline approval for plans for the next year. We will be collecting the annual membership fee of £5 for 2004-5 at the AGM.

Date for AGM: Friday 1st October

Venue: Memorial Hall

Dam maintenance

Now that Coetir Mynydd owns the dam we urgently need to undertake the repairs and monitoring recommended by the last engineers report. Bryn has drawn up detailed plans for immediate work. This includes:

- Removal of woody vegetation from the dam face and crest (Work Party on 31st July)
- Grouting of the longitudinal crack between the inner and outer faces of the dam
- Installation of glass tell-tales and a plumbline mast to determine whether the dam is moving

We are obtaining quotes for the latter two jobs as it requires overpumping of the dam to access the crack in the spillway.

Safety of the dam is an important issue and it has been suggested that the dam is fenced off along the top of the wall on the road and around the end of the dam on the other side. This means we can remove the unsightly gangway and gate on the crest of the dam. This work is less urgent and needs to be discussed in a general meeting as it will change the appearance and restrict public access to the dam.

Parc yr Ocar Management plan

The management plan for Parc yr Ocar has been completed and approved by the Forestry Commission. We expect to be signing a contract with the FC for the grants associated with the management plan very soon. If you want to see the plan, a summary is available on the Woodland page of the web site. If you can't access the web contact Jenny or Mike for a paper copy.

First Hydro grant

We have confirmation that First Hydro will contribute £600 towards proposals for the upper part of Parc Ynys. What is suggested is the installation of a gate, short path and bench at the very top of Parc yr Ynys. The rest of the area needs the boundary fence putting in good order. We hope to be commissioning this work shortly.

Ysgol Bodfeurig

During July a forest education project was initiated at Ysgol Bodfeurig. Coetir Mynydd assisted in the preparation of a proposal to the Forest Education Initiative (FEI) and provided volunteers to the project which included the school teachers, Forestry Commission and CL Jones. The children had an introductory talk by Sara Ashton of the FC and then two visits to Parc y Bwlch. At the first visit two trees were felled by FC staff and at the second John Sweeny used his mobile sawmill to plank the logs. This was followed up by a visit to CL Jones in Caernarfon to see a commercial sawmill. Kevin de Silva is going to help the children make a bench for the school grounds from the timber in September as the weather was too bad for outside activities in the last week of term.

Forest School

As part of the FEI grant we applied for money to help plan for a Forest School for Ysgol Bodfeurig. This involves sending Mrs Parry, the Headteacher on a fact-finding trip to Forest Schools across Wales. The intention is to develop some ideas for a Forest School by September for presentation to the Governors and parents so we can put in a proposal for funding under the next round of FEI applications in October.

A Forest School can take many forms and what is best for Ysgol Bodfeurig needs to be decided together with the teachers, children and parents. However, at this point in time we are thinking it may comprise an outdoor classroom in Parc y Bwlch which the children can visit on a regular basis to undertake a whole range of activities to support the school curriculum. Further information is contained on the FEI website.

<http://www.foresteducation.org.uk/forestschools/index.asp>

Parc y Bwlch management plan

Kim Burnham, the Forestry Commission District officer in charge of Parc y Bwlch hosted an informal village consultation exercise in the FC yurt at the Mynydd Open Weekend on the 10-11th July. It seems that many people took the opportunity to provide comments on what they like, don't like and would like to see change in the forest. However, the consultation process isn't closed and anyone who didn't have a chance to comment at the Open Weekend can still put forward their ideas. If it helps you can mark ideas on the map accompanying this newsletter and give it to Jenny or any of the Board. Kim has offered to come and give a more detailed presentation of the current management plan and we will try to accommodate this at the next General Meeting.

Tan y Bwlch

At the last General Meeting there was a brief discussion on the future of the shelterbelt behind Tan y Bwlch. This woodland belongs to the Penrhyn Estate and they have expressed a willingness to sell it but would prefer that it is bought by the community rather than an individual as they appreciate that it is used by many people on Tan y Bwlch. The question is really whether the community would like the woods to be in communal ownership or are prepared for it to pass into private ownership, where the money might come from and what role Coetir Mynydd should have in the future of the wood. Money for purchase of land for community woodlands is available from CydCoed but since this is public money they will insist on public access to the woods which probably means putting in a footpath. Alternatively, we could try to raise the money ourselves, leaving us free to decide about access.

Web page

Note the URL for the web site is now: www.coetirmynydd.co.uk

Contacts

Jenny Wong (Secretary) Ynys Uchaf 602124

Mike Yates (Web page) The Vestry 601508