



NEWSLETTER 5 Autumn 2005

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

Parc Tan y Bwlch

We are sorry to report that, after gaining the support of many people in the village and a grant from Cydcoed, the Penrhyn Estate have said that they are not now interested in selling Parc Tan y Bwlch and it has been let for grazing. The Estate have said that the grazier has responsibility for the fencing and should ensure his sheep are contained.

We wish to thank all those who expressed an interest in the restoration of the woods and came to meetings. We will just have to keep an eye on the situation and hope there is an opportunity in the future to ensure that the shelterbelt continues to protect the village from the worst of the weather and harbours the wildlife which so many people appreciate.

Parc yr Ocar

There has been some tree felling in Parc yr Ocar over the past couple of months. These are:

- Tree safety work alongside the main paths which involved the removal of overhanging branches and the felling of a few unsafe trees. The amount of cutting was kept to the absolute minimum and dead trees were left standing if they still had sound heartwood.
- Removal of smaller sized beech trees in the main oak-dominated section of Parc yr Ocar. This was part of the management plan and is intended to increase light levels into the woods to prevent the shading out of the typical oakwood flora i.e. bilberries and to maintain the 'upland oakwood' character of this part of the woods. We will watch carefully to see how the trees and ground flora respond.

All the wood arising from felling has been left in the woods.

There will be no more felling in the woods during the remaining 4 years of the management plan unless a tree becomes unsafe.

Cydcoed grant

Coetir Mynydd's application for project we called Parciau Mynydd to Cydcoed was successful. The total amount of the grant was about £90,000 to be split between Parc yr Ocar, Parc yr Ynys and Parc Tan y Bwlch. We will no longer be doing anything in Parc Tan y Bwlch so unless we can think of another woodland project that would benefit communities in or around Mynydd Llandygai then we will return the money to Cydcoed so it can be used elsewhere.

Stone walling in Parc yr Ocar

For Parc yr Ocar the Cydcoed grant is being used to restore the traditional boundaries – stone walls and slate fences around the Parc. We put out a call for tenders for this work and awarded the contract to Hefin Huws of Ffrancon Stonework. Barry and Dewi started work at the end of September and the new wall looks fantastic.



Hefin has kindly offered to visit and provide advice on walling issues to Coetir Mynydd members during the time he will be working for us. If you would like to take advantage of this please contact Mark Goddard (600237).

This work should take around nine months to complete and we are trying to minimise disturbance. Of course once its done we shouldn't need to touch the walls for another 100 years.

Dam safety

Safety notices warning about the silt have been installed alongside the road and also on the footpath. Unfortunately the ones on the footpath have been vandalised and are now missing. These will be replaced shortly.

A 5m section of security fence has been installed on the top of the wall alongside the dam. The idea is that we will reinstate the roadside wall (which strictly speaking is the dam as it prevents the river from following its former course across the road to Coed y Parc). On top of this fencing similar to the test section will be installed on top of the wall to prevent access to the dam from the road. The galvanised walkway, fence and gate can then be removed.

Bryn Williams has prepared plans for necessary repairs to the dam and he suggests that it would be possible to use it to generate electricity. We are exploring funding arrangements for (a) repairs to the dam and (b) installation of a micro hydro below the dam.

Although the Estate gave us £25,000 towards making the dam safe, Bryn advises that around £50,000 will be needed to fully restore the dam to working condition. We are therefore seeking funding for this work and hope to be able to invest the £25,000 to provide sufficient income to cover annual dam inspections and insurance and also as an emergency dam fund.

Parc yr Ynys

The Cydcoed grant for Parc yr Ynys will be used to repair the stock fencing alongside the road. A call for tenders to do this work has been issued and the contract will be awarded shortly. This work should be completed over the coming months.

First Hydro are still willing to help fund the installation of a bench at the top of Parc yr Ynys so people can sit and enjoy the view. The bench will be made from oak taken from a fallen tree in Parc yr Ocar so we will only need to pay for labour. In time we will put in a small bridge and footpath to provide disabled access the bench.

Coed Call

Coetir Mynydd sponsored Coed Call to provide woodland themed activities for children at the Antur Mynydd Summer Festival. Funding for this event was provided by: Academi, Tir Coed and Coetir Mynydd. The event was accommodated in the Forestry Commission yurt kindly lent by the Llanwrst area office.

Encouraged by the enthusiasm of the young people for this event we are considering sponsoring a similar event for the next Dyffryn

Ogwen Show. This will require funding from a range of sources and various options are being explored.



Parc y Bwlch

You have probably noticed (!) that there has been some clear felling in the middle of Parc y Bwlch. As was explained in the consultation event at the Summer Festival in 2004, the Forestry Commission manage the woods according to 5 year design plans and this felling was agreed with the Community Council back in 2000 and was not something the FC would have been prepared to change. However, the Design plan for the next 5 years is currently under preparation and Kim (the Area Manager for Parc y Bwlch) assures us that the community can influence the shape of the replanting of the felled area (this is scheduled for Winter 2006) as well as future felling. Kim will give a short presentation on the planning process at the AGM. We hope to arrange consultation events over the next year to ensure that future plans meet the needs of the community.

Annual general meeting

The 2005 AGM has been set for: Friday 25th November at 7 pm. Nominations for the Board should reach Mike Yates at The Vestry (601508) by Friday, 18th November.

Subscriptions of £5 are now due for 2005-6 membership.

Agenda:

- Annual report
- Financial report
- Election of Board
- Presentation of Parc y Bwlch planning process (Kim Burnham, FC)
- Forward plans for 2006
- AOB