



## VINE Activities Launched and set to grow!

Tir Coed's VINE project is off to a flying start with a variety of activities already underway. Three new VINE Project Officers have been appointed, taking up their posts at the beginning of March. They have all been busy planning and initiating the VINE Project at each of the three sites:

Coed Tyllwyd, Llanfarian, Allt Goch, Llanidloes and Coedwig Gymunedol Long Wood Community Woodland, Lampeter.

Tir Coed is pleased to welcome Oliver Morris (Llanfarian Project Officer), Steph Butler (Llanidloes Project Officer) and Meinir Evans (Lampeter Project Officer) to the fold!

Between them they have already successfully launched and hosted the following VINE activities:

- 1 x Community Open Day
- 2 x Training Courses
- 4 x Special Activity Days working with:
  - ◆ 2nd Aberaeron Scouts
  - ◆ Ysgol Y Dderi, Llangybi
  - ◆ The Prince's Trust
  - ◆ Ponthafren Outreach

A really positive start to a fantastic project.

See inside for more details of these individual activity sessions.

Tir Coed  
Welcomes five  
new members  
of staff

2014,  
Tir Coed's  
15 year  
Anniversary

Celebrate with  
us and join our

#HugaTree  
Campaign!

### Inside this Newsletter

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Join our #HugaTree Campaign

Hug a tree, upload the photo to Facebook, nominate 2 friends and Donate £1.00 via Pay Pal!





## Volunteering In the Natural Environment (VINE) - Llanidloes Community Open Day

Launch at Coed Allt Goch, 26 April 2014



The launch of the Llanidloes VINE project on Saturday 26 April was a real success with a good turnout, some showers but mostly sunshine. The event, which took place in the Allt Goch woods just outside Llanidloes, was attended by thirty residents and their families. They all got stuck into a variety of activities, and had a say in what they would like to do in Allt Goch over the coming seasons. The event was supported by Town Councillors as well as community groups, Both Coed and the Friends of Allt Goch woods.

Project Officer, Steph Butler, devised and led a consultation activity for the event. As people put their names on the register at the information stand, they were given three coloured paper leaves with which to "Vote for VINE". They then wrote on them 3 activities they would like the project to put on in the Allt Goch woods, then tied them to withies attached to the living willow sculpture at the site. This created a visually attractive record of ideas, which can now be used as a basis for planning activity days for VINE 2014.

Cath Rigler led a selection of activities for children attending the event: creating a mini obstacle course using woodland materials; making dream catchers from willow and wool; and creating small sculptures with clay, willow and found materials. The children and their parents gave very positive feedback and clearly enjoyed the activities. Children too, made suggestions for the project.

Bob Shaw gave pole lathe demonstrations and led a walk around the site to talk to people about the woods and wildlife, how we can manage our woods to improve their health, to provide materials we can use, and as a resource for the future. People were very impressed with Bob's knowledge and approach, and there is clearly enough interest to set up activity days, led by Bob, for people to learn about woodland management practice and techniques.



As well as the pole lathes, a selection of green wood crafts were available for people to try. There were shave horses, kipsy baskets and gypsy flowers, all using local hazel. These were manned by Geraint Blayney (Community Engagement Officer) and Oliver Morris (Llanfarian Project Officer). These activities proved popular, and people were particularly pleased with the gypsy flowers, made from split hazel, which they could take home with them.

Face Painting was also available, provided by Ffion Farnell (Director) and the children were delighted to be made up as woodland animals.



## VINE - Llanidloes Activity Days

### Thumbs up all round for Ponthafren

Lead:	Cath Rigler
Support:	Steph Butler
Sessions:	1
No. volunteer days:	1
No. volunteer hours:	32
Total no. volunteers	8



Tir Coed held its first VINE Special Activity Day in Llanidloes, on Thursday 10 April 2014.

8 volunteers from the Ponthafren Association's Llanidloes Outreach Group, enjoyed a crafty session led by Machynlleth based Forest 3 Leader Cath Rigler.

Steph Butler, Llanidloes Project Officer met with the group and discussed the project with them. The group agreed they would like to take part in activity sessions in the Allt Goch woods, and expressed an interest in art & craft activities.

The group enjoyed being out in the woods, where they sculpted small land art pieces from clay and natural, found materials. The group took a walk around the wood and placed their sculptures in their desired location.

Ponthafren, is an organisation for people with mental health issues or those who are socially isolated or excluded. The Ponthafren Association's Llanidloes Outreach Group meets weekly in Llanidloes.

To find out more visit: [www.ponthafren.org.uk](http://www.ponthafren.org.uk).

#### Feedback

When asked if they would like to spend more time in the woods - the group responded very positively. All 8 were keen to return.

***"I would if I could, if I was able to. I used to love to go in the woods at home, I used to walk for miles. It's a different air you're breathing as well, it makes you feel better."***



This was a real "Thumbs up all round".





## Volunteering In the Natural Environment (VINE) - Lampeter Activity Days

### Scouts camping weekend

Lead:	Tony Eames
Support:	Anna Thomas
Sessions:	2
No. volunteer days:	2
No. volunteer hours:	492
Total no. volunteers	17

The VINE initiative kicked off with great success at the Long



Wood site, with the 2nd Aberaeron Scout Group, when 15 young Scouts and 2 Leaders became pioneers being the first group to stay on site at Long Wood. The young Scouts worked towards their Forestry Badge and spent the weekend of the 29 March learning about the types of trees growing in the woodland, along with learning the necessary skills for coppicing, and the importance of safety when handling tools.

Tony Eames, an experienced woodsman and craftsman taught the Scouts how to make kipsy baskets and gypsy flowers, which made wonderful Mother's Day gifts for the Scouts to present at the end of the weekend.



Assistant Leader, Alison and fellow Scouts, Dylan, Gwyn and Owen, had a wonderful cause for celebration, as this weekend saw the culmination of their Bronze Dragon Award, which involved sleeping out every calendar month. Group Leader, Martha achieved a Gold Dragon Award, which involved an additional 24 camping challenges.

#### Feedback

*"It's really good for our Troop to find new and interesting places to camp locally and the potential for 'hammocking' at Long Wood was a total bonus! Equally, your knowledgeable tutors, who engaged well with the kids, are a fantastic resource - I'll definitely be recommending the project to other scout leaders."* Martha





## VINE - Lampeter Activity Days

### Ysgol Y Dderi pupils have a wonderful time!

Lead:	Rob Smith
Support:	Aaron Kinsella
Sessions:	1
No. volunteer days:	74
No. volunteer hours:	34
Total no. volunteers	17



Tir Coed donated a beautifully crafted bench made by WiseWoods Wales and funded by Cynnal Y Cardi, to Llangybi Primary school, Ysgol Y Dderi, to launch the VINE project in the Lampeter area. This was followed by a woodwork activities session for 17 Year 5 pupils from the school, who participated in the VINE Activity Day and discovered the safe skills required to carve wood. The skills session led by Rob Smith and Aaron Kinsella who are knowledgeable ambassadors of woodland management and can create wonderful crafted items.



They are both excellent role models as they started their careers as volunteers on Tir Coed programmes, and now Aaron is an Apprentice with Wise Woods Wales and Rob owns his own woodland and works with the Team at Wise Woods Wales.



The children were thrilled to be able to make their own personal pencil holders and magic wands! The session enabled them to learn carving skills and discover the wide variety of items that can be created from wood sourced in local woodlands.



#### Feedback

***"We are thrilled with the crafted bench, and the Year 5 pupils were grateful for the opportunity to be part of the VINE experience. The children gained a wealth of experience and knowledge of carving green wood items, which inspired some of them to find out more about carving skills. We are looking forward to our next VINE experience."*** Heini Thomas, Headteacher, Ysgol Y Dderi



On a scale of 1 to 10, (1, Poor and 10, Excellent), 62% of the group rated the VINE experience as 10, Excellent, 30% rated 9 and 8%, rated 8. All pupils wished to take part in another VINE experience.



## VINE - Lampeter Activity Days

### Princes Trust group get a break with VINE!

Lead:	Ben Allen
Support:	Prince's Trust
Sessions:	1
No. volunteer days:	1
No. volunteer hours:	98
Total no. volunteers	7

Seven Prince's Trust Volunteers who spent 5 days making improvements to pathways and access routes at Long Wood were given a break from their duties to learn wood craft skills through the VINE project.



During the VINE Activity session the volunteers were provided with materials and skills to make a 3 legged stool, which they could carve and personalise, under the guidance of experienced tutor, Ben Allen.

#### Feedback

Some participants would have appreciated more time, but the majority stated that nothing would have made the session better. All the participants learned how to make a stool, and one stated that there was very good instruction and guidance by the tutor.





## Volunteering In the Natural Environment (VINE) - Llanfarian

### First Timber Construction Course at Coed Tyllwyd

The first timber construction course is in the final stages of preparation and will be starting in Coed Tyllwyd, Llanfarian in May. It is set to run on two days a week, for three months, until the end of July.

So far, 10 participants have shown a keen interest and have completed referral forms - including 2 pupils from Penglais. It is proving to be a popular course, especially as it offers the opportunity to undertake an Agored Cymru unit in 'Construction of a Basic Wooden Shelter', and there is already a waiting list.

This will be the first full VINE course at Coed Tyllwyd, as well as being the first for new tutor, James Davies, a previous Tir Coed course participant. Since graduating from Tir



Coed, James has been working with a company building compost toilets as well as developing his craft skills using the pole lathe. His expertise will be used to the full as this course aims to not only provide valuable skills and experience to the trainees, but also to improve the facilities of the site for future use by building a compost toilet.

The plan is to involve the participants in all the stages of the process - from ground works and path building to milling the timber and then the physical construction.

Everyone who uses Coed Tyllwyd should benefit from the facilities that are planned for year one. Once the compost toilet is finished the next course will involve constructing a shelter for the site.

If you would enjoy varied outdoor work and physical exercise in a beautiful woodland setting, with the option of gaining accreditation and would like to get involved - then contact Oliver on [llanfarian@tircoed.org.uk](mailto:llanfarian@tircoed.org.uk)





## The Apprenticeship Project - Woodland Management Apprenticeships

### Update

The Apprentices have been kept very busy over the last few months ...

Aaron, at WiseWoods Wales, has continued to be heavily involved in the development, production, and installation of a variety of wooden play structures, which are helping to fulfil an extensive contract with Ray Ceredigion.



Aaron has shown great commitment to the job - he has never been late, even though he has to travel by public transport from Cardigan to Lanfarian, three days a week - a total journey time of 4 hours per day! His mentors are

very impressed. They share enthusiastic accounts of having seen a huge change in Aaron's focus and attitude. He has become a real asset to the WiseWoods team. Staff confirm that he adds a different dimension to the team. He has great physical strength and determination, but also real sense of fun, and keeps everyone amused.

Aaron gained further employment experience recently as a result of his positive work with groups and his enthusiasm for passing on skills to others. As the activity support for a green woodwork craft session at Ysgol Y Dderi, he won the respect of children and staff alike. Aaron is saving his wages to help fund driving lessons as



this will be a critical skill for obtaining more employment across a rural county in future.

Kevin, at Coedwig Gymunedol Long Wood Community Woodland, has continued to play a key role in the visitor centre build. He has been working closely with Long Wood's new



timber extraction assistant to help train them in use of the mill. Together they have provided the required milled timber for use in the build. Kevin has been a key member of staff in the process of felling, selective thinning and extraction of timber prior to milling, and has been fortunate to gain extra paid employment, as a contractor.

Kevin works with the regular Volunteer group and has shown a real flare for this.



He has been responsible for managing the construction of 2 picnic tables for the Riverside Walk project and 5 benches for elsewhere around the site.

As part of his accreditation, Kevin has learnt surveying techniques and is monitoring 2 plots to compare the growth of ground flora.



Both apprentices have undertaken chainsaw training with WiseWoods Wales and have recently completed their chainsaw assessment. The assessor was very impressed with both and praised them highly for their achievements. This 'ticket' should open a few more doors for both apprentices in the employment market when they finish their placements.





## The Apprenticeship Project - Wood Construction Apprenticeships

### Interviews for Final Placement

The application process for selecting the new Wood Construction apprentice, proved to be another one which generated a huge amount of interest. The apprenticeship scheme offers individuals amazing opportunities and an insight into the world of the woodland sector, as well as giving skills training which ultimately helps secure employment. Fourteen applications were received for just one placement! A short list of eight were invited for interview and these candidates were put through a three hour practical session. Three were selected for the formal interview stage. The standard was extremely high, making this a very difficult decision, but this became even tougher, as each candidate had qualities perfect for the apprenticeship. After much deliberation and debate, Eifion Wakefield was offered, and accepted the placement with Ben Grey at Pen yr Allt, Nanternis.



A fantastic achievement and the start of a very exciting placement. Perhaps the most satisfying outcome of the day, apart from discovering a lot more talent and gaining a great new apprentice, was the fact that we were able to offer other progression opportunities for every single person who attended the interviews, whether as participants on future VINE training courses or potential



project support or volunteering for Wise-Woods Wales. Everyone left with a list of positive possibilities to consider.





## New Staff!



**TIR COED**

Supported by:



Tir Coed is pleased to welcome our new VINE Project Officers and Jobs Growth Wales Placements:

Many moons ago I graduated with a Town and Country Planning Degree, since then my career has focussed on posts developing people and communities with Antur Teifi, Sports Council for Wales, Careers Wales and Cymdeithas Neuadd yr Ysgol. I enjoy keeping active with my young family and have a keen interest in alternative therapy to maximise health and wellbeing. I'm thrilled with my new role as a Project Officer for VINE working alongside a dedicated team at Tir Coed and Long Wood. This is a wonderful opportunity for people to learn new skills and taste new experiences whilst also having a positive impact on the bio diversity and management of a beautiful community woodland. **Meinir**

I have worked in community development, education and the creative industries for the last 13 years since moving back to my home town of Aberystwyth. I have taught all ages a breadth of subjects ranging from Tai Chi with primary school pupils, Creative Writing with adults and Academic Research Skills with teenagers. My passion for the outdoors has been lifelong, and I love helping others to experience the joy of being in nature - in all weathers! Woodlands hold a special fascination as I also have a strong interest for traditional crafts and vernacular architecture. Currently studying for a doctorate I value woodlands for the social, environmental and economic benefits they bring communities when properly managed and I am thrilled to be working for Tir Coed, engaging communities and promoting this message. **Oli**

I grew up near Presteigne in Radnorshire but am very settled living in Llanidloes. I have experience of community arts project management and wanted to follow a new direction in working positively with the natural environment. I am delighted to be working for Tir Coed as Llanidloes Project Officer. I believe that people can interact with the natural world in a way which is beneficial to both. I am looking forward to putting on activities in the Allt Goch woods which will help both the local community and the woodland. **Steph**

### Lampeter Project Officer



### Llanfarian Project Officer



### Llanidloes Project Officer





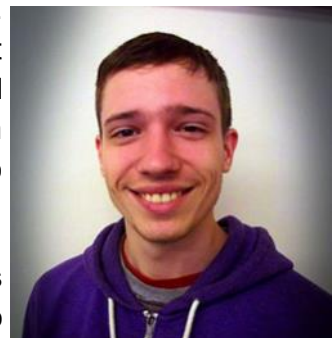
## More staff!

### Community Engagement Officer



My name is Geraint Blaney and I am the new Community Engagement Officer for Tir Coed. I graduated from Aberystwyth University with a Geography degree. I enjoy working in the outdoors and on projects. I have many interests, one of which is restoring old cars, and am presently working on restoring a 1964 Ford Anglia in my free time. I am part of a group of people in Lampeter called *Traws Link Cymru* who are campaigning to restore an Aberystwyth to Carmarthen railway. I look forward to my time with Tir Coed. **Geraint**

### Promotional Officer



Hi I'm Danny James, Tir Coed's new Promotional Officer. I live in Lampeter and have always been a keen photographer when it comes to the outdoors. I previously volunteered on a Tir Coed programme and was involved in the Long Wood round house build. I am pleased to be working with the Tir Coed team and am looking forward to promoting the positive work of this local charity. **Danny**

Both Geraint and Danny are taking part in a Jobs Growth Wales placement and will be with Tir Coed for 6 months- although we hope to keep them for longer!

## Meet the team!



Angie Martin



Ffion Farnell



Eluned Lewis



Meinir Evans



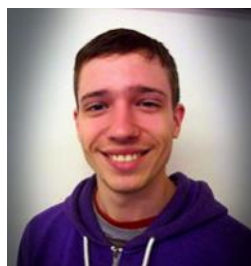
Oliver Morris



Steph Butler



Geraint Blaney



Danny James







The big achievement of this quarter is that WiseWoods has signed a five year Management Agreement with Natural Resources Wales (formerly *Forestry Commission Wales*) under the 'Woodlands and You' scheme. This has secured the use of the Coed Tyllwyd site for WiseWoods Wales for the medium term and it allows us to push ahead with plans for improving the site facilities and access.

With our future on this site assured for the next five years, it now makes sense to start monitoring the wildlife on site. This will provide professional baseline data to allow the quantitative measurement of improvements in biodiversity over the period. We have recently had the vegetation monitored by Swansea University as part of the WISE network, and we have also had a bird survey carried out by EcoPermai Environmental Consultants. This will hopefully be recorded as GIS data so that it can be combined with other data and used for future comparisons.

This quarter has been dominated by a flood of orders needing to be completed by the end of the financial tax year. Fortunately the appalling weather gave way to glorious, cool, sunny and windless days, allowing production to accelerate to meet the demand.

Our success in gaining these orders is thanks to our close partnerships with Ray Ceredigion, Ceredigion County Council's, Tidy Towns project and the Cantref Housing Association. We also managed to assist the Council's Tourism department in repairing damage done to Life Ring stations in Aberystwyth and Ynys Las. In this quarter we manufactured and installed 2 benches on the Ystwyth Trail for Llanilar Community Council, 3 benches for Cantref in Blaenplwyf, Cardigan and Fishguard, a Pirate Ship for Capel Bangor school, a play platform and fitness trail for Ciliau Aeron community and a balance beam trail for an estate in Blaenplwyf.







It is now clear the areas in which WiseWoods Wales excels, and we must face the challenge of gaining sufficient profitable orders to sustain our business over the coming year. We are approaching local and county councils, schools and owners of public spaces to offer public seating, shelters and play equipment. The next two months are vital to securing our future.

On the training front, we are delighted to report that Tir Coed's two Woodland Apprentices (funded by the Prince's Countryside Fund), Aaron Kinsella (WiseWoods) and Kevin Rabbitt (Long Wood Community Woodland), passed their chainsaw maintenance and felling assessment with flying colours. Both were trained at WiseWoods.

We are also delighted with the progress made by our new Admin Officer, Zoe Temple. Zoe is being financially supported by Jobs Growth Wales, through Ceredigion Training. She is fast becoming indispensable by streamlining all of our day to day administration tasks and by becoming a central part of our marketing efforts for the next phase of our business activities.

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## Farming and countryside

### New role for Zoe at woodland charity

WISEWOODS Wales has welcomed Zoe Temple as its newly-appointed administration officer. Zoe (pictured) spent her summer with the Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre in New Quay following the completion of her conservation biology degree, and has now joined the team in Aberystwyth.

WiseWoods manager, Andy Bakerwell, said: "I'm sure it won't take long for us to wonder what we did without her."

WiseWoods was set up by local woodland charity Tir Coed and is supported by Natural Resources Wales, Environment Wales, RWT Ceredigion and the Ceredigion Social Enterprise Growth Fund.

WiseWoods makes bespoke outdoor benches, tables and picnic tables, as well as outdoor play equipment, wooden fitness trails, workshop benches, potting tables, shed and firewood shelters. In close partnership with RWT Ceredigion, WiseWoods has recently installed a wooden fort in Cellan, fitness circuits in both New Quay and Bessley, and a balance beam trail in Blaenplwyf.



WiseWoods continues to meet and exceed its objectives of improving Coed Tyllwyd through sustainable woodland management and by developing its staff and volunteers. We are also well on the way to being financially self-supporting and by providing a working example of what can be achieved in a small and challenging woodland site.

Many thanks to all involved in WiseWoods' continuing success and a special thanks to the staff who have given everything to ensure all of our many orders were delivered and installed on time.





## Sad closure for Recycling Pioneers!



**TIR COED**

### ABERYSTWYTH RECYCLING CENTRE



Tir Coed would like to thank Aberystwyth Recycling Centre for a donation of office equipment after the sad closure of the Company. A.R.C. has pioneered recycling in Ceredigion for the past 25 years. Starting in 1988 as Friends of the Earth recycling, at that time

was only supported by a minority of alternatively minded people, and it was a real struggle to get the council and the general public supporting the cause. Now recycling is mainstream, and in the Ceredigion area this is largely due to the tireless work of A.R.C., in pushing the environmental ideals - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

The closure of A.R.C. has come following the loss of some large accounts over the last two years, and a very large increase in their Insurance Premium, growing from £5,000 per annum to £40,000, despite having no claims against insurances held over 25 years!

Tir Coed would like to thank A.R.C. for their kind donations and their positive contribution to environmental campaigning over the last 25 years. Tir Coed wishes everyone involved luck for the future.

### Could You make a Donation?



DONATE



FUNDRAISE



LEGACY

If you are in a position to Help Tir Coed to continue its valuable work, by making a donation, rest assured that your contribution will be put to good use, and will be greatly appreciated by all beneficiaries of the Charity.



### Donated Items:

Set of shelves  
Filing cabinets  
4x Wheelie bins  
White board  
White board pens  
2 x recycling bins  
Extension leads  
Gloves:  
10 pairs polyco grip gloves  
4 pairs split leather gloves  
1 pair garden gloves  
4 tidinoir bags  
Packs of hand towels  
15x folders  
Box of small -brown envelopes  
320 Plastic Wallets  
Expo dots: For display boards  
Paper folders  
50 biros  
2 hole punchers  
5 boxes of staples  
Box Visitor badges  
2 boxes paper-clips  
Highlighter pens  
12 porcelain cups  
4 hard hats  
200 multi-purpose labels  
Large envelopes  
Small padded envelopes  
2 boxes suspension file dividers  
Large white envelopes  
Packs of folder dividers  
200 A5 envelopes

In the current economic climate, where competition for public funding is fierce, your donation could go a long way in securing the work of the Charity.

Tir Coed deeply values any donations however small, given by members of the public.

Thank you for your continued support.