



Welcome to this Spring edition of the Tir Coed newsletter.

As usual it has been a busy time for Tir Coed delivering many woodland activities to a wide range of people.

- ◆ Three training courses have already been completed with two more currently running and another starting imminently.
- ◆ Two open days have seen hundreds of people attending and a variety of bespoke activity days have enabled various groups to try their hand at something new in the beautiful woodland environment.
- ◆ Tir Coed's Llanfarian Project Officer, Geraint Blayney, has sadly left Tir Coed to progress into full time employment with NRW. Although we are very sad to see him go, we are thrilled that he has been offered such a wonderful opportunity, and wish him all the best for the future.
- ◆ We were very happy to be able to offer Eva Walters, who co-ordinated the *Harvesting The Knowledge* project in partnership with Ceredigion Museum, a three month marketing internship to lengthen her time with Tir Coed.
- ◆ The Tir Coed Director has been developing an exciting five year strategy which will see the charity expand its areas of operation and the number of people it trains, whilst continuing to forge close partnerships with organisations across Wales.
- ◆ A recent five year funding application, in partnership with the Elan Valley Trust, has been submitted as well as a five year partnership project with Llais y Goedwig - Fingers crossed!
- ◆ Twenty five Tir Coed training course tutors attended a recent standardisation event, looking at why accreditation is important and how Tir Coed can provide more opportunities. It was fantastic to get so many woodland professionals together and we are planning to hold another event with all Tir Coed activity providers, to continue some of the exciting discussions started at the last event.

I hope you enjoy reading about the positive work Tir Coed is undertaking in your communities.

Happy Reading!



STOP PRESS

Tir Coed Works in Partnership with Elan Valley Trust, Dwr Cymru and Rhayader Museum and Gallery

See page 4 for details

STOP PRESS

Standardisation and Networking event for Training Course Tutors gathers positive feedback.

See page 13 for details

Inside this Newsletter

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Llanidloes VINE - Special Activity Day

Woodland Bushcraft and Survival - 18 March 2015

Leader: Cath Rigler
 Support: Polly Williams
 Sessions: 1
 Volunteers: 7
 Vol hours: 42

'The Kaleidoscope Project in Newtown provides support to people with drug and alcohol issues, enabling them to make

positive changes in their lives.'



Kaleidoscope arranged an introduction to woodland bushcraft and survival activity session for their clients at Allt Goch woods, Llanidloes. The aim was to give this group of individuals the chance to experience the therapeutic woodland environment and have-a-go at fire lighting, finding and processing water, bushcraft and survival skills.

The day was really enjoyed by everyone and there have been many requests for similar sessions in future. One participant also signed up for the next Training Course.

Feedback from the participants, Kaleidoscope support workers and Tir Coed staff was Excellent.

"They (the clients) all really enjoyed themselves thank you; especially sitting around the fire"

"We really enjoyed working with this group"



Lampeter VINE - Special Activity Day

Willow Weaving Dome - 20 & 31 March 2015

Leader: Angie Polkey
 Support: Alice Midmore
 Sessions: 2
 Volunteers: 12
 Vol hours: 84



Service Users at Canolfan Steffan created two willow structures in



March, one situated near the Visitor Centre at Coedwig Cymunedol Long Wood Community Woodland and the other outside Canolfan Steffan. These shelters are already starting to bud and will create wonderful spaces for service users to relax at Canolfan Steffan, and for visitors to enjoy at Long Wood.

'Canolfan Steffan provides Community Support Services which aim to deliver meaningful, high quality, fulfilling experiences and opportunities for adults with Learning Disabilities that will increase choice, promote independence and enable access to local communities'.

Feedback:

Angie Polkey, facilitator, said: *"Living willow features are a wonderful way to engage all abilities as there's something to involve everyone. Even those with mobility restrictions can make decorative features to attach or hang from the feature - and there's an enormous sense of satisfaction and team spirit in creating something beautiful which will continue to grow and provide opportunities for further involvement."*

Learnt & Enjoyed

"Creating a Willow Structure"

"Plygu helyg a pridd y ddaear (Weaving willow and the soil)"

"All of it!"

"Helping make the arch"

"Preparing holes for planting"



Lampeter VINE - Special Activity Days

Bird Song Walk - 31 March 2015

Leader: Ian Morris
Support: Meinir Evans
Sessions: 1
Volunteers: 8
Vol hours: 24

The activities offered during the Easter holidays at Long Wood Community Woodland were enjoyed by all ages.

The Birdsong walk led by Ian Morris was both informative and enjoyable.



Feedback:

"Nine of us turned up for a bird song walk through Long Wood. We had a lovely stroll of over three miles down to the theatre and back.

Fortunately, the rain passed over but the cold, blustery winds made it difficult to hear the birds too clearly. We had brief views of Ravens diving and soaring overhead. Back at the car park we had a glimpse of Long-tailed Tits. We also heard a singing Chiffchaff, a small warbler that migrates here for the summer from possibly Spain or Portugal. In the next month many more of them will arrive to set up territories throughout Long Wood and the surrounding countryside." Ian Morris



Forest School - 8 April 2015

Leader: Sally Harvey
Support: Alice Midmore
Sessions: 1
Volunteers: 15
Vol hours: 90



On 8 April fifteen 8 – 12 year olds had a wonderful day in the woods, under the expert guidance of Sally Harvey and Alice Midmore. The lively group of individuals soon got to know each other on the walk down to the Forest School site. Here they had the chance to learn bushcraft skills, create personalised shelters, dream catchers and crafted mobiles and cook lunch and making popcorn over an open fire.

Feedback:

"Thank you very much from Neide and Moe who thoroughly enjoyed their day with you guys at Long Wood. The den building was a particular hit, and of course the fire!

I'm so grateful that my kids have the chance to live with these special places on their doorstep and that they get to go wild in the woods under the guidance of such nurturing leaders as yourselves. Thanks again"

The children were filmed giving their response to how much they had enjoyed the day ... and when asked to stand somewhere on a scale from 1 (not so good) to 10 (brilliant) ... the majority immediately scooted to the 10! A clear indication that the session was a huge hit.



Elan Valley and Rhayader VINE - Open Day

Elan Valley Family Fun Day - 4 April 2015

Leaders: Ben Grey
Terri Sweeney
Support: Milo Ames
Assistant: David Hughes
Sessions: 1
Volunteers: 89
Vol hours: 89

Easter Saturday, 4 April, proved to be a fun filled Eggstravagaza for all the family, as a special day of activities was hosted in partnership with Elan Valley Trust, Dwr Cymru and Rhayader Museum and Gallery. This was indeed a beautiful day, both



in weather and participant enjoyment. Five hours of free fun included demonstrations and have-a-go sessions on the pole lathe and shave horse at the Elan Valley Visitor Centre, where Ben and Milo excelled themselves as always, in encouraging so many families to try their hand at traditional woodcrafts. People young and old experienced the gratification of personal success, discovering skills that they did not previously know that they had. This was evident in the many smiles on their faces and the true determination shown. The tutors were really impressive in their skill and in encouraging the participants. With warmth and support, so many went away feeling personal success and a new respect for traditional crafts.

Artist Terri Sweeney ran Easter themed arts and crafts workshops at Rhayader Museum & Gallery decorating eggs scraffitio; decorating polystyrene eggs de-coupage; creating 3D Easter cards and decorating eggs with gems. Terri's activity was a great contrast to the wood turners and equally impressive. Artfully facilitating large groups of very lively children, Terri channelled their energies into beautiful artwork. Decorated eggs of all shapes and sizes and beautifully embellished cards delighted participants and gave them something to take home and be proud of. The activity drew in the crowds, as had been hoped, and many had a look around the museum as a result, reconnecting with the areas past and cultural significance.



For eager young visitors who preferred a bit of eggciting detective work there was also an Easter Egg Trail at the museum. Overall, this was a very successful day and has set the groundwork for more collaborative working in future.



"Look! I made this! Im going to take it home for mum."

Feedback:

"That was great fun, thank you so much ... we've come back a second time as the kids are loving it so much"

"Thank you for occupying the family for half a day. Thoroughly enjoyable!"

One Tir Coed volunteer, David Hughes, was so inspired by the venue and the activities on the day that he has applied to the Elan Valley Trust to volunteer with them too.

This event was part of a new and exciting partnership venture between Tir Coed and organisations in the Elan Valley and Rhayader area. A Heritage Lottery Landscape Partnership bid for the Elan Valley has recently been submitted after a successful collaboration process to develop and move this mutually beneficial project forward. We eagerly await the results.



Llanfarian VINE - Special Activity Day

Bench Making - 8, 9 & 10 April 2015

Leader: Gavin Doram
Support: Polly Williams
Sessions: 4
Volunteers: 13
Vol hours: 65

A group of young people from the Ceredigion Youth Justice and Prevention team visited Coed Tyllwyd for three



consecutive days to participate in bench making activities. The whole task included creating a flat area near the Tir Coed shelter, as well as making and installing a bench.



The activities offered by Tir Coed allow the young people to engage with the outdoor natural environment whilst helping to develop a range of practical and social skills.



Sessions were led by tutor Gavin Doram, and supported by Polly Williams, who both expertly kept the group entertained and on task. There was a cheerful atmosphere throughout with participants aged 10-17 all really enjoying being in the woodland setting. At the end of the three days, the bench was complete, and was looking very smart in its new position.



The group were very proud of their achievement, and were particularly impressed with how much work they had been able to accomplish as a team during their short time with Tir Coed.

Feedback:

"A massive appreciation of both Polly and Gav's work in creating such a positive experience for our group. It was so gratifying that they were able to (with your help) achieve the creation of the terracing, steps, and bench."

Chris Robinson



Llanidloes VINE - Special Activity Day

Forest School and Woodland - 1 May 2015

Leader: Colin Titley
Support: Dave Thomas
Sessions: 1
Volunteers: 9
Vol hours: 54



A mixture of fire craft, woodland biodiversity and

traditional woodland crafts; this was a lovely day in the woods for the Kaleidoscope Group from Newtown.

The participants had already heard such good things from participants of a previous event in March, and they were not disappointed.

Artfully led by the skill and warmth from Colin and Dave, volunteers and staff alike learned traditional methods of lighting a fire followed by the delight of cooking outdoors. They went on to discover more about the woodland biodiversity as Colin and Dave explained the sensitive management of Allt Goch woods giving an insight into the detail and complexity of the hard work that they and their course trainees had undertaken to get to this point.

Colin and Dave instil in people their love of careful, considered and expert management and the volunteers went away with renewed respect for natural spaces and how to maximise their health and vibrancy along with new traditional craft ideas.

Feedback:

"Excellent" Participant

"Thank you that was a great day. Can we do it again please?" Participant

"We really enjoyed the day thank you.

Colin and Dave were brilliant – really engaging.

Our group learned so much and are asking to do it again"

Support Worker

"A great group"

Activity Leader



Llanidloes VINE - Special Activity Days

Musical Instrument Making - 8 May 2015

Leader: Dave Thomas
Sessions: 1
Volunteers: 3
Vol hours: 24

In preparation for the Allt Goch Open Day on 9 May; the focus of this activity was to create and

construct a selection of musical instruments (glockenspiel, shakers, whistles) from on-site natural materials.

Dave showed huge creative flair in supporting volunteers to construct sophisticated musical instruments from the natural materials sourced on-site as a result of the recent woodland management activities.

The volunteers faces lit up through the day in awe of what they were creating. Dave showed how pre-thought, planning, innovation and attention to design could lead a group to construct complicated musical instruments with depth of tone and musicality. Volunteers learned how different types of wood could possess different qualities and transmit diverse sounds and how the depth of sound could be altered by raising them off each other to promote the natural resonance. A truly insightful day.

This preparatory activity showed what could happen and what can be achieved when the community comes together with common focus, and where young people receive inspiration to be creative in the natural environment.

Feedback:

"That was amazing. I can't believe what we made ... it was terrific!"

"Really good day and everyone worked extremely hard."

"Amazing. The glockenspiel was a feat of engineering."

"Come and have a look at this – we made this – listen!!"



Maypole construction - 8 May 2015

Leader: Colin Tittley
Sessions: 1
Volunteers: 4
Vol hours: 32



More preparation for the Allt

Goch Open Day; the main focus of this session was site clearance and development as well as the Maypole construction.

This activity turned out to be a testimony to the generosity of local volunteers with a common goal. The following day's open day was to be a celebration to mark the collaboration between Tir Coed and the local woodland group Both Coed.

At the centre of this May Day celebratory Open Day was to be the May Pole, signifying not just traditional culture but the centrality of community within and around Llanidloes for years to come.

This preparation day proved to be a very efficient use of time and resources. Volunteers turned up early and left late, achieving great things in preparing the site.

The May Pole was sourced from previously coppiced materials on-site, and artfully fashioned for significance and function, so that it will last for years to come.

The success of any open day must be partly down to the preparation, and this was certainly true in this case.

The local Community positively joined together, forging new productive relationships and gelling friendships. This was certainly a very Special Activity Day.

Volunteers from both preparation sessions went on to actively support the Open Day, by again volunteering

their skills and time to

"Great Fun"

ensure the day was a success.

"We got there didn't we?"



Activity Leader: Teri Sweeney
Support: Sarah Thomas
Sessions: 1
Volunteers: 104
Vol hours: 416

There has been great feedback on the joint Open Day held by Tir Coed and Both Coed in Allt Goch Woods on 9 May.

It had a lovely family festival feel and was a testament to local groups coming together and developing a natural space to build community relationships in an environmentally aware and sensitive way.

Local businesses came along with traditional pizza making, fine teas and willow garlands. Maypole dancing around the central maypole, land art, local musicians, traditional craftsmen and storytellers helped make the day a tribute to what can be achieved through local collaboration and goodwill.

Well done everyone who took part, all the volunteers who put in so much time and effort, and the many families who contributed. Over 100 local people came along on what was a terrifically successful day for the community.

Community members, businesses, young and old alike felt part of the preparations and part of a celebratory day. Two town council members came along and remarked on how well the day was going. They were also very impressed by one of Tir Coed's

volunteers who spoke honestly and from the heart about how Tir Coed had transformed his life, from one of solitude and fear to embarking on a journey of participation in community activities, personal education and social inclusion that he had previously not thought possible.

This was a truly heart-warming day.

Feedback:

"Looking forward to the next one, keep up the good work." Llanidloes Town Councillor

"I think that the work Tir Coed have been doing is absolutely excellent... it would pay everybody to come and have a look just to see how much is being done."

Local Resident



"A great day – I am so proud of everyone"



"Look at what I made – mum loves it"



"Everyone's having so much fun!"



Llanfarian VINE - Special Activity Days

Spring Biodiversity Monitoring - 8 May 2015

Leader: Scott Roe
Support: Anna Thomas
Sessions: 1
Volunteers: 7
Vol hours: 35

'The Home Education Group are a group of people who educate their children outside of the mainstream education

system. They seek alternatives to the traditional school based environment, and aim to embrace new ways of learning. They meet up regularly to participate in different activities that offer a broad range of skills to the children.'

Organised by Janine Dibling this local group came to Coed Tyllwyd to take part in a day of biodiversity monitoring led by Scott Roe, the biodiversity expert.

They were very excited to learn some new skills and facts about the woodland from someone who really knows their stuff. The children were each given a map to help guide them around the different compartments of trees and were given time to discover about the woodland at their own pace, learning whilst playing.

The group also helped to collect evidence of types and numbers of plant and insect species from different areas, some already managed and others as yet unmanaged, which will be used to form the baseline data for tracking biodiversity variations in future.

The weather was a bit on the miserable side, with some occasional strong showers, but the hardy group carried on regardless!

Scott Roe is due to collate the information into a report on the condition of the woodland and its biodiversity, and this will be used to showcase the successful work that Tir Coed has, and continues to undertake to bring the woodland back to a healthy, managed condition.

Feedback:

"Thanks to everyone who came along despite the more than patchy weather! It was great to make a start on surveys and to spend time in this fantastic woodland. "

Scott Roe



Forest School - 14 May 2015

Leader: Jenny Dingle
Support: Polly Williams
Sessions: 1
Volunteers: 18
Vol hours: 72

The Home Education group arranged a Forest School session at Coed Tyllwyd, and enjoyed a day of wood carving and traditional carpentry, led by Jenny Dingle and Polly Williams.



and enjoyed a day of wood carving and traditional carpentry, led by Jenny Dingle and Polly Williams.

The participants used wood from the woodland to create three-legged stools and carved figurines and were able to witness, first hand, the transformation from wood in its raw state into a useful product. The group thoroughly enjoyed making the products and learning new skills in the relaxing woodland setting and eleven managed to complete items to take home with them!!

The children were able to develop new skills by learning through play and exploring at their own pace.

The group enjoyed the work of the day so much, that they have booked another session with Tir Coed later in the year.

The aim for this session will be to build and install a bench, so that future users of this community woodland can benefit from the improved facilities. The group felt it would be a way of thanking Tir Coed for the skills and knowledge which have been shared.

Feedback:

"I wanted to say how much we all enjoyed the day, kids and adults alike. Jenny and Polly were really great, so thank you for making it happen." Janine Dibling



Leader: Scott Roe
 Support: Meinir Evans
 Sessions: 2
 Volunteers: 13
 Vol hours: 121

These sessions were planned to introduce wildlife surveying methods to volunteers, to gain an understanding of the different approaches being used and to apply the correct methods to gather data. The sessions also provided useful datasets on the wildlife in selected parts of the woods. The results obtained during the monitoring days are being analysed to observe changes

in biodiversity over the course of the VINE project.

Two sections in the plantation area, which were thinned during December 2014, were revisited to measure the impact of the selective thinning. We were very pleased to discover that, even at this early stage, there were positive signs of improved bio diversity. Small oak saplings have appeared and a sighting of a Speckled Wood Butterfly, drawn into the plantation area as a result of increased light, was a real delight to see.

Further surveys are planned during the summer months which will allow us to further measure the positive impact of thinning in the plantation. The hope is that the increased light will encourage the regeneration and improve the bio diversity of the area.

Each morning started with observing the diverse wildlife captured overnight in the light traps set by experienced Leader Scott Roe. Volunteers assisted with the identification prior to the careful release of the captured species. Over the course of the two days we learnt how to establish a survey area and how to use different methods for capturing data. To our amazement over a 100 species were discovered. A few of these species are listed:



Pied Flycatcher	Poplar Hawkmoth	Common pipistrelle
Wood warbler	Budd Tipmoth	Soprano pipistrelle
Song Thrush	Cinnebar Moth	A few species of burying beetles
Mistle Thrush	Brimstone Moth	



The sessions received very positive feedback and the volunteers involved are keen to use the skills learnt in further Surveys in future.

Feedback:

What was learnt and enjoyed?

- "The variations between bugs"
- "How to survey flora in a 10m square"
- "Wildlife surveying skills"
- "How to collect and identify species, walking a quadrat and identifying plants, collecting and bagging plants."
- "We noted how the wildlife had increased after the trees had been thinned"
- "Only 64 species of Butterfly in the UK but thousands of moths. Plantation zone had fewer than 10 species and regeneration zone had more than 20."
- "About different approaches to woodland management and about the benefits of partially clearing plantations as opposed to clear felling."
- "Diversity of species in set area"
- "Talking with conservation expert, collecting diversity data, learning collection methods and spending time outdoors with others."
- "Looking at all the different species of plants and insects. Discovering what they are. There are so many beautiful species to see"
- "Having someone taking the time to answer questions"
- "Hands-on practical work"
- "Meeting interesting people"

Sustainable Woodland Management - January - March

Leader: Tony Eames
Support: Ben Allen
Sessions: 22
Volunteers: 7
Vol Days: 127
Vol hours: 742

As outlined in the last Newsletter, (Winter: Dec 14 - Feb 15), whilst on the course the participants developed knowledge of a range of different methods

of woodland management and their implications for promoting biodiversity.



They also created some wonderful coppiced products, developing green wood working skills to make mallets, axe handles, chairs, besom brooms and a gate.



There has been positive feedback to the sessions with participants enjoying the experience of learning the practical skills involved in woodland management and appreciated the opportunity to gain accreditation as evidence of the work completed.

Five individuals achieved 5 credits each at two levels from three different Agored Cymru units.

Accreditation

Agored Cymru Unit	Level	Credits	Achieved
SWM 1: Introduction to woodlands for wildlife and people	1	1	5
SWM 2: Introduction to Woodland Management	1	1	5
Coppice Products	2	3	5



These five volunteers have signed up to further enhance their learning of woodland management practises and are participating in the current *Practical Conservation* course which commenced on 8 May.

Practical Conservation - May - July

Leader: Benjamin Grey
Support: Milo Ames
Sessions: 5
Volunteers: 10

During this course the participants will be able to learn about and develop skills by working as part of a team to complete a series

of practical tasks within Long Wood Community Woodland. The group will again have opportunities to accredit their work by:

- Undertaking and recording a range of practical conservation tasks in a variety of habitats
 - Working in a safe manner
 - Completing risk assessments for different types of site
 - Demonstrating correct techniques for maintaining and storing tools, giving a 'tool talk' to the rest of the group
- In order to achieve these outcomes the volunteers will:
- Create a circular footpath walk by opening up an old extraction track, selecting a route and installing structures along a wetland area adjacent to the pond.
 - Create benches from felled timber for the willow structures created by Canolfan Steffan



Volunteering In the Natural Environment (VINE) - Llanfarian - Training Courses 2015

Sustainable Woodland Management - January - April

Leader: Rob Smith
Support: Anna Thomas
Sessions: 24
Volunteers: 7
Vol Days: 167
Vol hours: 990

This talented group of individuals has worked hard on site and has achieved a great deal both in woodland management and construction.

The whole process from extraction through to product manufacture was experienced, giving a real insight into the workings of the woodland.

The finished product, an amazing table with benches, designed and built by the group, is a real asset to the volunteer shelter site providing a substantial communal area for working, eating, and meeting.

Participants were given the opportunity to complete three Agored Cymru units by evidencing the practical work undertaken. The group achieved a combined total of 33 credits in all.

A very successful course for all involved.



Accreditation

Agored Cymru Unit	Level	Credits	Achieved
SWM 1: Introduction to woodlands for wildlife and people	1	1	6
SWM 2: Introduction to Woodland Management	1	1	6
Ancillary Structures	2	3	7



Practical Conservation - May - July

Leader: Gavin Doram
Support: Penny Williams
 Rob Smith
Sessions: 5
Volunteers: 6

This course started in early May and has plans to continue with general woodland management and conservation tasks including improvements and maintenance of the access routes and pathways. Some of this work has already begun.



On one of Geraint's last days before leaving as Project Officer for the Coed Tyllwyd site, he was seen escaping from the office to get out and do some hard graft fixing the pot holes on the access track to the woodland. Nice work Geraint!

Volunteering In the Natural Environment (VINE) - Llanidloes - Training Courses 2015

Sustainable Woodland Management - January - March

Leader: Colin Titley
Support: Dave Thomas
Sessions: 19
Volunteers: 18
Vol Days: 102
Vol hours: 612

Feedback:

"I cannot tell you how important this course has been for me. Before getting involved with Tir Coed I was too anxious to do anything."

This experience has totally changed my life and now I feel like I can join in with other things and not be so anxious."

"The course was great. It was especially significant the little chats that we engaged in over coffee or lunch. Volunteers open up so much during these times and it is a really important part of the delivery."



The end of this course has seen participants make a significant difference to one area of Allt Goch woodland. They have carried out a thinning process to help return it to the first stage of coppice rotation. The transformation is incredible. The site has wildlife habitat piles and tidy stacks of cordwood for use on other projects. The amount

of light now penetrating the canopy will allow regrowth of a range of ground cover and will substantially increase the biodiversity of the area. We look forward to later in the year when the benefits of this woodland management will be more visible.

Six participants have completed three Agored Cymru units which has boosted their achievements, and their workbooks will provide evidence to show potential employers / further education or training providers.

Accreditation

Agored Cymru Unit	Level	Credits	Achieved
SWM 1: Introduction to woodlands for wildlife and people	1	1	6
SWM 2: Introduction to Woodland Management	1	1	6
Practical Conservation	2	3	6



Volunteers have been keen to continue getting involved with activities in the woodland and have provided on-going support to several special activity days at Allt Goch.

Progression

Further Volunteering	3
Training /Further or Higher Education	1
Employment/ Self-Employment	1



Practical Conservation - June - August

Leader: Adam Thorogood
Support: Sarah Thomas
Sessions planned: 24

Starting in mid-June this training course has been designed to complement the sustainable woodland

management course and follow on positively, using the coppiced wood to make improvements to the paths and benches within the wood, as well as creating bird boxes. Volunteers will be learning about biodiversity audits and conservation whilst practically improving accessibility within the woods. Overgrown tree guards from pre-Tir Coed under-management will be removed, invasive plant species controlled and ground areas opened up via the creation of habitat piles. It looks like we will have a very mixed group of young and old participants from different walks of life, and we are looking forward to how the collaboration and support across generations will impact on the community lives and engagement of the volunteers.

There are still a few spaces available on this course, so anyone interested is encouraged to contact Martin: llanidloes@tircoed.org.uk or 07916 315614

Standardisation Event gets Positive Feedback

Tir Coed brought together twenty five training course tutors and support workers for a Standardisation Event in March. The aim of the twilight session was to run through developments and changes to the current systems and procedures; focusing on why accreditation is so important, how to enhance the learner experience and what can be done better - to ensure continued quality of delivery across all courses and sites.

Positive and lively discussions highlighted much good practice, whilst also identifying areas for improvement in paperwork processes. These ideas and suggestions will be developed over the next few months, with some being piloted during the next training courses at each site.



Feedback from the session was very positive and reinforced how much Tir Coed is valued by its growing number of tutors.

How has Tir Coed helped you?

"Tir Coed encouraged me to learn more about green woodworking"

"Through having the opportunity to practice and hone my tutoring and delivery skills"

"Tir Coed has allowed me to build my group working skills with groups of people, with older ages, as most of the work I do is with youth. The apprenticeship with Rob Smith allowed me to get experience with other people in a different place"

"I have a much better understanding of woodlands, how they operate and sustainability"

"By creating opportunities, pairing me with knowledgeable colleagues and CPD"

"I have Tir Coed to thank for teaching me many woodland skills including training and organisation, also for meeting many great people"

"I've learned loads and moved from volunteer to support leader and activity leader"

"I started out as a volunteer and now do work as support tutor for various activities"

"I feel a part of a wider network of woodland/activity providers"

"I've developed my practical skills and social skills"

"Provided contract employment, full employment"

"I've learnt a lot about developing woodland based enterprise including pitfalls!"

"Volunteered on woodland management and various builds. Support worker and tutor"

"Allowed me to experiment with wood and to teach/pass on skills"

The plan is to run regular networking opportunities and training events in future, extending the support and involvement to other tutors and support workers, who may at present only deliver Special Activity Day sessions. A big Thank You for all the encouraging and constructive contributions that helped make the event such a success.



More News

Staffing

Supported by:



Farewell to Llanfarian Project Officer



"Hello all. My time here at Tir Coed has come to an end.

I have been offered full time, permanent employment with Natural Resources Wales, an offer which does not occur regularly these days.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with Tir Coed. The VINE project is very exciting and rewarding, and the work the project does is valuable to people's lives, and the woodlands within which the project operates.

During the fourteen months I have worked for Tir Coed, I have seen the woodland site at Coed Tyllwyd transformed into an accessible and useful venue for many woodland activities. Areas of Coed Tyllwyd wood have been brought back to sustainable health, securing the resource for the future.

I would have not enjoyed my time with Tir Coed as much if it wasn't for the amazing people who work for it. The team have made me feel so welcome, and have always been ready to help when I've needed it. The skills which I've gained whilst being with Tir Coed have helped me find a secure, permanent and full time job which I've been very lucky to get. I would like to thank Tir Coed, and all of the Tir Coed and WiseWoods team for making my time with the organisation so enjoyable.

I'd like to wish the VINE project all the very best, and wish every success to the people who the project has outreached to." Geraint Blayney



THE WOODWARD CHARITABLE TRUST



We will all miss you too Geraint! We wish you every success in your future career. Don't forget your roots!



Llanidloes Town Council





Update



Due to changes in our funding, WiseWoods has had to shift emphasis more towards professional training and away from the manufacture of wood products. We intend to carry on making wood products, but the proportion of our income from training will increase from now on. We are also still running volunteer projects in Woodland Management and Woodland Skills in Coed Tyllwyd.

WiseWoods has strengthened its partnership with MWMAC in Rhayader, and has provided four full chainsaw training courses and two brushcutter training courses for the Countryside Management students at Aberystwyth University. Courses have taken place on University grounds and in the woodlands at Coed Tyllwyd.

WiseWoods has also carried out many professional chainsaw assessments for MWMAC during this period.

We are now starting to develop a range of short woodland skills courses which we run mainly on weekends. These will include 'Chainsaw Use for Domestic Users and Small Woodland owners', 'Chainsaw Milling' and 'Build-your-own Shed' courses. The aim of these courses is to generate funds to assist Tir Coed with the charitable side of the business.

The WiseWoods Manager has also attended a 'Focus on Forestry First' funded skills course on 'Winch Extraction of timber by Skyline' run by 'Welsh Axeman' Alun Jones, which is particularly applicable for our steep site at Coed Tyllwyd and many other small woodland sites we work in.

The challenges we at WiseWoods are facing, trying to make ends meet working in a small woodland, are directly relevant to many small woodland owners. We hope that our new range of short courses will help others benefit from our experiences and learn from our solutions to difficulties we have faced. If you come on any of our short courses, we will also give you any help and advice we can on managing a small woodland.

All of our short courses can be tailored to meet your needs, whether you are a complete beginner, or are thinking of making a career of it. You can come to us, or if there are enough people interested, we can come to a woodland near you!

If you are interested or if you have any questions – please give us a call on 07815 670892.

