

**Welcome to this Summer edition of the Tir Coed newsletter.**

The summer months are always busy with Tir Coed activities as it is such a lovely time to enjoy the woods. This year has been no exception with a diverse variety of project activities enabling hundreds of people to engage with their local woodlands.

Over the last three months Tir Coed has facilitated **17** Special Activity Days for different groups outreaching to **335** individuals and clocking up a massive **1,786** hours of Volunteering In the Natural Environment.

**3** Training Courses have enabled **32** trainees to learn about caring for woodlands with **16** of them gaining level 1 or 2 accreditation in *Practical Conservation Skills* and *Constructing Ancillary Structures to Access Routes*. During these Training courses a staggering **2,481** hours of woodland improvements were carried out which included new paths and signs, bike racks installed, benches and tables.

**3** Community Open Days (one for each VINE site) have enabled **153** people from the wider community to learn more about Tir Coed and get involved with woodland activities.

Tir Coed has also attended summer shows with a presence at both the Royal Welsh Show and The Eisteddfod, as well as more localised events such as the Lampeter Agricultural show and farmers markets.

It has also been a busy time for WiseWoods Wales developing commercial training opportunities, in particular, the promotion and delivery of the 'Domestic Chainsaw Users' course, as well as exploring the feasibility of creating a unique qualification for progression into the woodland and forestry sector through a nurturing hub of excellence, a 'Forest Academy'.

We hope you enjoy reading about the positive work of Tir Coed and thank you for your continued support.

**Happy Reading!**



**STOP PRESS**  
**Summer Shows and Events Galore!**

For more details  
 See pages 8, 9, 12 & 18

**STOP PRESS**  
**Welcome to New Llanfarian Project Officer**



Hello all you lovely woodland folk ...

My name is **Joe Gardom** and I'm Tir Coed's new VINE Project Officer for Coed Tyllwyd, Llanfarian. I'm really looking forward to meeting more of the great people involved with these woods and I'm keen to hear your suggestions for future activity days and projects!  
*Joe*

**Inside this Newsletter**

- VINE Updates:
  - Lampeter
  - Llanfarian
  - Llanidloes
- News
- WiseWoods Wales



## Llanidloes VINE - Special Activity Days

### Woodland Skills and Crafts - 5 June 2015

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

Local Llanidloes residents and people from the Ponthafren Outreach group enjoyed a day at Allt Goch woods learning about Fire Craft and Green Woodworking skills.

Participants were given the opportunity to have-a-go at using fire strikers (flints) to light a camp fire and cook their own food, as well as whittling coat hooks and making friendship bands.

The group thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were totally immersed in all activities. They were left craving for more!

Some participants went on to actively volunteer in further Special Activity Days.



#### Feedback:

*"Thank you. I didn't think I would enjoy it so much. I'd like to come again"*

*"Thank you, the group really enjoyed it, especially sitting around the fire talking."*



### Woodland Craft and Land Art - 10 June & 8 July 2015

Leader: Cath Rigler  
Support: Polly Williams  
Sessions: 2  
Volunteers: 27  
Vol hours: 162

Young people from the local

Home Education Group visited the woods to take part in a range of activities from making dens and musical instruments, to playing games or learning about fire craft, and cooking popcorn and marshmallows. They also built a rope swing and engaged in very colourful and beautiful land art. The woodland was a hive of activity. All young people enjoyed being creative and playful.



#### Feedback:

*"It is great that young kids are being shown and trusted to use tools like a side axe"*

*"We really enjoyed the enthusiasm of Cath and Polly enjoying the children's art and creativity"*

*"I like gathering natural materials and being guided but with the freedom to create your own work"*

*"Most of this group had never been to Allt Goch woods before, so the first half hour was spent exploring the site closest to the work area, learning the lay of the land, noticing potential hazards and playing on the swing. We then played some 'shapes' games, to get our minds in gear for creating artworks, before choosing a tree to 'dress' as the initial stage of our land art project. The tree was beautiful before, but after our ministrations it was absolutely gorgeous!"* Cath Rigler, Tutor

*"Feedback was fab and the group were really chilled and produced some lovely bits of art"*

Polly Williams,  
Support



## Llanidloes VINE - Special Activity Days

### Outdoor Education - 15, 26, 29 June & 10 July 2015

Leader: Colin Titley  
Dave Thomas  
Sessions: 4  
Volunteers: 100  
Vol hours: 600



These activity sessions were organised to help support and extend Llandysilio Primary School's Outdoor Educational Resources.



Tir Coed has been working with staff and children at Llandysilio Primary School to develop their

on-site outdoor education facilities. Part of this process has involved offering some inspiring activities within the Allt Goch Woodland at Llanidloes.

Initiatives like this are helping to develop local green space resources, and are proving a huge success in the promotion of sustainable outdoor education. The Eco Group of children within Llandysilio have actively built a site plan for their outdoor space. Now they will be looking



out for new funding opportunities to bring in Tir Coed to help build the site.

"Thank you so much we have had some great days"

Feedback

"We really enjoyed working with Colin and Dave and can't wait for our new site now"

"It was a great group and everyone worked very hard and had great fun at the same time. They now have a ground plan to take forward to funders"

### Well Dressing Craft - 18 June 2015

Leader: Terri Sweeney  
Sessions: 1  
Volunteers: 6  
Vol hours: 18

Craft activities which are educational, traditional and culturally specific, form an important part of Tir Coed's VINE Project.

This recent Special Activity Day in Allt Goch Woods sees Llanidloes Outreach group creating their very own Well Dressings with Terri Sweeney.

Activity History: Well Dressings can be traced back over 2000 years to Pagan Celtic culture when powerful deities were thought to live in water. The craft is most practiced in Derbyshire. Christianity then changed the rituals into what it called Ascension Day.

All volunteers thoroughly enjoyed the activity and were delighted by their achievements.



#### Feedback:

*"It was really nice – thank you"*

*"Thank you – we all had a good time and the activity history is very interesting"*

*"It is nice to learn about activities of cultural significance"*



## Llanidloes VINE - Special Activity Days

### River Bugs and Soil Compaction - 9 & 16 July 2015

Leader: Lisa Barlow  
Sessions: 2  
Volunteers: 16  
Vol hours: 48



As part of the planned development of biodiversity monitoring at Allt Goch woods, locals were treated to two days of discovery and adventure of a different kind, with Lisa Barlow from Severn Rivers Trust.

Lisa discussed water friendly farming and demonstrated soil compaction techniques. She brought along some river bugs which were really fascinating and the group engaged in long discussions about bugs and larvae and indicators of healthy rivers. Discussions about the impact of forest management and conservation on the health of the rivers, with particular reference to Allt Goch raised awareness and cultivated much interest too.

All the participants really enjoyed the demonstration and the current training course participants were also able to dip in and discuss the relevance with regards to their recent practical conservation activities.



**Feedback:**

*"I learned so much"*

*"I really enjoyed being in the woods, learning about river bugs and mayfly larvae"*

*"The bugs were the best. So interesting"*

*"It was great to come to see you all. So nice to be amongst people with a similar love for nature. The group feels really warm. I'd like to come back"*

Lisa Barlow

### Biodiversity Day - 10 July 2015

Leader: Scott Roe  
Support: Sarah Thomas  
Sessions: 1  
Volunteers: 9  
Vol hours: 54



This was a really excellent and very full day. Scott immediately instilled group members with an eager interest in the subject material, engaging everyone with his expert knowledge and clear communications.

The group discovered more about methods of monitoring biodiversity within the woodlands. Scott put all the activities within a historical context, and volunteers were then able to understand the development of scientifically informed sustainable woodland management practices.

This was a diverse group of locals and there were many in depth discussions, with different views on woodland management emerging from different parties.

By the end of the day all participants could understand the science behind interventions at Allt Goch and could appreciate

much more the beneficial effects of the work Tir Coed is undertaking, in relation to the health of the woodland.



**Feedback:**

*"I enjoyed learning about identifying insects"*

*"Collecting insects with nets. Great fun and educational."*

Llanidloes Town Councillor

*"It was a great day all round and people seemed to really enjoy it and appreciate the work that Tir Coed is doing"*

Scott Roe



## Lampeter VINE - Special Activity Day

### Wildlife Monitoring for Families - 23 July 2015

Leader: Scott Roe  
 Support: Meinir Evans  
 Sessions: 1  
 Volunteers: 15  
 Vol hours: 90

This session, part of a series of four at Long Wood, was planned specifically to introduce families and young

people to wildlife survey methods - so as to develop an understanding of different approaches, whilst discovering wildlife and gathering useful data.



The young participants were encouraged to complete a fun work book and gain points for a *Green Phoenix Wildlife Spotters Certificate*, which they did eagerly.

The morning session focussed on pond dipping and participants soon discovered that Palmate Newts are the dominant species in the pond by the Visitor Centre.



During the afternoon session Scott led a walk to the Forest School, the children walked mindfully taking in the environment with all their senses, and were totally immersed in the task of discovering more about the natural world around them.



"Wow more than 200 young Palmate newts without even trying very hard!"



#### Feedback:

#### Learnt

"Sut i ddal pryfed - how to capture insects"

"important not to disturb any natural habitat too much"

"If you work together you earn more points!"

"Thank you for a lovely family friendly day out - great to help children learn about nature and enjoy being outside"

A Happy Parent

"Walking through woods"

#### Enjoyed

"Rhwydo dwr a darganfod beth oedd yno - pond dipping and discovering what lived in the pond"

"Meeting new people and walking in the Forest"

"So impressed with these guys, they managed to complete the *Green Phoenix wildlife spotters certificate* in one day!" Scott

## Llanfarian VINE - Special Activity Day

### Bench and stool making - 23 & 24 July 2015

Leader: Gavin Doram  
 Support: Polly Williams  
 Sessions: 2  
 Volunteers: 18  
 Vol hours: 165

The Youth Justice group, with Chris Robinson, had two days of making stools and building and installing a bench, skilfully led by

Gavin Doram and Polly Williams. The participants used a wide range of green woodworking tools to shape and join the components. Participants also made popcorn and chocolate bananas on the fire and went for bike rides along the track.

The sessions went very well, participants enjoyed using the side axes and draw knives, playing with the dogs, starting the fire using strikers, cooking food on the fire making wooden swords and cycling along the bottom of the wood. Unfortunately the group disturbed a wasps nest while installing the bench, though some said this was their favourite and most exciting part of the day!

This was quite a young group, but they still had a good time despite the Welsh "summer" weather.

Result: A fantastic and (almost) complete bench for the site.

"I enjoyed making weapons!"

#### Feedback:

"We learnt not to mess with wasps"

"We learnt how to use tools safely and how to make popcorn"

"All participants found something that they enjoyed"

"enjoyed the freedom of being in the woods"

Thank you.



## Llanfarian VINE - Special Activity Day

Woodland Craft and Bushcraft - 29 & 30 July 2015

Leader: Polly Williams  
Support: Anna Thomas  
Sessions: 2  
Volunteers: 19  
Vol hours: 139

The Looked After Children's group had a day of den building, fire lighting, outside cooking and bush craft, followed by a day of whittling key trees with Polly Williams and Anna Thomas.

The children began with games to focus their attention on the first day, and a smaller group returned on the second day for craft activities.

The first session was a high energy, active session with very enthusiastic involvement in the den building.



The second session was a smaller and quieter group who really appreciated their first introduction to whittling with carving knives and tool safety.

The participants made the very most of their time in the woods and were reluctant to leave.

Lewis Sanderson, a volunteer with Tir Coed, supported Polly and Anna admirably and was very helpful in the sessions.

Participants were able to make and take key trees home, and had lots of positive feedback to share.



### Feedback:

*"We learnt how to make marshmallows taste better and how to saw"*

*"We enjoyed everything – we can't choose a favourite bit!"*

## Lampeter VINE - Special Activity Day

Cerdd yn y Coed/Music in the Woods - 31 July 2015

Leader: Peni Ediker  
Support: Stef Balesi  
Sessions: 1  
Volunteers: 14  
Vol hours: 84

This session was planned as part of the Summer Holidays programme to encourage families to enjoy the wonderful surroundings of Coedwig Gymunedol Long Wood Community Woodland.

The session also provided the skills and knowledge to make whistles and musical instruments. All ages enjoyed the session and created musical instruments under the superb guidance of Peni Ediker and Stef Balesi.



### Feedback:

*"We learnt how to play instruments and we started a fire on cotton wool"*

*"Learnt how to make a whistle from green wood"*

*"Learnt how to make reed whistles and scappers"*

*"I learnt how to use a mallet and about wearing a glove when using sharp knives"*

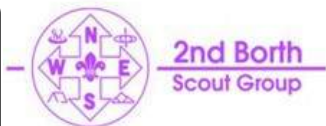


*"Jamie enjoyed this session better than watching TV or playing on his ipad!"*

## Llanfarian VINE - Special Activity Day

**Borth Scouts Bushcraft Session - 19 June 2015**

Leader: Polly Williams  
Support: Anna Thomas  
Sessions: 1  
Volunteers: 24  
Vol hours: 45



The Borth Cubs and Scouts had an afternoon of Forest School activities. For the Cubs this consisted of shelter building and making stick men using hand tools (drills, saws and knives) to make joints. The Scouts whittled key trees as gifts for Father's day. The day finished with some outside cooking (marshmallows and popcorn) over the fire.



The session went very well, with lots of positive feedback on the outside cooking and woodworking. The Scouts were a bit unused to whittling with knives and some found it a bit challenging, but all progressed over the day.

### Feedback:

*"Enjoyed making key trees for Father's Day"*

*"Enjoyed cooking popcorn on the fire"*

*"Learnt how to design and make things safely"*

## Llanidloes VINE - Special Activity Days

**Woodland Crafts and Skills - 24 June & 1 July 2015**

Leader: Cath Rigler  
Support: Polly Williams  
Sessions: 2  
Volunteers: 27  
Vol hours: 40.5

# cubs



The young people expended considerable energy and enthusiasm making dens /shelters, fire lighting, cooking popcorn & marshmallows and playing many games.

Adults and young people alike thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were really happy to have been given this opportunity to gain new experiences.

### Feedback:

*"I liked the den building – lots"*

*"The assault course and fire lighting was awesome"*

*"I liked den building, making popcorn, marshmallows, fire striking - everything!"*

*"I have to say the cubs really enjoyed their activities. Thank you so much for organising it. The parents are speaking very highly of the experience."*

Llanidloes Cubs Leaders



## Lampeter VINE - Special Activity Day

### Forest School - 4 August 2015

**Leader:** Sally Harvey  
**Support:** Alice Midmore  
**Sessions:** 1  
**Volunteers:** 7  
**Vol hours:** 35

A wonderful day in the woods under the expert guidance of Sally Harvey and Alice Midmore, saw this group of 8–12 year olds learning bushcraft survival skills. They were taught how to light a fire with flint and steel, and had a go themselves before cooking popcorn on their open fire and heating water for making hot chocolate



drinks. Participants also created individual personalised shelters, and crafted items.



The session went really well with the children being encouraged to learn

through exploring the natural environment.

The children were delighted at being able to make



popcorn over an open fire and be creative with elder wood and craft materials.

The feedback confirms that the children had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

#### Feedback:

"It's fun making dens"

"I enjoyed doing the bracelet and the dens"

"Dysgais I sut I wneud Keyring – I learnt how to make a keyring"

"I enjoyed the experience"

"We enjoyed everything!"

## Open Days and Outreach Events

### Summer Shows, Festivals, Fairs and Eisteddfod

Tir Coed have been out and about during the past 2 months attending several events including:

- *Careers Fair* at Bro Pedr School, Lampeter: 1 July, sharing information on opportunities in the Forestry Sector



- *Lampeter Food Festival*: 25 July, promoting the work of Tir Coed and the VINE initiative on a joint stall with Denmark Farm Conservation Centre

- *Royal Welsh Show*: 21 July, sharing a stall with Llais y Goedwig, promoting Tir Coed's chainsaw milling course with demonstrations of chain-saw milling and sharpening



- *National Eisteddfod*: 3 August, in the WCVA tent meeting Jane Hutt, AM (Minister for Finance) and



Carl Sergeant, AM (Minister for Natural Resources), other fantastic voluntary sector organisations and supporting a launch event for Coed Cymru Powys

- *Lampeter Agricultural Show*: 14 August, offering have-a-go sessions creating elder bracelets and key rings





## Llanidloes VINE - Open Day

Tir Coed Open Day - Market Stall with Llanidloes Town Council - 8 August 2015

Activity Leader: Colin Tittley  
Dave Thomas  
Sessions: 1  
Volunteers: 75  
Vol hours: 16

On a beautiful sunny summer's day, Tir Coed representatives and woodland practitioners together with a number of Llanidloes Town Council and the

Mayor, presented a pictorial information board with regards to recent sustainable woodland developments and activities at Allt Goch woods. There was also a woodland crafts demonstration all day. Participants from the Tir Coed projects also came along voluntarily to lend their support.

Many Llanidloes residents showed their strong interest in the development of the woods, engaging in in-depth discussions. It was heartwarming to be part of the demonstration that showed so many Llanidloes residents care deeply about the woods. Residents were satisfied that Tir Coed were managing the woods responsibly, professionally and in accordance with best practice; whilst simultaneously delivering high quality training and a wide range of activities that benefits the social and emotional health of local people, supporting local businesses and contributing significantly to social re-engagement and social inclusion.

The event was deemed a complete success and as a result, the information display on Tir Coed activities in Allt Goch will be on show at the town council offices for the foreseeable future.

### Feedback:

"You've made me feel comfortable with your attitudes, spirit, interest and personalities involved. You seem to have the right caring."

Stella, local resident

"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."

Rose, local resident

"That was a great day. Lots of interest.  
We should definitely do it again"

Tir Coed Activity Leader



## Lampeter VINE - Special Activity Days

### Foraging Walk and Feast - 10 August 2015

Leader: Jade Mellor  
Sessions: 1  
Volunteers: 7  
Vol hours: 49



This session was the first of two chosen by the regular volunteers at Coedwig Gymunedol Long Wood Community Woodland, and arranged as a reward for their continuous dedication to improving the woodland throughout the year. The second is planned for late September.



The volunteers were treated to a fabulous foraging walk and feast led by Jade Mellor, local expert and professional forager. They brewed tea from hedgerow flora, made nettle pesto pasta with delicious chanterelle mushrooms and finished it all with a summer pudding topped with delicate edible flowers. Truly Scrumptious.



#### Feedback:

*"I learnt how to forage in a natural environment in a considerate way, types of plants, their uses and how to cook plants or add to food"*

*"I learnt that you can eat and cook with plants and flowers that I would not have ever imagined or dared to try, the meal was very tasty"*

*"Discovering what plants are edible and when to pick and prepare them was a real delight"*

*"The course was very well explained and demonstrated and it was great trying different tastes of plants"*

*"The tea we made was much better than going out for a filter coffee and a lot better for our insides as well!"*

*"I thoroughly enjoyed the session particularly discovering that nettle pesto is not only nutritious but yummy as well"*

### Family Day in the woods - 11 August 2015

Leader: Sally Harvey  
Support: Alice Midmore  
Sessions: 1  
Volunteers: 19  
Vol hours: 95



This Family Day was planned to introduce the woods as a venue for a great day out. The session, led by Sally Harvey, encouraged the children to play freely and safely in the outdoor woodland environment. Everyone, adults and children alike, had fun and enthusiastically developed a range of bushcraft skills, made shelters and bracelets, and popped corn over an open fire. A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all.



#### Feedback:

##### Learnt

*"Gweithgareddau y gallwn ni neud yn y Goedwig: defnyddio deunyddiau allan o bren  
Activities that we can do in the woods: making things out of wood"*

##### Enjoyed

*"Profiad gwyh l'r plant – Maent wedi mwynhau yn fawr iawn  
Excellent experience for the children they have thoroughly enjoyed"*



*"Meeting other children out in the woods"*



## Llanfarian VINE - Special Activity Days

### Clay Modelling & Bushcraft Skills - 14 August 2015

Leader: Cath Rigler  
Support: Anna Thomas  
Sessions: 1  
Volunteers: 10  
Vol hours: 60

The Tim Plant Anabl Group supports children (and families) who have learning, physical or sensory disabilities and aims to help minimise the impact whilst maximising integration into society as a whole. The group made clay models, dreamcatchers or god(dess) eyes. They had-a-go at bushcraft skills; using strikers and King Alfred's Cake fungus to make a fire before cooking lots of marshmallows.

The session went really well and having a range of activities allowed the children to choose something suited to their abilities and interests.

Many of the children took home their creations and were very proud of what they had made.

#### Feedback:

*"We liked making fire!"*



### Wood Carving: spoons & spatulas - 21 August 2015

Leader: Rob Smith  
Support: Gavin Doram  
Sessions: 1  
Volunteers: 10  
Vol hours: 60

Another session for the Tim Plant Anabl (TPA) Group but this time making spatulas and spoons using carving knives, side axes and crook knives; all under the expert guidance of Rob Smith and Gavin Doram.

The session proved to be very successful - two participants who had been on the first TPA session had the opportunity to develop their wood carving skills further, and enjoyed having access to the shave horses.

This was a very mixed ability and wide age range group, so the task had been specifically designed to enable all individuals to scale the complexity of their designs to what they felt they could do.

Close supervision at the start supported participants who had not used woodworking tools before, and as everyone responded really positively to the activity, they made great progress. By the end of the day all participants had produced a utensil to take home.

#### Feedback:

*"We'd like more carving!"*

*"Can we make woodland creatures out of wood?"*



## Llanfarian VINE - Open Days

### Rheidol Family Fun Day - 4 July 2015

Leaders: Andy Bakewell  
Sessions: 1  
Volunteers: 28  
Vol hours:

As part of the VINE Public Outreach Events Andy Bakewell, WiseWoods Wales Manager representing Tir Coed, ran a have-a-go stand at the Rheidol Family Fun Day.

The event was a day of free activities, rides and games hosted by the Rheidol Hydroelectric Power station. Participants had the opportunity to build bird boxes from wood sourced and prepared by volunteers from Coed Tyllwyd. Children aged between 3 and 10 were able to successfully use scissors, hammers and power drills to assemble the boxes under safe supervision. So many wanted to have a go that there was always a queue of people keen to join in, even an hour after the event officially finished!



This was a very successful day despite the inclement weather, with 28 young people making 30 bird boxes which they proudly took home. The event gave positive promotion to the activities of both Tir Coed and the VINE project at Coed Tyllwyd.



### Coed Tyllwyd - 22 August 2015

Leaders: Rob Smith  
Jade Mellor  
Sessions: 1  
Volunteers: 50  
Vol hours: 150

This Open Day at Coed Tyllwyd achieved its aim of attracting more families and introducing them to the woods. An exciting range of activities and ample refreshment were available to help ensure that folks stayed for a good while, and made the most of the varied

experiences on offer.

Rob Smith demonstrated the use of the pole-lathe and Jade Mellor led two foraging expeditions into the woods. Andy Bakewell supervised sessions using the tractor and crane, while Peter Stevenson told enchanting folk stories in the roundhouse, and sumptuous music and food were provided by Polly Williams and the Green Goat café respectively.

The attendance was high despite the awful weather at the beginning, with a good mixture of familiar and new faces. A good number of families came along and there was a strong atmosphere of positivity and admiration for the fine access and structure building work carried out by VINE volunteers. Lots of useful feedback was given regarding future VINE activities.



## Practical Conservation - May - July

**Leader:** Benjamin Grey  
**Support:** Milo Ames  
               Eifion Wakefield  
**Sessions:** 22  
**Volunteers:** 12  
**Vol Days:** 203  
**Vol hours:** 1137

During this Training Course the volunteers have created a delightful circular walk that leads you through the mixed deciduous area of Long Wood, and have made and installed beautifully

hand-crafted benches and a bridge on route. Volunteers participated in wildlife monitoring sessions at specific sites, and recorded data which will be used to observe and follow any ecological changes in years to come. The group's tasks have enabled them to work in several different habitats which has encouraged them to adapt their skills to each site. The course overall has engaged participants in a variety of ways and has helped them to develop a comprehensive set of skills and knowledge that they will be able to use in the future.

They have formed an efficient team, aware of individual strengths and limitations whilst also able to support each other in the completion of tasks.

Despite many days of bad weather the volunteers have continued to work tirelessly throughout, expanding their own skills and understanding of what conservation really means.

### Feedback:

*"Learnt things I did not know and the chance to get out and about"*

*"It has given me experience and a qualification to put on my CV"*

*"I've understood how wider conservation can be obtained by creating paths and encouraging people to keep to a path rather than walk freely through the woods - allowing areas of conservation to be developed"*

*"Learnt about flora and fauna monitoring. Discovering an elm tree in the woods in Wales was an absolute delight"*

*"I have developed new skills and done things I had never done before. The Tutor has given me confidence and ideas"*

Of the twelve participants, six chose to work towards Agored Cymru accreditation. All six were successful.

### Accreditation

Agored Cymru Unit	Level	Credits	Achieved
Practical Conservation Skills	2	3	6



Ancillary Structures - May - July

Leader: Gavin Doram  
 Support: Polly Williams  
 Rob Smith  
 Sessions: 12  
 Volunteers: 11  
 Vol Days: 132  
 Vol hours: 792

The area around the Wise Woods workshop at Coed Tyllwyd was selected for improvement of access and community use. Participants on this training course have

worked to construct steps, a bike rack and an information board, to provide visitors with a focal meeting point.

The notice board construction was the most technical project in the training course by far, and introduced many of the participants to the potential of roundwood timber framing. The finished notice board is extremely sturdy and looks set to withstand the harshest of weather.

Due the success of the winter training course, self-referrals of applicants for this course was high, with 11 participants registering, and many having heard about the course by word of mouth. A diverse group was formed, with the majority of young people being either underemployed or unemployed.

A strong sense of camaraderie developed amongst the participants and a motivation to take the initiative in improving the community value of the woodland.

Many of the participants found work during or following the course, but continued to attend as they saw the wider benefits of participation, and wished to expand their skill sets further to improve future job prospects.

One participant has enrolled on field ecology courses with the lifelong learning scheme at Aberystwyth University in addition to the training course with the aim of reskilling in outdoor educational pursuits. Others have expressed much interest in the possibility of a further woodland management course in the winter to unify their understanding of the woodland management-timber-extraction-construction process.

**Feedback:**

*“having a routine in the week and spending time in the outdoors has really helped my mindset whilst job-hunting”*

*“it’s been empowering to discover I can build these structures myself, it feels good to know that we’ve made the woods more accessible for the local community.”*

**Accreditation**

Agored Cymru Unit	Level	Credits	Achieved
Construct Ancillary Structures to Access Routes	2	3	Awaiting final completion



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

## Practical Conservation - June - September

**Leader:** Adam Thorogood  
**Support:** Sarah Thomas  
**Sessions:** 20  
**Volunteers:** 9  
**Vol Days:** 92  
**Vol hours:** 552

This Practical Conservation Training Course at Allt Goch woods is continuing to improve the amenity for locals, as requested by locals. We were asked if we could incorporate

improvements to the paths in the north-eastern part of the wood. Pictured below are two enthusiastic volunteers splitting the sweet chestnut that had been coppiced during the last training course ready to make into steps.



The finished steps are of a high standard and should improve both the safety and enjoyment of walkers.

The course has been designed to complement the previous woodland management course. Coppiced wood from the latter is being utilised to make improvements to the paths and benches within the wood as well as bird boxes. Volunteers have been learning about biodiversity

audits and conservation whilst practically improving accessibility within the woods. Overgrown tree guards from pre-VINE are being removed, invasive species controlled, ground floor areas opened up via the creation of habitat piles and cutting of brambles & bracken. The volunteers are

very dedicated and it is a delight to see them happily at work each week.



### Feedback:

*"I am loving the course and Adam is such a great tutor"*

Volunteer

*"The volunteers are great. We have a solid and committed group and are working very hard"*

Sarah, Activity Support

*"I'm really enjoying leading this group"*  
 Adam, Activity Leader



### Accreditation

Agored Cymru Unit	Level	Credits	Achieved
Practical Conservation	2	3	6



News

Staffing

Bon Voyage to Eva Walters

Supported by:



THE WOODWARD CHARITABLE TRUST



Llanidloes Town Council



Tir Coed waved *Bon Voyage* to Eva at the end of June after working incredibly hard during her 9 months with Tir Coed. Eva joined the organisation through a *Jobs Growth Wales* scheme and did a wonderful job co-ordinating and promoting the 'Hadau' product range created in collaboration with Ceredigion Museum.

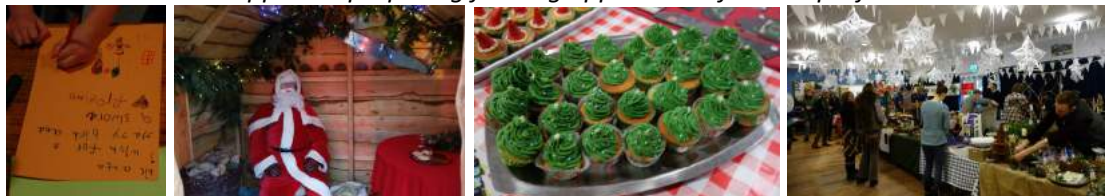
We were thrilled to be able to keep her on for a further three months through a *Santander Internship*, where Eva focused on marketing both the charitable and commercial activities of Tir Coed. At the beginning of July Eva left the country for sunnier climates, stopping first in Indonesia before heading to New Zealand to work on farms and travel.

*Bon Voyage* Eva - we all hope you have a wonderful time!

*"During my time with Tir Coed I coordinated the fantastic **Harvesting the Knowledge** project with the Ceredigion Museum, where I have worked with Tir Coed participants who were creating a sustainable kitchenware range to be sold and displayed at the Museum. We worked together with a design company and created a booklet alongside the products to give the buyer more information on the traditional woodcraft techniques and the crafter who made the piece.*



*"I also organised the **Festive 15** event which was great fun; organising local craftspeople to sell their wares or share their skills, at what ended up being a really fun event and positive celebration for the charity's 15th birthday! I then worked on marketing the Tir Coed brand and both led and supported preparing funding applications for new projects and ideas.*



*"My time with Tir Coed has been nothing but fulfilling and stimulating! Not only is the work done so worthwhile and the ethos of the charity spot-on, but the work has continued to be rewarding and interesting. The people I have come into contact with during my time, whether colleagues or participants involved, have all been great! It has been amazing to see such clear and positive improvement to peoples lives right in front of your eyes, and for that reason I am very proud to say I was involved with such an important charity. I also learned a lot of valuable things during my time which I am thankful for.*

*I hope my story with Tir Coed is not yet over, as I will be sure to continue to get involved in some way in the future!*

*I wish Tir Coed all the luck with future projects and plans!" Eva*





Update



Cyfoeth  
Naturiol  
Cymru  
Natural  
Resources  
Wales



WiseWoods Wales, Business Manager has been busy developing commercial training opportunities, in particular, the promotion and delivery of the 'Domestic Chainsaw Users' course, as well as working closely with the charity on a number of new project plans.

WiseWoods and Tir Coed joined *Llais y Goedwig*, the community woodland network for Wales, at the *Royal Welsh Show*. The stand was located right next door to MWMAC and Coed Cymru and generated lots of interest throughout the day.

Tir Coed Business Manager, Andy Bakewell, was demonstrating chain-saw sharpening and promoting our *Chainsaw Milling* for small woodland owners and the *Domestic Chainsaw Users* course. We are now offering one-day courses in both of these disciplines - so please get in touch if you are interested in signing up. A massive thank you goes to Rosie, Fay and David once again for all their hard work in making it a wonderful event for all.

One of the aims for the near future, is for Tir Coed and WiseWoods Wales to build and promote a nurturing hub of excellence, a 'Forest Academy' where volunteers, graduates, apprentices, local organisations, and businesses can seek or offer support, whilst sharing and honing skills that will enable the positive establishment of, and integration into a more resilient, reliable and independent workforce, which also boosts the local rural economy.

Andy has been carrying out detailed research and thorough investigation into this next phase for the organisation. Exploration has begun into the feasibility of creating a unique qualification for progression into the woodland and forestry sector that has added-value and direct relevance to potential employees and employers alike. There is an identified mis-match between the skills of new entrants and the required abilities needed to function at an appropriate level within SME's particularly. We hope to develop a suite of units which can encompass a vast range of skills and also support the development of individual interests within the sector by allowing a flexible approach to gathering of credits (in a similar way to the present City & Guilds qualifications), but with more emphasis on a complete package of learning from practical skills to business skills and industry tickets entwined.

We believe that there is a real need for a more holistic approach to accreditation and training in this area, where personal needs are identified, supported and nurtured, in order to grow 'job ready' individuals who can fill the gaps in the skills shortages. This is an exciting phase of development and one we are keen to get right. Watch this space!

