



Woodland Activity Day

Press Release

Date: December 2005

Coed Lleol Re-launch

The Coed Lleol Partnership announces the re-launch of its Welsh woodlands networking and enabling initiative to help reconnect people with woodlands in Wales.

Following the huge success of the Coed Lleol Partnership and the Welsh Woodland Festival 2004, the Small Woods Association announces the continuation of this exciting initiative which will build on and further develop its aims to restore links between people and woodlands in Wales.

The woodlands of Wales still play an important role in our country today. They provide jobs both in timber production and in tourism, recreation and a general sense of health and wellbeing. Welsh woodlands play an important role in nature conservation and provide homes for some of our rarest species, encouraging visitors to our countryside and provide a backdrop for our communities that we often take for granted.

The partnership consists of groups with interests in woodlands and support agencies include the Forestry Commission Wales and the Countryside Council for Wales which will help to drive our goals forward. The project has produced free 'Local Woods/Eich Coedwigoedd Lleol' guidebooks listing woodlands with public access in Wales and these will continue to be made available. A Welsh Woodlands Celebration 2006 will be developed and coordinated pulling together a huge variety of events held across the Principality ranging from guided walks and woodland craft demonstrations to bat hunts and treasure trails. Coed Lleol will also provide a networking and information service for woodland users and businesses via its website, static and travelling displays and news letters.

Coordination of this programme will be undertaken by the newly appointed John Taylor, in his role as Coed Lleol Partnership Officer who will be based at Nant yr Arian Visitor Centre near Aberystwyth. Originally from Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, John has a long and varied career working with communities and their natural environment initially as an estate worker at Margam Country Park and continuing in the field of social forestry in Mexico, Central America and India. In Mexico he established an exciting partnership between academic institutes, government agencies and farmers organisations to create the country's first trust fund to manage revenue generated from the sale of environmental services. His most recent appointment has been as Visitor Centre Manager at the Centre for Alternative Technology near Machynlleth where he was involved in

delivering CAT's mission of empowering and encouraging people to take action regarding environmental awareness and their use of natural resources.

Quote: "There are so many exciting and varied ways in which people can get involved in their local woodlands in Wales. The Coed Lleol Partnership will help promote all these important initiative so that more people can benefit and participate in a whole range of woodland activities".

Notes for the Editor

Coed Lleol is a partnership Hosted by the Small Woods Association and funded by, Forestry Commission and the Countryside Council for Wales and the Small Woods Association. For further information contact: John Taylor, Coed Lleol Partnership Officer

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