

WICKED

Branching Out / Egin

May to July 2011

Volunteering Veteran at 16!

It's official! Andrew Scott recently scooped the prestigious 2011 Award for Ceredigion Youth Volunteer of the year (under 25) at the CAVO Awards Ceremony.



Andrew (far left) with the other CAVO Award winners

Andrew, a volunteer with Tir Coed for over 3 years, achieved his Award of Excellence for 200 hours as a Millennium Volunteer within 6 months of turning 16! Andrew has been volunteering on Tir Coed's Branching Out / Egin programme, working under the watchful eye of woodsman, Bob Shaw; he is currently gaining experience in 3 woodlands whilst acting as a peer mentor to a group of and disengaged young people, passing on his knowledge and skills. Andrew is also undergoing training to obtain a chainsaw license, along with business planning support from 'Antur Teifi' and the 'Want 2 Work' programme.

Andrew hasn't always been so positive about life – he has had to work hard to overcome an explosive temper and aggressive behaviour. Andrew was introduced to Tir Coed initially through the Youth Offending Service Prevention Team and following this, a wider curricular project with Ceredigion's Education Inclusion Department. Andrew admits that he often feared that he might lose control and end up in serious trouble with the police. However, he found real inspiration in the woodland environment and, given time and space to discover more about himself, has learnt to manage his anger and behaviour. Andrew commented **"I quite often look at these young people when they are running away or messing about and think – I used to be like that!"** Andrew aims to become self employed once his training is complete and to continue working in the woodland sector.

Inspired!

Andrew found new challenges in the woodland which helped to focus his attention :

"In the woods I feel calm, nothing bothers me ... I can just think about what I need to do and how I want to do it - like cutting a tree down and working out how to get it to fall exactly where I want it to."



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Poor Man's Wood, Llandoverly
April to November 2011

Lead:	Jamie Miller
Support:	Ray Miller
Tasters:	4
Sessions:	14
No. volunteer days:	51
No. volunteer hours:	309
Total no. volunteers:	6
No. current volunteers:	4

This small group are working well together to build a round house style bird hide in an oak woodland just outside Llandoverly town.

Most of the framework has been sourced directly from Poor Man's Wood. The group spent a couple of sessions moving lengths of timber from the top of this steep woodland to the construction site, using a system of ropes and pulleys. The upright posts have been charred at the base to improve their durability and the reciprocal roof frame (a self-supporting structure composed of interlocking beams that equally bear the weight of one another) has been erected. Much time has been spent splitting oak sections to make shingle tiles for the roof; an art which one to the participants, Rhys, is perfecting.

Once the hide is completed, the group will move on to bench-making and bird box making.

Accreditation:

Agored Cymru (OCN) Unit	Level
Construction of a Basic Wooden Shelter	2
All 4 participants have started completing their workbooks.	



Feedback:

"I've achieved more than I expected to ... I've learnt a lot of skills."

"It (the project) has refined my perception of how architecture, design, involvement in your local area is all intertwined in terms of positive involvement."

**Coed Penglanowen, Nant Eos, Aberystwyth
April to July 2011**

Lead:	Bob Shaw
Sessions:	10
No. volunteer days:	28
No. volunteer hours:	168
Total no. volunteers	7

The Coed Penglanowen group have completed a foot-bridge across a small stream on the Reserve which was originally part of the old Nant Eos estate, south of Aberystwyth.

The bridge build was a classic example of the tree to product process: The group first felled the oak and then the Instructor, Bob Shaw, brought in a chainsaw mill, sawed the trunk in half along its length and then milled one of the halves into lengths for the rails and supports. Once the group had winched the bridge base over the stream using hand winches, they fitted the hand rails, pegging them securely into the base; the steps were carved out of the base.



Visitor Feedback:

"It looks really good, I've already had a couple of comments about it." Em Foot, WTSWW

"Fantastic!!! A work of art really..." Anna Jenkins, Ethical Change

Accreditation:

Many of the participants joined this group as a progression route, to develop more skills, after completing the Engagement Gateway programme at Coed Tamsin. Some were still finalising OCN units as part of this programme, so further units were not undertaken as part of the bridge build.

Progression:

	Total
Volunteering	
Woodland projects	1
Self-employment	
Wood Crafts	1
Woodsman & Tir Coed Support Tutor	1
Employment	
Crafts person at Corris Craft Centre	1
Dropped Out	
	1

**Teifi Marshes, Cilgerran
July 2011 to March 2012**

Lead:	Jamie Miller
Support:	Steve Parkin
Tasters:	4
No. volunteer days:	28
No. volunteer hours:	168
Total no. volunteers	8
No. current volunteers:	8



8 very keen young people have started on the new programme at Teifi Marshes; 4 taster sessions have run where each participant made their own stick chair, learning some of the skills and techniques that they will be calling on once the full programme starts in August.

In addition to the visitor shelter, fencing, information panels, benches and table made in the previous programme at Teifi Marshes, this group will be adding a deer hide, a hazel screen and a sizeable picnic area to the Reserve.

Accreditation:

Agored Cymru (OCN) Unit	Level
Construction of a Basic Wooden Shelter	2
All 8 participants have been registered for this unit.	

Accreditation

Millennium Volunteers Achievements

Tir Coed have been awarded non-funded Millennium Volunteer (MV) status by the WCVA.

Tir Coed's MV funding ended in May 2011, but non-funded status enables Tir Coed to recognise the volunteering contributions of Branching Out / Egin participants with 50, 100 and 200 hour award certificates. The volunteers who have achieved MV certificates in this quarter are:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 50 hours: | Rhys Mathews | Ryan Morgan |
| | Jonathan Whittaker | Victoria Lawrence |
| | Lidia Dunwoodie | Jacob Marsh |
| 200 hours: | Mathew Savage | |

Thank you & Well Done to all!

Certificates have been requested for all these volunteers.

Photographs of presentations will be in the next issue.

Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park, Tumble

March to July 2011

Lead:	Tony Eames
Support:	Andy Roberts
Tasters:	4
Sessions:	18
No. volunteer days:	90
No. volunteer hours:	630
Total no. volunteers:	8
No. current volunteers:	4



This group have developed a new amenity area at the Woodland Park. The work has involved clearing an area of scrub, building a round house with seating and developing a new access path to the area. The Park is very well used by local residents, who will now be able to relax and enjoy the natural environment from the comfort of the round house.

The final session of the project took place on July 26th; therefore the Project Mentor is still working on progression routes with the final four participants. These outputs will be recorded in the next Tir Coed Newsletter.



Accreditation:

Agored Cymru (OCN) Unit	Level	Total
Construction of a Basic Wooden Shelter	1	2
Construction of a Basic Wooden Shelter	2	2

Progression:

Mainstream Programmes	Total
The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment: Heritage Craft Apprenticeship	1
Employment	
Catering	1
Dropped out	2

The Stackpole Estate, Pembroke
April - August 2011

Lead:	Rob Young
Support:	Graham
Tasters:	4
Sessions:	10
No. volunteer days:	31
No. volunteer hours:	150
Total no. volunteers	7
No. current volunteers:	1



It has been extremely difficult to establish consistency within this group. Numerous referrals have simply not turned up for the sessions, despite telling the Project Manager that they would attend during phone calls in advance of each session.

The lack of commitment from the majority has made it very difficult for the Tutor to establish a sense of team spirit; as a result, the 3 volunteers who have attended regularly have not found the project to be a motivating experience.

Recently, the group has been reduced to one volunteer because:

- a) One volunteer has just undergone major surgery and will need to be convalescing for at least 2 months;
- b) One volunteer has been made homeless and, due to the fact that he has no permanent residence, is no longer able to commit to the project.

The remaining volunteer will be supported for a further couple of weeks until he completes his OCN accreditation.

Accreditation:

Agored Cymru (OCN) Unit	Level	Total
Introduction to Estate Maintenance & Countryside Skills	1	1
Practical Conservation Skills	2	1

Progression:

Employment	Total
Seasonal work with Agricultural Contractor	1
Full-time Kitchen Assistant	1
Dropped out	4



Monitoring Questionnaire

Feedback comments collected from the young people.

How do you feel this project has helped you?

"Have learnt new greenwood skills which I will use at home and also in work."

"It's helped me learn and extend my existing woodland, green wood skills, also I have learnt traditional methods of harvesting timber and preserving it."

"It has helped me set goals and given me new ideas of what to do next."

"More confident working with people & hand tools."

"Experience, now in contact with the right people. Shown me what I can do in future."

"I think I wouldn't be as motivated and still be applying for jobs that I wouldn't enjoy!"

"Got a few new skills & learnt about working with other people."

Do you think you have achieved more than you expected to?

"Yes. I've learned and taken so much!"

"I did a great deal when building that I thought I would struggle with."

"I learnt about wearing Safety gear."

"I feel more confident doing something else in future."



TIR COED



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



GWIRFODDOLWYR Y MILENIWM



MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS



Comisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru
Forestry Commission Wales



Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru
Countryside Council for Wales



Cymunedau a Natur
Communities and Nature

the
Tudortrust



Europe & Wales: Investing in your future
European Regional Development Fund

GwirVol

Tir Coed Works Plaques

Tir Coed is now fitting brass plaques, finished beautifully in enamel, with the Tir Coed logo and website address onto all works carried out as part of the Branching Out/Egin programme.



The plaques were sourced as a result of an increasing number of enquiries from organisations and members of the public as to who has built the rustic wooden structures which are popping up all over South and West Wales.

It is hoped that the addition of the plaques will improve communication with any interested parties and lead to work for Tir Coed's new Social Enterprise.

Trustee Away Day

An enjoyable day was had by all at the annual Tir Coed Trustee Away Day. This year, Tir Coed Trustee, Keith Blacker, hosted the event, with almost a full quota of Trustees attending.



Keith and his wife, Decia, own a 29ha mixed woodland at Llanfyllin, near Lake Vyrnwy. From there they have built up a firewood business, Edystone Ltd, which is based on a 'Lean systems' engineering principle, in that each stage of processing works to the exact specification required, so that the customer needs are fully met throughout. Fully seasoned logs are supplied in an integrated wood store with 2 storage containers sitting side-by-side covered

by a removable roof. When one box has been emptied, a full box is delivered and the empty one is recycled for refilling.

Following an interesting talk and walk around the wood in the morning, the afternoon session was dedicated to discussions on the future of Tir Coed and, in particular, the development of a Tir Coed Social Enterprise.

Tir Coed Social Enterprise

Tir Coed is looking to secure a future for the organisation and for the young people that it works to support.

To this end, 'Resources for Change' were recently commissioned to conduct a Scoping Study, funded by Environment Wales, to look at the opportunities for:

- Tir Coed to become more financially sustainable over the long term; and
- Developing a progression route for skilled trainees towards employment and self-employment, linked to the cycle of woodland management and products.

The Study recommended that Tir Coed should offer a range of woodland services, to include:

- A low-impact woodland management service to woodland owners in the private and public sectors;
- A service of countryside management, conservation, maintenance and improvement works for land owners in both the private and public sectors;
- Producing and selling woodland products commercially; and
- Commercial training courses and events, including a verification service for Agored Cymru (Open College Network) accredited courses.

A draft of a Business Plan for the social enterprise has been produced and Tir Coed are currently working with the support of a Development Officer of the Wales Co-operative Centre to further develop the Plan.

Watch this space!

New Tir Coed Website

As mentioned in the Feb – Apr Newsletter, Tir Coed is working with CAVO to build a new improved website. The design process has finally begun!

Please be patient - it will still take us some time yet to get these design ideas implemented before the launch of the new Tir Coed website.

However, we are eagerly awaiting the initial templates - so progress is being made!

Your ideas and thoughts are always most welcome!

Cefnogwyd gan **YMDDIRIEDOLAETH MYNYDDOEDD CAMBRIAN**
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