

WICKED Branching Out / Egin

November 2010 to January 2011



Tir Coed presents ... Branching Out / Egin

Open Day

Sunday 20th March @ Dinefwr Park, Llandeilo

11am—4pm

*Come and celebrate the achievements of the
Castle Woods Branching Out / Egin*

Youth Volunteers

- Bird watching in the new hide
- Make your own bird box
- Guided walks
- Green woodwork demonstrations

Plus the National Trust providing:

- Guided walks along the new boardwalk
- Pond dipping
- Storytelling

NEW OPPORTUNITIES!

Three new Branching Out / Egin groups will begin from March onwards. Taster sessions starting at:

- * Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park, Tumble, near Llanelli
1st March
- * Stackpole Estate, near Pembroke
Late March

Contact Gwyneth on (01974) 282476 / (07792) 139845
gwyneth@tircoed.org.uk

- * Poor Man's Wood, near Llandovery
5th April

Contact Becky on (01570) 493224 / (07813) 170676

VISIT TIR COED ON
FACEBOOK!



Tir Coed has just created its own Facebook page so that programme participants young people, and anyone interested in Tir Coed's work, can share their ideas and suggestions with us. Just log on to:

[www.facebook.com/
pages/Tir-
Coed/142013625847428](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tir-Coed/142013625847428)



Inside this Newsletter:

- Communities and Nature
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Lead:	Jo Steadman
Support:	Jamie Miller
Tasters:	4
Sessions:	20
No. volunteer days:	66
No. volunteer hours:	396
Total no. volunteers	9
No. current volunteers:	5

Castle Wood Programme July 2010 to April 2011

The 5 current participants are working well together; they have completed all of the 4 benches, a picnic table and the throne. Three of the benches have been installed, and the table and

last bench, which will be covered by a living willow arbour, are due to go in soon. However, due to possible archaeological value of the preferred site for the throne, the Wildlife Trust have had to make an application to Cadw (which manage Dinefwr Castle) for permission to site the throne next to the castle, which may take some weeks to come through. Cadw Officer, Polly Groom, visited the project to take a look at the throne site and to give the group a valuable insight into processes involved in the preservation of sites with archaeological significance.



Tir Coed's CAN Officer, Aled Davies visited Castle Woods this quarter and brought with him CCW Western Area Manager Huwel Manley . Aled and Huwel expressed their satisfaction with how the Branching Out/ Egin project was progressing and with the quality of the structures created so far; the group managed to persuade both officers to have a go at stripping bark using hand tools, for which they were awarded a measly 2/10 by the participants!

Despite the recent severe weather, only

2 sessions at Castle Woods have been curtailed due to snow and work is now underway on the framework for the bird hide. All current participants have made good headway with the 2 OCN units that they are undertaking. Planning permission for the information boards at Castle Woods has been approved. The group are now preparing for the Open Day for this project—see the front page for details.

Lead:	Jamie Miller
Support:	Martin Aughton & Nick Barnes
Tasters:	3
Sessions:	19
No. volunteer days:	48
No. volunteer hours:	288
Total no. volunteers	10
No. current volunteers:	5



Teifi Marshes Programme July 2010 to March 2011



This group have so far made 3 oak benches and a beautiful ash table, all of which have been installed on the Reserve in prime locations overlooking the Glasshouse Visitor Centre. Work has also started on the cleft chestnut fencing. The framework for the Visitor Shelter is progressing well, despite having to thaw out the wood at recent sessions before being able to work on it!

Back in November, The Reserve Manager, Nathan Walton lent a hand at the Wildlife Trust's Pengelli Reserve, helping the group to extract felled oak from the woods to take back to Teifi Marshes for use in the Visitor Information Shelter construction.

The 3 participants that are undertaking the level 2 OCN unit 'Construct a Basic Wooden Shelter' have started on their workbooks. One of the participants has started a countryside management programme at Scolton Manor with Frame and another has started a work placement with a garage in Pembroke Dock which he hopes will lead to employment. A third participant is looking into the possibility of joining the Want2Work programme (see next page for details).

A visit to the Teifi Marshes Reserve was made by Pembrokeshire County Council Access Officer, Alan Hunt to discuss access issues regarding the recent planning application to build a deer hide. Alan gave very useful



advice as to improvements that could be made to the Design and Access (DAS) statement that accompanied the planning application; a revised DAS has now been submitted to the Council.

Lead:	Benjamin Grey
Support:	Steve Parkin
Tasters:	4
Sessions:	16
Total no. volunteers:	10
No. current volunteers:	6

Coed Pen yr Allt, November 2010 —January 2011:

The group has continued to concentrate its activities on the felling, stacking and grading of small diameter timber. The young people have greatly enhanced their knowledge of the economic value of trees and have further developed their woodland management skills; they are now working together very well as a team and, consequently, their communication and social skills have also progressed .



To date, two Agored Cymru (Open College Network) units in Sustainable Woodland Management have been completed, with all members of the group successfully achieving the units.

The project at Pen yr Allt is scheduled to run until the end of February. The Tir Coed Mentor has been liaising with the young people on a regular basis to identify progression routes :

1 participant has recently found work as a Trainee Chef;

Potential Volunteer placements in land management and conservation have been identified for other members of the group, the Mentor is in the process of taking participants to visit these sites to assess their suitability.

Some of the participants are interested in becoming self-employed in order to progress a career in woodland-based work. These young people have been referred on to the Want 2 Work programme, which may be able to help them with developing a Business plan and the cost of further woodland-related training.



Lead:	Bob Shaw
Support:	Ffion Farnell
Tasters:	4
Sessions:	9
Total no. volunteers:	9
No. current volunteers:	6

Coed Tamsin, November 2010—January 2011:

The full course at Coed Tamsin started in November with 5 of the original 8 young people who attended the taster sessions taking part. A 6th participants referred himself on to the project during December.

The young people in this group have been very motivated and have greatly developed their woodland management skills. The Tutor, Bob Shaw, has concentrated on tree felling and making hurdles during the winter months.

The young people have completed the paperwork for each of the 4 Agored Cymru (OCN) units and, as soon as the Tutor's final assessments have been written up, certificates will be applied for.

Tir Coed has recently been granted permission by Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) for this group to work out of Coed Tyllwyd, an Assembly-owned woodland near Aberystwyth, which has limited access for larger harvesting operations. The group will be removing the under wood and first thinnings and converting these into added value products, such as hurdles, charcoal, rustic furniture, as well as firewood, to be sold at local Farmers Markets, etc. The aim is to pilot the feasibility of making a livelihood out of managing first thinnings, that are of negative value to FCW, by converting them into added value products. Although the Engagement Gateway element of this project is due to end at the end of March, 2011, thanks



to funding from the Cambrian Mountains Sustainable Development Fund, the pilot will continue to run over the summer months.

At least half of the group are interested in registering as self-employed and pursuing a woodland-related career. As with the Pen yr Allt group, the Tir Coed Mentor has referred these individuals to the Want 2 Work Programme.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring process has become an integral part of the mentoring programme. Participants on all projects have received 1:1 support from the Project Mentor to record relevant data. Each young person has now had an initial assessment and the majority have also completed a 3 month questionnaire.

The system, still in it's pilot phase, has reached a stage where collation & analysis of data are key to representing the progress of individuals and reporting outcomes.

To help with this Forestry Commission Wales agreed to fund further work by Wavehill Consultancy to create a specific database for Tir Coed.

The process to design the database started in November 2010 but to date a final version has not been completed. Therefore, visual representations and full analysis will be given in the next newsletter.

Until the database is available it is difficult to give any specific analysis of individual progress, however, the following feedback from participants gives a taste of their experiences.

How do you feel this project has helped you?

“Definitely more confidence and the motivation to go out and get a job!”

“More skills and the confidence to meet other people”

“I find it easier to talk to others and I know how to look after tools and people”

“It's changed my ideas, given me direction made me more active ...

I've found something that has captivated me!”

“Knowledge and confidence to maintain woodlands and produce products”

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

“I know how woods work and about regeneration. I suppose I appreciate the woods more”

“Loads! Lots that I didn't know”

“My first sale of products before the course is finished!”

“I didn't think I'd be able to do it but it's fun! ...
and better than just chopping up wood for firewood!”

“I'm proud of my bench”



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



Millennium Volunteers Achievements

7 Branching Out / Egin participants have been awarded with 50, 100 and 200 hour Millennium Volunteer (MV) certificates to acknowledge the time that they have given to the projects. The WCVA MV programme helps with funding towards volunteer expenses.

The worthy volunteers are:

50 hours:

- * Jake Cane
- * Charlie Perry-Williams
- * Holly Freeman

100 hours:

- * Aaron Kinsella
- * Eurwyn Owens
- * Ray Miller

200 hours:

- * Max Huntley



Moving on ...

Best of luck to Ashley Jones.

Ashley started with Branching Out / Egin at Castle Woods in November, as part of a Community Task Force programme organised by Trac Employment. Ashley, who was proving to be a great Team member, has found full time employment with Team Precision in Capel Hendre.

