

Our work with communities

Deb Wozencraft CPRW Liaison Officer

Campaigning to protect our landscape is as vital at the 'local' level as it is in the arena of the National Assembly. In recognition of this, we are working with a wide range of communities and local groups to increase awareness of the importance of the local landscapes across Rural Wales. Our work though selective is proving to be successful as the following campaigns and initiatives illustrate

Small Schools Campaign.

As a result of our highly successful collaboration with a number of high profile organisations including the FUW, Merched y Wawr, the National Federation of Women's Institutes, the Young Framers Club and the Small Schools Fund, we secured exhibition space at the National Assembly's new Senedd building on June 7th to highlight our work.

Hosted by Glyn Davies AM, Chairman of the Assembly's Environment, Planning & Countryside Committee, the occasion enabled the pupils from Llandinam school in mid Wales, on behalf of the Association, to present a 15,000 signatory Small Schools petition to the Education Minister's Private Secretary. The "Association of Communities in Wales with Small Schools" (ACWSS), of which CPRW is a key partner, also used this event to stage an exhibition of their achievements to date.

Those travelling along the A470 near Llanidloes may remember the placards produced by the children as the community successfully fought against the closure of their small school in 2003. Despite their valiant efforts, the threat has once again returned to small schools in rural Wales and the timing of the event was crucial. We hope that the event raised the profile of this issue and informed AM's and members of the public of the strength of feeling that

existing in rural communities to maintain their schools.

The Association held its first AGM in April, at which Cris Tomos of the Small Schools Fund was appointed Chairman, Glenys Thomas, President of Merched y Wawr, Vice-Chair, Deb Wozencraft CPRW's Liaison office as Secretary and Iwan of the Small Schools Fund Treasurer. Through various grants and the Small Schools Fund, the group aim to employ an officer dedicated to helping communities under threat. The work of Small Schools Fund can be found at www.vsgolhermon.org.uk.

As part of our "Learning through landscapes" initiative in North Wales,

we are currently working with the Ffrith group in Prestatyn. Following years of neglect, we are helping the local community to create a tidy and welcoming environment for local residents and visitors at the Ffrith Festival Gardens. The feature by our North Wales Officer's explains the progress to date.

Increasing Welsh Woodlands

Our 'Tree for All' partnership with the Woodland Trust continues to expand and encourage community tree planting throughout Wales. At Porthkerry, Barry, a recent planting day, means over 6,000 trees have now been planted by school-

children, Girl Guides, and community members this season. A further planting day will be held in November. At Coed Tregib, Llandeilo, the extension to the existing ancient woodland site is almost fully planted, 12,000 trees having been planted by various community and school groups and CPRW members. Soon a car park will be finished following the erection of a new deer proof perimeter fence

The local Carmarthen Branch also planted a group of trees in memory of their late Chairman, Mr Tom Heal and his widow, Mrs Gwen Heal planted a mixture of oak, cherry, and ash, close to the CPRW grove area.

Tree planting at Coed Tregib, Llandeilo



Wentwood Saved

The Woodland Trust also had a tree planting event for supporters of the Save Wentwood Forest appeal in Monmouthshire/Newport. This event was followed by a week-long schools tree planting programme involving almost 100 schoolchildren and a press photo call with Sian Lloyd, a supporter of the campaign. CPRW was fundamental to the success of the local campaign

as many CPRW supporters helped out with the Wentwood campaign. Despite this activity we are still actively seeking suitable sites for planting, especially in North Wales. If you are able to help or know of someone who can, please contact Deb Wozencraft at Head Office

Working with our Partners We continue to build a strong relationship with the John Muir Trust promoting their national John Muir Award. To date certificates have been awarded to all those attending our Youth Conferences in Brecon and to the pupils from Llandinam Primary School. We are also encouraging others to identify a wild place, explore it; conserve and share it with others and thereby take part in this nationally recognised award.

Following last year's successful partnership with Calor Gas, we will again be working with them to promote their annual 'Village of the Year' competition. CPRW staff will be on the judging panel visiting communities and assessing the contribution they are making to improving the vitality of the towns, villages and communities of Rural Wales.



Glyn Davies AM with the pupils of Llandinam Primary school at the Senedd Building, Cardiff