

MOELYCI ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE

Contact

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This is the story of a community which is collectively buying 350 acres of SSSI designated Moelyci mountain and farm, enabling local people to manage the land with environmental sensitivity, thus providing a beautiful and valuable amenity that benefits the local community and will make an enduring contribution to the social and economic regeneration of the area.

The previous tenant retired owing to the difficulties facing small farmers, and the land was under imminent threat of development opposed by most of the local community, which decided to try and secure the future of the land itself.

The group aims to foster the development of new social enterprises. One of these will focus on providing administrative support to new green businesses and training people in a range of environmentally related skills. Current activities include:

- A nursery with about 50,000 saplings planted to date
- Planting new community forest; conservation of ancient woodlands; creation of a new permissive way and wheelchair-friendly access
- A garden and community growers group – Soil Association approved vegetables and herbs are for distribution and on sale locally
- A conservation and wildlife group managing diverse habitats
- A self-written environmental code
- Green wood crafts and workshops
- Work with local schools, as education is an important aspect of the project.

Membership of the Industrial Provident Friendly Society is open to local people and a wider community of interest. Almost three hundred people are members to date. Funds are raised through subscriptions, donations, trust funding, grants and community activities.

Status of organisation: A co-operative with charitable aims

Area: Mynydd Moelyci, Tregarth, Mynydd Llandygai, Rhiwlas, Pentir, Rachub, Bethesda, Glasinfryn

