

Gelligaer & Merthyr Commoners Association



21st December 2020

Dear All,

Our Tirwedd y Comin/Common Landscape pilot project was dedicated to restoring, maintaining and protecting Gelligaer & Merthyr Common; while supporting farmers, rural communities and the upland ecosystem. Over the last 2 1/2 years, we have made good progress in starting to address some of the deep-rooted social issues affecting the Common (see overleaf for project highlights).

Gelligaer & Merthyr Commoners Association wish to thank you for your support and advice. We can only succeed if we continue to address these issues as a community. We have a wealth of knowledge to call upon from; graziers, emergency services, local authorities and NGOs, as well as local councillors, volunteer action groups, local schools and members of the public. As you all know, the nature of working on commons can be complex and challenging. This said, with your support I feel the Tirwedd y Comin project has been a project to be proud of.

We have some great news - we have secured a further 2 years of funding from Welsh Government. The next project, entitled Comin Cydweithredol – Common Collaboration will start on 1st January 2021. Funding for this project has been secured through the Welsh Government's Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020; which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government. The project team are excited at having this opportunity to further the success of the Tirwedd y Comin project, and importantly, build on the lessons learned. We hope to count on your continued support and look forward to growing the Gelligaer & Merthyr Common Partnership in the coming years.

With warm wishes for a Merry Christmas and Healthy & Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Huw Williams, Chairman
Gelligaer & Merthyr Commoners Association



37 tonnes of waste removed



- S38 Planning Application submitted
- 10 year Masterplan created
- Future funding report prepared



3840 trees planted



Trial area created to enhance grazing

1.5km of firebreaks created and maintained



1.2km redundant fencing removed



260 followers, 250 tweets

56 Community clean-ups



14ha of bracken managed – increasing grazing & lowering fire load



53 police patrols



More than 100 partners engaged on a regular basis

65% project spend within 20 miles of the Common

Weekly Volunteer group



25 independent businesses engaged with repeat business

3600 Commons information leaflets delivered to local villages

Bilingual education resource pack created and distributed to 30 local schools



Welsh Bac. Student placement



3 Waymarked trails
5 Geocaches placed along route
4 Guided walks