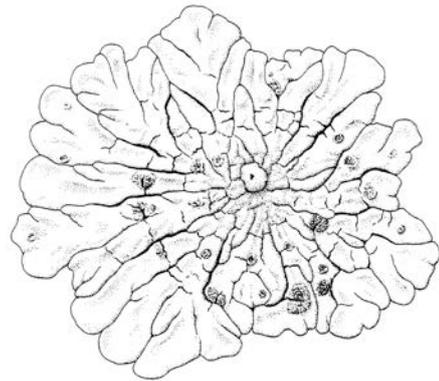




## Plantlife Cymru Lichen Apprenticeship Scheme

### ‘CENNAD’



Wales has a diverse, rich and unique flora that has evolved due to a combination of physical and anthropogenic factors. The moist, lush conditions coupled with a topography that has influenced farming practices means that the Welsh landscape is home to an extraordinary range of habitats including ancient and atlantic woodlands, species-rich grasslands, coastal systems, heathland, ffridd, montane, cliffs, and freshwater systems including wetlands. These in turn host diverse and internationally important vascular plant, lichen, moss, liverwort and fungi communities.

Wales, for its size, supports the highest diversity of lichen species in the world. While only representing 10% of the total land area of the British Isles, 74% of lichens occur in Wales <http://wales-lichens.org.uk>. Despite its global importance, the lichens of Wales remain threatened by a combination of issues resulting from human activity. Our understanding of their significance, and an appreciation of their intrinsic role in our lives is vital, to ensure their conservation into the future. Plantlife Cymru, with the support of its partners, aims to bring this understanding and appreciation to many. The Plantlife Apprenticeship Scheme - CENNAD offers an invaluable opportunity to gain this understanding through a specialist programme of supported learning activities.

The Plantlife Cymru Lichen Apprenticeship Scheme ‘CENNAD’ is open to all, through application in March 2016; with training events running April 2016- March 2018. The learning focus will be on epiphytic lichens, particularly species associated with Atlantic woodlands and way-side trees. A combination of learning approaches will be offered through a structured learning programme, including workshop and field training days, site survey; specialist mentoring; home study; microscope sessions; a travelling herbarium; email and web-based support via ‘Lichens of Wales’ website; regional group work and partnership support. Training, and support provided, will build on good practice gained from similar apprenticeship schemes run across the UK.

A field guide, x10 hand lens and learning materials will be provided to each apprentice, with access to microscopes arranged, as local to apprentices as possible. Arrangements will also be made for apprentices to have access to local woodland/parkland sites of lichen interest, managed by partners supporting the

apprenticeship scheme. This will facilitate two-way benefits. As apprentices become familiar with specific sites and develop their understanding and skills, they will be able to provide records to partners, site interpretation and guidance.

Apprentices will be expected to commit for the 2 years of the scheme, to make every effort to attend all training days arranged, and to dedicate time each week to self study. Apprentices will also be encouraged to meet regularly, to learn from and support each other within the apprenticeship area cluster closest to their home base (NE Wales; NW Wales; Mid Wales; Pembrokeshire; Cardiff & South Wales Valleys).

CENNAD plays on Cen (Welsh for lichen), with Cennad meaning messenger/envoy. Lichens are effective messengers, that tell a story about their past and current management, environmental influences and impacts - if we stop to understand the stories they tell. Our Lichen Apprentices will be effective story tellers engaging and interesting others, in understanding the stories lichens tell us about our environment. They will be the envoys for our Welsh lichens, raising awareness of the importance of lichens within our Welsh ecosystems, landscape, and history; raising understanding of their management requirements and sensitivities.

It is the intention of the Scheme to facilitate long term partnership support and strong connections to regional sites, for the apprentices after the term of the scheme in March 2018. Plantlife Cymru are very grateful to all Scheme partners for the support they have offered to Plantlife Cymru Lichen Apprenticeship Scheme apprentices, and to Welsh Government for funding this apprenticeship scheme. Further interest is welcomed from new partners.

In parallel with the CENNAD Apprenticeship Scheme, the Lichens of Wales website <http://wales-lichens.org.uk/> will be updated and resources placed online to help learners and apprentices identify, and understand lichens.

For further information please contact:

Tracey Lovering

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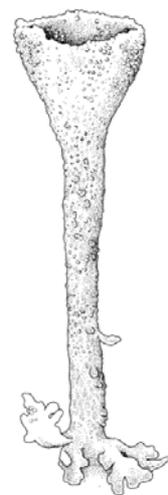
Wales Plant Link Cymru (PLinC) Officer

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Line drawings by Alan Orange



**Please apply for apprenticeship on-line - Closing date: 11 April 2016**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2PBSKTC>