

## **WRFFC 2023: Power of trees**

Dr Glenda Thomas

11:30 I was going to say this in Welsh. We must look at everything over the long term, so half a century, 50 years or so...

26:12 Talking about 'can all farmers plant hedges'...there are a lot of farms, if you know the land from Porthmadog right down to Tywyn, what you have there is a network of very, very small fields, with traditional, historical boundaries in the form of stone walls [not hedges]. You can't just pluck out a figure from the air and say 'this is what all farmers have to do', this is nonsense, obviously....

Delegate from audience

54:40 There is an enormous amount of common land in Wales that is not being used. The management of the common land isn't being attended to properly, and I feel strongly that we should look at the potential of common land for the future of trees and hedges around this common land. And stop animals going to the rivers, which creates problems with nitrates, and it is important that we look after our common land as a community asset and as a business and for the environment as well. So, it is a question for us to look at the potential of common land for...

Geraint Davies

55:48 So I don't run any common land and I'm very lucky there, because it is an absolute minefield with people claiming grazing rights and so on. I agree 100% there is a big potential to deliver something going into the future – but it'd be nice to see the common land grazed properly for the benefit of the environment and so on, with fires if there has been too much growth.

Moving forward, if we can find out all the people who have rights to common land, and in the South Wales valleys especially this is a lot, lot more difficult because a lot of the grazing rights belong to the old houses in villages where people combined keeping a little stock with coal mining for coal and so on. So it isn't going to be easy to sort out but it is something whose potential really needs looking into.