

# THE LLIMEY – May 2009

*The newsletter of the LLIMEYS – Friends of Llanymynech Limeworks Heritage Area*



## A message from our Chairman

What is it they say about time rushing by as you get older? I can't believe that it's almost a year since we formed the Llimeys.

We have organised two events aimed at children - a Family event, complete with Duck Hunt and a Signs of Spring morning which you can read about elsewhere in the newsletter.



In March, we had a morning laying hardcore on the track in the hope that it will be less muddy next winter. This coincided with Peter's last week on the project so we were able to give him a good send-off.

Before he left, Peter set up a Consortium comprising the Village Hall, The Duchess Countess Trust, The Cambrian Heritage Railways/Cambrian Railway Trust supported by Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council and Carreghofa Community Council to be known as the Llanymynech Events Partnership. The aim is to be able to apply for funding so we can employ administrative help for the group or for the individual partners. We have already had some success.

We were given some earthworm survey packs to use on the Signs of Spring morning by Opal West Midlands (Opal stands for Open Air Laboratories), based at Birmingham University ([www.opalwestmidlands.org](http://www.opalwestmidlands.org)) and were pleased to be asked to be one of their partners. Adam Bates of Opal will be helping at our Darwin's Monsters event on June 20.

Just before Easter we were approached by ITV Wales who came and filmed for about 2 ½ hours. It was shown on Good Friday, but not many Llimeys were able to view Welsh TV!

Mention of Darwin brings me to our next events - a week of activities inspired by Darwin's visit to Llanymynech. Then later in the year a Forest Schools Day, a GPS course and a Hallowe'en event.

All in all, it's been a good first year. *Joan Zorn*

**Signs of Spring** – We were lucky to have a beautiful spring day for our most recent event. Families from Llanymynech, Pant and further afield took part in all sorts of activities. Nest-box building was very popular; thank you very much indeed to Shropshire Wildlife Trust for helping so many children to wield hammers safely!



But that wasn't all, there was art in the stables, worm surveying in the field and pond-dipping, as well as story-telling by Llimey member Dickon Faux-Nightingale. Next time you're in the stables, look out for the new tree growing there!



## Llanymynech's very own Ranger

I will start off with the formal bit; allow me to introduce myself, Lynne Dean. I have taken over the management of Llanymynech Limeworks Heritage Area (to give the site its full name). Peter Dunhill has gone onto pastures new, still within Shropshire Council but his legacy lives on with all the wonderful improvements that have been done on the site. There are more discoveries still to be found and we will be working closely with English Heritage to show more of the site. The site is a working partnership between a number of organisations; long may that continue. Three new interpretation panels will be installed on the Montgomeryshire side of the quarry and a funding bid is being submitted to restore some of the old building and workings. So the work will carry on in making the site an industrial gem, but also retaining its natural beauty with the wildflower meadows, Llwyn Goch Wood and the orchids within the quarry. Go on, get out and explore!

**Darwin in  
Llanymynech  
Celebrate Darwin's  
connection to the  
village**



**June 14 Darwin Cruise**, not the 'Beagle', but the 'George Watson Buck'. Half hour cruises from 2 pm – 4.30 pm Llanymynech Wharf

**June 15** The Historical Society will host a talk by Gareth Williams entitled '**Charles Darwin – His Shropshire Evolution**' in the Presbyterian Hall, Chapel Lane, at 7.30 pm.

**June 17 Darwin in Llanymynech**, a **talk and walk** about Darwin's geological exploits on Llanymynech Hill, given by members of Shropshire Geological Society. Meet at 7pm Stables Education Room, Heritage Area

**June 20 Darwin's Monsters**, a Big Bug Hunt, (catch them, magnify them, identify them, paint them) followed by Big Art Project. Children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult. 10 am to noon. Meet at Stables Education Room, Heritage Area

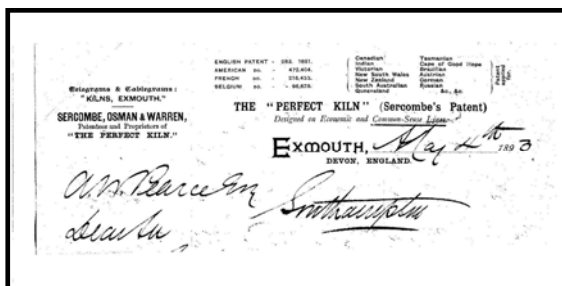
**June 21 Darwin Cruise**, as above

If you need further information about any of these events, contact Llamey Chair, Joan Zorn, 01691 839130, [joanzorn@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:joanzorn@tiscali.co.uk).

***Exploring the history of the Heritage***

**Area** – The same team who revealed the trackway at the bottom of the English incline have recently looked at the area next door to the large Savin draw kiln. Permission has been requested from English Heritage to lift the ivy which partially hides the old base fittings for the cupola furnace along with an extensive engineered blue brick floor area. Clearance would expose the full line of three specialist types of kiln for the public to see.

Also, Tony Beardsall has stumbled across a letter dated May 4 1893 of Sercombe, Osman & Warren, who were working in partnership at that time. The letter markets the 'Perfect Kiln' i.e. our kiln, and claims that it is designed on "economic and common sense" lines. Interesting stuff!



***Have you seen any Town Hall  
Clocks lately?***

Have you noticed how good the flowers are this year? I haven't seen such sweeps of dandelions since after the Foot and Mouth epidemic; driving down to Reading recently, the roadsides were pale yellow with cowslips.

We have had a good spring here too. All the flowers have been at their best this year and, as I write, the wood is full of bluebells and the meadows show signs of a good crop of yellow rattle. I just hope they are as beautiful for the Discovery Day.

This year, I was asked if I could devise a display for the Wharf Visitor Centre. I decided to produce a monthly selection of photos of flowers to be seen in the Heritage Area and along the canal with a few notes about anything of interest and featuring one in particular. Last month, it was Moschatel, which seemed unknown to most people.



*Paddy Martin*

***Volunteering***

If you are interested in becoming a Walks Guide, a Stable Sitter, a Website Loader, a Lime Burner, an Archaeology Digger or a Volunteer Ranger, or indeed any other voluntary activity please contact Lynne Dean on 01691 624448. In addition there may be occasional paid work as a schools guide.

***New leaflet***

A promotional leaflet that doubles up as a trail guide is now available. It shows a variety of routes and gives information about the site. Used together with the interpretation panels dotted around the Heritage Area and Hill, visitors will be able to understand how the site came to be as it is and what there is to see.

***LLIMEYS Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday, 24 June***

Drinks and nibbles in the Stable Block at the Heritage Area at 7 pm, followed by 'business' about 8 pm.

**Everyone Welcome.** Do come.