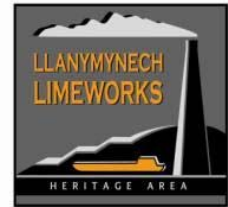


THE LLIMEY - June 2010

The Newsletter of the Llimeys –
Friends of Llanymynech Limeworks Heritage Area



From the Chair

This year we were sad to have to say goodbye to Lynne Dean, our Countryside Ranger. Although she had only been with us a year she had made herself well known and liked in the area. Without her we wouldn't have had a traction engine at Discovery Day 2009. Unfortunately the powers-that-be decided, when we went unitary, that she should go to the Snailbeach area. She has left a legacy to Llanymynech in the form of a boardwalk and extra picnic table.
Thanks, Lynne.

However, her departure does mean that we can now welcome Harvey Morgan as our Ranger. He has already made his presence felt as the strimmer of nettles before the performance of Romeo and Juliet and the cutter-down of a recalcitrant ash bough that blocked the track the other week. We'll make sure we use his expertise in fungi identification in the Autumn!
Welcome, Harvey.

The Fungal Foray that was held last October was a great success. Although the weather had been so dry as to make the finding of even a toadstool dubious, the dozen or so people who attended managed, with John Hughes' help, to find a respectable number of different fungi.

Our **Hallowe'en** event was a great success. Twenty pumpkin lanterns were made by local and not-so-local families. Paddy and Irene made gallons of pumpkin soup with the help of the children and Dickon made sure that everyone got goose pimples as he told his ghost stories in the Hoffmann kiln.



On 4th December, we took part in the BBC **Tree O'Clock** attempt on the record for the most trees planted in one hour. Nine intrepid people managed to plant 14 trees on our site ... 3 hollies and 2 oaks in Llwyn Goch woods, 5 more oaks in the hedge-line of the lower field and 3 field maples and a white willow near the winding hole of the canal. What a pity that the willow was 'taken' in the spring (the stake and rabbit-guard went a few days later!). I hope the culprits have planted the tree somewhere else, with due regard to its eventual size.



Signs of Spring was a bit disappointing this year. The weather had been so cold that the only signs were two rather dispirited celandines. However, some bird boxes were made and the children present enjoyed Dickon's stories.

We are grateful to the Shropshire Countryside Service for providing the money to surface the car park and track leading to the site reducing the need for wellies in the future.

The **boardwalk** by Black Bridge is now finished. Thanks again to Lynne and her team. All we need now is a suitable gate into the field



The most recent event was the production of **Romeo and Juliet** by the Miracle Theatre Co.

This was brilliant. One visitor said 'We both thought the acting was excellent, far surpassing anything we had expected. Their use of a simple stage was brilliant. It was a joy to watch the play surrounded by buttercups!'



New Discoveries on site.

Since the last newsletter Martin and I have quietly worked thro' the site in the winter months, checking the alignment of the tramways and main line tracks using a metal detector. An ideal time as the vegetation is very thin. Armed with a map, a metal detector and four mk.1 eyeballs, and a lot of enthusiasm several interesting finds plus the usual red herrings, tins, bits of bike, a sturmy archer gearbox, spokes, car springs etc. We both had a good idea where the tracks were and the metal detector has confirmed the exact positions of the tramway tracks and main line tracks. White pegs were put in to mark the position of the Hoffmann loop line back to the main. We were surprised how close to the edge of the embankments the tramway tracks were, and these have been recorded on the maps. Several sections of cast iron platway were stuck up out of the ground, and a complete Birkinshaw cast iron chair found by chance as we forced our way thro' brambles at the base of the main embankment. (possibly thrown off the top)

The main line ran up past the Hoffmann to the tally house and was held with 7inch spikes or pins along side. This was the Hoffmann tramway held with three and a half inch pins, these were in the water waiting to be picked up. Its amazing that they were still there, main line pins placed 4 foot 8 and a half inches apart and the tramway pins two feet apart, thanks to the metal detector.

In the ivy the line on the embankment to the Savin vertical kilns must have been in very poor condition as several track bars were found lying just in and under the ivy. Track bars are a last resort to hold the track together and prevent it spreading too wide, thus stopping a truck from dropping through.

Forty feet of single tramway track was found on the opposite embankment. An amazing number of pings nearly sent us mad in the ivy as what appears to be a cache of scrap, as slag, nuts, bolts, pins, baseplates, fishplates (tramway and main line) and rails were just lying there. It's amazing that they have remained there undiscovered. A complete pig or ingot has been found plus main line chairs, coal, a main line loco poker, a loading device for tramway to main line use and perhaps the most novel find is the tree growing thro' a tramway sleeper with two spikes still attached. There's more to come as we start to write it all up.

Tony Beardsell

www.llanymynech.org.uk

Hopefully you are, at least, vaguely familiar with the Llanymynech Community website. It was started some years ago by the Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council and continues to be funded, on a year-to-year basis, by the council. One of the outcomes of the parish appraisal of over 10 years ago was for more local information and this resulted in the setting up of the website.

The site aims to provide info on current events, walks, photos and maps showing the unique blend of industrial heritage, wildlife and history of our international community. It is intended as a platform for sharing information and enthusiasms. The content of the site hopefully reflects these ideals.

The site has recently been archived by the National Library of Wales and the British Library. It has high ranking in a Google world wide web search for either 'Llanymynech' or 'Hoffman Kiln'.

There have been several versions of the home/title page. These have ranged from rather a clutter of links to particular sections of the site, to one photo and a full index. Thanks to a Google custom site search, items of specific interest should be relatively easy to find. The full index is left hand side of the home/title page is seen as the main way to find items of interest.

Two of the more popular sections are the 'LOCAL PHOTOS' and 'LOCAL MAP' [found on the full index]. There is a wealth of info and ideas in the 'EDUCATION PACK' found through the 'LIMEWORKS ENTER' link on the index. The education pack was designed for visiting school groups but there is much to interest and involve visitors of all ages.

As ever, the health of the website depends on contributions from the community. Any articles and old photos are always welcome to be considered for putting on the website. If you have anything you feel is of interest, and any old photos always are, please contact websitemanager@llanymynech.org.uk. [see 'CONTACTS' page].

Glyn Gaskill
Website manager
for
llanymynech.org.uk

