

# THE LLIMEY - June 2011

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

What a year!

We got the funding to conserve the remaining Drum Houses in the Welsh Quarry and to erect a toposcope on the headland opposite them thus carrying out one of Peter's ideas.

We couldn't have done this without the help and energy of Lowri Jones, the Community Regeneration Officer from Welshpool, who has been working with us. She managed to raise the money from various sources in Powys and from CADW and Lafarge and has project-managed the whole venture. We also had funding from Shropshire Council, Pant and Llanymynech PC, Grassroots Shropshire and from the old Oswestry Borough Council.

**Thank you, Lowri.**

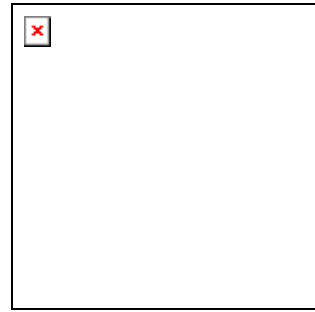
Work started on the Drum Houses in the autumn. The builders, from I.J.Preece, continued until the weather was no longer suitable for lime mortar. They restarted the work after Easter and are currently completing the first Drum House. Some interesting features have been revealed which require further investigation. Tim Ratcliffe has been the architect planning and overseeing the work.



CPAT did an archaeological survey of the site before the work started. Their report can be seen in the Stable Block.

**Border Viewpoint – Gwel Y Ffin** (as the toposcope will now be known )

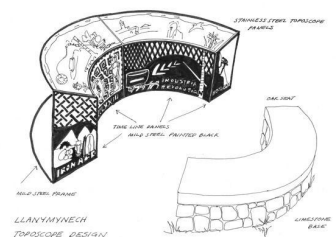
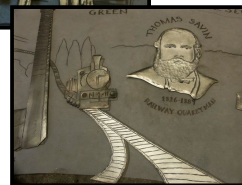
We appointed Creu-ad, specialists in interpretive design, to oversee this part of the project. In December they held workshops with the two local schools, Bryn Offa and Carreghofa, in the Limeworks Stables. These were hugely successful and the youngsters came up with some fantastic images. There was also a more adult workshop in the Village Hall. Following these we had an exhibition in the Village Hall of the children's work and initial designs from Gideon Petersen, the artist/blacksmith, working with Creu-ad.



Gideon's designs incorporate images from the history of Llanymynech and famous people associated with the village. We go from the Iron Age to modern-day climbers and golfers and the people include Offa, Richard Roberts and Darwin among others.

**The official opening of the Viewpoint will be**

**on 11 July at 2pm** (at the site)  
followed by a reception and exhibition  
at Underhill Farm (courtesy of Steve  
and Irene Evison)



In spite of all the excitement generated by the activities on the Hill we have held other events.

In September we were involved in **Heritage Open Days**. Glyn nobly fired the demonstration kiln and enthused youngsters and adults alike by showing what happens when quicklime meets water! Harriet Devlin was originally going to give two talks on the uses of lime. They were so popular that she had to give three.

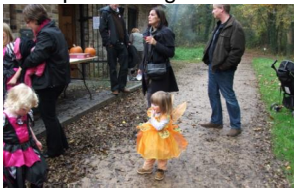
**We will be involved again this year from 11am – 4 pm on September 11, with the added attraction of a LIGHT SHOW in the HOFFMANN KILN from 7pm - 9pm**

Also, in September we held a **den-building** activity for the under-12s with help from Shropshire Wildlife Trust. They enjoyed it so much that two of the youngsters have insisted that they check out their hedgehog home every time that they visit their grandparents

In October Harvey Morgan, our Countryside Warden, came into his own, leading a group in his speciality, **Fungi**. The highlight for me was the finding of the Earthstar.



Our **Hallowe'en** event was as popular as last year, even though we had to retreat into the Stables when the rain came down. Poor Rosi carried on cooking chestnuts outside in the downpour and got absolutely soaked. What dedication!



Tony, with invaluable help from his wife, Ruth, installed a new gate at the end of the boardwalk which will enable anyone who cannot manage steps to do a circuit of the site. It has already proved popular with buggy-pushers, wheelchair-users and parents with young cyclists in tow.

We are experimenting with opening the Stables on Sunday afternoons throughout the summer. So far this seems to be successful. We have had quite a number of visitors, some local and some coming from a distance. If you can spare a couple of hours on a Sunday afternoon you can sign up on the rota in the Stables

This has been a very good year for the flora on site with particularly good display of woodland flowers, earlier than usual. So far our bluebells remain purely English and there is no sign of Spanish interlopers or crossbreeds! The meadows are seeing a gradual increase in varieties present

### Llanymynech Butterflies

Llanymynech Hill SSSI was once a hive of industry, but now it is a peaceful wildlife haven that straddles the border between England and Wales. The limestone loving grasses and plants that carpet areas of the hill provide an ideal habitat for butterflies.

Historically, 32 species of butterfly have been recorded on the hill, but due to a loss of suitable habitat the butterfly population has declined. Unfortunately, this is a nationwide problem as the majority of our UK butterfly species are in decline.

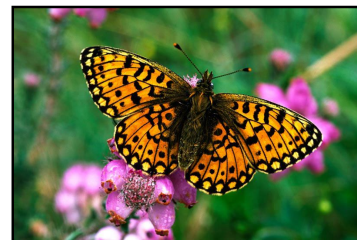
The Shropshire Wildlife Trust has secured a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund that will enable the Trust to improve these areas of limestone grassland found at Llanymynech Rocks nature reserve, for butterfly species.

In addition, Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust has obtained funding from the Aggregates Levy Fund for Wales, to extend this habitat improvement work across the border into Wales, in the Llanymynech hill area.

These grants will enable both Wildlife Trusts to extend and enhance areas of limestone grassland for butterflies by, removing areas of scrub and trees that have invaded the grassland as a result of insufficient grazing, reintroduce/improve grazing on all three sites and monitor the butterfly populations. These two projects will not only be focussed on the Wildlife Trusts nature reserves but also on the Llanymynech golf course.

A large part of both projects is to encourage volunteers and the local community to get involved. There are many ways in which volunteers can support the projects including becoming a volunteer site warden, monitoring butterflies or becoming a "looker" and checking the grazing animals on site.

If you would like to know more about these projects or get involved please contact Rhona Goddard at Shropshire Wildlife Trust  
[RhonaG@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:RhonaG@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk).



### **Become a Llimey**

If you would like to join us contact Joan on 01691 839130

**Check out the website**  
**[www.llanymynech.org.uk](http://www.llanymynech.org.uk)**