

# THE LLIMEY - June 2012

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



Another busy year!

In July 2011 the Border Viewpoint – Gwel y Ffin was officially opened by Mr Thomas Savin (aka Richard Brazier). About 50 people tackled the walk up the hill to attend, including the children from Bryn Offa and Carreghofa Primary Schools who had assisted with the design. The children also accompanied 'Thomas Savin' in a rendition of his song from 'In the Limelight'. Luckily the weather was dry and clear so that the view could be appreciated. Thanks to Steve and Irene Evison the opening was followed by tea and cakes at Underhill Farm.



The work on the conservation of the Drum Houses in the Welsh Quarry was completed by I. J. Preece. These should now be safe from further erosion for a good few more years. The interpretation boards in the Welsh Quarry were installed earlier this year (thanks to Glyn barrowing his tools up the hill). This completed the work we embarked on at the end of 2010.

August saw the arrival of Tern TV to film the site and a demonstration of lime-burning for the BBC2 programme, 'Heritage Heroes' which was broadcast in February. They were filming with us for about 5 hours to provide about 5 minutes of air time! Many local people turned up to watch and had a great lesson on the chemistry of lime from Glyn. Tony Beardsell and Tim Radcliffe gave accounts of the Hoffmann kiln and the use of lime and proved very photogenic.



Also in August we took delivery of the amazing model of the Limeworks site made by John Jacobs and his wife, from Newtown. This has proved invaluable in explaining the site to our many visitors. It was most appreciated by the delegates to the International Lime Conference who spent an afternoon with us in late August.

In September we participated again in the Oswestry and Beyond initiative for Heritage Open Days. As well giving a demonstration of lime burning and having guided walks around the site, we had a light show in the Hoffmann Kiln. This was the brain child of artist Freja Evans of the 'Inside Out' art group in Oswestry and showed the Hoffmann in a completely new light (forgive the pun!!!!).



Freja gave us light, sound, movement, atmosphere, mystery and excitement with a truly amazing and varied show. We had around 300 visitors, with some who had come in the afternoon returning in the evening to see the show in the dark.



We worked with Dr. Gareth Parry on the Shropshire Natural Heritage Project helping to discover and map the biodiversity of Llanymynech. Gareth ran some courses introducing the project and helped with a butterfly hunt in the summer. At the Your Natural Heritage autumn convention in November he mentioned that he had some funding, whereupon Gill Poole, Paddy Martin and I decided we would ask if he could help us to get a pond constructed in the Heritage Area. The pond was dug in Feb/Mar 2012 on a site that we later discovered had been a pond up to about 50 years ago. It has been designed with a deep area and a shallow section, separated by an underwater bank. Following Gill's death at the end of 2011 the pond will now be known as Gill's Pool. Already, at the time of writing, palmate newts have taken up residence and a Red-eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma najas*) has been spotted hovering over it (the time this has been recorded in the Llanymynech area).



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first



We have also planted a Scarlet Willow near to the winding hole of the canal in Gill's memory.

This has been a particularly good Spring for primroses, wood anemones and bluebells. The first pyramidal orchid has been seen in the field adjacent to the canal. Hopefully more orchids will now make it down the hill. Otter spraint and tracks have been spotted near the winding hole. It is hoped that the bank alongside the new pond will prove attractive to water voles.

Joan Zorn

#### Spring clean after winter gales.

After another winter of frost and gales I noticed a lot of burnt evergreens, conifers and ivy in frost pockets which have not recovered and are still very brown and there are also a lot of trees down.

The Heritage site had its fair share of damage. A large ash tree blocked the main entrance by the Welsh tramway, and I received a phone call to help remove an ivy clad dead ash which had crashed into another ash,

and the pair were suspended over the cupola site and path to the other kilns.

Several small ivy clad trees were extracted to get to the main spring loaded ash. This was carefully cut away and cleared out and stowed in the stable block for winter fuel.

The 40x40 foot blue brick area with the Y shaped red brick plinth which supported the cupola was now easily visible, and after brushing the twigs, branches, and dead ivy and picking bricks and stones off the area, we have exposed the experimental furnace base which was possibly a prototype for the six cupolas that were fitted at Llyncllys, Porthywaen quarry.

There were a few finds, namely, a pair of metal beehive cover tops, one bolt, a rail track bar and a couple of wedges. I have since been told that a pair of old cupolas could be surplus to requirements, this may be interesting. The cupola here was a six foot diameter steel clad vertical kiln, alongside the two Savin kilns, was top fed and enriched with compressed air to help burn the very hard dolomite, a reddish double carbonated limestone, **CaMg(CO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>** found on the hillside.

Tony Beardsell

#### YouTube Video

Peter Dunhill organized the making of a video and podcast of the Llanymynech Limeworks with Shropshire Mind.

To see the video, Google **Savin's Story** on Youtube or go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAWBTF2OUIIM>

#### QR Code

We now have our own QR code, displayed in the window of the Stables Block. Encourage your visitors with Smart phones to try it out.

#### Become a Limey

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)