



# THE LLIMEY - June 2015

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



## Llanymynech Limeworks on TV again.

Did you see John Sergeant's 'Barging Round Britain', Episode 2 on 13 February? This episode had John on the Llangollen Canal but he made a 'flying visit' to Llanymynech to be shown round the Hoffmann Kiln by Glyn Gaskill. Filming was actually in June last year and was supposed to be secret but as the Tuesday Walkers went by



during the planning session outside the Stables it was obvious that it would not be secret for long!

In fact, John and the TV crew had arrived by 10.30. After coffee they spent an hour or so planning, had a run through, then another discussion. (At this point I had to go). By about 1pm they moved to the Kiln to film the bit that was eventually shown in the programme. Well done Glyn for seeing the whole thing through.

## Heritage Open Day 14 September 2014

Thanks to Peter Dunhill, Dickon Faux-Nightingale and other members of LADS we recreated a possible scenario from 1914 when the Limeworks closed. Visitors were treated as potential buyers when taken on a walk of the site by costumed guides. At the end of each tour the visitors were able to bid in an auction to buy all, or parts, of the complex. The poster did confuse some locals who thought the site was really up for sale. Sorry!! Alongside this, Glyn again fired the demonstration kiln and showed how quicklime was slaked and used to produce lime mortar.

**FOR SALE  
BY AUCTION**  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September



27 year mineral rights extraction lease on the profitable

**LLANYMYNECH  
LIMESWORKS**

Also sundry manufactories comprising Fully operational Cupola Kiln, Hoffmann Kiln (with roof), two substantial draw kilns and stone crusher. Two active quarries with working inclined plane tramways, pneumatic drills and quantities of explosive. Functioning canal wharfs and Cambrian Railway sidings. Stabling, maintenance and smithy facilities.

Guided viewings from 12 noon  
**Auction at 4.00 pm**

## Recent Discoveries

Martyn & Tony have at long last had a look at some of the canal side embankments, rock sidings and the elevated Middleton plate way system. This plate way is a dog leg shape, 207' long with 45' running parallel to the canal. The width and height vary as both are heavily eroded. The impressive banked wall reaches a maximum of 9'. There is a tally house at the end of the embankment complete with fireplace and vaulted ceiling. The bulk of the vegetation was cleared by CRT & volunteers last autumn as the path along the top was totally blocked. The canal arrived in 1795, and as the plate way system down the Welsh incline still shows many stone blocks, we wondered if there could be anything on the surface of the embankment under the ivy. The winter gales helped us by demolishing two trees. Currently one is still horizontal. The other which grew out of the embankment wall on the edge of the plate way, rolled over and blocked the path below. Fortunately it did not pull the wall down. This revealed a stone

block with a hole for a metal pin by the root ball. On careful examination two other blocks were visible on the inboard side, one fitted with 3 pin holes. As we cleared the damage we lifted the ivy and discovered a pack of 6 stone blocks. We found a total of 43 stone blocks, a piece of cast iron inverted T rail, and at 50' 5" from the datum point a section of cast iron L shaped tramway plate. The latter is now on view in the stable block. The gauge of the plate way was about 18". Finds on the other loading wharf were 4 evenly spaced wooden sleepers with spikes still in position, pins,



spikes, fish plates, a tipping rail fitting, 4 track bars, a piece of chain, a broken shovel & de-spiking bar. Further clearance of the main line loop to the kilns through the trees has taken place with help from Gareth Egarr. A panel of main

line track has been placed on the track bed, ballasted and slewed to help with the general site interpretation.

## Llanymynech Rocks! 12 April 2015

This event was part of the **Making Waves 2015** programme aimed at increasing awareness of the potential of the Montgomery Canal. The canal came to Llanymynech in 1796 to exploit the limestone. Our event was designed to emphasize the importance of the limestone industry.



It was the first event for the recently appointed CRT Artist in Residence, Mair Hughes. She had an appreciative, engaged audience for her 'Mud, Bricks and Water' activity inviting young participants to 'Build a Canal'.

Also present were Shropshire Geological Society who explained the presence of limestone on

Llanymynech Hill and Shropshire Wildlife Trust who showed how the flora and fauna on the Hill are dependent on the lime.

Tony Beardsell, Martyn Young, Peter Dunhill and Gareth Egarr were available to give guided walks of the site Harriet Devlin explained the uses of lime as a building material with talks and slides, while Glyn demonstrated the slaking of lime after firing the demo kiln.

Alongside all of this was the film show, organised by Dickon Faux-Nightingale and Julian Cattley in the Hoffmann Kiln, of Georges Méliès films c1902, with music composed and played by Julian. This was followed by great music from Pendragon in the Stables



## Montgomery Canal Consultation

Following a three-month consultation, over 2700 people gave the Canal and River Trust their views on the type of community activities they would like to see along the Montgomery canal. Early results show that children under 11 are very keen on learning traditional wood working skills, and that the over 60s favour heritage discovery walks and would also welcome an industrial heritage re-enactment event. The results also show that people are very supportive of the restoration plans for the Montgomery canal. As part of the consultation process, CRT has now started the trialling of some of the proposed community activities. The first of these was an art taster session that took place in Llanymynech as part of the Making Waves in Llanymynech event on the 12 April.

Despite the weather, children and their families thoroughly enjoyed their "Mud, Bricks and Water...Build a canal" session led by the artist Mair Hughes.



The second was a community archaeology session in Maesbury Marsh at the end of April, giving people the opportunity to learn new skills and help discover the lost past of this area e.g. a 18<sup>th</sup> century canal wharf and smelting house. Volunteers of all ages turned up to work alongside the archaeologists. The excavation was widely relayed by the local press and radio and findings were on display for the general public.

Other trialling sessions will be around angling, boating, canoeing, heritage and wildlife discovery walks at various spots along the Montgomery canal and will be advertised locally over the next three months.

Sylvia Edwards, the community development officer for the Montgomery canal, would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to fill in the survey and invites you to join her on one of her trialling sessions.

## The Heritage Area.

We are grateful to Shaun Burkey of Shropshire Countryside Services for providing a litter bin near the Stables and arranging for its regular emptying. Dog owners ... please clear up after your dog and use the bin.

We have an average footfall of around 20 000 people per year through the main gate from the carpark.

Thanks are due to Tony and Martyn for the regular strimming, leaf-blowing and general maintenance and improvement of the site.

The Llmeys, together with members of the History Society and the Wharf Visitor Centre have produced a display about Llanymynech for the Local History tent at the Eisteddod at Meifod, 1 -8 August 2015

See <http://makingwaves2015.co.uk> for details of the Making Waves 2015 programme of events along the Monty between Llanymynech and Welshpool

For more information about the Llmeys, or if you would like to join us, go to [www.llanymynech.org.uk](http://www.llanymynech.org.uk) or ring Joan on 01691 839130