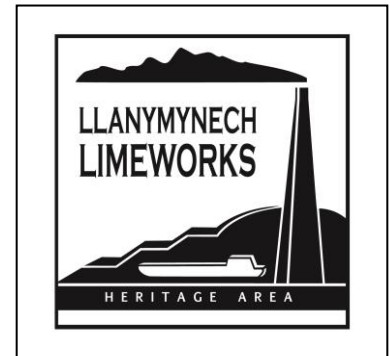




THE LLIMEY - June 2017

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



Chair's Report

You may have noticed some improvements to the Heritage Area recently. Thanks to Shaun Burkey, Country Parks and Sites Officer (North), Shropshire Council, we now have a path over the field from Black Bridge to the Hoffmann, completing a 'dry' circuit of the site. Shaun also obtained some new trees for us, chosen for autumn colour, including Acer Rubrus and Guelder Rose. These have been planted by Tony and Martyn and their team.

We have welcomed new members, Nick, Ginny, and Chris, who have joined Tony and Martyn in the work of keeping the site tidy and investigating the history of the place. Nick held a hedge-laying workshop which brought one of the hedges on the site under control. Unfortunately the sheep which were grazing on-site at the time destroyed much of the good work!

We have a new banner on the CRT yard fence pointing the



way to the site. We are also working with CRT to try to get the car park surfaced. In the meantime CRT has filled in the potholes.

Unfortunately recent rain

has undone some of the good work.

The Stables have been well-used this year by school groups, the Wildlife Trust, Lime Courses, Scouts and individuals (over 50 bookings). The Priory School from Shrewsbury spent two days investigating science topics (Chemistry, Physics and Botany) in the summer and in January a group of intrepid scouts from Welshpool, Newtown and Machynlleth braved the weather to camp overnight in the Hoffmann. They were undertaking a challenge for extreme camping in unusual places. 'They don't come more unusual than this'.



Heritage Area Report

During the winter a small group of volunteers carried out general clearance of dead trees clad with ivy, brambles & general brash in the Black Bridge area, the Cupola ledge & the footings of the old company offices.

The latter are midway between the Tally House and Stable Block. At the company office site a



number of dead ivy clad trees have been removed plus two large trees which were distorting the parallel lines of footings. A quantity of tar was discovered and also an interesting set of drains. One of the latter is a 4" pipe that turns through 90° at the back of the building. Several drain rods were inserted into the pipe, (32 x 3' rods, a total of 96') before resistance was felt. We found the line of the water filled pipe with the aid of a water diviner but still have not discovered the end. The embankment around the footings was examined and found to be constructed of ash from the coal fired stove, plus burnt lime. Information had been received of a line of bricks marking the front path. Unfortunately, it could not be located, due to later disturbances on the site.

Some new trees have been planted away from the footings.



The workshop area which is between the stable block and the Savin kilns was looked at to see if there were any remains of a main line 7 plank wooden wagon. We found metal brackets, bracing bars,

hinged oil axle box covers, bolts and rods from a wagon. Along with these, to the side in the grass, was a concrete plinth with four studs fitted which prompted us to look at photographs of the site and re-scale the 1902 map to fit

the GPS 2002 survey and the ground truth. Some 23'9" towards the engine plinth, another similar concrete block was found. This must be the eastern edge of the workshop building, which fitted with the map. With tapes and a 3 4 5 triangle a line was put in to mark the southern side of the building. This building was 65' – 70' in length and gets close to the Welsh tramway as marked on the map. The entry of the main line track into the building was offset as



marked on the map. Photographs of the workshop show a construction of corrugated iron with a curved roof. Flakes of the corrugated iron are still visible. This was not a Nissen hut.

Major Peter Nissen developed his huts later in 1916 and our building predates that. An interesting find. Finally, in the spring we finished the hillside survey of kilns and tramways in and around the top of the English incline. Interesting finds of the day include an axle bearing block for a quarry tramway truck, a 6' long point lever bar and hinged rod for working the switch blade, and a point lever linkage handle 3' in length both found close to the drum house wall. The area up to the tunnel has also been cleared by Gareth and his team and a quick look around the tunnel exit revealed tramway spikes still in sleepers plus a few nuts and broken bolts.

Tony Beardsell

Defibrillator Appeal

Pant and Llanymynech Parish Council held a February walk to raise funds for three defibrillators ... one to be kept at the Cross Guns, one for the Co-op or Pant Institute and one for near the playing fields in Llanymynech. The walk raised nearly £400. The fund now stands at over £800.



For more information about the Llimeys, or if you would like to join us, go to www.llanymynech.org.uk or ring Joan on 01691 839130

Spreading Snowdrops

Following a suggestion that some snowdrops would be an improvement to Llwyn Gogh Wood in the Llanymynech Heritage Area, Llanymynech Brownies came to the rescue.

Snowdrops already grow in part of the area but not down the wood. Clumps of flowers in the green were provided by Llanymynech W. I. members and, prepared with trowels, gardening gloves and wellies, the Brownies set to work and planted many small clumps in the lower part of the wood. They will have to wait until early next Spring to see the results of their work. We thank the girls and their helpers for their hard work and the W. I. members for the flowers.

Paddy Martin



Llanymynech Rocks Nature Reserve Update

The grassland habitat management work over the last year has focussed on two areas – the south facing bank to the West of the tunnel and around the pond in Underhill Quarry. The clearance of scrub maintains the open habitats for the flowers and butterflies and this is most successful on south facing banks which get plenty of sunshine. The work also helped to expose the stone embankment of a tramway which predates the tunnel in the quarrying history chronology. The next area of woodland along the small path between the inclines was also coppiced to diversify the woodland structure and create more open areas.

2016 was the fourth worst year on record for butterflies in the UK and Llanymynech Rocks was no exception, especially with another poor Spring. Thankfully 2017 has been a much better one so far with good numbers of species such as Green Hairstreak, Grizzled and Dingy Skipper, Holly Blue and Orange Tip. There was a worrying lack of Pearl-bordered Fritillaries at the start of the season but there were a number of records in mid-May.

The Peregrines failed to rear any young for the second year running. We are not sure whether the problem is predation or fertility. Let us see what this year brings. The grazing by SWT's Hebridean sheep took place as usual. Unfortunately one ewe was lost to a probable dog attack on the Shropshire side in the Autumn and a second was injured when attacked by 3 dogs on the Montgomeryshire side in January.

The Early Purple Orchids have been splendid this Spring, as were the Cowslips.

Gareth Egarr

North Reserves Officer, Shropshire Wildlife Trust