



# THE LLIMEY - July 2018

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



## Chair's Report

We were very grateful to receive a grant from the Tirgwynt Community Fund towards the printing of 10 000 of our leaflets. These are always welcomed by various Tourist Information Centres, caravan sites and other tourist facilities. We were also delighted to receive £450 from Roleplay following their production of 'The Frog Prince' in January. We have used some of this money to buy a camera trap to record some of the wildlife in the Heritage Area, and also some pond dipping equipment. As a thankyou we entertained members of Roleplay at an activity afternoon in the Heritage Area in April. They dipped the pond, went on a bug hunt and enjoyed a boat trip on the canal.

The 'maintenance' team worked with Gareth Egarr and Wildlife Trust volunteers in January to coppice the next section of Llwyn Goch wood. The show of bluebells this spring bears testament to their efforts. Thanks are due to Tony, Martyn, Nick, Gareth, Ginny, Chris and all the other volunteers.

Penny Wellman, a student from Liverpool, has been doing a secondment with Shaun Burkey (Country Parks and Sites Officer (North), Shropshire Council) since last September. She has done some valuable work with us, including organising a very successful Bat Walk in October 2017 and enthusing the youngsters from Roleplay in April. She also liaised with Stuart Edmonds from Shropshire Wildlife Trust to arrange a successful camera trapping training session in May 2018. We will miss Penny when she returns to university in September and thank her for all her hard work. Do stay in touch, Penny.

Once again, we participated in Heritage Open Days 'Oswestry and Beyond'. An encouraging number of visitors took advantage of our guided walks and were appreciative of the demonstrations of lime burning, lime slaking etc.

Some good news ..... Canal and River Trust has obtained funding to tarmac the car park. Work will, hopefully, be done this summer. Thanks to Sarah Lalieu of CRT for persevering with various funding bodies.

It is also encouraging that the Border Pre-School are regularly using Gill's Pool for pond-dipping (apparently there are crocodiles, masquerading as newts, in the pond) and that Carreghofa School frequently uses the site. This year Bryn Offa School will also be taking advantage of our facilities. The Stables are regularly booked by various schools, Scouts and the Wildlife Trust. The Marches Young Archaeologists were our most recent visitors.

In 2017 there was an epidemic of vandalism in the Heritage Area .....an interpretation board in the Heritage Area was destroyed, one of the iron trucks filled with stone had its securing chain broken and was rocked off its track, and worst of all, bricks were removed in many places from above the Hoffmann kiln flues.



Hopefully, this year will see a reduction in this sort of mindless destruction as last year's culprits are now a year older and, perhaps, becoming more mature and sensible. Fingers crossed!

*Joan Zorn*

## Llanymynech Rocks Update

### Habitat Management

Winter scrub control with volunteer work parties focused on the large spoil mound with south-facing slopes and brushcutting

regenerating scrub that the sheep didn't browse. The coppicing in the woodland between the incline planes took place towards the top of the slope and enabled a

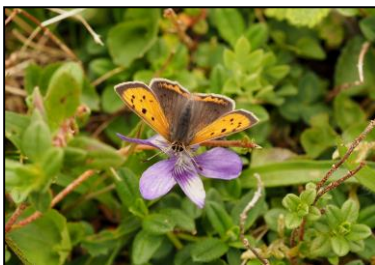


connection to be made between the coppice area and the open grassland so that butterflies can now move between them. A group from the Oswestry based TMBSS (Tuition for Medical Behavioural Support Services) carried out some scrub control in Underhill Quarry.

Natural England and Historic England have approved a plan to carry out some scraping with a mini-digger on a couple of trial areas. The idea is to remove the nutrient rich topsoil down to the limestone spoil to re-start natural succession and hopefully improve the plant diversity in those areas.

### Wildlife

The good (albeit late) Spring weather has produced good numbers of butterflies, especially Grizzled and Dingy Skippers and Green Hairstreaks. The scarce Pearl-bordered Fritillaries have been few in number again and there is concern about the future of this colony. A succession of



poor Springs and difficulties in getting the grazing right in their main breeding area on the Welsh side are thought to be to blame.

### *Small Copper*

### Education

We have been working with Bryn Offa School for 1 day a month this year on the reserve. Year 5 (21 pupils) have been working towards getting the John Muir Award by carrying out a range of learning and conservation activities on site.

### Access

There are plans to improve the surface of the access track to the car park, hopefully as part of remedial works following the replacement of the water main by Severn Trent Water.

We will shortly be reviewing the signage and information provision on the reserve.

*Gareth Egarr, North Reserves Officer, Shropshire Wildlife Trust*

### Rails in Wales.

Our winter work programme started on the embankment to the western side of the Hoffmann kiln. Over the last three years ash, sycamore, vines, nettles, brambles and ivy had taken over the area and some trees were in contact with the kiln. Martyn's team of five, which was boosted to six with the addition of Terry, cleared the whole embankment and part of the top. While clearing up on the top the lines of the retaining walls of the tramway tracks to both kilns were revealed. Also a piece of flat metal bar with holes drilled in it became visible on the western side. This may have been part of a turn out or a stop fitting for trucks. Whatever it was, it is fixed horizontally into the base of the retaining wall and is very well attached. The other side was also cleared and revealed burnt lime and clinker waste from the Hoffman kiln. Locals will remember that this side of the embankment was always white until vegetation took over.

Just before the snowy season started a rail was seen on the Welsh side. These have appeared over the years discovered by human erosion, and in this case helped by mountain bikes. A pilot assessment took place and we realised that this was a potential Birkinshaw cast iron fish belly rail and could be 15' in length. (See photo of a section of similar rail in Wales with the author). It was too good to allow it to be lost or broken.

Consequently, a team extracted the rail which turned out to be 13' 8" in length and kinked. It is now on view in the stable block.

Another interesting relic of the past.

*Tony Beardsell*



## Flowers galore!

This has been a wonderful year for the woodland flowers in particular. After the cold winter, the warmer spell brought out everything at once: bluebells, primroses, sanicle, wood spurge, dog violets and stitchwort. Then when the primroses went over and the red campion came out we had a suitable display of red, white and blue for the royal wedding!

*Bluebells in  
Llwyn Goch  
wood*



*Primroses and Stitchwort*



Despite the difficult winter, I was cheered to see that most of the snowdrops planted by the Brownies last year have taken and, with

luck, they will start to spread. The primroses have benefitted greatly from the coppicing and clearing of areas of the scrubland over the past year.

I am now watching the meadows which also promise to do well this year. The buttercups are already turning the fields yellow. There are three to be found: Meadow, Creeping and Bulbous buttercups. The latter is distinguished by the sepals turning down over the stalk rather than lying under the petals. There is a fourth much earlier-flowering buttercup by the Black Bridge. This is the Goldilocks buttercup which has its petals of different sizes...one for Daddy, one for Mummy and one for Baby bear! The fourth petal is often hard to see at all.



*sanicle*



*Self Heal, Yellow  
Rattle and Hop  
Trefoil*

As well as buttercups, the other meadow flowers are appearing: Herb

Robert, rusty spikes of sorrel, the tiny flowers of hop trefoil looking like miniature yellow clovers, yellow rattle and the rather eye-catching self-heal with its single bluey-purple spike sitting on two opposed leaves. This year there has been a lot of changing forget-me-not which is rather a small, insignificant member of the family. You will have to look very carefully in the lower field to find one but once you get your eye in you see dozens!

This year there is a different regime for managing the meadows. Instead of putting sheep on them they are to be mown after the flowers have dropped their seeds. It will be interesting to see the results.

*Paddy Martin*

## A limewoman!

### A bit of Llanymynech history.....

This is a transcript of the will of Ann Dyke, 1718-1785 Ann was widowed in 1770 and presumably took over her husband's kilns.

*In the name of God Amen, I Anne Dyke of Llwyntidman in the parish of Llanymynech and the County of Salop, widow, being of sound mind, memory and understanding Do make this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following (that is to say) I hereby Give devise and bequeath unto my son John Dyke the sum of one shilling, I give devise and bequeath unto my son Edward Dyke the sum of one shilling. I also give and bequeath unto my said son Edward Dyke One Feather Bed & Bolster and also one Large Screen which is commonly used in the Kitchen. , I give devise and bequeath unto my Daughter Elizabeth (Jones) of Ruyton All my Household Goods of what nature or kind soever I shall die possessed of except (one bed and bolster and Large Wooden Screen hereafter mentioned before). I do hereby devise give and bequeath unto my nephew Samuel Seley All my Rock Tools together with all the coals and stones that shall have been risen and prepared for the burning of lime and remain on the Bank at the time of my decease. I also, give and bequeath unto my said nephew Samuel Seley the Black Mare whereon I usually ride And my will is that my said nephew Samuel Seley after my decease shall take possession and make use of the Lime Kilns I now hold under Richd. Myddleton Esq. I also give and bequeath to my said nephew Samuel Seley one Feather Bed and also the Dresser with all the pewter plates and Dishes belonging to it. I give and bequeath unto my nephew Thomas Seley one Feather Bed and*



*Bolster. I also hereby give and bequeath to my said nephew Samuel Seley the sum of Five Pounds.  
I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my son-in-law John Jones of Ruyton and my son Thomas Dyke Joint Executors of this my last will and testament revoking all others. My Will further is that my said Executors shall bury me in a decent manner and after my just debts are paid shall share equally between them both, all money or other effects except what is before mentioned.  
In witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal the Fifteenth Day of December in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty five  
The Mark of Anne Dyke*

*Signed Sealed Published and declared by the said Testator as and for her last will and Testament in the presence of us who in her presence and in the presence of each other and at her request have set and subscribed our names as witness thereto  
The mark of Mary Edwards, servant to Mr Llewellyn  
The mark of Robert Jones, servant to Robt. Baugh  
Robert Baugh*

Ann seems to have done well from her lime kilns judging by the goods she bequeathed.

It's interesting to note that one of the witnesses to her will was Robert Baugh. He was the Parish Clerk at the time but was also an engraver, map maker and surveyer. He worked with Thomas Telford and also taught Richard Roberts, the engineer who donated the church clock.

Ann's sons, John, Edward and Thomas, also became limemen. Her daughter, Elizabeth, married John Jones, mercer, of Ruyton X1 towns.

Ann was born Ann Parks. Her sister, Susannah, married Matthew Seley and had two sons, Thomas and Samuel. Susannah and her husband both died in 1766 and Ann brought up her orphaned nephews and remembered them in her will.

*(information gleaned from the Parish records)*

### **Stables Education Block**

Available for hire for workshops, school and youth groups, parties, etc, etc. The room has toilets, facilities for making hot drinks, microwave, digital projector and screen and much information about lime and limeworking.

There is also a large model of the site as it would have been in 1914

Check availability on  
[www.llanymynech.org.uk](http://www.llanymynech.org.uk)  
(stable block bookings)

### **Heritage Open Days**

This year we will be giving guided walks on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September from 1.00- 4.30

On 9<sup>th</sup> September we will also be lighting the demonstration kiln and showing what happens when lime is slaked

In the Hoffmann Kiln we'll be projecting many of the Oswestry Heritage Comics (thanks to John Swogger, the artist who created them) and work by the pupils of Bryn Offa School in Pant.