



# THE LLIMEY - June 2019

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

[www.llanylime.co.uk](http://www.llanylime.co.uk)



## Chair's Report

Once again we are indebted to the Tirgwynt Community Fund; this time for a £550 grant towards new tools for our volunteers looking after the Heritage Area. The team meets up regularly on Monday mornings to carry out a variety of tasks, such as maintaining footpaths, strimming, leaf clearance, hedge laying, repairing gates, removing fallen trees, coppicing ..... the list goes on! Currently they are removing ivy and undergrowth from the 'white mountain'. To join the team, make contact via [www.llanylime.co.uk](http://www.llanylime.co.uk)

Shaun Burkey, country parks and sites officer with Shropshire Council, is keen to allow our meadows to develop naturally. Sheep will no longer be grazing on them and there will be just one cut per year.

Recently we were filmed (again!) by BBC Wales. Sir Gareth Edwards was shown around by Martyn before Glyn gave his demonstration of lime burning and slaking. Look out for the programme in September. We also appear in CRT's film 'Life on the Monty' which can be seen online at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/life-on-the-monty-new-film-released>

For Heritage Open Days 2018 around 50 people came for guided walks on 8<sup>th</sup> September and about 80 on the 9<sup>th</sup>. I had been at Bryn Offa School in July to talk about the Limeworks and challenged the children to produce some work for HODs. They came up trumps with Powerpoint presentations, photographs, videos, artwork and writing which we were able to display. We also showcased Oswestry Heritage Comics. As usual we fired the mini-kiln and Glyn gave his demonstrations of lime slaking. He had some particularly active quicklime this year.

Other schools use our facilities regularly ...Carreghofa, Ardleen, Morda and Bryn Hafren to name a few. We are

The Marches Young Archaeologists Club has visited on a few occasions. Local Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Cubs make frequent use of our facilities

Following a request in the Parish magazine, Paddy, our botanist now has new helpers. They will enable her to add to and update her database of flora on the site. Last month she held a successful wild flower walk for a dozen or so participants.

Thanks to Bob Cotter, a Llimeys' volunteer, we have a new website. See [www.llanylime.co.uk](http://www.llanylime.co.uk) to find out all we do and know. It includes the activities of the Wharf Visitor Centre as well.

The Heritage Area is now featured on Kew's Grow Wild site. Hopefully this will bring in new visitors. <https://www.growwilduk.com/community-projects/llanymynech-limeworks-heritage-area>

Unfortunately we have seen more vandalism on site in recent months, including an occasion when the Fire Brigade had to be called out. If you see anything untoward when you are walking around the site do let the relevant authorities know.

Joan Zorn

## Bryn Offa @ Llanymynech Heritage Area

Last June, we were kindly offered the use of Llanymynech Heritage site on a regular basis by the Llimeys. Since those initial discussions Bryn Offa has regularly been making use of this excellent facility, and has used it to ensure that the history of our local area has been passed down to future generations.

### June 2018

90 children, aged between 6 and 11, walked up Llanymynech Hill before heading down the incline plane to the Heritage area. Using the flashcards from the website, the children were talked through the process of how the stone was quarried, transported to the kilns, converted into quicklime and then transported away using either the canal or the railway. During the morning, the children enjoyed exploring the woodland walk, the Hoffman kiln and the railway embankment. All children then returned to the stable block for lunch. In the afternoon, the children created sketches of the area. They drew anything of interest to them, before heading back to school.



### July 2018

In July last year, we took part in a whole school sponsored walk. The older children began at Morton church, whilst the younger pupils started in Llanymynech. Both groups then met up at the Heritage area for lunch to refuel before taking on the challenge of the incline plane. All were successful and it was a fabulous day.

### John Muir Award – Ongoing

During the last academic year, our current Year Six pupils completed their John Muir award. This is a nationally recognised award encouraging young people to take pride in and conserve their local environment. This was undertaken with the help of the Shropshire Wildlife Trust. The vast majority of the ten sessions took place in the Heritage area and on Llanymynech Hill. The children enjoyed these sessions so much that one of our members of staff has now become a John Muir instructor so we are able to offer this amazing experience to each child who attends our school.

### January 2019

Class 2's visit to the Heritage area 30th January 2019  
First we did a winter hunt. I found some thin leaves, cold ice and spikey holly. I found some pine cones, a bare tree and gloves. The weather was really cold and chilly. (Elliot)  
We went on a fantastic, colourful fairy walk and we found lots of fairy houses. The fairies had made a nice, thick, warm, wood. The weather was freezing and snowy so we went back to the warm stables. (Lacey)  
After our dinner we went on an interesting and exciting plant hunt. I



found some green nettles and they were crumbly. I had my gloves on but still didn't want to touch them. I saw



some spikey thorns, they were green and long. (Harvey)  
Finally, we had lovely hot chocolate and tasty biscuits. For the hot chocolate I sat next to my friend Harvey.

The lovely hot chocolate made my cold hands warm. (Jack)

When can we go again?

### January 2019

Just after Christmas, Bryn Offa staff held a training day in the stable block in order to start to use the orienteering course with the pupils. This was a really enjoyable day, and there are plans for the very near future to take individual classes down to use this resource.

### April 2019

This was our second visit to the heritage area and we were very excited! We walked from school and it rained so we were a little bit soggy. (Maddie)

First we went on a spring hunt and flower hunt. We explored everywhere and found loads of different things. Me and my partner spotted lots more beautiful flowers and even heard some happy, little birds singing. (Perrie)  
Later we went back to the stables to dry off and it stopped raining! Miss Jones had brought some magnifying glasses and we used them to search for some habitats and minibeasts.

Me and Freddie found three wiggly, tiny woodlice. (Oliver)



After dinner we headed to the meadows.

We took a big box with lots of things to do inside. I loved using the binoculars to do bird watching at the top of the tall hill. Our little checklist had things on like bird singing, bird flying and bird on a branch. I only spotted birds doing 5 different things. (Stanley)

## Summer 2019



There are big plans for continued use of the Heritage Area over the next few weeks before we break up for Summer. Class one children will be holding one of their forest school sessions in the woodland

area next week; Class 2 pupils will be looking at how their locality has changed between Winter and Summer; Class 3 children are identifying the different varieties of plants and flowers that grow in our locality. In addition to this, we also have our whole school sponsored event, which will involve walking back through the Heritage Area once again.

All of these activities and plans would not be possible without the use of this fantastic resource which the children and staff enjoy making great use of.



Gareth Jones  
Deputy Headteacher  
Bryn Offa C of E Primary School

## **Intrepid Guides**

In early June, on what seemed to be the wettest day of the year so far, Llanymynech Guides were on site for the evening. However, as these photographs show, they didn't let the conditions put a dampener on their enjoyment.



## **Botany Group**

As I entered my 9th decade, I began to feel that I should share both my accumulated knowledge of the botany of the Heritage Area and my responsibility for monitoring it. An appeal was put in the local parish magazine and to my surprise and delight four volunteers came forward.

At the same time, Bob Cotter came onto the scene with his computer know-how and offered to put the botanical records I held onto a database the public could access. These records have been collected from several sources going back to the 1980s and are a mixture of amateur efforts and officially generated surveys. I am hoping that gradually all members of the group will contribute information and pictures to make a really inclusive and valuable database for the public to consult.

So far the group, two with extensive knowledge of plants and one making up any deficit with enthusiasm, have met monthly and explored the area looking at what is in flower. After time spent concentrating on the wooded parts of the site we are now planning to explore the meadow flowers. Bob spent some time with us explaining how to input our findings into the database which includes adding pictures.

At the next meeting I plan to send the young and active members up the slopes to forage up by the tops of the upright kilns and report their findings. Many years ago, when I was agile, I found spotted orchids there. The last time I clambered up, about 2005, I think, I spied a lovely patch of purple. On closer inspection, it proved to be not orchids but a purple bra and pants - and a nearby set in black...the mind boggles as to what sort of orgy had taken place!

On Sunday, May 12th, the group led a wildflower walk mainly through the wooded areas which was well supported. People seemed to enjoy the afternoon and lovely weather certainly helped. A new member even joined the group! There is always space for more. (01691 830506)

Paddy Martin



*A surprise new plant this year. It may be a garden escape. It certainly does not resemble the other false oxlips which are the usual primrose/cowslip crosses.*



## Llanymynech Limeworks Web Site

### A showcase for the Heritage Area

Our web address: [www.llanylime.co.uk](http://www.llanylime.co.uk)

In February of this year our new web site went online with the specific intent of creating a one-stop shop to tell everyone about the unique heritage we have here in Llanymynech. Since its inception we have received a large number of visitors to the site and it is now settling down to about 120 new hits each month. The majority of the people logging on are from the UK, but we have even had visitors to the site from as far away as the USA, Canada, India, Hong Kong and Germany, hopefully they will come and visit us when on holiday here.

The purpose of the site is to let people know that we are here, that they can come and visit us and what they will see while they are here. The web site has been built so that it can be viewed on desktop, tablet and phone and the [Interactive Map](#) allows you to plan your visit around the site and use it for reference while walking around.

On the web site you will find information about the Heritage Area, which is a Scheduled Monument and contains 3 Grade II listed buildings; the Hoffmann Kiln; Hoffmann Chimney; and Draw Kilns. There is also information about the quarry area, which is a Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is managed by the Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

A large amount of information has been gathered by the Heritage Area volunteers as they have carried out surveys around the area and some of it is being published for the first time, see our [Blog](#) page for more details. This allows everyone to see details about the Heritage Area that would otherwise be left filed somewhere on a dusty shelf and forgotten.

Each of the posts on the [Blog](#) page have a comment form at the bottom, so if you have some additional information on that subject or you just feel chatty, then please get in contact.

Don't forget that you can book the Stables Education Block for your own function, whether it's for your own private party or a group of like-minded people who want to get together and explore the area.



Our experts are also available to guide you around the area, explaining in detail about the site and the people who worked here for a living.

The [booking forms](#) are on the web site.

Feedback on the site is always welcome, so if you have something you would like to see or have some input that would be of interest, then get in touch via our [Contact Form](#) which can be found at the bottom of each page.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Bob Cotter

## Winter work 2018/9.

Last autumn saw the gathering of the team under Martyn's leadership who maintain the site. The area around the wheel pit and brick paving was cleaned up and several dead ivy clad trees removed, another has since died. The next work was scrub clearance of both side of the steep embankment and the large expanse of the coal wharf. As a lot of interesting features remain hidden, a start was made on the embankment which feeds the two Savin Kilns. This runs from the two draw kilns, crosses a gap where there was a bridge and runs out to the brick built tally house at the top of the site. Sadly one of our team slipped and required hospital treatment for his leg and shoulder and still has not fully recovered, and may require a further operation. We wish him a speedy recovery. Further clearance revealed several track bars and the line of the tramway track became very much clearer.



It also revealed a semi-circular pile of stones which could have been the base of a store for keeping nuts & bolts, fishplates, chains, oils etc. Having cleared the top, cowslips and primroses appeared

overnight and have been a wonderful display for several weeks. Although there is plenty of space along the top no evidence of a spur or passing loop has been found.

Tony Beardsell



## Llanymynech Rocks Nature Reserve Update

### Habitat Management

Winter work focussed on controlling scrub at the west end of the grassland compartment in order to ensure a wide corridor connects with the grassland on the Welsh side. A further section of the woodland between the two inclines was coppiced. The increase in Primroses and Violets in the areas previously coppiced was noticed.

The trial removal of the enriched topsoil in 3 areas was carried out successfully. Monitoring has now begun to see which plants appear there.

#### Infrastructure Management

Repairs were carried out to stock fencing and gates over the summer. The car park area has also been improved by refurbishing the panel/noticeboard and repairing the worst of the potholes in the access track. Funding is currently being applied for, for further access and information upgrades.

#### Grazing

The grazing has not gone well this last year. Thirteen Hill Radnor lambs went on in December. One went missing (presumed stolen) and the rest showed clear signs of stress caused by dog worrying. The sheep were taken off and replaced by two Dexter cattle. They started to do a good job but then had to be taken away to calve. The plan is to put 4 Highland cattle on very soon and to possibly modify the gates on the border so that both sides can be grazed extensively.

#### Wildlife

Spring came very early with the small number of Pearl-bordered Fritillaries emerging and finishing before the beginning of May. These were all on the Welsh side. Since then the poor weather has been very detrimental for the butterflies and other invertebrates. The good news is that the Peregrines have returned to a nest site which can be observed (it has been hidden from view for the last 5 years) and the volunteer monitor has reported one egg being incubated.

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

#### **Car Park**

A few years ago we approached the Canal & River Trust about getting something done about the car park. We weren't able to apply for funding ourselves as it is on CRT land. Eventually, in 2018, Sarah Lalieu of CRT managed to obtain funding, and at last, in June this year, the work was undertaken. What an improvement!

They've just got to work on the surface of the track leading from the car park now (also belonging to CRT).



*Spot the difference!*

In 1754 the Reverend Richard Pococke noted 'a great number of lime kilns' at Llanymynech, whilst travelling from Oswestry to Welshpool.

*On the sixth I left Oswestre, and after travelling four miles came to Tana Manah, near which village there is a hill called Tana Manah rock, which is a lime stone, and there are a great number of lime kilns at this hill, which has a fine appearance, the upper part being a perpendicular rock.*

#### **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)  
or on [www.llanylime.co.uk](http://www.llanylime.co.uk)

Book at [llanymynech@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:llanymynech@hotmail.co.uk) or with Dawn Williams on 01691 839147

#### **Heritage Open Days**

This year we will be giving guided walks on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<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 showing the new CRT film 'Life on the Monty'

Contact us via our website if you would like to join us  
[www.llanylime.co.uk](http://www.llanylime.co.uk)