

The LLIMEY



www.llanylime.co.uk

The News Letter of **The LLIMEYS**

Llanymynech Limeworks Initiative – Members, Enthusiasts and Youth – Society

Friends of the
**Llanymynech Limeworks
Heritage Area**

June 2020

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Chair's Report

Strange to be writing a report this year when the events of the last year seem so, so long ago! The months leading up to the lockdown feel a lifetime away.

However, our maintenance team have been busy over the winter dealing with the usual tasks, plus the additional problems associated with the seemingly, never-ending rain. Thank goodness we had a newly resurfaced car park so didn't have our visitors contending with puddles and mud before they'd even entered the site. Now, after two unusually dry months we could do with a little rain (preferably a gentle, overnight drizzle).

The wild flowers are blooming well. The wood anemones gave their usual welcome show and the bluebell display was wonderful. When you are out walking on the site keep an eye out for orchids. We don't have many on our site east of the A483, but they do seem to be migrating down the hill. Each year sees a few more.

The schools and pre-schools have continued to use our facilities, particularly Bryn Offa and Carreghofa Primary Schools and Llanymynech pre-school. Many aspects of their curricula are covered in varied and innovative ways. Shropshire Wildlife Trust's Watch Group for children meets monthly for an interesting programme of activities. Scouts, Guides and Brownies are also regular visitors, often using the orienteering route around the site, as well as developing their own

activities. It's great that so many youngsters enjoy and appreciate what the Heritage Area offers. Hopefully they will feel an 'ownership' of the site and be protective of it when they are older and help to deter the few who think it 'fun' to vandalise it. Luckily the spate of vandalism we suffered over 2017/18 seems to have died down. Perhaps they have grown up!

This year, since the introduction of lockdown in March, there seems to be increased use as people discover that we have the ideal area for permitted exercise. It is noticeable that when certain rules were relaxed regarding driving to exercise the car park is often unusually full. Hopefully this points to some first time visitors who will continue to visit when coronavirus is a thing of the past.

We had our usual take-up of visitors on Heritage Open Days in 2019. Will we, won't we, have Heritage Open Days in 2020. We'll wait and see, but we are prepared. Hopefully we'll see you soon.

Stay safe - Take care

Joan Zorn

Heritage Open Days

Covid19 and social distancing rules permitting we plan to have our open days again this year.

12, 13, 19 & 20 September

Guided Walks around the Limeworks

20 September

Free boat trips, lime slaking demonstration and Films in the kiln.

Llanylime - Our Web Site



The web site has been active for over a year now and we are seeing plenty of visitors who are

searching for somewhere to explore. We have all sorts of interesting information about the Heritage Area, including a blog page where you can interact with us. Our web address is:

www.llanylime.co.uk

The majority of our web site visitors are from the UK, but there are people from the USA, China, France, Germany and many other countries dropping in for a look.

Our top page being viewed is naturally the home page, where you can launch off to all of our other pages. Canal Boat Trips the Heritage Area and our Interactive Map come in at 2, 3 and 4.

Lots of our visitors also find us through Google Maps and Trip Advisor, where we also have pages dedicated to the Limeworks. Simply search for:

What reviewers are saying on Trip Advisor:

LITTLE GEM

We took a random walk down the canal and came across this site by pure accident and wow, history on this site is fascinating. It's a great peaceful walk around the site...

JUST EXCELLENT

We were actually hoping for a bit of a stroll through an old quarry with some history and wildlife. This is so much more than that! Laid out well with lots of signs and information boards the history really comes alive...

What reviewers are saying on Google Maps:

FASCINATING PLACE

Quite eerie in some ways. Wonderful industrial archaeology. Good for walking the dog, with lots of metalled paths. The large lime kiln is amazing...

NICE PLACE TO WALK THE DOG

Even on a cold wet day this was a good place to walk the dog. You can choose different routes so can decide if you're up for lots of exercise or just a nice stroll...

'Llanymynech Limeworks' or 'Great Walks Near Me' and we will pop up amongst the list of places to go.

[Google Maps](#) is a great way to find places to visit and our page has consistently had over 9,000 hits each month. We have a review rating of 4.6 out of 5, with many people writing great things about us. You can find us on Google Maps by searching for 'Llanymynech Limeworks'. Lots of people have posted photo's that they have taken during their walk as well as leaving reviews of their experiences here.

[Trip Advisor](#) rates us as 4.5 out of 5 with plenty of people enjoying their walks around the area, taking photo's and letting everyone know that we are a great place to visit.

If you have anything to say or something you wish to see on the web site, then please let us know by completing one of the forms on the web site or contacting us at:

admin@llanylime.co.uk

Bob Cotter

Limeworks Maintenance



The winter maintenance for the site in the autumn coincided with the wettest period for a long time.

220.6mm of rain fell in Sept/Oct/Nov of 2019. (Normally the average for that period should be about 185mm). In previous years the rainfall had been well below that average:

- 41.58mm Sept/Oct/Nov. 2018
- 36.35mm Sept/Oct/Nov. 2017

With all this extra rainfall this year, keeping the streams and drains clear from obstructions became an issue. Worse was to come in December when water was pouring down the English Incline and had to be channelled to the side to avoid flooding the tunnel area.



Tunnels from North side of A483

At the canal end of the site, pipes and chambers were blocked and on three occasions the system had to be cleared.

The main drive into the site from the car

park, was "repaired" by a contractor, who tipped ballast over part of the track and created more puddles and killed off any form of drainage. So the valiant team came up with a plan. To help dry the track you need sunshine, wind or airflow. We cut down 20 years' worth of growth from the 9' high fence. This took several goes as the ivy was very thick and close to the track. CRT joined in later from the other side. Now low winter sunshine lights up the whole path to assist drying. Eight tons of MOT.1. arrived on site, and about half was spread and graded to give a camber to help water flow to the edge, and after a minor adjustment seems to have done the trick.

Two willow trees in full leaf cover keeled over in the heavy rains, and a large ash tree which had several large dead limbs overhanging the A483 by the twin tunnels was removed by a contractor. The 16 foot, 3 ton log will be dealt with by us when Covid lockdown allows us to work in pairs.



The Ash Log

The flooded path & tunnel under the road has oozed water all winter, careful diversions have been put in but with saturated ground and a shallow fall to the drain which we think it is partially blocked, it has been slow to dry up. This area will need to receive some attention later.

Tony Beardsell

Botany Group

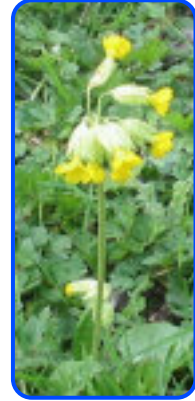
A Spring to remember

Well, we will certainly remember the Spring of 2020 - often for less than pleasant reasons - but one positive has been the renewed interest in nature felt by many people.

The Heritage Area has been very busy with many more people both alone and in family groups obviously taking their permitted exercise out of doors during the lockdown. The flowers have met the challenge putting on the best

show I can remember 22 years of monitoring the botany.

The bluebells were magnificent. I saw the first one in flower much earlier than usual but the heat meant they went over more quickly.



Cowslip



Dog Violet

Cowslips have appeared all over the area in new locations,

dog violets were much more common, and we now have a wild strawberry patch of almost gardening proportions - no, I am not sharing that with you!



Bluebell



Wild Strawberry

Paddy Martin

Llanymynech Rocks Nature Reserve



The last 12 months have been good for conservation grazing, rare orchids and the Peregrines. The Dexter cattle did an excellent job grazing and

browsing in order to help maintain the open habitats for the flowers and invertebrates.



A Dexter in the Reserve

Image By Gareth Egarr

Unlike the sheep we had before, they covered every part of the grazing area without being injured by dogs. They were taken off when their job was done and will be returning later in the year. One positive effect of both the change in grazing and control over climbing was the return of Autumn lady's-tresses, the rarest orchid on the reserve, to the area at the foot of the quarry face in "the corner". Another success was the fledging of two Peregrine chicks, the first in 5 years on the reserve.

Winter scrub management focussed on the infringing scrub in the main quarry and around the pond in Underhill Quarry. The woodland coppicing between the inclines

reached the English Incline. There is now continuous coppice habitat between the two.

Year 5 from Bryn Offa Primary School completed the John Muir Award on the reserve again. Activities included learning to survey butterflies and practical scrub management.

In terms of the coming year, much of the above will continue. We are hoping to secure some funds to carry out improvements to Tarmac's access track to the car park. We are also about to submit a Woodland Management Plan to the Forestry Commission which will cover all of our woodlands in the Oswestry Hills.



Autumn Lady's Tresses

Image By Mike Middleton ARPS

Gareth Egarr

North Reserves Officer, Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Stables Education Block

Available for hire for workshops, school and youth groups, parties etc.. The room has toilets, facilities for making hot drinks, microwave, digital projector and screen. We have lots of information about lime and limeworking as well as a model of the site as it would have looked in 1914 when it closed.

Check availability on www.llanymynech.org.uk (stable block bookings) or our own web site www.llanylime.co.uk

Book at llanymynech@hotmail.co.uk or with Dawn Williams on 01691 839147



Volunteers Needed

During the winter months, volunteers meet to carry out general maintenance around the heritage area. We meet on a Monday at the Stables Education Block at about 09:30AM. Everyone is welcome, so if you can spare some time, please come along and assist.

Contact us at: www.llanylime.co.uk/about/volunteer-form/

**STAY ALERT
CONTROL THE VIRUS
SAVE LIVES**