

The LLIMEY



www.llanymynech.co.uk

The News Letter of **The LLIMEYS**

Llanymynech Limeworks Initiative – Members, Enthusiasts and Youth – Society

Friends of the
**Llanymynech Limeworks
Heritage Area**

July 2021

Inside This Issue

| | |
|--|----------|
| Chair's Report..... | 3 |
| The Limeworks is now a Local Nature Reserve | 4 |
| An introduction to Our Site | 5 |
| Limeworks Maintenance..... | 7 |
| Botany Group..... | 8 |
| Llanymynech Rocks Nature Reserve | 9 |

Chair's Report



For obvious reasons there's very little to report this year.

We were unable to run any events last year due to Covid restrictions. Our Heritage Open Days event in September was a virtual tour on the HOD website with films and commentaries produced by Bob. These were for both the Heritage Area and the Wharf Visitor Centre. Hopefully, these reached people who would never have been able to visit us in person. Thank you, Bob.

Thanks also to Tony, Martyn, Bob, Nick and others who have continued to maintain the area doing repairs, brush cutting, leaf blowing, clearing fallen trees and everything else that's needed. The site wouldn't be the same without them.

Last spring we made contact with Meadow Arts, a contemporary art charity delivering projects in unexpected rural places. www.meadowarts.org I had a Zoom meeting with them in April, and then, after the first lockdown ended, Steve, one of their team, visited us and was given a tour of the site by Tony. The upshot was that they would like to work with us when we next do an event. I'm not sure when that will be.

Last year, Shaun Burkey, Country Parks and Sites Officer (North), applied for and obtained Local Nature Reserve status for the Heritage Area. We couldn't celebrate this last year but in July this year we'll be hosting our local schools to 'Discover their

Local Nature Reserve' with a variety of activities.

We've noticed an increase of visitors to our site over the last year as people looked for places to take their daily permitted exercise. We are pleased that the area is becoming more widely known. Unfortunately many of those who bring their dogs are seemingly reluctant to clear up the resultant mess. It's not that difficult to pick it up and put it in the bin, is it?

Also on a negative note, it was frustrating that a number of youngsters, bored during the spring term lockdown, decided to create mountain bike tracks in Llwyn Goch woods. This has had a detrimental effect on the flora of the woodland and has damaged or uprooted many young trees planted in recent years. Parents, please discourage your children from participating in this activity which ruins the enjoyment of the site for so many people and destroys a valuable habitat.

Hopefully we'll be able to get back to normal in 2022 by letting the Stables for various activities, hosting groups for guided walks and running all sorts of events.

Joan Zorn

The Limeworks is now a Local Nature Reserve



What does it mean for us to be a Local Nature Reserve?

A Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is a designation for nature

reserves in Great Britain. It is a statutory designation made under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

LNR's are places with flora and fauna or geological features that are of special interest locally.

They offer people opportunities to study, learn about nature or simply to enjoy it. They range from windswept coastal headlands, ancient woodlands and flower-rich meadows to former inner city railways, long abandoned landfill sites and industrial areas now re-colonised by wildlife.

They are an impressive natural resource which makes an important contribution to the UK's biodiversity.

Management

Local authorities can run LNRs independently or can involve:

- 'Friends of' community groups, (such as the LLIMEYS)
- Wildlife trusts and other recognised conservation bodies
- Site-based rangers
- Local school children
- Natural England (who can give advice)



Access

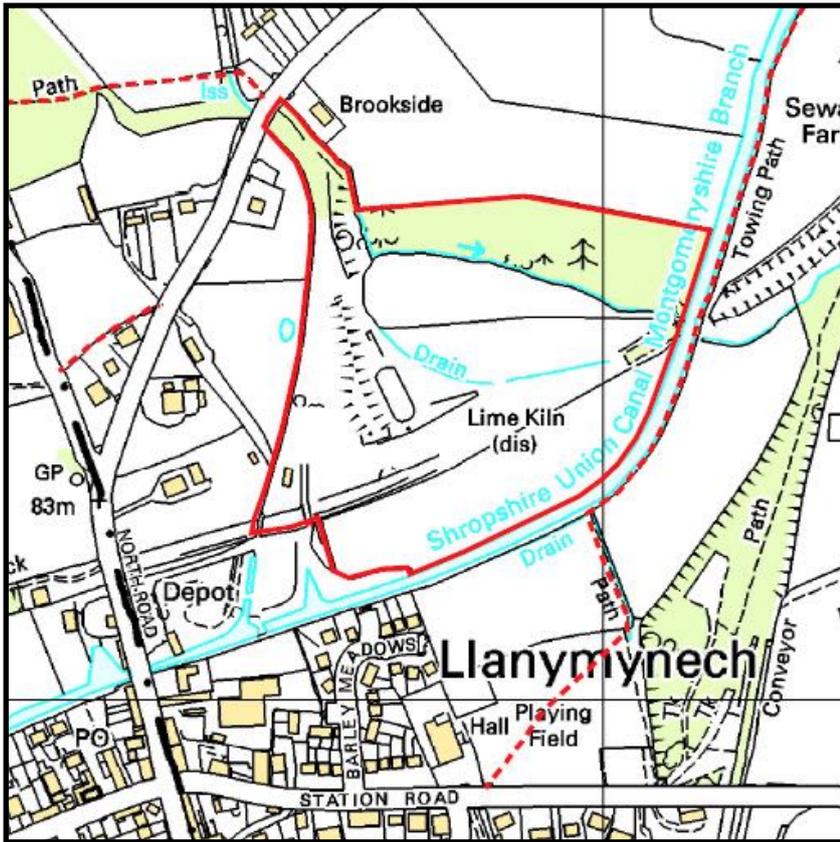
LNRs should be publicly accessible where visitors would not damage or disturb wildlife. Access may be restricted to some areas if visitors could cause damage to the natural environment, unless there are statutory access rights.

Bye-laws

Local authorities and town and parish councils can create LNR bye-laws.

Bye-laws can help stop people damaging our LNR, for example prevent visitors walking into areas where they could harm wildlife. But before bye-laws are created other ways should be explored to keep our LNR safe and its wildlife protected. People may be fined if they break LNR bye-laws.

Bye-laws can only be enforced within the LNR. They must not replicate existing laws and the LNR must be formally declared to



Map of Llanymynech and the Limeworks. The red outline shows the boundary of the Local Nature Reserve

Natural England or the bye-laws will be invalid.

Dog Control

Dog control orders may also be put in place to:

- Ban or restrict the number of dogs
- Make visitors clear up their dog mess
- Keep dogs on leads

An introduction to Our Site

The Llanymynech Limeworks Heritage Area is a site steeped in history spanning both sides of the English / Welsh border. 19th century Industrial archaeology has been preserved and interpreted and can be found within managed woodlands and meadows showing a diversity of flora and

fauna together with views across the wider Shropshire countryside.

The area is managed by a number of stakeholders including Shropshire Council, Shropshire and Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trusts on either side of the Welsh/English border. We have a nationally significant 'industrial production line in the landscape' together with a rich history dating back to the Bronze Age.

As one of only three remaining Hoffmann Kilns in the country and the only one with the chimney still intact, this is a nationally significant industrial heritage area. The site forms part of the 'Limeworks' landscape, from rock extraction on the high cliffs of Llanymynech Rocks, down the inclined planes through to the kilns and beyond,



The Stoker

Found on top of the Hoffmann Kiln

transporting the finished 'quicklime' via the railway and local transport. The Montgomery Canal (*formerly: Llanymynech branch of the Ellesmere canal*) and Railway were also used to transport the limestone rock.

This area was a major centre of the lime industry until the beginning of the 1900s, and retains a number of important features of industrial archaeology. The impressive 42.5 metre high chimney of the Hoffmann Kiln dominates the view, and provides visitors with a focal point within a varied site.

Fascinating Circular walks (30 mins - 2 hrs) take you past impressive lime kilns, through woodland, along canals and disused railways, and across grazed pasture with views of Llanymynech Rocks where you will find areas managed by the Shropshire and Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trusts. There are interpretation panels and

specially commissioned metal sculptures along the way.

The Education Room in the former stable block is available for group hire. Bookings can be made on 01691 839147 or e-mail: llanymynech@hotmail.co.uk. There is an education pack available on our web site and for more information about the Heritage Area visit our web site www.llanylime.co.uk.

There is also a small Visitor Centre beside the Canal where you can take a ride on the Montgomery Canal in the George Watson Buck.

Bob Cotter



The Brakeman

Found at the top of the English incline

Limeworks Maintenance



Our usual team of volunteers from Wales and England have not been able to operate together in this Covid outbreak season. However the

site has been serviced and basic maintenance has been carried out. The winter / Spring gales brought down five trees, two were sorted straight away and the others are down and relatively safe for the time being.

The usual vandalism continued to hit the site. In the car park area display cases were torn down and a council road sign snapped off. The support beams on the tally house and some of the brickwork were demolished. The biggest surprise of all was finding a

blowing in the autumn. Whilst in June willow seed heads need blowing off the paths, hedge trimming, brush cutting and



Our Winter Scenery

strimming is necessary to keep the paths open and vegetation growth down to a safe level. The drainage system also requires constant attention with five areas to inspect, and a chamber at the bottom end of the site requiring rodding to prevent flooding. Twice this year the chamber became choked and flooded the paths at the canal end of the site and had to be dug out.

Tony Beardsell



Maintaining the Fences

mountain bike course in the Llwyn Goch bluebell wood, which was certainly not authorised or approved.

As usual constant maintenance work remains necessary. There is the usual leaf

If and when the present covid situation is lifted we will welcome new volunteers to assist us to keep the site tidy, free from litter and an asset for the community.

Botany Group

This year has seen many more visitors to the site, often accompanied by children and/or dogs. In the initial fine period in early spring, I was often told, *"We live in this area but never realised this was here!"*

It has been a very good year for flowers. The Autumn of 2020 saw plenty of berries for the birds, and soon after New Year 2021, in mid February, the first flowers had appeared.

A maverick primrose showed its first flower in a sheltered sunny spot heralding a spring memorable for its primroses and, above all, its cowslips which appeared in unexpected places in large clumps.



Primrose at the Limeworks

Early spring also brought swathes of white as the blackthorn and the hawthorn put on a magnificent display. Even the early spotted orchid decided to appear in new places. All these flowers benefitted from the long damp cold spell which followed the good weather and lengthened their flowering period.



Common Spotted Orchid

One personal joy was discovering a new false oxlip. This is a cross between the primrose and cowslip with primrose-like flowers held in clusters like cowslip flowers. It appeared as a solitary specimen, but was then joined by another in the middle field.



False Oxlip

Some young mountain bikers invaded Llwyn Goch woods and did a lot of damage to the primroses and bluebells there. Nature is repairing the considerable damage, but I do hope these thoughtless lads do not return now schools have re-opened.

Paddy Martin

Llanymynech Rocks Nature Reserve



Report From The Rocks

The Dexter cattle did another excellent job grazing and browsing in order to help maintain the open habitats for the

flowers and invertebrates. They are taken off for the Spring and Summer to allow the flowers to flourish and will be returning in the Autumn.

Owing to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic there was very little habitat management work carried out during the Winter. We look forward to getting back into it come the Autumn when we will be re-coppicing along the Welsh Incline and carrying out scrub regeneration control on the south facing banks.

As I write this there has been no sign of nesting success by the Peregrines this year. It is likely they were affected by the cold, wet weather during May as they are vulnerable to this. Similarly it was a very poor Spring for the butterflies.

We were able to re-surface the access



Dexters at rest

Image By : Bob Cotter

track to the Red Wall car park and will be looking at further infrastructure improvements in this area in the coming months. A new Interpretation Panel is ready to replace the old one in the noticeboard.



Last years Peregrine Chicks

Image By : Jeff Marais

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/

Heritage Open Days

Covid19 and social distancing rules permitting we plan to have limited open days again this year. Volunteers we be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

Guided Walks around the Limeworks

12 September

Weather permitting we will put as much information about the area as we can outside the Stables Block