

The LLIMEY

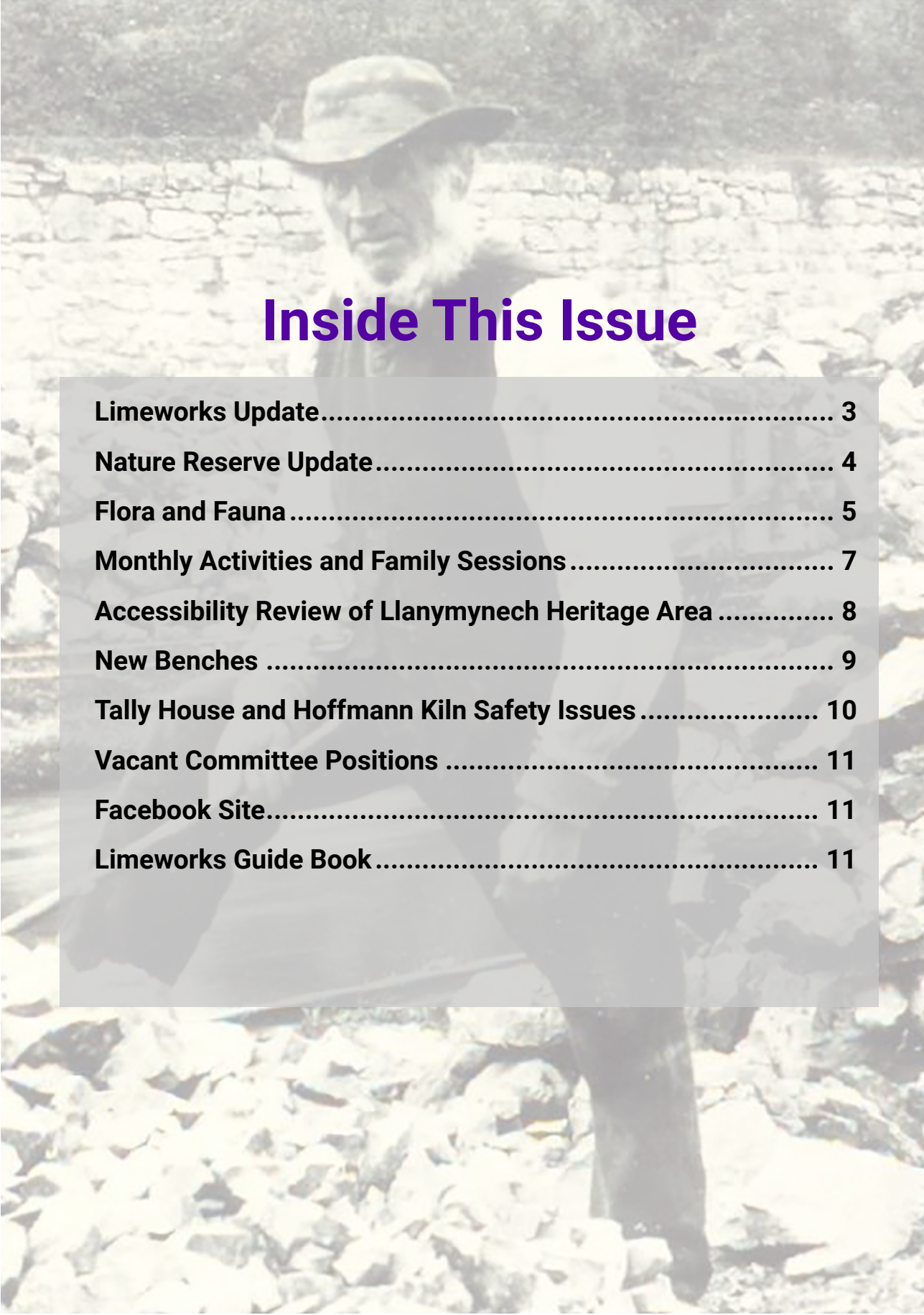


www.llanylime.co.uk

The News Letter of **The LLIMEYS** & **The Llanymynech Nature Group**

Friends of the
**Llanymynech Limeworks
Heritage Area**

Summer 2026



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Limeworks Update

Welcome to our 2026 news letter!

Since our last news letter there has been a lot going on at our Heritage Area!



Shropshire Council has initiated quarterly meetings with the volunteers to better understand how we can all make the Llanymynech Limeworks a better place for our community and visitors. Minutes from the meetings are available on request.

The Council team, led by Ed Andrews and supported by our Ranger Mike Simms, regularly visit the site to assess the condition and its needs.

Sadly the Council surveyors have closed off the Hoffmann Kiln and the Tally House due to safety concerns. We are told that the fencing is temporary, but to date we have not been informed of any resolution for these issues.

On the plus side, Ed Andrews was able to obtain a grant that has enabled all of the main pathways and the entrance track to be resurfaced. Additionally he has been able to purchase some new tools for the volunteers to use when carrying out our general maintenance of the site.

A big thank you to Pant and Careghoffa Parish Council, who have generously donated 5 new benches to the Heritage Area. The volunteers have sited the benches around the area after consultation with the local community.

Also, a big thank you must go to Martyn Young, who has hand made the wooden

seats you now see sited around the meadow areas. Also thanks to Martyn's brother Kevin for assisting with the placing and securing of the seats and mowing the pathways through the meadows.

The Nature Group has also been busy carrying out bird and flower surveys to ascertain the health of our site. Heather Dawson gives us all updates on these surveys later in this news letter.

Built by Martyn Young and assisted in placing them by Mike Simms, our nature group now has a number of bird boxes, sited to help our birds during the breeding season. Also, in front of the stables block we now have a bird feeding station.

The nature group has also had several very successful family open days, with visitors able to learn about the flora and fauna in the Heritage Area, as well as take part in activities designed to encourage preserving our wildlife.

As the council don't have the resources, Heather Dawson has stepped in to take on the task of updating the Llanymynech Limeworks 5 year Management Plan. Hopefully this will help the council to manage the site in the coming years.

We look forward to seeing you enjoy the Limeworks and don't forget, we are always looking for new volunteers to join us!

Details are on our web site

www.llanylime.co.uk

Bob Cotter

Editor

Website Admin and Treasurer

Nature Reserve Update

Background and restoration

When the Heritage Area was originally restored, there was a strong emphasis on maintaining the site's diverse natural flora and fauna. During the period between the end of lime production and the restoration project, the site had become a haven for wildlife and plant life. At the time of the restoration, several flora and fauna surveys were undertaken. In 2020, the site was designated a Local Nature Reserve.

Since the initial surveys, some flora monitoring had taken place, but maintenance on the site had focused mainly on its heritage, largely because volunteer numbers had declined. In 2025, there was a drive to recruit new volunteers to focus on the nature across the site. Initially, volunteers undertook bird and flora surveys. This group has become very well supported by local people who regularly visit the site and has evolved into the Llanymynech Heritage Area Nature Group.

You Can Get Involved

The Heritage Area is a magical place for nature lovers. New members are always welcome in the Nature Group, whether they would like to help with flora and bird surveys or join a nature walk. People can be involved as much or as little as they wish. To keep up to date with the group's activities, follow us on Facebook at Llanymynech Heritage Area and Local Nature Reserve, or email us at:

events@llanylime.co.uk.



Bird surveys and conservation work

The bird survey has produced valuable findings, with more than Twenty-one species identified that were not recorded in the 1999 survey. Twelve birds have also been identified on the site that are on either the Shropshire Red or Amber List of birds of concern. The group wanted to do more to support these birds and visited Venus Pool, the Shropshire Ornithological Society site, to meet with Graham Walker and learn what had been done there to support wild birds.



Blue Tit Nesting

The group felt that two measures could be replicated in the Heritage Area: building a feeding station and putting up bird boxes. As a result, the feeding station can now be seen in front of the Stable Block. After initial set-up help from the LLIMEYS, the group hopes that visitors will contribute towards the cost of bird feed so



Seed Feeders

people can continue to enjoy watching the birds.

See the posters with the QR code for donations in the stable window and on the main notice board, or use the QR code below if you would like to contribute – please label your contribution ‘Birds’.



Following guidance from the RSPB, the feeders have been removed for the summer, but they will return in the autumn

Flora and Fauna

Alongside the bird surveys, the group has also continued to monitor the site's plant life. The flora survey continues to show a rich diversity of plants across the site. Each season reveals its own hidden gems. The flora season begins in the woodland known as Llwyn Goch. The limestone bedrock has created a woodland of lime-loving species such as Ash and Wych Elm, which come into leaf later in the season. This allows an abundance of early spring flowers to flourish, initially dominated by wood anemones and primroses, closely followed by bluebells.



Bluebells in Llwyn Goch Woods

These are all indicators of ancient woodland. The woodland we see today is secondary broadleaf, which has grown up since the lime works were in production. Shortly after the canal was built, the Bradford Estate planted a cash crop of larch, most of which was removed just before the restoration of the site. A few larches remain in the woods and are popular with goldfinches. However, the flora suggests that before the industrialisation of the site, this area was ancient woodland.

In late spring, the meadows become the focus of a rich floral display, first heralded by swathes of golden buttercups and then, towards the end of spring, by a striking array of orchids.



Buttercups

the meadows, which is slowly improving the habitat for the wild flowers and all the insects which thrive on them.

During the autumn, it is the turn of the fungus to shine, although you can find examples of these throughout the year around the site if you look carefully. In the winter months, while the rest of the flora rests for the season, the ferns are in their prime along the walls and stream edges.

In summer, the meadows are full of butterflies attracted by the thistles and the tall, wispy grasses blowing in the breeze.

In August, the meadows are mown for hay. Removing the hay from this site makes the soil nutrient-poor, which is what is required for the wildflowers to grow and thrive. Since the site was restored no fertilisers have been used on



Heath Spotted Orchid



Gate Keeper or Hedge Brown Butterfly

Monthly Activities and Family Sessions

On the first Sunday of each month, from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, fun sessions are held at the Stable Block in the Heritage Area. These sessions are designed for everyone, with nature-focused



activities for children and opportunities for visitors of all ages to get involved. Dr Cath Price from Shropshire Wildlife Trust often joins the group to lead a workshop or guided walk.



In the winter, the fire is lit, creating a warm and welcoming space with tea, coffee, occasional cake, and time to chat. The exhibition is also open, giving visitors the chance to learn more about the industrialisation of the site.

There is usually a themed activity to provide a focus for a gentle walk around the Heritage Area. All sessions are free, although donations are

welcome to help the group continue to provide these activities. Each season is also marked with a full day of activities.



Upcoming Sessions This Year

- **2nd August:** Butterfly theme Dr Cath Price: butterflies, bees and other pollinators
- **6th September:** Bugs Dr Cath Price: bug hunt
- **4th October:** Autumn Watch, Dr Cath Price: bones
- **1st November:** Dr Cath Price — tracks and signs
- **6th December:** Christmas Winter Festival

Heather Dawson

Accessibility Review of Llanymynech Heritage Area

On arrival, there is plenty of level parking, although the actual Blue badge space is to the right of the sign, which could confuse people who normally expect to park centrally. An arrow on the sign would be useful.

The walk to the heritage area was pretty smooth; there is a slight lip at the entrance that could be tricky for some.

The site itself was absolutely beautiful, full of spring flowers and birds. The track is smoother due to the fine gravel topping, making it much easier to wheel on. (It would be good if the Canal and River Trust would replicate this sort of surfacing.

There are some significant inclines, which, if you're up for a challenge, are manageable in a manual chair. In a power chair or scooter, these would be perfect.



The benches looked great; they were accessible at the edge of the pathways for wheelchair users. Perhaps, one or two of the picnic benches by the stables could have offered wheelchair spaces for those who cannot transfer; however, it shows thought for those with reduced mobility.

Coming down the pathway, there were a few adverse cambers, where a manual chair or even a powered chair might topple. Luckily, I had Heather on hand and would usually have a partner with me. She saved me from anything too dramatic. However, it may be feasible to level out those areas slightly?

We will definitely return with a picnic next time!

We all take access to nature for granted. We may all find ourselves facing barriers to the countryside at some point during life, whether that's through disability, changes in mobility or simply in old age or as young parents with buggies. So, it is lovely to find smaller sites taking thoughtful steps towards more inclusive and accessible spaces. Making these small changes for disabled people ultimately benefits everyone.

Rebecca Hedley

New Benches



Thanks to the generosity of Pant and Carreghofa Parish Council and the hard work of Martyn Young and his brother, Kevin, we now have many new benches in the heritage area. The process was started by Heather Dawson, who consulted with our local visitors about the need and placement of benches. Then it was a case of lobbying the parish council for funding to



purchase suitable benches. The Parish Council readily agreed and purchased and delivered 5 new composite benches, which have now been sited around the heritage area, 3 along the path through Llwyn Goch woods, 1 beside the Tally House and 1 overlooking Gill's Pool. A big **Thank You** to Heather and the Parish Council.



Martyn, assisted by Kevin has now placed several hand made benches in the fields and also renewed the small bench by the picnic tables next to the Stables Block. **A fabulous piece of work!** Many thanks to Martyn and Kevin for their hard work.



Tally House and Hoffmann Kiln Safety Issues

Tally House Decline

The Tally House had suffered damage due to vandalism for a number of years, with bricks being knocked out of the support structure. See the image to the right. The volunteers had informed the Council of this several years ago, but no action was taken. In subsequent years the issue was raised with the Council each time they visited the site, but again no action was taken. Eventually a visit by the Council Surveyor declared the Tally House unsafe and Heras fencing was erected around it. This fencing has now been in place for a year with no sight of a resolution.



Hoffmann Kiln Decline

After concerns were raised by the volunteers in mid 2025, Shropshire council sent a surveyor to look at the internal roof structure of the Hoffmann Kiln as it appeared to be shifting downwards. The shift being in the area where the demonstration limestone walls are placed. After an inspection, the surveyor declared the kiln unsafe and that the whole of the kiln should be put out of bounds to the public.



At the end of September 2025, crowd control barriers were put in place in the area where the roof has shifted, see image left.

In order for the whole of the kiln to be fenced off, the council decided to purchase Standard Heras Fencing. Enough panels were purchased to surround the exterior of the Hoffmann Kiln and were put in place in December of 2025. See the image below.



Facebook Site

Don't forget we have our very own Facebook site, which has been set-up and run by Heather.



The site is called:

Llanymynech Heritage Area and Local Nature Reserve

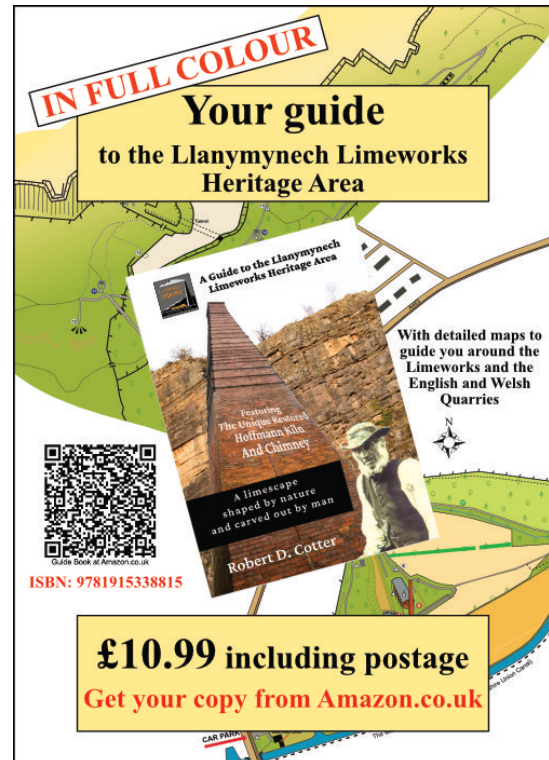
Here you will find lots of information about the flowers and birds of the area, including images of some of our rarer flowers.

You can contact us about the activities taking place as well as ask us questions if you want more information.

We would also appreciate your feedback on the activities, our web site and the Facebook site, so that we can improve what we provide for you.

Limeworks Guide Book

Don't forget to order your copy of our Guide to Llanymynech Limeworks



Vacant Committee Positions

Following on from our previous article on Community Resource, we now have a number of Committee positions for which we would like to invite applicants.

In addition to wanting more volunteers to come along and assist us, we have the following committee positions to fill:

- **Chair Person**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**
- **Equipment Officer**

Whilst the position of Treasurer is currently filled, the incumbent, Bob Cotter, also looks after our website and would like to concentrate efforts in that area.

If you have some free time and feel that you are able to assist us, please let us know.

The role descriptions can be obtained by going to our web site www.llanylime.co.uk and then filling in our volunteer form, (link at the bottom of every page) to join us.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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 our web site www.llanylime.co.uk



Volunteers Needed

Throughout the year, volunteers meet to carry out general maintenance and monitor our flora and fauna around the heritage area. Everyone is welcome, so if you can spare some time, please come along and assist.

Contact us at:

admin@llanylime.co.uk for general maintenance

or

events@llanylime.co.uk for the flora and fauna monitoring

Open Days 2026

Throughout the summer months there are a number of free activities taking place. The activities are split into two categories, Adults and Families. Some activities are self led and others will have a lead to guide and assist you.

You are welcome to come along and join us, just check out our web site for more details

www.llanylime.co.uk/events/

Or, come along to the the Stables Education Block, where full details are available