

In the last 2 months there have been quite a few changes happening around NEWWildlife. For starters at our AGM, which was held in October, 3 of our trustees stood down from their positions: Jon Payne– Chairman, John Beard – Vice Chairman and Russel Jones– Trustee. While we are very sad to see all three of these trustees step down, they have done so in order to allow space for new trustees with new ideas and skills to support the charity. With these resignations, that leaves NEWW with

Goodbyes and hellos

Bob Lee and Stephan Brown as the remaining trustees who will hopefully soon be joined by some new faces.

We are also sad to say goodbye to Kylie Jones– Mattock our Reserves Manager who has been with NEWW for 4 years and has left to take up a post as a Reserves Manager with the Woodlands Trust. We will miss Kylie very much and hope that her new job works out well for her.

We have also said goodbye to Ben Patterson our Volunteer Reserves Officer who has now

come to the end of his 6 month placement with NEWW. Ben has been an important part of the team for the last 6 months and will certainly be missed.

On a happier note we are please to announce the promotion of Karl Martin to Senior Ranger, we would like to welcome to the team Veronica Henry who will be starting soon as our new Volunteer Reserves Officer and Sadie Smith who will be starting a new role of Volunteer Education Officer and finally Brent Jones who will be starting as a Volunteer Site Warden for the Llwyni Reserve. We are looking forward to working with all of them very soon.

Special Points of Interest:

- ◆ An otter cub has been filmed on our stealth cams at Rhydymwyn!
- ◆ Over 150 people attended the Rhydymwyn Valley Autumn Celebration day.
- ◆ 2 new ponds have been constructed at Glascoed.
- ◆ Over 70 species of Fungi have been recorded at Rhydymwyn this Autumn.
- ◆ Our first course in Welsh was a great success– tree ID!



St Asaph update– Mandy Cartwright

There have been two pond creations at our Glascoed Nature Reserve at St Asaph. There is a natural slope in one of the three fields which has a mosaic of ponds and where the new ponds are located. We have increased the number of ponds to increase the breeding habitats for the European protected species the Great crested newt.



The digger was funded under the Million Ponds project and Biffa award. This brings the total number of ponds at Glascoed Nature

Reserve to 16. The reserve is open to the public and has a bird hide that is always open for visitors to use. If you would like to visit Glascoed, you will find it off Llys Edmund Prys in the



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Rangers Roundup- Karl Martin

This autumn has been excellent for fungi. Everywhere had a different species in sight. Tiny, fragile, white *Crepidotus* hugged the sides of rotting twigs; big, brown Birch Boletes stood proud beneath the birches and, my favourite, the lovely red and white spotted fairy toadstool (*Amanita muscaria*) was easy to spot amongst the



A Fly Agaric toadstall

leaf litter. Our fungal foray in October produced over seventy different species much to everyone's delight!

In the trees the birds are forming their winter flocks. Small flocks of blue and great tits, along with family groups of long-tailed tits can be seen swinging from the branches, where they maintain a steady search for insects trying to hide to avoid predation, all the time keeping in touch with shrill, piping calls.

On the ground the mammals have also been very active. Judging from their scats (poo) then blackberries, yew berries and worms have

been popular with the badgers whereas the foxes obviously prefer pheasants! There appears to be fewer rabbits visible by the Rhydymwyn wetland, hopefully this means that the polecat family discovered earlier are still doing well. Recently, some of us were privileged to see one running up the track towards the office and then into the new orchard!

We have already had our first frosts so winter will soon be upon us and we will know whether it will be as harsh as last years. I'm sure our wildlife hopes it will be milder!

Newsflash!!!

I have just been

downloading the video footage from our Stealth Cam that I recently placed near our artificial otter holt. We know the holt starts being used about this time of year, but it was a great delight to obtain footage of an adult otter in the early hours of the 3rd November. There was even more delight when, during the evening of the same day, two recordings were made within minutes of each other both showing an otter cub! Now does the mother have only a single cub, or does she have two? Hopefully the camera will reveal all shortly.

Rhydymwyn Valley Community update- Cat Lucas

On 30th October Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve was temporarily transformed into a spooky setting for a Halloween party. Local families were invited to attend the event, which was set up and run by NEWW and funded by Defra to play spooky games such as 'Eye bowles', 'Giant Hangman' and 'Splat the Rat' before taking a stroll into the woods at night where they met local writer and story teller Dee Rivaz for a story under the yew trees.

A raffle was run at the end for the night with a range

of prizes from a chocolate pizza kindly donated by Denbigh Chocolate Shop to pumpkins hand carved by our very own ranger, Karl Martin.

A prize was also given for the best dressed trick or treat bag which this year came complete with a bone shaped handle and flashing lights!

We received a lot of good feedback from the participants who not only had a lot of fun on the night but were also keen to come back and visit the reserve in the day light. This event was one of 6

public events that Defra fund NEWW to run at the Rhydymwyn Reserve. The next events are the Santa Trail and the Festive Fair on the 11th December. Both of these events are free to attend and open to all (*please note that no dogs are allowed onsite at Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve*).

Memberships Update:

We currently have 33 Family members, 2 Honorary members and 44 Individual members. As the fees have increased so has the package and going forward with renewals and new memberships you can expect a mug, pen and car sticker.

Appeals

We are now planning our Christmas Fair for 11th December and are appealing for any old Christmas decorations that are no longer needed.

Also if you know of anyone who owns a marquee that might be willing to lend it to us for the fair we would be grateful for their contact details.

Anybody who is interested in having a stand at the Christmas Fair, please contact the office as soon as possible.



Johnstown Update– Remani Jones

This autumn the Johnstown Community Wildlife Project has focussed on working with the more immediate community at Johnstown. There have been bat walks for the First Johnstown Scouts, Cubs and Beavers groups at Stryt Las Park, part of the Johnstown Newt Sites SAC.

Duabentons and Pipistrelles were seen (and heard) flying over the large lake in the park. Areas in Johnstown have been improved for wildlife and to provide better access for people. Stryt Las Park has



1st Johnstown Scouts Stryt Las Nature Reserve

undergone path improvements with associated native planting alongside and Brandie Brook has been cleared of fly tipping. The land for the new community allotment area now has a native hedge that links up

Competitions galore

There have been lots of competitions over the last 2 months run by NEWW around Flintshire. In September year 5 and 6 students at Wepre School, in Connah's Quay took part in a competition to design posters for the Llwyni Local Nature Reserve where the pupils get to tell the public how they would like to see their local green space treated. A similar competition has been run at Mountain Lane Primary School in Buckley with their years 3 and 4, for the local Knowle Hill Nature Reserve.

NEWW also ran a scarecrow competition at the Autumn Fair in October and invited local schools and groups to take part. The winning scarecrow (pictured) was created by the students at Wats Dyke School in Mold.



They received a prize of a wildlife gardening pack including a tree, some seeds a book and other wildlife related items.

A local produce competition was also run at the fair and we received many entries from apples to vegetables to jams.

We would like to thank all of our participants of our recent competitions. Watch this space for more competitions coming soon!!

to the wildlife area at the Junior School. We have been working closely with two youth departments at Wrexham County Borough Council this year on the projects above - the Travellers and Gypsy Community Youth Department and the Youth Justice Team. Youths associated with both departments have helped to plant over 150 trees, improve over 50m of paths and also to revamp the grounds of the Johnstown Scouts.

Following a new path creation the scout area will have a willow igloo and raised bed that will be planted up with butterfly and bee friendly plants such as buddleja, knapweed, honesty, sedums and perennial cornflower.

Slate visit

On the 19th October Community Wildlife Education Officer Cat Lucas took a class of year 5 and 6 students from Ysgol Owen Jones in Northop to the Welsh Slate Museum in Llanberis, Gwynedd to explore the sounds that slate makes and make slate wind chimes. The reason behind the trip is that NEWW are working with the school to create a natural music area for the children to play with and explore music and sound. "One idea I had was to create a large xylophone out of Welsh slate" Cat Lucas, Community Wildlife Education Officer "I initially only contacted the museum for advice and they offered

us a days visit for the students complete with a musical activity! We were able to organise a coach for the pupils out of my Celebrating Nature Project and so the school were more than happy to take us up on the offer of the trip."

Whilst at the museum the students were able to look around the Vivian Quarry, have a guided tour of the museum complete with a slate splitting demonstration and they had the opportunity to make their own wind chimes to take back for the music stand.

Everyone had a good day out and learnt a lot about how Welsh slate was mined in the past. Cat is now busily working on the creation of the music stand and hopes to be able to install it into the school grounds very soon. "I would like to say a big thank you to the staff at the slate museum for all of their help and advice in creating this xylophone" Cat Lucas.



Upcoming events

4th December– Tree Dressing Event– Trefnant Village Hall– 2.30-4.30pm. Come along and join NEWW for a family day in a celebration of trees and make decorations to put up around the trees on Trefnant Nature Reserve. Donations welcome. No booking required.



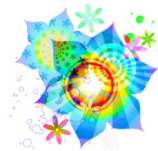
NB. DATE CHANGE! 11th December– Santa Trail– Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve. 10am-12noon. Follow the elves around the nature reserve and answer their riddles to find Santa. Donations welcome. Booking essential. (No dogs allowed).

NB. DATE CHANGE! 11th December– Festive Fair– Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve, 12noon– 4pm. Join NEWW staff and local crafts people for a festive fair. Santa's grotto will also be open. All welcome to come along– please note there will not be any tours of the reserve open for this afternoon session and no dogs are allowed onsite. Free but donations welcome.



14th January– Winter Photography course– Maes y Grug, Altarnog, 10am-4pm. Join NEWW and Michael Kinsey (Amateur photographer) for a course in winter wildlife photography. £5 per person– booking essential.

29th January– Wildlife Tracking Course– 10am-4pm, Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve. Join NEWW and Matthew McIntyre for a days course in tracking wildlife on the reserve. £5 per person. Booking essential.



8th February– Wildlife Art workshop– Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve, 10am-3pm. Join NEWW and wildlife artist Tim Pugh for a days workshop looking at creating art pieces from nature. £5 per person, booking essential.

For all booking essential events please contact the office on 01352 742115 or admin@newwildlife.org.uk

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING NEWW OUT AND HAVE SOME FREE TIME THEN CONTACT THE VOLUNTEERS OFFICER TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEERING, FROM HABITAT CONSERVATION TO SPECIES MONITORING TO ASSISTING AT EVENTS THERE IS A WIDE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE WITH NEWW. CONTACT: INFO@NEWWILDWILDLIFE.ORG.UK OR 01352 742115. KEEP AN EYE ON THE WEBSITE FOR UP TO DATE REPORTS ON VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES AND UPCOMING EVENTS.



Autumn celebrations!!

On 16th October NEWW held an Autumn celebration day at Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve that was a great success. The day started out with a fungi foray with 35 people attending to find out what fungi grow on the reserve. The foray was joined by mycologist Charles Aron who has an excellent knowledge of fungi.

In the afternoon an autumn fair was held, with stands selling local produce and crafts, food supplied by the Rhug Estate and music by local musicians. The Wildlife Trust came along



Apple pressing

to do some apple pressing near the newly planted traditional orchard and there were talks by the Woodland Trust and Flintshire Wildlife and Pet Rescue. An estimated 150 people attended the fair and there were 2 competitions run on the day– a scare crow competition for local schools and groups and the

local produce competition.

The event seemed to be a success and everybody enjoyed themselves throughout the day.

A big thank you to everyone who took part.



Fungi Foray