



Beaufort Hill Ponds and Woodlands

Designated as a Local Nature Reserve

Newsletter Issue No: 05 - Spring 2013



Our previous Newsletter was published two years ago, and in this issue, we have attempted to show the progress that has been made in enhancing our popular Local Nature Reserve, particularly the work carried out by a small core of dedicated Directors and members.

The start of the Ebbw Fach Trail is located at the Woodlands site, to find out more about the Trail, please visit their website at :- www.ebbwfachtrail.org.uk, where you can download a map of the Trail.



As part of the enhancement of the Ebbw Fach Trail, work has taken place at the Woodlands site. Some of this work is shown in the adjacent photos.

Top Left - Enhancement of Highlands Road Entrance, where three Interpretation Posts have been erected, from which you can find information about the site, and these include an 'audio' panel.

Top Right - Higher 'cattle proof' fencing erected at the north end of Upper Boat Pond

Bottom Left - The vandalised Dragonfly Gate has now been repaired.

Bottom Right - A new bridge was built near the Blaen Cendl Entrance and heathers were replanted at the entrance gate.



Keep Wales Tidy -Tidy Towns Week :- John Hillier - Woodlands Director and Welsh Baccalaureate Coordinator organised an activity to support the "Keep Wales Tidy Towns" initiative. The idea was to engage pupils of the local schools to assist with the development and upkeep of the Woodlands. Activities consisted of a general litter pick and collection of coppiced materials for chipping. The chipped wood was used to re-establish the outdoor classroom log circle, which was unfortunately vandalised during the summer, and to establish informal woodland pathways. The activity took place on Sept 22nd 2012 at the Woodlands. Six pupils from Ebbw Fawr Learning Community volunteered their services as well as two pupils from Beaufort Hill Primary School . (Pictured Right)

Woodland Trust Tree Planting :- Trees and hedgerow whips were received from the Woodland Trust which supports the Jubilee Woodland project. Mr J Hillier and Mr A Griffiths instructed and supervised the Year 9 Land Management group with the planting of approximately 100 trees on 14th November at the Woodlands. Further planting and woodland management tasks will continue into the spring. It is planned to plant a Royal Oak tree at the entrance of the woodlands to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. - The photo to the right shows John Hillier instructing the students how to plant the tree whips.



Left :- Members received training in making willow fencing and then constructed a bird hide on the north bank of the Lower Boat Pond.

Right :- Four 'sleeper bridges' were constructed and then installed over ditches on some of the informal paths around the woodlands.





Society wins an award.

In November 2011, we received "The Community Group Biodiversity Award" from B.G.C.B.C, which was presented to Society Director Roy Lynch.

A third wood sculpture created by local wood carver John James, has been erected at the junction of the paths, near the Upper Boat Pond.



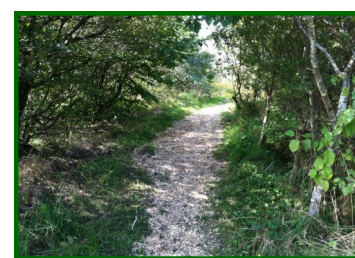
A Notice Board was installed at the Highlands Road Entrance, courtesy of funding from G.A.V.O and Beaufort Hill Miners Welfare Trust.



Two Interpretation Panels, showing the wildfowl that visit the ponds & woodlands, will shortly be installed on the banks of both Boat Ponds. This has been funded by a grant from the Big Lottery Fund.



A wood chipper was purchased as part of a grant from Environment Wales and coppiced trimmings were shredded to produce a mulch, which was then spread over the informal path running from Highlands Road Entrance towards the Blaen Cendl entrance.



Society Contacts

Secretary - Graham Hughes 01495 306110
Chairman - Rex Herbert MBE 01495 303031
Treasurer - Lionel Griffiths MBE 01495 306226
Website Editor - Jeff Williams 01495 301627

To join the society, please contact any of the above, or fill in the form below and send to the Membership Secretary

Roy Lynch

1 Sunny Bank, Beaufort Hill, Ebbw Vale, Gwent.

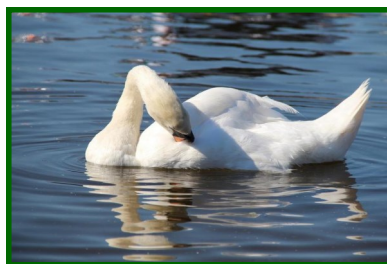
To find out more about the Ponds & Woodlands,
please visit the following :-

Website :- www.beauforthillwoodlands.org.uk

Twitter :- [@BeaufortWood](https://twitter.com/BeaufortWood)

Facebook :- [Beaufort Hill Ponds Woodlands](https://www.facebook.com/BeaufortHillPondsWoodlands)

Some of our residents.



To assist visitors in finding the woodlands, signposts have been erected at the junction of Beaufort Hill and North Street and also along Highlands Road.



The publication of this Newsletter was funded by a grant from Environment Wales.



Society Membership

Why not join our Society ?? The cost of membership is ONLY a 'one-off' payment of £1.00p per Adult and 50p for a child under 18 years of age.

Name :

Name :

Name :

Name :

Address :

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Tel No: (Optional) : Email Address (Optional) :

For the membership fee of £1.00, receive a gift of a society key-ring - while stock last