



# Beaufort Hill Ponds and Woodlands

*A Local Nature Reserve and  
Community Green Flag Award Winner*



This is our sixth newsletter, and we are again attempting to show the further progress that has been made in enhancing the ponds and woodlands, which has made it such a popular attraction for both local residents and visitors.

## Woodlands Fun Day

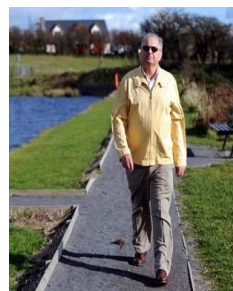
On Saturday 27th July 2013, Roy Lynch and John Hillier, with the help of several fellow Society Directors, organised a very successful 'Fun Day' which was enjoyed by children and adults alike.

The event included woodland arts and crafts and wood turning by Thom Board of Keep Wales Tidy, bird and bat box making, willow hurdle making, guided photography walks and talks along the trails, led by Nadine Morgan of B.G.C.B.C Biodiversity.

Society member, Amanda Smith of 'Masquerade' thrilled the children with face painting and balloon art.

An excellent free picnic was provided for all the visitors and volunteers, the society also gained twenty three new members, and the sun even shone throughout most of the event.

Last October, our secretary, Graham Hughes sadly passed away after a long illness. He started the fight to keep the ponds from being drained and filled in, when we called a meeting, we found that there was incredible support. Problems he worked at, included getting agreement from Corus, support from the Borough Council and becoming a company with guarantee, so we could apply for grants. He was always proud of our achievements and worked hard at looking after the park. Despite his illness, he enjoyed the fruits of his labour. He will be missed by the Directors and visitors alike.



Graham Hughes

## Groundworks Project

The objective was to improve the entrance around the Highlands Road Gate, we were part funded by Groundworks, to support our application for the Community Green Flag award.

The photographs above show what was achieved by the efforts of several of the society directors.

Approximately 100 yards of pathway was enhanced from the Highlands Road Entrance running along the fence towards Blaen Cendl.

The grass alongside the pathway from the Highlands Road gate was also cut with the lawnmower funded by Groundworks and Environment Wales.

## Picnic benches

Last year, funded by Environment Wales, two picnic tables were installed either side of the upper Boat Pond, this year, we intend to install a further two benches within the woodlands site.



The family of the late Mr Albert Bull of Highlands Road installed a memorial bench on the bank of the lower Boat Pond.



## Sleeper bridges

To date, we have installed eight 'sleeper bridges' over culverts and ditches to improve access around the many informal paths on the woodlands site.







Mute swans have been breeding on the Boat Ponds nearly every year since 2009 (they produced eight cygnets in 2013) and have become a popular attraction for visitors. Recently, one of the swans had a problem with one of its wings and couldn't fly. Swan Rescue South Wales were contacted and the swan was taken to the National Centre at Shepperton, Surrey, where it will be well looked after. To find out more about the excellent work that the South Wales group do, please visit :- [www.swanrescue.org.uk](http://www.swanrescue.org.uk)



### B.G.C.B.C Environmental Awards 2013

At this years awards, we received a certificate and wood sculpture for recently achieving the Green Flag Award from Keep Wales Tidy.

The 'Green Champion' was awarded jointly to Roy Lynch and John Hillier for all the hard work they have put in to help make the woodlands site look as good as it does - well deserved for all their efforts.



### Green Flag Community Award 2013

We are delighted to announce that we have been given this prestigious award in recognition of all the hard work that has been carried out on the site by a small group of directors and members, so that the community can continue to enjoy the ever-improving facilities within the Ponds & Woodlands.



Little Lane Car Park .

This year, from an Environment Wales grant, we propose to build more informal paths, twenty way-markers with post rubbings and QR cards, and a reen (water-filled ditch) for waterfowl. From another grant, seven hornbeam trees have been planted at the Highlands Road Entrance.



Waymarkers



Hornbeam Trees

### Society Contacts

Secretary - John Hillier - [john.hillier@beauforthillwoodlands.org.uk](mailto:john.hillier@beauforthillwoodlands.org.uk)

Chairman - David White Tel: - 01495 309780

Treasurer - Roy Lynch

Website - Jeff Williams - [admin@beauforthillwoodlands.org.uk](mailto:admin@beauforthillwoodlands.org.uk)

To join the society, please contact any of the above, or fill in the form below and send to the Treasurer :-

**Roy Lynch, Sunny Bank, Beaufort Hill, Ebbw Vale, Gwent.**

### Waterfowl panels

Last Spring, two identical Interpretation panels were installed on the banks of both Boat Ponds, they show the waterfowl that visit the site. This was funded by a grant from the Big Lottery Fund.



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

Website :- [www.beauforthillwoodlands.org.uk](http://www.beauforthillwoodlands.org.uk)

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

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

We are also part of the Ebbw Fach Trail :-

[www.ebbwfachtrail.org.uk](http://www.ebbwfachtrail.org.uk)

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**