

Ymddiriedolaeth Penllergare

# *Newsletter*

Number 6. July 2006 The Penllergare Trust

**It has been six months since our last Newsletter and for once we can say that 'no news has been good news' because at last we can report some significant steps forward in our regeneration plans for Penllergare Valley Woods.**

## **COED NYDFWCH**

The Trust's plans for Coed Nydfwch have now taken a big step forward with the award of a grant of £85,000 from the Cydcoed – Woodlands for All programme, funded by the European Union (Objective One) and the Welsh Assembly Government. This award was marked by a stimulating visit by Tamsin Dunwoody AM, Deputy Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

The estate of Nydfwch once adjoined Penllergare. Following the marriage in 1750 between Jane Matthews of Nydfwch and Gruffydd Price of Penllergare the young couple settled into his parent's house and the buildings at Nydfwch eventually disappeared. Because much of lower Valley Woods was part of Nydfwch, the Penllergare Trust has decided to revive this historic name for the proposed community woodland. Protection and regeneration of woodland and wildlife will be top priority, with substantial involvement of local people.

The coming months will see the re-opening of a network of footpaths, the re-building of two bridges and a start with bracken control. Behind the scenes a master plan for future management is being drawn up and this includes consulting local people, groups and schools. If we have not had the opportunity to talk to you face-to-face recently, perhaps you would help us by filling in the attached questionnaire, because your comments and opinions are important in planning the future of Coed Nydfwch. If you'd like to see and hear what is being planned at first hand, there will be two guided walks (see below) on Saturday 9th September & 7th October. Details will also be in the Evening Post nearer the time.

## **UPPER VALLEY SECRETS REVEALED**

As noted in Newsletter 5 parts of the upper valley have been cleared of more than 50 years of undergrowth to enable Cambria Archaeology to make a detailed survey to inform a possible restoration scheme. Thanks to the efforts of Dai Whitelock, Chris Meredith, Simon Page, Garry Rees and Eric Hughes - as well as other volunteers, together with the surveyors Ken Murphy and Hubert Wilson, we now have a much more detailed picture of the substantial engineering undertaken to achieve the desired picturesque design. If anything this is far more complex than we had suspected, with previously unrecorded paths, steps, terraces and viewing points, on both sides of the valley. The report, together with a

similar survey of the walled kitchen gardens in 2004, can be seen at The West Glamorgan Archive Service in County allHallHall, Swansea. The survey was made possible through the continued generosity of The Gower Society.

### **PARC LLEWELYN**

In 1874 John Dillwyn Llewelyn donated land and money to establish a park at Knap Llwyd as a place of recreation for the people crowded into the industrialised Tawe valley below. Because local people have become increasingly worried about the future of their much loved Parc Llewelyn, the Trust commissioned Rob Skinner, a post-graduate from the University of Wales, Lampeter, to carry out a study of the development of the park and its significance today.

With the help of funding from Graduate Opportunities Wales and the Lottery-funded Awards for All Wales, a timely use of the Freedom of Information Act, and the enthusiastic involvement of many local people, Rob's report has confirmed the importance of Park Llewelyn to the cultural heritage of Swansea. In consequence it now seems likely that a Friends group will be launched to help protect and conserve this gem of a park for public benefit. For more details please contact Jennifer Scully on 01792 423698 or [j.scully1@ntlworld.com](mailto:j.scully1@ntlworld.com)

### **DAVID REES**

The Trust has lost a good friend in David, who died suddenly in April. He was on the security staff of the Civic Centre, Penllergaer and was familiar to many visitors to Valley Woods who stopped for a chat or to ask for information. He was friendly to all, helpful to everyone, generous with his time and is greatly missed. We send our condolences to his wife Nancy and the family.

### **HIMALAYAN BALSAM**

The Upper Valley is suffering from this invasive plant that suffocates our native plants and wild flowers. We held a Balsam Pull on 10th June and we would like to thank the 17 volunteers who began the daunting task of tackling its eradication. If anyone is interested in doing volunteer work in Valley Woods please contact us at the address below.

### **SCHOOLS PROGRAMME**

The end of the primary school year approaches and we have been busy with **Walk & Talk** class visits, the **Picture Penllergare! Art Competition** (sponsored by the Forestry Commission Wales) and the **Penllergare Picnic**. We are grateful to Jen Cloke and Keith Clements for their valuable assistance. Sadly we also say goodbye to two of our friends Mrs Eira Mathewson from Pontlliw Primary School and Mr Paul Phillips from Llangyfelach, both of whom are retiring from teaching this year.

### **GUIDED WALKS**

(All start at 2.15 p.m. from the Civic Centre car park unless stated otherwise)

5th & 19th August: Introducing Penllergare ...

9th September: Coed Nydfwch (starting from Cadle Mill)

23rd September: Woodlands Walk

30th September: Photographic Footsteps

7th October: Coed Nydfwch (starting from Parc Penllergaer)

**NOW PLEASE COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE !!**

If you would like –

- ◆ further information on any of these items;
- ◆ to suggest other people who might be interested in getting an email copy of this newsletter;
- ◆ or don't want to receive it again;

please let us know at

[contact@penllergare.org](mailto:contact@penllergare.org)

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***What do you do when you go to Valley Woods? (Please circle or highlight all answers that apply.)***

*Exercise  
1*

*Walk the  
dog 2*

*Take the  
children  
to play  
there 3*

*Spend  
time with  
friends  
there 4*

*Cycle 5*

*Horse-  
riding 6*

*Fishing 7*

*Look at  
plants  
and enjoy  
the  
scenery 8*

*Relax -  
peace  
and quiet  
9*

*Group  
outings  
10*

*Guided  
walks 11*

*Observe  
wildlife 12*

*Other  
(please  
explain)*

*..*

***Which parts of Valley Woods do you know best?***

*Do you have a favourite area within Valley Woods? What is it and why?*

...

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***Do you have a least favourite area? What is it and why?***

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***Does anything ever put you off visiting Valley Woods? If so, what is it?***

..

..

***Here is a list of priorities. Please circle the SIX that you think are the most important for the development, maintenance and conservation of Valley Woods.***

*Native and exotic plants,  
shrubs and trees 1*

*Wildlife areas 2*

*Way-marked paths and  
circuits 3*

*Improving views from paths 4*

*Disabled access 5*

*Grass cutting/grazing 6*

*Historical/heritage features 7*

*Safety/security 8*

*Dog control 9*

*Litter control 10*

*Controlling other unsocial  
behaviour 11*

*Car parking 12*

*Seating, picnic tables 13*

*Information on history and  
wildlife 14*

*Toilets 15*

*Recreational facilities – things  
to do 16*

*Community events 17*

*Opportunities for voluntary  
work and employment 18*

*The lake area 19*

*Facilities for children and  
young people (please say  
what) 20*

..

***Are there any other improvements that you would like to see at Valley Woods? If so, please write in here.***

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***Are there any changes or developments at Valley Woods that you would definitely not like to see? If so please write in here.***

..

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***Would you like to be consulted more often about the way Penllergare Valley Woods is developed, managed and maintained?***

**Would you like to be actively involved in the maintenance and management of Penllergare Valley Woods?** (Please circle or highlight answer[s] that apply below).

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***If you would like to become involved in some way, please supply your contact details here.***

*Name & phone number:*

*Postal Address:*

*Email address:*

***Finally, we just need to ask a few questions about you in order to understand who is visiting Penllergare Valley Woods and to establish any variations in answers given by different users. Please fill in the details below. If there are any questions here that you would rather not answer, then by all means leave them blank.***

*Where do you live?*

*If in Swansea, which area?*

*If not in Swansea, in which town/city or nearest town/city?*

		<b>Age</b>	
Male	1	under 16	1
Female	2	16 – 24	2

		25 – 34	3
<b>Registered disabled?</b>		35 – 44	4
	Yes 1	45 – 54	5
	No 2	55 – 64	6
		65+	7

**Employment Status**

Full time employed	1
Part time employed	2
Full time house person	3
Full time education	4
Self employed	5
Unemployed	6
Retired	7

**Ethnic Origin**

White/European	1
African	2
Indian	3
Chinese	4
Other	5

***Thank You!***

*Now please return to us by email, fax or mail.*