



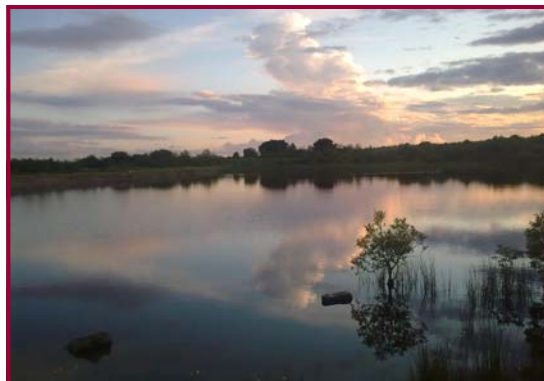
Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodlands Preservation Society

## Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodlands Preservation Society



### Designation of Local Nature Reserve status

Last June, we were informed by B.G.C.B.C that Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodlands, along with four other sites in Blaenau Gwent, had been designated as LOCAL NATURE RESERVES. The other sites were Parc Nant-y-Waun, Cwmtillery Lakes, Parc Bryn Bach and Sirhowy Woodlands. LNRs are declared under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and are designated by local authorities in consultation with the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW). CCW must be consulted on any development proposal that may affect the special interest of a LNR and there must be a long-term commitment by the Authority to sustaining its wildlife value through appropriate management. This includes provision for a management plan and resources to implement it. LNRs also must provide an element of appropriate access, education and study potential. Prior to this announcement, Blaenau Gwent currently had only one Local Nature Reserve - at Silent Valley.



The photograph above is of the Upper Boat Pond and was taken by Roy Lynch on a warm evening last June - a rare sight in recent Summers !!



These two photographs of a pair of Canada Geese and a Mare and foal were taken last April by David Clubb, who walks the site most days with his dog and provides us with some excellent photographs.



Vaughan Lewis, the Coed Cymru Woodlands Officer for the South East Valleys of Wales, who has managed the project to develop our woodlands informed us that he was leaving Coed Cymru to become the Arboricultural Officer for Blaenau Gwent Council as of 21st August.

The Society has always been very impressed by the way Vaughan has managed the project and built up a very good working relationship with him over the last few years. We would like to thank him for all he has done for the society and wish him well in his new career.

### What have we achieved since our last Newsletter was published two years ago?

The network of pathways was completed giving visitors good access throughout the site. All tree planting was completed and the trees are maturing well.

Three new benches have been installed and two damaged benches repaired. We intend to purchase three more benches.

A Hibernaculum has been built and it is planned to build another one.

Groundworks Wales have constructed a log circle as part of an outdoor classroom - details on Page 2.

It is planned to design and install a wildlife information panel.

Four litter bins have been installed and are awaiting the installation of dog waste bins.

Grants have been sought from other organisations to help fund some of the work and improvements.

A membership scheme was started and to date we have 132 members. We would like many more to join us and help maintain what has turned out to be a great attraction for local residents and visitors to the locality.

An organised litter pick was carried out as part of the Heads of the Valley Spring clean, also many members pick up litter on a regular basis.

A calendar for 2010 has been produced, with photographs for each month. - further details on Page 2.



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WOODLANDS FOR ALL



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Forestry Commission Wales



## Society Website

Our website was launched 3 years ago, and contains news and photographs of the development of the Woodlands site and is regularly updated. You can contact us via our 'ENQUIRY' page.

Please visit us at :- [www.beauforthillwoodlands.btik.com](http://www.beauforthillwoodlands.btik.com)



All of the hard work mentioned on the first page, was shown to be worthwhile, when the Society won a 'Group Initiative' award at the B.G.C.B.C 2008 Environmental awards. We were nominated again this year in the 'Group Cleanliness' category and Roy Lynch in the 'Citizen' category for all the hard work that he has put in for the society over the last few years.

*The photograph below is of some of our members carrying out tree maintenance during the Spring. If anyone would like to help us at any time, please contact any of the directors, or fill in the form below and become a member of the society.*



### Society Directors

Graham Hughes	01495 306110
Rex Herbert	01495 303031
Lionel Griffiths	
Roy Lynch	
Derek Dibble	
Lyndsey James	
Des Markey	01495 307773
Margaret Penny	01495 303909
Steven Penny	
Christine Powell Morris	
Eric Smith	01495 304423
Godfrey Thomas	
David White	01495 309780
Gordon Williams	
Jeff Williams	01495 301627

Two wood sculptures have been erected on the site, one at the Chandlers Road entrance and the other (pictured) on the bank of the lower Boat Pond. These were carved by local resident and Society member John James.



*The log circle, constructed by Groundworks Wales, which is part of the outdoor classroom for local school-children, is located in the copse near the Upper Boat*



The photo to the left was taken in late August and shows the conifer copse near the Upper Boat Pond with the heather in full bloom.

A calendar for 2010 has been produced and has been selling very well. They cost £3.00 each or £3.50 with an envelope. To place an order please contact David White at 1 Llandaff Road, Parkhill, Beaufort or Tel: 01495 309780



## 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 : .....  
.....

Tel No: (Optional) : .....

Email Address (Optional) : .....