



Llangennith, Llanmadoc and Cheriton Wards

Biodiversity Update

A big thank you to Barry, Sandra and Nancy from Celtic Wildflowers who planted the borders around Llangennith Parish Hall with native coastal plants in January. They will be back in October to give a talk in the hall about the plants and how to look after them. Please come and join us for this and any volunteers willing to help look after the borders would be gratefully received - we will keep you posted about the date.



The area has been planted with native wildflowers that need less water and less maintenance than traditional ornamental beds and they provide food and shelter for birds, bees, butterflies and other animals. With minimal pruning and leaving stems and seedheads over winter, it will keep a vital, late-season nectar source for hungry insects and create safe over-wintering spots for sleepy bugs.



A native, coastal plant swath © Celtic Wildflowers

Following on from last month's information on Cllr Howells' otter survey training, she was thrilled to be contacted by someone who had recently seen otters locally. She met up with them to see the site and, despite the recent rain, there was direct evidence of otter activity including otter 'spraint'. On the strength of this and numerous photographs, she was able to send a record of a verified sighting to the South Wales Otter Trust (SWOT). Having received the training, her records can be added much more quickly without having to be vetted. These records are extremely important in building up a real time picture of the presence of otters in an area and enable SWOT to respond if a decline in sightings is noted. This is not just important for otters as being at the top of their food chain, their presence is a clear indicator of a healthy river so a decline in their numbers needs to be investigated.



If you should be lucky enough to see otters, or evidence of where they are, please do not reveal the location on any social media sites. They are shy creatures and their habitats need to remain undisturbed. You can contact Cllr Jane Howells via the email on our community council website and she will be happy to record a sighting.

Land Management (owned and leased by the Community Council)

Common land is an important part of Welsh heritage, the concept goes back centuries when individuals were given the right by the lord of the manor to collect firewood, fish, graze animals and other rights. In 1965 an Act of Parliament ensured that all common land was registered along with the rights of commoners and land owners. People with registered rights of common can turn livestock out to graze the commons and that land is protected by law, it cannot be developed or used for parking.

All common land is owned, the majority by private organisations such as the National Trust and some by local authorities such as Llangennith, Llanmadoc & Cheriton Community Council, who owns a few small pieces of registered common land in Llanmadoc and a “No Parking” sign has been erected on land outside St Madoc’s Church as vehicles have been parking on it and blocking access to agricultural land behind.

The land around Llanmadoc Village Hall has now had a firebreak cut and dead or diseased trees that pose a risk have been felled. Further work will be carried out on trees on community council owned land in the new financial year as recommended in the community council’s recent tree survey.

New Kissing Gates

Thank you to the Countryside Access team at Swansea Council who have installed several new kissing gates on the footpaths in Llangennith.



A message from our local policing team

There has been an increase in reports of “LAMPING” - using lamps and dogs to hunt rabbits and hares - in Gower recently and they ask that residents in Rural Gower report any suspicious persons using torchlight and accompanied by dogs to the police as soon as they can. If possible, and without putting yourself at risk, please provide descriptions of persons, how many, any weapons seen, vehicle registrations and exact locations using What3Words <https://locate.what3words.com>. Officers will step up patrols in the areas of

concern.

Next Community Council meeting 4th March, 7.30 - 9.30pm in The Gordon Room, Burry Green Chapel. We welcome all residents to our meetings and would love to see you there.

Contact: llangennithcommunitycouncil@gmail.com



Cllr Martin Pashley, Chair
Contact: Martin@dexter.gi