



LISVANE AND LLANISHEN RESERVOIRS

January 2022

This is not a circular
Owner/Occupier

Happy New Year

Welcome to the Lisvane & Llanishen Reservoirs Winter Newsletter.

In this newsletter you will find out more about the construction of the Visitor Centre which gets underway this month, and some of the community engagement activities delivered in 2021.

Work on our Visitor Hub is set to get underway!

Following the approval by Cardiff Council to create a brand new visitor hub on the site, we can now confirm that work will get underway in January 2022.

We have appointed BECT Building Contractors, a Cardiff based building contractor based in Rumney, to build the Visitor Attraction centre. From late January they will begin work to construct a visitor hub that will provide spectacular views across both reservoirs as well as enable us to bring back a wide range of watersports to the area.

What to expect from our work

During the first few weeks BECT will focus on preparing the area for the visitor hub to be constructed.

Construction traffic will be accessing the site via the existing track between Crofta and South Rise. To ensure safe access for construction traffic and those accessing the allotments, we'll need to remove some trees to make the access track wider. The work will be carried out by professional tree surgeons, and we have been working closely with our ecologists to ensure the removal of trees is undertaken without any harm to wildlife. We are aiming for the work to take place during February, prior to the start of nesting season. Please be assured that safe pedestrian and vehicular access to the allotments will be maintained at all times.

We anticipate this work taking place until the end of February. Once this has been completed, we will begin our work on the visitor hub itself and anticipate this taking approximately a year to complete.

We will be writing again to those living near our construction site with more detail on what you can expect while we are working in your area.

Regular updates will be available on our website at www.dwrcymru.com/inyourarea



Ecology surveys

Our annual waxcap survey took place between October and December last year during the fruiting season, which is the best time to spot these little gems. It has once again been a good year for fungi with the site continuing to flourish since Welsh Water took over the management of the site.

We would like to thank volunteers from the Glamorgan Fungus Group, NRW and Cardiff University who accompanied our ecologist helping to spot the many species across the banks of both reservoirs.

The Overwintering Wildfowl Survey is also ongoing. Numbers of visiting wildfowl are being recorded between the months of September and March. We look forward to finding out which birds have been paying us a visit.



Community Engagement

As Welsh Water progresses with its plans to create a visitor hub on the reservoir site, the Welsh Government ENRaW grant is supporting the community engagement programme that is connecting people with the well-loved area creating a future hub for health and wellbeing in the capital.

In September we were delighted to welcome two groups of learners to the reservoirs.

The ENRaW Partnership Manager and a Welsh Water Ranger attended Court School to deliver a workshop to pupils, learning about wildlife corridors and outdoor learning environments, followed by a walk to the reservoirs to understand more about the site's ecology and plans for the Visitor Centre.

We also organised a visit for a group of adult learners as inspiration for their Writing Landscapes at Llanishen Reservoir Course. The learners had been taking part in a five week course delivered by Cardiff Metropolitan University's Widening Access team.

The course, which was delivered online, introduced participants to nature writing. Whilst the visit to Llanishen Reservoir allowed participants to connect with nature in a safe environment, encouraging the art of careful observation, write their own pieces inspired by the reservoir, and share their work in a relaxed and supportive environment.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Woodland Management

During the next few months, prior to bird nesting season, we will be focusing on bringing the woodland back into a managed condition enhancing the ecology and biodiversity of the site.

We are working with Wildlife Trust to finalise the Woodland Management Plan for the site. A key priority of this work will be to remove any non-native and invasive species and reclaiming an historic fishpond. This will enable us to protect the natural fauna and flora and allow natural regeneration.

The work is being carried out thanks to the Welsh Government and National Lottery Heritage Community Woodlands fund – part of the Welsh Government's National Forest programme.

The grant will enable us to start restoring Gwern-y-Bendy woods and part of the Rhyd-y-Penau woods complex.

The enhancement of these woodlands will support the diversity of Cardiff's ecology and the wide range of species which rely on the biodiversity of the site and its surrounding areas. The grant will also enable ongoing volunteering conservation work that will help protect the woodlands for future generations.

Friends of Cardiff Reservoirs

Friends of Cardiff Reservoirs Committee members are working through policies and ways of working to enable volunteering activities.



We were delighted to work with the Dry Stone Wall Association and the Friends of Cardiff Reservoirs Committee to deliver a pilot volunteering programme on site. Funded by the ENRaW grant the newly constructed wall, using the excess pitching stone from the reservoir restoration, provides an additional hibernation area for the Grass Snake population as well as encourage amphibians and invertebrates.

In the coming months' we hope to run some volunteer projects to support woodland management. These projects will create connecting hedgerows, develop wildlife corridors, as well as hibernation habitat for many of the site's species.

If you are interested in volunteering at the reservoirs, please contact the Friends of Cardiff Reservoirs via their website:

www.friendsofcardiffreservoirs.org