

NEWSLETTER

Lockdown Issue 4

Greetings All,

Although in our previous newsletter there appeared to be light at the end of the tunnel, at the time of writing, it is now more than six months since lockdown was instituted and we are now entering a phase where there may well be a further six months of restrictions.

The resumption of branch activities, I would therefore guess, won't be until Spring 2021 at the earliest. I hope that is not being too pessimistic!?

Even more reason to keep in touch with items of interest that can be shared with other members.

The branch committee had not met on a formal basis since earlier in the year, so it was decided to hold a meeting, socially distanced, outside in the chairman's garden.

There was much to discuss but it was not anticipated that the fine weather was also an ideal opportunity for the grass and hedging of the adjacent garden to be "attacked" by an array of noisy garden implements!!



It was felt that an attempt should be made to bring members together in an informal and safe way.

An outdoor picnic was suggested at Llandaff Fields with adequate parking, proximity to coffee shops & toilets if required.

A suitable Wednesday was chosen in the near future to enable us to inform members by e-mail or telephone of the date, time and venue.

The weather changed and the number permitted to attend outdoor meetings were further limited, so the proposal was cancelled - probably now until next year.

Norman

Special Interest Groups (SIG)

The branch has only two active groups, we would encourage more... if you have a special interest which other members may wish to share with you, please let Norman or a committee member know and we'll do our utmost to facilitate the activity.



Ornithology

The group has met infrequently this year, primarily due to the local travel restrictions. Prior to those being imposed, the group visited Dare Valley Country Park earlier in the year.

Individuals in the group have pursued their interest by visiting local areas and the more distant attraction at Slimbridge. Former Ornithology Group leader, Don Ribeiro, shared his list of birds seen at Slimbridge in September: Lesser Yellowlegs (USA), Cranes (15),

Whinchat, Green Sandpiper and Curlew Sandpiper. Among the garden birds around at this time of migration are: Chiffchaff, Willow Warblers, Swallows and local movements of Titmice, Nuthatch and Tree Creeper.

A proposal to visit Gwent Wetlands is now on hold due to local lockdown.

Bay Strollers

Meet 10:30am onward for coffee and socialising at the Oystercatcher, Terra Nova Way, Penarth, before setting off between 11:15am and 11:30am for the walk. As long as it is dry we prefer the tables outside, even if it is cold. There is a bus stop at nearby Tesco (not currently recommended) or adequate parking space.

Those available from the group meet every Tuesday. Usually 6 to 8 members, but this may be subject to the current lockdown rules at the time.



Lunch is usually around 1pm and continuation/departure sometime after 2pm.

There are usually 2 groups; some only walk to the other side of the Barrage, resting there before doubling back to the Oystercatcher for lunch. The others walk around the whole circuit, usually without stopping (approx 11Km), either clockwise or counter clockwise, back to join the others at the pub.

If time is short we sometimes cross over the main Link Road bridge across the Taff so as not to keep the others waiting.

On Line Talks

Register at www.mirthy.co.uk/NHSRF

Next scheduled talks are:

October 6th The History of Witches

October 20th Sentenced to "Beyond the Seas"

November 3rd Goose Grease & Brown Paper

Christmassy talks are being lined up for December.

My husband purchased a world map.... gave me a dart and said "throw this and wherever it lands I'm taking you for a holiday when this pandemic is over". Turns out we're spending two weeks behind the fridge. 😞

David & Kay's Lockdown Activities (censored)

During this Lockdown from the Covid 19 virus, I have been catching up with my DIY projects; finishing updating the old pond, building a bike shed from a flat pack, rebuilding the shelving in the utility room and getting rid of the clutter in the shed.



The bike shed was bought online and delivered as a flat-pack. I soon discovered it had no floor. The roof was in four parts not two, as illustrated in the assembly instructions, and was seemingly the thinnest old board they could find. I had to get hold of more substantial board for the roof and used the thin stuff for the floor. Once built 'properly', I managed to fit a free-standing shelf unit in the back before the bike went in, so had more storage space. Very Satisfactory!

The Large pond which had sprung a leak last year and had been dredged, the old liner cleaned, then a new liner placed on top and



the pond refilled during a week of rain. It was at the start of lockdown



and I couldn't get to a garden centre for new plants so I pulled out the existing clump of Caltha (Marsh Marigold) from the old pond, cut open the root basket and divided it into five new plants. After re-potting, I placed them on the shelves around the new pond and they were soon in bloom.

I repaired the surrounding crazy-paved paths (some still to do) then caught up with pruning and weeding.

In the utility room, we call the 'Outhouse', the worktop was always cluttered with washing liquid and conditioner bottles, and things en route for the shed or bins. I measured up and produced a scale drawing (I was once a draughtsman) before 'clicking and collecting' timber to build a wall-mounted

rack of four shelves - to store the washing machine needs, car washing gear, extension leads, etc. - to free the worktop. I then dismantled other shelving and structure to reposition the worktop lower and



the shelving higher. I also revamped the plumbing to accommodate a proposed new sink, where we can fill a bucket when necessary.

Then there was forecasted a few days dry sunny weather so I emptied the shed of about 15 years worth of clutter (which I spread all over the garden) then re vamped the shed starting with rewiring the electrics and separating timber which had woodworm.



Before clearance

Kay, meanwhile, had also been busy throughout; dealing with laundry, coffee breaks, meals and housework - as well as painting fences, sweeping leaves, weeding, clipping hedges and cutting grass.

In-between the updating and revamping, making some of the meals, helping with laundry, housework and collecting 'clicked' shopping, I produced a couple of newsletters and managed to phone a few friends.

On average our working day began after breakfast about 9am and it was often gone 7pm before I changed out of work clothes.



**After clearance
I found the
workbench**

In a way this lockdown has helped me to catch up with many things I had been putting off until a rainy day – bearing in mind most of them needed to be done on dry days – and we were lucky enough to have had both. And, of course, lockdown and maintenance activities continue.

