



From a very snowy landscape.....

Enjoy our winter newsletter, updating you on the recent and future activities of Denbighshire Countryside Service, the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB team, and our essential and valuable volunteers and partners.

[Click here to read our News in Welsh](#)

#### Call for Volunteers

We're looking for more volunteers to help manage our precious countryside. Activities range from Dry Stone Walling - through to coppicing, heather burning and grassland management. Getting involved with practical conservation work is not only rewarding, it can also get you out into remote parts of the county with breath-taking views.

All tools are provided, so all you need to bring is a packed lunch, stout footwear and enthusiasm!

It is a great opportunity to meet people, keep fit and learn new skills – and most important of all – to have fun.

[Volunteer Programme](#)

#### Walk your way to better health in 2013

Walking is one of the best ways to improve your health, it's free and makes you feel great. Regular walking can reduce the risk of many diseases, help keep weight under control and is a sociable activity. The walks are led by trained volunteers. Walks are held in St Asaph, Mold, Gwaenysgor, Flint, Buckley, Denbigh, Talacre, Dyserth, Caerwys, Halkyn, Rhuddlan, Lixwm and Llanasa.

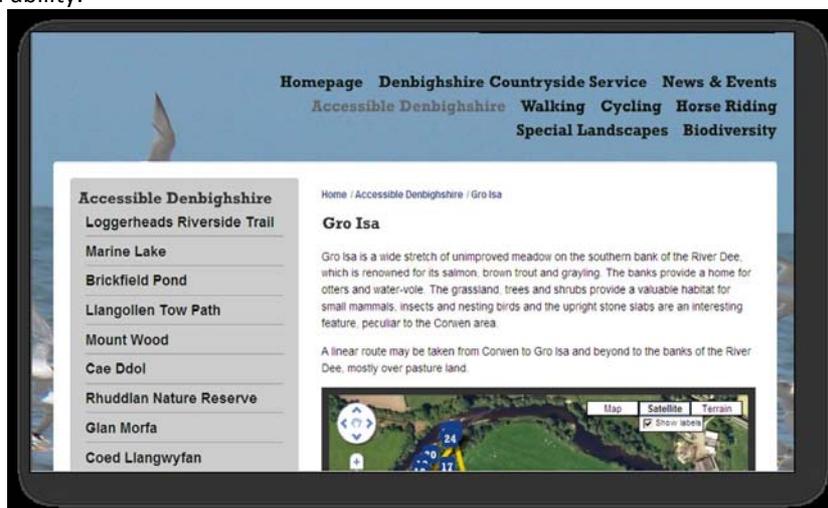
Holywell is the latest area to join the Troedio Clwyd programme of walks. Meet at Holywell Leisure Centre every Tuesday at 1pm. All are welcome. [Walk Programme](#)

#### Orienteering Festival

Despite torrential rain in late September, 273 children from 10 primary schools in Denbighshire took part in a 2-day orienteering festival in the parkland surrounding Bodelwyddan Castle. Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who helped in making the festival a huge success.

#### [Accessible Denbighshire](#)

A new section on the Denbighshire Countryside website has been developed to offer detailed information on accessible sites and walks within the County. Information provided within the interactive maps allows each user to decide if route is suited to their individual needs and ability.



Bash the Balsam success for the 4<sup>th</sup> year!

Results are very encouraging and areas once dominated by Himalayan balsam are now floristically diverse once again. Partners, Landowner support, volunteer work and community involvement continues to be vital.



Watch this space!

Funding has been secured to film life at Loggerheads. The aim is to produce wildlife footage through the seasons and in hidden areas to capture and reveal the Park as a snapshot of life in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A professional wildlife crew will film for a year and a DVD will be available and highlights shown in the Audio-visual room at Loggerheads.

Members Winter Walk.

Members of the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee enjoyed a winter walk to Dinas Bran to see some recently improvements.

[Looking after wildlife in your garden this winter.](#)

[Waxwings flock to Rhuddlan](#)

These delightful small birds migrate from Scandinavia where they breed, when the berries they consume become scarce.

View the [North East Wales Biodiversity Network Newsletter](#) to find out about the success of our natterjack toads this year

Community Crafts!

Local volunteers work with our wardens to manage Hen Ardd, a small wetland within the heart of the village of Eryrys. Local residents enjoyed creating festive wreaths and plant obelisks using the willow that had been coppiced to benefit wildlife.



Young Rangers

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Young Rangers meet for one day a month to work on conservation tasks. These include coppicing, path erosion work and assisting at events. Members also enjoy an annual treat- an autumn visit to Tree Tops in Betws Y Coed. Email for details



Wet weather hampers little terns

There was a mix of emotions at Gronant this year as the little tern breeding season started off well with 125 pairs, a record number for the site. However, rain, high tides and kestrel predation severely affected the overall outcome with between 27 and 47 successful fledglings. Fingers crossed that 2013 fairs better. Through the nesting season from the 4<sup>th</sup> June you can meet one

of the wardens every Tuesday at 11am for the 'Little Tern Lowdown'. Make your own way to the viewing platform. Parking is available at Lower Gronant (opposite the Crofters Pantry Café), SJ090836 then walk down to the Presthaven entrance where you turn left following the Coast Path.

#### New App for Off-Road Mountain Biking

Download our new iPhones App - a guide to mountain biking routes in the Clwydian Range and Hiraethog area. The Ride North Wales App provides a choice of routes, enables you to plot where you are in real time and provides information about public transport and local facilities. Work is progressing on an Android version for later this year. [Ride North Wales App](#)

#### The Greening of Prestatyn

Coed y Morfa, community woodland in Prestatyn achieved a Green Flag Community Award in 2012. Countryside Service, volunteers and the Prestatyn and District Environmental Association transformed this old landfill site into a popular green open space. This year there are plans to hold volunteer events to tackle the picnic area in March and tree maintenance later on in the year. [Volunteer Programme](#). Community allotments have been built on site including the creation of 50 raised growing beds specifically designed to make weeding and plot management easier, water supply, building heavy duty compost bins and entrance improvements. Email for details. Compost Bins built by Volunteers



#### Rejuvenating the Hedgerows

The traditional art of hedge laying involves cutting the hedge back to reduce its bulk and height, by cutting each tree at the base and laying it down at a specific angle. This ensures that a hedgerow remains stock proof whilst also encouraging growth from the bottom of the hedge. Hedgerows have been laid in Rhuddlan Nature Reserve, Prestatyn Dyserth Way and Brickfields Pond.



Visit the new and improved Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB website. [www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk](http://www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk).

LIKE US on Facebook; Denbighshire Countryside Service, Clwydian Range AONB and Loggerheads Country Park.

Keep an eye out for the new edition of Capturing the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley magazine out in the spring, a new leaflet for the AONB and new school trip opportunities at Loggerheads. Visit our website for details [www.denbighshirecountryside.org.uk](http://www.denbighshirecountryside.org.uk) or pop in to the Clwydian Range Centre at Loggerheads – now open every day (Except Christmas day).

A few of our up and coming events.....

Monday 11 February

Early Spring Walk

10 – 12pm

Come and search out signs of spring around the Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Church. Meet at Llantysilio Green car park for a short walk for all the family (some kissing gates on route) SJ198433.

Archaeology Day School

Are you interested in Archaeology? Find out about recent, local excavations at Theatr Twm o'r Nant in Denbigh on Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Speakers from local groups, Bangor, Chester, Oxford and Liverpool Universities will be there to tell us what has been happening at sites ranging from Penycloddiau Hillfort to Eliseg's Pillar, Holt Castle and Moel y Gaer Bodfari.

[loggerheads.countrypark@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:loggerheads.countrypark@denbighshire.gov.uk), 01824 810586 for further information.

Wednesday 13 March

Beginners guide to map reading

2pm – 4.30pm

Basic map reading for those who wish to brush up on their knowledge. A short walk will let you try out your skills. Meet at Loggerheads Country Park.

Saturday 23 March

A Big Heart Day at Brickfields Pond

12pm – 4pm

Celebrate being healthy in the outdoors, take part in easy walks, make some amazing things out of recycled materials and witness the unveiling of the new panel. Brickfields Pond, Rhyl.

[See more events](#)

*Denbighshire Countryside Service are continually applying for Grant funding to ensure that projects continue to improve the countryside for biodiversity, landscape, community and visitors. This year we have successfully attracted over £400,000 again. We would like to thank our partners and funders for their tremendous work and contributions. Some are listed below: Walking with Offa Project and Green Tourism Project with funding through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007 – 2013 which is part funded by the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.*

*Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Sustainable Development Fund.*

*Communities And Nature, Countryside Council for Wales.*

*Visit Wales, Cycling Centre of Excellence*

*Rights of Way Improvement Plan*

*Countryside Council for Wales*

*Heritage Lottery Fund*

*Forestry Commission Wales*

*Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham County Councils*