



Wythnos Bioamrywiaeth Cymru  
Wales Biodiversity Week

4-12 Mehefin / June 2011



**Wales Biodiversity Week runs between the 4th and 12th June this year. Wales biodiversity week is an annual week of activities that engage people in their local wildlife and environment. Most events are free of charge but booking is required for many, if you would like to find out more about any of the events please contact your local biodiversity officer.**

- » In North East Wales the week kicks off on **Saturday 4th June** with an **Eco day at Swinchaird brook in Flint** followed by a **bat walk** in the evening. Keep Wales Tidy will be working with the Swinchaird conservation group, Communities First and BTCV to find out what's living around Swinchaird brook and improve the habitat in this green corridor through the heart of Flint. Mid week, on
- » **Wednesday 8th June** evening we will **launch the Himalayan balsam pulling season for the Alyn Valley** at **Leadmills in Mold** we're now into the third year of our project aiming to eradicate this invasive non native plant from the Alyn valley and with huge community support we are seeing a massive reduction along the river corridor. We'll be exploring the
- » **Nightlife at Nercwys forest** on **Thursday 9th June** evening. We're hoping to experience the sounds and sights of bats, nightjars and owls.
- » On **Saturday 11th June**, North East Wales Wildlife are holding a **Nature day behind the Cross Keys pub, Buckley**. They'll be guided bird walks with an expert from 9:30am and lots of environmental stands and activities for you to get involved in between 11 and 2.
- » Finally on **Sunday 12th** we'll be **making a home 4 wildlife** at a drop in day at **Loggerheads Country Park**. Visit us anytime between 11 and 3 to make your own wildlife home to take home and encourage wildlife into your garden.
- » For a chance to get close to wildlife in Conwy have a look at the **Conwy Biodiversity Events programme**. From exploring the seashore in the summer, picking mushrooms in the autumn to making nest boxes for Christmas, there is an event for everyone at any time of year. Please click on this link to take you to Conwy's website to download the events programme [www.conwy.gov.uk/biodiversityevents](http://www.conwy.gov.uk/biodiversityevents).

## Transform your garden for wildlife

**We may think that gardens are just for our own enjoyment, but if you look a bit closer you will find a whole host of creatures using gardens. If managed in the right way, gardens can provide ideal habitats for animals and plants – many of which are in trouble in the wider countryside. An average-sized garden managed for wildlife can support up to 3000 different species of plants and animals!**





North East Wales Biodiversity Network has launched a new **Wildlife Gardening Information Pack**, which will provide you with help and guidance to transform your garden into a haven for wildlife. Even small changes to your garden can make a big difference for wildlife. "Wildlife gardening is a great way for people of all ages to get involved with conservation", says Biodiversity Officer Lizzy Webster. "And the best thing is that you get to see the benefit of your hard work and watch wildlife using your garden." With the right conditions, you could see hedgehogs snuffling about in the undergrowth, bumblebees buzzing from flower to flower and tadpoles swimming around your pond. Take a bit of time to look in less obvious places too – lift up a few rocks to see what's underneath. You might be surprised how much you find! **The Wildlife Gardening Information Pack is available to download from [www.flintshire.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/biodiversity) or you can contact Lizzy Webster at [biodiversity@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:biodiversity@denbighshire.gov.uk) / 01824 708263.**

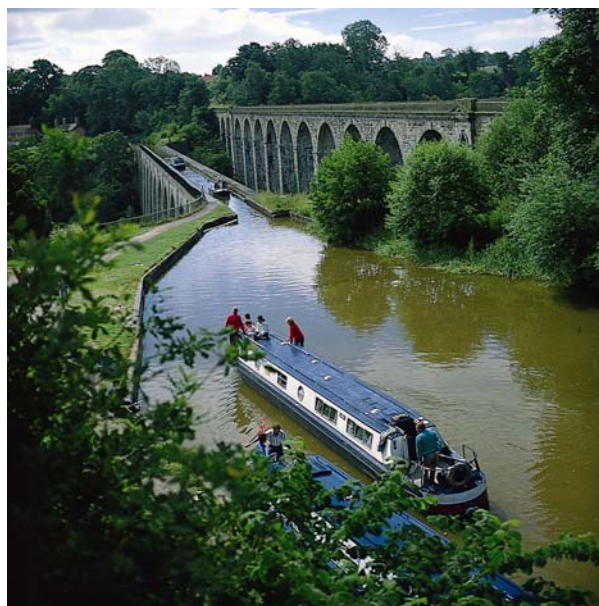
## Record an Alien today!

**Do you recognise either of these plants? The chances are that Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed are all too familiar to you, as they are rapidly spreading along our riversides.** They are not part of our native flora and out-compete many of our native plants, forming dense stands along our river banks. We need to know where these plants are before any control work can be planned, as control projects need to be planned on a river catchment basis. It would be really useful if you could record the location of these plants on the Cofnod website [www.cofnod.org.uk](http://www.cofnod.org.uk). Cofnod, the North Wales local record centre, is collating records of alien or invasive species for the North Wales and Dee Invasive Non Native Species Forum 'Record An Alien' project.



Other species that are being recorded include the signal crayfish, mink and giant hogweed.

For more information on invasive species, please see the [GB non-native species secretariat](#) website. ©Crown



## World Heritage Site Wildlife

**The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal was designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2009. The canal and aqueduct is an amazing feat of engineering, built during the industrial revolution, it is a masterpiece of historic transport development and the greatest work of civil engineers Thomas Telford and William Jessop.**

The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct crosses the Dee Valley at a height of 38.4 metres, and is the tallest and longest navigable aqueduct in the world. The World Heritage site includes 18 km of navigable waterway within Wrexham County Borough, and the Counties of Denbighshire and Shropshire. From its beginning at Horseshoe Falls, to Gledrid Bridge near Rhoswieli, the site includes 2 aqueducts at Pontcysyllte and Chirk, 2 tunnels at Chirk and Whitehouses, 31 bridges, 15 embankments, 16 cuttings and 18 culverts. For much of its length it is lined by trees, small woodlands and wet flushes. There is a strong emphasis on including the local community

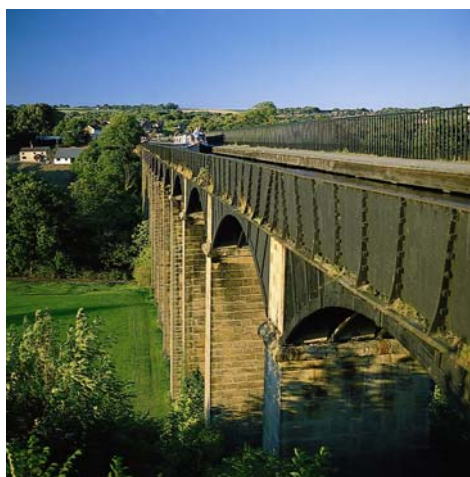


# e:newsletter

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in all aspects of the sites management and promotion which is lead by the Aqueducks Friends Group. As well as being valuable in historical and landscape terms, the canal is an important wildlife corridor which supports European Protected Species such as otter and a variety of species of wild birds. If you walk down the canal at dusk you can not fail to notice the numbers of bats feeding and commuting along the route. These are the target for this summer's wildlife survey. The 18km have been split into 16 routes all starting at a bridge. The sites will be walked twice in the summer by volunteers equipped with detectors. It is hoped that the project will identify roosts within structures, valuable feeding areas and areas for potential enhancement. More volunteers are still needed for the survey, which is strait forward and can be done without any experience. **If you would like to be involved please contact Emma Broad Biodiversity Officer for Wrexham on 01978292514 or email [emma.broad@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:emma.broad@wrexham.gov.uk).**



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## Some useful links:

Wales Biodiversity Partnership: <http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/>

Cofnod: <http://www.cofnod.org.uk/>

Countryside Council for Wales: <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/>

Environment Agency Wales: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/aboutus/organisation/35675.aspx>

Woodland Trust:  
<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/Pages/default.aspx>

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/>

Biodiversity Action Reporting System: <http://ukbars.defra.gov.uk/>

North Wales Wildlife Trust: <http://www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/>

- » This document is also available in other formats and Welsh please contact us for a copy.