



From the Wood

Issue 1

Issued Occasionally

September 2007



John Bunce and friends



COMMON LARCH ▲
Larix decidua

L1 1-3cm. A tree from the high mountains of Europe, grown here for ornament, timber and sometimes for shelter. Needles turn golden brown before they fall.

▼ **JAPANESE LARCH**

Larix kaempferi
L1 1.5-3cm. Difficult to tell apart from common larch, but the twigs are darker, purplish, orange, or reddish, and the leaves paler.



Most of our larches are Japanese larch



WORKING HORSES IN THE WOODS

The larches at the top of the wood need to be thinned out and to do this we have secured the services of John Bunce who will do the work (taking about 3 weeks) using HORSE power. He will arrive on October 9th and we hope to have a demonstration of his horses working in timber on Sunday October 14th.... watch this space for confirmation and times.

Helicopter Spraying in Blaen Brân

33 acres of bracken were recently sprayed in an attempt to widen the bio-diversity of the Woodland and, as well as our continuing programme of planting a mixture of broadleaf and conifer trees, we now plan to plant several thousand smaller trees to include

elder, rowan, dogwood and holly as well as some stands of willow and ash. We are also looking to establish much more heather in the woodland.



Jacob's Fold



Friends of the Earth are in the process of establishing a small plantation within the woods in memory of Mike Jacobs -this is being co-ordinated by Rob Crowshaw of Friends of the Earth and will be called "Jacob's Fold".

Mike was a dedicated member of FoE and energetically campaigned on many local environmental issues, including those associated with the South Sebastopol Development.



The Newsletter of Blaen Brân
Community Woodland

Members and visitors are requested to be very vigilant and report any signs of fire or suspicious activity to the any Director... Phone numbers are:-

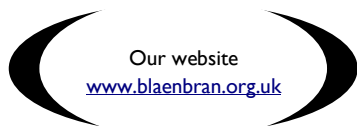
Chris.....860858
David.....875704
Debbie.....860821

Membership Secretary Chris Harris
Phone: 01633 860858

Email: chris@uppercwmbran.co.uk



Blaen Brân Community Woodland is a charitable company limited by guarantee, Registered Company No. 05322374



Membership Numbers Down!

We have only 36 members who have joined or rejoined this year compared to 97 last year. If you have just not got round to rejoining yet please contact out membership secretary, Chris Harris. You can send a cheque with any amended details (particularly new email addresses) to Chris at 11, The Square, Upper Cwmbran, Cwmbran NP44 5AQ. We need your support, particularly when the grant money is spent. £10 a year seems a small price to pay for your share of this improved, quieter, almost motorcycle free beautiful woodland and to help secure its future.

We are always grateful for offers of help in any department. If you are willing to help in any way please contact one of the directors or phone John on 01633 866287 for information on the Wednesday and Sunday work parties. Comments on and contributions to this newsletter gratefully received.



Aubrey Fisher, of The Square, Upper Cwmbran, died unexpectedly on the 17th of September. Always ready to lend a hand he was a regular volunteer in the woods. He will be sadly missed by friends, neighbours and his colleagues in the BBCW.

Aubrey's funeral will take place at 11 am on Tuesday the 25th of September at Gwent Crematorium.

What's On

On Friday 28th September we have a Moth Watch. This is at 7pm so bring warm clothes and a torch. 6-45pm at chapel gate

On Sunday October 14th we will hopefully have the Working Horse Open Day.

On Sunday October 21st we have another of our popular Fungus Forage walks, starting at 10am. There are many different varieties of mushrooms in the woods, some of them delicious to eat, come along and find out all about them from an expert. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please ring 01633 866287 or visit the website to check times

Other News

We have contractors carrying out on-going work, including view points, log seating and turning areas, this will continue for some time.

Work Parties

Our usual Sunday and Wednesday work parties continue, volunteers most welcome. We meet at the Chapel gate at 10am, or phone John on 01633 866287. Good exercise, good company.

Charitable Status

An important step for BBCW has been to apply for charitable status. This helps us in applying for different funding sources and strongly confirms that we are a not for profit group looking to be strongly based in our local community. We have therefore acted on the advice of

the Charity Commission to make an amendment to our Articles of Association, and this was passed unanimously at the special general meeting held on Sunday 25th August. Amended Articles and minutes of the meeting have been sent to the Charities Commission and we now await their decision - we will keep you informed of progress.

The Ultimate Christmas Present!

Gift your loved one Membership of BBCW, giving them shared ownership of 100 acres of beautiful woodland. £15 for 15 months membership (up to April 09) including a welcome letter to present to them on Christmas Morning!

If you visit the area by car please park in the bus terminus, below the Siloam Chapel, and not in The Square.