

## Environmental Improvements

In the last 3 years the following improvements have been made to the village:-

- Landscaping of the Village Green, including:- Removal of the old concrete slabs from the entrance to bus shelter and replacing them with natural stone slabs. Last year we introduced flower baskets to the railings around the green, these are constantly being replenished with peat free compost and insect attracting plants. The benches in the centre of the green have been repainted and spruced up and the area around them tidied.
- The village was awarded a HLF Grant to install interpretation signs and a time line of the village history in the bus shelter, along with the establishment of an IBecon Trail. The children from Brynford Primary School were central to gathering the information for the trail, detailing the local flora and fauna, gathering historical facts and interviewing local residents. They were also instrumental in producing the audio trail, many of them featuring on the recording. The trail can now be down loaded at the school and the Pet Cemetery for visitors to the area to enjoy.
- Last year we introduced flower boxes along B5121 which runs through the village from Brynford to Lixwm, we continue to replenish these with peat free compost and native plants.
- Managed cutting of the grass verges in and around the village to encourage the growth of wild flowers and the building of habitats.
- We continue to hold community litter picks to keep the village clean and tidy. This year we extended our clean up and made a day of it, attracting over 30 local residents and clearing debris from all over the mountain.
- Members of the community have cleared and tidied an area of land outside the old Llyn Y Mawn Inn, picked litter, tidied the verges, cut out dead wood and fallen branches. Last year the children from Brynford Primary School made bug houses to encourage native insect species. This year with the help of the Mountain Ranger they have made new nesting boxes which they intend to hang in the trees.
- An area of common land has been cleared and a new bench installed for visitors to enjoy the area. We intend to add flower baskets and fill with insect loving plants i.e. geranium and cosmos.
- The bee keeper who keeps his bees at The Pet Cemetery has visited the primary school to give a talk to the children about bees and their importance to our eco system. The children are going to visit the bees at the Pet Cemetery to learn about creating the perfect habitat for bees to thrive.
- Landscaping an area for the less able in the community - The residents of Hafod Y Bryn have begun to develop an area within the estate which can be accessed by those residents with limited mobility. They have introduced some hardy shrubs, planted a mixture of spring/summer bulbs and introduced some containers for bedding plants. Some of the new

nesting boxes made by the primary school children as well as some bird feeders are going to be introduced. We hope to continue to make improvements to this area year upon year.

#### Area set aside for Flora and Fauna

1. The Village Green – This area is being managed by the local community to encourage native wild flowers, grasses and trees through a carefully planned programme of cutting, planting and sowing. Species include:- buttercup, mallow and cowslip, hawthorn and ash. The flower baskets are filled with eco friendly compost and insect loving flowers to encourage insects, bees and butterflies.

2. Brynford Primary School – As always the children, staff and teachers at the school have been working very hard to maintain their beautiful wild flower garden by introducing new flowers and a dead wood habitat using wood from the village clean up.

They have also held several ‘Green Days/Eco Days’ over the last year in order to develop flora and fauna around the school. They have been recycling old wellingtons and tyres as containers for flowers and herbs. They have built bug houses out of recycled materials such as plastic pipe and bottles, pots and old bricks to encourage more native insects to the garden and also for areas in the village. The raised vegetable patch is full of peas, beans, potatoes and lettuce which the children sell to parents to raise funds for buying more plants. With the help of a member of the local community, the children have helped to create new seats and planters for the school yard out of old wooden pallets donated by a local business. On the outside of the school railings the children have filled planters donated by the community council with peat free compost and insect loving plants.

3. St Micheal’s Church – The church yard is a haven for insects, birds and small insects. Nesting boxes have been installed on some of the trees at the back of the church. Flower boxes have been introduced, filled with eco friendly peat free compost and insect loving flowers. A wild flower area is being developed in the church grounds and native flowers reintroduced.

4. Pet Cemetery – The Pet Cemetery have been working tirelessly to maintain their immaculate grounds, planting bulbs, cultivating new plants and introducing hardy shrubs and trees. They have created a spectacular rockery and water fall, which features native plants and flowers and will form a home for native wildlife and insects.

5. The Common – Areas of the common have undergone a management project. The Mountain Rangers, along with members of the village have been clearing areas of bracken and gorse to allow the rejuvenation of wild flowers.

#### Use of the Prize Money

If successful in winning the prize money we would like to use it to develop a wild life garden at the edge of the school boundary. We would plant more native trees and shrubs such as hawthorn and ash, clear the area of bracken and litter to encourage the growth of wild flowers and introduce bug houses with the help of the primary school children. Most importantly we would make and install some Owl Boxes, again with the involvement of the children, to which cameras could be fitted in order to live-stream images to the school and the wider community. We believe that this would be a fabulous use of the prize money, not just improving our area but inspiring the next generation.