

Hello,



My first full month completed has resolved a number of issues and raised a few more!
There follows a brief resume of the work we have been doing and what is left to do.
Historical copies of this Newsletter can be downloaded from the Web site – see the 'links' page.

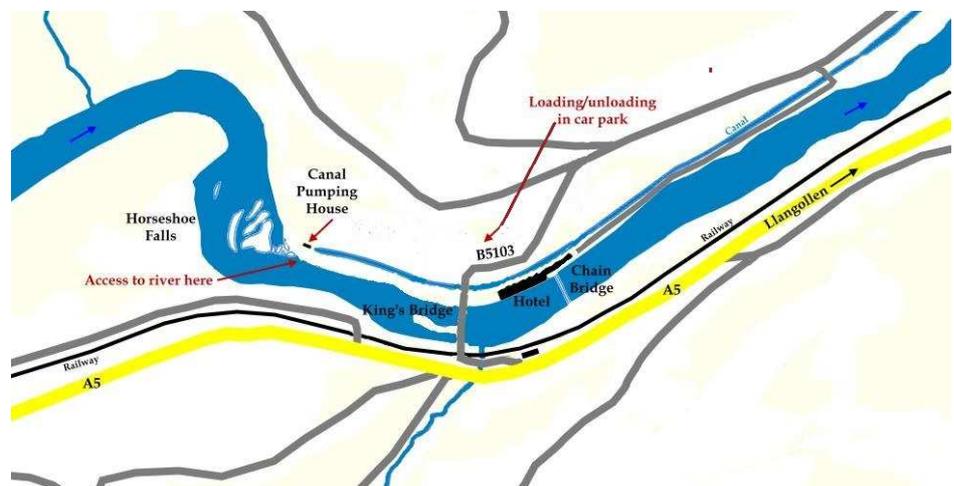
Regards

Tony Gaskin

Web Site

This has been slightly restructured and now incorporates a Watersports tab which shows visitors a selection of activities and provides links to the appropriate operators.

The map for access at Horseshoe Falls has been altered together with the instructions for getting to the Llantysilio car park and unloading.



Note that an interim Code of Conduct (CoC) has been added and has its own page www.welshdeepartnershipltd.co.uk/code_of_conduct but we will be adopting the CoC which is due to be published by NRW (Natural Resources Wales) which has sections for both canoeists and for fishermen.

The gauge cameras are now working although at the date of writing, there is still not a gauge in place at Mile End Mill. I am awaiting a response from a builder to confirm its installation but it should be finished by mid July.

You can access the live feed water levels at:

Mile End Mill, Llangollen:

www.welshdeepartnershipltd.co.uk/webcam?w=llangollen

Glyndyfrdwy – Coed-Y-Glyn

www.welshdeepartnershipltd.co.uk/webcam?w=coed-y-glyn

Social Media

There is a Facebook page now set up which you can access through the Web site or by copying the following address into a browser:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Welsh-Dee-Partnership-Ltd/740071292710036>

It would be nice to get a few more 'Likes' so if you have an account with Facebook, please visit.

A Twitter account has been set up but we'll reserve judgement as to whether that would be beneficial.

Parking at Horseshoe Falls

The main car park that should be used is the public car park at Llantysilio.

Under no circumstances should the main car park of the Chainbridge hotel (the one adjacent to the hotel and canal towpath) be used for river access.

There is an 'upper' car park for the hotel and the following explains when and if this can be used (the text has been provided to me by the manager of the hotel, Seamus O'Keeffe).

"Parking at the Chainbridge Hotel is strictly and exclusively for the use of hotel guests. Access to the river from the grounds of the Chainbridge Hotel is prohibited at all times, and no dropping off or picking up from that site is allowed.

With specific permission of the hotel, and when the public car park is full, spaces can be made available (subject to availability) in the hotel's upper car park which can be found on the opposite side of the road and several yards further on along the B5103. This MUST be organised in advance directly with the hotel either by eMail to reception@chainbridgehotel.com or by telephoning 01978 860215.

Please understand that the hotel has very limited parking spaces in its main car park and it is important that the hotel's guests, as well as emergency service vehicles have suitable access at all times."

Signage

We are planning to erect new signs at access / egress points on the river as follows:

1. Coed-y-Glen / Glyndyfrdwy ACCESS POINT
2. Public Car Park at Horseshoe Falls ACCESS & EGRESS POINT
3. On the canal near Chainbridge ACCESS & EGRESS POINT
4. At Mile End Mill EGRESS POINT
5. On the public car park Ponsonby Arms EGRESS POINT
6. At Ty Mawr EGRESS POINT (subject to permissions)

The signs will be bi-lingual and have maps, instructions and Code of Conduct information

Brochures

Welsh Dee Partnership will be publishing a bi-lingual brochure which is basically a guide to the river for all users – fishermen, canoeists/kayakers and rafters. The first draft is complete and I hope to have availability news by the end of July.

Initially, the plan is to run-off a limited number of hard copies for local operators and central tourist sites and to provide a download link via the Web site.

If anyone wants to see the draft, please let me know and I will send you a link.

INNS (Invasive Non-Native Species).

WDP is supporting the contra INNS initiative (Big Dee Day) and has included sections in the brochure relating to the most common species found on our section of the Dee. The relevant page is below

Important Information about Invasive Non-Native Species

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) are species which are not native to the United Kingdom and are threatening its environment, economy, health and general way of life.

If at all possible, should you encounter any of the sample of species below, please record the information (photograph, location, date etc) and inform the Non Native Species Secretariat (more information at www.nonnativespecies.org).



HIMALAYAN BALSAM – found mostly on riverbanks and damp woodlands. It can grow to 2m tall but has shallow roots. It can suppress the development of other native plants. Recognised by its stout succulent, reddish-translucent hollow stems; leaves in whorls of 3, 5-18 cm long and 3-7 cm wide; flowers with short spur, helmeted upper petal, deep purplish-pink to white, strong balsam smell.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED – found in urban areas, on riverbanks, railways and roadsides. It has bamboo-like stems with purple blotches, shield-shaped leaves and small white flowers. It forms dense stands up to 3m tall. It is possibly the most economically important INNS in GB, as eradication is required by law in property development sites and that can be expensive.



SIGNAL CRAYFISH – found in most freshwater habitats. It burrows into riverbanks and is very aggressive. It is driving the native white-clawed crayfish towards extinction. Recognised by its claws having a red underside and a small turquoise/white blotch on the upper surface at the claw hinge.

KILLER SHRIMP - found in still or flowing fresh or brackish waters. Its tail has distinctive cones, the back is usually striped and can grow up to 30mm in length. It easily attaches to clothing or equipment. Killer shrimps are voracious predators of native shrimp and a wide range of other native fauna. They are likely to disrupt ecosystems through direct predation. Loss of diversity could affect assessments of water quality



Other species common to the Dee area are the **ZEBRA MUSSEL** which can grow densely and block water pipes and generally alter freshwater eco-systems. The **NEW ZEALAND PYGMYWEED, FLOATING PENNYWORT, WATER PRIMROSE, PARROT'S FEATHER** and the **GIANT HOGWEED** are all examples of flora and fauna found on or in the river. For more information check out the Web site www.nonnativespecies.org.

All river users benefit from a healthy aquatic environment. Clothing and equipment that has not been thoroughly dried or disinfected can carry these invasive species. It can also carry diseases that can infect water bodies, often with devastating effects. **Crayfish plague**, a water mould that infects crayfish is just such a disease.

Another potentially damaging plague is **Gyrodactylus salaris (GS)**, a parasite that lives on the skin of freshwater fish and particularly affects salmon. It could be brought in from the continent and has devastated rivers in Norway.



You can help protect the water sports you love by following three simple steps when you leave the water:

Check your equipment and clothing for living organisms. Pay particular attention to areas that are damp and hard to inspect.

Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothes thoroughly. If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.

Dry all equipment and clothing - some species can live for many days in moist conditions. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

If you intend to reuse your canoeing equipment on trips to different UK waters or abroad and there will be less than a seven day gap between your trips, you must ensure that your clothing and equipment has been properly sterilised through one of the following methods:

- Dry to a minimum of 20°C for at least 48 hours;
- Heat to above 60° for at least 1 hour;
- Deep freeze for at least 24 hours;
- Immerse materials in a solution of , or addition of one of the following chemicals to the concentration indicated for a minimum of 10 Minutes:

Virkon (1%)	Wescodyne (1%)
Sodium Chloride (common salt) (3%)	Sodium Hydroxide (0.2%)

About Welsh Dee Partnership

In early 2012 the Welsh Dee Partnership was established to try and resolve issues on the river around the impact of increased canoeing activity on angling interests on the River Dee. The three angling clubs of Corwen and District, The Midland Fly Fishers and Llangollen Maelor brought together local commercial canoeing interests through the Welsh Dee Commercial Operators Group to agree access arrangements.

Extensive meetings have been held with Welsh Dee Commercial Operators Group, Natural Resources Wales, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Denbighshire County Council and angling clubs. This resulted in shared access arrangements being agreed in August 2012 for a stretch of the river from the Horseshoe Falls to Llangollen town weir 365 days of the year. In addition a high water level was set to allow access when the river is above a set height making it unsuitable for fishing.

Receiving the Newsletter

If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter and be informed when a new copy is published, please send an eMail to info@welshdeepartnershipltd.co.uk. Similarly, if you do not wish to receive such notifications, please send an eMail with 'unsubscribe' in the title.

Should there be any suggestions or topics/notifications you would like me to include in future – please let me know.



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Gwledig: Ewrop yn Buddsoddi
mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig
The European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development: Europe Investing in
Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government