

October 2021 Highlights



Open Newtown Ranger, Paul Reynolds riding his new electric cargo bike, provided by Sustrans.

LITTER BINS

Litter bins are emptied twice a week throughout our green spaces, by our waste management contractor Williams Helping Hand who use an electric cargo bike to travel from bin to bin.

VOLUNTEER LITTER PICKERS

A huge thankyou to our volunteer litter pickers who keep our green spaces litter free. Our Ranger has frequent contact with the volunteers, who highlight any areas that need attention.

NEW TOOL STORE

The tool store on Trehafren Hill is now complete with secure storage for our growing inventory of tools. This is for regular use for seasonal grounds maintenance by ON staff and volunteers, Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, Wales Community Rehabilitation Teams and other future partners.

TOOLS AND BULBS DONATED BY MORRISONS

Our Ranger was delighted to meet with the Morrison's Community Champion during October, who kindly donated a number of gardening tools and some spring bulbs to Open Newtown, to be used in the towns green spaces. We very much look forward to seeing the beautiful spring flowers coming into bloom next year. Thankyou Morrisons!





PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH BETTWS LIFEHOUSE

Our Ranger has been in discussions with Bettws Lifehouse to investigate the possibility of having a student for up to 3 hours a week as an assistant Ranger over an extended period. This would be a great opportunity to learn invaluable work experience and get some practical hands on experience with our Ranger.

Bettws Lifehouse students will also be working alongside the Ranger as part of their Duke of Edinburgh volunteering module.

CLIMATE CAMPFIRE

In September, thousands of events took place across the Great Big Green Week, to celebrate how communities are taking action to tackle climate change and protect green spaces.

On Wednesday 22nd September, as part of the contribution to the Great Big Green Week, Open Newtown hosted its first ever 'Climate Campfire' in Dolerw Park. Here young people were invited to join representatives from Open Newtown to chat about their views on climate change and environmental issues, all whilst making popcorn over the fire on a sunny, autumnal evening.

Those who attended took part in a "sticker voting" activity, to gauge their thoughts on climate change. The results showed that most felt it was an important issue, but they only felt worried about it 'now and again'. The majority also felt that they knew either 'a lot' or 'a bit' about climate change and the issues around it.



Thank you to Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn Town Council for their continued support, without which Open Newtown could not provide the service we do for the town.

GRANT AWARDED BY POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

Powys County Council have awarded Open Newtown two £500 grants under the Powys Nature Partnership and Local Nature Partnerships Cymru, confirming a grant award of £1000.00 to Open Newtown for the Vaynor Pond and the Rest and Bee Thankful projects.

Vaynor dipping Pond is to have marginal plants planted around the pond by volunteers.

The PCC grant will pay for the planters (pond plant containers.)

The "Rest and Bee Thankful" project will receive £500 of grant money, to be spent on garden pollinators (bee friendly plants) on the bank above the skateboard park.

This will add to a growing number of informal amenity grasslands devoted to attracting biodiversity, including the wildflower meadows in Dolerw park.



Want to report any problem or issue on our green spaces? Then please contact our Ranger on 01686 610777 or email contact@opennewtown.org.uk.

There's also a feedback form on our website where you can report any incidents, offer ideas and find out more about our projects. The form will put you in direct contact with the Park Ranger, Project Manager's or Directors.
www.opennewtown.org.uk