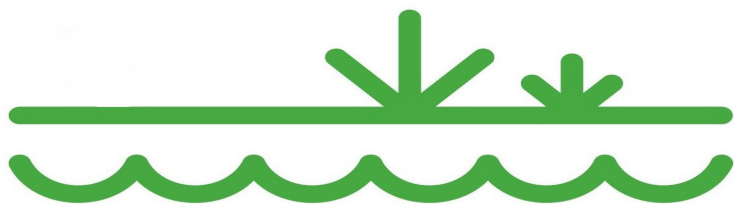


# Living the Levels

**Welcome to the first edition of our 'Living the Levels' newsletter which will keep everyone who has expressed an interest in the Living Levels Landscape Partnership up to date. The Partnership aims to recapture, enhance and celebrate the unique Gwent Levels and has successfully been awarded a £2.5 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.**



Thank you to everyone who shared their views, ideas and stories. Your input has been key in progressing this project, so see inside for more opportunities to get involved!





Magor Marsh

## Our journey so far...

**The Living Levels Landscape Partnership (LLLLP) has come together to deliver a programme of work which will promote and reconnect people to the heritage, wildlife and wild beauty of the historic landscape of the Gwent Levels.**

The Programme seeks to conserve and restore the natural heritage of important features of the area, to develop a far greater appreciation of the value of the landscape through improving interpretation, promotion and access and finally to inspire people to learn about and participate in the heritage of the Gwent Levels.

A £2.5m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund will help leverage in nearly £4m in funding for the scheme to be delivered over the next three and a half years

The partnership is led by **RSPB Cymru** and includes: **Gwent Wildlife Trust, Natural Resources Wales, Newport City Council, Monmouthshire County Council, Cardiff Council, Gwent Archives, Cardiff Story Museum, Sustrans, National Trust, Bumblebee Conservation Trust** and **Buglife Cymru**.

Many other partners from the surrounding community will be involved informally with the project during its life and we are open to the formal partnership growing over the life of the scheme.

**We are really grateful for your support so far and we hope this will continue over the next three and a half years as we rediscover the wonders of this amazing landscape.**

### How do I get involved?

Between 2018 and 2021, 24 discrete but inter-related projects will be rolled out across the Gwent Levels area in South Wales. Read on for a taster of the different projects. There are many opportunities to get involved through volunteering, training and our programme of exciting events. From getting down and dirty with conservation activities, out and about walking and cycling or bringing together valuable research from the comfort of your own home – we like to think there's something for everyone.

**Our next 'Living the Levels' will tell you more about getting involved with Living Levels projects as they get underway so please check your emails or your letter box!**



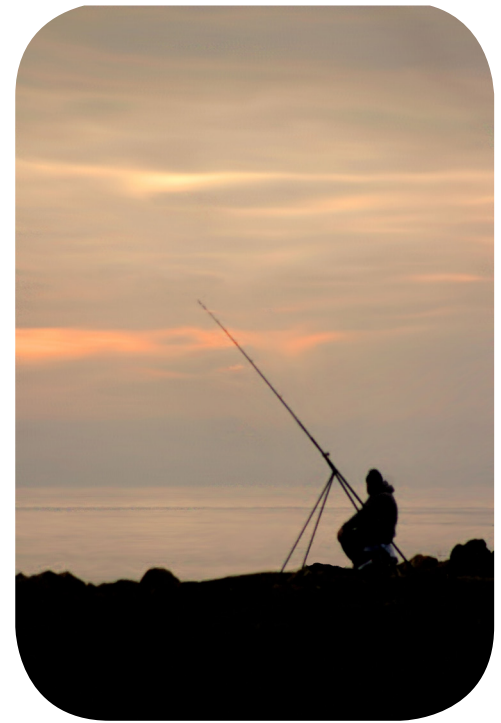
# Events, skills and learning

## Will there be events and activities that I can get involved with?

Whether you are interested in taking part as an individual or as a family group, from history talks to guided walks and creative activities, we are supporting a calendar of events throughout the seasons and across the Gwent Levels, including a 'Big Skies' arts project and Gwent Levels History Day.

## What about learning?

As well as bringing the history and heritage of the Levels into schools and outdoor education, there will be a chance for people of all ages to learn new skills from traditional willow work through to GIS mapping and archive recording.



Wentlooge

# Community

## I love local history – how can I be involved?

We have some really exciting projects such as unearthing and collecting stories and oral histories, historical research and mapping, opening churches and finding creating ways to showcase the heritage of the Gwent Levels – in churches, in visitor hubs and in the landscape.

The Levels has a rich and fascinating history which we want people to celebrate, whether they are local or just visiting.

## I am a Levels landowner is there anything for me?

From filled ditch clearance to orchard management and creating better habitats for wildlife and pollinators– we hope there's something that could benefit you. Plus we're looking for volunteers to help shape future farming practices and policy.

**Contact us to find out more about funding and training opportunities.**

## My community is spoiled by fly-tipping - will you be tackling that?

Fly-tipping is a hot topic and we will be looking at how to bolster enforcement measures as well as working with local people to turn some of these 'black-spots' into 'bright-spots' by creating pollinator gardens.

**So if you feel your community is affected then let us know and stay tuned for further updates.**

## We're looking for your stories...

We know there are loads of fascinating stories from the Levels - some of you have told us some great ones already– we'd like to record these and share them as they are offer a great insight into the history and character of the Levels.

**So if you have any outstanding memories or you would like to help collect these tales, then please get in touch.**



Hendre Lake

## Help spread the word!

**If you think of someone, or a group of people, who might be interested in finding out more about Living Levels and getting involved, please do pass this newsletter on.**

If you do not wish to receive further updates about Living Levels, then please let us know to unsubscribe you from this list

## We'd love to hear from you!

**If you've any questions about the programme or getting involved, drop us a line on:**

**[info@livinglevels.org.uk](mailto:info@livinglevels.org.uk)**

**or call us on:**

**01633 292982**

**Check out our website for updates about the projects [www.livinglevels.org.uk](http://www.livinglevels.org.uk)**

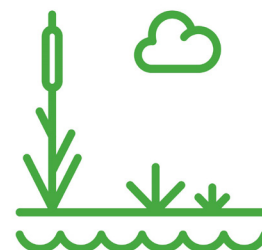
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