

# LLANDEVAUD COMMON

Most of you driving or walking past Llandevaud Common will think 'What an unkempt area it is'. It certainly appears that way for most of the year. Appearances, however, can be deceptive as this type of untidy habitat is very productive for both flowers and insects.

These areas have never been treated with chemicals or fertilisers and thereby maintain their botanical diversity. There are over seventy species of flowering plant growing on the Common.

These include three species of Orchid, Early Purple, Common Spotted and the very lovely Bee Orchid. In the spring Native Bluebells are very prolific as are Wild Daffodils. Less welcome perhaps are the Spanish Bluebell, which is not a native and also non-native daffodils which seem to have escaped from gardens.



Those of us that live adjacent to the Common will usually curse the very productive dandelions that helpfully blow their seed across into our gardens. This weed is of course is much beloved by bees and other insects and if you were so minded provide the ingredients for a very palatable homemade wine. It is an insect friendly flower

perhaps undeserving of its designation 'Weed'. The Common hosts a variety of butterflies as well as crickets and grasshoppers. There are many species of Bumble Bees and Wasps, the latter not always welcome, but useful pollinators of flowers in their season.

Several years ago the Newport City Council started cutting a series of paths around the Common allowing access both for walkers and horse riders and providing a circular route around the Common. Ian Sandeman moved into a house overlooking the Common some thirty nine years ago and has maintained a benevolent interest in the wildlife and flowers on what has been perhaps an underappreciated asset to the village of Llandevaud.

The current provision of the lectern and the information on it will hopefully draw attention to the flowers and encourage a better understanding of this area in a period of change which is altering our natural heritage. Ian designed the sign which is mounted on the lectern using photographs which he took on the Common.



Ian would like to thank the Langstone Community Council for the sponsorship of the lectern and for its support in enabling the designation of the Common as a Wildflower Meadow. He hopes that when you are passing the Common you might be tempted to stop and spend a few moments just to look and enjoy this area.