**Case Study: Mayhill Washing Lake
Swansea March 2019**

**Background**

The Mayhill pond, and stream running through it, has been known for hundreds of years as ‘Washing Lake’ having been used historically as a place to do the washing. It now forms part of a Hillside Wildlife Corridor. There are two areas and the open area faces South with a fantastic view of the residential area leading down to the sea. The two areas are managed by a Friends of Parks group, with one committee organising separate work days for the two sites.

**Group aims**

The group have come a long way in the 2 years since the first committee was formed. The Friends group has around 20 paying members, however there is a supporters list of over 60 people.

The aims of the overall project are:

* To foster and promote positive community action
* To provide opportunities for local residents to get involved with community projects
* To ensure the land known as Mayhill Washing Lake and Green Space North Hill Park are safe and welcoming environments for all the community.

**Volunteers**

The activities aim to involve everyone and bring in a wide variety of local people mostly from the Mayhill/North Hill area. These range from young children to elderly residents from the neighbouring flats, which were converted from the original workhouse. Retired people, working people and people who are not working or working flexible hours come along to the volunteer days and the events.

Volunteer days happen weekly at the food garden and monthly at the pond, with extra working parties and special volunteer days as needed. There are links with local schools and businesses and [Gower Unearthed](http://www.gowerunearthed.com/) have recently come on board to support getting children from two local schools to visit the historic sites and experience the rich biodiversity.

Communication is via a site noticeboard; regular leaflet drops and a Facebook group. A press release is imminent for the groups 2nd Birthday.

**Activities**

So far the group have restored and re-laid paths around the pond, replaced the signs, reinstated litter bins and repaired the bridge. Litter picking is undertaken on a regular basis along with knotweed control, strimming and pond maintenance.

In the community food garden raised beds have been created, along with compost bins, a locking tool chest and signage. The first season of vegetables was planted and harvested and they also created a small orchard with fruit trees and bushes. A host of daffodils has been planted around the area.

The Council does the main grass cutting and maintenance in the park and wildlife areas.

A number of events have been held at the sites including 2 bat walks which were very well attended and a “Big Lunch” event both years.

The group has received support from a range of local services including SCVS, Renew Wales, Keep Wales Tidy, and the environment team at the Council.

Jeff Walton (Secretary): “I’m amazed by the fantastic progress we have made in such a short time with the enthusiasm of many people giving their time and money to care for and enhance their green space.”