

# Llanfair Times

incorporating Lloyney News

**Spring 2024**

We would love to receive your articles, comments, ideas, points of view. The deadline for next July's edition is Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

Please email us at [llanfairtimes@gmail.com](mailto:llanfairtimes@gmail.com)

Like all teams, here at LT we would love more folk to get involved and help with proof reading, distribution, ideas for articles etc. If you would like to join us, please email.

**Happy reading and let's hope it stops raining soon!**

**Llanfair Times Editorial Team**

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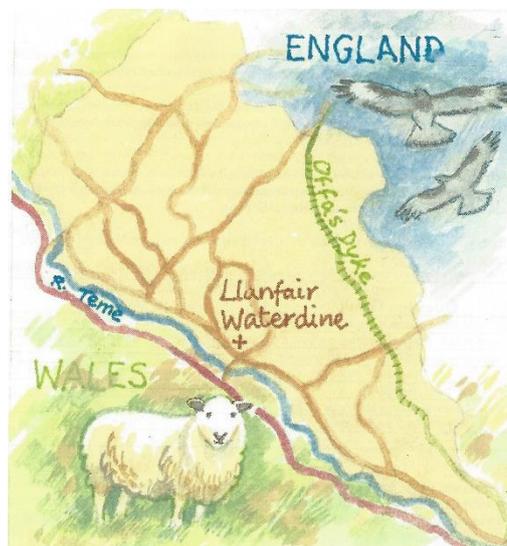
## Llanfair Christmas Post 2023

Thank you to all of you who used the Christmas Post. It seemed worthwhile. Thank you, too, to everyone who left donations. You will be pleased to know the facts and figures: 569 cards were sent. A total of £72.20p was collected from the box and this was rounded up to £75.00p and sent, after Christmas, to Cancer Research UK.

Particular thanks must go to the busy post-people who were: Ruth Davies, Tony Greasley, Robert Gwilt, Barbara Ind, Janet Lewis, Liz Lockey, Mike Lockey, Robert Taylor and Graham Trew and also to Iorwerth Waters who kindly put the post-box on Everest Hall wall at the beginning of December just before going on holiday.

Renewed thanks to all those involved in any way.

*Richard Lewis*



Any views expressed in this newsletter are those of the author and not Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council or the Editorial Team.

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## **February 2024, the hottest on record (Copernicus. EU climate change service)**

Global heating and nature loss are such huge and scary issues that we often feel so disempowered and that any action we may take as individuals, is so small and pointless.

Llanfairwaterdine Parish council has already declared a climate emergency. 'So what ?' you may think.

However, last week they organised a preliminary meeting to see what appetite there might be within the community for action, to actually do something about this and work towards making our community more resilient in the face of climate breakdown. People who were invited for this initial tentative meeting included representatives of the Women's Institute, Llanfair Singers, the Church, the Pavilion and Everest Hall as well as the Parish Council.

Nick Read, project co-ordinator from South Shropshire Climate action (SSCA) ([www.southshropshireclimateaction.org/](http://www.southshropshireclimateaction.org/)) came to explain that they would be there for support and advice if wanted and point us in the direction

of any funding that might be available. They are not there to tell us what to do but rather to encourage us as a community to come up with what we are interested in and what we would like to see happen here. They can help us to do this. In return, SSCA are keen to use us as a pilot study to show what is possible for a small rural community to achieve. Most existing examples of community action are town based.

The mood of the meeting was that this is a positive direction of travel. Too often it is difficult to know where to start, so, a brief discussion followed where a few ideas were thrown into the ring such as:

\*lift shares, \*EV charging point (which could potentially provide an income stream for the village), \*solar panels, \*heat imaging of our mainly old but characterful housing stock with a view to more insulation. \*central delivery /collection point.

Some of these are obviously 'big ticket' items but there is a lot we can do more easily and simply. For example: \*swift boxes, \*LED lights (not everyone has them), \*bulk peat free compost purchase, \*litter picks, \*'no mow may' \*volunteer hedge planting

These are just a few ideas for starters. What would be very positive is for as many people as possible to pitch in with suggestions and ideas about what could and needs to be addressed.

Linking up and shouting about what we already have was seen as an important start....so we already have an eco church, 3 public buildings, one heated by a ground source heat pump and built by the community, events and groups from films to yoga, a playgroup to a drop in tea stop.

We did a survey some years ago asking what people wanted to see in the village...perhaps this is worth revisiting?

Communication is obviously key, so that everyone in the community knows what is going on /what is being considered, especially in such a geographically challenged Parish as ours. Not everyone has or wants a smart phone / whats app/ facebook but we do have Ruth! In fact playing to our strengths is maybe the way forward. Perhaps making sure we have an effective communication system between ourselves is a good place to start so everyone is included.

So what next? I hope most of you will feel that this idea of a more resilient Llanfairwaterdine is worth pursuing. What we found in SSCA is that there is so much already out there and we don't want to waste

time and energy re-inventing the wheel, it is often much easier to join up with existing groups and pinch other people's ideas. All brilliant ideas, however bonkers, gratefully received. They may be small or large, perhaps something you have seen or heard about working elsewhere?

My email is [cwmcole1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cwmcole1@hotmail.co.uk) if anyone feels like sharing their ideas.

We all agreed that any necessary meetings would be much more convivial if wine and beer were on the agenda!

*Janet Lewis*

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## Annual Parish Meeting Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May

### Can Llanfair address climate change?

19.30hrs Everest Hall

Everyone not only welcome,  
but really encouraged to come.

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## What's On at..... The Pavilion

### Regular Classes

#### YOGA

Monday: 10.00am – 12.00 Noon

Wednesday: 6pm – 8pm

#### LLANFAIR LITTLE ONES PLAYGROUP

Tuesday: 10.00am-12.00 Noon

#### SOCIAL EVENING

Friday: 7pm onwards

All welcome

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Food night 7pm onwards, food orders to be taken the week prior 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May - Race Night 7pm onwards.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June – BBQ Evening 7pm onwards.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July– French Themed Olympics Opening Ceremony 7pm onwards.

ALL EVENTS WILL BE ADVERTISED ON NOTICE BOARDS PRIOR TO THE EVENTS AS WELL AS BEING ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.

## What's On at..... Everest Hall

**T Stop** Every second **Saturday of the Month** between the hours of 10.00am and 12.00pm: when you are going past the **Everest Hall** please **STOP** for a welcome break of tea or coffee and biscuits while you are catching up with friends and neighbours.

No charge, all are most welcome.

Contact Flik email : [fizzywaters@outlook.com](mailto:fizzywaters@outlook.com)

Tel No 01547 529789

**Everest Hall 100 Club Lottery.** £5.00 per annum.

Contact Ann email [a.harroway@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:a.harroway@yahoo.co.uk)

Tel No 01547 528477

or Mary email : [marybufton@btinternet.com](mailto:marybufton@btinternet.com)

Tel No 01547 510285

**Mig's Group** held at the Everest Hall every fortnight on a Tuesday.

Relaxed informal Music Group.

Contact Ceri Pearmain email:

[ceripearmain@gmail.com](mailto:ceripearmain@gmail.com) Tel No 01547 529491

**Everest Hall** Llanfair Waterdine available for most events.

Hire charges start at £7.00 per three hour session approx.

Central heating, seating for 100, piano, projector, screen, hearing loop, bar with fridge, toilets inc. disabled, ample parking.

Also handheld and lapel microphones.

Much, much more.

Contact for further information : email

[everesthall@btinternet.com](mailto:everesthall@btinternet.com)

Bookings Ruth email: [ruthmecottage@gmail.com](mailto:ruthmecottage@gmail.com)

Tel 01547 528592

or Mary email : [marybufton@btinternet.com](mailto:marybufton@btinternet.com)

Tel 01547 510285

**Mary Bufton**



Our season concluded in March with the screening of *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*.

The average audience has been 39 with *The Great Escaper* the largest at 54 and *Maigret* bringing up the rear with 29.

Thank you to everyone who help to make *Flicks* a success.

The Everest Hall Management Committee would like to say a huge thank you to Don and Kathy Szmidt who have run *Flicks* for the past few years. They are moving to pastures new and we wish them every happiness in their new home.

Our thanks also to all the volunteers who help make our *Flicks* such an enjoyable evening.

*Flicks* in Llanfair Waterdine has been running since 2002 by very faithful members, for the enjoyment of the whole community, near and far.

If you have details of any new films that you would like to suggest for the future sessions, please do let us know.

With Don and Kathy leaving us we hope there are some people out there who would be prepared to take over *Flicks* for the new season commencing in October 2024. Particularly, we are looking for person/persons who have knowledge of operating the projector and screen. If you can operate a DVD player it is easy.

If you are interested in helping, please contact our Chairman, Iorwerth Waters on 01547 528155

email: [iorwerthwaters@yahoo.com](mailto:iorwerthwaters@yahoo.com)

**David Tollman**

*Most votes for favourite Christmas films went to;*

*Trains, Planes and Automobiles (yes, so it's Thanksgiving... but snow is snow... ), The Holiday and Die Hard (!)*

## *In Conversation with...*

### **Tomos Jones**



**RL:** Welcome Tomos and thanks for coming to have a conversation about your life and of working in the Teme Valley. How long have you lived hereabouts?

**TJ:** I have been here with my family for 15 years. I worked in a timberyard in Builth and lived there. When I moved to Lloyney, where I really like the peace and quiet, I still went down to Builth to work, getting on the train a Knucklas. It was cheaper to travel by train and took about 40 minutes.

**RL:** What made you stop going down to Builth to work?

**TJ:** I fancied a change of job as the new boss was making things awkward. I was looking for a change and a change of house and saw this one in Lloyney (Llwyni). I've been there ever since.

**RL:** Are you originally from Builth?

**TJ:** No. I was brought up in Machynlleth and went to school in Cemmaes Road, Glantwymyn in Welsh. Welsh was spoken on dad's farm.

**RL:** You're a Welsh speaker and a farmer's son, then?

**TJ:** Oh aye, I speak Welsh. I still speak Welsh to the dog. Dad's farm, though, has now been sold.

**RL:** Ah, a pet dog. What sort is that?

**TJ:** A beagle.....

**RL:** Ah yes, lovely dogs but notoriously difficult to train, I've heard.

**TJ:** Aye they are but my dog is improving all the time. She is going on two now so hopefully the worst is past!

**RL:** I'm guessing that you are bilingual, then.

**TJ:** Yes. I spoke Welsh when I was growing up, including at school. In fact, I spoke no English until I was 17 when I got my first job. There was some English taught at school although the medium was Welsh, the same as at home.

**RL:** How did you pick up English at 17 when you were working?

**TJ:** I listened and practised.

**RL:** You are so lucky to speak both languages fluently. If only it were realised that learning two languages when young (although you were a teenager when you really tackled English) enables other languages to be learned with ease. They didn't realise this early on. My dad had to stand in the corner when he was young for daring to speak Welsh!

**RL:** You mentioned your first job. What was that?

**TJ:** Working in forestry and my second job was in landscaping.

**RL:** Do you have any children?

**TJ:** Yes. Christian is 24 and lives in Newtown, which she enjoys. Oliver is 21 and is still at home.

**RL:** Could you please say a bit about your work? How did you come to be a very popular gardener hereabouts?

**TJ:** There were enquiries for a gardener and for someone to do the heavier stuff and word spreads. I work for two or three people in Llanfair. Elsewhere, there have been one or two grisly accidents including to my finger. The doctor in Knighton did a great job on putting it back together as it couldn't be stitched because of the fingernail. Someone I was working with before wasn't so lucky. He chopped his thumb off. He was rushed to hospital and someone looked for his thumb in the undergrowth. They eventually found it and rushed it to hospital. It was too late. The thumb had been lying in the undergrowth for too long to be of any future use.

**RL:** A grisly story indeed!

**TJ:** All I've ever done is twist my ankle. Well, I thought that I had twisted my ankle and worked all day on it only to find out that I had broken it. It had to be put back together and that meant not working for some time.

**RL:** People often comment on the beautiful border that you have created in Lloyney.

**TJ:** I've enjoyed doing that. That has been done with my work partner and has been worthwhile, I think.

**RL:** Word spreads about you and your hard work. Do you need any more?

**TJ:** Work varies from week to week.....

**RL:** Well, I will end our talk here and thank you for sparing the time and, with your permission, I will give your mobile number. It is always good to have someone to ask to help out, especially with spring round the corner.

**RL:** Loyal readers: here is Tomos's number should you need gardening or heavier work done at your property: 07904 326 895.

**Richard Lewis**

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## “The Trotting”



Harness Racing, affectionally also known as trotting, is often referred to as "the equestrian world's best kept secret". For some reason the sport does not get the media coverage it deserves.

'Wales and Border Counties Harness Racing' is the original independent harness racing association. Our area covers South Wales and The Marches, from Caersws to Ammanford. The season traditionally begins on Easter Monday. Race meetings are held

every weekend until the end of September. The mid-week evening meetings are an added highlight during July and August, with the racing at The Royal Welsh Show attracting a crowd that sells out the grandstand and around the track.

Races are run predominately on grass and each venue creates its own unique atmosphere. Of course, each club jealously guards its individual identity, whether it be the typical 'Cardi' meeting at Synod Inn in west Wales or at Penybont in mid-Wales.

Incidentally, fans, officials and riders all know Penybont as the 'Wembley of Wales'! It is seen as a strength of the sport that they take the Racing to the people rather than centralising the sport at one track.

The last race meeting of each season is always a charity meeting, with monies raised always donated to local charities. The occasion also includes the presentation of the annual awards, to the winning horses and riders, which makes for a real party and festival feel. So it is always a great, family-friendly, day.

The Trotting is a truly amateur sport, a family sport, where most competitors own, train and drive their own horses. Newcomers are made especially welcome, with junior racing organised and encouraged. So although the competition is intense, the sport constantly maintains its unique "warmth".

Local names readers will know who have taken part in the sport will include Steven Barrett, John Bevan, John Davies, Robert Reynolds, John Duggan and, of course, John Perks. Many will have travelled to watch, support and possibly 'have a flutter' while enjoying their day out. (Meetings always have on-site bookies). Locals especially enjoyed the meeting at Monaughty in Llanfairwaterdine.



Most of the races are one mile long, occasionally a mile and a half. With over twenty races at each meeting, the racing seems non-stop with the crowds close to the action.

Given the feel and warmth of each meeting it is often thought "the magic of a day" at the trotting races is something which has a uniquely Welsh feel to it.

### **Fran Morgan**

*(Fran is a local (The Farm) and a leading light in the sport, and serves on the organising committees. Rob Gwilt)*

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## **Everest Hall**



### **Everest Hall – Your Village Hall**

#### **200 Club Lottery Winners**

##### **October**

1<sup>st</sup> Margaret Clugsten      2<sup>nd</sup> John Lane  
3<sup>rd</sup> Colin Evans            4<sup>th</sup> Knighton Young Farmers

##### **November**

1<sup>st</sup> Mary Morgan            2<sup>nd</sup> Powell Family  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annie Pearson        4<sup>th</sup> Juliet Gibbons

##### **December**

1<sup>st</sup> Lewis Beavan          2<sup>nd</sup> James & Kathy Thomas  
3<sup>rd</sup> Andy Wilding          4<sup>th</sup> Don & Kathy Szmidt

##### **January 2024**

1<sup>st</sup> Mary & Llewelyn Morgan    2<sup>nd</sup> Kathy Szmidt  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anonymous                4<sup>th</sup> Michael Bufton

##### **February**

1<sup>st</sup> Mo Bates                 2<sup>nd</sup> Francis Beavan  
3<sup>rd</sup> Margaret Swancott    4<sup>th</sup> Phil Morris

We now have 212 members your continued support is much appreciated.

Lottery enquiries [everesthall@btinternet.com](mailto:everesthall@btinternet.com) or any of our Trustees.

### **The History of Everest Hall from an article written by Mrs Nancy Cummins in 1975**

#### **Continued :-**

The yard had small area paved with blue bricks, but the rest was mud and potholes. They bought loads of hard core, borrowed a roller, and did it up. Next they decided to build an 'annexe' along the south wall, to comprise kitchen, ladies and gents, (until now inadequate 'boy's and girls' of the height for children) and the storeroom, more 'do it yourself'! The kitchen was made large enough to use as a Committee room and was fitted with a sink with a cold tap, a Creda water heater, a second hand electric cooker and boiler. They also built fitted cupboards and worktops, which could be used for a buffet.

The Hall was opened in June 1968 by Lord Hunt, Baron Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine in the County of Shropshire, hence the Hall's name. All was made ready for the ceremony with a decorated platform in the car park. However, it poured with rain - a real deluge and he had to open it from inside! He unveiled a large picture of Mount Everest taken from his book. 'The veil' was a Ghurka flag made for the occasion by a WI member in honour of the Sherpas. There is a small inscription on the frame to commemorate the date.

After the sink was moved into the new kitchen, the glass partition was taken down and the stage moved. The stage curtains had donated given many years ago by Lord Hunt from the proceeds of his talk on the Expedition given in Knighton shortly after his return.

To be continued in the next edition to find out what was discovered next.

Thank you , The Everest Hall Management Committee  
[everesthall@btinternet.com](mailto:everesthall@btinternet.com)

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## **Llanfair Waterdine WI**



We are running very successfully at the moment with an increasing membership and a number of visitors at our meetings. If you would like to find out what we are all about please join us for one of our speakers

and find out. Many of us are not crafters and cooks but some are very good. There is something for everyone, especially the friendship.

We held our AGM in November. Due to health problems our president felt that she should step down so we were pleased to elect Margaret Clugston. She has served as our president before and was welcomed back and is now hard at work!

Several members are working on making a new banner and there is also a lot of preparation being done for the County Show which is a wonderful showcase for our crafters. It is held in Knighton. It is open to the public and is well worth a visit. Note 18 May in the afternoon.

We had a well-supported visit to Croft Castle before Christmas. The decorations were lovely. There was a small but excellent craft market and, needless to say, we had coffee and lunch. As usual we had to avoid floods but were lucky and it actually stopped raining!

We don't hold a meeting in January but six of us went to the Pantomime in Shrewsbury. A good outing and floods again but these things usually work out. We also met up for a lunch at the Horse and Jockey. Nearly all members were able to attend. We had a lovely meal and a lively afternoon.

Into the New Year. Our new programme is in place and has a number of interesting speakers. We started the programme in February with a talk by a local resident, Simon Nix. As with a lot of Llanfair Waterdine residents he has many hidden talents. This time it was "Bees and Bagpipes". He gave us a wonderful evening. We learnt a lot about bees and who knew that he could play the bagpipes! It was a fascinating evening full of information.

Our March meeting was a willow making workshop with Bridget Graham. Every member came away with a lovely trivet which had a variety of willow colours. We all felt that we had achieved something. At our next meeting our own member, Andrea Moore, is going to help us to make Zig-Zag books.

The WI has some nationally political clout and takes an active interest in social issues. Every year there is a major campaign. This choice of a project is voted for by every member and is adopted, if approved, at the AGM. The issues this year were Dentistry, Social Housing, Gambling Advertising or Women in the Social Justice System. All our individual members made a choice each of which will now go to National.

If anyone is interested in any of our speakers you are welcome to attend as a guest. Our future speakers are: May "Blood Bikes"; June "Dogs for Good"; July "A Whist Night"; August "Circle Dancing" and September "Mid Wales Fire and Rescue". I think that there is something for everyone.

If you would like to join us for an evening to enjoy the speaker and share a finger supper we meet in the Everest Hall. Meeting: 7pm and speaker: 7.30pm on the first Friday of the month. We are always pleased to welcome visitors.

For further information contact Margaret Clugston 01547 529155 or me 01547 528477.

*Ann Harroway*

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### **Read Easy Shropshire Hills celebrates 5-year milestone helping adults learn to read.**

Just imagine how your life would be if you couldn't read letters, follow medicine instructions, or read a new recipe? Yet, for many people, who missed the opportunity of learning how to read at school, this is the reality they face every day.

Free, confidential, one-to-one help Read Easy Shropshire Hills, a local volunteer organisation, has been helping adults who struggle with reading for the last five years. During this period over 35 adults have taken the brave decision to come forward and join their confidential, one-to-one coaching programme.

They are paired with a trained reading coach and work together through reading manuals, in private, at a time to suit them both. It's as easy as that and it's free!

What's important is that everyone can learn at their own pace without feeling rushed. There's no pressure, or targets, or exams to worry about and no reminders of what it was like at school.

Read Easy now offers coaching beyond the Shropshire Hills area to cover Shrewsbury and its surroundings,

North Herefordshire and East Powys. They also offer coaching online which means that the service is accessible during the day and outside working hours.

### **Anthony learns to read at 60**

Anthony found learning to read hard when he was young and moving from school to school didn't help. He fell behind his classmates and in later life came to rely completely on his wife, hiding his struggles with reading from the world. He didn't need to know how to read as she took care of everything.

His world fell apart when his wife died suddenly. Anthony had lost his life partner and the one person who could deal with everything which had to be read. He opened up to friend who encouraged him to get in touch with Read Easy.

Anthony says his confidence has grown so much since he started learning to read. He is getting his life and his bills under control. He now reads a newspaper and books and does things he would never have even considered doing in the past. He even has the confidence to go on walking holidays in Anglesey with plans to venture further afield.

### **How to get in touch**

Learning to read as an adult is life changing. If you know someone who would like to learn to read, contact Bob Tweddle (Shrewsbury area) on 07597 350439 or by email at [shcoordinator3@readeasy.org.uk](mailto:shcoordinator3@readeasy.org.uk) .

For south Shropshire contact Steve Gibbon on 07707 762653 or at [shcoordinator2@readeasy.org.uk](mailto:shcoordinator2@readeasy.org.uk)

### **Steve Gibbon**

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## **St. Mary's Church, Llanfair Waterdine - An 'Inclusive Church'**



### **'Grass Cutting' Coffee Mornings – All welcome**

April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Hosted by Ruth Davies at Everest Hall

May 1<sup>st</sup> - Hosted by Sue and John Lane at School House

June 5<sup>th</sup> - Hosted by Annette and Simon Nix at Everest Hall

All at 11.00 am on the first Wednesday of the month.

We are delighted that Flik and Liam Waters, together with Lily and Iwan, when available, have agreed to continue cutting the grass in the churchyard. Many thanks to them all.

### **Annual Church Coffee Morning**

We will be holding our annual Church Coffee Morning on Bank Holiday Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00 am in Everest Hall. Details to follow in the Deanery magazine.

### **Jean Gardner**

Jean has decided to step down from organ playing at St Mary's. She has accompanied many services for us since beginning in 2010. The PCC would like to express their thanks to Jean for all her work. She will, of course, continue to support the church as a member of the PCC and congregation with her wonderful reading and singing.

### **Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM).**

This will be held in the church after the morning service on Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 12.30 pm. All relevant notices to do with the meeting can be read in the

church porch. All reports were discussed and adopted unanimously by the PCC at their meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Easter Services at St. Mary's Church

On **Good Friday** there will be a 'Last Hour' service at 2.00 pm.

On **Easter Sunday** we are pleased that once again our morning communion at 10.30 am will be led by Bishop John Davies, the former Archbishop of Wales.

At 6.30 pm on **Easter Sunday**, Llanfair Singers will sing a full cathedral Choral Evensong, with Revd. Dr. Martin Quayle leading the service. Please come to support a rousing end to Easter weekend, which also happens to be the first day of summertime. Details of all the Benefice Services can be found in the church porch.

### Reflection and Compline Services.

The next 'Reflection' Services will be on April 10<sup>th</sup> and June 12<sup>th</sup> at 6.00 pm.

The next 'Compline' Services will be on May 8<sup>th</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup> at the same time.

### Quinquennial Inspection

The inspection took place on February 15<sup>th</sup> and we await the report. The inspection was delayed, with several changes of date, due to the ongoing illness of our regular architect, Richard Lamb.

We take this opportunity to wish Richard well and thank him for all his help over the years.

### Parish Giving

34 people now make regular payments to the Parish Giving Scheme. Information and application forms are available in the church porch. Please contact me if you would like any further information. A new facet of the scheme is that by clicking on a QR code with your 'i phone' you can make a 'one-off' or regular donation. There will be an A4 size QR code in the church. As our church does not have access to the internet, there are also bookmarks in the church with the QR code on the top, which visitors to the church can take away and access later.

### Church Stalls

The Outside Church Stall and the Church Porch Book Stall continue to flourish. Thanks to all those who have contributed, and purchased, items. The total raised since the stalls opened in the summer of 2022 is £1,780.

Please put donated items on the stall, priced if possible, and books, including children's books, in the church porch. (There is a notice there indicating the price of books, which is £2.00 for hardbacks and £1.00 for paperbacks.)

### *Graham Trew*

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### **Organists Play On.....but who is missing?**

Many years ago I set about trying to find out who St. Mary's organists have been.

We know that our pipe organ arrived in St Mary's from Bishop's Castle church early in the twentieth century and we are not sure what it replaced.

We have a list of those who have served as organists and I am very grateful to the late Joan Hobby, the late Margaret Lloyd and the late Joce Williams for information and also to Ruth Davies and Graham Trew, who were Churchwardens at the time of the research.

Recently, Beth Williams of Knighton, in her excellent book of the Upper Teme Valley, mentioned the name of Mr Hatfield, who was organist during the time that he was headmaster of Llanfair Waterdine School between 1880 and 1896. (By the way, Mr Hatfield was the first qualified headmaster in Llanfair Waterdine and was also thought to be the youngest in the country, being only 21 when he was appointed). Mr Hatfield's name replaces Mr Matkin's name as the earliest known organist. I am very grateful to Beth, too.

I wonder if anyone who has lived in Llanfair Waterdine for many, many, years will be able to help fill the gaps or the exact dates of playing of those named but without dates of service. Please see the list below and if you know of anyone who is not on the list I would be grateful if you could be in touch.

<b>William Hatfield Llanfair Waterdine (LW) 1880 - 1896</b>	
<b>Theodore Matkin LW</b>	<b>Mentioned in 1924</b>
<b>Louise Buckley LW</b>	<b>Mentioned in 1928</b>
<b>Margaret Ellwood LW</b>	<b>1931 - 1936</b>
<b>Vera Beavan LW</b>	<b>Mentioned in 1937</b>
<b>Lilian Thomas LW</b>	<b>1936 - 1945</b>
<b>Robert Thomas LW</b>	<b>Mentioned in 1946</b>
<b>Eluned James LW and Heyope</b>	<b>Mentioned in 1946</b>
<b>Laura Jones LW</b>	<b>1920 - 1947</b>
<b>Nancy Cummins LW</b>	<b>1947 - 1978</b>

<b>Margaret Beaumont Lloyney</b>	<b>1947 - 1957</b>
<b>Margaret Lloyd (née Beaumont) Lloyney</b>	<b>1957 - 1994</b>
<b>Lil (Elizabeth) Davies Knighton</b>	<b>1994 - 2003</b>
<i>(Formerly Organist of St Edward's Church, Knighton. Played and recorded on an LP there for BBC's 'Songs of Praise' in 1977.)</i>	
<b>Doreen Hart Knucklas and Knighton</b>	<b>1994 - 2009</b>
<b>Bethan Morgan LW</b>	<b>1998 - 2020</b>
<b>Bethan Gough (née Morgan) Dolau</b>	<b>2020 -</b>
<b>Richard Lewis LW</b>	<b>2002 -</b>
<b>Jean Gardner Knighton</b>	<b>2010 - 2024</b>
<b>Thomas Heakin Knighton</b>	<b>2015 - 2020</b>
<b>Barbara Ind LW</b>	<b>2015 -</b>
<b>Lindsay Bayles LW</b>	<b>2018 -</b>

There have been many 'guest organists' who have played for special occasions, such as the 1988 St Mary's Church Flower Festival. The 'guest organists' are all listed separately but not here.

Thank you in anticipation for your help.

### **Richard Lewis**

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## **From our Vicar**

Yesterday I walked past the premises of the Co-op funeral directors in Leominster. They advertised in their window display different types of funerals which they offered to those looking for something 'different', when the time came for a death to be remembered. There were different ideas of how to do this which were personal, individual and mostly quirky. Reflecting on this, I thought that although this looks initially exciting and liberating, it would land a terrible burden upon any next of kin who had to carry through such a 'service'.

Death is something which comes to all of us. For some it may be sudden or even unexpected. For others it could follow illness or disability, and although ideally a peaceful passing, for some, death can be wretched, either in relation to physical pain, or sometimes psychologically upsetting or disturbing. Circumstances vary, and for most, they have little choice about what happens during their passing.

Some approach death with great maturity and bravery. Others less so. Some may not understand what is happening to them, and this can have a profound effect on those left behind. Grief, or bereavement is complicated, and for some it follows a predictable and straightforward pattern. Others may

find themselves stuck in circles of grief and despair, and don't find ways of coming to terms with what has happened.

With the Co-op approach, it may work well for some, but for others, having to find answers to impossibly deep and troubling questions, whilst designing a service or memorial for a loved one, can be agonising and disabling. With the obligation to 'start from scratch', and design 'a wheel', most would be weighed down by the impossible task of working out what it means to die, and how we make sense of such painful events, especially when it is someone close to us, or someone we love.

For those of us of Faith, death and life events may be mysteries in which there are complications and complexities. But Faith brings hope and can liberate us from the despair which sometimes accompanies bereavement. In the Anglican funeral service, there is a focus on the resurrection as a reason for hope and encouragement to believe that death is not an end, but a transition to another phase of life. Regardless of what anyone may think or believe, none of us actually knows what happens. Moreover, there is a choice as to what our approach may be. Life and love, are miracles. Christians believe that death encompasses miracles as well.

The Anglican church offers something in which there is engagement with optimism and hope, so that in death we are moving into something which is liberating and a fulfilment of our longings and dreams. Regardless of what anyone thinks, Faith offers hope at what for many is the bleakest and most dark of times. Our prayer book was written in one of the darkest periods of our national history. The Civil War had recently ended. The Great Fire of London and the Plague were about to start. When they said, 'In life, there is death', they knew this all too well and all too frequently. And yet they found within Faith reasons to find hope and optimism that death held beginnings as well as endings.

Anglican Priests are trained to deliver pastoral care, which is available to all in a parish - to those of Faith, of no Faith or for those who simply don't know or care about Faith. Funerals and pastoral care have the purpose of enabling those left to acknowledge a death, to have a safe place in which to grieve, and to find reasons for hope and optimism in times of distress and loss. In my experience, when I am able to provide the care that I am trained to deliver and want to provide, then those who are bereaved find recovery and solace through and after a funeral. For those taking the 'Co-op option', it is a very tall order to learn to do something like this with the structure

and depth of tradition and experience which Anglicanism can bring and offer to those who are bereaved.

It is often said that if you want a good death, you need to live well. That means living graciously, with generosity and kindness. Christ, and Christianity offer this to all without cost and with the wisdom and knowledge to put things right. I commend to all of you our church and what we can offer to all those who seek our help.

*Martin Quayle*

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## LLANFAIR SINGERS CHAIRMAN'S DIARY

### Thank you

Where else could I start but by saying a huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Christmas Concert and enabled us to raise an incredible £1500 for charity? An amazing achievement! Thank you.

The New Year started with a bang for the choir: we were straight into rehearsals to sing the second half of Handel's *Messiah*. The performance was at St Edward's, in Knighton, under the baton of Geoff Weaver and included three other choirs. For anyone who has never sung that work as part of a massed choir it is an amazing experience. According to the audience, it was an equally wonderful experience for them, too!

Whilst we rarely sing oratorios, there is little doubt that our reputation has been built upon our choral singing which (he said modestly) is why we are invited to sing Choral Evensong at so many Cathedrals. The next one will be in June, at Bristol Cathedral. HOWEVER, on Easter Sunday (31<sup>st</sup> March at 6.30pm) we shall be singing a full choral evensong on home turf - at St. Mary's, Llanfair Waterdine, and it would be wonderful to see you there. If you have never heard us sing a full evensong or, indeed, never heard a full choral evensong, then this is the moment to do it!

After that we shall be busy rehearsing for more concerts in the summer, starting with one in Brampton Bryan - full details will be forthcoming nearer the time..... and then, of course, there is the legendary choir party..... but you need to be a member to know about that. There's still time to join up!

So, If you are interested in joining the choir, then please contact Graham Trew, Richard Lewis or Michael Symonds, or come along on a Thursday evening to the Everest Hall at 7.20pm and we shall be delighted to welcome you.

*Michael Symonds*

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## NOTICES

### Proud grandparents - Dilys and Iorwerth

Hello, my name is Lewie, I'm 12 years old and I live in Bournemouth (down-south). I play three main sports, football, golf and running.



In football, I play for two teams my local team and my school team. Recently my local team and I got promoted and my school team has just entered a cup.

In golf I recently entered two tournaments at my local golf club, Crane Valley and in one tournament (Junior Championship) I came in 5th place and in the other tournament (Woodland Shield) I won 1st place! I am still training every week to be as good as I can be.

Finally, in running, I do long-distance competitions. I do cross-country for my school and I have just set the all-time cross-country record at my school and in the Bournemouth 5km race for under 16s. My best time for the 5km is 21:17m.

Thank you for reading.  
Hope you have a wonderful day.

*Lewie Waters*

## The Tractor Run

Organised by the Thomas family, with help from Clun, Felindre and Knighton YFC's, a most memorable evening in memory of David, was thoroughly enjoyed by all last December: the tractor drivers, the helpers, the traders and the crowds, who turned out in their hundreds. Over £9000 (!) has been raised, with the monies donated to Wales Air Ambulance, The Farm Safety Foundation (Yellow Wellies) and local YFC's.

Mention should be made of some local businesses who most generously supported the event, namely Teme Valley Tractors (Knighton), McCartneys Rural, Bishops Castle Building Supplies, F.M. Caine and Sons, Slice of Radnor, D. J Bright Building, The George and Dragon, SDK Agri, Presteigne Gates, Morris Lime and Aggregates, Knighton Building Supplies, J.H Morris and Sons and Darren and Lindsey Rogers.

With entries reaching one hundred and twenty (!) mention should be made, and congratulations given, to the local prize winners, especially Ron Bywater, Chris Lloyd, Sarah Bevan, Kim Barnett and Nathan Davies. It should also be known and appreciated that all their prize monies were returned.



Given the numbers involved in the event and given that the Tractor Run made its way from Knighton to Clun, Newcastle, The Anchor, Felindre, Beguildy, Bryndrynog, Knucklas and back to Knighton, the organisers are especially grateful to all the willing volunteers who co-ordinated and helped to make sure there were no issues or problems on the roads.

Such were the numbers involved on the night, some 'Knightonians' thought the Tractor Run bigger than Knighton Show! Well, we can all agree the evening was an event, it was exciting and it was emotional.



Congratulations to the Thomas Family and to the Farming Community.

*(Photos courtesy of Ben Hardwick Photography)*

**Robert Gwilt**

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## Wyn George went to Everest



My recent trip to Everest Base Camp was an amazing experience which completely exceeded my expectations. The scenery was breathtaking, the sights and sounds of Nepal were stunning and made for an unforgettable trek. Although I knew what to expect from research and reading – seeing 6000, 7000 & finally 8,000m snow-capped mountains with my own eyes was something I will always remember.

I have lived in and around Knighton for most of my life and have always been fascinated by the stories of Lord John Hunt's successful expedition to conquer the highest mountain in the world, Mount Everest, or Sagarmatha as it is called in Nepal.

I am getting on in years, have climbed extensively in Wales, Scotland and Europe and I am a long-distance walker who has completed 10,100-mile walks but I had never even seen the Himalaya – so when my wife suggested I went on a trip 'before I got too old to do it', I jumped at the chance.

After flying into Kathmandu where we stayed the night, we had a 125-kilometre hair-raising minibus ride to Manthali airport, where we boarded a 20-seater light aircraft to Lukla, supposedly the most dangerous airport in the world and then trekked downhill to Phakding.

The next day took us to Namche Bazaar, the sherpa capital and gateway to the high Himalaya.



As we trekked on up the Kumbu valley the initial lush green valleys, criss-crossed with suspension bridges and dotted with Buddha stupas were replaced with breath-taking views of majestic mountains.

The accommodation was pretty basic and the food was simple but plentiful.

Our sherpa trek leader was a very gracious, outstanding and knowledgeable chap with a wicked sense of humour.

Everest Base camp at the bottom of Khumbu icefall was the climax of our trip. Even there the top of Mount Everest was still 12,000 feet above us.

The sheer size of the Himalaya is humbling.

*Wyn George*

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## COMMUNITY TRUST

There have been many events over the last few months, mainly the New Years Eve, but we have also held a fish and chip night and Quiz night, to highlight a couple. All were well attended and successful.

### Land Management

The ELS/HLS agreement has been going through some changes to allow this to be extended for 5 years. As one of the largest incomes for the LWCT it is essential that we have this finalised soon to allow us to manage

the land parcels efficiently and in line with the agreement. This will ensure the income we receive is maintained to be utilised for the general benefit of the parish. We also will be starting the work on the triangle, so we look forward to making positive improvements to the area.

### Pavilion Committee

The committee has had some new members join and has many new events planned throughout the year. Please take a look at the notice board at the entrance to the Pavilion for all contact details and monthly calendar of events and activities going on.

Dave Barrett will be organising a Bike Event again in August to support Blood Bikes. This is always well attended and meetings and organisation is ongoing to ensure minimum effect to the community with regards to noise and traffic.

The Pavilion is still open every Friday from 7pm. All are welcome and it is fantastic to see old and new faces.

Finally, thanks to all for supporting the pavilion on Friday nights, it is good to see some many people enjoying themselves and catching up.

Best Wishes,

Llanfair Waterdine Community Trustee

Matthew Croose

Steve Knowler

Will Rogers

Liam Waters

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## PARISH COUNCIL

### Parish Council Website

<https://www.llanfairparish.co.uk>

Have you seen the Parish Council website? You can read Llanfair Times, reports from the Community Trust, Parish Council Accounts, Minutes & Agendas and more! Sign up on the site to receive Email Alerts for the latest news, notifications of planning applications and events.

**Please contact the Clerk for more information. Maggie Brown, 07398 222 310 or [llanfairparishclerk@gmx.co.uk](mailto:llanfairparishclerk@gmx.co.uk)**

Many thanks to Ruth Davies for digging-out the very first edition of what we now call The Llanfair Times for a trip down memory lane.

## Llanfairwaterdine

### The News

Issue 1      November 1997

**M** A meeting was held in the Everest Hall in September at which a committee was formed to come up with and co-ordinate ideas to celebrate the millennium. Suggestions so far are :-

- A parish record with a map, tape, book and photos so that future generations can see what Llanfair was like in the year 2000.
- A family party at the end of 1999 between Xmas and the New Year to involve both Llanfair and Lloyney and close the old millennium.
- An extra room on the Everest Hall to run classes, hold small meetings and provide an office or shop space.
- The rehangng of the church bell.
- A clock on the hall or other village building.
- A heather garden.
- A folly
- A summer bonfire, party etc., similar to the VE Day celebrations.
- Plant trees on the Green triangle near the dyke.
- A flower festival with an exhibition in the hall to correspond with the Wakes, similar to the last one.

If anyone has any other suggestions will they please get in touch with Mary Morgan on 528429.

◆The Millennium Committee so far consists of Chairman: Mary Morgan; Vice: Jim Williams; Sec: Mig Beavan; Members Janet Lewis; John Williams; Joan Hobby; Andrew Beavan; Andrew MacLauchlan; Huw Colvin; Jayne Thomas; Joan Thomas; John Gwilt; Anne Singleton. Each organisation in the parish will put forward two

members so this is not a complete list. We are in the process of trying to get grants for these schemes.

 We hope to produce a regular newsletter about four times a year to let people in the parish know what is going on. If you have items for the next edition please get in touch with Anne Singleton by the end of January.

 A successful quiz was held in the hall on October 4th. which raised £104 for funds. Everyone enjoyed themselves. Another will be held in March.

● We are trying to raise funds to build a shed behind the hall to store furniture. The large trestle tables and wooden stacking chairs are available for hire for fund raising and private functions contact Ruth Davies 528592.

● There is now a book club in the hall. Mary Simmons started it off by donating books which belonged to Paul. The Community Chest gave a grant of £300 to build a cupboard. A further £1000 was won in a national competition run by the Library Association. This money will be used to extend the collection, buy children's books and tapes. Anyone who wishes to borrow books or suggest opening times should contact Mary Simmons on 510222.

Present opening times are:-

Friday mornings 9.45am to 10.00am and 11.00am to 11.15am

First Monday in the month 7.45pm.

Third Monday 6.30pm and WI meetings first Friday of the month.

We would like to open on Saturday mornings for the children. What time?

● A Poultry Whist Drive was held in the hall on Monday November 10th. The next one is on Monday November 24th. at 7.30pm in aid of church funds.

● There is now a notice board in the car park. Anyone wishing to offer services to tourists may place notices on the board contact 510625.

● An information rack has been put up in the Everest Hall. Leaflets are available which give information about voluntary help available in Shropshire and about grants pensions etc. Please

help yourselves to any of these which interest you. They will be renewed regularly.

✕ The Divisional Surveyor Mr Ian Rutherford met the parish council on October 23rd and inspected the roads. Expenditure on the parish roads last year was £38,000 and next year it will be in the region of £34,000.

● Your parish councillors are:-  
Chairman Jim Williams; Vice John Williams; Fred Beavan; Llewellyn Morgan; Raymond Matthews; Ruby Thomas; Barry Swancott. Clerk Gordon Singleton. Your District Councillor is Michael Reynolds of Folly Farm Newcastle, and your County Councillor is Nigel Hartin of Bucknell.

⚔ The parish trustees will be meeting in early December to finalise the list of the over 70's who will receive the Xmas bonus. If you have had your 70th birthday this year please let Fred Beavan know on 528516.

📅 Dates for your diary!

- November 24th Whist Drive Everest Hall.
- December 1st Everest Hall AGM 7.30pm.
- December 13th Xmas Auction 6.30pm.
- December 19th Carol Service with Knighton Town Silver Band at 7.30pm.
- December 20th WI Concert at 7.30pm.
- December 24th Midnight Service 11.30pm.
- December 24th Crib Service at 3.00pm.
- January 18th Christingle Service for families at 11.00am.

## II Give and Take.

Willing to offer lifts for shopping?

In need of a baby sitter?

A garden gadget for hire?

Items for sale or wanted?

Through this newsletter we may be able to help each other out. Any ideas / offers please ring Phillippa Boast on 528734.

● Have you ever thought you might like to keep bees? Ludlow and District Bee Keepers Association run a series of lectures and demonstrations in Ludlow each February and March. Go to an apiary see hives being opened and bees attended to. Even take part yourself. The cost of the lectures is very moderate, there

are summer visits to members apiaries, social occasions and attendance at several shows including Shrewsbury Flower Show. Write to Ken Hoare 10 Oaks Road, Craven Arms, or ring 01588 672739 or Sid Thomas on 528696.

📅 The Bridge Club meets at the Red Lion on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm beginners and players are welcome contact John Boast 528734 or Andrew MacLauchlan 528894.

○ Yoga 10.00am to 11.00am on Fridays in the hall, all welcome. Ring Mary Simmons 510222.

● Circle Dancing is held on the third Monday of every month at 7.00pm ring 510222.

📖 The Church magazine is published monthly at £4.00 per year if you would like a copy ring the churchwardens Ruth 528592 or Andrew 528894

● The Church trail leaflet has now been published. Copies are available from all Tourist and Local Information offices, or from any church involved in the project. Anyone who provides B+B or other services for tourists and would like copies should ring Rev Eileen Lloyd on 530340.

● Nativity play. Props and costumes will be made in the Everest Hall on Saturday December 13th from 10.00am to midday. A rehearsal will be held on Saturday December 20th from 10.00am to midday and the service is on December 24th at 3.00pm. Children with parents and helpers will be welcome at the hall on these dates. Please bring any suitable materials along. Everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed this occasion last year, if you would like more information or have any queries please ring Jayne Thomas on 510203.

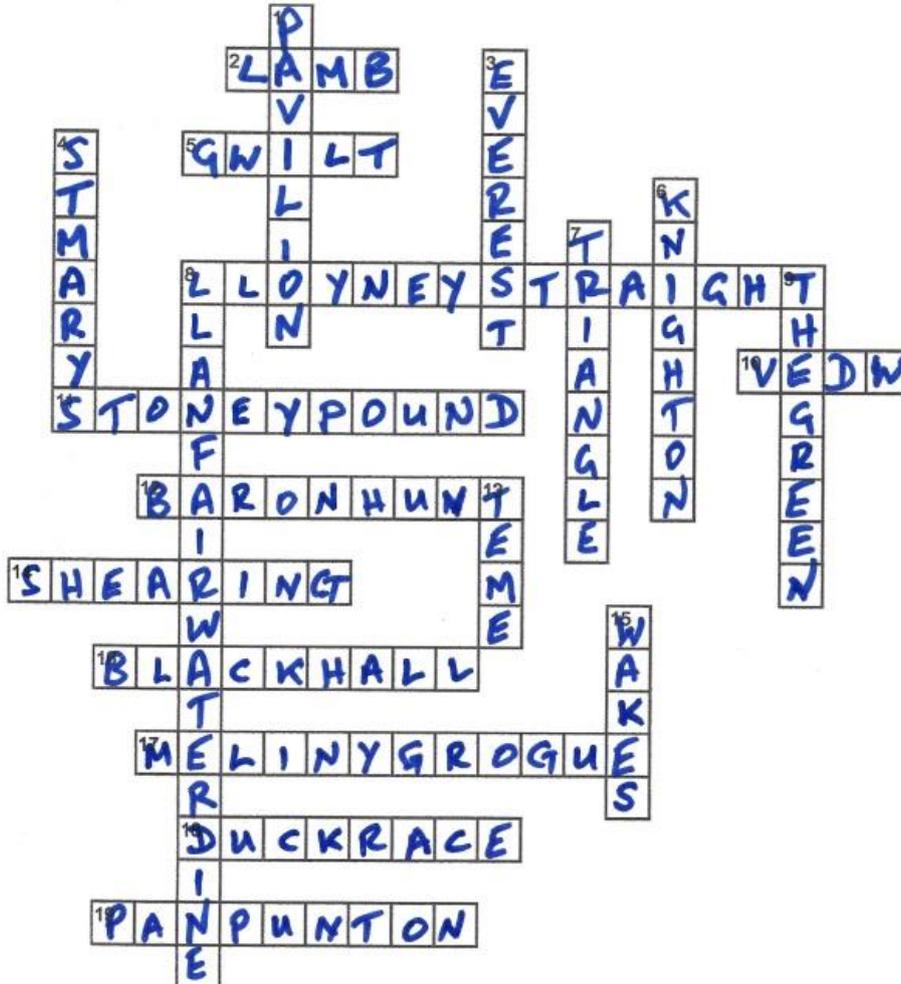
📁 Mobile Library times:-

Bettws-y-Crwn	12.10pm to 12.20pm.
Anchor	1.20pm to 1.35pm.
Moat Cottages	1.45pm to 1.55pm.
Coed-y-Hendre	2.10pm to 2.30pm.
Llanfairwaterdine	2.45pm to 3.00pm.
Melyn-y-Grogue	3.10pm to 3.25pm.
The Lee	3.55pm to 4.05pm.

# Answers to the Christmas Cryptic Crossword

## Llanfair Waterdine Cryptic Crossword

A challenging cryptic crossword of local knowledge



### Across

- 2 Strange balm for Larry. 4
- 5 A bit of fig wilting for our quizmaster. 5
- 8 Angry Hoyles tilt at random on the long, fast road. 7,8
- 10 Back in tow, developed the field. 4
- 11 Rocky currency north of the parish. 11
- 12 Famous local ban on scout. 5,4
- 14 Sounds like a steep call for this June task. 8
- 16 Chalk and ball game at your holiday destination. 5,4
- 17 Hamlet; 'Ere muggy lion confuses!' 5-1-5
- 18 Strange crack due in river spectacle. 4,4
- 19 Peter having bet on the farm. 9

### Down

- 1 One big cat after a small meringue at the Vedw. 8
- 3 Hardest losing head for Jerry, say. 7
- 4 14 pounds of Berry's in church. 2,5
- 6 Board member on the town. 8
- 7 Instrument up on the Dyke. 8
- 8 Somehow Alan airlifted wren from the parish. 8,9
- 9 The juvenile gets this farm. 3,5
- 13 Some extortionate measures for the river. 4
- 15 Comes to in August, traditionally. 5

Llanfair Times *incorporating* Lloyney News is produced by an Editorial Team on behalf of Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council. The Editorial Team comprises: Mark Hughes (Chairman), Darren Knipe, Gail Knowler, Richard Lewis, Jane Thomas, Sandra Thomas and Graham Trew.