Llanfair Times

incorporating Lloyney News

Spring 2026



In this issue

What's on at:

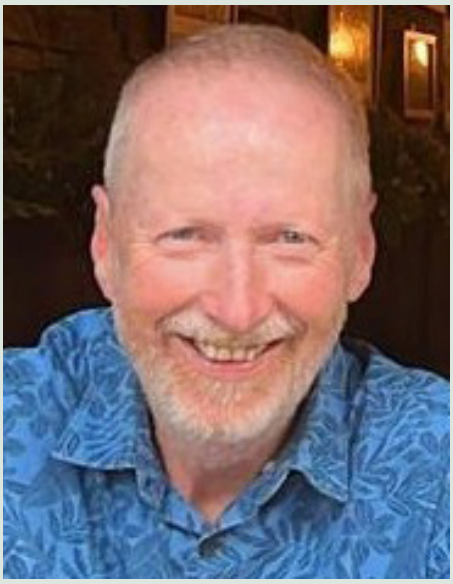
- The Pavilion
- Everest Hall
- St. Mary's Church

Plus:

Last Flicks of the season | Dark Skies
Defibrillators | Tanzania | Tasmania

and much more...

Cover photograph: Sheep on the hill by Jim McLoughlin



Message From The Editor

We would love to receive your articles, comments, ideas and points of view.
The deadline for the July edition is Friday 19th June 2026
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 have something for the next edition or would like to help in any way Please email us at *llanfairtimes@gmail.com*
Happy reading!

Llanfair Times Editorial Team

What's On

Events to look out for in Llanfair Waterdine

Lanfair Waterdine Community Pavilion

We have had a busy start to 2026, along with our regular Friday night social evenings we had a Thai night where Ying from the Castle Inn at Knucklas fed us with her delicious array of Thai Curries. The following day we opened for the Rugby 6 Nations clash between England & Wales which was well attended, Burger and Chips could be ordered for the half time interval and enjoyed with a favourite drink from the Bar.
During January, some residents in the village were hit with a power-cut and it was decided to open the Pavilion for those who had been affected by these cuts. This enabled those without power to at least be warm and able to make themselves a hot drink as well as logging into the free Wifi to catch up with what was going on. Where possible, should the same thing happen in the future we will endeavour to open the Pavilion should it be required.
A special thanks goes to Felicity Waters who kindly opened the Pavilion and let those neighbours close by know.

Boules League

For all those who played in last year's League I am sure they would agree that Boules has become Llanfair's village sport! So, this year we are expecting more teams to enter and you never know we may be able to have more than 1 league...
Steve Chainey who co-ordinates the League has stated that the 2026 season will be starting April/May depending on how many teams enter.
If you fancy giving Boules a go then this could be the season for you, grab yourself a teammate and put your names down. One thing I can guarantee, it is so much fun! If we have a spring/summer like we had last year, a balmy evening spent with neighbours and friends enjoying a favourite tipple with a touch of competition is a perfect stress buster. If you wish to enter this year's League then please let Steve know as soon as possible.

Our Charity of The Year

Each year Llanfair Waterdine Community Trustees & The Pavilion Management Committee decide which charity they will support. This year's charity is The DPJ Foundation which provides support to those in the rural communities of Wales, especially men in agriculture. It does this through spreading awareness of Mental health, educating people through Mental Health First Aid and providing practical support to those in the sector through the 'Share the Load' counselling referral service.
We will have events during the year where all

profits raised will go to this worthy cause, the first being a Quiz night on 27/2/26 kindly hosted by Paul Marriot Lodge. A couple of volunteers from the charity will be there on the evening to give a talk about their work. However, by the time Llanfair Times goes to press this event will have occurred so look out on our notice boards for how much was raised from the event.

Upcoming Events at The Pavilion





Friday 27/3/26 – The ever-popular Fish & Chip night. Please note that the bar will open from 5.30pm so that orders can be made promptly for 7pm

Friday 17/4/26 – Race Night with Cheese & Biscuits. A great fun evening for all with the added bonus of 'nibbles' throughout the evening.

April/May – Start of Boules league (as detailed earlier), get your entries to Steve Chainey as soon as possible

Saturday 16/5/26 – Eurovision Song Contest on the Big Screen.

Friday 19/6/26 – BBQ & Rounders /Field sports night.

Sunday 12/7/26 – Wimbledon Men's Tennis Final on Big Screen with Afternoon Tea.

Saturday 15/8/26 – Trust Day

19th&20th September – 'The Ryan Davies Challenge Cup' Boules Tournament.

23/10/26 – Cheese & Port Night and Indoor Skittles

6/11/26 – Fireworks & RJ Smokeshack food van

4/12/26 – Christmas Market

Every Friday evening the Pavilion is open from 7pm for our regular Social Nights, everybody is welcome.

Gail Knowler
Pavilion Management Committee

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arts alive FLICKS IN THE STICKS



Storyline:
After a controlling owner (Dustin Hoffman) pushes him too far, chef Carl Casper quits his position at a prestigious Los Angeles restaurant.
As he tries to figure out what his next step should be, he finds himself in Miami. Carl joins forces with his ex-wife, best friend and son to launch a food-truck business, and the venture provides a chance to reignite his passion for cooking — as well as his zest for life and love.
Jim McLoughlin

St. Mary's Church Llanfair Waterdine



St Mary's Church Llanfair Waterdine 3rd April at 2.45pm

Good Friday 'Last Hour Service'

including Faure 'Requiem' with Llanfair Singers and Sean Farrell – Organ

May Bank Holiday Church Coffee Morning

We will be holding our Annual Bank Holiday Monday Coffee morning in Everest Hall on
Monday, May 25th at 11.00am.

There will be our wwusual cakes and produce stalls, raffle, tea, coffee and biscuits and who knows what else may turn up!!!
We would love to see you there. **Entrance FREE.**

Grass Cutting Coffee Mornings at 11.00am. All welcome

4th March - Hosted by Mary Morgan at Everest Hall
1st April - Hosted by Ruth Davies at Everest Hall
6th May - Hosted by Richard Lewis and Graham Trew at Melin-y-Grogue
3rd June - Hosted by Christine and Steve Chainey at Thistledown
1st July - Hosted by Ruth Davies at Everest Hall

Reflection and Compline Services

These are held on the **second Wednesday of the month beginning at 6.00pm** and lasting about half-an-hour.

Reflection services are **held on the even months and Compline on the odd months.** Thus, the next Reflection services will be on
April 8th and June 10th
and Compline on
March 11th, May 13th and July 8th.

Easter Services

On Good Friday, April 3rd, Llanfair Singers will lead a 'Last Hour' Service at 2.45pm, performing the 'Requiem' by Faure.

On Easter Sunday, April 5th at 10.30am, we are hoping that, once again, our service will be led by Bishop John Davies, the former Archbishop of Wales although this is still to be confirmed.

Women's Institute

This has been a quiet period for our group after Christmas excitement. We had a lovely December meeting with the Knighton Handbell Ringers. They gave a wonderful performance with many-stranded harmonies with the bells. It is a lovely sound especially with so much detail. We also had a tasty lunch at the Castle Inn.
We do not hold a meeting in January but in February we had an excellent talk from Katie Smith about "Sign Language". She is the leader for the Herefordshire Diocese for developing the use of sign language within the Church. She was fun and lively and helped us to understand how sign language works. It has a different structure to spoken English. And, yes, we did manage to sign our names!
Our next meeting is 6 March. It is our annual meeting and we have a lot to discuss.

Ann Harroway

News



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

We believe in Inclusive Church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.
We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity or sexuality.
We believe in a church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ.

Christmas Services

Many thanks to all those who gave their time to arrange flowers in St Mary's for the Christmas celebrations; to those who erected and decorated the tree: to David Morgan for setting up the church floodlighting and to Sue Lane and her team for making sweet-filled tree decorations, which were given to all those who attended services during the season. Thanks are also due to priests, lay leaders, readers and organists who made sure all the extra services ran smoothly. Our carol service, led by the Knighton Town Silver Band, had a congregation of 90, who enjoyed sherry afterwards and raised an enormous sum for 'The Samaritans'. There were 44, including 9 children, at our Crib Service and 40 on Christmas morning when we were again fortunate to have Bishop John Davies, former Archbishop of Wales, to lead our service. He brought members of his family with him, including his grandchildren, who made good use of the 'Children's Corner'.

In Memoriam

Brigadier Andrew MacLauchlan and his wife Eva moved into our community in the 1990's, when Andrew retired after serving in the Army at home and abroad for many years. They were a very active couple within our community, being avid Bridge players, Andrew a member of the Local British Legion and both supporters of The Samaritans. They both supported St. Mary's Church with Andrew being Church Warden for 11 years. Sadly Eva died very suddenly in 2004, a bitter blow to Andrew but he continued his association with St. Mary's for many years. His final years were spent in a Nursing Home in Chesham, near to family. Many family and friends attended his funeral recently at St. Mary's, followed by burial with his beloved wife in the Churchyard.

Sadly we write of the death of **Maureen (Mo) Bates** recently. Mo had very bravely suffered a long period of poor health with the help and loving care of her family. We extend our sincere sympathies to Iain and Simon, their wives Olga and Clare and Will, Mo's brother in their very sad loss. Mo's legendary cooking will be very much missed in our community.
Memories of Tom Jones, a great supporter of our church, are elsewhere in Llanfair Times.

Interregnum - update

The second application date for a new Priest-in-Charge for the Middle Marches Benefice closed on Sunday 22nd February. We are sorry to say that there were no eligible applicants.

North Aisle – Faculty

Having carried out work on the North Aisle under a 'Temporary' licence (TMRO), application for a full Faculty has meant much form-filling since the end of 2025. I am pleased to say that on 10th February we heard that a Faculty has been granted from the Chancellor of the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Hereford.

Repairs Update

Robert Taylor writes: Earlier this year representatives of the PCC met with the Parish Council at their invitation to discuss possible cooperation. We agreed to work with their newly set up 'Nature Restoration Group' to look at ways of making the wide diversity of plants and birds that live in the churchyard more accessible. We held a site meeting and invited the group to submit proposals for improving access and increasing the diversity of the space. This process is ongoing and the hope is to start work on the first phase soon. The work will involve landscaping a triangular area in the Northwest corner. The churchyard is a quiet, peaceful , place and offers scope for enhancing the variety of plants living there and hopefully improving the numbers of birds and animals living in and moving through it. More to come, so please watch this space.
Meanwhile, we are thinking of the next phases of the reordering of the interior of the church. We need to level the floor area in the north aisle, put in a water supply to the church building and, as resources allow, provide kitchen and toilet facilities.
All the work, internal and external undertaken over the past year, was carried out by three excellent local craftsmen: Richard Roberts, John Devaney and David Barrett. We thank them for their integrity and skills. We are also grateful for the help and advice of the diocesan property team at Hereford and in particular Stephen Challenger and Lorna Theophilus.

Parish Giving

Thirty three people now make regular payments to the 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 is 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 stall outside the church gates and the bookstall in the porch continue to provide additional funds for the church. Thanks to all who donate eggs, produce, preserves and saleable goods and to all who buy!

Graham Trew

Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust

As we move through the winter months and look ahead to spring, it's been a busy and productive time. There's plenty to share from the past few months from exciting funding news, thank you's and then plans for the future.

AED Installed

Grant from the British Heart Foundation

We are delighted to confirm that funding for our new AED has been secured thanks to a grant from the British Heart Foundation.
Originally we discussed working in partnership with the Parish Council and providing a grant to pay for a new AED, but in parallel we agreed to see what grants were out there and select the most effective option. We came across a British Heart Foundation opportunity, which would mean that we could have a fully funded AED! Therefore rather than spending close to £2,500 on a new AED from LWCT funds, we took up this opportunity and it's fair to say we are delighted with the results!

The defibrillator cabinet is now in place and clearly visible, providing reassurance that life-saving equipment is available within our community should it ever be needed. Access to an AED in

the first few minutes of a cardiac emergency can make all the difference. We are extremely grateful to the British Heart Foundation for their support in making this possible.

Stone Donation from KBM
A big thank you also goes to KBM for donating the stone used to create the hard standing for the AED unit. This ensures safe and secure access in all weather conditions and has helped keep project costs down. Community support like this makes a real difference.



Environmental Projects – The Mound & The Triangle

We are continuing to work alongside the environmental group on improvements to the mound area/bike track at the Pavilion, with a larger and more ambitious project planned for the Triangle.
The aim is to enhance these areas for wildlife and parishioners alike, creating welcoming and sustainable green spaces. We are particularly keen with the suggestion from the group to involve Llanfair Little Ones. This in our opinion is important so that children can play an active role in shaping and caring for their environment.
More details and opportunities to get involved will follow as plans develop.
Finally, it is worth mentioning that the LWCT and Management Committee will be looking to spruce up the Pavilion over the next few months, to ensure we have a welcoming and well maintained building for the benefit of the whole community.
As always, thank you to everyone who continues to support and work collaboratively with the LWCT it makes our objectives far easier to achieve.

Thank you, Llanfair Waterdine Trustees
Matt Croose
Steve Knowler
Will Rogers
Liam Waters

Thank You to Will Rogers

After four years of service, Will Rogers is finishing his term. We would like to record our thanks for his commitment. As anyone with a young family knows, finding time for yourself is hard enough, never mind finding time for voluntary organisations. Four years is a significant contribution, and the time and effort given has not gone unnoticed.

Land for Let – Turbary, Hordy & Gravels

A reminder that applications need to be submitted for the three parcels of Land for Let by the end of March:

- Turbary
- Hordy
- Gravels

Anyone interested should ensure their application is in on time. A poster with full details is available in the Pavilion. But feel free to email the Trust using either our email: Llanfairwaterdinetrustees@gmail.com or drop a letter applying at the Community Pavilion post box
These parcels remain an important part of our local heritage, and we encourage anyone interested to take a look at the information provided on our poster.

FUN FACT

the external defibrillator we know today was invented by Electrical Engineer William Kouwenhoven in 1930

GRIT & DETERMINATION

Llanfair Waterdine was very lucky that Roy Lloyd showed real determination to secure a gritter for our parish. He was finally given the go-ahead to pick one up from Craven Arms just in the nick of time before Storm Goretti blew over, dumping many inches of snow. On the tops there were four feet drifts. It took a few days and 60 miles of ploughing to get round us all.

We are very grateful to Roy, Graham and Owen Lloyd and to Martin Richards for their hard work and long hours. I was delighted to see Owen coming up to Llanwoley as it was getting dark. And thank you to Louise who was no doubt in the background keeping them all on the road. The Parish Council has installed a new grit salt bin and shovel by the Everest hall - thank you EH committee for 'hosting' it. There is also a smaller black bin of grit and a shovel by the church - thank you to Gail and Steve for hosting that one.

It is worth being prepared for snow. If you have to go out, take a shovel with you in the car and a small bag of grit. Please go steady. Or sit tight and wait - Roy and his team will be round.

Jane Thomas



Local 'Water Baby' Makes Waves at County Championships

While most toddlers are hesitant about their first dip in the pool, Eddie Watts was making it clear by three months' old that he was born for the water. Fast forward to January 2026, and that life long passion has officially translated into personal competitive success on the county stage.

Known affectionately as the Water Baby, Eddie's love of the water has been clear since infancy. As many children cry going into the pool at a young age, Eddie would be the one crying when it was time to come out, emerging after two hours with nothing but wrinkled skin and a desire for more.

That determination found a home when Eddie began training competitively with the Ludlow Swim Squad. After securing county qualifying times in October, Eddie travelled to Wolverhampton to represent his club at the Shropshire County Championships.

Competing in his first-ever championship, Eddie faced a daunting challenge: due to the timing of his birthday, he was forced to compete in the 15 and under category, making him one of the youngest swimmers in his heats.



Despite the age gap, Eddie didn't just participate - he dominated his own previous records. He successfully qualified for the finals in both the 50m Freestyle and the 50m Butterfly, delivering a performance that left his family and supporters in awe.

Event	Previous PB*	New PB	Improvement
50m Freestyle	34.14secs	31.83secs	-2.31secs
50m Butterfly	40.10secs	37.28secs	-2.82secs

*Personal best

He did amazingly well! Not only did he qualify for the finals in both races, but he smashed his previous personal bests from October.

With a successful championship debut under his belt and significant time shaved off his sprints, the future looks bright for our Eddie.

Jane Watts

We finally saw a victory!

Shrewsbury 3 Swindon 1

and Robert was a happy man!



Llanfair footpaths – any volunteers?

As reported in the last Llanfair Times, we've made a start on repairs to the first section of Circular Walk 2 which starts from the lane just by the church, then on to Offa's Dyke. (Visit the parish council website to download the walks)
In the coming weeks, we will be replacing worn and rotting wooden stiles with kissing gates, repairing other timber furniture and clearing fallen tree branches and undergrowth through the woods. Hopefully this section will then be ready for use by the spring / summer, and open the way to completing the repairs along the whole walk, which are relatively more minor, mostly needing improvements to signage.
Paths near Melin-y-Grogue which offer some good walks also need attention when the weather improves later in the year – hopefully! But we do need more volunteers to help on small work teams. Although we don't need a lot of people to carry out tasks at any one time, it would be good to have more volunteers on the list to make it easier to find dates that people can do – so do let me know if you are interested.

Ben Eastop 07803 725 706



The Nature Recovery Group has been busy

The Wildflower Verge is planted up with herbaceous wild flowers, spring bulbs and a few seeds scattered. In the churchyard we have cleared some brambles and long grass so that we can monitor an area for existing species by leaving it uncut. As soon as the weather allows we will also plant a semi-circle of small native trees, underplanted with spring bulbs, in the top corner of the church yard. We are sourcing a bench - somewhere to sit for reflection and remembrance.

We've had a go at removing dock and nettles from the Tump and while working on it we decided our next project will be to plant a few small native trees and shrubs there to create a wild playing area. We'd love to involve the toddler group and the older children from the parish and will publish details of when and how but the weather needs to improve for this too!!

Jane Thomas

Community Engagement – helping each other

The Llanfair Times has been asked to include a questionnaire in the next edition with a view to identifying ways in which we can enhance community engagement, so we need to know what are our needs and priorities.
How do we support young and old, sick, isolated, non-drivers? Do you feel you need help? Could you offer help? There is already so much support happening but could we do more? What about a parish Whatsapp group? What benefits could that bring?
The parish directory is now nine years old and needs updating but we need your express permission to be included. Lookout for a request!
Please take time to consider, discuss with neighbours and maybe email us with views at llanfairtimes@gmail.com . Alternatively, most parish councillors are often to be seen at the pavilion on a Friday night, collar them with suggestions!

Everest hall Lottery Winners

03/11/2025 - 01/12/2025

1st Barbara Carter
1st Joyce Stratton
2nd Jean Gardner
2nd Jennifer Perry
3rd Charlotte Wood
3rd Mary Morgan
4th Mark & Rita Hughes
4th Derek Beavan

Christnas Bonus Draw

1st Ted Gough
2nd Francis Beavan
3rd Lynda Wood
4th Simon Williams.

05/01/2026 - 02/02/2026

1st Tom Hubmann
1st Mary Morgan
2nd Judith Tollman
2nd Ann Harroway
3rd Ian Magowan
3rd Ruth Davies
4th Lewis Beavan
4th Sue Lane

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all our members.

Everest Hall Management Committee.
Email : **everesthall@btinternet.com**

Christmas Post

The Christmas Post, from Everest Hall, took place again, with 893 cards delivered and £130 in donations being raised for Cancer Research UK.

Many thanks to Iorwerth Waters, Chairman and Trustee of Everest Hall, for putting the box up for us, and allowing Everest Hall to be the place where cards could be posted. Many thanks, too, to our post people: Ruth Davies, Tony Greasley, Robert Gwilt, Ann Harroway, Barbara Ind, Janet Lewis, Liz Lockey, Mike Lockey, Robert Taylor and Graham Trew.

Lastly, a big thank you to all who supported this venture again which, in turn, supports Cancer Research UK.

Richard Lewis



Features

In Conversation with Joyce Stratton & Ian Magowan



RL: Thanks for sparing the time to come around for a chat for a short article in the next Llanfair Times, so that people get to know who you are.

RL: Could I ask what brought you to this area?

JS: We've always wanted to live in Wales and we are as near as can be. We love this area, especially the scenery. We feel that we have a perfect home which is a converted barn on the Black Hall estate.

IM: We lived in Quainton in Buckinghamshire just like other local residents although we didn't know each other when we were both there. We love the area and will stay on.

RL: May I ask, do you have any family?

JS & IM: We have none between us but we both have brothers and I (JS) have a sister.

JS: Both my parents are alive and visit us.

RL: Any pets?

JS & IM: No, it wouldn't be fair on the pets because we go away quite a bit. For instance, we love to stay at Co-co's which is soon after passing Bleddfa and Meadow Springs at Caersws.

RL: Do you both work?

JS: I work at Llandrindod Train Station. It is not overly busy but enough to keep the station open. I sell tickets and plan journeys for customers. It is a pleasant job. People are grateful to be helped and almost all interact pleasantly.

IM: I am a driver for Preserve Timber in Builth. Takes me about 40 minutes in the morning to get there. I am used to narrow lanes and so am not fazed by the lanes around here!

RL: What do you think about living in Llanfair Waterdine?

JS: We love it. We have been very welcomed by Sharon and Andrew and by others. We are getting to know people and love going to The Pavilion during the summer months. We particularly enjoyed the film last Saturday at Everest Hall, too.

RL: What about your garden? Are you gardeners?

JS & IM: Laughter! We have a garden and like to have shrubs in pots. We enjoy the garden, especially sitting in it!

RL: Where are you both originally from?

JS: I am from Tiddington in Oxfordshire which is between Thame and Oxford.

IM: And I originally come from Amersham, in Buckinghamshire.

RL: Look at that! I grew up in Buckinghamshire and then my parents moved to north Oxfordshire. The roadside edges in Buckinghamshire were becoming too manicured for them and they found north Oxfordshire was still relatively wild!

RL: Do you know how old your house is?

JS: I believe it is 15 years since the conversion...

RL: And do you have any hobbies?

JS & IM: Yes! Walking, swimming and card and board games.

RL: Do you have any holiday plans?

JS & IM: No, because we are getting married in June in St Mary's Church, Llanfair Waterdine. We will have a reception at the Pavilion. People are coming from as far afield as Germany and Canada!

RL: What would you say the future holds for you?

JS & IM: Taking it easier by going away in the camper van and generally relaxing more! That won't be too difficult to do as it is so relaxing here!

RL: Thank you for coming around and for having a drink.

JS: Thank you for this and for that orange and mango gin. Can I take a photo of the bottle please? It was delicious!

Richard Lewis

Eating In

Flicking through a Maltese recipe book following our son's recent visit to Valetta and a planned future one for us, the recipe below caught our eye, so we tried it, loved it and have repeated it many times. Hope you will, too.



Spinach, Leek & Tuna Pie

Ingredients

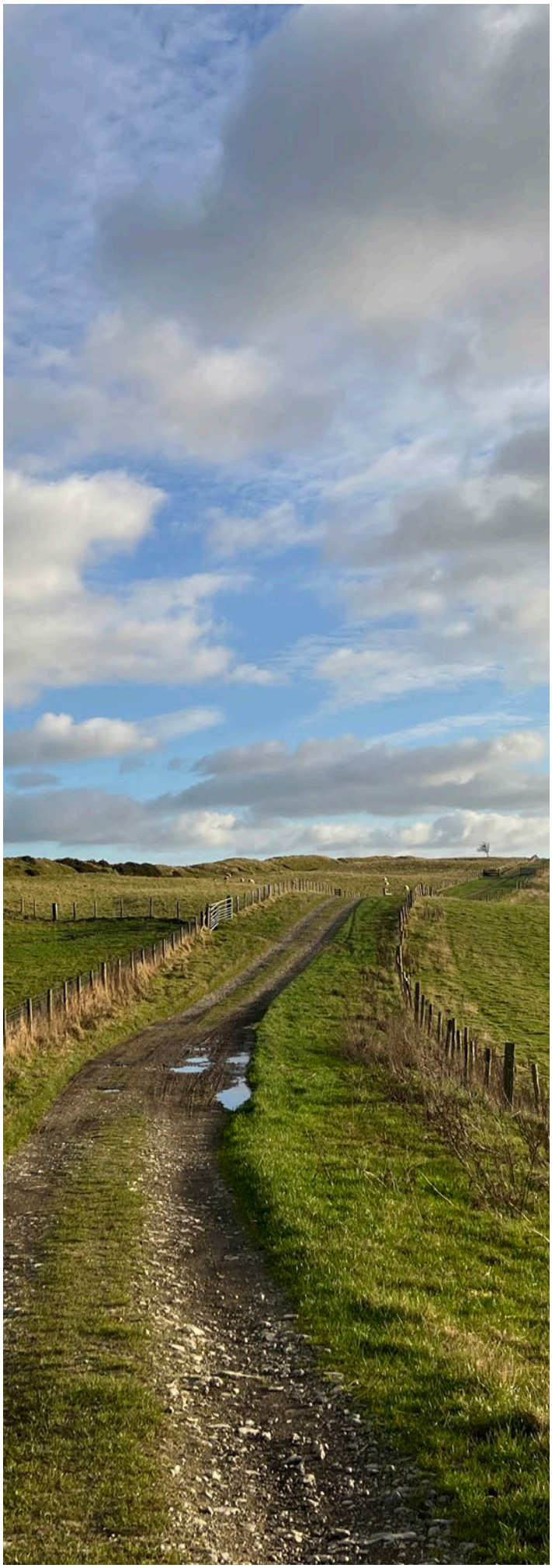
- 800g shortcrust pastry
- 2 x bags spinach, approx. 600g
- 200g leeks
- 2 x medium onions
- 100g black olives, pitted, chopped
- 4 cloves of garlic
- 1 x large or 2 x small tins tuna in brine
- 1 x egg beaten
- 1 x small bunch fresh basil, chopped (or dried if you can't find any)
- Freshly ground nutmeg
- Olive oil
- Sesame seeds (optional)
- Salt & pepper

Method

- Wash, peel, chop the leeks. Peel and chop the garlic, peel and chop the onions. Add them all to a large frying pan and fry until soft.
- Add the chopped spinach, drained tuna, nutmeg (to your taste), chopped basil, chopped olives, salt and pepper to taste.
- Mix it all up carefully and fill your pie dish. Moisten the edges.
- Roll out the pastry and cover the pie dish. Seal the rim by pressing down and crimping. Trim the edges. Make a slit in the top to allow steam to escape. Brush with the beaten egg and sprinkle with sesame seeds if wanted.
- Bake at 180C for about an hour or until the pastry turns golden brown.

We serve it with mash and vegs - whatever takes our fancy.

Mark Hughes



Finding My Happy Place Or 6 weeks 630 miles at 63



It was dark now; I'd found a good spot to pitch my tent, the first night and I'd remembered how to put it up. Everything was sorted and, in its place, ready for a good night's sleep before the following days backpack and then the next 6 weeks of walking and something like 630 miles of stunning coastal scenery. This was the South West Coast Path, let the adventure commence.

The sea is my happy place this big walk just connected so many holiday memories that I've enjoyed with my family... it tied it all up into a very neat adventure, I hesitate to use the word holiday!
But the sun was shining...

I'd started at Poole to finish at Minehead, most people (and guidebooks) go the other way. I planned very little, booked nothing but did take a careful note of all of the river crossings and tide times.
I figured that walking myself fit over the few weeks would prepare me for the brutally physical Bude to Hartland Quay section – this worked.

What I hadn't counted on was the pure number of people you meet going in the other direction. It was lovely! Never did I feel alone, great conversations with people from all over the world but all with a common goal – I think the path was touched with Trail Magic and a fair smattering of people touched with eccentricities.

My initial target was to meet up with friends at Plymouth Sound in around two weeks, a possible lawn pitch on the Lizard but basically not much of an agenda. The plan was to keep going, keep the sea on the left and savour the moments

And the sun still shone.

And so, leaving the Isle of Purbeck behind me, a daily routine emerged where I would wake up at 5.00am and be packed up and walking by 5:30am then walking a couple of hours before stopping somewhere with a perfect view and a bench seat – this almost always happened! Here I would brew a pint of coffee (two sachets worth) and ginger nut biscuits / choccy bar, consumed while I caught up with my blog and just gawped at the view. I did a lot of gawping. Then packed up until the next shop / café where more food was consumed and always ensuring that I could top up my phone & battery bank and water bottles. I estimated that I consumed around a minimum of eight litres of water every day and thankfully never got dehydrated. With various stops and rests along the way I would aim to find a spot to camp after 9.00pm if camping 'wild' or earlier if staying at a site, but always the walking first thing in the day and towards dusk were special moments. Food was almost always in my thoughts... The sun still shone.

Inevitably coast path walking is quite a physical challenge, there are big hills to go up usually followed by big hills to go down, repeat this many times. Gradually the recovery time at the tops of the climbs lessened and I knew I was regaining my fitness. And always the sea by my side, useful to cool my feet and enjoy a swim.

At the River Erme crossing I met a lovely couple who after exchanging contact details I would meet again in Falmouth and then again on the North coast. Strangers are just friends that you've never met.

Refreshed, laundered and recharged from my

stay with friends I walked on into Cornwall and on towards the Lizard, here I stayed with friends of friends. Three ladies of 'seniority' the oldest and brightest was in her mid-nineties, sherry was out by 3.00 pm I made it to just after 10.00 pm, the first to retire!

A completely unexpected delight was being told by a fellow walker about a small bay that had a stream cascading down onto the beach in a manner not unlike a shower – it was quite perfect, I spent the whole afternoon swimming, showering, reading and then slept out under the stars with only a seal for company

The Lizard was spectacular and hasn't suffered the 'development' of other coastal areas, my favourite breakfast was in Coverack (my worst in Weymouth almost made me a vegetarian). The best swimming was in Nanjizal, Lands End was quite naturally a turning point but I didn't enjoy the experience; I was too busy looking forward to the prospect of sunsets, Cornish mines and looking for Poldark locations!

The SWCP Facebook group was a good source of information and comradery, this and my own WhatsApp group supplied me with much feedback, encouragement and fun! Lots of talk of the sheer quantity of adders on or near the path. I have a curious but uncomfortable fascination with snakes... ultimately I only saw a corn snake being dragged around Paignton esplanade! The theory is that the impact of feet and walking sticks moves them away long before you get to them. I did however see slow worms and lizards and from above Peregrines. Ticks were also very popular... And still the sun shone... until the day when I'd really wanted good views. The highest point of the whole path – Great Hangman. The whole day was shrouded in clouds and heavy rain fell – even the chef in the Combe Martin café took pity on me and gave me extra bacon! BUT this was the only day when I wore my waterproofs for the whole day, and the really good thing is I was walking into Exmoor and the end of my epic walk.

I had no problems whilst walking, my boots were the most comfortable things I've ever worn, my kit all worked, my walking sticks were essential, the only issue I had was non-walking transport. The train down to Poole was delayed by an hour, and then returning to Taunton from Minehead the heritage train broke down –and then the alternative bus I got onto also broke down!
I spent 44 days on the path of which two were travelling. Of the 43 nights, 22 were wild camps (three under the stars), 11 were camp sites, two were hotels and eight were with friends. I lost over 6kg in weight despite my attempts to eat Cornwall...

Richard Roberts

Postscript:

All this was back in 2023. The next year Karen and I walked the Pennine Way with the thought of cycling from Land's End to John O Groats (LEJOG) in 2025. However, I was forced to take it easy after having a heart procedure which is why this year I am very keen to cycle LEJOG and hopefully raise some funds for the British Heart Foundation.
I will be cycling solo, unsupported and taking a few interesting routes to see nice places and meet nice people. If you'd like to donate please go to my just giving page www.justgiving.com/page/richard-roberts-65 or catch me in the pavilion!

Thank you





Tom Jones
Llanfair Hall

Among the purple-marked sheep on the Llanfair hill green,
With bunches of cattle in a quiet scene,
We remember Tom Jones of Llanfair Hall—
strong, kind, and warm,
A true countryman shaped by life on his farm.

From Llanfair Hall to the Knighton market town,
Trainers a tapping as he wandered down,
He knew the farmers and buyers, every face—
Knighton market was his place.

In his boiler suit, with a hair-flick grin,
You'd always feel welcome when Tom walked in;
A kind infectious good man through and through,
Whose warmth would find its way to you.

A friendly nod, a laugh, a tale—
Tom's presence and memory never seemed to fail.
Intelligent, thoughtful, loyal, true—
A friend to many, and his family too.

Market Reports and Prices brought regular chat
His support of bringing lambs to Knighton,
we were so grateful for that.
His cattle too were always popular sorts
and only last sale he topped the report

At the Horse and Jockey he'd share his tales of folk,
Of sheep, of cattle, of trade and normally a joke,
Stories flowing, laughter wide,
A life well-lived with humble pride.

A beer in hand, a slow-drawn fag,
A chat that never seemed to drag;
His laugh—his cackle—bold and bright,
Could always warm up Christmas Fatstock Night

So time to rest now Tom, we will share your story
Of a life lived well, at Llanfair Hall in all its glory
And all of our hearts now focus on your treasured Danielle,
She has the whole of Knighton Farming Community
and beyond to see her well.

God Bless You Tom

Eulogy for Thomes Stephen Frederick Jones

Good morning Ladies & Gentleman. Before I go any further I would firstly like to say what a privilege and honour it is to have been asked to provide this tribute to such a vast crowd present here today. The sheer number of people present here is testament to Tom.

How do I start with a eulogy to someone like Tom? Well, I will begin with the textbook start but in true 'Tom' fashion, I'm sure it will finish on a different note...

Tom was born Thomas Stephen Frederick Jones on the 17th January 1954 in Shrewsbury Hospital. He was named Thomas Stephen after his father's father and Frederick after his mother's father. He was the second child born to his parents, Evan George Jones and Kathleen Mary Jones (previously Brown). He was not a very big baby and when the health visitor came to weigh him she said she had seen better legs on a chicken (which I don't think altered much over the years). Those of you that knew Tom well will know that over the years he has had several 'incidents'. His sister remembers the first time being that he fell out of his highchair and suffered concussion. However he soon recovered from this.

Tom had also learnt the art of 'tickling fish' which meant lying on his stomach by a brook and he would spend hours with his sister in Cwm Colla brook catching trout to take back for his mother to cook for them all for tea.

Tom's father George was very proud of his son and from an early age he would have him out on the farm and take him for trips around Llanfair Hall of an evening. This is something Tom continued to enjoy doing in the evening right up until recently. He had a sister - Christine - who was only 18 months older than him, they both have very happy memories of playing on the farm together in early life. In 1959 they went to Beguildy Primary School where they stayed for three years. Their mum would drop them off for the bus at Lloyney to go to school every day and pick them up at 4.00pm in the afternoon to take them home. In 1962 Tom went to Fishmore Hall near Ludlow, where he remained until 1965. It was here where he met Stephen & Andrew Pugh from Llandewi

Hall and Colin Pugh from Cwmwhitton who became lifetime friends of his.
Tom passed his 11-plus exam and could have gone to Ludlow Grammer School; however his mum decided it would be best he went to Bedstone with more of the locals and he spent five years there. While he was at Bedstone he boarded but very often on a Sunday he couldn't resist the temptation to cycle, with a few of his friends, back to Llanfair Hall. His mum would give them a good supper then take them back to Bedstone.
After leaving Bedstone he went back to work at Llanfair Hall. However, he did spend a few months on work experience at John Johnson's farm near Albrighton by Wolverhampton, a farm which neighboured his cousins' two farms, Pepper Hill & Parkside. Whilst helping his father on the farm, even back then, they were both huge supporters of Knighton Market and would walk hundreds of sheep down the back road to the Old Sale Fields for the seasonal sheep sales. On one occasion when there was a bad trade, they decided to buy around 1,500 ewes from the sale. Obviously, they had to walk these back up the road and it's said that upon the first ewe getting in the yard at Llanfair Hall, the last ewe was leaving the sale field. He was also a keen member of Knighton YFC and Club Chairman in 1975, when Knighton won the County Rally. I'm told that when the bus was heading back into Knighton after a YFC dance he would often start singing 'The Green Green Grass of Home'. quite fitting given his name. In 1971 Tom joined Knighton Young Farmers at the age of 16, where he took part in the stock judging at the Rally at Tan House and won the Albert Pritchard's Shield alongside Colin Pugh, Cwmwhitton and Roy Lewis, Carters.
He was chairman of Knighton YFC when the club celebrated its 30th anniversary and also had a big part to play in organising one of the largest barn dances ever, which took place in June 1975 at Blaenycwm Farm. There were 2,500 people in attendance and Showaddywaddy were playing, at the time number two in the pop charts.
In 1975, Tom's father died suddenly while sorting cattle on the hill at Llanfair Hall. Tom was only 21 and he took over the running of the farm, with the support of his mother. However, ten years later in 1985, she also passed away suddenly while shopping in Knighton. From then on, Tom was on his own at Llanfair Hall.
When his sister Christine got married, he appropriately took the place of his father and walked her down the aisle which I am sure this was a huge privilege to Tom as I know he thought the world of his sister and would share stories about them very often. He helped a great deal with the wedding and made an excellent speech.
In 1987 Tom met a lady called Margret Magowen. When they had a mutual interest in a local farm that was for sale at the time. As a consequence he met her daughter Christine and in 1988 Tom & Christine were engaged to be married. However the engagement lasted five years before they got married in 1993. Now, Tom would often talk about their wedding in St Lucia and it surprised me that he would want to go all the way out there to get married. On asking Chris recently why this was so, she mentioned that he found it very appealing, that it was cheaper than a wedding in this country and that the wedding dress was included in the price... Tom wouldn't miss out on a good deal.
It's worth mentioning that among the people on the island at the time of the wedding were Cilla Black and Princess Margaret's friend Colin Tennant (who owned the hotel they were staying in).
They went on several rather exotic holidays together including one to Zimbabwe where Tom visited a ranch owned by the Kennedys where they had 150 Pedigree Limousin Cattle that each had a person to look after them individually, grooming them every day. They also had 12,000 native African cattle. I'm sure he would have been more interested in these than the pampered pedigrees... While in Zimbabwe they attended a casino where the drinks were free as long as he kept gambling which meant a long night in there, getting home eventually at 4 in the morning, even though he had to be up at 6am to go White Water rafting at the Victoria Falls. This is a trip Tom really enjoyed and would often talk about.
Another interesting holiday for Tom was a trip to Disney Land, Orlando, Florida, another adventure that surprised me. Chris recalls them sitting in a restaurant that was serving buffet food. The table next to them had put their food on the table and gone to get condiments. Tom decided to chuck a chip on the floor, which landed by these people's table; as soon as one seagull saw this, a

mob descended on their table and demolished all the food. He thought this was hilarious, but they thought it best to move on from that situation. Other interesting holidays included Tunisia, The Dominican Republic and Tenerife.
Tom & Chris parted ways in the late 90's but remained great friends and business partners.
After every holiday, no matter how much he had enjoyed the trip he was glad to arrive back at his beloved Llanfair Hall. Since his father had passed, he bought ground adjoining and rented some further afield, keeping over 300 Cows and 3,000 ewes in his prime, this would be in addition to 600 younger cattle he would be finishing and the store lambs and ewe lambs he would have purchased each year. This was something that Tom was very proud of. He was a good employer and looked after his staff. I've never heard anyone say anything to the contrary.
As I've touched on, the most important thing to Tom had always been Llanfair Hall.... until the turn of the century on January 13th 2002, when Danielle was born. She replaced Llanfair Hall on the top of the priority list. He would really enjoy taking Danielle around the farm to check the stock at a young age, just as his father had done when he was young. Plus he now had a gate opener, which was another bonus.
As a youngster Danielle often recalled her Dad taking her on trips around the local area, pointing out farms and who was who, 'Tarmac Farming' she called it. This would very often conclude with a trip to Tesco in Ludlow, where he would buy them a whole cooked chicken, crusty rolls and a tub of Clover Butter. He would then drive them up Whitcliffe Road, which is a right turn past the Charlton Arms, where he would park up and enjoy the view. However, out would come his dirty pen knife to slice the rolls and butter the bread for them to have warm chicken rolls. It wouldn't have worried him at all and hasn't done Danielle any harm.
He enjoyed many trips over to Clun on a weekend with Keith, Royston and John Probert -Danielle and I often met up with him for a drink in the White Horse. It was here he would also catch up with Martin and the Clun Crew that he enjoyed many a night out with. He was always up for a holiday with them, whether that be in the UK, Ireland or abroad, unless it was lambing time, in which case a holiday would be out of the question. He would pack his suitcase, which resembled the one Paddington Bear used to keep his marmalade sandwiches in and be ready for a trip, one of these being on a canal boat with Penfold, Martin, Al and Pauline. On this occasion, instead of tarmac farming, he was canal farming, looking at the farming being done from the canal boat and being very concerned about where the cows were having water. This particular trip resulted in Tom and Al going out clubbing, before returning to the canal boat in the early hours of the morning.
Or their trip to Cyprus Tom was smoking in a bar in 40 degree heat during a dry spell. He flicked his cigarette butt into a plant pot with a large tree in, which almost instantly caught fire; the bar staff were rushing out with glasses of water to dim the fire and Tom was seemingly oblivious to having nearly burnt the bar down.
A nice trip he had was just Martin and him on Martin's nephew's boat that was kept in Aberystwyth. They had a day fishing (when Tom caught a fish) and sailed down to New Quay. They then left the boat at sea and took the dingy into shore to have a meal. Now this would have been an image worth capturing on camera.
Back on the farm Tom remained a key part of daily life right up until he passed. He would hardly miss a week either selling or buying in Knighton Market. However, farming wasn't without its difficulties and like other farmers he was affected by the scourge of TB but after a period of being under restrictions. Glyn Owens recalls him smiling from ear to ear when he had a clear test and was able to bring his cattle back to Knighton. That is a smile that I'm sure we all knew and won't forget.
Tom, Danielle and Christine have run and will continue to run a very successful business at Llanfair Hall and have been loyal to McCartneys Markets and the office for professional work.
I dread to think of the number of head of livestock he has put through the markets over the years.
I know that across all offices in McCartneys we have been privileged to have him as a client.
Over the years of coming to Knighton Market, Tom built so many friendships with buyers, farmers and staff. He eventually even got on with the Trading Standards Officer who was in attendance
If someone in Knighton had suffered a loss, misfortune or just going through a bad time, he would be the first person to go over to them and offer support along with some kind words to help

them through. He would literally talk to anybody and everybody, and remember every conversation, and be sure to check up on them from time to time if it was necessary to do so.
It was at Knighton where Tom met Jenny Layton Mills. They built a close friendship and, on several occasions, Tom attended parties at Jenny's farm, Pontypinna in Vowchurch. One was Jenny's 30th birthday party where he was supposed to catch the 50-seater bus going from Knighton. However, he had managed to fall asleep in the bath and despite rushing, he missed the bus. Not being someone to let anyone down, he decided he would drive down to the party. However, he managed to get lost. Not just a little bit lost either. He went 18 miles past Pontypinna and had to call into a pub just outside Abergavenny for directions. Fortunately, the lady behind the bar lived near Jenny, so Tom decided he would wait for her to finish work and follow her home, which he duly did and he managed to squeeze a couple of Worthington's in whilst waiting. He got to the party and enjoyed his night. Jenny recalls him still being up at 3.00am talking about his cows and everyone in the living room telling him to be quiet.
Tom wasn't just well known in Knighton Market. Over the years I don't think there would be many markets in the local area where he wasn't known or hadn't traded. In his younger years he would go as far as Scotland to buy Scottish Black Faced ewes, not a trailer load but a lorry full. The auctioneer would announce the buyer as being 'Tom Jones of Wales' on the fall of the hammer which must have had people looking.
It was in the markets where I first met Tom, this would be nearly ten years ago now. However, he was never really a client to me. He has always been a friend first and more recently family. I have learnt so much from our conversations over a pint in the Horse and Jockey over the years. Tom's mind never faded either, his memory and arithmetic were exceptional. Sometimes I'm convinced he knew more about what was going on than I did as an auctioneer.
I noticed a difference in Tom when Danielle finished farming college and came back to Llanfair Hall to farm alongside him. It was as if he had a new lease of life. It was everything he had wanted, to hand over the reins to Danielle, and I am sure he knew that this was into safe hands.
Only a few weeks ago I spent the day at Llanfair helping to sort the cattle for the weanling sale. To see both Tom and Danielle discussing how to lot the bunches and the order to put them in, gave me an excellent picture of the mutual respect and admiration they had for each other.
He thought the absolute world of you, Danielle, and I know he would be so proud of the way in which you have upheld yourself during this difficult period. You are a credit to him.
Tom was immensely popular and respected with no sense of self-importance. He was down to earth and everybody liked him. But most importantly he did it Tom's way.
How do I conclude this? Well I don't, in many ways as when someone we really love passes, a piece of them lives on in all of us. We are here to say goodbye to Tom today as we knew him but he will very much still be present: present at Llanfair Hall, present within Danielle and of course present in this community that he loved so much. He lived his life as he wanted to and I know that he would not have gone back and changed a thing. We will never stop hearing and telling his stories and tales from over the years, many of which it has not been possible for me to tell today.
Tom played such a big part in my life, I couldn't possibly hold him in higher regard than I do. The support, advice, kindness and wisdom that he has given to me over the years, I will forever be grateful for, whether that be professionally or personally. I know Danielle would agree if I speak for both of us in saying that we couldn't have asked for any more from you.
Tom, thank you for being part of all our lives. You will truly be missed. Rock on Tommy.

Lloyd Humphreys

From Llanfairwaterdine to Tasmania

I am very proud of my son, Stuart Francis, who has recently arrived in Tasmania to complete his second year studies in Marine Biology at the University of Tasmania in Hobart. This course is in conjunction with the University of Liverpool, where he will return for the autumn term, and his third year.
Stuart met up with Alice Beavan at the Mayfair Bar in Hobart where Alice was singing with her cellist friend, Jules. Alice looked after Stuart and his brother for me several times during the lambing season.

Christine Jones





Llanfair Singers

Chairman's Diary

Christmas may seem a long time ago, particularly as we have endured non-stop rain ever since. However, it is where I need to start, by thanking everyone who came and supported our Christmas charity concert. Your generosity allowed us to give valuable support to the Knighton community transport scheme (upon which so many local people depend) and, within Llanfair, St Mary's Church, Everest Hall and the Pavilion. Thank you.

For the choir, the New Year meant that we were immediately into rehearsing the wonderful Fauré Requiem, with Zadoc the Priest and Cantique de Jean Racine for a performance in St Edward's Church. If you missed it then there will be an opportunity to hear the Fauré Requiem again at the 'Last Hour' service on Good Friday, 3rd April at St Mary's Church, Llanfair Waterdine, beginning at 2.45pm and lasting no more than an hour. The beautiful a capella (unaccompanied), Crux Fidelis by John IV of Portugal will also be included in this service.

On March 1st, we were found singing a variety of songs in Welsh at the St David's Day celebration at Knighton Community Centre.

There will be many more performances to come during the rest of the year but telling you about those can wait until the next edition!

As always, if you would like to sing with us then do come along to the Everest Hall on a Thursday evening at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. We finish at 9.30pm (with a 20-minute tea break) There are no auditions. We look forward to welcoming you.

Michael Symonds

For further information visit our website **www.llanfairsingers.co.uk**
Our new site **www.llanfairsingers.org** is under construction and in beta mode but will be live soon.

Ted Pearmain's trip to Tanzania

Before the summer I travelled to Tanzania on an 11-day trip along with three teachers and 17 fellow students from my school - Bishops Castle Community College.

Our school has a partnership with Macechu Secondary School in Tanga that we raise money for every year enabling more students to go to school there. We stayed in a place run by nuns called the Pope John Paul II hostel, which was a five-minute walk from the school.

We attended Macechu school multiple times where we met the students and teachers and I participated in classes such as biology, Swahili and even an Islamic lesson. One morning, we went to their school assembly, during which we performed God Save the King (rather poorly) and they performed their national anthem, and I delivered a speech as the head boy of Bishops Castle to thank Macechu for their warm welcome.

When we weren't in school we had the opportunityto explore the Amboni Caves where we encountered loads of bats as well as a few monkeys and even a crocodile outside. Over the weekend we had a tour of a coastal town called Pangani, and the following day we got up really early to go snorkelling. A boat took us out to a deserted island and we saw loads of tropical marine life including star fish, giant clams, and some venomous lionfish.

Near the end of the trip, we visited a coffee plantation in the foothills of Kilimanjaro, where we made and drank coffee before some of us walked to a huge waterfall. Sadly, soon after, we had to return home.

It was the best experience of my life that I shall never forget and I wish to thank the Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust for contributing towards the cost of this trip.

Ted Pearmain, 15



Pedestrian Road Safety and Dark Skies

Cllr Hughes writes

I don't remember the date or the month or the year but I do remember that one of the decisions made soon after I first became a parish councillor was to de-commission the lone parish streetlight. Ironically, it was situated right outside then resident (and internationally renowned astronomer) Rosemary Naylor's cottage spoiling her ability to stargaze.
Presteigne has been certified as the first International Dark Sky Community in Wales, and the Space Guard Centre in Knighton was gifted a £5m telescope from Cambridge where ever-increasing light pollution was making it redundant and quoting the Shropshire Hills' website; "The dark night skies above the Shropshire Hills make it truly a phenomenal location for stargazers to stare up at the heavens overhead."
The discussion at January's PC meeting about pedestrian road safety between the Everest Hall and the Pavilion concluded that there was no desire to re-instate any new street lighting between the two venues. However, it can get coal-black at nights after events so make sure you carry a torch or use the light on your mobile phone and definitely make sure anyone who wants a bit of help is accompanied.

Some UK Dark Sky facts

- **A Dark Sky Reserve (or Area/Park) is a designated, protected, or publicly owned location with exceptionally low light pollution, offering, high-quality, pristine views of the night sky.**
- **The UK was one of the first countries in the world to receive official International Dark Sky designations from the International Dark-Sky Association.**
- **Scotland has some of the darkest skies in Europe**
- **England's largest Dark Sky Reserve is The Northumberland International Dark Sky Park which is around 572 square miles**

Clubs 'n' Stuff

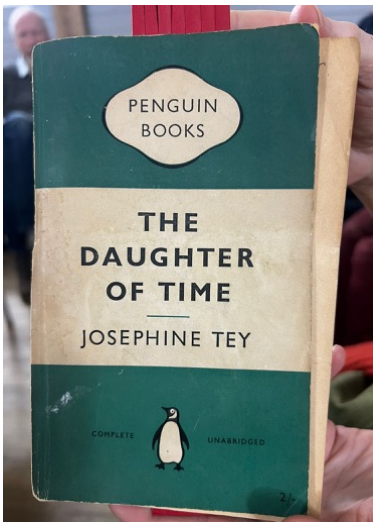
Llanfair Bookworms

With a month off for Christmas we have read only two books since the last edition.

The Daughter of Time

Josephine Tey

My choice for the members of the Book Club to read at the beginning of the year was 'The Daughter of Time' by Josephine Tey. Written in 1951, it was Tey's last book. An acclaimed detective fiction writer, 'The Daughter of Time' was voted no 1 in the top 100 crime novels. It begins with the premise that a detective, confined to a hospital bed, is shown various pictures and becomes interested in one of Richard III, not seeing the murderer of the' Twins in the Tower' in the portrait. Tey's short but colourful descriptions of the characters that move in and out of the hospital, intertwined with the investigation of the literature written about Richard and his family make this novel, which I have read many times, into a real unputdownable page turner and was enjoyed, almost universally, by all in the Book Club.



'Truth is the Daughter of Time' asserts that given time and investigation over a long period leads to truth. Richard III was not as Shakespeare described him –he based his account on Hollinshead, based on Sir Thomas More, based on the views of John Morton, Richard's arch-enemy. Centuries later with Richard's body being discovered in a car park in Leicester in 2012, it was confirmed that Richard was not a deformed

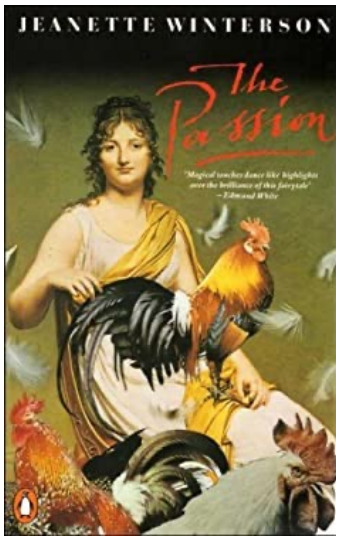
hunchback but had scoliosis, one shoulder a little higher than the other, proving the title of the book 60 years later!

Graham Trew

The Passion

Jeanette Winterson

This is the only book which I read so fast (35 years ago) and enjoyed so much that, on completion, I read again immediately! I even wrote out the passages which resonated with me most profoundly into a notebook.
I was interested to offer it to the book club to see what others made of it.
I love the exquisite poetic language, the evocative imagery and engaging characters and how their stories intertwine, especially in the setting of the magical Venice. As it is set in the Napoleonic era, including personal experiences of war and the harsh reality of life in those times, a couple of members found the imagery too 'raw', although most people enjoyed the book, and some very much.



For me, the story is essentially about love and passion in its many forms, the intense effect it can have on us emotionally and physically, and how it influences the twists and turns of our lives. I could say much more but it is a very short book so worth a try!
Mel Ellison

Bookworms meet at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the Pavilion and everyone is welcome.
If you would like to join us let me know and we'll let you know the next book.
Contact me at crigginrh@gmail.com
or call me on **07539 673 715**

Rita Hughes

Parish Council

Having recently broken my ankle slipping on ice I am pleased to report that we have purchased a grit bin to be sited at St Mary's Church. Further to this we have agreed to buy another bin to be located at or close to Everest Hall. Councillor Lloyd has also acquired a gritter from Shropshire Council. So good news on the ice front. (See Cllr Thomas's piece 'Grit and Determination')
There have been some concerns about the safety of pedestrians walking in the dark between Everest Hall and Pavillion car parks. This occurs when an event is particularly popular and there is overspill between the car parks. We have agreed to contact Everest Hall and the Pavilion over the issue and are suggesting that event organisers inform people attending to bring torches with them. (See Cllr Hughes's piece on Dark Skies.)
We recently had the pleasure of re-appointing a Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust trustee. Steve Knowler's term of office was due to end, but he has agreed to stand for another four years. We appreciate his hard work and are encouraged by his enthusiasm and plans going forward.
Lastly the Parish Council's precept is not changing for the year 2026-2027. This is the amount taken from your Council Tax to allow the Parish Council to operate. A small help in managing the cost of living.

John Lane
Chair, Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council

Community

If you would be interested in joining or knowing more about our Working Groups please get in touch with the following: Environment Group - Cllr Hannah Plumb

For contact details and any council matters, please contact our clerk, James McVicar by email at **llanfairparishclerk@gmx.co.uk**



Your Parish representatives from left to right;
Cllrs Jane Thomas, Richard Lewis, Hannah Plumb, Roy Lloyd, Gail Knowler, John Lane (Chairman) and Mark Hughes.

Clerk to the Parish James McVicar, and Shropshire Ward Councillor Sam Walmsley.

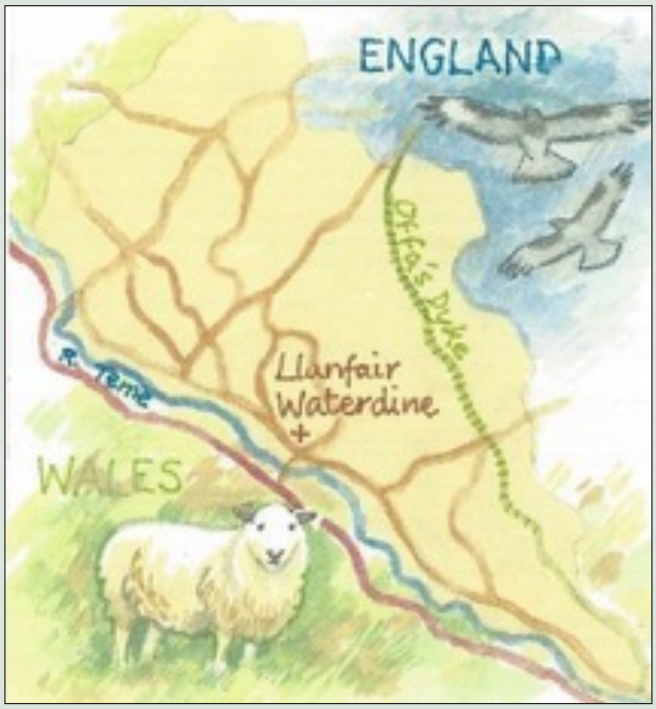
Parish Council Website

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.
James McVicar at **llanfairparishclerk@gmx.co.uk**

Potholes – Fix my street

The best and quickest way to report a pothole is directly on SCC's website;
https://improvingyourroads.shropshire.gov.uk
If you use the 'What 3 Words' App you can tell them exactly where it is.

Llanfair Waterdine & Lloyney



And to end with...

An atom walks into a bar and orders a drink. The bartender says to the atom, "you look glum, bad day?"
"Yes" says the atom, "terrible, lost an electron"
"Are you sure?" says the bartender
"Positive!" says the atom.

That one's for John Lane...