

Llanfair Times

incorporating Lloyney News

Winter 2024

We would love to receive your articles, comments, ideas, points of view. The deadline for next March's edition is Friday 14th February.

Like all teams, here at LT we would love more folk to get involved and help with proof reading, distribution, ideas for articles etc

Please email us at llanfairtimes@gmail.com

Happy reading and keep warm this winter.
Llanfair Times Editorial Team

BEAT THE BOUNDS WATCH THIS SPACE !!

In 2025 it will be 25 years since we last Beat the Bounds in Llanfair Waterdine Parish.

Organised by Ruth Davies and Mig Bevan, a group of all ages met on several occasions to walk the Parish Boundary. I was at home with a small baby - Ludo - so didn't manage the walk but Katie joined in.

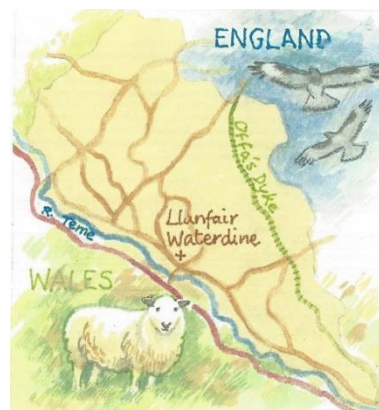
I think it is time we did it again. So, watch this space and look out for information in the new year with dates for our first walk. If anyone is interested in helping or finding out more, please email janethomasllanfair@gmail.com

Jane Thomas

Llanfair Christmas Post

Cards can be posted in the postbox, which is kindly being erected by Iorwerth Waters, on the wall by the door to Everest Hall, from Sunday 1 December until Wednesday 18 December, the day after the annual Carol Service in the church (17 December). There will be two deliveries. As before, if you are able to do so, please leave a donation of 10p per card in the box, which will, as in the past, go to Cancer Research. The postbox is for deliveries within Llanfair parish and also Lloyney. Thanks for your support.

Richard Lewis



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

Footpath Warden

Llanfair Waterdine has one of the most extensive networks of Public Rights of Way (ProW) in South Shropshire, including part of the prestigious Offa's Dyke Path National Trail. These footpaths are a valuable resource both for local residents and for visitors; making sure that they are well signposted and kept in good order, and in a way that is environmentally sustainable, is an important task and one to which people living in the area can make a significant contribution.

The Parish Council, working together with Shropshire Council, has therefore decided to appoint a Footpaths Warden to take the lead in monitoring and maintaining the parish's ProWs.

The role is voluntary and the council is looking for someone who would like to take on the challenge. There will be no fixed responsibilities or hours; the work can be done as and when you have the time and opportunity; and you will get training, support and access to tools (should you want to get directly involved in maintenance work!) from the Shropshire Council Countryside Recreation Team.

What you make of the role is up to you. It could just be casually walking the footpaths and reporting any issues you may find. Or you might want to go further and work with Shropshire Council to establish and lead a focused survey and maintenance programme, perhaps involving others from the community. Or you may want to organise events to promote the parish's footpaths and get practical experience, working alongside others, in clearing footpaths and in repairing or replacing stiles and gates.

If you are interested, please contact James McVicar, the Clerk to the Parish Council, by email at llanfairparishclerk@gmx.co.uk, who will be happy to provide more information and to discuss the role with you.

THE PAVILION
LLANFAIRWATERDINE

Nr Knighton LD7 1TU

Christmas Market

FRIDAY 29th NOVEMBER

FUN FOR ALL
THE FAMILY!

FREE ENTRY!

Xmas
tree lights
switch-on
with carols from
Llanfair Singers
at 8pm

Market stalls open 5-9pm

Bar open 5-11pm

Last orders 10.30pm

HOT
FOOD
&
MULLED WINE



Post your
letters to
Father
Christmas
and get
a coin to
spend in the
elf's sweet shop

HOT
CHOCOLATE

Festive market stalls to include:

- Christmas gifts & decorations ★ Holly, mistletoe, logs & kindling ★ Crafts
- ★ Turkey, cheese & wine orders taken ★ Cakes ★ Handmade chocolates ★
- Christmas wreaths ★ Jewellery ★ Cards ★ Calendars ★ Honey & candles
- ★ Mushrooms ★ Hand-carved spoons ★ Gin & vodka ...AND MORE!

PLEASE NOTE: Some stalls will be cash only

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

WHAT'S ON AT THE PAVILION

YOGA

CONTACT: KATYOGA@HOLWILL.NET

MONDAYS 10AM-12NOON & WEDNESDAYS 6PM -8PM

LLANFAIR LITTLE ONES

CONTACT: LLANFAIRLITTLEONES@GMAIL.COM

TUESDAYS 10AM-12NOON

LLANFAIR BOOK GROUP

CONTACT: RITA HUGHES RITA@CRIGGIN.CO.UK

1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 7PM – 9PM

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL EVENINGS

ALL WELCOME 7PM – 11PM

FRIDAY 1/11/24 – FIREWORKS NIGHT INCLUDING FOOD VAN BY KNIGHTON PLAICE. 7PM

FRIDAY 29/11/24 – CHRISTMAS MARKET/FAYRE INCLUDING STALLS, SANTA'S GROTTTO, BAR, CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING, LLANFAIR SINGERS. ALL WELCOME.

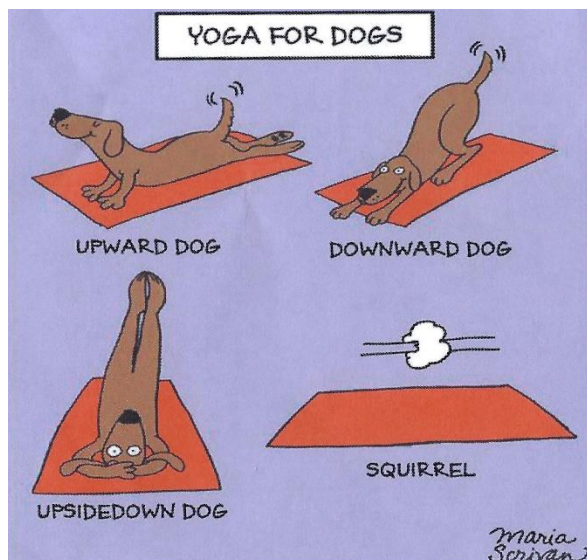
FRIDAY 7/02/25 – QUIZ NIGHT

Gail Knowler

07765 439202

Community Pavilion Management Committee.

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

Tel No 01547 529789

Everest Hall 100 Club Lottery. £5.00 per annum.

Contact Mary email : 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 Tel No 01547 529491

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wine Tasting Supper Monday 27th Jan. Taste eight wines, have some food, enjoy good company.

£15 a head, email mark@therealwineco.co.uk to reserve your places.

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

Bookings Ruth email: ruththemecottage@gmail.com

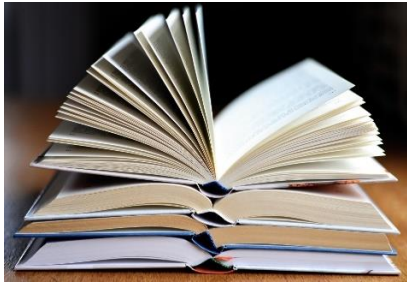
Tel 01547 528592

or Mary email : marybufton@btinternet.com

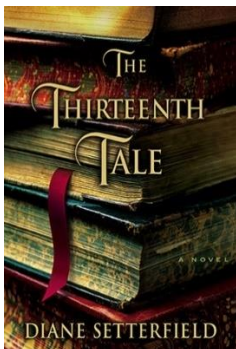
Tel 01547 510285

Mary Bufton

Llanfair Bookworms



We have read two books, met at the Pavilion, socialised twice, drunk some wine, tea, coffee and various soft drinks and increased our numbers.



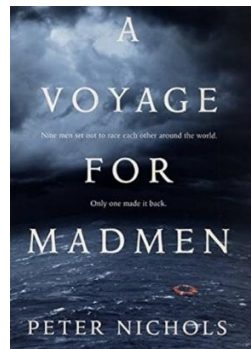
The first book was ***The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield.**

The enigmatic author, Vita Winter has spent six decades creating various outlandish life histories for herself - all of them inventions that have brought her fame and fortune but have kept her violent and tragic past a secret. Now old and ailing, she finally wants to tell the truth about her extraordinary life. She summons biographer Margaret Lea, a young woman for whom the secret of her own birth, hidden by those who loved her most, remains an ever-present pain. Struck by a curious parallel between Miss Winter's story and her own, Margaret takes on the commission.

The second was ***A Voyage for Madmen* by Peter Nichols.**

In 1968 nine sailors set off on the most daring race ever held and never before completed: to single-handedly circumnavigate the globe non-stop. Ten months later, only one of the nine men would cross the finish line and earn fame, wealth, and glory. For the others, the reward was madness, failure, and death.

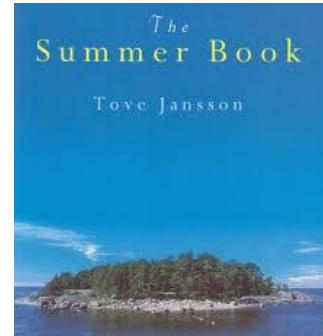
A Voyage for Mad Men was enjoyed by nearly all of us, with a couple of exceptions, we gave it a 4* review. A well-written exciting book and we recommend it.



Both books were awarded an average of 4 Stars by the readers so, even if you can't join us, we recommend you read the books anyway.

November's Book is **The Summer Book** by Tove Jansson.

(At the time of going to print we have not met to discuss and rate the book, so watch this space!)



An elderly artist and her six-year-old grand-daughter while away a summer together on a tiny island in the Gulf of Finland. As the two learn to adjust to each other's fears, whims and yearnings, a fierce yet understated love emerges - one that encompasses not only the summer inhabitants but the very island itself.

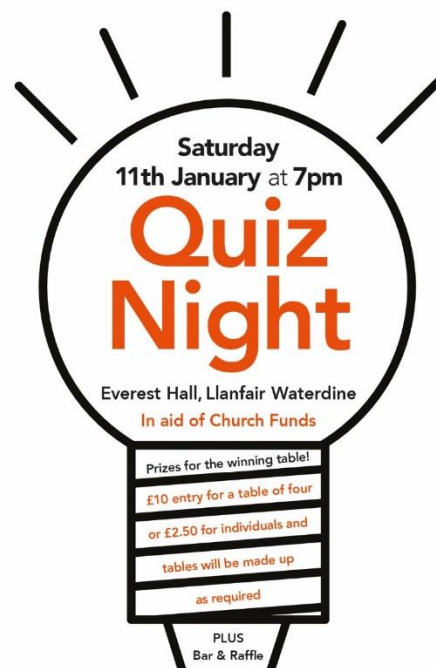
Bookworms meet at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the Pavilion and everyone is welcome.

If you would like to join us let me know and we'll let you know the next book.

Contact me at rita@criggin.co.uk

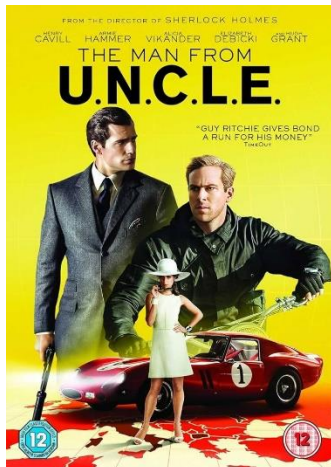
or call me on 07539 673 715

Rita Hughes



Everest Hall, Llanfairwaterdine
is proud to be presenting its new season of films.

The Man from U.N.C.L.E.
will be shown on Saturday 16th November.



We're the Millers
will be shown on Saturday 28th December

Holes
will be shown on Saturday 18th January.

The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare
will be shown on Saturday 15th February

Hidden
will be shown on Saturday 15th March

(Please note these films are subject to change)

Doors open at 7.00pm
Tickets £5/ concessionary price for children.
Refreshments are on sale prior to the film and during the interval.
We look forward to seeing you there.

Contacts:
Iorwerth Waters
iorwerthwaters@yahoo.com Tel 01547 528155
Christine Kenyon
christinekenyon@hotmail.com Tel 01547 529558
Ruth Davies
ruthtemecottage@gmail.com Tel 01547 528592

Everest Hall



Everest Hall – Your Village Hall

200 Club Lottery Winners

July	1 st Steve Gibbons	2 nd M.C & E Harding
	3 rd Ian Magowan	4 th Lily Waters
August	1 st J Williams	2 nd Francis Beavan
	3 rd Christine Jones	4 th Gill Deakins
September	1 st Diane Edwards	2 nd Christine Chainey
	3 rd Loraine Morgan	4 th Di Bailey
October	1 st Frank Blundell	2 nd Ann Harroway
	3 rd James & Kathy Thomas	4 th Iwan Waters

We take this opportunity with respect to thank all the volunteers past and present for the support received in securing Your Village Hall over the past circa 170 years for the future.

*Thank you, The Everest Hall
Management Committee*

everesthall@btinternet.com

Llanfair Waterdine WI



In addition to our monthly meetings, where we have a speaker and/or activity followed by a wonderful supper, we also have various visits and events.

Recently we have visited the Newtown Textile Museum, a very interesting visit and thoroughly recommended.

We were also invited to take part in a poetry evening with other W.I.'s in the area. One of our members, Philippa, is a keen writer and took up the challenge.

When talking about her poem, she said,
"I have a love of walking and wondering at what I see.
I love nature and enjoy the challenge of writing poetry
to find words for my feelings."

Below is the poem she wrote.

Wild Water

***You keep me company today:
our paces match, the nearness cheers,
I listen as you chatter in
an amiable way that asks no answer
or forgiveness for your winter savagery.
Lilting, musical, your tones
trip lightly, tumbling downhill over stone.
Then comes a stretch that's smooth;
where breeze blows counter-current
riffing upstream movement
sliced by strips of golden sun.
Spring gentles your demeanour now,
smoothing signs that tell of winter's flood.
Your mood was brutal then:
torrential force chewed banks and
changed your course across this field.
Your power let loose uprooted trees,
blocked flow, piled stoney islands
where none were before. But
change is natural and nature knows
to use new ways and thrive.***

***Downstream, domestic debris fills
a skip with remnants of a home
and, like unburied bodies, sandbags
scatter sad remembrances.***

As usual, if you would like to join us for an evening to enjoy the speaker/ activity and share a finger supper we meet in the Everest Hall at 7pm and the speaker is at 7.30 on the first Friday of each month. We are always pleased to welcome visitors.

For further information contact Margaret Clugston 01547 529155, Christine Chainey on 01547 519254 or Sue Lovell on 01547 520964

Christine Chainey

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.

Interregnum

St Mary's Church is without a vicar. Sadly, Revd. Dr. Martin Quayle, after some health advice, decided not to renew his three-year contract when it expired in September. We will miss him and his wife, Fiona and her mother, Diana, at our church. This leaves us, once more, in an Interregnum, the fourth time in the last 20 years. Communion services will need to be taken by a visiting priest where possible or 'By Extension', and many other services taken by the 'Lay Worship Leaders' on our PCC. These periods without a priest in charge often last for a year, while the Bishop and Archdeacon decide on our future or instigate an application process.

The church wardens of the Benefice will have met by the time that this Llanfair Times is published and will have written to the Archdeacon setting out what we would like and asking for a speedy process. We need to show that there is regular support for our church in order to try to protect its future. Several churches in our Benefice have low attendance and we do not know the views of the Bishop about the future structure of his Diocese as a whole. St Mary's tries to be an active church, supporting the community. It is restricted in terms of space and in not having a water

supply, a kitchen facility and a toilet. The PCC is trying to address these matters but every idea has to be costed, plans drawn up and approved by the Diocese Faculty Committee. Watch this space!

Grass Cutting Coffee Mornings – All welcome

11.00 am on the first Wednesday of the month.

6th November - Hosted by Louise and Brian Minniss at Lloyney Lodge

4th December - Hosted by Sandra Thomas at Everest Hall

1st January - Hosted by Margaret Swancott at Everest Hall

Reflection and Compline

The next Compline services will be on 13th November, 8th January and 12th March at 6.00 pm.

The next Reflection services will be on 11th December, 12th February and 9th April at the same time.

As well as the services outlined above and special services such as Christmas, Easter, Remembrance and Harvest, we hold a service at St. Mary's every Sunday, except in the few months when there is a fifth Sunday, when there is just one service in the Benefice. For many years the second Sunday has been Matins at 9.30am. For some time this has not been well attended and also requires someone to go to the church at 8.30am in the winter to put the heating on!

The PCC discussed this recently and decided to move the time of the second Sunday service to 11.15am and while sometimes holding a Matins service, to also try other forms of 'All-age' and 'Family' services as well as 'Iona' and 'Celtic' services.

This change of time will begin on 12th January 2025 and details of the service will be in the Deanery magazine, on the 'A Church Near You' website and in the porch of the church.

In Memoriam

Sadly, there have been several deaths locally recently:

John Gwilt

Ruth Davies writes: Sadly, we write of the death of John Gwilt, formerly of Cwm Collo and, of late, Cwm Cole Barn. John had lived in our parish all his life, attending school in Llanfair and then on to Knighton. His life had been spent working on local farms and for the main part at Llanfair Hall until he retired several years ago. He was a strong supporter of local and church life and activities and especially as a member of Everest Hall Management Committee for many

years, as Chairman and more recently as Vice-President. He will be much missed by all who knew him.

David Powell

Ruth Davies writes: We write of the recent death of David Powell, late of The Cwm. David had been a resident of our parish for his whole life, farming with his parents Doug and Freda at The Cwm for many years, continuing with his own family until he had to retire through ill-health. We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Mandy, children Jodie, Tom and Emily and baby grandchild Daphne, together with his wider family.

Jim Williams

Ruth Davies writes: It is with great sadness that we report the death of Jim Williams of Monaughty Poeth. Jim had been unwell for many years but had fought bravely and carried on as was his way. Jim had farmed at Monaughty with his father for well over 80 years. He had been a very active member of the community for many years, being a Parish Councillor, Parish Trustee and member of the Everest Hall Management Committee, latterly as Vice-President. His wit and wisdom will be much missed and we extend our deepest sympathies to Sally, Simon, Kate and their families.

Di Cook

Ruth Davies writes: We have recently learned of the death of Di Cook, late of Ladycroft, following a sudden illness. We extend our sympathies to Andrea and to Di's family.

Quinquennial Report - St Mary's Church

Rob Taylor writes: In the last edition of the Llanfair Times, we reported on the quinquennial survey report, which we had just received. Since then, we have been deciding how to do the work detailed in the report and to agree how to move things forward. At the time of writing this piece we have started to investigate the state of the joists which support the plinths on which the pews sit and to repair loose and damaged floorboards. This work has started. In the north aisle pews have been removed and the joists checked after lifting some of the floorboards. So far all seems well. There is no evidence of damp or decay. Work to repair floorboards on all the plinths will continue as will the investigation of floors in the north aisle. This work is necessary before we can go ahead with any re-ordering.

Meanwhile, the work needed to repair problems identified on the roof and external walls is yet to be started. A craftsman who can undertake this work is looking at the report and the church building and when we have his thoughts and costs, we will decide how to go forward. These decisions will take into account the priority jobs which will ensure the church remains weatherproof. We are also identifying potential contractors who can undertake other jobs listed in the report, including the cleaning and maintenance of the heating and lighting.

Work in the churchyard on monuments and headstones is ongoing.

New Year's Quiz

In order to raise funds for St Mary's Church, a New Year's Quiz is being held on Saturday 11th January in Everest Hall, beginning at 7.00pm. There will be a bar and a raffle (of course!). Entrance is £10 per table of four, payable at the door. Individuals are welcome at £2.50 and tables can be made up as necessary.

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 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 has now passed £2000.

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.)

GrahamTrew

John Gwilt

John was born on the 12th July 1935 at New House, weighing in at a healthy twelve pounds. He attended school in Llanfairwaterdine and Knighton, where he was accomplished in his Artwork; a prize winner at school, at Knighton Show and Shropshire County Y.F.C Rallies.



**14 year-old John's painting won
1st Prize at the Shropshire County YFC Rally**

Typical John, he left school on the Friday and started work on the Monday. Firstly, at the Goytre, where Sidney and Mrs Moorman were especially kind to him, likewise Mr and Mrs Roberts at Cwm-Heyope who treated him like a son. However, most everyone will remember John working at Llanfair Hall, and we believe that is how he would wish to be remembered. John absolutely loved working at Llanfair Hall, the company of George and the company of Tom. Every last day he loved and anyone who ever worked at Llanfair Hall was, in John's opinion, "alright really ...". And if you know John at all, you will know that should you mention 'how hot the day is' he would always, always, straight away tell you 'It was cool on the top first thing'.

But there are things you may not know about John. He was a true-blue Conservative, he was a Remainer, he was a staunch Royalist, he liked a Western, he loved his gardening - all vegetables, no flowers but 'plant plenty of potatoes' and he was an Everest Hall man thro' and thro'. He thought footballers were paid far too much, and anyone who worried about their favourite teams' results was silly ... ('well, thanks for that thought John!') John could be contrary, he could be difficult to work with and sometimes he could be 'impossible' to work with ... but ... he cared for his church, he cared for his community and he cared for his charities. The Harvest Festival and the Midnight Mass were the highlights of Johns Church Calendar, although he frowned upon farmers who did not attend the Harvest Festival and he frowned upon people who attended the Midnight Mass if they had been 'drinking'. John served on The Everest Hall Committee, on The Parish Council and on the P.C.C ... and we know he was proud and pleased to do so. We believe it should not be forgotten just how much (voluntary) work John completed when the Everest Hall was refurbished in the late 1960's.

Likewise all his work when the Everest Hall Dances were really popular...which they were. The Bank Holiday Duck Race is now a fixture, so it should be appreciated how much time and effort John put into the event in the early years. No doubt some readers will remember having to sell books of tickets for the 'event', although no one could fathom his 'organisation', the Running Order, the Rules or the Results. No matter now. John organised Whist Drives at the Everest Hall and was always happy to act as M.C. He did on occasion act as Santa - in other parishes - and as you may imagine some of us thought this ironic.

Just one last example of his charity work is in 1988 at his Darts Night, in the Everest Hall, the evening raised over £1000 for Cancer Relief which should be applauded and appreciated. In his youth John really enjoyed his time with Llanfairwaterdine Young Farmers, where curiously perhaps, he enjoyed the Art, the Plays and the Singing much more than the stock-judging, shearing or anything else. Likewise, he always spoke with a warmth and affection about his time with the Llanfair Follies. He travelled abroad with the Felindre Tug-of-War Team, with Hinton Travel and holidayed with friends in London, Scotland and Ireland. He especially enjoyed his breaks in Blackpool, and some of the stories we know, which could not be related in Church, but if you know ... they will make you smile. John enjoyed a local coffee morning, the parish breakfast and he loved The Wakes. He really loved the Wakes ... and if someone should offer some

'constructive criticism' of the day (possibly me) that 'constructive criticism' was always met with a snort, a scowl and the phrase "Well folks is doing their best that's all I'll say". Then he would fold his arms, turn away and that was the end of the discussion.

Boxing was always John's favourite sport and he kept up-to-date. Back in the Day, he, with others, travelled to watch the boxing live. To South Wales, North Wales and the Midlands. He actually watched the great Tommy Farr fighting in the flesh at the Gay Meadow, and was present on another evening, in South Wales, when Jimmy Wilde was introduced to say a few words to the crowd. One example I can give you to illustrate what it was like to share a conversation with John is ... while discussing the boxing, I just said that in my opinion, Muhammad Ali was the greatest of all time ... to which he replied "No, you're wrong there boy - it's surely Jack Johnson".

The Lloyney Inn was John's local, where he enjoyed a drink, the dominoes and the darts. Considered a good dominoes player, he especially enjoyed his outings to Bridlington to play in the Nationals. Considered a good darts player, he on more than one occasion topped the League Averages'. This in the decades when there were eight in a team and sixteen teams in the Knighton and District League. Now, for quite some time, John's favourite night out was an evening in the Everest Hall, listening to Llanfair Singers and a supper. Always summed up with the phrase "What more do you want I say."

Well, we believe he would be touched to know that this service will be completed, by special request, with Graham Trew, accompanied by Richard Lewis, with their rendition of Danny Boy, John's absolute favourite. So, a sincere thank you from all our family to Graham and Richard. To sum-up, we should return to the start. John's love of Llanfair Hall, the company of George and the company of Tom. How he enjoyed every last day at work, for over fifty years, and if we may we would like to leave you with one last thought. Sometime, possibly next summer now, you may be enjoying a cup of tea about bait time and you might think or say out loud 'it's really hot today ' Well, at that second, should you hear "Ah, it was cool on the top first thing", that will be he and that was John.

Robert Gwilt

Notices

Congratulations to Kate Woodhams of Llantroft who graduated this summer with a Bachelor of Science degree in Adult Nursing.



Having spent the last three years at Cardiff University she has decided to stay in the city and has this October taken up a position in Llandough hospital. No doubt she will be back to support Shrewsbury Town (and to see her Mum & Dad!). Sending her best wishes in her new career.

Michele & Ray Woodhams

Tom Hubmann's Run

Back in the Spring, Tom took part in a 4 by 10k relay along the Southwest Coastal Path, starting at the Lizard. This was a last-minute decision as someone had dropped out; he enjoyed it so much he registered for a longer run.

This was a twenty-mile run with an elevation of 1400m, again along the Southwest Coastal Path but around the Roseland Peninsular. He tells me it was organised by a group known as Rat Race.



He did do some training for this because, of course, every run down to the beach was followed by a steep run up and away from the beach to the next headland.

He raised £1,111 for a local Cornish charity, Penhaligon's Friends, which supports bereaved children and their families. He took 3 hours 20 minutes, came 10th overall out of 200 runners and was first in his age group (40-45).

He was justly proud of his achievement (and so am I, his mother, Judith Tollman at Melin y Grogue Cottage.)

The next event is to be a half marathon at the Eden Project in October, just for fun, he says!

Judith Tollman



Congratulations to Ruth as she hits the big Eight-O



Congratulations to Rita & Mark on retaining their Open Boules Title this year.

Drinking Out

It has always been Newtown for me, having been going there since hiring a cottage in the 1980's a few miles out towards Berriew. Newtown is big enough to walk around – and it's on the flat. The town has changed but it still has the Oriel Davies café and several others for coffee. However, having been visiting Llanfair Waterdine, again, since the 1980's, and then moving here in 2002, the pull has been towards Ludlow. Perhaps there is something about the climb, even in the car, over the Dolfor moor that can put people off. To Ludlow, by contrast, it seems an easy run, and filling up with petrol at a reasonable price at Griffiths's garage in Leintwardine is a bonus.

So, it is off to Ludlow. Ludlow has a few posh shops. It also has a Fat Face clothes place (women and men); a decent deli; a Holland and Barrett for all the pills that you could dream of; about half a dozen great charity shops and a few curio shops, too. One of these is the Christmas shop which is open all the year round. It's a great place for Christmas shopping, while Christmas is still in the mind, in January, and there's a sense of satisfaction that you have done something to ease the galloping about that the next December will inevitably bring.

What I am really writing about today, however, is a great place for coffee and gin. This is an interesting mix. Sadly, I haven't been to this place, called TASTE, in the evening so can't say what the gin is like. However, a friend, who is a wine connoisseur, gave me a taste of TASTE gin on that fine summer's day that we had (remember?), sitting out looking at the Welsh hills, and it was a fair old tip-back.

When something is good where or near we live, people say that it is the best thing since sliced bread 'this side of Watford'. Well, I can apply that to TASTE'S coffee. Decent-sized cups, decaf or ordinary and a range of ways of serving it. The cappuccino leaves a feeling of deep satisfaction and the right level of energy to get up and get the rest of the shopping done. My old dog always comes with me: dogs, too, are treated royally at TASTE. As soon as they arrive there is a treat for them. They are all expectant and such is the atmosphere in TASTE that there is no barking at each other (the dogs, that is).

The coffee menu is Espresso, Macchiato, Americano, Flat White, Cappuccino, Latte, Cortado, Mocha, Iced Latte and Iced Americano. Syrups in your coffee are 50p extra and are vanilla, caramel, hazelnut or cinnamon. There are a whole range of black teas,

herbal teas and hot chocolate is made from 32% French chocolate.



I need to say a word about the three excellent people who serve. Only two of them are there at the same time but they are great, finding time to converse with the owners and the owners' dogs. They know the dogs by name! *That* is dead impressive. You could linger with the paper all day but this place is busy. I tend to go for a late coffee as the place seems to empty after the usual coffee time.

I'd give TASTE a whopping great big 10/10 for the coffee, for the servers and their friendliness, for having the gins lined up on the shelves for a bit of wishful thinking and for the delicious and special-looking cakes, ie, Black Cherry and Almond Cake, Citron Tart, Bakewell Slice, which I have never tried (waistline). So, if you are in Ludlow and want a great taste experience, just go into TASTE! I am sure that you won't be disappointed.

Richard Lewis

Eating In

Polenta is an Italian store cupboard staple. It's made by grinding corn into flour, or meal. It has a rich yellow, yolk-like colour, and has a slightly sweet flavour. We are enthusiastic foodies (*Ed*) but have never really got the point of polenta. Bland? Smooth or rubbery?

So, when we were lucky enough to be invited to dinner at Myrtle Cottage we were presented with a revelation – fantastic polenta! Accompanied by an equally delicious leg of lamb and greens. Heaven.

Mark Hughes

Paula kindly shares her recipe with Llanfair Times readers:

Annoyingly, I do it without a recipe, but here's a stab at it.

Basically, fill a pan with as much water as you think you'll want polenta, salt it well (not quite as much as the seawater/pasta amount, but almost). Start whisking in polenta in little bits, or in a slow trickle, whisking as you go. It lumps up if you add too much at once. It will start getting thick as you add the polenta. I stop adding more when it's nearly the thickness I want - still pourable, as it keeps thickening. It starts getting kind of molten and lava-like, so be careful of it spitting.

The trick is to keep it cooking over low heat for 45 minutes to an hour, even when the packet says it's quick cook and done in 10 minutes. The flavour develops better with longer cooking. It needs frequent stirring while it cooks.



Just before you're ready to serve it stir in butter and grated Parmesan to taste. I probably use a good couple tablespoons of butter and 125gms of Parmesan.

Sorry to be less than exact — hope it works! Xo"

Paula Marshall

Llanfair Singers Chairman's Diary

I hope that you enjoyed a good summer – or sunny weekend – whatever you prefer to call it.

We were lucky: our Choir Party was held on one of those sunny days and we enjoyed an excellent time courtesy of the hospitality of Martin and Fiona Quayle.

The start of a new choir year is always exciting because we never know what we will be asked to sing or, indeed, the number of events for which we will need to learn new music. This year has been no exception: We had the privilege of the composer, Sir

Peter Newson-Smith, joining us for a rehearsal and taking us through three of his works – ensuring that we mastered them as he had intended – in readiness for one of the Christmas events.

As you read this, we will already have sung in support of Brampton Bryan's charity fundraiser with the added benefit that we were treated to an excellent post-concert spread – which, sadly, some of you might have missed!

We now begin the serious business of Christmas performances starting, of course, with our own **Everest Hall Christmas Concert on 14th December**, complete with the usual excellent meal and, as always, at the bargain price of **£10** – we have resisted the calls that tell us that the event is worth so much more – so book your tickets now and enjoy a rare bargain. **TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM GRAHAM TREW, RICHARD LEWIS, FROM ME OR ANY CHOIR MEMBER - hurry before they are sold out!**

The **Carol Service at St Mary's, Llanfair**, is always a magical event and so well supported. This year it is Llanfair Singers' turn to lead the service, so make sure that you put the date in your diary: **17th December at 7pm.**

For those who live further afield we will also be leading the carol service at Heyope on 22nd December and, as if that is not enough, before that, members of the choir will be singing at the Llanfair Pavilion's Christmas Fayre on Friday 29th November.

After all of that we will need a break before we embark on preparation for singing at one or two Cathedrals and a joint concert with the Stour Valley Singers – watch this space for further details - and we are still in need of a few more tenors so, if you can sing, do come along to one of our rehearsals and see if you enjoy it. (Rehearsals are every Thursday 7.30-9.30pm in the Everest Hall.)

It just remains for me to wish you all a VERY happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Michael Symonds

THE BIKE SHOW 2024

Henry Cole once said; "Cars move the body but motorbikes move the soul". Well, this summer's Bike Show, held at the Pavilion, is the perfect illustration of that statement. Glorious weather greeted record crowds, record exhibits and record sums of money raised for the vital Blood Bikes Charity.

The show attracted visitors and enthusiasts from South Wales, Derbyshire and Yorkshire. There were more Trade and Memorabilia stands this year and all were pleased with their day.



Breakfasts were served from 7.30 am and soon after 8.am queues were starting to form. Too soon it seemed (about midday) the burgers, bacon baps and hot dogs had sold out ...all prepared, cooked and served by some locals ... who needs The Spudman, McDonalds or Gordon Ramsey? As always, the cakes, coffees and cups of tea were appreciated, enjoyed and in demand all day long. Congratulations to Pauline, Julie, Elaine, Elizabeth, May and Rosie for their organisation, their work building up to the event and their front-of-house presentations.



Rowan getting the bug.

It should be both applauded and appreciated that the cakes, coffees and teas, costing only £1 each item raised over £1000 (!) on the day. The cakes, all homemade, were entered into The Mary Berry

competition (organiser David's original suggestion). Out of a remarkable forty plus entries, the results were ..1. Rhian Davies 2. Cath Harris and 3. Anaghard Parry. The organisers would also wish to thank Abbie and Rachel for the Grand Raffle which again raised touching £400.



Thanks also to Teme Cottage and Sunningdale for providing the space and ground for the camping and parking. Thanks to Llanfair Hall, John Tranter and 'Hoof and Scoop'. Congratulations to local prize winners with their bikes, to David Lloyd, Roger Wilding, Joe Barrett and John.

The event raised over £5000 for the Blood Bikes Charity, which is manned by volunteers and provides a vital, often life-saving service. We know the charity and the local organisers are really pleased with their day in Llanfair Waterdine. And whenever you meet David, just shake his hand and congratulate him sincerely.

Robert Gwilt

COMMUNITY TRUST

The last few months have been very busy for the Community Trust. Lots new events are being discussed and a number are coming to fruition thanks to the Management Committee. The nights are drawing in, but there seems to be no slowing-down with offerings for the Parish.

One large event did take place in August which was a huge success, "The Community Fun Day". We think it is fair to say that the whole community played a massive role in making the day a success and for that we would like to thank you. Although it was months consisting of stress, endless emails and phone calls,

re-designing the field layout, parking conundrums, hunting for volunteers to assist and frantically checking the weather... it all turned out ok in the end.



Tesni belting it out!

The main premise of the event was to bring the community together and enjoy each other's company, as well as raising money for multiple charities and local voluntary organisations. The day raised a whopping £5,738.95! This was split as follows:

- Macmillan Cancer Support - £4000
- The Welsh Air Ambulance £1033.40
- The Bracken Trust - £145
- Hope House Children's Hospice - £50

The remaining funds (£510.55) have been distributed to other local voluntary groups and organisations. We think everyone should give themselves a pat on the back and look back at the day as a real show of community spirit. It was great to see every community group working together. We hope we can continue in the same vein next year and will be knocking on a few of your doors to help again!

In general, the Trust has been operating as usual and continuing to see where improvements can be made to the land parcels, the Pavilion, our ways of working and if there are any opportunities to collaborate in future events with organisations in the parish. Please get in touch if you have any suggestions. This time of year lends itself to administrative work, which we won't bore you with.

We would like to remind the community of the awards/bursary system in place, please enquire if you would like to know more. Applications will be considered for:

1. Grants to individuals, families or groups on the basis of exceptional or challenging circumstances.
2. Bursaries to young people to help them broaden their experiences and accomplishments.

3. Partnerships with groups seeking similar goals to our own.
4. Sponsorship of projects that will be of sustainable benefit to the community.

One final note, as the nights draw in and weather takes a turn for the worst, please think about keeping in touch with each other.

A Friday night social evening (open from 7pm) runs weekly out of the Community Pavilion and is a perfect place to chew the fat, everyone is welcome. Look out for many themed evenings approaching which the Management Committee will be advertising via posters, social media and the most effective source of all "word of mouth".

Best Wishes,

[Llanfair Waterdine Community Trustees](#)
[Matthew Croose, Steve Knowler,](#)
[Will Rogers, Liam Waters](#)

PARISH COUNCIL

This is my first article for the Llanfair Times. It is also my first time serving as Chairman of Council.

As a Council, which has similar legislation status and powers to local government, we are constantly reminded of the times we are in and the challenges we face.

As humans, traditionally this time of year introduces a period of waning, as we head into the sleepy winters of hibernation, closing the doors to the harsher elements, and hoping we have built enough healthy reserves to see us through, whilst looking forward to a near future of new growth and new opportunities.

In Council we often receive reports on what is happening regionally and nationally, and it can feel daunting and overwhelming in trying to consider how such a small group of people gathering in a local village venue can possibly make any difference. As such, I find myself thinking like a squirrel, reciting the adage 'think global, act local' as we gather one nut at a time.

I am pleased to say, in my opinion, we are currently in a much better position. Not only are we now a full Council, but wonderfully, with the recent co-option of Councillors' Hannah Plumb and Jane Thomas, we are more diverse and better able to represent the whole community and interests.

We have also been fortunate to have gained a very skilled and enthusiastic clerk with the recent

appointment of James McVicar, who is helping guide and remind us of what we can and cannot do, whilst remaining fully legal and exploring how our legislation powers can empower us to do more.

As Chairman, I am focussed on finding ways we can all work together, bringing the strength and energy of all the community. We recently looked at our powers and realised that there is an approach we can adopt using what is referred to as 'Working Groups', that enables us to instigate and protect local interest projects, whilst opening up involvement from non-Council members.

To date, we have formed two such groups; the Environmental group is focussed on finding new and better approaches to sustainability and improving our local impact. The Historic group will be focussed on collecting and preserving our local history knowledge, and offers the opportunity to gather stories, archive material and share local folk tales that shaped this wonderful area.

With the drawing in of shorter colder days, I would like to remind ourselves that some will be struggling more than others, that it is harder to notice with closed doors, and easy to find oneself feeling isolated. Please check in on one another, reach out if you find yourself not coping, and try and make the effort to meet up and attend gatherings. Sharing is caring.

If you would be interested in joining or knowing more about our Working Groups please get in touch with following:

Environment Group - Cllr Hannah Plumb

Historic Group - Cllr Darren Knipe

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

Darren Knipe

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.

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

Shropshire County Council

Well, it's been an interesting month for Shropshire Council as it staggers towards what seems ever more likely to be the issuing of a Section 114 notice declaring effective bankruptcy.

At last Council the administration decided to press ahead with its plans to introduce the Green Bin charges from the 1st October and with its new advance booking system for those wishing to use any of its Waste Recycling sites due to start in November- but no sooner had it been confirmed by waste supremo Cllr Ian Nellins, saying everything was on track & the delay in sending out Green bin stickers was just an inconvenient blip, had to hit the pause button on the Green Bin charges when it discovered its new 'impossible to remove' bin stickers denoting who has paid for the service, when they eventually arrived, fell off the bins as soon as it rained. We are told the service will start from the 1st November instead & that the new bin stickers, really, really, are impossible to remove!

At that same Council, the administration's latest wheeze to bring in an extra £32M by selling off 10 of our car parks to the highest bidder, who would be able to take most of the income from them for the next 50 years, whilst at the same time having to pay £1.5m to the successful bidder a year to continue to operate them as car parks - and keep paying that for 125 years!! (making a grand total of £187.5M!!), was passed, despite opposition Councillors pointing out that this might, as well as possibly being just a teensy bit illegal, mean the Council was sacrificing a great deal more future income than it gained upfront, just to prop up the budget for another year and even that wasn't guaranteed!

Since then, Council Leader Lezley Picton has taken to the airwaves to say that the Council is "Unbelievably close to bankruptcy" and when pressed as to whether she thought the Council could survive financially until the end of this financial year, would not give an answer! To me that says she knows the Council just has too big a savings target to achieve, the biggest savings required as a percentage of its current budget

than any other Council in the Country - Un-budgeted for costs continue to mount, particularly within adult social care, that mean its current savings requirements set at the beginning of this financial year already look insufficient.

The latest projections, probably already out of date, show that additional extra costs of £37M, will have to be met whilst the Council only has £38M in its reserves, leaving only £1m to cover any further rises in costs until the end of the financial year - the Council will continue to try to cut its budget of course, it's already cutting 540 jobs in the Council across all service areas which I reported on in previous months and in the last few days it has announced it is cancelling a further 11 major road resurfacing projects up & down the County to redeploy funds to meet the

financial black hole & is looking again at all non-statutory services like libraries, theatres & anything it currently funds which it's not required to fund by law. Despite all this, I heard recently that the Council is pressing ahead with its move into smaller premises at the Guildhall in Frankwell, Shrewsbury, whilst buying 'limited amounts' of new furniture, ahead of a further move to new build premises which will be built on the old Riverside development, currently being demolished, or at least it was, it's currently on hold to work out who is paying for the remediation works required to deal with loads of asbestos requiring safe removal which was discovered during demolition! - Why move once when you can move twice!!

Cllr Nigel Hartin: Clun Division, Shropshire Council

A trip down Memory Lane courtesy of Robert Gwilt



Christmas 1958 in the Tap Room at the Red Lion, Llanfair Waterdine.

Left to right; Noel Price - Black Hall, Elvid Bevan – Vedwllwyd, ‘Sailor’ Marpole – The Llanarch,

Tom Evans – Cwm Cole, Reg Lloyd – Beguildy, Sam Hamer – Landlord, Ron Davies – The Dymmy.

(Q – Who knows what the sign top right means? Ed)