

Llanfair Times

incorporating Lloyney News

Winter 2025

In this issue

What's on at:

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

Plus:

Flicks in The Sticks
Llanfair Bookworms

and much more...



Message From The Editor

We would love to receive your articles, comments, ideas and points of view.
The deadline for next March's edition is Friday 14th February 2025

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 and keep warm this winter.

Llanfair Times Editorial Team

What's On

Events to look out for
 in Llanfair Waterdine

The Pavilion

Yoga

Mondays 10-11.30am and Wednesdays 6-7.30pm.
 Contact: katyoga@holwill.net 07968 819 123

Llanfair Little Ones

Contact: llanfairlittleones@gmail.com
 Tuesdays 10am-12noon

Llanfair Book Group

Contact: Rita Hughes crigginrh@gmail.com
 1st Tuesday of the month 7pm – 9pm

Friday night social evenings

ALL WELCOME 7pm – 11pm

Gail Knowler 07765 439 202

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

We have some exciting events coming up.

Fireworks

Friday 7th November 2025

Christmas Market

Friday 28th November 2025

New Years Eve Celebration

Wednesday 31st December 2025

Please note these events are subject to change.
 For more information on the Community Pavilion and any events we have planned and may add why not follow us on Facebook, Llanfair Waterdine Community Pavilion.

Felicity Waters, Management Committee

Everest Hall

T Stop Every second Saturday of the Month between People with time and with a car take and collect those having 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 529 789

Everest Hall 100 Club Lottery. £5.00 per annum.

Contact Mary email : marybufton@btinternet.com

Tel No 01547 510 285

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 529 491**

Everest Hall Llanfair Waterdine available for most events. Hire charges start at £8.00 per four-hour session April – September and £10 October – March. 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.
 For further information contact:
 email everesthall@btinternet.com

Bookings Ruth email: ruthtemecottage@gmail.com **Tel 01547 528 592**
or Mary email : marybufton@btinternet.com
Tel 01547 510 285

Mary Bufton

IT'S BACK!



Everest Hall on the third Saturday of the month

Doors open 7:00PM

Films Start at 7:30PM

Adults £5 Children £2.50

**Join us over the next 5 months
 to see some great movies.**

Running from November 2025 to March 2026 a new series of movies will be screened at the Everest Hall, Llanfair Waterdine. Refreshments are available including during the intermission.

Save the date

on Saturday 3rd January we are hoping to screen (subject to Licensing) 'Downton Abbey, The Grande Finale' as a matinee with Afternoon Tea in Everest Hall.

An update will be available nearer the time when I will send out the usual 'Round Robin' email.

Ruth Davies



Sully – Miracle On The Hudson November 15th 2025

Storyline :

On January 15, 2009, flight 1549 left New York City but shortly after taking off there's an accident that wrecks the plane's engines. They were told to return to the airport, but pilot Chesley 'Sully' Sullenberger decides that the plane won't make it to the airport, so he chooses to land in the Hudson River. And even when none of the passengers were seriously injured, Sully finds himself under intense scrutiny by the National Transportation Safety Board (N.T.S.B.), whose investigation reveals that the plane could have made it to the airport and one of the engines was still working. Sully still maintains the engines were out and if they had tried to go to the airport, they would have crashed.



Fly Me To The Moon

December 27th 2025

Storyline:

Starring Scarlett Johansson and Channing Tatum, Fly Me To The Moon is a sharp, stylish romantic comedy set against the high-stakes backdrop of NASA's historic Apollo 11 moon landing. Brought in to fix NASA's public image, sparks fly in all directions as marketing maven Kelly Jones (Johansson) wreaks havoc on launch director Cole Davis's (Tatum) already difficult task. When the White House deems the mission too important to fail, the countdown truly begins.

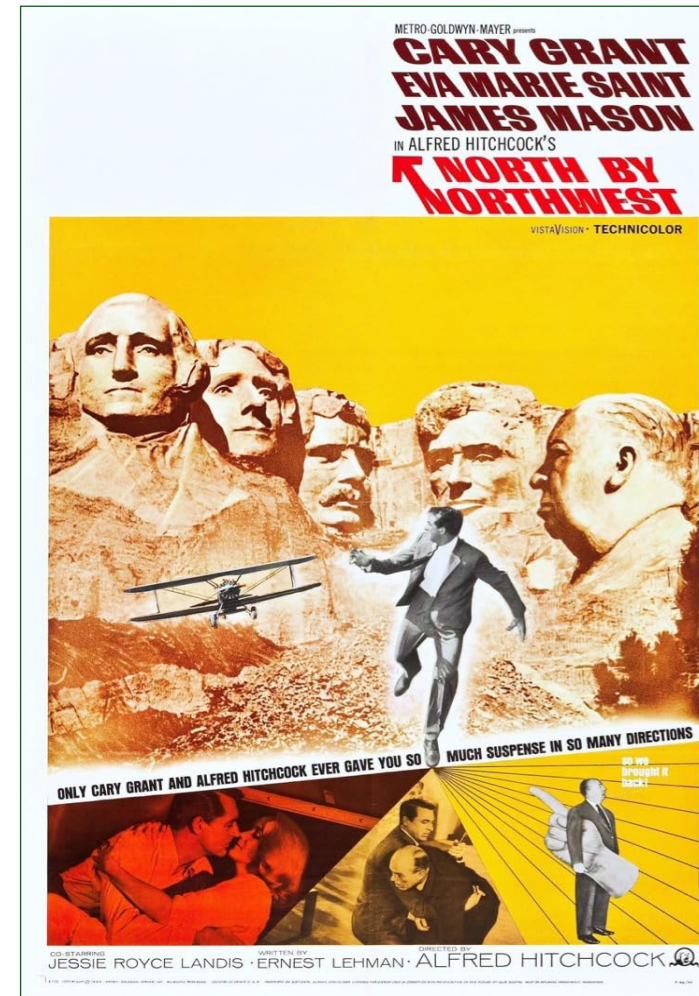


We Bought a Zoo

January 17th 2026

Storyline:

Following his wife's untimely death, Los Angeles journalist Benjamin Mee (Matt Damon) decides to make a fresh start by quitting his job and moving his children (Colin Ford, Maggie Elizabeth Jones) to an 18-acre property containing the Rosemoor Wildlife Park. Though closed for years, Rosemoor is still home to many animals, cared for by Kelly Foster (Scarlett Johansson) and her small staff. Mee opens his heart and his checkbook as he, Kelly and the others work to renovate and reopen the zoo.

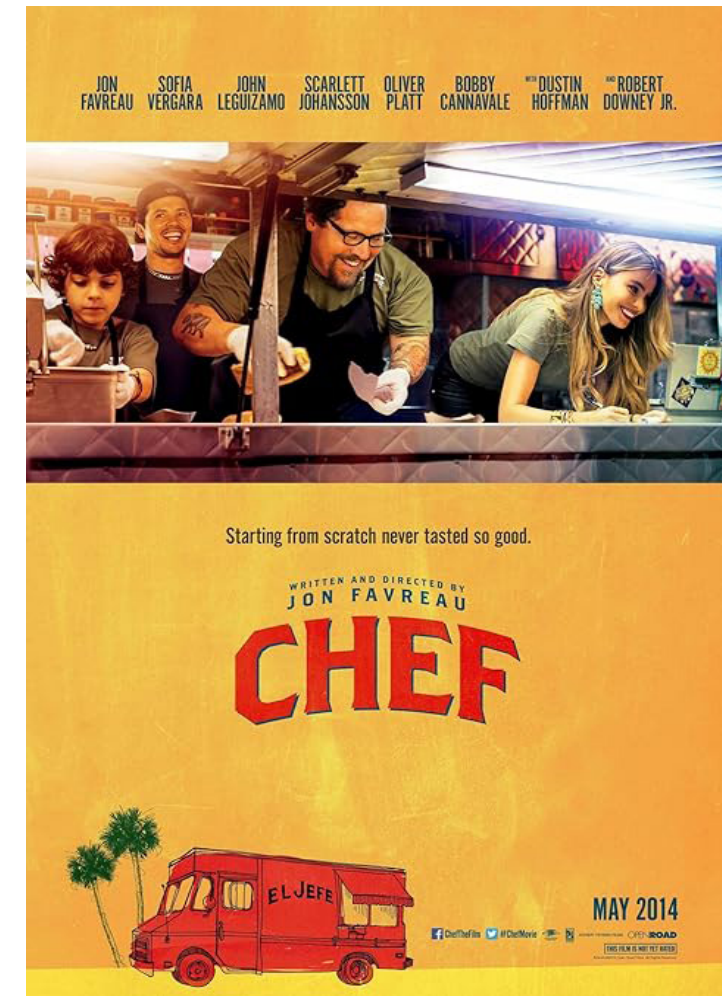


North by Northwest

February 21st 2026

Storyline:

Madison Avenue advertising man Roger Thornhill (Cary Grant) is thrust into the world of spies when he is mistaken for a man named George Kaplan. Foreign spy Philip Vandamm (James Mason) and his henchman, Leonard, try to eliminate him, but when he tries to make sense of the case, he is framed for murder. Now on the run from the police, he manages to board the 20th Century Limited train bound for Chicago where he meets beautiful blonde Eve Kendall (Eva Marie Saint), who helps him evade the authorities. His world is turned upside-down yet again when he learns that Eve isn't the innocent bystander he thought she was. Nothing is as it seems, leading to a dramatic rescue and escape at the top of Mt. Rushmore



Chef

March 21st 2026

Storyline:

After a controlling owner (Dustin Hoffman) pushes him too far, chef Carl Casper (Jon Favreau) 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 (Sofia Vergara), best friend (John Leguizamo) and son (Emjay Anthony) 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



Llanfair Singers'

Charity Christmas Concert

Saturday, 13th December, 2025

7.00pm Everest Hall,
Llanfair Waterdine, Knighton,

Tickets £12.50 – to include supper

Available from: all choir members or on the door





LLANFAIR WATERDINE PAVILION

PROPOSED EVENTS 2026

- Friday 23/1/26** - Thai Food Night
- Saturday 7/2/26** - England vs Wales Six Nations Rugby - Bar open 4pm - kick off 4.45pm
- Friday 27/2/26** - Quiz Night
- Friday 27/3/26** - Fish & Chip Night
- Friday 17/4/26** - Race Night
- Saturday 16/5/26** - Eurovision Song Contest
- Friday 19/6/26** - BBQ & Rounders - Field Sports Night
- Sunday 12/7/26** - Wimbledon Men's Final & Afternoon Tea
- Saturday 15/8/26** - Trust Day
- Saturday/Sunday 18 & 19 September 2026** - The Ryan Davies Challenge Cup Boules Tournament
- Friday 23/10/26** - Cheese & Port Night and Indoor Skittles
- Friday 6/11/26** - Fireworks & Food Van
- Friday 4/12/26** - Christmas Market

PLEASE NOTE - THESE EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Back by popular demand!

Another Wine Tasting with Chicken Paella Supper

Monday 1st December at Everest Hall 7pm.

A welcome glass of fizz then eight tasting wines to get you in the mood for Christmas followed by a paella supper and some Lemon Drizzle with a glass of dessert wine.

Tickets £20 a head payable on the evening. Places are limited so please contact Mark on:

07951 720 309

or email **mark@therealwineco.co.uk** to book your places.

St. Mary's Church, Llanfair Waterdine

Upcoming events and meetings

Grass Cutting Coffee Mornings

All are welcome

11.00 am on the first Wednesday of the month.

- 5th November**
Hosted by Sandra Thomas at Everest Hall
- 3rd December**
Hosted by Dorothy Lee-Frampton at Everest Hall
- 7th January**
Hosted by Margaret Swancott at Everest Hall
- 4th February**
Hosted by Denise & Robert Taylor at The Derrells

Christmas Services

Carol Service
Tuesday 16th December at 7.30pm with Knighton and District Silver Band

Crib Service
Wednesday 24th December at 3.30pm

Christmas Day Communion
Thursday 25th December at 10.30am

Butty Van

The Butty Van arrives at a different farm each month, offering farmers a chance to sit and talk to each other, usually over a bacon sandwich. The scheme is run by the Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy, which serves the agricultural community in Herefordshire, Shropshire and eastern Powys. It is an opportunity for farmers to meet and hear what is going on in other areas. Holding the gatherings on farms means people can turn up in their work clothes. If the meetings were in village halls where people felt the need to dress up, far fewer would come.

The latest meeting, pictured below, in mid October, was held on the farm of Deirdre and Derek Beavan, who says: 'We all come in our working clothes, as if we were going to market. I think that is important. There needs to be no barrier for someone to come.'



FUN FACT

A 'butty' most commonly refers (especially in the north of England) to a sandwich, originating from the word 'butter' and typically made with buttered bread. Examples include the popular 'bacon butty' or 'chip butty'

News

Cardiff Half Marathon

On Sunday 5th October Dave, Felicity, Iwan & Lucy all took part in the Cardiff Half Marathon for charity. Iwan took part for Calon Hearts, Lucy for Kids Cancer Charity and Dave & Felicity took part for Papyrus (Prevention of Young Suicide) and in memory of Max and Elsa.

It was a great day and a fantastic atmosphere and an achievement for them all. Dave and Felicity would like to thank their family and friends who went down to Cardiff to support them. It meant a lot and they couldn't have done it without them.

Most of all Dave and Felicity would like to say a big thank you to everyone who sponsored them. It meant a great deal to them both to help support this fantastic charity.

Most of all Dave and Felicity would like to say a big thank you to everyone who sponsored them. It meant a great deal to them both to help support this fantastic charity.



Flik Waters



Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust

Over the past few months, Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust, alongside committed volunteers and community partners, has been working quietly but effectively behind the scenes to improve, maintain and plan for the long-term sustainability of the village's assets and services. One key infrastructure upgrade completed recently is the installation of power points around the community field, a significant improvement that will support future outdoor events, catering, and activities. This, along with the successful hosting of multiple events at the Community Pavilion, highlights a renewed energy around village gatherings and social life.

The Trust also continues to take its responsibilities seriously when it comes to safety and compliance, with annual fire safety checks carried out and an ongoing review of panic alarms to ensure that vulnerable residents remain supported long-term. The AED project remains a vital community initiative, ensuring life-saving defibrillator access across the parish. Support for this project continues to be a top priority.

In addition to community safety, the Trust has been looking to the environment, working in partnership with local volunteers – Janet, Jane, John, Sue and Mel – to develop projects that enhance and protect the village's green spaces.

Financial oversight also remains a core part of the Trust's work. While the last quarter saw a more significant spending, it has highlighted the balance of investment and income involved in maintaining such a range of community services. As part of its forward planning, the Trust is reviewing the need to reinvest in local community assets, notably the three key land parcels – Turbary, Hordy and Gravels – to ensure they remain beneficial to the parish both now and into the future.

Insurance costs have, once again, been a significant annual outlay, but are essential to safeguard the community's assets. Looking ahead,

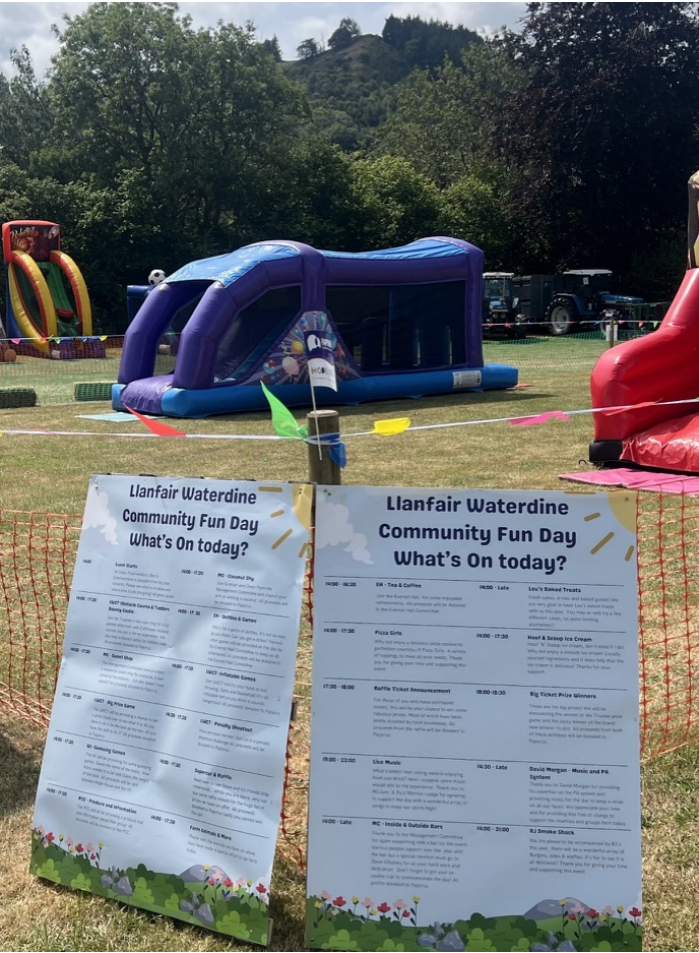
the Trust is identifying additional maintenance works required to keep the facilities in good order for future generations. Finally, with the winter months approaching, residents are warmly reminded that the weekly social evening at the Pavilion continues every Friday from 7pm – a perfect opportunity to stay connected and enjoy some company through the colder season.

Community Spirit Shines at Llanfair Waterdine Fun Day, Raising Over £3,700 for Suicide Prevention Charity

LLANFAIR WATERDINE – August 9, 2025 Hundreds flocked to the Llanfair Waterdine Community Pavilion and Field for this year's Llanfair Waterdine Community Fun Day, a heartwarming afternoon of games, music, and local generosity – all in support of Papyrus, the UK charity dedicated to preventing young suicide. Organised by the Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust and an army of dedicated volunteers from all village groups & organisations, the event raised an incredible £3,778.15, with every penny going to Papyrus's vital work.



The event was packed with activities for all ages. Children (and a few brave adults) took on the rodeo bull and inflatable obstacle courses and games, while others tried their luck at traditional games like skittles, guess the weight of the cake, name the teddy, guess the weight of the lamb and the crowd-favourite, splat the rat. A raffle draw added excitement to the day, featuring an array of prizes including big-ticket items like an iPhone and laptop generously donated by Chiltern Air. A special thank you to all local businesses who provided a prize for the day. It has contributed to us reaching a fantastic total for a great charity. Hungry visitors were well-fed thanks to local food vendors including RJ Smoke Shack, Pizza Girls, and Lou's Baked Treats, with teas & coffees provided by Everest Hall and a fully licensed bar available – the latter expertly run by Steve Chainey and David Beavan (among a few other brave volunteers) of the Pavilion Management Committee. We would also like to recognise the Cocktail Shack manned by Iwan and Lily Waters, which provided another option for visitors throughout the day.



Live music set the tone throughout the day, with performances from MoJam, Paul Marriott-Lodge (who also acted as a charismatic compère), and DJ Dave (Dave ID), who kept spirits high well into the night.

Behind the scenes, a huge community effort made it all possible. Special thanks were extended to Robert and Ruth Davies for providing the field for parking. A variety of people must be thanked for manning stalls and lending invaluable help throughout. We won't name them in the risk of missing someone out! With that being said, an extra thank you must go to Tom Gwilt, who offered a lot of support ahead of the event and we are truly grateful for this.

As a Trust we couldn't be more grateful, this was a real team effort from across the parish – community groups, volunteers, local businesses, and generous sponsors all came together to support a cause that touches so many lives. With crowds in the hundreds and strong interest already brewing, Trustees hope to return in August 2026 for another day of family fun and fundraising. For now, Llanfair Waterdine can look back with pride on a day that brought people together and made a real difference – all while having a lot of fun.

Best Wishes, Llanfair Waterdine Community Trustees , Matthew Croose, Liam Waters, Steve Knowler, Will Rogers

Everest Hall Lottery Winners

JULY

1st Llewelyn Morgan 2nd Harold Lewis
3rd Charlotte Wood 4th A & S Nix

August

1st Philippa Boast 2nd Christine Jones
3rd Sam Beavan 4th Ian Magowan

September

1st Rowena Hubbman 2nd Dilys Waters
3rd Helen Henchoz 4th G. M. Evans

October

1st Lindsey Hutchins 2nd Kath Graham
3rd Mike Bufton 4th B & V Dodd

Thank you for your continued support of your village hall, it is much appreciated.
Any enquiries everesthall@btinternet.com or any of our Trustees.

Thank you – The Everest Hall Management Committee

Iwan Waters Graduation

Iwan recently graduated from Cardiff Metropolitan University with a Bachelors-in-Law Degree. He is now doing a Masters-Degree along with preparing for his Solicitor's qualifying exams.



Llanfair Waterdine Nature Recovery Group

Since my last report we have made some headway with the small projects on the Pavilion field. Some weeding and planting have occurred on the carpark verge and the tump in the corner of the field. St Mary's Church PCC asked for help to plan and carry out some projects in the church yard.

One idea is to create a sitting area in the top corner which will include the planting of some native trees.

To assist us in these projects we would welcome any donations of foxgloves, primroses, Welsh poppies, comfrey and any other wild perennial or biennial native flowers from your gardens. Mel Ellison will happily collect and you can call her on **07500 005 876**

John Lane



Plants collected from Rita & Mark's and then transplanted into the pavilion roadside verge
John Lane

Llanfair Waterdine Community Pavilion

We have had a very busy Summer at the Pavilion with lots of events and along with our normal Friday night social evenings all have been very well attended.

Our Charity for this year has been Papyrus and with events such as a quiz, kindly hosted by Paul Marriot-Lodge, a BBQ evening as well as the Community Fun day, we have raised more than £3500.00. From all of us on the Management Committee we would like to thank everyone who has either donated or supported the events.

Llanfair Boules

This year we have had an exciting Boules League with 10 teams fighting it out over the summer. We have been blessed by the weather this year and there have been many close matches played during a balmy summers evening. It was very close towards the end of the season with 4 teams who could potentially win the League and it wasn't until the final game of the year that the winners were decided. Well done to Steve Knowler & Dave Beavan for their League Win.



LEAGUE WINNERS
STEVE KNOWLER & DAVE BEAVAN
2025

Since winning, a lot of interest has been shown in joining the League for next year, you never know we could have that many teams that it would warrant a 2nd league. If anyone is interested in joining, then please let Steve Chainey know the next time you are around the Pavilion, the more the merrier! There is certainly no better way to spend a warm summers evening with friends enjoying a drink and a competitive game of Boules.

The Ryan Davies Challenge Cup



Our Annual Boules Tournament has now been renamed to 'The Ryan Davies Challenge Cup' in honour of Ryan who sadly passed away earlier this year. Ryan was one of the volunteers who helped to build the Pavilion and we on the management Committee felt we wanted to dedicate this trophy in his memory. This sentiment was shared by Colin, Lesley and Llewelyn Davies and we would like to thank them for their support of this during such a difficult time for them.

On Saturday 27th September, after many of us had enjoyed the big breakfast at Everest Hall, we made our way to the Pavilion where 14 teams of 2 had entered the Tournament. The first round was a straight knockout, and 7 teams progressed to the quarter-finals along with the highest scoring loser from the first round. With the quarterfinals

again being a straight knock-out the Semi-finalists were decided for Sundays Finals. As the bar was open for both days play, there was a very enjoyable atmosphere despite the rather cold conditions.

On Sunday 28th September, Finals Day, we enjoyed Bacon rolls, Tea and Coffee prior to the start of play. With weather conditions significantly improved we start with the first semi-final. Steve & Gail Knowler were pitted against Flik & Liam Waters and after a very tense and close match Flick & Liam won by 2 legs to 1. In the second semi-final, Roy Lloyd & Pat Brookes came up against Terry Williams & Rob Gwilt and again this proved to be a very close match with Terry & Rob clinching it 2 legs to 1. The Final between Flick & Liam/ Terry & Rob proved to be everything it was expected to be with some very tactical and inch-perfect shots from both teams. Flick & Liam, however, prevailed and eventually won the tournament to great applause by all the spectators.



**THE RYAN DAVIES
CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS
FELICITY & LIAM WATERS
2025**



Upcoming Events at The Pavilion

We have a few events left on our calendar seeing us through autumn to the end of the year, they are as follows:

Friday 7th November 2025

Fireworks & Food Van starts at 7pm with Fireworks at 8pm

Friday 28th November 2025

The Pavilion Christmas Market starts at 5pm, Stalls, food, Santa's Grotto, Llanfair Singers and Bar

Friday 5th December 2025

Quiz night hosted by Paul Marriot-Lodge starts at 7.30pm

Every Friday

Social evening starts from 7pm

All in all, it has been a fantastic year to date at the Pavilion and we all on the management Committee would like to offer our thanks to all those who support the community building by attending our

events and Friday night social evenings. If anyone has any suggestions for events or ideas of how we can improve this superb facility there is a suggestion box located on the bar for your ideas.

Look out on the notice board for next years events, we will be posting these up soon!

Gail Knowler

The Pavilion Management Committee

Sports News

Congratulations to 'local' footballer Kane Davies. Selected and starting for Wales Schools U15s. And now playing for Shrewsbury Town U16s, following his rumoured £10,000 transfer from Newtown. Locals are pleased for Kane but not too surprised. We know his sister Teagan has represented Powys Schools Swimming, his auntie Louise played Hockey for Powys and his Great-Auntie Marilyn, who we all know from CCF, represented Wales in Cross-Country.

Mentions to Michael Beavan, Jack Webster, Rhys Watkins and Oliver Hall. All integral to our community and all playing for Bishops Castle RFU. Now playing in the Midland (West) League following their promotion. Congratulations.

While on the subject of Rugby, one other personality who is someone we will all know but not realise, because he is so modest, is that Gavin Grafton had extended training and trials for England RFU U16s. Injuries impeded his career but he still was selected for County and Midland Regional Rugby. He continued and completed his career with Luctonians.

Congratulations to Colin Davies on winning the prestigious Presteigne Gates International Invitation Run. (Harness Racing) Held in wet conditions Colin, driving Cwmarirog Jack, led at the first corner and was never 'headed', much to the delight of the large and local crowd.

Robert Gwilt

The Blood Bikes Show

As in other years the profits have gone to Blood Bikes Wales, a most worthy cause. In just four years this event, with appreciated donations, has raised over £16,000 (!) for the Charity. The organisers wish to put on record their sincere thanks to the Llanfair Waterdine Community for the 'hospitality' and support, without which, the day would not be such a tremendous success.

Mentions to Pauline, Julie, Emma, Felicity and Rosie for all the organisation, preparation and serving the delicious cakes and bakes, the teas, coffees and cold drinks. Mentions should always include Jenny, Jane and Steve who worked tirelessly on the Burger Stand on a hot day. Sincere thanks to all who donated the raffle prizes and Abbie, especially, who as always does such splendid work organising and selling the tickets.

The organisers should wish to thank The Knighton Co-op, Llanfair Hall, Sunningdale, Teme Cottage, John Tranter, The Waterdine and Apple Tree Designs for all their help, and donations.

Local winners this year included David Vaughen, David Barrett, Colin Wood, Adrian Morris, Clive Brick and Rob Watkins. Congratulations. As you can all appreciate, The Trevor Mason Cup, won by Bertie Evans was an especially emotional moment.

We must announce The Mary Berry Award, which again attracted over forty(!) entries. Judge Elaine, a past NHS Catering Manager, once more had the near impossible task to select a top three. All at the show thought all the cakes delicious ...however the results read;

1... Cath Harris

2 ... Abbie Gwilt

3... Fay Pugh.

Congratulations!

And finally, as always when you meet David, please shake his hand and thank him for inspiring, organising and making possible such an event.

Robert Gwilt

Llanfair Waterdine WI



This is a very special year for us as a WI as we reach our hundredth year. We celebrated in October with a special afternoon tea with invited guests from our County Federation and our linked institutes. Our most long standing members Mary Morgan and Margaret Swancott were both present and as a past President Mary Morgan was asked by our current President, Margaret Clugston to cut the cake.



We had a lovely afternoon reminiscing and I think that some of our newer members learned quite a lot about our behaviour and the community in past years. A lot of us are older now but wiser? I don't know !!



There has been a lot of activity since my last article. Some excellent speakers including talented members living in our community including Mel Elliston who has worked for many years offering Doula support to women in pregnancy and Phil Morris who is an amazing gardener with a love of wildlife. Also Evie George who is a local archaeologist and talked about Bronze Age finds at Heyope. Our Federation Chair and Vice-Chair gave us an illustrated talk on their wonderful cruise to the Antarctic. We have also had two excellent trips. A visit to Kerry to a vineyard with a generous wine tasting and a fascinating trip and tour to the Wedgewood factory. Unfortunately, the beautiful hand-made vases were definitely outside our price range. I bravely invested in a biro!

Up and coming we have a talk on 'Safeguarding'. A leading topic for concern at the moment and in December a Christmassy event with Hand Bells. No meeting in January. February another leading topic "Signing". Then into our AGM in March. We have had a wonderful few months together and would always be glad to welcome new members and guests if you see something that interests you or just want to join in with us for a sociable evening. Notice ... we always have an appetising Bring and Share supper.

Please feel free to visit any of our meetings which are held on the first Friday of every month in the Everest Hall, Llanfair Waterdine at 7pm for members and 7.30pm for visitors.

For further information please contact Christine Chainey on **01547 519 254** **Ann Harroway**



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

The application date for a new Priest-in-Charge for the Middle Marches Benefice closed on Monday, 13th October. Sadly, there were no applicants which means we remain in an interregnum. Bishop Richard and Archdeacon Fiona have issued a statement, which they have asked to be circulated.

"As you will know, the closing date for applications for the new Priest-in-Charge in the Middle Marches Benefice was Monday, 13th October. We are sorry to say that there were no eligible applicants.

We are aware that this news will be a big disappointment, not least since it will mean an extension to the vacancy. Archdeacon Fiona will be working in the coming weeks to find new dates for a second round of advertising and interviews.

In the meantime, please continue to pray that God will guide us to the right person at the right time to lead the parishes of the Middle Marches Benefice

forward in this next phase of your life and ministry. This comes with the assurance of our prayers for all in the parishes, particularly the Churchwardens, the retired clergy and the lay leaders who have extra responsibilities at this time”.

The Rt Rev'd Richard Jackson

Bishop of Hereford

The Ven Dr Fiona Gibson

Archdeacon of Ludlow

North Aisle

There have been many positive comments about the changes to the North Aisle. There is now much more space for social meetings after services and the extension of services into that area with a table and chairs for all-age worship and discussion. Writing and drawing is possible as is breaking into small groups. There is also a well-used children's area. When needed for services with large congregations the space can accommodate our plastic chairs as well as our being able to utilise the original pews which have been re-sited against the wall. The whole church feels much more spacious and welcoming as a result of the work. We were granted a temporary licence to undertake this work by the Diocese and we now are applying for a Faculty from the Diocese to make the changes permanent.

Repairs Update - The last phase - we hope!

Robert Taylor writes: It is somewhat strange that the last phase of repairs should involve sorting out the roof and ensuring that the building is waterproof, during a period when there has been a noticeable lack of rain. Apart from some little bits of finishing off, this work on the roof and walls is now complete and with it the bulk of the repairs listed in last year's quinquennial report.

The original slate roof was replaced with a tiled roof over a waterproof filament and insulation in the nineteen seventies and despite all that our weather had thrown at it, things were basically sound and just needed tiles and ridge tiles replacing and repairing. This has been done along with work on the lead flashings. The building is now in good repair, and we give thanks for the skills and integrity

of the craftsmen who have done the work.

Thanks to a healthy bank balance and the grant we received from the diocese we have been able to pay for this work without breaking into our fabric fund. However, we need to look to replenish our bank balance so that we can continue with the internal re-ordering to give us the facilities we need, such as a WC and a kitchen.

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 Recovery 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 in the near future. The churchyard is a quiet peaceful area and offers scope for enhancing the variety of plants living there and hopefully improving the numbers of birds and animals living and moving through it. At a second meeting it was decided that the NRG would first work on 'greening' the rough area along the East wall.

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

Features

My Tour du Mont Blanc Trip September 2025



I love to run on the trails around the Shropshire hills with my noble steed Ron (who is very well known in the Llanfair parish) at my side but I was after a more challenging adventure so on 1st September I set off on a six-day trail-running trip along the Tour du Mont Blanc (TMB) trail which is a famous trail circling Mont Blanc passing through France, Italy and Switzerland. This Alps adventure covered the rugged mountainous terrain running from hut to hut, through mountain villages and at the end of each day we would rest up and carb up and get our heads down in mountain refuges, hostels and one hotel when in Courmayeur (Italy). We power-hiked the steep ascents and then ran the downhill and the flats and every moment was truly amazing. The terrain was technical in places but that was all part of the fun and the views were out of this world. Seeing the iconic Mont Blanc from all sides was breath-taking, running through cattle fields and hearing the iconic cattle bells set the scene: this was a trip of a lifetime.

One stand-out moment for me was after the spicy climb up to the Col de la Seigne and the border from France into Italy. I was blown away by the view and the depth of the Mont Blanc Massif. It was like nothing I had ever seen before and will stay with me forever.

While the TMB route was spectacular it has a fairly high footfall so when there was an opportunity to run along a less trodden path and along more rugged and untouched mountain trails we did - we ran along the Mountain Goat Trail which was rocky and rugged and perhaps not for the faint-hearted.

During this trip fuelling was vital: the fine French bread and pastries and iconic Blueberry tarts were devoured at every opportunity and don't forget the Pizza and gelato when we were on the Italian side of the mountains.

On the final day of the trip we climbed up from the Trient on the Swiss side and as we summited the Col and looking down the Chamonix valley we were greeted by a flock of sheep: they were un-phased by us runners and were more worried about the lush alpine grass. Many were blown away with these sheep but for me it was more of a busman's holiday and I confidently led the group through the sheep. However, these sheep were not alone and they were being guarded under the watchful eye of the Patou dogs who stay with the sheep to guard them from predators in the mountains. I was a tad wary of them. This was the day we completed our loop around Mont Blanc and ran back into Chamonix to finish our journey at the iconic Eglise Saint Michael, where there happened to be a local wedding happening at the time. Sadly, the church bells and well-dressed people weren't there to cheer for us. That final evening in Chamonix was full of reminiscing with the others, enjoying some fine French cuisine and having a well-deserved beer. If any hikers or trail runners fancy this trip I would highly recommend it: six days of running from A to B through amazing scenery with like minded people; grazing all day long without a care in the world. What more could you wish for?... now onto planning the next trip.

Emily Powell



Eating In Winter Warmers

A one-pot pulse-ating recipe to try out (with due acknowledgment to the excellent book ‘One Pan Beans’ by Claire Thomson)

Pork Belly with Butter Beans and Sage

Serves 4 with leftovers...



Ingredients

- 1.5k pork belly skin scored (ask Tom Pugh to do this for you, his knives are sharp!)
- 6 cloves of garlic – 4 thinly sliced, 2 crushed
- 1 x large bunch of sage leaves picked and ½ of them chopped
- 2 x tsp ground fennel seeds
- 2 x onions thinly sliced
- 2 x carrots thinly sliced
- 2 x leeks washed and thinly sliced
- 3 x ripe tomatoes roughly chopped (or a tin!)
- 2 x tbsp olive oil
- 100ml dry white wine
- 500g cooked butter beans
- 300ml chicken or veg stock
- Salt & pepper to season

Method

- Season the pork belly all over with salt, crushed garlic, chopped sage, ground fennel seeds, and ½ tsp ground black pepper. Leave to marinate for at least an hour in the fridge and remove 30 minutes before cooking.
- Pre-heat the oven to 200°C (180 °C fan)
- Mix all the vegetables, sliced garlic, tomatoes, olive oil and wine. Season with salt & pepper, set aside.
- In your casserole dish or deep roasting tin roast the pork in the hot oven for 30 mins until the skin is coloured and cracked. Remove it, tip in the veg mix, replace the pork on top, put the lid on or cover tightly with foil and slow roast at 160 °C (140 °C fan) for 1½-2 hours until the pork is easily pierced with a sharp knife.
- When the cooking time is up, remove the pork, skim off excess fat, add the beans remaining sage and stock, put back the pork on top, re-cover and cook for another 10 minutes or so until the beans are heated through.
- Remove from the oven and leave covered to rest for 20 minutes before carving and serving.

Personal note – we often don’t get the crackling crispy enough so you can remove the skin during the final 20 minutes’ resting period and whack it in a hot oven to crisp-up.

Beetroot and Lemon Hummus



Great Rollright is the place in Oxfordshire near

where the Rollright Stones can be found. These stones are reputed to be very old indeed. The oldest, the Whispering Knights dolmen is early Neolithic, dating from 3,800 – 3,500 B.C. Great Rollright was a happy place to go ‘home’ to during the holidays. It was a surprise, therefore, many years ago to find jumping out at me, sitting upstairs on a 159 bus in London, a recipe from Great Rollright for ‘Hummus’. As with Llanfair, there were some very good cooks in Great Rollright, (population about the same as Llanfair) but it was quite something for a recipe from Great Rollright to be nationally recognised. It is right that it was and I have been making the recipe, with slight changes, ever since. One of the differences is nothing more than the addition of a packet of beetroot from the Co-op!

Ingredients

- 1 tin of chickpeas rinsed
- 2 tablespoons of tahini
- 2 peeled cloves of garlic
- 4 tablespoons of hot water
- 1 tablespoon of olive oil
- juice of 1 lemon
- Contents of 1 packet of prepared beetroot

Method

Put all in a blender and whizz. Can be served as you like. It is good in little pastry cups, which you can buy online or in Ludlow Farm Shop, or with bread. Very good with a glass of ‘The Real Wine Company’ Red or White too.

Richard Lewis

Walking Llanfair Waterdine’s footpaths and bridleways

Llanfair Waterdine is a big parish, as I’ve discovered since recently becoming Footpath Warden. It stretches from just outside Knighton in the south-east corner up to Quabbs in the north-west with the village roughly in the middle of the southern border. My job

is to walk and survey the paths and bridleways (rights of way) of the parish, recording where repairs need making to stiles and gates, and missing or unclear signage that needs replacing. And there are a lot of paths! My aim is to walk all of them in the parish – I don’t know how many miles that is it total, but it will take some time! It’s a great opportunity to get out into the countryside, up on top of the hills and experience the fantastic views across the parish and beyond.

As you may have noticed, we’ve made a start on the footpath leading up into the fields next to the church, replacing the broken stile with a gate supplied by Shropshire Council.



This path leads up through the fields towards Mount Pleasant, then into Long Wood where it becomes lost in fallen trees and undergrowth – it was originally used as a short-cut for those walking from outlying farms to the church and school in the village. The path is the first section of one of five circular paths in the parish listed on Shropshire’s Great Outdoors website – Circular Path 2* – which takes you up to Offa’s Dyke, where some of the best-preserved sections can be seen, and back down past Black Hall Lodges to the village. (www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk)(approx. 5 miles, 2.5 hours – with some steep parts!). With the help of Shropshire Council’s Rights of Way Officer, we will be undertaking further repairs to



the path to make sure it is open for use by all those who want a bit more of a challenge of walking up the slopes – the views, wildlife and woods are well worth it! We would welcome any volunteers for the next set of repairs and path clearing – please let me know if you are interested.

Ben Eastop – 07803 725 706

** Copies of all five Llanfair Waterdine Circular Walks are available at the Pavilion*

In Conversation with... Claire and Will Willits



RL: Thanks for coming round for a conversation about you and your new home. What brought you two to Ladycroft?

C & WW: We used to live in Everdon near Daventry. It was time for a move. We had looked in Herefordshire and Shropshire. Claire knew the area, having worked at Laura Ashley in Newtown and lived in Newtown too.

RL: Your house is interesting and has marvellous views from the front window over the valley. How old is it?

WW: The house seems to have been developed in three phases. There is the central part which is believed to have been built in the 1960s, the back part which is younger and the front part which has been fairly recently added.

RL: How has living here been so far?

C & WW So far, very good. Claire is from a farming family in Mid-Sussex so, being rural, it is back to home for her. Will was born in Hampshire so is very familiar with the countryside.

RL: And where did you meet?

CW: We met at university in Yorkshire.

RL: What do you or did you do?

WW: I am now retired. I spent 30 years as a transport manager for logistics for various organisations. My last job was at Silverstone doing stewarding.

CW: I was in logistics doing business development and account management. I went more specialist with pharmaceuticals, liaising between customers and distribution. My last job was in specialist chemicals as dangerous goods safety advisor, especially to do with farming, golf courses and football grounds in relation to fertilizers. We are both now fully retired.

RL: What is good about living here?

WW: The quiet; the views and the laid-backness and everyone has been friendly.

RL: Any relations and pets?

CW: We have Bella, our totally deaf cat and six Godchildren. They live in Sheffield, near Lancaster, in Southampton and one is doing his PH.D. in Swansea.

The Ph.D is in string theory.

RL: Who is the gardener?

WW: Claire is a serious gardener. We have done lots so far, including the grass and taking two trees out. We are redesigning the garden too, with the drive to be moved to the front of the house. If you ever want Claire, look in the garden where you are likely to find her! We are also planning to have a garage and a workshop for me.

RL: Do you have any hobbies, Will?

WW: I build model trucks for my own pleasure and also take commissions.
(At this point Will showed me a picture of a model truck which was superb and amazing in its detail. The trucks are on a 1/50th scale.)

RL: So what do you think the future will hold for you in Llanfair?

C & WW More of the same!

RL: Thanks for coming round for a chat and I hope to see you again soon.

Richard Lewis

Llanfair Singers Chairman’s Diary

Wow! What a fantastic summer... and we’ve only had to wait 49 years since the last one!

On one of the hottest days of summer we found ourselves enjoying the shade of a wonderful and ancient Yew tree whilst marking the end of another successful choir year with our traditional end-of-year party – this time kindly hosted by Susan Harley in her beautiful garden – with a fabulous array of food provided by members of the choir.

Aficionados of this publication will be all too familiar with the events that made this year so successful. For those of you who haven’t read the previous articles (shame on you) the abridged version includes: leading St. Mary’s Carol Service last December; a performance of Karl Jenkins’ ‘The armed man’; in February; singing choral evensong at Wells Cathedral

in April; the well-supported joint concert with the Stour Valley Singers in June, along with many other smaller performances for various churches and organisations.

We returned to earth with our AGM and first rehearsal on 18th September and found ourselves immediately preparing for the annual charity Christmas Concert with plenty of new music to learn. The date for this is 13th December at 7.00pm in the Everest Hall and , as always, there will be an excellent supper to follow. Tickets will be available from Richard Lewis, Graham Trew and all choir members. With just eight days to recover, a smaller group will be leading the annual Carol Service at Heyope Parish Church, on the 21st December at 3.00 pm.

The rest of our year is still under discussion with dates yet to be confirmed, including for the next Cathedral visit and a potential visit to Suffolk where we will join the Stour Valley Singers once again – but this time on their home turf.

We are still in desperate need of tenors (e.g. if you can sing along with Ed Sheeran, Paul McCartney, Bon Jovi – or even Placido Domingo then you’re a tenor). Without you the prospect of singing another Cathedral Evensong is diminishing – your help in finding tenors will be greatly appreciated and well-rewarded when you hear us sing! Equally, a few more baritones (e.g. if you can sing along with Jim Reeves, Michael Ball, Nat King Cole etc) would not go amiss! Rehearsals are every Thursday evening 7.30pm – 9.30pm (with a tea break!) in the Everest Hall – just come along. You’ll be very welcome.

With Christmas and the New Year rapidly approaching, it just remains for me, along with the whole choir, to wish you a very happy and joyous Christmas and a wonderful 2026.

Michael Symonds
Chairman

More Blasts from The Past from Robert Gwilt



AT A SOCIAL EVENING to mark the end of the darts season, a house championship match for league players was held at the Builders Arms Hotel, Lloiney, on

Friday. It was won by Mr. John Davies (left) who is receiving the cup from Mr. H. Steiner. Right is runner-up, Mr. John Hughes.



REPEATING THEIR PERFORMANCE of two years ago, Lloiney Rocks won the Knighton K.O. darts league cup on Friday.

Team (back row), J. Hughes, K. Morris, M. Gwilt, G. Evans; front, T. Price, R. Jones (capt.), J. Davies

Clubs 'n' Stuff

Llanfair Bookworms



It's the end of our first year and we are looking forward to another collection of titles to add to the ones below we've read this year.



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

Notices

Christmas Post

Llanfair Christmas post will be in operation again during December. Many thanks to Iorwerth Waters, Chairman of Everest Hall Trustees, for agreeing to the post box being erected on the wall of Everest Hall and for putting it up himself. Many thanks, too, to the post people: Ruth Davies, Robert Gwilt, Tony Greasley, Ann Harroway, Barbara Ind, Janet Lewis, Liz Locky, Mike Locky, Rob Taylor and Graham Trew. The postbox will be in operation from 1st December until 21st December. There will be two or three deliveries. As before, if you are able to do so, please leave a donation of 10p per card which will, as in the past, go to Cancer Research UK. The post box is for deliveries in Llanfair parish, Lloyney and Knighton.

Thank you, in anticipation, for your support.

Richard Lewis

David Tollman

Judith Tollman writes: David died in August after a very long but ever-courageous battle against cancer and is now laid to rest in the peace of the churchyard here at St Mary's, Llanfair Waterdine. Throughout these years, he and I have been supported and sustained by the caring community we were so lucky to be part of in Knighton, Lloyney and Llanfair Waterdine.

I would like to thank everybody for the transport to and from various hospitals and for the practical and emotional support that was and still is offered, needed and gratefully accepted by us both. I have been overwhelmed by the kindness, thoughtfulness and love given by you, our neighbours and friends and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.



Parish Council

We have had a couple of PC meetings since the last Llanfair Times. In this time two new councillors have been co-opted to the Council; Gail Knowler and Richard Lewis. Richard has previously sat on the Council so it is good to have him back. They both bring a wide range of skills and experiences that will benefit the council and our wider community. We are now up to full strength with seven council members along with our clerk James McVicar.

At our last meeting the Shropshire Ward Councillor Sam Walmsley was able to give a fulsome report on wider issues in the County. These are summarised in the minutes from the 22nd September meeting and well worth a read.

Our Clerk presented a report on Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) which led to his recommendations being unanimously accepted by the Council. Some of the recommendations include: the Parish Council taking overall responsibility for the AEDs including maintenance and running costs; that an additional AED be installed at the Pavilion on the receipt of grants from the Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust; that the AED at Everest Hall be transferred to Council ownership and the provision of annual training on how to use an AED.

Our Footpath Warden was able to report the installation of a new gate on one of our footpaths. This was completed with help from Shropshire Council. Finally, the members of the PC and clerk were able to meet informally to discuss and consider the needs of our community in the short and long term. This proved to be a very positive time together which has led to new agenda items for our next meeting on Monday 24th November at 6.30pm in The Pavilion. Remember, members of the public are welcome to attend.

John Lane, Chairman



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.

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

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

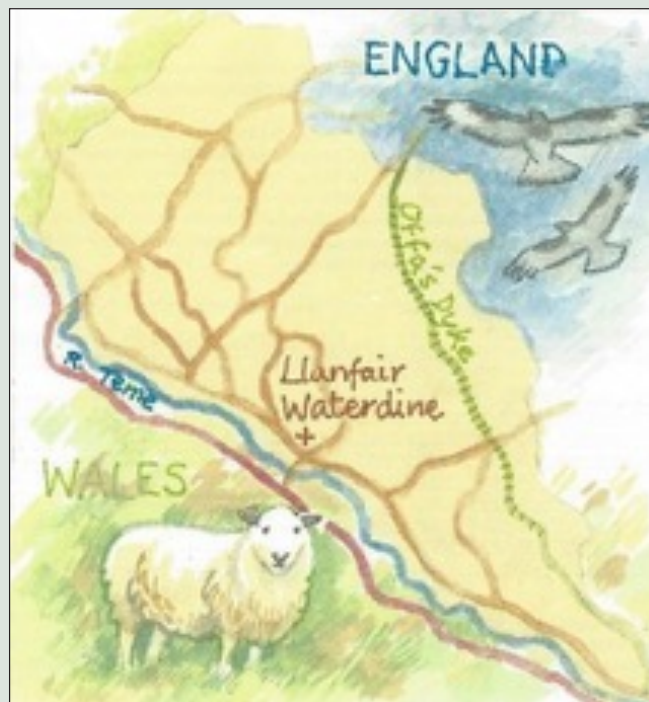
Potholes – Fix my street

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



Many thanks to Jim McLoughlin who has given this edition of Llanfair Times a brand new look!

And to end with...

"I bought a dog from a blacksmith a while ago. I'd only had him two weeks before he made a bolt for the door!"