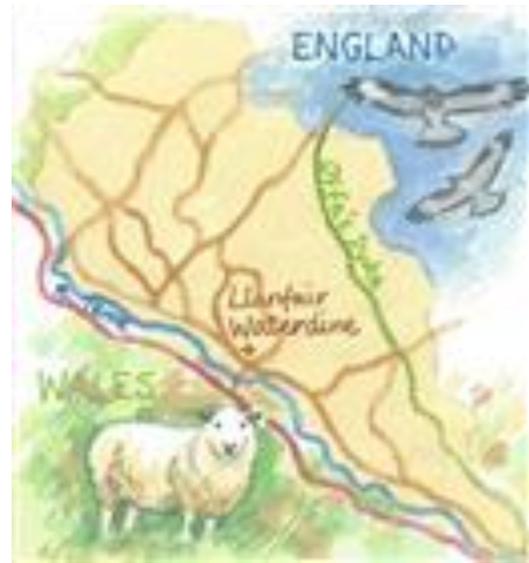


# Llanfair Times

incorporating Lloyney News



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

**March 2021**

**Welcome to our 20th edition.**

Another edition comes and goes and still no Events or Social Diary to include. But there is light at the end of the tunnel and by the time the June edition comes around you may well have events for the summer to publicise.

We would also like to have your suggestions about content for future editions. Educational, interesting, entertaining, controversial? Please email us your views.

The copy deadline for June is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Llanfair Times Editorial team c/o [mark@criggin.co.uk](mailto:mark@criggin.co.uk)

## Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust

Since the December report there have been changes to the trustees. Robert Gwilt has ended a four-year term, and two new trustees have been nominated by the Parish Council.

Robert arrived just as the idea of a building on the Joan Adams field was originally being explored, and he has taken a large part in all aspects of its design and delivery. His in-depth local knowledge has also helped with all aspects of the Trusts work. Trustees would like to thank him on behalf of the whole community for his commitment and hard work.

We now look forward to benefiting from the abilities of Byron Ford and Matthew Croose, and we very much hope they will enjoy working for and helping the community in a diverse number of ways.

This spring we hope to assist the Parish Council with the planting of some more trees on the Spring Hill Triangle, and we also look forward to the first event taking place in the Pavilion. At the time of writing, this looks as though it will be a regular parent and toddler group.

The Building was issued a completion certificate in early December by Shropshire Building Controls, Andy Jones who has been wholly supportive to us throughout the build. Pete Bamford also visited to sign off the final leader funded grant, and he too was tremendously impressed with what our voluntary efforts had achieved. More recently a Premises licence has been granted which should allow for most of the likely required functions to take place in the building and on the field.

It is likely that new options will become available over the next couple of years for the land that we manage, with new British schemes taking us forward regarding funding support. They are likely to have a strong environmental bias, so hopefully we will be well placed to benefit. In the meantime, the Trust would like to thank the three local graziers (Raymond Davies, Roy and Louise Lloyd and Jonathan Greenall) who have grazed the land, while paying a good market price, and have also complied efficiently with all of the rules relating to both the Basic Payment Scheme and the High-Level Stewardship scheme. The Trust will be happy to work with them again in 2021, however if other graziers are interested in any of the fields please would they contact any trustee for information.

**Bob Bailey, Andrew Beavan,**

**Matthew Croose, Byron Ford.**

**Trustees of Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust**





# Llanfair Little Ones



Lockdown 2.0 has been a busy one in our household. We've settled into family life with little Maisie, now 4 months old. Alongside our normal daily routine, I have been working hard to set up a project which I have had in my sights since the building of The Community Pavilion Llanfair Waterdine began.

Being a first time mum with Henry I loved the social aspect of motherhood and toddler groups. I would look forward to the weekly groups where I formed life-long friendships with people I would probably not have crossed paths with otherwise. These friendships offer so much support for any parent, whether that be an ear to listen or a voice to offer advice. Our rural location means a lack of social interaction is par for the course with limited support available for new parents. We do not have the luxury of multiple classes or groups within a 15 mile radius of our homes but I'd like to change that.

Jamie and I were both involved in the build of The Community Pavilion therefore I knew what a fantastic building it was going to be. The main factors that make the building so attractive are the ground source heating ensuring the building is always warmed and in a sustainable way. The access to the large patio and balcony also provides the perfect area for children to play on outdoor toys, the safe playing field is perfect for children to burn some of their never ending energy.

Even before Covid was upon us I had already decided once The Community Pavilion was built, I was going to write to the Trustees and ask if I could set up a weekly Mother and Toddler group. During my time confined to our house with a toddler and then a new born I was even more determined to set up a support group for parents in our area. Lockdown has been extremely

challenging for us as a young family, the lack of social interaction has been really tough. I had spoken to friends and new parents but phone calls and 'face-times' are not the same as face to face contact. Also meeting new people and having group discussions is impossible!

So in October 2020 I put together my idea and wrote my letter. Within a few days I had a positive response from the Trustees.

'Llanfair Little Ones' was then put into motion. I would like to formally welcome Kate Rowlands, Selley Hall and Hannah Morgan, Brynoak to my committee.

'Llanfair Little Ones' has already had a high volume of expressed interest, with many parents eager to attend as soon as the dreaded restrictions are lifted.

The group will meet weekly on Wednesday mornings 10am-12 noon. During this time parents can socialise and make new friends and the "little ones" can play and also make new friends. Tea and coffee will be available for the parents and a snack will be offered to the children. A small attendance fee will be charged at each session to cover costs. Our group is open for anyone to attend, if you are a mother, father, grandparent, family member or carer then get in touch.

We now sit with crossed fingers hoping we can start our group meetings as soon as possible. If you would like anymore information or know anyone who would like to attend Llanfair Little Ones please keep in touch with us via our Facebook group page: Llanfair Little Ones or Email: [llanfairlittleones@gmail.com](mailto:llanfairlittleones@gmail.com).

**Stop Press!** I do have a potential first session date now the timeline has been announced, Wednesday 14th April 2021. We are limited to 15 parents so we are going to hold a morning and afternoon session to allow as many to attend as possible.

*Jamie Court*

**What do you call a group of baby soldiers?  
An infantry.**



## In Conversation with.... Jane Wynn Owen

Our Book Club is still in suspension because of the pandemic but, as David Tollman very generously offered to host the occasion, we did have a Zoom Christmas Meeting instead of our usual Christmas Lunch at a cosy pub. We had seasonal readings and we were all seen to be clutching a glass of wine; Marilyn and Alan Tippett joined us and it was good to catch up with everyone. Christmas was different, wasn't it?

As we have not all been reading the same book, I am going to take the liberty of telling you about a trilogy that I have been re-reading; the first time was when I was commuting up to work in London and used to read on the train.

The trilogy is written by **Mary Stewart** and is the story of Merlin the Enchanter "**The Crystal Cave**", "**The Hollow Hills**" and "**The Last Enchantment**". I remember that I had enjoyed the books but at the time I did not really appreciate how well the story has been told, the writing is so vivid and descriptive. Mary Stewart conjures magic with her words and they describe such a vibrant, colourful picture that the reader could be watching a film instead of reading a book.

This is not a story of magic for children but a supposedly "mythical" tale told as a living human story with characters who are very believable, and even the enchantments are given a plausible explanation. The story is set in First Century Britain, with memories of the Roman conquest, and a Britain desperately trying to fight off the Saxon and Angles invaders. The fight is hampered by Britain being divided into many kingdoms, with each king contriving to become the High King overall (prompting the thought that history might be repeating itself). Whatever thought you might take away with you, this is a beautifully well written story and to my mind, well worth a read. **Helen Henchoz**



Mark suggested for this issue of Llanfair Times that I have a conversation with his fairly new neighbour (and mine) who recently moved to live here on a full-time basis. I have tried to disregard the fact that I have known Jane for about 45 years, as there is always more to learn, even of people you think you know well, Jane having been my neighbour twice before!

**RL:** How did you discover this area?

**JWO:** Through knowing people who lived here! Melin y Grogue hamlet is perfect for me. I wanted a completely rural spot but to have neighbours close by.

**RL:** Your parents had roots in Shropshire and Montgomeryshire didn't they?

**JWO:** Yes. My mother originated from Oswestry and my father came from Llanfylllyn. My parents moved to Rhyl when they married, and I was born there. They then moved inland to Rhuddlan when I was ten years old, so I am definitely Welsh! I went to school in Denbigh and then left Wales to go to the University of Birmingham. Afterwards my working life took me to London where I was for over forty-five years, so I had no chance to live in the country until now. With my sister in Sussex and with me in London, my mother, when she was widowed, moved to Brighton to be near us both. I have always wanted to reconnect with Wales.

**RL:** What do you welcome about the locality after all those years in London?

**JWO:** I had very much become a London person. My work in the theatre necessitated being there and London has a lot to offer, but basically I am a country girl. The pace is slower here, people are much less stressed and driven, and I very much welcome this. I love the quiet, the dark skies, the neighbours, the marvellous views, the friendliness. I also love the heightened awareness of the changing seasons. I looked out of the window this morning and there were four lambs, with two ewes, in the field opposite! Such a joy to see.

**RL:** What do you miss here?

**JWO:** I miss long-standing friends and neighbours from down south, and not seeing them any more in person. I am keeping in touch and in due course I hope that they will all be coming to stay. In particular, it will be great when my sister is able to visit me again.

**RL:** When you were first a neighbour in North London, you were a singer and actor. Then you were a theatrical agent and now you are a psychotherapist. Can you say a bit about this progression, please?

**JWO:** For me it felt like a natural sequence. As a performer, you have to inhabit a character and really understand what makes someone 'tick'. Rehearsals are very much collaborative times, too, in which you work very closely with others to achieve your artistic goal. I took this sharing into my agency: there is masses of listening, working out what an actor or singer needs as the next step in their career, helping them to overcome their anxieties about auditions and perhaps guiding them into new areas of work. After doing this for many years, I realised I wanted to understand more about individual psychology, so that I could offer more in-depth help, so I began the long and complex training to be a psychotherapist, juggling clinical practice and writing essays with running an office and going to the theatre. I feel that my previous jobs have made me a more rounded therapist through the experience of listening to people and of working with their strengths, their vulnerabilities, their hopes and their dreams. I am now doing something that I really love, and I hope to go on doing it for many years.

**RL:** Has the pandemic made any difference to your practice?

**JWO:** Yes, indeed it has. I now have to work entirely via Zoom, and sessions are online, not face to face.

Working online is obviously different from having the person in the room. You only see the person's head and shoulders on the screen for a start, not their whole self sitting opposite you. But some people prefer it: they can focus on the session, and don't have to spend valuable time travelling in order to get to me.

**RL:** Going back to the big move here: are you happy at Criggin Cottage?

**JWO:** Very happy indeed: in Criggin Cottage; in Melin y Grogue and also being part of Llanfair. I have had a warm welcome from everyone in the choir (*Llanfair Singers – Ed.*) which I am really happy to have joined. I have occasionally taken part in services at the Church too, and I am enjoying wonderful walking around here - and it is so nice when complete strangers say "Hello"!

**RL:** And your garden at Criggin Cottage?

**JWO:** In London, I only had a tiny garden so I am not an experienced gardener at all. However, I want to make my garden here a year-round garden. Even now, the snowdrops are out, and it's lovely to know that means that spring is on its way. I have brought some of my pots from my little courtyard garden in London. Of course, the garden looks out over a huge expanse of English and Welsh countryside, so that makes it feel enormous!

**RL:** So – summing up your future here?

**JWO:** I am very much looking forward to a quieter, less hectic life, combining time to think with seeing friends and making new ones, as soon as that is feasible again. I think it will be a perfect combination with my work. And at last I have my piano here. I am looking forward to playing that, too, and to not worrying about disturbing nearby neighbours when I practise!

**RL:** Thank you for telling us a little about yourself, Jane. We all wish you well here.

*Richard Lewis*

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I decided to sell my Hoover..... it was just collecting dust! (Tim Vine)

My dog, Minton, stole my newspaper. Bad Minton! (Tim Vine)

## It's Recipe Time!

At the Virtual Auction Rita and I successfully bid for some Welsh Cakes and Bara Brith. They were duly delivered by [Ruth Davies](#). We both thought they were the best we'd ever had so asked Ruth if she would share the recipes. Here they are. The Bara Brith is from an old school friend of Ruth's. The Welsh Cakes courtesy of the late Myfanwy Pugh.

Wakes Cake Competitions look out!

[Mark Hughes](#)

### Welsh Cakes

1 lb S R Flour  
4oz lard  
4oz marg  
1 beaten egg  
Pinch Salt  
6oz sugar  
2oz currants  
Approx 2 tablespoons milk

Rub fat into flour, add sugar and currants. Mix to a dough - similar to pastry - with egg and milk. Roll out to about ¼" and cut into rounds.

Cook on a griddle or heavy-based frying pan.

Cook with care! They burn quite quickly if heat is too high. I have my cooker ring on about 5. It is a bit trial and error to start!!!!!!

### Bara Brith

12oz dried mixed fruit  
1 egg  
16oz S R Flour  
¾ pint of tea  
8oz dark brown sugar  
1 tsp ground mixed spice

Soak fruit in tea overnight. Next day add beaten egg and all other ingredients. Stir well. Put mixture into two 1lb baking tins and bake for 1 to 1¼ hours (I always test after 1 hour) at 160 degrees for fan ovens or in a 2-3 lb loaf tin and bake for 1½ to 1¾ hours. Serve thinly sliced spread with butter.

## Notices

Harper Miriam Croose  
born 7th January in Hereford



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### Everest Hall

Everest Hall Lottery

The winners are as follows

December 2020 No.10 (£20) 139 (£10)

January 2021 No.129 (£20) No. 21 (£10)

February 2021 No. 88 (£20) No. 24 (£10) No.8 (£7.50)

There was also a Christmas draw with five winning numbers of £5.

The numbers are 127, 69, 78, 57, 36

There will be one further draw of two prizes in March to complete the 2020/2021 issue.

The extra draws are to complete the requirements of the licence. You have received every penny allocated to prizes!

Congratulations to all those lucky winners.

Due to the difficulties of issuing tickets during the Covid pandemic we are suspending next year's draw until the situation improves. We hope that you will be willing to continue your support in the future as your contributions have been a great help.

Although the hall is closed at the moment the Trustees continue to review the situation and are continuing to keep up with necessary building maintenance.

[Ann Harroway](#)

## HEDGING OUR BETS

Planting trees is on trend. Addressing the climate emergency is becoming a priority for more and more of us and we are looking for solutions. Tree-planting is seen as one of these solutions. "Trees are our strongest warriors in the battle against climate change. They lock up carbon, fight flooding and cool our cities" (The Woodland Trust website).

We also know that creating woodland helps with nature conservation. It is an important habitat for a wide variety of species ie fungi, plants, insect, birds and mammals.

"Planting trees for climate change is vital, but how we plant those trees can re-establish the biodiversity of UK landscapes. Planting outside of woods and letting areas of land regenerate naturally creates vital habitat as well as corridors that help wildlife spread across the landscape" (The Woodland Trust).

Trees and woodlands benefit us all.

On my lockdown, daily (slight exaggeration!!) exercise 'round the block' I was thrilled to see a large area of newly planted trees. So let's have a chat with James Thomas at Coed yr Hendre - who planted the trees - to ask his thoughts on his work.

### ***A rather blunt question but why do you plant trees?***

My Dad planted trees and had me weeding trees as a lad. I have always done it. You do what your parents do. Also I was good at woodwork at school which made me interested in wood and I now use my woodworking skills to make owl boxes. We have at least two Barn Owls who have taken up residence. I was clearing one box the other day and the Barn Owl flew right past me. I've also made a Little Owl box and a Kestrel box but they are not lived in yet.

### ***Is your motivation stopping global warming? Or is it nature conservation? Or both?***

I think we all need to do our bit. I'm not 'crazy mad on it' but I want to encourage nature. Not

to plant the whole farm with trees but to have everything in balance. Every farm has its awkward bits that could be planted up and you don't lose much grazing.

I like to encourage the birds. We're going to fence off 8½ acres in the Rushy field on the top during the breeding season to encourage curlew and skylarks. We'll limit the grazing and shut it off during the nesting season.

### ***What species of tree are you planting?***

The existing woodland on the farm was 98% oak so at first I planted oak but more recently I have planted a mixture. We were advised to plant trees for a warmer climate as in 20- 30 years we could have the climate of the middle of France but it could also be really cold in Britain so we are planting a mixture to 'Hedge our bets' so to speak. The 2000 trees that I planted on the bank near to Tyn y Coed in January 2020 (as well as trees I have planted previously) consist of Oak, Walnut, Crab Apple, Field Maple, Sycamore, Wild Cherry, Silver Birch, Hazel, Viburnum, Redwoods and Norway Spruce with Hawthorn in the hedges and Alder in the damper ground.



## What about natural regeneration?

I'm not sure about that - It takes a lot longer. When you plant trees they are 2 years old and are more advanced. Having said that I have left a big patch to regenerate naturally in an area where I had planted some trees after Fiona Gomersall, the wildlife lady, identified some interesting plant species. I think it will seed itself eventually.

## So what's next?

I'm waiting for a delivery of 800 trees which I will be planting this season and I plan to sow a wildflower meadow this Spring.

## And do you undertake this all on your own or is there help?

Most of the schemes don't fit with what I want to do. Having said that The Seven Rivers Trust is helping to fence off a patch by the river for Alder and the Stewardship Scheme is helping with the curlew conservation. But I will be planting the wildflower meadow because I want to. I have been interested for over 30 years in doing my bit and getting the balance right.

I will be back to visit James again to see how the tree planting is going and am very excited by the prospect of a wildflower meadow at the end of my lane.

## Jane Thomas

*"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin."*

— William Shakespeare

*"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree."*

— Martin Luther

# Poets' Corner



## Firewood

Birch logs will burn too fast  
Alder scarce at all  
Chestnut logs are good to last  
If cut in the fall

Oak logs will warm you well  
If they're old and dry  
Larch logs of pinewood smell  
but the sparks will fly

But ash logs, all smooth and grey  
Burn them green or old  
Buy all that come your way  
They're worth their weight in gold.

*Traditional poem sent in by James Thomas*

Look at the tree. It is a wonderful thing, a tree. A tree is very beautiful. A tree to me is as beautiful as a cathedral, even more beautiful. I look into the tree and I saw the whole cosmos in it. I saw the sunshine in the tree. Can you see the sunshine in the tree? Yes, because without the sunshine, no tree can grow. I see a cloud in the tree. Can you see? Without a cloud, there can be no rain, no tree. I see the earth in the tree. I see everything in the tree. So the tree is where everything in the cosmos comes into, and the cosmos reveals itself to me through a tree. Therefore, a tree to me is a cathedral, and I can take refuge in the tree and I can get nourished by the tree...

I can get in touch with the tree only if I go back to the present moment, because the tree can only be found in the present moment.

*Thich Nhat Hanh - sent in by Jane Thomas*

### **Beech Grove**

Fixed firm we stand, our silver stems  
like columns of a universal church.  
We do not mix.  
Hazel, ash and oak that grow around us  
know that we eschew their company:  
we are a splinter group,  
a dedicated, clannish congregation.  
Our seedlings scatter round a hub  
of stark simplicity and peace.  
High above, the sky is vaulted by  
a wind-whipped tracery of twigs  
and deep below a rusty crust of mould  
and mast and clumps of iridescent moss,  
our roots comingle, whisper secrets  
to each other in the dark.  
It's winter now, but soon dull days will brighten  
with a burst of neatly pleated leaves  
unfurling in the light like wings of butterflies.  
Through them sun filters golden-green  
to give our air an under-water feel.  
Sometimes a woman comes.  
Her dog detects a path that's hardly  
seen between out trunks.  
She sits against me, resting, filling up  
it seems with something we can give her  
that she needs. Our grouping has no walls  
but yet we hold within our boundary  
a blessing rarely found.

*Philippa Boast*

### **THE LAZY BEEHIVE**

There was a lazy beehive,  
Who did no work at all.  
They sang and danced and hung around,  
And really had a ball!

They sunbathed in the daytime,  
And went clubbing till quite late.  
The inside of their beehive,  
Was in a very sorry state!

And then the day of reckoning,  
The man was due to come,  
To collect up all their honey,  
Of which, there was, quite none!

They stood around in circles,  
They did not have a clue,  
And then up stood their leader,  
And said" this is what we'll do"!

"There is no need to worry,  
I have a cunning plot,  
We'll all fly into the superstore,  
They sell it by the pot"!

The keeper opened up the hive ,  
And before his eyes saw stars,  
Not only was the hive quite full,  
But it was all packed up in jars!!!

*Bob Bailey*

### **Lockdown**

Lockdown's here for a second time,  
So stay indoors and you'll be fine!

Those scientists, they must surely know,  
Just look at the charts and see the flow.

Statistics, statistics of every kind;  
Read too much and they'll blow your mind!

Visual aids to explain the graph;  
Boris's face, it makes you laugh!

Whitty and Vallance, a double act.  
But what is fiction and what is fact?

Ferguson warned of a grizzly end,  
Then found joy with his lady friend.

Dominic Cummings was in the news;  
To obey the rules he did not choose!

But poor old Hancock carries the can;  
When it all goes wrong, he's your man.

Public Health England has failed the test,  
Whilst the NHS has done its best.

As ever, the Army's come out tops,  
Yet no one envies the poor old Cops.

The GPs are hiding, so just stay fit;  
If you're 'phoning the surgery, you'll wait a bit!

The guidelines change most every day;  
Though where there's a will, there's a way!

How big's a bubble one may ask,  
Can't hear you now, take off your mask!

Don't come too close! Stay where you are!  
Social distancing from afar!

Now I'm an oldie and my wife is too,  
We've had our jabs, but for the Flu!

Back in March the old girl fell ill;  
I dosed her up, the usual drill.

Hot toddies and bed will do the trick,  
But not this time, she was really sick!

The ambulance came - I was on my own!  
My poor dear wife, but she didn't moan!

They gave her oxygen and lots of care;  
Home she came and again we're a pair!

So let's keep on going and see it through;  
All are doing their best, give them their due!

*Mick Richards former Landlord of The Red Lion*

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Would you have survived the pandemic if you couldn't read?

For many of us the restrictions on our lives have provided the perfect opportunity to catch up on a novel we've been meaning to read, or take up baking, learn a new skill, or even become a teacher for our children. In fact, one way or another we've all probably spent a lot more time reading.

But it's not been this way for everyone. Many adults missed out on the opportunity to learn to read at school during the short period of time when the basic foundations of this skill are learned. In fact, research shows that over 7% of adults didn't learn to read at school and most of them have never caught up.

It may be one thing not to be able to enjoy the pleasure of reading a new title by a favourite author, but stop for a minute and think how different things would be if you couldn't read forms, shop online, apply for grants or benefits, follow medicine

instructions, help children with home schooling, or follow the ever-changing Covid-19 guidelines. Many people who struggle with reading usually rely on the help of others on a daily basis but with the recent increased levels of social isolation a lack of support has left many people coping alone.

Help is at hand! Read Easy Shropshire Hills is a local charity which provides free one-to-one coaching for people in South Shropshire and the Welsh Borders who struggle with reading. We match up each new reader with a trained reading coach and they work at their own pace without pressure through our reading programme. In normal circumstances coaching takes place at a quiet location but early in the pandemic we introduced coaching online, or by phone and many of our readers can carry on learning even when they can't see their coach in person.

We can now also sign up anyone who wants to start our programme by phone or online so there's no need for them to leave their own home. So, if it's not possible, or convenient, for new readers and their coaches to meet face to face we can get everything going remotely.

It's never too late to learn. If you know someone where you live who you think would benefit from our service please get in touch to find out more. For a confidential conversation, call Amana on 07707 762653 or email [amana@readeasy.org.uk](mailto:amana@readeasy.org.uk)

*Steve Gibbon, Read Easy Shropshire Hills*

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## Betty Bright

Llanfairwaterdine has lost a close friend - Mrs Betty Bright. Regular readers will know Betty grew up in Lloyney and wrote some warm and nostalgic articles for our magazine. She married and lived in Knighton and played a key role in the church and show. However, she did not neglect to attend, appreciate and contribute to our functions and church. She enjoyed her gardening and we enjoyed the produce she kindly donated. She will be sadly missed. Not only by her family but by our community, too. *Robert Gwilt*

## Leslie Davies 1943 – 2021



Les was born at Teme Cottage, the second son of Di and Mary Davies. He attended school at Llanfair, moved onto Beguildy and the Presteigne Grammar School. He was a keen sportsman playing football for school and local teams and trialled for the Under 18 Welsh Team.

He helped Dad on the farm until he married and moved to Worcester in the mid 1960's to work as driver, supervisor, manager and area manager for Shell, BP and other fuel firms. He and his family moved around with his work to Weston-Super-Mare, Withington and finally back to Worcester where he retired. He was an avid fan of 'Wolves' and 'Worcester Warriors' attending all home games very vocally. He played golf regularly and was known to help neighbours with gardening jobs.

He often visited us at Teme Cottage, lending a hand where needed and you will recall him on gate duty at The Wakes and helping at The Auction amongst other events.

Les is survived by his son and daughter Martin and Sally and three grandchildren.

We would like to thank everyone for their very kind messages sent to us since his untimely death on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

*John, Ruth, Robert and Annie*

## St. Mary's Church



### Llanfair Waterdine

Our church was open for 'Private Prayer' only at the beginning of January. With the arrival of the faster transmitting mutant viruses, however, Rob and I, in consultation with others, decided that the risk, however small, to the cleaning and sanitising teams (mostly in vulnerable age groups) meant that it would be safer for all to close and lock the church. Four volunteers have continued to make contact by telephone with those in our parish whom we felt would welcome a call, especially those living alone.

The February 'Reflection' service, devised by Richard Lewis, was sent by email (or delivered) to all on the 'Compline' and 'Reflection' lists so that it could be read at home.

Areas around the entrance of the churchyard, around the church walls and at the top of the churchyard, where the soil has been turned, have been planted with over 150 bulbs and several packets of wild flower seeds. As spring approaches, if anyone has any wildflower seeds left over please feel free to strew them on the earth at the top of the churchyard.

With the high numbers of vaccinations achieved, combined with the falling numbers of those infected and hospitalised, it is felt that St Mary's Church can reopen for services in mid-March. Thus, subject to any further downturn, 'Compline' will be held at 6.00pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March and there will be services on the following three Sundays: Mothering Sunday, Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday (14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March), all at 11.15am. There will also be a 'Last Hour Reflection' service on Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 3.00 pm.

Sadly, after five years with us, Reverend Annie has decided to retire. She has been subject to a long, lingering and debilitating illness which has not

responded to treatment. Annie may feel able to be with us at one of our March services. Annie's last service, however, will be for congregations of all seven churches in the Benefice, on Easter Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, at St. Cuthbert's Church, Clungunford. It may be possible to offer lifts by then but this would depend on the relaxing of current 'car-sharing' restrictions and the Welsh ruling re: crossing the border from Wales to England. There is roadside parking at or near Clungunford Church. Further details will follow.

*Graham Trew*

## Virtual Christmas Auction 2020

A year ago, the thought of running our well-established Christmas Auction virtually was far from our minds. We had just returned from a wonderful bird watching holiday in The Gambia and were looking forward to preparing for sales of plants and produce at events in the spring and summer. It was not to be and the last twelve months can only be described as being "different". We organised two plant and produce stalls by e mail and phone and between them the two events raised over £500 for church funds. The real value of these events was maintaining contact with each other.

As we moved into Autumn it became clear that the "social distancing" rules would prevent us from running our Christmas Auction (with hot supper). Our thoughts turned to organising a "virtual" auction. We kept it simple to allow as many as possible to join in. People were invited to enter items with a short description. 29 items, plus baking and preserves, were entered and bids were invited with the auction closing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Successful bidders were contacted and gradually united with their goods. At the end of this process, we found we had raised £360 from the sale of goods. In addition, we have received £395 in donations making a grand total of £755. This total will increase when we have processed gift aid. We are very grateful to all who participated in any way in this event. Keeping in touch has been important and will continue to be needed as we move forward. We hope we will not have to organise anymore virtual events, but at the time of writing it would be unwise to make any predictions.

Thank you. *Denise and Rob Taylor*



**Rob Gwilt just keeps on quizzing us....**

**and joined this time by Richard Lewis**

.....

### Richard Lewis's Spring Quiz

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score until the contest ends.
2. Which famous North American landmark is constantly moving backwards?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several or more growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. Which are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. Which fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In some shops which sell alcohol, you can buy pear brandy with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe and the bottle is genuine; it has not been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are at least 13 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name seven of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked or in any other form other than fresh.
9. Name six or more items which begin with the letter 's' that you can wear on your feet.

### Answers to Rob's last quiz;

- 1.Terry Williams, 2.Richard Lewis, 3.Felicity Waters, 4.Bridlington, 5.Jemma Morgan, 6. Monaughty, 7.Matthew Croose, 8.2014, 9.Katy Gwilt, 10.Tom Weaver.

## Rob's latest quiz;

1. Name the local farmer who played for and scored goals for Radnorshire c. 1965
2. Name the local who played county tennis for Essex.
3. Name the local whose Classic Superbike company prepared, raced and won the Avon Tyres International Production Motorcycle Racing Championship in 1976, 1978 and 1979.
4. Name the "local" who played football with Steve James ( Man Utd.), Alan Evans (Wolves) and Phil Parkes (QPR)
5. Name the local brothers who between them won Tref-y-Clawdd's Player of the Year trophy, Top Try Scorer trophy and Players' Player of the Year trophy all in the same season. (Clue – they follow in their father's famous rugby boots)
6. Name the (only) local to complete the Dash-for-Cash at Cwmythig Hill.
7. Name the local who completed the 1990 London Marathon in 3hrs 28 mins.
8. Name the local who played county hockey for Powys.
9. Name the local who has competed XC (Mountain Biking) internationally in Romania, France and Canada and who achieved a podium finish in the famous XC Series.
10. Name the local farmer who scored tries for Tref-y-Clawdd, goals for Newcastle and won County athletic competitions.

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## Walking in Shropshire

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?

Walking in Shropshire

[www.walkinginshropshire.co.uk](http://www.walkinginshropshire.co.uk) is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Shropshire (part of the Walking in England suite

of websites [www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)

email: [john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)

## LLANFAIR SINGERS CHAIRMAN'S DIARY

March 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 we were singing Evensong at Llandaff Cathedral. As we left we prepared ourselves for the twelve weeks of lockdown and twelve weeks without singing. Not one of us could have envisaged that those twelve weeks would turn into twelve months and counting! Oh, to see each other again and to rehearse again!

Last time I thought the *Hokey Cokey* was appropriate – now it is Vera Lynn's "*We'll meet again*" particularly stressing the "*don't know where, don't know when*" line!

However, it is the same for everyone and, as the warm weather approaches there is always the chance that we can find a large field and start rehearsing in that – hopefully it won't scare either the animals or the residents. We are certainly looking forward in anticipation that we shall rehearse in time for Christmas and for the Christmas concert. One thing is sure, everyone of us – choir and audience - will have had a vaccination by then!

With all that promise ahead of us it was, therefore, with immense sadness that we said farewell to one of our own. Whilst not of this

parish he was well known here and throughout the diocese and I enclose a tribute below:

Arthur C. Dyball (1935 - 2020)

It was with much sadness that we learnt of Arthur's death whilst he was recovering from a hip operation. Arthur was best known to the Llanfair Singers as a first bass whose expertise on chanting and Latin would be shared with, (or without!) bidding!

His love for choral music and for the Llanfair Singers is shown by the choir's version of Ave Verum (in which he sang) being chosen as the opening music for his funeral.

Within Llanfair, Arthur was also known as a member of the benefice organists group (more about which Richard can say) and a man whom one never hoped to meet driving in the opposite direction when on his way to either conduct a service, or play for a service ..... or just as often, to do both!

Within the wider community, Arthur was a keen and knowledgeable philatelist with an impressive and enviable stamp collection; a member of History Societies and a frequent Times Crossword finalist.

To Bedstone College he was a legend - a man who served the College for over 60 years. After graduating from Oxford with a degree in Classics and History and from Cambridge with a Dip Ed he joined the College in 1958 to teach History and English and as an assistant boarding Housemaster. As the years passed Arthur took on almost every administrative role whether it was compiling the timetable (accomplished in 5 days whilst watching a test match); running house competitions; sports competitions; being official time keeper for every event requiring time keeping (both for the school and the Independent Schools' Association); knowing every possible configuration of chairs required for every school event and even acting as default exam invigilator.

To Arthur, a life long bachelor, the school and its children were his family and he cared about them all. Monty Halls, the explorer and TV presenter, often credits Arthur with turning his life around

with the simple gift of a book. Arthur had seen that young Monty, a member of his boarding house, was wasting his talents. Yet Arthur had spotted that Monty had a keen interest in wild life. Out of his own pocket, Arthur purchased a book that he thought might inspire this young boy. Just one of so many examples of Arthur's insight and caring.

RIP Arthur, you may be gone but never forgotten.

*Michael Symonds*

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## **Seasonal Tips for the Gardener's Year**

March is a busy time in the vegetable garden with lots of seeds to be planted now. Tender plants like runner and French beans should be sown later and planted out after the last frost. Courgettes and marrows should also be planted later or started off indoors until conditions are right.

Pot up dahlia tubers and keep in a light frost free place and plant out at the end of May early June. Sow sweet peas inside during March or April if you did not get round to sowing them in the Autumn.

When weather permits, it is time to cut back last year's herbaceous perennials. Lift and divide congested plants and replant the new younger growth. Push strong twigs around plants to support them as they grow. These supports will disappear amongst the stems as they grow.

Mulch borders with farmyard manure or compost, when the soil is damp but not frozen, up to 5-7cm (2-3") deep.

Divide and replant large clumps of snowdrops before the foliage disappears.

Plant tomato seed in March. Use a propagator or place pots on a sunny windowsill. Transfer the seedlings into individual pots when they have two proper leaves, holding them by the leaf and not the stem. If they are to be grown indoors, they can be potted on again to their final pots in April. To grow them outside it is best to wait until mid June. Cordon (indeterminate) varieties need a strong support and their side shoots should be regularly removed. Not the flower buds. Bush (determinate) varieties are usually self supporting. Grow basil and French marigolds as companion plants to ward off aphids. Bulbs which flowered indoors over winter can be planted out in the garden once they have died down with the exception of amaryllis. Bulbs of summer lilies are available now and can be potted up to give a lovely display in the summer when the weather is fine for sitting out and enjoying their blooms and perfume. By May it is time to plant out leek plants and put sticks up for peas and beans. Earth up early potatoes plants and keep planting salad crops. Plant up hanging baskets and patio pots in May. Happy Gardening

*Di Bailey*

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## What Should We Eat?

Halfway through January I received a short email from the LT Editor in which I was offered the chance to write an article about giving the positive side of grass-fed meat production. I accepted the invitation, but my article will not simply be Omnivores against Vegetarians

Obviously people must have choice in their diet. My main issue is that much of the information people are provided with is either untrue, or at least biased towards the aim of the provider. This matter becomes even more worrying when the provider is the BBC or our state school system.

Some Vegetarians/ Vegans may not eat meat because either they do not like the taste/texture of it, or they do not want their diet to cause animals to be farmed and then slaughtered. Both

of these reasons seem difficult to argue against. However, they might not eat meat because of perceived links to poor health and or global warming. Both of which seem to me to be very questionable reasons.

We grassland farmers are effectively looking after huge solar parks, where the energy of the sun is collected by grass. Grass is an extremely effective plant to do this. It needs a very low level of input from year to year and can produce over 100,000 megajoules of energy and one and a half tons of protein per hectare per year. Just one problem though, we can't eat grass! As farmed ruminants, sheep and cattle are the perfect animals to do this and turn the grasses energy and protein into the meat that we can all choose to eat and enjoy. If the grasslands were not managed by skilled farmers grazing livestock, grass would become overgrown and would stop growing properly or die, thus leading to much less useable energy capture from the sun. In this world with a huge population and limited resources, I believe we have a moral duty to produce energy and protein for human consumption in the best way that we can.



When it comes to our health, red meat is often linked to heart disease and cancer, but this is not the case when it is eaten in moderation as part of a nutritionally balanced diet. There are far more serious health problems from eating ultra-processed food, which often leads to such things as obesity and diabetes. Red meat is rich in essential micronutrients and it is also very nutrient-dense. The alternatives such as nuts and soy-based protein are not as balanced for human

health. We should be aware of the supermarkets who will guide us to eat all the processed foods, where they have added price simply to extract more money from us at the till. Don't expect Government to spot this as the supermarkets pay lots of tax. The problem is that this tax is then needed to treat diet-related health issues through the NHS.

Finally, for meat eaters, eating chicken is also of no benefit against red meat except for cost, as nearly all the chicken we eat is produced on an industrial scale in huge sheds with vast amounts of materials used in the construction, large amounts of heat, electricity and then feed that often needs delivering by lorries from many miles away. It is good that the Electric is often provided by solar panels on the roof, but this electricity could be used to do other more helpful things. Also, the heat is often produced by biomass, but again that heat could also be used to do other more helpful things. The chicken feed is mainly wheat and soy, both of which humans can eat directly.



To sum up, maybe take a trip to our local independent butcher in Knighton, choose a rib of beef or shoulder of lamb for your Sunday dinner (it might be a bit pricey but Sunday roast, Monday cold carvery, Tuesday meat sandwich, Wednesday stew, Thursday curry ). Maybe on Friday go meat free or maybe not?

*Andrew Beavan*

If everybody's thinking alike then somebody isn't thinking. (Anonymous)

## The Big Walk



On the 10th December I took part in The Big Walk in aid of Shelter, the charity for the homeless, by walking 10km along our lanes. Across the UK a total of £800,000 was raised. " It felt great to be joining in with something BIG while isolated in lockdown. I am very glad to be part of an online community at the moment "

*Jane Thomas*

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## Snowdrops

Having a WhatsApp chat with an old friend, now living in a Lincolnshire village, I was reminded that her husband was busy overseeing the annual Snowdrop Walk in their local churchyard. We were staying there last February, the weekend "The Gales" broke, and had walked around the churchyard whose trees, hedges and graves were dotted with snowdrops. It was peaceful and beautiful.

But my immediate reaction, which I kept to myself, was that here in Llanfair Waterdine we have a Parish Snowdrop Festival each year, that just happens and its free.

Their Lincolnshire village is surrounded by acres of vast arable fields bordered by ditches and dykes, rarely a hedge and open to the winds. We are gently cossetted by quiet, meandering lanes bordered by deep, ancient hedgerows, deciduous

woodland and gently sloping banks where naturalised snowdrops are happy to thrive. Our Snowdrop Festival is all around us.

Driving around, or even better walking along our lanes, our hearts have been gladdened, especially this winter, by the frankly eye-catching profusion of snowdrops that indeed make you take your eye off the road. Walking along the more remote and less travelled lanes gives us even more joy to come upon secret clumps of snowdrops, shyly sheltering beneath moss covered trees in the coldest and darkest of corners.

Most of us are familiar with the snowdrop place of pilgrimage in the churchyard, the "Gypsy's Grave", a memorial to young Herbert Lock who died on Offa's Dyke and whose grave is simply carpeted with snowdrops. True to the Victorian language of flowers, the snowdrop is synonymous with hope, a most poignant symbol for us all at this time.

We would like to say thank you to the past and present generations of families. It is thanks to you that we have gardens, orchards and roadside verges and banks of snowdrops to lighten these sometimes bleak days of winter. Each year we look forward to visiting these beacons of snowy wonder, just to stop the car and look or lean over the gate and marvel.

And of course, we are now looking forward to the primroses and bluebells.



*Judith and David Tollman*

# PARISH COUNCIL

**From the Chairman of the Parish Council,  
Mark Hughes**

Shropshire Council has a scheme called The Environmental Maintenance Grant (EMG) to encourage councils to carry out work locally. It's a match-fund scheme and this year we applied for and were awarded £400 which doubled to £800 with our match-funding. In the last couple of months Iorweth Waters has been to the four corners of the parish clearing gullies and ditches to improve drainage on our lanes. It was anticipated he would have to use some more heavy-duty equipment for some of the bigger jobs but Shropshire Council sent in a digger on their account which meant our money went that little bit further. Iorwerth has identified five further sites which require more specialist equipment to clear them. We'll be onto Shropshire Council to get these programmed-in.

Town and parish elections are expected to be held on Thursday 6 May 2021. Please consider standing. Local democracy matters.

## Election timetable

- Deadline for delivery of nomination papers  
4:00 pm Thursday 8 April 2021
- Publication of statement of persons nominated not later than 4pm on Friday 9 April 2021
- Despatch first batch of postal votes aiming to commence 16 April 2021
- Last date for registration midnight  
Monday 19 April 2021
- Receipt of postal vote applications 5:00 pm Tuesday 20 April 2021
- Despatch second batch of postal votes aiming to commence 21 April 2021
- Receipt of proxy vote applications 5:00 pm Tuesday 27 April 2021

# Llanfair Parish Council Meeting

## 29<sup>th</sup> March 1921

The Parish Council Minute books dating back over 100 years are shortly to be securely stored and archived (but still readily available if required). Here's a look back exactly 100 years ago. Who says PC meetings aren't exciting!?



### March 29<sup>th</sup>/21

At a meeting held this evening the following members were present –

Messrs. T.S Jones, F. Beavan, P. Beavan, J. Morgan, T. Price, S. Jones.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Morgan gave a report on the state of the fences round Turbary ground.

Proposed by F. Beavan and sec. by J. Morgan that the clerk should order 1cwt of barb wire, 14lbs staples and 30 stakes.

A letter was read from J.R. District Council that they would not repair the foot bridge at Lower Wain. Mr. F. Beavan informed the Parish Council that he would (report) on the matter at the next meeting.

A resolution was passed that the Clerk should post notices on the Church and Chapel doors for re-letting the Turbary ground on the April 13<sup>th</sup>. Tenders to be sent in not later than six o'clock on that date.

It was also agreed that the fences be repaired by the middle of May.

Proposed by T.S. Jones and sec. by F. Beavan that the following accts be paid;

	L - S - D
Mr. Matkin	- 7 - 0
School Managers	- 5 - 0
Audit Shropshire District	- 8 - 2
H. Clee repairs	2-10-0
	£3-10-2

(Signed) Thomas Stephen Jones  
Chairman  
April 13<sup>th</sup> 1921



'We have a favourite hotel in Spain. We cancel the same two weeks in August every year'



'Jeff Bezos is standing down so we're having a whip-round for him'

March 29<sup>th</sup> / 21

At a meeting held this evening the following members were present -

Wm T. Jones, F. Beavan, P. Beavan, J. Morgan, T. Puce Jones.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Morgan gave a report on the state of fences round Turbary Ground.

Proposed by F. Beavan and Sec by J. Morgan that the Clerk should order 1 cut of Barb wire, 14 do staples and 30 stamps.

A letter was read from the T.R. District Council informing the Parish Council that they could not repair the foot bridge at Lower Linn.

Mr. F. Beavan informed the Parish Council that he would see to this matter at the next meeting.

A resolution was passed that the Clerk should post notices on the Church & Chapel doors for reletting the Turbary Ground on the April 13<sup>th</sup>. Tenders to be sent in not later than six o'clock on that date.

It was also agreed that the fences be repaired by the middle of May.

Proposed by T. S. Jones & Sec by F. Beavan that the following acc<sup>ts</sup> be paid:

Mr. Mathin -	5 - 0
	7 - 0
School Manager	5 - 0
Credit Stamp & Stamps	8 - 2
H. Clee repairs	2 - 10 - 0
	<u>23 - 10 - 2</u>

Thomas Stephen Jones  
Chairman  
April 13<sup>th</sup> 1921

