

Prosiect Cludiant Cymunedol Llanwrtyd



Llanwrtyd Wells Community Transport Project

NEWSLETTER



Edition 10

December 2019

Hi everyone

Here we are again with our Christmas edition where has the year gone? It just seems to have flown by.

December is the month when we honour Prince Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, the last Welsh born ruler of Wales, for it was on December 11th 1282 that he was slain by English soldiers in Cilmeri.

King Edward of England wanted to unite and rule over the whole of Britain including Wales and Scotland. Prince Llywelyn was the leader of a unified Wales; however, Edward had the larger army which imposed harsh restrictions and attrition on Llywelyn.

In 1277 the Treaty of Aberconwy was sealed which forced Llywelyn to accept humiliating terms, which culminated in him losing most of his acquired land, only being able to keep the county of Gwynedd. Once this was achieved, Edward built strongholds around the perimeter of Llywelyn's land at Flint, Rhuddlan, Aberystwyth and Builth, and drafted in a large number of English soldiers and immigrants.

This led to a massive revolt by the people of Wales supported by Llywelyn's brother Dafydd, and Llywelyn once more became leader in an attempt to stop the oppressive English ruling of the people of Wales.

At first the revolt was successful with the strongholds at Builth, Aberystwyth and Rhuddlan being overcome and the destruction of a large part of the English force in the Menai Strait. It was at the time Llywelyn was at his most successful that disaster struck.



Prince Llywelyn's Memorial, Cilmeri

Llywelyn had become separated from his army, and found himself in a vulnerable position on the outskirts of the main battlefield. It is believed that he was killed in Cilmeri by an English knight, who was totally unaware of the Prince's identity. Once he was identified, his severed head was sent firstly to Rhuddlan where Edward showed his troops before being sent to London. There it was crowned with ivy and displayed as the head of a traitor at the gates of the Tower of London.

It was in the graveyard of St Cannen's Church in Cilmeri that Prince Llywelyn's body was temporarily laid to rest. It is believed that he is now interred in the Cistercian Abbey at Abbey Cwmhir (Abbey in the long valley).

Dafydd Iwan, Welsh folk singer expresses the grief of the Welsh people at the death of the prince in the ballad Collie Llywelyn, Colli'r Cyfan (losing Llywelyn is losing everything).



St Cannen's Church, Cilmeri

On the outskirts of the village of Cilmeri, travelling in the direction of Llandovery, on the left hand side is a tall granite monument which was erected in 1956 to the memory of Prince Llywelyn, the last Welsh born ruler of Wales. It is a peaceful place and is the focus for an annual day of remembrance.

Finally I'd like to wish you and yours a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful happy New Year from everyone here at Llanwrtyd Wells Community Transport.

Blessings

Pat

Local Events

The Christmas Tree Festival begins on Saturday December 7th when the dressed trees will be judged. The judge will select a winner in each category and everyone who visits during the day will be able to vote for their favourite, so please come along and cast your vote. The trees however will remain in situ until 12th night, so plenty of time to go and have a look if you can't make it on that day.

The theme this year is Advent, so peace, love, joy and hope, primary colours being pink, purple and green. We are taking part this year for the first time for ages, so please wish us luck and come and see coffee club member's handiwork on the tree.

Refreshments will be available to purchase throughout the day beginning with coffee and mince pies at 10.30am, between 12 noon and 2pm soup and a roll, followed by afternoon tea and cake until 4pm. At 5.30pm there will be a Carol Service in St James when the winners of the Christmas tree competition and raffle prizes will be announced.

Also on December 7th there is a Christmas Drop-in at the Heritage Centre, so perhaps you might visit both places on the day. They are displaying a Victorian Christmas, so if you feel like dressing up, this could be the event for you.

There will be a New Year's Eve walk in, with the Mari Lwyd (Welsh – Y Fari Lwyd) leading the way. It is a short walk beginning at 10.30pm from the town square to Manor Adventures and back. Anyone can join in the fun; there will be burning torches and the decorated horse's skull on a pole.

Volunteer Bureau

On behalf of LWCT, and with the support of Michiel Blees at PAVO, I am setting up the Llanwrtyd Wells Volunteer Bureau.

The Volunteer Bureau will be based at the Llanwrtyd Community Centre at the station, and will cover all the surrounding areas including Builth Wells. This is a brand new venture for us, having only started in mid November, and we hope to get all voluntary groups and prospective volunteers on board.

Michiel and I would like to meet up with the leads for all existing voluntary groups in the area to explain the reasons and advantages of using the bureau and getting

your volunteering opportunities on the [PAVO Volunteers in Powys website at this link](#). If you belong to one or more voluntary groups, please would you make contact with me as I would like to chat about your group and maybe we can agree on a date for the said meeting.

Likewise, if you are interested to know what volunteering opportunities there are, please give us a call on **01982 552727** or email me at llanwrtydcommunitycentre@gmail.com. Becoming a volunteer can be very rewarding as it gives the opportunity to meet new people, help others, have fun, use your skills or learn new ones.

Especially for the younger members of our community (14 plus), volunteering looks good on CVs and can help with getting a job or a place at university. You don't have to give masses of time, just whatever you want, there is no pressure or obligation to do more than you feel is right for you, so please give us a call or drop us a line and we can look at what feels best for you.

Outings

We haven't arranged any outings recently, but members of the Coffee Club and some people who use our other services are going to the Wyeside Theatre in Builth on December 6th to see A Celtic Christmas with Calon, an internationally award winning band from Wales, then on December 14th we are going for Christmas Afternoon Tea at the Caer Beris. We shall be arranging outings come the springtime, so if you have any ideas for venues, please let us know.

Meeting Rooms for Hire

Please don't forget that we have rooms to hire for meetings, seminars, training days or for family functions. We have a fully fitted kitchen, high speed broadband and printing facilities, plenty of free parking, a small garden area and full access to the beautiful Heart of Wales Railway Line. A buffet can be arranged at extra cost to meet your needs.

If you would like any further information, or to make a booking, please call **Pat Dryden on 07881 951510** or leave a message for **Sue Williams on 01591 610789 (the centre's answerphone)**, or email Pat on llanwrtydcommunitycentre@gmail.com

The Night Before Christmas (Clement Clarke Moore 1822)

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hope that St Nicholas soon would be there.



The children were settled all snug in their beds
While visions of sugar plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief and I in my cap
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.



The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below.
When what to my wondering eyes did appear?
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.

With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:

"Now Dasher! Now Dancer! Now Prancer and Vixen!
On Comet! On Cupid! On Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys, and St Nicholas too.



And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each tiny hoof.
As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St Nicholas came with a bound.



He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot:
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.



His eyes – how they twinkled! His dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses! His nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.



He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye, and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;



He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down off a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night."



Awards Winners

Well, we are so excited here at LWCT because we have just won two awards and so has the Landed Festival who we offer support to.



Dave and Laura recently went along to the Rural Business Awards – Wales and NI and were delighted to be declared winners of the Best Rural Social Enterprise, Charity or Community Project Awards 2019/20; the national final is on 27/02/2020 so please keep your fingers crossed for us.

Community Transport Awards on Tuesday November 11th and arrived home with a lovely engraved glass plaque for the 'Serving Rural Areas' section of the awards. We came up against strong competition as there were other excellent candidates, but we won through at the end.

Heartiest Congratulations from all at LWCT to our partners and their helpers at the Landed Festival for their success in the 4th Welsh Hospitality Awards



2019 in winning the 'Best Welsh Festival' award. A wonderful achievement considering the size and scale of those organisations you were competing against.

It's very good to see that locally we are being successful in providing the services we do not only to local people, but to visitors from near and far. Sincere thanks to all our staff, volunteers and users of our services for making this all possible.



Games Afternoon

We didn't quite manage to get enough people for a Bridge Club, but we are still working on it, but we decided to start up a Games Afternoon for all manner of games, cards, dominoes, board games etc. possibly even an odd game of bingo. We started it on Wednesday November 20th, and intend it to be each Wednesday between 2pm and 4pm. The Games Afternoon will be in the Llanwrttyd Community Centre at the station, refreshments will be available and of course transport if you live within a 2 mile radius of the centre. If you fancy joining us we would love to see you, the more the merrier.

If you want to attend and require transport, please phone John on 07956 091242.

LCT Heart of Wales Coffee Club

Just a reminder that we are open each Tuesday and Thursday between 10.30am and 1pm you can be assured of a very warm welcome.

On Thursday November 28th Mandy Mills, Engagement Officer for Powys teaching Health Board visited us to share a draft leaflet that she is developing on 'Your Healthy Builth and Llanwrttyd Wells'. The leaflet will contain useful numbers and information on how to access healthcare and support in our area, and Mandy asked for our input in case there was anything she has missed. Once completed the leaflet will be available for residents and visitors to pick up in local venues.

We have arranged another morning of music and song on Thursday December 12th at 11am. We are very fortunate in having Mairead Matthews to come and play the keyboard for us, and song sheets are printed ready for you to join in the Christmas Song. We are also fortunate that Jacquie Brown and her friend Annis will be joining us and singing some duets. We hope you'll come along and join us for the fun.

On Thursday January 23rd at 11am we have a speaker. Rob Thomas, one of the trustees with the heritage centre has very kindly agreed to come along and talk to us about the Coming of the Railway. Rob is bringing a projector and screen and it should be a very interesting talk, so do put that in your diary.

The club is for all age groups and for anyone from the surrounding areas. Don't forget also that if you live within a two mile radius of the centre we can supply free transport if it's difficult for you to get to us.

Please note the Coffee Club will be closed from Friday December 20th until Monday January 6th, we will be open as usual until Thursday December 19th and from Tuesday January 7th onward

For further details about the centre or red Kite Credit Union, please leave a message for **Sue Williams on 01591 610789**. To take up the offer of free transport, please call **John on 07956 091242**.

Special People

There are red-letter days in our lives when we meet people who thrill us like a fine poem, people whose handshake is brim-full of unspoken sympathy and whose sweet, rich natures impart to our eager, impatient spirits a wonderful restfulness which is in its essence divine

Perhaps we never saw them before and they may never cross our life's path again, but the influence of their calm, mellow natures is a liberation poured upon our discontent, and we feel its healing touch as the ocean feels the mountain stream refreshing its brine

Helen Keller

Transport

If you need to attend a medical appointment, visit the vet with a beloved pet, go on a shopping spree, or visit family and friends, then why not enquire about our volunteer driver scheme? We can also provide mini bus hire if you and a party of friends/colleagues need to go somewhere. Remember, our services are for all age groups, so make contact if you think we can help and you would like a quote.

We cannot thank our drivers enough, particularly the ones who use their own vehicles, for providing such a flexible, caring and professional service, thank you one and all.

If you would like to use the services of our volunteer drivers, or enquire about mini bus hire, please contact **Laura Burns on 01982 552727 or 07767 771489**.

Shoppa Bus Timetable

Builth Wells each Monday

Llandrindod Wells first Friday of each month

Llandovery second Friday of each month

Brecon third Thursday of each month

Carmarthen last Wednesday of each month

Builth Wells and Llandrindod Wells alternate Fridays (call office for details)

Current scale of charges are as follows:

Destination:	Collection from Llanwrtyd Wells:	Collection from Llangammarch Wells
Builth Wells	£7.50	£6.50
Llandrindod Wells	£8.50	£7.50
Llandovery	£6.00	£7.00
Brecon	£9.75	£9.00
Carmarthen	£11.25	£12.00

If you would like to use the Shoppa Bus service please call **John on 07956 091242**.

Events Recycling

We covered the South Wales Kennel Club Dog Show, on October 12th and 13th, and the Royal Welsh Winter Fair which was held on November 25th and 26th.

Don't forget we also have Shiva, the Indian Goddess who we rent out to amaze your event attendees.

If you or someone you know is involved in arranging an event, please make contact with us for a quote. Please speak with **Laura or Dave on 01982 552727/551295**.

Judicial Review (JR)

Laura went to London for the JR hearing on November 19th. The Bus and Coach Association (BCA) are claiming that Community Transport Schemes (CTS) UK wide are trading commercially because they tender for school transport contracts alongside coach firms, therefore BCA claim that if CTS are charging anything more than a nominal fee for their services, then they are a commercial enterprise.

The reality is that unless CTS tender for school contracts, they wouldn't have the money to subsidise their other transport like volunteer drivers using their own vehicles and shoppa buses, plus in our case, fuel, lighting and broadband for the Llanwrtyd Community Centre and other things like the community garden.

The JR lasted only one day rather than two, and the court was full. It was identified as serious enough to merit two Judges (one an Appeal Court Judge) – probably because of the involvement of the Secretary of State. No decision was made and I understand there will be a further court appearance early in 2020 which will decide whether there is to be Community Transport in the UK in the future. Laura feels that at the current time, whilst we are no better off than we were before the hearing, we are no worse off either, so I guess it is 'watch this space'.

It is nevertheless a worrying time, as if the final judgement goes against us, then the knock-on effects could affect many other charities or not for profit organisations, for example, charity shops have items donated but sell them on to raise funds, community halls rent out their premises for functions, all these could be classed as commercial ventures.



The Star of Bethlehem (Words by Frederick E Weatherly 1848 - 1929)

It was the eve of Christmas, the snow lay deep and white,
I sat beside my window, and looked into the night,
I heard the church bells ringing, I saw the bright stars shine,
And childhood came again to me, with all its dreams divine.

Then, as I listened to the bells, and watched the skies afar.
Out of the East majestic, there rose one radiant star;
And every other star grew pale before that heavenly glow,
It seemed to bid me follow and I could not choose but go.

From street to street it led me by many a mansion fair,
It shone through dingy casement on many a garret bare;
From highway on to highway, through alleys dark and cold,
And where it shone the darkness was flooded all with gold.

Sad hearts forget their sorrow, rough hearts grew soft and mild,
And weary little children turned in their sleep and smiled;
And many a homeless wanderer uplifted patient eyes
Seeming to see a home at last beyond those starry skies.

And then me thought earth faded, I rose as borne on wings.
Beyond the waste of ruined lives, the press of human things;
Beyond the toil and shadow, above the want and woe,
My old self and its darkness seemed left on Earth below.

And onward, upward shone the star, until it seem'd to me,
It flashed upon the golden gates, and o'er the crystal sea;
And then the gates rolled backward, I stood where angels trod;
It was the star, the star of Bethlehem had led me up to God.
The star, the star, had led me up to God.



Items for Sale

Just a reminder that we do have items for sale down at Llanwrtyd Community Centre, that can be viewed and purchases during coffee club hours, or by arrangement.

We have homemade jam, marmalade and chutney at very reasonable prices. These have been made in our own kitchen at the station by a young chef who is doing some voluntary work with us. The chutney was made with excess produce form our Community Garden, please pop in and buy some.

We also have the [Royal Doulton and other collectables \(at this link\)](#) in case you are in need of a last minute Christmas gift, all at bargain prices and all in perfect condition. These are all on show at the station buildings, but as above, we can arrange for you to see them out of coffee club hours if that is more convenient.

These are just some of the items for sale:



Beautiful green glass Pitcher and six Tumblers, ideal for serving the Pimms before Christmas dinner - £15.00 the set



**Innocence
£15.00 (C1969, average £25.00 on eBay)**



**Lady Charmaine
£30.00 (C1940, average £50.00 on eBay)**



Dickensian Figurines - £8.00 each or £25.00 for the set of four

Managing Director:

Dave Brown

Directors:

Pat Dryden

June Parkinson

Operations Manager:

Laura Burns

Contact Details:

Llanwrtyd Community Transport and Events Recycling

The Tunnel Site

Cilmery

Builth Wells

LD2 3FL



01982 552727/551295



comtrans@btconnect.com



laura@Llanwrtydcommunitytransport.org.uk



www.llanwrtydcommunitytransport.org.uk

Llanwrtyd Community Centre

The Old Station Buildings

Station Road

Llanwrtyd Wells

LD5 4RP



01591 610789



llanwrtydcommunitycentre@gmail.com

VAT Registration Number:

132160853

Company Registration Number:

7924691



Social Enterprise UK
Certified Member