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Llanwrtyd Wells Community Transport Project

NEWSLETTER

Edition 9

November 2019

Hi everyone

Here we are again with our monthly newsletter, this one for the month of November. Well, it's been somewhat wet recently and chilly too on occasions. I could hardly believe it one morning at the beginning of October when I had to scrape the ice off the car windows before I could go out.

This month I thought I would touch on churches and chapels, of which there are many in this relatively small area. Many were built during the spa heyday so as to provide all visitors with their different religious denominations. Some of these churches and chapels are no longer standing or used for their original purpose, for example in Llanwrtyd alone there was a Zion Baptist Church behind the Neuadd, only a small part of that is still there, and I understand the inside of the chapel was shipped out to America. The Llanwrtyd Congregational Chapel is now the Llanwrtyd & District Heritage & Arts Centre, the Bethesda Calvinistic Methodist Chapel has been sold, I'm sure there are lots more I don't know about.

I saw an article a little while ago about the beautiful 11th century St David's Church (Llanddewi wrth y rhyd) at Llanwrtyd. St David's is dear to my heart because Jonathan and I were married there in 2007, but more recently it has had major renovations including new floors, resetting of the medieval font, and relaying of the porch slab floor at the entrance. The outside walls have had new lime mortar and a French drain has been made around the church. The building, although it doesn't have electricity or running water, is now wheelchair accessible. The church is in a most beautiful setting and has a very peaceful feel to it; it's a wonderful place for quiet contemplation. A service of rededication was led by Archbishop John Davies who said it was a "privilege to have such a beautiful building in such a beautiful setting".



St James Church in Llanwrtyd Wells is a much younger church being built in 1896. Although the atmosphere in the church is peaceful and it is open for quiet reflection, it is in the centre of this small town and is a focus for the community with a monthly parish lunch, Christmas tree competition and other community activities.

Gosen Calvinistic Methodist Chapel at Cefn Gorwydd was first built in 1741, but has been rebuilt and extended with a date plaque of 1867. It is a fine chapel building with a graveyard behind where many of the graves are of WW1 military personnel.

St Cadmarch Church in Llangammarch Wells is a much newer church being built in 1916 on the site of a previous church. It is built on a hill, so a bit of a pull up the path, but the stunning views of the Epynt, especially on a sunny day, are well worthy of the effort. The inside of the church is very lovely with its impressive inner stonework and oak reredos and lectern.

St Llanlleonfel Church, Garth has had an interesting past; it has been mooted that its original name could have been Llan Leon Voel translated as 'church upon the bare moor'. Not an easy church to find being hidden by the trees, the site is of Roman origin, the present church dating back to the 17th century although a rough thatched roofed building could have preceded it. Another church which is on a hill, its main claim to fame is a marriage that took place there in 1749; that of Sarah Gwynne, who lived with her family at Garth Hall, and Charles Wesley, the well-known Methodist hymn writer. In the graveyard there are two ancient tombstones believed to be the graves of Welsh princes. There is also a sulphur spring adjacent known as Billy Wern, which would have at the time been an added attraction.

The Victorian church of Eglwys Oen Duw (Church of the Lamb of God) on the road out of Beulah towards Abergwesyn was built by John Norton in 1867 for the private chapel of the Llwynmadoc estate. It is elaborately built in Gothic style, and William Williams (Pantycelyn) had served as Curate there at the beginning of his ministry.

St Afan's church Llanafan Fechan (the lesser) is situated just off the main road between Garth and Cilmery and is accessed through a farm gate. It dates back to the 13th or 14th century but was rebuilt by Charles Buckeridge in 1866. It is the daughter church of St Afan's at Llanafan Fawr (the greater) a few miles away. St Afan was a Celtic Bishop, often known as Afan Buallt, indicating he was from the Builth area. He is thought to have been murdered in a field below the church at Llanafan Fawr.

St Cannen's church Llanganten is based in Cilmery and stands beside the River Chwefri. St Cannen is thought to be the grandson of Brychan Brecheiniog who was the local ruler. It is likely that a church has been on this site from the 6th century, and it was in the graveyard of the church that Prince Llywelyn's body was temporarily laid to rest when he was murdered in 1282. The church was restored in 1880, Then

however the walls are believed to be 17th century or older and the font is believed to be 12th century.

I hope there are some snippets above that you didn't know already, there are so many fascinating things in this area aren't there?

Blessings to you all, Pat.

Remembrance Day

Just a reminder that Remembrance Day this year will be on Sunday November 10th and will be held at 10.45am at St James's Church, Llanwrtyd Wells with wreaths and other tributes being laid at the Royal British Legion War Memorial Institute directly after the service. Please come along and show your respects to our wonderful military personnel who gave their lives in two world wars so that we could be free.



Local Events

Two local events take place in Llanwrtyd Wells in November, the Real Ale Wobble on the 16th, and the Real Ale Ramble on the 23rd and 24th.

Just a reminder also that Guy Fawkes/Bonfire night is on Tuesday November 5th, and although we want everyone to enjoy the celebrations and have a good time, please remember the animals, some of whom are extremely scared of loud noises and flashes. Please keep your pets indoors if they are susceptible to be frightened, but I know this isn't always possible for livestock, so please be mindful when setting off fireworks etc., thank you.



Outings

The outing to Brecon scheduled for October 8th had to be cancelled as not enough people were able to go to make it viable. We won't be arranging any outings now until 2020.

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

Community Transport Awards 2019 and Rural Business Awards

Don't forget that we shall have the results of the above some time in November, so I'll be reporting back in the December issue. Please keep your fingers crossed for us to be successful in these prestigious awards, thank you.



Love is Like the Wild Rose-Briar

*Love is like the wild rose-briar;
Friendship like the holly tree,
The holly is dark when the rose-briar blooms,
But which will bloom more constantly?*

Emily Brontë

17th Century Nun's Prayer

Lord, You know better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but You know Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pain, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cock-sureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet;

I do not want to be a saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good in unexpected places, talents in unexpected people, and give me, Oh Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen.

(Anonymous)

LCT Heart of Wales Coffee Club

Just a reminder that we are open each Tuesday and Thursday between 10.30am and 1pm, and you can be assured of a very warm welcome if you call in. We are still getting produce from our Community Garden, so there is often produce to purchase if you care to pop in. It's all fresh, usually picked that morning from the garden. We also have jam, marmalade and chutney for sale, all made in our own kitchen at the centre, the chutney being made with some of the excess produce from the garden.

We had a film crew visit on Thursday October 17th to talk to local people about banking services or the lack of them. The interviews were very good and were shown on the 6pm news that evening.

We had a lovely morning on October 24th with Jo and Dave from 'Fiddle Bop' who came along with guitar and fiddle and entertained us. It was an excellent morning, there were around 20+ in the audience and the music was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended. We hope to do more of the same in the future and are open to suggestions for entertainment and talks.

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.

Another thing we are looking at is setting up a Bridge Club, we already have some interested parties, it may not be during coffee club hours, but might be around 6pm one evening to allow for anyone who works. We could also include other games, whist, dominoes etc. if that is preferable. If you are at all interested in playing or learning to play, please pop into the coffee club to discuss, or make contact with Sue Williams.

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**.

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 we also expect to be covering the Royal Welsh Winter Fair which will be 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.**



Volunteers

We are looking to recruit some volunteers to help us with our various projects. Volunteering isn't just a one-way street, volunteering in the community can have very many benefits like making new friends, building confidence, and it lets prospective employers see that you're willing to get involved.



At this moment we are looking for someone to set up and run a Bridge Club in the station buildings in Llanwrtyd, this could become a Games Evening with people playing dominoes, draughts, whist etc.

More volunteer drivers using their own vehicles to take people to medical appointments, shopping, visiting family and friends etc. The rate for this is 55p per mile.

We are looking for people who may be interested in doing some cleaning, painting and decorating. Expenses would of course be paid if you have to travel on our behalf.

We particularly need someone to set up and run an online shop for us. We really need to have somewhere to showcase and market our garden furniture and ornaments, plus the glass cullet and other things we have for sale.

For further information or an informal chat with absolutely NO obligation, please give us a call, **Pat on 07881 951510, Laura or Dave on 01982 552727/551295.**

Feeling Safe

Oh the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words but pour them all right out just as they are, chaff and grain together, knowing that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away

George Eliot

Collectables for Sale

From time to time items are bequeathed to us for us to sell on to raise vital funds to help subsidise the services we provide to the local community. We have some beautiful collectables for sale at present, many of them made by Royal Doulton. There is a catalogue on our website of the items and here is a [link if you are receiving this newsletter by email](#). Some of the items are pictured below and on the opposite page.



Tinkle Bell £15 and Babie £12



Lady Charmaine £30, Last Waltz £20, Simone £30, Southern Belle £30



Lynne £20, Victoria £25, Kirsty £25

Managing Director:

Dave Brown

Directors:

Pat Dryden

June Parkinson

Operations Manager:

Laura Burns

Contact Details:

Llanwrtyd Community Transport and Events Recycling

The Tunnel Site

Cilmerly

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



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Certified Member