



Cludiant Cymunedol

Llanwrtyd Wells

Community Transport Ltd:

NEWSLETTER



Rhifyn/Edition 45 /TachweddNovember 2022

Helô bawb/hello everyone

I hope all is well with you and your family and that you are looking forward to celebrating Halloween and then bon fire night. Of course a little late in November is Remembrance Day when we remember the people ho lost their lives in the two world wars and since.

The weather seems a bit more settled than it has been, but autumn is upon us and although we have the lovely sunshine there is a definite nip in the air especially mornings and evenings.

As always we've tried to include something for everyone, so we hope you enjoy having a read. If you're receiving this as a hard copy but would like one sending to you by email, please let me have your details at pat@lwct.org.uk. Likewise if you would like us to publicise your event or you have an article you think others would like to read, especially if you're a Welsh speaker and would like to do a small article for our Welsh Column please send them to me. If you wish to talk about it first, please call me on 07881 951510.

We are beginning to look for someone to do this newsletter, someone who lives locally and has a little time on their hands. If you are interested and would like to know more of what it entails, please give me a call.

Happy reading and blessings to you all

Cofion cynnes/kindest regards. Pat x

Halloween

In Wales, All Hallow's Eve, or Halloween, has its roots in an older, pagan tradition, called *Nos Calan Gaeaf*, Welsh for *Samhain*, a Gaelic word meaning the end of the summer. From the National Museum of Wales it is a pagan holiday dating back to the Iron Age Celts, Samhain was considered to be the Celtic New Year. It was adopted by the Romans as their own festival when they invaded Britain. Many parts of this festival are echoed in our modern Halloween parties.

In modern times, Samhain (pronounced “Sah-win”) is usually celebrated from October 31 to November 1 to welcome in the harvest and usher in “the dark half of the year.” Celebrants believe that the barriers between the physical world and the spirit world break down during Samhain, allowing more interaction between humans and denizens of the Otherworld.

Ancient Celts marked Samhain as the most significant of the four quarterly fire festivals, taking place at the midpoint between the autumn equinox and the winter solstice. During this time of year, hearth fires in family homes were left to burn out while the harvest was gathered.

After the harvest work was complete, celebrants joined with Druid priests to light a community fire using a wheel that would cause friction and spark flames. The wheel was considered a representation of the sun and used along with prayers. Cattle were sacrificed, and participants took a flame from the communal bonfire back to their home to relight the hearth.

It was expected that ancestors might cross over during this time as well, and Celts would dress as animals and monsters so that fairies were not tempted to kidnap them. Some specific monsters were associated with the mythology surrounding Samhain, including a shape-shifting creature called a Pukah that receives harvest offerings from the field. The Lady Gwyn is a headless woman dressed in white who chases night wanderers and was accompanied by a black pig.

As the Middle Ages progressed, so did the celebrations of the fire festivals. Bonfires known as Samghnagans, which were more personal Samhain fires nearer the farms, became a tradition, supposedly to protect families from fairies and witches. Carved turnips called Jack-o-lanterns began to appear, attached by strings to sticks and embedded with coal, this was prior to the pumpkin being used.



November 1 was considered the end of the summer period, the date on which the herds were returned from pasture and land tenures were renewed. It was also a time when the souls of those who had died were believed to return to visit their homes. People set bonfires on hilltops for relighting their hearth fires for the winter and to frighten away evil spirits, and they sometimes wore masks and other disguises to avoid being recognized by the ghosts thought to be present.

It was in these ways that beings such as witches, hobgoblins, fairies, and demons came to be associated with the day. The period was also thought to be favourable for divination on matters such as marriage, health, and death. When the Romans conquered the Celts in the 1st century AD, they added their own festivals of Feralia, commemorating the passing of the dead, and of Pomona, the goddess of the harvest

November was also the month of death in the Celtic calendar, where animals were slaughtered to provide meat for winter. Indeed, the Modern Welsh for November *Tachwedd* literally means 'The Month of Slaughter'. This often began with a feast on November 1st where pigs were slaughtered (part of this folklore is preserved in the Cymric (Welsh) legend of Arawn and Hafgan, as told in the Mabinogi of Pwyll, Prince of Dyfed.

With the coming of Christianity, these traditions were converted to blend in more with the Christian calendar and Christian sensibilities. "In 601AD, Pope Gregory made an important directive. He announced that Christian missionaries were to take a new tack when attempting to convert pagans to the Christian religion.

Information from sarahwoodberry.com and history.com

Ffair Bont

Ffair Bont (Fair on the Bridge) used to take place in Llanwrtyd Wells on November 20th every year. It was originally a hiring fair (Ffair Logi) where people from all the farms and big houses came to trade workmen and servants for money. It was also bill paying day when local people settled their accounts with local shop keepers and tradesmen. Later it became a fun fair with bright lights, coconut shies, roll a penny and merry go rounds. There were china and fruit stalls, and you could get ice cream and candy floss. It was the highlight of the year for children and many adults too, but as the fair ride owners weren't receiving much money, it faded out, which is such a shame for the town.

Volunteer Opportunities



There are many benefits for both volunteer and organisation in securing voluntary help. Some of the main advantages are to make new friends and get into company. It is good to have voluntary work on your CV if you're applying for employment, and is essential if you are planning to apply for a place at University. For organisations such as ours, volunteers are essential as we would not be able to provide services to members at a reduced and affordable rate, so come along and join our happy band. To find out more with absolutely no obligation, speak to Laura on 01982 552727.

Volunteer Drivers Needed Locally and in Llandrindod Wells

Over recent years, Llandrindod Wells has been without a community car scheme, and LWCT have stepped in to help with transport where we can. With these recent requests becoming more frequent, we have decided to "adopt" Llandrindod Wells into LWCT. While we are doing this on a relatively small scale, we need to recruit a few Volunteer Drivers in the Llandrindod area to make this a more affordable and sustainable project and may look to expand this over the coming months if it proves popular.

Having a dedicated team of volunteer drivers in the area that will be supported by our existing volunteers and office staff, will enable us to have a bespoke service which we hope will become as popular as our current services in the Llanwrtyd Wells areas. Like the scheme in Llanwrtyd Wells, the Llandrindod Wells division will be offering one to one car journeys for those needing to access medical appointments, shopping, and any other essential and social journeys.

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in joining our team as a Volunteer Driver, in either Llandrindod Wells, Llanwrtyd Wells or any of the surrounding areas, please get in touch. We can be contacted on the landline 01982 552727, email office@lwct.org.uk or speak to Laura directly on her mobile 07767 771489

You would need a full driving licence which we would need to see, and if you are willing to use your own vehicle, we would need sight of your insurance cover. We would provide all PPE like masks, gloves, sanitiser for you and your passengers. We do have a couple of company cars that you may be able to use if you prefer not to use your own vehicle. If you are interested in becoming a part of the team, please get in touch, even if you can only offer 1 hour a month, every minute of

appreciated and means so much to those people that you help. Volunteer Drivers get a mileage reimbursement in line with government guidelines.

Admin and Social Media

We are also looking for one or two volunteers who are interested in designing and producing leaflets and posters as required, plus assistance with the monthly newsletter. We also want someone who can keep our Facebook and Twitter accounts up to date. Could this be you?

Covid-19 Vaccinations and Boosters

Just to remind you we are able to supply transport free of charge for anyone in our local area with an appointment for a Covid-19 Vaccination or for their follow up booster.



We are incredibly grateful to all the staff and volunteers working at the vaccine centres, they have all been so helpful and accommodating with our drivers when taking people in for vaccines. We are also immensely proud to have been able to help in the highly successful roll out of the vaccine programme within Powys.

This is a busy part of our service and there is much demand for it, so please contact us as soon as you are able if you would like us to help you. Incidentally we do have a wheelchair friendly vehicle for those who cannot access an ordinary car. This service is for our own local community, however please contact us and if you are out of our catchment area we will try and point you in the right direction for other transport services.

Event Recycling

It has been an extremely busy year for our recycling arm but things are starting to wind down now, we have just 2 events left now before the end of the year, then the bins can get a thorough wash and be put away until the spring!

Our next event is going to be the Autumn Fayre in Builth the last weekend of October. Our final event of 2022 will hopefully be the Royal Welsh Winter Fair at the end of November.

We have been providing bins for some smaller community events up and down, including the Llanwrtyd show again this year. Beulah Show also had a couple of sets of bins for their show for the first time this year. It's essential for us to apply and be successful for these shows as it raises much needed income, which has been missing due to lockdowns etc. it is also a good way of raising our profile within the local communities.

Outings

We are really keen to start doing regular days out again, is there anywhere special you would like to go? If so, please give Laura a call to register your interest.

We are looking to visit the Hereford Garden Centre on Wednesday 9th November and the Old Railway Line at Three Cocks Garden Centre on 14th December. Trips to look forward to in the new year include Brecon Mountain Railway, National Botanic gardens of Wales, Tenby, Myddfai Farmers Market and Ystrad Nursery, Brecon Canal, Maesmynis Lavender Fields plus others.

Hereford Garden Centre has not only a wonderful array of plants and flowers, but has a lovely restaurant, a pet section, clothing, and a huge selection of gifts. We would aim to get everyone collected by 11am to arrive at Hereford Garden centre in time for a spot of lunch, allowing plenty of time for browsing before setting off home around 3pm. Cost for the journey will be £12 per person

The Old Railway Line Garden Centre is again a lovely place for purchasing any last minute Christmas gifts as well as having a lovely cafe and restaurant a fabulous winter wonderland display. Cost of this trip will be £11 per person.



Irish Prayer Blessing



May God give you:

For every storm, a rainbow, for every fear, a smile,

For every care, a promise and a blessing in each trial.

For every problem life sends, a faithful friend to share.

For every sigh, a sweet song, and an answer for each prayer.

Waterloo Bridge

He woke to the sound of the road sweeper as he lay under Waterloo Bridge,
One side of his body was freezing and his back felt a permanent ridge.
What was the point of awakening? Just to waste one more pointless day,
For there was no reason or hope left in his life, he just wanted to get out of the way.

He hated his life on the pavement; he had no one for company or chat.
The others passed by without looking at him, but he was alright about that.
He cared not for others he met on the road, he thought they deserved of their fate.
For his life was devoid of all feeling except an enormous self-hate

For he had once been a proud man with his head held as high as he could,
But now he lived only on things he could find, not the life an old soldier should.
He struggled to get his pack on his back, then looked to the north and the south.
He mentally tossed a coin in the air then turned left with a curse in his mouth.

By kind permission of the author Clive Sanders

The Month of November

The month of November is very much known as the transition month because autumn blends into winter. Leaves have left the trees and nature prepares for the cold. Did our ancestors watch out for signs of this month?

*And the dead leaves lie huddled and still,
No longer blown hither and thither;
The last lone aster is gone;
The flowers of the witch-hazel wither ...*
Robert Frost (1874-1963)

From the Latin novem meaning ninth as it was in the early Roman calendar, the November birth flower is the Chrysanthemum. These generally represent cheerfulness.



A red one conveys “I love you.” White symbolizes truth or pure love. A yellow one indicates slighted love.

The star signs for November are Scorpio until the 21st of the month then Sagittarius for the remainder. Scorpio is one of the most misunderstood signs of the zodiac because of its incredible passion and power, Scorpio is often mistaken for a fire sign. In fact, Scorpio is a water sign that derives its strength from the psychic, emotional realm. Like fellow water signs, Cancer and Pisces, Scorpio is extremely clairvoyant and intuitive.

November’s traditional birthstone is the **topaz**, usually a yellow to amber colour. The ancient Greeks believed that topaz could make a wearer invisible. A symbol of honour and strength, topaz was also believed to bring longevity and wisdom.



The Full Beaver Moon

November’s full Moon is traditionally called the **Beaver Moon**. It is also called **Frost Moon** and **Mourning Moon**, depending on the winter solstice. In the Colonial Era, this was the month to set one’s beaver traps before the swamps froze and beavers retired to their lodges, to ensure a supply of warm winter furs. November 7th to 8th is the full eclipse of the Beaver Moon in 2022.

November Weather Folklore

- *If there’s ice in November that will bear a duck, there’ll be nothing after but sludge and muck.*
- *November take flail; let ships no more sail.*
- *If trees show buds in November, the winter will last until May.*
- *There is no better month in the year to cut wood than November.*
- *Ice in November brings mud in December.*

Local Dates for Your Diary

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Family Bingo, Garth Hall | November 3 rd |
| • Bracken Trust Christmas Fayre, Llandrindod | November 11 th |
| • Willow Weaving Workshop, Myddfai Hall | November 18 th |
| • Artisan Food Fair, Llanwrtyd | November 19 th |
| • Cilmeri Race Night, Prince Llewelyn | November 19 th |
| • Real Ale Wobble, Llanwrtyd | November 19 th |
| • Eisteddfod Christmas Bingo, Victoria Hall | November 25 th |
| • Real Ale Ramble, Llanwrtyd | Nov 26 & 27 |
| • Myddfai Farmers Market | November 27 th |
| • Myddfai Christmas Fayre | December 3 rd |
| • Willow Weaving Workshop, Myddfai Hall | December 9 th |
| • Christmas Fayre, Victoria Hall | December 11 th |

The Walking Song by J R R Tolkien 1892 – 1973

Upon the hearth the fire is red, beneath the roof there is a bed;
But not yet weary are our feet, still round the corner we may meet
A sudden tree or standing stone that none has seen but we alone.
Tree and flower and leaf and grass, let them pass! Let them pass!
Hill and water under sky, pass them by! Pass them by!

Still round the corner there may wait a new road or a secret gate,
And though we pass them by today, tomorrow we may come this way
And take the hidden path that runs towards the Moon or to the Sun.
Apple, thorn, and nut and sloe, let them go! Let them go!
Sand and stone and pool and dell, fare you well! Fare you well!

Home is behind the world ahead, and there are many paths to tread
Through shadows to the edge of night, until the stars are all alight.
Then world behind and home ahead, we'll wander back to home and bed.
Mist and twilight, cloud and shade, away shall fade! Away shall fade!
Fire and lamp, and meat and bread, and then to bed! And then to bed!

Still round the corner there may wait a new road or a secret gate,
And though I oft have passed them by, a day will come at last when I
Shall take the hidden paths that run West of the Moon, East of the Sun.

Ffair Bont (Fair on the Bridge) used to take place in Llanwrtyd Wells on November 20th every year. It was originally a hiring fair (Ffair Logi) where people from all the farms and big houses came to trade workmen and servants for money. It was also bill paying day when local people settled their accounts with local shop keepers and tradesmen. Later it became a fun fair with bright lights, coconut shies, roll a penny and merry go rounds. There were china and fruit stalls, and you could get ice cream and candy floss. It was the highlight of the year for children and many adults too, but as the fair ride owners weren't receiving much money, it faded out, which is such a shame for the town.

Guy Fawkes

Guy Fawkes was born in 1570 in Stonegate, York. He was the second of four children born to Edward Fawkes, and his wife, Edith. Guy's parents were regular attendees of the Church of England, as were his paternal grandparents; his grandmother, born Ellen Harrington, was the daughter of a prominent merchant, who served as Lord Mayor of York in 1536. Guy's mother's family remained faithful to the Catholic church, and his cousin, Richard Cowling, became a Jesuit priest.



A contemporary engraving of eight of the thirteen conspirators, by Crispijn van de Passe 1605. Fawkes is third from the right.

1579, when Guy was eight years old, his father died. His mother remarried several years later, to the Catholic Dionis Baynbrigge (or Denis Bainbridge) of Scotton, Harrogate. Fawkes may have become a Catholic through the Baynbrigge family's beliefs.

Fawkes converted to Catholicism and left for mainland Europe, where he fought for Catholic Spain in the Eighty Years' War against Protestant Dutch reformers in the Low Countries. He adopted the name Guido Fawkes after travelling to Spain to seek support for a Catholic rebellion in England without success. He later met Thomas Wintour, with whom he returned to England. Wintour introduced him to Robert Catesby, who planned to assassinate King James I and restore a Catholic monarch to the throne. The plotters leased an underground cellar beneath the House of Lords; Fawkes was placed in charge of the stockpile of gunpowder. The authorities were prompted by an anonymous letter to search Westminster Palace during the early hours of 5 November, and they found Fawkes guarding the explosives. He was questioned and tortured over the next few days and confessed to wanting to blow up the House of Lords.

Immediately before his execution on 31 January, Fawkes fell from the scaffold where he was to be hanged and broke his neck, thus avoiding the agony of being hanged, drawn and quartered. He became synonymous with the Gunpowder Plot, the failure of which has been commemorated in the UK as Guy Fawkes Night since 5 November 1605, when his effigy is traditionally burned on a bonfire, commonly accompanied by fireworks.

***Remember, remember, the fifth of November,
Gunpowder, treason, and plot,
I see of no reason, why gunpowder treason,
Should ever be forgot.***

If you're holding a bonfire this year, please do be careful with the fireworks, especially if there are animals nearby, some of them can be very spooked by loud bangs. Also if you've built your bonfire ready to light, please ensure no animals such as hedgehogs have gone in there for a little snooze zzzzzz

Postal Strikes

November 2nd, 3rd and 4th

November 8th, 9th and 10th

November 14th, 15th and 16th

November 23rd, 24th and 25th

November 28th, 29th and 30th

December 1st and 2nd

70th Anniversary Book

A book is in the process of being put together to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Llanwrtyd Eisteddfod. The cost of the book is being sponsored by Mr Paul Newman of Charcroft Electronics Ltd. an avid supporter and sponsor of the yearly festival. The book should be available from the beginning of December.

Annabelle Thomas said she remembered the golden age of the eisteddfodau. In their heyday so many were being held in nearly every chapel and village not only in this area but throughout Wales. The eisteddfod was an important social event in the calendar and a date not to be missed.

But now, the only eisteddfod still held in this area is this one in Llanwrtyd and Annabelle congratulated the committee – and I am very proud to think that I am one of you – for the hard work and perseverance undertaken making sure that some of our old and best traditions are passed on to future generations.

For anyone who doesn't know, an eisteddfod is a festival of music, literature, poetry, choirs, school bands etc and is steeped in Welsh culture. When Theophilus Evans discovered the well at Dol y Coed in 1732 and visitors flocked to the then tiny hamlet to take the waters, eisteddfodau were held weekly as entertainment for the visitors.

For further information about the book or to place an order please contact the Secretary Mrs Susan Price on 01591 610303 or any committee member.

Remembrance Day

November 11th is of course Remembrance Day and church services will be on Sunday November 13th this year. Wreaths will be laid at the War Memorial Institute in Llanwrtyd Wells as well as other places locally. We have so much to be grateful to our forefathers for, so many who went and never came back in both world wars and many other wars since. Not just the ones who didn't return, but the ones who came back mentally and physically damaged. I hope we can all think of these very brave men and women at the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

In Flanders Field By John McCrae, May 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky.
The larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago, we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie in Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We Will remember them.*

Llanwrtyd Wells Eisteddfod – 70th Anniversary

The 70th Eisteddfod was held at the Victoria Hall, Llanwrtyd on Saturday, 24th September when all those present agreed on how good it was to have an eisteddfod again following a two-year gap due to the pandemic.

There were a pleasing number of competitors in all sessions and a high standard maintained throughout the day. Again, this year a chairing ceremony was



held during the evening session and the chaired bard was John Meurig Edwards of Brecon who had won the chair at Llanwrtyd on two other previous occasions. He had written a poem on the set title 'Y Gystadleuaeth – The competition' and had used the nom-de-plume of 'Loge Las' which is his native area in Cardiganshire between Pont-rhyd-y-groes and Ysbyty Ystwyth. The second prize in

this competition was awarded to Gaenor Mai Jones of Rhondda Cynon Taf and highly commended was Lorraine Voss of Llanwrtyd. The full report can be read in the B&R and County Times.

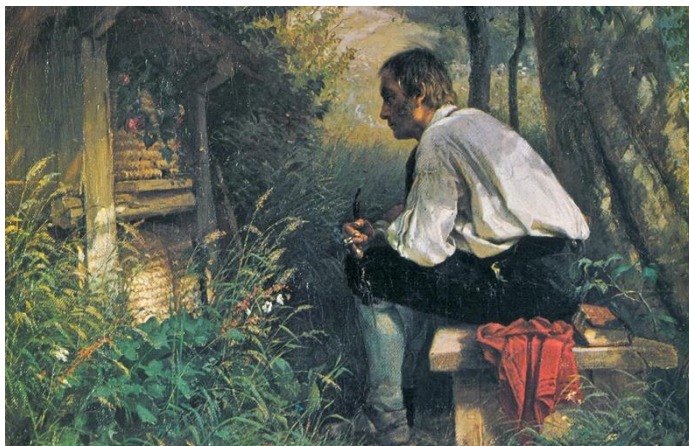
Text and photographs kindly given by Susan Price

Telling the Bees

In the November 2019 edition of our newsletter I did an article on the delightful custom of telling the bees when their master/mistress dies. I am really pleased to see this custom has been kept by the royal family. Royal Bee Keeper John Chapple aged 76 years old travelled to Buckingham Palace and Clarence House to perform the ritual.

Knocking softly on each hive John quietly said a little prayer and told the bees that their mistress, HM Queen Elizabeth II had passed away and that their new master would be HM King Charles III. Each hive had a black ribbon tied in a bow draped over it, and the bees were requested to be good as the new master would be to them.

It's a ritual going back many years, and it's believed that not to tell the bees of a change of ownership would result in them not making honey, leaving the hive or even dying. Mr Chapple looks after around 20,000,000 bees at the height of summer and has done for the last 15 years.



The Bee Friend by Hans Thoma 1863/4

Telling the Bees by John Greenleaf Whittier 1858

Here is the place; right over the hill runs the path I took;
You can see the gap in the old wall still, and the stepping-stones in the shallow
brook.

There is the house, with the gate red-barred, and the poplars tall;
And the barn's brown length, and the cattle-yard, and the white horns tossing above
the wall.

There are the beehives ranged in the sun; and down by the brink
Of the brook are her poor flowers, weed-o'errun, pansy and daffodil, rose and pink.
A year has gone, as the tortoise goes, heavy and slow;
And the same rose blows, and the same sun glows, and the same brook sings of a
year ago.

There's the same sweet clover-smell in the breeze; and the June sun warm
Tangles his wings of fire in the trees, setting, as then, over Fernside farm.
I mind me how with a lover's care from my Sunday coat
I brushed off the burrs, and smoothed my hair, and cooled at the brookside my brow
and throat.

Since we parted, a month had passed, to love, a year;
Down through the beeches I looked at last on the little red gate and the well-sweep
near.

I can see it all now,—the slantwise rain of light through the leaves,
The sundown's blaze on her window-pane, the bloom of her roses under the eaves.

Just the same as a month before, the house and the trees,
The barn's brown gable, the vine by the door, nothing changed but the hives of
bees.

Before them, under the garden wall, forward and back,
Went drearily singing the chore-girl small, draping each hive with a shred of black.

Trembling, I listened: the summer sun had the chill of snow;
For I knew she was telling the bees of one gone on the journey we all must go!

Then I said to myself, "My Mary weeps for the dead to-day:
Haply her blind old grandsire sleeps the fret and the pain of his age away."

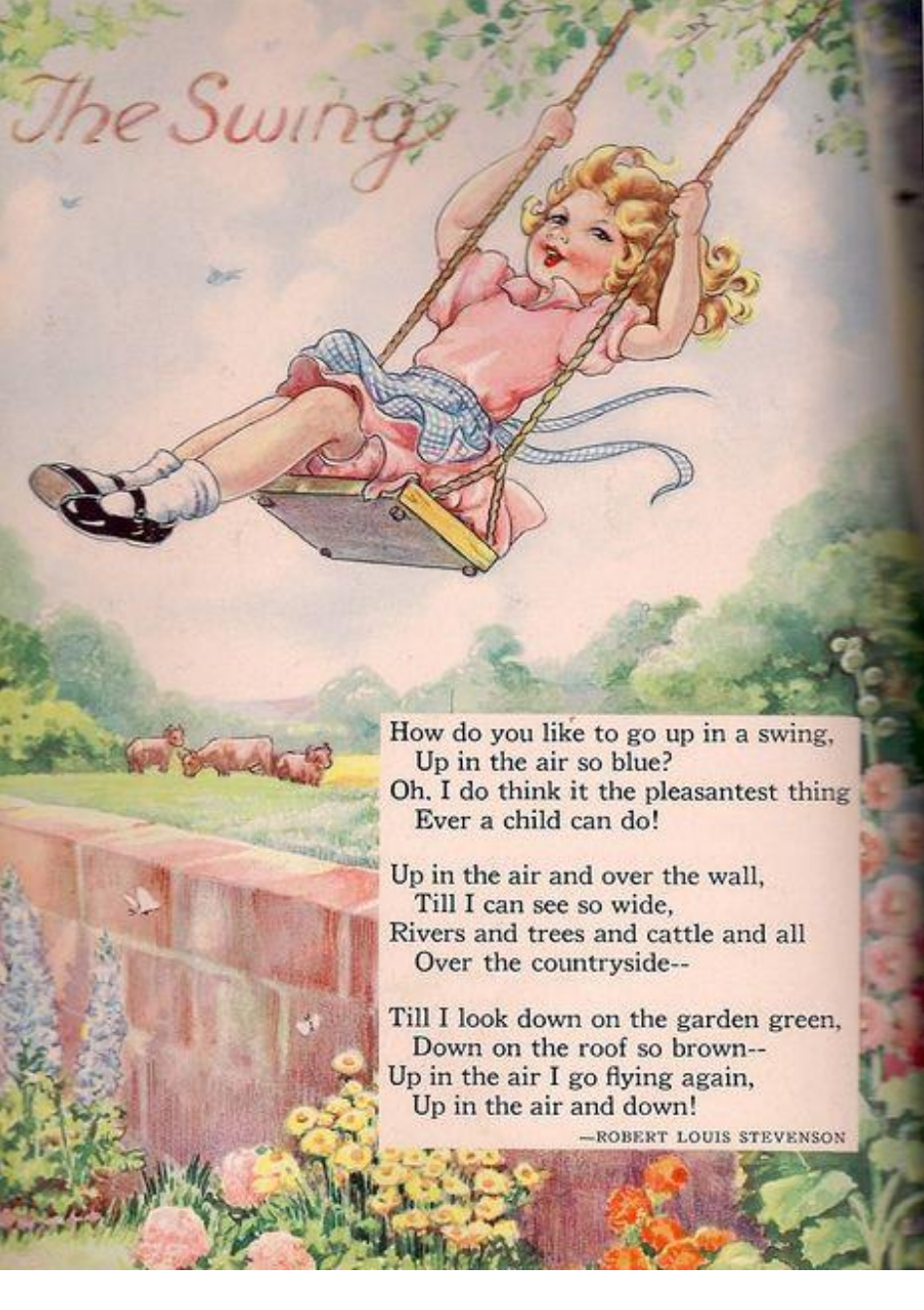
But her dog whined low; on the doorway sill, with his cane to his chin,
The old man sat; and the chore-girl still sung to the bees stealing out and in.

And the song she was singing ever since in my ear sounds on:
"Stay at home, pretty bees, fly not hence! Mistress Mary is dead and gone!"

Outing to Elan Valley

A party of people were taken to Elan Valley, and what a beautiful day for visiting the area. Why not put your name down for our forthcoming outing to Hereford Garden Centre.





The Swing

How do you like to go up in a swing,
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing
Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,
Till I can see so wide,
Rivers and trees and cattle and all
Over the countryside--

Till I look down on the garden green,
Down on the roof so brown--
Up in the air I go flying again,
Up in the air and down!

—ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

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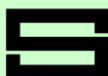


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