



**Cludiant Cymunedol**

**Llanwrtyd Wells**

**Community Transport Ltd:**

# NEWSLETTER



**Rhifyn/Edition 46**

**Rhagfyr/December 2022**

Helô bawb/hello everyone

I hope all is well with you and your family and that you are looking forward to the Christmas holidays. Have you managed to get all your presents and have them wrapped ready for the big day? If you're anything like me the answer will be 'No'. The weather has been unseasonably warm don't you think? But saves having the heating on full blast thereby saving a bob or two.

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](mailto: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.

On behalf of everyone here at LWCT we would like to wish all you a Happy, Hearty Christmas and all good wishes for a Peaceful, Healthy New Year. Happy reading and blessings to you all. Cofion cynnes/kindest regards. Pat x

### **Warm Homes Scheme**

This winter Age Cymru Powys will again be offering 'Free Home Energy' Visits under the Warm Homes scheme. This will involve providing support, advice, plus fitting simple energy-saving equipment, all designed to help older people aged 65+ through this winter, whilst improving their home's energy efficiency. Please feel free to refer yourself or anyone you think will benefit from this service.

Their contact number is 01686 623707 and it would be much appreciated if you could please pass this on to anyone you think might be interested

Cofion cynnes / Kind Regards Sarah Bone **Operations Officer**

### **Irish House Blessing**

God bless the corners of this house and be the lintel blest;  
And bless the hearth, and bless the board, and bless each place of rest.

Bless each door that opens wide to stranger as to kin;  
And bless each crystal windowpane that lets the sunshine in,  
And bless the roofree overhead, and every sturdy wall.

The peace of man. the peace of God. the peace of love on all.



## David Brown

On behalf of the Directors, staff, volunteers and friends of LWCT, I offer condolences to Jacquie Brown and family on the death of her husband David on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

David came to work for LWCT in 2002 employed by PAVO as the Scheme Manager for Llanwrtyd Wells & District Community Transport Scheme (as LWCT was then called). During his time with LWCT he had the vision to realise that our part of Mid Wales lacked an integrated public transport service, and managed to secure Government Funding to buy minibuses to start the scheme.

He also started up the Events Recycling arm of the company and secured early Home to School contracts with PCC school transport, using the income from both, by way of subsidising the volunteer driver scheme, to make the service affordable for local people. He became Managing Director in 2013 and hosted the company in premises at Cilmerly. He wasn't always in the best of health and resigned from the company in April 2020.



We hope that memories of happier times, and the recognising of David's visionary need for rural Community Transport, will help Jacquie and her family through this sad period.

## 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.

## The Riddle of Strider



All that is gold does not glitter,  
Not all those who wander are lost;  
The old that is strong does not wither,  
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.  
From the ashes a fire shall be woken,  
A light from the shadows shall spring;  
Renewed shall be blade that was broken,  
The crownless again shall be king.

**J R R Tolkien 1892 – 1973**

### **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](mailto: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 time is 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, as this newsletter is going to print, we are just clearing down our final event of the year, the royal welsh winter fair. We have offered recycling services at a bumper number of events this year, 17 since April! Our services range from a supply only of bins, to a full package of supply, emptying of bins and litter picking a site. We are also delighted to be taking bookings for recycling services in 2023 already, including some new events!

We have been providing bins and waste management services for events both large and small this year and were delighted to support several of the smaller community events, these events help local communities in many ways and it has been a delight to see them return again this year after absences due to Covid. 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.

A big thank you to all the events that have used our recycling services in 2022, we look forward to working with you again next year.

## Outings

A small group of people went to Hereford Garden Centre and had a lovely time seeing all the Christmas displays. Several items were purchased, and the driver is still trying to get the glitter out of the bus!! 😊

The next trip is Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup> to The Old Railway Line Garden Centre, Three Cocks. The cost is £11 per person with door to door collection.

Outings for 2023 to include Brecon Canal, Maesmynis Lavender Fields, Myddfai Farmers Market, National Botanic Gardens, Brecon Mountain Railway, Tenby, plus others.

## Local Dates for Your Diary

Myddfai Christmas Fayre	December 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Willow Weaving Workshop, Myddfai Hall	December 9 <sup>th</sup>
Christmas Fayre, Victoria Hall, Llanwrtyd	December 11 <sup>th</sup>
Joseph and his TCDC, Builth Strand Hall	December 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>
Tea with Father Christmas, Garth Hall	December 17 <sup>th</sup>
New Year walk in 10pm Llanwrtyd Square (Mari Lwyd)	December 31 <sup>st</sup>

## **She Walks in Beauty written by Lord Byron**

She walks in beauty, like the night of cloudless climes and starry skies;  
And all that's best of dark and bright meet in her aspect and her eyes;  
Thus mellowed to that tender light which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less, had half impaired the nameless grace  
Which waves in every raven tress, or softly lightens o'er her face;  
Where thoughts serenely sweet express, how pure, how dear their dwelling-place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow, so soft, so calm, yet eloquent,  
The smiles that win, the tints that glow, but tell of days in goodness spent,  
A mind at peace with all below, a heart whose love is innocent!

**George Gordon Byron**, born January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1788 in London, died April 19<sup>th</sup> 1824 in Missolonghi, Greece, 6th Baron Byron and a 'Fellow of the Royal Society', simply known as Lord Byron, was a British poet and peer. One of the leading figures of the Romantic Movement, Byron is regarded as one of the greatest English poets. He remains widely read and influential.

### **Community and Volunteer Car Service**

For over 10 years, Llanwrtyd Wells Community Transport (LWCT) has been operating a community car service, originally reimbursing volunteer drivers using their own vehicles.

In the early days without their dedication to service, and the vision of our former late director David Brown, (who sadly died earlier this year), LWCT might never have realised the size and the nature of the demand for this type of transport.

5 years ago, LWCT started purchasing their own vehicles to run as Community Cars, with either staff or volunteer drivers. Early vehicle records show that 15,000 community car miles a year were not unusual.

The arrival of Covid-19 in mid Wales required LWCT to focus on the car journeys that were really important to local scheme members. Even during the period of national lockdown, LWCT was travelling nearly 1,000 miles a month, with shopping journeys accounting for over 75% of miles travelled.

With the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, unaccompanied shopping journeys reduced significantly, with travel requests to appointments for all aspects of medical care (including hospital outpatients) increasing accordingly.

Mileage analysis has indicated that overall, for the 2021/22 financial year, local journeys (1 to 10 miles – 40%) were still the most popular, with an even split over middle distance journeys (supermarket shopping – 22%) and longer distances (hospital appointments – 23%). The remaining miles (15%), were usually either GP appointments or personal travel.

This autumn “top-up season” has started and LWCT has re-commenced the community car journeys, for vaccination appointments for Covid-19, flu and shingles. The vaccination centre for mid Powys has moved from the Royal Welsh Showground, to the old Welsh Office building in Spa Road in Llandrindod Wells.

As public confidence has grown, LWCT community care mileages increased from 22,000 in 2020/21, to 37,000 in 2021/22.

During 2022/23 to date, Llanwrtyd Wells Community Transport has undertaken nearly 20,000 community car miles, with the following journeys requested and completed: -

• Shopping	3,200	16%
• Medical	11,379	58%
• Community & Personal	3,286	17%
• Other	1,870	9%

Currently LWCT tries wherever possible, to respond to requests from scheme members living in Llanwrtyd Wells, Treflys, Builth Wells, Llangammarch Wells, Newbridge on Wye, Cilmerly and Llanafan Fawr. We are currently trying to extend service delivery to include Llandrindod Wells, Howey & Llanyre.

With generous support from the Welsh Government’s “Winter Pressures” funding, and being locally administered via PAVO, LWCT is in the process of purchasing another Community Car.

LWCT is also pleased to announce that the Town Councils of Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells has generously helped finance local community car journeys in their area, as has a private company in Llanwrtyd Wells. Gwent Association of Voluntary



Organisations (GAVO) has also been financially supporting patient transport services to Aneurin Bevan University Hospitals for the last 2 years.

LWCT remains actively seeking sponsorship for community car journeys for all medical appointments, and will report progress in future newsletters.

If you would like to be a part of this local success story, and become a volunteer community car driver, we would be very pleased to hear from you, using any of the contact details shown on the back page of this newsletter.

**Stephen Hawkes, Company Director and Compliance Officer**

## **Christmas Lunch**

Helping our Homeless – Wales are providing a Christmas lunch for anyone in need. If you would like to take up this very kind and generous offer the contact details are below. The free lunches will be on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at their hub based in Builth Wells or to your door if you are unable to get there. Why not give them a call on 07955 518669

## **The month of December**

Being the 10<sup>th</sup> month in the Roman calendar until 153BC, the name comes from the Latin decem meaning ten. Well known December dates include;

December 6 is Saint Nicholas Day, the patron saint of children.

December 7 is National Pearl Harbour Remembrance Day.

December 13 is St. Lucia's Day, which has long been associated with festivals of light.

December 17 is Wright Brothers Day. Orville and Wilbur Wright, were American aviation pioneers generally credited with inventing, building, and flying the world's first successful motor-operated airplane.

December 18 marks the beginning of Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Light.

December 21 is the Winter Solstice—the astronomical first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and first day of summer in the Southern Hemisphere.

December 25 Christmas Day,

December 26 Boxing Day

## Full Cold Moon

December's full Moon appears on Wednesday, December 7, reaching peak illumination at 11:09 P.M. The Anglo-Saxon name was the Moon before Yule, which is the ancient celebration around the winter solstice. The December Full Moon is also called Oak Moon, while a Celtic name was Wolf Moon. Today, however, this name is more common for the January Full Moon.



## Geminid Meteor Shower

Takes place on December 14 after 9pm. The Geminid meteor shower is the most active shower of the year. This year, the peak of the meteor shower meets a waning gibbous Moon, meaning that the sky will still be affected somewhat by the light of the Moon. If the sky is clear and temperatures aren't too chilly, it's still worth venturing outside to try to see the Geminids.

### Beggar's Rhyme.

Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat,  
Please put a penny in the old man's hat;  
If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do,  
If you haven't got a ha'penny, God bless you!

Turquoise, is regarded as a love charm. It is also a symbol of good fortune and success and is believed to relax the mind and to protect its wearer from harm. Turquoise rings, in particular, are thought to keep away evil spirits.

Unlike many other gems, **turquoise** is opaque rather than translucent. Its blue-green colour can vary from sky blue or greenish blue to pale green or greenish grey. Bluer stones are considered more valuable and contain more copper. Turquoise is sometimes criss-crossed by "matrix"—a pattern of mineral lines formed by the surrounding stone—which can reduce its value.





The December birth flowers are **holly** and **narcissus** (specifically, the paperwhite). The Holly symbolizes a wish for domestic happiness and Narcissus conveys that you want your beloved to stay just the way they are.



## Hanukkah

The eight-day Jewish celebration known as Hanukkah or Chanukah commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, where according to legend Jews had risen up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt. Hanukkah, which means “dedication” in Hebrew, this year the festival begins on December 18<sup>th</sup> until December 26<sup>th</sup>. Often called the winter Festival of Lights, the holiday is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, and traditional foods, games and gifts.

The Hanukkah celebration revolves around the kindling of a nine-branched menorah, known in Hebrew as the Hanukkah. On each of the holiday’s eight nights, another candle is added to the menorah after sundown; the ninth candle, called the Shamash (“helper”), is used to light the others. Jews typically recite blessings during this ritual and display the menorah prominently in a window as a reminder to others of the miracle that inspired the holiday.



## The Night Before Christmas by 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, 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.”*

## Prince Llywelyn 1223 – 1282



Prince Llywelyn ap Gruffedd was the last Welsh Prince of Wales, and he was killed in a minor skirmish with King Edward of England's soldiers on December 11<sup>th</sup> 1282 at Cilmeri at the Battle of Irfon (Orewin) Bridge. Cilmeri is a small village on the banks of the River Irfon and is a most hallowed and sad place, and a place of significant historical importance to Wales.

It was an unfortunate chance encounter in a field at Cilmeri that ended the Welsh dream. Llywelyn had become separated from his main army. He found himself on the outskirts of the main battle field, and was killed by an English Knight who was unaware of the Prince's identity.

The exact circumstances of his death have been lost in history and are unclear, however there are many explanations of his death and one gives credit to an English soldier named Stephen de Frankton. What is clear however is that the English did not realise who they had killed because Llywelyn was not wearing his coat of arms having travelled to Builth Wells for a secret meeting. Other accounts suggest that Llywelyn was betrayed by one of his own followers.

The place where Llewelyn fell was marked in 1902 by a stone obelisk erected by Squire Blyth, but this was replaced in 1956 by a 19 foot high block of granite from Trefor Quarry in Llywelyn's native Carmarthenshire. The granite is embedded in a plinth set on a low mound. It is named the Cilmeri Stone, a tribute to Llywelyn ein

Llyw Olaf (Llywelyn the last). The stone memorial was dismantled and incorporated into the steps leading to the monument site.

Behind and to the right of the stone is a gate and steps leading to the capped well where legend has it that Llywelyn's head was washed once decapitated. Behind the well is a slate slab inscribed in Welsh and English with the phrase 'Legend has it that this is the well wherein the head of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd was washed'.



Since then it has served as the focal point for an annual day of remembrance on the anniversary of his death. His grave is in a nearby Cistercian Abbey, Abbeycwmhir which was one the largest abbey in Wales.

A poignant ballad by modern Welsh songwriter and nationalist Dafydd Iwan expresses the grief of the Welsh nation 'Collir Llywelyn colli'r cyfan' (losing Llywelyn is losing everything), Cilmeri is indeed holy ground.

Gerallt Lloyd Owen who was the foremost Welsh poet of the generation was a prize winning Welsh language bard. He became a national coach on a BBC program Cymru called Talwrn y Beirdd, a long running poetry contest whose followers were drawn to the National Eisteddfod. He wrote the following poem which is full of emotion and sadness.

### **Cilmeri Poem**

Fin nos fan hyn Lladdwyd Llywelyn. Fyth nid anghofiwn hyn.

Y nant a welaf fan hyn A welodd Llywelyn, Camodd ar y cerrig hyn.

Fin nos, fan hyn O'r golwg nes i'r gelyn. Fe wnaed y cyfan fan hyn.

Rwyf fi'n awr fan hyn Lle bu'i wallt ar welltyn, A dafnau o'i waed fan hyn.

Fan hyn yw ein cof ni, Fan hyn sy'n anadl inni, Fan hyn gynnau fu'n geni.

In the evening here Llywelyn was killed. We won't forget this.  
The stream I see here did Llywelyn see, he stepped on these stones.  
In the evening, here from view until the enemy. It was all done here.  
I am here now where his hair was on straw, and drops of his blood here.  
Here is our memory, here is our breath, here are guns that were born.

Information and photographs from <https://www.felinfach.com/pages/cilmeri>

### The Parts of Speech

Every name is called a **noun**, as **field** and **fountain**, **street** and **town**:

In place of noun a **pronoun** stands, as **he** and **she** can clap their hands.

The **adjective** describes a thing, as **magic** wand and **bridal** ring.

The **verb** means action, something done, to **read**, to **write**, to **jump**, to **run**.

How things are done the **adverbs** tell, as **quickly**, **slowly**, **badly**, **well**;

The **preposition** shows relation, as **in** the street, or **at** the station;

**Conjunctions** join in many ways, sentences, words or phrase **and** phrase;

The **interjection** cries out, hark! I need an exclamation mark!

### Llanwrtyd Eisteddfod 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book

Llanwrtyd Eisteddfod Committee has put together a book to commemorate their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The cost of the book is heavily subsidised by Mr Paul Newman of Charcroft Electronics Ltd. Who is an avid supporter and sponsor of the yearly festival. Mrs Pat Dryden has collated, formatted, printed and binded the editions as a gift to the Llanwrtyd Eisteddfod.

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.

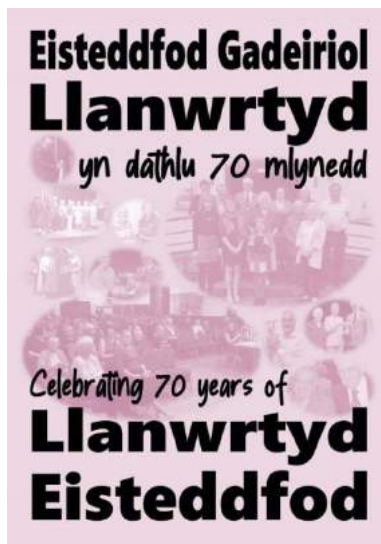


The eisteddfod was an important social event in the calendar and a date not to be missed.

Now the only eisteddfod still held in this area is this one in Llanwrtyd which is so important in helping to keep some of our old and best traditions alive for 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.**

### **I Met a Dragon Face to Face**

I met a dragon face to face the year when I was ten,  
I took a trip to outer space; I braved a pirate's den.  
I wrestled with a wicked troll and fought a great white shark,  
I trailed a rabbit down a hole I hunted for a snark.  
  
I stowed aboard a submarine, I opened magic doors,  
I travelled in a time machine and searched for dinosaurs,  
I climbed atop a giant's head; I found a pot of gold,  
I did all this in books I read when I was ten years old.

**Poem by American Children's Poet Jack Prelutsky born in 1940**

## The Elf and The Dormouse (1894), written by Oliver Herford



Under a toadstool crept a wee Elf, out of the rain to shelter himself.  
Under the toadstool, sound asleep, sat a big Dormouse all in a heap.

Trembled the wee Elf, frightened and yet fearing to fly away lest he get wet.  
To the next shelter—maybe a mile! sudden the wee Elf smiled a wee smile.

Tugged till the toadstool toppled in two holding it over him, gaily he flew.  
Soon he was safe home, dry as could be. Soon woke the Dormouse—"Good  
gracious me!

"Where is my toadstool?" loud he lamented.  
And that's how umbrellas first were invented.

**Oliver Herford** (2 December 1860 – 5 July 1935) was an Anglo-American writer, artist, and illustrator known for his clever, witty comments and skewed sense of humour. He was regarded as the American Oscar Wilde.

He was born in Sheffield in December 1860 to Rev. Brooke Herford and Hannah Hankinson Herford. Oliver's father, a Unitarian minister, moved the family to Chicago in 1876 and to Boston in 1882. Oliver attended Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, from 1877 to 1879. Later he studied art at the Slade School in London and the Académie Julien in Paris. Afterward, he moved to New York, where he lived until his death.

## Mari Lwyd

**The Y Fari Lwyd** - Mari Lwyd is a wassailing folk custom found in South Wales. The Mari Lwyd itself consists of a horse's skull that is decorated with ribbons and affixed to a pole; to the back of the skull is attached a white sheet, which drapes down to conceal both the pole and the individual carrying it.



The custom was first recorded in 1800, with subsequent accounts of it being produced into the early twentieth century. According to these, the Mari Lwyd was a tradition performed at Christmas time by groups of men who would accompany the horse on its travels around the local area, and although the makeup of such groups varied, they typically included an individual to carry the horse, a smartly dressed "Leader" who carried a staff, stick, or whip, and sometimes other stock characters, such as the "Merryman" who played music,



and Punch and Judy (both played by men) with blackened faces; often brightly dressed, Punch carried a long metal fire iron and Judy had a besom.

The custom began at dusk and sometimes went on into the night. Men would carry the Mari Lwyd to local houses, where they would request entry through song. The householders would be expected to deny them entry, again through song, and the two sides would continue their responses to one another

in a *pwncu* - musical battle). If the householders eventually relented, the team would be permitted entry and given food and drink.

Although the custom has been given other names including the Hoodening of Kent, the Broad of the Cotswolds, and the Old Ball, Old Tup, and Old Horse of northern England, which have led to suggestions that they derive from the 16c and 17c fashion for hobby horses among the socially elite.

**Company Directors:**

Pat Dryden  
Stephen Hawkes  
David Harrison  
Lee Shurey  
Kathryn Brooks

**General Manager:**

Laura Burns

**Compliance Officer:**

Stephen Hawkes

**Webmaster:**

David Harrison

**Newsletter Editor:**

Pat Dryden

**Shopping and Outings:**

John McMahon 07956 091242

**Contact Details:**

Llanwrtyd Wells Community Transport Ltd: and Events Recycling  
The Lion Garage, Castle Street,  
Builth Wells, LD2 3BN

: 01982 552727

: [office@lwct.org.uk](mailto:office@lwct.org.uk)

: [www.lwct.org.uk](http://www.lwct.org.uk)

VAT Registration No: GB132 1608 53

Company Registration No: 7924691



**Social Enterprise UK**  
Certified Member

Registered Office: C/o Andrew Jones & Co, The Old Surgery, Spa Road, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5EY.