



Cludiant Cymunedol

Llanwrtyd Wells

Community Transport Ltd:

NEWSLETTER



Rhyfyn/Edition 52

Mehefin/June 2023

Helô bawb/hello everyone

I hope all is well with you and your family and that you are looking forward to the summer weather. It's been a bit of a mixture but hopefully it'll settle soon and you'll be able to get out into the garden or go for walks in this stunning area where we live.

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 us have your details at office@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 in to us. If you wish to talk about it first, please give Laura a call

I would like to thank Stephen, Laura and anyone else involved in the process of writing the newsletter and getting it distributed, I'm very grateful to them for their involvement. We are looking for someone to be involved in writing the newsletter, perhaps it may be something you fancy having a go at, and if so please make contact, we'd love to have you on board. Happy reading and blessings to you all.

Cofion cynnes/kindest regards. Pat x

The Month of June

June was most likely named for the ancient Roman goddess Juno, the patroness of marriage and childbirth, and June is still a popular month for weddings. Another interpretation of the origins of "June" says that the name came from the Latin *juvenis*, "young people," who were celebrated at this time. This month brings beauty in all forms, from flowers to sunlight.

Juno, in Roman religion, was the chief goddess and female counterpart of Jupiter, similar to the relationship between the Greek Hera and Zeus. Perhaps not surprisingly given her role of protector of women and children, this powerful queen of the gods was also considered the fierce protector and special counsellor of the state and a guardian angel warning those in times of danger.

June 21st is the summer solstice, which heralds the start of summer in the Northern Hemisphere. It's the day with the most hours of daylight, so enjoy! In the Southern Hemisphere, winter begins at this time.

June 24th brings Midsummer Day, traditionally the midpoint of the growing season, halfway between planting and harvesting. It is celebrated in many cultures on the night of June 23rd, as Midsummer Eve.

Strawberry Moon

The full Strawberry Moon rises on Saturday, June 3rd 2023, just after sunset

June's full Moon is typically the last full Moon of spring and the first of summer. Other names are Mead Moon, Honey Moon and Birth Moon.



June Moon Folklore

A growing Moon and a flowing tide are lucky times to marry.

Days following both the New and Full Moons are most likely to be rainy or stormy.

Crabbing, shrimping, and clamming are best when the Moon is full.

The month of leaves and roses
When pleasant sights salute the eyes
And pleasant scents the noses.

P N Willis 1807-67

Weather Folklaw

If June be sunny, harvest comes early
June damp and warm does the farmer no harm.

June's Birth Flowers

Rose and honeysuckle. Rose generally indicates love or desire, different colours have different meanings. Honeysuckle denotes bonds of love, or generous devoted affection.



June's Birthstones

Pearl, Moonstone and Alexandrite. Pearls are associated with purity, honesty and calmness.

Ah happy day, refuse to go

Hang in the heavens forever so

Forever in mid-afternoon ah, happy day of happy June

Harriet Elizabeth Prescott Spofford 1835-1921

Big Jim

This is especially for Laura and Alan who like a bit of fishing. It's the words to the [Lancashire group Fivepenny Piece](#). If you're receiving this as email, you can listen to the song at the blue link. I hope it gives you a giggle.

A famous Scottish Angling Club arranged to hold a match
And five pounds offered as the prize to him with the best catch.
Jock Thompson said, 'for catching fish, good bait is what you need'
And so he got to work at once, big worms to try to breed.
He fed his pets on powdered milk, on baby food and whiskey,
And as the great day grew near, they grew quite fat and frisky.
His favourite worm he called Big Jim, he really was a picture,
You'd have thought he'd crossed a conga eel with a ruddy boa constrictor.

Well the day arrived, the places drawn, and soon the fishing started
It was a sin to puncture Jim and Jock was broken hearted.
But that five pounds must be won, he'd promised one to his daughter
And so the dirty deed was done and Jim thrown in the water.

Some caught roach and some caught bream, and some caught rainbow trout.
Some caught eels and one caught seals, but most of them caught nowt.

Jock he waited patiently to give Jim chance to work
And in a while his float did sink and give the rod a jerk.

Well the fight went on for hours and hours Jock could'na quench his thirst
But Big Jim being the worm he were, that fish surrendered first.

And then the judge came running up and with him brought his scales,
When he saw the fish, he said, 'Chuck it back - We're no accepting whales'!

Big Jim were a worm, were a great big worm, were a great big, beautiful, bloody
red worm

Large and fat, and just like a picture, crossed with an eel and a boa constrictor
Fed him on whiskey, which made him frisky, on pies and a pint or two
Big Jim were a worm, were a great big worm, were a great big, beautiful, bloody
red worm.

Local Dates for Your Diary

Devil's Staircase Ultra Trail has been postponed until September
Walk & Talk, The Groe, Builth Wells every Wednesday, more info 07983
952563

Cilmery Community Hall, Zumba Dancing every Wednesday
Llanwrtyd and District Heritage & Arts Centre is open 10am to 4pm each
Thursday to Sunday throughout the spring/summer and entrance is free.

Garth Village Hall, Builth Ladies Choir	June 9 th
Cilmery Music Night, live music from Mojam	June 10 th
Man v Horse Marathon, Llanwrtyd Wells	June 10 th
Drovers Walks, Llanwrtyd	June 24 th
Annual' Physicians of Myddfai' Conference (ticket only)	June 24 th
Strawberry and Pimms plus quiz night, Garth Village Hall	June 24 th
Llandovery Motorbike weekend	July 1 st & 2 nd

Primrose

Primula vulgaris is not a name I'd use for the beauty down the lane,
The pale yellow under the hedge, creating its own patch of light,
Brightening up the young spring edge, in churchyard, in around the stones,
Bringing life to a field of bones, after frost and winter snows,
Pastel petals but a vibrant sight, demure of looks but a true Primrose.



Poem and photograph by kind permission of Chris Prichard

All About Us

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

The spring vaccine programme is beginning to roll out in the communities so please contact as soon as possible if



you need transport. Incidentally we do have a wheelchair friendly vehicle for those who cannot access an ordinary car. Unfortunately due to the withdrawal of support from Powys Teaching Health board, we are no longer able to offer free transport to the vaccination centres. This decision by the health board was very disappointing, especially as the only centres are now in Newtown and Bronllys, which is quite a distance to travel for many of our clients.

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 programmes within Powys – Covid-19 top-ups, seasonal flu vaccinations, and shingles vaccinations.

Event Recycling

During May the recycling team will be at the Royal Welsh Smallholding and Countryside Festival 2023 which will be on the 20th and 21st May. This is one of the bigger events that we manage and involves around 15 members of staff and usually over 9 tonnes of waste and recycling! After this event the recycling staff will have a well-earned break before the next event, which is the Man Versus Horse in Llanwrtyd Wells on June 10th

The event calendar is booking up fast already with shows booked right through to October. As well as the big events, we are proud to support the smaller local events too, last year we provided bins to Llanwrtyd show, Beulah show and Presteigne Carnival to name just a few. We are extremely grateful to everyone who continues to support us with the event recycling as it brings in much needed revenue to support the community car journeys. It isn't always pleasant work, and the staff are out in all weathers, but behind the scenes they are a great team and we are very thankful for the support and dedication they put in at every event. If you see any of the staff at event you attend, look out for the bright orange vests, feel free to say hello!

Outings

LWCT staff are now dreaming of warmer days, and being able to offer outings and days out to scheme members. For June we would like to run a trip to the National Botanic Gardens of Wales. This is always a lovely day out, regardless of the weather, with some areas undercover if the great British weather is up to its usual standard, or if it is nice, there are some lovely outdoor areas to enjoy

as well. Entry cost £16.85 per person, which is payable on the gate. Cost of the bus trip will be £20 per person. We will look to run this trip on Wednesday 21st June. Please get in touch as soon as possible so we can confirm numbers. Current venues for 2023 being considered include -Brecon Canal, Maesmynis Lavender Fields, Myddfai Farmers Market, National Botanic Gardens, and Brecon Mountain Railway. If you have any suggestions for places to visit, then please get in touch and we can see if we can fit it into the schedule. Wheelchair users accommodated as well as we will be using a fully accessible minibus. Please keep an eye in next month's magazine for more details

An Irish Prayer

I said an Irish prayer today especially for you...
For family, true friends and faith, to last your whole life through.
I asked the Lord to give you a shelter from the storm,
And just enough of His Good Grace to keep you safe and warm.
I prayed the road would rise to meet you all along your way
And smilin' Irish eyes would greet you every single day.



All About Our Area

Llanwrtyd Wells, smallest town in Britain lies on the River Lrfon. It is surrounded by the most beautiful, spectacular scenery in the shape of rolling hills, rugged mountains, forests, open pastures, gentle valleys with streams, lakes and waterfalls. It is rich in flora and fauna, red kites and buzzards can regularly be seen in the sky and up to a short while ago, we had a Golden Eagle living in the Cambrian Mountains.

It is a popular place to stay and partake in many activities including pony trekking, mountain biking, fishing, rallying and hill walking. It is famous for being associated with Screaming Lord Sutch, who performed his last gig in Llanwrtyd before his death in 1999, and it's 'Green Events', like Man v Horse Marathon, Real Ale Wobble, Saturnalia, Drivers Walks, Bog Snorkelling, etc,. Visitors come from all over the UK and abroad to be involved in some of these crazy events.

There are homely guest houses and hotels to stay in, and many lovely places to eat with excellent food to suit all pockets; it even has its own micro brewery. It is a small town with a big heart, and visitors can be assured of a warm welcome.

Until 1732 Llanwrtyd was a small village built around the area of the 11th century Church of St David, or Llanddewi wrth y rhyd, (St David's by the ford), nestling amidst the beautiful Cambrian Mountains and Mynydd Epynt in the secret heart of Wales. Droving played an essential role in the Welsh way of life, and the Welsh Woollen Industry and droving reached their peak during the 18th and 19th centuries. Drovers would take their sheep, cattle and geese across the mountains to the markets of Wales and England. People from the town and surrounding areas were employed in one way or another in the Woollen Industry, the Cambrian Woollen Mill is closed now but the building can be seen on the outskirts of the town

A local preacher, Theophilus Evans, discovered the healing waters of a spring in the grounds of Dol y Coed House quite by accident. Theophilus had some very serious health problems, and noticed a frog jumping in and out of the smelly water without any adverse effects, he thought he would try it too, so he bathed in and drank the waters for several weeks and amazingly was cured. As this wonderful discovery was publicised, people flocked to the area to 'take the waters', and it soon became known as the place to be if you wanted to become and stay fit and healthy.

Dol y Coed House became a guest house and then a hotel to cope with the huge influx of visitors to the wells. The springs were sulphur and chalybeate, and were called Ffynnon Ddrewllyd or the Stinking Wells by local people. Richard Fenton wrote about the area in one of his books written around 1804, and mentioned the nearby hamlet of Pont Rhyd y Fferau, translated as Bridge Over the Fetlock (or Ankle) Deep Ford with its rickety wooden bridge over the River Irfon, this was of course what we now know as Llanwrtyd Wells. The bridge was notorious for being unsafe, and had been repaired on many occasions. At that time the hamlet consisted of just a handful of houses with clay walls and roofs made of straw and rushes. The stone bridge we see today was built in 1853, and the New Inn was built around the same time. To add to the wells at Dol y Coed, local landowner Major Penry Lloyd discovered springs on his land too, and the Victoria Wells were opened in 1897 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Much later, in 1922, Henfron Wells were opened, however these were destroyed by fire around 1950.

Around 1814 the Sugar Loaf road was built, and Llanwrtyd and Llanwrtyd Wells soon became the main stagecoach route between Llandrindod Wells and Swansea on what we now know as the A483. In the 1860's the railway line was

built, and today the very picturesque Heart of Wales Railway Line runs through the town joining Shrewsbury in England with Swansea in South Wales.

This railway line at its peak had up to eighteen trains a day, and brought visitors in huge numbers to Llanwrtyd Wells. The town grew, and up to the Second World War the area was famous for being a spa and holiday centre. The oldest hotel in Llanwrtyd Wells is the Belle Vue which was built in 1843, followed by part of the Neuadd Arms, which was at that time known as Castell Nancy, its completion being in 1867. Houses and churches of all denominations sprung up to provide accommodation for the many visitors and provide for their religious needs. The Abernant Lake Hotel was built in 1903, and this had its own well sunk to tap the waters. This hotel was bought and refurbished in May 2007, and now belongs to Manor Adventures. The visitors themselves formed entertainment committees, organising nightly concerts in the Victoria Wells Pavilion, a weekly eisteddfod, and other concerts in local guest houses on Friday evenings. They ensured there was plenty for the visitors to do during their stay, tennis, golf, croquet and horse riding being popular pastimes, plus attending prayer meetings, strolling through the lovely countryside and rowing on the lake.

The development of the National Health Service changed things completely meaning that far fewer people came to use the health spas. The onset of the Second World War changed things even more, when following the Declaration of War with Germany on September 3rd 1939, the people of Llanwrtyd Wells welcomed the pupils of Bromsgrove School in Worcestershire and their younger brothers into their community and their hearts. These boys, some as young as six years old, including a very young Michael Heseltine, were separated from their families due to the outbreak of war, and were evacuated into the safety of this tiny Mid Wales town. Bromsgrove School was requisitioned by the War Office, and with the bombing of major towns and cities throughout Great Britain; it was thought the children would be safer in a more rural area. The boys from this 400-year-old senior school were housed and taught in the Abernant Lake Hotel, and because their parents were gravely concerned for the safety of their younger sons, at their request Bromsgrove Junior School was born.

The Junior School opened in September 1940 at Llanwrtyd Hall, and other premises used as classrooms included Ardwyn House, Lasswade Country House Hotel, the Granary Warehouse behind the Bakery and the Sulphur Water Spring at Dol y Coed. The children remained in Llanwrtyd Wells until

1944. The town continues to have strong associations with the school, and in October 2007 Bromsgrove School were given the Freedom of the Town.

During this time the Czechoslovak Government in Exile were establishing primary and secondary schools for refugee children in the UK, and a group of these children were also evacuated to Llanwrtyd Wells where their schooling continued at the Abernant Lake Hotel. Lessons were given in their own language, and it became the first free Czech school. There have been several reunions, and the evacuees were given the Freedom of the Town in 1983. In return for this, in 1985 the Czech people very generously presented the town council with the pendant for the Mayoral Chain of Office, because up to that time the town council didn't have one. Llanwrtyd Wells is now twinned with Mériel, in the Val-d'Oise Département of France, and Český Krumlov in the Czech Republic.

The town and surrounding area has several claims to fame, some of which are;

On December 11th 1282, Llewelyn ap Gruffydd or Llywelyn Ein Llyw Olaf (Llywelyn Our Last Leader) was killed by an English lancer. He was regarded as being one of the last leaders of a unified Wales, and it is thought his demise took place in or near the village of Cilmeri, where there is a roadside memorial to him.

Around 1402 Rhys Cethyn, Lieutenant to Owain Glyndwr hid in a cave in the Allt Wineu hillside going out past Dol y Coed. There he was able to keep watch for the troops of King Henry IV of England. The cave is well known and is called Twll Rhys Cethyn or Ogof Cethyn.

John Penry, the famous Welsh Martyr was born and raised in Llangammarch in 1563. He was concerned about the lack of preaching ministers in Wales, and wanted the Bible translated into Welsh. He began to take action on this, however, when this became known to the Archbishop of Canterbury, he was imprisoned. He escaped and lived in Scotland for a while, but on his return to London he was captured and hanged in 1569.

William Williams was curate to Llanwrtyd and Abergwesyn around 1740. He was expelled from the church and became leader of the Methodist Revival in Wales. He was one of the most famous hymns writers of his era, and wrote the words to Guide me O Thou great Jehovah perhaps better known as Cwm Rhondda

It was in Llanwrtyd Wells that the famous rugby (and nonsense) song, Sosban Fach was penned in 1895 by two visitors to the town Talog Williams and the Rev D M Davies.

I hope this has give you a feel for the area we live in, and that you will come and visit us to indulge yourself in this lovely peaceful area, you will be made very welcome and we hope to see you very soon.

I Sit Beside the Fire and Think

I sit beside the fire and think of all that I have seen,
Of meadow-flowers and butterflies in summers that have been;
Of yellow leaves and gossamer in autumns that there were,
With morning mist and silver sun and wind upon my hair.
I sit beside the fire and think of how the world will be
When winter comes without a spring that I shall ever see.

For still there are so many things that I have never seen:
In every wood in every spring there is a different green.
I sit beside the fire and think of people long ago,
And people who will see a world that I shall never know.
But all the while I sit and think of times there were before,
I listen for returning feet and voices at the door.

I Sit beside the Fire and Think is a song by Bilbo Baggins, which he sang softly in Rivendell on 24 December T.A. 3018, the evening before the Fellowship of the Ring set out upon their quest. Bilbo sang the song in the presence of Frodo, after giving Frodo the mithril coat and Sting. The song is a contemplative piece, sung by a now-aging hobbit recalling past events that ends in anticipation of hearing returning friends.

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien was born of British parents in Bloemfontein, South Africa in January of 1892, but moved with his mother, Mabel Tolkien, to England, at the age of three. Tolkien lost his father when he was very young. In 1904 Tolkien's mother died, and the young John Ronald Reuel moved with his brother Hilary to his aunt's home in England (the West Midlands).

Hi I'm Colin (Driver)

I'm now 66, and a retired electrical engineer. I have worked for the NHS, Highways Agency and private health care, all as an electrical engineer.

I am originally from Brighton, and moved here to Builth Wells last year.



In my spare time I used to be a beekeeper, and had 4 hives in my garden. That's around 200 000 bees in the height of summer.

I also used to be a volunteer blood biker, a charity that takes blood and organs between NHS hospitals at no cost.

I only started volunteering with LWCT around 3 weeks ago. The reason I considered working with this worthwhile cause is mainly due to the observations that there is little help for people without transport in this area. As I has previously done volunteering work with blood bikes for a number of years I have a natural

desire to give back into the community.

She Walks in Beauty

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 1788 – 1824, was the author of *Don Juan*, a satirical novel-in-verse that is considered one of the greatest epic poems in English written since John Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla



The coronation took place on May 6th and there were many activities and celebrations locally. The above photograph is from the Government website. The poem opposite is by kind permission of the author Clive Sanders.

Coronation 2023

by Clive Sanders

We all witnessed history that morning,
As our nation looked anxious at rain,
Ponchos were seen in profusion,
With campbeds packed up where they'd lain.
Crowds buzzing loud with excitement,
With heads forced up high for a view,
Then the chatter died down in a moment,
As they knew the procession was due.

The abbey was packed to the rafters,
With the noble and lucky inside.
Each conscious of such celebration,
That day showed our nation's great pride.
The procession entered through the great doorway,
As the country settled down in their chairs,
The King and the Queen walked together,
Knowing they were in the world's stares.

He swore he would long serve his country,
As the crown was placed firm on his head,
His Queen was soon standing beside him,
To support the great Prince she had wed.
The nation all swore their allegiance,
As their hearts beat out loud with their pride,
And the King appeared standing before them,
With his Queen standing proud by his side.

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