

Corwen Central News



Once again the Dee Valley has proved a place of tremendous contrasts with hours of bright sunshine and record temperatures by thunder, lightening and heavy down pours, but thankfully not lasting very long. The big news for the Railway Trust is that trains started to

be replaced at the moment, but considerable manual effort is required to dig out the 6 or so badly damaged concrete sleepers weighing approx 7cwt/358 kg each and replacing them with new ones. After this, the rails will need to be lifted back into place and re-clipped.



Guard John Doyle shows the Green Flag to Driver Graham Parkin to mark resumption of rail services between Llangollen and Berwyn

Photo : GJ

run again, the first since the suspension of all services in October 2020. The completion of the Dee Bridge work allowed for the passage of trains as far as Berwyn Station.

Further progress west to Glyndyfrdwy is dependent upon re-railing and sleeper replacement in the 689yards/630metres Berwyn Tunnel. Not all the rail/sleepers need to

On the Corwen Site, progress on the building has been hampered somewhat by a shortage of blue engineering bricks. This has not been particular to Corwen, but evidence of the current national shortage of building materials and a dearth of drivers available to deliver them. Fortunately, a couple of packs of bricks were delivered late in the month, allowing some construction work to continue along with refurbishment of the Project's engineering compound on the Ruthin Spur.

Cultural Recovery

The DMU service to Berwyn has proved popular with visitors, who have brought much needed income to the Railway. Halfway through the month, the Welsh Government announced that the LRT had been successful in its bid to obtain a grant of £143,000 from the Cultural Recovery Fund, administered by the Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, Dawn Bowden MS, who followed up the award by visiting the Railway on Tuesday

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July 20th. Ms Bowden met members of the Trust Board and took a trip on a special train to Berwyn.



Deputy Minister Dawn Bowden MS with Trustees and volunteers at Llangollen Station Photo : Llanblogger

Opportunities were taken to discuss the impact of the railway on Llangollen and the Dee Valley and how often it forms the backdrop to artistic and cultural activities in the area.

Carrier beams

A major development for the station has been the delivery and installation of the canopy carrier



Carrier beams ready for installation Photo: RDG

beams, correctly using the facility provided by the recovered and restored Blackfriars columns (see CCNLs passim).



RRV gets to work putting the carrier beams in place

Photo : RDG

The large steel girders stretch over all the columns and are fixed to the station building's frame to give a continuous bolting surface for the canopy. This will not only act as the building's roof but also give shelter to the platform access stairs. The steel



Carrier beams in place bolted to the building frame

Photo : PR

work was, once again supplied and fitted by Barnett Engineering and craned into position using

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the Railway's resident RRV – CASE/Rexquote Superailer.

More Railway visitors



Rt.Hon. Amanda Milling MP (centre) and Simon Baynes MP (L) with Trustees and volunteers

Photo: SB

On Tuesday 27th July, the Conservative Member of Parliament for Clwyd South, Simon Baynes MP, welcomed the Conservative Party Chairman and UK Government Minister, Rt Hon Amanda Milling MP, on a socially distanced visit to Llangollen Railway following its reopening earlier this month.

Mrs Milling’s visit came as part of her *Levelling Up Tour* – during which she is visiting areas which are part of the UK Government’s *Levelling Up agenda* to provide jobs and opportunities across the whole of the UK. Llangollen Railway are part of an area bid for *Levelling Up* funding to help create opportunity and economic prosperity in Clwyd South. Mrs Milling was delighted to be revisiting an area in which she went to school and

particularly interested to hear about the work that the volunteers do for the railway and about the tourists who enjoy visiting it. She wished everyone well in their bid to the Levelling up Fund which if successful would help create opportunity and economic prosperity in the area.

Funding and Lucky Numbers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
<i>Lucky Numbers</i>									
<i>This month's winning number is 20</i>									

This month's winner of Lucky Numbers is **John Doyle**, a member of the Railway Trust and a train guard with **Number 20**. Many congratulations go to John on his win. The customary £50 cheque will be making its way to you soon.

The Project's treasurer , Paul Bailey, writes :
 “Elsewhere in this edition of CCNL you will see photos of the longitudinal beams being erected to hold the Platform Canopy. In spite of an increased footfall of visitors calling to inspect the progress with both the “On Platform” Station Buildings and the Canopy, our donations have somewhat dried up although we are still in need of funds to complete the Canopy. This will not necessarily delay the opening of the Station but the canopy will not be completed until all the necessary funds have been raised. Thus anyone wishing to donate

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to our **Corwen Canopy Appeal** should contact **Paul** via any of the methods given below.

In a separate project the **Railway's Carriage and Wagon volunteers** have taken on the task of restoring **Mark1 Coach TSO 4316** from it's current dilapidated condition.



"Cushion factory" aka Mk1 TSO 4316

Photo: PB

Affectionately known as "*The Cushion Factory*" as it has for several years been the Railway's upholstery coach, it is planned to restore the Coach to include an Adapted Section for wheelchair users and our less able visitors to get the full experience riding with us on our trains through the Dee Valley.

With the Railway's volunteers providing all the labour, it is estimated that **£10,000** will be required for the materials. Any surplus monies raised over and above what's required will be used towards the maintenance of our other Coaching Stock."

Again please contact Paul on the numbers below for payment options if you want to support this project. A new "*Cushion Factory*" will open in Pentre Yard in a demountable building donated by Welsh Water, formerly the control office at Corwen Sewage Treatment Works.

Gift Aid is available on all donations to either the Corwen Station Platform Canopy or the Coach Appeal.

For donations to the Corwen Project especially the Canopy Appeal - Please make cheques payable to CCRD (Corwen Central Railway Development) and forward to the Llangollen Railway Trust, The Station, Abbey Road, Llangollen, LL20 8NS

For donations to the Coach Appeal, please make cheques payable to the Llangollen Railway Trust and forward to the Llangollen Railway Trust, The Station, Abbey Road, Llangollen, LL20 8NS

If you want more details /payment options. on any of the appeals then please contact Paul Bailey on 01490 450271 or email "paulbaileywincham@yahoo.co.uk"

End Piece

A number of readers were intrigued by the item in last month's edition of CCNL which featured the origins of the Welsh name – *Yr Wyddfa* – for Snowdon. So many places in Wales are associated with kings both real and imagined along with various Celtic and Ancient British Deities.

As in most of the predominantly oral societies Celtic/Welsh mythology and history were recorded orally by specialists such as druids (Welsh: *derwyddon*). This oral record has been lost or altered as a result of outside contact and invasion over the years. Much of this altered mythology and history is preserved in medieval Welsh manuscripts, which include the *Red Book of Hergest*, the *White Book of Rhydderch*, the *Book of*

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Aneirin (see *End Piece, CCNL July edition*) and the Book of Taliesin. Other works connected to Welsh mythology include the ninth-century Latin historical compilation *Historia Brittonum* ("History of the Britons") and Geoffrey of Monmouth's twelfth-century Latin chronicle *Historia Regum Britanniae* ("History of the Kings of Britain"), as well as later folklore, such as the materials collected in *The Welsh Fairy Book* by William Jenkyn Thomas (1908).

god *Maponos*. The only other recurring character is Pryderi's mother *Rhiannon*, associated with the



Rhiannon riding in Arberth. From The Mabinogion, translated by Lady Charlotte Guest, 1877



CARRAWBROOGH: COVENTINA'S WELL.

Maponos God of youth based on the Roman God Apollo

The most famous collection of Welsh myths and legends the *Mabinogion* (18th century title) are collectively known as *The Four Branches of the Mabinogi*. - (*Pedair Cainc Y Mabinogi*). These were based upon a collection of oral folk stories, set down in the 11th century. They concentrate largely on the exploits of various British deities who have been Christianised into kings and heroes. The only character who appears in every branch is *Pryderi fab Pwyll*, the king of Dyfed, who is born in the first Branch and is killed in the fourth, and who is probably a reflex of the Celtic

A typical example of the art of story telling is to be found in the second branch of the *Mabinogi* where *Branwen*, sister of *Brân the Blessed*, King of



The Two Kings (sculptor Ivor Roberts-Jones, 1984) near Harlech Castle, Wales. Brân the Blessed carries the body of his nephew Gwern.

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Britain, is given in marriage to *Matholwch*, king of Ireland. *Branwen's* half-brother

Later, at the feast, *Efnysien* throws *Gwern* on the fire and fighting breaks out.



Efnysien's self-sacrifice (image by T. Prytherch)

Seeing that the Irish are using the cauldron to revive their dead, *Efnysien* hides among the corpses and destroys the cauldron, although the effort costs him his life. Only seven men, all Britons, survive the battle, including

Efnysien insults *Matholwch* by mutilating his horses, and in compensation *Brân* gives *Matholwch* new horses and treasure, including a magical cauldron that can restore the dead to life. *Matholwch* and *Branwen* have a son, *Gwern*, but *Matholwch* proceeds to mistreat *Branwen*, beating her and making her a drudge. *Branwen* trains a starling to take a message to *Brân*, who goes to war against *Matholwch*.



Pryderi's death in single combat. Image by E. Wallcousins.

His army crosses the Irish Sea in ships, but *Brân* is so huge that he wades across.

Pryderi, *Manawyddan* and *Brân*, who is mortally wounded by a poisoned spear.

The Irish offer to make peace, and build a house big enough to entertain *Brân*, but inside they hang a hundred bags, telling *Efnysien* they contain flour, when in fact they conceal armed warriors. *Efnysien* kills the warriors by squeezing the bags.

Brân asks his companions to cut off his head and take it back to Britain. *Branwen* dies of grief on returning home. Five pregnant women survive to repopulate Ireland!!