

Corwen Central News



As this month draws to a close, temperatures remain relatively mild with less than half the expected rainfall. All activities have been able to take advantage of these conditions what with re-sleepering at Deeside and building work on Corwen Station.

Corwen team have been lent to the p-way department to help keep the railway in running order. There is no doubt that the CoVid



Winter afternoon - looking south towards Moel Morfydd
Photo: PR



January - Day's End - rose glow across the Dee Valley
Photo : PR

Usually the winter months are not the best time for carrying out brickwork, but the milder dryer conditions have enabled this to go ahead. Winter storms are still forecast for February but with the majority of the impact being felt further north, especially in Scotland, only time will tell. In the meantime, the work proceeds as best it can. Unfortunately the speed of progress has been somewhat reduced as the small, skilled

pandemic has taken its toll on the number of volunteers available to the Trust and it would ease the burden somewhat if more volunteers were able to join in the necessary maintenance. There are lots of skills and knowledge available within the Trust's membership, ranging well beyond initial departmental loyalties which could be employed to the advantage of the whole railway!!

Station Building

Work on this has continued steadily throughout the month, thanks to relatively good weather – mild with little over night frost. The arched design over the windows calls for some artful work with the

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brick saw to produce bricks to the correct size. The accompanying photos show the results of the cutting process.



Thin brick course across the top of the window arch

Photo: PR

Naturally this does take time and reduces the speed of the brick laying somewhat. Once the arches have been covered some speedier straight courses can be laid.



Ready for the last brick over the arch

Photo: PR

At the same time, the internal walls of the toilet block are growing. Although materials for the shell of the building are available on site, the fittings are

not and are subject to a new “*Fit me out appeal*” (see below).

Still Boxing

With the completion of the external fabric of the signal box, attention has now turned to preparing the internal woodwork for painting and fitting out. Readers may recall (CCNL passim) that a considerable amount of effort has already gone into replacing corner posts and support posts for the signal box veranda and doorway now allowing time to get on with the rest of the wood work, Volunteers Tony Warren, Paul Wynne, Peter and Jean Neve have now stripped most of the original paint off the interior back wall revealing the



With old paint removed original wood still in excellent condition

Photo : PR

majority of the panels to be in excellent condition – solid and free of rot, which is quite remarkable considering it is likely to have been nearly 40 years ago when in BR service that the box received a coat of paint!! Photographs show the prepared wood, undercoat and some electrical cable conduit making its way into the box in

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preparation for the fitting of a new consumer/distribution unit on the back wall.



Undercoat on and electrical conduit coming up from the locking room
Photo: PR

Out and about

As mentioned above some members of the Corwen work gang have been assisting on other railway projects, especially the relaying of sleepers between Deeside Loop and *Thousand yard gate*. (west of Deeside)



New Ballast and sleepers at Deeside catching the late afternoon sunshine
Photo : PR

In this location about 140 concrete sleepers have been exchanged for some new ones with the finished job having the rails put back on a bed of new ballast. The Rexquote/CASE RRV has been involved in the *lifting and shifting* at Deeside as well as in filling the ballast wagons at Carrog.



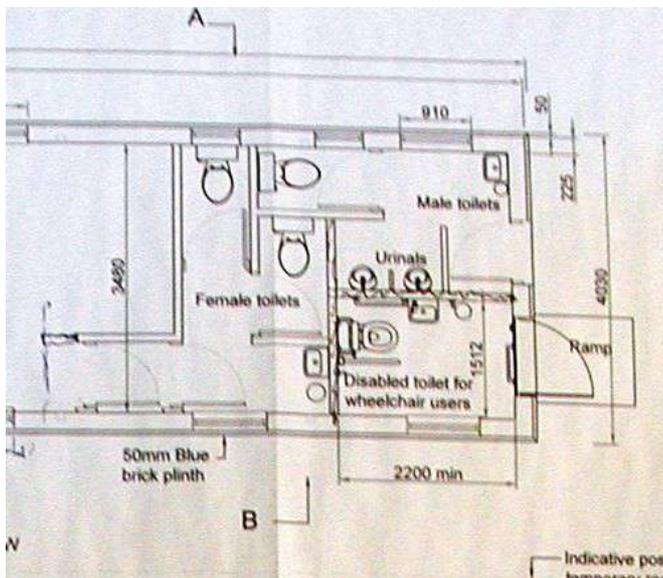
Rexquote-CASE busy loading ballast wagons in Carrog Yard ready to go east to Deeside
Photo : PR

Funding

As announced in the January edition of CCNL the *Lucky Numbers Raffle* originally launched to fund the Water Tower, now gracing the East End of the station complex has come to end. However this does not mark the end of fund raising for Corwen Station, just a change in emphasis. The (up to) £200,000 ear marked for the Canopy is just that – for the Canopy, and does not include an element for the fitting out the waiting room, nor the tamping of the station loop and the welding of rail joints. With these needs in mind, the Project's Treasurer Paul Bailey wishes to launch a new “*Fit me out Appeal*” in which materials can be

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sponsored such as a pack of wall tiles, a pot or pots of paint, toilet bowls, hand wash sinks, taps, mastic, floor covering, internal doors ,waiting room seats, electrical fittings, plumbing requisites and so on. Details are available from Paul Bailey at the usual address. **The appeal is currently set to raise £12,000.**

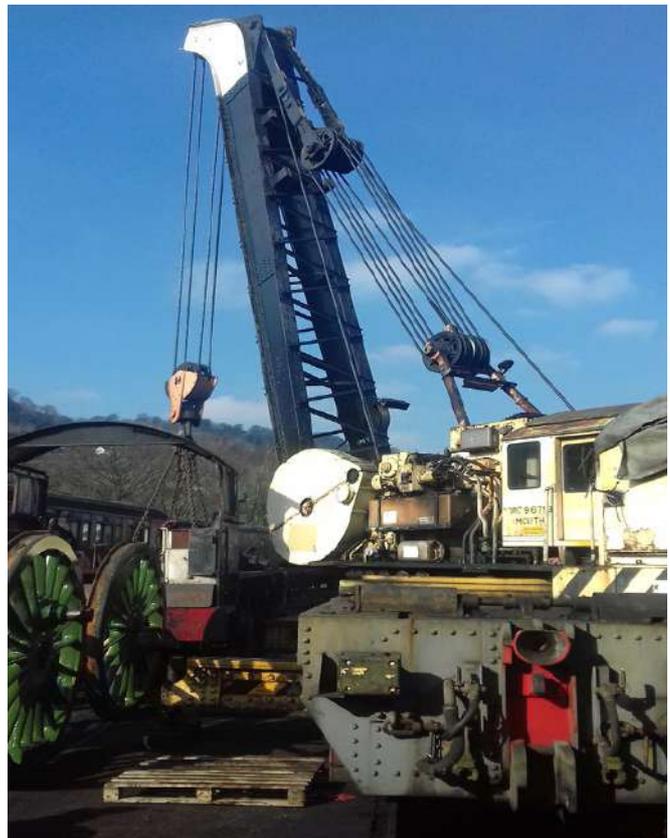


Toilet block within the waiting area

Drawing : MP

Also being promoted by Paul is the repurchase of the 50 ton Cowans Sheldon diesel hydraulic crane, the only working example of a batch (originally oil fired steam) built for the War Department in 1943. It was later sold to British Railways' London Midland Region in 1960 and subsequently converted from steam to diesel-hydraulic in May 1986. It later served its time at Plymouth Laira TMD on engine lifting and replacement duties for the Class 50 diesel electric locomotives, being withdrawn from there in the early 1990s when the last of the Class 50s was retired from service. From Laira the crane made its

way to Llangollen and was used mainly for lifting heavy locomotive parts such as frames and boilers



Crane at work in Llangollen Yard in 2018

Photo : JP

The crane was subsequently bought by Sandbach Commercial Dismantlers Ltd, (SCD) at the auction of the PLC assets in May 2021.

With the support of the Llangollen Railway Trust ,SCD have very kindly agreed to repayment over a 10 year term, including the opportunity to offset this against weighing in of day-to-day LR scrap. However, it would be better to complete the repurchase sooner and not put further on SCD's generosity. Promises of £5,000 have already been made informally and sales of scrap to SCD have raised another £3,000. The target is to raise another £15,000 and secure the crane's future as

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soon as is practicable. If you would like to support this project then details are available from Paul Bailey.

For donations to the Corwen Project especially the Canopy Appeal and “Fit me Out” - 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 the 50 Ton Crane Appeal please make cheques payable to the Llangollen Railway Trust and send them to the above address.

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”](mailto:paulbaileywincham@yahoo.co.uk)

End Piece

January 16th 2022 saw the rising of the “Wolf Moon”, captured on film by thousands of observers all around the world.



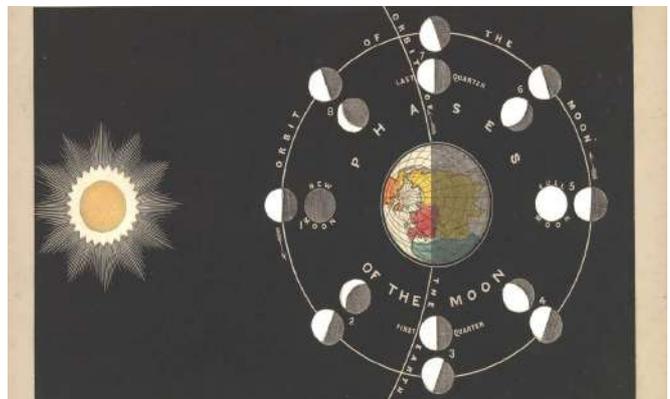
Wolf Moon over Glastonbury Tor Photo : BBC News/Reuters

This is the first full-moon of the year and its description is closely linked to Native and

Colonial American folk lore where the January's full moon is named after the howling of hungry wolves lamenting the scarcity of food in midwinter. Other names for this month's full moon include *old moon and ice moon*.

The cycles of the lunar phases were just as important a method of timekeeping to the Native Americans as the longer solar cycle of the year (from which the modern Gregorian calendar is derived).

The number of Moon names differs slightly from place to place but many assign either 12 or 13 full moons to the year. These names were then adopted by the Colonial Americans and have entered popular culture.



Phases of the Moon by James Reynolds (1846 -1860)

The phases of the Moon are caused by the relative positions of the Moon, Sun and Earth.

As the Moon produces no visible light of its own, only the parts of the Moon that are lit up by other objects can be seen. A small amount of light comes from distant stars and the reflection of light from the Earth (known as Earthshine). However the main source of light for the Moon is the Sun.

At almost all times, half of the Moon is being lit up by the Sun, but this need not be the half that is

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facing towards the Earth. The only exception is during a lunar eclipse.

In between these, the Moon goes through multiple stages of partial illumination during its different phases. These are the banana-shaped **crescent Moon**, the D-shaped **quarter Moon (observed as a half-circle)** and the almost complete **gibbous Moon**.

Finally, each phase is also named after its position in the full 29.5 day cycle based on whether it is growing (waxing) or shrinking (waning).

The eight phases of the Moon in order are:

- new Moon
- waxing crescent Moon
- first quarter Moon
- waxing gibbous Moon
- full Moon
- waning gibbous Moon
- last quarter Moon
- waning crescent Moon.

The full, quarter and new Moons are all the instants in time when the Moon is exactly fully, half or not at all illuminated from our perspective on Earth. The crescent and gibbous Moons each last approximately a week.

The Moon's phases and the months of the year are inextricably linked. It takes the Moon about 29.5 days to go through all of its phases, meaning that each month has on average one full moon (which occurs when the entire face of the Moon is illuminated by the Sun). This figure is *not* the same as the time it takes the Moon to orbit Earth – that's 27.3 days

The modern calendar (Gregorian Calendar) isn't quite in line with the Moon's phases, so sometimes

there more than one full moon in a month. This is sometimes known as a blue moon.

If the Moon is between the Earth and the Sun in its orbit, then the back side of the Moon is being lit up and the side facing the Earth is in darkness.

This is called a **new Moon**. If the Moon is on the other side of the Earth compared to the Sun, then the near side of the Moon will be fully lit up: a **full Moon**.

The most popular names for the phases of the moon are now :

January: Wolf Moon

January's full moon is named after the howling of hungry wolves lamenting the scarcity of food in midwinter.

February: Snow Moon

February's typically cold, snowy weather in North America earned its full moon the name snow moon.



Snow Moon - Young Photographer of the Year 2011

-Commended - Jessica Caterson

March: Worm Moon

Native Americans called this last full moon of winter the worm moon after the worm trails that

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would appear in the newly thawed ground. Other names include chaste moon and death moon,

April: Pink Moon

Northern Native Americans call April's full moon the pink moon after a species of early blooming wildflower. In other cultures, this moon is called the egg moon, and the fish moon.

May: Flower Moon

Many cultures refer to May's full moon as the flower moon thanks to the abundant blooming that occurs as spring gets going properly.

June: Strawberry Moon

In North America, the harvesting of strawberries in June gives that month's full moon its name. Europeans have dubbed it the rose moon.

July: Buck Moon

Male deer, which shed their antlers every year, begin to regrow them in July, hence the Native American name for July's full moon. Some refer to this moon as the thunder moon, due to the summer storms in this month.

August: Sturgeon Moon

North American fishing tribes called August's full moon the sturgeon moon since the species appeared in number during this month.

September: Full Corn Moon or Harvest Moon

September's full corn moon is so called because this is when crops are gathered at the end of the summer season. This is often the nearest full moon to the autumnal equinox, earning the title of 'harvest moon'.



Sturgeon Moon - Source : National Maritime Museum

October: Hunter's Moon

After the harvest moon comes the hunter's moon, in the preferred month to hunt summer-fattened deer. Like the harvest moon, the hunter's moon is also particularly bright and long in the sky, giving hunters the opportunity to stalk prey at night. .

November: Beaver Moon

There is disagreement over the origin of November's beaver moon name. Some say it comes from Native Americans setting beaver traps during this month.

December: Cold Moon

The coming of winter earned December's full moon the name *Cold moon*. The Moon completes 12 full cycles of its phases in about 354 days – which is 11 days short of a calendar year. Every two and a half years or so the difference adds up to an extra, 13th full moon occurring during the year and this relatively rare occurrence is sometimes referred to as a *'blue moon'*. **Look out for the next Full Moon on February 16th (Snow Moon but rather better without the snow!!!)**