

Corwen Central News



February drew to a close on the backs of storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin which had swept in from the Atlantic bringing rain, strong winds and flooding before rushing off under the influence of the Jet stream to the European mainland. Intense rain on some of the days ensured the River Dee was running high and fast and spreading out over the flood plain

Woodland bordering the railway took quite a battering (as usual) leading to old branches being blown down, but causing no harm to the railway. Along the Carrog Straight a large tree was left with a split trunk causing it to droop dangerously over the railway. Prompt action by the P-Way gang who were attending to other duties in the area led to the safe removal of the tree, allowing for the safe operation of trains during the February half-term break.



High water at Llangollen looking towards the Corn Mill

Photo: PR

especially towards Corwen. The A5 just west of Bonwm was flooded due to a blocked culvert which caused water to empty onto the railway before finding its way safely to the river without damage to the track.

Elsewhere on the railway, readers may already be aware through the means of social media, that the platform at Deeside Halt has been removed on safety grounds and the resulting cutting re-profiled. This will be seeded with



Platform now removed and the cutting graded back ready for sowing

Photo : PR

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wild flowers and grasses, which will eventually provide an attractive natural covering. At the same spot, the west end points were removed and replaced with plain rail because the crossing timbers were very badly degraded.

The signal box will be “mothballed” and remain in situ under a care and maintenance basis. It will be for a future generation of Trustees to decide whether or not they wish to restore the loop and platform when time, materials and finance allow.

In the meantime, the work continues at Corwen with the restoration of the signal box operating floor, the brick work on the station building and preparation for the visit of the tamping machine in April.

More signalling

The original storage cupboard has been painted and returned to the back wall of the signal box. Cabling for the power supply has been going



ICupboard restored and painted with block shelf resting on top with power cable Photo : PR

ahead, and the accompanying photograph shows

the underside of the block shelf sitting on top of the cupboard, adorned with the main power cable.



Block shelf in Llangollen Station Signal Box

The block shelf is destined to go across the front window and behind the lever frame on suspension brackets. It will hold the signal instruments, for example, signal repeaters, point and ground frame release buttons and so on.

Bricks and mortar

Much effort has been concentrated on getting the brickwork completed on the station building. Thankfully the weather – the storms



Brickwork stepped out to enclose steel frame Photo : PR

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notwithstanding – has been mostly favourable for this task.

There have been very few frosty days, so bricklaying has been able to proceed, but unfortunately there have been some very wet days when laying bricks has been impossible.



Roof truss hangers in position Photo: PR

The mortar just gets washed away!! The photographs show the progress that has been made, both to the external fabric as well as the internal walls which mark the position of the customer facilities.



Internal walls for the toilet/washroom facilities take shape Photo: DT

Once the walls have been finished, it is planned to add a low pitched roof which will sit under the proposed canopy.



East Wall nearly complete. John Mason at work n the last couple courses Photo : PR

To this end, the roof truss hangers have been keyed into the brickwork because of the lack of clearance under the canopy. In other circumstances, the hangers are attached to a wooden beam that runs along the top of a wall which in turn carries the roof trusses.



Standard truss supports- wooden top and brackets screwed in position. The low pitch required for the station inner roof does not allow for this method to be used

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Track preparation

A tamping machine is due visit Corwen towards the end of April and to this end the Corwen Work gang have been engaged in cleaning up the sleepers, by removing surplus ballast from the centre span and the shoulders of each sleeper.



Bob Foster's Plasser Tamper at work on the GWSR during February Photo : B&R Track Services

This will allow the tamper operators to see each sleeper in turn and be able to lift and pack the track accordingly. The track profile is put into the control computer before the start of each run. This



Work gang clearing ballast to make sleepers visible to the tamper operators Photo : DT

will include, for example, finished rail heights and any super elevation/cant required on curves.

As well as ballast clearance, Peter Neve has been out on the track checking levels and noting where track levelling is required. In the accompanying photograph the dip near where the old terminus (Corwen East) meets the rail into the new station, is quite pronounced, and is clearly in need of some "treatment".



Peter Neve surveying rail top heights. The "umps and ollers" in the road are quite evident from this photo - plenty of tamping required here Photo: DT

Funding

In addition to the *Corwen Station Building "fitting out" appeal*, there is still the *Cowans Sheldon Crane appeal*. Just over £9,500 has been raised to date for this which is very encouraging but a bit more is needed to reach the £15,000 target.

The Project's Treasurer, Paul Bailey writes : "In addition to donors contacting me for details to pay direct to either of the above appeals might I ask that if the preferred payment method is by cheque then these should be made out to "*Llangollen Railway Trust Ltd*" and CLEARLY MARKED

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FOR THE ATTENTION OF PAUL BAILEY when posting into the LRT office. We have had a few cheques recently that have just been paid into the Trust Account because they lacked my name when posted in!!

Finally, I have recently been asked to fundraise for the 80072 Standard Tank Group. As such I will be running a "Tube Appeal" shortly as well as a "Standard 72 Club" with subscribers paying £10pm. Interested parties should contact me on the usual email address or phone number – shown below”.

Readers might remember that a successful appeal was launched prior to the demise of the Plc for the purchase of a “Flail” to be fitted to the Rexquote/CASE 988 RRV which would be used to help clear/manage lineside vegetation.



Robustrack LS7 Mulcher Flail to be fitted to LRT's

Rexquote/CASE 988 RRV

Photo : Robustrack

Thankfully the appeal fund was safely vested in the Trust and was not subject to the winding up procedure of the Plc. After considerable research and development work by Trust member, Neil Williams, the LRT placed an order for a Robustrack LS7 Mulcher Flail (pictured) with

local agent W & M Agricultural Engineering, of Oswestry. The machine is due to be delivered and fitted on Wednesday March 9th. Operator training will commence shortly after delivery.

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, Clearly marked for the attention of paul bailey

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

What's in a name? They all cried!! Quite a bit came the response, especially if your name happens to be *Arwen, Dudley, Eunice or Franklin*. These names as readers are only too aware are the names of the recent storms which have brought torrential rain, strong winds and disruption across the UK during the current winter months.

Since September 2015, the Met Office has asked people for suggestions for storm names.

The most popular names put forward by the public are made into a list, along with other names suggested by Met Eireann (Ireland's equivalent of the Met Office) and the Dutch Weather Bureau

Sometimes the UK will be hit by storms from Europe or other countries, and the storm will keep

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the name the first country gave it - even if it doesn't follow the UK's alphabetical order - like Storm Jorge from Spain which hit Europe in February.



Waves at Blackpool stirred up by Storm Dudley Photo : BBC News

Where storms have been named elsewhere in the world, the same name will be used. If more local then the three the weather organisations have to decide on a name.



Storm Franklin leads to flooding by the River Wharfe at Otley Photo : Mark Ashworth/BBC News

At the time, the documents from the initial pilot said the scheme would focus on "large-scale, cyclonic windstorms" that could have a significant impact and move quickly towards lands. "We have not precisely defined these systems at present, as the assumption is that 'we'll know one when we see one'," the documents say.

The latest method of naming storms now takes into account rain, hail and not just wind. After the 2016-2017 storm season ended the Met decided to take the naming out of a pilot phase and continue to use it in the future.

Not all names have been found suitable. These have included *Apocalypse*, *Baldrick*, *Big Boss*, *Gnasher*, *Hot Brew*, *Root Ripper*, *Stormageddon*, *Ssswetcaroline*, *Vader*, *Voldermort* and *Branch Wobbler*. Other rejected names included: *Hammer*, *Hades*, *Freebooter*, *Forkbeard*, *Megatron*, *Bluetooth*, *In A Teacup*, *Noddy* and *Poacher*. Also seen as unsuitable have been trade names such *B&Q*, *Tesco* and *Aldi* – it probably pays to advertise, but not quite in this way! (*Whatever happened to Stormy MacStormface?*)

Winter storm naming started in the United States and goes back to the 1700s when a snowstorm dubbed "*The Great Snow of 1717*" hit the colonies of New England in 1717.

Another noteworthy storm that hit the great plains in 1888 was dubbed "*The Schoolhouse Blizzard*" or "*Children's Blizzard*". Naming would be used again in 1905 for *The Mataafa Storm* that occurred on the Great Lakes. In 1924, a storm hit the upper South and middle Atlantic United States. This storm turned blizzard was dubbed *the Knickerbocker Storm* after the Knickerbocker Theatre in Washington D.C. which the storm destroyed.

Named days of the calendar for storms include a storm that hit in 1940 called the *Armistice Day Blizzard*, a storm in Oregon in 1962 called *the Columbus Day Storm*, - also known as *the Big Blow*, and in Canada as (*Typhoon Freda*) was a Pacific Northwest windstorm that struck the West

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Coast of Canada and the Pacific Northwest coast of the United States on October 12, 1962. *Typhoon Freda* was the twenty-eighth tropical depression, the twenty-third tropical storm, and the eighteenth typhoon of the 1962 Pacific typhoon season. *Freda* originated from a tropical disturbance over the Northwest Pacific on September 28. On October 3, the system strengthened into a tropical storm and was given the name *Freda*, before becoming a typhoon later that day, while moving northeastward. *Freda* maintained its intensity for another day, before beginning to gradually weaken,



Damage from the Columbus Day Storm (*Freda*)

On October 11, *Freda* turned eastward and accelerated across the North Pacific, before striking the Pacific Northwest on the next day. On October 13, the cyclone made landfall on Washington and Vancouver Island, and then curved northwestward. Afterward, the system moved into Canada and weakened, before being absorbed by another developing storm to the south on October 17. A storm in 1976 was called *the Groundhog Day Gale*, and more recently a storm in 1991 was dubbed *the Halloween blizzard*. The twentieth century closed with two more storms

that received names. In 1993, a storm that spanned a large portion of the eastern United States was dubbed the "*Storm of the Century*", while in 1997, a blizzard that impacted the Northeastern United States was called the *April Fool's Day Blizzard*.



April 1st Blizzard in North Eastern US - WMUR TV

The naming of storms is a method of bringing them to the public's attention and makes it easier for people to track their progress and to protect their property from potential damage and injury to themselves.



The current list of names for the remainder of 2022 includes *Gladys, Herman, Imani, Jack, Kim, Logan, Méabh, Nasim, Olwen, Pól, Ruby, Seán, Tineke, Vergil and Willemien*

You can send in your own suggestions by sending an email to :

nameourstorms@metoffice.gov.uk.