

Corwen Central News



The last week or so of March has seen a rise in temperatures and increased daylight hours as the end of the month marks the change back to “summertime”. Colours are starting to return to the

On the river mallard ducks are to be seen almost everywhere, even making their temporary homes on some of the impromptu flood ponds. At Glyndyfrwdy, a pair of Goosanders were observed



Dee Valley with daffodils on the outskirts of many villages welcoming visitors and primroses nestling in some sunny wayside nooks. The calls of nesting rooks in the churchyard next to Llangollen Railway yard can be heard in the early mornings along with beak tapping on hard surfaces and wing drooping, typical of these birds' “courting” behaviour. Further along the Valley, at both Deeside and Corwen pairs of kites have been observed, indicating the further northern drift and settlement of this bird of prey.

looking for somewhere to settle.

As usual, the Corwen work gang has been making best use of the improved weather to lay more bricks on the station building and to carry out more track levelling and alignment in anticipation of the arrival of the tamping machine towards the end of April. The trackwork is now under the supervision of the LRT's track engineer, who has been leading the p-way gang in making the necessary adjustments.

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New visitor

On March 23rd the Llangollen Railway welcomed a new locomotive in the shape of 5MT 0-6-2 tank engine 5619.



Class 56xx, 5619 on Shed at Llangollen MPD Photo : PR

This engine was built at Swindon in March 1925 under the direction of the GWR's CME, Charles Collett and was his version of the popular and hard working Taff Vale Railway's M and R Class tank engines. They spent their time in the South Wales Valleys hauling heavy coal trains between the various coal pits, the docks or the steelworks. In 1948, 5619 was recorded on shed at 88E,



*Class 56xx, 5643 in Llangollen Station in 2011
Photo : Phillip Roberts*

Abercynon along with class mate 5643 which spent some time at Llangollen in 2006/07 and again in 2011. 5619 was eventually withdrawn from 88C – Barry in 1964. It is currently in the care of the Telford and Horsehay Steam Trust, and will be at Llangollen to help with the spring and summer timetable.

Building

The fine burst of good weather towards the end of the month has ensured that bricklaying has



Scaffold along the south wall

Photo : PR

proceeded apace on the station building.



Peter Jump completes another window arch

Photo : PR

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The end walls have now been completed with the brickwork now enclosing the steel frame.



*Top course of bricks now complete on east end of building
Photo : PR*

The permanent way team have been to Corwen to undertake track lifting and packing, prior to the visit of the tamping machine.



*Ballast to the east of the station after the drop
Photo : PR*

The side walls have now been graced by some neat window arches in blue brick, whilst scaffold has been erected along the south side to gain access to the full height of the building.

Ballasting



*Ballast drop looking west towards the station
Photo : PR*

Readers will have noted from the previous edition of CCNL the dip in the track between where Corwen East used to be and where “the gap” was filled. A ballast train was brought down to Corwen and stone dropped and ploughed. This stone will



*Lowmac/Atlas Crane helps to redistribute some of the ballast Kango tampers next to track
Photo : MW*

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be instrumental in determining the final level of the track.



*Robel Tamper at work
Photo : Torrent Trackside*

Work has also taken place on the crossover at the station throat to lift and pack the points for a smoother journey. At the east end of platform 1, more packing and alignment has been carried out to ease the curve to and from the platform. Most of this operation has been carried out using rail jacks and “Kango” or “Robel” hand held tamping machines.

Water! (Again) - still looking for a “ permanent easement”

When you thought it was safe to come out of the closet!! – Peter Neve reports :

“The sewage/lateral drain connection has been inspected by DC/WW and been passed as fit for purpose. So, to all intents and purposes we can use the system. However.....there is a three month “vesting period” before DC/WW can issue us with a Certificate of Compliance. In essence, we have

to notify DC/WW when we start using the system and 3 months later they come and check to see if it is working satisfactorily. If all is well and they are happy, then we will be issued with a CoC.

With regards to the potable water supply, the trench accommodating the delivery pipe has been deepened to the correct depth (0.75 metres) and we are now in a position where the pipe and fittings can be installed. Once this is done, DC/WW have to come out and inspect our handiwork before we can backfill the trench. An



Hoping that the correct depth has been reached for the blue water pipe and that the work is now acceptable?

Photo : PN

inspection date of Thursday 31st March has been provisionally agreed with the utility company for the inspection, so we’ve got to get everything in place before then. Assuming that all is well with our installation (and based on previous experience, that shouldn’t be taken for granted), then DC/WW will instruct their contractors to make the 32mm connection in the lane leading up to the BCUHB health centre, notionally within 21 days. What could possibly go wrong?”

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Flail

Readers may remember that quite some time ago now, during the currency of the Plc an appeal was made to purchase a mulcher/flail to be mounted on the Rexquote 988 RRV. After many twists and turns and the intervention of CoVid, a suitable machine has now sourced and delivered to Corwen for trial fitting to the RRV. It is a Robustrack LS7 specially designed for the size and weight of the Rexquote.



Robustrack LS7 Attached to RRV - A substantial bit of kit *Photo : PR*

The company has a whole range of flails starting with one suitable for a mini-digger right up to a 30 tonne digger either rail mounted or to be driven on the road. The fitting was successful, but adjustments are required to the RRV's hydraulic system before the flail can go “live”. The purchase

package also includes training for the RRV operators, currently Peter Jump and Peter Robson.

With 20 miles of line side vegetation to deal with, the introduction of the flail ought to ease the burden on the railway's hard pressed vegetation control team.

Readers who kindly donated to the “Flail Fund” will be happy to learn that their donations were placed in the care of the Railway Trust at the time of collection and were not part of the Plc receivership. All the donations have gone towards the purchase of the Robustrack LS7.

Funding

The Project's Treasurer, Paul Bailey writes : “I would like to report to readers that with a fantastic response from our members and supporters to the Cowans Sheldon Crane Appeal we have now raised sufficient monies to repurchase the crane outright from the present owner and a big thank you to everyone that donated to this.



Standard 4MTT subject of the latest "Tube Appeal" *Photo: AM*

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Our Corwen Station on Platform Waiting Room and Toilets “*Fitting Out Appeal*” has had an encouraging start with just over £1000 raised already. A reminder to any further people wishing to donate by cheque to clearly mark for my attention when posting to the Railway’s Office.

Finally this time I would like to advise our readers that I have recently been asked to fundraise for the *80072 Standard 4 Loco Group* to help return this favourite Llangollen home based Loco to steam across the next 2 years.

We have launched a Tube Appeal to sponsor the various tubes that will require to be purchased. 157 standard tubes @ £50 are required along with 21 Flue Tubes @ £400 and 21 Superheater Tubes @ £1200. Anyone wishing to sponsor any of these items to contact me direct for payment options. We have also launched a “*Standard 4 Club*” with subscribers paying £10 pm to our Boiler Fund and again please contact me for further details”.

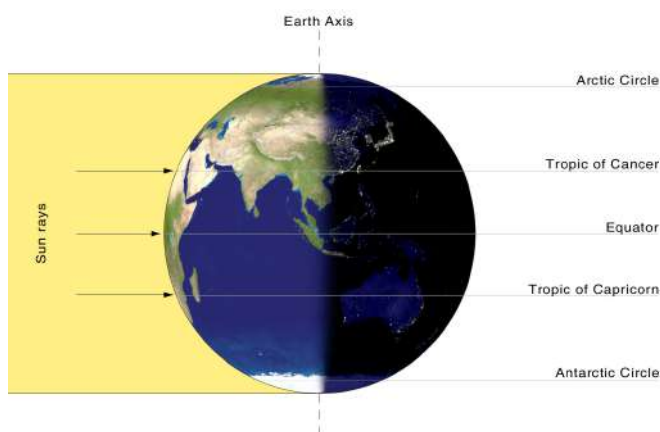
For donations to the Corwen Project especially the Canopy Appeal and “Fit me Out” - Please make cheques payable to CCRD (Corwen Central Railway Development) and forward to the Llangollen Railway Trust, The Station, Abbey Road, Llangollen, LL20 8NS

CLEARLY MARKED FOR THE ATTENTION OF PAUL BAILEY

If you want more details /payment options. on any of the appeals including the Standard 4 Club then please contact Paul Bailey on 01490 450271 or email “paulbaileywincham@yahoo.co.uk”

End Piece

The March equinox or northward equinox is the equinox on the Earth when the subsolar point appears to leave the Southern Hemisphere and cross the celestial equator, heading northward as seen from Earth. The March equinox is known as the *vernal equinox (spring equinox)* in the Northern Hemisphere and as the autumnal equinox in the Southern Hemisphere.



Illumination of Earth by Sun on the day of an equinox /

Image : Przemyslaw "Blueshade" Idzkiewicz

The March equinox may be taken to mark the beginning of astronomical spring and the end of astronomical winter in the Northern Hemisphere



Sunset at the equinox days from the site of Pizzo Vento, Fondachelli Fantina, Sicily

Photo : [Girtompir](https://www.flickr.com/photos/girtompir/)

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but marks the beginning of astronomical autumn and the end of astronomical summer in the Southern Hemisphere.

In its apparent motion on the day of an equinox, the Sun's disk crosses the Earth's horizon directly to the east at sunrise; and again, some 12 hours later, directly to the west at sunset.

The March equinox, like all equinoxes, is characterized by having an almost exactly equal amount of daylight and night across most latitudes on Earth.

Due to refraction of light rays in the Earth's atmosphere, the Sun will be visible above the horizon even when its disc is completely below the limb of the Earth.

Additionally, when seen from the Earth, the Sun is a bright disc in the sky and not just a point of light, thus sunrise and sunset can be said to start several minutes before the sun's geometric centre even crosses the horizon, and extends equally long after.

In astronomy, the March equinox serves as a reference for calendars and celebrations in many cultures and religions.

In Western Christendom, the March equinox is one of the factors used to determine the date of Easter. However, the Gregorian reform of the calendar declared March 21 to be the date for the ecclesiastical equinox, and it is this fixed date (rather than the date of the actual astronomical event) that is used for the Easter date calculation.

The northward equinox marks the first day of various calendars including the Iranian calendar. The ancient Iranian peoples' new year's festival of *Nowruz* can be celebrated 20 March or 21 March. According to the ancient Persian mythology *Jamshid*, the mythological king of Persia,

ascended to the throne on this day and each year this is commemorated with festivities for two weeks. Along with Iranian peoples, it is also a holiday celebrated by Turkic people, the North Caucasus and in Albania. It is also a holiday for

Zoroastrians, adherents of the *Bahá'í Faith* and



Bas-relief in Persepolis, a symbol of Iranian Nowruz: a bull (symbolizing the Earth) and lion (the Sun) in eternal combat are equal in power on the equinox. Photo : Anatoly Terentiev

Nizari Ismaili Muslims irrespective of ethnicity.

In Mexico on the site of the Mayan city of Chichen Itza around the Spring and Autumn equinoxes, in the late afternoon northwest corner of the pyramid of Kukulcán. casts a series of triangular shadows against the western balustrade on the north side that evokes the appearance of a serpent wriggling down the staircase, which some scholars have suggested is a representation of the feathered-serpent deity, Kukulcán. It is a widespread belief that this light-and-shadow effect was achieved on purpose to record the equinoxes, but the idea is highly unlikely: it has been shown that the phenomenon can be observed, without major changes, during several weeks around the

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equinoxes, making it impossible to determine any date by observing this effect alone.



Kukulkan at Chichen Itza during the Equinox. The famous descent of the snake, the head of which is at the foot of the pyramid
Photo : ATSZ56

In modern culture , *World Storytelling Day* is a global celebration of the art of oral storytelling, celebrated every year on the day of the northward equinox .

On World Storytelling Day, as many people as possible tell and listen to stories in as many languages and at as many places as possible,



Logo of World Storytelling Day by Mats Rehnman

during the same day and night. Participants tell each other about their events in order to share stories and inspiration, to learn from each other and create international contacts.

The significance in the event lies in the fact that it is the first global celebration of storytelling of its kind, and has been important in forging links between storytellers often working far apart from each other.

It has also been significant in drawing public and media attention to storytelling as an art form.

World Storytelling Day has its roots in a national day for storytelling in Sweden, circa 1991-2.

At that time, an event was organized for March 20 in Sweden called "*Alla berättares dag*" (All storytellers day).

The Swedish national storytelling network passed out some time after, but the day stayed alive, celebrated around the country by different enthusiasts.

In 1997, storytellers in Perth, Western Australia coordinated a five-week-long Celebration of Story, commemorating March 20 as the International Day of Oral Narrators.

At the same time, in Mexico and other Latin American countries, March 20 was already celebrated as the National Day of Storytellers

Each year, many of the individual storytelling events that take place around the globe are linked by a common theme.

Each year, the theme is identified by and agreed upon by storytellers from around the world using the *WSD listserv* and *Facebook group*. For 2022 the theme was "*Lost and Found*"