



CHRONICL CAEREINION CHRONICLE



JANUARY 2023

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH OUR COMMUNITY A
HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR. ALL THE BEST
WISHES GOING INTO 2023!

ISSUE 8

Welcoming from the Chair



Welcome to the January edition of the Chronicle. As the year has come to a close and a new year began, all at the Town Council wish you and your families a Happy New Year, and hope you had a very Merry Christmas.

It has been a very busy year that has seen two monarchs and three prime ministers. We have a coronation to look forward to in the summer so any suggestions on how you'd like to celebrate would be gratefully received.

We've recently had the shock threat of closure to the leisure centre, whilst this has been lifted again, we need to prepare for its threat once more. I believe there is a more positive way forward than to keep slashing services. Let's make use of these local services or we will risk losing them again.

Nadolig Llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda,

Ian Davies- Chair of Llanfair Town Council.



Llanfair Caereinion Town Council Defibrillator locations

- 1) Mount Field (clubhouse wall)
- 2) High Street (telephone box)
- 3) Watergate Street by Maesglas (telephone box)
- 4) Market Square (Black Lion pub)
- 5) Leisure Centre (outside wall)
- 6) Doctors Surgery (inside)
- 7) Institute (back of building)

Cyngor Tref Llanfair Caereinion Lleoliadau'r diffibrilwyr

- 1) Cae Mownt (wal adeilad y clwb)
- 2) Stryd Fawr (blwch ffôn)
- 3) Stryd y Dŵr gan Maesglas (blwch ffôn)
- 4) Sgwâr y Farchnad (tafarn y Llew Du)
- 5) Canolfan Hamdden (wal allanol)
- 6) Y Feddygfa (y tu mewn)
- 7) Yr Athrofa (yng nghefn yr adeilad)

LLANFAIR CAEREINION TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>THE GOAT FIELD AND DERI WOODS</p> <p>There are loads going on at Deri Woods with the lower path by the riverside levelled and drained, the creation of the meadow by the standing stones and the mural now completed in the pumping station building. The Friends of Deri Woods works closely with the Town Council to look after the woodland areas of the Goat Field and Deri Woods.</p> |
|  | <p>PARKING REVIEW IN THE TOWN</p> <p>There is to be a parking review in the Town Centre completed by Powys County Council. As part of this exercise the Town Council was asked for its views and councillors met with residents before putting that view forward. Details of what is proposed can be found on the council website at www.llanfairtowncouncil.co.uk</p> |
|  | <p>YOUTH CLUB GRANT</p> <p>The Town Council, as part of the Town Plan provision, will begin setting up a youth club. Moves have been made to take this initiative forward and to get the youth club up and running in the spring of 2023 a grant has been awarded of £9,950 for the project.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>ERW DDWR WATERGATE STREET</p> <p>The graveyard at the top of Watergate Street has seen some activity recently with new paths created to allow more grave space. Also there has been a tree report received and some works to them will take place in the new year.</p> |
|  | <p>AIR AMBULANCE</p> <p>The Town Council resolved at its October meeting to support the campaign to keep the Welsh Air Ambulance base at Welshpool. Most money given to support this service comes from Montgomeryshire, a need for rapid response from Welshpool and a need for rapid response in the Mid-Wales area due to poor road access and distance to hospitals.</p> |
|  | <p>COUNCIL MEETINGS</p> <p>The Town Council meets on the 4th Monday of the month throughout the year at 7pm in the Youth Room of the Institute, residents are welcome to attend and will a time to express and views or ask any questions.</p> |

REPORT FROM GARETH JONES COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR LLANFAIR CAEREINION AND LLANERFYL

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of Powys County Council during Llanfair's remembrance service. Congratulations to everyone involved in putting the service together it seems to be growing as an event each year. Congratulations also to all involved in the "Poppy waterfall" it looked spectacular.

LEISURE CENTRE

It was a huge shock when the phone call came to say Caereinion leisure centre would be closing for 3 months. After 4 days of opposing the decision, it was a relief when we finally had the press release that the cabinet had seen sense and reversed their decision. Can I thank everyone who contacted me with information on the centre's usage. I fear that in the new year Powys Council will be having conversations with Freedom about Leisure Centre efficiencies throughout Powys.

NEW HEALTH CENTRE

In last year's Christmas chronicle I reported that the "developer assures me they will be submitting a full application in the next few weeks" so frustrated that 12 months on and still the work has not begun. Having spoken again with the developer he says that "they have faced a number of challenges, but the project remains on course to be in a position to submit planning imminently"

MID AND WEST WALES FIRE SERVICE BRIEFING

I attended a presentation by the service. Currently there are 1300 staff, they cover 12000 km2, provide cover for 432,7991 households with a population of 913,217, inspect 40195 nondomestic premises including hospitals, schools, and care homes. There are 18 fire stations in Powys including the one here in Llanfair. Operational challenges include farm fires, river and flooding rescues, coastal rescues, hotel fires and road traffic accidents and terrorist incidents. They are currently facing a recruitment crisis and recruitment campaigns are ongoing if you know of anyone interested, in signing up please either contact myself or a member of Llanfair Fire Service.

COUNCIL TAX INCREASE ON EMPTY PROPERTIES

On 8 November the Cabinet resolved to increase the Council Tax payable on empty properties from a 50% uplift to 100% uplift. They agreed to recruit an Empty Property Officer to assist landlords in getting the properties back into the housing stock. There are currently over 4000 people waiting for a property in Powys.

I would like to wish you all a very good and a peaceful, healthy prosperous New Year!

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns that you wish to raise on 01938810296/07713988017 or

cllr.gareth.jones@powys.gov.uk

From St Mary's Church

Last time I wrote we were anticipating many events that have now taken place. The most memorable, that really put Llanfair on the map being the waterfall of poppies from the church tower window that was stunning. So many people visited to see them and all credit goes to Sam and her team for such a fantastic effort. They have even bigger plans for next year so watch this space!!



The annual Remembrance Service and Parade were a fitting reminder of past conflicts and a coming together of the community to honour all those whose lives have been impacted by war and pledge themselves to working for a peaceful world in the future.



The Church in Wales has been concerned by the escalating cost of living crisis and has been instrumental in encouraging for support for people who are struggling through their Food and Fuel Campaign. You can find out

more at <https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/our-campaigns/food-fuel/>

One suggestion has been to open churches as warm hubs and so St Mary's Hall is now open every Wednesday from 10am to 2pm for people to drop in. There are board games, WiFi, hot drinks, cakes and soup and bread. We have only just started this and take up has been slow, but we hope that we can help people in our community by

providing this when they need somewhere to come, not just to keep warm, but also to find people to spend time with.

We continue to be a collection point for Welshpool Foodbank. Donation can be left in the green chest on the back pew, in church.

As I write, Christmas is nearly here again, a very different time from the past two years. We are now able to welcome Ysgol Bro Caereinion Primary Phase for their Christingle and



have our more normal carol services and Christmas events. We are also filling the Church with stars in memory of loved ones or in celebration of something special. I hope you will all have made a star and visited the church to see them.

By the time you read this we will be into 2023, another new year with new opportunities. As I meet people around the town I often get asked about God and why my faith is important to me. It is always a privilege to share my story and have people interested in it. We seem to enjoy hearing other's stories and sharing in this way is a great way of connecting with each other. The Diocese has created a five-week course, 'Faith, Hope and Love', where there is an opportunity to watch some videos telling stories of God working in ordinary lives and then time to share our own stories. The course is bilingual, very interactive, friendly and informal with plenty of tea and coffee ... and cake! We are hoping to run the course during Lent 2023 so look out for details.

Many Blessings for 2023

Rev. Jane

Remembrance Sunday, 13th November



After a well-attended church service, local politicians and organisations marched after Cllr. Geraint Peate, standard bearer, to the war memorial to

lay their wreaths in honour of those who lost their lives in conflict.

A two-minute silence was held at 1100.

Chairman, Councillor Ian Davies laid a wreath on behalf of Llanfair Caereinion Town Council. (Right)

Cllr. Hazel Davies was presented with a gold award by High Sheriff of Powys, Mr Tom Jones from the Royal British Legion, for her long and loyal service of 25 years organising the Poppy Appeal.



Left to Right: Cllr. Geraint Peate, RBL, Cllr. Sam Webster, RBL, Mr Tom Jones, High Sheriff, Cllr. Hazel Davies, RBL and Rev. Jane James

Poppy Waterfall Llanfair Caereinion

Back in October 2021, just as things were opening up and events were starting to happen, providing that social distancing and wearing of masks were adhered to, Llanfair Institute held a coffee morning, probably the first indoor community social event post-covid. During the morning Shirley Jones addressed the guests about a “Knit and Knatter” group that she had organised, they would gather on the 3rd Wednesday every month, anybody was allowed to participate and could knit whatever they wanted, as long as they “Knattered”!

Samantha Webster, Chair of Llanfair Caereinion and District Royal British Legion and ex-military, was one of the guests and immediately thought about an idea, a dream that she had had for some time but did not have the skill to do it, that was knit! Sam asked Shirley if the group would like to knit poppies to create a waterfall of poppies that would flow from a window of St Mary's Church in Llanfair Caereinion, ready for the Poppy Appeal in 2022. Once the permission of Reverend Jane James had been sought of course.



At the next Knit and Knatter group meeting that is held in Llanfair Institute, Shirley put this to the group, and they agreed with great enthusiasm. Red and black wool was purchased, and the pattern was shared, wool and the pattern were also delivered to those that were vulnerable, with Covid still being an issue. PAVO, also supplied some wool which was really appreciated as you can imagine, they would need a lot of wool. The group also wanted to honour

civilians and animals that also perished during the various wars and conflicts so it was then decided to knit white poppies in memory of civilians and purple for animals. By March 2022, we had bags full of red, white and purple poppies. Over 60 people of various ages were involved in this project, the youngest being 10 years old and the oldest being 90 years of age.

An old 4.5m by 9m Army camouflage net was purchased, hundreds of small red cable ties and the task was then to fix the poppies of all different sizes and shades of red to the net. A smaller net was purchased to display the purple and white poppies. This took approximately 60 hours, but the effect was amazing, as was witnessed when it was put in place on the 21st October at St Marys Church Llanfair Caereinion. Andrew Watkin Building Contractors Limited offered their Manitou and manpower, Gareth Chapman, Dylan Jones and Rowan Chapman all helped Alan Webster put up the net and poppies.

Children from Bro Caereinion Primary Phase came and sang beautifully in the church, with parents and family watching. A competition is ongoing to "guess how many poppies are on the waterfall", the prize is £50 cash, all proceeds will be split with the Poppy appeal and the Church Clock Repair.

This has exceeded what we all expected and we cannot thank the Knit and Knatter Group enough for all their hard work in knitting poppies, also all those that were unable to be part of Knit and Knatter but sent poppies in to be included. We are hoping to have the Waterfall from the top of the tower next year, so if anybody would like to knit some poppies, please do get in touch, wool will be supplied.

Knit and Natter will be held on January 18th and February 15th.

Anglo Welsh

I have lived in Llanfair Caereinion for 20 years now and I don't ever see myself heading "home", back to South East England.

It was a move that happened by accident after a weekend visit to this part of Wales back in Feb 2002. One trip was enough for me to take the plunge into moving, mainly down to the warm and friendly reception from the locals. I had the view that English people were disliked by everyone in Wales, and yet that one weekend changed that view in the blink of an eye and 6 months later I had moved into a new life, town and community.

This is where my love of local grassroots football really took off. Yes, I could jump on a train from Welshpool and support Shrewsbury, or I could drive to Wrexham and support my nearest professional Welsh side, or even take the short drive to watch TNS in the league of Wales who were at the time playing in Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain. That was always a non-starter for me. Who names a club after their own company?

In the end I opted for a 300 metre walk up the hill to watch Llanfair Utd and so started a connection to my local club that now spans just over 19 years. I have gone from just turning up to watch, to being pitch marker, linesman for reserves for 4 seasons; normally getting more grief from my own team than the opposition, tried to be fair and at some point, was also the fine collector for the club. How to make yourself popular (not). I have been on the committee for 15 years. At one time I was vice chairman, but I have now found the job I love - being on the gate. You get to chat to away fans, ground hoppers and see regular home fans. The social side afterwards, where a group of us must go over the game in the local, is one of my Saturday highlights. The instructions from my other half are either come home early and in

a tidy way or stay out late and sleep downstairs. Downstairs wins hands down! I missed these Saturdays during covid months and am pleased that they are now back.

I am now confused. I know I will never be Welsh as my accent gives away my birthplace, yet I love watching Wales play with friends that I have made through being involved with the local club and I have been to a few games in 2008 and 2009 when Wales were playing in Millennium Stadium.

I now have kids that were born in Wales and they are super proud of being Welsh, and that makes me proud of them.

So, my dilemma is this. Can you be an Anglo Welsh? Because I have found since moving here and joining in that I have become part a community that I don't think I would have found just outside London. Whenever I go "home" to see friends and family I find myself sticking up for Wales and arguing against the normal stereotypical jokes about sheep, rugby and rain, which until I moved, I am ashamed to say, I probably made the same stupid boneheaded remarks. I hope now that I have seen the light people who read this will forgive me.

Paul Burns

Hall Hire Details-

The Institute: Contact Llanfair Institute Facebook/messenger or call

Pauline Bennett on 07814 274472

The Leisure Centre: 01938 810634

The Bowls Club: Contact Mark 07808804559

Rhiwhirleath Community Centre: Contact Arwel on 07890710153

Llanfair Christmas lights

A cold dry night saw a good turnout for the switching on of the Christmas lights on 2nd December by Cllr. Geraint Peate, assisted by Bedw James. Santa arrived with sweets for the children.



Bonfire Night at Rhiwhiriaeth Community Centre

We would like to issue a big thank you to all that attended the bonfire night at Rhiwhiriaeth Community Centre. This was the second bonfire night we have had post COVID regulations, and we had a great turnout with all the homemade refreshments being sold out! Thank you to everyone who helped and organised the event. We are hopeful for 2023 to be a good year for the centre.



A Blast from the Past

Llanfair Caereinion male voice choir

Submitted by Elwyn Griffiths



If anyone has any historical photographs with relevance to Llanfair, please send them to Sarah Astley or Ursula Griffiths- Contact numbers found at the back of the issue.

Puzzle Page!

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 8 | | | | 4 | | |
| 7 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| | | | 7 | 4 | | | |
| 9 | | | 8 | | | 5 | |
| | 5 | 1 | 3 | | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| 4 | | 3 | | | 6 | | |
| | | | | | 9 | 3 | 1 |
| 1 | | 7 | | | | | |
| | 4 | | | 1 | 5 | | |

The sum is 195.

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 51 | 72 | 3 | 24 | |
| | | | 42 | |
| | 18 | | 60 | 66 |
| 30 | | 57 | 63 | 9 |
| 33 | 54 | | | |

Riddle me this...

What has many keys
but can't open
Santa's sleigh?

Answer on next page

Excerpt from the newsletter of Russell George

"I continue to push the Welsh Government to ensure that there is a formal consultation on the proposals to close Welshpool's Air Ambulance base. I raised this issue again in the Senedd last month. I was disappointed that the Minister replied suggesting that the Welsh Government's role in this process is limited.

Last week, I joined a range of politicians and campaigners in sending a joint letter to Stephen HARRY, the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner, posing a number of concerns before the planned public engagement begins. These concerns included issues around the modelling used in the proposals, around how data is shared with the public and claims we believe are inaccurate that 583 additional missions will be flown each year.

We secured a commitment to a public meeting in January which I will - of course - share details of as soon as they are published. It is very important that all residents are able to share their thoughts and views on the proposals.

On Monday this week, I was invited by several local businesses, to meet with the Chair of Trustees, the Chief Executive and others from the Wales Air Ambulance Charity. We had a robust discussion about the future of the service and public feeling about the proposals. The charity's team were open, clear in their answers and responded transparently to our questions. The charity also stated that the proposal to re-configure the service, was not their proposal, and they were now also consultees in the process. Everyone attending agreed that it would be important for the public of Mid Wales to engage with the Commissioner's engagement process."

Cyngor Tref Llanfair Caereinion

Town Councillors/ Y Cynghorwyr Tref

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Cllr Ian Davies (Chair/Cadeirydd) Independent Annibynnol 01938 810602</p> | <p>Cllr Rob Astley (Vice Chair/Is- Gadeirydd) Independent Annibynnol 01938 810393</p> |
| <p>Cllr Sarah Astley Independent Annibynnol 07484 543020</p> | <p>Cllr Hazel Davies Independent Annibynnol 01938 810152</p> |
| <p>Cllr Cadvan Evans Independent Annibynnol 07813 194862</p> | <p>Cllr Viola Evans Independent Annibynnol 01938 810481</p> |
| <p>Cllr Ursula Griffiths Independent Annibynnol 07794 499202</p> | <p>Cllr Gareth Jones Independent Annibynnol 07713 988017</p> |
| <p>Cllr Melvin Jones Independent Annibynnol 07773 591895</p> | <p>Cllr Mark Owen Independent Annibynnol 07767 267830</p> |
| <p>Cllr Geraint Peate Independent Annibynnol 01938 810657</p> | <p>Cllr Sam Webster Independent Annibynnol 07711 293196</p> |

Eich Cyngorydd Sir yw -Your County Councilor is
Cllr Gareth Jones- 07713 988017

Robert Robinson, Town Clerk/Clerc y Dref –

07767 267830

Council Meetings/Cyfarfodydd y Cyngor:

4th Monday of the month at 7pm/ 4ydd dydd Llun y mis am 7 p.m.

All meetings are held in the Youth Room of the Institute/ Cynhelir pob cyfarfod yn Ystafell Ieuenctid yr Institiwt Agenda and minutes on the website at/

Mae'r Agenda a'r Cofnodion ar y Wefan yn
www.llanfairtowncouncil.co.uk

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|-----------|------------|
| Tuesday | 9am - 6pm |
| Wednesday | 11am - 7pm |
| Thursday | 11am - 7pm |
| Friday | 9am - 6pm |
| Saturday | 9am - 4pm |

LUNCH TIMES

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Tuesday to Friday | 2pm - 3pm |
| Saturday | 12pm - 1pm |



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SATURDAY
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SUNDAY
12PM - 3PM



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