

LLINK

MARCH 2011

ISSUE 17

www.llink.org.uk

Editors' Column

The stirrings of spring are showing in fields and gardens, with snowdrops well out and arums and dog's mercury pushing through. How very welcome those first signs are, after another hard winter such as the one we have been "enjoying" since the end of last November. There's plenty to look forward to in our communities as well, and more details can be found in the pages of this edition of *LLINK*.

If you find that you have a little more time on your hands than you expected this year, why not offer to help out at one of the year's events? Even if you can "only" manage to help on the day, extra pairs of hands are always very welcome and, as ever, you will get far more out of joining in than you give. Everyone from the government up (or down) want us to play a part in our communities, and we are very lucky that plenty of people in Llanfair and Lloyney do just that. So come along to this year's events, join in and be a part of your community; you'll enjoy it when you do.

On a more serious note, lambing is about to start on our local farms, so please be particularly careful when out with your dogs, and if in doubt keep them on a lead, since owners can be fined under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 if their pets are found to be worrying or chasing livestock.

We have been asked to produce another *LLINK* calendar this year, so please keep taking local photographs, portrait style not landscape, please. We will have it professionally printed this time and so it will cost a little more, but will be worth it!

Marilyn at Lloyney Mill (528842)

*David at Melin-y-Groque Cottage
(510672)*

llink@llink.org.uk

**The views expressed in the Newsletter
are not necessarily those of the Editors.**



Llanfair Waterdine WI
and
Little Graig Music Group
present

**BETTER LATE
THAN
NEVER**

Saturday, 5th March
Everest Hall
7.30pm

£5 to include
refreshments

Proceeds to Hope House Children's Hospice and WI funds

BEGUILDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Our Annual Meeting is on Tuesday, 10th May at Knucklas Community Centre. Start time is to be confirmed on posters advertising the meeting and on the *LLINK* website.

The agenda will include the election of Chair and Vice-Chair for the year and the selection of Council representatives to other bodies.

LLANFAIR WATERDINE PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council takes place on Tuesday, 17th May commencing at 7.00pm in the Everest Hall.

West Midlands Ambulance Service is willing to provide training in the use of defibrillators. Llanfair may be able to have one and have training in its use. A presentation will take place at the Annual Parish Meeting.

This may save your life or mean that you can learn how to save someone else! There is also a need for at least one First Responder in our parish. If you are interested please let me know.
Anne Singleton (510625) (Hon Clerk).

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

Flicks continues in March with *Made in Dagenham* (15) showing on Saturday, March 19th at 7.30pm.

From the makers of *Calendar Girls*, *Made in Dagenham*, is a story of a group of female factory workers, featuring a stellar British cast including Sally Hawkins, Bob Hoskins, Miranda Richardson, Geraldine James, Rosamund Pike, Andrea Riseborough, Jaime Winstone and Daniel Mays. It's 1968, the year of revolution, and students are demonstrating the world over. Meanwhile in Dagenham in Essex, as far from the swinging sixties as possible, the Ford motor company is about to face its biggest ever threat, and from the unlikeliest of places: the female sewing machinists. The women down tools in 1968 when they are reclassified as "unskilled". With humour, common sense and courage they take on their US paymasters, an increasingly belligerent local community, and finally the government itself, to strike an everlasting blow for equal pay for women. The catalyst for the women's struggle is fast-talking, no nonsense Rita, played by Sally Hawkins, whose fiery temper and occasionally hilarious unpredictability proves to be a match for any of her male opponents.

Rather than wait until autumn, we have scheduled an extra film this season. The BAFTA winning Best Film *The King's Speech* (12A) will be shown on Saturday, May 21st. Please note that the start time will be 8.00pm.

With a cast including BAFTA winners Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter, *The King's Speech* is the tale of Elizabeth II's father and his remarkable friendship with maverick speech therapist Lionel Logue. Fascinating, moving and often humorous it charts the personal relationship that developed between Britain's reluctant King George VI, plagued by a nervous stammer, and his irreverent Australian speech therapist. . As the second son of George V, Prince Albert, "Bertie", was not expected to ascend to the throne, but when his brother Edward abdicates to marry American Wallis Simpson, Bertie, as his successor, is crowned King George VI. George becomes King as radio is taking off as a mass medium and the Second World War looms. Thrust into the international spotlight he must speak not only to the nation but to the people of the British Empire, across the world. His wife, Queen Elizabeth - the future Queen Mother - is tireless in her belief in him. Having tried all the traditional doctors she engages an unorthodox outsider, Logue, to help him find a voice that can inspire a nation on the brink of war.

(Reviews from *Arts Alive*.)

Films are shown in the Everest Hall. Tickets are £3.50 for adults, £2.50 for children. Refreshments, usually tea or coffee and a biscuit, are 50p.

Bring your friends and enjoy the top films shown on our new digital projection system.

Enquiries 510625 (Anne Singleton).

Llanfair Wakes

August 13th 2011



Shhhh! Can you keep a secret? Have you heard.....?

In addition to all the usual stalls, games and fun you associate with the Wakes, this year there is going to be a display of Scarecrows! And I don't just mean the local farmers!

At the February planning meeting it was decided to invite every household in the parish and locality to make and display their own scarecrow. It can be either traditional or non-traditional, a character we'll recognise or one we might not - it's up to you!

But the invitation and rules won't be out for a while yet and so this is your early warning! Get ahead of your neighbours and start thinking about yours now!

Other things to look forward to will be the delicious refreshments on the field, the fantastic exhibits in the Everest Hall, the Wakes Cakes stall, the Produce stall, a children's toy stall, a new design Model Railway exhibit, the coconut shy and other traditional games, plus the essential bouncy castle and children's area.

We are also looking forward to the Barbeque and Bar opening earlier and leading in to an evening of musical entertainment and fun!

Bees and the Builders

I saw my bees for the first time since November this week. The temperature rose and out they came. A sigh of relief to know that they are still alive after such a long winter! They soon found the snowdrops and were bringing in yellow pollen. Honey bees will leave the hive to forage for nectar but they will, once they have found a flower, stick with the same variety until they return to the hive with the nectar and pollen from that flower. This gives us the advantage of knowing that if there is a good nectar flow from a nearby crop that the bees will pass the word round the hive and soon all of them will be collecting from the same source. Often you can name that source which is why you get heather honey or lavender honey in shops. Bees are put on that crop either for the benefit of the crop or for the honey it produces. The downfall is that once a crop is found nothing will deter a bee from going there.

In my early bee keeping days I had a hive at the bottom of the garden and a crop of field beans in a nearby field. In between these two lay my house. The bees used to fly the length of the garden, lift up over a flat roof and go down into the bean field. All was well until the builders turned up to renew the leaking flat roof. The conversation went something like this:-

Me; I think you ought to leave this until my bees have stopped flying to the field of beans over there.

Bob the builder; Oh! that's OK, a few bees won't hurt us!

Me; I have about 50,000 bees in the hive all doing the return journey, I really think you should come back in a few days.

Bob; It takes more than a few bees to get rid of us, just leave them to us!

So they began to remove the old felt.

Thirty minutes later after men were heard leaping from the roof without the use of ladders.:-

Bob; Have you got a few hats we could borrow the bees seem to be getting caught in our hair.

Hats duly supplied.

Twenty minutes later after more swearing and cursing there was a meek knock at the door and Mr Builder stood there with a rapidly swelling sting just under his eye:-

Bob; Ok we give up. We will come back in a couple of months when they've all gone.

And they went, leaving me with a roof with half ripped-off felt. He sent his partner next time and we never saw the same builder again!

Bees on a crop are worse than the M25 at rush hour and there is nothing that can be done until the crop is finished. Different crops give us different honeys with varying tastes, colours and characteristics. Rape-seed honey is white, mild tasting and sets so rock hard it will bend a knife. Lime honey is green, just sweet enough and crystal clear. Chestnut honey is rich brown, sweet enough to burn the back of your mouth and never goes really hard. Heather honey is like jelly and can vary in taste according to the time of the year it is collected. Even the pollens can be identified, crocus is bright yellow, ivy is grey, horse chestnut is red, etc etc.

But back to the present. All of our group of local beekeepers (now numbering nine) are waiting with bated breath to see if the bees have survived. The queen should have started laying eggs already and we are just waiting for the weather to break before putting on boxes ready for the bees to start storing the early blossom nectar. They ingest the nectar from the flowers, mix it with enzymes from their body, store it in the hives, evaporate the water off and then seal it all away with a wax cap. Roll on Spring I say!

Eric Martin.

WORDS FROM THE CROSS

A Good Friday Meditation

to include music from

**Howard Goodall's
'Eternal Light' Requiem**

and the music of Fauré and Wesley

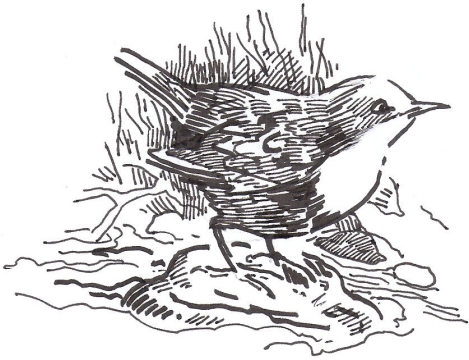
April 22nd 2011 at 6.30pm
St Mary's Church



The Llanfair Singers
David Williams-Organ

NATURE NOTES

Tentative hints of spring come and go as we move into February. Snowdrops sparkle under dark twiggy hedges and are thick round the gipsy's grave in Llanfair churchyard. Pussy willow buds shine softly silver, catkins that have been little stiff fingers all winter are beginning to look more like lamb's tails and robins whistle boldly along the lane, loudly claiming their territories and ignoring me as I pass.



I suppose there must have been all sorts of signs that the winter was going to be a very cold one that wild creatures were able to read, while we were fixed on our clever technology and TV forecasts! Squirrels were busily skittering all over the place in November setting up their stores of food. The crop of hips and haws was huge and soon stripped by birds, leaving a scatter of blood-red berries on the ground for mice. Perhaps the phases and brilliance of the moon had something to tell us? Then the COLD came - and the snow and the frost and the ice that chilled us to the marrow and scuppered so many of our plans over the Christmas period.

But it was so very beautiful and the air so crisp and clear. Those white mornings when a hoarfrost furred every snowy surface, twig and stem of grass with a sparkling moss of ice crystals. The spiked-fringe of icicles edging our buildings and the 'abstract art' designs in frozen puddles. Nocturnal activity was made visible in snowy footprints of rabbits and foxes - snow telling stories of who has passed and what they might have been doing! However frozen the ground, little old moles continued with their digging and soft dark mounds of earth kept appearing through fresh snow.

One freezing morning we walked along the bottom of the wood as the sun was rising from behind the hill. Light was glittering bright on the snow ahead of us and, as we walked out of the shade to meet it, we grew long sharp shadows and the warmth of its rays felt so very good. It drew up clouds of vapour from the river and the Teme valley filled with white mist. All this was of course balanced by much hardship and difficulty - more so for ourselves probably than for creatures of nature that are better prepared for it.

The quietness has been noticeable. Ravens continued to talk to each other but most birds have been very busy finding food to warm themselves and have needed to conserve every bit of energy for that. It grows more and more expensive feeding them in our garden as they show us their preference for mealworms and fatballs! Little flocks of long-tailed tits are lovely to watch but sparrows tend to boss our bird feeders.



The level of the river has been yo-yoing up and down with the melting snow. Goosanders are such elegant birds and always seem to be about on the river, but they are shy and usually fly to escape me, as do herons and kingfishers. Dippers are much easier and so fascinating to watch. I often hear one at first, it's song sharp and sweet over the rush of the water. Then I spot it by its white breast and then, if I'm lucky, it will spend time ducking under the water to feed and popping up and down again several times before whirring off close to the surface of the river.

Last week there was a gale blowing. In our landscape of humps and bumps the wind can hide and then surprise you round corners. There was a confusion in the air of birds drifting like leaves and leaves fluttering like birds. One minute we could only hear the roar of the wind in the trees the other side of the valley and the next we were almost blown off our feet by the blast! The weather is certainly making itself felt this season and I hope we may be well prepared for whatever's in store for 2011.

Happy New Year!

Philippa Boast.

BOOK CLUB

Rob Taylor's Christmas reading of a crossing of the Antarctic proved to be a most appropriate choice, bearing in mind that several of us arrived at The Waterdine for our festive lunch, wearing three layers of clothes and armed with walking poles. Cabin Fever was already setting in and we were happy to get out and indulge in some early Christmas spirit. We each took our turn to read or sing a poem, story or wassail with Christmas in mind. Dickens, A A Milne, Thomas Hardy, Cecil Day Lewis and Bruce Chatwin amongst others set us up beautifully for the lunch which was to follow. Further fortified with mince pies at Fairfield, the layers of lagging had to be reapplied and we trudged briskly homeward, along the icy rutted lane, passing the hungry, steaming cattle, in time to lock the hens up as the pink sky over the Beacon faded and another exceedingly cold night began. Brrrrr!

Judith Tollman.

Jonathan Coe is such a smooth operator (*The Rain Before It Falls*) that more than half of us fell under his spell in January as he skilfully unfolded this sad tale of mothers and daughters. It was only after putting it down that we began to think... and to question. The book didn't ring as true for us as *The Rotters' Club* and *Closed Circle* (two firm favourites of mine). The words "clever, moving and compelling" featured over and over again in the 2007 reviews. Clever? Yes, but not clever enough for our Rob, who spotted two anachronisms. Shropshire Blue Cheese wasn't on the market

at the time stated in the book; and, since Morris Minors weren't unveiled to the public until 1948, the character would have had his work cut out getting a cheap, second-hand version when Coe said he had.

Mary Comer.

J G Farrell's *The Siege of Krishnapur* prompted fierce discussion in February and no wonder! There's a lot going on in this 1973 Booker Prize-winner and "you pays your money and takes your choice," as they say: a tale of derring-do, tragedy, comedy, romance, a satire on the British Empire, religious polemic – it's all these and more. A "plain and unvarnished tale" it is not; but Farrell never takes his eye off the ball. Some of us loved it for its mischief, its rattling good yarn of the Indian Mutiny, and the quality of the writing, which, for me, shines through on every page. Others found diversion in Farrell's lively and sometimes comical evocation of the age, including references to the Great Exhibition, the pioneering treatment of cholera, attitudes to "fallen women" and so on, even if they took issue with other aspects of the book. The cannon that shoots cutlery at the enemy with such a devastating effect reminded Rob of Monty Python sketches – and *that*, I thought, was a very clever comparison; though, by other similarly gleeful and mildly subversive bits of the narrative, Judith, for one, was not amused...

Mary Comer.



The 2011 Llanfair Arts and Gardens Festival is being held on the last weekend in June (25th and 26th).

The Art Exhibition will again be in the Everest Hall and will, as in the two previous years, have a mix of representational and abstract paintings and sculpture. Many of the artists who displayed their work in the first two exhibitions will be exhibiting again along with some new artists. The exhibition will be open from 10.00am on Saturday and Sunday and all the work will be for sale. Refreshments will be available.

The gardens will be open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 2.00pm. The organising committee has yet to finalise the list of gardens, but the majority will be opening for the first time for our festival.

There will be an exhibition of Book Art in St Mary's Church. An exhibition of art by local children is being organised and this will also be displayed in the Church. More details of the children's art event will be available in May.

A sale of 20th Century Art will take place in the Melin y Grogue "Wash House Gallery"

A musical event is being organised for Saturday evening and the festival will conclude with Choral Evensong, led by the Llanfair Singers, in the Church at 6.30pm on Sunday.

Tickets, giving entry to the exhibitions and gardens, will be priced £5.

We are again organising a **Parish Breakfast**. This will take place in the Everest Hall on Saturday May 14th starting at 9.30am. More details later.

PLEASE PUT THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY



Teme Valley Gardeners' Club

We hold our meetings on the second Monday of the month at the Community Centre, Knucklas starting at 7.30pm.

Annual Subscription is £7.00 and is due at the April Meeting.

Visitors are always welcome - £3.00 per evening - why not join us.

We have a competition e.g. a flower, fruit or vegetables and points are awarded and a cup is presented every year.

All entries for the competition must be placed ready for judging by 7.25pm.

Monday April 11 th	Speaker	Philip Aubury
	Title of Talk	House and Conservatory Plants
	Competition	A House Plant
Monday May 9 th	Annual General Meeting and Supper	
	Competition	A Wallflower
Monday June 13 th	Evening Visit to a Garden	
	To be arranged (please telephone for details)	
Monday July 11 th	Speaker	Pam Pittwood
	Title of Talk	Cracks and Crevices
	Competition	A Scented Rose

We look forward to your company at any of our meetings.

Secretary: Avril Hoyle (529244)

Speakers' Programme Organiser: Mary Bufton (510285)

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Our activities during December were somewhat curtailed by the severe weather conditions. However, the Auction and Supper were a great success — everyone was glad of an evening out — in between the snowy periods. Many thanks to everyone for attending, supporting, cooking, serving, washing up etc., and special thanks to David and Derek for prising the money from our pockets! A total of £1700 was raised.



The Carol and Crib Services were well-attended and much enjoyed, but unfortunately the Midnight Service was cancelled because of the icy roads.

Diana, Mary, Richard and Graham held the attention of the children during our new All Age worship and Christingle Service. There were lots of compliments for Diana on the new form of service.

Lent Group Meetings will be held on Tuesdays, commencing March 15th through to and including April 5th. For more details contact the Revd. Diana Hoare on 530340.

There will be a special Service in Church on Mothering Sunday, April 3rd at 11.00am for all families and friends.

We are planning a community get-together to celebrate the Royal Wedding, on Monday, May 2nd in the Everest Hall. Please look out for more information nearer the time..

The Spring Bank Holiday Coffee Morning (11.00am on Monday, May 30th) will be held at Fairfield by kind permission of Allan and Helen Henchoz.

LLANFAIR WATERDINE WI NEWS



Once again the weather had other ideas for our Christmas plans. The December meeting, with the Bleddfa Choir had to be cancelled and our annual Charity Concert and Panto had to be postponed – which was very disappointing but as you will see, all is not lost and on Saturday March 5th we hope to entertain you at the Everest Hall – *Better Late than Never!*

We managed to sing carols at The Lloyney to members of The Bridge Club who were enjoying their Christmas Dinner but were not so lucky with our choice of date to sing around the village when the snow and ice caused us to see reason and cancel. But thanks to all who made donations towards Cancer Research UK to whom we have sent £160.

Early in January we held our Christmas Party when members put on a sumptuous buffet supper for themselves and their guests. Rick Harrowing entertained us with songs accompanied by guitar and mandolin and all agreed this had been a most enjoyable evening.

At our February meeting Marilyn Tippet gave an interesting talk about Book Art and how she came to be interested in the subject. Marilyn brought along several of her hand-made books of all shapes and sizes with the qualification, “if it can be read, it is a book”!

On 4th March we have another local resident who needs little introduction. Ivy Stanton runs the popular Yoga Group each Friday and will explain and demonstrate the health benefits of Yoga. Many of us already have reason to thank Ivy’s expertise and her Yoga classes for our health and well-being.

The speaker on April 1st is Pauline Long, who will give a presentation on her visit to South Korea, (using our new digital system), and once again the focus in May will be on health, when Lorraine Haynes (Chiropodist) will give a talk entitled *A journey in the Life of your Feet*”

June is the month for weddings and we have a visit from Irene Calverley of the Bridal Workshop in Knighton to our meeting on Friday 3rd.

Willow Sculpture is the subject for the craft demonstration in July – but more of that in the next edition.

As well as the monthly meetings outlined above, we are continuing with our walks. We vary them between Knucklas, Knighton and Llanfair and aim to walk three miles each time.

Four of us are being trained to use the Digital Sound and Projection System in The Everest Hall and yet another member had a story submitted to the National Short Story competition. We try to nurture the body and the soul!

Don’t forget to get your tickets for *Better Late than Never*” on March 5th available from members – cost £5 to include refreshments. We look forward to entertaining you with an evening of Music and Mirth!

Did you know that there is a Circle Dancing Group near you?

What is Circle Dancing? Simply traditional Folk Dance from around the world..... done in a circle, sometimes lively and energetic or maybe gentle and reflective.

At the moment, we, that is about 12 of us, from Llanfair, Knucklas and Knighton meet in the Everest Hall, Llanfair Waterdine, once a month for two hours at the exorbitant cost of £1.20 each! We run the group ourselves, dancing familiar dances and learning new ones.

During the winter months we have been meeting on the afternoons of the third Wednesday, the next one being March 16th at 2.30pm but from April we will be back to our “Summer timetable” of the fourth Monday of the month at 7.00pm from April 25th.

We would love to have some new members to make our Circle bigger!

If you would like to know a little more, Google “Circle Dancing” on the web, log onto our village website www.llink.org.uk/dancing.html, ring Judith Tollman on 510672 or of course just turn up at the hall. We will be pleased to see you.



WHAT'S ON

Wednesday 2nd March	Grass Cutting	Rob and Denise Taylor	
	Coffee Morning	The Derrells	11.00am
Saturday 5th March	WI- <i>Better Late than Never</i>	Everest Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 19th March	Flicks - <i>Made in Dagenham</i>	Everest Hall	7.30pm
Sunday April 3rd	Mothering Sunday Service	St Mary's	11.00am
Wednesday 6th April	Grass Cutting	Ruth Davies	
	Coffee Morning	Teme Cottage	11.00am
Saturday 16th April	Llanfair Singers Concert	Norton Church	7.30pm
Friday 22nd April	Service of Meditation and Music	St Mary's	6.30pm
Monday 2nd May	Royal Wedding Celebration	more information to follow	
Wednesday 4th May	Grass Cutting	Mig and Fred Beavan	
	Coffee Morning	Little Graig	11.00am
Saturday 14th May	Parish Breakfast	Everest Hall	9.30am
Saturday 21st May	Flicks- <i>The King's Speech</i>	Everest Hall	(note start time) 8.00pm
Monday 30th May	Church Coffee Morning	Fairfield	11.00am
Wednesday 1st June	Grass Cutting	Betty Goulding and Freda Powell	
	Coffee Morning	Everest Hall	11.00am
Saturday and Sunday June 25th and 26th	Llanfair Waterdine Mid-Summer Arts Festival	Various	

REGULAR EVENTS

Every Friday	Yoga	Everest Hall	9.45am
	Contact Ivy Stanton (520587) for more details		
Every Friday	Llanfair Singers Rehearsal	Everest Hall	7.30pm
	(except first Friday - check for venue) Contact Jean Gardner (528521) for more details		
1st Friday of the month	WI	Everest Hall	7.30pm
	Contact Judith Tollman (510672) for more details		
2nd Monday of the month	Teme Valley Gardening Club	Knucklas Community Centre	7.30pm
	Contact Avril Hoyle (529244) for more details		
2nd Thursday of the month	Book Club	Various	2.30pm
	Contact Helen Henchoz (520055) for more details		
3rd Wednesday of the month	Luncheon Club	Everest Hall	12.30pm
	Contact Ruth Davies (528592) for more details		
3rd Wednesday of the month (MARCH ONLY)	Circle Dancing	Everest Hall	2.30pm
	Contact Doreen Hart (520561) for more details		
4th Monday of the month (FROM APRIL)	Circle Dancing	Everest Hall	7.00pm
	Contact Doreen Hart (520561) for more details		
Last Friday of the month	Sale of bread, cakes, fruit pies, preserves, pickles	The Derrells	9.30am to 11.30am
	(All proceeds to Little Sisters in Jesus Orphanage, Fiwila Zambia) Contact Denise Taylor (529706) for more details		

For the latest update on *What's On* check www.llink.org.uk Diary page.

Knucklas is planning a Royal Wedding event, probably on 29th April. If you wish to help or get involved, please telephone Mike on 528976

Reminder

Knighton and District Tourism Group is still looking for committee members to replace Marilyn and Alan Tippett. Please ask them for more information if you think you could help.