

Llanfair Waterdine  
and Lloyney  
**NEWS**

OCTOBER 2006

ISSUE 1

**EDITORS' COLUMN**

Thanks to everyone who completed and returned the questionnaire which was circulated with the last Newsletter. We had a return of around 16%, a large majority being in favour of continuing the Newsletter, although with differing opinions as to what it should contain and how often it should be published, of course! There were also differing views about whether or not to charge for the Newsletter, and we have decided to try to circulate it free-of-charge for the time being, although this will be dependent on being able to raise enough funds to continue after this issue.

In order to start the fundraising, we are going to have a Beetle Drive on Saturday 3rd of February at the Everest Hall. Posters advertising the event will be put up in all the usual places nearer the date, but in the meantime, if you would like to offer help or support, please contact either of us.

For now, we will attempt to publish the Newsletter quarterly, and welcome any ideas, thoughts or comments, even letters or emails, on what you read and what you think about your Newsletter. There were lots of ideas suggested in the returned questionnaires - everything from family history through to crosswords and "rants", so if you want to see some of your ideas get into print, why not have a go at writing or drawing or photographing something yourself and emailing/posting/pigeon-flying it to Marilyn at The Mill, Lloyney or David at Melin-y-Grogue Cottage? Items for the next issue should be received by January 19th.

Enjoy the Autumn season, and don't forget to **cut out** the What's On column and put it on your notice board today, or you will miss lots of interesting events.

*Marilyn and David*  
metippett@btinternet.com  
djtollman@btinternet.com

**What's in a name?**

Typing Llanfair and Lloyney Community Newsletter is wearing out our fingers. Can you think of a short, appropriate and snappy title for the new Newsletter? If so, please send it to Marilyn at The Mill by the 31<sup>st</sup> December. There will be a small prize for the chosen name. The Editors' decision will be final!

**JOY HUNT - HAPPY MEMORIES**

A large congregation attended the Family Communion Service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September, joining Sally, Sue, Prue and Jenny in celebrating their mother's life. On entering the Church, everyone was given an oak leaf symbol on which to record their memories of Joy; these were pinned up during the Peace. Sue Hunt read a tribute written by her son, describing Joy's climb up to the top of the Sydney Opera House roof at the age of 87! Ruth Davies read a tribute from the people of Llanfair, sharing the affection in which Joy was held for over 60 years. Following the service, wine and refreshments prepared by the ladies of the parish, were served whilst everyone chatted and caught up with old friends. A letter has been received from the Hunt family expressing thanks and appreciation of "a very special occasion".

St Mary's Church



As part of our preparations for Christmas, we are hoping that you would like to share our small visiting Crib with your family, in your home. Beginning on Advent Sunday, the small Crib, consisting of Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus and "a flock of sheep and lambs"\*, together with a book telling the Nativity Story, will be available for you to borrow for any 24 hr period up to December 24<sup>th</sup> and then passed on to the next family on the list. Whilst in your home you may use the resource to tell the Christmas Story to your children or grandchildren, spending time in prayer or thought. The children amongst you may "borrow" a sheep or lamb to keep at home until Christmas Eve when they are invited to our Crib Service where they will be asked to bring their animals to Church and put them in the Stable, joining the donkey and the cows to complete the nativity.

If you would like to take part could you contact Ruth Davies who has a rota.

This is open to any family in our parish.....you do not need to have children or grandchildren. We hope that many of you will want to share in this preparation for Christmas.

\*"A flock of sheep and lambs" will be of the small, knitted variety. If you can help by producing any of these, Judith Tollman (510672) would be very grateful for your help. She has a simple pattern if necessary. Sheep can be Texel, Black Sheep, Soay, Jacob, etc.

**CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP**

All children and grandchildren from four years upwards are invited to a Christmas Workshop in The Everest Hall on Friday, December 22nd, from 2pm till 4.30pm. There will be art and craft activities, music and drama, with a break for refreshments. We look forward to seeing you.

Robert Taylor and Judith Tollman.

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



## LLANFAIR WATERDINE WI

We hold our meetings on the first Friday in the month in the Everest Hall, starting at 7pm. We would like to welcome those who would be interested in joining this go-ahead group. Our friendly meetings include speakers on a wide variety of subjects, sometimes including demonstrations where members take part and learn about new crafts. The meetings end with a delicious supper.

In August we gathered for our outing to the Trinity Hospital Almshouses at Clun. The Reverend Shaw showed us the Chapel and introduced the history of these attractive cottages, which stand amid lovely, peaceful gardens. A meal was included and the day was enjoyed by all.

Members of Stowe & Stange WI joined us for our meeting in September to hear a very popular speaker, Maddy Lovell, talk of "Health and Therapy". The hall was soon filled with ladies partaking in armchair exercise suiting all abilities, which was accompanied by suitable music and much laughter.

On October 6th, a talk on the "Care and Restoration of Antique Furniture", was given by Michael Haines. He had very many interesting tales of the strange things people do to furniture and the items he has restored.

November 3rd is our AGM and members' "Fun and Games" evening, whilst December will have a seasonal theme with Christmas Sugarcraft.

The programme for 2007 is in the planning stage and will, we hope, have something to suit everyone.

Why not come along and see for yourself what the WI can offer YOU!

Barbara Carter (528895).

### The Wakes

A total of just over £1400 was raised thanks to another very successful and happy day out with events at the Charity Field keeping things going until well into the evening. Too many thanks are due to too many people for them all to be mentioned individually - you know who you are, and thank you all.

### WI Carol Singing

As usual the WI will be singing carols up and down the valley on Wednesday 20th December from 6.30pm. If you would like them to sing for you please contact Mary Morgan (528429). (All refreshments gratefully received!)

### New Book Club

If you like reading, and may be interested in talking to others about a book you have read, then why not think about whether a Book Club would be for you.

We are currently considering setting up a Book Club which would meet in members' homes on a regular basis. The Book Club would be open to men and women so, if you think it might be for you, please ring Helen Henchoz on 520055 to register your interest. A meeting will be held if there are enough responses.

### LLANFAIR SINGERS

Do you have a secret urge to express yourself through singing? If so, the Singers would welcome you, especially if you are a tenor or bass. Rehearsals are held on Friday evenings at the Everest Hall starting at 7.30pm (except on the first Friday of the month as it is WI, the men meet at Melin-Y-Grogue to rehearse).

Currently we are preparing for Christmas and then the concert in 2007. We welcome suggestions about repertoire from choir members and others, so if there something you would like to sing or hear, we will certainly consider it.

The choir secretary is Jean Gardner (528521) who is in charge of choir applications.

The Llanfair Singers are singing at St Mary's on Advent Sunday, 3rd December, 11.00am and Christmas Eve, 24th December, 11.30pm and at the Carol Service in Stowe, 18th December, 7.30pm.

Please come to hear and support them. They are your choir. Richard Lewis.

### Sheep In The Rain

**Not grazing now, but standing all together,  
Rain beading tips of tails and ears,  
The sheep endure in rows across the field,  
Backs to the prevailing wind, poor dears,  
Like some imperfect phalanx, a composite shield  
Against the driving weather.**

**"Why don't the fools get under the trees?"  
I ask, as my sense of pity  
Rapidly turns to exasperation  
And I watch what looks like stupidity  
Over-ruling self-preservation,  
Though, of course, sheep do what they please!**

**So they stand together against the rain,  
Their endless roll-calling on cue:  
"Are you there?" "Yes, yes, I'm here!" "Just taking tally!"  
"Me, too, and you, and you, and you .....?"  
As hundred-acre voices fill the valley,  
Seeking, needing an answer, again, and again, and again.**

Mary Comer.

### Christmas Auction and Hot Supper

Make a note of the date – Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm. Tickets available from Parochial Church Council members at £5. If you have something you wish to donate to the auction, please contact Joan Hobby, Mary Morgan (528429) or Ruth Davies (528592), but if not, just come along and enjoy the fun.

# THE QUIZ

We hope you enjoy this quiz. The answers will be published in the next Newsletter. Whilst it is set to provide entertainment on dark evenings and wet weekends, a small prize will be given to the first correct set of answers drawn by the Editors. Entries are welcome from individuals and families. Please make sure your entry includes your name and contact details and it should be with the Editors by the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2007. Their decision is final.

Question 1: What is the original meaning of the Welsh word Llan? (note: it does not mean church.)

Question 2: The name of one of the townships in Llanfairwaterdine translates into English as Mary's Well - which one is it and where is the well? (provide an OS map reference or a description of the location.)

Question 3: Some farms in our valley have groups of Scots Pine near to them. What did these groups of trees originally signify?

Question 4: What was the original name of the Lloyney Inn?

Question 5: One ancient structure in our valley is associated with one version of the story of King Arthur. Name the structure and the person who is supposed to have been born there.

Question 6: When the border between England and Wales was established following an Act of Parliament in 1536 it followed the course of the River Teme. If you look on the on a map you will see that it does not now always follow the river's course. Why not?

Question 7: Who was Jack Mytton and where exactly does his Way start?

Question 8: What was the name of the teacher at Llanfairwaterdine School in 1901?

Question 9: In 1841 what was the name of the farmer at Llanfair Hall and how many children did he have?

Question 10: When the medieval church of St Mary was demolished and rebuilt in the 1850s part of one structure from the old church was incorporated into the new one. Where is this in the church; what structure was it part of and what unique feature does it have?

## Teme Valley Gardeners' Club

The Club meets on the second Monday of every month at Knucklas Community Centre, starting at 7.30p.m. Every meeting includes a talk on a different aspect of gardening, and there is a plant stall with excellent value plants, and, often, some choice items from the speaker's nursery.

The club is very social, running trips to gardens and arboreta and other events on a regular basis. Why not come along? Visitors are charged £1, but a whole year's membership can be yours for only £6.

The next talk on November 13th is about the Magic of Roses. Forthcoming talks include vegetative propagation, garden design, and violas and pansies. For further information, telephone the secretary, Mrs Avril Hyde, on 529244.

## Luncheon Club

There has been a great response so far to this new group, meeting at the Everest Hall every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. If you'd enjoy a simple lunch and a chat, turn up at 12.30pm. More information from Ruth Davies (528592) if needed.

## Singalong with GRADFJ

Join Ann Matthews at 7.30pm in the Everest Hall on Saturday 4th November and join in the singing, followed by supper and entertainment. Proceeds to go to Knighton Local Health Focus group and St Mary's Church. Tickets, at £4, from Ann (529431) or Ruth Davies (528592).

## ADVANCE NOTICE

**WHEN:**

**WHERE:**

**WHY:**

## BEETLE DRIVE

**SAT 3RD FEBRUARY**

**EVEREST HALL**

**TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE  
NEWSLETTER**

**Tea, squash and home made cakes will be served at half time.**



## FLICKS IN THE STICKS

### THE CHOIR

If you want heart-warming, then you've come to the right place - assuming, that is, that you come to see *The Choir* on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Everest Hall. It is, quite simply, one of the most joyful films of the last year or so: it is beautifully acted, directed, shot, just about perfect in fact - and there ain't many flicks you can say that about these days. No special effects, no guns, just quiet perfection.

Set in the forties at a school in rural France, *The Choir* tells of a teacher with a recalcitrant class who decides to form the said choir to knock the kids into shape. Guess what happens? But it's just great watching what happens happen - with a few tears, some surprises and knockout singing along the way. Don't miss.

### SECOND BEST

*Second Best* is the Christmas film on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> December. It stars, amongst others, William Hurt, who is maybe best known for the steamy thriller *Body Heat* with Kathleen Turner. *Second Best* is a family drama, featuring a young boy whose father is away and who is befriended by the character played by William Hurt. And this particular Flick in the Stick will be of special interest to everyone who lives in the Llanfair area. Why? Well, because it was shot in the valleys and villages around here by local resident, cameraman, and, in this case, director, Oscar-winning Chris Menges (*Kes*, *The Killing Fields*, *The Mission* etc ). So, much of the fun will be spotting familiar faces and places as the dramatic events unfold on screen, thus guaranteeing an enjoyable evening for all kinds of reasons. Don't miss!

MNL

## "Last Friday in the Month" Sales

Many thanks to all friends and neighbours, who have supported the sales since the first one in July 2005. We first advertised them as "sales by the garden gate", but after the first two, when we used a large tent on the lawn, it became obvious that the sensible thing to do would be to invite everyone into the kitchen.

Every month we try to offer a good range of preserves. pickles, chutneys jam etc. and a selection of freshly made breads, bread rolls and cakes. So far we have had only one complete sell out, so it is worth coming along.

In the fourteen months from July 2005 to August 2006, £1250 has been raised. We send the money each month to one of the trustees of the Little Sisters in Jesus Trust, an Anglican Franciscan organisation running the convent and orphanage at Fiwila in Central Zambia. Every penny raised goes to Fiwila to support the work there. In January this year we were able to show a DVD, filmed at Fiwila, showing the children at play, their living and working areas and some of the conservation farming methods. The news from Fiwila is good - here is a quote from the July newsletter:

*"We have had a wonderful year - enough maize grown and gathered, to feed us all until next year.*

*Our vegetables are growing well and the children's hut gardens are also producing their meals. We have prepared the fields for October sowing and have to collect the lime for the conservation holes. Much work done and to be done!*

*May the Lord's blessing be upon you all.*

*Srs Dorothy and Jane"*

There isn't enough space in a newsletter like this to give you more information - so please ask if you are interested.

Denise and Rob Taylor (529706).

Please note that there will be no sale in December but items can be ordered for Christmas.

### LLANFAIR WATERDINE PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday 14th November 2006 at 7.30pm in the Everest Hall.  
Your Parish Councillors are:

Llewellyn Morgan (Chairman)	Selly Hall	528429	Robert Davies	Teme Cottage	528592
Ann George	Runnis	510393	Raymond Mathews	Riverdale Lloyney	528690
Barry Swancott	Lwr Tregodfa	510666	Iorwerth Waters	Brynheulog	528155
Gordon Singleton (Hon Clerk)	Lwr Brynbedw	510625	Jim Williams	Monaughty Poeth	528348



## Offa's Hike

An account of two weeks spent as a Saxon

My name is Alex – I'm an eighteen year old History student from Llanfair, but for two weeks this August I swapped identities with an 8<sup>th</sup> Century Mercian king of some renown – Offa. Dressed, equipped, sheltered and fed much as Offa would have been, I set out to walk the entire length of the Offa's Dyke Path – just short of two hundred miles. But what drove me to undertake such a task? I would like to say that it was my love for history (and perhaps to a greater extent, dressing up), and, although there is some truth in that, my most pressing reason was to raise money for a Raleigh International project in Costa Rica and Nicaragua that I will be working on next February, for which I have to raise £2,700.

What did this epic trek involve? Casting my mind back, blisters, black legs (running dye rather than something medical, thankfully), head lice, fleas, the hundreds of stiles that proliferate along the path's length (I've lost count of the number of times I split my underwear scrambling over the things) and sodden clothes spring readily to mind, but there was more to it than that. The considerable distance was made more challenging by the disappointingly dreary weather (it rained for twelve

days out of fifteen), my lack of 'proper' walking boots and my initial (foolishly optimistic) decision to make the attempt wearing a knee-length jacket of ringmail, which weighs just under two stone on its own.

However, what I thought would pose the biggest problem – the clothing – actually turned out to be surprisingly well-suited to the conditions I faced. The linen shirts and underwear dried out quickly when wet (and remained comfortable even then), and the wool cloak and hauberk (padded jacked) kept me warm, even when I was soaked to the bone (a depressingly frequent occurrence). Indeed, a couple geared up with Gore-Tex and other modern kit actually gave up halfway through, since their clothing had become too uncomfortable in the near-constant rain!

Did I gain anything from this experience? I like to think that I have – the walk tested my physical capabilities as well as my strength of will, and having overcome the obstacles I think I now 'know myself' a little better for it. The memory of the experience too is, and will remain, very valuable personally to me – the memory of the fantastic (if often fog-shrouded), expansive scenery, and the satisfaction of finishing on a sunny day by walking into the sea at Prestatyn, will be one I cherish.

But I didn't do all this on my own – my (positively saintly) mother dropped off a canvas flysheet with my next day's provisions, etc. every night, and I would occasionally walk for a section of the earthwork alongside other walkers. The scarcity of conversational partners along the bulk of the Dyke's length made the little chit-chat I had all the more enjoyable, from the group of Brummies who, in the mist, mistook me for a druid, to the kid in Prestatyn who (upon noticing my outlandish appearance) commented: 'Ooh, very 1977...' – strange, I know, but true.

Looking back, I thoroughly recommend that if you haven't already walked along some or all of its length (and even if you have – the experience changes dramatically with the weather, trust me!), you take the time to do so, be it the stretch past Knighton (one of the best!), or a whole weekend's walking. Go on – you never know who you might meet...

Finally, I would like to thank everyone in the valley who has sponsored me - thanks to them, I have been able to raise over £1,600 towards the project.

Alex Lewis

## WHAT'S ON

Wednesday 1st November	Grass Cutting		
	Coffee Morning	Melin-y-Grogue	11.00am
Friday 3rd November	WI	Everest Hall	7.00pm
Saturday 4th November	Singalong with GRADFJ	Everest Hall	7.30pm
Monday 13th November	Gardening Club	Knucklas	7.30pm
Tuesday 14th November	Parish Council Meeting	Everest Hall	7.30pm
Wednesday 15th November	Lunch Club	Everest Hall	12.30pm
Monday 20th November	Circle Dancing	Everest Hall	7.00pm
Sunday 26th November	Flicks - <i>The Choir</i>	Everest Hall	7.30pm
Friday 1st December	WI	Everest Hall	7.00pm
Sunday 3rd December	Advent Family Service with the Llanfair Singers	Church	11.00am
Wednesday 6th December	Grass Cutting	Broad Oak	
	Coffee Morning	(Joan Hobby)	11.00am
Saturday December 9th	Christmas Auction	Everest Hall	6.30pm
Monday 11th December	Gardening Club	Knucklas	7.30pm
Friday December 15th	Carol Service with Knighton Silver Band	Church	7.30pm
Saturday December 16th	WI Concert	Everest Hall	7.30pm
Monday December 18th	Carol Service with the Llanfair Singers	Stowe Church	7.30pm
Wednesday December 20th	Christmas Lunch Club	Everest Hall	12.30pm
Wednesday December 20th	WI Christmas Carols	Parish	6.30pm
Friday December 22nd	Children's Christmas Workshop	Everest Hall	2.00pm
Sunday December 24th	Crib Service	Church	3.00pm
Sunday December 24th	Midnight Communion with the Llanfair Singers	Church	11.30pm
Thursday December 28th	Flicks - <i>Second Best</i>	Everest Hall	7.30pm
Wednesday January 3rd	Grass Cutting		
	Coffee Morning	Everest Hall	11.00am
Friday January 5th	WI Christmas Party [Contact Mary Morgan (528429) for details]	Everest Hall	7.00pm
Monday January 8th	Gardening Club	Knucklas	7.30pm
Saturday January 27th	Flicks in the Sticks <i>TBA</i>	Everest Hall	7.30pm
Saturday February 3rd	Beetle Drive	Everest Hall	7.00pm
Wednesday February 7th	Grass Cutting		
	Coffee Morning	<i>TBA</i>	11.00am
Saturday February 24th	Flicks in the Sticks <i>TBA</i>	Everest Hall	7.30pm
Every Friday	Yoga	Everest Hall	9.45am

### Wants, needs, for sale

It has been suggested that a column like this would be useful, and so we are proposing to run one for the next edition (February 2007).

**WANTS/NEEDS** will be FREE

**FOR SALE** will be charged on the basis of 50p per item under £20, and £1 per item over £20.

**Please send any ads along with the appropriate sum to Marilyn at The Mill by January 19th 2007.**

At present we are not intending to run advertisements in the Newsletter, although this may change in the future.