

## Corwen Central News



The Dee Valley has of late been lashed by more “Atlantic Lows” in the form of *Storm Freya* and *Storm Gareth*, following on from beautiful hot weather only a couple of weeks earlier. As the



*The Class of 2019 - growing up so fast! Photo: PR*

work moves on, trying to bring the Corwen Station Project to a satisfactory conclusion many people have asked the inevitable question “*When do you expect the station to be open?*” The clue to that answer lies in the opening sentence to this paragraph – “*Atlantic Lows*”! Most of the materials to complete the work are now on site, however digging and moving loads of infill soil does not work well in the rain, not necessarily because it can't be moved but because it can't be laid and

rolled/compacted with any confidence – it's not just about “*throwing muck into a hole*”!! This operation is best done in the dry as it requires layering and then rolling. Attempting this with soggy material only means that it will fail to dry out, will be unstable and will have to be dug out and the process started over. Along with this the construction site needs to be re-arranged, especially the east end - “*Chicken Dock*” - so that work can start on “*Filling the gap*” and laying the cross over. These changes require a lot of time and energy, which by definition means “essential” building work cannot be done. However, whilst all this was happening, the work gang managed to fit the corner posts to the top of the subway, finish off the hoop tops for the subway and to paint the east end platform railings.

### **All afloat with little place to go**

The freak weather created havoc in the Corwen area with much of the car park and surrounding fields underwater. The cause was mainly down to the sluice gates being opened at Llyn Tegid/Bala Lake in order to save the town from the flood waters. Unfortunately one town's lack of flood is another's gain. The lower lying flood plain around Corwen took the “hit”, with the much vaunted “flood relief scheme” just about diverting the worst of the water. Even the pumping station was

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“afloat” within *the bund*, instead of keeping any potential sewage spillage within the confines of the site also kept in the bulk of the flood water!



*View North to the river through the gates of the pumping station* Photo: PR

### Oh what a difference a day makes!

With the workforce being rained off over the weekend of the floods the following week saw an increase in temperature and a return to some bright sunshine with prospects of a gentle drying breeze across the work site.



*With Peter Robson at the controls and Chris Hind and Phil Morrey acting as slingers, Bomag blocks are being stacked using the RRV* Photo: PR

confines of the station site in order to make material deliveries to the west end easier.

The RRV's initial jobs have been to help reorganise the work site by moving pallets of bricks and paving blocks as well as positioning “Bomag” blocks, vulcanised rubber interlocking sleepers which go to make up crossings over railway lines for pedestrians and vehicles. Very soon the only access to the platform loop will be by rail mounted crane and trailer.



*Building the Bomag crossing at the west end* Photo: PR



*Phil Morrey re-clips the west end point after the passage of the RRV* Photo : PR

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This route will be needed to fill out the south batter (embankment) once the sewer connection has been made. Unfortunately, this element is still awaiting approval via Denbighshire County Council so the final link cannot be made.

**All on top**



*Corner posts in place at the top of underpass. Column saddles in between the posts Photo : PR*

After the fitting of the studding to the top of the underpass the refurbished Burnham fence posts have been put in position ready to receive their associated hooped fencing.

Also shown in the accompanying photo are the saddles which will support the canopy columns on their return from

*Barnett Engineering* where they have been cut to the correct height/length with the counter balance/bolting faces put back on.

**Funding and Lucky Numbers**

This month's winner of Lucky Numbers is Phil Morrey, a Fireman in the Loco Department and a member of the Corwen Station Project Work

Gang with **Number 49**. Congratulations go to Phil on his win.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80

*Lucky Numbers*

*This month's winning number is 49*

This month Project Treasurer Paul Bailey is delighted to report that the “Fill the Gap” appeal has just passed £8000, well on the way to the target of £10,000. Paul writes “ Keep the money coming in folks. If you're reading this and have not already donated to our Appeal please can you spare either £25, £50 or even £100?” He would like to remind everyone that donating £100 will bring 4 return tickets to travel our line to/ from Corwen on normal timetabled services which can also be given to family or friends to come and enjoy our Railway and the lovely Dee Valley. With interest rates still very low such a donation represents an exceptional return to your “investment”!

In previous editions of this newsletter reference has been made to donations of paint and materials. Many readers have responded with generous gifts of all manner of tools and materials. As the project has moved forward the emphasis needs to switch back to gifts of paint especially red oxide or rust resist types. There is an increasing need to paint metal which will spend its time out in the open subject to the vagaries of the North Wales

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weather!! However, whatever you might have surplus to requirements give the Corwen Project a call . Your gift could help reduce unnecessary expenditure whilst allowing more specialist materials to be purchased.

Thanks to the efforts of George Jones, who handles the press releases for the Project, good support has been obtained from the local Press such as the Denbighshire Free Press, the BBC and Toby Jennings at *Steam Railway Magazine*. The DFP carried a report about Mark Isherwood AM



Mark Isherwood AM and Liz McGuinness, LR Chairman on a visit to Corwen last year

Photo : PR

*raising a question about heritage railways in general in Wales and the role of the Llangollen Railway in particular as an important tourist attraction to North Wales. Responding to Mr. Isherwood's remarks the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd, Rebecca Evans AM, said "I will make sure that the appropriate Minister writes to you*

*regarding the standard gauge heritage railways, but I will take this opportunity to join you in congratulating the volunteers on the work that they do in order to preserve this part of our heritage and our history, and also to promote and enhance tourism."*

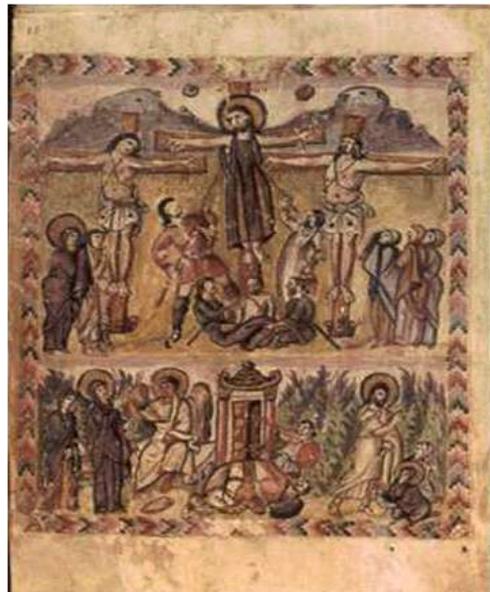
***Please make cheques payable to CCRD (Corwen Central Railway Development )and send to***

***Mr Paul Bailey, Dolwen, Bryneglwys, Corwen, Denbighshire LL21 9LY***

***You can Telephone Paul on 01490 450271 if you wish to pay other than by Cheque.***

***Offers of materials can be made via the LRT by phoning 01978 860979 or via e-mail at [info@llangollen-railway.co.uk](mailto:info@llangollen-railway.co.uk)***

**End Piece**



*Crucifixion from the Rabula Gospels AD 560 Source : Florence, Biblioteca Mediceo Laurenziana*

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“When is Easter this year?”. “Oh I’m not sure I’ll have to look it up on the calendar”. Compare this with Christmas “When is Christmas?”. “ Oh that’s easy - December 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>!!”. Always interesting that one *historical date* can be fixed in celebration whilst another *historical date* has to chase the calendar from mid March to late April in order to be celebrated. Easter and the holidays that are related to it are *moveable feasts* which do not fall on a fixed date in the Gregorian or Julian



A five-part Russian Orthodox icon depicting the Easter story. Eastern Orthodox Christians use a different computation for the date of Easter than the Western churches

calendars which follow only the cycle of the sun; rather, its date is determined on a *lunisolar calendar* similar to the Hebrew calendar. The First Council of Nicaea (AD 325) established two rules, independence of the Jewish calendar and worldwide uniformity, which were the only rules for Easter explicitly laid down by the council. No

details for the computation were specified; these were worked out in practice, a process that took centuries and generated a number of controversies. In Western Christianity, using the Gregorian calendar, Easter always falls on a Sunday between 22 March and 25 April inclusive, within about seven days after the astronomical full moon. The following day, Easter Monday, is a legal holiday in many countries with predominantly Christian traditions.

However, as might be expected things aren't quite this straightforward. For example in AD 725, the Venerable Bede wrote "*The Sunday following the full Moon which falls on or after the equinox will give the lawful Easter.*" However, this does not precisely reflect the ecclesiastical rules. The full moon referred to (called *the Paschal full moon*) is not an astronomical full moon, but the 14th day of a lunar month. Another difference is that the astronomical equinox is a natural astronomical phenomenon, which can fall on 19, 20 or 21 March, while the ecclesiastical date is fixed by convention on 21 March!

Easter is linked to the Jewish Passover by much of its symbolism, as well as by its position in the calendar. In most European languages the feast called Easter in English is termed by the words for passover in those languages and in the older English versions of the Bible the term Easter was the term used to translate passover. Easter customs vary across the Christian world, and include sunrise services, exclaiming the Paschal greeting, “*clipping*” the church (*Clipping the church* - Anglo-Saxon in origin, and is derived from the word "*clyppan*", meaning "embrace" or "clasp" involves either the church congregation or local children holding hands in an outward-facing ring

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around the church. Once the circle is completed onlookers will often cheer and sometimes hymns are sung. Often there is dancing.

Following the ceremony a sermon is delivered in the church and there are sometimes refreshments), and decorating Easter eggs (symbols of the empty tomb). The Easter lily, a symbol of the resurrection, traditionally decorates the chancel area of churches on this day and for the rest of Eastertide.

Additional customs that have become associated with Easter and are observed by both Christians and some non-Christians include egg hunting, the Easter Bunny, and Easter parades. There are also various traditional Easter foods that vary regionally.

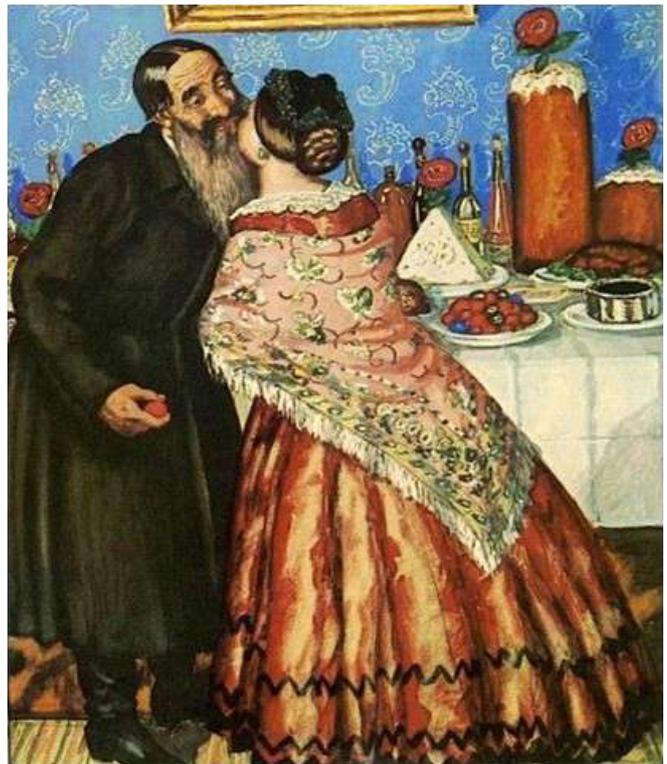


*Hanácké kraslice, a traditional way of decorating Easter eggs with straw in the region of Haná, the Czech Republic. The photograph was taken on an exhibition of egg decorating in Bělkovice-Lašťany in the Czech Republic. Photo Jan Kameníček*

In countries where Christianity is a state religion, or where the country has large Christian population, Easter is often a public holiday. As Easter is always a Sunday, many countries in the world also have Easter Monday as a public

holiday. Some retail stores, shopping malls, and restaurants are closed on Easter Sunday. Good Friday, which occurs two days before Easter Sunday, is also a public holiday in many countries, as well as in 12 U.S. States.

In the Nordic countries Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday are public holidays, and Good Friday and Easter Monday are bank holidays. In Denmark, Iceland and Norway *Maundy Thursday* is also a public holiday.



*Boris Kustodiev's Pascha Greetings (1912) shows traditional Russian khristosovanie (exchanging a triple kiss), with such foods as red eggs, kulich and paskha in the background.*

In the Netherlands both Easter Sunday and Easter Monday are national holidays. Like first and second Christmas Day, they are both considered Sundays, which results in a first and a second

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Easter Sunday, after which the week continues to a Tuesday. In Commonwealth nations Easter Day is rarely a public holiday, as is the case for celebrations which fall on a Sunday.

In Australia, because of its location in the southern hemisphere, Easter takes place in autumn. Hence, Australian Easter is associated with harvest time, rather than with the coming of spring as in the northern hemisphere.

The religious aspect of Easter remains the same. Good Friday and Easter Monday are public holidays across all states and territories. "*Easter Saturday*" is a public holiday in every state except Tasmania and Western Australia.

In the United States, because Easter falls on a Sunday, which is already a non-working day for federal and state employees, it has not been designated as a federal or state holiday.

Easter parades are held in many American cities, involving festive strolling processions, with the New York City parade being the best known.

And finally ..... The custom of the Easter egg originated in the early Christian community of Mesopotamia, (modern day Iraq) who stained eggs red in memory of the blood of Christ, shed at his crucifixion.

As such, for Christians, the Easter egg is a symbol of the empty tomb. The oldest tradition is to use dyed chicken eggs, but a modern custom is to substitute decorated chocolate, or plastic eggs filled with sweets.

Easter eggs are a widely popular symbol of new life in Poland and other Slavic countries' folk traditions. A batik-like decorating process known as *pisanka* produces intricate, brilliantly coloured

eggs which in their final variants were the models for the fabulous Fabergé eggs made for the Russian royal family prior to 1914.



*Osterpostkarte. Arthur Thiele (1919) An Easter postcard depicting the Easter Bunny*

The *Easter Bunny* or *Easter Hare* is a popular legendary Easter gift-giving character analogous to Santa Claus in American culture that was carried across the Atlantic to America in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by German Lutherans. The hare was strongly linked to the early Christian Church as a fertility symbol and depicted in manuscripts and paintings alongside the Virgin Mary.

Since the rabbit is a pest in Australia, *the Easter Bilby* is available as an alternative!!



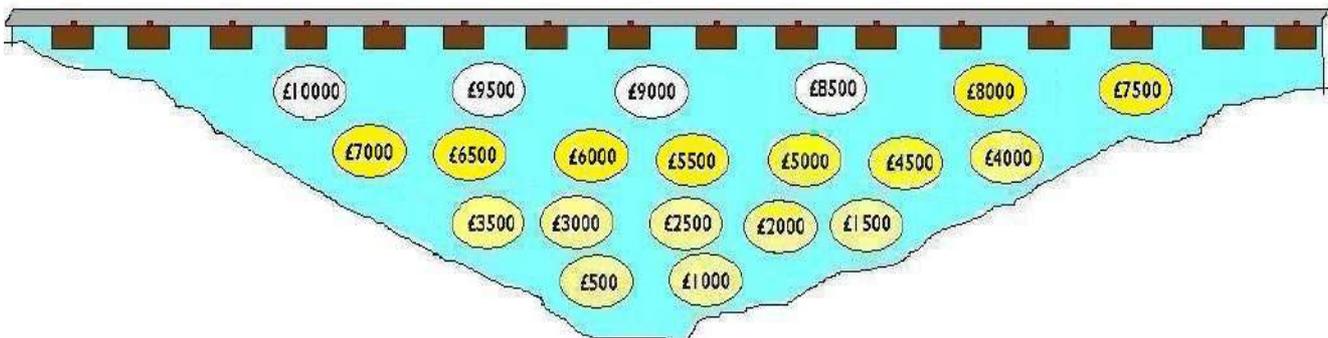
*The Easter Bilby (Macrotis lagotis) Photo: John Gould - "Mammals of Australia", Vol. I Plate 7*

# Corwen Central News

## Filling the Gap - "The Missing Link"

←  
To Corwen Central

→  
To Llangollen



**YES**, I want to help Infill the Gap with the sum of £25/£50/£100, or my own choice of £.....and enclose my cheque payable to CCRD (Corwen Central Railway Development) in support of the Appeal. Donations of £100 and over will receive four tickets for free travel on normal timetable service trains in 2019, not available on special events.

Name.....  
.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Email (for acknowledgement only).....

Cash is equally acceptable if handed in to the Project's Site Office at Corwen during working hours

**Mr Paul Bailey, Dolwen, Bryneglwys, Corwen, Denbighshire LL21 9LY**

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LRT1/2019