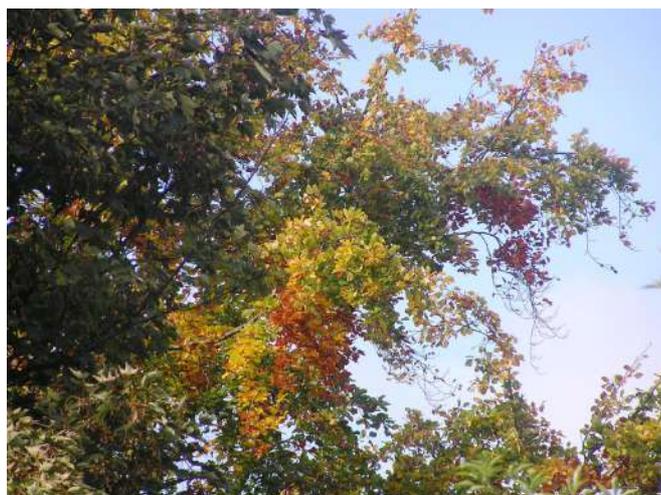


Corwen Central News



The opening of the autumn months has led to the changing of the seasonal colours as the greens and reds have given way to brown, russet and gold. River levels along the Dee

couple of seasons on the West Somerset Railway. The locomotive will be around for a while to include duty with *Thomas the Tank Engine* as well as helping out on this year's *Santa Specials*, before returning to Somerset.



*Autumn colours expressed in sycamore leaves - Acer pseudoplatanus* Photo : PR



*Large Prairie 5199 and Manor 7822 Foxcote Manor meet up again at Carrog during last month's Foxcote Returns Gala* Photo: David Allen

Valley have tended to be on the high side of late as prolonged periods of heavy rain have dominated the weather. However, the project's work gang has remained undaunted and has managed to put in over 1000 hours during the last couple of months. The main activity has been the installation of the east end crossover and UP siding points. Visitors to the Valley have also been regally entertained by the return of Llangollen "favourite" 7822 Manor Class, *Foxcote Manor* which has been away for a

**Crossing over**

Since the delivery of ballast from the stock pile at Bonwm Farm work has moved on a pace to get the crossover which controls entry to platforms 1 and 2 from the main line installed. Hardwood sleepers have been laid in place to receive the crossover components. The geometry for the crossover has proved quite tricky due to the

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confines of the site – a hard meeting between principle and practice!!



Looking east having moved the points to P1 back about 8 metres  
Photo: PR

After a number of trials, the main points leading into platform 2 have been brought forward (eastern direction) about 8 metres thus easing the curve into the platform.



Rail saw being used to cut away old welds and to square off rail ends  
Photo : PR

Rail ends had been been trimmed and drilled to take fishplate bolts, leaving a gap of about 3metres between the line to platform 1 and the main line.



Peter Robson (L) and John Mason use the rail broach to drill fishplate holes  
Photo : PR

With the rail saw returned to active duty and the rain clouds departed for a while the final lengths of track were cut and inserted in the gap. As the month of October drew to a close, there was a continuous main line from the buffer stops at



Joined - but with tamping to be done  
Photo : PR

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Llangollen Station to the buffers stops at Corwen , Green Lane – the western most extremity of the new station. The above photograph shows the completed track prior to tamping and levelling.

### Eastern Hoops

The hooped fence at the top of the underpass has nearly been completed, looking very smart in BR (W) brown. The latest of the hooped panels was attached to its supports by Pentre C&W welder, Neil Powell. The accompanying photograph shows Neil at work alongside the canopy support columns.



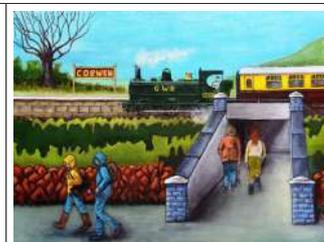
*Welder Neil Powell puts the finishing touches to the latest hooped fence panel* Photo : PR

### What's in a name?

Project carpenter, Ron Stansbie has made and installed a name board at the east end of the platform and has placed it along side the fence. This is clearly visible from the main car park next to the ticket office and gives a clear statement of intent – “we are here and working towards an opening day”. Ron's name board is shown alongside Julie McNamara's painting.



*Corwen Running in awaits the first train*



*Corwen Running in with Pannier 7754*

### Funding and Lucky Numbers

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 72*

This month's winner of Lucky Numbers is Jeremy Price, a member of the locomotive department and a block working signalman, with number 72. Congratulations go to Jeremy on his win.

The Project's Treasurer, Paul Bailey, writes “There has been a gentle influx of funds over the last month, for which I am always very grateful. There are no large ticket items outstanding, but monies that have been raised have been allocated to support the project. There is still one Lampost to

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be sponsored (£800) and one Lantern (£200) a great Christmas present for a rail fan!!”

On a separate matter, Paul would like to draw readers' attention to the Llangollen Railway



*Suburban coach - subject of the latest Suburban Group Appeal*

*Photo : PB*

Suburban Group who are looking for funds/donations towards restoring the last of their fleet of Suburban Coaches (see attached photo ). Anyone who was lucky enough to have visited the railway during the recent Foxcote Gala will have had the opportunity to sample the high standard of workmanship of the existing fleet of coaches. Once restored there will be a rake of six Suburbans and with two Brake coaches offering the opportunity to run two three coach sets.

Donations can be made by cheque payable to "**Llangollen Railway Suburban Group** " and sent to the address below.

**For donation to the Corwen Project - 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 for the Corwen Project 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

*“Cool November brings the fog, should not do it to a dog!”* (A song of the weather Flanders/Swann) and along with this *“Gunpowder, Treason and Plot”* to be celebrated by the letting off of thousands of fireworks and the lighting of many bonfires, topped in some cases with an effigy of the arch-villan of the day Guy Fawkes! (In the Republic of Ireland Guy Fawkes tends to be replaced by an effigy of Oliver Cromwell to mark the sacking of the town of Drogheda and the killing of 3,500 Royalist soldiers and civilian men).



*Festivities in Windsor Castle by Paul Sandby 1776*

Guy Fawkes Night originates from the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, a failed conspiracy by a group of provincial English Catholics to assassinate the Protestant King James I of England and replace him with a Catholic head of state. In the immediate aftermath of the 5 November arrest of Guy Fawkes, caught guarding a cache of explosives placed beneath the House of Lords, James's Privy Council allowed the public to celebrate the king's survival with bonfires, so long

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as they were "*without any danger or disorder*". This made 1605 the first year the plot's failure was celebrated. The following January, days before the surviving conspirators were executed, Parliament passed the *Observance of 5th November Act*, commonly known as the "*Thanksgiving Act*". It was proposed by a Puritan Member of Parliament,



*Effigy of Guy Fawkes burning in Billericay 2010*

*Photo : William Warby*

By 1670 London apprentices had turned 5<sup>th</sup> November into a fire festival, attacking not only popery but also "*sobriety and good order*", demanding money from coach occupants for alcohol and bonfires. The burning of effigies continued in 1673 when Charles's brother, the Duke of York, converted to Catholicism. In response, accompanied by a procession of about 1,000 people, the apprentices fired an effigy of the *Whore of Babylon*, bedecked with a range of papal symbols. Similar scenes occurred over the following few years. On 17 November 1677, anti-Catholic fervour saw the Accession Day marked

by the burning of a large effigy of the pope—his belly filled with live cats "*who squalled most hideously as soon as they felt the fire*"—and two effigies of devils "*whispering in his ear*". Two years later, an observer noted that "*the 5th at night, being gunpowder treason, there were many bonfires and burning of popes as has ever been seen*". Violent scenes in 1682 forced London's militia into action, and to prevent any repetition the following year a proclamation was issued, banning bonfires and fireworks.

At some point, for reasons that are unclear, it became customary to burn Guy Fawkes in effigy, rather than the pope. Gradually, Gunpowder Treason Day became Guy Fawkes Day. In 1790 The Times reported instances of children "...



*A group of children in Caernarfon, November 1962, stand with their Guy Fawkes effigy. The sign reads "Penny for the Guy" in Welsh. Photo : Geoff Charles*

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begging for money for Guy Faux", and a report of 4<sup>th</sup> November 1802 described how "*a set of idle fellows... with some horrid figure dressed up as a Guy Faux*" were convicted of begging and receiving money, and committed to prison as "*idle and disorderly persons*". Lower class rioting continued, with reports in Lewes of annual rioting, intimidation of "*respectable householders*" and the rolling through the streets of lit tar barrels. In Guildford, gangs of revellers who called themselves "*guys*" terrorised the local population. Similar problems arose in Exeter, originally the scene of more traditional celebrations. In 1831 an effigy was burnt of the new Bishop of Exeter Henry Phillpotts, a High Church Anglican and High Tory who opposed Parliamentary reform, and who was also suspected of being involved in "*creeping popery*". A local ban on fireworks in 1843 was largely ignored, and attempts by the authorities to suppress the celebrations resulted in violent protests and several injured constables.



*The Guy Fawkes of 1850 - a commentary on the restoration of the Catholic hierarchy in England, in 1850*  
Cartoon : Punch Magazine

Gradually, however, such scenes became less popular. With little resistance in Parliament, the thanksgiving prayer of 5<sup>th</sup> November contained in the Anglican Book of Common Prayer was abolished, and in March 1859 *the Anniversary Days Observance Act repealed the Observance of 5th November Act*. As the authorities dealt with the worst excesses, public decorum was gradually restored.

The sale of fireworks was restricted, and the Guildford "*guys*" were neutralized in 1865, although this was too late for one constable, who died of his wounds. Violence continued in Exeter for some years, peaking in 1867 when, incensed by rising food prices and banned from firing their customary bonfire, a mob was twice in one night driven from Cathedral Close by armed infantry. Further riots occurred in 1879, but there were no more bonfires in Cathedral Close after 1894.



*Wakefield Fireworks 2014 Photo : Stephen Bowler*

Elsewhere, sporadic instances of public disorder persisted late into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, accompanied by large numbers of firework-related accidents, but a national *Firework Code* and improved public safety has in most cases brought an end to such things.