

Corwen Central News

Once again, North Wales was subject to prolonged rain storms as the beauty of May turned to wet and overcast June. A number of properties along the Dee



Taking advantage of high water at Llangollen

Photo : PR

Valley were flooded, including the *Ty Canol* caravan park where water from the hillside ran into a pond and caused it to overflow, whilst at Rossett, the River Alyn burst its banks flooding the garden of the *Alyn Pub* which sits alongside the river.



Awash at the Alyn Pub

Photo Tony Sexton

Further afield the town of Wainfleet in Lincolnshire was awash as the River Steeping overcame its flood banks causing damage to many homes before spreading out across 500 acres of adjacent farm land. Despite all of this, the Project's workforce has managed to get on site completing the UP platform wall, adding

track panels to check the crossover alignment and removing the last vestiges of the “*Chicken Dock*” entrance!

Turning the Corner

Whilst work has continued at the west end to prepare for the installation of the wheel chair lift (see CCNL Passim), the building of the east end platform ramp has been completed.



John Mason and Peter Robson working on the ramp

Photo: PR

The original design did not contain a ramped end, just a “squared off” corner. However, the addition of a small ramp will provide a safe staff only access from the platform to rail level.

End of the road

The closure of the cut through the formation, which gave access to what became “Chicken Dock” and the Welsh Water Treatment Works has been “officially” marked by the removal of the large metal gate. This has been replaced by a paling fence, parts for which were recovered from the Corwen East site and a pedestrian gate leading

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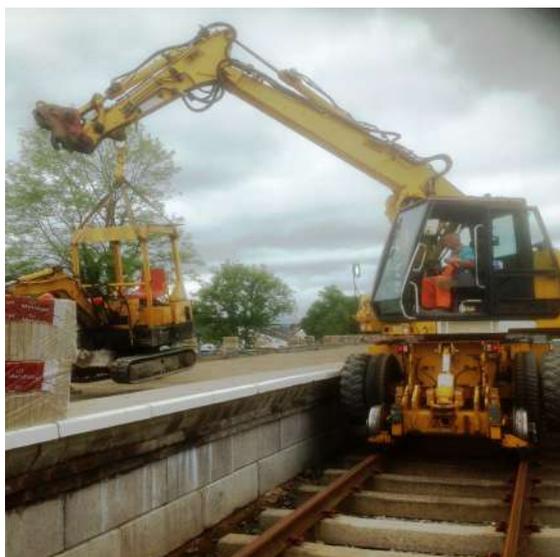


Peter Neve at the new gate

Photo: GJ

to a path up to rail level. The work was carried out by the Fencing Gang, led by Vic Taylor.

A consequence of this move is that the machinery used on the construction site is now “locked” onto the site, the only way out being by rail!!



Due to restricted access mini digger is lifted on to the platform

Photo : PM

Just the Ticket

The Corwen Station team, led by Station Master, Wayne Ronneback have now fitted out the ticket office in readiness for any opening date for the new station.



Ticket Office with ramp in place

Photo : PR

Wheelchair ramps have been added, by Project carpenter Ron Stansbie, using reclaimed/donated materials from the Health Centre refurbishment and from recovered and recycled wood, screws etc from the temporary platform at Corwen East.



Inside the ticket office Pat Reynolds talks to Phil Valentine and Bob Creasey

Photo: PR

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The ticket office was open for the first time to public inspection during the Food Festival which spread across the Common and into old Pavilion car park. Seeing the area so busy, the whole scene would have been completed by the arrival of a train from Llangollen bringing additional visitors to the festival. Great potential here for both the town and the railway.



Across the common to the Food Fair with Chicken Dock in the far background Photo : PR

This month's winner of Lucky Numbers is **John Bearne**, the Plc's Director for Health and Safety and a member of the Corwen Project's work force - with **Number 38**. Congratulations go to John on his win.

In his recent report to the Project management committee, treasurer Paul Bailey notes that income has risen to £114,241, which after current disbursements leaves the support fund with £87,105 to set against upcoming contractor bills and payment for materials already on site as well as those in the pipeline.

Paul is still keen to let supporters know that donations to the project are still needed, that tickets are still available on the Corwen Central Express – the first double-header into the new station.

For funding matters and tickets for the CCE please contact Paul Bailey at the address below

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

Funding and Lucky Numbers

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|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 20

End Piece

"In July the sun is hot! Is it shining? No it's not!!" From "Song of the weather" – Michael Flanders /Donald Swann

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And so to **St. Swithun's Day** celebrated on July 2nd in Norway (and formerly in Medieval Wales) and on July 15th in the UK.



Statue of St. Swithun on Stavanger Cathedral Photo: Nina Aldin Thune

St Swithun was Bishop of Winchester from his consecration on 30th October 852 until his death on 2nd July 863. However, he is scarcely mentioned in any document of his own time. His death is entered in the Canterbury manuscript of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (MS F) under the year 861. He is recorded as a witness to nine charters, the earliest of which (S 308) is dated 854.

More than a hundred years later, when Dunstan and Æthelwold of Winchester were inaugurating their church reform, Swithun was adopted as

patron of the restored church at Winchester, formerly dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul.

The name of Swithun is best known today for a British weather lore proverb, which says that if it rains on St. Swithun's day, 15th July, it will rain for 40 days.

St Swithun's day if thou dost rain

For forty days it will remain

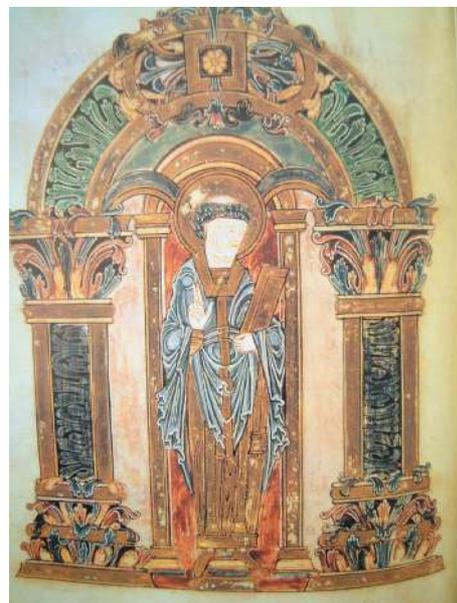
St Swithun's day if thou be fair

For forty days 'twill rain nae mare

A Buckinghamshire variation has

If on St Swithun's day it really pours

You're better off to stay indoors.



Swithun shown in the Benedictional of St. Æthelwold, Winchester, 10th century. Manuscript in the British Library

Swithun was initially buried out of doors, rather than in his cathedral, apparently at his own

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request. William of Malmesbury recorded that the bishop left instructions that his body should be buried outside the church, *ubi et pedibus praetereuntium et stillicidiis ex alto rorantibus esset obnoxius* [where it might be subject to the feet of passers-by and to the raindrops pouring from on high].

In 971, it was decided to move his body to a new indoor shrine, and one theory traces the origin of the legend to a heavy shower by which, on the day of the move, the saint marked his displeasure towards those who were moving his remains. This story, however, cannot be traced further back than the 17th or 18th century. It is at variance with the 10th century writers, who all agreed that the move took place in accordance with the saint's desire expressed, conveniently for those ordering the move, “*in a vision*”.



St Swithun's memorial shrine at Winchester Cathedral with Fedorev's iconostasis on the retroquire behind Photo : WyrdLight.com

His body was probably later split between a number of smaller shrines. His head was certainly detached and, in the Middle Ages, taken to Canterbury Cathedral. Peterborough Abbey got an

arm! His main shrine was transferred into the new Norman cathedral at Winchester in 1093. He was installed on a '*feretory platform*' above and behind the high altar.

The retro-choir was built in the early 13th century to accommodate the huge numbers of pilgrims wishing to visit his shrine and enter the '*holy hole*' beneath him. His empty tomb in the ruins of the Old Minster was also popular with visitors. The shrine was only moved into the retro-choir itself in 1476. It was demolished in 1538 during the English Reformation. A modern representation of it now stands on the site.



Statue of St. Swithun originally on the façade of Winchester Cathedral; now housed in the Crypt. Photo : David Spender

The most false the prediction has been, according to the *Guinness Book of Records*, were 1924, when 13.5 hours of sunshine in London were followed by 30 of the next 40 days being wet, and 1913 when a 15-hour rainstorm was followed by 30 dry days of 40!! Best to take sun cream and an umbrella – just in case.....