

Corwen Central News



The evenings are steadily drawing in as long shadows are cast across the Dee Valley again, with both visitors and residents wondering what has happened as we enter the last quarter of the year??



7822 "Foxcote Manor" heads west to Carrog, fitting neatly into the landscape dominated by the Clwydian Range

Photo: Joy Beresford

For the most part nothing has changed other than that brought on by the usual seasonal and unseasonal weather.

In many cases, the last few months have witnessed vigorous growth, bringing an abundance of wild flowers and berries- hips, haws and blackberries, much of it now "on the turn". With the restart of train services at the beginning of August visitors have once again been able to sample the joys of the Dee Valley,



Common burdock (*Arctium pubens*)

Photo: PR

so many contrasts in a relatively short distance. In the meantime the Corwen Work Gang have



Hogweed (*Heracleum spondylium*)

Photo : PR

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been busy installing steelwork at the west end of the station, completing the drains, checking and testing the station's electrics, supervising and supporting the laying of the platform pavers and helping with the installation of the point rodding and ground frame.

A framework to build on

Last month saw the pouring of concrete and the erection of the last two *Black Friars* canopy support columns, whilst this month has seen the installation of the main frame designed to take the weight of the canopy. Readers may recall that a steel frame has had to be designed to go within the footprint of the on-platform station building not only carry the proposed canopy but to hold it in place bearing in mind its very exposed position above the river flood plain.



Frame under construction Ron Stansbie and John Mason
Checking measurements Photo: PR

The frame has been built by *Barnett Engineering*, who were responsible for producing the water tower, now so much a part of the station building scape. After a trial fitting at Barnett's works the

frame was delivered to the west end where of the Corwen site where it was unloaded by the RRV, which was also instrumental in its final



Bricking and concrete gang filling in round the posts

Photo : PR

installation. Barnett's own team of engineers were responsible for all the work, whilst Peter Robson was at the controls of the RRV.

The accompanying photos show the progress of the works. Once the building receives its outer skin the steel frame will no longer be visible, whilst retaining its supporting role.

Draining away

In order to achieve the paving result, the drains had to be completed to carry any rainwater away from the surface.

The photos show a gentle slope from each platform edge to the centre where gridded drainage troughs receive the water, most of which is deposited into the original, 1863, stone lined drain, before being discharged into the river.

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Completed platform surface showing gentle slope to the centre and drains
 Photo : PR

A surface to walk on

So much effort has gone into the building of the station, over the last 6 years. This amounts to 73,500 man hours, much of which will now be lost to sight as the longed for platform surface is added. This consists of 306 edging slabs, 789 tactile warning slabs and 36,000 paving blocks, completed with a traditional herringbone pattern in the centre section. The gap between the platform walls has been infilled with



(L-R) Ron Stansbie, Peter Neve and Paul Whitton sit on the platform beneath the newly installed running in board
 Photo : GJ

approximately 2,200 cubic metres of material from the Ruthin Spur, levelled, rolled and topped with approximately 100 tonnes of limestone fines onto which the paving blocks have been laid. The result is a beautiful tribute to the block pavers' craft and a platform to be proud of!!

Turning Point

Over the last month or so, components have been delivered to complete the east end crossover with point rods linked to the ground frame. Huw Parker, along with other members of the S&T team have been on site to link the various



Point rods and crank near the signal box base Photo: PR

components together, the final adjustment of which will have to wait until the rails are ballasted



Groundframe base awaiting the frame seen in the background Photo: PR

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and tamped and welded joints are added to secure the curve into the UP platform.

End Piece

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 **71***



Illustration of warriors fighting. This illustration typifies the classic view of the early Celts as fierce and individual warriors (National Museum of Wales)

This month's winner of Lucky Numbers is **Colin Adams with number 71**. Congratulations go to Colin on his win and many thanks for his continued support of the Corwen Project.

For donations to the Corwen Project - Please make cheques payable to CCRD (Corwen Central Railway Development)

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

Today, Wales is considered a Celtic nation, one of a family of nations and regions along the Atlantic fringes of western Europe. This Celtic identity is widely accepted, contributing powerfully towards a modern national identity. Classical authors first recorded the Celts over 2,500 years ago - but who were the earliest Celts?

The early Celts rarely wrote about themselves. To the Greeks, they were known as *Keltoi*, *Keltai* or *Galatai* and to the Roman *Celti*, *Celtae* and *Galli*. First mention of the Celts was made by the Greek authors between 540 and 424BC. But the most valuable insights are provided by Roman authors - as the Roman world was expanding, they came in direct contact with the Celts on their northern borders.

The Classical texts are incomplete, often copied long after the event. The information we have therefore provides, at best, occasional 'snap shot' glimpses of Celts.

Early sources place Celts in western Europe and also occupying land near the headwaters of the Danube river. Their home territories have often been traced to central and eastern France, extending across southern Germany and into the Czech Republic.

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Coin of the Roman Republic showing the head of a Gaul with lime-washed hair. The Roman historian Diodorus Siculus describes this tradition in his writings. Such sources offer brief and possibly distorted 'snap shots' of the Celts (National Museum of Wales)

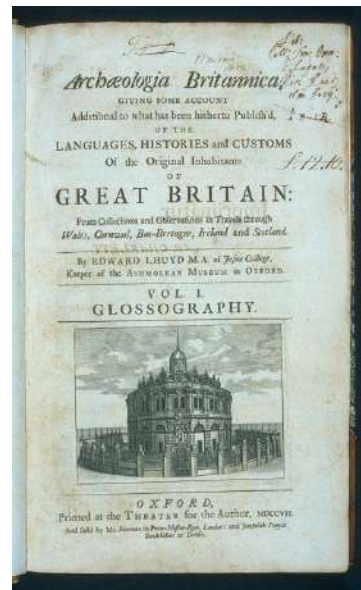
Interestingly, none of the Classical texts refer to the peoples of Britain and Ireland as Celts; instead, specific tribes and leaders are named during the 1st centuries BC and AD. By the time of the Roman invasion of Britain, four tribal peoples occupied areas of modern day Wales:

- Ordovices (north-west)
- Deceangli (north-east)
- Demetae (south-west)
- Silures (south-east)

To understand how Celts first came to be associated with Wales, we must turn to the historical development of Celtic linguistics (the study of languages).

George Buchanon, a 16th-century scholar, suggested that the peoples of continental Europe had once spoken a related group of Gallic languages. Since modern Welsh, Irish and Scots Gaelic were similar to these ancient languages, the people of Britain, it was argued, originally came from France and Spain.

A pioneering study by Edward Lhuyd in 1707 recognised two families of Celtic languages, P-Celtic or Brythonic (Welsh, Breton, Cornish) and Q-Celtic or Goidelic (Irish, Scots Gaelic, Manx)



Edward Lhuyd's Archaeologia Britannica (1707). This pioneering study led to the recognition of two families of Celtic languages. (National Museum of Wales)

The Brythonic languages were assumed to have come from Gaul (France), whilst the Goidelic languages were given an Iberian (Spain, Portugal) origin.

During the 18th century, people who spoke Celtic languages were seen as Celts. The ancient inhabitants of Wales, were therefore increasingly known as Celts.

Tracing the beginnings of Celtic languages is difficult. Most agree that they derive from an earlier language known as 'proto-Indo-European'. This probably reached western Europe through the movement of peoples, possibly from Central Asia between 6000 and 2000BC. Unfortunately, there is little agreement over precisely when this occurred

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and when and how Celtic languages subsequently developed.

On current understanding, Celtic languages have their origins at some time between 6000 and 600BC, with the earliest known inscriptions in a Celtic language being found in Northern Italy and dating to the 6th century BC.

Art and archaeology



Detail of triskele, about 11cm (4.3 inches) across, on a plaque from Llyn Cerrig Bach (Anglesey). This notable example of La Tène art is typically interpreted as evidence for a Celtic artistic tradition. (National Museum of Wales)

The appearance of a new style of art during the 5th century BC and its later spread across much of Europe has frequently been interpreted by archaeologists as evidence for a common Celtic culture or identity.

Celtic art was recognised and named by British scholars during the mid 19th century. However, it was not until 1910-14 that the earliest objects decorated in this style were traced to a common cultural area of north-east France, southern Germany and the Czech Republic.

It was named the La Tène culture, after an important collection of decorated metalwork discovered at a site on the edge of Lake Neuchâtel in Switzerland. The spread of La Tène or Celtic art across Europe, including Britain and Ireland,

was for a long time interpreted as invasions by Celtic people.

More recently, British archaeologists have become increasingly dissatisfied with the idea of Celts invading Britain and of a 'Celtic' society sharing language, art, religious belief and identity. There is little conclusive evidence amongst the archaeological remains for large-scale arrivals of a new people from the Continent.

The archaeology of the Iron Age in Britain is suggesting a mosaic of regional societies, each with their own distinctive identity. This is at considerable odds with a uniform Celtic culture. Archaeologists have also become more critical of their own assumptions when interpreting Iron Age sites.

The presence of La Tène art in Wales need not indicate invading Celts, it could equally show the spread of a fashion across many societies or suggest long-distance exchange contacts. At the same time, we now know that much of the later La Tène art is distinctively British in style and largely absent in Continental Europe.

Debate has surrounded the notion of the Celts since scholars first began to examine it, and this discussion is set to continue.



St Piran's day in Penzance with the Cornish flag of St.Piran

Photo : Reedrunner