

Corwen Central News



During this month the Dee Valley found itself engrossed in the battle between the Beast from the East and Storm Emma with many roads blocked and villages, cut off . The main culprit was Emma, sweeping in from the west and driving the snow onto north and west facing



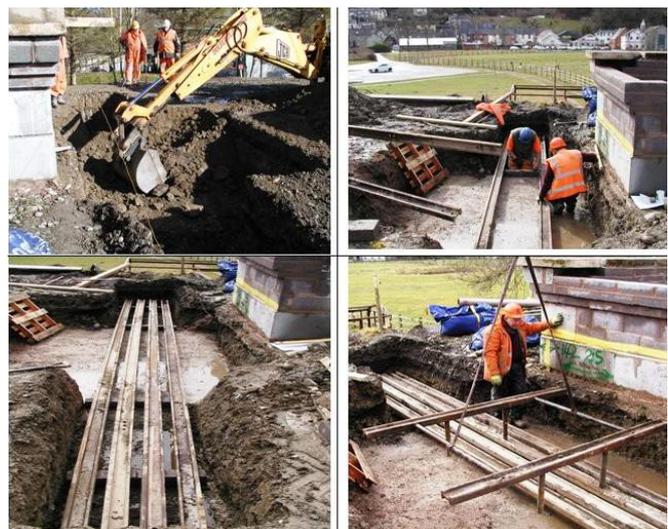
Looking SW towards Gribin Oernant and Moel y Faen - and the remains of the battle between "The Beast from the East" and Storm "Emma"
Photo : PR

slopes as well as into narrow lanes and hedge rows. Little seemed to move for at least a week until the temperatures started to rise as quickly as they had sunk. Even the doughty Project Team had to take time away from the frozen snow swept Corwen Central site. However, cheered by subsequent sunshine and blue skies attention was turned to digging out the foundation trench for the water tower, building

the east end single platform, planning and installing the site electrical cable runs as well water services to the island platform

Supporting the Tower

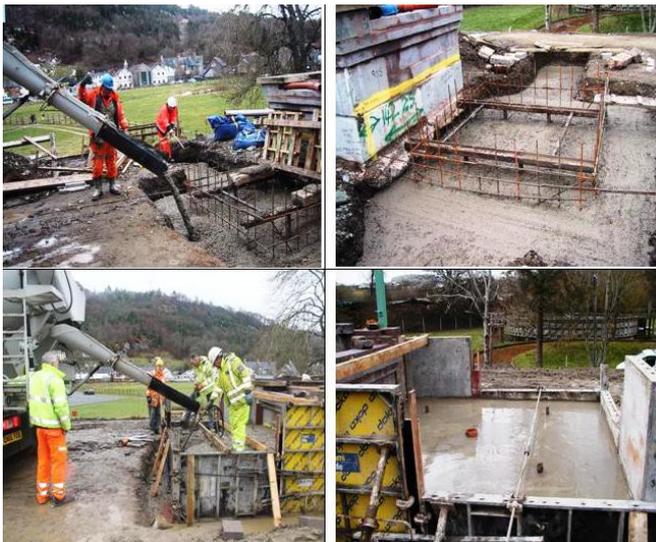
Local contractor Arwel Dolben opened proceedings by digging out the water tower foundation trench. He and his trusty JCB Sitemaster set to work and had the job completed within a couple of hours! Next, members of the Project work team cleaned up the trench adding a light concrete scree ready to receive four longitudinally placed bullhead rails which would be topped by a bolting frame contained within a reinforced concrete cube.



Clock wise from top left - digging trench, setting out old bull head rails, rails in position, lowering and locating support frame
Photos: PR

Corwen Central News

It is worth reminding readers that although this can look very “over engineered” the base has got to support the steelwork and 10 tonnes of water - looking a bit like a toffee apple on a stick!!



Clock wise from top left 1st layer of concrete, re-bar and frame in place, final concrete flow for pedestal block, completed work showing pedestal securing bolts and tower water feed pipe

Photos: PR/PN

Once it has been constructed it's there to stay. Accompanying photos show the various stages in its building. The water tower itself has now been painted and remains in store at Barnett's Engineering works until required on site later this year.

Pump House



PH floor and access now complete

Photo: PR

The delivery of concrete for the water tower base included sufficient to finish off the pump house floor and surrounding access. With the PH's frame now secured attention can turn to the addition of the cladding.

The East End

The east end of the platform, like the west end, consists of a short single platform to allow for the curve from Platform 1 (UP) to join with the east end ground frame controlled point. Footings have been dug for about 8 metres on which cement blocks have been laid on a concrete base.



East wall mostly complete for length and height

Photo : PR

This part of the job is essential if the correct line of Platform 1 is to be determined. Once the ground works have been completed for the water tower, the track in Platform 2 can be brought eastwards in order to locate the loop point relative to Platform 2.

The West End

Work on the Wheelchair ramp has been completed as far as grading the ramp is concerned, whilst most of the spear top fencing has been added. The west end point has now been completed including cleaning, re-

Corwen Central News

greasing, lever painting and wood preservative put on the sleepers.



West end hand point now looking "the part"

Photo : PR

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

Lucky Numbers

This month's winning number is 35

This month's winner of Lucky Numbers is Gerald Williams with **Number 35**. Gerald is a new member of the Corwen East Station Team with this being his 1st month in the raffle having responded to the call of Project Treasurer, Paul Bailey to take up one of the two

numbers that had become vacant at the beginning of the year. Congratulations go to Gerald on his win a long with a cheque for £50!

The "Tenner for a Tonne Appeal" including the "Five For Fifty" now stands at £5240 but still a good way from the £10,000 target. The "Tenners" or "Fifties" need to keep coming as they are urgently require to pay for the removal of spoil from the Ruthin Spur for the Island Platform infill.

Readers are reminded that the "Fifties" come with the added bonus of two return tickets on the fist "double header" in to Corwen Central .

An application form is available on the last page.

Finally the call is still out for redundant or surplus materials but **with emphasis this month on paint** – internal or external varieties/colours and especially red oxide used as a base for iron and steel. The colour of the paint is immaterial as it can be used as undercoat to the chosen corporate top coats!

For donations

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

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

And

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

Corwen Central News

End Piece

It was reported at the beginning of the year that Kirklees Borough Council are planning to build on the site of the grave (alleged) of Robin Hood, near Kirklees Priory. The famed outlaw supposedly shot an arrow from his sick bed in the Priory and where it came to earth there he wanted to be buried after his subsequent demise.



Kirklees Priory the alleged burial place of Robin Hood

Photo : J.P. Coats

The place is a must see by “Hoodies” from all over the world. It is not certain where Kirklees Borough Council is going to go with this? Nearer to home sees the 215th anniversary of the birth of George Borrow, (1803-1881) who during the middle of the 19th century went on a *Wild Walk* through Wales, starting in Llangollen and finishing in Tregaron bringing Victorians tales of Twm Siôn Cati - Wales' own Robin Hood with his yen to stir up the citizenry of Tudor South Wales! Whilst the origins and doings of Robin Hood are bound up in uncertainty, Medieval uncertainty, myth and songs of 16th Century balladeers, the existence of Twm Siôn Cati appears to have been made of sterner stuff!!

Tales about him vary on details, but he is usually said to have been born in or very near to Tregaron in or

around 1530, his mother being one Cati Jones of Tregaron. His father was supposed to be Siôn ap Dafydd ap Madog ap Hywel Moetheu of Porth-y-ffin, also near Tregaron. He was an illegitimate son whom his mother named Thomas/Tom/Tomos or Twm. It was much the done thing for children with common names to be nicknamed after their mothers. Thus he became known as Twm Siôn Cati – Tom the son of Cati/Katie

He was supposedly a Protestant by faith at a time when Mary 1st of England a Catholic monarch, ruled and he had to gain an income as best he could, choosing robbery as his trade as his religion had him marked out as a rebel. As a young man he fled to Geneva in 1557 to escape the law. After the accession of the Protestant Queen Elizabeth 1st, he was able to obtain a pardon for his thievery, enabling his return to Wales in 1559.

Twm was active in West Wales with forays into England, in the late sixteenth century. Stories centre on his tricks, with which he outwitted law-abiding people and criminals alike.



Twm Siôn Cati - Highwayman - more 18th century Dick Turpin than 16th Century robber

Illustration : Historic Uk.com

Corwen Central News

Although the original tales became part of the oral tradition there were later a number of written stories of Twm Siôn Cati. An English Language pamphlet, *Tomshone Catty's Tricks*, was printed in 1763. William Frederick Deacon wrote two books involving him in the 1820s. In 1828, T J Llewelyn Prichard's *The Adventures and Vagaries of Twm Shon Catti, descriptive of Life in Wales* was published.

Enlarged (and somewhat altered) editions of this followed. An eight-page pamphlet, *Y Digrifwr*, was published in 1844, its subtitle admirably describing its contents ("The jokester: a collection of feats and tricks of Thomas Jones of Tregaron, Cardiganshire, he who is generally known under the name Twm Sion Catti"). George Borrow, walking through Wild Wales in 1854, heard several tales about Twm from a fellow-traveller on the way to Tregaron and later read what was probably Prichard's book.



George Henry Borrow (1803-1881 (aged 78 years) Portrait - 1843 by Henry Wyndham Phillips now in the National Portrait Gallery

Borrow disapproved of the veneer of respectability in Prichard's book: "*Its grand fault is endeavouring to invest Twm Shon with a character of honesty, and to make his exploits appear rather those of a wild young waggish fellow than of a robber.*" According to the stories which Borrow picked up around Tregaron, Twm's career was more straightforward -

"Between eighteen and nineteen, in order to free himself and his mother from poverty which they had long endured, he adopted the profession of a thief, and soon became celebrated through the whole of Wales for the cleverness and adroitness which he exercised in his calling".

This rather "sniffy" opinion by Borrow didn't prevent him from recounting a story in which a farmer is hunting Twm over the theft of a bullock. The farmer reaches Twm's mother's house and asks whether Twm Shone Catti lives there. A beggar answers that he does, and agrees to hold the farmer's horse and whip for him. As the farmer goes into the house, the beggar jumps onto the horse: it is Twm.

He gallops to the house of the farmer and tells the farmer's wife that the farmer is in trouble, needs money urgently, and has sent Twm to fetch it, with the horse and whip to prove that the message really came from the farmer. The farmer's wife pays up. Twm, now in possession of the farmer's money and horse, hastily departs for London, later selling the horse.

The moralising and adventures appealed to the Victorian sense of righteousness. Even so Twm's activities do not appear to be much about robbing the rich to pay the poor – a sort of early welfare state – more about robbing to keep his own family solvent!!

For those interested in Twm's origins and myths the following website might be of interest.

www.rhandirmwyn.net/twmsioncati/

Corwen Central News

CORWEN PLATFORM APPEAL

“FIVE FOR FIFTY”

I would like to donate £50 for Five Tonnes of infill for the Corwen Station Island Platform and claim my 2 Tickets on the CCE (Corwen Central Express)

Please make Cheques payable to
Corwen Central Railway Development or CCRD and send to
Mr Paul Bailey, Dolwen, Bryneglwys, Corwen, Denbighshire LL21 9LY

Contact Details Name :

Address :

Phone E/Mail :