

# NEWSLETTER

Edition #1: March 2025



## Welcome to the new Builth Wells Town Council quarterly Newsletter.

As a Town Council we are committed to informing our community about what the Council does, as well as other areas of interest; from council projects and meeting summaries to local initiatives and community highlights, we are here to keep you informed and involved.

Our **Bee and Butterfly Garden** behind the doctors surgery is currently being given a new lease of life with new volunteers taking on the challenging task of clearing away and planting new flowers. If you have any spare time why not pop along and give them a hand. The team are currently working every other weekend. Please contact the Town Clerk for further information (Contact details on last page of this newsletter)



## The Town Council currently has two vacancies for Councillors.

- Are you enthusiastic about Builth Wells and want to make a difference?
- Is there something you want to change for the better?
- Are you ready to take challenging decisions?

Then why not stand for what you care about and become a Builth Wells Town Councillor? If you are interested, please contact the Town Clerk on the details shown on the last page of this newsletter.

**Builth Wells Town Council gives £400 sponsorship for a girls' rugby tour from Ysgol Calon Cymru to Manchester.**



The school is planning to take 40 girls between year 8 and 11 on the tour in March 2025. It will involve visiting local smaller clubs and playing against them – giving the girls an opportunity to experience rugby, different communities, and meet many different people who will influence their playing techniques and as many of these pupils are also sports ambassadors for the school, they will bring their experience back to benefit other pupils in the school.

Councillor Mark Hammond told Council members that girls sport is up and coming, particularly girls rugby, and that it would send a positive message from the council in respect of young person's sport and girls sport in particular.

### **The Croeso Site.**

We are excited to announce that we will be doing an overhaul of the Croeso site in the Town Centre in the next few months, which will include painting, repairing or renewing the benches and replacing the decorative tiles which have been worn down or broken.

The site is owned by a private individual, with the lease being held by Powys County Council.



We have been liaising with the County Council to get permission to undertake the work. This has now been received. We hope the work we undertake will make an enormous difference to the look of the area, increasing the appeal of the Town Centre to residents and visitors alike.

## **Efforts being made to rejuvenate the Chamber of Trade in Builth Wells.**



Builth Mayor Gwyn Davies is working hard to rejuvenate the Chamber of Trade. Before Covid there were 10 or 12 members of the chamber, some have retired or left business, but we have still got great businesses in the town,

some new blood, and people with some innovative ideas. I think it is important, especially at the moment, to give businesses in Builth Wells a voice, so that they can approach the town council or Powys County Council with any issues and concerns or ideas they may have.



**Mayor Gwyn Davies**

## **Over £100,000 has been spent transforming shops in Builth Wells.**

Nine shops in the town have been given a new look after successfully obtaining improvement grants worth a total of £70,000. The businesses including Guys and Dolls, Audreys, Clive Menswear, the Greyhound, the Fountain, Real Sweet and Nice Find all secured money from the Transforming Towns grant fund, which is managed on behalf of the Welsh Government by Powys County Council.

Business owners, landlords and residents were offered the chance to obtain a Transforming Town grant, giving them the chance to improve and enhance the town. The money could be used for anything from flooding defences to new shop fronts and most things in between. The shop owners could get up to a 70 per cent grant and they would need to pay 30 per cent because it was agreed to do a cluster of properties.

Town Clerk Louise Hammond, who was instrumental in the grant bid, told the town council recently that the council had now received the grant money from Powys County Council which amounts to £72,910 and so she could start to distribute it to the businesses involved





## The grave of Mr. Thomas Lant, Saint Michaels Church, Llanelwedd.

In February 2024 Builth Councillor Mark Hammond became aware that the grave of Mr Thomas Lant In St Michaels Church, Llanelwedd, was in a state of poor repair.

Cllr Hammond reminded Builth Town Council members of the of the impact Mr Lant had had in Builth and surrounding areas owing to his philanthropy.

Thomas Lant owned the Llanelwedd quarry, employing up to 300 local men. He subsequently sold the quarry in 1928, and later that year he presented money to all who had worked for him, in all £3000 (*today's value being £241,000*) was distributed.



Mr Lant was very benevolent in later life, leaving much land for the use of townspeople: He owned all the land on which Lant Avenue in Llandrindod now stands and also the Llandrindod Rugby and Football grounds.

In Builth he owned the land where the bowling green and the football club (Lant Fields) stand, and also the cricket ground. He left these to the people of Builth, together with the Strand Hall with £3000 for alterations.

Mr Lant died on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1945 and is buried in Llanelwedd churchyard with his wife. The Lants died childless. Cllr Hammond asked Council for permission to look into the potential renovation of the grave. The Council gave its unanimous support.

Llandrindod Wells Town Council has also now agreed to make a generous contribution towards the work, and the Church Authorities have given their approval to the renovation.

## How does Builth Wells Town Council operate?

The Council has statutory and general powers to raise and spend public money for the benefit of the community. Key to this is the "precept," which is a sum of money collected with the council tax each year to improve facilities and services for local people. Expenditure is closely monitored by the Town Clerk and the Town Council and is subject to yearly audits (by the Welsh Government Audit Office), where every penny of expenditure has to be evidenced as well as justified. The Town Council uses its finances in a number of ways:

We own and manages the Strand Hall and the attached public toilets, as well as leasing and maintaining the public toilets & shower room on the Groe from Powys County Council.

The Council also owns and maintains the War Memorial, as well as owning part of the Groe itself (between the Rhosferig ("Swingy") bridge and the Irfon bridge). Situated on this land is a Bee Garden, as part of the Council's commitment to biodiversity.

The Council provides the dog "poop bags" and dispensers throughout the Groe and has a number of public benches in the town, as well as flower tubs.



**The Strand Hall**



**Tractor Run through the Town during Christmas 2024.**

The hanging baskets which adorn the shop fronts during the summer are also provided by the Council and hung up by Councillors and other Community volunteers.

The Council funds the Summer Children's Fun Day on The Groe, as well as the Christmas Grotto each year, and it is also responsible for the Christmas lights display that make the town such a magical place during the festive period.

By way of its budget allocations, & particularly through its grant scheme, the Council has been able to provide support to a number of community initiatives & organisations.

## **Builth Wells Town Council is not responsible for:**

Roads/Highways - including cleaning roads & pavements:

*(Responsibility of North & Mid-Wales Trunk Road Agency &/or Powys County Council).*

Planning issues:

*(Responsibility of Welsh Government Building & Planning &/or Powys County Council).*

Waste/Rubbish Collections:

*(Responsibility of Powys County Council).*

Council Housing:

*(Responsibility of Powys County Council).*

Car Parks & parking charges:

*(Responsibility of Powys County Council).*

Benefits:

*(Responsibility of DWP-Wales &/or Powys County Council).*

Education/Schools:

*(Responsibility of Welsh Government DfES &/or Powys County Council).*

## **Town Council contact information**

Your current Mayor is Councillor Gwyn Davies. ☎ **07989 582799**

Your Town Clerk is Mrs. Louise Hammond. ☎ **01982 551568**

Office hours Monday & Wednesdays 9-5pm Fridays 9-3pm



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