

## Corwen Central News

### Funding and Lucky Numbers

This month's winning number in the Water Tower Raffle is **No 48 held by Iain Ross** a Member of both the diesel group and loco department

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 48*

The first claims have been made on the Welsh Government grant for building the station platform and have now been paid to the LRT's Account for the benefit of the Corwen Station Project. A recent report from the PLC's Registrar, Don Williams says that the proceeds from the "*Big Push Appeal*" are now in excess of £90,000 with requests for share information and payments still coming in. Some supporters have preferred to make direct donations to the LRT, rather applying for company shares- it all counts!! Meanwhile, the Project Treasurer reports that directly managed funds have now reached £51,000. The Water Tower Fund is now beyond the half-way mark with orders being placed for the construction of the water tank and associated assemblies. As always funding is on going – *Tenner a Tonne, Water Tower and the Corwen Central Express* .

Donations for all of these **can be made by cheque**  
**- payable to :**

### Corwen Central Railway Development or CCRD

**and sent to :**

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

Readers are aware that as well as raising money for the Station Project there is a "standing call" for surplus materials such as paint, sand, gravel and cement. Donations have been received in all categories – the sand and gravel has been used in "rough mixes" to support gate and fence posts whilst the paint has been used as undercoats to a whole range of new and repaired wood and metal work. I'm told by our resident painter, Richard that stocks of paint are now running low – it's all those sunflowers he's been painting – and he would be grateful to receive further donations, especially bright red paint - full tins or half tins or whatever – give the Project a call via the LRT office 01978 860979.

### End Piece

In previous editions of CCNL some of the principal players in the Llangollen to Corwen Railway story have been featured, Thomas Brassey, Henry Robertson and Charles Beyer. However, another name often mentioned is that of Col Charles Tottenham of Plas Berwyn, the gentleman responsible for the building of Berwyn Station and the then Chairman of the Llangollen to Corwen Railway.

Thus in an agreement dated 26 August 1861, it was announced that "*A station to be called The*

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*Plas Berwyn 1836 - the home of the Tottenham family until 1943 Photo : Courtesy Llangollen Museum*

*Berwyn Station shall be built in ornamental style and contain a first class waiting room in addition to the general waiting room. All passenger trains shall stop at Berwyn **if and when required by the owner or occupier of or visitors to Plas Berwyn mansion**”.*

Tottenham was the son of the Rt Rev Lord Robert Ponsonby Tottenham, Bishop of Clogher, himself the son of Charles John Tottenham (Loftus) 1<sup>st</sup> Marquess of Ely.

It was said that the Bishop suffered from a skin complaint, relieved only from bathing in red wine. His butler had a considerable reputation gained from selling His Grace's bath drainings around the village of Clogher as “tonic” wine!!

The Tottenham family were considerable land owners in County Wexford, Ireland. Their principal residence was Loftus Hall, Hook, County Wexford. They spent their time commuting between their various estates in Ireland, Cambridgeshire and Yorkshire. Col Tottenham was a cousin through earlier marriages of his ancestors to Lady Sarah Ponsonby one of the “Ladies of Llangollen” and it

is possible through this family connection that the Colonel and his wife, Isabella bought the property of Rhysgog Farm (Plas Rhysgog) prior to their move to Plas Berwyn (1836) and its 30,000 acres!



*Colonel Charles John Tottenham (1808 -1878) of Plas Berwyn Photo : Courtesy the Llangollen Museum*

Tottenham was born in 1808, later being commissioned into the 2nd Life Guards. Finally he gained the rank of Honorary Colonel in the Denbighshire Yeomanry Cavalry. His grandson Charles Loftus Tottenham, who died in 1943 was the last of the family to live at Plas Berwyn, the rest of the family having moved to Canada. The estate was sold in 1957.



*Plas Rhysgog 18th century farm house Photo : Halls of Owestry*