



Communities Working In Partnership

**A Year of Celebrations will
Commence on
Friday 10th February
with the
Ring of Bells at 12 Noon.
Pontymoile Basin
Joined by a Quarter Peal of
Church Bells Rippling
Along the Canal Corridor
To Newport & Brecon**



Information is available by contacting
Richard J Dommett MBE
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www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/monandbrec200

Our Heritage

In 1792 the Act of Authorisation for the Monmouthshire Canal was passed. This gave the go ahead for a canal to be cut from the estuary of the River Usk at Newport to Pontnewynydd, north of Pontypool. In addition to this section, there was to be a 11- mile branch from Malpas to Crumlin. Thomas Dadford Jnr was appointed engineer, this section of the canal was opened in 1796.

When the Act for the Brecknock & Abergavenny Canal was passed in 1793, the canal was originally planned to connect Brecon with the River Usk at Newbridge on Usk, the directors of the Monmouthshire Canal Company persuaded the promoters to alter their plans to include a junction with their own canal. The route of the Brecknock & Abergavenny Canal was altered, with Thomas Dadford Jnr as engineer to join the Monmouthshire Canal at Pontymoile Basin.

The wharves at Gilwern and Brecon were extended about this time, and finally on the 7th or 8th February 1812, the whole of the Brecon & Abergavenny Canal was opened for traffic onto the Monmouthshire Canal, providing a navigable link between Brecon, Newport and Crumlin.

The event was recorded in the Brecknock & Abergavenny Canal Committee's minute book of that date reads

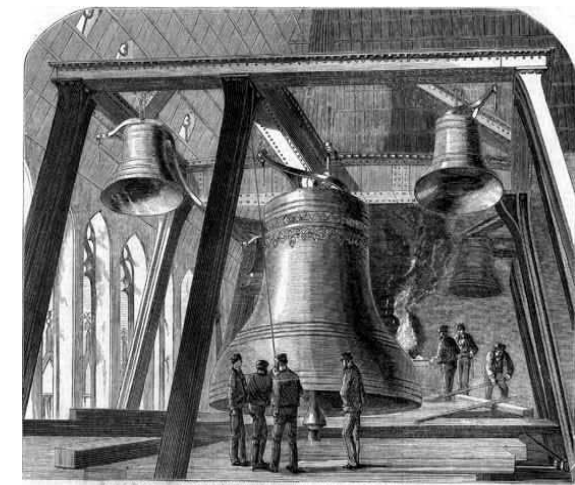
" The Committee set out to view the canal towards Pontymoile and at Mr Waddington's Boat House in Llanover met him, and embarked there on his boat and proceeded in the same all the way from thence to, and through the stop lock at the junction with the Monmouthshire Canal, being the first entrance from this canal into that, amidst the acclimation of a very numerous body of the inhabitants as a token of their Joy at an Event so beneficial to the country"

Opening Ceremony

**By
Ben Herbert
Great, Great, Great Grandson of
Benjamin Hall
A Bell will be rung by Ben at
Pontymoile Basin
12.00 noon**

Followed by the Peal of Church Bells

The Hall, Herbert and Crawshay families were industrialist in 1812 owning Iron Foundries and Tramways. Benjamin Hall 111 born 1802, became Commissioners of Works (London) in 1854. He gained unexpected immortality by giving the name of 'Big Ben' to the bell of the great clock installed in the tower of the Houses of Parliament in 1857. Benjamin Hall became Baron Llanover of Llanover and Abercan and then became Lord-Lieutenant of Monmouthshire in 1861, he died in 1867.



THE GREAT BELL AND THE QUARTER BELLS IN THEIR PLACES IN THE CLOCK TOWER, WESTMINSTER.

The Quart (3/4 Hour) Peal of Bells will be Rung at

Hay on Wye

Clyro, St Michael Church	(P) 1.30pm
Glasbury on Wye, St Peters Church	(P) 2.30pm
Bronllys, St Mary Church	(P) 3.30pm
Talgarth, St Gwendoline Church	(P) 4.30pm
Llanfihangel Talyhyn, St Michael Church	(P) 5.30pm

Brecon

Llanfaes, St Davids Church	(P) 7.30pm
Brecon, St Mary's Church	(P) 6.15pm
Llanfeugan St Meugan (Pencelli)	(P) 5.00pm
Cwmdru, St Michael & All Angels Church	(P) 4.15pm
Llangattock, St Cadoc (Cattwg) Church	(P) 3.30pm
Llanbedr Ystrad Yw Church	(P) 2.45pm
Llanelly, St ELLI Church	(P) 2.00pm
Llanfoist, St Faiths Church in Wales	(R) 1.30pm
Abergavenny, St Mary's Church	(P) 12.45pm
Llanover Church	(P) 12.00n
Llanover United Reform Church-Tea & Coffee only	

Pontymoile Basin Opening Event 12.00 noon

Panteg Church	(R) 12.00n
St Cadoc Trevethin	(R) 12.15pm
Blaenavon St Peters Church	(P) 1.00pm
Llantarnam, St Michael & All Angels	(P) 2.00pm
Llanfrehfa All Saints Church	(P) 3.00pm
Usk, Church	(P) 4.00pm
Caerleon, St Cadoc	(P) 5.00pm
Newport, St Woolos Cathedral	(P) 6.00pm

Newport

Crosskeys, St Catherines Church	
Risca, St Mary's Church	(R) 6.00PM
Pontymister, St Margarets Church	

Cwmcarn

- (P) Towers where the bells can be rung (full circle ringing) with 4 or more bells
- (R) Towers with few bells that can be chimed

Programme

**1812 – 2012 Celebrations
10th February 2012**

**Hot Soup/Tea/Coffee/Soft Iced Drinks
Canal Restoration Displays in Marquee.**

- 11.00am West Monmouthshire School Band
Accord Singers
Pupils – Pontymoile Primary School
(Singing Songs & Readings)**
- 11.45am Thomas Dadford Jnr Canal Engineer
Will welcome Guests
Cllr Bob Wellington , Leader of TCBC
Ben Herbert , the Great, Great, Great
Grandson of Benjamin Hall.**
- Both Guests will**
- 12.00 noon Strike the Bell to start the Peal of Church
Bells from Pontymoile Basin to Brecon,
Newport and Cwmcarn.
Church Bells will also Peal from
Hay-on-Wye to Brecon.**
- 12.10pm St Cadocs Millennium Chimes
Pupils – Pontymoile Primary School
(Singing Songs & Readings)
Accord Singers
The Softies Cycle Groups and
Caerphilly Council, Councillors
Marathon Team leave to navigate
the canal towing path.**
- 2.00pm Event Close**

Y Cymoedd
Calon ac Enaid Cymru
The Valleys
Heart and Soul of Wales



Acknowledgements

**Members of the 2012 Celebrations Committee
would like to thank the numerous people
who have helped to make this significant
event a success.**



**The opening events 25in Dia 200kg Bell
provided by David Kelly, Secretary, Keltek
Trust supported by Matthew Higby Bell
restorer.**

