

## LLANDAFF & MONMOUTH DACBR

### Association Management Committee Meeting: 24th November 2017 Webmaster's Report

#### Hosting

Hosting is working well and there have been no recent issues that I'm aware of. As before, the Website is "served" to the viewer "as is" with no page-caching and with "gzip" compression disabled.

The Website's current code will run on servers with PHP 5.3.10 (and later) installed (although one wouldn't want to do this). Our current server has PHP5.6.x installed and the website runs happily on PHP7.0 and later. PHP5.6.x has now reached "end of life" and website software upgrades planned for early 2018 mean that PHP7.0 will be the minimum requirement. Effectively, this means that unless our website is running on PHP7.0 (or later) then our site's code will, by default, have also have reached "end of life" in respect of support, bug-fixes and code/security updates. Whilst it could continue to run "as is" it would be better to host the site on a PHP7.0 (or later) server and to do so at the earliest convenience. I am investigating whether to move to a newer server with the current hosting company or transfer the website and domain to different. Either way, I am planning to move the website to a new server at some point during the coming Christmas holiday period.

#### Website

At the time of writing, the Website's content is up-to-date, all articles and news, etc, have been added or updated as appropriate.

I try to keep a log of software updates in the Forums here, although I have to admit that this hasn't been a priority this year:

<http://www.llanmon.org.uk/forum/website-news>

As always, I'm very happy to be advised of things that appear to be amiss or to answer queries about the site, and aim to provide a timely response and solution. Please report issues either [by email](#), by comment in the Facebook Group or by posts in the Forums here:

<http://www.llanmon.org.uk/forum/website-feedback>

#### Security

There is nothing of significance to report here other than to say that the site's security software is up to date and the server environment remains secure. The Website's administration area continues to be hidden from public view by a plug-in which masks its URL and my "Super User" Webmaster's access is further secured by "Two Factor Authentication" care of Google Authenticator. This means that, in addition to the web-location of the Admin area and my password, anyone trying to access the Website's "back end" would need to have simultaneous access to one of either my iPhone, my iMac or my Windows laptop, each of which has a different password.

Backups of the website, including the database, continue to be taken at least once per week (and usually more often when changes/updates are made) and I use the backups to keep an offline version of the website available on my PC for testing purposes.

## **Webserver Usage**

At the time of writing the webspace usage is 411.11MB, which is about 11MB more than than in the last report (Feb 2017). As before, we have 2.5GB of available webspace so we are not in any imminent danger of exceeding our server-space.

There is 1 MySQL database in use and this serves the Association's website. The Llandaff tower website formerly used a database but no longer needs one. The Coity Ringers' site continues to be hosted by the Association.

There are 65 "email forwarders" currently in use. These are used by either Branch and Association Officers or by towers for whom the correspondent has supplied an email address. Those towers with "Association Email Addresses" are available on the website's Tower List page. Three new Association Email Addresses have been assigned to towers since February.

## **Website Usage**

At the time of writing there are 76 "Registered User" accounts on the website; 50 of these have been identified as belonging to Resident Members, 25 accounts belong to non-resident (or not known by me to be resident) users, plus the Webmaster's "Super User" account. Please see overleaf for a summary of Website usage.

Our long-standing logging tool gives a total of 828,911 "visits" over the 12 months to the end of October 2017. The vast majority of these will be automated search-engine "bots" and other website scanners. It is not possible to disaggregate "real" visitors from such other visits using this logging system. A more realistic number of "unique visitors" using a different logging tool is 20,701 making a total of 45,745 visits so far in 2017. The main point of interest is that the website and server copes perfectly well with this amount of visits without issue.

The list of Association Towers has been viewed 11,877 times since the site went live and this is the second most viewed/read page on the website after the archived Calendar User Guide. The "restricted access" Annual Reports and Tower Contact List pages have been viewed 649 and 1,061 times each respectively. Since these pages cannot be accessed by website scanners and search engines, these are actual page-views.

## **Association Facebook Group**

The Facebook Group continues to be very popular, with 169 members at the time of writing. The page continues to be very useful for spreading news, etc., and highlighting new information available on the main website.

The main Website continues to be used as the "official repository" documents, Events Calendar and Forums and the Facebook Group is used for informal social interaction additional to discussions in the Forums.

John Vesey  
20th November 2017