

CZECH AND SLOVAK SCHOOL VISIT 2.11.25

On behalf of the Town Council I welcome you all to Llanwrtyd Wells. I hope you have had an interesting visit to the Abernant Hotel, or should I say The former Czechoslovak State School.

We have been twinned with Cesky Krumlov for 32 years and it is now 86 years since the trains left Prague Station on the Kindertransport. On this occasion I think it appropriate to quote one of the refugees who came from Prague to Llanwrtyd. This was Alf Dubbs a prominent Labour politician, MP for Battersea and Chair of the Refugee Council who became Lord Dubbs. Alf was one of the 669 children who came on a Kindertransport train. He was six years old. Reflecting on his stay in the town he said, and I quote:

“Thank you, Llanwrtyd Wells, I have such warm memories, what a lovely place, what lovely people. There we were, a bunch of young people from a distant country arriving in a little Welsh town and we had such a welcome. When we went into a shop, they immediately switched to talking English from Welsh which was a real courtesy. They were so friendly. The welcome we received ought to be a lesson for all us today, I would like to feel we can go on doing that to people who come as strangers who have been through the most terrible experiences”. End of quote.

This is part of our proud heritage, and indeed today we have welcomed several Ukrainians into our communities who have made their homes here.