

LLANGWM NEWS

ISSUE 18 December 2004



Christmas comes to Llangwm early, in March 2004!

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Llangwm Festival Committee

Well, it's only a few months since the last report from the Festival Committee, and it's all change. Linda Rees who gave notice during the summer that she would be resigning towards the end of the year, and also Pat Morris, because of increasing commitments running the shop, although they will both be available to help on the various events.

To help the Hall Committee with their enormous task of getting funding to add an extension to the rear of the Community Hall, we have donated £500 towards their fund - **photo shows Lewis Taylor (Festival Committee) presenting Peter Owen (Hall Committee) with the cheque.**

New faces include **Marilyn and Peter Owen** together with **Mike Hardwick**. They join **Lewis Taylor (Treasurer)**, **Clare Phillips**, **Helen Carrington**, **Patrick Wordsworth**, and **Pat & Jeff James**

What's next

Father Christmas at the village green

Thursday, 9th December

Mulled wine and carols - organised jointly with the Community Council. Santa will be switching the Christmas tree lights on at 6.30 p.m., followed this year by car boot style stalls in the rugby club. STALLS cost £3, so don't forget to bring loadsa money with you!

Fireworks display

New Year's Day 2005 - 6.30 p.m., with all donations you give on the day go to next years events.

And once again, **YES PLEASE** - if you feel you have a little spare time, and want to help in the organisation of these events, then please speak to any member of the Festival Committee.

We usually meet around once a month at The Cottage Inn, and always mix work with fun - sorry that should read FUN with work and FUN!



We're Famous!

Llangwm - and one of Llangwm's oldest residents - figure prominently in the Jamie Owen series of films entitled "Magic Harbours" currently being shown on BBC2.

A summertime voyage took Jamie and the crew of the old sailing ship "Mascotte" around the fascinating harbours of Wales (a follow-up to the intriguing "Magic Islands" series last year). When they pulled in to Black Tar beach, 94-year-old Mrs Ellen Skyrme was there to tell Jamie all about her grandmother, one of the original Llangwm cockle women, and her memories of the riverside as a busy, thriving port. She also mentioned the 'feminist' culture of

Mrs Skyrme also appears in the book produced to accompany the series "Magic Harbours", which features photographs of each stop along the way taken by Pembroke Dock photographer Martin Cavaney. Published in hardback by Gomer Press, it costs £14.99, and is, as they say, available at all good bookshops - as a useful Christmas gift idea, perhaps.

The film series and the book were launched at a recent promotional evening held at the Norwegian Church on Cardiff Bay on Tuesday 2 November. Llangwm Local History Society had been helpful in providing old photographs of the fisherwomen and in arranging the interview with Mrs Skyrme.

Ellen Skyrme meets Jamie Owen at Black Tar (Photograph: Martin Cavaney)



those days, when women were often away for days selling their harvest of shellfish at local markets and villages, and how even then it was traditional for them to keep their names after marriage.

An invitation was received, and Margaret Llewellyn and Margaret Brace went along to represent the History Society at this very pleasant venue.

LLANGWM COMMUNITY CENTRE

HARVEST SUPPER:

A highly enjoyable and entertaining evening was had by all who attended this year's Harvest Supper celebrations in the Village Hall. Thanks to our well equipped kitchen, a meal of baked ham, mashed potatoes, peas and parsley sauce, followed by apple pie and custard was provided. Many thanks to all who helped produce the meal and particularly to that well-known pastry cook, Sybil Martin, who donated most of the apple pies! A cryptic quiz using Pembrokeshire place names kept people guessing during the meal and a sing-song of harvest and traditional songs ably accompanied by Margaret Davies rounded off the evening. Many thanks to all who helped make the evening such a success.

CHRISTMAS MARKET:

Our final event of the year was held on Saturday 27th November. Following last year's great success, we were delighted to welcome back local artists and craftspeople, the majority from Llangwm itself. Paintings, pewter products, Christmas decorations, honey products, seasonal produce and much, much more were on sale.

PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE VILLAGE HALL

Since its refurbishment, the Village Hall has been successfully used by a wide variety of groups, organisations and individuals. However, it does have its limitations, most notably being that there is no storage space and no private or disabled toilets (particularly important with the implementation of the new Disability Discrimination Act). A great deal of consultation has taken place as to whether an extension would increase the sustainability of the hall by making it more flexible in its usage and by providing greater facilities. As a result, a grant has been obtained from PLANED to cover 50% of the cost (the Village Hall will cover the remaining 50%) of instructing an architect to draw up plans and provide costings for a proposed extension. Once the drawings have been produced, there will be further consultations within the community before a final decision on the design is made.

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

With the increased activities in the village hall, the Management Committee would welcome additional members to assist in its current and future programme. If you would like to be involved in running this valuable community resource, please contact any of the Committee members.

HIRE OF THE HALL

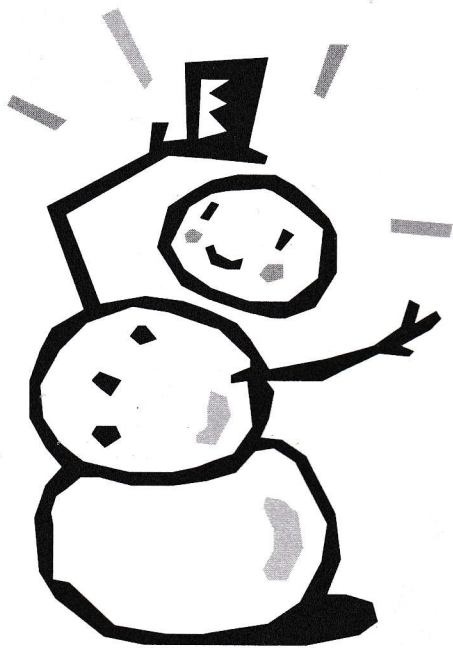
With Christmas approaching, groups and individuals may like to hire the hall for any type of activity or event. Please see Pat Morris as soon as possible to avoid disappointment over dates. Charges for hiring the hall, which have not changed since its opening in 1978, are as follows:

| | | |
|---|--------------------|------------|
| <u>Community group activities e.g.</u> | | |
| <u>Yoga Class, History Group, etc.,</u> | | |
| <u>(morning, afternoon or evening)</u> | | |
| | <u>per session</u> | <u>£5</u> |
| <u>Parties:</u> | <u>Adult –</u> | <u>£25</u> |
| | <u>Children –</u> | <u>£15</u> |

These costs include the use of all facilities in the hall (including the fully equipped kitchen) with the exception of the heating, which is metered.

THANK YOU

A very big THANK YOU to all the individuals and groups who have made donations to the Village Hall over this past year. A particular thank you must be made to The Llangwm Gardening Club who donated £300 from the Gardens Open Day and to the Festival Committee who donated £500 from money raised during the Festival Fortnight. It is great to have such support from so many individuals and groups in Llangwm and all money donated will be used to improve the facilities in the Village Hall. The Village Hall Management Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped in the various activities and events in the hall over this last year. Without help from such a wide range of people it would be impossible to hold such a variety of events and we are extremely grateful for the time and effort that everyone has given.



SCOTTISH DANCING

Calling all children - would you like to dance the 'Circassion Circle' and the 'Barnkin'? Do you fancy skipping along to 'Mairi's Wedding', or around 'Oswestry Square'?

These are just some of the dances to be learned and enjoyed at Scottish Dancing, held every Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the Llangwm Community Centre. (Adults have their own group on Mondays at 7.30 p.m. in Houghton.)

Classes break in early December to allow time for school concerts and extra Christmas activities, but will re-form at the beginning of term in the New Year.

For more details ring Mrs Mary Kinder on 01437 890189.

All boys and girls over 6 are warmly welcome to come along and join in the fun.

HATHA YOGA

There are three classes running concurrently in the Village Hall on a Tuesday.

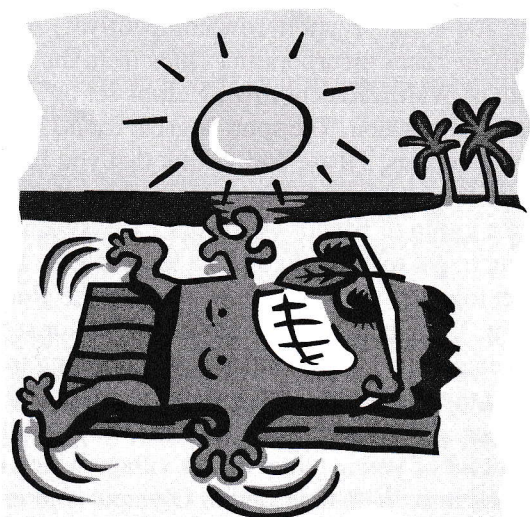
The Stage 1 class is held from 2.30-4.00 p.m.

Stage 2 classes are 4.00-5.30 p.m. and 5.30-7.00 p.m.

The next course for both Stage 1 and Stage 2 will commence on Tuesday 25th January.

There are a couple of places still available for the Stage 1 class. If you are interested in joining, please come along on the 25th; wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat, blanket and a pillow/cushion.

Yoga is extremely beneficial as a means of regaining flexibility, balance and coordination. All those who Yoga in the Village Hall 18 months ago have made phenomenal progress, come along and join them!



LLANGWM LONGBOAT ROWING CLUB

With the nights drawing in the rowing season is beginning to wind down until the New Year. "That's a time for resolutions" I hear you say. Yes it is, and after the festivities and the over indulgence which we all must endure (poor us) at this time, there may be some of you



A really hard training session -
please note - only two rowers in a four man boat!

who would like to keep fit, tone up and perhaps lose a few pounds in the process. This is how we can help; you have a ready made club on your doorstep; there are qualified coaches available to get you started; it's cheap, (no gym fees) little equipment other than a sense of humour is needed and best of all you are in the fresh air enjoying some of Britain's best coastline in the bargain. That can't be bad now can it?

As you may be aware the club has a large number of members 70+ some of whom row competitively in the annual league races incorporating clubs from the North and South of Wales. Recent rowing clubs set up include Barry and Carmarthen. The sport is great for all levels of fitness and abilities, Please don't think that you have to compete in the competitions in order to enjoy the sport. If you have a group of friends (4 rowers 1 Coxswain) that are willing to get together to make a team, please feel free to get together as many others are, join the club and get rowing. The club has a well supported junior section that I am extremely pleased to say are continuing to row throughout the Winter months with the support of the club coaches. As a rower myself I have to say that there is an awful lot of young talent in this village which needs to be tapped into. With the London Olympics bid in place for the 2012 Olympics, who knows what may happen as

those juniors develop. One thing is for sure these rowers must be supported in their chosen sports by all of us.

As well as the league races in which the club had a total of eight teams competing there have been competitions and other challenges arranged throughout the year including a 22 mile row down the River Thames, rows at Dinas Head, the Menai Straits and Ramsey Island as well as International sea rowing competitions this year held in Montpellier. As a club our best men's team came 6th out of 29 teams entering the league. In the women's our best team came 4th in the league out of the 22 boats entering. In the mixed category our best team came 4th in the competition overall out of the 26 teams entering. Overall the club came 4th in the league. Our under 16 junior mixed team came 3rd overall in their category.

In relation to the club's future and what is new we are actively encouraging you and your friends to row, age and ability are unimportant, the main thing is that you have fun doing it and feel good in the bargain. Those with disabilities may also find this non-jarring, stretching and extremely good cardiovascular

exercise to be of immense benefit to their health.

Studies conducted by the Sports Council have identified that the elderly, junior rowers and in particular teenage girls should be actively encouraged to take part in sport. With this in mind Llangwm and other clubs have been conferring with the county council sports development officers to establish out of school activities involving rowing of all sorts to target this group. The active encouragement of diverse sports in schools in our county has to be a step in the right direction. As well as longboat rowing it is hoped that they will also be taught the fundamentals of skiff and more competitive styles of rowing. It is nice to see that the potential of this sport being recognized by other agencies and I look forward to the development of the sport as a whole. Believe me the sport has come an awful long way since its humble beginnings thanks to the drive of forward thinking individuals taking this sport into the future.

On behalf of the club may we take this opportunity to thank you for the continued support you have shown us throughout the year in our regatta and other fund raising events. Have a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Bob Charles.

Community News

THANKS, VOLUNTEERS

The Community Council is very grateful to Natalie Lewis and Fran Bramley for volunteering to re-paint the bus shelter after complaints had been received about some objectionable graffiti. The shelter was spruced up in good time for the Remembrance Day Service held on the Green on Sunday 14 November. Well done, girls - a great effort.

MOVING TRIBUTE

This year the morning Service of Remembrance was led by the Reverend Linda Wollacott of Llangwm's Wesleyan Chapel. Some 40 people gathered at the memorial to pay their respects to those who have perished in war, particularly those men of the village whose names were read aloud with dignity. Particularly poignant this year were prayers for those who are involved in conflict in Iraq. A wreath from Llangwm Community Council was laid by Pat Morris (Deputy Chairman). It was most gratifying to see a group of some half a dozen children take time out of their day to attend the service, before their youth rugby game which took place shortly afterwards. Thanks to them for ensuring that all ages were represented at the service.

TRAFFIC

Please remember that the 30 miles per hour speed limit through Llangwm also extends all the way along Deerland Road, and on through Hook. Several people have expressed dismay at the speed at which some cars travel along that road - which is narrow with blind bends in many places.

Bearing in mind that many people, especially youngsters, often walk to and from the two villages, we appeal to you all to drive with great care along that road, especially on dark winter nights. And if you are walking along the road, please wear something white, fluorescent or reflective so that you can be clearly seen.

DOG FOULING

The Community Council is concerned that complaints have been received regarding dog-fouling. Please note that this is not only anti-social but is dangerous when there are children around. Remember the rule is "Bag It and Bin It" and make life more pleasant for everyone.

MUNICIPAL LINE

Don't forget that the telephone number to ring in order to report any broken street lights, blocked drains, or other necessary services is

LO-CALL 0845 6021386

Any member of the public can ring, and is encouraged to report faults of this nature. All lampposts are 'tagged' now, for ease of reference, and it will help if you have ready the number of the pole you are reporting.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

After a spate of momentary power cuts in October/November, Swalec and Western Power were able to finally trace the fault during an hour-long break in supply, on Monday 8 November.

The following day they set to work on Llangwm Green at the box just outside the Rugby Club, and were able to work 'live' on the lines most of the day and well into the night to repair the fault. Hopefully this is an end to those annoying blips in the current which these days have us all scurrying around the house resetting videos, clocks and timers...

LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS

With the Christmas tree lights due to be switched on by Santa on Thursday 9th December it seems that the festive season will soon be in full swing. Come along on that night and sing a few carols - help swell the throng! (Don't forget to bring a torch.) Get together from 6 o'clock onwards to get some Christmas music flowing, in time for Santa's expected arrival at 6.30.

More Christmas spirit afterwards, too, with mulled wine and mince pies in the Rugby Club, courtesy of the Festival Committee, who are also hoping to run a table-top stall or two.

(And don't forget the Festival Committee's grand display of New Year Fireworks, on 1st January, 6.30pm at Pill Parks.)

We hope that Christmas will be a happy and a blessed one for everyone, in Llangwm and beyond.

It is not only the congregation of St. Jerome's who will miss the Reverend Gilbert Hooper, as he enters his retirement years.

The teachers and children of the school have been used to his support and encouragement over the years, and will miss his input into school assemblies and school life in general.

And we are sure we speak for everyone in the village when we say we shall miss having Rev. Hooper around the place, thank him for all his good work, and wish him all the very best of health and happiness in his retirement.

Galilee Baptist Chapel News

As the chapel at Galilee enters a new era following the celebration of its building's Centenary in September of this year, services and meetings are as follows:

Morning Service and Sunday School at 10.30 a.m.

| | |
|---------------|---|
| November 28th | Reverend Ron Price of Milford Haven (communion) |
| December 5th | Mr Gwynne Davies |
| December 12th | Mr Dennis Payne |
| December 19th | Reverend Raymond Webb |

On Christmas morning the Galilee congregation will join other worshippers from the village at the United Service to be held this year at the Wesleyan Chapel on Llangwm Green, at 10.15 a.m. (There will be no Boxing Day service at Galilee).

Reverend Webb will once again lead the worship at the first service of the New Year, 2nd January 2005, at 10.30 a.m.

The Mums and Tots group meets weekly during term-time, on Thursdays 10.00 - 11.30 a.m. Please get in touch if you have a baby or toddler of pre-school age and would like to join the group for some friendly company and support. Contact tel. no. for more details is 891289.

The Women's Fellowship, meeting in the Vestry at fortnightly intervals, continue to hold interesting talks and events.

Earlier this autumn guest speaker Mr Desmond Davies spoke of the life and work of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, and his links with the locality.

On 18th November Mrs Gaynor John-Davies of Hook demonstrated the art of making Christmas decorations, and in early December the ladies will put these skills to the task as they decorate the chapel for Christmas.

This year's annual dinner and Christmas party will be held in the Chapel Vestry.

At this most blessed and happy of seasons, we pray that families will be united to celebrate Christmas, that there will be care and kindness shown to those who are ill or infirm, and that the peace and love of God may penetrate through to the darkest and most troubled corners of the world.

CHRISTMAS IN LLANGWM 50 YEARS AGO

T P Hughes in Haverfordwest were selling Tri-ang doll's prams for £5 15s 0d and Tri-ang pedal cars for £3 19s 11d.

Corona Sparkling Drinks - "It makes the party" - cost 1s 10d for 4 bottles.

Trew & Co. of High Street, Haverfordwest, were suggesting "Give slippers this Christmas".

S & F Green of Haverfordwest advocated "Give her a Hoover for Christmas".

Jenkins Garage of Barn Street, Haverfordwest, thought that a gift voucher would make a suitable present.

Greens Cycles and Radio advertised "Add to your Christmas pleasure with a TV set".

"Mars are marvellous". Only 5d a bar. Or you could buy a Bounty bar for 6d, a packet of Spangles for 3d and a box of Maltesers for 1s 6d.

The "Gay Heart" restaurant in Victoria Place, Haverfordwest, was offering 3-course Christmas lunches for 3 shillings.

The local cinemas were screening "The Happiness of Three Women" starring Petula Clarke and Donald Houston.

The village police constable, P C Samuel, sustained an arm injury after crashing into a fallen tree, brought down by storms described in the local newspaper as "Night of Terror and Havoc".

Fireman D J Slater received a medal from the RSPCA for rescuing a sheepdog from a disused mineshaft at Fiddler's Green, Freystrop. He had to descend 120 feet on a rope before he could haul the dog to safety.

John Evans, the son of Mr and Mrs Elwyn Evans of Llangwm Ferry, was recovering at home after an operation at Carmarthen hospital.

A concert by Llangwm Ladies' Choir took place at the school. The conductor was Mr Ashley Davies and the accompanist was Mrs W Roach.

Llangwm beat Haverfordwest in the first leg of the Bishop Cup by 6 points to 3.

All the above items appeared in the Western Telegraph during December 1954.

Nikki Bosworth

LLANGWM METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Reverend Linda Woollacott
Treasurer: Mr Lloyd Curtis
Secretary: Mrs Jane Brock

Sunday Services: Morning 11.00 a.m.
Sunday School 11.00 a.m.

Women's Fellowship: Fortnightly on
Wednesdays - 2.00 p.m.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mince Pies/Coffee and Carols Friday 10th
December at 7.00 p.m.
Carol Service Sunday 19th December at 6.00
p.m.

The recent Seasonal Mini Market which was held
on Friday 5th November was a great success.
The next Seasonal Mini Market will be held in
the New Year.

A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO ALL TO
JOIN US AT THE ABOVE SERVICES AND
EVENTS.

A Message from the Reverend Linda Woollacott,
Minister of Wesley Methodist Chapel, Llangwm -

This year the nights in mid-November have been
especially dark, with no moon and deep cloud
cover masking the stars; but by the end of the
month we will be in the season of Advent when
decorations in the streets and houses give us
the promise of brighter times. Advent is a time
when Christians remember and prepare for the
coming of Jesus into the world; in the words of
a carol "Our God contracted to a span,
incomprehensibly made man". Jesus is the Light
of the World. As we enjoy our seasonal
celebrations at Christmas and into 2005 may we
take time to thankfully remember the reason for
the season.

CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE
10.15 a.m.

Wesleyan Chapel
EVERYONE WELCOME



GARDENING CLUB NEWS

We have had some very interesting Autumn
meetings at the Garden Club - 'Gardening for
Wildlife' in September was given by an RSPB
Warden who is based in Haverfordwest. Not
only was the talk fascinating, but there was a
lively question and answer session afterwards,
and lots of RSPB information leaflets to be had.

In October, a volunteer member of Aberglasney
staff gave an excellent talk on the history and
gardens at Aberglasney (near Carmarthen), and
some 'before and after' slides showed the trans-
formation achieved there over just a few years,
together with some lovely photographs through
the seasons. Members were all in favour of a trip
to the gardens as one of our summer outings.

We are now all looking forward to Christmas,
and our Club Dinner in December. Our Social
Secretary always does us proud when organising
this (and other) events, and a good time is had
by all! Needless to say, club members are a
friendly and sociable lot, so it should be a good
start to the festive season.

After Christmas our first few meetings will be:

Jan 10th Garden Quiz Night

Feb 7th Sidney Vincent - The Neem Tree and its
Health Products

Mar 7th Talk on Clematis - varieties and cultiva-
tion (to be confirmed)

We are still meeting at The Cottage Inn, 7.30pm
in the restaurant area, first Monday in the month.
All our best wishes to Neville and Jane on their
retirement - many thanks for accommodating the
club evenings every month, and a big
"Welcome" to the new landlord who is carrying
on the same tradition.

For more info on the Club and activities, phone
01646 601078.

LLANGWM V.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Years

This term has seen the start of Early Years Provision for three year olds at Llangwm School, within the catchment areas of Llangwm and Burton. A double mobile classroom has been erected and refurbished, providing a well-equipped base. If you know of any neighbour or friends who have children who may wish to use this facility, please ask them to contact the school office as soon as possible to register their names for admission.

School Visits

There have been several school visits in recent months. Classes 1 and 2 enjoyed a day at Folly Farm, learning about animals and farm work. Classes 2, 3 and 4 paid interesting and enjoyable visits to Scolton Manor. Class 4 had a wonderful few days at Llangwm School, North Wales - inspiring one pupil, Megan Phillips to write a Diary of her visit (see after this report).

The Rector's Retirement

The Rector, Reverend Hooper, performed his last assembly before his retirement on Friday 15 October and his last Communion Service on Monday 18 October. A special assembly was held at the school hall on Wednesday 3 November, when the children sang Rev. Hooper's favourite songs and retold his favourite stories, of Noah and his family, and The Good Samaritan. Every child in

the school made a contribution to a "Memories" booklet which was presented to Rev. Hooper during the afternoon, as were gifts from the Staff and Governors of the School.

Sport

Our pupils continue to do well at their chosen sports. Well done to everyone who took part in the county Cross Country (particularly Charlotte O'Donoghue who came 3rd in the Year 6 race), Netball, Soccer, Tennis (especially Rhiannon Morgan who is training for the county competitions next year), and Swimming (Enfys Bosworth recently gained 2nd place at the Pembrokeshire Time Trials at Tenby Pool).

Charity Donations

The school raised money during Harvest Service for Noah's Ark Appeal (£177.96), held a "denim" day for Jeans for Genes (£92.85) and supported Children in Need with a non-uniform day, coin trail and cake stall.

Christmas Events

The Friends of Llangwm School are holding their Christmas Fayre on 24 November, and Christmas Raffle (to be drawn on 16 December).

The Christmas Play will take place at the Methodist Chapel on Tuesday 7 December at 2pm and Wednesday 8 December at 6.30pm. The whole school will visit the Merlin Theatre on Friday 10 December to see "Cinderella". Christmas Holidays run from Friday 17 December, children return to school on Wednesday 5 January.

MY NORTH WALES DIARY

by Megan Phillips

Wednesday 6 October At 8.15am we left for North Wales. I felt very tired. On the bus we sang and talked, the bus driver was very mad because we made too much noise. We made a quick stop at Aberystwyth for the toilet, we were getting very excited by now. We had lunch at Bala Lake and outside it was raining, so we had to wait until it stopped to go to the toilet.

At last we arrived at Llangwm School North Wales. Everyone was really excited, even the people from the school were excited because as soon as we ran round the corner we saw all of them were standing on the gate shouting really loudly. We went to meet the people we wrote to and tried to make friends with them but they thought that we were playing tag with them and all we were trying to do was to try and talk. We all got on the bus and finally made friends. Off we went to the youth hostel.

We got to the youth hostel and carried our suitcases and mine was very heavy. We got to our bedrooms and unpacked. It took a while because we had to get changed and make the beds.

When we were all ready we decided to go to Swallow Falls and when we crossed the road to the entrance to it, we all were very excited but there was one problem. When we put our money in, it would not let us go through. So we all had to go the long way round. It was a long walk and soon we were walking by Swallow Falls. In no time at all we were taking pictures of each other, but when Isabel was just about to take a picture of Emily, Emily fell and hurt her side. Soon we arrived at Plas Derwen and I was sitting next to Poppy and Charlotte, I was glad that I was sitting next to them. When we were finished the bus driver picked us up and all of us were playing with my balloon.

When we got back we had some hot chocolate and had to make our lunch for the next day. Then it was bedtime and we were listening to our CD players and when Mrs Jones came in, Isabel had to cover up her CD player. Mrs Jones said "What a racket, has somebody left their radio on?" and Isabel had explained that she didn't know that it was on, and she turned it off. When Mrs Jones went out we all giggled.

Thursday Mrs Rees woke us up at 7.00am and we were very tired. We got dressed and met in the kitchen and went outside. We had breakfast at a restaurant; at the restaurant we had apple and orange juice, cereal and a fried breakfast. At 10.30 we went to Sygun Copper mine at Beddgelert and had a tour around the mine. Next we were sorted into groups and did some activities. First we went to archery and Michael won.

After that we went to dig for gold and Emily and I were doing very well. Finally we used metal detectors and I found about 10p and the metal detector was really heavy. When we were all muddy we walked to Gelert's grave. We were told a story about Gelert and then walked back to Sygun copper mine for the bus to pick us up. The bus took us back to the youth hostel and we all got dressed and went to bowling and McDonald's. When we got back we had an early night.

Friday

We left for breakfast and went on the bus to leave for Llangwm. We dropped the North Wales children off and drove away.

We stopped at Aberaeron to have lunch and set off again to Llangwm. We got there and went home.



AUTUMN BIRD NOTES

By Graham Brace

It's now mid-November and the pills are teeming with the various waders and waterfowl that overwinter with us each year. Groups of Canada geese are much in evidence (occasionally with a few barnacle geese in tow) and there are large numbers of duck including teal, mallard and shelduck. The wader population comprises redshank, whose loud, hysterical calls when it takes flight at the approach of humankind has earned it the title of 'sentinel of the shore', small flocks of dunlin, solitary curlews probing the mud for food at the water's edge and the occasional greenshank passing through. The lapwings started to arrive in the second week of October and there are currently around 150 present, sometimes widespread around the shores and sometimes flying leisurely around the vicinity in flocks.

Little egrets are now a more common sight in the pills than herons. Whereas herons are inclined to fish for food around the tideline in a slow, stealthlike manner, the egrets expend more energy as they stalk the streams and gullies darting and stabbing at their prey. Despite the fact that they are now so frequent, I still get excited when I see them, probably because they were such rarities when I was young. On the morning of September 16 when out on the river on a very high tide, my fellow rowers and I were treated to the sight of 18 individuals adorning a tree overlooking the river in the middle of Knapp Wood. From a distance it looked just like magnolia tree in bloom. Having disturbed them they flew off and we caught up with them later on another tree in Sprinkle Pill. As we watched them a beautiful young fox stood staring back at us from the shore beneath the tree. We all thought we were living in the land of milk and honey! Egrets really are stunning creatures with their pure white plumage - and I just love those bright yellow feet on the end of long black legs!

Around the 22nd September an Osprey was spotted by Gwyn Jones flying over the Cunnigar and around about the same time Graham Stephens probably saw the same individual from his garden at Llangwm Ferry. We now know that Ospreys have nested this year in the Mawddach Estuary near Barmouth in North Wales. It's probably too much to hope for that one day they will venture a bit further south and set up home on the Western or Eastern Cleddau.

There were still 8 young swallows flying around Knapp Farm on 5 October. Three days later they had gone on their long journey south to southern Africa. Mrs Julie Golding saw one in the first week of November...perhaps it had lost its way!

Mr and Mrs Norman Roach were treated to a brief visit from a fine male merlin in their garden at Glan Hafan on 21 October.

Rod Billen reported a great crested grebe off the Cunnigar on 13th November. I saw it early on the 15th paddling and diving around a mixed group of Canada geese, mallard and teal and again on the 19th in the channel off the Old Rectory point. Talking about grebes...keep your eyes peeled for little grebes (or dabchicks as they are also known) which are frequently seen, individually or in two's and three's, diving for food inshore around Black Tar and the Cunnigar, particularly when it gets colder in January and February. These tiny grebes appear to be there one second and gone the next only to reappear again seconds later nearby.

The abundance of blossom during our warm spring and early summer has resulted in a rich crop of hawthorn berries and sloes. These are attracting large numbers of winter thrushes and at one point yesterday morning one of the hawthorn trees in our garden was visited by two fieldfares, three redwings, a song thrush and a blackbird at the same time - all gorging on the berries to build up reserves of energy for the winter ahead. In fact, there has been much bird activity in our garden of late with blue, great and marsh/willow tits, busy wrens and a few argumentative robins vying for territory. Best of all are the occasional visits from a great spotted woodpecker and a treecreeper, both of which enjoy searching the crevices in the bark of our apple trees, searching for insects and grubs. We also have an amusing pair of grey squirrels which have spent many weeks burying hazel nuts in the grass around the house. I just hope they can remember where they buried them!

Apparently, waxwings are about. These very distinctive periodic visitors from Scandinavia and Russia are like large crested finches and you may be lucky enough to catch sight of a flock in your garden - particularly if you have cotoneaster or pyracanthus, the berries of which they are very partial to.

Spells of hard, arctic weather over the next couple of months might bring in some interesting species, if so and you have something to report, give me a ring on 891580 or email me on grahambrace@btinternet.com

DOES ANYONE KNOW THESE LADIES?

There are several well-known postcards, photographs and paintings of the doughty Llangwm cocklewomen of yesteryear.

But does anyone know who they actually were?

David Rye, of Milford Haven, has provided the Local History Society with a photograph, and a "key", in case anyone recognises any of their

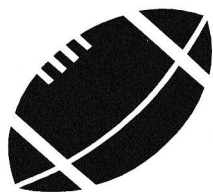
ancestors, or can provide any information on their identity.

There have been names suggested for two or three, but we would like to see if our readers can come forward with any further details.

If you can, please ring Margaret Brace on 01437-891580 or David Rye on 01646-698463. (Or leave a message with Pat at the Shop.) Thanks in advance!

1. ~
2. ~ Mary Palmer
3. ~ Mrs. Morgan (née Childs)
of Blacktar.
4. ~





rugby

Senior Rugby

In last the last issue of the newsletter it was reported that the pre-season training had gone well and that there was optimism for the coming season. It is therefore pleasing to be able to say that the hard work put in by the players over the Summer *has* paid off and the club has enjoyed one of the best openings to the season for some time. To date the team has won six out of eight matches and played a brand of running, entertaining rugby which has attracted many people along to support the team.

Notable wins include St Clears away and Tycroes at home, matches which in previous campaigns would have proved hard obstacles. There have been many good performances from all players with Jojo Frances currently leading the try scoring table, (typical for a winger to take advantage of all the hard work up front by the athletic forwards). On the downside there have been a few injuries with Andrew Harries recovering from a dislocated shoulder and several others on the walking wounded list. Lets hope they are all back to full fitness in the near future which can only strengthen the squad.

It was also reported in the last issue that the club was hoping to field a 2nd XV. Once again it is pleasing to be able to report that the 2nd team is up and running under newly appointed team manager Julian Platten. The team has only played one match to date but has several more fixtures arranged before Christmas. They lost a close match to Fishguard 2nds but had 24 players on duty and everybody got a game.

As already pointed out 2nd team rugby is slightly less serious than 1st team and is the ideal springboard for young players to find their feet in the senior game as well as an opportunity for "older" players to round off their playing days. If anybody is interested please contact the club for details.

Remaining 1st team Home games

27.11.04...Bynea
11.12.04...New Dock Stars
18.12.04...Penygroes
15.01.05...Swansea Uplands
29.01.05...Pembroke
05.03.05...St.Clears
09.04.05...Llanybydder
23.04.05...Aberaeron
all matches k.o. 2.30pm at Pill Parks

Youth Rugby

The youth team had to withdraw from the Pembrokeshire League due to lack of playing numbers. This is of great disappointment as Jeremy Brock had committed himself to coach, regularly turning up only to find a small turn out.

It is hoped to play some friendly matches in the new year but once again this will depend on the players' response. We have enough numbers on paper but need the commitment to train and play to be able to compete.

If you want any further information on Youth Rugby please contact Michael John or Jeremy Brock. or ring the club on 01437 890462

Junior Rugby

The Juniors' season is well under way with 4 match days completed. We have played at Under 13, Under 12, Under 10 and Under 8 to date this season with a total of 11 matches being played across the age groups.

Training continues Sunday mornings at 10.30am with regular matches throughout the season. We are always looking for willing volunteers to assist with coaching and refereeing. If you are interested please come along and the club can arrange for you to complete the necessary courses.

As always, any help with the Juniors, on and off the field, is appreciated. It is always busy on match days with plenty to be done from putting out flags to cooking food. If anybody can offer any help please contact the club.

Social Club

A reminder that Llangwm Rugby & Cricket Club is a private members club and only Members and their guests are permitted to use the Club's facilities. Membership is due for renewal 1st September and can be paid at the clubhouse.

If you wish to become a member, please contact the club for details on 01437 890462

"THE CHRISTMAS CRIB"

A Farewell Christmas Message
from Rev. G. Hooper

All over the world you will find Christmas Cribs both great and small each with its own distinctive beauty. In some places the crib will have been made with loving care from simple materials like straw or cardboard or odd bits of wood. In other places you will find costly cribs with figures of great beauty and worth ranging up to lifesize or even bigger. But for all that message is always the same and of beautiful simplicity, one of unity and love.

The wise men who followed the star represent different creeds and peoples, kneeling before the child in unity. The humble shepherds leave their flocks to find the Christ, the workers of the earth joined in worship. Mary and Joseph in faith and love and trust in God and in each other accept their part in Jesus' birth. All are united in adoration in the presence of this Babe in the Manger.

In Him alone will unity come to us and to the world for God's love is bestowed freely on all in recreation and redemption and of this Jesus' birth is a wonderful sign. The Crib and the Christmas story that it symbolises asks each one of us once again will we make Him the focus of our lives in faith in hope in love and in praise, and in obeying his command "love one another as I have loved you."

NEW FACES AT THE COTTAGE INN

A warm welcome to Scott and Karen who have taken over as 'mine hosts' of the Cottage Inn (following the retirement of landlords Neville and Jane Lewis).

They moved to the village from Shropshire at the beginning of November, and are settling in nicely.

Scott is a trained chef, and will be serving evening meals every night (except Mondays) as well as traditional Sunday lunches. Several groups are looking forward to their 'Christmas outings' there, including the Local History Group.

We hope that Scott and Karen will be happy, and prosper, in their new surroundings.

Will Scales' farming diary will be back in the next edition.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM LLANGWM SHOP

Opening Hours:

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| 8.30—1.00, 2.00—6.00 | Weekdays |
| 8.30—1.00 | Saturday |
| 10.00—12.00 | Sunday |

Christmas Opening Hours:

Friday 24th December 8.00 - 4.00
Christmas and Boxing Days closed
Bank Hol. Mon 27th and Tues 28th
December 9.00-1.00
New Year Bank Hol Jan 3rd 9.00-1.00

Note to all contributors:

It will be most helpful, and save us lots of time and re-typing, if articles, photographs and other material can be supplied in the following formats:-

Text - as a "text only" document, or in Microsoft Word, on a floppy disk, or as an attachment with an email. Please provide a hard copy (paper copy) in addition to the disk, to avoid any misunderstandings.

OR just a hand written note on the back of a 'fag' packet—as they say!

Photos - ideally in jpeg format please, preferably on a disk.

Email address to send to is any one of the following:

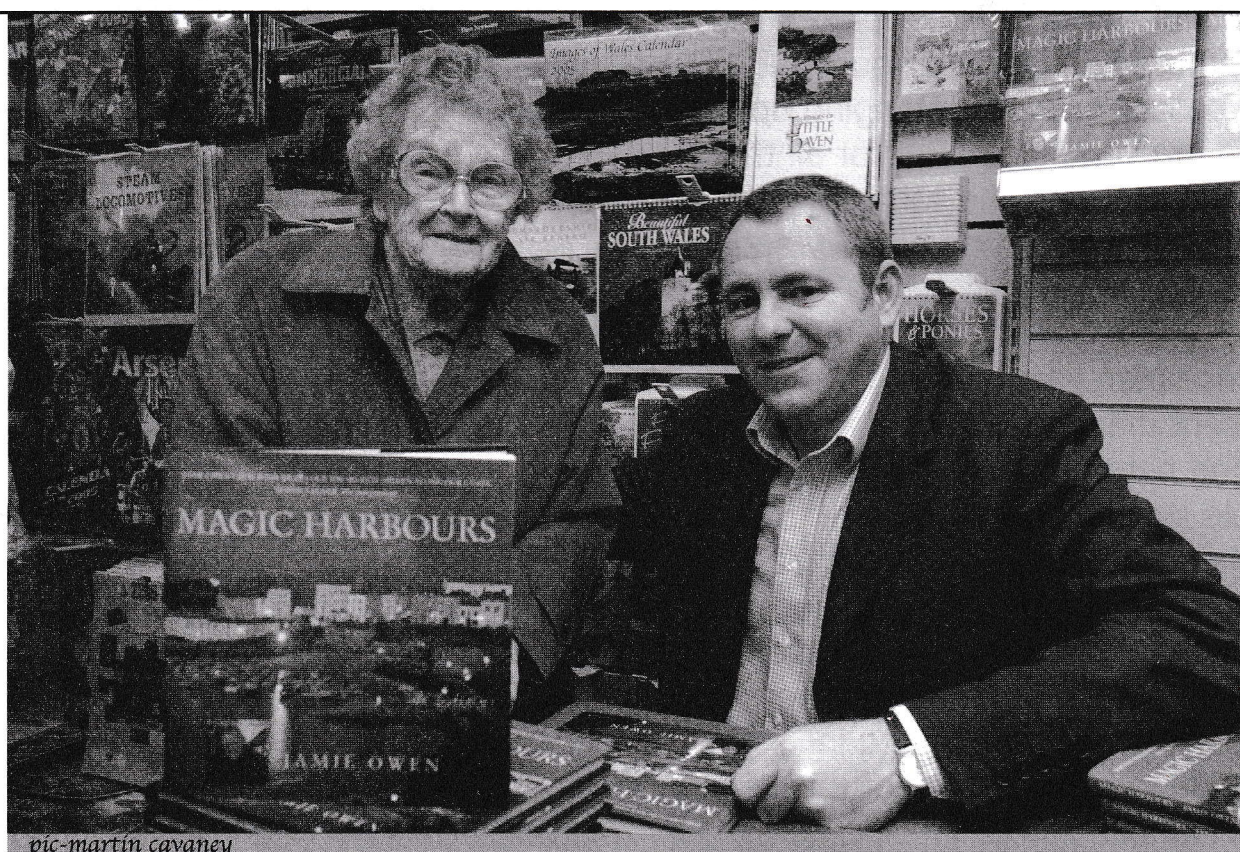
fionacutting@hotmail.com (Tel 890078)

w.j.james@btopenworld.com (Tel 890841)

m.brace@btinternet.com (Tel 891580)

Many thanks.

(Please note that the deadline for items for the next (Easter) issue of 'Llangwm News' is 21st February 2005)



Ellen Skyrme meets up once again with Jamie Owen at the book signing at Victoria Bookshop, Haverfordwest on Saturday 20th November. Photograph by kind permission of Martin Cavaney.

STOP PRESS

In the last edition of the Newsletter, we forgot to mention the fact that the Mathias's 'Hagrid' eventually contributed the incredible sum of £400 to the Festival Committee funds. 'Hagrid' has moved on, however, and is now at Peter Thomas's Christmas Lights show in Kilgetty, entertaining the young

and old, and earning more money for their local charity.

A Happy Christmas to all our readers! Margaret Redfern has had to relinquish the role as editor through pressure of other work. Thanks for all your hard work, Margaret! It is taking two of us to fill her shoes, with a LOT of help from Jeff James. Many thanks to all the foot soldiers who pound the pavements (and shore) distributing these newsletters.