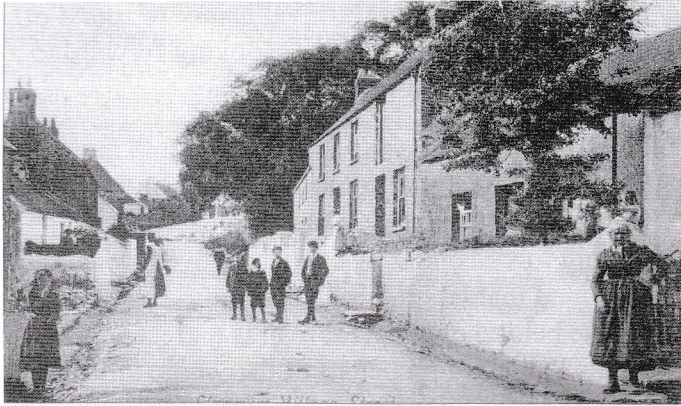


LLANGWM NEWS

ISSUE 25 March 2007

A look at Llangwm - old and new!



Life in Llangwm in the early 20th Century—see interview with Ellen Skyrme on page 3.



Life in Llangwm in the early 21st century—see St David's Day report on page 7

See inside for:

Poems, stories, events, league tables, fixtures, games, people, places
(past and present) and lots more!!!!



Having fun on the river—see page 4



Working on the river—see page 3

EASTER GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS

Sponsored by Llangwm Community Council, and Printed by Withybush Printers Ltd



Here we are, well into Spring and looking forward to the longer warmer days of Summer. As usual, the Festival Committee has a great programme of events for you all to enjoy, but first let's look back at the end of 2006.

Christmas in our lovely village just wouldn't be the same without the **Christmas Tree** on the Green and once again we thank Mr and Mrs England for donating such a beautiful tree to the village. On a rainy and windy evening, Santa arrived in style on his sledge to turn on the Christmas lights. The **Milford Town Band** played carols while Santa handed out sweets, and listened to what all the good boys and girls wanted in their stockings on Christmas morning. We hope they all got what they wanted. We would like to thank Santa, and all his helpers for a lovely evening.

For lots of us the **New Year's Day Fireworks Display** at Pill Parks Field is the real start to the New Year. This year there was yet another spectacular display over the village. We have to thank Mr Michael Davies for stepping forward to run the event, and to all that helped on the night. We also thank the rugby club for allowing us to use the field. This is a great event for the village to enjoy and thanks to the great response for new members and helpers, we were delighted the fireworks was able to go ahead.

Festival fortnight this year will run from June 23rd with a kick off live music night in the Cottage Inn, to July 7th which is **Carnival Day. Arts and Crafts** will run in the village hall over the fortnight and those wishing to display any items can contact Linda Rees. All of your old favourites like the **Open Gardens Day, Cricket** and of course **Scarecrow** competition will run as usual, but if you or your club / group wish to put an event on during festival fortnight please contact a member of the Festival Committee. New for this year, members of **St Jerome's** will be hosting some recitals at the church, so we look forward to that.

Scarecrows this year will be **Cartoon Characters**. The theme will also be carried into the Carnival for the floats and dressed up walkers, and there will be prizes for the best scarecrow, float and walkers. Keep your eyes peeled in the shop for a carnival schedule. Carnival Queens and Kings will be chosen on sports day at the school.

If you or your group would like a stall on the field on carnival day to raise money your group please contact **Claire Phillips** to book a space

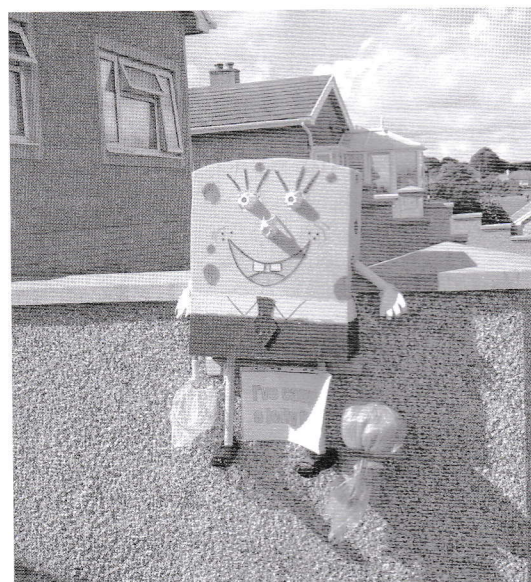
Last year the turnout and the standard of the floats and costumes was excellent, **please join in with your family, street or friends and make this a really great carnival**. The most excellent Riptide will be playing at the Carnival Dance to round off the festival in style, so here's looking forward to a lovely summer and festival.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to Jeff James who has stood down as secretary of the Festival Committee after many years. Jeff has been the driving force behind many village events and we are delighted that he remains a committee member. Of course behind every great man is a great woman and that is Pat, and I on behalf of the whole village thank them both for their hard work.

A Very Happy Easter to Everyone!

Claire Phillips

SCARECROW CHALLENGE



Here's a most unusual cartoon character who's made a couple of appearances in the Llangwm Festival...not many over-16s will recognise him...it's 'Sponge Bob Square Pants' who lives under the sea with an oyster and a prawn for friends.

To wet your appetite, here are a few other ideas for characters - Bagpuss, Inspector Gadget, Fireman Sam, Thomas the Tank (!), Yogi Bear, Mr Benn, Snoopy, Inspector Gadget - shall we go on? - just any cartoon you know and love.

Time to get your thinking caps on!

Memories of Llangwm

(from 20th to 21st century)

Ninety-seven year-old **Ellen Skyrme** is probably one of the best-known and best-loved in a distinguished line of legendary Llangwm women. But who would guess that she has a romantic Cornish ancestry?

Her mother Mary Bryant of Guildford, Llangwm, went to work at the magnificent Tregenna Castle Hotel near St Ives at the turn of the 20th century. There, she met Cornishman George Trevithick, one of the descendants of Richard Trevithick, inventor of the steam engine and a pioneer of the Industrial Revolution, although somewhat overlooked by history. "The range and magnitude of his inventive genius is truly astounding, and yet few outside Cornwall are aware of the immense contribution he made to the development of the modern world," says a website dedicated to the Trevithick family.

The romance between George and Mary flourished and they married. Ellen was born in St Ives in 1909, and the family moved to Llangwm when she was three months old.

The eldest of seven children (six daughters and one son) Ellen said she had a very happy childhood, spent mainly around the village and the river. The children would often go to Black Tar shore, where they would play 'eggshell' and 'dandies', as well as creating their own little buildings. "We would build little houses with two rooms and go out to look for some china to put on the dresser - no half measures!" she said.

She went to Llangwm school, where every day would start with half an hour of religious instruction. "I remember we would do lots of singing with the infant teacher Miss Morgan - all sorts of songs, about the Spring, pigeons, swallows, and the Summer. I still sing them quite often."

Although she enjoyed school, she said the headteacher was not afraid to use the cane if pupils misbehaved. "My first headteacher was Mr Carr. He was a tartar! After him was Mr Harries. We used to have the cane from him too. And if you had the cane you couldn't use your hand for the rest of the day. I did have the cane but not very often!"

Ellen left school at 14, as everyone did unless they went to Haverfordwest Grammar School, although only a few people could afford to do that because they had to board from Monday to Friday night.

It wasn't until the age of 17 that she made her first trip to Haverfordwest. But, as she explained, that was because her family had more of a link with Pembroke Dock, or 'Pater' as it everyone called it then. "My grandfather was a Llangwm fisherman and Granny used to go to Pater on the boat to sell fish, cockles and mussels," said Ellen.

"It was a lovely market in Pater, nicer than in Haverfordwest. We used to go down to the Jolly Sailor in a donkey and cart, and leave them tied up in a field - we used to give Mrs Prout, who ran it, a shilling, and we would go across on the ferry boat. Everyone had a donkey and cart and a boat."

She said her grandmother would always prepare the cockles the same way. "She used to boil the cockles and mussels and strain the stock off and leave it to stand. Then she would wash them and bring them to the boil again with lots and lots of pepper, and then leave them stand overnight in the pickle. Then in the morning, Granny would take the cockles and she would put them in a big jug, with the pickle in bottles. She would take them to the market, with a jam jar, a spoon, and tea towel, and for three penn'orth, she would measure out the cockles in the jam jar and fill it up with the pickle."

Once a year, the Sunday School would also go to Tenby, one of the highlights of the year. "I remember getting the steamer from Llangwm Ferry to the jetty at Pembroke Dock, walk to the station, and catch the train to Tenby, and walk to the South Sands. We would bring our own food and go up to the café and have a tray of tea. We used to go on a charabanc as well - they only had that in Tenby."

After finishing school, Ellen worked as a domestic help, first in Swansea and then in Bournemouth, which she liked very much. But she handed her notice in at the age of 20 when her youngest sister Vivianne was born, and then decided to stay in Llangwm.

She then met the late Gwynne Skyrme, the youngest of 11 children and the brother of Lizzie Skyrme, who had taught Ellen at Llangwm School. On 28th October, 1931, they married at Haverfordwest Registry Office and went on to have two sons, Bryant and John. Ellen has three grandchildren, Ian, Julie, and Ceri, and seven great-grandchildren, Garon, Rhys, Louise, Menna, Rebecca, Nia, and Ieuan, who is the youngest at eight months.

Ellen said Llangwm doesn't look very different now, especially Main Street and the Green, but the nature of the village has changed along with the times.

"When I was brought up, I knew everybody. In the summer, you would go through the village and you wouldn't see a single door closed. People would walk in and out of each other's houses. But although those times are gone, there's still a very good sense of community in Llangwm."

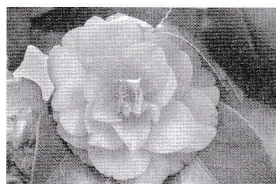




LLANGWM GARDENING CLUB NEWS

New Year came in with a bang- our Garden Quiz and Social Evening proved that everyone had survived Christmas once again! A big Thank You to Karen at the Cottage Pub for the lovely buffet refreshments – you really do us proud.

February's talk by John Drakes of "Beelief" was very well attended – we all knew how interesting he is on his passion for bees, and how good and effective his products are – his topic was "Ancient Remedies for Modern Ailments", and how fascinating it was too. A touch of seasonal whiteness came along in February as well, a bit of a shock after such a mild winter – the plants must be getting so confused! Flowers out everywhere since Christmas looked a bit sorry for themselves, but it didn't last long, fortunately, and now we're well into Spring.



Our March meeting was a "hands on" session on "**Getting to Know your Soil**", by Maureen John, our club secretary. Plenty of messing about to find out about soil types, and lots of discussion - enjoyed by all.

We have "**An evening with Gerald**" in April, which will be a question and answer session with Gerald White of the Pembrokeshire Horticultural Society. He is always a mine of information and helpful advice, and we all have lots of problems that he can sort out for us. Also in April, we are organising a bus trip to the **Cardiff RHS Spring Flower Show**, on Sunday 22nd, which is open to members, friends and anyone in the village who would be interested in going. The event has floral marquees, show gardens, a variety of plants and accessories to buy, advice talks and demonstrations. Anyone interested should get in touch with Eileen Parfitt on 01646-601906 by the first week in April.

The May meeting, which will be on the 14th of the month, will be an illustrated talk by David Moore from the Horticulture section of Pembrokeshire College, Haverfordwest on creating "**A Garden from Scratch**".

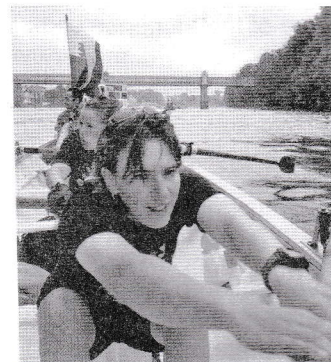
Don't forget our **Plant Sale at the Cottage Pub** on June 11th. July sees the end of our programme year with the AGM and Barbeque, and we start back again in September. We are always pleased to welcome new members.



LLANGWM LONGBOAT ROWING CLUB

Being neither a winter nor a morning person, I for one am pleased to see the days drawing out and the signs of spring appearing. This year more than ever, as not only will this be my first spring/summer back in Pembrokeshire for a long time, but also my first opportunity to spend a season indulging in my new found sporting passion; longboat rowing.

One of the reasons for my move back to Pembrokeshire was to spend more time near (or on!) the water. During August/September 2006, rowing provided the ideal opportunity not only to do the above, but also to make the first steps to get back in shape.



Although arriving at the end of the season, I was able to participate in both the Llangwm Regatta and the Great River Race, which saw many crews from Llangwm racing 22 miles down the Thames. Not only was this a great achievement, but great fun at the same time. As I have come to realise, members of the Llangwm Longboat Rowing Club are not only dedicated to rowing, but to throwing themselves wholeheartedly into the social side of the club. This is something I found out to my detriment upon waking the morning of the Great River Race after trying to keep up drinking and dancing with the infamous 'Double D's'!



Unfortunately, running a successful club like Llangwm's does involve a large amount of organisation and decision making. To this end, the club recently held its Annual General Meeting and a new committee has now been formed. The club would like to thank Bob Charles for his three years of devoted service as an excellent Chairman and simultaneously welcome Mel Miles, who has bravely agreed to fill his shoes.

So, for all of you out there that have always wanted a go at Longboat rowing, or indeed wondered what exactly goes on within the confines of Llangwm Longboat Rowing Club – now is the time to come along. Yes, it's that time of year again when new members are invited and existing members are reminded to complete their annual membership. You will be pleased to hear that for the second year running there has been no increase in price! All membership is to be returned to the membership secretary Peter Owen, who can be contacted on 01437 891074. Please endeavour to get all memberships in by 30/03/07. This will enable the club to pay the boat insurance and maintain its excellent record for safety.

A family membership package including insurance for yourself and the boats is £40, enabling you to use the boats and equipment as often as you like. Individual membership is £30.00. There is as an additional payment on the membership form for League insurance, which states 'all rowers' must pay (the club has quite a few non-rowing members)- £10 for adults, £5 for juniors - which provides the minimum insurance required to row but covers you in all league and non-league races and at any FISA event anywhere in the world. There are reduced membership rates for students, unemployed or citizens – a bargain at £10.00. No specialist equipment is needed; life jackets and coaching are provided – just turn up! The Llangwm Regatta this year is on 10th June. Anyone who would like to help out at the Regatta, please contact Mel Miles on 01646 680267

Here is a list of events for the coming season. Again, only seven races for the Southern league. There are a number of non-league races, including a series of island races, so there should be something for every crew.

For those of you not so keen on the idea of racing, the club can offer many positive alternatives. From the social side of the club mentioned above, to the fitness and well being that non-competitive rowing brings, the club can accommodate a variety of members. Speaking as a new member, if anyone has ever thought about having a go - do it! We look forward to seeing you in 2007's season.

Claire Palmer

RACE DATES 2007 League Races

DATE	Venue	Status
13 th May	Fishguard	Joint
20 th May	Porthmadog	North
3 rd June	Bull Bay	North
10 th June	Llangwm	South
24 th June	Solfach	South
8 th July	Pwllheli	North
22 nd July	Aberdyfi	Joint
5 th August	Barmouth	Joint
19 th August	Aberaeron	South
2 nd Sept.	Aberystwyth	Joint

Non League Races

DATE	Venue
4 th March	Cardiff HRR
22 nd April	Return of the Cleddau
28 th -30 th April	Scillies
27 th May	Vogalonga
2 nd June	Cork Ocean to City
2 nd June	Menai Straits
17 th June	Caldey Island
7 th July	Coach/Novice Challenge
7 th July	British Offshore Regatta Guernsey
19 th July	Cleddau Cup
28 th July	Ramsey Island
29 th July	Dinas Head
8 th Sept	GRR
6 th Oct	EDF Champs Coastal Ints
27 th Oct	FISA Worlds (Cannes)

TREKKING FOR AFRICA

2,500 km of off-road motor biking through five national game reserves around **South Africa's Eastern Cape** - that's the challenge being undertaken in November this year by **Kevin Brock** of Rectory Road, Llangwm.

Kevin has secured a place on **EnduroAfrica - The Ride For Life**, a charity motorcycle trek in association with **Riders for Health**. The objective is to raise a minimum of **£4,500** which goes to buy the motorcycle, training and mechanical back-up for local doctors, who will then use the bikes to gain access to remote villages where crucial medical care is required.

If you think you can support Kevin in any way, please contact him on **01437 890156** or **07817 521287**. Donations can be made to Kevin in person or via forms in Llangwm Shop.

Top of his fundraising event list is a '70s Disco Evening at Hook Sports Club on Saturday 31 March at 7.30pm. At just £5 a ticket, plus £2.50 approx for a Pig Roast, this could prove very popular.

Also, watch out for a dance with three live bands and a comedian on 1 June at Withybush Pavilion.

Good luck, Kevin! We'll be following your progress with interest.

VILLAGE NEWS

Village shop/post office/ newsagency

Yes, newsagency! Since our last edition, Pat Morris has taken over the newsagency from Graham and Beryl Thomas, on their retirement. This means that as well as the newspaper/magazine delivery service continuing to be offered, there is an increased range of newspapers and magazines available at the shop. In order to facilitate this service, the opening times are now **8am to 8pm** Monday to Friday (summertime) and **8am to 7pm** (winter). Weekend opening times are 8am-1pm Saturday and 9am-1pm Sunday.

Another addition to the facilities already offered is a **LINK** cash machine, which can be used to withdraw cash (**without charge**) from most of the major bank accounts. This is a great boon to the village and we hope it will be well used.

As we have said in the past, **please support our local village shop by using some, or all, of the services available, to ensure that we retain them.**

Hatha Yoga Classes

These are due to restart in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 20th March.

Banish those winter blues – come along and get into shape for the summer!!

Beginners, stages 1 and 2 are open to all ages and stages.

If you would like to take part in one of the classes, please ring **Liz (01437 891706)** from Sunday, 18th March, to book your place.

Llangwm and Freystrop Mothers' Union

Our well attended meetings take place on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. We have an interesting and varied programme of events for the year. The craft club meets twice a month at Trixie's home: Havard House, West Hook Road, Hook. Anyone wishing to join us will be very welcome.



Please ring Trixie on 890436 for future dates.

Anyone requiring further details about our Mothers' Union branch please contact Margaret Davies (leader) on 890617.

The Pill Parks Grandstand Redevelopment Group (PPGRG)

The PPGRG continues to develop strategies to improve sporting facilities in Llangwm. It is in discussion with a variety of partners within the village and funding agencies, and will soon announce a whole range of activities/entertainment as part of its self-generating fund raising.

There will be lots of hard work and fun along the way starting with a rubbish clean-up of the stand and field on Saturday/Sunday 21/22 April. If you would like to lend a hand please turn up at 11am.

Barry Childs (Pill Parks Way) has just completed two books, which are to be published by Heinemann (one of the largest educational publishers in the UK) in April.

The first book is for students studying GCSE English and is to be used by 15/16 year olds studying in class or privately. The book, complete with illustrations, pictures and photographs, stretches to about 180 pages.

The second book is for teachers and lecturers, and complements the student book, explaining how it should be used in class and providing additional teaching materials and ideas. It is of a similar length to the student book.

The books, when they go on sale in April, will be available throughout the UK. There are plans for other books to follow, aimed at GCSE and 'A' level students.

Llangwm Community Centre News

St. David's Day Supper

They say it's all down to global warming, or is it just the St. David's Day hitch? Last year, we were searching like detectives looking for the final clue, to find a single daffodil in bloom; this year the daffs were out by the end of January, but were flattened by strong winds on the day before, so searching for those brightest, most cheering of flowers was again a bit of a quest! However, the Village Hall, as usual, was transformed, not only by a few lights, flags and greenery, but also by a **wealth** of local talent.

The evening opened with the very welcome return of the Llangwm School children. About fifty 7 –11 year olds took part in a joyful rendition of instrumental pieces (flautists, recorder players, violinists and a clarinet) which included: 'Suo Gan', 'Ar hyd y nos', 'Men of Harlech', 'The Ash Grove' and the 'National Anthem', followed by the beautiful singing of 'Rwy'n Siarad Cymraeg' and further Welsh songs about the weather, written by the children themselves and set to music by Mrs Lewis. The audience were spellbound by such great youthful talent and performing standards that are only reached by lots of practice and hard work!! **Terrific!**

After the opening music, supper was served, followed by the next musical item of the evening. The girls: **Victoria Sainter, Zoe Locke, Natalie Gunner and Stephanie Smith** are all pupils of local Llangwm music teacher Sue Howley, who accompanied them on her keyboard. Victoria started with 'Sea Fever', a song



based on the poem of the same name by John Masfield, and contrasted this with 'Tonight' from West Side Story. Zoë continued with 'I attempt from love sickness', a song by Purcell and then gave us 'I could have danced all night' from 'My Fair Lady'. Natalie followed with 'Verborgenheit', a German song by Hugo Wolfe about unrequited love and then 'So in Love' from 'Kiss Me Kate'. Stephanie finished the programme with 'Agnus Dei' by Mozart and 'If I Loved You' from 'Carousel'.

As you can see, Sue and her pupils provided a wonderfully varied medley of musical delights,



performed to an exquisite standard that left the audience sighing to themselves that 'If only I could sing like that...' The applause spoke volumes for the appreciation of the listeners!

As the supper came to its closing stages, we were returned to our Welsh roots with a fabulous performance by **Bobby Richards** and **Margaret Llewellyn** of 'All Through the Night' and 'We'll Keep a Welcome in the Hillside'. Hearts were stirred!! Our only disappointment was that Derek John was unable to sing on the night due to illness.

Finally, the raffle prizes were distributed (many thanks to all those locally and to Morrisons, who gave raffle prizes) and quiz composer and compere Jane Mills gave the answers to Welsh questions, to which you felt you should know the answers. Many thanks to Jane!

Clubs have continued to use the Hall throughout the year, including Welsh and Scottish Dancing. Don't forget, start flexing up for Spring and join the Yoga class starting on March 20th.

We were delighted that our local councillor, Mr. Billy Hitchings and his wife were able to attend and as always, a **BIG THANK YOU** to EVERYONE who contributed to the running of the evening. All money raised goes towards the annual running costs of the Hall.



Let's not forget the supporting act for the evening—waiters and waitresses, cooks and bottlewashers.

LLANGWM METHODIST CHURCH

MINISTER: Reverend Anthony Gregory
 SECRETARY: Mrs Jane Brock
 TREASURER: Mrs Hilary Hitchings

Sunday Services:- Morning - 11.00 am
 Sunday School - 11.00 am
 Women's Fellowship: Fortnightly on Wednesdays - 2.00 pm

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 6th April Good Friday Service 3.30 pm in the main Chapel followed by the Good Friday tea and Gift Day in the Sunday School Room at 4 pm

Sunday 8th April Easter Services 11 am and 6.00 pm

May Spring Mini Market - to be arranged

Sunday 20th May Chapel Anniversary 11 am and 6 pm Both these services to be conducted by the Reverend Leslie Stoker

Sunday 17th June Father's Day Luncheon - Hook Sports Association Clubhouse - 12.30 pm for 1 pm (tickets available from members)

Sunday 24th June Sunday School Anniversary - 6.00 pm

June/July Festival Fortnight Teas served daily in Sunday School Room

Sunday 16th September Harvest Festival Services 11 am Reverend Gregory 6pm - Preacher to be confirmed

Dates yet to be arranged:
 Tenby Comprehensive School Band Concert
 Harvest Supper

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

ST JEROME'S CHURCH, LLANGWM

The launch of the Saints and Stones initiative, in our locality, will take place in May. Six churches will be involved, one of which is our own church. The website for our group of churches is www.saintsandstonesriverside.org, where you will find interesting information about all seven churches. The initiative will include leaflets being produced for each church to give visitors a brief introduction to, and history of, the particular church that they are visiting.

Weekly Services

Sunday	Holy Eucharist	9:00 a.m.
Wednesday	Said Eucharist	9:30 a.m.

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday	Eucharist	7:00 p.m.
Good Friday	Service of Devotion	11:00 a.m.
Easter Sunday	Eucharist	9:00 a.m.

On March 31st there will be a quiet day at **Fald-y-Brenin** from 10:00am-3:30pm. Anyone wishing to attend please contact the church wardens - Mrs. Ann Wicks or Miss Molly Esmond.

Please refer to the new notice board inside the church wall for up-to-date information on services and events.

All readers, we are sure, would join with us in sending best wishes to Reverend Jane following her recent stay in hospital.



GALILEE BAPTIST CHAPEL

Mission work at Galilee

This year's annual meeting of the **Pembrokeshire Baptist Missionary Association** is being held at Galilee Chapel, Llangwm on Tuesday 27 March at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

The purpose of the meeting is the induction of a new President for the year, and to hear from a guest speaker about the work of the Baptist Mission in Latin America and various countries around the world. Following the service, tea and light refreshments will be served to delegates, who come from the Milford Haven and Haverfordwest areas (including Baptist churches in Broad Haven, Neyland, Camrose, Sutton, Marloes, Sandy Hill, Sardis and Johnston). A follow-up meeting is also held in November each year at Bethesda, Haverfordwest or North Road, Milford Haven, which delegates from Llangwm will attend.

On **Good Friday** (6 April) the service will be led by Rev Ron Price of Milford Haven at 9.30am, after which coffee, tea and hot cross buns will be served in the vestry. Rev Price returns to take the **Easter Sunday** service (8 April) at 10.30am.

Other notable services in the coming months include the **Chapel Anniversary** (27 May, to be led by noted preacher Rev William Owen of Fishguard) and the **Sunday School Anniversary** on 17 June, to be taken by Nigel Thomas of Galilee (morning) and Melony Ablitt of Camrose (evening).

Women's League continues every fortnight on Thursdays at 2pm with interesting speakers on subjects from healing to marketing. Mums and Tots Group is held weekly in the vestry on Thursdays at 10am.

Llangwm Local History Society

From Boys' Toys To Birdsong and Flying Boats!

The New Year saw a large number of Llangwm residents reverting to their childhood in the Village Hall as the Local History Society organised an evening of old fashioned games and toys. It is amazing how many boys of all ages love train sets and how many different rules people have for board games such as Snakes and Ladders, Ludo and such like. Dominoes and Crib also featured, as well as the little known board game of Halma.



In addition, there were displays of dolls, cars, children's books and many others. The evening was such a success that we are hoping to repeat it as a fund raising event to help cover the costs of copying photographs and documents to add to the Llangwm archive. Do come along for an evening of nostalgia and fun once a date has been fixed.



Under the Society's environmental remit, John Wyatt gave a fascinating talk on The Languages of Birds in February. The talk, which was illustrated by both pictures and sound, gave an excellent overview of the different types of bird song and calls, as well as outlining some of the most up to date research – as yet to be published. We are very fortunate that John is willing to share his extensive knowledge with us and look forward to welcoming him back later in the year.

March 14th is our AGM again. The evening is open to all and will take the following format: AGM – short, social evening – much longer! This year after the official agenda we are holding a mini "Antiques Roadshow" when everyone is invited to bring along interesting items from times past (and nibbles and snacks to share with the usual cuppa).

On Wednesday 11 April we will be going on a visit to the Gun Tower Museum in the old **Martello Tower** at Pembroke Dock. Among other things this celebrates the Haven as a base for **Sunderland Flying Boats** during the War. Meet on Llangwm Green by 6.30pm to rationalise cars, guided tour of the museum starts at 7pm. All welcome, donations to the Gun Tower Museum.

Events for the next few months will include possible visits to Milford Museum and St David's Cathedral Library, a practical evening on palaeography looking at old documents and different forms of handwriting, a talk by John Brock on the Carew oral history project "Changing Times in Carew" and an environmental walk around Great Nash Farm. We will also be holding a cataloguing session to sort and document the Llangwm archive, as well as working on the exhibition for the Festival.

The Society would also like to make an appeal for any documents or photographs that could be copied or donated for inclusion into the archive. We are constantly trying to enlarge the archive and would be grateful for any assistance in this area. If you can help us, please do get in touch with one of the following: Jane Mills 890147, Margaret Brace 891580 or Christine Jacob 899350.

1st Johnston Scout Group

There is lots happening in the Group and our thanks go to all the organisers of the events.

The **Cubs** and **Explorers** took part in a Medieval weekend at **Pembroke Castle** on 3rd and 4th March, which was great fun. The Cubs are busy at every weekly meeting with badge work, which takes much commitment from the youngsters. They will be looking forward to their summer camp at the end of July. The combining of the **Neyland Cub Pack** and **1st Johnston** has worked wonderfully and the Pack continues to expand.

There are now **32 Scouts** with 3 new members to be invested soon, the Troop is thriving. The Pembrokeshire College invited the Scouts for a bricklaying evening in the autumn, this was the second such event and the Scouts thoroughly enjoyed it. Some Scouts are undertaking the challenges of the **Duke of Edinburgh bronze award**, they will be working hard for it. This year's summer camp, the highlight of the Scouting year, is to be held at Welsh Hook at the beginning of August.

The fundraisers are busy, too. They have organised coffee mornings in the council offices in Neyland High Street and an **Easter bingo** on **29th March** at the athletic club in Neyland, to raise much needed funds for the Group. Your support is always welcome at these events.

LLANGWM VC SCHOOL NEWS

School started back on Monday 8th January 2007 for the commencement of the Spring term. It was very welcoming to see all our new starts excited and ready for their new life at Llangwm School.

Firstly, may we thank everyone who supported us during the build up to Christmas. The Autumn term as always proved very busy for both pupils and staff. The support given to our concerts, carol service, charities and events arranged by the **Friends of Llangwm School** was very much appreciated.

Fire Safety Awareness

On Thursday 25th January, Fire Officers Simmons and Lawrence spoke to all the children about fire safety awareness. Talks were given to the infants' classes and all three junior classes. Thanks go to both officers for making the afternoon very interesting to all concerned.

Road Safety

Small Steps (Road Safety-Pembrokeshire County Council) visited the Early Years Part-time children to introduce road safety awareness on the morning of Wednesday 21st February. Thank you to Kirsty Donoghue and Julie Watts for all their help.

World War II

This term the children from Class 5 are studying World War II. Mr Ainsworth from the Torch Theatre visited Class 5 on Tuesday 30th January. Class 5 took part in a range of dramworkshop activities linked to life during World War II.

A big thank you to Mr Gau who came into school and gave Class 5 a very interesting talk on life as he remembered during World War II. The children asked him many questions and found his answers most fascinating. Mr Gau made cakes using the mixture that was used during the war for the children to taste.

On Friday 9th March, the children from Class 5 are planning to invite all grandparents and anyone living in the community who has recollection of World War II into school. The children are looking forward to seeing as many visitors as possible to talk to, share their memories and ask questions. Songs will be given by the children relating to the war. A time for all our visitors to reminisce with each other and to share what life was like during the war.

St David's Day

Celebrations took place at school on Thursday 1st March. Musical items were given by all the children. The juniors were invited to take part in the celebrations

at the Community Centre on the evening of the 1st March. The children enjoyed both celebrations.

Visits to the Methodist Chapel and St Jerome's Church

Children from Classes 1,2,3 and 4 would like to thank Reverend Jane, St. Jerome's and Reverend Gregory from the Methodist Chapel for welcoming them all into their respective places of worship.

May we take this opportunity of wishing Reverend Jane a speedy recovery and to let her know that she is very much in our prayers at school.

Sport at School

Football - our school football played Burton in the Pembrokeshire Schools' Cup. The score did not reflect the quality of play that took place with the children from our school team. Unfortunately our team lost 3-1. The team now look forward to their round in the Plate. Good luck to Burton in their next round.

Swimming - all junior children have enjoyed their lessons during the Autumn and Spring term. Our **Swimming Gala** will be taking place on Thursday 29th March at Haverfordwest Swimming Pool.

Tag Rugby - Years 5 and 6 will be entering the Pembrokeshire Schools' competition at Haverfordwest Rugby Club on Thursday 29th March. Good luck to the team!

Future Diary Dates

March

Thursday 29 School breaks up for Easter holidays
Friday 30 SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY

April

Monday 16 SCHOOL CLOSED - DIRECTED
TEACHERS' DAY
Tuesday 17 Children return to school

May

Monday 7 BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 8 Children return to school
Thursday 24 School breaks up for half-term
Friday 25 SCHOOL CLOSED - FAMILY OF
SCHOOLS' TRANSITION DAY

June

Monday 4 Children return to school

July

Thursday 19th School breaks up for summer holidays
Friday 20th SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY

September

Monday 3rd SCHOOL CLOSED - DIRECTED
TEACHERS' DAY
Tuesday 4th Children return to school

Class 5's trip to North Wales

Before half term, Class 5 went on a trip to North Wales. First we went to Corris and went in the shops to buy presents. We then stopped at Betws-y-Coed to have lunch and we saw the big mountains. We then went to Llangwm School and had a good play in their field.



(members of class 5 in Betws-y-Coed park)

We travelled to Bala College with the North Wales children on the coach and sorted out rooms. After that we had our tea and went to the swimming pool. The swimming pool had a slide and Joe Chalmers forgot his swimming trunks.

When we got back we had a shower. We went back downstairs and Mrs Jones read a book to us.

We had to wake up really early to have our breakfast. After that we had an inspection of our rooms.

We got on the coach and travelled to the mountains. We traced back the steps of Mary Jones and her Bible.



(outside Thomas Charles Chapel Tegid, Bala)

After, we went shopping around Bala. Mr Groves' group went back on the bus; the rest of us walked.

We played 'Who wants to be a millionaire?' and watched Jungle Book on a big screen.

We had a great time in North Wales, it was great fun to meet the other children and make lots of new friends. We enjoyed learning their language.

By Emily Aubrey, Lauren White and Harry Kersey

NEWS FROM LLANGWM CRICKET CLUB

Llangwm Cricket Club A.G.M. was held on Thursday 8th March 2007 in the Club House. The officials were as follows:-

President Randall Lewis.

Chairman Dai Davies.

Vice Chairman Martyn Inward.

Hon. Treasurer Brian James.

Hon. Secretary Brian James.

1st Team Captain Andrew Harries.

2nd team Captain Paul Morgan.

3rd team Captain Jeremy Brock.

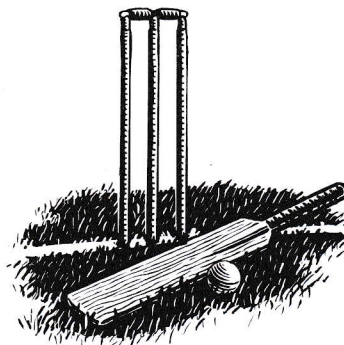
Welfare Officer Ian Phillips.

The Club notes with great pride the continuing career of **Stephen Inward**, who now attends the **Glamorgan Cricket Academy**.

Once again this summer the ever popular **Golf Day** will be held as a fundraising event for Llangwm Cricket Club. It will take place at Milford Haven Golf Club on 29th July.

Be sure to be early booking your team in, especially if you want your choice of teeing-off time. Contact Dai Davies on 01437 890706 as soon as possible.

If you are interested in **Ladies' Cricket**, contact Pam Asson of Pill Parks Way, for details of the forthcoming season.



Don't forget to check in to the Llangwm website:

www.llangwm-villages.org.uk

“Dry” Llangwm...

In **September 1904**, the Haverfordwest and Milford Haven Telegraph reported that “The village of Llangwm now occupies the unique position of having no public house. The last inn was closed some little while ago and the licensee, Mrs Shrubsall, is spending the evening of her days in the **Haverfordwest Union Workhouse**. Practically the whole of Llangwm is owned by **Mr Lort Phillips**, who has pursued a policy of closing the public houses on his estate whenever convenient opportunities arise. Unfortunately, at the present time, **Llangwm has an insufficient water supply**, but this matter is now earnestly engaging the attention of a committee of the District Council.”

In **1912**, the newspaper reported that Llangwm was “**a village of teetotallers**”. Llangwm closed its last public house a few years ago, and the license holder, having thus fallen on evil days, died in the Workhouse.” The inhabitants of Llangwm were described as being “**industrious and sober people**”.

Maria Shrubsall, innkeeper, was still living at the **Black Horse inn**, at the top of the Kilns, on the 1901 census. When she was admitted to Haverfordwest Workhouse on 10 December 1903, Mrs Shrubsall was described as ‘destitute’. She remained in the Workhouse until her death in December 1906.

Llangwm village remained officially ‘dry’ for nearly 50 years.

The ‘**Cottage Club**’ was established at Rock House, by Alexander Bert Morgan. The license for these premises was first issued on 28th January **1954**. The object of the ‘Cottage Club’ was “the provision of opportunities for recreation and refreshment of ladies and gentlemen, to afford the members facilities for meeting one another and entertaining their friends”. At that date, there were 26 members, for whom membership cost 5 shillings a year (or 7 shillings 6 pence for husband and wife).

In **1962**, the ‘**Cottage**’ became a public house.

*The following appeared in the **West Wales Guardian** Newspaper, on 12th September, 1947.*

In **Llangwm** on a summer day
Delightful perfumes fill the vale
The river weed, the scent of hay
But ah! No smell of old brown ale.

A thirsty traveller, red and hot,
When hiking in the mid-day sun
Spied Llangwm from a nearby spot
And thought “Here’s where I’ll buy me one”

More lightsomely he made his way
The pretty village beckoning
“A pint” he mused “two pints or three”
At Mr Strachey’s reckoning

Sternly spoke Bet, on Llangwm Green,
When asked to show the nearest pub
There bean’t no pub, not hereabouts,
For we ‘olds drink a deadly sin!

There bean’t a villager I know
As ain’t TT and pre-oud to say
That we be not as other folks
Who’ll sit and drink the time away.

*Both these items submitted by
Nikki Bosworth
Archivist
Pembrokeshire Record Office*

FAME AT LAST

Llangwm figured prominently on the small screen recently, on **Trevor Fishlock**’s programme which followed the course of the River Cleddau, and on Channel 4’s “**Relocation, Relocation**” which followed a young couple’s dream of a house near London and a small country retreat in Pembrokeshire. Maybe wisely, they opted for the bigger family house near London just for the time being with small children, with dreams of Llangwm yet to come!

In both programmes the rowing and sailing boats on the river at Black Tar looked particularly attractive.

...the Cottage Inn Today

A very warm welcome is extended to everyone by Janet and Mike Hazard, who took over the tenancy of the **Cottage** on 1st March, 2006. For Janet and Mike, it was the fulfilment of a long held desire – to live in the place they call their 'spiritual' home – Pembrokeshire.

They have been coming to Pembrokeshire for family holidays since 1976, when they had a touring caravan, which they brought each year to St Davids. They did this for approx 14 years, travelling from their home in Bath, until in 1990 they were able to live and work for a short time in Pembrokeshire.

With the recession affecting the tourism, they unfortunately decided to leave in 1992, returning to the hotel industry and eventually taking over a hotel/inn in Teesdale, Cumbria (possibly one of the highest inns in England). Certainly one of the most isolated!! They ran this business successfully for 9 years, and when one day a couple from London walked in and asked if they could buy the business, they agreed (although it hadn't even been up for sale) and followed their hearts in moving back to Pembrokeshire and taking over the tenancy of the Cottage Inn, Llangwm.



Both Janet and Mike feel they have been made so very welcome by the people of the village, and consider it to be 'a real community' (they got their first taste of this during last year's festival fortnight).

Despite the fact that Mike has had some unexpected health problems since they moved, they really love being here and aim to continue making the Cottage a popular meeting venue within the village. They say that their objective is to 'work together with everyone to add to the life of the village'.

They have introduced an extensive range of meals available from Wednesday to Sunday evenings (Specials Board and Traditional Menu) and hope to further extend these times during the summer months.

The Cottage is regularly used as a meeting place for various clubs/teams from the village, such as: Festival Committee, Llangwm Boat Club (moorings), Longboat Rowing Club and Gardening Club. The Cottage also has its own Pool and Pub Quiz teams, all of whom meet there. In addition, they are always happy to open for pre-booked groups and parties at any time, licence permitting.

On New Year's Eve, they held a themed Party Night ('Allo, 'Allo) which proved a great success so they will continue to have these and other types of activities throughout the year.



A message from the Community Council

Please clean up after your dog

Thanks for complying with the leaflet, distributed with the last Llangwm News, regarding the importance of keeping the sports field free of dog mess. The field is much improved, but we cannot overstate how essential it is, for everyone's health and peace of mind, to keep it that way.

This also applies on the shore, particularly around Guildford Pill and in the hedges along the popular walks to Black Tar and Edwards Pill. Always carry a plastic bag with you - **AND ALWAYS TAKE THIS HOME TO YOUR BIN.**

Branches and garden waste can also be a hazard if it litters the shore. Don't think it will be taken away by the tide - that can pose its own hazards. **Please dispose of all waste carefully and thoughtfully.**



Senior Rugby

The 1st XV have a good season so far with only 5 matches now remaining. The team is joint second in the league and promotion is a possibility with 3 home and 2 away games to play. There have been several notable performances, and the team has been playing some great rugby under the guidance of Coach Phil Sutton. If we can get through the remainder of the season unbeaten then there is a good chance we will be up a division next season to 4 West, which has a lot more local interest with several Pembrokeshire teams to be played.

Along with the league fixtures, the traditional Boxing Day encounter with Haverfordwest was also a good performance by the team, before going down 12 points to nil. Haverfordwest are two divisions up from Llangwm so this result shows the ground we have made up over the last year or so.

Remaining fixtures

3rd March.....Llandybie.....home
 24th March.....St.Clears.....away
 31st March.....Bynea.....home
 7th April.....Aberaeron.....home
 14th April.....Fishguard..... away

Division Five West							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tycroes	17	15	0	2	558	116	45
Aberaeron	16	11	0	5	393	251	33
Llangwm	17	11	0	6	336	210	33
St Clears	17	11	0	6	269	185	33
Penygroes	14	9	3	2	282	177	30
Llandybie	15	9	2	4	277	221	26
Cefneithen	14	6	2	6	178	167	20
Fishguard	17	6	1	10	246	298	19
Pontyates	16	5	1	10	241	263	16
Furnace United	15	4	0	11	159	300	12
St Davids	16	2	1	13	120	345	7
Bynea	15	1	0	14	85	590	3

Youth Rugby

The Club has been unable to field a Youth team for the last 2 seasons due to playing numbers, but it is looking promising that next year we will be able to run a side.

If numbers allow, the club will enter a team in the Pembrokeshire Youth League. This will offer regular weekly rugby for the team with 22 matches to be played over the season..

If you are aged between 16-19 next season and want more information please contact Michael John or Jeremy Brock via the club, 01437 890462.

Junior Rugby

The Junior section have completed all the arranged fixtures for the season and now have only extra matches and cup competitions to be played.

The under 8's have entered the Pembrokeshire tag competition to be played at Neyland on Good Friday.

The under 10's and 11's have not entered the cups but will be playing some more matches before the end of the season.

The under 14's have drawn Pembroke away in their cup to be played on Sunday 11th March.

The under 16's have a bye in the 1st round of their competition and will then travel to meet the winners of Pembroke Dock and Haverfordwest on a date to be arranged.

As always, any help with the Juniors is appreciated. Please contact the club if you can help in any way...01437 890462.

Brilliant Opportunity!!

David Lewis, of North Nash Farm, has been picked for Pembrokeshire County Schools Under-15s Rugby Tour to South Africa at the end of May. **We wish David every success and an enjoyable tour.**



The Really Wild Page

WINTER NATURE NOTES

The four months which have elapsed since my last report in early November have been fairly uneventful birdwise. I suspect that the unusually mild winter has kept some of the winter migrants away and the widespread availability of food throughout the countryside may well have resulted in the fewer visits to the garden feeders by smaller garden birds. We certainly saw fewer **redwings** and **fieldfares** about despite the abundance of berries in our garden.

One highlight was a **Leach's Petrel** seen by Mike Roberts in the Pill on 6 December during the severe gales at that time. There were numerous reports of these dainty seabirds all along the Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary having been blown inland from the Atlantic by the gales. Mike saw it typically "hopping" low over the water against the strong winds, whilst being harassed by the local gulls. These dark grey-brown birds are distinguished from the more common **storm petrel** by their larger size and forked tail.

On the morning of 13 December I saw a **great northern diver** (also known as a **loon**) together with a **great crested grebe** off Llangwm Ferry. I saw one again on 18 December off the Cunnigar. Graham Stephens reported two great northern divers on 30 December off Llangwm Ferry.

There were sporadic sightings of a **spotted redshank** in the Pill during November, December to mid-January but I haven't spotted it recently. Also throughout the last four months as many as four **dabchicks** (**little grebes**) have been present in and around the Pill. They appear to spend more time under the water than above it and can cover quite substantial distances beneath the surface.

Since Mervyn Jones (who lived for some years at Gail Rise) moved to Somerset I have inherited responsibility for carrying out the monthly **Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)** count of waterbirds for the Llangwm sector. I cover the shore to mid-channel from Black Tar taking in Edwards Pill and Guildford Pill to Port Lion. The Wetland Bird Survey is undertaken by volunteers and run nationally and jointly by all the major conservation organisation. The objective is to monitor the British waterbird population at all wetland habitats inland (including lakes, loughs, rivers, canals, ponds, reservoirs, gravel pits and marshes) as well as estuaries and open coast. The counts on estuaries like ours are done on a designated day once a month around high water when the birds are easiest to count, and are not hidden from sight in the gullies in the mud. The results of each count are fed into a national database.

Gulls and **Canada geese** apart, the most numerous birds in the Pill over the last four months are **teal** (86), **redshank** (56), **lapwing** (48), **shelduck** (40) and **mallard** (28). The numbers indicate the maximum counted. The numbers of course vary from day to day and on occasions other than count days I have seen larger numbers of some of the species as well as flocks of around 150 **dunlin**.

There is a solitary **moorhen** resident in the stream between Guildford Bridge and the Stepping Stones. It's quite a secretive individual and I occasionally spot it lurking in the shelter of the banks.

On Sunday 18 February there were two **bumble bees** foraging around the heather in our garden and the first **celandines** were out. This unseasonal mild weather has brought the **crocuses**, **primroses**, **daffodils** and **snowdrops** into flower much earlier than normal and in places I've seen **blackthorn** blossom and leaf out as early as the third week of February. There was **frogspawn** in some garden ponds in the third week of January.

Renowned bird expert **John Wyatt** provided another highlight on Valentine's Day with his illustrated talk in the Village Hall on "**The Language of Birds**". John's stunning slides and superb bird recordings were accompanied by a very enlightening and amusing commentary. It had all the ingredients of a soap opera or tabloid spice with a mix of lust, greed, sex, rivalry and treachery - all the things that make bird behaviour so fascinating!

That's about it for now. If you've anything of interest to report email me on grahambrace@btinternet.com or phone me on 01437 891580.



Blown off course by the winter gales, this juvenile swan needed a little persuasion (in the form of a trail of breadcrumbs) to get back to the river. It was later checked by Terry Leadbetter of Milford Haven who took it to the Bird Rescue Centre at West Williamston for feeding up before being released again. (*Don't try this at home, kids - this swan was obligingly docile; they can be quite vicious.*)

THANKS TO ALL

This Easter issue of Llangwm News has once again been a big concerted effort by all our contributors - researchers, writers, photographers, scanners, artworkers, printers and distributors on the 'footlog' newsrounds!

Our thanks go to Mrs Ellen Skyrme for giving up her time in what is still an amazingly busy life at 97, to share with us her very special village memories. Also to our features writer Anna Wilson of Williamston Terrace for her wonderful pen-portrait of the village's favourite 'Great Aunt'. Anna found it a delightful task to interview Ellen, she was so interesting and had so much to relate about Llangwm long ago. "I could have listened to her all day long!" said Anna. Great suggestion from Pat James!!!

Also thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue. Excellent timekeeping on the February/March deadline - *almost* all of you! It really helps. Next issue of *Llangwm News* will come out in early September, with a contributors' deadline of

Friday 3 August

(Watch those holidays!)

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Out of Llangwm - to the Gold Rush!

In our last issue we reported on Susan Bowen of Llangollen's search for her ancestry, and the link with a long-lost relative in Canada who was also anxious to find out about a certain Llangwm School headmaster, Henry James Simlett and his family, from around the turn of last century.

Our report occasioned a phone call from Mr Viv Jones of Freystrop who said he can clearly remember his mother talking about that very Headmaster....he was strict, by all accounts, but then that was the order of the day! Viv Jones also pointed out that Henry Simlett's grave is just inside Llangwm Cemetery gates, second row back.

Nikki Bosworth, our resident archivist, came up with many interesting details about the family - though there are still some facts to be discovered, if you think you can help.

- It's not clear whether Mr Simlett had retired from Llangwm school at the time of his death - or whether he was due to retire.
- Henry James Simlett had travelled from Llangwm, where he had been schoolmaster for 28 years, to Crundale at the beginning of September 1899 to visit his adopted son George Mends and had taken lodgings at Crundale House. At about 1 o'clock on Wednesday 6th September 1899, he and George Mends went on a short bicycle ride to Rudbaxton church. They stopped at Rudbaxton schoolhouse and Mr Simlett went into the school to see Richard Hughes Rowlands, the schoolmaster. Whilst in the school, Mr Simlett collapsed and died. Mr Simlett was thought to be worried about school matters and leaving Llangwm. At the inquest, his death was recorded as being "heart failure". All this information comes from an item in the 'Western Telegraph' of 13 September 1899.
- One of his daughters, Mary Margaret Simlett, is on the 1901 census - but has been transcribed in the index as Mary Margaret Limlett, born at Llangammarch in Pembrokeshire! She was a sales assistant at the Owen Owen department store in Everton, Lancashire, and lived in the store's own "Young Ladies Residence" in Shaw Street, Everton.
- Mr Simlett had attended teachers' training college in Carmarthen as he went to a reunion there on 26 September 1873. Mrs Simlett was the sewing mistress at Llangwm school. It was quite common for the schoolmaster's wife to perform this duty.
- One of Mr Simlett's sons was reputedly born blind (with no eyes). This was probably Bertram. Another son (probably John Henry) had an accident with a ginger beer bottle bursting and lost the sight of one eye.
- Henry James Simlett was the son of John and Jane Hodge Simlett of Quay Hill, Tenby, and was baptised at Tenby church on 5 February 1845. John Simlett was a lawyer's clerk. According to the gravestone in Llangwm cemetery, Henry James Simlett was born on 11 January 1845. His wife Amelia Jane was born on 10 October 1846 and died on 1 October 1900. In the 1891 census, George Mends is living at Llangwm schoolhouse with the Simlett family and is described as 'ward' of Mr Simlett.
- Several relatives have been traced - Fred Simlett, a lady called Betty, and her brother-in-law who is the great grandson of Henry Simlett. When we last heard they were due to meet up, as they all live within half an hour of each other in Nova Scotia!
- The grave of a younger daughter of Henry Simlett, by the name of Justina Simlett, was discovered in the Yukon. One can only imagine the story behind it all, in what were often desperate times.