

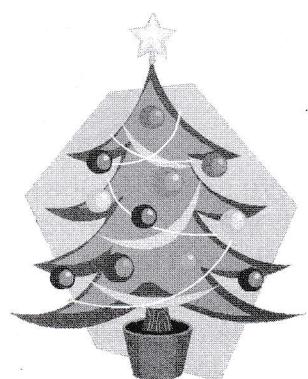
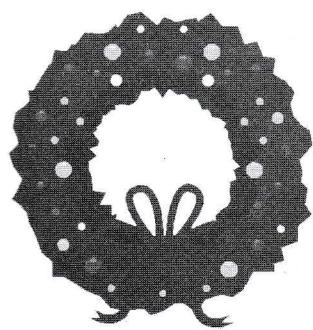
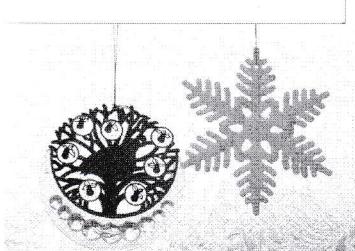
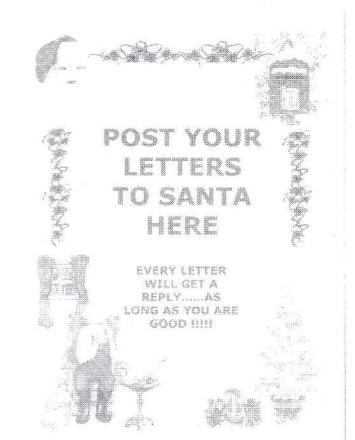
LLANGWM NEWS

ISSUE 27 December 2007

**A message to all the children in Llangwm village
and Llangwm School**

POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS!

Santa's postbox is outside **Kenny & Avril Platten's** house on Main Street, so make sure you post your letters before 18 December, to be sure that you get a personal reply from **Santa** and the Elves.



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all readers**

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



The Christmas Season in Llangwm with Events for Everyone

We are ringing some changes for this year's Christmas season with a number of events organised by your festival committee.

The first will be an opportunity for everyone to get their brain cells working at a **Pub Quiz** in the **Cottage Inn** on November 30th at 8.00pm. The cost is just £5.00 per team with the maximum team size being five people. **There is a prize for the winning team.**

December 14th sees the arrival of **Father Christmas** on the Green, but this year with a difference. This event will have a **Victorian Theme** and the Festival Committee hopes that everyone will get into the spirit of a Victorian Christmas, by coming in Victorian costume. There will be a bottle of **Champagne** for the best-dressed Victorian adult couple and prizes for the best-dressed children.



We gather on the **Green at 6.15pm** where hopefully the weather will smile on us and the **Milford Haven Town Band** will join us for Christmas carols. Then at **7.00pm**, Father Christmas will arrive to switch on the lights and chat to the children. There will be hot roasted chestnuts, mulled wine and mince pies given out.

And it won't end there... Supported by the **Welsh Arts Council** and continuing the Victorian theme, Opera Playhouse will be performing **"Christmas In The Parlour"** in **St Jerome's Church at 8.15pm**. Tickets for that concert will be available from the shop and from Pam Hunt on 01437 899966.

For New Year's Day, the Festival Committee has decided regretfully not to have the Firework display this year. However, in order that families can work off their Christmas calories, there will be a **Family Treasure Hunt** starting at the Village Hall at 2.00pm. Having taken the competitors all over the village, it will finish at about 3.30pm when there will be a prize presentation in the village hall with tea & cakes, followed by **Family Bingo**.

A varied programme of events, which we hope will entertain and amuse everyone - with more to come in 2008. **The Festival Committee** is always on the look out for 'new blood'. New people bring new ideas and it would be lovely if some of the younger generation in the village could be persuaded to join us... **It's great fun.**

To those people who have donated mince pies or biscuits in the past for the visit by Santa and turning on of the lights, please accept our **grateful thanks** and if you are able to do the same this year, put your name on the list that will be displayed in the shop. If anyone else feels that they are able to do so, please also add your name to the list, indicating how many you can donate.

With best wishes for an entertaining and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

The Festival Committee



WINNING WAYS!

LLANGWM GARDENING CLUB NEWS

The Club ladies have been sweeping the board this year, winning all the Club competitions. In July, the **Joe Neal Memorial Trophy** for the best plant in a 3 inch pot, judged by **Harry Parry**, was won by **Eileen Parfitt** with her cactus, that flowered just on the day of the competition!



Then in September we had the **Garden Photography and Art Competition** with three winners – **Maureen John** won the best Photo category, **Christine Jacob** the Art prize and **Liz Beresford** the Collage prize – well done ladies! The fellas will have to work harder to keep up next time! Many thanks to **Graham Brace** for judging the competition, which was well supported and made an interesting and lively evening to start off the new season.

New member of the Club (and village), **Hayden Garlick**, National Park Warden for our area, gave an enlightening talk on “**The Work of the National Park**” in our October meeting. Both Hayden and his wife, a botanist who also works for the Park, provided an illustrated talk on how National Parks started and developed. It was interesting to compare the approach in the States with ours – theirs are true “wilderness” areas, while ours have to support agriculture and livelihoods within them. We welcome you both to the Club, and hope you enjoy settling in the village.

As we started to do the Autumn clear-up in the garden we were enjoying a late spell of dry mild weather – T-shirts rather than the usual two jumpers and a fleece! – and it reminded us that the season is much longer than even a few years ago – there were still tomatoes in the greenhouse and flowers on the roses. Odd, then, to think that our November meeting was “**Preparations for Christmas**” by **Richard Bramley**

from Farmyard Nursery, Llandysul. He always provides a lively evening with slides, demos and plants, not to mention his little terrier that goes with him everywhere! Congrats to Richard on his Chelsea Gold Medal for a “Woodland Corner” display – there was a chance to see this set up at Picton Castle Plant Fair in September.

December sees us all dressing in our gladrags for the **Christmas Dinner** outing – always a jolly evening, especially as our generous Treasurer, David Mills, subs the coach transport and we don’t have to drive home!

Club membership is steadily growing – we must have some good fertilizer! – and stands at over 40 paid-up members at the time of writing, - welcome to all the new members that have joined us recently.

Maureen John



The Club Programme –with thanks to Eileen’s hard work and persuasive telephone manner! – is listed below. All meetings are on

Mondays, 7.30pm at The Cottage Inn, Llangwm.

Dec 3	Christmas Dinner Lamphey Court Hotel
Jan 7	New Year Quiz and Social Evening
Feb 4	Walled Garden & Organic Growing Malcom Berry, Head Gardener, National Botanic Gardens
Mar 3	Bats & Moths of Pembrokeshire Peter Brown
Apr 7 th	Wickerwork, Baskets & Garden Ornaments Helen Campbell
May 11(Sun) Bus Trip to Cae Hir Gardens, Lampeter	
Jun 2	Unusual Plants in the Glasshouse Paul Bond, Cactus & Succulents Society
Jul 7	AGM & Summer Barbeque



Enduro Africa—The Ride for Life

Since the last issue of the Llangwm Newsletter, I have taken part in and successfully completed **Enduro Africa**.

On collecting our motorcycles from Durban, we set off south on route to Port Elizabeth. Little did I know how physically and mentally demanding this trip would be.

Riding on dirt track roads which were more pothole than road, at speeds in excess of 80 kph, maximum concentration is needed. Up gorges full of boulders, through forests, rivers, sand dunes, friendly villages and some very unfriendly townships.

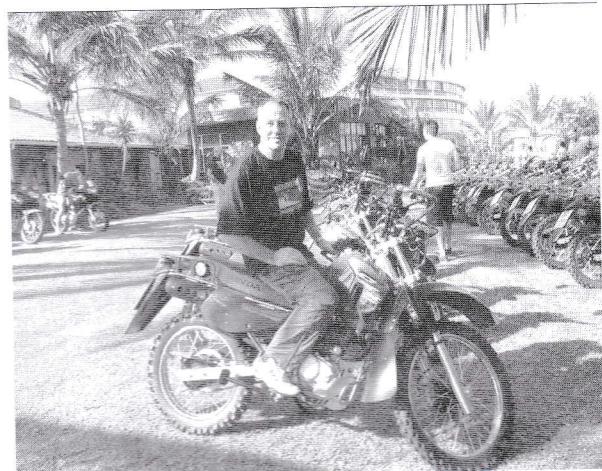


It was after a fuel stop at Willowvale, (a township of extreme poverty, unlike anything I have ever seen), that five minutes after our departure our driver was robbed at knifepoint. This brought home to us that we were in a lot more danger than any of us realised, but we carried on regardless and just put it to the back of



Over the next few days, the riding conditions got tougher, with accidents seeming to be a regular occurrence. Some were just minor 'offs' (me included), and some more serious. Four members of my team crashed heavily over a period of two days, all ending up under the surgeon's knife. This made me think "what am I doing here, but if I've got this far then I have to finish".

On the last day we rode out to **Lapa Game Reserve**—what an incredible feeling, riding a motorcycle through a game reserve—so much wildlife. We then rode into Port Elizabeth where we picked up with the local police, who escorted us into the city and to our destination, the Pine Lodge.



What a feeling of elation to have survived - I was really looking forward to having a few beers with my fellow riders. It was an epic journey, but never to be repeated. Hopefully, what I have done will make a big difference to people's lives over the years to come, with the medical aid these bikes will assist in delivering.

A big **THANK YOU** to all the people who have supported me and to the **Llangwm Rowing Club** for getting me fit. **Cheers Guys.**

Kevin Broc

TRANSPORT AND TELEVISION... CUTTINGS... AND A CUPBOARD

LLANGWM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Following the summer break, our Local History Society has had two excellent visits; the first was to Hayston Hall, where we were shown an amazing collection of old vehicles and all sorts of memorabilia by Neville & Hilary Pugh. Our grateful thanks to them for opening their collection to us and for giving us such an excellent evening. October saw us at the Reference Library in Haverfordwest where Local History Librarian, George Edwards, and his team produced a fascinating array of photographs, documents, newspaper cuttings and books concerning Llangwm. We were given a great evening and an invitation to return as a group or as individuals to conduct further research into all things related to Llangwm.

Our November meeting featured a talk on "Bringing History to Television" given by Pam Hunt. Pam's experience as a BBC producer and latterly with her own production company, showed the changing way that history has been portrayed on television over the years, how ideas for historical programmes get translated into TV items and how to spot the very latest techniques in computer generated images—of air battles for example.

A date for your diary once all the Christmas festivities are over will be Wednesday 9th January when Charlotte New, the Museum Collections Officer from Scolton Manor, will be bringing a collection of strange and amusing objects for us to identify. Some of these items are bound to produce some extraordinary suggestions as to their actual function and there will be a prize for the best (or most ludicrous) suggestion. This will be a social and fun evening to which everyone is welcome.

Our delight at receiving a grant from the Pembrokeshire Small Grants Scheme continues as we now have a cupboard in the Village Hall in which to house our local archive. We are constantly trying to enlarge the archive and would be grateful for any assistance in this area. If you can help, do please get in touch with one of the following: Jane Mills 890147, Margaret Brace 891580 or Christine Jacob 899350.

Our meetings and visits are open to everyone, so do come along to the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month or keep a look out for posters around the village.

Jane Mills

Llangwm place names: what do they mean?

The Gail – narrow lane

Knap – small hillock

Sprinkle – a spring

Black Tar – black rock

Hook – a spur of land or bend in the river

The Lays or Leys – fallow land [i.e. temporarily uncultivated]

The Kilns – a furnace for removing water from limestone to make lime suitable for use as manure on agricultural land

Pill – a tidal creek

Troopers Inn – a pub used by cavalry [soldiers on horseback]

And – to be controversial – **Llangwm – an enclosure around a church dedicated to Saint Jerome**. There are three villages in Wales named Llangwm, all three have churches dedicated to St Jerome and I believe that they are the only churches in Wales dedicated to St Jerome. ['Gwm' being a corruption of the name 'Jerome'.]

Nikki Bosworth



(top) St Jerome's Church, Llangwm, Pembrokeshire

(centre) St Jerome's Church, Llangwm, Conwy

(below) St Jerome's Church, Llangwm, Monmouthshire

VILLAGE NEWS

BILLY AND HELEN SING FOR THE SCARLETS

Billy John of River View and his daughter Helen Carrington of Gail Rise were delighted at the end of last year to be selected for the Supporters Choir for the Scarlets (Llanelli Rugby Football Club). You may have seen the TV series about the choir earlier this year on S4C.

Helen is especially thrilled right now as she has been selected to join a combined choir representing several of the rugby districtsand they are touring no less a venue than Dubai!

Watch out for the coverage of this tour and the choir's performances on S4C in the New Year.

Another Good Read

If you enjoyed the last recommendation (the McCall Smith novel based in Botswana), how about something completely different?

Karl Hiaasen is an American journalist who lives in Florida. He has written a lot of crime novels based on that state. Hiaasen is brilliant at creating underworld characters/villains who are both sinister and funny. His books are, however, more than crime novels showing, as they do, a serious concern for the environment and highlighting the ways in which the property developers are damaging the beautiful Sunshine State.

His latest offering, 'Nature Girl', has just been released but it might be better to start with his earlier books such as 'Stormy Weather' which deals with the aftermath of a hurricane.

I'd be surprised if you didn't find his work really entertaining and thought provoking. *Barry Childs*

Recognise this?

(A most unusual photograph sent in by Owen John of Chapel Row)



*It's a rare view of
Llangwm Green*

*on a
spookily quiet
May morning.
(No cars, no
tricks either!)*

GET WEAVING... ON THE VILLAGE WEBSITE

If any society wishes to put up to date information on the village website, www.llangwm-villages.org.uk please supply it by email to our webmaster John Ewart, John@ewart.org.uk or drop a disk into the village shop or to one of the editors (see back page) marked for John's attention.

It would be good for each village group to develop their own 'page' showing brief details of what the group is all about, possibly with photographs or latest news (much as you supply it to this newsletter). John advises against putting personal contact details on the internet, but be sure to give details of your society's usual meeting times and places.

SOUNDS A GOOD IDEA?

Everyone is interested in music - and Brian Lloyd of *Port Lion* wonders if anyone in or around the village would be interested in starting up a *Music Appreciation group*?

He is keen on classical, opera and jazz - and perhaps others can talk knowledgeably about, or simply bring along, other types of music - folk, country, swing, even pop and rock.

You can get so much more out of music from simple explanations and background - so please get in touch if you'd like to come along to such a group. Tel: 01646 601818 or email hblloyd45@tiscali.co.uk

LLANGWM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Harvest Supper

One of the functions of any Village Hall must be to provide a place where all local people can gather together for an enjoyable evening. The Harvest Supper is one such occasion!! The Hall becomes transformed with autumn foliage and berries, the lighting is subtle and musical entertainment with a delicious supper are provided. This year's 'new' menu (apologies for supermarket parlance) of succulent ham and Pembrokeshire baked potatoes (from our own village supplier Rachel Lewis), quiches and locally donated salads, followed by locally grown plums and cream proved extremely popular.



Self service instead of the usual waiter service also gave an opportunity to meet more friends old and new and was given positive ratings by the customers! Liz Jones was an excellent compere. The talented Bobby Richards and Margaret Llewellyn kindly provided the music for the evening and led the sing song afterwards, while the table quiz meant brain gym was on the menu, but gave pleasure rather than pain!



Many thanks to **Liz Beresford** for being the main organiser and all committee members and friends of the Village Hall who helped with the myriad of other jobs that are needed to enable these events to run. The money raised is put to keeping the Hall going, so a great night out makes a great contribution.

Christmas Market

The next event is the **Annual Christmas Market** which is on Saturday November 24th from 10.30am to 4 p.m. Many local artists and craftspeople will be there. Entrance is free and refreshments will be available – an ideal way to do some hassle-free, high quality Christmas shopping!

Events in the Hall this season

This has included **tea following the confirmation and christening service** conducted by the Bishop of St Davids, and the popular weekly **Sugarcraft and Patchwork** courses run by **Pembrokeshire College** (both free). **Scottish Dancing** is continuing and the **History Society** also uses the Hall. Many thanks to Pat in the shop for taking bookings and also for selling tickets for so many events.

Hire of the Hall

Charges are as follows:
Community group activities-£5
Parties: Adult-£25, Children£15

Val John

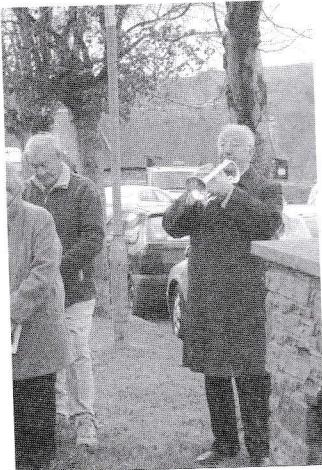


A Village Remembers...

Over 70 people gathered on Llangwm Green on the morning of Sunday 11 November to attend a **Service of Remembrance** for those who lost their lives in war.

In a moving tribute, Rev. Bill Robertson of Llangwm Methodist Chapel led the service and read the list of names of the fallen of the village from two world wars. A Bible reading was given by Maureen Kiff of Galilee Baptist Chapel and the poem "I Do Not Know Your Name" was read by Pam Hunt of St. Jerome's Church.

The service was given poignancy by the bugle-playing of *The Last Post* and *Reveille* by Mr Dennis Wheeler of Port Lion, who also accompanied the hymn "*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*" and the national anthem.



A wreath was laid at the memorial by Llangwm Community Council Chairman Neville Lewis, and posies of poppies were placed by Toby Asson, Dani Mehan, Beth Meopham and Louise Blackmore, representing Llangwm School. Poppies were also placed by members of the community in memory of loved ones.



Grateful thanks from Llangwm Community Council to all who took part in the service.

GALILEE BAPTIST CHAPEL

Williamston Terrace, Guildford, Llangwm

Chapel services at Galilee continue as normal on Sundays at 10.30am, and the congregation will join in the United Service on Christmas Day at Llangwm Methodist Chapel at 10.00am.

This year Cherrill Phillips of Foxhall, Llangwm is President of the Haverfordwest and Milford Haven District of the Baptist Missionary Auxiliary. The service (on Tuesday evening 6th November) which Cherrill led at Bethesda Baptist Chapel, Haverfordwest, to mark Women's World Day of Prayer was well supported by members of Galilee.

A coffee morning was held at Galilee on Wednesday 21st November to raise funds for the humanitarian work of Baptist missionaries overseas.

If you would like some company and 'food for thought' why not come along to the meetings of **Galilee's Women's League**? All are welcome.

This autumn the League, held every second Thursday at 2pm in the chapel vestry, has enjoyed interesting talks from speakers such as 'Jo' from Chapel Row on healing, Mrs Margaret Price (wife of Rev Ron Price of Milford Haven), a representative from Age Concern, and Pam Hunt of The Kilns on her career in radio and television. The ladies also spent time decorating the chapel for Christmas.

This year the ladies will hold their Christmas dinner at the St Bride's Hotel, Saundersfoot, in December.

The **Mums and Tots group** which meets at Galilee every Thursday at 10 a.m. also welcomes new members. (If you need details contact the Editors - see back page.)

A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL
FROM GALILEE.

LLANGWM METHODIST CHURCH on Llangwm Green

MINISTER: Reverend William Robertson

TREASURER: Mrs Hilary Hitchings

SECRETARY: Mrs Jane Brock

Sunday Services: Morning 11.00 am
Sunday School 11.00 am

Women's Fellowship: Fortnightly on Wednesdays - 2.00 pm

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sat 17 November	Mini Market	11.00am-1.00pm
Fri 7 December	Mince Pies/Coffee and Carols	7.00pm
Sun 16 December	Carol Service	6.00pm
Tue 25 December	Christmas United Service	10.00am

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

ST JEROME'S CHURCH, LLANGWM

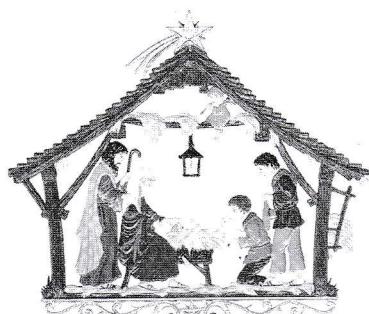
We are delighted that Rev. Jane is making such a good recovery from her recent operation. We look forward to her recommencing her duties in the near future.

The first phase of the building work on the Church is almost complete.

Christmas Services

Services at **St. Justinian's (Freystrop)** have been included for those interested in attending these.

16 th Dec	Candle lit Service (St. Justinian's)	6.00pm
20 th Dec	Christingle Service	5.00pm
22 nd Dec	Christingle Service (St. Justinian's)	5.00pm
24 th Dec.	Crib Service	5.00pm
24 th Dec	Christmas Mass	11.30pm
25 th Dec	Christmas Eucharist (St. Justinian's)	9.30am
25 th Dec	United Service (Methodist Chapel)	10.00am



Will we have snow again this winter?



*The scene at Edwards Pill
some years ago.*

Still Raising The Roof at St Jerome's

With the success of the two concerts at St Jerome's Church during this year's **Llangwm Festival**, accompanied by the need to spend money on installing more efficient heating and upgrading the wiring, the church has started to host a series of monthly concerts to raise the money needed to pay for it all.

The Concert series kicked off on October 19th, when we welcomed Pembrokeshire's newest choir, **Cantabile**, under their musical director Richard Stephens. The choir delighted the audience with a concert of contemporary music, including songs from the West End shows, film and TV themes and popular songs from around the world.

On November 16th, St. Jerome's welcomed the **Pembroke Borough Silver Band** with a concert called "Remember & Smile". The first half – 'Remember' included music from **WW1** and **WW2**, interspersed with readings of diaries and letters from the 'Front'. The second half, "Smile" included music familiar to everyone and included a few surprises. The band gave a rousing performance—especially when Toby conducted them!



Some of the soloists from Pembroke Borough Silver Band (Cindy Hissey, Catrin Marsden and Natalie Hobbs) with their conductor, Dennis Wheeler.

The proceeds from the ticket sales were distributed as follows: 50% between The British Legion and Children in Need and 50% to the church restoration fund.

On December 14th to round off the Annual Father Christmas event, Opera Playhouse, supported by the Welsh Arts Council will present "**Christmas in the Parlour**", continuing the Victorian Christmas theme right through the evening.

Tickets for the above event are £5.00 adults and £3.00 for accompanied children. They can be obtained from Pat in the Shop or Pam Hunt on 01437 899966. Please come and join us not only to have a great evening, but also in the knowledge that you are helping Llangwm's oldest building undertake **much needed repairs**.

In February, plans are in place for another concert. Please watch out for posters around the village.

LLANGWM VC SCHOOL NEWS

Once again, it has been a very busy term for the school, with the children from various classes being involved in a range of activities.

Class 5—during the summer term member from Class 5 went to take part and learn about the safety aspects of watersports at the Pembrokeshire Activity Centre, Pembroke Dock.



Some of the children who took part in the watersports

Class 6—In October Year 6 with to Withybush for Crucial Crew. The children spent an afternoon with the Police, Ambulance, Firefighters and Lifeguards at the Withybush Showground, Haverfordwest. The afternoon was arranged by Pembrokeshire Council.



Taking part in the activities at Crucial Crew

Crucial Crew

In October Year 6 at Llangwm School went to Withybush for Crucial Crew. There were lots of agencies to talk about, things like police, coastguard and emergency services. We were shown what it was like to be a bus driver if you had distractions in the back. Everyone got to have a look at everything; we even had to learn CPR on dummies! We got asked lots of questions at the end about what we saw and heard.

I think most people were shocked looking at what could happen to a kitchen if it caught fire! Also, at the end they showed us a flare. We all got a goody bag full of safety leaflets and toys.

We thanked everyone before we got on the bus back to school. We would have lots to tell our parents.

By Fen Smith

My Broad Haven Diary

Dydd Mercher Hydref 3

Yn y bore

We were waiting all morning for the Llangwm School North Wales children to arrive at Llangwm School.

Yn y prynhawn

When they arrived we all went into the hall to welcome them and we had a drink and biscuits. Then we left to go to Broad Haven. I went in Mrs Rees' car with Scott and Tessa. Mrs Rees told Tessa and Scott and me where our rooms were and we put our coats on our beds so we knew it was our bed. When everyone arrived at the youth hostel we got told who was in our room. We put our wellies on and went to the beach.

Yn y nos

When we got back to the youth hostel we had tea and National Park Rangers came in and played some games with us. After we had a game of bingo in Welsh.

Dydd Iau Hydref 4

Yn y bore

The next day we had to get up at 7.30am. We got dressed and had breakfast. We got our wellies and went to Pembroke Castle and split into two groups. We walked around the castle and we found out lots of things about Pembroke Castle. We went in a cave underneath the castle and on the floor there was a paw print of the white dragon.

Yn y prynhawn

After Pembroke Castle we had lunch and we had a walk on the sand dunes. We were all tired and very thirsty.

Yn y nos

We got back to the youth hostel and had tea. After tea we went bowling and had a great time. We went back to the youth hostel and had a quiz. After the quiz we went to bed.

I enjoyed staying with friends from North Wales and getting a chance to speak more Welsh. Staying away from home was great fun and we also learnt a lot of things about Pembrokeshire.

By Emily Carrington



Pictured are Llangwm School, Pembrokeshire and Llangwm School, Conwy, enjoying a lovely day at Freshwater East beach. With National Park Ranger, Gill, looking at how the sand dunes grow and what helps them to stay in place.

Award Winning Pupils



Pictured are Year 6 children who received Certificates of Achievement, some receiving special awards.

The **Golden Jubilee Achievement Award** was presented by Mr Childs to **Ryan Gau**. The **Hooper Music Achievement Award** was presented to **Eleanor Armstrong** and the **Victor and Victrix Ludorum** shields were presented to **Orrin Childs and Kaya Henderson** respectively.

Orrin Childs also received the **Single Wicket Award**. The children pictured have all settled well into their new secondary schools.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 28 Nov Christmas Fayre at School, 6.30pm start, various stalls and Santa in his grotto.
 Tues 11 Dec Infants' Christmas Production, Methodist Chapel, 2.15pm
 Wed 12 Dec Juniors' Christmas Production, Methodist Chapel, 6.30pm
 Fri 21 Dec Christmas Carol Service, St Jerome's Church, 9.30am



Some Messages of Thanks

From Kenny and Avril Platten to all those friends and neighbours who have helped in the construction and design of Santa's postbox, posters and other Christmas mail preparations, especially to Rod and Jan Billen of 2 Main Street, Mr and Mrs Andrew Swift of 9 Main Street and Elaine McKeen of River View.

From the editors to Anna Wilson for her features during the year, which have added great interest to the newsletter. Also to Gareth Martin for taking some of the photographs included in this edition.

Llangwm RFC Fixtures Lists 2007/08 Season

1st XV Fixtures

Date	Team	Type	Venue
Dec-01	Fishguard	L	Away
Dec-08	Aberaeron	L	Home
Dec-15			
Dec-22	Cefnethin	L	Home
Dec-26	H'West	C	Home
Jan-05			
Jan-12	Pontyates	L	Away
Jan-19	St Clears	L	Home
Feb-02			
Feb-09			
Feb-16	Penygroes	L	Home
Feb-23			
Mar-01	St Davids	L	Away
Mar-08			
Mar-15			
Mar-22	Birru Port	L	Home
Mar-29	Furnace	L	Away
Apr-05	Fishguard	L	Home
Apr-12	Aberaeron	L	Away
Apr-10	Cefnethin	L	Away

Youth XV Fixtures

Date	Team	Type	Venue
Dec-01	Whiltland	L	Away
Dec-08	Milford Haven	L	Home
Dec-15	Tenby	L	Away
Dec-22			
Dec-29	Crymych	H	Home
Jan-05	Narberth	L	Away
Jan-12	Aberystwyth	L	Home
Jan-19	H'West	L	Away
Jan-26	Pembroke	L	Home
Feb-02			
Feb-09			
Feb-16	Cardigan	L	Away
Feb-23			
Mar-01	P'Dock	L	Home
Mar-08			
Mar-15			
Mar-22	Fishguard	L	Away
Mar-29	Whitland	L	Home
Apr-05	Milford Haven	L	Away
Apr-12			
Apr-19			

Home Ground: Pill Parks, Llangwm

Kick Off: Youth—2.00 pm
 1st XV—2.30 pm

Training: Monday at 7.00 pm
 Thursday at 7.00 pm

Be sure to support Llangwm RFC in the coming months.

(The Rugby Club report by Michael John is on Page 14.)

ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL

Deprived children living in the village of Baia Mare in Romania are now going to a brand new school, thanks to the efforts of Pembrokeshire volunteers including 17-year-old Kate McLoughlin of Guildford, Llangwm.

Kate, a pupil of Tasker Milward, travelled to Romania this summer with fifty other young people from all over the county, to help build the badly-needed school. She decided to go after Taskers received a letter from organiser Bob Inglesant, looking for volunteers.

In late July, having raised £500 to pay for the trip, she was on a bus with 50 other young people from all over Pembrokeshire, including five others from Taskers. After two and a half days on the bus, stopping in Budapest, Hungary, on the way, they arrived at Baia Mare.

Her first impressions were pretty negative. "We travelled through back roads and got there at about 6 pm when it was quite dark; we couldn't see much but what you could see was really bad," she said. "There were a few nice houses although they were all quite small, but most of them were scruffy flats, and a lot of them had burn marks on the fronts. It looked like it might be a really rough area in London or somewhere."

"Where we stayed was really weird. There were loads of stray dogs and cats which were really skinny. All the glass was broken in the windows of the building next to us, it wasn't very nice." The first morning saw the young people split into four groups and shown their different tasks. Some were taken to see the school, while some stayed to do the cooking for the day.



As Kate and her group were shown around the site of the new school, the gypsy children living nearby came to see them. "We could see where they lived; it was awful," she said. "The bricks in their houses looked like they were going to crumble." The children were mostly very friendly, with a few trying to impress the group by putting new outfits on every half hour - although a few others tried to pinch some of the group's cameras.

The volunteers' job was to help build a new school for the local children. The old school was a tiny, primitive building, housing between 30 and 40 children. The new building had four classrooms, indoor toilets, and a church which the community could use too.

The work was quite varied, ranging from plastering (Kate's personal favourite!) to cladding and electrical work. Much of the time was spent transporting stones by wheelbarrow into the school to fill deep holes in the ground, then flattening them down and covering them in cement.



As well as working, the volunteers socialised with the children and local community, with one of the focal points being a goat roast at the new school - which even the local mayor attended.

"The Romanians and the Romany gypsies didn't get on, so it was a chance to try and bring them together," said Kate. "We made a little stage; which was very pretty; and everyone took turns to sing or do some acts."



"I was really, really pleased when we had finished," she said. "I felt I had achieved something and that we had helped their community. I'd like to go back and see it one day. It was opened recently and I saw some photographs which looked really nice."



Kate is now in her final year of A-levels in Tasker Milward School, studying French, Drama and Art. Drama is her favourite (you may have seen her this summer in Vinegar Tom, a production by the Torch Theatre Summer School), and she is hoping to study the subject at university or acting school next year.

by Anna Wilson

Kate's sister Harriet had a completely different, but equally unforgettable, trip of her own this summer too, when she attended the World Scout Centenary Jamboree in Essex. Read her account and impressions on the next page...

"I Had the Time of My Life"

A report by Harriet McLoughlin on the World Centenary Jamboree, July 2007, held in Chelmsford, Essex

"The Scouting Movement celebrated 100 years of scouting this year, and I was lucky enough to be invited, although there was a catch - I had to raise £995 to get there (and to help others travel from overseas). I was very happy and grateful when I received sponsorship from Llangwm Community Council and many people in the village, so thank you very much.

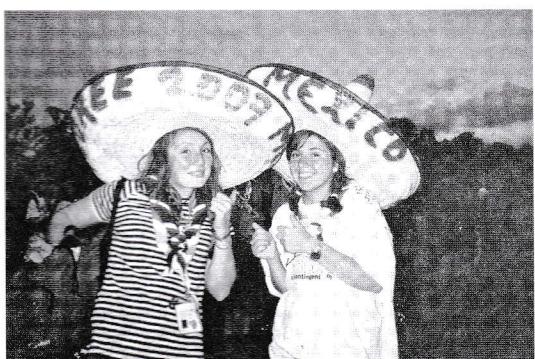
There were scouts and guides from virtually every country around the world, over 44,000 turned up.

The camps were based around a hub, which included three fields per hub. There were about 30 different scout groups from different countries in each field (sub-camp). There were some amazing activities from kayaking to live music played in the arena that the Virgin Music Festival was based at.



(Welsh Foodfest which we prepared)

I was totally unprepared for the effect that such a brilliant event would have on me. I made many different friends from all different cultural backgrounds including people from America, Austria, Spain, Australia, Belgium, Chile, Guernsey, the Philippines, Canada, New Zealand and many more.



(My friend Carys (right) and myself, Mexican style)

Ten days was way too short, I had the time of my life, and enjoyed every single moment of it.

Thank you for all your support."

Another successful summer season

LLANGWM LONGBOAT ROWING CLUB

The club has had another fantastic season with seniors and juniors competing in league races across the county over the summer.

Our annual Regatta was a great success and we were blessed with the most amazing weather for rowing, BBQing and fun.

This year Llangwm hosted the 2nd Pembrokeshire Novice Race, with a number of novice crews from different organisations around the county training with a qualified coach for just 6 weeks before a tough race.

Junior coaching has continued to go from strength to strength and we've been delighted to see our juniors improving their skills and enjoying their sport. Unfortunately we do not have coaches or facilities to offer them anything over the winter but will be looking to rectify this situation next year.

Winter rowing for seniors will continue at 10am on a Sunday, weather and numbers permitting, but it can be hit and miss so please be aware of this if you are travelling any distance. We are hoping to enter at least one crew for the 2008 Celtic Challenge - planning is already in progress and those intending to compete are looking forward to a hard schedule of training for the 94 mile race from Arklow in Ireland to Aberystwyth next April.

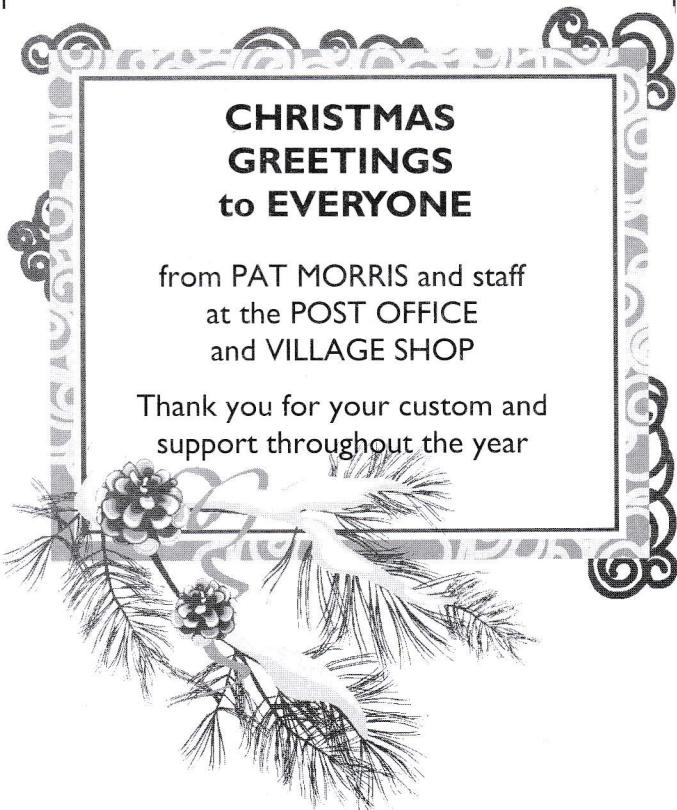
For further information for anything to do with the club you can contact me on 01646 680267.

Mel Miles

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS to EVERYONE

*from PAT MORRIS and staff
at the POST OFFICE
and VILLAGE SHOP*

*Thank you for your custom and
support throughout the year*





SENIOR RUGBY

With the season well underway the 1st XV have had mixed success thus far with a strong run in the Welsh Cup compensating for a few disappointing

results in the league. Having seen off the challenge of visiting team Canton from Cardiff, in the first round of the cup the team travelled to Cwmtwrch with a team ravaged by injuries. Showing true Llangwm spirit however, they dug deep and came away with an excellent 21-13 away win to set up a 3rd round tie against Port Talbot based team Corus.

The league did start off well with an encouraging opening win against visitors Pontyates followed up by a hard fought draw away in St.Clears. Unfortunately though, there have since been a few losses, notably home against Pembrokeshire rivals St.Davids, which has left the team sitting in a mid table position. However, if the cup form can be transferred to the league I am sure there will be many wins to come during the season to put the team back in the leading section of the table.

The annual Boxing Day encounter against Haverfordwest for the Bishop Cup, will this year be played at Llangwm. Last year was a very close game with Haverfordwest retaining the cup but home advantage this year could see it return to Llangwm after an absence of several years.

The more support for the team the better so once the turkey and mince pies have been dealt with why not come out to Pill Parks and enjoy this traditional sporting encounter.

YOUTH RUGBY

As earlier reported, The Youth XV has been reformed for this season and have so far played all their scheduled matches but are still looking for that 1st elusive win. As can be expected with such a young squad, the size and experience of the opposing teams have taken their toll, usually in the 2nd half of matches. The Llangwm players have however shown great spirit and have been commended by all the teams they have played for their determination and perseverance, never being willing to throw in the towel. There have been times when the team showed what they can do notably scoring three 2nd half tries against a strong Narberth team and travelling to Aberystwyth where they gave the big home team a physical 1st half before tiring later in the match. As experience comes this team will get stronger and will before long be a match for most other teams in the County.

If you wish to support coach Jeremy Brock and the team, please come along on Saturday afternoons. Fixtures are advertised in local press, in the club and the village shop.

JUNIOR RUGBY

As always at this time of year, the mini and junior sections are very busy with matches coming thick and fast. The Under 8's and 9's form the mini section of the club and, with their numbers growing, form one of the most well supported areas of the club. **Thank you** to all coaches and parents who continue to make this a thriving section of the club.

The junior section comprising of the Under 13's and 15's are also doing well with several new playing members for each team. This is needed as once the teams reach this age the numbers go up from 10 a side to the full 15.

If you wish to play rugby for Llangwm Juniors or Minis please contact the club for details, (ask your parents first !!). The club has a strong coaching and refereeing base with 10 qualified coaches and 7 referees covering all the junior teams. Please contact the club or coaches for details of training and matches.

As always, help is appreciated, so if there any parents willing to give up their time please contact the club.

Finally, on behalf of Llangwm RFC a Happy Christmas to All Readers, especially the players and all those who continue to support the club.

*Michael John
Chairman Llangwm RFC*



(For Fixture Lists and other information about Llangwm Rugby Club, see page 11.)

Llangwm 'Autumnwatch'

Nature Report by Graham Brace

This autumn - and what a beautiful, colourful autumn it has been - has seen the return of all the usual species of birds that normally frequent the Pill and adjacent shores outside the summer months.

The teal were much later returning this year (first ones arrived in early September - all female) but didn't achieve their normal number until the middle of October. There are currently around 60 present. Small groups of shelduck are also to be seen most days.

Although we have pairs and small groups of mallard duck around for most of the year, this autumn has seen a large group congregate around the inlet and shores at Port Lion. In mid-September there were 36 individuals made up of a mixture of females, young and drakes in eclipse plumage - emerging into their full splendour by the end of September. Their numbers have increased until they peaked at 82 individuals on 9 November but most days there are between 45 and 55 present. Maybe they are being bred domestically somewhere in the locality and, having escaped, taken a shine to Port Lion.

The Canada geese are still much in evidence with large flocks feeding on the fields behind Knapp Farm in the morning and groups of varying numbers moving up and down river between Garron Pill and Fowborough/Hook at various times during the day.

The spotted redshank re-appeared in the Pill on 24 September and has been seen regularly ever since. When doing my Wetlands Bird Survey count on 7 October it stood out like a beacon amidst a group of 40 of its duller common cousins on top of a rock in the Pill.

Apart from curlew and dunlin other waders reported over the last two months are black tailed godwit, greenshank and whimbrel. A coot was seen in the Pill on 15 September and I have seen up to five dabchicks on a few occasions. Egrets are much in evidence with three birds being present at most times.

Lapwing numbers in and around the Pill vary daily but on 21st November there were approximately 120 along the waterline at Llangwm Ferry in the company of in excess of 150 dunlin.

One highlight of my early morning walk on 11 October was seeing a superb kingfisher dive out of an oak tree on the Cunnigar into the high tide, catch and devour a small fish.

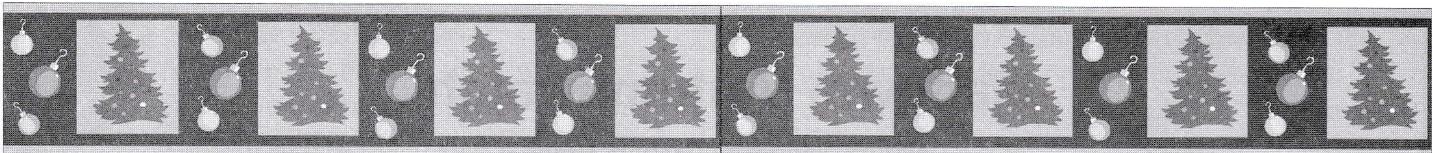
Over the last month or so we have had a phenomenal amount of bird activity in our garden having been visited by pheasants (two females), flocks of Redwing making the most of the sloes and hawthorn berries, goldcrests, two bullfinches, marsh/coal/long-tailed/blue/and great tits, chaffinches, (unusually few) greenfinches (disease is taking its toll) and a great spotted woodpecker. The robins, song thrushes and blackbirds are ever present. At one point in early November there were 14 blackbirds in one corner of our garden trying to feed on windfall apples. Needless to say there was much chasing, scuffling and aggressive calling amongst them. At the same time and completely unperturbed by the bad tempered behaviour of the blackbirds was a beautiful fieldfare, also enjoying an apple. For a few nights a tawny owl has taken to sitting in one of our apple trees and hooting to the neighbourhood around midnight.

On 24 October Mike and Gill Bowmer found a beautiful woodcock dead on their garden path at the bottom of Butterhill. It was completely intact with no sign of any breakages or injury. It may well have died from exhaustion after migrating from Russia or Scandinavia. (Ronnie James of Hook, a knowledgeable countryman, reckoned that the four days prior to finding this bird had seen quite an influx of woodcock to the area).

Mammal-wise...September and October showed no evidence of otter activity in and around the Pill but on 1st November I found fresh spraint on a spraiting site at Port Lion.

On 17 September Vernon Davies of Pill Parks Way had an encounter with a polecat at the shore end of Dark Lane. His terrier dived into some undergrowth and came face to face with it. Apparently it retaliated and only retreated when Vernon pulled the terrier out of the undergrowth by its tail. The Polecat was well 'puffed up' and left behind an appalling deterrent odour before disappearing from sight.

If you have any interesting encounters with any form of wildlife, please let me know on 01437 891580 or grahambrace@btinternet.com



Looking Back.....

Over the past year it has been a lively, action-packed time in the village.

The **Festival Committee** brought new and exciting events to Festival Fortnight (unfortunately the heavens brought rain, but it failed to dampen spirits).

The large marquee was buzzing - for Comedy Night, Poems and Pints, the Ceilidh and 'Jazz Sunday'. There was a buoyant, well-controlled, happy atmosphere at the Summer Bar.

There were workshops for the craft-minded (and these are continuing), exhibitions of art, craft and history, the museum, open gardens, and lots of tea and cakes.

Carnival Day was sunny and a great success, cartoon scarecrows were honoured with certificates and BBC TV personality Chris Serle joined us for the afternoon.

Summer concerts begun in the Church during the Festival have continued into an autumn and winter season, and present a great variety of entertainment in a good cause.

Work has started to re-vamp the grandstand and changing rooms, and the Pill Parks sports field is already looking in prime condition.

The **schoolchildren** tell us about their interesting activities - World War II afternoon, watersports, school trips and the ongoing exchange visits with the children of Llangwm, Conwy.

Individuals - young and not-so-young - bring us reports of their adventures, travel and challenges around the globe which we love to read.

And the pages of this newsletter are witness to the many village societies, sports and organisations which continue to thrive and to surprise and delight the village with their momentum, flair and creativity. **Great stuff!**

Looking forward...

Next year sees another **SeaFair** festival on the river, and Llangwm will once again be hosting the small traditional boats, this time oar and sail. Plenty of good times to be had by all, if last year was anything to go by!

(SeaFair 18-25 June 2008)

The **Village Festival** will be held alongside and after **SeaFair**, dates and venues to be announced. Are you brimming with energy and ideas? - Help on all the village committees and especially hands-on help with events is **ALWAYS** welcome.

We'll look forward to hearing from YOU then!!

Thanks for all your contributions to Llangwm News over the year and a **Very Happy New Year** from the editors:

Margaret Brace	01437 891580	email: m.brace@btinternet.com
Lorraine Grange	01437 890180	email: grange@wales05.wanadoo.co.uk
Jeff James	01437 890841	email: wjjames@btinternet.com

**N.B. DEADLINE for CONTRIBUTIONS to the EASTER EDITION of LLANGWM NEWS
is THURSDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2008**