

LLANGWM NEWS

ISSUE 28 March 2008



Llangwm Green in full bloom

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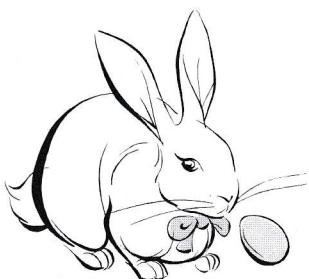
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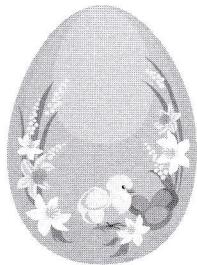
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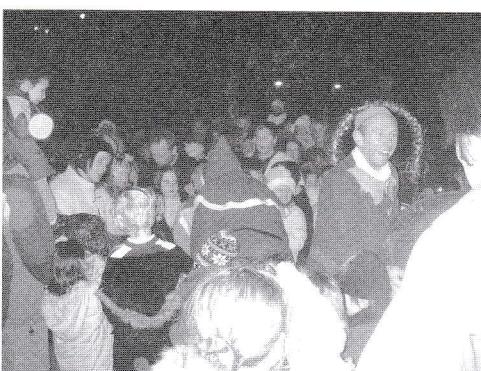
Happy Easter to
all our readers



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

Festival Committee

The Festival Committee would like to thank everyone who helped and supported the various events over Christmas and the New Year. That help and support contributed enormously to their success.



The visit by Father Christmas and his elf was as popular as ever, with wonderful music supplied by the **Milford Haven Town Band** and those people in Victorian dress certainly added something to the evening!



Llangwm Festival 2008

Plans are well advanced for this year's Llangwm Festival and since its first few days will be running concurrently with SeaFair 2008, there will be some changes to previous Festivals.

The Scarecrows

This year's Scarecrow competition is one example of the changes. There will be one simple theme, "Celebrity" and there will be two competitions running during the fortnight that the scarecrows are on show, Saturday 21st June to Saturday 5th July. There will be two classes, adult built scarecrows and children (up to 14 year's old) built scarecrows. All those who take part in the competition will be entitled to vote for the winning entries in each class. But like Eurovision Song Contest, they cannot vote for their own scarecrow.

The theme is Celebrity and the scarecrow may look either like a celebrity or represent a celebrity in another way. The second competition, which will be open to every one, will be a prize for the first person to identify just who all the scarecrows represent. Those competition papers can be picked up from the shop from Monday 23rd June. Registration of Scarecrows will commence at the village shop from 7th June.

Monday 23rd June.

This is the day that those taking part in SeaFair 2008 will have a day off from their rowing and sailing and give us an opportunity to welcome our visitors up into the village. A number of events are already planned for that day, but if you have any ideas for something that you would like to do, please let one of the Festival Committee know.

Other Events.

There are several new events being planned for this festival including a children's Fame Academy, an adult's dance workshop, both in the village hall, a children's duck race and a 'Posh Frock' Mid Summer's Dance. Old favourites are back too with the return of Phil Evans for a comedy night in the Rugby Club, two concerts in St. Jerome's Church and there will be Teas and Coffees available in the Methodist Church throughout the Festival.

Regrettably, the parade part of the carnival will not be able to go ahead this year. There are insurance limitations that prevent any parade on public roads (our insurance premium this year, excluding parades on public roads is £650). This, combined with the fact that we do not have enough Festival Committee members to ensure a safe and successful day means that the event is restricted to Pill Parks Field. We warmly welcome new committee members and we meet at 8.00pm on the first Thursday of each month to plan the festival and other events. If you have great ideas and are looking for a way to contribute to village life while having a great deal of fun at the same time, then please get in touch with us via Pat in the shop.

SeaFair 2008

Returns to Llangwm

Building on the success of the inaugural SeaFair festival in 2006, the Milford Haven Waterway will once again host SeaFair 2008 between 18 – 25 June.

Llangwm played a key role in the success of the 2006 event and plans are well in hand to stage an even bigger and better event in June 2008.

Described as a **Maritime Festival for Traditional Craft and Seafarers**, SeaFair in 2008 will once again be made up of four flotillas:

- Sail and Oar
- Old Gaffers
- Classic Bermudan Yachts
- Large Traditional Ships

As in 2006 when the Sail and Oar flotilla was split between Llangwm and Gelliswick, in 2008 we will see fifty per cent of the Sail and Oar fleet located at Llangwm. The expectation is that as many as 40 craft will use Black Tar as their SeaFair base. Craft from Holland, Germany and France have already registered making the whole event a truly international occasion.



Tall Ships and Small Ships together make a fine sight at Milford Marina. (June 2006)

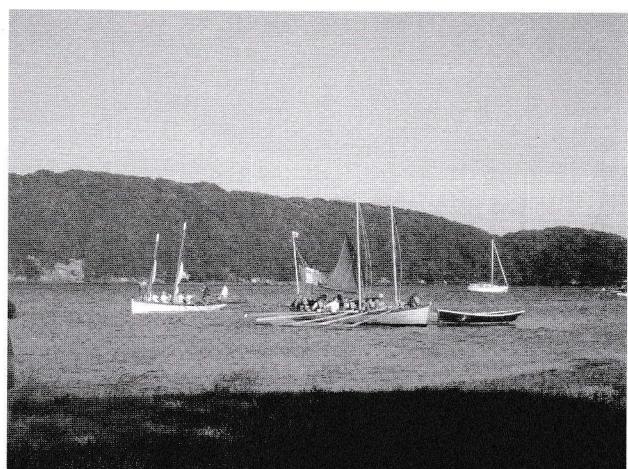
In 2008 we will also be visited by the Old Gaffer flotilla and the Classic Bermudan Yachts.

As in 2006 there will be a camp site located at Black Tar together with marquees, which will provide food, liquid refreshment and free evening entertainment!



A leaflet is being produced, which will detail the activities on a daily basis and this will be distributed to all households nearer the time.

Planning of the event is progressing well, but all those willing to volunteer to assist making SeaFair 2008 at Llangwm yet another successful and memorable event are most welcome. Please make contact with Liz Jones on 891706 or aliz@tesco.net or Bill and Faye Keppel Compton on 891356 or billkc@onetel.net



Sugarcraft Classes

They're a piece of cake

I attended the 'Sugarcraft' course run in the Village Hall during the Autumn term. The main purpose of the course was to produce a decorated Christmas cake, but before embarking on this task, our teacher Gill Pearce taught us various other skills. We were given information about all the different types of icings and their purpose, 'tools' we would be using etc. Our first practical lesson was the art of making tiny icing bags and subsequently using them to make 'snail trails'. These would later be used around the base of our cakes.

Babies' bibs were our first challenge. We then learnt how to trace a picture onto icing and all produced very impressive 'Winnie the Poohs' out of icing. In readiness for Christmas, we fashioned a Father Christmas out of 50/50 modelling paste. This proved very difficult as pieces like arms and hands were so tiny and each had to be glued into position.

Then came our major challenge, icing the Christmas cake! We all discovered the art of covering the cake with marzipan and then icing it was quite different to anything we had done before. The apricot glaze had to be boiled to prevent mould and the marzipan lightly brushed with 'brandy'. After all these years it was nice to know the correct way to do it. It proved quite a skill to produce really smooth icing.

The following two weeks were spent creating individual designs for our cakes. These were made out of very thinly rolled pieces of icing, cutting out tiny sections and building them up in a similar way to that of 'decoupage', each piece being glued on to the base decoration. Once completed the design was attached to the cake, ribbons attached etc. We were all absolutely delighted and amazed with the results!



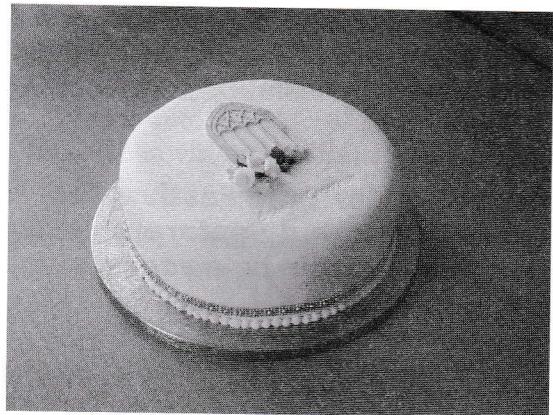
We were all very apprehensive at the start of the course and Gill repeatedly complained that we were too quiet! We tried to reassure her we were all very happy but just busy concentrating!

We all thoroughly enjoyed it and most of us are returning in January for the next course in which we will be learning to make Spring flowers.

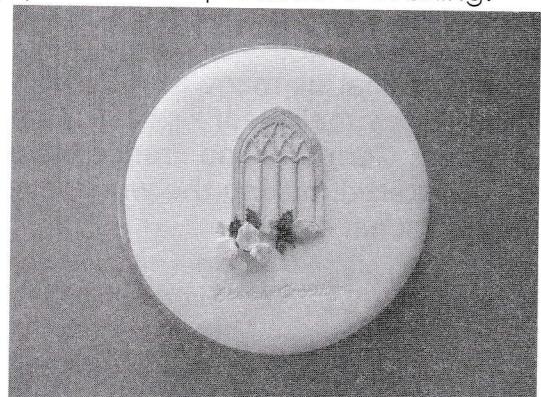
Gail Kelly

Sugarcraft Course at Llangwm Village Hall

Here are two photographs of the Christmas Cake I iced at the Sugarcraft class currently running at the Village Hall. The course is funded by the PET department of Pembrokeshire College and there is no charge for participants.



The courses are a great initiative and hopefully with enough interest, and of course funding, they will run for some time. The tuition is first class and everyone taking part enjoys a fun and productive evening.



Jane Preddy



Here is another creative masterpiece from Jacqui Wordsworth.

The name 'Llangwm' - the plot thickens

Archivist Nikki Bosworth's piece on local place names in the last edition of 'Llangwm News' has created some controversy...

A quick recap shows that Nikki gave "Llangwm" the meaning "an enclosure around a church dedicated to Saint Jerome" and explained that there are three villages in Wales named Llangwm, all three have churches dedicated to St Jerome and (she believes) they are the only churches in Wales dedicated to St Jerome. ('Gwm' being a corruption of the name 'Jerome'.)

Harry Parry of Rectory Road, who spent some time researching the history of the church for Llangwm Local History Society, has come back to us with this spirited rejoinder:-

What's in a Name?

Llangwm: The Welsh name *Llangwm* simply means a sacred place (or church) in a valley. *Llan* yn y cwm or *Llan* with the 'c' mutated to 'g' to give *Llangwm*.

Place names starting with 'llan' are generally places where Celtic hermit saints created a clearing in the woods and lived solitary lives devoted to prayer and study. After their death, communities grew up around the site and a church would have been created in probably a temporary building. There is no evidence that this happened here.

Llangwm parish church dates from the thirteenth century and was probably built by the *de la Roche* family. It was first mentioned in Taxatis Ecclesiasticus in 1291.

It was not, however, dedicated to St Jerome until 1786. The Rector at that time, James Higgins, knew of the two churches dedicated to Jerome in Llangwm Monmouthshire and in Llangwm Denbighshire. The Monmouthshire church was thirteenth century but dated back to an earlier monastic settlement; the Denbighshire church was re-dedicated to St Jerome in 1747.

Jerome was a hermit monk 340 to 420AD who translated the scriptures into Latin - the Vulgate.

The present spelling of Llangwm appears in the St David's register of 1489 and on John Speed's map of Pembrokeshire 1613.

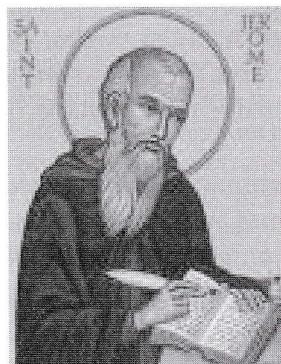
(But no one told the builders! On the wall of the School, for all to see, it is set in stone as 'Langum' dating back to the late 1800s - Editor.)

What do you think?

Is **Llangwm** a
"Sacred place in a valley?"



or
"An enclosure dedicated to St Jerome?"



And now, just for light relief,
a little contribution from Nikki
to sum up the Llangwm character...

From the "Haverfordwest & Milford Haven Telegraph" of 28th December 1910

Another Libel on Llangwm

The "Cambrian Daily Leader" contains the following - Another striking instance of the longevity of the Llangwm folk comes to hand. At a political meeting held recently at this well-known Pembrokeshire fishing village, a poor old man, with silvery locks, was observed crying bitterly. Asked the reason, he exclaimed "Father hit me for calling gran'fer a Tory".

Nikki Bosworth

Llangwm Village Shop/ Post Office/Newsagency

Pat Morris informs us that the future of the post office is still uncertain—the next round of closures will be announced in March, and if she does not hear then, she will have to wait until May.

Please continue to support the shop and post office, to ensure its continuing presence and contribution to village life.

Please keep your Recycling Centre TIDY!!!

When you use the bottle bank, paper 'igloo' and can bank at Nash Lane, please spare a thought for how you are leaving it for others...

There have been bags of bottles and some rubbish left lying around lately. All you have to do is call the council's maintenance line to report a full bank and it is replaced promptly. The litter bins are also emptied regularly on a week by week basis—but please try not to leave any rubbish lying around at the site.

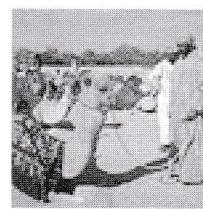
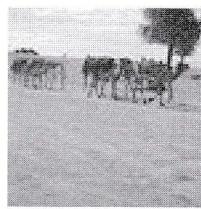
Helen and her Superchoir sing on the beach in Dubai

Remember the report about Helen Carrington, of Gail Rise, being selected for the Scarlets Supporters Choir (at Llanelli Rugby Football Club), along with her dad Billy John of River View? That was just the beginning...

Helen was later chosen for the Superchoir, a mix of Scarlets, Ospreys, Blues and Dragons choirs, with a very special mission...to travel to the Middle East to sing at the Dubai Sevens - *and* on the beach at sunset in front of the world's most expensive (yacht-shaped) hotel, of course.

In February S4C screened a programme about their trip which took place just before Christmas. Here's just a flavour of what they got up to, along with shopping trips to the Souk and spice markets - oh, and watching some rugby too, before Wales were knocked out of the tournament.

Their Welsh voices made an impression on tourists and visitors from all over the world.



The Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night-time

A strange title? It certainly is. This book by Mark Haddon is a murder mystery but not of the usual kind. Its central character is Christopher who is fifteen years old and who has Asperger's Syndrome. The novel is fascinating, funny and gripping and different from anything you have previously read. It's certainly worth a few hours of your time.

If you like detective novels then there is no better exponent of the genre than Reginald Hill. His books, based on the detectives Dalziel and Pascoe have been turned into an excellent television series. The most recent book in the series is entitled 'The Death of Dalziel' and it is a twisty tale of death and deceit. Is this the end for the fat detective superintendent? Read it and find out.

Barry Childs

LLANGWM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Due to an early Easter, but a fixed St David's Day, there was no way an account of the annual celebration in the Village Hall was going to make the local press. However - watch this space next time for a full report on the night of the yellow daffodils!

There are now new **Dance and Tap Classes** for all, run by the talented Ellie Rees on Mondays and an extension to the popular **Quilting, Patchwork and Sugarcraft** classes (see page 4) from Pembrokeshire College on Tuesdays. The Hall is also being increasingly used for parties which all show the continued support for the Village Hall. Please see Pat in the shop for times/availability etc.

The regular **Village Hall Christmas Market** held on the last Saturday in November had an excellent range of high quality stallholders this year with local artists and craftspeople (many of whom were professionals) selling their wares at very competitive prices. Our thanks to Diana Jones for organising an event that would more usually only take place in a town setting (keep your carbon footprint low & put the date in your diary for next year!)

On a final note, after some discussion by the committee, we have concluded that to employ a regular cleaner for the Village Hall is not feasible as we feel people would prefer to keep the rental low. Therefore, we make a special plea to anyone who uses the Hall to leave it in both a **clean and tidy state**. Cleaning materials for surfaces are now supplied as well as brooms etc. although you will obviously still **need to supply some cleaning materials of your own**. Please report if you do find the Hall in an unsatisfactory state and we can then try to chase up the culprits!

Hall Hire

Charges are as follows:

Community group activities - £5 per session
Parties: Adults - £25*, Children's £15**

**Please note that there is also a charge for electricity at present until a new meter can be installed.*

A Point of View...

Ok, the future never turns out quite as expected, but let's assume for now the climate really is warming and that fossil fuels will get more and more expensive. What are the implications for villages like Llangwm? I'm no expert, just someone who reads the papers and surfs the net like many others, and wondering if it might be useful to start a local discussion. Obviously, many of the big questions have to be addressed at the level of national and regional government, and of course the energy market will determine much of what happens anyway. However, it may be useful to consider some of the issues at our more local level. Some examples for discussion, not in any order of priority:

Transport: villagers are almost completely dependent on the private car. Are there ways of reducing car use? One obvious route might be car sharing and lift sharing. Is anybody doing this already locally? What would encourage the development of local schemes? Could a proportion of money currently invested in the private car be shifted to public transport in some way? At the moment most people can manage to fund the private car – but not everyone. How many people in the village are trapped by being carless? How much will fuel have to rise before the private car use becomes painfully, if not prohibitively, expensive for many?

House Insulation: it's well known that one of the best ways to reduce emissions and save energy is through improved house insulation. However, this is not always straightforward. I guess we are not alone in having a stone-built house. Stone is a good transmitter of heat. I'd be interested to know what ideas people locally have come up with to address this and other insulation problems. Perhaps there would be interest in an 'energy saving club' to share ideas, get in experts from outside and possibly pool resources as a way of reducing costs?

Domestic Heating: We have oil-fired central heating but supplement this with a wood burning stove. I guess others do this too. So wood burning may well become more and more attractive – and thus the supply, and price, of wood could become an issue – it's not exactly a cheap option even now. Could a village like Llangwm use, rent or acquire some common land for tree planting and coppicing to help provide local wood fuel in future?

Local Tourist Industry: it's possible, even probable, that the days of cheap international flights are numbered. Fuel costs and the cost of carbon emissions will make it much more expensive in the foreseeable future. This will be painful for all of us – but people will still want to go on holiday. And where better than a warming- up Pembrokeshire? How can a village like Llangwm begin to plan for this quite possible expansion in local tourism?

Immigration and Migration: An aspect of the globalisation of trade and communication has been the growth in migration and immigration. Everyone is on the move, and global warming will likely add to the pressures. Llangwm may be immune to these movements of people, but what are the implications if we are not?

If you want to respond to any of these issues, or raise new ones, then perhaps a letter to the editor or write to me, Graham Tuson, - gtuson@hotmail.com or call in for a chat and tea. I'm at 31 Rectory Road.

“Somewhere Over The Rainbow”

A FLOWER FESTIVAL

to be held at

GALILEE BAPTIST CHAPEL

Thursday 12th to Sunday 15th June 2008

Open 10.30am until 8pm

(except when Sunday services are in progress)

Tea and Biscuits in the Vestry

“SONGS OF PRAISE”

on the Sunday evening

with guest artiste Gina Jones

If the sight of flowers in memory of a lost friend strikes a chord in the hearts of many, then the spectacle of a chapel filled with flowers is going to be much more powerful.

Mrs Gaynor John Davies of Galilee Baptist Chapel is determined to do something positive and creative to remember her late friend Hazel Evans, who lost her fight against cancer a year ago.

Gaynor, who is a florist by profession, had the idea of creating a festival of flowers on the multi-coloured theme of the rainbow as a tribute and as a way of raising money for local charities, namely **Ward 10 at Withybush Hospital** and **Portfield Special School**.

She hopes that local people will take part by giving photographs of family members and friends who have beaten this terrible disease to give hope for the future, also those who have sadly lost their fight so we might have a time of remembrance.

If you would like to make a donation of money towards the flower festival please make cheques payable to Galilee Baptist Chapel and send them to:

Mr P Phillips
Quarry's Edge
Foxhall
Llangwm
Haverfordwest
SA62 4JS

If you need more information on any aspect of the flower festival please contact **Gaynor** on **01437 762497**.



LLANGWM METHODIST CHURCH

MINISTER: Reverend Bill 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
at 2.00 pm

FORTHCOMING SERVICES/EVENTS - 2008

Friday 21st March Good Friday & Gift Day Service
3.30pm - Reverend Bill Robertson
Followed by —Good Friday tea
4 pm - Sunday School room

Sunday 23rd March Easter Service
11am - Mr Richard Laws

Saturday 26th April Spring Fayre - Sunday School room
10am

Sunday 18th May Chapel Anniversary Services
11 am - Mr Richard Laws
6 pm - Reverend Bill Robertson

Sunday 15th June Father's Day Luncheon - 1 pm
Hook Sports and Social Club
Tickets available from members

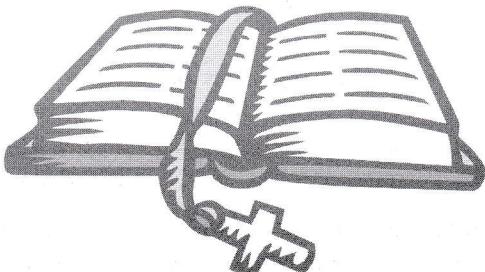
Sunday 22nd June Sunday School Anniversary Service
6 pm - Items given by children and choir

Monday 23rd June - Friday 4th July inclusive
Festival teas served daily in the
Sunday School room from 12 noon -
8 pm

Sunday 21st Sept Harvest Festival Services
11 am - Mrs L Mallams
6 pm - Reverend Alan Jenkins

Friday 26th Sept Harvest Supper
Tickets available from members

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



ST JEROME'S CHURCH, LLANGWM

Rev. Jane hopes to start a children's film club and workshop in the Spring. Please look out for details.

Weekly Services

Sunday	Eucharist	9-00am
Wednesday	Said Eucharist	9-30am

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday	St Peter's Johnston	7.00pm
Good Friday	Meditation	11-00am
Easter Sunday	Eucharist	9-00am

Anyone wishing to attend any of our services will be given a very warm welcome. Please refer to the church notice board for up-to-date information.

May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a very blessed Easter.

GALILEE BAPTIST CHAPEL

Guildford, Llangwm

Join us at Easter time - and for rousing singing in summer

On **Palm Sunday**, 16 March, Mr Nigel Thomas will lead Sunday morning worship (10.30am).

Rev. Ron Price of Milford Haven will take the service on **Good Friday** at 9.30am, a time which is followed by meeting together for coffee, tea and hot cross buns in the chapel vestry.

Rev. Price will again lead the services for **Easter Day** (23 March), at 10.30am and 5pm.

The special **Baptist Chapel anniversary services** will be held on 25 May, both led by our own Mr Nigel Thomas.

These are not to be confused with the **Sunday School anniversary services** (15th June) which will be marked by a very special event in Galilee's calendar this year, a commemorative **Flower Festival** (12-15 June) on the theme of "**Somewhere Over The Rainbow**" to be organised by Mrs Gaynor John Davies (see separate report on previous page).

An evening service of **Songs of Praise** (15th June) will round off the flower festival - and to judge by Galilee's singing tradition and power of voices in recent anniversaries, this is a must for all the village to try to attend.

Other ongoing activities at Galilee include the **Mums and Tots group** every Thursday at 10am in the vestry, and **Women's League** meetings at 2pm on alternate Thursdays.

The Sound of Music in St Jerome's

More Concerts Planned

A great big thank you to everyone who has supported the concerts in St. Jerome's Church during 2007. The money raised has enabled us to start to work on **Phase One**, which will see the installation of a PA system and a loop for those using hearing aids.

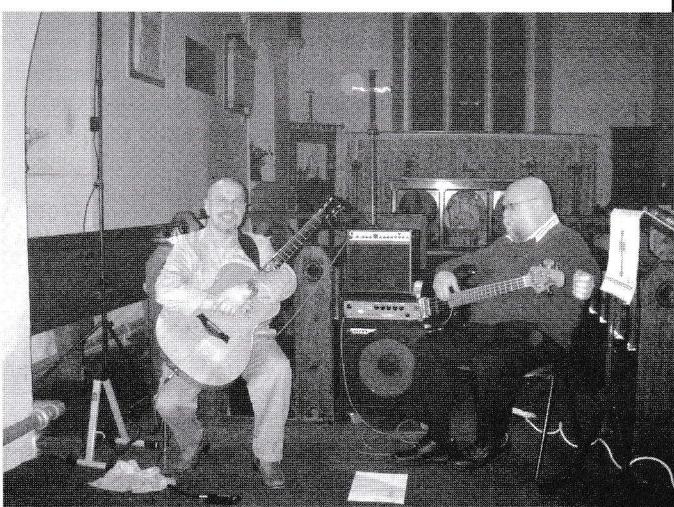
After great concerts from **Opera Playhouse** in December and from **John Ridge and Melt Kingston** (see photo below) on 1st February, plans are now in place for a further series of concerts after Easter, the first being **Jazz R Us**, a jazz quintet who will be playing some Spiritual Jazz and Blues in their repertoire. Make a note in your diaries for Friday 2nd May for that one.

We are also lucky to have been able to book the **One Voice Gospel Choir** from Cardiff who will be giving us a concert on Sunday 25th May. This concert will be at 5.30 in the evening so that the choir can get home in good time after the concert.

We also have two concerts lined up for this year's **Llangwm Festival**. Friday 28th June will see the welcome return of **Cantabile** and on July 3rd, there will be a concert by **La Volta**, who will be dusting off their Crumhorns and lutes for a concert of Medieval music.

There will also be more concerts after the summer break, including the 40 voices of the **Haverfordwest Male Voice Choir**.

Tickets will continue to be £5.00 for Adults and £3.00 for Children and available about three weeks before each concert from both **Pat** in the shop and **Pam Hunt** on 01437 899966.





Looking forward to Spring and Summer at LIANGWM VC SCHOOL

School started back on Monday 7th January 2008, 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.

Sport— Football/rugby and netball clubs have been held all this term in preparation for matches next term.

DIARY DATES

February

Friday 29th—St David's Day celebrations at Llangwm Methodist Chapel, commencing at 9.30am

March/April

Easter holidays—Friday 21st March to Friday 4th April inclusive. Children return to school Monday 7th April.

Thursday 17th—Swimming Gala at Haverfordwest Swimming Pool—Juniors only.

May/June

Friday 23rd—School closed—Family of Schools closure day.

Half-term Monday 26th to Friday 30th inclusive. Children return to school on Monday 2nd June.

Tuesday 24th—Sports Day-pm (weather permitting).

July/August/September

Summer holidays—Monday 21st July to Monday 1st September inclusive.

Children return to school on Tuesday, 2nd September 2008.



The following are reports from children in Class 5.

Rangers visit the School

On the 15th of January year five and six were lucky enough to have two National Park rangers come in and talk to them about making a wildlife garden. First they told us about their job and what it meant to be a National Parks ranger. Jill (a National Park ranger) told us that the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park is the only coastal National Park in Britain. Shanie (another ranger) showed us some plants that are popular in wildlife gardens. Among them were lavender, sage and rosemary.

We then went outside. All of us were split into seven groups. Two for measuring the pond and two for measuring the field. There were also two groups for drawing one for the pond and one for the field. The final group took a soil sample so Shanie could test them to see if they were acid or alkaline. After this we went inside and drew plans. Our group included log piles and a bark path.

Emily Aubrey

National Park Report

On Tuesday 15th January there were two national park rangers called Jill and Shani who came in to help us on the pond. We were split into groups; one group had to measure the pond, another group had to measure from the benches to the gate of the pond. Two of the groups had to dig for a sample of the soil to see what was living there. Then we went inside and we were still in our groups. They passed round some plants for us to smell, then we had to draw a picture of an area by the pond and we were allowed to put in whatever we wanted to make it look nice. My group put in a Bark path, bird house and lots of other things. After that we designed another plan of the pond. We wanted to put in a seating area so if we wanted to work outside we could go down to the pond area and work in the seating area. It was really fun working with them.

Nathan Ash

Dance Report

On Wednesday 6th February Class 5 had a woman come in called Miss Rees to teach us dance. We had to do lots of different moves which were quite hard. First we did a few warm-ups which were fun, and then we did the real thing which was fun and hard. We had to make a sports position and hold it for a while, we had to clap, jump and allsorts but it was fun. At the end we had to show Miss Evans our performance and it went really well. Then the other classes had a dance class which by the sound of it was fun too.

Daniel Ash

Here comes summer!

Llangwm Longboat Rowing Club News

Another year is upon us and another busy season coming up for our rowers. Winter training is already well underway for crews taking part in the **Celtic Challenge** – a bi-annual 94 mile row across the Irish Sea from **Arklow to Aberystwyth**. This year the club will be doing the challenge for the **RNLI** and will be raising funds with a **sponsored Fire Walk** in the village on Sunday 16th March (tbc). Please lend your support to the intrepid Fire Walkers and help raise money for a cause close to the hearts of all water users.

member for details or give me a call on the number below.

There is a fantastic summer programme coming up of both League and non-League races. The dates have yet to be finalised but League dates will include the **Llangwm Regatta** on July 27th (tbc) and other races around Pembrokeshire and further afield. Non-league events will include the **Return of the Cleddau, Ramsey Island, Dinas Head** and the annual trip to London for the **Great River Race**. This year, Llangwm will play host to the **Sail and Oar Fleet** participating in **SeaFair** and the rowing club will be holding events to complement this, with the **Cleddau Cup** on June 19th (tbc) and the **Novice Challenge** on Saturday 21st June (tbc). A full and confirmed list of dates will be



*A look back to last summer...
The crews prepare for the Regatta July 2007*

Club rowing is still taking place on a Sunday morning at 10am at Black Tar, and the weather finally seems to be improving, so if you want to come down and have a go we're always keen to welcome new people. The club has a number of qualified coaches and experienced members to help you out with the technique and you can have three taster sessions before you decide whether to join or not. Rowing is great fun, not to mention great for the body (and soul) and you'll be hooked in no time! For those who are already members, payment is now due for the new season, so please make sure you get your forms filled in and money paid. You can see any committee

published after the League AGM at the end of the month.

A programme for **Junior rowing** this summer is being arranged and will be finalised at our club AGM this month. We hope to run **Novice Night** again after its success last year. **Rowing for people with disabilities** can also be arranged, so please get in touch if you would like more information. If you would like any more details about anything to do with rowing or the club please call me on 01646 680267.

Mel Miles

AN ISLAND ESCAPE

As many of us know, Tim Cripps of Black Tar survived a near-fatal aeroplane crash on the Isle of Man last year.

The veteran test pilot was working for the British Microlight Association when he crashed, breaking 30 bones. Fortunately, he is making an excellent recovery.

But what is less well-known is that his wife Hazel has also survived a perilous situation.

In 1941, at the age of four, she was incarcerated in a Japanese concentration camp in the Philippines, together with her mother, elder brother, younger sister and some 2,000 other captives.

The family had been living in Hong Kong – Hazel's father was stationed there with the Army – but when war broke out the family moved to the Philippines, having been told it would be safe.

Before long, the Japanese arrived and they were captured.

They were imprisoned for three years.

"We lived in a long barrack," said Hazel. "There were lots of children there, we were a bit like a herd.

We went to school, and actually, a lot of it was fine. To us, it was normal.

"But we were always hungry. And of course, we had nothing."

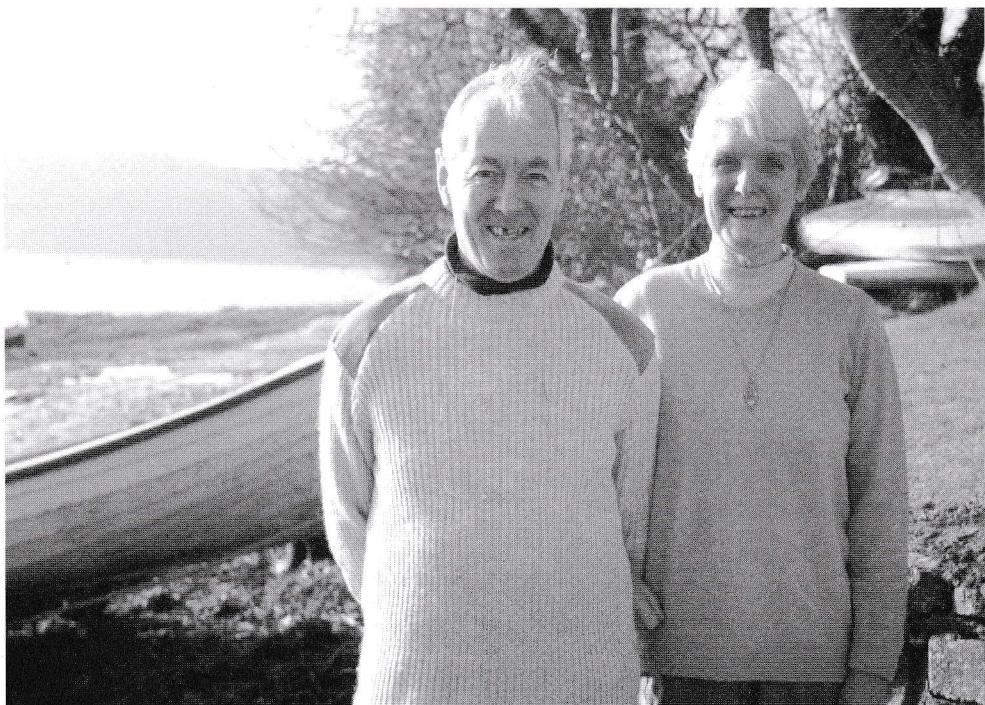
Hazel attributes much of the family's ability to cope to their mother, who was Scottish. "You never knew what was going to happen. Some of the other mothers fell apart. But she was solid. She would just get on with it. She would unravel our clothes and make something else when we needed them. We had absolutely nothing, but she managed."

After three years, the Americans set in motion a very daring plan to rescue the prisoners. The operation was timely, to say the least - the Japanese were planning to starve the camp to death and were gradually reducing the food rations, down to just a saucer of rice a day per

family.

The rescue took place in May 1944 and was carefully timed for 7 am. It was the only time of the day when the Japanese would put down their arms – to do their morning callisthenics. The Americans dropped from the sky in parachutes and the Philippinos came in from outside with other troops.

"I remember hearing what I thought were trees cracking outside," said Hazel. "It was shooting. I remember my mother shouting at us to get under the bed. Then all these Americans came charging through the room with their huge boots. They couldn't get us moving because we were half-starved, so they had to set fire to the barracks, because they knew they had limited time. I can remember huge sheets of flames going from house to house.



Tim and Hazel Cripps outside their home at Black Tar

"In the midst of the chaos, my mother realised James, her son, was missing. He couldn't be found anywhere. Then he came flying in, saying 'You didn't think I'd go and leave my money behind?!" He'd gone up to the attic to get it down. It was probably only worth about 2p."

The rescue was successful.

Later, the

family found out that Hazel's father was still detained in a prisoner-of-war camp in Hong Kong. Neither he nor his family knew if each other were alive until after they had all been released, he at the end of the war.

"I don't even think my mother had a photograph. And when he came home, he walked in and we just didn't recognise him. It had been such a long time."

The family were transported by train across America to Halifax, Nova Scotia. From there, the family sailed home on a troop ship.

(continues on next page....)

How did the experience affect Hazel? "I was very strict with our children about finishing their meals and I find it very difficult to throw any food away!" she said. "But my brother was the most affected. He supported my mum in the camp, and when the war was over and my father came back, suddenly he was no longer her right-hand man."

Once back in Britain, the family settled in Devon. But as a young woman, Hazel was back abroad – working in Aden in the Middle East. It was there that she met and later became engaged to Tim Cripps, who was stationed there with the RAF.

The couple returned to Britain, and Tim started working as a test pilot at Boscombe Down near Salisbury. "A year's trip to Cyprus in 1974 was also quite exciting, when the island was invaded by the Turks and we became refugees, ending up on the base at Ahastiri (Akrotiri). I seem to attract trouble!" said Hazel.

When Tim came out of the RAF, the couple started work at a Christian boarding school in Lindfield, Sussex, where their children David, Sally and Paul were also pupils. They worked there for 19 years – until an invention of Tim's stirred the interest of a colleague, the headteacher of a school in Zambia.

"Tim had constructed high rope courses at the school, which the headteacher thought would work really well out there," said Hazel. "We went to Zambia to put up this course, and while we were there, they said we really need somebody here who can do some engineering."

"So we retired from the school, dumped our stuff in Black Tar, and went to Zambia for two and a half years!"

Again, the couple worked at a Christian boarding school. "We enjoyed it; it was good. It was very remote but a very happy school. They were hoping that some of the pupils would become Christians, and then honest leaders of the country. That's still the need in Africa, good Christian leadership."

In 1996, Hazel and Tim settled at Black Tar, joining the Village Hall committee and getting stuck into many aspects of Llangwm and Pembrokeshire life. Members of the Emmanuel Church in Merlins Bridge and watersport enthusiasts, the couple are often joined by their children, grandchildren and many friends. Happily, it's a far cry from those long-off days in the Philippines.

by Anna Wilson

How to Brighten up a Winter's Evening

LLANGWM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

After a good **Christmas Dinner** outing to **The Wolfe Inn** to round off a successful and enjoyable 2007, the History Society began the New Year with a **fascinating evening on 9th January** when Collections Assistant Charlotte New brought **mystery objects** from **Scolton Manor** for us to try to identify.

Most of these had us foxed, particularly the items which had been brought back from missionaries travelling overseas at the turn of last century. A *Zulu knobkerrie* and gory *knuckle dusters* made with palm leaves and sharks' teeth lay on tables alongside Victorian *butter churners* and *orange slicers*.

The most unusual item was a trellis 'dog catcher', a rustic grabber device for putting dogs out of chapel (where they frequently accompanied their farmer-owners) if they got too noisy!

Many thanks to Charlotte and Scolton Museum for a memorable evening, and to the teams of guessers taking part.

An inaugural meeting of the **Pembrokeshire Federation of Local History Societies** was held on 6th February.

This is the brainchild of George Edwards, the new **Family and Local History Librarian** at Haverfordwest, who had hosted a most interesting evening visit to the Library for us back in October 2007.

The Llangwm Local History Society has affiliated itself to this organisation which aims to act as a forum for ideas to promote the study of local history within communities. Activities will include meetings with speakers on various topics, publication and an opportunity to share resources between groups, and we look forward to this group supporting our work in Llangwm.

An **Archive Workshop** was held at our February meeting to sort, assess and catalogue the photographs and items in our collection.

This has been steadily growing over the past few years but there is always a need for more. *You don't have to give your photographs away, as we colour-photocopy or digitally scan each photo and return the original to you right away.*

We also aim to keep oral history records whenever possible. Some people have put their life stories and anecdotes on tape, and it really does bring Llangwm's past to life. If you have a story to tell, do ring us up and someone will come along to you with a tape recorder - it is all very informal and enjoyable.

At the moment we are appealing especially for items - photos, tales, memorabilia - on the subject of "**Llangwm's Fishing Traditions**" to help swell our collection with the summer exhibition in mind.

*Contact details: Jane Mills 890147,
Christine Jacob 899350, Margaret Brace 891580*

We are sorry to say goodbye to one of our founder members and a staunch committee worker, Margaret Llewellyn, who is moving to Devon this spring. A vote of thanks and small presentation was made to Margaret in the February meeting.

At the time of going to press we are about to hold our **AGM** on 12th March. Watch posters for summer visits and forthcoming meetings starting with:- **Wed 9 April 7.45pm in the Village Hall:**

*A Talk on
Landshipping and the South Pembrokeshire Coalfield*

LLANGWM RUGBY CLUB



SENIOR

The 1st XV have had a relatively disappointing season so far by recent standards with only 2 wins to date. They have however been competitive with most teams they have played with most of the matches being lost by very close margins and the difference in a few positions in the table is very close. The season has also been hit by the exceptionally wet weather which has left a backlog of fixtures to be replayed before the end of the season.

The highlight however has been the tremendous effort on Boxing Day against a Haverfordwest side currently sitting in a mid table position, 2 leagues above Llangwm. The Llangwm team took to game to Haverfordwest from the start and found themselves 10-0 up after 15 minutes. Haverfordwest came back to take the lead only for Llangwm to produce some excellent play to re-take the lead half way through the second half. Haverfordwest proved too strong in the final stages running out eventual winners by 22 points to 15. The match was watched by a very large crowd and the close result proved the worth of this traditional seasonal game for both sides.

YOUTH

The youth have continued to play their games on time but are struggling to cope with the more physical teams mostly in the 2nd half of matches. With such a young team, and in particular the pack, it was always going to be difficult but the experience picked up this season will pay dividends next year when the boys will prove to be more competitive.

JUNIOR

The mini and junior sections of the club are nearing the end of their scheduled matches but also have several

postponed fixtures to be replayed due to the poor weather.

The Under 8's and 9's both have had several wins each and the strong following with this section of the club has reflected in the amount of boys and girls now playing across these teams. Thanks must go to all parents as well as the coaches who continue to put in the time for the development of this section of the club.

The under 13's have had a difficult season but are still playing and enjoying the rugby which is in part due to the enthusiasm of their coach Jamie Knill. Similar to the youth team this team has a young average age and they will improve with experience.

Details can be found on the county web site at
www.pdjra.co.uk

The pick of the teams this season has been the under 15's who have gone from strength to strength and have currently won their last 3 matches against Neyland, Pembroke and Tenby to go with wins earlier in the season. This success has resulted in them being named the *Pembrokeshire Team of the Month* this season, nominated by the WRU district director Kim Norkett

As always any help is always appreciated and necessary to run the club. If there any parents willing to give up their time please contact the club.

Also if you wish to play rugby for Llangwm at any level please contact the club for details.

As well as running rugby and cricket teams there is also a social side to the club for those who may not wish to participate in sport. This Summer reduced social membership of £2.50 will be available for anybody wishing to become a member. Offer will start May 1st 2008.

Please contact the club for details.



Llangwm U15s,
Pembrokeshire Junior Team of the Month, November 2007

LLANGWM WINTERWATCH

In the two and a half months which have elapsed since my last report it has been pretty uneventful, birdwise, around the shores at Llangwm.

All the usual winter residents have been present in their usual numbers. The large group of **mallard** (82 at one point) has mainly dispersed leaving around 20 that are now pairing up for the breeding season.

During November, December and January at least one **greenshank** was to be seen each day and the **spotted redshank** is still present. This is the only spotted redshank that has been recorded in the *Wetlands Bird Survey (WeBS)* in the entire county of Pembrokeshire over the last few months so we're quite lucky that for the last three years it has taken a shine to Llangwm as the place to winter.

Dabchicks (little grebes) are also present daily and sometimes as many as five individuals can be seen diving close to the shoreline from Port Lion to Black Tar on in the Pill.

There have been a few notable highlights over the last few months, beginning with the sighting by Alan Jones of a female **goosander** fishing (quite successfully) at the top end of the pill during the high tide of 15th December. These sleek sawbill ducks are more commonly seen on freshwater lakes (like Bosherston) and rivers during the winter. Unusually for ducks, they nest in holes in waterside trees in Scandinavia, Iceland and the extreme north of Britain.

Furthermore, on 2nd January a single dark-bellied **Brent goose** turned up at Llangwm Ferry where it rested and fed for three days. These geese breed in the Arctic Tundra...the dark bellied variety in Scandinavia and

Siberia and the pale bellied variety breed in Greenland.

The dark bellied winter in large numbers down the east and south coast of Britain and the pale bellied winter in Ireland. They feed mainly on eelgrass and algae. This bird may well have been blown westwards by the strong easterly winds that prevailed in the days before its arrival. Anyway, it left just as suddenly as it arrived.

There have also been a few sightings of **great northern diver** over the last few months.

On 5 February a pair of **wigeon** ventured into the Pill. Considering they are frequently to be seen in large numbers upriver around Fowborough and down river at Garron, for some reason they are seldom seen around Llangwm. They were on the Cunnigar again on 15 February and I assume it was the same pair.

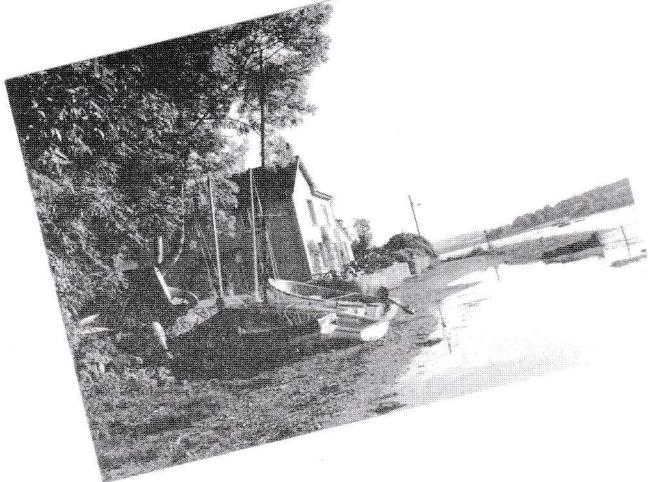
Once again, during the hour when I elected to do the recent *RSPB Garden Bird Count* the birds seemed to get wind of it and stayed away from our garden. I didn't even see one magpie when we usually have two around at most times. However, we were visited by a lovely **grey wagtail** with its smoky grey back and buff/yellow breast. It patrolled our roof for most of the duration of the count.

Once again spring has arrived early and we had celandines flowering in our garden hedgebank on 27th January (3 weeks earlier than last year) and on the same day a **peacock butterfly** flew through the garden.

Since mid December there has been fairly regular **otter** activity around the shores at Llangwm judging by the deposits of spraint that I've found and subsequently collected for analysis by Swansea University.

Please let me know of any sightings of interest by phone (891580) or email
(grahambrace@btinternet.com)

PICTURE GALLERY



You've read the news,
now enjoy the views!



NEWS AND PHOTOS ARE WELCOME AT ANY TIME...

Although the next deadline for items for Llangwm News is always given, items are in fact sent in to us all through the year. Your news is welcome at any time (especially by email but also typewritten, handwritten, dictated, telephoned, any way you like!) Photographs too can be stored and kept for future issues - please keep the words and pictures coming in to the editors:-

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**...BUT ESPECIALLY BEFORE OUR NEXT DEADLINE
(FOR THE MID-SEPTEMBER ISSUE)
WHICH IS THURSDAY 31 JULY 2008**