

LLANGWM VILLAGE NEWS

ISSUE 45 Spring/Summer 2017

INSIDE: All things MEDIEVAL are hitting Llangwm in a few weeks' time!

The MEDIEVAL WEEKEND runs from 29 April to 1 May and will include a Medieval Wedding featuring the De La Roche Family who married in the Church in 1315.

Re-enactment Groups, a Mummers' Play, a Medieval Banquet - and plenty of dressing up, jesting, juggling and jollity!



Village children look on with pride as they see how their original drawings have been transformed into the colourful tapestry of Llangwm's medieval history

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

29 April - 1 May Medieval Weekend in Llangwm. 4 May - County & Community Council Election
25 June - 8 July Llangwm Village Festival - with delicious Teas in the Chapel!
2 July - Village Voices in Concert at Galilee Baptist Chapel 8 July - Carnival Day
11 - 13 August Llangwm Literature Festival - don't miss this unique village event!

LLANGWM'S BIG MEDIEVAL WEEKEND SET FOR SUCCESS

With less than a month to go to Llangwm's Big Medieval Weekend, the programme is taking shape.

The weekend, planned for **Spring Bank Holiday (April 29 to May 1)** at Pill Parks, is the culmination of the lottery-funded Heritage Llangwm project, which also included The Talking Tapestry of Llangwm, the restoration of St Jerome's church, the archaeological dig and the DNA project.

The Weekend is a celebration of Llangwm's Flemish roots, and in particular of the family most associated with the village's history, the de la Roches.

The family's ancestor was **Godebert the Fleming**, born in Pembroke in 1096; his descendants prospered, with one **grandson, Adam**, building **St Jerome's**.

They took the name de la Roche, eventually dropping the 'de la'. Over the centuries the name has been transformed into its three variants: Roche, Roch and Roach.

We know from DNA testing that at least one Llangwm resident, **Norman Roach**, is a direct descendant.

The Monday of the festival will be de la Roche Day - so if your name is Roch, Roche or Roach there's a special welcome waiting for you.



Llangwm resident Norman Roach, proved to be a direct descendant of the Flemish incomers.

Among the events planned for the three-day event is a **re-enactment of the wedding** between two descendants of Godebert, Sir David de la Roche and his bride Lady Johanna in 1315.

Their parts will be played by young people from Llangwm, who'll travel by horseback through the village to the church, where Llangwm's rector, the Rev Marcus Zipperlen will bravely re-enact the ceremony as it would have been in medieval times.

He and the 'bride and groom' will be in costume, and it's hoped those watching from inside the church will be too. Afterwards there'll be a medieval banquet with venison and other medieval delights, for which booking will be necessary. Tickets will cost £25 for a three-course meal with entertainment.

There'll also be a specially-written medieval-style Mummers' Play, the Saint Roche dog show (there was once a Saint Roche – no relation we think – whose life was saved by a dog), medieval music from the early music group La Volta, an ale house, story tellers and much more.

Plus there's the chance to take part in the auction of the Lordship of Landegunnie – and be a Lord (or Lady) for a day. More details on all these soon on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1415869531766197/>

SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE 'A FLEMISH COLONY'

Heritage Llangwm project leader **Pam Hunt**, interviewed on the **Jamie Owen** show on **BBC Radio Wales**, told listeners that South Pembrokeshire was virtually a Flemish colony in medieval times.

She said the description of the area as a colony had come from one of the experts advising the project, because so many Flemish had come here to live either as invaders or settlers.

"We invited the UK representative of the Flemish government to switch on the **Talking Tapestry**, so we have re-built our links with Flanders", Pam added.

She pointed out afterwards that Flemish was still spoken in Pembrokeshire 400 years after the Flemings arrived, according to the traveller and artist Lucas d'Heere who visited Haverfordwest in the second half of the 16th century.



Organisers Liz Rawlings and Pam Hunt with the BBC's Jamie Owen.

CALL FOR STRAW OR HAY BALES

A call has gone out for bales of straw or hay for the Weekend. The organisers now have two marquees which will be erected on the field for the duration of the event, and according to organiser Pam Hunt they're now in need of bales for people to sit on during some of the indoor events.

"Mind you given the number of horses taking part in the re-enactment events, there may be little left of them by the time visitors want to use them as seating", she added.

"What we're after is the square variety of bales – the round ones could have unfortunate consequences when sat on!". Offers to info@heritagellangwm.org.uk please.

DON'T MISS IT... 29th April to 1st May at PILL PARKS

(continued from previous page)

RE-ENACTORS TO BRING HISTORY TO LIFE

Two re-enactment groups will be taking part in the Weekend - **Landsker Re-enactment** who portray Pembrokeshire in early medieval times, and the **Knights Templar**, whose chosen period is a little later, the 12th to 14th centuries.

Landsker have taken part in events in Llangwm before, thrilling their audience with displays of horsemanship. The 14-member group, which includes five children, was set up in 2010.



Members of Landsker Re-enactment at Pembroke Castle.

They take great pride in the authenticity of their costumes - to the extent that group leader Michael Harris painstakingly makes his own chain mail link by link, a costume that weighs in at an extraordinary three stone.

KNIGHTS OF OLD

The Knights Templar are also from Pembrokeshire. They travel all over the UK to appear at medieval re-enactments. The original Knights Templar were a Catholic military order involved in the Crusades.

NO CLOTHES AND NO BED? WE CAN HELP!

The organisers of Llangwm's Big Medieval Weekend have tackled the problem of finding somewhere to stay during a Bank Holiday weekend, as well as finding something to wear.

One of the committee members, **Penny Reed**, has bravely taken on the task of advising on accommodation for visitors planning to come at short notice.

She can be contacted by email (reedpenny@hotmail.com) and can point you at accommodation ranging from £20 to £200 per night.

Another committee member, **Polly Zipperlen**, has a potentially even more difficult task.

The organisers are hoping that as many visitors as possible will come in medieval dress - in fact admission charges will be lower for those that do. This applies especially for the wedding re-enactment.

But where to find your costume?

eBay and **Amazon** have proved good sources of cheap medieval-inspired costumes for some, but if you hanker after the (almost) authentic option, Polly can help with outfits from the film and TV costumiers, **Script to Screen**. Polly's email is polly@zipperlen.com



How 'The Talking Tapestry of Llangwm' sees the marriage of Sir David Roche and Lady Johanna.

LLANGWM FESTIVAL...25 June - 8 July...WATCH OUT FOR DETAILS

At the time of going to press, Llangwm Festival Committee are busy planning Festival Fortnight and Carnival Day. There will be a Festival flyer delivered round the doors in early June, and posters/Facebook information/emails to groups, etc, etc.

Events so far: Teas at the Methodist Chapel (see p.8), Rowing Club League Races at Black Tarr - 2 July, Choir at Galilee Chapel on 2 July (7pm), History Talk 'American GIs in Pembrokeshire' on 5 July, Carnival Day 8 July.

So many festivals! We're spoilt for choice this year in Llangwm! For LitFest see page 7

St. Jerome's Church - Back in Service and Ready for its 832nd Year

St. Jerome's Church reopened with a re-dedication service on 6th March after completing an 18 month renovation. It was a mammoth project that included not only the largest renovation seen on the building since 1835, it also included the most in depth research into the 12th century Flemish settlement of South Pembrokeshire ever undertaken. That involved document and historic research, an archaeological excavation at Great Nash Farm, the DNA testing of seven men, who could claim an unbroken father line in the Llangwm area back to the 1700s, the creation of a six panel tapestry and the production of an App that will allow smart phones and tablets to "talk" to the tapestry. We also produced a DVD, *The Search for Little Flanders*.

More than 100 local volunteers plus some from Flanders itself helped to bring this project to fruition. As with the opera in 2014, the community rose to the challenge and the end result is well worth all the hard work.

There were many who felt that raising the necessary £431,000 was just a bridge too far. But when Heritage Lottery granted the project £340,000, other funding bodies wanted to jump on board and within a year of HLF's grant, the remaining money was in place.

So time for some statistics and newly discovered facts:

1. At the time of writing, volunteers have given 4,672 hours of their time to the project in one way or another.
2. The thirty members of the Tapestry team gave just over 2,000 hours of their time to complete it.
3. Just under 1,000 Gigabytes of video, representing some 43.5 hours of full HD footage has been filmed since the project started.
4. When lifting the floor of the church, archaeologists found the bones of 20 different people. Judging by the way they had deteriorated, it is believed they date from the 15th or 16th centuries. The bones which had already been scattered around by Victorian builders when the building was renovated in 1835, have been reburied in the churchyard.
5. When the cement render was removed from the North Transept walls, it was found that they were standing on nothing more than mud. And the quality of the stonemasonry appeared to be lacking too. It's always been believed that the de la Roche family chapel in the North Transept, was built some time in the 1340s. Experts now think that it was built in the immediate aftermath of the Black Death – 1349 when as a result of that plague, there was a shortage of stonemasons.





The newly renovated North Transept highlights to full effect the historic effigies of the De La Roche family.

6. Working with Liz Rawlings, who is producing a comprehensive De la Roche family tree, Rhianydd Biebrach, an expert on dating effigies was able to identify that our two effigies were most likely to be Margaret de la Roche, née Reade (1254 – 1315) and her grandson Sir Robert de la Roche (1315 – 1348). And no, he didn't die from the Black Death as it didn't reach Pembrokeshire until 1349.

7. The new LED lighting system will burn less than 10% of the electricity used by the old spotlights that used to point down from the roof. Between them, they consumed 3.25 kw/h. The new lighting burns just 300 watts.

8. The new central heating which uses an environmentally friendly air source heating pump (see photograph) consumes 1.5 Kw/h of electricity yet delivers 6 Kw of heat into the church through under floor pipes. That is less than a single electric kettle. The old heating system which used a three phase powered electric boiler consumed 38 Kw/h of



The new air source heating pump - saving both cost and environmental impact.

electricity, which is equivalent to 19 electric kettles all switched on at the same time. The old system used to be switched on for 4 hours every Sunday. That level of consumption will allow the new Air Pump to run for 4 days for the same cost. At least that's what the calculations suggest.

9. St. Jerome's is the only medieval church in the UK that has environmentally friendly under floor heating.

That's enough of statistics for now. However thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund and other funding bodies, we now have a church that can fully serve our community, certainly spiritually, but also in so many other ways with concerts, courses, "Drop In" events, talks, even family film shows in warm and comfortable surroundings.

And of course there is the "*Talking Tapestry of Llangwm*", which can communicate with smart phones and tablet devices through a downloadable App and tells the story of medieval Llangwm from 1066 to 1400. That, along with the church, will be open to the public from Easter until 30th September.



Llangwm's Flemish ancestry, captured in a unique tapestry. A huge community effort.

However, there is one more thing left that we have to do to fulfil our commitment to our funders and that is to re-enact the wedding of Lady Johanna and Sir David De la Roche, a wedding that originally took place in St. Jerome's Church in 1315. Our re-enactment will take place on Saturday 29th April and it will be as authentic as we can make it. It will be followed by an equally authentic medieval wedding breakfast in a marquee at Pill Parks. To make it even more of a spectacle, we're hoping that as many as possible of those attending will come in medieval dress. But the celebrations won't stop there; further events are planned for the Sunday and Monday. Information will appear on posters, leaflets and on the Llangwm's Medieval Weekend Facebook page.

See you there.

Pam Hunt

GRAND DESIGNS for the VILLAGE HALL



It started with a new coat of paint, new chairs and new curtains, but now even greater things are afoot! As Liz Rawlings announced at the St.David's Day supper event, more substantial improvements to the Village Hall are now hopefully on their way.

A big thank you to the many Llangwm residents and friends, who gave up their time to complete the **questionnaire** that was delivered to each household, as well as village organisations that included all three places of worship and sporting clubs, plus the pub, the shop, the school etc. This enabled the committee to then prioritise those improvements that were considered most important by the community.

And the results were...in the following order...

1. New roof
2. New electrical system with improved lighting and heating
3. Improved outside lighting for both path and car park
4. Improved parking
5. Refurbished kitchen
6. Extension for storage and meeting room
7. New flooring
8. Staging
9. Some redecoration

So... architects plans have now been drawn up to include all these and when the details have been finalised we hope to have a public meeting for everyone to inspect.

As well as receiving the news of the intended improvements, the audience at the annual **St David's Day event** in the Village Hall were treated to another splendid performance by the **Village Voices**, but with some special Welsh touches, including the **Waldo Williams poem** *The Peacemakers* which was read in Welsh by Llinos Martin and then in English by Jane Mills. I had not known before the reading that this great poet, a conscientious objector, was born in Milford Haven and died in St.Thomas's Hospital, Haverfordwest - he loved the Pembrokeshire hills and its farming communities.

John Roach continued the Welsh theme with two wonderful guitar works, one an original folk song from Carmarthenshire and *Ar Lan y Mor*, in which he accompanied the choir. And no St.David's evening would be complete without a lyrical **Dylan Thomas poem** read by **Liz Whitelaw, Claire Phillips and Jen Scoble**. The two soloists, **Mary Bownes** and **Lou Hales**, as usual made one wonder at the magic of their voices.

The final rendering of a medley from *West Side Story*, "not really Welsh, but nice tunes" (as Sam Howley, musical

director, hilariously put it!) before the National Anthem, made for a grand finale before the 'best ever' lasagne and puddings. Our thanks to all those who helped make this evening such a resounding success, both cooks and choir, those selling tickets in the shop and a host of others, without whom it would have been so much the poorer.

The evening raised £550 towards the new roof.

The usual classes and clubs are still taking place in the Hall, although St.Jerome's will be back in their church by the time this goes to press. The Gardening Club joined with the History Society for a very successful 'Quiz Night with Nibbles' early in the New Year and the gardeners were back again in March when a Willow Workshop filled the hall with fascinating craft and hands-on activity.

The **Plant Sale** is to be repeated **on May 10th** at the Hall.



Making plant supports in advance of the summer growing season—the Llangwm Gardening Club made full use of the Hall's space and scope on a winter's evening.

Another date to watch out for will be a new '**Night Out' production in the Autumn** following the sell-out last November of the performance of Oscar Wilde's 'Lord Arthur Savile's Crime' – a marvellous, quality production which provided both fun and drama.

Don't forget that every time you visit the Hall you can pick up some great books for just £1 (hardback) or 50p (paperback). Many people read them and donate them back again—all good for Hall funds!

Finally, be sure to keep both these dates in your diary:

Llangwm Village Festival: 25 June - 8 July

Llangwm Literary Festival: 11 - 13 August

For Hall Bookings and details of Clubs and Events, apply at the Shop.

Remember the hall is always available for regular classes, children's or adult parties at a very reasonable cost:

One session - morning/afternoon/evening - £10 per session

Adult Party - £35

Children's Party - £25

Summer Wedding - £150

Winter Wedding - £175

Charity Event - £10

THE LLANGWM LITERARY FESTIVAL

11 -13 August 2017

"We're back!"

Following the great success last year of the litfest, we are back this August with a programme to make you laugh, cry, and provide a feast for the senses.

Among the themes this year are the Welsh Year of Legends and the centenary of the Russian Revolution - what did it actually achieve? We take a closer look, and along the way there will be poetry, pictures, politics and vodka!

Saturday afternoon and evening will revel in the UK-India year of culture during the which the festival marquee and the Cottage will be transformed into a Maharaja's palace showcasing Indian music, literature, storytelling, dance and a festival of curry!

There will be more creative writing workshops for adults and children, and painting workshops, together with the chance to see some of Llangwm's amazing artists exhibiting their work at the Wesleyan Chapel and at home. The Village Voices will treat us to a thrilling gala performance of song!

Brian John will talk about his Angel Mountain books. Who is the inspiration for Martha Morgan? Brian will also divulge the secrets of a successful self-publishing career. Natural navigator, Tristan Gooley, will give us the inside track to navigating using the moon, sun, stars, lichen and cobwebs, and yes, follow a pod of killer whales if you want to know the way from Iceland to Greenland. Mari Griffith will talk about her 'irresistible' medieval thrillers, and Harry Mount will talk about his new book 'Summer Madness', which gives the insider view on the demise of David Cameron's government, the divisions that are tearing Labour apart and the word on the ground at number 10. Llangwm's David Wilson will introduce his latest book on Ceredigion's beautiful and haunting landscapes, 'Hinterland'. Horatio Clare will regale



Flashback: One of last year's LitFest workshop events - a 'meditation' experience, held in the unlikely setting of Llangwm Rugby Club. Watch for a wide variety of events again this year.

adults and children alike with his tale of 'Aubrey and the Terrible Yoot'. There's lots more – see the website for details.

Penny Reed (or should that be Read?) will be announcing the results of the Children's Creative Writing Competition at a prize-giving ceremony on 11 August. More details of the competition can be found at:

<http://www.llangwmlitfest.co.uk/competition>

The Darwin Centre will be at Llangwm to run an event for children on the same day.

Anyone who'd like to be involved or has any suggestions should email: llangwmlitfest@gmail.com; or call Michael on 07970 812050 or let your usual contact know. We need more B&Bs in the village, so feel free to get in touch if you fancy running a B&B for the weekend. For more details about the festival in general, please click on www.llangwmlitfest.co.uk

Michael Pugh



Two willing volunteers from last year's LitFest – John and Jenny Roach who helped with traffic control.

GROW YOUR OWN - Join Llangwm's Allotment Society

The Llangwm Allotment Society continues to blossom, bloom and bud!

Tucked away off the bridleway between Black Tar Road and Deerland Road we currently have 20 plots which are home to a dazzling array of horticultural expertise.



An eventful year weather-wise in 2016 tested the members ingenuity to the limit but many fine harvests were gathered in and this was celebrated in our late summer barbeque. Following the vacation of some of the plots our waiting list was reduced and we are back to a full complement of plot holders currently hard at work preparing for spring and the growing season. Projects for 2017 include a rain water harvesting system, composting loo and bee hives! We are also looking forward to developing further links to the village's calendar of events.

If you are interested in joining our waiting list for a plot or just fancy visiting to have a look around please contact us on 01437 890471.

Bob Phillips, Chair

Llangwm Methodist Church

MINISTER: Reverend Hugh-John Wilson
SECRETARY: Mrs Jane Brock
TREASURER: Mrs Susan Davies

Sunday Services: 11am every Sunday
Sunday School: 11am every Sunday
 Please come and join us - Children of all ages welcome.

We meet every Sunday morning 11am – 12noon. We read Bible stories, sing, do crafts, drama, puzzles, games and colouring but most of all we have an enjoyable hour and have fun.

Women's Fellowship: Fortnightly on Wednesdays – 2.00pm

FORTHCOMING SERVICES & SUNDAY SCHOOL

Palm Sunday – 9th April – Service 11am

Good Friday – 14th April with Reverend Hugh-John Wilson - service in the main chapel 3.30pm followed by the Good Friday Tea in the Sunday School Room commencing at 4.00pm

Easter Sunday, 16th April – 11am service with Reverend David Murfin

Sunday 21st May – Chapel Anniversary – 11am service

Sunday 25th June – Sunday School Anniversary Service – commencing at 6pm

FORTHCOMING EVENT Festival Fortnight

**Mon 26 June - Fri 7 July (except Sun 2 July)
12noon-5pm (check posters to confirm)
 in the Sunday School Room - please join us to enjoy bacon rolls, light savouries and sweet with a cup of tea/coffee**

Teas will also be available throughout the Literary Festival weekend (11-13 August) in the Sunday School Room

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

Llangwm and District Gardening Club

The Gardening Club has enjoyed a variety of events over the winter months.

The combined **History Society and Gardening Club Quiz** was well attended in the village hall and much enjoyed by all teams, competitive as always! **The bring-along buffet** was also a tasty part of the event.

We enjoyed an excellent talk by **John Archer Thompson** on **The Ecology of Rocky Shores**, very pertinent to Pembrokeshire. His talk was well illustrated, informative and humorous.

A hands-on **Willow Workshop** was led by **Cassandra Lishman** in March with tuition on creating plant supports. Twenty members and guests took part in the village hall.

Spring brings us hopefully better weather to get out in our gardens and we'll be inspired no doubt by welcoming **Roddie Milne** for a talk on his work as **Head Gardener at Picton Castle** at The Cottage Inn on Monday 3rd April at 7.30 pm.

Members **Karen Shepherd** and **Madeline Tasker** will be giving an illustrated talk on **Art In The Garden**, Monday 8th May at The Cottage Inn.

Later in the month on Saturday 20th May, 10-12 pm we'll have our popular ***PLANT SALE*** at the village hall.

We welcome the return to the club of speaker **Jennifer Mathews** from **Moorland Cottage Plants** in June. Always informative and helpful with a wealth of experience in gardening in Pembrokeshire. This event is on Monday 5th June at The Cottage Inn where we also wrap up the season with our annual **AGM and get together**, on July 3rd.

Please come along to any of the events - member or not, you will be welcome.

Please contact Karen Shepherd for any further information on
kashepherd1602@googlemail.com or 01437 890203.





Llangwm Village Voices - latest news from the Choir

Just before Christmas we had our first busking experience. We manfully stood outside Holland and Barratt's in wind and rain belting out carols to last minute shoppers. Our brand new banner, courtesy of MHPA was blown away but we raised a few quid towards new music and were given a box of chocs by the grateful organiser of the Farmers Market.

Another *al fresco* performance was at Cleddau Reach School where we entertained customers queuing for the School Christmas Fayre.

Then there were carols again at the Village Hall Christmas Concert in which we raised over £300 for the JLP Foundation, and had the first ever public performances of the future's great musicians: Robin Joseph on clarinet; Iolo Cutting, Harry Wilson and Bethan Preddy on piano Well done children, you were very brave!

Our Christmas meal at the Cottage Inn had entertainment by Sam and Tim, playing as the redoubtable *Sax Bros*.

This deserves a mention: After we had won the national (and I repeat, NATIONAL) award for our 2014 opera,

we had a glass or two of fizzy before choir practice one evening in November. The sopranos had difficulty hitting the top G and A afterwards but this was nothing new. Many thanks to Liz Rawlings for rooting for us!

The now traditional (fifth year) St David's Day entertainment and supper in the village hall took place on March 2nd. We gave the happy eaters a bit of Abba, some Faure, Billy Joel, West Side Story, a Welsh hymn, folk song, lullaby and of course Calon Lan rounded off by the whole audience singing Mae Hen Wlad with us. Soloists were Lou Hales (singing a piece by a great Welshman, Ivor Novello), Mary Downes (singing Sam Howley, another great Welshman) and John Roach (yet another great Welshman). Readings were by Llinos Martin, Jane Mills, Claire Phillips, Liz Whitelaw and Jenny Scoble.

We're now warming up for the Easter concert in St Mary's Haverfordwest, a wonderful setting for *Mozart's 'Mass in C'*. That's on Sunday 23rd April at 7.30pm. Admission is £7 at the door, if you'd like to come along.

Also in the pipeline is a *bijou* appearance by the tenors and basses singing Plainsong at the Medieval Wedding on 29th April in St Jerome's; a concert at the Newport (North Pembrokeshire) Festival on Sunday 14th May at 4pm, also singing Mozart; a trip across the Irish Sea singing on the ferry (hope for good weather for us for this); a Llangwm Festival concert (at Galilee Chapel, 7pm on 2nd July); singing at Llangwm Literary Festival (in the marquee, 13th August); possibly again at Williamston Nursing Home Summer Fete - and who knows what else? We are open to offers. Weddings? Funerals? Barmitzvahs? We're ready for anything.

As repeated in every *Llangwm News*, we are an open community choir, no auditions and we welcome newcomers with or without musical ability, just the love of singing. MP3 recordings are sent out to everyone and we meet at 7 pm on Thursdays in the Village Hall. We hope to see you there...sopranos, altos, tenors, basses or whatever, there is a place for everybody and a wide range of music.

Fiona Cutting

GALILEE BAPTIST CHAPEL

Forthcoming Services

April 14 - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE at 9.30am with Rev. Roger Hart, followed by Hot Cross Buns and Coffee/Tea in the Vestry.

Apr 16 - EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE & COMMUNION at 10.30am (Rev. Hart)

May 21 - we join METHODIST CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY

May 28 - BAPTIST CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY

June 25 - we join METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY

July 2 - LLANGWM FESTIVAL CONCERT at GALILEE, with the VILLAGE VOICES CHOIR, at 7pm.

Sept 17 - join HARVEST SERVICE at METHODIST CHAPEL

Sept 24 - HARVEST SERVICE at GALILEE, 10.30am

GALILEE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Last year's programme of meetings was rounded off with a most enjoyable **Christmas lunch at The Cottage Inn**. Meetings this year have included some interesting **speakers, quizzes and discussions**.

Artist Maurice Shepherd spoke about his career, and a representative from the charity **Christians Against Poverty** outlined the hardships being faced in Britain today.

On several occasions ladies from the **Methodist Chapel fellowship** have joined with **Galilee Women's League** for talks and events. **A warm invitation is extended** to any ladies from the village who wish to come along. Meetings are **fortnightly** and held on **Thursdays at 2pm** in the **Chapel Schoolroom**.

Llangwm Local History Society

Our AGM was held in November, followed by an illustrated talk from local photographer David Wilson showing photographs from his latest book "50 Buildings That Built Wales". Unusually for him, the photographs were in colour and he answered questions on how the book originated and how it was produced and distributed.

On 14th December the Society held its annual Christmas meal. As usual, Matthew at The Cottage Inn did us proud with a lovely three course meal which 35 people enjoyed.

In January the Gardening Club and History Society got together for a Quiz night, answering questions on gardening, history and general knowledge. People were allocated to teams and the whole evening was a very lively one, enhanced by the provision of buffet food and drink at the interval which people were invited to bring along with them-an ideal opportunity to eat up the Christmas leftovers!

Many LLHS members also attended an event in the Hall on 27 January put on by **Friends of St Jerome's** - a screening of

the BBC documentary "In Living Memory" (made by Pam Hunt's former production company). This told the story of Steffi Robertson, a young Jewish girl hidden from the Nazis by families in Holland from 1940-45. Her widowed husband Ron, now in his 90s, attended and gave an inspiring interview led by Heather Payton. A memorable evening.

In February we had a talk on Dale Fort by Steve Morrell who gave us a very informative presentation of the Fort which now acts as a field study centre. He had a brilliant powerpoint presentation which left some of us very envious of his computer skills.

Our March meeting gave an insight into 'The Welsh in Patagonia' – the speaker was Richard Blacklaw-Jones of Haverfordwest – informative and entertaining.

Watch for posters - or ask to go on our email list - for future events. These will hopefully include:

- * a talk on 'The Port of Haverfordwest' by Simon Hancock (April)
- * a group visit to the 'Museum of Scrimpinology' at Edwards Pill in May, looking at recent acquisitions
- * a 'Llangwm FestivalFortnight' talk on 'The American GIs in Pembrokeshire' by Gareth Mills
- * and much more!

Eileen Horton

COUNTY HALL RECEPTION FOR HISTORY RESEARCHERS AND OPERA CREW

Hot on the heels of the UK-wide 'Remember WW1' award presented to Llangwm Local History Society in November 2016 for its innovative Exhibition and Opera project, an evening reception was held at Pembrokeshire County Council on 13 December to congratulate LLHS on its achievement.

Over 20 representatives of the Society, from librettist and composer to props masters and ticket sellers, were warmly received by Cllr Tony Brinsden, Chairman of PCC, and enjoyed a seasonal buffet and a tour of the council chamber. Llangwm's local councillor Michael John also attended.

Cllr Brinsden applauded the project saying "The winning of this award only goes to show what can be achieved in a short period of time by some very determined people."

His words echoed comments from the London judges received earlier that week calling the project "inspiring and audacious". Adjudicator Dr Peter Grant also drew parallels between the opera and the works of composers Frederick Delius and Benjamin Britten.

"To compare Llangwm's *A Village Opera* to two of our finest composers may seem an exaggeration but in Peter George's poetic libretto and Sam Howley's extraordinary music we have found a 21st century equivalent," he said, adding that the opera would stand as one of the finest creations of the Centenary, and would still be remembered 100 years from now.

REMEMBER... LLANGWM NEWS IS NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE

You can access this newsletter IN FULL COLOUR via the [Llangwm](http://www.llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk) village website a few days after the print publication.

Just click the '[Llangwm News](http://www.llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk)' button on the home page and select the most recent issue. (Some past editions are also available on this web page.) You can zoom in on photographs ...and always have details of village events handy, via your computer, phone or tablet.

www.llangwm-pembrokeshire.org.uk

MUSEUM OPEN DAY

Saturday 27 May 2017

2.00 - 6.00 pm

- a great place to be!

The little 'Museum' in Llangwm opens again for a week in May, with several groups/societies invited throughout the week, and the village 'Open Day' on Saturday 27th May from 2.00 to 6.00 pm.

Proceeds this year will go towards improvements to the Community Hall.

(For those who haven't been yet visit www.scrimpinology.co.uk).

School Desk Mystery Solved

You may remember from the last issue of *Llangwm News* that Jeff was given two long lengths of timber that were originally part of a six-seater Llangwm school desk. They have now been made into a complete desk to accompany a smaller one from the school (see photo).

Many thanks to those who helped in the detective work confirming that the desk was indeed from Llangwm School.



Nikki Bosworth scoured local school registers in the archives to match up pupils' initials with those carved on the desks - enterprising research by anyone's standards!

Dilwyn Lewis came up with a similar desktop in his garage, with the same distance between inkwell holes but longer overall. Stephen Grange came along and noticed coarse saw cuts at the end of the

Museum's desktop, explaining the shorter length. Given that the original plank was found in a shed in the late Josiah James's garden, and the fact that Dilwyn Lewis knew that Josiah had delivered oil to Llangwm School, a clear picture was beginning to emerge. Dilwyn himself remembered the long desks at the back of main hall in Llangwm School...case well and truly solved!

Llangwm Community Council Report - March 2017

Time to put yourself forward?

There have been several important issues for LCC to consider these past six months.

The first is the upcoming **Election for the Community Council** on May 4th. **If you would like to stand** for the **Community Council**, please collect an application form from the Elections Department, Cherry Grove, Haverfordwest, or the Clerk, Kathy Codd, has a couple of copies. These forms have to be completed between **March 21st** and submitted by the **4th April**. New members can receive training in order to fulfil this role. The Code of Conduct is online on the Electoral Services website.

The third defibrillator is now fitted at Black Tar. The other two are at the Shop and the Village Hall.

Dog fouling in the village and in particular on the fields at Pill Parks Way is still a major concern. Despite visits from the Dog Warden, residents are still allowing their dogs off the lead on the fields. Please remember that children and adults play on these fields, and dog mess is dangerous and offensive. Larger notices are going to be displayed at the playing fields.

Black Tar Facilities. Negotiations are still underway with Pembrokeshire County Council re the lease. The roof was in such a bad state of repair that PCC had to replace it. Other minor works are still necessary and once complete, Community Council representatives will sign the lease for both the toilet, storage area and car park. Several boats have been left in the car park and efforts are being made to contact the owners to have them removed. Llangwm Rowing Club will still use the storage area and have access to the toilets.

Liz Rawlings



Llangwm's third defibrillator, now installed behind the information sign at Black Tar, thanks to two generous donations.

Two sisters from Guildford, Llangwm - **Kate and Harriet McLoughlin** - have spent the past six months exploring New Zealand, separately and in very different ways. 24 year old Harriet has just completed a **mammoth cycling tour** of both North and South Islands (read her story below) while Kate, 26, experienced an **amazing natural phenomenon**, the stranding of hundreds of whales, as reported worldwide (see her account opposite).

After months of saving and endless hours of overtime, my partner and I set off on our dubiously cheap flights to New Zealand. With only six panniers, a small tent and plenty of one pot recipes, we commenced our first ever cycle tour.

We had visions of cycling in sunnier climates with mountain views at every angle, however, the weather had plans more in line with the summer we'd left behind in Britain. Whilst it rained a lot and the wind was relentless, when the sun did occasionally shine, it was magnificent, even if it meant

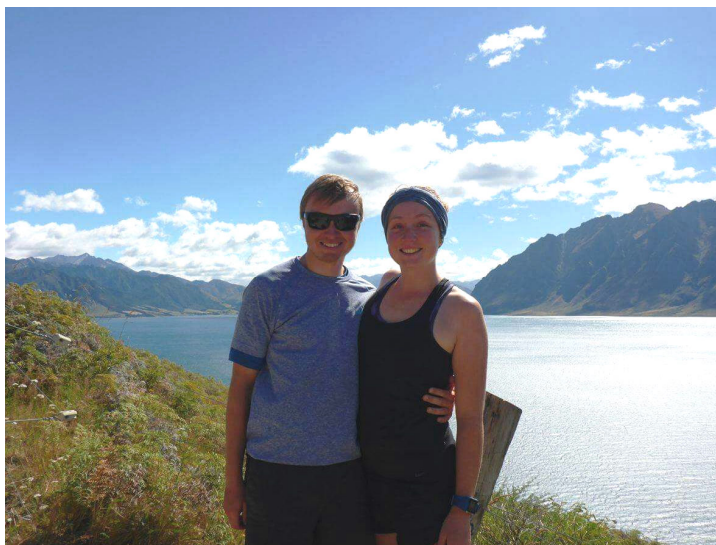
SPF 70 wasn't enough for the red headed amongst us. The mountain views on the other hand did not disappoint, with their snow capped peaks and their glacial blue lakes. We often felt like we were in 'The Lord of The Rings' as we cycled alongside emerald hills and through evergreen forests.

The cycling was often difficult with hills that lasted for miles, often leaving us questioning why we'd chosen to cycle around New Zealand. The campsites were few and far between and the shops often more so. The so called towns, with populations of 200, made Llangwm seem huge, as well as being 30 miles from the nearest supermarket; making Haverfordwest Tesco seem like only a short

distance away. I don't think I will be complaining about popping into town again.



We visited 'The Hobbit' set which, although it cut out a huge chunk of our budget for the week, was well worth it to see such creativity and beauty. It made us wish we could maybe shrink down to fit, or that our 'Shire was similar to The Shire.



We also spent time walking around glaciers on the West Coast, a large contrast to the lakes and coastline

that New Zealand offered. The countryside was stunning with unique, diverse landscapes that dazzled at every turn.

We spent many nights eating lentils and rice, so the idea of coming home to a more varied diet sounds extremely appealing. The idea of sleeping in a bed is too, as using a duffel coat as my pillow and a three-quarter length roll mat for the last five months has proven a little uncomfortable.

Through all of the bad weather and tiring long days, we managed to cover 5000 km, which although it isn't much on average, we were after all on holiday.

I encourage everyone to travel if they get the chance, even if it's just travelling in their own country. It was the most wonderful experience and we learned so much along the way, mostly that we need a better saddle!

Now that I know so much about the towns in New Zealand, I think I had better make a start on improving my local geography knowledge back home.

*Harriet McLoughlin
February 2017*

Saving the Whales...

Whilst WOOFing (work in exchange for food and accommodation) in **Golden Bay, South Island NZ** my partner and I woke up to a phone call from our WOOFing host explaining that there had been a huge whale stranding an hour away from his house and urgent assistance was required. We went to **Farewell Spit**, where we were welcomed by the 'Project Jonah' volunteers, we were shocked to discover that over night 416 pilot whales had stranded, 70% of them had died before the rescue attempt could begin and that our help was needed to gently walk the floating whales out to deeper water as the tide came in. The volunteers explained; how to handle the whales each weighing one tonne, they told us to avoid walking close to their tails as they could cause serious damage, to avoid breathing in any of the gas they blow out of their blowholes, to only enter the water if we were wearing a

their decease the whales let out cries and intentionally turned themselves upside down, facing the direction of the beach in despair, I could feel their sorrow, my heart also aching with grief. I gently smoothed the whales, singing softly with love.

Within half an hour many more volunteers had arrived and all of the live whales were in the deeper water with a human chain to deter them from swimming back towards the beach. Of the 100 whales, 50 swam freely but later that evening 100 whales stranded, all of which were successfully re floated the next morning with help from another pod of 200 whales that swam into the bay taking the others with them. Sadly that pod of 200 stranded further along the spit over night but to everyone's surprise by the Sunday morning all but 17 had refloated themselves. Angharad and I returned to Farewell Spit early Sunday morning along with hundreds of other volunteers awaiting news in the triangle flat as the whales were milling around off shore. Whilst we were waiting for news on the whales progress, a large group of us sang songs in Maori to encourage the whales to swim deep into the ocean. Early evening, the department of



wetsuit and to remove ourselves from the water if we felt cold as they didn't want any time wasted on injured humans, the focus was to save the whales. We were among the first bus load of volunteers to arrive on the beach, my partner Angharad and I could not contain our tears seeing these beautiful but exhausted sea mammals struggling to turn their bodies upright to enable their blowhole to breathe every 30 seconds. It was a soul destroying scene that we will forever remember, the sounds of the calves calling out for help because their mothers had passed became too much and we decided to enter the water despite not having a wetsuit. The sea was black with all of the bodies, it was hard to tell which were still alive. Whilst guiding the distressed whales out to deeper water we could feel their connection with one another, as a carcass came into our path they would stroke their noses against their friends and upon realising

conservation announced that the whales were seen swimming away from Farewell Spit and we left the carpark feeling content that our unified efforts had been successful. Project Jonah is a charity whose volunteers all work very hard to maintain a relaxed atmosphere for the whales.

Why does whale stranding occur with such intelligent mammals who have sonar navigation? *There are many different beliefs for these happenings, there were recordings of solar flares this same weekend causing sonic booms, the oil companies are using seismic vessels to search for oil on the sea floor with use of bombs, or that some elderly whales become sick and head to the beach to die but because the emotional connection is so strong between these mammals the rest of the pod follow becoming trapped, or that the whales are confused by the shallow depths of the spit and this misleads their sonar.*



Kate McLoughlin

Cleddau Reach VC Primary School News

Welcome to the Cleddau Reach VC School section of the newsletter. We hope that you will enjoy reading about some of the events which have taken place since the last edition of the community newsletter.

On Tuesday 31st January the National School Categorisation Outcomes for all Primary and Secondary Schools in Wales were published. I am pleased to report that Cleddau Reach VC Primary remained in Group One for standards of teaching and learning and Group A for the capacity of the school to identify and work towards future improvement targets. These external judgements mean that Cleddau Reach remains in the green support category.



St. David's Day Celebrations

The school recently celebrated St. David's Day with a wide range of activities. A special whole school assembly was held on Wednesday 1st March and the children came to school in traditional costume. During the first week of March the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 classes held eisteddfods where they shared poems, art work, Welsh conversations and traditional dances. The activities were enjoyable for the children and allowed them to learn more about the culture and traditions of Wales.

National Nomination for Cleddau Reach Film Club

Cleddau Reach VC Primary Film Club was celebrating as news broke of their nomination for the UK Into Film Club of the Year Award for Under 12s. Cleddau Reach is one of just three schools nominated for this prestigious award from thousands of Film Club entries from across the United Kingdom. They will be travelling from Pembrokeshire to attend the ceremony at the ODEON Leicester Square in London.

This is not the first time the school film club has been recognised for its excellence in film - in 2014 they were the overall winners in the Into Film Dylan Thomas Centenary celebrations, writing and producing their



first documentary 'A Sense of Place: finding the poetry in our own community'.

Speaking about the nomination this week, parent and Film Club leader Lorraine Allman said: "It's wonderful for the children's enthusiasm and dedication to be recognised in this way. We have a regular membership of nearly 30 children, who watch a wide range of films from vintage comedy to modern animations, as well as trying their hand at film-making."

Headteacher Nick Groves is delighted with the nomination, saying: "It is a tremendous achievement to be nominated. There is no

doubt the children benefit enormously from participating in the club, improving not just their literacy and IT skills, but also building confidence in speaking and creative expression. It has been a pleasure to work alongside Lorraine and being a part of the exciting ways in which the Cleddau Reach Film Club has developed."

After the ceremony, hosted by radio and TV presenter Edith Bowman, the children will attend a party at Planet Hollywood. The awards are described as "...a mini-Oscar ceremony full of red-carpet style glitz and glamour, where nominees will rub shoulders with stars from the film industry."



Cleddau Reach Pupils Have Their Say!



Cleddau Reach VC Primary School has become the first school in Wales to become an accredited Your Assembly Ambassador. Run by the National Assembly for Wales Education and Youth Engagement team, the Ambassador scheme aims to involve school councils more in the work of the Assembly, and give them a platform for their own views and concerns.

As part of a day of workshops at Cleddau Reach, members of the school council learned about the work of Assembly Members and its similarity to their role as school councillors. They were also given the opportunity to feed in to an official Assembly inquiry on changing the name of the institution,

where they were able to draw upon their own experiences in selecting a name for their school, following the amalgamation of Burton V.C. Primary and Llangwm V.C. Primary.

In order to complete the requirements for Ambassador status, members of the school council also submitted a blog to the Your Assembly website, which covered local issues such as speeding cars and the downgrading of Withybush Hospital, and what they would do if they were put in charge of Wales for a day.

Later this term their certificate will be presented by Paul Davies, Assembly Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire, who will be given a tour of the school building and take part in a question and answer session with pupils from Years 5 and 6.



Community Events Fundraising and Concerts

Collections taken at our Harvest Services raised £347.85 for the Paul Sartori Foundation. Staff from Paul Sartori visited the school for a special assembly to thank the children and staff for their efforts and to inform them about some of the ways in which the money they raised will be used.

The Poppy Appeal in school raised £279.48 and the school was represented at the Service of Remembrance within Llangwm village.

A traditional Nativity Service was held at St. Mary's Church Burton on the last morning of the autumn term. A congregational collection raised £106.89 for the Children's Day Ward at Withybush hospital. After



the service the children and staff from Year 5 and Year 6 also visited Williamson Nursing home to share a wide range of Christmas carols with the residents.

Four Christmas Concerts took place in our school hall playing to large and enthusiastic audiences. Once again each concert was very well received with many audience members writing to congratulate the classes on their performances.

(Cleddau Reach School news continues overleaf...)

Cleddau Reach VC Primary School News (continued..)

The school raised the amount of £737.51 for the 2016 Children in Need Appeal.

Seventy-eight boxes were sent from the school as part of the Operation Christmas Child appeal.

The older children put forward titles for a Children's Writing Competition linked to the Llangwm Literary Festival 2017. The winning entry came from Cherry Baum in Year 4 and her title linked to the theme of rivers was 'The Mystery of the Gurgling River'.

The Friends of the School organisation has worked extremely hard to raise funds and organise social events to support the work of the school. The 2017 Christmas Market was very successful as both a community event and a way of raising funds. On the evening £2023 was raised and an additional amount of £2000 was gained through match funding from Barclays Bank.

Year 5 Pupils Visit County Hall

Our Year 5 class recently enjoyed an insight into local government. The children toured County Hall in Haverfordwest and participated in a question and answer session in the Council Chamber, as part of their work on democracy.

The tour was led by the Chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council Cllr Tony Brinsden, and local County Councillor Michael John, who is also a school governor.

They visited various departments before listening to a talk about the old Llangwm School by Mary Robinson from Pembrokeshire Archives, who read the pupils extracts from the headteacher's logbooks. The class then took part in a lively discussion with Cllr Brinsden and Cllr John in the Chamber.

PROCEDURES FOR REGISTERING YOUR CHILD FOR ADMISSION INTO CLEDDAU REACH VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

All applications for school places are dealt with centrally by the Admissions Officer at County Hall. For first time nursery admissions parents need to send to the Admissions Department, County Hall a completed application form (NP1) and a copy of the child's full birth certificate. The application will not be processed if the birth certificate is not received. Pupils admitted to school in the nursery class do not have an automatic right to transfer to full time. A formal written application must be made at the appropriate time using the correct form (RE1). The Admissions Service at County Hall will provide parents with an application for a full time place at the time of formally confirming the nursery place allocated to the child.

The Admissions Officer, Teleri Williams, can be contacted on 01437 775030.

Kingfishers - Cleddau Communities After School Club

'Kingfishers' provides quality, accessible out of school childcare offering a range of play activities in a welcoming atmosphere at Cleddau Reach Primary School.

The After School Club opens between 3.25 pm and 5.30 pm every day during school term-time, providing quality childcare for working parents.

'Kingfishers' is an Unincorporated Association registered with CSSIW and values the opinions and support of those it serves.

The Club is currently looking for new parents/grandparents/or community representatives to join their committee. If you would be interested in joining the committee, all we ask is you attend one meeting per school term to ensure the future quality of provision is met.

Enquiries and information regarding Kingfishers After School Club can be obtained via the School Office - 01437 899419.

EASY JOB - ANY TAKERS?

We're looking for someone to help keep a **Village Diary**.

Could you be an **email contact** and keep an ongoing list of events? This could be posted up with regular updates on the village notice-board and possibly the village website or Facebook page.

It would let everyone know what is going on, and help organisers avoid clashes.

If you think you can help please get in touch on 891580, or email m.brace@btinternet.com

Thanks!

LLANGWM ROWING CLUB

After a successful year building the Club back up, we have recently had our **AGM** and are looking forward to the **new rowing season**. We are pleased to be once again hosting a **league race** at

Black Tar this year on **Sunday 2nd July** - details to follow nearer the date.

Racing crews are back on the water **training** in anticipation of the coming season, and there are also regular **social rowers** out on the river. Anyone wishing to try rowing can contact the **Club Secretary Helen Heaton** on **07958 438785**. There is currently rowing on a **Sunday morning**, and **evening rowing** will commence very soon as the nights

get lighter. We are looking into the **availability of coaches** for **junior rowing** this year and will make information available as soon as we have it.

*If you are interested in joining the Club, or getting involved in any way please phone Helen or contact us on llangwm.longboats@gmail.com or look us up on our Facebook group **Llangwm Rowing Club**.*

Jan Millward

1st JOHNSTON SCOUT GROUP (Headquarters: Hill Mountain) "40th ANNIVERSARY YEAR"

Some of you may have heard that our Group is in its **40th year** - our Ruby Anniversary was on **16/11/16!** We do hope to celebrate this with some fundraising events, and activities at our **AGM** on **Friday 16th June @ 6pm** at our **Scout & Community Hall** in **Hill Mountain** - please do come along, you will be very welcome!

1st May will be our **second year in our hall**. They say time flies when you're having fun, and that is certainly what Scouting is, and always has been about, young people and adults taking part in the adventure and fun of Scouting.

So much has happened with our Group over the last 40 years. **Leaders** and **Executive members** have come and gone, along with the hundreds of **Beavers**, **Cubs** and **Scouts** that have been part of our Group. Some of you, in fact I think quite a few of you reading this will say *'I was a part of 1st Johnston'* - *'I was on the Executive Committee'* - *'I was a Leader'* - *'I was a Beaver/Cub/Scout'*. **Why not join us again?**

It seems that this year is all about anniversaries, as

this April I will have been a **Leader** with **1st Johnston** for **thirty years**. My husband Harry was already a Cub Scout Leader when I joined the Group as Assistant Scout Leader at the beginning of '87.

The Group is still attracting lots of young people, and at the moment has **50 young people** in its **three Sections**. Also some really committed and dedicated Leaders, and Executive members - but as ever the cry goes out, **we need more help!** - we need to raise more funds to keep afloat!

Summer camps this year for **Beavers and Cubs** will be at **Goodwick Scout Hut**, while **Scouts** are going up **near Bristol** to an **activity centre**. A far cry from the patched up army and patrol tents at our summer camp on a farm at Welsh Hook!

For the last year **National Scouting** has run a theme called **'A Million Hands'**, encouraging Scouting to be 'hands on' with **community projects** both **locally and abroad**; which we have taken part in at Section level doing various activities in an effort to raise awareness for **MIND Haverfordwest** and **Wateraid**. As part of this the Scout Troop ran a **drop-in café** at our hall on **Saturday 25th March 10.30am to 2pm** raising funds for **Wateraid**, greatly enjoyed by all.

Pat Dixon GSL 07824748748
pat.dixon54@btinternet.com



Following **Dylan Allman's** success with his first recipe book **Cracking Good Recipes** the enterprising ten-year-old has produced a second book entitled **Food for Thought** with the aim of raising money for the charity **Action Against Hunger**.

To promote his book, Dylan will be signing copies at **Vincent Davies CookShop** on **29 April** and at the local food festival **Haverfoodfest** on **6 May**.

Read more about Dylan's culinary skills and fundraising achievements on his website...

www.crackinggoodrecipes.org.uk

Calling all gardeners...

Please support the **Plant Stall** at The Kilns, at the top of the village, run by **Stuart and Liz Beresford**. Every year this productive and popular venture raises money for various Pembrokeshire and Wales-wide charities. Last year it presented £850 to the Paul Sartori Foundation. This year the selected charity is **Wales Air Ambulance**.

Llangwm 150 years ago

The first baptism at Llangwm parish church in 1867 was that of Margaret Alice, daughter of David and Margaret George of Great Nash, on 2nd January. There was only one marriage at the church between July 1866 and June 1867 and this took place between William Martin and Martha Phillips, both of Hook, on 23rd March. The burial service for 98-year-old Mary Lewis of Guilford was held on 14th March.

Another Mary Lewis of Guilford, daughter of sailor John Lewis and his wife Mary, was baptised at Llangwm church on 15th March. Sadly this child died aged 12 days and was buried on 19th March. In 1867, Guilford was still in the parish of Burton but its proximity to Llangwm meant that many residents preferred to attend the nearer church.

William, son of Robert and Betsy Palmer of Black Tar, was baptised on 27th January and appeared on the 1871 census as a 4-year-old with his father but, by this time, William's mother had died, buried at Llangwm church in July 1870.

At the Petty Sessions court in April 1867, William Evans of Llangwm was charged with neglecting to maintain his elderly father. William was a farmer at a property known as Roadside but had previously worked at Hook Colliery. He occupied 37 acres of land, for which he paid £40 a year, "but was backward in his rent and now owed his landlord £10". The Overseer of the parish of Llangwm stated that the father was allowed 3 shillings a week, 1 shilling 6 pence of which was supposed to be contributed by the defendant. William added that he was also supporting the two illegitimate children of his daughter (the grandchildren being Emma, born in Aberdare in 1857, and Sarah, born in Llangwm in 1860, their father being deceased and their mother lame from a disease in the hip joint) without assistance from the parish. The Bench considered that the defendant could not afford to pay any more and the case was dismissed.

In March 1867, Elizabeth Lewis of Llangwm was charged with assaulting her neighbour Martha Skyrme following a dispute over the ownership of a pile of manure. Mrs Lewis was accused of lifting the shovel over her head and threatening "to lay her down with it". Mrs Skyrme wrested the shovel from the defendant and hurled it away. The dispute continued with threats, fists clenched and spitting in the face. The magistrates considered this case "too trifling to call for further interference and dismissed it".

Snow lay on the ground in February 1867 when James James was accused of assaulting John Phillips. James, who had one leg and walked with the aid of a crutch, admitted giving John Phillips two smacks in the face with his open hand "but they were not severe". The defendant was fined 10 shillings.

David Reynolds of Troopers Inn was fined 1 penny for allowing a cow to stray onto the road and Benjamin Hitchings of Llangwm was fined the same amount when his two donkeys strayed from home.

In mid February, there was a railway accident between New Milford (now known as Neyland) and Johnston. The Irish cattle train, after leaving New Milford, became too heavy for the engine to draw up the incline to Johnston (now the cycle path) and came to a standstill. The guard Rees then divided the train and sent one half on to Johnston and remained with the latter part on the up-line. In the meantime, a passenger train left New Milford. The engine driver, not knowing that there was danger ahead, ran into the cattle train, smashing the guard's van to pieces. Several Irish drovers, who were in the train at the time, saved their lives by jumping out as they saw the other train approaching. The engine was thrown off the rails but the driver, stoker and passengers all escaped uninjured.

Information from the 'Haverfordwest & Milford Haven Telegraph' and 'Pembrokeshire Herald' newspapers, police charge sheets, parish registers and censuses at Pembrokeshire Archives and Local Studies.

by Nikki Bosworth

‘HINTERLAND’ TALK AT LLANGWM LITERARY FESTIVAL

Local photographer David Wilson will be giving a talk at the Llangwm Literary Festival in August on his forthcoming new book ‘Hinterland’.

The book is a collaboration with the makers of the internationally successful crime drama ‘Hinterland’ which is filmed and set in Ceredigion.

“The landscape of Ceredigion has proved to be a key element in the success of the Hinterland series, and I found it equally inspirational in terms



of landscape photography,” said David, who lives in Williamston Terrace, Llangwm.

David’s previous books, all published by Gaffeg, include: ‘Pembrokeshire’, ‘Wales: A Photographer’s Journey’, ‘The Starlings & Other Stories’, and ‘50 Buildings That Built Wales’.



The Tale of the Fish from the Tropical Cleddau

Owen John remembers a strange catch 40 years ago

Many of us will remember the summer of 1976 – it was a real scorcher and the whole country was deemed a drought zone. A Minister of Drought was appointed at Westminster and spotter planes flew overhead to catch gardeners flaunting the hosepipe ban – one well known resident doing so in Deerland cheerfully waved to the pilot and was promptly snapped! Val and I remember it as the year of our marriage and spent a belated honeymoon backpacking in Sri Lanka and Southern India.

On our return to the village we received a knock on the door one morning and outside were two local friends Stuart Lewis and Roderick England (both now sadly deceased) carrying a bulging hessian sack of the type used by Llangwm salmon fishermen to carry their catch, which would be neatly rolled under their bike's crossbar, for return from the Hook fishing ground. The lads wanted me to identify a large fish they had caught on the river the previous night.

The most distinguishing feature was that the fish was **big** – on landing they thought it was a large salmon but this fish was over one metre long with large round black eyes and bright yellow finlets running down its back towards the tail. We had seen tuna being landed in Sri Lanka only a few weeks before so could easily narrow the specimen down to that group albeit that this was West Wales and not its usual habitat of the Indian and Pacific oceans!

Stuart and Roderick went back along Chapel Row to relate this news to Glyn ('Boots') Morgan of Wellhead, ex head teacher and local fishing expert. Glyn had made a film with the BBC covering compass net fishing on the Cleddau which until recently, at least, could be seen at Scolton and other museums of rural life. He was a real character and dismissed our identification in his inimitable way, sending the lads off to Dale Fort Field Centre to seek the help of someone who knew what they were talking about! Back to Llangwm came the news that the fish was a tunny – not far off our original ID. Interestingly it was thought that instead of it being part of a shoal in the Atlantic it probably arrived in the Milford Haven waterway as an egg stuck to the underside of a large tanker and further developed in Pennar Gut whose waters were kept warm by the effects of the next door Power Station. The theory continues that when big enough the fish went exploring up river, in the now warmer than usual waters of the Cleddau, where it was eventually caught.

So how does the story end? As a youngster in the village I was told that the only salmon eaten here was John West – the valuable local ones were sold to fishmongers in Milford and Haverfordwest and some put in the guard's van of trains to be recovered 'up the line'. My memory is that the fish ended up in the Silverdale restaurant in Johnston with the board outside advertising 'fresh tuna steaks'. Further information gleaned from another 'Langum' was that it was weighed in Dale at almost 20 kilos (more than 42 pounds) and sold to a local woman, who may have had connections with the Silverdale. One thing for sure is that whatever Stuart and Roderick received for their catch would be miniscule compared to prices paid today by sushi restaurants and the like.

Springsteen, Bennett and Oz

Book Reviews by Barry Childs

Bruce Springsteen is one of the great rock stars, musicians and song writers of our time. 'Born in the USA', 'Nebraska' and more recently 'Wrecking Ball' are just a few of the albums produced through a long, illustrious career stretching back to the sixties. The last named album's title was also used as the headline of his last UK tour in 2013. Fortunately, Cardiff was one of the venues and the show he delivered was worth every penny of the ticket price. The energy commitment, enthusiasm were remarkable for a 64 year old moving more like a man twenty years younger. He clearly loves what he does. That comes through strongly too in his recent autobiography, '**Born to Run**'. Unusually, no ghost writer was present here; it's the authentic voice of the man himself telling it as it is. The book traces his life in music, from the hard up, challenging early years to the present day. It's a terrific insight into a tough and, at times, ruthless world where difficult decisions are always just around the corner. You won't be disappointed with this one.

It's hard to imagine two characters more unlike than Bruce Springsteen and Allan Bennett; the one the consummate showman, the other unassuming and introverted. They, of course come from totally different

worlds, New York and Leeds but just as Springsteen's music is instantly recognizable so the writing of the undemonstrative Yorkshireman has a distinctive feel to it, the air of a man more than a little puzzled by the bewildering world around him. In his most recent work, '**Keeping On, Keeping On**' his unique style draws the reader into the thoughts of a man always worth listening to because they are interesting, challenging but always fair and based on decency. Bennett is also a playwright and script writer who was responsible for the films, 'The Lady in the Van', starring Maggie Smith, 'The Madness of King George' and the very funny 'A Private Function' with Michael Palin.

Australia has always been a place we've wanted to visit and it didn't disappoint. Bryson's book, '**Down Under**' though very good indeed is not the most encouraging to a prospective visitor. He says, 'It has more things that will kill you than anywhere else. Of the world's ten most poisonous snakes, all are Australian. Five of its creatures – the funnel web spider, box jellyfish, blue ringed octopus, paralysis tick and stonefish- are the most lethal of their type in the world.' Don't be put off. It's a fantastic place: Uluru, The Great Barrier Reef etc.etc., Not forgetting, for cricket lovers, the MCG or the G as the locals call it. As an introduction, '**Amazing Facts about Australia**' by Karin Cox and Steve Parish is worth a look.

ST. JEROME'S NEWS



As we enter Lent, it is with great joy to announce that St Jerome's Church is open for worship and events as of Monday 6th March 2017!

Monday 6th March at 7pm the bell rang out for the Service of Re-dedication and Thanksgiving for St Jerome's Church. The first thing you noticed as you walked into the Church was how warm it was! It looked amazing, a kitchen area, chairs laid out for the congregation, a spacious North Aisle where Sunday School will be held behind very smart glass doors. The North Aisle also houses the restored effigies and the impressive "Talking Tapestry". This officially "went live" during another special service on the afternoon of Saturday 25th March.

Reverend Marcus welcomed everyone to St Jerome's; including Area Dean – Roose, Rev Alan Chadwick and other members of the clergy; representatives from Wesley Methodist Chapel and Galilee Baptist Chapel. After the first reading by Evelyn Thomas, the children of Sunday School were asked to collect their cross, candle, Bible, craft items and to re-home them in the North Aisle; followed by the lighting of the candle and a blessing by Reverend Marcus for the Sunday School. Our second reading of the evening was given by Sonny Zipperlen.

During a well anecdoted sermon delivered by the Right Reverend Dr John Saxbee, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of



St David's, he pointed out that the most important new addition to St Jerome's was the toilet! After Prayers he carried out the Act of Re-dedication of St Jerome's.

The final prayer and blessing was conducted by the Archdeacon of St David's, Venerable Canon Dennis Wight.

Reverend Marcus presented Mrs Pam Hunt with a bouquet of flowers and gift in grateful thanks for all her very hard work she had undertaken in applications of grants, fundraising events, etc, in the restoration of St Jerome's. Everyone was invited to stay after the service for a celebration toast and to have a look at all the work that had been carried out.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place at St Jerome's on Easter Saturday, 15th April at 3pm.

The Annual Teddy Bears Picnic returns after a year's break on Saturday 24th June 3pm – 4.30pm at St Jerome's.

Please check on the St. Jerome's Church Notice Board for any changes to times and venues.

SERVICES

Worship Time (an informal all age service) is held on the first Sunday of every month at 10am.

Our regular Sunday Services start at 9.00am.

Mothering Sunday Service on 26th March 10.00am.

Palm Sunday Service 9th April at 9.00am in St Jerome's.

Maundy Thursday Service on 13th April at 7.00pm in St Peter's, Johnston.

Joint Good Friday Holy Hour Service on 14th April in St Justinian's, Freystrop.

Easter Day Service 16th April at 9.00am in St Jerome's.

Usually, if there is a **5th Sunday** in the month, there is a Joint Parish Service at 10am, held either in Llangwm, Johnston or Freystrop. The next Joint Parish Service will be Sunday 30th April in St Jerome's.

30th July – St Peter's, Johnston.

29th October – St Justinian's, Freystrop

30th December – St Jerome's

Details of venue on the Church Notice Board.

Our **Sunday School** is held during our regular morning services and our popular themed **Krafty Kids** is held at **Llangwm Village Hall**.

We are hoping to have a unique Krafty Kids in May! Watch for details on posters and the church notice board.

While the children enjoy the fun-packed sessions, parents are welcome to come and join us for a cuppa & chat or even join in the fun!

2017 EVENTS

Llangwm Medieval Weekend – 29th April – 01st May.

Full details to be found in this Llangwm Newsletter.

Freystrop Family Fun Day – Saturday 20th May.

Cream Tea at Clareston – Saturday 17th June at 2.00pm.

Harvest Services – Thursday 21st September at 6pm in St Justinian's, Freystrop and Wednesday 27th September at 6pm in St Peter's, Johnston.

Christmas Bazaar – Saturday 18th November 2pm in Llangwm Village Hall.

Lastly, Reverend Marcus and all of St Jerome's parishioners would once again like to sincerely thank the Methodist Chapel and Galilee Baptist Chapel for their warmth and kindness in welcoming us to continue our worship in their Chapels whilst St Jerome's was under restoration.

Reverend Marcus and everyone from St. Jerome's would like to wish everyone a very Happy Easter and Summer.

LLANGWM CRICKET CLUB

looks forward to the 2017 season

The cricket square and outfield are now fully recovered from the work done recently and the whole cricket field looks superb with its newly painted boundary fences and the electronic score box. The new season starts this year on Sunday 23rd April when the 1st XI play Stackpole away and we welcome Stackpole 2nd team to Pill Parks. Come along and join us, either to play or just have a leisurely afternoon. The Cricket Clubroom and bar in the stand is open for refreshments, is a great place to meet people before, during and after games and has fantastic views over both pitch and Cleddau.

Cricket is played at Pill Parks every Saturday starting at 1.30pm (1st XI) & 1.45pm (2nd XI). Junior training takes place on Wednesday/Thursday evenings from 5.30 to 7.00pm with seniors having nets after that. There are under-11 and under-13 matches often played on Mondays and Wednesdays starting at 6pm. Under-9 cricket festivals take place on Sunday mornings. Senior County cup games also take place on weekday evenings. Club Membership is available to everyone and the subscriptions received are an important lifeline to keep the Club going, as village cricket facilities are not cheap to maintain. See below for details and sponsorship opportunities.

We do not have a website as such but keep members and friends in touch with fixtures, results and other news and events by means of a weekly "newscast" by e-mail. The result of our weekly "Chicken Dinner Raffle" which is drawn every Saturday evening in the Stand Clubroom after the game is also published. Just contact us with your e-mail address to be included – the e-mail list is confidential so your address is not disclosed to others when sent to you.

Llangwm Golf Day is provisionally booked for Friday 14th July at Haverfordwest Golf Club. Contact Dai Davies for more details on 01437 890706.

The Llangwm Cricket Club Vice Presidents Lunch will be held in the Stand Clubroom at 12 noon on Saturday 10th June before our home game against arch rivals Carew Cricket Club.


Wales National Squads' Honours Cap Presentations
at the Swalec Stadium, December 3rd, 2016
Under 12 Girls



Maisy Davies

Pictured above is Maisy Davies of Llangwm, who represented Wales in 2016 and is already selected for the 2017 season.

Pictured below is the Cleddau Crusaders team who reached the 2016 County final and were just pipped in a very exciting game.



Club Membership Categories

Vice President	£25
Club Member	£15
Senior Playing Member	£15
Youth Member (u14s - u17s)	£5
Junior Member (up to u14s)	£2

Club Sponsorship Opportunities

Saturdays - Match Sponsor	£25
Saturdays - Umpire Sponsor	£15
Saturdays - Teas Sponsor	£15
Saturday Chicken Dinner Raffle	£15
Saturdays - Match Ball	£10

STOP PRESS— LLANGWM JUNIORS

Our Junior Section now has a full fixture list for under-11s and under-13s for the season with the fixtures for the under-9s Festivals due in early April. We are now actively looking for **new recruits** to bolster our **under 9s & 11 teams** and are holding our first training sessions soon to which all under 9s and under 11s (School years 2-6) are warmly invited. Come along to Pill Parks dressed in comfortable sports clothes and join the fun. We provide all the kit needed. Outdoor training is at Pill Parks - phone 01437 891500 for more details.



Llangwm Rugby Club News



As we approach the end of another domestic rugby season, those who only look at results and positions within a league table will have missed out on a tremendous period in the history of Llangwm RFC. The quality of coaching along with large numbers of players training meant a strong start from day one. Before the league season opened, a strong performance in the Pembrokeshire Knock Out Cup against a promotion seeking Milford Haven at Pill Parks laid down a marker that was not only met as each game was played, but exceeded and built upon with the next. Only player unavailability has produced final score lines that were the norm during the last season. An example of this must be the three games played against Pembroke this season. The first in the National Bowl had a score line from seasons ago, with a hugely depleted squad, unable to be bolstered through the permit system due to national rules, and with only 13 players finishing the game due to injury, Pembroke put 93 points on Llangwm for no reply. Move to the league fixtures and the combined score is just over half that total, with exciting play leading to Llangwm scoring away from home.

Teams from all parts of our league have realised that either a trip to, or a visit from Llangwm will result in a hard fought clash whose score-line is uncertain until the final minute of a game.

Whilst Llangwm are well into the bottom half of the league with only a single fixture left (as this is written), it is with a more positive feeling from within the coaching and playing members of the club that leads us towards the next season within National League 3 West A.

Once again all the hard work in preparing the pitch for home fixtures has ensured that Llangwm will finish all their matches on the agreed dates set out by the WRU before the season started, with no postponements due to an unplayable pitch. As of 05 Mar 2017, Llangwm are one of the few teams to have played all their scheduled fixtures in the 4 club competitions that are open to us – League, Bishop Cup, National Bowl and Pembrokeshire Knock-Out Cup, and this is a credit to all those involved in the preparation of the pitch and grandstand for match day. It also means that the swap from Rugby to Cricket at Pill Parks, as we head into summer, will once again be seamless.

Other 3 West A sides would be proud to be able to make that statement any year, let alone every year as we are able to. National Cup runs by local sides have meant that the season will continue until at least 22 April in Pembrokeshire, but Llangwm will be able to play cricket long before then.

Although the date has not yet been finalised, Llangwm will play host to the Tenby 2nd XV, following completion of our regular season, in the return leg of the friendly fixture that saw an extremely close encounter between the two sides

last November. The website will display the date and kick off time when agreed between both teams.

The WRU promised a review of our league 2 years ago in an attempt to answer the charge laid at them that our league was too small, and only 9 guaranteed home fixtures in a whole season was unacceptable. This followed from them listening to the clubs and returning to more local fixtures through reorganisation of the system. Whilst this latest review didn't happen, a more positive feeling was coming from Cardiff with talk of the 3 West C league disappearing and all 3 West clubs then forming 2 leagues with 13 or 14 teams in each. This has again been called into question, with the release of another WRU proposal which has now including a review of West Central and East Central leagues as well as our own. This brand new suggestion – still awaiting feedback from all clubs involved at their next District meeting – increases the number of clubs within 3 West C and means the addition of only a single club to our league. *More information will be available on this issue by the time you are reading this and any changes will be placed on the club website, as well as available through local and national papers websites.*

Mr Richard Scriven is stepping down as the 1st team manager and administrator at the end of the season, and all the players as well as those involved with the running of the club thank him for all his hard work in this very demanding role. Richard will still be heavily engaged with the club as he is keeping his work load high by retaining the roles of not only the fixture secretary, but also deputy club secretary. His replacement as manager and administrator is Mr James Griffiths, known to all within the club as Kiwi, and we wish him success in this vital task.

More work will be carried out improving facilities at the clubhouse and the grandstand and the committee thanks all those involved, and looks forward to the continuation of the modernisation program. This work now has to include the installation of a new boiler, following the fatal failure of the existing one just before Christmas. Whilst the club has obtained numerous electrical heaters to ensure patron comfort, it is hoped that this issue will be resolved in the near future. Additional grant money has been applied for, as well as extensive talks with those dealing with grass roots rugby, from the WRU.

The Music Nights held monthly in the clubhouse continue to be well supported and the club thanks not only those whose hard work allows these to continue, but also those of you who attend and provide support to the club. Details of the groups involved will continue to be placed on the Club Events, as well as the Events Calendar, sections of the website.

(continued on following page...)

The Grandstand bar continues to be a great success and will continue to open for both the rugby and cricket fixtures. The selection of food and hot drinks, in addition to the expected alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, seemed to grow with every game this season, and the club thanks all those involved in running and stocking the bar for their continued support throughout the week and on Saturday afternoons.

There are still a few numbers available in the 100 draw and any-one requiring further information should contact Mr Raymond Hunt, or use the Contact Us section of the website (available as a drop down menu item from 'The Club' heading). The £500.00 summer draw top prize along with

the £1000.00 top prize for the Christmas draw still remain, along with smaller monthly prizes.

Important dates for your diaries:

24 March 2017 – The club will be holding a Curry and Quiz night to raise money for kitchen improvements.

14 April 2017 – The club will be open for the draw of the Easter raffle.

All further information for both events will be displayed on the website, as well as being added as a news item.

Rugby continues at an International level during the summer with Welsh players involved in 2 separate campaigns – **The Lions tour to New Zealand** in June and July, and the **Wales Summer Tour**, also in June. Dates (for info) of all the touring games are:
BRITISH & IRISH LIONS TOUR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opposition</u>	<u>Location</u>
Game 1 – Saturday 3rd June 2017	Provincial Union Team	Toll Stadium, Whangarei
Game 2 – Wednesday 7th June 2017	Blues	Eden Park Auckland
Game 3 – Saturday 10th June 2017	Crusaders	AMI Stadium Christchurch
Game 4 – Tuesday 13th June 2017	Highlanders	Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin
Game 5 – Saturday 17th June 2017	Maori All Blacks	Rotorua International Stadium
Game 6 – Tuesday 20th June 2017	Chiefs	FMG Stadium Waikato, Hamilton
Game 7 – Saturday 24th June 2017	All Blacks - 1 st Test	Eden Park Auckland
Game 8 – Tuesday 27th June 2017	Hurricanes	Westpac Stadium Wellington
Game 9 – Saturday 1st July 2017	All Blacks - 2 nd Test	Westpac Stadium Wellington
Game 10 – Saturday 8th July 2017	All Blacks - 3 rd Test	Eden Park Auckland

All games kick off at 08:35am UK time (07:35pm NZ time)

WALES SUMMER TOUR

Game 1 – Saturday 17th June 2017	Tonga	TBN (Kick off time to be announced)
Game 2 – Saturday 24th June 2017	Samoa	Apia Park (ditto)

In breaking news, the Welsh Rugby Union has obtained a High Court injunction against an unofficial ticketing operation which was re-selling tickets and operating unofficial hospitality for the 2017 RBS 6 Nations matches at the Principality Stadium. Evental Ltd was the subject of a ruling by the High Court of Justice at a hearing in London on 1st March. The ruling prevents Evental Ltd, its director or anyone acting on its instruction from breaching the terms and conditions of sale of WRU tickets by selling them on for profit. The WRU is aware of around 200 tickets for the Wales v Ireland match in Cardiff which have been sold on to other parties in breach of the WRU's ticketing terms and conditions, and took steps to cancel these tickets, and has reminded the public the only official ticket sources are the **WRU member clubs**, WRU's sole off-site hospitality operator Events International, WRU onsite hospitality, the WRU officially licenced secondary market website, Seatwave and official travel partner Gullivers Sports Travel.

Meetings can be tedious and time consuming, however **it is most important that members make every effort to attend the Annual General Meeting which this year will be held in the Club on Monday 31 July at 20:00. Please make a note NOW.** The rugby season may be over at this point but contentious issues may fester away and the odd moments worthy of praise, forgotten. Do come along and have your say. It is important that all views are heard, especially during a season with possible changes to the league structure, and a new season will soon be upon us and should be approached, as ever, with optimism.

For all information about the rugby club, please visit the Llangwm RFC web-site:-

<http://llangwm.rfc.wales/>

Please contact the Clubhouse for any information on membership, events or participation in rugby for Llangwm RFC. Tel: 01437 890462.



Llangwm RFC would like to extend their sincere thanks to all its sponsors for their kind support which helps to maintain rugby in the village.



A WINTER OF WADERS

Nature Notes by Graham Brace

Despite the general mildness of this winter, the local shores and pill have been thronged with over-wintering wading birds. No-one who regularly walks these shores can have missed the spectacle of literally hundreds of birds feeding along the tide-line and mudflats and taking to the air when spooked.

Most abundant have been the flocks of **lapwing** and smaller **dunlin** (both present at times in numbers approaching 400 individuals of each species). The lapwing or green plover, also known as the *peewit* (the name describes its plaintive call), is threatened nationally by changes in agriculture as it breeds on farmland predominantly in the northern UK. Their UK numbers are increased significantly in winter by migratory flocks from northern Europe. This phenomenon applies also to most other wetland and wading birds.

Dunlin are our commonest small wader usually seen in flocks of varying numbers busily probing the mud and tidal edges for food. Flight is rapid in tight flocks changing direction frequently in a seemingly co-ordinated and spontaneous fashion.

Around 40 to 50 **redshank** are present most of the winter and can be seen singly or in groups, their loud and distinctive alarm call as they take to flight has earned them the name of 'sentry of the shore' as they warn other birds of potential danger. This medium-sized wader is unmistakable with its bright orange-red legs. This feature distinguishes it from its slightly larger and generally paler cousin, the **greenshank**, whose legs are a pale grey-green and sports a prominent triangular white patch on its rump when seen in flight. Throughout the winter there are generally one or two present, very occasionally a couple more. Both species breed in the UK mainly in the marshy areas in the northern half of this country.

Curlew are ever present throughout the year. This largest of British waders is easy to identify with its long curved bill and evocative distinctive call. They are usually seen singly or in small groups in this vicinity but larger flocks are often seen flying up and down river and on the shores at Fowborough and Garron Pill. The slightly smaller but very similar **whimbrel** is a passage migrant that regularly stops over in small groups to refuel at Llangwm when passing through - particularly during autumn and spring.

Notable by its prolonged presence this winter is the **black-tailed godwit**, in groups varying between 4 and 40 individuals. This distinctive wader, larger than the redshank but smaller than the curlew, is distinguishable by its very

long straight bill...ideal for probing for food in the shallows along the tide-line. It is greyish-brown in colour during the winter but displays a bright orangey-brown breast and belly in summer. It has a black tail and white wing bars which distinguishes it from its almost identical cousin, the **bar-tailed godwit**, seen at other locations along the waterway but only very occasionally at Llangwm.

Other species of wading bird that have visited Llangwm during the winter are **sanderling**, **ringed plover**, **common** and **purple sandpipers**.

Other Notable Sightings

A pair of **black-throated divers** paid a fleeting visit to the Pill very early on 15th February and were identified by Gareth Jones. Simon Brick reported a magnificent female **goshawk** which had just taken a jackdaw in his garden on 27th February. The goshawk, once described as being like 'a sparrowhawk on steroids' is the ultimate killing machine and Simon was in fear of the safety of his prize pigeons!

Another raptor...the wonderful **red kite**...is now a very frequent visitor to Llangwm. Any reports of signs of nesting in our neighbouring woodlands would be most appreciated.

The garden pond at Llangwm Ferry belonging to Gerry and Lynne Watts which attracted the **Squacco Heron** last October has recently been providing nourishment for a **kingfisher**. This colourful visitor has been seen several times helping itself to the small fish from the pond.

This morning (6th March) I counted 5 **great crested grebes** floating upstream past Black Tar on the incoming tide. It is very unusual to see so many together as solitary sightings are more the norm around here at this time of year.

In fact, any budding ornithologist starting a 'life list' would have been well-rewarded had they accompanied me on my morning walk today. Apart from the common garden species...**robin**, **song thrush**, **blackbird**, **blue** and **great tits**, **dunlin**, **starlings**, **wood pigeons** and **collared doves** and the **common crows** and **gulls**, etc...I saw a pair **bullfinches** and a pair of **jays** in Knapp Lane; a **grey wagtail**, **chaffinches**, **goldfinches** and **linnets** around the Cunnigar. On the river, mudflats and adjacent gullies were 5 **great crested grebes**, 25 **shelduck**, 12 **mallard**, numerous **teal**, a **little grebe**, 2 **curlews**, 2 **oystercatchers**, several **lapwing**, 80 **dunlin**, 10 **redshank**, a **greenshank**, 4 **black-tailed godwits** and our 2 resident **mute swans**. How lucky we are in Llangwm to have such a wide variety of birdlife right on our doorstep.

Any unusual sightings to me, please, on 891580 or by email to grahambrace@btinternet.com



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