

LLANGWM VILLAGE NEWS

ISSUE 46 Autumn/Winter 2017

LLANGWM'S SUMMER OF CELEBRATION

From MEDIEVAL WEEKEND and 'FESTIVAL FORTNIGHT' to the SECOND 'LITFEST' Llangwm had something for everyone in 2017, and in considerable style!



The Carnival Parade makes its way down Main Street, the highlight of the village's Festival Fortnight. The circus theme gave Llangwm its most colourful and vibrant Carnival Day ever. Full report on pages 2-3. Photograph: Graham Stephens

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Fri 10 Nov Remembrance Concert at St Jerome's; Sun 12 Nov Remembrance Service on Village Green 10 a.m.; Wed 22 Nov Village Hall - Apphia Campbell in 'Black is the Colour of my Voice'; Tues 28 Nov School Xmas Market; 14 Dec Village Voices Christmas Concert in the Hall; 15 Dec - Santa and Carols with Village Voices. More inside!

Variety - the spice of life in Llangwm

There's never a dull moment, especially if you are involved in the many activities which go on in this busy village.

Whether you're an organiser of any of the (three!) major festivals that have taken place recently, a sportsman playing rugby or cricket for your side, a choir member singing your heart out - or trying to make the newsletter items fit together! - you'll know that being involved can often feel like a full-time job.

The flip side is that helping out in any way reaps dividends. What is it they say? - "you only get out of life what you put in." And there's certainly plenty to be had from life in Llangwm.

If you'd like to get in touch with any of the organisations mentioned in this newsletter - to lend a hand or just take part - contact them direct if details are supplied, or telephone 01437 891580, or email m.brace@btinternet.com

(Remember that you will shortly be able to go on to Llangwm's village website and view all the photographs in colour.)



Full marks to the Festival Committee!

Well, what a summer!, it's been a busy time for the **Festival Committee** again this year, putting on what I am sure you will agree was an **AMAZING** carnival. It just keeps getting better and better.

The Festival Committee members worked their socks off this year to provide a spectacular "**Festival Fortnight**" starting with the **Teddy Bears' Picnic** - thank you **St Jerome's**. A fantastic **comedy night** - thank you to **Ignacio and friends** for providing our very own pop up comedy night and thank you to **Pam Hunt** for organising it. A beautiful evening spent listening to **Llangwm Village Voices in concert**, many thanks to them and **Galilee Chapel**.



A very interesting talk was put on by **Llangwm's History Society**, thank you to them and **Gareth Mills**. We were kept fed beautifully by the lovely ladies at the **Methodist School Room**...thank you to all.

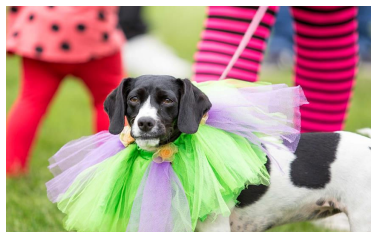
But that isn't all...our **Annual Scarecrow Competition** was launched AND the children of Llangwm were invited to attend a **circus skills workshop** in preparation for our "**CIRCUS**" themed carnival for the **six-week run-up to Carnival Day**. Little did we know how talented our children are, and how well they learnt the skills of the circus! A huge thank you to **Saul and Elfie** who made the workshops happen and gave us the backbone of this year's Carnival Day.

All these amazing events that were held led us up to the last day, the "**Circus Themed Carnival**". We met at the Cottage Inn for the start of the **Parade**, what greeted us can only be described as the most amazing colourful vibrant and excited crowd of people, a spectacular parade definitely not to be missed whether you joined in or watched from the sidelines. The procession was led by our **Carnival King and Queen, Queen's Attendant, Fairy King, Fairy Queen and Fairy Queen's Attendant**. There was an abundance of colour, acrobatics and music along the route to Pill Parks Way and, ending the parade, some perfectly dressed circus horses.

As everyone made their way onto the field to enjoy Carnival Day, the weather was fantastically kind to us and made for **perfect "Carnival" weather**. It was just amazing to see **so many people** at the carnival, but also so many in **fancy dress** - well done everyone!

We enjoyed the **Craft Fair**, in a marquee kindly lent to us by **Valero**. The whole event was **compered by Mark Evans** (thank you Mark!) We had lots of lovely stalls offering a fantastic midsummer shopping opportunity, **Greenacres** put on a fabulous **Dog**

Show as always, with some very well behaved pooches! Thank you to the **Community Council** for allowing us to put on the event and the use of the field, we'd be stuck without it! We



had delicious refreshments made available to us in the Village Hall plus lots of treats. **Organised Kaos Youth Circus** brought their **circus equipment**, which provided an amazing opportunity for the children of the circus workshop to showcase their new found talents...and some adults too! We had some proud winners of the **Fancy Dress Competition**, and a huge well done to our **Scarecrow Competition** winners this year:

Joint first place went to **Elidyr Park Circus** and **River View Safari Circus**, with third place going to **The 'Scared Crow' Human Cannonball** at Westwinds, Ashdale Lane. Well done to all and thank you for taking the time and effort to make a scarecrow - there were some quality entries this year! 2018 will see separate community and individual categories.



Also thank you to our special guests who looked absolutely stunning this year...well done to

Carnival Queen Alexys Jones

Carnival King Florian Nash

Carnival Queen's Attendant Grace Hook

Fairy Queen Evie Taylor

Fairy King Morgan Jones

Fairy Queen's Attendant Isla Boswell

Following a perfect carnival, we carried on the **evening celebrations** at **The Cottage Inn**, thank you to **Matthew** and **Neville** for hosting a perfect night to end a perfect day. We had entertainment for the kids from **Little Monsters Entertainment**, superb **Ukulele playing** from the **Jumping Fleas** and the **Mini Fleas**, great music from

Kayleigh Marie Morgan and **Steve Bartram**, not forgetting the **raffle** that was held with fantastic prizes!



The Festival Committee would just like to say a huge heartfelt thank you to the whole community for pulling together to make this event so epic and memorable. Without your support none of this would have been possible - to see everyone having such a great time made our jobs worthwhile. Finally a thank you to our committee members who make all of this possible: to **Lucy, Martin, Judy, Helen, Toni, Tasmin, Kerry, Claire**, and a special thank you to **Elfie and Saul**.

We are already working on **next year's Festival**, watch this space for the theme for 2018! If you are interested in joining the committee in any way no matter how big or small, we meet very informally in the Cottage Inn once a month-ish on a Tuesday, obviously as the Festival draws nearer we meet in the pub a little more frequently...(can't complain!). Please make yourselves known to any committee member...you don't even have to attend the meetings...but we have to admit it's a bonus!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Halloween party in the Village Hall Tuesday 31st October 6pm 'til 7.30pm. £3.50

Santa and Carols with Village Voices Friday 15th December at 6pm. Watch out for further details via our **Facebook page** ("**Llangwm Festival Committee Events**") and posters around the village. Come join us for mulled wine, mince pies and treats (bring a torch).

Father Christmas's helpers have allowed us to have a special "**Christmas Postbox**" which will be located near Llangwm village shop. Make sure you write your letters to Father Christmas and have them posted **by 10th December**, all letters will get a special reply from Father Christmas!

OK, that's it folks, thanks for being such a fantastic Village.

*Claire Evans
Committee Member*

THE LLANGWM LITERARY FESTIVAL 2017

From Russia - and India - with poetry, art and song

The second year of the literary festival proved to be a great success with the Russian 1917 and Indian themes providing a rich seam of material.

On the Indian side, we were regaled with spine-tingling tales from the Punjab, and an exploration of Britain's relationship with India through the ages. Jas and Fran's children's painting workshop recreated a little piece of



Rajahstan in Llangwm and the sounds of Squidge Squire's Sitar reverberated around the Valero marquee to whet our appetites for an Indian feast fit for a Maharaja.

The Russian theme proved to be no less fruitful with Ivan Roachovski's Balalaika music setting the scene for a wild evening of Revolutionary poetry hosted by Natalia at Llangwm Rugby Club. The poetry was washed down with



Penderyn's premium Welsh vodka and soaked up with the delicious Cottage *zakuski*. On the historical side, it was a

revelation to learn of the Welsh colony in the Russian Empire at Hughesovka and to see Gorsky's photographs of the Russian Empire before the Revolution. Did the Revolution achieve anything? The jury of Lyuba Vinogradova, Colin Thomas and Bobo Lo is still out.

In addition to the Russian and Indian themes, there was plenty of Llangwm talent with David Wilson drawing our biggest ever crowd at Cleddau Reach School, and Bob Phillips, Pam Hunt, PJ Hetherhouse, to name but a few,



taking us through war, Flemings and the Zodiac. The Darwin Centre provided fascinating bug walks for children in addition to the various creative writing workshops.

Village Voices surpassed themselves with a wonderful concert in the Marquee and Sam Howley will be pleased to know that we have secured lights for next year.

The festival art exhibition provided a stimulating range of outstanding work by local artists. Much of this was shown in the Wesleyan Chapel whose team must be thanked again for the delicious teas and cakes.

The children's creative writing competition was a great success with a vastly increased number of entries. Do we have the next William Shakespeare living in our midst? Time will tell...

A final thanks to Matthew and Morgan for providing the visiting writers with delicious food and drink, and for a perfect wrap-up evening at The Cottage with more delicious food and drink to the lively melodies of Llangwm's Skylarks.

We are busy putting together a programme for next year. The theme is Europe and the dates are 10-12 August 2018. We still need more B&B accommodation in the village and would love to hear more of what you'd like to see more of. Suggestions can be emailed to llangwmlitfest@gmail.com

Michael Pugh

FORAGING, FORUM AND FEAST!



PAINTING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

En plein air is a French expression which means “in the open air”. It is used by artists to describe the art of outdoor painting, capturing landscapes and views in natural light.

Llangwm's Liz Monk invited anyone to drop in at Black Tar Beach for some *plein air* painting on Saturday 12 August as part of the Llangwm Literary Festival. A selection of watercolour materials was available for those who wished to have a go. This was so successful we almost ran out of materials! Liz was ably assisted on the afternoon by Jeanne (a talented amateur painter), Gaynor and Pam.

We welcomed 17 participants over the course of a beautiful sunny afternoon with a wide range of ages from a mother and her newborn, through some very talented children to some senior members of our community. Everyone enjoyed the experience and some beautiful work was produced. Congratulations to Enid from Hook, who took the prize for her very dynamic view of the estuary. This year's prize was a hake, a specialist watercolour brush, very kindly autographed by Graham Brace to add to its sentimental value.



Enid Rees with her prizewinning watercolour painting of Black Tar



Liz Monk's 'plein air' painting afternoon proved to be a popular feature of the LitFest for the second year running

Llangwm Community Centre....WHY A NEW VILLAGE HALL?

The present Village Hall is now 38 years old and is used by several groups and hosts a number of community events and individual celebrations throughout the year. However its maintenance and upkeep has become problematic and its use is limited in the winter especially. The management committee have therefore had to consider how to improve the facility and increase the usage and benefit to the whole community.

The Problem

Surveys of the building have revealed considerable faults in the fabric:

- the roof leaks in several places and urgently needs replacing to support solar panels
- asbestos has been identified in the roof tiles and potentially in the flooring, drainage pipes and ceiling coating
- the electrical supply is outdated, prone to faults and must be overhauled
- fire precautions are inadequate
- the heating system is expensive, faulty and insufficient...even with insulation in the walls and roof, in the summer it is cold
- ventilation is absent and results in condensation streaming down the walls and making the floor unsafe.

The poor state of the building has led to groups relocating elsewhere and a reduced usage by individuals; this together with increasing amounts of maintenance and rising electricity cost has forced the committee to examine options for the future.

Options....what to do?

1. To continue the present programme of repairs as and when required to meet current safety needs.
2. To upgrade the Hall, attend to its faults and deficiencies and improve the facilities by the addition of more activity/meeting space and storage.
3. To rebuild a Centre with up to date facilities meeting the needs of the whole community for the foreseeable future.

We have concluded that doing the bare minimum is unsatisfactory and not in the best interests of the community. The building would continue to be underused and the fabric would deteriorate even further.

We examined in detail the costs of upgrading the building and have obtained quotes for works to rectify the roof, install solar panels, improve the heating and insulation, modernise the electrics and provide additional activity /meeting space. Not surprisingly the costs of these improvements are significant (in the region of £250,000+VAT) and we have been advised that the renovation concept is unworkable and will not achieve the necessary improvement which meets the future needs of all the community.

When the total cost was reviewed and a comparison was made with a new build eco-friendly design it did not make economic sense to attempt to refurbish an old building that was no longer fit for purpose. Once the figures demonstrated the limitation of a renovation programme we considered the case for demolition and rebuild.

We recognised that this was a potentially sensitive issue as the original building was funded partly through public subscription and so have conducted several consultation exercises to gauge local feelings and canvass views. It has been reassuring that the response has been overwhelmingly positive and ideas for improvement have informed our plans.



Above: defects at the hall include roofing tiles and an out of date electrical system.

Below: seeking points of view at one of the public consultation days held recently.



Vision for 2020 and Beyond

We have therefore concluded that the option to build a new enlarged Village Hall with up to date facilities fit for the 21st century is the best way forward. The attraction of a sustainable, eco-friendly building with modern facilities is undeniable and will present many opportunities for a much wider range of activities than has been possible before.

We aim to meet a broad spectrum of needs of families, young people and seniors in the village and the surrounding locality. Many ideas emerged from the questionnaires and open meetings held over the summer...

- For families: mother and toddler groups, youth club, a larger kitchen with modern equipment would provide for parties, celebrations and fully catered events
- For seniors: sufficient space for activities such as short mat bowls, yoga and keep fit, wellbeing services, outreach classes, U3A groups
- Entertainment: the addition of staging, overhead lighting and sound systems would extend the range of entertainment and cultural events (not forgetting more parking spaces!)

The biggest challenge however will be raising a substantial amount of money, in the region of £420,000, so we have begun to explore the process of obtaining Lottery money from the People and Places fund. There is an initial stage of applying for a Capital Development Grant to undertake a professional feasibility study, carry out surveys, develop a detailed design brief and obtain planning approval.....all this before we will be given the go ahead to submit an application for the full sum.

It's a big task but we are not daunted or discouraged; Llangwm is a dynamic, thriving village full of talented and energetic people who have a can do attitude and we hope that you will support our efforts with your ideas, and practical help. Already a number of generous individuals have contributed funds to 'Buy a Tile' for a new roof, and we hope you will agree to us retaining the money to put towards the cost of the new building.

The next few months will be busy and we plan to keep everyone updated with our progress by means of this newsletter, leaflets and further information days but in the meantime we'd be happy to hear your views.

You can contact us at
llangwmvillagehall@gmail.com
Many thanks.
Llangwm Village Hall Committee

...and now for the usual Village Hall report after all the important bits about the future plans for the building!

Following its very successful hosting of many events during the second Llangwm Literary Festival, where the provision of a temporary stage and slick, efficient audio-visual services further improved the audience experience, the Village Hall is host on November 22nd to 'Black is the Colour of My Voice', expanding the cultural life of the village yet again! This is a 'Wales Night Out' supported production where the actress and singer Apphia Campbell, inspired by the life story of Nina Simone, takes on a parallel fictional character to immerse us in the struggle for equality that African-Americans faced particularly in the middle of the 20th Century, linked in with beautiful, well known Nina Simone songs. It promises to be a wonderful evening, with a bar adding to the social atmosphere.



Apphia Campbell in 'Black is the Colour of My Voice'

The Village Voices, Tai Chi and the History Society continue to use the Hall regularly, with parties and coffee mornings also taking place. The Annual Gardening Club Plant Sale, held at the Hall, was again a great success in May and the cream teas provided by the committee during the Llangwm Village Festival were even more popular this year - word about their taste and value has obviously spread!

Finally, as always, a reminder that you need look no further than the Village Hall for a book you've always wanted to read. De-clutter your house by donating the books you have read, and then pick some up for 50p (paperback) or £1 (hardback). There are always new books appearing - a regular recycling on those shelves!

Val John

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

Hall Charges:

Per session – morning/afternoon/evening - £10

Adult Party - £35 Children's Party - £25

Summer Wedding - £150 Winter Wedding - £175

Charity Event - £10

Llangwm Village Voices - Branching Out

Practising Mozart's Coronation Mass seemed to have gone on forever...well it seemed like it. And this ambitious project was to be premiered at the opening of the newly restored St Jerome's. Although we had originally kicked off the fundraising with a concert there, the performance was not to be. However, we had a great welcome at St Mary's in Haverfordwest and on St George's Day we spent the afternoon rehearsing. It was going to be a doddle. So we thought. We were to be accompanied by the mighty organ, played by Andrew Lamb, something we'd never done before. Well...the sound was coming from behind us and like an old transatlantic phone call there seemed to be a time lag which took a bit of getting used to. The first few pieces were accompanied by piano and we settled in happily. Then...the piano disappeared and we launched into the Kyrie, the Gloria. Attention was on Sam's conducting but suddenly during the Sanctus, the Hosannas came apart. Sam stopped, apologised to the audience and we started once more. After all, Adele had done the same thing, so had David Bowie. And we were quite near the end. Lou's 'lead crystal' soprano and Sarah's alto rang out, saved the day and we shuffled despondently home. Phew!

Newport had invited us to sing in the gorgeous, airy Ebenezer Chapel and what's more, they were paying us. We picnicked in full sun in the graveyard, preparing for the Mozart again and this time it went off stupendously...a dream. After the St Mary's event we were blissfully happy.

The Festival of Hope....it was big, really really big but not St David's Cathedral big. It was held in the hangar at Carew Airfield, to celebrate years of fundraising for the new CDU at Withybush Hospital. Ooh we had sound engineers, microphones but all this technology couldn't compete with the concrete buildings and as we awaited our turn it sounded like the other musicians were on the other side of the planet. We did our best and then the newly formed Hope and Glory Choir joined us. Made up of patients, doctors and charity organisers they wore enthusiasm and great T-shirts. Cantabile were there in uniform and Haverfordwest Ladies wore red and white. We were a motley bunch in mixed pastels and looked...not too hot. After an eclectic programme we launched the newly composed (by Sam) 'Light'.

Afterwards, we looked out from the stage to the far end, a million miles away, where the hangar doors were wide open. The sun was lighting up a scene of Pembrokeshire rolling away, just as it had done through the great west door at St Davids. Glorious.

We learned from that costume malfunction at the Festival of Hope and a week later we all looked frightfully chic in black for the Llangwm Festival concert at Galilee Chapel. This time we had marvellous acoustics on our side AND we had Seimon Morris with orange hair to accompany us leaving Sam to conduct and control. Simon's curly jazzy piano playing lit us up. We were on a roll for the second half and hit the rafters with "Now Thank We all Our God" and "Love Divine All Loves Excelling". The Hope and Glory Choir were there and thanked us for being their backing group for "Light" again. This could be the start of a new career.

August - there we were sitting on the platform in the marquee for the LitFest. The tenors and basses had already done their plainsong at the Medieval Wedding re-enactment. We had time to wait before our performance and there was a bar ... and we just thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. So did the audience, sitting on haybales and joining in with the Abba and Grease. A great night.

Our amazing soprano Lou left us for Cardiff at the end of August. At her leaving do, the basses and tenors gave her Neil's rearrangement of 'The Laughing Song' from 'Die Fledermaus', accompanied by Neil on the pub's honky tonk piano. We desperately hope she will come back.

Sadly, our greatest fan Dee passed away in September so we sang at his funeral, a wonderful event.

Finally, the basses and tenors are having music theory classes on Tuesdays and starting a male singing group. Well they do have time on their hands...

We are getting new members all the time and would love to see more. All welcome, no audition. Thursday 7.30pm at Village Hall. Just turn up!

Fiona Cutting

A LITTLE CHORAL DIVERSION

Having sung plainsong at the Medieval Wedding re-enactment earlier in the year (as mentioned above) and provided two songs for the soundtrack of Bob Phillips's film "Gathering the Graves", some of the chaps in Village Voices decided as a sideline to form their own 'mainly a *cappella* boy band', appropriately named **Wrong Direction!** They rehearse under the auspices of the choir's other maestro, Neil Martin, on Tuesday mornings in St Jerome's Church.

They are currently polishing up a selection of WW1 songs to perform next year to mark the centenary of the end of the war. It is intended to extend the repertoire with more general songs and shanties, to add variety.

Their first airing will take place at the Remembrance Concert in St Jerome's on Saturday 10th November which will feature the wonderful Goodwick Brass Band.

It is very satisfying indeed for the old fellows to know that they are making good use of all this time on their hands (*Fiona please note!*)

Graham Brace

HERITAGE LLANGWM/ FRIENDS OF ST JEROME'S

Following the huge flurry of activity enjoyed by the **Heritage Llangwm** project in the first half of 2017 - the completion of the church, the launch of the Talking Tapestry of Llangwm and the Medieval Weekend with its wedding re-enactment and banquet - you might have expected the rest of the year to be a bit of an anti-climax. Well, that's what you might have expected, but it wasn't like that at all.

The thing was, having completed the much needed restoration work on the church, we were faced with a bit of a problem. The church now has underfloor heating and broadband, plus the tapestry display and community events, all of which demand extra power and lighting. And although the heating costs a fraction of what the old system cost, it's on 24/7 throughout the winter. So we had to raise some money - which is when a new grouping, spawned by Heritage Llangwm, made its entrance.

The Friends of St Jerome's is drawn from the community with members from all religions and none, with the aim of raising the extra cash needed. We made a good start with money raised during the Medieval Weekend (which seems a long time ago now!) and this has been supplemented with sales of merchandise from the Talking Tapestry and donations from visitors. We've already handed over one large cheque to St Jerome's. And there's more to come with proceeds from a series of lunchtime concerts through the winter months, starting on December 3rd, and a film club.

The tapestry has proved a great success, bringing visitors to Llangwm and to St Jerome's from as far away as San Francisco and Australia. Apart from the many casual visitors we've hosted 14 organised groups averaging 10 people per group who are treated to a talk detailing our project and the story we've uncovered of Llangwm's Flemish heritage.

So on to our future plans. The concerts kick off on

December 3rd with *A Medieval Christmas* including music from our friends La Volta (who played at the tapestry launch and on the DVD *The Search for Little Flanders*.) There'll be mulled wine and mince pies and a chance to top up your Christmas gifts from the tapestry merchandise. After a break for Christmas we welcome the Cwm Cerwyn Ensembles on 14th January, with guitarist John Rodge on the 28th, John Roach on 11th February, Mike Chant on 25th February and finally Two Pianos, aka Sam Howley and Seimon Morris rounding us off on 11th March. The details are on the website (www.heritagellangwm.org.uk/concerts) – or in the flyer accompanying this newspaper - and you can buy the tickets online, from 01437 899966 or from the shop. (The merchandise by the way is also on sale at The Cottage and the Victoria Bookshop in Haverfordwest (the DVDs), the shop (the cards and DVDs) and the St David's Cathedral shop (the mugs). We've also kept our promise to the Heritage Lottery Fund to use St Jerome's for community events with classes in Welsh (from Llinos Martin) and how to read music (Neil Martin).

Medieval music from local group La Volta will once again grace St Jerome's



The Cwm Cerwyn Ensembles - one of the exciting groups lined up for the lunchtime concert series at St Jerome's Church.



Some of the members of the Alliouagana Singers who were recently hosted in Llangwm at the invitation of Pam Hunt and St Jerome's Church. They performed a memorable and emotive concert in St Jerome's Church on Saturday 7 October. They represent their home island of Montserrat which was all but destroyed by a volcano some twenty years ago. Living now in London and Northampton, they travel in the UK telling the history and folklore of their island in poetry and song. They loved their visit to our village - so quiet!

Pembrokeshire Poet and Pacifist – A brief look at the life of Waldo Williams (1904 – 1971)

First, an apology.

It was stated in the last (Spring/Summer 2017) issue of Llangwm Village News that Waldo Williams was born in Milford Haven. Not so. He was born in the School House in Prendergast, Haverfordwest. His father was headmaster of Prendergast Primary School.

Among other things, the report in the last newsletter put out a plea to know more about this intriguing poet and his work.

So the reason for this short insight into his life and work is the local connection with Llangwm and its people.

Waldo Williams was brought up in Prendergast in an English-speaking household until he was seven.

Then, a sea change. The family moved to Mynachlogddu which at that time was almost entirely Welsh-speaking. Waldo's father, John Edwal Williams, a Welsh speaker originally from the Preseli area, became head of the school there, and later at Llandissilio. His mother Angharad was English and had English as her first language, though she learned Welsh.

The young boy Waldo found it traumatic to move from an English area to a monoglot Welsh one; he often spoke of having two separate communities during his childhood. But he embraced the Welsh language and grew to love it, using it without exception in his poetry and writings and rejecting English translations, thus creating something of a barrier to English-speakers keen to read his work.

His poetry, however, has now been translated and made accessible to all in an anthology 'The Peacemakers' by Tony Conran (Gomer Press).

The title piece, and one of his most famous poems, written in 1941 "Y Tangnefeddwyr" ("The Peacemakers") has been recited in Welsh and in English at St David's Day performances

over latter years by members of Llangwm's choir, Village Voices (by Llinos Martin in Welsh, and Jane Mills in English).

Mrs Cherrill Phillips of Foxhall has provided me with much information about Waldo Williams from a definitive book by her late brother-in-law, James Nicholas, a great friend of Waldo. "Bro a Bywyd" is essentially a photographic journey through all the stages of Waldo's life. Captioned and annotated in Welsh, it contains many Pembrokeshire references as Waldo spent much time wandering the lanes and villages here, particularly in the intensely sad era following his wife's untimely death in 1943 after just over a year of marriage.

(His wedding to Linda Llewelyn had taken place in the Baptist Chapel at Blaenconin on 14 April 1941, officiated by Rev D J Michael, father of Rev T J Michael who was minister at Galilee in the 1990s.)

Waldo's faith and beliefs led him to join the Quakers ('The Society of Friends'), and he attended the Meeting House at Milford Haven. He is featured on the Pembrokeshire panel of the renowned Quaker Tapestry, alongside the stone memorial which was erected in his memory on the Preseli Hills.

While in deep depression following the death of his wife, he was frequently to be found near the Rhos and Picton, finding refuge and sleeping in the porch at Millin Chapel. He used to like to walk along the riverbank there, at dawn. An old crooked tree, the "Dderwen Gam", figures in one of his most famous poems. Some of you may be familiar with the tree at the Rhos – a rope swing from its great horizontal branch used to be popular with children. Waldo wrote of the Rhos:

*There'll be lake here,
there'll be quiet
Stretching away
a mirroring sheet.*

Another favourite haunt was Carn

Ingli, Newport – the 'Mount of the Angels'.

In happier times, Cherrill remembers having lunch with him, along with her sister and brother-in-law, while she was a student in Cardiff. He would stand in the aisle of the Continental Café, she recalls, reciting his poetry aloud, oblivious to all around him.

He taught in several Pembrokeshire schools, stood for Parliament for Plaid Cymru, and campaigned tirelessly against war. His work won an award and recognition from the Arts Council of Great Britain.

For a while he lived with the Kilroy family – they were Quakers at Milford Haven – at Great Harmeston Farm, near Johnston. And in the early 1960s he was to be found living in the small cottage, now boarded up, which all of us pass on our way to town, opposite Haylett Grange just outside Merlins Bridge, where he wrote this to his sister:

*On my own, Oh! I manage, - I prepare
A repast with courage
I live, active for my age,
In a cute little cottage.*

Mrs Margaret Watkins of Deerland remembers him as a quiet character who would cycle to Galilee Chapel on a Sunday evening, joining the congregation in a back pew, keeping to himself as much as possible.

At the end of his life, he was admitted to St Thomas Hospital, Haverfordwest, and for many months, he was nursed by, among others, the late Mrs Megan Scourfield of Guildford, Llangwm.

I am wondering if there are any more people in Llangwm and around who knew, or knew of, Waldo Williams in the years he spent in this area. Do let us know if you recognise these descriptions of his life.

There is no doubt that Waldo Williams and his writing deserves a wider audience - he has been called "the first 'green' poet".

There is something intriguing about the local man who wrote of "inner light" in his poetry and found this in silent worship and the peacefulness of the Pembrokeshire countryside.

MB

COMMEMORATING LLANGWM WAR DEAD FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR

2018 will see the final year of commemorations for the centenary of the First World (or Great) War concluding in the commemoration of the armistice at 11.00 am on 11th November. The **Llangwm Local History Society** will be marking this centenary with various events during the year including an updating and re-staging of its exhibition marking the role that Llangwm played during the conflict. In addition to this, we are planning to mark the centenary of the anniversary of the death of each of the 17 men who gave their lives during this conflict.

At 11.00 am on the date of each of their deaths, a short ceremony will be held at St Jerome's. The bell will be rung and a few appropriate words will be said.

Any family members known to us will be contacted and invited to attend these events which will be open to everyone. We hope that this will be an appropriate way in which to mark the sacrifice that these men made in the name of freedom. The names of these men and the dates (in calendar order of commemoration) on which they died are as follows:

January 20th 1918

George Lewis, Ordinary Seaman, Royal Navy

February 17th 1915

Percy George Adolph, Private, Welsh Regiment

March 9th 1918

William John Bevans, Private, Welsh Regiment

April 23rd 1917

William Henry Hitchings, Private, East Yorkshire Regiment

May 5th 1918

Bertie Jenkins, Royal Navy, HMS Amphitrite

June 1st 1918

John Davies, Rifleman, 1/28th Battalion (Artists Rifles) London Regiment

June 24th 1916

Frederick Bevan, Driver, Royal Field Artillery

August 6th 1914

James Henry Skyrme, Stoker 1st Class, Royal Navy

August 25th 1917

Edwin Arthur John, Private, Canadian Expeditionary Force
James John, Private, Canadian Expeditionary Force

September 8th 1917

David Harris George, Trooper, Cavalry, of Great Nash Farm.

September 22nd 1914

Stephen Arla Phillips, Armourer, Royal Navy, H M S Aboukir

September 23rd 1918

William Joseph Bevan, Private, Labour Corps

October 6th 1917

Arthur Williams, Lance Corporal, South Wales Borderers

October 20th 1918

William John Jones, Private, Hampshire Regiment

November 24th 1917

John Hutchings, Private, Welsh Regiment

December 4th 1917

James Charles Thomas, Private, Machine Gun Corps

Llangwm Local History Society - Talks and Visits

We have had a busy few months with a varied programme.

In **April** local historian, **Dr. Simon Hancock**, treated us to a copiously illustrated and fascinating talk on the "**Port Of Haverfordwest from the Roman era to the 20th Century**".

In **May** we visited **Jeff James's** wonderful **Museum of Scrimpinology** at Edward's Pill where, after Jeff had shown us some of his treasures, we had to guess the identity of 20 objects.

In **June**, we were very lucky to welcome **Alex Fleming**, who lives in America, to come to talk to us about **The Flemings in Scotland**. Dr. Fleming has been involved in a project with St. Andrews University combining genealogical and historical research looking at the impact of the **Flemish settlement** in Scotland.

On **American Independence Day** we had an excellent talk by **Gareth Mills** on **American G.I.s in Pembrokeshire** and stories of local family connections lasting to this day. A visit to **St. Jerome's Church** was made the following

month where **Pam Hunt** gave us an illustrated talk on Llangwm's Flemish roots, using clips from the film she has put together "**The Search For Little Flanders**".

In **September** a group of members visited **Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre** where we had a short talk before looking around the impressive exhibits and having the opportunity to sit in a reconstructed Sunderland Flying Boat cockpit.

October's talk was a startling and graphic account of the '**Great Fire**' of wartime **Pembroke Dock**, by **Derek Church**.

Future events include:-

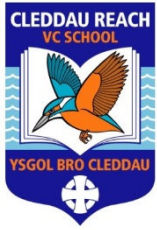
7th November - a talk by local historian, Mark Muller, on "Slavery and its Pembrokeshire Connections"

29th November - AGM plus short film on the origins of the village.

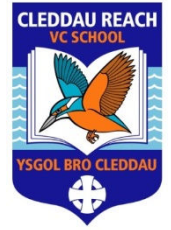
6th December - Members' Christmas Meal at the Cottage Inn.

A full programme of talks and events is currently being arranged for the coming year and all are very welcome to join. The cost is just £5 for the year and includes all talks and free refreshments.

Eileen Horton



CLEDDAU REACH VC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



Welcome to the Cleddau Reach VC School section of the newsletter. The items below provide information about some of the events and activities that have taken place recently at the school.

Creatively Celebrating Wales



The children and staff at Cleddau Reach have recently worked with local artist Jasmine Cutting to create images to celebrate the myths, legends and traditions of Wales.

The Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 children enjoyed using a range of recycled materials to create two giant three dimensional maps of Wales. As part of their work the children drew and then made an image to place on the maps. The children

enjoyed working with Jasmine and developing their ability to create three dimensional images. Both maps are now displayed in our school hall and provide a stunning display which will inspire the children to learn more about Wales.

For the next two years Cleddau Reach will be supported by the Arts Council for Wales to be a 'Lead Creative School'. This will provide further opportunities for the children to work with a range of creative practitioners in order to develop their skills.

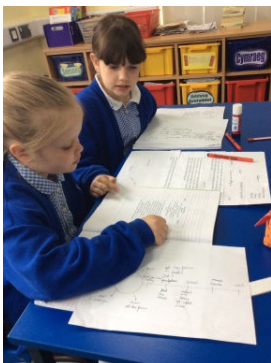


Welsh Charter Success for Cleddau Reach

During the summer term the school was awarded the 'Siarter Iaith Gymraeg'. The award recognised that the school had been successful in developing strategies to promote the Welsh ethos of the school and the skills of



the children to use the Welsh language with enthusiasm and increasing skill. The children in the photograph were all part of our 2016-2017 Criw Cymraeg (Welsh Crew) who played an important part in the school achieving the award. The Criw Cymraeg are enthusiastic about promoting the use of Welsh by helping other children to use Welsh everyday! The 2017-2018 Criw Cymraeg are already busy organising events for this year.



Llangwm Literary Festival 2017

Ninety children from the school enjoyed taking part in the writing competitions linked to the 2017 festival. All of our Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 learners submitted entries and enjoyed focusing their imaginative writing on one of the themed titles.

In the bilingual children's writing competition Cherry Baum (Year 4) received the prize for a story with the most striking environmental message. Tom David (Year 6) and Freddie Sayers (Year 6) were awarded joint second and joint third place for their stories.

The school enjoyed being involved in the Literary Festival and providing a venue for some of the events.

SCHOOL'S RACE FOR LIFE RAISES OVER £3,700!

The children and staff raised a phenomenal £3,753.94 for Cancer Research UK in a single day. The children raised the money in a 'Race for Life Day' which involved the whole school taking part in a sponsored fun run or walk around the school grounds, a grand cake sale and raffle.

Throughout the event the whole of the Year 6 class worked with the staff of the school to support and encourage the younger children as they undertook their 'Race for Life'. Each of the eight classes were also led in their pre-run warm ups by the school's Year 6 Sports Ambassadors: Tom, Yasmin and Luke.

The staff and children of Cleddau Reach were particularly grateful to Year 6 teacher Sarah Arran who co-ordinated the event, and

also to Tesco in Haverfordwest who kindly provided goody bags for the runners and walkers. The day was enjoyable and a fantastic achievement by the whole school community. All the children, staff, governors and parents who supported the event were truly inspiring and fully deserved their medals!



Sporting Updates

Recently children from Cleddau Reach have been involved in a wide variety of sporting activities.

The mixed cricket team won nine of their ten matches and reached the



semi-finals of the Pembrokeshire Kwik Cricket tournament, narrowly losing to Saundersfoot Primary by 2 runs in the semi-final.

The girls' cricket team were Pembrokeshire Champions after winning each of their six games and played competitively in the South Wales finals at Radyr Cricket Club.



Tournament, with our Year 5 girls' team reaching the Welsh finals at the David Lloyd Centre in Cardiff.

This term the school football team competed in the Urdd Tournament winning all of their group matches and reaching the final. In a competitively contested final they were runners up to Ysgol Glan Cleddau.

In July the school held three Sports Afternoons for Early Years, Foundation Phase fulltime and Key Stage 2 children. All three were enjoyable and very well attended events which were blessed with fine weather.



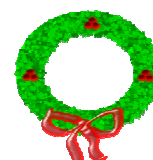
PROCEDURES FOR REGISTERING YOUR CHILD FOR ADMISSION TO CLEDDAU REACH VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

All applications for school places are dealt with centrally by the Admissions Officer at County Hall. In order to complete an application for a school place parents need to complete an on-line application using the link www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/education/admissions. If any parents have difficulty accessing a computer please contact the PCC Admissions Officer on 01437 770030.

CLEDDAU REACH VC CHRISTMAS MARKET

Our Christmas Market will take place at the school on Tuesday 28th November.

The festive fun will start at 6pm. Once again there will be a wide variety of creative stalls and refreshments.



Llangwm Methodist Chapel - Fine Festival Teas, Harvest, Carols and Mince Pies

MINISTER: Reverend Hugh-John Wilson

SECRETARY: Mrs Jane Brock

TREASURER: Mrs Susan Davies

Sunday Service: 11am each 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, crafts, drama, puzzles, games, painting and colouring but most of all we have an enjoyable hour and have fun

Women's Fellowship: Fortnightly Wednesdays - 2.00pm

Festival Fortnight Teas and Literary Festival Teas – thank you so much to all who joined us for these two very busy and special events in our village. We hope that everyone enjoyed our bacon rolls, scone teas, homemade cakes and refreshments. The members of our church are always delighted to meet old and new visitors during these events. Thank you to those who worked so hard to make these teas such a success. We are very grateful for the wonderful support received; it is always very much appreciated. Looking forward to repeating it all again during 2018!

FORTHCOMING SERVICES/EVENTS

**Coffee, Mince Pies & Carols - Friday 8th
December at 7.00pm**

Carol Service - Sunday 17th December at 11am

**United Christmas Day Service - Sunday 25th
December - 9.30am at St Jerome's Church**

Galilee Baptist Chapel - a Grand Summer Concert and Colourful Harvest

A highlight of Galilee's summer was the hosting of the **Festival Concert** on 2nd July featuring Llangwm's own **Village Voices** choir.

A programme of sacred music followed by popular songs from the shows was performed to an appreciative audience. **Village Voices** were joined in an emotional finale by the local **'Hope and Glory Choir'**.

Some hymns were sung by choir and audience alike, notably "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" to Seimon Morris's full gospel-style accompaniment, to the delight of all present.

Services of traditional worship continue weekly at Galilee at 10.30 each Sunday morning.

The **Women's League group** resumed their fortnightly meetings in October for the winter season. Any ladies in the village wishing to come along to talks, activities and outings - or simply to share an hour or so of company and fellowship – would be most welcome.

On November 19th Galilee's members, spouses, friends and neighbours will once again enjoy **Sunday Dinner at the Cottage Inn**, courtesy of former members Mr and Mrs Bob Allcock, who moved to North Wales from Butterhill two years ago. Thanks are expressed to Bob and Doris for their continuing generosity.

Forthcoming services of note are:-

December 3rd - service to be taken by **Sister Barnabas**
December 17th - **Carol Service** with **Rev Roger Hart 10.30**
December 24th – **Rev Roger Hart**
December 31st – **Mr Nigel Thomas**

December 25th – this year's **UNITED CHRISTMAS SERVICE** involving all three Llangwm congregations will take place at **St Jerome's Church at 9.30 am**. All are invited to join their fellow villagers in this special start to Christmas Day.



Traditionally the Methodist Chapel and Galilee Baptist Chapel attend each other's Harvest Services, on the third and fourth Sundays of September. This year was no exception - a fine table of produce was displayed before each altar, and favourite Harvest hymns were sung.

Behind the scenes at the Museum

It was a bumper week at the popular museum at Edwards Pill this year. (Make a note to ask Jeff well in advance if your club or society would like to visit next May.) This year over £1,000 was raised towards the refurbishment of the village hall, a magnificent effort. Here's a taster for next year, for all you 'techies'...

RESOLVED!

During the very interesting talk in October by Derek Church of the Sunderland Trust, on the bombing of the oil tanks at Pembroke Dock in WW2 (see page 10), he explained the problem of air navigation in those early days before computers, i.e. with just a compass and an airspeed indicator, they would NOT know what effect the wind was having to their actual route over ground.

By coincidence, many years ago, Jeff was given an unidentified aircraft instrument, which the volunteers at the Sunderland Trust failed to identify, although recent research found it to be a **resolver ball** - essentially an infinitely variable gear. An electric motor turns a disc at a speed that represents airspeed. The disc turns a large ball bearing which turns two rollers at right angles. If the ball is positioned at the outside of the disc the roller will turn quickly, if the ball is moved towards the middle of the disc it will turn the roller progressively slower...Confused? then pop down and see it working - the museum is open again in May next year!



Above: Jeff James demonstrates the workings of the transatlantic telegraph cable, just one of the new exhibits in his Museum of Scrimpinology this year. Dale History Society were on a group visit there during Museum Open Week at the end of May.

Below: the ever popular petrol pump attendant - Go well, go Shell!



Llangwm - 150 years ago

In the Autumn of 1867, there were two weddings at Llangwm parish church. On 20th October, William Morgans and Mary Bryant were married and, on 20th November, Edward Morgans wed Jane Skyrme. The occupation of the fathers of both brides and bridegrooms was "waterman". A waterman was someone who transferred passengers across and along a river.

William Morgans, aged 21, waterman, was the son of William Morgans senior who had died in November 1854 and was buried at Llangwm parish church. Mary Bryant, also aged 21, was the daughter of James Bryant who lived on the Gail with his wife Betsy and at least 8 children. Edward Morgans, aged 25, sailor, was the son of George Morgans of Guilford. Jane Skyrme, aged 24, was the daughter of John Skyrme of Black Tar. According to the censuses, everyone had been born in Llangwm.

The other boat-related occupation commonly found on the river was that of "lighterman". This was someone who worked on a large open flat-bottomed boat (known as a "lighter") loading and unloading ships and generally moving cargo around. Both watermen and lightermen were known to occupy their spare time with fishing and, on the census, they may all be

recorded as fishermen.

The year 1867 saw the first meeting of the Board of Conservators for the East and West Cleddy Fishery District. From 1st September, it became illegal to fish for salmon without a licence and the Board was also responsible for controlling fishing for trout. The annual licence for using a rod and line was 10 shillings and 6 pence [55 new pence] and fishing with a coracle net cost £1. Other methods of fishing included draft or hang net, box crib or cruive, otter, lath or jack, putts and putchers. Night fishing was not permitted. The closed season for salmon was from 15th September to 15th March and for trout 29th September to 1st March, although fishing with rods had a shorter closed season - from 15th November to 15th March.

Nikki Bosworth

LLANGWM VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE

Christmas/New Year Opening Hours

Christmas Eve (Sun) 8am-12noon

Christmas Day Closed

Boxing Day Closed

New Year's Eve (Sun) 8am-12noon

New Year's Day Closed

Normal opening hours (Shop)

Mon-Fri 9am-1pm, 2pm-6pm, Sat 7am-1pm, Sun 8am-12noon

Normal opening hours (Post Office)

Mon - Fri 9am-1pm



Tulips, Poppies and Clown Cress - Llangwm & District Gardening Club Report

The Club kicked off its 2017/18 Autumn/Winter season in early September with a very busy and well attended evening at The Cottage Inn. Membership fees paid were rewarded with a selection of tulip bulbs and all enjoyed a DVD tour of the famous Keukenhof Gardens in Holland.

Members have enjoyed a couple of different events over the summer break, helping out at the Llangwm Carnival with our clown cress heads and also some hands-on



gardening to help a fellow member. Much was achieved in a few short hours with the reward of a lovely lunch that was provided.

Summer days seem long gone but the upcoming programme of talks and events should keep members interested in their outdoor space.

October saw the visit of Linda Screen, owner of Pembrokeshire's largest Permaculture Flower Farm who talked us through her varied horticultural journey!

November (13th) we're delighted to welcome Christina Shand from Dyffryn Fernant gardens near Fishguard. We hope to make a summer visit there in 2018.

Christmas celebrations will be held at Lamphey Hall Hotel on Monday 11th December so we can enjoy their Christmas music.

More social action, with some quiz questions thrown in, will celebrate the **New Year** as garden clubbers battle with history buffs in the Village hall. There will be a buffet and, of course, PRIZES!!

The cold month of **February** will be warmed up by a talk from Sarah Wint of Daisybus Gardens in Solva, she'll talk of the trip she made in her campervan, the "Daisybus", visiting and working in gardens in the National Open Gardens Scheme.

March sees the welcome return of John Archer Thompson

for Pembrokeshire Wild Flowers. In addition to the talk, we'll be giving members Flanders poppy seeds to sow, to commemorate the ending of the First World War.

Meetings are usually held the first Monday of the month but this season we have a few dates that are different due to unavoidable circumstances. Please check local village posters and the Llangwm Facebook page for time, date and venue.

Recap of up and coming events

- 13th November "Between a Bog and a Hard Rock" - talk by Christina Shand of Dyffryn Fernant Gdns
- 11th December Christmas Meal at Lamphey Hall (members and their guests)

2018

- 8th January Quiz and nibbles
- 5th February The Daisybus Tour, a talk by Sarah Wint of Daisybus Gardens
- 5th March The Wild Flowers of Pembrokeshire, a talk by John Archer Thompson

Please do not hesitate to contact Club Chairperson Karen Shepherd on 01437 891203 for further details. All are welcome to events.

Representing Llangwm on an international stage

Liz Rawlings was invited, in her capacity as a member of the Board of PLANED, to speak about Llangwm's Heritage Project at the European Rural Parliament, held between 20th-22nd October in Venhorst, Netherlands.

She described her visit:

"It was a great privilege to be able to address colleagues from 43 other countries on our successful Heritage Project. It was seen as an exemplar of how a small rural community worked cohesively to achieve great things. The whole conference was based on the issues facing rural communities from across Europe, such as social isolation, poverty, unemployment. It was inspirational to hear about projects in other countries based on creating future proof communities, optimising infrastructure and services, and developing an economic base. There were vast differences in each country's perception of poverty and isolation with some heart-rending stories from Eastern Europe, but the willingness of people to work together to solve similar problems was enlightening."



PLANT STALL RAISES RECORD DONATION FOR CHARITY

In spite of a rather wet summer the Plant Stall at The Kilns has been selling cuttings, perennials and veg plants all year.

Llangwm residents are continuing to support us by buying plants, bringing empty plant pots for recycling and often spare plants from their own gardens.

Our charity for 2017 is Wales Air Ambulance and Tony Keys their local representative recently collected a cheque for £1000, the proceeds from this year's sales.

Every helicopter call out costs £1500 so this just goes a little way towards the £6.5 million they need to keep this fantastic service running.

While we produce quite a lot of plants in The Kilns garden our friends Lynne and Steve Vincent Davies from Crundale also love gardening and those of you familiar with the lovely pelargoniums on sale might be surprised to know that Steve is quite an expert, even cross-pollinating varieties to breed his own named plants. It was a subject he studied in

University so please don't call them geraniums!

Many of the other perennials and herbaceous plants are from cuttings they take in the Autumn and grow on during the winter.

Next year's charity is The DPJ Foundation. It is a Pembrokeshire charity and aims to support people in rural communities with mental health problems.

2018 starts in January for the plants, when winter flowering Hellebore start flowering. They are a hardy perennial which will grow in most conditions and it's when we first see the bees as they seem to love their pollen.

Liz Beresford

1st JOHNSTON SCOUT GROUP

There have been a few changes within the Group since the last newsletter. Having returned from a short sabbatical, I have taken over the role of Group Scout Leader. Many things have changed since I started as a Scout, but the core values and appeal of Scouting remain the same - fun and adventure. I am looking forward to the challenge of offering Scouting to as many young people as possible within our catchment, and will be working to 4 main aims:-

- * Increase the number of young people experiencing Scouting
- * Develop and maintain a strong and diverse team of leaders
- * Ensure the Group is sustainable
- * Ensure our new hall is sustainable

The Group has hit the ground running this term, with both the Beaver and Cub Sections running at full capacity. We currently have a waiting list for these age groups, but with places

hopefully becoming available soon, I would encourage anyone who is interested to drop me an e-mail as soon as possible to make sure you can get on the list. We are working hard to find new adult supporters/leaders to enable us to increase the numbers.

The Scouts returned from an action-packed camp at Almondsbury in July, taking part in a range of activities, including high ropes, archery, shooting and axe throwing (and yes, it was as scary as it sounds!)

The Beavers and Cubs enjoyed a camp at Goodwick in June, earning lots of awards and badges and eating lots of toasted marshmallows.

Copies of this term's jam-packed programme can be found on our web-site if you would like an idea of what we will all be up to over the coming months.

As always, we will be attending the Remembrance Service in Johnston on the 12th November, and will be doing some fundraising in the foyer of Morrison's on the 19th November, and hope to return to the Cleddau Reach School Fayre, so please come along and say hello.

Our hall in Hill Mountain is available for bookings - please send any enquiries to Pat Dixon (07824 748 748 or pat.dixon54@btinternet.com)

If you would like any other information, please visit our website (address below) or get in touch with me on the details below.

Simon Preddy, Group Scout Leader
1stjohnston@gmail.com
 07824 504802



LLANGWM ALLOTMENTS

Our lovely new(ish) rainwater harvesting system didn't have much use this year due to our damp(ish) summer, but a good harvest was still brought in by the

members. The recent gales brought a few interesting rearrangements of some of the sheds on the allotment but we'll take it all in our stride as we hunker down for the winter and retreat to the potting shed, seed catalogues in hand, to plan greater and grander things for next

spring. All plots are taken at present but anyone interested in joining our waiting list, or would just like to have a look around please get in touch with the Allotments Chair:

Bob Phillips on 01437 892470

ST. JEROME'S NEWS



Autumn is upon us, as we embrace this beautiful colourful season of change in nature and bountiful harvests. However, we have just recently experienced the awful force of Mother Nature with the tail end of Storm Ophelia hitting us! At the time of writing, we wait to see what "Storm Brian" delivers...

A brief recap of recent news and events

Cleddau Reach Primary School **Year 6 pupils**, once again, thoroughly enjoyed the now annual event: **The Leavers BBQ** with a game of rounders first, in July!

A big thank you to Mr Groves for the use of the school for the evening and also to Mrs Woodward, Deputy Head, Miss Arran, Year 6 Teacher and Mr Steve Richards, Site Manager.

On Saturday 7th October St Jerome's hosted its first **Concert Evening** in our newly refurbished Church. **The Alliouagana Singers** presented, "**From Montserrat to Llangwm with Love**", a wonderful evening of poems, Gospel songs, Calypso, Caribbean Folk songs and Soca ("Soul of Calypso"). The following morning, they joined our congregation at morning service and sang to a full church at the end of worship. A big thank you to the residents of Llangwm who welcomed them to stay in their homes.

Krafty Kids held its first **Film & Popcorn Afternoon** in St Jerome's on Sunday 15th October. Having the drop down screen is a great bonus!

We celebrated our **Harvest Service** on Sunday 1st October during our Worship Time Service. All **donations** offered were forwarded to **PATCH**, enabling them to continue their wonderful work to relieve the effects of poverty/hardship for the people of Pembrokeshire.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

St Jerome's Film Club

The launch will be on Friday 20th October! This will be on a Friday evening commencing at 7pm. Doors open at 6.15pm. With the first Winter Season of films on the following dates:-

October 20th – Moulin Rouge 12 (2001)
November 17th – The Pink Panther PG (1963)
December 15th – White Christmas U (1954)
December 29th – Brief Encounter PG (1945)

Membership is £12 per year, (enjoy at least 8 movies a year!) Day Member is £3 Adults and £1 Children.
Full details from Pam Hunt on 899966.

My Life and Work in India – Join Christine Morris, a special education consultant with Educare, India. Come and listen to her fascinating story of her 30 years+ of working in India.
Wednesday 25th October at 7pm.

This year's **Remembrance Concert** will be on **Friday 10th November at 7.30pm**. It will be held in St Jerome's organised by Pam Hunt, featuring the award winning Goodwick Brass Band. Posters are on display around the village, also in the Post Office/Shop. Tickets available via Pam and in the Post Office/Shop.

St. Jerome's Christmas Bazaar will be held on **Saturday 18th November at 2pm** in Llangwm Village Hall this year. Pick up some Christmas gifts, Raffle and much more.

Breakfast with Santa! will be on **Saturday 2nd December from 9.30am-11.30am** in Llangwm Village Hall.

A lunchtime concert with '**La Volta**' on **Sunday 3rd December at 1pm**.

SERVICES

Remembrance Service will be on **Sunday 12th November at 10.00am** on Llangwm Village Green at the War Memorial.

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.

If there is a 5th Sunday in the month, there is a Joint Parish Service at 10am, held either in Llangwm, Johnston or Freystrop. Details of venue will be on the Church Notice Board.

Family Crib Service will be on **Saturday 24th December at 4.00pm**, including our popular '**Impromptu Nativity**'.

Midnight Eucharist will be on **Saturday 24th December at 11.30pm**.

United Village Christmas Day Service (25th December) will be in St Jerome's Church at 9.30am.

Our **Sunday School** is held during our regular morning services.

Our popular themed **Krafty Kids** is held in St Jerome's Church.

December Krafty Kids will be **BREAKFAST with SANTA!** on Saturday 2nd December 9.30am-11.30am, in Llangwm Village Hall.

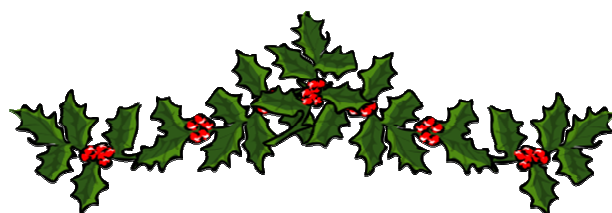
While the children enjoy the fun-packed sessions, parents are welcome to come and join us for a cuppa & chat or even join in the fun!

2017 EVENTS

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

Debby Lawson-Earley

Reverend Marcus and everyone from St. Jerome's Church would like to wish you all a joyous Christmas and peaceful New Year in 2018.



Llangwm Community Council

October 2017

Our three new councillors have settled in well - Pam Hunt, Llinos Martin and Matthew Evans - and all are already making a valuable contribution to the Council.

Council business over the last six months includes:

Twinning. An approach has been made to representatives in Flanders about a twinning possibility with a similar village/small town. Discussions are on-going.

Black Tar Facility. Following the adoption of the facility by the Community Council, the toilet has been open for the summer months and has been well maintained. A meeting will be held in the near future to establish membership of a sub-group of the Council, to include representatives of the Rowing Club, Boat Club and residents.

A new lease for the storage area will be signed with the Rowing Club, and a budget set for the next financial year. The toilet will be closed for the winter months to enable maintenance issues to be addressed.

Abandoned Boats. In conjunction with PCNPA, the Community Council will endeavour to trace the owners of abandoned boats along the foreshore. Owners will be given the opportunity to remove them voluntarily.

Community Centre. An initial bid has been made to the Big Lottery for funding for development work on the village hall. It is now in dire need of action with, for example, the asbestos roof becoming unstable. Residents who have supported the proposal of a brand new village hall have been very helpful in providing a 'wish list' and design brief.

If successful, the next step will be a public meeting to look at some exciting initial drawings.

Defibrillators. Just to remind everyone that there are 3 defibrillators around the village. They are sited at the shop in Main Street; the village hall in Pill Parks Way; and on the foreshore at Black Tar.

Dog Refuse Bin at Pill Parks. The red bin will be removed shortly as now all bins in the village are suitable for dog waste.

New signage has now been posted at Pill Parks due to the continued problem of dog fouling. Whilst the vast majority of people are responsible and clear after their dogs, the signs are a reminder that not only is it anti-social not to remove dog faeces, but it also presents a health risk to all who use the fields, and is an offence which could lead to prosecution.

Remembrance Service. This will be held as usual on the Green at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday 12 November when wreaths will be laid and The Last Post played.

Anti-social behaviour. This happens so infrequently in Llangwm, and we consider ourselves very fortunate to have some very responsible young people in the village. Unfortunately, this has been marred of late by some negative behaviour - smashing glass bottles in the playground and kicking out some of the fencing; kicking footballs against cars mindlessly; and throwing large stones on to the roof of the old school. All such anti-social behaviour will be reported to the police.

Christmas Festivities. Carols will be sung on the Green on Friday 15th December.

Liz Rawlings

The Here and the Then

A Review of some Local Books

Some weeks ago Len Wilcox called at our place. He is a 'local boy', brought up in Llangwm where he spent his formative years before moving to Bath to train as a teacher. Though that was a long time ago he retains close links to our village and his family who have lived in the area all their lives.

Len has done some extensive research into his home village and its people. **'Fallen Heroes of Guildford and Llangwm 1914 -1918'** is part of the **'Footsteps Through Time'** series which focuses on a range of aspects of village life spanning the early 1800s to the late 1960s. The booklet has, as its focus, the names on the war memorial now placed outside the village hall. Len has taken each of those commemorated and provides a wealth of information on each of them and on four others who, for whatever reason, were not listed on the memorial.

Whilst on the theme of local history, Grenville Thomas's **'The People of the Covenant'** is well worth a visit or, for some, a revisit. Grenville was Head of History at Milford Haven Grammar School and later Milford Comprehensive School. Like Len, he was a Llangwm man though brought

up in Guildford not the Main Street. He was an engaging person, blessed with a formidable memory. The book he produced in 1988/89 is a very readable history of Galilee Baptist Chapel from its creation, where the car park is now, in 1831 to 1988. It, as you would expect from a professional historian, is well researched and contains a lot of precious pictorial as well as written evidence.

It's odd how we come across important documents, sometimes accidentally, things we didn't think we had. Such was the case with papers I found just a few days ago. These are accounts of the village and its people over a considerable period of time. Space doesn't allow me to say too much about these but the following extracts give just some of the flavour:

'A village of teetotallers', was how the 'Western Telegraph' described Llangwm in October 1912... It remained dry until a private club was opened at Rock House, formerly Alfred Anstee's grocery shop. This became known as the Cottage Club and later as the Cottage Inn where it remains today'. How times change!

'At home Llangwm women, a peculiar people, never form alliances with strangers, or allow their daughters to go into service as do other peasant people of the county. Their husbands are kept under strict petticoat government...'

Christopher Webbe 1881

There's plenty more but...

Barry Childs

SUCCESS FOR THE 'SUPERVETS'

LLANGWM ROWING CLUB REPORT

Llangwm Rowing Club have had a busy year, sending crews of men and women to compete at all of the race meetings in the **Welsh Sea Rowing Association's calendar**. The race season starts in March and has only just finished, some races having had to be re-scheduled owing to bad weather.

We are proud to acknowledge our **Men's Team's success** in winning their class (**Supervets**) in the **Welsh Southern League** and **The Welsh Championships**. They also did us proud by winning outright the **Men's Section** and the **Supervets** category of the **Great River Race**. This is an annual 22-mile long race from the Isle of Dogs up the **River Thames** to Ham.

Llangwm Club hosted its own **League Race** in August down at **Black Tar**. This was a very successful and enjoyable day for competitors and spectators alike. We were blessed with a fine sunny day and thanks to local land owners managed to keep the road to Black Tar open to visitors as well as rowers with their trailers and boats. No traffic jams this year !

The club has also been running a successful "**Taster Night**" session where persons new to rowing can come out on the river to experience a little bit of rowing a **Celtic longboat** (four single oars) or a **skiff** (two pairs of oars). These have been well attended and enjoyable to both the newbies and supervising club members. As the evenings are now drawing in the club will be moving this "**Social Row**" to **Sunday mornings at 10am**. Those who have enjoyed their taster sessions and wish to continue can by joining the club and then come out for a couple of hours rowing on Sunday mornings. Tea/coffee/biscuits/cake and even a frying pan and bacon often accompany us.

The Club welcomes new members and further information about us and our activities can be found on our **Facebook page, Llangwm Long Boat Rowing Club**, or contact **Helen** on 07958438785.

See you on the river!

Helen Heaton



LLANGWM SOCCER

- a continuing success story

Just a brief report on Llangwm AFC and their finish to the 2016 - 2017 season.

The first team did fantastically well, finishing second in the 3rd Division and gaining promotion to Division 2. This was a brilliant effort on going up at the first attempt. This team's rise has been

quite remarkable. To start in Division 5 as a young inexperienced side and now be in Division 2 and doing it in such a short space of time speaks volumes for everybody who has been involved.

And to put the icing on the cake the First Team was presented with a voucher for £700 and a match ball by the Football League for winning the Fair Play award. They had fewer bookings than any other

team in all the other leagues and played the game in the right spirit. Good players who work hard and have good discipline.

The Second Team has also done well. They ended the season in 4th spot in Division 5. A lot of new players coming together for the first time. If they can gel they will have an even better season next time.

Andrew Harding



Llangwm Rugby Club News



The **National League** (so named as the sponsorship deal with SWALEC had come to an end for both League and WRU Cup competitions, and talks are still ongoing to find a new sponsor) started as normal at the beginning of September. Despite an initial announcement from the WRU that the majority of leagues, including **3 West A**, will have 12 sides, by the time the fixture list was presented to all clubs, we were already down by 1 side, meaning only **10 home games** this season. By mid-October the spread of games played covered both the local fixtures that are close to supporters' hearts as well as a few forays outside of Pembrokeshire.

The final **score board** may not have been in favour of Llangwm so far this season, but in many cases, following from the performances last year, the results flattered our opponents, with teams in a similar position to ourselves still not looking forward to the trip to Pill Parks.

Unfortunately, the months of **November** and **February** cause disruption at all clubs as we are bound by additional rules concerning kick off times, as well as periods when there are no club clashes at all. This is due to the Autumn Internationals and 6 Nations schedule as well as Llangwm having 2 bye weekends in the season due to reduction in teams in our league.

After receiving a bye in the first round of the **Pembrokeshire Knock Out Cup**, Llangwm have been drawn away to Pembroke Dock Quins, and at the **District H** meeting in October, permission was given to make our league fixture on 09 December a double header, meaning an additional fixture squeezed amongst Autumn Internationals, with very specific rules concerning kick off times, or playing on a week day evening, has been avoided.

Details of all **League and Cup fixtures** for the whole season are available on the club website.

Once again the club was represented at the **Annual General Meeting** of the **Welsh Rugby Union**, and readers will already have seen or heard about proposals and ideas generated at the meeting, through the national press reports released within hours of the delegates leaving the Vale Resort in Hensol, Cardiff.

Initial thoughts and discussions concerning the set-up of the board of the WRU, and how all levels of rugby in Wales feed into the structure, were raised at the AGM in October, and whilst these are currently only ideas generated from an investigation into the Governance of the Union, they may become firm ideas and proposals in the near future, requiring voting upon at a subsequent AGM or EGM. The main point is to reduce the size of the board, and then have a second tier, rather like a community council, that deals in more depth with the game from the grassroots level such as Llangwm, through semi-professional and professional rugby.

Whilst Mr **Warren Gatland's** contract with the WRU sees him as the **National Coach** up to and including the Rugby World Cup to be held in Japan in 2019, it was also announced by the chairman, Mr Gareth Davies, that discussions were already underway to find his successor. A **shortlist of 3** has been produced following discussions with between eight and ten people who may be interested in, and have the ability to undertake the job.

Also announced was a change to the international selection policy (misquoted as Gatland's Law) for Welsh players who play for clubs outside Wales.

As we look towards the end of the year and into next year, there are the usual events planned throughout the Christmas period. The **Annual Christmas Draw** will take place in mid-December, and please visit the club website to check when this will happen. As soon as the date is confirmed by the committee, an item will be placed in the news section as well as an entry into the club calendar. It is hoped that through the continued support of sponsors and friends of Llangwm RFC that there will once again be **over 50 prizes** to be won. Tickets will be available from the clubhouse or through a committee member.

For those who hold a ticket in the **100 Club**, a reminder, not that one is probably required, is to look forward to the **December draw**. Once again there is **£1,000.00** available to one lucky member, as well as the **£500.00** available in the **Summer Draw** as well as a smaller monthly prize for the remaining **10 draws**.

The **Bishop Cup** fixture against local rivals **Haverfordwest RFC** is a **home game for Llangwm** this year, so fans will only have a short journey this coming **Boxing Day**. Kick off remains the same as a league fixture - **2:30pm**, and our club will be open, as normal, both before and after the match.

Moving into the New Year sees the return of the **6 Nations Championship** with the first Welsh game at home to **Scotland** on **Saturday 03 February**, followed by games on the **10 Feb – away to England**, **24 Feb – away to Ireland**, **11 Mar – home to Italy**, and finally **17 Mar** sees **Wales at home to France**.

Steve Poole

For all information about the rugby club, including details of the **regular music nights**, please visit the club website:

<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 wishes a (slightly early)
Merry Christmas
and a prosperous New Year to all.**



LLANGWM CRICKET CLUB

looks back over the 2017 season



After the dismal 2015 season and a re-structuring 2016 season a tremendous turn-around took place on the Pill Parks Cricket field this summer wiping out any unpleasant memories of yore. Instead of relegations we have promotions - not just one, but two! Our first XI led by captain Ollie Davies became champions of Division 2 thereby winning the Dan Jones Cup and being promoted back to Division 1. Our 2nd XI captained by Sean Thomas were runners-up in Division 5 and so go up into Division 4 for 2018. Well done to everyone involved.

Statistics for the year are interesting. The 1st XI played 16 matches (two were rained off) winning 12, drawing 3 and losing just one - the last game - and were the only club to amass over 400 points during the season. The 2nd XI played 15 matches winning 9, losing 4 with 2 rained off.

Our Juniors' Section had another good season competing in the under 13s and under 11s leagues

LLANGWM JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB AWARDS NIGHT - Tuesday 1st August

In a crowded Junior Cricket Clubroom in the stand at Pill Parks proud parents and young cricketers celebrated another successful cricket season with presentations of playing certificates and merit awards for 2017.

Junior Organiser Colin Phillips introduced Chairman Dai Davies who thanked all parents and coaches for their tremendous support and congratulated the Junior section on continuing to improve year on year and help Llangwm cricket club to thrive for years to come.

Coach Jonathan Rowles reported that the under 11 squad had completed all their fixtures for the season and that Llangwm was the only club to have done so.

Results were won 4 lost 4 reflecting an all-round improvement in skills as the season progressed.

Coach Colin Phillips had similar success with the under 13 squad which was only set up last year and again reported excellent progress playing 6 matches and winning 4.

Merit Awards were then presented before formal proceedings were replaced by the enjoyment of an excellent buffet prepared by Helen Phillips, Kate Thomas and Pearl Phillips.

MERIT AWARDS

Wales Under 13 Squad

Pembrokeshire Under 12 Squad

Pembrokeshire Under 10 Squad

Llangwm Under 13 Squad

Llangwm Under 11 Squad

Maisy Davies

Dominic Asson, Harry Makepiece & Joe Phillips

Jack Phillips.

Player of the Year - Dominic Asson

Players' Player of the Year - Joe Phillips

Most Improved Player - Ben Streeter

Player of the Year - Jack Phillips

Players' Player of the Year - Kieran Sinclair

Most Improved Player - Ramon Rees-Siso

Under 13 Squad players - Joe Phillips, Owain Jones, Dominic Asson, Harry Makepiece, James Price, Maisy Davies, Jake Thomas, Charlie Wilson, Ollie Kersey, Evan Arnold, Iori Williams, Toby Price, Jack Phillips, Woody Walters, Joel Jarvis.

Under 11 Squad players - Jack Phillips, Toby Price, Kieran Sinclair, Zac Gurney, Ramon Rees-Siso, Rafael Rees-Siso, Raul Rees-Siso, Dylan Rowles, Morgan Crow, Woody Walters, Rhys Lloyd-Roberts, Sonny Zipperlen, Charlie Kelly.

LLANGWM 1st XI



Janice Brick (Scorer) - Richard Brook - Daniel Morgan - James Lewis - Joseph Kiff - Noah Davies - Chris Inward
Huw Brook - Luke Brock
Ewan Griffiths - Phil Llewellyn - Dai Davies (Chairman) - Ollie Davies (Captain) - Mathew Kiff - James Venables

LLANGWM 2nd XI



Dai Davies (Chairman) - Tom Carrington - Louis Murphy - George John - Andrew Harries
Shaun Waller - Mike Williams - Jen Twigg - Stuart Beresford
Gary Phillips - Toby Asson - Callum Jenkins - Sean Thomas (Captain) - Martin Thomas

YOUTH CRICKET

We also took part in the Ormond Youth Cup competition as a joint team with Hook - we were unable to field a full team on our own - and subsequently won the Ormond Plate competition which was a great achievement.

Similarly our youth players joined up with our neighbours Hook to form the Cleddau Crusaders team to play in the national Welsh U19 competition and reached the final at the Swalec Stadium only for it to be rained off and be re-scheduled for early next season. As a result we were able to provide cricket for both of our villages' players which is what Club Cricket is all about.



CLUB NEWS

The levelling and re-seeding of the cricket outfield completed in late 2016 made a considerable difference this year and coupled with the new boundary boards, electronic scoreboard and scoreboard and the work carried out by our groundsmen Jeremy Brock (Outfield) and Ian Gow (Cricket square) made our cricket ground look a real picture. The net facility is being further improved this winter with a new all-weather mat being installed. The Cricket Clubroom in the stand has again been a resounding success particularly as it is licensed so that as well as being a tea-room with a view it is now a social venue both during and after cricket matches. As in previous seasons it continues to be the Junior Cricket Clubroom during the week evenings providing refreshments after training and games.

We wish to thank our Sponsors, Advertisers and Vice Presidents for their tremendous financial support we receive year on year. Provision of cricket facilities is not cheap and we receive no financial assistance from the England and Wales Cricket Board. Upkeep of the cricket square and out-field/boundaries are major outlays and provision of scoring facilities, changing rooms and nets all have cost factors that have to be met. Our players all pay subscriptions, provide their own transport and kit and pay for their teas which helps to cover the playing costs. But we depend completely on volunteer help in running our Junior Section which is crucial for the playing future of our Club. Then there is insurance, membership of the County Cricket Club, loam and fertiliser for the cricket pitch and outfield and maintenance and repairs to mowers, nets, etc. to pay for. The cost of cricket balls alone is over a hundred pounds!

Thanks also to our Janice Brick, our scorer and the junior cricketers (Dominic Asson, Jake Thomas, Joe Phillips and Charlie Wilson), who assist on a Saturday with the electronic score display. Also to our Club Umpire, Simon Richards.

CLUB OFFICERS

President	D. Barry Jones Esq.
Chairman	David Davies Esq.
Vice Chairman	Martyn Inward Esq.
Hon Treasurer	William Beresford Esq.
Hon Secretary	Ms Suzanne Waller,
	29 Orchard Row, Llangwm SA62 4JJ Mob: 07790 399705
Junior Organiser	Colin Phillips Esq. Mob: 07970 882816
1st XI Captain	Ollie Davies Esq. Mob: 07496 058089
2nd XI Captain	Sean Thomas Esq. Mob: 07788 927861.

CLUB COMMITTEE

Officers, Captains plus Messrs Daniel Morgan, Paul Morgan, Julian Platten, Simon Richards, Mike Terry

2017 FIXTURE CARD ADVERTISERS

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The Huntsman, Rosemarket	Darren Brick Carpentry	DG Electrics Manderwood
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Llangwm Post Office & Shop	Suzanne Waller - Go For It Advanced Driving Instructor	

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BIRD NOTES - SUMMER/AUTUMN 2017

by Graham Brace

The first redshank arrived back in the Pill on 21st June and redshank numbers increased steadily over the following days to around 24 individuals on 1st July. By late August there were 45 plus redshank present and these will remain over the winter until next April.

Early on 17th July, Madeline Tasker in Edwards Pill had an unexpected visitor in the form of a young recently-fledged cuckoo. It flew in through her open front door and settled on the carpet in her living room in an exhausted state. It recovered later that morning and having been placed on the garden hedge outside, after a shaky start, it eventually took confidently to the air and away...presumably en route to West Africa!

In the evening of 23rd August, Gareth Jones spotted a pair of female wheatears flitting between the shore, boats and properties along the Guildford side of the Pill. They were present for about an hour before moving on.



*A female wheatear
photographed in Guildford Pill*

The first teal (a group of 8 females) arrived in the first week of September and redshank numbers had swelled to 55 to 60 birds. Also present were 3 greenshank. Gerry and Lynne Watts whose garden pond at Ferry Hill was visited last year by a squacco heron also attracted a kingfisher on the 5th September. In fact, kingfishers seem to be around the Pill frequently of late and I have seen one on four occasions in recent weeks.

Raptor rapture

On 17th September Graham Stephens sent me the following report from Llangwm Ferry...

7.30pm...Have just witnessed a very macabre but amazing sight of a peregrine hunting and taking a redshank in the inlet adjacent to Port Lion. I caught sight of the peregrine as it flew past our house and opened the patio door to a cacophony of alarm calls from other birds. The peregrine was making repeated attacks at a bird in a mud gully but each time it went in for a kill, the prey dived below the water. This happened about three times. The peregrine persisted, first perching on the wooden poles there and eventually settling on the mud bank adjacent to the gully. At its final attempt, it actually dived into the water, its wings outstretched to support itself. When it eventually

managed to get out, it had the poor redshank in its talons. It managed to carry it up onto the mud-bank where it was harassed by a crow. After a minute to recover, it flew off with the redshank and headed for a perch above the water in Benton wood. Amazing stuff!

A day or so later Graham also had the pleasure of watching an osprey fishing in front of his house from his kitchen window. In fact, ospreys have been much in



evidence during September with many sightings of a pair reported up and down river at Slebech, Landshipping, Garron Pill, Rhoose Ferry and Burton. Friends of ours watched an osprey from their boat off Rudder's Boatyard at Burton taking a fish from the river while being harried by a pair of peregrines. Is it only a matter of time before they establish a nest? Our wooded shores provide ideal habitat and there's an endless source of food in the river. The ospreys seen here recently are en route to spend the winter in Central Africa.

The red kite that seemed a permanent fixture around the village earlier in the summer seems to have moved on. It is reported that a pair were nesting high in a tree at the southern edge of Sam's Wood on the opposite shore. A sympathetic farmer was, apparently, leaving lamb carcasses on the ground beneath the nest for the kites to feed on.

On Friday 22nd September whilst walking along the forest track above Port Lion the sky was filled with a huge darting flock of 100 plus house martins. Suddenly, at a loftier altitude a sparrow hawk appeared over the trees. In a split second the house martins disappeared...so quickly I had no idea where they had gone. The sparrow hawk flew eastwards over the river and as if by magic the house martins reappeared in the same place.

Goshawks have also been reported in the vicinity. Whatever happened to kestrels? When I was young they were the most commonly seen birds of prey. I have seen them only very occasionally in this locality in recent years.

Please contact me with any interesting sightings by email at grahambrace@btinternet.com or by phone on 891580.

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