

# Llangwm Village News

**Issue 56 Autumn/Winter 2022**



## Inside:

- \* No shop, no Methodist chapel, now no village hall?
- \* But Llangwm cricketers reign supreme
- \* The Litfest triumphs in a heatwave
- \* And lots more sport & village events

## LLANGWM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### ONGOING PROJECTS & NEWS

#### Update on Ongoing Public Consultation for a replacement Village Community Centre.

Following the resignation of all but two Charity Trustees remain. Cllr M John remains as the Pembrokeshire County Council representative.

The Community Council would like to thank the resigning Charity Members for their dedication and voluntary work in supporting the Village Hall Charity. Additionally, they wish to welcome the new Trustees of the Charity, and will support them with their endeavours to ensure the future of the Village Hall.

**The Community Council have been asked the following questions: -**

- **Who owns the Village Hall?** The Charity
- **Why, how did this come about?** In 1977 Llangwm residents came together to raise money to build a Village Hall. Consequently, a Charity was formed to raise monies.
- **Who is responsible for the maintenance of the Village Hall?** The Charity, in the Governing Document – which is the lease – with amendments made in 2010 by the Charity without the input of the Community Council, it clearly states the responsibilities of the Charity Trustees.
- **Does the Community Council have any financial control of the Charity?** No, all monies are raised and used by the Charity to keep the Village Hall in good repair.
- **Does the Community Council want to close the Village Hall?** Definitely not. Past and present residents of Llangwm have worked very hard, and voluntarily, to support the Village Hall.
- **What input does the Community Council have with the Charity?** A member of the Community Council should be invited and attend meetings, this is made clear in the Charity Governing Document. The Village Hall Committee have an obligation to share minutes and audited accounts with the Community Council as in the Governing Document as stated on the Charity Commission Web Site The Charity

Commission - GOV.UK (Charity Number 507956).

- **Where can we see a copy of the Charity Governing Document?** Contact the Clerk, [llangwmclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:llangwmclerk@btinternet.com), or text 07866 958795. It is available on the new village hall website <https://llangwmfuture.co.uk>

#### Retirement and New Members of the Community Council

Our grateful thanks and appreciation to the following Members who retired from their voluntary work, in April 2022. Cllr Pamela Hunt for a term of five years, Cllr Llinos Martin for a term of five years and Cllr Ruth Preece who commenced in April 2014, giving eight years of service. Their commitment as members and personal input for the village of Llangwm are gratefully appreciated. We welcome new Members, Cllr Chloe Davies, Cllr Victoria Owens and Cllr Neil Sandford. The future looks bright, thank you.

**Young trees available** – as part of an effort to support environmental issues, young trees are freely available, please contact the Clerk.

**Cricket Club** – Congratulations to the Llangwm Cricket Club for a great season, well done! The team was the runner up in the First Division Championship and won the Harrison Allen Bowl final in Cresselly.

**Community Defibrillators** – At present there are three defibrillators placed in Llangwm, Village Shop, Village Hall and at Black Tar. We have received requests for more, please let us know if you feel an extra defibrillator(s) would be useful in your area. All the defibrillators have been bought with the kindness of residents and some grant funding. The Community Council need to hear from you, the residents, to help in any grant funding/crowd funding and any other money raising ideas, thank you.

**Playpark Upgrade** – We give our grateful thanks to Tirion's Rainbow for the amazing new equipment – Thank you very much.

**Parking by St Jerome's Church and the Green** – Please would residents be aware of the risk of blocking the road. There have been incidents when access has been prevented and cars unable to move. Thank you.

**Llangwm marked the death of Her Majesty the Queen with a service of thanksgiving for her life at St Jerome's and tributes including the figures on our cover, for which we thank Racheal Price, aka Racket Lorraine.**

# The end of a vibrant part of the community?

*Llangwm has sadly joined the long list of Pembrokeshire villages to lose their shop. The Methodist church has closed. And now the future of the much-used village hall is also in doubt. All but two members of the Village Hall Committee have resigned, unable to reach agreement with Llangwm Community Council.*

## **Liz Rawlings is chair of the Village Hall Committee:**

“It is with great sadness and regret that most of the current team of Management Trustees for our Village Hall have resigned. The Chair and Vice-Chair remain temporarily to ensure that all bookings up until Christmas can continue. It has been a privilege and pleasure for all of us to serve on the committee for many years. Together, with our many helpers, we have done our best to provide a centre for the community of Llangwm which can fulfil the demands of a growing village. But we have felt that it is time to ‘pass on the baton’ to a new committee.



Although the current hall can continue to be used in the short term, we feel that in the interests of the village a new, larger, more economically efficient & environmentally friendly hall should be the way forward.

The original 1977 architects’ documents for the hall included plans for a larger hall with increased facilities, covering an area of land slightly larger than the area we were proposing. This could not be achieved at the time due to lack of funds.

In order to expand the hall, we need an increased area of land, and permission for this has to be granted to us by Llangwm Community Council, as they are the landlords. From our point of view, we have been unable to reach an agreement due to continuing delays on this matter. The lack of any significant progress and delay in calling a proposed public meeting over the last 18 months, meant that the committee felt that the time had come to resign, letting a new committee take

over.

The Village Hall Committee have consulted extensively with Llangwm residents concerning their thoughts on better facilities and plans for a new hall, through questionnaires, public meetings, meetings with all the community groups and clubs, and by their dedicated website ‘Llangwmfuture’.

Because the village hall has charitable status, this means that the previous committee became ‘Management Trustees’ of the charity which brings with it safeguards and the ability to raise money more easily. If a new committee is not found, potentially Llangwm Community Council could take over. Other Pembrokeshire village halls are run by their Community Councils, so this is a possibility for keeping the hall open.

The purpose of the two recent public meetings was to provide information to attract new volunteers to take on the responsibility of becoming a Charity Trustee. Fifty eight residents attended the first meeting and 30 the second. A third meeting has been called for the 23<sup>rd</sup> November. If eight residents volunteer, which is a requirement of the Trust Deed, this meeting will become an EGM and a new Board of Management Trustees can be appointed together with officer roles.

Vanessa John from PAVS, who has an excellent knowledge of the role of a Charity Trustee, will join us and will give a brief talk on the role.

If insufficient people put their names forward, there will be further attempts to encourage volunteers. Without the requisite number, the Chair and Vice Chair will have no other option than to close the charity while following all legal processes and requirements.

New volunteers are needed to prevent the loss of the hall.

**A sad end to a previously vibrant part of the community.”**

# A sad end to Cleddau Stores

## Llangwm is now a village without a shop. Owner Dave Golding answers questions about its closure

**Dave:** At the moment the shop is closed, I'm selling off the old stock and what is left at the end of November I'll donate to PATCH. The Post Office is open five days a week, at least until Christmas. I've kept the contract with the Post Office but when I relinquish it there'll be no post office in Llangwm and they won't put in a new one. My understanding is you'll have a van here 1½ days a week.

### Llangwm Village News: You were thinking of keeping going until Christmas and beyond so why the change of plans?

My electric bill last month was £732, my sales have fallen, footfall has gone down, I just haven't got the funds to keep it going. So no more papers or milk, nothing on a daily basis but I'm still keeping the eggs going. I was hoping to keep going until Christmas but it's just not financially viable.



*Dave delivers food during lockdown*

### LVN: What about your customers?

Obviously I feel very sad. For example one lady comes down twice a week, we're probably the only people she sees, same with the newspaper customers but I do feel a lot of newspaper customers are happy to pick up outside but never came inside. But that's part of the problem isn't it, they never came inside to pick up half a dozen eggs or a bottle of milk. I'm not talking about mega sales, I'm not talking about people doing their weekly shop here, it's never been about that. But you need people who spend ten, twenty pounds a week buying eggs and butter and milk.

### LVN: Was there ever a possibility of doing a deal maybe with the Hook shop, maybe with the other empty buildings in Llangwm?

OK, I believe there may be plans involving the old chapel on the village green which could involve a shop or post office. But there's nothing definite.

### LVN: It's a bad time for local shops...

I think so, there's going to be a lot of shops struggling.

I've given it a good shot, we've tried to have a variety of stuff, we've accommodated people at Christmas with food hampers and the shop was for the most part well stocked so I don't think I could have done any more.

### LVN: How much of the problem is down to Covid?

Well Covid was really busy for us and sadly Covid gave you a false representation of the potential the shop could have had. We were very busy, but now people have just reverted back to their normal habits.

I own the building but I haven't decided yet what to do about that.

### LVN: Llangwm could lose the village hall, it's lost the Methodist church, now the shop – what does that say about Llangwm?

I think people need to look inside themselves. A lot of the support I get is not from the old Llangwm people. The shop has been like a hub – we do the village hall booking, we give raffle prizes out, we hold tickets for events, we hold keys for the church and the village hall, we hold prescriptions, we do a hell of lot.

### LVN: Would it make much difference if the shop were bigger?

I don't think it would. People always mention the parking, you're never open when I come home from work. I just don't think people value the shop in Llangwm.

### LVN: What are you planning for yourself now?

I'm doing a bit of volunteering for PATCH and I'm also volunteering for a cafe in Narbeth, they do food on a Monday night for people who maybe can't afford to feed themselves, I'm just about to volunteer for Nantucket church in Milford Haven, and then I'm also helping to organise some Christmas dinners for people who can't afford to eat properly or are on their own. With PATCH I'm doing food collections, helping out with strategic development and running the new shop on Charles Street, Milford Haven, three days a week because our shop manager resigned.

### LVN: Do you need more volunteers?

Oh yes, all the time. There's a big demand for help at the moment, probably 250 people a week. People say they're struggling with everything – mortgage payments going up, people that aren't historically PATCH clients are now finding they're struggling to put food on the table.

## Llangwm win county cricket's holy grail - the Harrison-Allen Bowl

Stuart Beresford

The winning XI who beat Haverfordwest CC in the final at Cresselly Cricket Club were:  
Captain Mathew Kiff, Stephen Inward, Joseph Kiff, Steven Mills, Noah Davies, Luke Brock,  
Chris Inward, David Lewis, Oliver Davies, Joseph Phillips and James Lewis.

It is great to be able to report that our village Cricket Club has had a glorious season in which they not only finished as County 1<sup>st</sup> Division League runners-up but perhaps more importantly were triumphant in lifting the Harrison-Allen Bowl which is the holy grail of all County cricketers.

We are an old established club who have now won the Bowl on six occasions and come second on another five. Recent history shows wins in 1977, 1993 and 2022; and runners up in 1988, 1996, 2002 and 2013, but previous wins in 1966, 1968 and 1972 are still well remembered by our president Peter Rees and many older players.

Man of the Match was Joe Phillips.



*Man of the Match  
Joe Phillips*

**Read a full match report from Stuart on page 21**

## Conquest in Cresselly

Barry Childs

The forecast for Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of August was good and, true to the forecasters' word, the sun shone warmly throughout the day. This was the BIG day in the Pembrokeshire cricketing calendar and for the first time in nine years our Llangwm team had found its way, following an excellent victory over Lawrenny in the semi final in Kilgetty, to the final of the Harrison-Allen Bowl. The opponents were Haverfordwest, a team that has enjoyed much success in recent years.



The first ball was delivered at 12 o'clock with Haverfordwest winning the toss and batting first. They made a strong start. However, some accurate bowling and outstanding fielding (the catch by Steve Mills being particularly memorable) pegged them back and wickets began to fall. The innings ended on 126 all out, a below par score on a very good wicket.

In reply, after a slowish start we began to motor with Joe and Mathew Kiff getting 50s, Mathew in 22 balls, and Steve Mills an accomplished 76 leading to a formidable total of 207 with the loss of only two wickets. The 81 run lead was enormous in the context of the game.

The opposition made a much better fist of it in their second innings getting to a total of 162. Though our target of 82 seemed to be modest the work still had to be done since nothing is certain in cricket. However, though there were wobbles on the way to that total with three wickets falling pretty quickly, Luke Brock and Noah Davies steadied the ship in a mature and impressive manner and when the former sent the ball for 6 the pressure eased and victory was all but secure with overs to spare.

And so the twenty nine year wait was over, Llangwm victorious in the competition for the first time since 1993. It only remained for the Man of the Match to be announced and the cup to be presented. The young fast bowler, Joe Phillips, was warmly cheered when his name was announced as the winner of the award. His 3 for 26 in the first innings and 6 for 41 in the second were outstanding figures. Congratulations to him and to Steve Mills who must have run him close. However, more than anything this was an impressive team effort with each member pulling in the same direction on and off the field. With players of this quality the future of cricket in Llangwm is looking very bright.

For those present from the village this was a day to remember. The weather was kind, the crowd vocal and good humoured and the celebrations long and deserved.

# An excellent start to the new school year

Mr Rhys Buckley, Head



The start of every academic year always brings with it excitement and buys workloads in equal measure and this year has been no different here at Cleddau Reach! With the new 'Curriculum for Wales' launched this September, staff have been busy introducing children to new topics, as well as reinforcing previous learning in key areas such as literacy and numeracy.

One significant change at the start of this academic year in comparison to the previous few is that we are no longer required to keep children separated from each other in 'bubbles'. As was the case in the second half of the last academic year, children are now able to enjoy a wide range of extra-curricular activities, and this includes leaving the village and extending their learning both in and out of Pembrokeshire.

So far, our pupils have enjoyed trips to Scolton Manor, Castell Henllys, Pembroke Castle and the Cardiff City Stadium. The new curriculum makes a point of requesting that schools invest in and place value on both enrichment and experiences for children of all ages; providing our pupils with these experiences is a vital part of our development and credit should go to staff for their commitment to arranging them and also to the families within our community who are always very supportive of any extra-curricular event.



Y5 & Y6 Cricket, Cardiff

If you'd like to keep up with events and goings-on at the school, the best place to do so is either our new website ([www.cleddaureachschool.org.uk](http://www.cleddaureachschool.org.uk)) or our Instagram page (@cr\_primary\_school) which are both

updated weekly with newsletters, pictures and videos of what the children have been up to.

We've also had a number of new initiatives taking place in school, including the introduction of our three school rules: *Ready, Respectful, Safe*. The children here at Cleddau Reach always represent their school superbly well when out and about and learning behaviour in school is often exemplary. However, young children need to be allowed to make mistakes in order to learn from them and, by simplifying our behaviour system, we hope to make it easier for children to understand. Early signs are that our 'new' rules are being embedded and, as always, we are very proud of the children's behaviour both in and out of the classroom.

Considering all of the above, it has been an excellent start to the new school year for us here at Cleddau Reach. As always, we'd welcome the opportunity to work with as many local community groups as we can this year and so please feel free to get in touch if you'd like to create or strengthen your links with your local school. We've been delighted to have Reverend Marcus back in school with us every Thursday this term and, with several local community groups now using our excellent facilities for their meetings/events, we're always happy to open our doors to members of the local community.



Lastly, I wanted to make a special mention of a member of our staff team and also a member of the Llangwm community, Mrs Lisa Brock. As many of you will know, Lisa works every morning and afternoon at the crossing at the top of the village and has done so for the last twenty-five years. In May a special 'Walk to School' event was held in her honour before she was awarded a Road Safety Wales award in recognition of her commitment and service to families in the village. Lisa is a credit to her community and thoroughly deserves this recognition. Every school needs a 'Mrs Brock' and we're delighted that she's ours!

## Saints & Pigs - biodiversity in the churchyard

Rev Marcus Zipperlen, vicar of St Jerome's

Churchyards can be extremely valuable wildlife havens in our communities and also play a part in combating climate change by fixing carbon deep in the soil. Over the last few years in St Jerome's we have been trying to make the church grounds play their part in this. Oftentimes churchyards are remnants of old landscapes with a rich diversity of plants left over from days when flower-rich meadows were common in our landscape. It can be that all one has to do is change the grass cutting routine, leaving plants to grow through spring and summer, and flowers emerge again. I'm not sure this is the case in St Jerome's because it looks to me like it may have been seeded with a vigorous agricultural grass at some point in the past (do let me know if you have any idea of the history of the churchyard).

Nonetheless, we have encouraged what flowering plants there are by leaving some areas uncut for the growing season, and also by planting some traditional meadow plants into the grass. With a rapidly changing climate we are going to need all the plant and animal diversity we can encourage to keep landscapes, agriculture, and ourselves healthy.

You may also have noticed some new trees appearing in the corner of the churchyard by Holloway Hill. We have planted three historic Welsh apple varieties, chosen to grow well in our climate, produce lovely fruit (we hope), and support our local insects and wildlife. We have a 'Pig Aderyn' apple which in years gone by was nurtured by the monks at St Dogmaels who used to make cider and were at one time criticised by the Bishop of St David's for their excessive drinking. There is a 'Bardsey Island Apple', a variety grafted from a lone tree found on Bardsey Island (on the tip of the Llyn Peninsula) which was a remnant of the orchard the monks planted there in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. And we also have a 'St Cecilia', which is a nineteenth century Welsh variety developed in Monmouthshire and said to be at its most flavoursome on St Cecilia's day (the patron saint of music) on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. We will have to wait until next year when fruit appears to test that theory.

If you would ever like to lend a hand keeping the churchyard biologically diverse and a public space of beauty and tranquility, we will be holding activity sessions and nature counts over the year which we'll advertise on the village Facebook page or posters; it would be lovely to have your help and company.

*Marcus is a former Head of Biology at the Centre for Alternative Biology at Machynlleth.*

## Warm soil & rain for Llangwm's trees

Madeline Tasker

It's a pleasure to report that the 40 donated trees mentioned in the last Llangwm Village News have finally been planted. Looking back at the dry summer, it's a good thing that our hopes of getting them planted last spring came to nothing – they will probably do very well now, with the soil being warm and so much rain.



*Marcus, Madeline & Malachi in the churchyard*

A dozen were planted in St Jerome's Churchyard in the pouring rain, to form a hedge or screen for ground maintenance activities, also one or two graceful Birch and Rowan and a Yew tree, to add to the interesting young fruit trees already there. Another batch was planted in gorgeous sun at the school with the delightful help of a young and hard-working Tree Planting Committee. We added a Magnolia in pride of place, bought previously by the school, and to be enjoyed by many, we hope, once it has grown a bit.



*Planting the Magnolia*

There were also some Rowan and Blackthorn left over that were offered to Llangwm residents via Facebook and taken up with enthusiasm.

The trees are small at the moment, but should find it all the easier to put down roots and flourish. They have been marked by canes because the main danger is that they will get lost and choked in long grass, and even get mown down by accident!

With thanks to Mike Standish for looking after them all summer, and to St Jerome's and Cleddau Reach School for giving them space for their, and our, future.

## The Friends of St Jerome's

# £12,500 raised in 6 years

### A personal message from Pamela Hunt:

"It is with a heavy heart that, due to my health, I have had to take a back seat with the Friends of St Jerome's and we have had to slim down the organisation. But we have recently handed over our most recent donation of £1,000 to the church and I will continue to dream up the more quirky fundraising ideas to help St Jerome's keep afloat.

So, we have been developing new presentations, all designed to draw visitors to the village to purchase merchandise for our unique church with its Talking Tapestry and the very building that helped us unravel its story six years ago. You cannot really go to a distant community centre and explain the magic of the Talking Tapestry without it being there to see and enjoy the story. In addition, people like to feel the stones that are part of that church and therefore part of its history. So groups and individuals will be encouraged to visit us in future and meet Sir Robert De la Roche, enjoy a cup of tea and perhaps a cake and experience actually being in our lovely old medieval church that blessed the marriage of Lady Johanna De la Roche with Sir Robert De la Roche.

I would like to thank the core team who have helped to deliver these presentations over the last six years, Liz Rawlings who looks after most presentations, Heather Payton who has done a sterling job with publicity, Llinos Martin who has taken over the merchandise sales, and a big thanks to Penny Reed, who is now standing down from the team, but has been so supportive over the years. I'd also like to thank the many volunteers who happily stand in on the bigger events looking after audiences at our sell-out concerts.

Every now and again the old team will be behind an off the wall event to draw audiences into what is undoubtedly my favourite church in the UK.

Finally, with dramatically rising electricity prices, we'll need everyone's support at the events we put on. We are currently working on an idea that will help significantly and permanently solve our energy problems, but more research needs doing first. In spite of that, when you see a poster for a St Jerome's coffee morning, an afternoon tea, a concert, a craft fair, indeed any event, please support us. St Jerome's will need every penny and pound we can raise.

Thank you everyone for your support. Sir Adam de la Roche would be proud of you all, except that he's not sure where he is buried... But that is another story!"

**During Pam's tenure a total of £12,500 was raised for the church**

## The de la Roche connection

# 'Lost' relatives return

**Liz Rawlings**

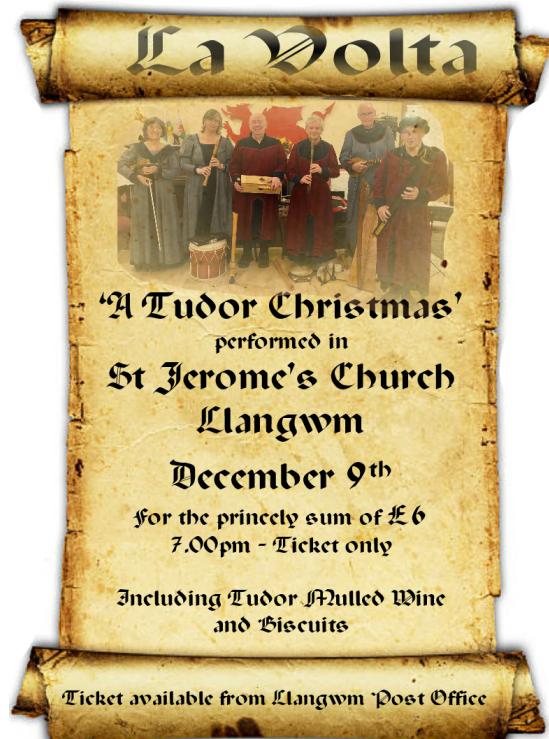
Following on from the restoration of St Jerome's, one of the unexpected side effects was the appearance of different branches of the de la Roche family from around the world - from Australia, Hawaii, New Zealand, Canada and of course Ireland - all linked by a world-wide DNA project. This June, another group of visitors arrived - Mary and James Di Carlo Roche from New Jersey and their cousin James O'Donnell from SE Ireland.



*Mary & James  
Di Carlo  
Roche & James  
O'Donnell in  
the de la Roche  
chapel*

They had been touring around Ireland together and came to Pembrokeshire for a weekend to continue their search of their family story. They stayed in Roch Castle and they visited St Jerome's, around Llangwm and other places of interest. They hope to visit again next year.

**Funds raised by the Heritage Llangwm project or the Friends of St Jerome's to renovate and run the church mean it can be used for concerts as well as worship.**



## ‘Language liable to cause a breach of the peace’

Nikki Bosworth

In the Autumn of 1872, an argument took place between two young women in Llangwm over a lost coin. The coin was a Florin, a 2-shilling piece, one-tenth of a pound sterling or twenty-four old pence. Its purchasing power would have been equivalent to approximately £6 today.

Both women were married to local fishermen who worked together in the same boat. On the day of the coin loss, joint earnings amounting to 19 shillings had been wrapped in a large piece of paper and left for safe-keeping with Sally Jones. When the two women went to collect the money, some coins dropped out of the parcel and onto the cottage floor. After searching the floor and counting the money again, they found only 17 shillings. The subsequent voluble argument was described as containing language liable to cause a breach of the peace.



One of the women was Jane Evans aged 27, wife of William Evans of Guildford and daughter of William and Elizabeth John. The other was Elizabeth Childs aged 21, wife of John Childs of Llangwm village and daughter of James and Betsy Bryant. Sally Jones was the grandmother of Elizabeth Childs.

John and Elizabeth Childs were the parents of Letitia whose story was told in the last issue of Llangwm Village News.

What happened to the lost coin is not known. It may still be under the floorboards of a cottage in Main Street or it is possible that the money was miscounted in the first place.

*Information from online parish registers, censuses, Welsh newspapers and the National Archives currency converter.*

*Thanks to Graham Brace for the illustration*

### Barry's Books

## ‘Sometimes too hot the eye of heaven shines’

Barry Childs

There has never been and probably never will be a writer with a way with words like Shakespeare. We've just come through a hot, sometimes exceedingly hot, summer when the 'eye of heaven' was at its fiercest. Known mostly for his work as a dramatist the Bard of Avon also wrote 150 sonnets of which the above (Sonnet 18) is only one of the fourteen lines.

Writers of Shakespeare's day and for some time beyond were almost exclusively male. Even as late as the nineteenth century gifted female writers hid their identity behind male names so, for example, Mary Ann Evans who has a blue plaque in Tenby where she spent some time used the pseudonym George Eliot whilst the Bronte sisters and Louisa May Alcott also wrote under male names. Why? Because writing was not seen as a fit occupation for women. This state of affairs is the subject of **Virginia Woolf's** excellent **‘A Room of One's Own’** written in 1928 and in which she records that at Oxford University at the time women would only be admitted to college libraries if accompanied by a Fellow of the college. She also records that it was the view of one Cambridge lecturer that the best woman was intellectually the inferior of the worst man.

Things have happily moved on to the point that there are at least as many female as male authors represented in book shops today. One such author I've recently come across is **Bonnie Garmus** whose **‘Lessons in Chemistry’** is a real delight. Its central character, Elizabeth Zott, is a remarkable

woman confronting considerable prejudice but this time in the world of science. Though the challenges are considerable the book is not without humour and optimism and will leave you wanting more.

There is too a feel good factor to **‘Still Life’** by **Sarah Winman**. Much of it is set in the beautiful city, Florence, the spirit of which she captures very successfully. Even though a little over sentimental for some tastes the characters such as Col, Pete, Captain Darnley and Peg are easy to like and will engage you.

**Amor Towles** has written three books two of which, **‘Rules of Civility’** and **‘A Gentleman in Moscow’** have been discussed previously. His new one, **‘The Lincoln Highway’**, set in the 1950s, won't disappoint. It features a 'quartet of misfits' on a road trip from the Mid West to New York along the Lincoln Highway, one of the earliest roads for cars across the United States. The four main characters, Emmett, Billy, Duchess and Woolly will pull you in, make you laugh, sadden you but most of all leave you with a sense of what friendship is all about. Towles is a fine writer and an outstanding storyteller.

Having opened with a quotation about the weather let's end with a couple more:

‘If you want to see the sunshine, you have to weather the storm’ and from the inimitable Mark Twain: ‘If you don't like our weather just wait a minute.’

The choir formerly known as Village Voices is back as...:

## The Cleddau Chorus

Fiona Cutting

The choir is back....with a new name, new website (soon) and social media (soon).

We are The Cleddau Chorus now in order to sound more inclusive. We're hoping it will attract singers who thought they had to be lucky enough to live in Llangwm.

Last year was a bit sketchy, mainly because Covid scares damaged practice sessions and some events had to be cancelled. Not just us, choirs across the UK have had the same problems.

Now with the new name we're good to go and we have recorded and filmed our contribution to the Rock Opera. The schoolchildren are also involved and after the successful Ukraine concert in the spring we're looking forward to collaborating more with them.

This summer we joined in the choir event at Bluestone Brewery above Newport, and even through the torrential rain we belted out *New York New York*, a bit of movement, hoofing, on the improvised churn stand a.k.a stage. The atmosphere was electric, great support from the beer-soaked audience.

*New York New York* was reprised at the Llangwm Literary Festival, thankfully no rain this time and the stage was even smaller. Dennis Ambler was the soloist

and it was claimed to be superior to Lisa Minelli's version. Who knew? The costumes were better than hers too. We added a selection of Howard Goodall songs (Blackadder, The Vicar of Dibley etc) and *Lacrimosa*.

Lou, our star soprano, came back from university to support us and possibly her voice was even better than ever. Sereni, three super voices, sang perfectly.

So now we're heading for Christmas but before that we'll be at Hook Sports and Social Club on November 26th for The Biker's Social Evening to give them a short taster session before their band starts off.

Thursday 15th December in the Village Hall we're putting on a Christmas Extravaganza/Cabaret/whatever; all for charity, don't miss it!

For old and new members we'll be having a Christmas dinner/buffet at The Cottage Inn on Thursday 22nd December.

So.....if you fancy having a go, you don't need to be able to read music as MP3's are emailed to you and new members will get some extra help with unfamiliar music. There's no audition and no personal criticism, just try it. Thursdays in the Village Hall at 7.30. You will be VERY welcome (particularly if you're a tenor).

### Meanwhile in Ireland ....

As part of the Celtic Connections programme, Village Voices originally was going to perform the Sam Howley Rock Opera at St David's Cathedral and an Irish choir would perform the same work in Wexford National Opera House, then Covid interfered. So it was decided to carry out a collaborative venture to create five videos centred on individual songs as a promotion and prequel to potentially performing the Rock Opera at a later stage.



Filming  
in Ferns,  
Ireland



Children from Ferns  
learn the song 'Listen  
to the Bees'.

The production team of Sam Howley, Carol Macintosh, John Ewart and Liz Rawlings went over to Ferns, north of Wexford on Thursday 29th September to rehearse, film and record the school and adult choirs. A further filmed sequence showed the children working in a garden as their song is all about bees. The team was made very welcome and new friendships emerged.

On Wednesday 19th October the children at Cleddau Reach who had been practising the song with their teacher were recorded and then after school five of them changed into their oldest clothes and were filmed up at the allotments. Then on the Thursday Village Voices practised and were recorded singing the finale. All of these films and recordings will be melded together and the final two videos will be launched on You Tube hopefully in time for Christmas.

Liz Rawlings

The first three were very different from each other - *Non's Storm*, *The Chaos Chorus* and the duet *The Little Things*. The last two recordings have been carried out over the last few weeks.

# When the lads from the band pulled out the stops

Neil Martin



L-R: Graham Brace, Keith Lawrence, Neil Sandford, Graham Stephens, Mervyn Hopkins

In my last article I described how we had managed to keep Wrong Direction together as a group during the dark days of the pandemic by using Zoom and MIDI technology to our advantage. What now? It seemed like a long slow drag out of the doldrums of Covid 19 with a lot of 'shall we, shan't we' on meeting in groups and wearing masks. This really slowed down the process of getting back to regular rehearsals let alone doing concerts again. I feel that we are only now getting back to somewhere near to where we were before the pandemic hit; starting to get busy and to build a catalogue of performances. Yet it's nearly Christmas.....

I'm sure that our experience of getting back together as a group has many parallels with your own so perhaps it is worth reflecting on where we are and how we got here.

There is no doubt that maintaining communication throughout the lockdowns was a major contribution to how we are now, possibly THE major contribution. Our first few tentative rehearsals had to be in the Methodist Chapel because the Church was still under restrictions. Even then, I had to keep a register of who turned up, their level of vaccination and emergency contact details. Everyone was directed to report back to me if they started to show any signs of the dreaded 'lurgy' following a meeting and I would have had to contact all the others and put them on restrictions. Fortunately, that never happened and we remained Covid-free. To this end, I had to sign a contract of usage with the Methodist Church and report back after every rehearsal with a list of attendees. What a palaver! It's so good that this is over and we are back in the Church, rehearsing as usual.

Musically, it was a bit of a cold start. Even though we had kept a form of practice going it was very different from actually meeting face to face and singing together

in the same room. The first few rehearsals were tough going but, fortunately, better than they could have been had we not stayed in touch.

Just before the pandemic we had been approached by the Pisgah Chapel near Cresselly to sing for their bicentennial celebrations but this had to be postponed because of Covid and it was nearly two years until the opportunity came back. So we agreed to put our concert back together and started to work at it. Things were up and down still with colds and flu as well as the later variants of Covid breaking up the routine. As the date grew nearer I have to admit that I wasn't sure if we could get back to a good enough standard to do justice to the performance. I was wrong! The lads of Wrong Direction pulled out all of the stops and put in a titanic effort to get themselves up to standard and the result was probably the best performance we had ever done. It was helped by a tremendously friendly audience who seemed to appreciate the effort and a superb acoustic in the delightful little chapel over the water. We were even treated to tea and biscuits afterwards and as we were collecting funds for the Ukrainian refugees we were given a very generous donation. We all came out of the concert on a complete high and with a renewed confidence that buoyed the spirit of everyone in both the choir and the audience. It was a wonderful experience that equalled anything that I had done in my long musical career.

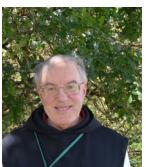


L-R: Graham Brace, Keith Lawrence, Graham Stephens, Mervyn Hopkins, Dennis Ambler, Peter Davies, Bob Chesmer, Nigel Alderton. Appearing by Zoom from Bonn, Bernd Urban

Then we came to our 'We're Back' concert in Llangwm. Having tried out the programme we felt confident enough to present it to our friends and families at home on the 29th May, just two days after the concert in Pisgah. It felt like another triumph with our home crowd on our home turf cheering us on. Thank you Llangwm for your support and your enthusiasm, it keeps us going.

# Back with a bang - in a heatwave

Michael Pugh



*A selection of presenters: Count Nikolai Tolstoy, Veronica Doubleday, Leif Bersweden, Lucy Hannah, Bro David Hodges, Nuala O'Connor, & Jane Mills, Pam Hunt & Liz Rawlings*

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes of a couple of hard years, Llangwm's litfest did us all proud this year.

We were so delighted with a number of Llangwm firsts, including Jane Reynolds with her delicious recipes with plenty to taste, and Ian Jacob with his arrestingly beautiful images. It was also a great pleasure to welcome back Ellie Brick showing that the way to a healthy mind is through a healthy body, and the timeless David Wilson with his images of village life during lockdown, which thankfully seems quite a long way away now (fingers crossed). Ashdale's Pippa Davies wove her magic to spectacular effect with a joyful session on Welsh Women and Crime Writing, and with a sensitive handling the stories of the Afghan women writers. Avril's pop-up bookshop on Main Street provided a great selection of books for the excellent cause of Tirion's Rainbow.

Village Voices and Wrong Direction lifted the souls with their musical entertainment and Llangwm's craft-makers offered a rich kaleidoscope of work within the cool walls of St Jerome's.

Adding in favourite festival slots of Liz Monk's painting session and Penny 'the Gail's' children's poetry, the debut of Paul Kingsnorth (son of Linda) and all of the brilliant Llangwm art carefully curated by Graham Brace, and shown by the Cuttings and Jacobs, it is one of life's great mysteries as to how we found space for anyone from further afield. But we did! Starting in Port Lion, which did itself proud with

a fascinating offering on the life of Nest of Wales written by the late Bryan Alderson (see Anetta's biopic opposite).

It was a great delight to welcome Nuala O'Connor from across the sea with her superb work on Nora Barnacle, Leif Bersweden braved the summer heat with a Wild Flower Walk, and Count Tolstoy brought a cerebral and limitless offering on Stalin, and Merlin the Magician – separately of course!

The brave Catherine Belton, having survived being sued in various jurisdictions, was very generous to share her insights into the dark mind of Vladimir Putin, who continues to cause havoc in Ukraine and elsewhere.

Llangwm's Cottage Inn excelled itself with a delicious 1960s menu on the Saturday night and providing great sustenance throughout the festival.

After so much activity, everyone involved is now enjoying a well-earned rest, and we are very thankful for all the support and help from everyone in the village, not least our cheery and tireless volunteers!

We're always looking for volunteers, hosts for writers and visitors and suggestions for the programme. If you have suggestions or would like to be involved, please get in touch with your usual contact or email us at [llangwmfest@gmail.com](mailto:llangwmfest@gmail.com)

We'll be back 11 – 13 August 2023. Hasta la vista!

## 'Plein air' painting competition

*During the festival artist Liz Monk issued an invitation to join her at Black Tar Beach and enter a competition. The joint winners were a mother and daughter from Llangwm, Ellie and Immy, 10.*

This year's prize was kindly donated by The SAA, The Society for All Artists, and consisted of a brush roll containing a selection of watercolour brushes. The two prizewinners were very elated their paintings had been selected, and were very much looking forward to trying out their new brushes at the first opportunity.



Immy & Ellie with their winning watercolour

# 'Princess Nest was my grandma'

by Annetta Marion with Katy Alderson

Annetta Marion is a New York film-maker who read a book by Llangwm author Bryan Alderson, *Nest: the Story of a Welsh Princess*, and immediately saw it as a major television series. She told the Llangwm Literary Festival about her quest and wrote this for Village News.

I could not have imagined when I first sent a handwritten letter to an implausible address in Pembrokeshire enquiring about optioning his book, that this was the beginning of a lasting friendship, not just with Bryan, but with his family and with West Wales in general.

Bryan told me, in that first meeting, that he didn't find Nest; she found him. I realize now she has a habit of doing that. Nest finds people and then makes them go hunting after her.



L-R Bryan's widow Ruth Alderson, Annetta Marion, Katy Alderson

Princess Nest of Wales was my grandmother, 38 generations back. I'm descended from her through Maurice, her second child with the Castellan of Pembroke, Gerald de Windsor. Nest played a powerful role in Welsh history, surviving and thriving after she was taken hostage by Norman captors as a child. She was famous for her ravishing beauty and her impact on powerful men. Nest had a liaison with the future King of England, Henry I, then married the Castellan of Pembroke, eventually having at least nine children with at least five or six different men. (Some say twenty children!) Her children and grandchildren played key roles in Wales and in the Norman conquest of Ireland.

But who knew any of this? I sure didn't, having grown up the United States, in a small township in Pennsylvania. Growing up, we didn't know much about our family background.

My little sister Maria is an attorney and an amateur genealogist. A few years ago, Maria started researching our maternal family tree. We were surprised to learn very quickly that our mother's family had been in the US since the early 1700s. They arrived as landed gentry, descended from the Royal House of Ireland. Our ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War. This was heady stuff for us, having grown up in a blue collar family.

Maria traced our Royal House of Ireland back to Maurice, the second son of Princess Nest and Gerald

de Windsor. Drawn in by intriguing references to Nest, I began researching her and soon found myself in awe of this elusive character and what she was able to accomplish in a world that never even considered her to be an adult. It didn't matter that she was descended from royalty on both sides of her family; she was female and therefore property. First her father's property, then her husband's then her son's. The fact that history knew her name and there was at least one painting of Nest, albeit naked in bed with King Henry I (both wearing crowns of course) pointed to her importance as an individual.

As a New York-based film-maker and director, I felt immediately the world had to know more about her. I envisioned a big television series, like *Game of Thrones* but real history. Real history, but of course Wales being Wales, there must also be elements of magical realism, mysticism and Druids.

I was attracted to Bryan Alderson's re-imagining of Nest's story for many reasons, not least that he portrayed Nest as having some agency in her life. My partnership with Bryan's family was sealed when I first talked to his daughter Katy who said they were waiting for me to get in touch. Waiting for me!?

History for centuries has been written by men. Nest's story has been up until now mostly told as a tale of an unfortunate female beauty shuffled off to the highest bidder by the men in her life, including her own family. Instead, my Nest utilizes not only her beauty and body but also her brains in order to conquer and manipulate the men of power in her world and bear them male heirs - a currency more powerful than gold.

Her rage as a woman in a man's world both fuels and devours her. My Nest is a complicated protagonist whose fury drives the twists and turns of her story.

'Hiraeth' is a Welsh word that is generally thought to be untranslatable. It approximates to nostalgia for one's Welsh homeland. But it also includes an idea of a place, person or era to which one cannot return, or which one never really knew. Without understanding why or how, I feel a profound sense of hiraeth for Princess Nest and her world.

The pandemic was a bit of a roadblock to all creative endeavors. The Llangwm Literary Festival reached out to me just at the right moment, as we were starting to come out from under our stones and gingerly step back into the world. Seeing in person the huge interest Nest's story inspires reminded me how important it is to tell it, and to tell it well.

Thank-you Llangwm for your hospitality and inspiration. I look forward to many more visits as Nest lures us further into her story.

# A full programme of events - and a river trip

Jane Mills

Things are nearly back to normal, thank goodness, and with the easing of restrictions we have been able to have a full programme of events this year. Our good friend, Simon Hancock, gave a tremendous talk on “Haverfordwest in 30 Artefacts” in March followed by Robert Llewellyn Davies talking on “Fenton’s Tour of Pembrokeshire”. May saw us on a river trip from Neyland Marina up the Cleddau with Graham Stephens giving his usual insightful commentary on various points of historical interest along the way. Although not the warmest of days, it was an interesting event and one which everyone enjoyed.



*The boat trip in May - not the warmest*

We welcomed Keith Johnson back to Llangwm for his talk on “Pembrokeshire Local Ferries & Ferrymen” which was enjoyed by all. July saw another trip to Dale to visit the Coastlands Local History Society’s museum – small but fascinating, followed by drinks and snacks on the foreshore on a perfect summer’s evening.



*The Coastlands Local History Society museum in July*

Our September talk was postponed owing to the national mourning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II but Gareth Mills will be coming to give his talk on Pembroke Dock in April next year. David Llewellyn gave a fascinating talk on the Pembrokeshire TA in Gallipoli and our final talk of the year will be

“Suffragettes in Pembrokeshire” by Mari James on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

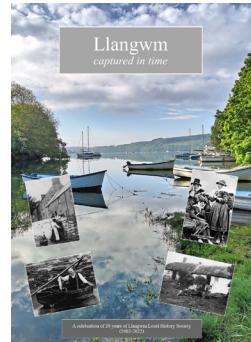
2022 is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Llangwm Local History Society and we are marking the occasion by producing a book to celebrate Llangwm, its unique history and community. Entitled “Llangwm – Captured in Time” it looks to share some of the unique archive of documents, photographs, tales and memories about our wonderful village that we have collected over the years and highlights some of the aspects of Llangwm that we have been privileged to discover and to share. We are planning a book launch later in the year and hope that everyone will come along.

We are also progressing with setting up our own website which will house our now extensive archive. Some of this archive is already available on the People’s Collection Wales website following a two year project with several other Local History Societies but, with our own dedicated website, in addition to making our archive widely available, we will be able to put on details of our events, reply to queries about family history and provide links to other relevant sites.

Planning for next year’s events is progressing well and we will start the year with our usual joint quiz with the Llangwm & District Gardening Club on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January. It is always an enjoyable event & something to look forward to after all the activities of Christmas. Do come along and join us.

## Christmas presents solved!

Llangwm Local History Society’s new book, out soon.



## Llangwm - Captured in Time Price £9.50

To register interest email [m.brace@btinternet.com](mailto:m.brace@btinternet.com) and we'll get back to you with details.

## Apples galore

Karen Shepherd

The 22/23 season kicked off in September with a great talk from Blossom & Berries owners, Clare & Simon. So good to see members returning and to be back meeting as normal, in the village hall.

October saw the club hosting the village apple juicing event, a great success with nearly 350 kg of apples being juiced into 191 litres. Music and refreshments too with the very difficult Apple Wellington competition and the longest peel!



Apple juicing in October



There was more fruit harvesting talk in November (7th) from Velfrey Vineyard, so grapes and all things vines and wines! Andy & Fiona Mounsey told us how their accidental vineyard came about and is now a multi award winning Pembrokeshire venture!



Harvesting day

December sees the club celebrating Christmas with a lunch at The Bar, Neyland. This will be held on Thursday the 8th of December. As well as the festive cheer it'll be a sad farewell to two of the club's hard working committee, Norman & Christine Jones, as they head back to live close to family in Scotland. A big thanks for all their help over the last few years.

The committee hope to attract new members into their ranks, additional help is needed.

Last January we had to settle for an online quiz but come Monday, January, 16th we'll be returning to the popular quiz and nibbles with Llangwm History Society. It's a bit of fun with gardening, history and general knowledge questions to answer and prizes to be won.

We've enticed Paul O' Neill of Llwyngarreg garden to speak to us again on the 6th of February! Paul is an amazing plantsman and hugely entertaining, so a great speaker for a cold February night. Talks commence at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

Any change to the programme or venue will be on the local posters, emailed to members or on the Llangwm Facebook page.

In March, 6/3/23, we'll be welcoming back Simon Richards of Lamphey Walled Garden to talk about "Reversing Nature's Decline in our Gardens."

April, we're hoping to run a Gardeners Question Time with a pond section in particular!

Membership for our club is only £5 per season and guests are welcome to attend talks at £2 per visit. If you need any further information please email Karen at [kashepherd1602@googlemail.com](mailto:kashepherd1602@googlemail.com)

More news of the summer events in the next edition.

### Cardiff Half Marathon

## Runners say thank you Llangwm

Rhi Morgan, Rhys Evans and Rhi's mum Cath Morgan ran the Cardiff Half Marathon in October, Rhi in the very respectable time of 3hrs 17.09 despite torn ankle ligaments.

In the process they raised money for Paul Sartori Foundation Hospice Care, a charity Rhi says is very close to her family's heart.

She has a special thank you for the people of Llangwm who gave most of the donations.



## Detective work brings history to life

Margaret Brace

A telephone call from Paul and Pauline Harry of South Wales earlier this summer led to an interesting episode of Llangwm family history.

Paul Harry had discovered that his grandfather Harold Harry had been married in Galilee Chapel on 28 March 1918 and he was keen to see inside the chapel during their tour of Pembrokeshire by campervan in late June and July. This was duly arranged.

Harold Harry was a soldier in WW1, he had signed up in November 1914 and was in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers – unfortunately his Record of Service had been among the ‘burnt records’, that is to say WW1 records destroyed by fire during the London blitz of WW2. This had left gaps in his family history which were difficult to fill – how and where, for example, did he meet his bride? She was Marion Pryse, the daughter of Galilee’s well-liked minister Rev Daniel Michael Pryse – but if she was living in Llangwm before their marriage (at the Manse which was then Brynhyfryd, Butterhill) and Harold Harry was from Merthyr Tydfil and had lived in South Wales much of his life, where had they met?

We were able to provide a possible clue. Many of the men from South Wales who signed up to fight in WW1 had been trained at Hearson Camp, at Hill Mountain (as many as 2,000 men were in the camp at any one time). Some of them, as the history society documented in the major WW1 exhibition it staged, fell in love with local girls and returned after the war to marry them and settle down – the Kiff, Geen and Breeze families started this way, for example.

This was welcome news to Paul and Pauline Harry and they have concluded that this was indeed the most likely explanation as to where Harold and Marion met. It was sad to learn that, after the couple had lived for some years in the Swansea area, Marion died in 1927 of a heart condition (age 27) and is buried at The Bethnal Welsh Independent Chapel in Sketty. (Her mother and father, Rev and Mrs D M Pryse, who had moved to that area from Llangwm, are also buried there.)



Paul & Pauline Harry  
outside Galilee Chapel

Harold Harry re-married in due course – to the lady who was to become Paul Harry’s grandmother – and the family became firmly based in South Wales.

Later we were able to provide Paul and Pauline with copies of the original marriage certificate from Galilee’s own records – different from the details that can be searched online, as it shows the actual signatures of the bride and groom.

A satisfying and interesting piece of research, and one in which Galilee and the local history society were glad to have played a part.

## Llangwm’s Little Museum

**Jeff James is an inveterate collector who’s turned his treasures to charitable use**

For those new to the village, perhaps a brief explanation first.

It started in 2003 when the ‘collection’ was opened one afternoon for the Gardening Club, then in later years a charity was chosen for any monies donated each year, including Wear it Pink in 2006 (£1,550). After 10 years of only opening for the odd day each year, it became a weekly event for the following causes:-

**2011: SNAP (£480); 2012: Festival Committee (£200); 2014: St Jerome’s Church (£400)**

**2015: St Jerome’s Church (£672); 2016: Wales Air Ambulance (£1250); 2017: Community Hall (£1000)**

**2018: Community Hall (£1114); 2019: Paul Sartori (£1,500); 2022: Wales Air Ambulance (£650)**

The above was with the help of many local ladies who provided the cakes, and helped on the day(s) – then this year Pat said it was to be the last, with some items already donated to various local groups. Now, after a little persuasion by female friends (inebriated at the time?) it looks as if, health permitting, we may carry on for another year, albeit on a smaller scale.

# Camping, paddling & cleaning up our estuary

Simon Preddy

It has been a very busy couple of terms as our activities return to normal following the Covid pandemic. March saw our scout troop take part in a weekend camp at St Brides themed around Earth Hour, and the first time that many had camped overnight with us.

In June we took part in a Pembrokeshire Area activity day at Celtic Camping, St Davids, with lots of opportunities to try out craft, sport, archery and climbing all with a Commonwealth feel. We are looking forward to a bigger event next June with groups right across West Wales taking part.

Our Beavers and Cubs have attended a couple of water activities this year supported by Paddlewest in Pembroke, and we are grateful to the support of the RNLI who have visited and helped our Beavers and Cubs achieve the new Water Safety Awareness badge.

Our young people continue to work hard, and over the past few months we have awarded over 500 badges and awards in recognition of those efforts. We are extremely proud of all of our young people.

Our catchment is large and we continue to support our communities where we can; in October our scouts undertook a litterpick around Llangwm foreshore as part of Marine Clean Cymru, and we have supported a number of other charities such as PATCH and the Pembrokeshire Hogspital. We were also able to assist with the provision of our marquee at the Jubilee celebrations, chairs for the LitFest, as well as supporting Cleddau Reach School with their camping adventure at the end of the summer term. Some of our equipment is available to community organisations in return for a donation.

Whilst the hall was empty during the pandemic we took the opportunity to continue to make improvements. We now have an accessible path leading from the car park to the main hall, and a new storage facility thanks to a successful grant award from the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Fund. We are hopeful that a solar lighting system will be installed shortly to assist further with access during the winter evenings. We have also been successful in receiving funding from the Force for Nature grant, which will see us plant a butterfly hedge within the hall grounds.

As always the hall is available for hire, and please use details below if you wish to enquire. As well as our

scout sessions we have regular users such as a child minding group, football coaching, and Pembrokeshire Scouts use it as a training centre.

As always we are extremely grateful to all the volunteers who give up their time to ensure that the group remains so successful, our leaders who provide fun and safe programmes at our weekly sessions, and our Executive Committee who ensure that we have the resources needed to continue to support our young people. There are a host of ways that you can become involved, so please get in touch to find out how.

If you have a young person interested in joining, please complete the form located here: (<https://forms.gle/cx1JSbUvtLLQBY8J6>) and we will be in touch.

Beavers (6 to 8 yrs) – Friday, 17.15 to 18.30  
Cubs (8 to 10.5 yrs) – Friday, 18.45 to 20.15  
Scouts (10.5 to 14 yrs) – Thursday, 18.30 to 20.30

## Dangerous Roads – a Warning

We've heard of plenty of cases of cars speeding through Llangwm village, but one of our readers reports a potentially serious incident while walking on the Troopers Inn road.

A vehicle passing too fast and too close caused them to fall onto the almost non-existent verge. They've now come to the conclusion that it's simply too dangerous to walk there on a weekday afternoon.

They point out that the maximum speed limit there is 60mph, and that according to the highway code drivers should keep to a slow speed and leave at least two metres when passing pedestrians.

## Meanwhile in another part of Llangwm...



*A 'charm' of goldfinches help themselves to lunch at the Little Museum.*



# News from St Jerome's

Debbi Lawson-Earley

Hello everyone. Well, we are fully into the beautiful season of Autumn with its vibrant colours, plants rich in berries everywhere; despite the howling gales, spectacular thunder and lightning storms recently and the return of the rain! We're always thankful for all the hard work our farming communities undertake gathering in bountiful harvests, to see us through the dark, stark winter months. Especially in these difficult times ahead with the rising costs of our utilities and sharp food price increases! May the vibrant colours that this season brings lift our spirits with the never-ending hope of better times to come.

**A brief recap of recent news and events.** It was lovely to be able to hold the Annual Cleddau Reach Year 6 Leavers BBQ in July, the first time without any social distancing restrictions! As tradition dictates, there was the usual warm-up game of rounders, to get appetites going, with lots of fun! It was also Mr Buckley's very first introduction to this special evening. This year's Year 6 was a big class as well. A very big thank you to Dave Golding for donating the BBQ food and drinks. Also, to Jane and David Mills cooking all the food on the barbecue down on the playing field, which was also another first! A big thanks to the Church members who helped serve the delicious food to the children and adults! It was enjoyed by all.

Once again, a big thank you to Mr Buckley for the use of the school for the evening, also to Mrs Woodward, Deputy Head and Year 6 Teacher, Mrs Hicks and Mrs Sally Nowell, Site Manager.

Hugh-John Wilson, the Wesleyan Methodist Church Minister in Llangwm, visited St Jerome's as our guest preacher on Sunday 25 September. He was very warmly welcomed by the congregation.

## **DETAILS OF SERVICES**

### **Sunday Services**

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Worship Time (All age worship) 10 am
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Eucharist 9 am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Eucharist 9 am
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Eucharist 9 am
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Eucharist 10 am

**(This service is on rotation between Llangwm, Freystrop and Johnston Churches)**  
**Venue details on St Jerome's Notice Board**

### **Midweek Services**

Thursday: Morning Prayer on Zoom, 9.30am (Contact Rev Marcus for details)

There will be Advent Bible Study during Advent on Tuesday evenings on Zoom.

### **For Young People**

**Pilgrims Group** meets every third Sunday at 3pm and we try to have outside activities where we can. All ages are welcome, but parents will need to accompany any under eights.

Please contact Rev Marcus for full details on 01437 899548 or via email, [marcuszipperlen@cinw.org.uk](mailto:marcuszipperlen@cinw.org.uk)

## **CHRISTMAS**

**Carols by Candlelight** on Sunday 11 December in Freystrop Church at 5pm.

### **Christmas Eve**

Family Crib Service in St Jerome's at 4pm  
Midnight Eucharist in St Jerome's at 11.30pm

### **Christmas Day**

Christmas Worship in St Jerome's at 10am.

As with all events please check notices on the Church Notice Board.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**“A Christmas Evening” with Wrong Direction on Friday 25 November at 7:30pm in St Jerome's**  
Tickets £5. A new original Christmas Programme: a social evening with music, singing and a quiz.

**Return of “Breakfast with Santa!” on Saturday 3 December at 9:30-11:30am in Llangwm Village Hall**

Adults £3, Children £2  
Come and join in the Festive Fun. Proceeds to a children's charity.

**LMA Community Carol Service on Sunday Afternoon 4 December at Milford Haven Dock**  
Everyone Welcome.

**La Volta presents “A Tudor Christmas” on Friday 9 December at 7pm in St Jerome's**  
Tickets £6.

Reverend Marcus and everyone from St. Jerome's Church would like to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and New Year in 2023.

Let us hope and pray 2023 brings better times, during these uncertain and worrying times and that we all stay safe and healthy. God Bless.



# County Council Report

by Cllr Michael John

## Haverfordwest High VC School

The new school was officially opened on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal. Being a governor at the school, and part of the project team for the last 4 years, it was an honour to be able to attend and view the completed facilities. The building and sports complex, with a full 4G pitch, will be a huge asset for the area. After several years of disruption during the development, it is great news for the children from our area who will benefit from these fantastic educational facilities. A report on the opening can be seen at: <https://www.haverfordwesthigh.pembrokeshire.sch.uk/News/Official-Opening-of-Haverfordwest-High-VC-School/>

## Deadline for Secondary School Application

Parents of Year 6 pupils in Pembrokeshire will need to apply for a secondary school place for September 2023 by the closing date of 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Applications received after this date will be considered late which may have a bearing on whether the child gets a place at his/her preferred school. The online application form can be found on the Pembrokeshire County Council website: [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning)

**308 Bus Service** The lack of any Saturday service continues to be of concern to many. I have raised this issue with PCC and had the following response from the cabinet member:

*He stated that "he agreed that there was an ongoing impact of service reductions following Covid-19. The Council had worked closely with bus companies to try and reinstate services to pre-Covid-19 levels, however, two bus operators had been unable to commit to doing this on all routes due to a shortage of drivers. He would continue to do as much as possible in order to restore full-service provision to pre Covid-19 levels, with the available budget. It was assured that he would continue to work with Welsh Government to ensure funding was available to allow for the enhancement of public transport in rural areas".*

If the lack of a Saturday bus service is affecting you, please send any comments to: [pubtran@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:pubtran@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

## Welsh Government 20 mph roll out

New legislation was passed on the July 12<sup>th</sup> 2022 by Welsh Government to introduce a 20-mph default speed on 'restricted' roads across Wales. Restricted roads are residential roads that currently have 30mph speed limit, generally distinguished

by the presence of street lighting. This legislation will come into force from September 2023. There will be an opportunity for everyone to comment on proposals in their area. The proposed benefits of reducing the default speed limit from 30mph to 20mph in these areas could include:

- reducing road collisions & severity of injury
- more opportunities to walk and cycle in our communities
- helping to improve our health and wellbeing
- making our streets safer, and
- safeguarding the environment for future generations.

## The road outside Cleddau Reach School will become a 20-mph limit when this is introduced.

**Main Street speed survey** Following a request from myself and the community council, PCC carried out a speed survey in Main Street in June, and summed up the results as follow:

*The Site was previously surveyed in March 2018, the results of which were very similar in terms of monitoring vehicle speed. The average 24-hour traffic flows however were higher in both directions in 2018.*

*The mean average speeds indicate good compliance with the speed limit in both directions".*

Whilst the mean average may be deemed to be OK, the full results do show traffic in the range 21-31mph ! It is these higher speeds that I feel need to be addressed and I will continue to raise this with PCC.

**Following local reports of near misses, the advice once again is that any concerns regarding excessive speeds or any accidents/incidents should be reported to the Police on 101. This would then provide an evidence base for any future safety considerations.**

Details on the Community Speed watch group, can be found at: <https://www.dyfed-powys.police.uk/en/your-area/pembrokeshire/haverfordwest-rural/>

**Booking slots to access the waste and recycling centres** is another topic raised regularly with me and one I have raised at PCC. Earlier this year I asked when will this temporary arrangement (introduced due to Covid restrictions) be removed and normal operations resumed?"

The response from the cabinet member was... *"in November 2021, it had been agreed by Cabinet that the booking system and associated policies for Waste and Recycling Centres would remain in place as a permanent change to the service. This was following the Waste and*

*Recycling Centre Review carried out by a cross-party Waste Working Group. The booking system provided a number of benefits to the Authority. The availability of same day bookings was being developed, and the aim was to implement this by the end of July. Once introduced, there would be a review in regards to increasing public awareness around the Waste and Recycling Centre booking system. Once sufficient time had passed, there would be an opportunity for a further review including public consultation".*

Since I had this reply, the same day booking system was introduced as planned and is widely used.

If anyone has any comments on this system, or recycling in general, I welcome their views. I will of course pass on any issues of concern to PCC.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Home Council Tax** Pembrokeshire Council made the decision some time ago to raise the levy on 2<sup>nd</sup> homes from 50% to 100%. Welsh Government have now brought in new legislation enabling local authorities to further raise this by up to 300%. There is also consultation from Welsh Government on the introduction of a tourism levy, similar to seen in some other countries.

**If you have any views on either of these proposals, please let me know as PCC may have to make a decision on these over the coming months.**

75% of the money raised from 2<sup>nd</sup> home council tax goes into building social housing in the county. As previously reported, one of the proposed schemes is on the land to the front of Cleddau Reach School and I am currently seeking an update on the proposed timescale for this project. The County Council has committed to pass some of this land to the school, for additional parking once the scheme progresses.

**Llangwm Cricket Club Harrison-Allen Bowl** I would like to extend my congratulations to all the team on the recent fine victory in the final of the Harrison-Allen Bowl competition. This is a fantastic achievement, and one that all at the club can be rightly proud of. Coming on the back of a very successful return to the top flight of County Cricket, this shows the talent at the club, and the determination of all involved to ensure the cricket heritage in the village is alive and kicking.

Very well done to all involved at the club.

If there are any queries or questions regarding any topics, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I can be contacted on 01437 890175 or [cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

If you do have any issues or queries you can also contact PCC direct on 01437 764551 or - <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/resident>

## Llangwm Longboat Rowing Club

### First 'pulls' for new members

Peter Rose



The rowing club has had something of a revival this year after two seasons hit by Covid restrictions. Our national body, the Welsh Sea Rowing Association, has also got going again, albeit with a reduced fixture list this year, and is hoping to get back to normal in 2023. A number of our members new to competitive rowing have taken their first steps (should that be pulls?) and took part in the recent league event at Pembrokeshire Yacht Club in Gelliswick, aided by some of our more experienced rowers. In the final race of the day our most experienced mixed crew won their class.

We reinstated our new member introductory sessions on Monday and Tuesday evenings through the summer. These were well attended and club numbers are now up on where we were back in 2019. The taster sessions have ended now as the nights are drawing in but we will restart them in the spring and are hoping to push on (pull on?) in 2023. We have four of the four-oared Celtic Longboats, one of which is kept down by the toilet at Black Tar, and also a smaller 2/3 person skiff. Look for us in March/April if you want to try them out.

As well as our competitive rowers we also have a number of people who just take part for the exercise, the social and the opportunity to enjoy one of the most picturesque estuary systems in the country. Crews have ventured as far as the Bristol Trader in Haverfordwest, Minwear and Blackpool Mill, Creswell Quay, Carew Mill and the Haven Bridge as well as exploring the many creeks in between. Herons, cormorants, little egrets, curlews and other waterfowl are often seen with occasional sightings of rarer visitors such as ospreys and common or grey seals.

I have some wonderful memories of rowing back to Black Tar as the last rays of the setting sun lit the trees in Sam's Wood with the calls of the curlews echoing across the water as they wheeled over us and returned to the mudflats.

## Llangwm Lions AFC

### Young footballers doing well

Mike Preddy

It's been a fantastic start to the season for our U7's, U8's and U12's teams this year.



*Llangwm Lions U12's*

Over 30 children across the age groups representing the village of Llangwm every Saturday morning.



*Llangwm Lions U8's*

### Grassroots football at its best!



*Llangwm Lions U7's*

# Llangwm wins the Harrison-Alen Cup

By our Cricket Correspondent Stuart Beresford

The unusual format of the game is that each team has two innings of 22 overs thus giving each side two chances of a good (or poor) performance. However winning the toss can be a great help.

The team started the day at the Cottage Inn with a fantastic pre-match breakfast provided by renowned local chef Matthew Evans with lots of high calorie stuff needed for the challenge ahead. They were then driven by coach to the Cresselly Cricket ground to challenge a very talented team from Haverfordwest. Another coach full of supporters acted as the vanguard crossing the Cleddau for the match. Hundreds more were going by car.



Haverfordwest won the toss, chose to bat first and two of their star players came to the wicket and scored 35 quick runs. Adam James then fell to a good catch by Chris Inward off Joe Phillips and Mikey Jones to another great catch by Joe Kiff. The scoreboard soon began to look much better for us showing them scoring just 44 for 4 wickets. Only wicket-keeper Jack Scriven (40) really showed any fight before being run out by James Lewis and their final score of 126 runs all out reflected the dominance of our bowling and quality of our fielding. Joe Phillips took 3 wickets for 26 runs, Noah Davies 2 for 31, Chris Inward 1 for 41, and Steve Mills 1 for 22. An excellent team performance.

In reply Llangwm openers Joseph Kiff and Stephen Inward (13) quickly took the score to 44 for the loss of our first wicket. Then Steve Mills came in and featured in a stand of over 60 before Kiff was bowled for a sparkling 54 and replaced by brother and Captain Mathew (50 not out from 22 balls). Llangwm soon passed the target of 126 after just 17 overs then adding 81 more runs to finish on 207 for just two wickets. Steve Mills was in devastating form and finished unbeaten on 76 from 45 balls.

Haverfordwest started their second innings brightly but were all dismissed for the much more respectable score of 162. A combination of fantastic bowling by

Joe Phillips and more brilliant fielding saw off their earlier challenge. Joe Phillips took 6 wickets for 41 runs, Chris Inward 2 for 33 and Noah Davies 1 for 58. This left Llangwm a target of just 82 to win.

But Haverfordwest were by no means accepting defeat without a fight and there was a time when the unlikely looked rather too possible! Llangwm wickets were falling fast and unexpectedly. When Noah Davies came in at number 6 he sensibly steadied the ship with Luke Brock who then saw us home with a finely hit 6 with seven overs to spare.

## The Bowl was ours.

Interestingly we held 11 catches and made 3 run-outs during the match. Steve Inward (3 catches), Joseph Kiff (2) and one each from Steve Mills, Noah Davies, Chris Inward, Mathew Kiff, Joe Phillips and Luke Brock. Run outs involved James Lewis and David Lewis who kept wicket really well and Ollie Davies was on excellent fielding form.

## MAN of the MATCH AWARD

More good news was on its way. Young bowler Joe Phillips had taken nine wickets during the match and was made of Man of the Match. Earlier in the month he had also been made Man of the Match when playing in the Ormond Youth Cup final for near-neighbours Hook as Llangwm was unable to field a youth team again this year. That is a record unlikely ever to be beaten.

## OUR CLUB

The success our Club has had this season does not happen by chance. The Executive Committee and other crucial volunteers are hard at work with the more mundane matters of pitch maintenance, financial control, team and training management, routine administration – even clearing the inevitable dog poo found on the Pill Parks. There is also match-day stuff like preparing the wicket and outfield, scoring, provision of first aid, welcoming the opposition and the umpires. And don't forget there is also the very important second XI skippered by Martin Thomas to sort out as well. Thank you to all of them – Janice Brick our scorer, Ian Gow chairman and groundsman, Jo Kiff our secretary, Will Beresford our treasurer, plus the committee itself and several former players such as the irreplaceable Dai Davies and Martin Inward who come to our assistance whenever needed.

And what would we do without our loyal sponsors and Vice Presidents plus the support given at our annual Golf Day providing the cash which enables us to pay our way? Just look through the club fixture card to see exactly where the support we receive comes from.

If you would like to become involved contact our Secretary Joseph Kiff on 07775521086 or any of the players.

# Llangwm lives to fight another day

**Dan Chesmer**

Following two seasons of fixture disruption due to the pandemic Llangwm RFC were looking forward to the 2022-23 WRU league season which would see them face some familiar foes. At senior level summer touch rugby had continued through the warm months and training started mid-July. Unfortunately come the first league game on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September Llangwm were forced to postpone our away game vs Lampeter as we didn't have enough players to fulfil the fixture. This happened to many community rugby teams across Wales that day and it is sad to see it continuing to happen to some teams.

I am happy to report that since this first game, Llangwm players, coaches, supporters and volunteers have rallied together, and with new players joining we are in a better position to continue with the rest of the season. It is a difficult task to maintain a village rugby team but the character, commitment and determination of those involved with the club helped ensure that Llangwm RFC continues to fight another day.

*Llangwm RFC 1st XV*

At the time of writing Llangwm are in 8<sup>th</sup> position in Division 3A West of the WRU national league with one win from our three games and a tough encounter against Laugharne on the horizon. We beat Tregaron at home 24-5 and have lost to Pembroke Dock Quins and St Davids away. New Captain Ieuan Power has led from the front in these games and we wish him, and vice-captain Luke Hayman, all the best for the rest of the season.

The excellent Youth team have had a busy start to the season, playing six games so far and winning their last three games on the bounce. This included an impressive away win against Whitland and a home win in the WRU youth cup against a strong Waunarlwydd team who travelled from Swansea. They now face Carmarthen Athletic in Llangwm in the next round and we would like to wish them well and invite supporters to come and get behind the team in what promises to be a great game of rugby. The Rugby Club would like to thank the players, coaches,

committee and helpers for all age groups in the Club for their hard work in getting these teams out on the field on a weekend.

*Llangwm RFC Youth XV*

The Mini and Junior sections of the club continue to grow and we have teams in all mini age groups and new players joining our important U14s and U16s teams.

*Llangwm RFC U16s*

It is great to see the numbers of players and parents at Wednesday night training and Sunday match days. A recent visit from Wales scrum half Gareth Davies to training provided much excitement for the kids and parents. Gareth spent time with each team and enjoyed working on a few drills and was impressed how many kids we had playing at our small village club.

The clubhouse has been well supported and visiting teams have complimented us on the warm welcome received and the craic enjoyed at the clubhouse following games. A massive thank you to Kiwi and Sarah for all their hard work behind the scenes. We plan to open for the Autumn Internationals and look forward to seeing you for a pint to cheer Wales on.

As a Rugby Club run by volunteers we are always looking for new people to help out or join the committee. If you are able to spare a few hours on a match day weekend or can help out in the week please see the contact details on our website below and get in touch. Your club needs you!! <https://llangwm.rfc.wales/contact-us>

## 'A rare village rugby club side'

Brendan O'Loughlin

This new rugby season has got off to a very positive start for Llangwm RFC Minis and Juniors. This year, we are fielding seven age groups: U7s, U8s, U9s, U10s, U11s, U14s and U16s. The club also has a strong youth team. We welcome our new coaches to the already strong coaching team and we also have a new area WRU hub officer. In addition this season, we also have team managers in most age groups who have made an immediate positive impact.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September, all our Mini teams (U7s, U8s, U9s, U10s and U11s) visited Parc y Scarlets for the Scarlets vs Ospreys. This was a huge honour for Llangwm RFC and all teams had the opportunity to play beforehand in the Scarlets Barn and play other visiting teams during the half time interval on the Parc y Scarlets pitch itself.



*Llangwm  
RFC mini  
teams at  
Parc y  
Scarlets*

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, Lions, Wales and Scarlets rugby legend Gareth Davies visited Llangwm RFC. Over 80 of our young budding rugby players had the unique opportunity to spend time, question and be coached by the rugby star. Gareth gave lots of his time to make sure every child had a personal photo with him. He autographed all sorts of memorabilia, balls, flags and jerseys. It was a great evening and thanks to the organisers and Gareth for committing his time to Llangwm RFC.



*Visit to Llangwm  
RFC by Gareth  
Davies*

All our age groups are very active, training every Wednesday evening at 6pm and playing games and tournaments every Sunday. At the time of writing, our mighty U11s team won their first round game of District H Cup. Well done!



Our Youth team (which sits under the Seniors Section) are having a great start to the season. This team is a product of many years of coaching throughout the Minis and Juniors section. This is great to see and a reminder that the Mini & Juniors section is a very important feedstock into the Seniors team.

The club feel that it is important to have an active social scene. We held a fantastic spooktacular Halloween party on October 30<sup>th</sup> and are planning various Christmas parties. Keep an eye on the main Facebook page for details.



Llangwm RFC remains a rare village rugby club side that competes strongly against the bigger teams in west Wales. We are seeing player numbers increase in our teams and, with our robust attitudes, we are seeing more victories this season. Our priority remains being an inclusive club that enables kids to enjoy rugby with their friends.

Our club aim is to develop happy, healthy kids through the sport of rugby, build strong successful teams and ultimately be a feedstock for future Llangwm youth and senior teams.

# Canada geese on the Pill - it must be Autumn

Graham Brace

One of the first signs that Autumn is approaching in early to mid-August is a sight and sound beloved of most Llangwm residents - the overflight of V-shaped skeins of Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) generally in the early morning. At this time of year they often gather to roost overnight in the Pill or the upper reaches of the Daugleddau.

These large and handsome geese are extremely vocal both in the air and on the ground and their honking calls are unmistakable and can usually be heard long before they come into view. Their presence in Llangwm Pill is erratic and can vary in numbers from just a few individuals to flocks of several hundred - an impressive sight indeed.



Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*)

They feed on aquatic plants, grass and cereals and can often be seen gleaning in fields of stubble or grassy meadows.

Canada geese, as the name implies, are an introduced species originally imported from North America as ornamental birds. They were first introduced to Pembrokeshire at Boulston on the Western Cleddau in 1955 and at Orielton in 1957. The Boulston group soon became well established and gradually numbers increased, but the population was pretty much confined to the upper reaches of the Daugleddau Estuary until the eighties after which significant expansion occurred. There are now substantial numbers around the Nevern and Teifi estuaries and smaller numbers at other sites including Marloes Mere and Llys-y-Fran.

Breeding pairs of Canada geese are widely spread in Pembrokeshire and occupy many irrigation reservoirs and large farm ponds where there is cover for nesting and convenient grazing nearby. They have even taken

up residence on Skomer and Skokholm and on some other rocky islets around the Pembrokeshire Coast.

They appear to have lost their migratory instincts but it is likely that some Pembrokeshire geese have spread to other parts of the country and vice-versa. Because their movements are so erratic it is difficult to accurately count the number of Canada geese within the county but there could be upwards of 2000 birds present when numbers appear to peak in September.

Despite being large birds that congregate in large numbers they do not appear to be overly aggressive and apparently have no marked effect on other wildfowl and waterbirds that share our beautiful estuaries.

## OTHER NEWS

After the tragic loss at the end of May of our newly hatched family of Mute Swan cygnets to the perils of soft mud and predatory foxes, all of us living close to the Pill were in despair. But sadly, that's nature for you!

The redshanks re-appeared in mid-June and numbers increased steadily to 50+ by mid-July when they were joined by two greenshanks. The first Canada geese were heard flying over the village at 5am on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

As I write this on 19<sup>th</sup> October there are currently around 60 redshanks and 4 greenshanks feeding around the Pill along with a couple of dozen dunlin. Also present over the summer has been a group of up to 22 mallard ducks. Despite being much in evidence at other locations along the Daugleddau, teal have been slow to return to the Pill this autumn with 26 present in Edwards Pill on the 17<sup>th</sup> October. The winter thrushes, redwings and fieldfares, have started to arrive and in recent days we have had a small number of redwings feeding on the hawthorn berries in the garden.

Once again it has been a poor year for butterflies despite the superb summer weather and wasps also have been very scarce. A truly worrying sign.

A dead otter (gender unknown due to fairly advanced decomposition) was found in Edwards Pill on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

If you have any interesting sightings to report please email me at [grahambrace@btinternet.com](mailto:grahambrace@btinternet.com)