

Llangwm Village News

Issue 60 AUTUMN 2024



**Inside: Polly's Atlantic row: a last minute hiccup
Should 'Llangwm' be abolished?
The Welsh church's 'Brexit'
And the best little litfest triumphs again**

Llangwm Village News, Issue 60 Autumn 2024

As befits an estuary village there's again lots happening on the water. Polly's epic Atlantic row in January looms closer despite money problems (p3), the rowing club is collecting new members apace (p19) while the boating fraternity prepare for winter (p20).

On dry(ish) land cricket relaunches its women's team (p21), while rugby fields an extraordinary total of 10 teams. The wonderful Litfest returned with Greek food and more (pp6&7) and who would have thought its founder would also have time for gardening? (p11). And catch some gorgeous new bird pics in Nature Notes (p24)

Plus Welsh church disestablishment: can it really be like Brexit (p9)?

And the official body that wants to abolish Llangwm (p5).

And the most exciting news of all: Village News has found a new home online, on the History Society's remarkable new website (p8). Thank you History Society.

Heather Payton (heather@words-plus.co.uk)



**Keep the date free:
The Litfest is back
8-10 August 2025
with folk legends Boo Hewerdene
& Yvonne Lyon**



**And Llangwm's
newest dance
craze?
(See p13)**

**The printing of Llangwm Village News is funded by our Community Council and the black and white version is delivered to all Llangwm homes. It's also available in colour on the Llangwm Local History Society's website:
<https://www.llangwmlocalhistorysociety.org.uk/llangwmvillagenews.html>**

A last minute hiccup & a message from an expert

“I have to be honest”, wrote Llangwm’s Polly Zipperlen on Facebook in October, “financially we can’t make it to the start line.”

At stake were their plans as a four woman team to row unsupported across the Atlantic come January. 3,200 miles, 45 to 60 days in a 10 metre boat, two years of preparation and here they were £30,000 short of their target.

But the admission put the proverbial bomb under sponsors and supporters and just two weeks later the shortfall had miraculously shrunk to £10,000.

To add to the pressure, the boat, named The Spirit of Bluestone after Team Cruising Free’s lead sponsor, is being shipped out to the start line in Lanzarote on November 22.

The team, Polly, Miyah, Janine (who at 70 could claim a world age record) & Sophie (who could become the first Atlantic rower with Cystic Fibrosis) are still trying to close the gap.

Pembrokeshire’s Gareth Reynolds of sponsor Dale Sailing rowed the Atlantic single handed three years ago. He gives this advice to the team:

“The weeks leading up to any big expedition inevitably feel like a stressful time. Is everything going to be ready in time? Many expeditions and challenges bring up the same questions and emotions, but few expeditions require as much planning, preparation, fundraising and training as an ocean row. But that determination to keep going, to keep plugging away day after day, month after month, year after year, towards that one goal is what it takes to make the dream become a reality.

It’s this determination that currently puts Polly and her teammates little more than two months out from setting off on the adventure of a lifetime.



Off to Lanzarote (Team Cruising Free)

To begin with, the countdown to the challenge is measured in years. Then, before you know it, the countdown is in months. Funding, paperwork, logistics, equipment, training logs – it all takes time, lots and lots of time. Now, all of a sudden, deadlines are measured in weeks! This is where Polly and team find themselves now. What was once a far-flung idea, is now a very stark reality.

By this point a lot of the hardest work is done – the two years of planning & preparations on the boat, the hundreds of hours spent in the gym and on the water, the endless fundraising.

With only weeks to go, it will all still feel like a completely impossible task. Systems checks, comms checks, safety equipment, food & supplies for 4 crew for up to 100 days. In reality, it only ever comes together in the last few weeks. Have faith in all the hard yards that have already gone in, it will all come together – it always does.

This may all sound like the stuff of nightmares, but really, I envy Polly and the team. They are about to embark on an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives and change their outlook on life forever. The hardships and challenges they experience both before and during their journey only serve to make it feel that much sweeter. The blissful simplicity of life at sea is something I think everyone should experience. No phones, no internet, no contact with the outside world. Just row, eat, sleep...and repeat.



Learning plotting (Team Cruising Free)

I’m extremely proud to see a team of good friends from Pembrokeshire about to set off on this journey and wish the ladies all the luck in the world! Embrace the experience for what it is and enjoy every second!”

You can help through sponsorship, buying merchandise or donations via their Facebook page (Cruising Free Atlantic Row 2025) or gofundme.com.

Shwmae Day, COW Day & lots of trips

Mr Rhys Buckley

The start of each academic year always brings with it excitement and a busy workload in equal measure and this year has been no different here at Cleddau Reach! With our new 'Rainbow Curriculum' continuing to be embedded, our wonderful staff team have been busy introducing their new classes to the topics, knowledge and skills they are going to be focussing on this year.

As is always the case at our school, the children have been 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.



Y1 Litter
pick

white and green before enjoying a range of activities that celebrated both our local area and our country. As always, it was lovely to see children of all ages mixing well together, celebrating the Welsh language and culture.



"COW Day"

Another highlight came in the form what is now a regular fixture in our school calendar: Celebration of Work Day (or COW Day as it has come to be known!). This date usually falls during the last week of term and represents an opportunity for family members to step into their child's classroom and sit with them to look at and discuss the work they have produced over the course of the term. This term we welcomed family members into school on Thursday 24th October and it was fantastic to see the school packed with proud parents!

If you'd like to keep up with events and goings-on at the school, the best place to do so is either our website (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.



Shwmae Day

The notable whole-school event was our recent 'Shwmae Day' celebration where children were invited to come to school wearing our national colours of red,

Considering all of the above, it has been a fantastic start to the new school year for us here at Cleddau Reach and, with the inevitable rush of Christmas to come, I've no doubt that the remainder of the Autumn will be a success also.

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 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.

'Llangwm' should be abolished, says commission

In July the Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales, a Welsh government-sponsored body responsible for defining the shape of local communities, published what's been described as 'radical' draft proposals affecting Llangwm. The takeaway is that under the plans, which would abolish Llangwm as a community with its own council, we'd get far less representation.

The consultation period has already closed and the Commission, which says its job has been 'difficult', will now submit final recommendations to the Welsh Government, who can either put them in place as submitted or with changes.

Our County Councillor, Michael John, has objected to the proposals. He says if they're accepted and put forward for ministerial approval 'we would need to mobilise any interested objectors'. See Michael's report on page 16.

So should we care and what do Llangwm's community councillors - like Barry Childs - make of it?

This piece has been written at the request of Heather, our editor, who has picked up on an important if not much noticed proposal to change the very nature of local government representation in our area. In brief, what is being proposed, as it affects local people, is that instead of there being three local community councils i.e. Llangwm, Hook and Freystrop there be just one with twelve members, four from each community as opposed to, for example, the present arrangement where we have eight members for Llangwm alone. A dramatic change indeed!

Before I go into that let me provide a bit of context. I've been an elected member of LCC (initially Llangwm Parish Council) for an unbroken period of over 50 years. When I started out the council, though called Llangwm Parish Council, also served Hook. That continued for some time until Hook members decided that they wanted to separate on the not unreasonable grounds that they felt that the council spent most of its time discussing Llangwm issues. The separation was sensible and entirely amicable.

So what is now being proposed is a return to a structure even worse than that discredited all those years ago. From this you will gather that I don't think that it is a good idea. However, to be fair to those who have brought forward these proposals there is a rationale at work here.

Increasingly over the years it has been more and more difficult to recruit community councillors and in some wards the numbers prepared to put themselves before the electorate have fallen way short of the seats available e.g. three/four candidates for perhaps eight seats being not uncommon. In one instance only one person came forward for his/her area. This has, however, hardly ever been the case in Llangwm. The interest has, for the most part, been strong though the trend is not as healthy as we would like. For example in 2004 there were 13 candidates for eight places, and in 2017, 10 whilst in 2022 we fell just short of the minimum number meaning that no election was held.

Back to my question then. Given what has just been said why are these proposals unacceptable?

- Our village is growing and needs more not less representation
- Decisions should be made by people who know their village and are able to accurately reflect local concerns. I simply don't have the knowledge of Hook and Freystrop that would entitle me to vote on matters specific to them. I'm sure that Hook and Freystrop's councillors would say the same about Llangwm.
- It is the only tier of government whose members give their time voluntarily. Doing things that don't involve monetary gain should be encouraged not discouraged
- The proposals would be a disincentive to those who might consider taking on the role because they would find themselves discussing topics of no relevance to them or their community
- They are arbitrary in that numbers of councillors would remain untouched in some areas that have difficulty in recruitment whilst those that experience no such problems would see a significant change.

I could go on but space doesn't allow. Thank you for reading this.

Barry

From Byron to the Bookshop Band

Michael Pugh

Wow! What a programme! Who'd have thought that we'd have tempted the Bookshop Band from Glastonbury to Guildford to share their 'achingly good' folk music as part of the litfest. This musical highlight looks set to be repeated next year as litfest legend Graham Brace has secured folk legends, Boo Hewerdine and Yvonne Lyon.

Local talent remains a key ingredient in the litfest's programme with Polly leading the charge with tales of crossing the Atlantic for a wonderful cause. We wish the rowers every success and calm waters.

Pippa Davies showcased some wonderful talent of her own, blended like a fine wine with that of Lorna Lee, Lewis Griffiths and Emma Baines, in the form of a workshop to inspire creative writing. Who knows what writing this will inspire!

Llangwm Ferry's Dora Duka whet our appetites for Greek cookery, washed down with ouzo, with the launch of her Greek family cookbook. It is definitely on my Christmas list.

Another treat was Dr Stephanie Matthews' narrative of murder and mystery in Provence 'the Drummond Affair'. Known to almost everyone in France as the Dominici Affair, the murder of Sir Jack Drummond is almost unknown in Britain, until now.



*Dr Toby Driver:
The Hill Forts of
Iron Age Wales*

Dr Toby Driver's talk was a real sell-out as he took the audience through the fascinations of Welsh Hill Forts.

Much fun was had at the Cottage Inn with the Byronic Banquet and the competition for the best Lord Byron and Mary Shelley. Some entries were alarmingly good and won the delicious TIR & MôR Gin!

We often hesitate to invite the same writers back again and again as we like to give the stage to new presenters. But we were so pleased that Gill Lewis returned with Dagmarr Moore to stage the children's workshop, Rescue at Seal Bay. The major question now is whether she will put on a similar event for adults.

The same applies for Miranda Seymour who talked about Mary Shelley and Lord Byron as if they were old friends, never hesitating to plunge into the minutiae of their fascinating lives.

The festival was extremely lucky to welcome Nigel Biggar, who not only has a lot of data at his finger-tips, but is almost certainly the most polite of commentators on the topic of colonialism.



*Nigel Biggar:
Colonialism:
a Moral
Reckoning*

David Horspool, interviewed by Harry Mount, lightened the mood with talk of sports past and present.



*David Horspool:
More Than a
Game: a History
of How Sport
Made Britain*

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 llangwmLitfest@gmail.com

We'll be back 8 – 10 August 2025.

Dreams of Greek food in a chilly clime

Jenny Stephens & Dora Dukas

One of the most sought-after tickets for our annual Litfest (see our report facing page) was for two members of Llangwm's Stephens family, Dora Dukas and Jenny Stephens, authors of *The Greek Family Cookbook*. Dora comes from Greece and Jenny knows the country well, all of which managed to conjure up visions of balmy nights in an iffy Welsh summer. Dora and Jenny write here:



Jenny (L) & Dora

"It was so lovely to see a packed house at the festival. But what really surprised us was the show of hands at the beginning when we asked how many people have been to Greece?. The majority of the audience had visited Greece, some had lived there, and from the conversations we had afterwards, all had loved the food. We may be biased, but there is a lot to love about Greece, and its food.

Originally, the book was a birthday present from Jenny to Dora, created together, whilst recreating recipes from Dora's handwritten family cookbook, continuing a tradition of passing recipes down through the family. Since its first incarnation, it has evolved, with new recipes and some context and history added for a wider audience. Apart from the recipes the book contains important aspects that characterise central aspects of Greek life: family, its traditions and rituals and the importance of celebrating.

Greeks are very sociable, and it's normal to invite friends or family to eat together often. To allow the cook to eat with the guests without constantly having to visit the kitchen for the next course, all the food comes to the table at the same time. It's a convivial, informal way of eating, and a consequence is that the food is inevitably eaten lukewarm. In our family, and many others, the talk is loud, and often turns to politics. By the end of the meal, the world will have been put to rights, sometimes singing or dancing will take place.

For us, the recipes are the food we have grown up with. For Dora, the food her mother – an excellent cook – made, and for Jenny it is the sun-drenched holidays, eating outside with family, in a hubbub of Greek and English conversation. It has a strong emotional attachment for us that goes far beyond 'what shall we eat tonight?'

When we are in Greece the food that we cook at home isn't the same as the food you get in the tourist restaurants, excellent though that can be. We save tiny fried fish and crispy calamari eating (firm favourites of the children) for the seaside taverna. Instead, our book is full of our traditional family recipes that will, on the whole, be fantastic cooked with ingredients from the local shop or supermarket.

The basics of our Greek family cooking are fresh vegetables, a little meat or fish, olive oil, garlic, lemons, and a few fresh herbs and basic spices – allspice and cinnamon. You probably have most of this in your cupboard already. It is simple, both in its ingredients and its cooking methods (no tricky techniques and long-winded processes here). It is healthy. It is adaptable. But most importantly it is delicious.

It's this simplicity that we think makes it so popular. A Greek salad, a mainstay of taverna lunches, is also a wonderful accompaniment to any meal and can be assembled by even the most kitchen-shy of people. It just needs some fresh, seasonal ingredients (and feta, of course).

Dora's one pot dinners are the kind of meals that are perfect for a mid-week dinner, or the centrepiece of a weekend feast. In the summer we eat runner beans, cooked in the style of bamies (okra) most weeks, when the allotment is in full flow. The hardest thing about Dora's lamb and pea casserole is finding a bunch of dill. If you really want to show off, gemista - tomatoes and peppers stuffed with herby rice or bulghur - is far easier than it looks when you serve it up.

It's up to you if you want to serve these meals lukewarm in the traditional way, or piping hot to satisfy our British traditions. Whichever way you eat it, we hope you enjoy a taste of our Greek family food, and remember with fondness your visit to Greece."

(You can buy the book from Jenny's website: <https://jennystephens.bigcartel.com/>)

'Truly a model heritage group'

Jane Mills

As we enter our third decade as a history society we are delighted also to enter the digital age by launching our new website. It has long been our wish to make our extensive archive of films, original research, documents, pictures and memories available to everyone who wants to access them, rather than having to rummage through cupboards or under beds. It has been a massive amount of work to put all this information online and, obviously, it is not finished yet. At our launch event in St Jerome's, Councillor Mike John encouraged us in our activities, and we had an especially valued message of support from historian Dr Simon Hancock MBE who was unable to be with us in person:

"I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to the members of Llangwm Local History Society on their excellent new website. I have viewed numerous heritage websites over the last twenty years or so and I can honestly say this is the best I have seen.

"You are such an active society and the range of what is covered is a fair reflection of your enterprise, imagination and originality as shown in the projects section. It is clear, succinctly written and so easy to navigate. What glorious images are on show, all reflective of a community as interesting as anywhere in the county of Pembrokeshire.

"You are a truly model heritage group and your website is an exemplar which all others should seek to emulate."



Jane Mills & Michael John launching the new website

We were also pleased to welcome people from the community to have a look at what we have done and would encourage anyone with an interest in Llangwm's history to have a look at the website. The address is <https://www.llangwmlocalhistorysociety.org.uk/index.html>. There are plenty of areas where you can get in touch with us to give us extra information so please have a look and give us more information that we can make available to people with an interest in Llangwm around the world.

We have continued our programme of talks and events throughout the year with our usual summer visits and autumn talks. June saw us going back to Carew Cheriton control tower and museum which has developed so marvellously since we first visited. The volunteers are amazing and if you have never made a visit, please do as it is quite a special place.



Ready to jump? At Carew Cheriton

A second visit was made to the St David's lifeboat station thanks to Mike Chant and his volunteers. The exhibition in Oriel y Parc about the RNLI was fantastic so it was good to celebrate what a great job our RNLI volunteers do to protect our sailors.



Visiting the RNLI at St David's

And in October, our good friend Gareth Mills gave us a fascinating talk about the Stackpole Estate. It is quite amazing that we have so much extraordinary history on our doorstep to celebrate. November sees us welcoming back Dick Russill who will be giving a talk about the farmhouse, Y Garn, that he and his wife restored in the Gwaun Valley. Come along & join us.

Our programme for 2025 is well underway so keep an eye on the website for details of talks, visits and events. We welcome everyone to our events and encourage everyone to get involved in our activities.

Welsh disestablishment: the Brexit of the 1910's?

Dr David W Jones

A year ago we published a mystery photograph of a march through the streets of, we thought, Swansea featuring a contingent of well-dressed Llangwm folk. After much research we discovered it was indeed Swansea, the date was Saturday June 28, 1913 and they were protesting about the bill going through parliament disestablishing the Church of Wales – separating it legally – from the Church of England. Feelings ran high and the rally attracted between 50,000 and 60,000 people. Dr David W Jones has studied events of this time, including those in Llangwm, and wrote this for Village News:



Ever since Henry VIII renounced papal authority church and state were seen as virtually indistinguishable, a position challenged by both Wales and Ireland where a majority of people were not Anglican. In Ireland this was enacted after a short campaign. In Wales it led to the movement for Welsh disestablishment, a truly radical objective often dismissed today as a relic of some distant religious dispute. It was in fact politics in the raw, similar to the controversy surrounding Brexit, save that the disestablishment embroilment lasted for decades and decades. The two issues do bear other similarities in terms of what was delivered at the end of the day.

The issue of Welsh disestablishment was first raised in the House of Commons in 1870, causing W. E. Gladstone to declare: 'there really is no Church in Wales', just 'four dioceses within the Church of England' with no administrative connection with each other. Some leading Welsh churchmen even argued that there was in fact no separate entity called Wales!

It was to take a further 42 years for the Welsh Church Bill to be introduced into parliament and, due to the

veto exercised by the Tory-controlled Lords, another two and a half years for it to be enacted, in September 1914.

It gives a flavour of the adverse reaction to the legislation when a leading politician stated, without hyperbole, that it 'was probably the greatest interference on the part of the State in the affairs of the Church which our history has seen in other than times of open revolution'. Closer to home, Pembrokeshire Baptists, meeting in Llangwm, complained that Tory landlords were inducing their tenants to sign petitions against disestablishment.

But there was one more hurdle. Although the Welsh disestablishment legislation passed in 1914, its operation was suspended due to the outbreak of war, and it did not take effect until 31 March 1920, almost eight years after it was introduced.

Even then there was a scramble, as the war ended, to 'moderate' the terms of disestablishment and it can be argued that the Church in Wales emerged re-established and re-endowed.

Of course, whilst the struggle for disestablishment assumed all the attention, it was becoming obvious that some were less inclined to worship at either church or chapel. In 1910, Rev. H. Evans, the rector of Llangwm, expressed a refrain which became increasingly common. He regretted that 'young men nowadays did not appear to interest themselves in church life or in anything outside purely worldly affairs'. He felt that they were only concerned with business or pleasure. He did not express any opinion about young women!

The supreme irony is whether the relatively benign, 'soft' disestablishment that was to emerge in 1920, with the Church in Wales still viewed as 'having many of the characteristics of establishment', merited the bitter, protracted, monumental struggle that had characterised the disestablishment campaign. The result should also be considered against the impact upon Wales's political and spiritual life and whether the expenditure of such extensive political capital caused other Welsh causes to be starved of attention.

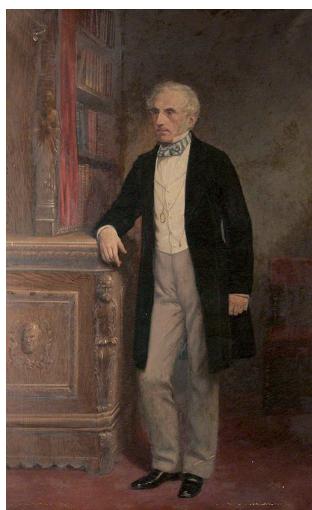
(For a longer version of this article go to <https://www.llangwmlocalhistorysociety.org.uk/llangwmvillagenews.html>)

Candlesticks for MP

Nikki Bosworth

In the Summer of 1874, a group of Pembrokeshire gentlemen met with the intention of raising money to honour Sir John Henry Scourfield of Williamston House, Houghton, for his services to the county as Chairman of the Quarter Sessions Courts for more than 25 years.

John Henry Scourfield (1808-1876) was the son of Owen Philipps of Williamston and Elizabeth Anne nee Scourfield. John Henry changed his surname to Scourfield on succeeding to the estate of his maternal uncle William Henry Scourfield of New Moat. He was educated at Harrow School and Oriel College, Oxford, wrote books, plays and poems, played cricket, married Augusta Lort Phillips in 1845 and became a Member of Parliament in 1852.



*Sir John Henry Scourfield
(1808-1876)*

The Scourfield Testimonial Fund was established with the intention that “all classes should subscribe”. Subscriptions were limited to a maximum of 3 guineas [£3.15p] per person, equivalent to approximately £200 today and a fortnight’s wage for a skilled tradesman in 1874. Lists of subscribers and the amount of their donations were published in the local weekly newspapers during Autumn 1874.

Amongst the subscribers, Mrs Ann Skyrme was listed with a donation of 5 shillings. Ann was the landlady of the “Three Horseshoes” pub in Main Street, Llangwm. The inn had been in the Skyrme family since the 1700s and was not just an alehouse as accommodation was provided and groceries sold.

The Scourfield Testimonial Fund raised just over £500 in total. Lord Cawdor wrote to Mr Scourfield to enquire what form of testimonial would be most acceptable to him. In reply, he stated that he already had a portrait and would prefer a piece of silver plate. A silver candelabrum, weighing 700 ounces and 30 inches in height (almost 20kg and 75 centimetres), was presented to Mr Scourfield in April 1875. The candelabrum was engraved with the Williamston coat-of-arms and displayed for the public to see in the shop window of Stephen Green, ironmonger, of High Street, Haverfordwest.

Places & politicians

Barry Childs

Just to pick up where this article finished in the last edition, one of my very favourite quotations which was not included there I’d like to start with here:

Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive
But to be young was very heaven.

This is William Wordsworth writing in his great autobiographical poem, ‘The Prelude’, about being brought up in the Lake District - but I’m talking about being brought up in Llangwm.

Moving on: it’s good to read books set in or about places you have visited or know something about. I’ve not been to Berlin (something to put right) but it’s always intrigued me. If you want a fascinating insight into this great city with its rich but turbulent history then you won’t do better than reading ‘Berlin’ by Sinclair McKay. It focuses on the pre-war, the war years and the aftermath such as the Russian occupation and the destruction of the infamous wall. His sources are first hand and fascinating. In places it makes for grim reading but what shines through is the spirit of the place.

Venice is a unique city which I have been lucky enough to visit a few times and which led to my buying ‘The Venetian Candidate’, a more than decent page turner by a Welsh writer, Philip Gwynne Jones. It took me to locations and buildings I recognised which added a lot to what is, for the most part, a well-told crime story.

There are, of course, many other reasons for choosing what to read – a recommendation, a review, an impulse. Browsing round Waterstones in Cardiff and looking for some light holiday reading I came across ‘The Housekeepers’ by Alex Hay set in 1905. It was described as ‘Impressive’ by The Sunday Times and ‘The perfect holiday read’ by The Guardian. It did the trick though I wasn’t as enthusiastic as the aforementioned newspapers.

When politicians are kicked out or retire (it’s usually the former) their first thoughts turn towards autobiography because there is much money to be made. The problem is that in writing about themselves they are more than likely to paint themselves in as flattering a light as possible. Through the pen of a reputable and experienced historian, Anthony Seldon’s Johnson At 10: The Inside Story, takes a very close look at the former Prime Minister. His research is meticulous and the subject of the book is found to have been seriously wanting. Having lived through this time, judge for yourselves how accurate and fair you think this portrayal of a very different premiership is.

Whilst on the subject of history, a publication that makes for quite easy reading is the BBC History Magazine. It’s a publication you can dip into and find extended articles on a vast range of subjects. Recent topics include Cromwell’s Spymasters, Medieval pigs on the loose, Ancient Rome’s holiday hotspots, Henry V11’s Battle for Survival, SAS hostage dramas - the list could go on.

I hope that there is something here that is worth your time. Thank you for reading.

Celebrating the Good Earth

Michael Pugh



Do I have time to go to the allotment? is always a question I ask myself before heading up to the little piece of paradise off Deerland Road.

'There's always time for the allotments' says Fluffy, the allotment robin, who guarantees a warm welcome to all allotment holders. And suddenly, in this world where we all feel that there isn't enough time, you're tilling the rich red soil watching ants and beetles flee and gnats hover. There's always friendly banter from other allotment holders and priceless advice about what to plant where ranging from planting sweetcorn in blocks, to coming up with a four-year rotation plan.

No need for the gym or the yoga mat

It is no secret that the heavy clay soil takes effort to work, but digging is wonderful exercise, and there's a plethora of data to show that allotment holders are fitter and happier than the general population, although this seems to depend a bit on how often and to what degree one rehydrates with the excellent ales of The Cottage Inn!

Cutting the carbon footprint

After planting is done a lot depends upon the prevailing weather conditions, but the ample rainfall of the county has helped over the years to reward us come Harvest with bountiful crops of beetroot, beans, Jerusalem artichokes, asparagus, and of course potatoes. Hopefully, it makes a small contribution to reducing our carbon footprints.

Making waves?

And the hard work of the Llangwm allotment collective is starting to get noticed outside the village with one or two allotment holders winning prizes this year at the Pembroke Town and County Show. We hope to enter more categories next year.

We occasionally have plots available. If interested, please contact Michael Pugh (michaelpughnew@gmail.com) or Hazel Thompson (hthompson19@btinternet.com).

Free gin!!

Fiona Cutting

A new term and new music. And we started with a Gin and Sing evening on September 24th. Everyone was welcome whether singer, non singer or possible singer - and the gin, certainly.

It lubricated a lot of vocal chords. It was a great success - free gin is a wonderful bribe. Maybe there will be another one if you're tempted.



Choir director Paulette with accompanist Polina

We hosted a Come and Sing day at St Mary's, Haverfordwest, performing Mozart's Coronation Mass and Faure's Requiem. Sixty-two choristers from all over Pembrokeshire turned up and we raised loads of money from donations for St Mary's and a little bit to cover our costs.

There will be another Come and Sing on November 23rd, St Mary's again, the acoustics are fantastic, the architecture is mediaeval finest and this time it will be Great is the Story: The Nativity, a Christmas Cantata with soloist Fionn Harries, organist Seimon Morris and pianist Owain Lewis; Ben Richards is the conductor. Meet at 10am, rehearse from 10.30 to 4.30 with lunch and tea breaks (bring your own lunch!), concert at 5pm. Cost £20 including score. Book online: Llangwm Village Voices. Sort code 20-37-89, Acc no 93218570

We will have a Christmas Concert on December 17th and are hoping to put on an informal low-key concert in the Village Hall in November. This is to replace the one planned for St Jerome's in October which was sadly postponed owing to illness.

So come and join us! We can't always promise gin but you never know. Tuesdays at 7.30 in the Village Hall, just try us out....there are NO auditions and all voices make a good noise.

Times & Seasons

Neil Martin

Here we are again approaching the Christmas Season. For a musical director this can be an opportunity to explore a new programme or a grudging acceptance that we have to drag out the same old songs – yet again. Consider the fact that I have been doing Christmas Concerts for over 50 years and have done as many as four concerts in a single day!

My answer to keeping the Christmas spirit alive is to introduce new material; songs that are either not well known or completely new to the audience mixed with a few old favourites.

Like last year, we have decided not to do a 'formal' Christmas Concert (there are plenty of those knocking around at this time of the year) but to do another 'social' concert where we mix songs (some new ones, of course), poems, food and quizzes (and possibly a little drink) in a festive melange. Keep an eye on 12th December if you want to be a part of that.

On a sadder note, I have to mention the loss of Keith Lawrence earlier this year. One of the most faithful and steadfast members the group has ever had. Lost after a short illness, he will be forever in our hearts and sadly missed.

The group has been quite successful over the past year in raising money for the MND charity. I'm sure that you are all aware that the choir takes no money from our events for themselves but donates every penny towards a chosen charity. This year MND have led the way and our performance at this years LitFest raised money for this, as seen quite clearly by our chosen uniform of MND teeshirts.



We followed this with a concert at St Mary's Church, Haverfordwest and a follow up concert with Neyland Ladies Choir in Neyland itself, raising more funds for the charity.

The joy of harvest

Margaret Brace

Services continue to be held on Sundays at 10.30am, on the first and third Sundays of each month. The pulpit is ably occupied by Nigel Thomas of Foxhall, whose support to Galilee is invaluable – both as preacher and organist. Mrs Margaret Davies is also a stalwart accompanist at the organ for Galilee's favourite hymns.

A pleasant service of harvest thanksgiving was held on Sunday 15 September. The ladies of the chapel arranged an attractive harvest table and floral displays – thanks are also due to those who brought along fruits, vegetables and other foods.



In our Spring newsletter report there was mention of the lively and enjoyable concert held at Galilee back in March, run jointly by Neyland Ladies Choir and Llangwm men's choir Wrong Direction, in aid of MND Wales.

Since then another epic concert was held at Galilee, this time featuring the folk duo The Bookshop Band, part of the Llangwm Literary Festival on the evening of Friday 9 August. Well over 100 people attended, enjoying the fine acoustic of the chapel. We look forward to sharing the chapel facilities with more community events.

Services leading up to the Christmas season will be held on Nov 17, Dec 1 and Dec 15, similarly on the first and third Sundays of the new year.

Morris dancing

Hey nonny nonny....no?

Gaynor Chapman and Harry Pitman are two newcomers to Llangwm who want to introduce us to Morris Dancing. In fact some of us have already tried it. But isn't it a bit, um, English? It's more complicated than you thought. Gaynor explains:

What is morris dancing? Is it folksy blokes in white skipping around waving hankies and jingling bells? That's Cotswold Morris, just one of several styles. The 'skipping' actually involves quite intricate footwork, not to mention considerable physical fitness. Respect for Cotswold Morris!

But it's another style, Border Morris, we're focusing on here. Border is generally danced less formally than Cotswold and with as much gusto as the 'side' – as a morris team is known – choose to invest in it. Dancers may sport 'tatterjackets', boots, and top or bowler hats adorned with anything from flowers and feathers to flying goggles. The steps are simpler, sticks are clashed instead of hankies flourished and the colourful tatters add a raffish touch, flying out at every twist and turn.

The origins of morris are disputed, but the term may be a corruption of 'Moorish'. During the European Renaissance the dance, then a pastime of the aristocracy, spread north from Arabic Spain, fetching up at the Tudor court, after which it was adopted (and adapted) by English commoners of both sexes, whose pop-up performances supplemented uncertain incomes. It persisted in rural areas, evolving into regional styles, pushing boundaries and borders, until today sides exist as far afield as Australia. Some Border sides prefer contemporary tunes to traditional ones; others write their own music.

More or less anything goes. There are (excuse the pun) slapstick sides, steampunk sides, sides with attitude: all serving to increase morris's cool and blow away the somewhat fusty miasma formerly clinging to it.

'Border' refers to the Welsh/English one, but as yet there are few sides in Cymru itself. So who's up for joining one in Llangwm? All you require is a modest degree of fitness (or musicianship) and a sense of fun!

Enquiries to Harry: 07914 230906 or harries.bones@gmail.com.

A soggy barbecue & a harvest festival

Debbi Lawson-Earley

Hello everyone, well the glorious season of Autumn is here again, with its vibrant colours, plants rich in berries everywhere! We've already had our first storm of this year, Storm Ashley, making her appearance. 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, with the still-rising costs of our utilities and sharp food price increases, may we continue to find ways to get through these testing times! May the vibrant colours that this season brings lift our spirits with the never-ending hope of better times to come. Let us also take time out to pray for all those caught up in conflicts and wars around the world that compassion, hope and resolutions will be forthcoming.

A brief recap of recent news and events. The Annual Cleddau Reach Year 6 Leavers BBQ in July, was a very wet affair! The tradition dictates that there is the usual warm-up game of rounders, but due to the weather conditions, Rev Marcus had a quick rethink and relocated into the School Hall for the pre-food activity. To get appetites going there was a new game of egg and spoon races using golf balls! This proved to be lots of fun! Thankfully there is an undercover area, so we cooked there and the children devoured their burgers, sausages and fresh fruit happy and dry. 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.

St Jerome's recently celebrated our Harvest Festival. The Church was beautifully decorated and it was open for the following week, so visitors could come and see how lovely it was. A collection of dry goods was donated to PATCH.

DETAILS OF SERVICES

Our regular Sunday Services start at 9.00am

Informal All-Age Communion is held on the THIRD Sunday of every month at 10am

Wednesday Midweek Morning Prayer is at 9.30am

Thursday Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9.30am. To join in, please contact Rev Marcus Zipperlen for details on 01437 899548.

5th Sunday: Eucharist 10.00am (This service is on rotation between Llangwm, Freystrop or Johnston Churches). Venue details on St Jerome's notice board.

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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

Saturday 14th December is "Breakfast with Santal" at 9:30-11:30am in Llangwm Village Hall, in conjunction with Llangwm Events Group.

Tickets from Cleddau Reach VC School or on the door. Come and join us for Festive Fun!!

BREAKING NEWS FOR 2025!!

Bacon Butty Brunches will be returning in the Village Hall on the third Saturday of January, February and March. Full details will be posted on Llangwm Facebook page and posters in the New Year.

Reverend Marcus and everyone from St. Jerome's Church would like to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and New Year in 2025. God Bless.

Queens of the castle

The project to restore St Jerome's church back in 2016 brought a long chain of benefits to our village, quite apart from the addition of many years of life for the building. As well as the more obvious prizes such as the tapestry and the knowledge uncovered by research into Llangwm's history it's brought a long trail of visitors to our village from all over the world.

Among Llangwm's earliest Flemish founders were members of the Roch, or Roche family, one of whom built St Jerome's, but there was also a DNA project which not only uncovered a Llangwm family with a close ancestral link to the founders, it also turned out that there was already a worldwide family history project linking Roche relatives from as far afield as Australia, Canada, the US, Europe and Asia. DNA testing has identified an ancestral lineage dating back to 1200 AD.



In the grounds of Roch Castle

Several of these Roche relatives have already visited Llangwm including the Roche-Doolans whose family settled in Brisbane, Australia, as did many of the clan, and who visited Llangwm back in 2019. Now two of them are back, mother and daughter Kathryn and Angela, and they capped their visit by spending a night in Roch Castle, originally the home of Adam de la Roche and now a posh hotel.

Kathryn says the family are all obsessed with their roots. "Most Australians don't really know where they came from, and we're keen to find out.

"So we're here to stay in our ancestral castle, to resonate with our ancestors."

Rumours of a ghost came to nothing but provided an unsettling experience for Angela.

"There was no ghostly appearance but I did have a disturbing nightmare, so bad that it's prompted me to phone home to make sure the family are OK", she said. (They are OK.)



Resonating' with the ancestors in Roch Castle



After their stay, Kathryn and Angela headed off to Wexford in Ireland to explore the ancestral connection there.



County Council Report

Cllr Michael John

Review of Town & Community Councils in Pembrokeshire Earlier this year the Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales published their proposals following their initial consultation. Their proposal for this area is quite radical:

The Commission proposes to abolish Freystrop, Hook and Llangwm Community Councils and replace with 1 larger new council covering the 3 villages.

This proposal has been strongly opposed by all three affected community councils, and we now await publication of final review.

A full view of the report can be found here:

<https://www.dbcc.gov.wales/reviews/07-24/pembrokeshire-community-review-draft-proposals>

Planning application- 24/0120/PA-The Kilns Since the close of the consultation period earlier this year, the case officer has been considering the responses, and at the time of writing has not yet put forward a report to the planning committee. This could be ready for the December or January meetings, but the firm date is not yet known. Once advised this will be circulated to all interested parties. Full details of the application can be found at:

<https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/pembrokeshire/application-details/41340>

Local Development Plan 2 - Deposit 2 Consultation PCC is moving forward with its replacement LDP which will provide policy and oversee developments in the county until 2033. (This covers the area of Pembrokeshire excluding the National Park). A consultation on this second Deposit LDP2 is now open and will close on 16 December 2024. This is an opportunity for members of the public to support or object to the Plan. Residents are advised to look at the plan's text and maps to view proposals in their area. The Plan and related documents are available to view at: <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/local-development-plan-review/deposit> Paper copies are also available at County Hall, Haverfordwest and in local Libraries. If you wish to have your say you can do so using the comments form available online.

Forms can be sent by email to ldp@pembrokeshire.gov.uk or by post to: The Development Plans Team, County Hall, Freeman's Way, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61

Celtic Freeport full business case PCC has recently approved the Celtic Freeport full business case. It is hoped this will secure a strong economic future for the county and create the right conditions for investment and growth both in Pembrokeshire and across the South West Wales region.

The Freeport represents an opportunity to develop a globally competitive future for the Haven waterway and for Pembrokeshire as a whole by securing investment, and creating and sustaining good jobs.

It revolves around future renewable energy and in particular the potential for Pembrokeshire to play a key role in the proposed off-shore wind turbines through the design and manufacturing.

For more information see the website: <https://www.celticfreeport.wales>

Pembrokeshire County Council's annual budget for 2024/25 is currently being considered and like all councils, PCC is facing a huge deficit in funding required to maintain its services.

The projected funding gap is currently around £30m which has to be made up by cuts to services, cost efficiencies and council tax rises. The Welsh Government settlement will be announced in December by which time a more accurate assessment of the situation will

be known. With over 70% of the council funds going on education and social services, (children & adults), the whole of the council is facing a tremendous strain in order to maintain services. It is likely the cabinet will be putting forward a high proposed rise and there will be a budget meeting of full council in February to discuss the situation once the final settlement from WG is known.

Gold Award PCC has recently been awarded the UK Government's highest badge of honour for supporting the Armed Forces Community.

The Council has achieved the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award, showing the commitment to support the armed services, their families and veterans.

The MOD Employer Recognition Scheme encourages employers to support the armed services and inspire others to do the same.

To achieve Gold Award standard PCC has signed the Armed Forces Covenant and shown Armed Forces-friendly credentials in the recruiting and selection processes, in order to consider the needs of the Armed Forces community and also by supporting the Armed Forces Cadet organisations.

Secondary school places – deadline A reminder to parents/guardians of Year 6 pupils in Pembrokeshire to apply for a secondary school place for September 2025 by the closing date of December 22nd 2024. Applications received after this date may have a bearing on whether your child gets a place at their preferred school. There is no automatic admission to a secondary school even if you are living in catchment and/or your child attends a feeder school. An application must be made and it is important to note that a school place will not be allocated unless a formal application is received. The online application form can be found on the PCC website:

www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning

Pension Credit A reminder to check if you are entitled to Pension Credit. Pension Credit is worth on average £3,900 per year and unlocks additional support including Winter Fuel Payments, help with Council Tax, NHS dental care and glasses – and for those over 75, a free TV licence. It can be backdated by up to 3 months if there is entitlement during that time.

Find out if you are eligible by contacting the Pension Service at www.gov.uk/pension-credit/eligibility. You can also call: 0800 99 1234, Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm. You will need the national insurance number, all income and savings details of you and any partner.

You must apply for Pension Credit by 21 December 2024 to qualify for the 2024 - 2025 Winter Fuel Payment

Public Participation is still being encouraged in the scrutiny process at PCC. The 5 committees are keen to look into the issues which may concern you or your community. If you have a question or an idea which you feel would warrant scrutiny intervention contact: democraticservices@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

All PCC meetings are live streamed and can be viewed at: <https://pembrokeshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

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Finally, as always, I would like to wish all residents and their families a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2025 !!

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If you have 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

Llangwm Community Council news

Debbie Hanney

There have been changes within the Community Council this year. The first and most significant being the very sad death of Councillor Neville Lewis. Councillor Lewis had been an extremely prominent figure within Llangwm which made him an exceptional Councillor, with extensive local knowledge and a passion for the community. He was a friend to many and he is very sadly missed. The Community Council wish to express their deepest condolences to his family.

Councillor Elizabeth Rawlings and Councillor Neil Sandford both resigned from the Community Council this year. The Community Council would also like to take this opportunity to thank them for the time and commitment that they gave, and for the valuable input they had whilst serving as Councillors. We wish them all the best for the future.

Supporting community events

The Community Council continue to support local community initiatives and Councillor Chloe Davies secured a grant to purchase a marquee which is available for hire for events and festivals. It was used this year by Llangwm Events Committee at Llangwm Summer Carnival. What a fabulous day! Congratulations to all involved with organising this; it was supported and enjoyed by all.

The Community Council are again supporting the Remembrance Service refreshments, the Christmas tree lights on the village green and the maintenance and running of the public toilets in Black Tar. Thank you to Llangwm Boat Club for their donation of £150 to support this. The toilets will now re-open in spring 2025.

Parking and traffic issues are still regular concerns raised by residents of Llangwm and the Community Council have been working with Pembrokeshire County Council to address some of these. It has now been agreed that double yellow lines will be installed along The Kilns, adjacent to Llangwm Farm, which will make it safer for traffic coming onto the road, especially traffic from The Gail, and for school children and other pedestrians crossing.

Contacting the Community Council

Community Council meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month and are open for anyone to attend. If you would like to raise a concern or make a suggestion, please come along to a meeting or contact

the clerk llangwmccclerk@outlook.com Minutes and agendas are published on the Pembrokeshire Town and Community Council website www.pembstcc.co.uk and there is now a Llangwm Community Council Facebook page.

The Community Councillors give their time generously to represent and support the local community; it is a rewarding and varied role. If you are interested in finding out about how to become a Community Councillor, please contact the clerk llangwmccclerk@outlook.com

The Community Council Team

The Community Council Councillors are Cllr Matthew Evans, Cllr Victoria Owens, Cllr Michael John, Cllr Barry Childs, Cllr Chloe Davies and the clerk Debbie Hanney.

Llangwm Community Council wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Committee changes & a sad farewell

Cllr Victoria Owens

The trustees were deeply saddened to hear of the recent passing of Neville Lewis and would like to express their sincere condolences to Neville's family. Neville served as a Village Hall trustee, volunteering his time, experience and knowledge to make the best of this facility ensuring its use for future generations.

There have been a number of changes to the committee structure recently with the resignation of our treasurer Matthew Evans. Matthew has been an integral part of ensuring that this facility remains open and available for use. His contribution of his time and energies have been invaluable and will be missed. The trustees would like to say a big Thank You to Matthew for his commitment and hard work over the past couple of years. Sue Edwards will now assume the role of treasurer moving forward. Our current trustee structure is:

Neil Sandford – Chair
Sue Edwards – Vice Chair and Treasurer
Victoria Owens – Secretary
Sara Saies
Hazel Thompson
Barry Childs
Michael John

Refurbishments and Improvements

The Village Hall has been at the heart of our community for generations, hosting everything from local events to family gatherings. The ongoing renovation aims to preserve its charm while bringing much-needed updates to the facility within the confines of funding available. Here's a summary of the improvements being made:

1. Roof Repairs. The hall has had much needed replacement of broken roof tiles and repairs to lintels and drainpipes to ensure it remains weather-proof for many years to come.
2. A face-lift. The hall is now looking much brighter thanks to a fresh lick of paint to the outside.
3. The kitchen. The kitchen is next on the list for a mini-makeover. This will ensure safe and clean facilities to cater to events, from small gatherings to community dinners.
4. Future planned renovations include new flooring, new lighting and heating, and updated soft furnishings.

Village Hall Events

Over the summer and early Autumn months, the hall hosted a variety of events, activities, fundraisers and workshops in addition to the popular weekly Community Café and Cuppa and Craft sessions. We also served Carnival Cream Teas at the end of June.

There's an exciting lineup of events for the coming season in the Village Hall. Keep an eye out for all activities on our Facebook page.

Christmas Market

Our annual festive market will be taking place on Saturday 30th November, offering quality produce, crafts, and gifts, just in time for Christmas. The Market Café will be open serving hot drinks and cakes. If you would like book a stall, please contact info@llangwmvillagehall.co.uk

Clubs and Activities

The Village Hall continues to provide a welcoming space for various groups and societies in the community to meet up including the Community Café on Tuesday mornings and Cuppa and Craft on Wednesday afternoons.

We continue to encourage anyone with ideas for new clubs or regular events to get in touch. From yoga classes to crafting workshops, the space is more versatile than ever.

Session costs

If you would like to book the hall for an event or as a club/group venue, it's £20 per session. Session times are:

9.30 am – 1.30pm

2pm – 6pm

6.30pm - 10.30pm

To book email info@llangwmvillagehall.co.uk or call 07539 864330

Row like a Viking

Peter Rose



Competing in The Great River Race

Well, what a fantastic season it has been for the rowing club! Membership has increased significantly this year and now stands at 48, with still more people interested in joining us for winter rowing on the safe, sheltered waters of the Cleddau. We have had another successful season on the Welsh Southern League circuit with our leading crews winning many regattas and finishing overall first in the league in the Mens, Ladies and Mixed categories. The club has built more strength in depth with three crews participating regularly in the ladies and mixed categories. Following our novice training in April, we also organised a novice crew who took part in three league events and came second overall in their category.

We hosted a league event at Black Tar in June which attracted crews from as far afield as Aberystwyth and Barry and closer to home, Neyland, Gelliswick(PYC), Solva, Fishguard and St Dogmaels. Spectators were treated to some close racing over a course laid between Landshipping and Llangwm Ferry. The ladies race had the largest entry with 15 crews taking part and the four Llangwm crews finishing in 1st, 2nd, 6th and 8th places.

In September two mixed crews took part in the annual Great River Race through the heart of London, an event which was live streamed by the BBC. Over 250 rowing craft of all shapes and sizes took part in the event, including a large contingent of 39 Celtic Longboats. Our top crew finished second overall in

the Celtic Longboat class behind an all male crew from Aberdovey but were the first mixed crew and also first veterans. Many crews take part in fancy dress and our second crew competed as Vikings, finishing a creditable 6th place in the mixed Longboat category.

The racing crews go out regularly to train, despite wind and rain, but it's not all hard work and we arrange plenty of social rows through the year. Popular destinations include the Cresselly Arms at Cresswell Quay, the "Doghouse" or the Quayside Tearooms at Lawrenny, and Blackpool Mill at the head of the navigable stretch of the Eastern Cleddau.

The estuary is beautiful and changes through the seasons so there is always something new to see. Porpoises and seals have been sighted as far up river as Llangwm and there is birdlife all year round but particularly over the winter when large flocks of wading birds come to feed on the mudflats.

If anyone else is interested in taking up rowing, whether to exercise, compete or just to join in the social outings, it is best to get in touch with us through the club Facebook page, by email, or catch us in The Cottage after training and we'll see when we can fit you in.

Happy boating exploits

Chris Thomas

The boating year is drawing to a close. Good weather for being on the water has been hard to come by in the second half of 2024. We look forward to fair conditions in 2025. These winter months are the time to undertake routine maintenance tasks including servicing outboard engines and checking moorings. It is a condition of each mooring licence that your mooring is in its designated position and marked with your licence number.

By the time you read this in Llangwm News, Llangwm Boating Club will have held its Annual General Meeting (November 12th). The constitution will have been updated and new officers confirmed. Officers also attended a meeting of the Harbour Users' Association (November 14th). Reports of both meetings will be included in the next Llangwm News.

Members are advised to give the Mooring Officer their email address so they can be kept informed of Llangwm Boating Club matters. New applications for moorings will open between April and July 2025. All mooring applications should be made through the Mooring Officer Bog Tyler. The contact email address is llangwm.boating.club@gmail.com.

While we enjoy memories of happy boating exploits undertaken and to come, here is a photograph of Llangwm Reach bathed in autumn sunshine:



Five chief scouts & more

Simon Preddy

As always it has been a very busy couple of terms as our young people take part in a wide range of activities. Through lots of hard working we have awarded over 300 badges and challenges, including 3 Bronze, 8 Silver, and 5 Gold Chief Scout Awards. The Chief Scout Award is the highest award available in each section, and our recipients will join others from across Pembrokeshire at an Award ceremony towards the end of November.

Our Beavers and Cubs have attended a couple of water activities this year supported by Paddlewest in Pembroke, and we are grateful for the support of the RNLI who have visited and helped our Beavers and Cubs achieve the new Water Safety Awareness badge. They have also been learning about money skills and have been out on a number of hikes.

Our catchment is large and we continue to support our communities where we can; our Scouts undertook a litterpick around Llangwm foreshore and Milford beach. During the summer our Scouts camped at the hall and walked down to Llangwm each day to support the LitFest. During the summer we were also able to support Cleddau Reach and Johnston schools with their camping adventure. Some of our equipment is available to community organisations in return for a donation.

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 Trustee Board 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.

Finally we will be fundraising at Morrisons on 30 November, so please say hello if you are passing.

Simon Preddy (Group Scout Leader) 1stjohnston@gmail.com

Women's Cricket Is Back!

Sara Jeffrey

The delayed start to the season did not go well for the first team, with a defeat against Haverfordwest. For the first half of the season, the team was beleaguered by family ill health and the loss of key players to Burton. Over the coming weeks, several of our second team filled in the gaps in our first team. This in turn left the second team short of players, which meant Noah Davies and Dom Asson (who performed the roles of first team and second team captains respectively) had to do an amazingly creative job; assembling teams augmented by players who had retired long ago or who had only recently moved into the area. The results of fielding such scratch teams eventually showed however and we tumbled down the table, only to be saved from relegation on the last match of the season by a dominating display in a nail-biting fixture against Narberth. Llangwm scoring 344 for 1 and restricting Narberth to 218.



Noah bowling

The highlights of the season included consistently good performances by Steve Mills (despite a recurring injury) and solid performances from Noah Davies, as well as cameo appearances from the likes of Matthew Kiff, Toby Asson & Tom Rees. The first team reached the semi-finals of the Harrison Allen Cup, eventually being knocked out by Saundersfoot. The second team rallied and did well in the Alec Colley Cup, reaching the semi-finals where they met Lawrenny. Their captain, Dom Asson, led the team well, despite having to stand-in as a first team player on several occasions. He and Noah worked tirelessly to ensure we put out full teams each Saturday and our thanks go to them for those efforts. As a result, the first team managed to survive for another season in the first division and the seconds in division four, where they finished seventh.

The first team will hopefully get off to a better start next season, and have their eyes set on a higher position

in the first division.

The Future – Our first All Stars programme for 6 to 8 year olds was a roaring success. So much so that we had to cap numbers at 41 children. The end of the season brought many thanks from grateful parents and the potential of our All Stars to develop into fully fledged players is clear. Thanks go to Ollie, Zoe, Lily, Pam and the whole junior coaching team for their dedication.

The idea of re-launching ladies' cricket in Llangwm has been received with great enthusiasm and as a result we have registered a ladies' team in division two in the 2025 season. Our ladies will also be playing indoor cricket at Neyland from January next year. This is a delightful introduction to the game, and we encourage any ladies interested to contact Toby Asson at tobyja98@gmail.com. Toby is also the main contact for any local individual or organisation wishing to support the club through much needed sponsorship. At the re-launch meeting emphasis was placed on the importance of the social scene to help develop a cohesive team spirit - as embodied by Daniel Morgan from the men's team. We are keen for members of the men's team to step forward to act as coaches for the ladies at the training sessions we are planning. Above all we want everyone involved to have fun.



Llangwm women's cricket re-invigorated

It is important to the committee that the addition of ladies and junior teams will not drain resources from the club but instead will mean the sum of the parts is greater than the sum of the whole, bringing us all together and improving everyone's performance of and enjoyment of the sport we all love.

Sara Jeffrey, Club Secretary (sara@saddler.co.uk)

Ten teams training

Dan Chesmer

Welcome back to the 2024/25 season at Llangwm RFC. Our small village rugby club now has 10 teams training and playing regular rugby which is a great achievement for all involved. We have a Senior 1st XV, a Youth XV, 3 Junior teams and 5 mini teams. Training takes place during the week and matches are played on the weekends. We are a friendly and inclusive club so if you know anybody who would like to join please bring them along or use the contact details at the end of this page.

This is only possible due to the dedication of the people involved at the club. Our coaches, players, parents, managers, first aiders are all amazing and we thank you for continuing to support Llangwm RFC. A massive thank you must also go to our sponsors, club members, committee and volunteers who are vital in making sure that rugby continues to grow and prosper in Llangwm. We are always looking for new recruits and welcome anyone who would like join us.

Mathew Hughes continues as senior team head coach this season and he has built a strong coaching team around him welcoming Jordan Evans, Gethin Thomas, Dan Hughes and Phil Llewellyn to the fold. New co-captains Ashley James and Steffan Thomas will lead by example and our side has been boosted by previous youth team players and some new faces who are enjoying their rugby in Llangwm. James Lewis again puts in the hard yards as Team Manager and we wish them all the best for the rest of the season.

strong Crymych side. Head coach Jon Rowles and his coaching team have been working hard in training and it is great to see new players joining the side who want to be involved with a good team and enjoy their rugby experience. The youth team is a massive positive for the club and we look forward to watching them progress throughout this season.



Llangwm RFC Youth XV

The Mini and Junior sections of the club continue to grow and we would again like to pass on thanks to all involved for their continued efforts. We are always looking for more help in all areas of the club so please speak with the coaches or members of the committee if you would like to help out and volunteer.

The club volunteers and committee have been busy during the summer with our club treasurer securing a grant to help towards refreshing the stand and changing rooms. These investments aim to improve the facilities available to the players and spectators and will benefit the club moving forward. The clubhouse will be showing international and club rugby matches throughout the autumn so please come and support.

As a 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 couple of hours on a match day weekend or can help out in the week please see the contact details on our website and get in touch. Your club needs you!! <https://llangwm.rfc.wales/contact-us>



Llangwm RFC Senior team

Our Youth team started the season strongly with a win over Pembroke and a very close game against a

Young Wasps buzzing

Rhiannon James

The new rugby season has got off to a great start for Llangwm's minis and junior section. Thanks to the good autumn weather so far, all teams have been able to play the matrix fixtures in good conditions, with only a couple of weekends cancelled because of rain.

We are fielding eight teams this season – under 7s, 8s, 9s, 10s, 11s, 12s, 13s and 16s, with more than 100 youngsters training and playing matches for the young Wasps. This is a great achievement for a village club and our teams are definitely holding their own against bigger clubs in the county, with successes on the pitch across all age groups. We are building a reputation as a strong club playing a high standard of rugby with polite and friendly children who respect the values of the game and display good sportsmanship. This is all thanks to the hard work of the volunteer coaches and team managers who give so much time to the club and also the commitment and support of all the parents.



U16s Iestyn Preddy & Manny Davies proudly representing Llangwm in the Pems county team

Llangwm's success is continuing at a county level as well, with Ollie Underwood selected for the Pembrokeshire Under 11s squad this season. He has already played his first game against Ceredigion and not only did Pembrokeshire win, but Ollie scored a try too. Well done Ollie! Our U16s stalwarts Manny Davies and Iestyn Preddy continue to represent the club at the highest level as well, being part of the county schools squad who were undefeated in the regional rounds of the Dewar Shield tournament, winning every game against teams from across West Wales. The team now goes on to the main competition, playing sides from all over Wales. Congratulations Iestyn and Manny!

Our Under 12s, 13s and 16s are all through to the quarter finals of the knockout cup competition, which

will be played in January. The Under 13s are also busy raising money to go on tour to Devon next year, which will be a great experience for them.



Llangwm U12s after a hard fought win against Narberth

We held our annual Halloween party in the clubhouse on October 25th, with the children enjoying lots of spooky games, dancing and fun. We are also looking forward to welcoming some Scarlets rugby players to the club soon.



Llangwm U13s celebrate victory against Pembroke Dock Quins

New players are always welcome to join Llangwm. Boys and girls from school year 2 and up are welcome and no experience is necessary, just a desire to have fun, play rugby and make friends. Training takes place for most teams on Wednesday evenings at Pill Parks. Anyone interested can come along to training to have a go. Matches are held on Sunday mornings and our teams love the support they receive when playing in the Llangwm shirt, so please feel free to come along and support the young Wasps. Head to our Facebook page to find out more.

Bird watching in comfort: just add water

Graham Brace

For the serious birdwatcher Llangwm is an ideal place to live surrounded as it is with fields, large areas of woodland and a tidal estuary providing a wide variety of habitats. However, for the less intrepid and housebound enthusiast there is much pleasure to be gained from watching birds in your own garden. A strategically placed bird table or bird feeder can attract a whole array of common and sometimes not so common bird species that can be observed from the comfort of your kitchen, living room or conservatory. Over the years I have recorded in excess of 40 different species of birds in our garden not counting those seen flying overhead.

Apart from the simple bird table there is now a wide variety of bird food dispensers on the market and a wide selection of bird foods including various seeds, nuts and fat balls. Different foods attract different species...tits prefer nuts, finches go for seeds, robins love mealworms. Some aren't so fussy and will eat anything that's available.



Nuthatch (Rita Miles)

It is during the winter months when natural food is not so abundant that garden bird feeders come into their own. Having said that, during the summer months when common garden birds like robins, blackbirds and house sparrows have hungry mouths to feed garden feeding stations are often used by the adult birds to supplement the food supply for their young.

It is also important to put out a supply of fresh water in shallow bowl for the birds to drink and in which to bathe. This water should be changed daily if possible.

Of course, very cold and extreme winter weather will possibly bring more unusual species to your garden like the winter thrushes...the redwing feasting on the last of the sloes and hawthorn berries and the much larger fieldfare on windfall apples.

The most common species one can expect to see daily include blue and great tits, chaffinches, goldfinches, house sparrows, dunnocks, robins, blackbirds, song thrushes, wrens, starlings, wood pigeons, collared doves, magpies and jackdaws. Less common species may also turn up like long tailed tits, siskins, bull finches, pied wagtails, greater spotted woodpeckers, nuthatches and jays.

An abundance of birds in the garden might attract the attention of a passing sparrow hawk but usually the natural intuition of birds will alert them to such an event and they will clear the area.



Greater Spotted Woodpeckers (Rita Miles)

There is always the slim chance of something exotic turning up in your garden. A few years back an extreme rarity from the Mediterranean in the form of a squacco heron turned up at a garden pond at Llangwm Ferry and a turtle dove rested awhile in a garden at the Kilns.

Garden bird feeding stations can provide great subject matter for the photographer as is amply demonstrated by the wonderful photographs accompanying this article taken by Rita Miles in her garden in Hook.

Be assured that watching the birdlife in your garden from the comfort of your home can be very rewarding...and it pays to have a bird guide handy.