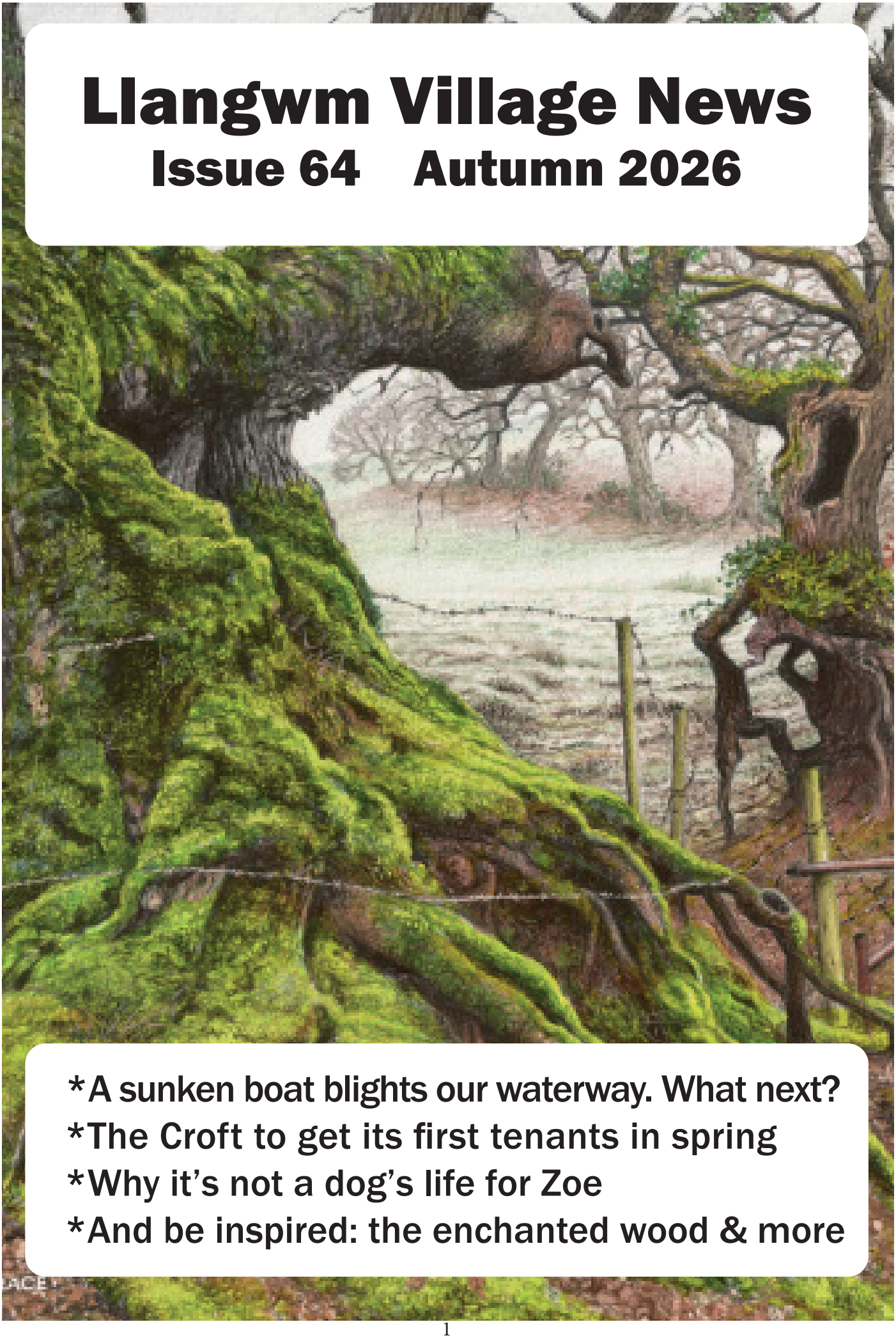
Llangwm Village News

Issue 64 Autumn 2026



*A sunken boat blights our waterway. What next?
*The Croft to get its first tenants in spring
*Why it's not a dog's life for Zoe
*And be inspired: the enchanted wood & more

We're jam-packed this issue which is why some of our contributors may find themselves with strange bedfellows – Llangwm RFC for example sharing a page with the Llangwm Lions, the scouts with the history society though that might in fact provide 1st Johnston with material for yet another badge.

Back in August those of us who keep an eye on our stretch of the river were treated to the extraordinary sight of a large – and expensive – twin engined power boat sinking on its moorings. At least one Llangwm resident caught its death throes on camera. Unbelievably, as we went to press more than ten weeks later it was still there! A navigation hazard and a pollution hazard in a stretch of water that's supposed to enjoy protected status.

We've started a series on Llangwm business owners – last issue Rhys and Brandon Jones with Cleddau Brewing, this time Zoe Brick with Brick House Grooming. If you know of other contenders, please tell us.

As ever huge thanks to all our contributors, without whom you'd be looking at 24 blank pages!

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



History Society members take lunchtime very seriously

The printing of Llangwm Village News is funded by our Community Council and the black & 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

Our cover: Graham Brace is a Llangwm-based artist who normally writes our Nature notes column on the back page, keeping a special watch on our feathered friends. This issue he's casting his net wider and asking us to look a bit more closely at how nature can inspire us, make us feel good. His coloured pencil portrait on our cover of a wonderfully gnarled old oak tree is an example. He didn't have to go far to find his subject, an example of Secret Llangwm if ever there was one.

If you want to find it, the easiest way from the village is down Mill Street to its end, which takes you to a signed public path to the right which crosses the stream on a footbridge (not the smaller one you can see to your left). Keep going, follow the path to the end bungalow on your right, through the metal gate, keep following the path as it narrows and takes you across the stream on another, narrower footbridge. Then through the hedge gates into the next field, turn left, follow the hedge to the corner of the field and there it is. It takes around half an hour, as ever it's at your own risk so take care.



You can see more of Graham's work on the back page -- and do check out the colour version online.

Oh and by the way, if you see any interesting – or inspirational -- wildlife you might wish to drop Graham a line: grahambrace@btinternet.com.

Sunken boat: recovery in progress

Back in August a 40-foot racing boat, complete with engines and their fuel, sank on its moorings off Llangwm Ferry leaving its bow sticking up incongruously several feet above the surface on low tides for much of the intervening time. A few weeks later after the storms hit, it didn't even do that, retreating to the mud on the sea floor.



It was a sad – and expensive - end to a vessel many described as a classsic of its kind. But sad too for a stretch of water supposedly protected to safeguard its many threatened examples of marine and coastal life. Plus it's been a hazard to navigation for a waterway often busy with pleasure boats in the summer and well into the autumn.





Ten weeks to the day later it looked as though she was finally going to be recovered when Dale Sailing's platform complete with heavy duty lifting gear arrived on the scene just after 8am. Llangwm Ferry householders had a ringside seat as divers with tanks and helmets were sent down with ropes, duly attached. The vessel, by now covered with mud, was slowly raised, its front hatch open, finally hanging suspended like a fish on a hook.



But it wasn't to be. A few more attempts were made from the side of the recovery vessel and from the back, until onlookers finally heard a loud splash.

So what now? Back in August the Milford Haven Harbourmaster Mike Ryan told Village News the Port authorities were on the case and the vessel would be removed 'as soon as possible'. Meanwhile their Notice to Mariners urging caution would remain in force.



It's understood the port authorities, who are in touch with the owner, would have given him a deadline to agree a salvage deal, possibly in the region of £8,000, before stepping in themselves.

See more in the report from the Llangwm Boating Club on p19.

Where learning is fun

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! Since the start of September, 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 Broad Haven beach

So far this term, our pupils have enjoyed trips to Scolton Manor, Castell Henllys, Pembroke Castle, Carew Cheriton and Broad Haven, as well as welcoming a range of visitors into the school. The curriculum requires 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 to the families within our community who are always very supportive of any extra-curricular event.



Shwmae Day

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

Another highlight came in the form of 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 Wednesday 21st October and it was fantastic to see the school packed with proud parents!

Y3 Castell Henllys



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.

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 return to St Jerome's recently for our Harvest service and, with several local community groups continuing to use our excellent facilities for their meetings/events, we're always happy to open our doors to members of the local community.

The Croft: new neighbours by spring?



Just before we went to press, Llangwm Village News was given a personal preview of The Croft housing development which will eventually add 67 new homes and their occupants to our village. The developers, Ateb, are hoping to get the first residents in, probably to the houses along The Kilns which are closest to completion, by the spring though much depends on winter weather. The whole project is due to be completed by spring 2028.



Showing Village News around was Ateb's Peter Owen, who lives in Llangwm, and who pointed out the stone cladding on some of the houses: "not something we'd normally do on social housing but we thought it would make them look more like houses you'd find on the open market". They're currently waiting for the power to go in, and just as we householders often do, find dealing with utilities a headache.

Possibly more of a headache are new rules brought in 18 months ago by Natural Resources Wales in an attempt to limit polluton in our waterways. While the problem is largely caused by nitrogen-based fertilisers and slurry from upstream farms, waste water from housing developments can add to the problem so developers are having to show they're not to blame. This is said to have held up planning for an estimated 2,300 homes in Pembrokeshire and could delay the drainage element of The Croft being signed off.

The delay has dragged on and you might think the obvious answer is simply to show that a site is connected to a local sewerage system, in our case Welsh Water, which would filter out the nasties. The problem here is that while Welsh Water's system can remove solids and bacteria, the nitrogen goes straight into The Cleddau. One solution for the housebuilders, and by extension Pembrokeshire County Council (and probably what will happen here) is offsetting. This could be as simple as laying a field to fallow; zero productive use would need zero nitrogen-based fertiliser, therefore zero extra nitrogen in The Cleddau, the buzz-phrase being 'nutrient-neutrality'.

You might also think this is a case of transferring legal responsibility for an outdated sewage system from the public sector onto the housebuilding industry.

A joyous celebration of ten years

Michael Pugh

It is always impressive to behold the talent in Pembrokeshire, and as we celebrated 10 years of the Litfest, it was easy to imagine a festival featuring nothing but Pembrokeshire People.

With a strong nod (or rather crunch) to the saying *Fit in Body, Fit in Mind*, Ellie Brick and Cheryl Newton put Litfest visitors through their paces, stretching them to parts previously unknown, and in some cases, unseen!

Pembrokeshire's Adam Hart kicked off proceedings with a swashbuckling tale of heroism against oppression as he brought his great-grandfather's heroic tales to life. *Operation Pimento* revealed Adam's investigation into a crash landing in France and return to the UK during the Second World War. Adam is an inspiration to all young people who want to get into writing, and we hope that he'll return in the future with more stories.

We always want to hear new voices, so we were particularly pleased that Lorna Lee hosted a nurturing three-day writing workshop. Aimed at people with different abilities who had not had the opportunity to develop their voices, this was a great success and we're particularly grateful to Lorna for running this, Matthew for hosting this at The Cottage Inn, and The Authors' Licencing and Collecting Society for funding it.

To mark the 50th anniversary of Agatha Christie's death, the Venerable Paul Mackness gave an insightful talk on Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot. As we all know, amazing things happen to those who present at Llangwm's Litfest and Paul is no exception to this. Soon after his talk, Paul was inaugurated as the Dean of St David's Cathedral. We wish him luck during this challenging time!

You might be forgiven for having reached your stage in life without having heard of the Blabinogion, but no more! We were privileged to welcome Owain Roach to thrill his young audience of local children with a humorous take on the Mabinogion.

The Litfest team totally endorse Plato's belief that music gives wings to the mind and flight to the imagination and so we were thrilled to elaborate the rugby club ballads of Friday night with the spiritual music of the Stinan Quartet on Sunday at St Jerome's.

Competition was particularly fierce this year for the Agatha Christie-themed fancy dress competition, and there was much moustache wax and fake blood applied, respectively, by Ian Barker and Frances Taylor, who entered fully into the spirit of Agatha Christie to win the gin (Tir a Mor to be precise) as the best *Death on the Nile* characters.

Llangwm's artists and craft-makers gave a superb show of local artistic talent. Mel and her team did another terrific job at the village hall tea rooms, and Matthew and his team did us proud with a warm and friendly atmosphere at the pub. We were pleased to welcome Jackie for the first time with her magnificent fiddle, and Greenala brought joyful music to the patrons party. Another Litfest first timer was Rhys and his team from Cleddau Brewing who not only provided delicious liquid refreshments, but kept the food miles down.

With so much local content, it is always difficult to fit in anything else. But we are always impressed with the quality of writing from Ireland, and Belfast's Sinead Morrissey did not disappoint. The award-winning poet shared her first memoir with us, transporting us to the world of Northern Ireland communists and up to the momentous breaking down of the Berlin Wall. 'Grow up, don't blow up', her slogan from the 1970s, still resonates.

We are thankful to ALL involved in this year's Litfest for making it another great success. Our committee, plus sponsors, patrons, volunteers, and many more make the impossible possible! So many of you are involved in so many different ways. Thank you! It is always a busy few days, but once again, visitors to the festival noted the friendly and warm approach of everyone involved.

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 13 – 15 August

(Not) a dog's life...

Zoe Brick

Zoe Brick is the owner of Brick House Grooming. Here she writes about her experience setting it up.

I've thought about going into dog grooming for quite a few years. I've always been an animal lover, having had dogs in the house for as long as I can remember, so working with them has always been something I've wanted to do. I have three dogs of my own: Blue and Ruby, my two dachshunds, and Teddy, my miniature long-haired Chihuahua. They're a huge part of my family, and my children love meeting all the dogs that come through the doors.

The biggest hurdle for me was finding the confidence to take that first step. I think sometimes you need someone else to believe in you before you can fully believe in yourself. Thanks to a very good friend of mine, who gave me the nudge and support I needed, I finally found the confidence to go for it. I'm so glad I did! I'm currently working as a carer alongside running my new business, Brick House Grooming, in Llangwm. Balancing both jobs is a challenge, but I'm determined to build my business and make my dream a success.



Herbie, waiting patiently

I spent nine months training at Muddy Paws Dog Groomers and Training Academy and I'm due to take my assessment in December. My training has helped me develop my skills and knowledge, and I'm looking forward to continuing to learn as I gain more experience.

I've also been incredibly lucky to have so much support from my family and friends in setting up my grooming salon at home. We already had the space in an existing shed and I had help from my brothers and brother-in-law with the building work. I couldn't have done it without them.

At Brick House Grooming, I offer a one-to-one grooming service, including full grooms, baths and blow-dries, de-shedding treatments, nail trimming and puppy introductions. I want every dog to receive individual attention and feel as comfortable as possible while they're with me. I understand that some dogs can be nervous about grooming, so I take the time to get to know each dog and work with their individual needs.

As a new business owner, I'm really pleased to see customers returning. Building trust with owners and their dogs is important to me, and I want people to feel confident leaving their beloved pets in my care.

I've had a few dogs with challenging behaviours come through my doors, but to be honest, they're some of my favourites. Every dog is different, and I find it really rewarding when a nervous or difficult dog starts to relax and trust me. I've not failed as yet! I enjoy learning how to approach each dog's individual personality, and I believe patience and understanding are so important when working with animals. Of course, safety and the dog's welfare always come first. If a dog becomes too distressed or I feel a groom cannot be completed safely, I'd rather stop and reassess the situation than force the dog to continue.

I'd love to continue growing Brick House Grooming and welcome more customers but I'm taking things one step at a time while continuing to work as a carer and develop my grooming skills. I'm excited to see what the future holds and hope to build a lovely base of regular customers.

Beginnings...

Barry Childs

Don't know about you, but, broadly speaking, I much prefer beginnings to endings. There are, of course, exceptions to that statement. In the case of writers if they can find an effective sentence or two s/he is well on the way to achieving a key objective: drawing the reader in. This applies to all genres of literature whether it be prose, poetry or drama.

Let's start with prose and, in particular, the novel. There are a lot of openings to choose from and this is but a brief selection. **'Catcher in the Rye'** by **J.D Salinger** was published just after the second world war. The voice is that of a teenager, Holden Caulfield, and what he had to say caused quite a stir when first published and for a long time afterwards. The opening lines read 'If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born, and what my lousy childhood was like…..and all that David Copperfield kind of crap.'

A bit more sedate but no less effective is the opening of **'A Tale of Two Cities'** by **Charles Dickens**. It begins 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times'. Set in the time of the French revolution it refers to the excitement of better times ahead but those times blighted by the brutality that huge historic moment brought.

Then there's **George Orwell's** cautionary novel **'1984'** : 'It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen'. 'Call me Ishmael' is the brief opening sentence of **'Moby Dick'** by **Herman Melville,** the film of which was partly shot in Fishguard. **'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'** by **J.K. Rowling** isn't bad either: ' Mr and Mrs Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal. Thank you very much.'

There are many others but time to move on to poetry. Again, no shortage of choice. But it's hard to get past **John Donne,** an Anglican priest, who was a master of the dramatic. His poem **'The Sun Rising'** begins, 'Busy old fool, unruly sun' expressing anger that the sun has intruded into the privacy of his bedroom so early in the day.

Writing a bit later **Andrew Marvell** is in persuasive mood reminding his lady that time is gone before we know it and opportunities have to be taken:

'Had we but world enough and time.
This coyness, lady, were no crime'
And then, chillingly, goes on to say:
'The grave's a fine and private place
But none, I think, do there embrace.'
Moving on a few years we have Shelley's **'Ozymandias'**, a poem which begins:
'I met a traveller from an antique land,
Who said, 'Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert.'
The land is Egypt and the once enormous statue a memorial to a once powerful ruler now long forgotten who lies broken and obscure in the sand. Trump take note!

Moving closer to the present day the American poet **Emily Dickenson** opened her poem of the same name with:
'Because I could not stop for death,
He kindly stopped for me'
It's a brilliant poem from an underrated poet which leads us on to another American – **Robert Frost** and his poem **'The Road Not Taken'**. This poem talks about decisions life presents to us and how choices made make all the difference:
'Two roads diverged in a yellow wood
And sorry I couldn't travel both'

I couldn't leave this section without reference to one of my favourite modern poets, **Philip Larkin**. I can't quote the opening lines of **'This Be The Verse'** for fear of offending public decency. Suffice to say, it's very good.

With very little space to spare, the last port of call is drama. The opening lines of **'Hamlet'** spring to mind. The characters' fear and uncertainty are caught in just two words 'Who's there?'
Then in **'Macbeth'** we have the hideous witches:
'When shall we three meet again
In thunder, lightening or in rain?'

The title of this piece is 'Beginnings' so let's end with an opening that uses the word:
'To begin at the beginning: it is a spring, moonless night in the small town, starless and bible-black, the cobble streets silent…….down to the sloeblack, slow, black, crowblack, fishingboat–bobbing sea.'

The unmistakeable **Dylan Thomas.**

Return of the Osprey Guy

In our spring issue we heard from Steve Waite, a local man who'd emigrated to Nova Scotia, Canada and had erected a sign to Llangwm outside his house. And then an osprey took up residence on it, just as Steve was reading about ospreys in the Llangwm Village News sent to him by his daughter. We caught up with Steve to find that the osprey has since left for new fishing grounds but Steve has been sharing Village News with his neighbours and has now become known as The Osprey Guy. It turns out he has a way with words, and with a camera, which he shares with us here.



"Canada's beauty isn't just something you see, it's something you feel. It's the quiet stillness of a lake at sunrise where the mountains reflect perfectly in the water and the air feels impossibly clean.

It's the vastness of forests that seem to stretch forever like those in British Columbia, where towering trees make you feel both small and deeply connected to something ancient. And then there's the rugged coastline here in Nova Scotia, where the ocean crashes against the cliffs in a rhythm that feels timeless.





The great outdoors in Canada has a way of slowing everything down. There's space to breathe, to think, to just be… Whether it's watching the Northern lights shimmer over the Yukon or hearing nothing but wind through the pine trees, it reminds you that nature doesn't rush -- and neither do you when you're in it.



I've always been fascinated by the First Nations people of North America. As a child in school I would always draw them and read books about them.



So, when I try to explain Canada, and life here it's not just about mountains, forests, or cities. it's about a feeling: of space, of calm, of connection - to nature, to history, and to each other."



Wrong Direction

We do things differently!

Neil Martin

Those of you who have ever attended a performance by Wrong Direction will know that we try to take a slightly different path than the obvious.

It is easier to do with this group because I write all of the arrangements and have total control over what we sing and how we sing it. When it comes to Christmas, things can be a bit more tricky! There is a standard fare of Christmas Songs and Carols that everyone is aware of and, to a great extent, looks forward to because Christmas is the only time that they are heard. I would guess that there are very few here in Llangwm who have not sung 'Jingle Bells' and 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' as children and still look forward to joining in with 'Hark the Herald' and 'Once in Royal David's City' again this year.

There is nothing wrong with these songs and they, along with many others, form the traditions that have survived through the generations and still go to brighten up the most loved of winter festivals.

When it comes to performing, however, it can be difficult to find songs that keep the tradition but are not the usual fare sung by every performing group. This is why you will have heard some songs that you do not know when you come to one of our concerts.

The same will happen again if you come to our performance on Friday 27th November in St Jerome's Church. We will be presenting a programme of different Christmas songs; some you have heard us sing before and some new ones. This year we will be welcoming the singers of the Vilni Band to join us with their own style and language of Christmas music and we are planning a bit of joint performing with the two groups together, something we are really looking forward to.

The concert will be free to attend but we will be asking if the audience would be willing to make a donation that will go to the Air Ambulance Charity and to St Jerome's.

Ukrainians sing for us

Tamara Kich



The group Vilni consists of Ukrainians living in Pembrokeshire who arrived here as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Initially, in 2022, members performed at various events for the Ukrainian community but eventually, in 2024, we formed a band called Vilni and began giving concerts for local audiences.

All our performances have had a charitable purpose; at each event we raised funds to support humanitarian needs in Ukraine or to assist local communities. For instance, in May 2025, together with the Milford Haven Town Band we held a major concert at St. Katharine and St. Peter's Church in Milford Haven, which drew an impressive number of attendees and was a great success.

In November 2025, in a Christmas concert at Thornton Chapel, we raised the necessary funds for the renovation of a schoolroom at the church.

Our collaboration with various musical groups and choirs in Pembrokeshire began thanks to the talent and initiative of Polina Ashton-Smith, pianist and accompanist for Llangwm Village Voices, Haverfordwest Ladies and Griffon choirs. Her first performance in Llangwm took place in November 2022, when she performed alongside Wrong Direction in a charity concert for Ukraine at St.Jerome's.

In May 2026 we performed in another concert along with Llangwm Village Voices at this church.

Our cooperation with Llangwm Village Voices continues. On November 14 we will host a concert of choral music, Autumn Serenade, also featuring the Griffon choir and Haverfordwest Ladies.

Choir's autumn celebrations

Claire Phillips

Following the heartwarming success of our joint Spring performance, we're delighted to share the stage once more with the Vilni Ukrainian Choir. Joining us for a memorable Autumn Serenade Concert are two more celebrated local groups: the Haverfordwest Ladies Choir and the Griffon Choir.

Together on the afternoon of Saturday 14th November at 5pm at St. Katharine's Church in Milford Haven, these four distinct choral traditions will weave individual showcases with grand combined pieces to present An Autumn Serenade. Audience members will be treated to Llangwm Village Voices' lively renditions of *Leave Her Johnny* and *Rhythm of Life* and the beautiful *Ecce Novum* alongside soaring joint choir anthems including *As Long As I Have Music*, *You Raise Me Up* and *Can't Help Falling in Love*. Tickets for this delightful afternoon concert are £7 on the door and include tea and cake. Beyond the beauty of the music, the concert carries a deeper purpose: ticket sales will support local choir initiatives, while a retiring collection will raise vital funds for Ukrainian relief efforts.

As December draws near, we embrace the pure magic of the holiday season, bringing festive joy to the young and young-at-heart at the Cleddau Reach School Christmas Fayre on Thursday, 3rd December at 6pm, delighting visitors by "singing loud for all to hear."

The crown jewel of the festive season arrives on Tuesday, 15th December at 7 pm, as we host Christmas Words and Music at St. Jerome's Church in Llangwm. Softly illuminated with Christmas lights and rich with atmosphere, the evening will feature the Christmas story, timeless carols and breathtaking choral classics, including radiant works by John Rutter, inviting all to pause and absorb the true spirit of Christmas.

New Members Always Welcome!
Music is meant to be shared and we're always eager to welcome new voices to our ranks. If you love to sing, there is a place for you in the choir: no audition is required, and a warm, friendly welcome awaits.
If you would like to join, please reach out through the choir's Facebook or Instagram pages, email at llangwmvillagevoices@hotmail.com or simply come along to a rehearsal at St. Jerome's Church in Llangwm on most Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm.

And as always, grateful thanks to our Musical Director Paulette Wilkinson, our Accompanist Polina Ashton-Smith and Choir Secretary Jenny Scoble.

Dates for Your Diary
Autumn Serenade Afternoon Concert: *Saturday, 14th November at 5pm*, St. Katharine's Church, Milford Haven
Cleddau Reach School Christmas Fayre: *Thursday, 3rd December at 6pm*, Cleddau Reach School
Christmas Words and Music: *Tuesday, 15th December at 7* , St. Jerome's Church, Llangwm

Llangwm Events Group

Carnival & curry

Laura Richards

There was a real buzz around the village on Saturday 27th June as friends, neighbours and visitors came together for another hugely successful Llangwm Carnival. From the colourful parade through the village to a fantastic evening of music at The Cottage, the day was a wonderful celebration of everything that makes our community so special. The festivities got underway with the ever-popular carnival parade, led in style by the Carnival King and Queen, who travelled through the village in a beautiful Triumph Stag.

Events such as the carnival do not happen by accident. They rely on the hard work and dedication of countless volunteers, organisers, sponsors and supporters who give up their time to make them possible. The committee would like to thank everyone who helped, attended, performed, donated or volunteered.

The Great Llangwm Curry Off will take place at the Rugby Club on 21st November 2026 from 5:30pm. This year local sports groups battle it out for the award before rugby fans settle in to watch Wales take on Australia in the Nations Cup. £7.50 to try 5 fantastic curries. The festive season will then see the return of the ever popular Light Up Llangwm along with the Llangwm Santa Run on Sunday 20th December from 5:00pm. This will be followed on the same evening by The Twighlight Tractor Run, in aid of Tuberous Sclerosis Association. We look forward to seeing everyone again at the next event.

Llangwm Local History Society

Trails project almost ready

Jane Mills

It hardly seems possible that Llangwm Local History Society will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2027. From a simple idea that it would be good to research and record our community's unique history, the society has achieved a great deal. We now have our own website which means that people everywhere can access so much of our archive, undertake family history research and can see the films that the society has produced. Over the years, we have also produced exhibitions, an opera and now our Trails project.

In celebration of this anniversary, we will be launching our village History Trails in the spring of next year. We have spent the summer working hard to raise the remaining grant money required for the project and we are now in a position to go ahead so, over the winter, work will start to site the two interpretation boards as well as the QR codes themselves. Watch this space – we will be organizing a grand opening.

Our yearly programme follows a well trusted format – a quiz in January to sharpen the brain cells after Christmas, talks in the spring and autumn, plus visits in the summer when, hopefully, the weather is good. Unfortunately, no-one told the weatherman that for our trip to Scolton Manor in June, as it must have been the only day that it rained in the whole of our drought filled summer. The hardy few who braved the weather were treated to an excellent guided tour of the manor and a very welcome lunch in the café.

Our second trip was to Carew Castle and here the weather was glorious. Even though many of us had visited many times before, we all learned a great deal about the history of the castle and, again, enjoyed a lovely lunch as well. We are working hard on putting together the programme for next year and hope to be able to publish it at our AGM in February.

In May next year we're planning a talk about Pembrokeshire's part in a Wales-wide project to record place names including those of fields and rivers as well as settlements, farms and buildings. Following this in June we will be holding a workshop where we are inviting everyone to come along and share their knowledge of local names. These will then be uploaded onto the website which can be found at https://historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk

We will be sending out more information about this nearer the time but we are delighted to be part of such an amazing project.

1st Johnston Scouts

Please help!

Simon Preddy

It has been another busy and exciting year for 1st Johnston Scout Group, with our young people taking on new challenges, developing practical skills, earning badges and making memories together. As we approach our 50th anniversary on 16 November, we are proud to celebrate our achievements and the contribution Scouting makes to young people and the wider community.

Nearly 600 badges!

Our Beavers have worked on Disability Awareness, RNLI Water Safety, Global Issues, Space and Hobbies badges, alongside hikes and opportunities to spend time on the water.

Our Cubs have tackled RNLI Safety, International, Artist, Air Activities and Entertainer badges, combining creativity and learning with hikes and time on the water.

Our Scouts have developed their skills through Electronics, Astronautics, Scientist, Navigator and Community Impact badges. They have also enjoyed hikes and two overnight camps, building independence and putting their skills into practice.

Celebrating our young people's achievements

We are particularly proud of our young people who were recognised at the Pembrokeshire Area Celebration of Scouting. Congratulations to everyone who achieved their Bronze, Silver and Gold Chief Scout Awards, recognising their commitment, perseverance and development of a wide range of skills. We also congratulate our three Young Leaders who achieved their Young Leader Training Award. And special recognition goes to our Group Lead Volunteer, who celebrated 30 years of service to Scouting.

Growing for the future

With support from the South Hook LNG Community Fund, we have been developing our food-growing space at the Scout hall.

A fundraising appeal: replacing our mess tent

Unfortunately, we have recently lost our mess tent, an important piece of equipment that served the group for an incredible 37 years. Its loss marks the end of an era. You can support us in three simple ways:

- Buy raffle tickets: Our anniversary raffle is underway, and donations of prizes are also welcome.
- Support easyfundraising when shopping online through easyfundraising.
- Donate unwanted coins: We welcome coins of any denomination and from any country, including old and out-of-circulation currency.

Contact: 1stjohnston@gmail.com, 07824 504802

Water, water everywhere..

Nikki Bosworth

In the 1800s, before mains water was installed in the village, residents had to rely on water from wells or the brook that runs down from Tally-Ho to Llangwm Pill. According to the Ordnance Survey map published in 1869, there were wells in or near The Kilns, top of Main Street, top of Wellhead Lane, the Old Rectory garden and Black Tar.



Drawing water from the Main Street well

Miss Morgan of North Nash Farm wrote, in 1953, that people living at Black Tar escaped death from the cholera (spread by contaminated water) in the 1850s because of the wells that were "hewn out of solid rock and filled from fine springs which kept them full to overflowing".



Main Street, early 1900s

In 1874, the Rural Sanitary Committee proposed that an additional well be sunk and a water pump provided for the villagers.

In May 1876, the local Medical Officer of Health reported that "rainfall has been much below average, considering our usual wet winter" and that "a conversation took place in reference to the supply of water at Langum and it was stated that nothing had been done to improve the supply".

In 1896, Hook village had an improved water supply to Pill Road, Hook Farm and Lower Quay Road from an existing standpipe at a cost of £201 9s 6d.

In September 1904, the Haverfordwest and Milford Telegraph noted that Llangwm "has an insufficient water supply, but this matter is now earnestly engaging the attention of a committee of the District Council". Ironically, the village was also "dry" in the sense that the last public house (Black Horse Inn on The Kilns) had closed.



Well on The Green

In 1911, a resolution by Llangwm Parish Council condemned the practice of washing fish, potatoes and traps in Main Street.

On 10th August 1912, a fire broke out in the shop and Post Office of Mr Alfred Anstee, then located at Rock House (now the Cottage Inn). The local newspaper reported that "fortunately a plentiful supply of water was available from a pump nearby and, with the prompt assistance of the villagers, the fire was extinguished, but not before all the drapery goods in the window had been destroyed."

In 1915, the Rural District Council had no objection to Llangwm Parish Council carrying out repairs to water taps in Hook and Llangwm.

An undated 20th century agreement commissioned Thomas John of Llangwm to build a storage reservoir at a cost of £70. It is clear that a mains water supply piped into the village houses was a long time in coming.

Still waiting in a busy time

Llinos Martin

As you all know, St Jerome's is still waiting to welcome a new Rector but, hopefully, next year will bring some good news for us. However, as usual things carry on and the Church has kept busy over the last few months.

Back in May we held the last of our afternoon teas in the Village Hall. It was well attended and a good selection of cakes was available to choose from.



Afternoon tea in the Village Hall

After the success of our Flower Festival, this year we celebrated weddings that had taken place in St Jerome's over the years with a beautiful display of dresses, photos and flowers. We had dresses dating back to the 1960's and, also, more recent ones. Many thanks to all those who generously contributed to the display and also all those who worked tirelessly to set up the exhibition. Refreshments were supplied and we also held a raffle with some wonderful prizes. There were many lovely comments about the event and, again, the Church felt like the centre of village life.

The annual LitFest took place in August with the usual craft fair in the Church. The weather was in our favour and many took a stroll down to the Church to view the variety of craft stalls there.

Later on in August, the Church looked beautiful for a summer wedding with some lovely displays of flowers from a local garden. St Jerome's again looked stunning for our Harvest Festival in late September with all the displays in co-ordinated autumnal colours. Many thanks to the ladies for making it look so beautiful for the Sunday service and also for the children from years 3 and 4 in Cleddau Reach School, who held their service the following Tuesday. They had composed poems and prayers and sang some harvest songs. It was wonderful to see the Church so full of children.

Following on from a picture show earlier on in the year, Neil and I showed a film made during our visit to Patagonia last year. The film had been professionally produced but almost completely in Welsh; this version had been subtitled into English for all to enjoy.

The Church was open all through the summer months for visitors and it was lovely to see many comments in the visitors' book. Again, thanks to all volunteers for keeping the Church open.

As many of you know, the Village Hall was closed for a few weeks in order for it to be decorated, so the weekly craft group moved to the Church so that they could continue crafting (and chatting!).

Haverfordwest Ladies Choir held a concert at the end of October with a good selection of songs and a well-attended, appreciative audience.

Services will continue to be held as usual with Rev. Canon Chancellor John Cecil taking the Eucharist service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, with morning prayer held on the other Sundays. Many of you, I'm sure, will remember John from his days teaching History in the old Tasker Milward School.

St Jerome's continue to support 'PATCH' with a box in the porch for food items and also any toys in good condition for their Christmas Toy Appeal.

Dates for your diary:
Christmas Wreath Festival: 4th, 5th and 6th December
Christmas 'Bacon Butties' in the Village Hall with a visit from Santa: December 12th
Christmas Carol Service with Village Voices: Tuesday 15th December at 7.00pm
Crib Service: Thursday 24th December at 4.00pm
Christmas Eucharist: 9.30pm
Christmas Morning Eucharist: 10.00am

Wreath Festival: Village groups have been approached to contribute but if anyone would like to make a wreath, please contact me via email at llinosannmartin@gmail.com. The wreath can be made out of any material and, if you wish, can be sold at the end of the festival for Church funds.

So, as we approach the end of 2026, members of St Jerome's would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Let's be Friends...

Jane Mills

It is 10 years since thoughts first turned to restoring St Jerome's church with the idea behind the project being to create a building that was suitable for both worship and community events.

The result, after a huge amount of work from members of both the church and the community, is a building which answers that remit and of which we can all be proud. Church services continue every Sunday and on some weekdays, and on major Christian festivals like Christmas, Easter, and Harvest we welcome many other friends as well as children and staff from Cleddau Reach School to join us. But the church is also a venue for a wide range of community events. St Jerome's hosts a variety of concerts from choral groups to folk groups, as well as providing a rehearsal space for two choirs, with everyone appreciating the good acoustics.

In the past it's been the venue for a medieval weekend during which the 14th century wedding of Sir David and Lady Joanna de la Roche was re-enacted – Sir David memorably was acted by an actual descendant. It also hosts talks during the LitFest as well as welcoming numerous groups who come to find out about the history of the church. Craft fairs are always popular, as are the refreshments served in the St J's cafe during events put on by the church. We are so grateful that we have a building that can be enjoyed by so many.

At the time of the restoration, the Friends of St Jerome's was set up to enable the many people who wanted to be a part of this exciting project to contribute. Their aim was to support the building itself rather than the worship that takes place in it. And their contribution was massive. Not only did they undertake a huge amount of historical research and work on an archeological dig, but they ran the medieval weekend, gave talks about the history of the church and organized concerts which contributed to the on-going upkeep of the building.

Ten years on, the time is right to re-start the Friends. Potential projects include a possible collaboration with Cleddau Reach School to re-create the famous wedding as well as putting on concerts and other community events. The possibilities are endless. If you would like to be part of this group, please contact me on janem.stjeromes@gmail.com

We will also be holding a coffee morning later in the year for anyone who is interested in being part of this group.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Galilee Baptist Chapel

A memorable visit

Margaret Brace

On Sunday 6th September two special visitors joined the small congregation at Galilee – many older residents of the village will remember Elizabeth Richards, adopted daughter of Rev and Mrs Richards of The Manse, Butterhill. (Rev Richards was minister of Galilee from 1954 to 1981, a popular pastor.)

Now Mrs Elizabeth (Beth) Crozier, of Chelmsford, Essex, she was visiting Pembrokeshire for a week's holiday with her husband Jim and her birth mother, Mrs Margaret Hale who lives at Warrington in Cheshire. Elizabeth's fine singing voice was a most welcome asset to the service.

Harvest Festival was celebrated this autumn at Galilee on Sunday 20th September, the harvest table being decorated with colourful fruits, cereals and autumn flowers.



With the onset of the cooler weather, the benefits of the newly installed heating boiler have been much appreciated.

Galilee is now looking forward to the Christmas season, with Advent Sunday service on 6th December, and a service of Carols and Readings on Sunday 20th December. The first service of the New Year will be on 3rd January 2027.

Normal services continue twice monthly at 10.30am on the first and third Sundays of each month. They are led by Mr Nigel Thomas, with Mrs Margaret Davies as organist, to both of whom the chapel remains extremely grateful for their faithful work of witness.



County Council Report

Cllr Michael John

Rural Street Lighting Policy: The review has been concluded, and a new rural street light policy has been adopted. This follows my raising of the issue at full council last year due to concerns raised with me by local people.

The new policy gives more emphasis on exploring the local impact and consultation with the local Cllr before any decision is made to remove rural street lights. The policy can be viewed at:

https://mgenglish.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/documents/s85993/Appendix%202.pdf?LLL=0

The debate can be viewed on this link:

https://pembrokeshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/1123115/start_time/6599000

The Croft Development:24/0120/PA Work continues on the site with some properties nearing completion. Adverts for the joint ownership properties have been issued and there is a local letting policy in place which has been agreed locally.

The site is currently affected by the Natural Resources Wales directive on nitrate run offs, meaning the drainage condition cannot be signed off until an agreement is reached on mitigating the effects of this.

Full details of the application and reserved matters can be found at:

https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/pembrokeshire

Independent examination of the PCC Local Development Plan (LDP) 2. The dates have been set for the public hearing sessions as part of the LDP2 examination.

It is being undertaken by Ian Stevens BA (Hons) MCD MRTPI, appointed by the Ministers of the WG, and will include three weeks of hearings during November and December 2026.

The sessions will begin at 10am on:

- Tues 10 to Thurs 12 Nov 2026
- Tues 17 to Thurs 19 Nov 2026
- Tues 1 to Thurs 3 Dec 2026

These sessions will be open to members of the public to observe.

Nash Lane: The proposed speed reduction on this road has been delayed due to the resources being diverted to the recent 20mph review. It is hoped it will progress to the advertising and a local consultation stages in the next few months.

2nd Home Council Tax: At a meeting of full council in October, it was recommended that the second homes premium remains at 125%, and long-term empty properties rate remains at 300% (for properties empty for more than two years). Amendments put forward to reduce the 2nd homes premium to 100% or 115% were both rejected.

WG are currently undertaking a review of the 182 days rule, and looking at exemptions for some properties due to the impact on the tourism industry,

Pembrokeshire College Energy Transition Skills Centre: I recently visited the college for an event hosted by Principal Dr Barry Walters to hear about the potential of a new energy training centre. This is to prepare local people for the changing employment needs of the county. Future energy projects will increase demand for engineering and technical workers, placing pressure to train local people to take up these new jobs. The issue is particularly significant in Pembrokeshire, where major proposals connected to floating offshore wind, hydrogen, port development and the wider impact of green energy in The Haven are expected to reshape parts of the local economy.



Natural Resources Wales (NRW): PCC has expressed it's disappointment at NRW's recent decision to approve the site operator RML's application for a permit variation at the Withyhedge Landfill site.

When consulted the Council did not support the proposed variation. The concerns raised by local residents were recognised by PCC, who will continue to engage with NRW and the site operator to ensure the site operates in full compliance with its permit conditions and environmental standards.

This follows the long-standing issue of odours in the area and the threat of court action by PCC against the operator.

Scrutiny & Strategic Partnerships: As Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee at PCC, one of the important items we regularly review is the strategic partnerships which are essential for the long-term prosperity of the County. We receive regular reports on the Celtic Freeport, Swansea Bay City Deal and the Regional Joint Committee, and question their impact on the County.

Overview and Scrutiny forms an important part of local government and all meetings can be viewed live via the following link:
https://mgenglish.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/mglistcommittees.aspx?bcr=1

Nominations open for the Pembrokeshire Spotlight Awards 2026: These awards recognise young people who have achieved something special, overcome challenges, demonstrated outstanding commitment, or made a positive impact on the lives of others and their communities. They are an opportunity to highlight the remarkable contributions, talents and accomplishments of young people across the County.

Individuals and groups can be nominated across 11 award categories. The closing date for nominations is 23 November 2026. Nominations can be made via https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/BYWVUY7T8i

Public Questions: Residents can submit questions to Council or one of the scrutiny committees on issues they have concerns about in the County.
For further information contact: Democraticservices@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Council Meetings are livestreamed and can be viewed here:
https://pembrokeshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home
If you need to contact me, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I can be contacted on 01437 890175 or cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

You can also contact PCC direct on 01437 764551 or - https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/resident

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A little early, but as always, I would like to wish all residents and their families a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for a great 2027 !!

£1,000 for the heritage trails

Debbie Hanney

It has been a busy few months for Llangwm Community Council, with councillors working on a wide range of matters affecting village life, from improvements at Black Tar and the Village Green to local heritage projects, parking concerns and preparations for Christmas.

Exciting Progress for Llangwm's Heritage Trails: One particularly welcome development is the progress being made by Llangwm Local History Society on its heritage trails project. At the October meeting, Liz Rawlings, representing the Society, confirmed that the necessary funding had been secured for two heritage trails featuring 14 QR points, together with information boards at the Village Green and Black Tar. Llangwm Community Council was delighted to support this worthwhile initiative with a donation of £1,000, helping to bring the village's rich history to life for all. The trails will offer residents and visitors an opportunity to discover more about Llangwm's fascinating history. Work is progressing on artwork and permissions, with a possible launch involving local schoolchildren during 2027.

The Society is also exploring options for a secure building to house its valuable historical archives. The Council recognises the importance of preserving these records, although further consideration is needed regarding a suitable location, planning requirements and the future use of community land.

Improvements Planned for Black Tar: Black Tar continues to feature prominently in Council discussions, particularly regarding parking, common land and the general appearance of the area. Following a meeting in September involving representatives from Pembrokeshire County Council, the National Park Authority and the Port Authority, some encouraging progress has been made. The National Park Authority has offered to carry out several improvements at no cost to the Community Council. These include reinstating boundary posts, repairing seating, cleaning signs and tidying hedges, with work planned for November. Concerns have also been raised about overnight parking, abandoned boats and the long-term presence of a campervan. The Council is working to establish the appropriate responsibilities and legal procedures for addressing these matters. The Council hopes that these improvements will help protect this much-loved part of the village while ensuring it remains welcoming and accessible.

Village Green Christmas Lights: Plans to provide a permanent electricity supply to the Village Green continue to progress. The Council has been exploring options with National Grid and Pembrokeshire County Council to establish a suitable supply for the village Christmas tree and future community events. As a permanent connection will require further work and funding, temporary battery-powered or solar-powered lighting options are also being considered. The Council is keen to work alongside the village events group to explore fundraising opportunities and help keep Llangwm looking festive during Christmas.

Supporting Our Community: The Community Council is developing a new grants policy aimed at supporting worthwhile local projects and community organisations. Councillors have been considering how a scheme could operate fairly and transparently, including eligibility requirements and the funds available. A draft policy is being prepared for further consideration, with possible introduction during the next financial year.

Parking and Road Safety: Parking continues to be a concern in several areas of the village, particularly around the school, village centre, rugby ground and Black Tar. The Council is pleased to acknowledge the efforts of Llangwm Rugby Club and local landowner Lynne Morgan, who helped by providing additional match-day parking behind the rugby stand. Volunteer marshals have also been assisting with parking arrangements. These efforts are greatly appreciated and are helping to ease congestion on busy match days. Residents are kindly reminded to park considerately, avoid obstructing access and respect the village's common land and green spaces.

Housing and Village Development: The Council continues to monitor progress at The Kilns housing development. During the summer, concerns were raised about delays associated with nitrate restrictions, electricity connections and sewerage capacity. Councillors have continued to seek updates from Ateb and the developer. The Council has also been following up drainage concerns affecting properties at Gail Rise and other matters connected with local developments.

Remembering Those Who Served: Preparations have been underway for the village's Remembrance Service. The Order of Service has been reviewed, with plans to refresh its presentation and include the Welsh National Anthem. The Council has also been considering the future display of the historic war memorial plaque previously housed in the Village Hall. Advice has been sought about protecting the memorial, and arrangements for a suitable protective case are being explored. The Council has approved contributions towards the Remembrance wreath and refreshments.

Looking Ahead to Christmas: There is plenty to look forward to as the festive season approaches. St Jerome's Church is organising a Christmas Wreath Festival, with wreaths due to be delivered on Thursday 3rd December. The Community Council will be contributing a wreath to the event.

A Thank You to Our Village Volunteers: Llangwm is fortunate to have so many people who willingly give their time to make the village a better place. The Community Council has expressed its appreciation to the volunteers who maintain Pill Parks, to the Llangwm Events Committee for another successful Carnival and programme of community events, and to everyone involved in looking after our shared spaces. Special thanks were also recorded for Nikki Bosworth, whose regular litter-picking efforts help keep the village and surrounding roads clean and tidy. These contributions, often made quietly and without recognition, make a real difference to the appearance and community spirit of Llangwm.

Keeping Residents Informed: The Council continues to receive regular updates from County Councillor John on matters affecting Pembrokeshire, including highways, recycling services, housing, public transport, broadband improvements and local funding opportunities. Residents are welcome to attend Community Council meetings, which normally take place on the second Tuesday of each month, excluding August. Anyone wishing to raise a matter for Council consideration is encouraged to contact the Clerk in writing ahead of the meeting so that it can be dealt with appropriately.

Working Together for Llangwm: From preserving our village heritage to improving public spaces and supporting local organisations, the Community Council remains committed to helping Llangwm thrive. Thank you to everyone who contributes to village life, whether through volunteering, supporting local events, caring for our environment or simply being a considerate neighbour. It is this community spirit that makes Llangwm such a special place to live.

Llangwm Community Council currently have a vacancy for an enthusiastic, community-minded councillor. No previous experience is needed, just an interest in local matters and a willingness to get involved. If you would like to find out more, please contact the Community Council Clerk.

Help shape the future of Llangwm!

High winds blow race programme off course

Bill Muldrew

The end of the rowing season arrived with our final race in Fishguard on the 4th October after what has been a mixed bag of successes and numerous races having to be abandoned or rescheduled due to adverse weather conditions.

Races which had to be cancelled were Sion Cwilt (New Quay), Mumbles, Pembrokeshire Yacht Club (PYC) and Non - League Challenge races Wreck Race (Gelliswick) Solva-Ramsay Island and the Neyland Nobbler (Neyland to Llangwm and back).

Despite the long hot weather there were abnormally high winds this year which resulted in these cancellations.

Four non-league (Challenge) races which did take place were Dinas to Newport, The Cleddau River Marathon (Dale to Haverfordwest), the Mermaid Race (Cardigan Old Bridge to Cardigan Island and Back) and 5 Miles From Home race.



Collecting awards at Aberystwyth

Race categories are broken down for both men and ladies into Veteran (Men), Ladies (Open Class), Vets - 40 and over, Supavets – 55 and over, Juniors Male and Female – Under 16 at end of season but 14 on day of race, Under 18 at end of season but 14 on day of race and Novices First season racing. At present we have no Juniors and no Novices, but it's hoped that we can recruit new members into the club over the coming months.

If you would like to 'have a go' why not contact anyone from the club who can help organise this.

The club had many successful races, retaining the South league trophy plus the South Club Shield and these other trophies: South league Ladies, South Senior Vets, South Ladies Vets, South Mixed, South Mixed Vets and Joint Mixed Vets trophies. These are displayed in The Cottage Inn at present and were awarded at the Welsh Sea Rowing end of season bash held in Aberystwyth on 24th October. Seven members attended to represent the club.

In addition to these overall winning categories the club won many trophies for individual races in all categories throughout the season particularly the Challenge races. Llangwm Regatta held on the 21st June was very successful and a great day was had by all.

Special thanks to all those who gave their time and talents to make this yet another memorable event. Thank you also to Lyn Morgan for the use of his field to park cars and boats, without which we would have had difficulty parking.

One of the main highlights this year was the re-introduction of the Cleddau River Marathon held on Saturday 13th June with 25 boats of all classes taking part from around the country: a 22-mile race between Dale and Haverfordwest.

The club came first in the following Categories – Ladies (Open), Men's Veterans, Ladies Veterans, Ladies Supavets and Men's Supavets. It is proposed to make this an annual event and to increase entry to 50.

The season now officially over, we look forward to continuing with our social rowing and eventual training sessions before the new season in 2027. The club will hold its end of season bash at The Cottage Inn on Friday 13th of November.

I would like to thank all our members for the hard work and dedication to the club and to the support we continue to receive from our community.

Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Stuff that goes missing in the night....& more

Chris Thomas

At the time of writing, and as we head from autumn into winter, the calm weather turns towards this season's first and second named storms. 'Austen' and 'Boelo' have rattled us from north west and south west to ensure all parts are well ventilated. This has been the story of our 2026 boating season with periods of calm and sunny weather combined with serious drought, punctuated by ferocious gales from all directions.

We are blessed at Llangwm that our reach of the Cleddau is comparatively sheltered from these privations. Nevertheless such conditions have caused boats to run aground after breaking from their moorings. Mooring holders are reminded to check and service their mooring gear to keep their boats safe. Villagers can still see the vessel on the opposite river bank, high and dry for many months now and no sign yet of being refloated. Dale Sailing is due to visit in the New Year to service moorings and remove eight unused and unclaimed moorings. Give them a call if you want your mooring serviced.

Boats going adrift from our moorings is not a regular occurrence. As licence holders, the owners are known to Llangwm Boating Club and Milford Haven Port Authority and can be contacted in an emergency. This is not the case with boats tied up on the shore, which can be a liability to shore access and the environment. This issue was covered extensively in the last Llangwm News. We understand steps are being taken towards removing abandoned boats.

Back on the subject of moorings, we have had several reports of boats occupying others' moorings without their consent. In some cases, this has caused damage to the gear, dragged the mooring out of position and, in one case, caused total loss of the mooring gear. Each mooring is designed to serve the loads required of the licence holder's vessel. Putting another vessel on that mooring, even temporarily, and without consent, risks both that vessel and the owner's mooring.

There cannot be many in the village who are not aware that the large power boat, moored off Llangwm Ferry, sank on her mooring in August. It is reported that she had previously made a distress call to the coastguard and was towed to Dale Sailing at Neyland. The boat then returned to its mooring off Llangwm Ferry where it later sank. Milford Haven Port Authority informs us that it has not allowed the owner to drag the boat onto the shore, citing environmental risks from fuel on board and risk of another abandoned boat on the foreshore. This decision has been welcomed by householders at Llangwm Ferry. The costs incurred in re-floating and salvaging a vessel in this condition, if necessary, are considerable - potentially as much as £8000 to cover divers, lifting equipment and disposal if considered a total loss. Such expensive salvage operations require prior insurance cover or upfront financial payments. In this case Milford Haven Port Authority has granted the owner a grace period to arrange recovery of his boat. At the time of writing (late October), this has not been completed. One possibility in such cases is that a port authority might underwrite the recovery costs and claim reimbursement from the owner.
At the moment, it is not mandatory for owners to carry insurance for their licenced vessels. Llangwm Boating Club continues to advise mooring holders to arrange appropriate insurance. The sinking of this powerboat is a salutary lesson on the risk owners take without suitable cover.

This matter also highlights the issue of abandoned boats on the foreshore. If one should drift off during a storm or high tide, and cause damage to another boat on a mooring, the owner of the drifting boat is not formally known. Nor is that boat likely to be protected by insurance. Therefore, any mooring holder who is uninsured will have to bear any costs regardless of how the damage occurred.

On a lighter note, we turn to the longstanding matter of abandoned trailers, kayaks and dinghies at Black Tar. Llangwm Boating Club volunteers have cleared nautical rubbish over many years. But this year, a committee member, checking his own mooring, was surprised by the sound of snoring coming from beneath an upturned inflatable. When he lifted the dinghy, out came a gentleman who had taken up comfortable residence by inverting one as a bed and a second on top as his roof. All the home comforts! And he needed the rest because he claimed to have swum down from Haverfordwest. What a swimmer, bone dry and with his mobile phone and vape undamaged. We caution members against letting their dinghies on AirBNB.

It is with great sadness that we receive reports of theft from our boats. Most of the moorings benefit from casual surveillance by those who live or walk along the shore. But night time is the burglar's friend. Recently, yacht Edelweiss on LL134 had expensive navigation equipment stolen. While this may be recoverable through insurance, the invasion of one's boat will always make one anxious. As Llangwm is better than this, anyone who can cast light on the matter is encouraged to contact the Mooring Officer, Bog Tyler. Meanwhile, please keep your eyes and ears open and report anything suspicious.

The third annual Curry Off event is scheduled for November 21st at the Rugby Club. Llangwm Boating Club will be making an entry and wishes all participants good luck and Bon Appetit. The Club will also be providing a themed wreath for St Jerome's Christmas celebrations made by a committee member.

Some may have noticed a large pink sailing boat recently anchored off Llangwm. The young skipper is a live-aboard and was extolling the beauty of Llangwm. While Milford Haven Port Authority bylaws do not allow live-aboards on their licenced moorings, there are no restrictions when anchoring. Sadly, the skipper was disappointed to find Llangwm Village Shop has closed. Living aboard in a Pembrokeshire winter is not all plain sailing and being close to essential amenities is important. He thinks he will shortly be leaving us for the brighter lights of Llanion.

Llangwm Boating Club committee members wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas.

Ladies finish fourth, men hope for the future

Sara Jeffrey

Llangwm Ladies

Another enjoyable season for the ladies, however, not quite as successful in terms of final league position in comparison with the previous year, seeing the Lady Salmons finishing in 4th place.



Llangwm Ladies Cricket

This was not helped by the fact that captain Pam was forced to spectate the latter half of the season, due to a broken and dislocated finger sustained in an away fixture against Pembroke.

Several of the ladies' losses were extremely tight and could have gone either way. Next season will see Lilly Thomas at the helm as captain, as Pam steps aside after two successful seasons in charge.

Captain Pam Asson



Llangwm Ladies Cricket - hard-earned social

1st Team

Although the season ended in relegation, there were plenty of positives to take away. We welcomed a couple of new signings who settled into the team well, and the boys showed great determination, battling hard in every game.

Despite results not always going our way, team spirit remained high, with plenty of laughs and good craic each week. We'll look to build on the positives and come back stronger next season.

Captain GOGGLES (Ewan Griffiths)

UPPA SALMONS

2nd Team

The Seconds started off the season in fine form winning their first five fixtures putting them in prime position for promotion. However the middle and end of the season was a little trickier with only three more wins over the rest of the season.

We finally finished 4th in the division which was very respectable. There were some fine performances from John Palmer with both the bat and ball throughout the season and a special mention goes to Callum Jenkins who had two hauls of seven wickets.

Also, a big thank you Ian Gow and his team for looking after the wicket, all scorers, the ladies who set up the teas and everyone who helped out on the bar. We wouldn't have a club without you.

Things are looking brighter for Llangwm cricket as the under 13's side performed very well and give us hope for the future. Overall, it was a very enjoyable season with its highs and lows but the team spirit and camaraderie is always strong in any Llangwm team!!

Roll on 2027 !!!!!!

Captain Gareth Brawn

Rugby players lend a winning hand to cricketers

Sara Jeffrey

Llangwm Cricket Club fielded an Under 13s side for the first time in many a year; a return to hard-ball cricket for Juniors in the village. Comprised mostly of novices fresh from Hamish Nicholls' Under 12s rugby team from the season before, the boys soon took to the game during early season practice sessions. Remarkably, they won their first ever games against Burton and Narberth, teams with far more experience playing cricket. With interest spreading through friendship groups, we soon had 18 at training and needed to rotate players in and out of the team for the remainder of the season.

After an education during tough games against Lawrenny and Haverfordwest, we came back in style to win our final game of the season, the boys demonstrating their obvious potential and a huge amount of progress in only a few months.

Six of our players represented our senior seconds side during the season in only their first year of cricket, with wickets taken, runs scored and some excellent fielding. A massive thank you to them. We also benefitted from brilliant performances from Under 11s boys who played up an age group and showed how talented they are.



Llangwm U11s

Thanks to coaches Mike, Callum and Jo Jo for their commitment and hard work for the boys. Thank you to all the support from Gareth and Sara throughout the season, to Ian for working so hard to prepare our wickets and to Nina for scoring many of the games.

Ollies Davies says, 'Llangwm under 11's had a great season, getting to the semi-final. A great result given LCC has been competing for a number of years without a junior section.'



Llangwm U13s

Sara Jeffrey says, 'We ran the ECB All Stars course for 6 to 8 year olds for the third year in a row. Whilst there were fewer cricketers at this age group this year, it was an enthusiastic little group and Lilly Thomas and I look forward to seeing them filter through the age groups.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our lovely sponsors, advertisers and VPs some of whom we were able to host and to thank in person at our race night early in the season. We are eternally grateful for your kind support.'

We marked the end of the season with a great presentation evening at the Cottage Inn (thank you Matthew, and to Gareth's mum for the donation that paid for our food!)

We now look forward to a second season for Under 13s next year, while the club hopes to field Under 9s, 11s, 13s and 15s sides. Please contact the club if your son or daughter is keen to play next year - new players will always be welcome!

Junior Coaches: All Stars 6-8 (Lilly Thomas, Sara Jeffrey & Zoe Brick) Under 11's (Ollie Davies) & Under 13's (John Palmer).

U12s & U14s face quarter finals

Rhiannon James

Minis and Juniors rugby has returned to Llangwm for another season and we have already been treated to strong displays of rugby across all age groups, from U7s right up to our U15s. We have more than 100 children training and playing matches for the club each week, which is a great achievement for a small village. 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. We are very grateful to you all.

Plate final success

It was a very proud evening for Llangwm rugby at the end of last season when the U12s and U14s represented the club in the District Plate Finals. The U12s found themselves in a very evenly fought contest against Aberystwyth, which ended in a draw, so both teams shared the plate. The U14s (pictured below) held off a big second half fight-back from Fishguard to keep their noses in front and win the plate for the second year in a row.



District H cup

Our Junior teams (U12s-U15s) are gearing up for their District H cup quarter finals on November 29th:

U12s home v Pembroke
U13s away v St Davids
U14s away v Crymych
U15s Home v Haverfordwest or Crymych

We wish them the very best of luck as they look to bring more silverware back to the club.

Calling all primary school children - we need you!

Some of our teams are looking for new players, especially our U7s to U11s, school years 2 to 6. Boys and girls are very welcome. It doesn't matter if you've never played before or aren't sure of the rules, we have qualified coaches and are happy for anyone to come along for a taster session or two. If you want to have fun, get fit and make friends, why not give rugby a go?



Llangwm U11s with Wales International Gareth Anscombe

Rugby Training for U7s -U11s (school years 2-6)

Wednesdays, from 5.30pm, Pill Parks Rugby Field, Llangwm.

Find out more on our Facebook or Instagram pages or contact Rhiannon James on 07968 104032.



Proud U11s acting as flag bearers at Parc y Scarlets

Scarlets Experience

Our U11s had a fantastic experience at Parc y Scarlets a few weeks ago, acting as flag bearers before kick-off, taking part in a game of touch rugby on the pitch at half-time, and meeting Scarlets players, including Gareth Anscombe. An emphatic Scarlets 47–14 victory against Newcastle Red Bulls made it a great occasion for everyone involved. A big thank you to all the parents who helped make the evening possible, from contributing to the BBQ, to providing lifts, and supporting the group. Your contribution helped make it such an enjoyable outing. Also, well done to all the boys for the way they conducted themselves and represented Llangwm Wasps throughout the evening.

They did their club proud.

Llangwm RFC

It rained just in time!

Dan Chesmer

Following the celebrations of our 140th year in 2025-26, the new season got underway in early September after a particularly warm summer. There were concerns that hard pitches might delay league fixtures, but welcome rainfall arrived just in time for Senior, Junior and Mini matches to go ahead. We would like to thank everyone who took part in the anniversary celebrations and all those who worked so hard to organise the events.

We are looking forward to another exciting season, both on and off the pitch, full of enjoyment, energy, respect and commitment. These values remain at the heart of everything we do for our players, supporters and the wider community.

Our dedicated volunteers are the backbone of Llangwm Rugby Club. Their hard work behind the scenes ensures that our teams can proudly take the field each week in the Wasps' famous black and amber colours. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributes throughout the year. Your efforts keep this proud tradition alive.

This season, James Lewis joins the coaching team as Head Coach, working alongside Jordan Evans, Dan Richards and Ryan Banner. It is particularly encouraging to welcome four new players who progressed through our junior ranks, alongside several youth players from recent seasons. Developing home-grown talent remains vital to the club's future, complemented by new recruits who have joined over the summer. Morgan Rees continues as Captain, supported by Vice-Captains Callum Jenkins and Dylan Philpott, while Simon Brick joins the management team in the role of Team Manager. We wish the squad every success for the remainder of the season.

We are fortunate to field ten teams this year, from Under-7s through to senior rugby. It is fantastic to see so many young people enjoying the game, developing new skills, staying active and building lifelong friendships. Our coaches and volunteers do an outstanding job, and we look forward to watching all teams progress throughout the season.

The clubhouse continues to thrive thanks to Simon Brick and his team. Supported by grant funding, several improvements have been made, with more planned for the benefit of members and the local community. Keep an eye on our social media channels for opening times and upcoming events.

Finally, thank you to our committee members, sponsors and supporters. Your continued commitment ensures rugby remains at the heart of Llangwm. We are always looking for new players and volunteers, so if you can spare a few hours, we would love to hear from you.

Your club needs you!

Llangwm Lions

Even more teams!

Mike Preddy

Another new season is upon us, and we are delighted to be able to add more teams to our Mini's section and offer grassroots football to our new U6s & U7s in the village.



The Llangwm Lions family continues to grow, generating a fantastic atmosphere at our home games which includes U6s, U7s, U8s, U9s and U10s age groups.



Our U16s have entered their final year of junior football and they continue to compete well in their league campaign.

Be inspired - and it's free

Graham Brace

From time immemorial the natural world has inspired creative people of all disciplines as far back as early man drawing animals on cave walls. Although I am not a wildlife artist as such, the bulk of my work has been inspired by the natural environment and the smaller natural features within it, from rock forms and pebbles to autumn leaves and ocean waves. I am fascinated by the way that the various forces of nature -- for example, weather, tides, seasons, unimaginable geological movements -- impose themselves on and alter both the natural and man-made features that surround us.



Pembrokeshire is blessed with a natural environment that affords the artist an infinite wealth of subject matter: gentle rural vistas, wild mountain moorland with rocky outcrops and a dramatic coastline renowned for its unrivalled beauty. Within these landscapes and seascapes exists an even greater wealth of smaller features which excite and inspire artists like myself.

Next time you wander across the beaches at Freshwater West, Marloes Sands, Druidstone and Newgale take a closer look at the pebbles, the cliffs and rock forms. You'll find a myriad of colours and textures, often abstract shapes and strata that look almost as if they have been conceived by a greater creative force rather than the forces of nature. On woodland floors (I recommend Ty Canol in North Pembrokeshire) are carpets of fallen leaves, mossy banks and trees with wonderfully patterned and textured trunks. In coastal hedgerows are trees bent and shaped by prevailing westerly winds. Old stone walls are embellished by colourful lichens, mosses and flora. When you walk around our local shores be amazed by the wonderful exposed root systems of the shoreline trees hanging precariously over the path. Such features motivated Graham Sutherland, an artist of national renown who drew much inspiration from his regular visits to Pembrokeshire. There is so much, often bypassed and unnoticed, on which to feast our eyes if we use them properly. All 'manna from Heaven' for the artist.



Of course, most of these features are three-dimensional and can thus provide inspiration to the sculptor, wood carver and ceramicist alike. As an artist and illustrator representing what I see in two dimensions I try to visually emulate as closely as possible the textures, shapes and colours that I see in the settings around me…a wonderfully challenging and satisfying process when it goes right. To this end I work predominantly with coloured pencils which enable me to exert complete control over the marks that I make in order to achieve realistic detail. Other artists will be less constrained and use different media to create their desired image. Such a lot of scope.

So, keep your eyes peeled and take in your surroundings when you are out and about. There is so much more to see, admire and enjoy.